

MAUNGAKIEKIE LODGE, No. 373 21st ANNIVERSARY

As the oak tree owes its origin to the acorn, so Maungakiekie Lodge owes its origin to the idea of a single man—and in order to set our priorities right in this review of our early history, this must be mentioned. He was W. Bro. Alexander Davie, our fifth Master, who conceived the idea of forming a lodge in the One Tree Hill district. It was necessary for him to find the right man to set the lodge on a firm footing, and to stimulate the necessary enthusiasm in the founders, by good example good leadership and good advice, and with careful search he found him — W. Bro Harold Watts — a fairly recent P.M. of Lodge Morningside No. 228.

After many preliminary discussions, the first official meeting of members of the craft who had expressed interest in the formation of a lodge in the One Tree Hill area, was held on 10 June, 1952, when it was unanimously resolved to form a Lodge and decided that its name be Maungakiekie Lodge.

The late W. Bro. (then Bro.) E. J. (Monty) Price was appointed Acting Secretary. On the 19 August the business of the meeting was to receive a report on a proposed meeting place, and to discuss various matters relating to the dedication of the lodge. From here on events really took shape, and were ultimately to prove the foundation on which the lodge now rests.

At a meeting held in the St. Oswald's Church Hall on 24 September, 1952, it was decided to use that hall as the meeting place of the lodge. Details of the furniture and fittings were prepared, and a report on donations, which seemed to pour in, was also received. Further arrangements for the Dedication Meeting which had been finalised with Grand Lodge for Friday, 31 October, 1952, in the Masonic Hall, St. Benedicts Street, Auckland, were discussed.

The Lodge had received permission to make additions and alterations to the St. Oswald's Hall, (in lieu of rent for a certain period), and working bees were organised. As an indication of the enthusiastic spirit which prevailed among the founders, it is interesting to record that 33 bretheren assisted in these working bees — a virtual hive of industry. This brought the foundation members together in no uncertain manner, and the whole undertaking was most successfully completed, both to the joy of the church and the lodge. It was to remain the home of Maungakiekie Lodge for 14 years.

CONSTITUTION AND DEDICATION

The constitution and dedication ceremony was performed by the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. John C. Barclay, and Officers of Grand Lodge. Of the 60 Foundation Members, 47 were present at the meeting.

INSTALLATION

The installation ceremony which followed was conducted by the late R.W. Bro. Edgar O. Faber, Prov. G.M. W. Bro. H. E. Watts, P.M. Lodge Morningside, No. 228, was installed as master and his officers were invested.

The Presenting Officers were the late W. Bro. E. J. (Monty) Price, who had in the meanwhile been installed as Master of Lodge Morningside, No. 228, and W. Bro. D. Wallace, Master of Lodge Wairoa, No. 55, the lodge which had sponsored the formation of Maungakiekie Lodge.

THE FIRST MEETING

The first meeting was held on 3rd December, 1952, when 6 candidates for membership by initiation were proposed. The first two of these to be initiated were sons of foundation members —the sons of W. Bro. T. W. M. Ashby, Chaplain, and Bro. R. H. McIsaac. Of the two, one, Bro. John Edward McIsaac, carried on to become in 1962 the eleventh master and since that time ten out of the eleven masters to have been installed have been initiated in the lodge.

CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE

The 151st. meeting on the 24th August, 1966, was the last to be held in the St Oswald's Church Hall. The lodge had joined forces with the Epsom Lodge, No. 324, in the building of new lodge-rooms, so that the

152nd. meeting, which was held on 28 September, 1966, was conducted in the Masonic Hall, 131 Market Road, Auckland, where the Maungakiekie Lodge, No. 373, is now permanently domiciled.

GRAND LODGE HONOURS

Of the Masters who have occupied the chair Grand Honours have been granted to the following:

1955 W. Bro. H. E. Watts, G.Swd.B

1967 W. Bro. B. H. Siddle, G.S.

1971 W. Bro. N. D. Sergeant, G.S.

1972 W. Bro. E. F. Winch, G.S.
