

The Dartmoor Lodge No. 4604



Eulogy

W.Bro. Adolf Neuman, Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden

Adolf Neuman was born 16th November 1922 in Mexico City, Mexico.

His family moved to Redruth Cornwall when he was 4 and lived there until he was 10. The family then moved to Haworth in Yorkshire where he attended Keighley Grammar School.

After leaving school he joined the LMS to train as an accountant. He lived in digs in Carnforth and his office was based on a train travelling up and down to London.

The War interrupted his training and he joined The Royal Navy. He was based in Lowestoft and trained as a Radio Operator. He served on requisitioned Trawlers acting as auxiliary patrol boats in the North Sea for the duration of the war, being sunk by torpedoes twice. The second time he was on a raft for 11 days before being picked up! He missed D day because of having tooth ache, the tooth being removed the day after D day on the invasion beaches.

After the war he went back to the railway. His boss refused to call him Adolf, so he was known at work from then on as Floda (Adolf backwards). He was moved to Bolton where he met Zena and after a whirlwind romance of just 6 months they married in 1952.

In 1953 Adolf got a job based in La Paz Bolivia, working on a new railway being built from Antofagasta in Chile at sea level to La Paz Bolivia at 13,000 ft above sea level. His first 2 children were born there, Kathy and Peter.

He was Initiated into Freemasonry in the Anglo Bolivian Lodge No. 7, meeting in La Paz, Bolivia, on 6th September 1955 and was Passed and then Raised as a Master Mason on 27th July 1957.

In 1959 the family moved back to the UK and settled in Bolton where he worked for a Life Assurance Company. Adolf was invited to visit Moorland Lodge No. 5458, meeting in Bolton, where he was subsequently proposed as a joining member. The United Grand Lodge of England sanctioned his application and W.Bro. Adolf joined his first English Lodge in May 1960 and was Installed as the Master of the Lodge in 1972 . Adolf's 3rd child Timothy was born in 1960.

In 1968 the family moved to Formby on the coast just North of Liverpool where he

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was Managing Director of National Mutual of Australasia Life Insurance, and joined Formby Lodge No. 5659.

In 1976 W.Bro. Bob Carter married Kathy, and in the same year Adolf and Zena had a complete change and bought a Post Office and shop in Southport.

Five years later they moved to Devoran in Cornwall to another Post Office. Here he joined Boscawen Lodge No. 699 meeting in Chacewater. They then moved to St Just to yet another Post Office where they stayed for 5 years, and he joined Mount Sinai Lodge No. 121, meeting in Penzance.

In 1989 He finally was persuaded to retire and they moved to South Brent where they settled for the next 25 years, and where he was invited to join Dartmoor Lodge No. 4604, and he says that the welcome he received and the warmth and friendliness he experienced, made him feel completely at home.

The following April he assumed the role of Almoner, but following the death of the incumbent he became Secretary in December 1990; a post he held with distinction until April 2005.

In 2005 he received his 50 years in freemasonry certificate and in 2006 received a Certificate of Service to Freemasonry both from R.W.Bro. Robin Osborn, Provincial Grand Master of Devonshire.

W.Bro. Adolf took up the responsibility of Mentor of the Lodge long before it was an acknowledged office in the lodge helping and guiding those joining the lodge and those taking up office within the lodge.

For many years within the lodge if a question was asked about procedure, ritual or esoteric meaning, the stock answer was "ask Adolf". Adolf's ritual has been second to none and over the years his repertoire has included the Explanation of the First and Second Degree Tracing Boards along with the Charge after Initiation and the 3rd degree Exhortation, Charge and Traditional History.

W.Bro. Adolf served for many years as a Trustee of the lodge resigning both as Mentor and Trustee in 2012.

W.Bro. Adolf was active in at least eight degrees and has passed through the "Chair" in most of them. He was a fount of Masonic knowledge and has been a great asset to this Lodge.

He rose to eminence by merit, lived respected, and dies regretted.