

TRINIDAD CHAPTER NO. 1
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

According to General Grand Chapter proceedings of 1883, Trinidad Chapter No. 1 was first organized in 1880. Its first charter was issued as follows: January 7, 1881, Trinidad Chapter No. 1, Trinidad, Las Animas County Colorado. Its first Worthy Matron was Mrs. M. Jaffa, and the first Worthy Patron was Brother Wilson W. Smith. The chapter was organized by Dr. Micheal Beshoar, whose official title at that time was Right Most Worthy Grand Special Deputy, appointed by the Right Most Worthy Grand Patron. The chapter held eleven meetings from April 27, 1881 to February 14, 1882, with membership totalling 25, according to the first minute books. As outlined in those early minutes, new initiates received the signs, grips and passwords of the order. Most were then appointed as officers of the new chapter. A fee of \$1.00 was assessed each new initiate.

Colorado Chapter No. 2, Leadville, Lake County, Colorado, was chartered by the General Grand Chapter on June 15, 1882.

According to proceedings of the General Grand Chapter Triennial Session, held at St. Louis, Missouri on September 23, 1886, a report of chapters who had failed to pay dues for two years or more listed Trinidad No. 1, Colorado. The cause of this sad state of affairs was not recorded, but later minutes indicated that difficulty in paying a per capita tax may have contributed. We may never know the reasons why our chapter became inactive, and why it was finally declared dormant in 1889. One of the prized possessions of this chapter is a letter from Robert Morris dated November 30, 1884, which acknowledged the payment of \$15.00 and expressed good wishes for success. One wonders why the payment was made if the chapter were truly dormant. Interest and commitment of the members remained, as a meeting was held on April 14, 1891 for the purpose of re-organizing the Eastern Star "Lodge". This meeting was called by Worthy Grand Patron M. H. Murphy, at which time a Worthy Matron, Associate Matron, Worthy Patron, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Sentinel were elected by ballot. Again the \$1.00 fee for initiates was approved by motion of the chapter.

Our minutes reveal that conferring of degrees took place on July 1, 1891, and the decision to hold regular meetings on the second and fourth Fridays was made. By January of 1892, By-Laws had been printed in pamphlet form and were ready for distribution. In May, minutes report the purchase of 1,000 letterheads and envelopes from "The Chronicle" at a cost of \$8.50, and the secretary was directed to contact other Chapters in the Grand Chapter. At this time, Trinidad Chapter No. 1 proudly boasted a membership of 75. The first record of an emblematic pin which was presented to the Worthy Matron in appreciation of her efforts is also recorded on this date.

In June, 1891, Trinidad was one of the original 11 chapters which formed Colorado Grand Chapter. In May of 1893, Worthy Grand Matron Carrie Reef and Associate Grand Matron Sister Humphrey were introduced, and they invited the chapter to attend the first Grand Chapter session which was to be held in Denver on June 6, 1893. At the next meeting, the chapter voted to send a delegate, and to pay the expense of that person.

The purchase of paraphernalia was recorded in June of 1892, at the following prices:

1 sword and veil . . .	\$1.68
sheaves of barley67
1 crown and scepter . . .	4.05
1 broken column	1.68
1 goblet	1.87
O.E.S. carpet	10.80

It was about this time that communications are recorded from the General Grand Chapter Right Worthy Grand Secretary Sister Lorraine J. Pitkin assuring Trinidad Chapter No. 1, O.E.S. that the number 1 would not be taken from us, as recorded in the chapter minutes of July 8, 1892. In September of 1892, a communication was noted from the Grand Secretary of Colorado regarding granting a new charter. The Chapter voted to direct our chapter secretary to write the Right Worthy Grand Secretary that we did not wish to change our charter. The privilege of continuing work under the original charter was granted by the General Grand Chapter. No further mention of the Chapter number occurred in the minutes until the late 1920's.

Recognizing the need for an organist, the chapter voted funds in December of 1892 to purchase copies of appropriate music for our ceremonies, and the first organist was appointed and installed. In 1897, a Bradbury piano was purchased for \$312.50.

Serving as Adah in 1898 was Georgia Bell whose descendant Georgia Bell Starks later became a Grand Matron of Colorado.

During the years 1882-91, Dr. Michael Beshoar was busy establishing a newspaper in the community, and was also very active politically, in addition to his medical practice. There are no record of minutes of chapter meetings held throughout this period. However, the minutes of October 1895 show that Dr. Beshoar wrote and presented a paper to the chapter of the life of Robert Morris. This paper was sent to the Square and Compass and was subsequently published.

During these early years, members of Trinidad Chapter who were called on to serve the Grand Chapter as Grand Officers were Sister Anna Humphrey, Associate Grand Matron in 1893, Sister Anna M. Taylor, Associate Grand Conductress, 1894, and Brother D. R. Calloway who served as Worthy Grand Patron in 1898. Sister Lida V. Stone was Worthy Grand Matron in

1902; Sister Marion Munroe, Grand Warder, 1910; Carrie Miller, Grand Ruth, 1913, Flora B. Carnahan, Grand Electa, 1920; and Brother Harold Reed, who served as Worthy Grand Patron in 1924.

No mention of the office of Marshall appeared in the minutes until November 11, 1911, when it was recorded that the flag was presented in the East, and the flag salute recited.

The decade of the 1920's showed considerable growth recorded in the minutes. Initiation was held at almost every meeting, and members' loyalty to attending chapter and being active in chapter affairs was evidenced by a large number of dimits and affiliations recorded in each set of minutes. The October 22, 1926 minutes report a correspondence from Colorado Grand Chapted announcing the donation of a ranch one mile east of Denver, generously donated by Robert Russell for an Eastern Star Home.

A letter written by Mrs. E. V. Parenteau, a member of Radiant Chapter No. 12, Denver, Colo., was dated March 25, 1927. She wrote to Flora B. Carnahan, Past Grand Electa, with the following information:

"Your charter was granted by our General Grand Chapter which was organized at Indianapolis, Indiana, Nov. 15-16, 1876, with the ritual the same as in present use. As you know, we have an Electa Chapter No. 60 in Denver, but an Electa No. 1 was also organized sometime in 1877 at Black Hawk, Colorado, under a charter granted by the Grand Chapter of New York. The Grand Chapter Session of Colorado, held in Denver June 2-3, 1897, includes the following information taken from the annual report of Mary E. Peirce, Grand Matron 1896-97: 'Sister Kate T. Wiley, Worthy Matron of Electa Chapter No. 1 of Black Hawk, Colo. has surrendered to me the charter, jewels, signet, records, etc. of that chapter. It was organized in 1877, being the first in Colorado, and was under the jurisdiction of New York. Its charter was signed by Robert McCoy as Grand Patron and Robert Morris as Grand Secretary. I received this paraphernalia because Sister Wiley had charge of it for 17 years and wished to be relieved. She informed me the Secretary of the Chapter had written to the Grand Secretary of New York three times notifying him that Electa No. 1 was extinct, but received no answer. I desire this Grand Chapter to direct our Grand Secretary to correspond with the Grand Secretary of New York, and thus relieve both Sister Wiley and this chapter for further responsibility". None of the oldest Grand officers had any knowledge of the facts and even Mrs. Peirce had forgotten about it until I discovered this in old Grand Chapter reports. Your Chapter can claim the distinction of "first" as now conducted." It was also noted that New York did not become a part of General Grand Chapter until some years later.

Writer's note-- Electa Chapter No. 1 became inactive in 1880, it was chartered by New York Grand Chapter and used a

ritual written by Robert McCoy. Differences also existed in requirements for eligibility for membership. Even if the early Charter had been recognized by General Grand Chapter, Electa No. 1 had become dormant at the time that Trinidad Chapter's Charter was granted by the General Grand Chapter in 1881.

Trinidad Chapter No. 1 continued to grow, and membership proudly numbered 543 in the year 1929. During that same year, a charter was issued for Trinidad Assembly No. 9, Order of Rainbow for Girls. Sister Ella Fitten was the first Mother Advisor. On December 29 of the same year, the Order of DeMolay granted a Charter to the Trinidad Chapter. Sister Carrie Lee Horn, the first Grand Worthy Advisor of Rainbow for Girls, and the author of the Memorial Service in the Rainbow Ritual, was initiated as a member of Trinidad Chapter No. 1 May 9, 1930. Minutes show the office of Associate Patron as being added about this time.

Other members of Trinidad Chapter who have served our Grand Chapter include Sister Birdie Schulz Nelson, Grand Warder in 1937; Marvel Little, Grand Ruth in 1945; Roberta Woods, Grand Esther in 1975; Marjorie Hawley as Grand Adah in 1987, and Judy Domenico, who served as Grand Ruth, then Worthy Grand Matron in 1989. Grand Representatives include Lois Palmquist, Faye Underwood and Dorothy Poole.

The "Arch of Roses", Trinidad No. 1's unique way of honoring visiting Worthy Grand and Past Grand Matrons and Patrons, originally was called the "Bower of Roses" with peony roses held aloft to form the bower under which the dignitaries pass on their way to be introduced and honored in the East. This custom began in 1922, and by about 1930 red roses were used to exemplify the chapter's highest esteem. This tradition is still performed at Official Visit and past matrons and patrons of our chapter eagerly anticipate the opportunity to honor the Grands.

This concludes a brief summary of events in Trinidad Chapter during the past 100 years, with emphasis upon the events that transpired during the first one-third of our century of participation in the Order of the Eastern Star. The information included was gathered from books of minutes, correspondence, reports of the Grand Chapter, and records of the General Grand Chapter.

This writer gratefully acknowledges the work of Past Matrons Ella Ellenberger and Greta Haase in gathering this data, and hereby submits these results to the Chapter in loving appreciation of the fraternal commitment shown by our brothers and sisters from the past.

Respectfully submitted this 14th day of June, 1991 by

Marjorie L. Hawley, P.M.

