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**HISTORY OF THE ORDER OF EASTERN STAR
CARSON CITY CHAPTER NO. 271**

January 6, 1900 a group met to organize an Eastern Star Chapter. The meeting was called to order by J.G. Anderson. He appointed F.S. Caswell, secretary.

The following officers were selected: Mrs. Bertha Anderson, Worthy Matron; Mr. Morris Netzorg, Worthy Patron; Mrs. M.P. Caswell, Assistant Matron.

The name of Carson City Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star was chosen. Fees for all charter members and all who may apply for membership was to be \$2.

On January 31, 1900 a special meeting called for the purpose of instituting a Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star was held in the Masonic hall according to the dispensation granted to the Carson City Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star.

Twenty-seven members and five visitors were present. These members were obligated by Worthy General Patron A.C. Northrup; Associate General Matron Derthrich, who also acted as General Marshall. After the obligation Chapter was opened in due form. The members were then instructed in the initiatory work.

It was then moved and supported that regular communication of the Carson City Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star to be held on the Wednesday evening after the full moon of each month at the Masonic Hall.

The Worthy Matron appointed A.D. Bemis, Lizzie Ferris, Nina Knickerbocker as a committee to draft the By Laws. These were presented at the next meeting and accepted held April 18, 1900.

Crystal, Hubbardston and Maple Rapids Chapters were invited for the first joint meeting to be held July 26, 1900. Crystal Chapter was to put on the Work.

At the September meeting it was voted to send \$15 for the Charter.

At the November 7, 1900 meeting a communication from the Grand Secretary Mrs. A.A. Mather was read stating that the Grand Chapter had granted Carson City Chapter a charter at its last session.

The first complete staff of elected officers after the Charter at the November meeting were:

Worthy Matron.....Ruth Flint
Associate Matron.....Mrs. M.J. Miner
Worthy Patron.....Mr. Morris Netzorg
Secretary.....Mr. Roy Hallett
Treasurer.....Mr. A.L. Bemis
Conductress.....Miss Nina Knickerbocker
Associate Conductress.....Victoria Wilkinson

These were sent to the Worthy Grand Matron Helen E. Balmer as elected and ready to be installed.

On January 30, 1901 the Worthy Grand Matron, and Past Worthy Grand Patron Heins of Stanton with Mrs. Heins acting as Grand Marshall and Mrs. Allie Cressinger of Maple Rapids acting as Grand Chaplain installed the Officers. J.P. Taylor was installed as Secretary, replacing Roy Hallett. Other Officers were: Chaplain, Julia A. Sessions; Marshall, Emma Caswell; Warder, Mary A. Flint; Sentinel, Roy Wilsinson; Ada, Edna Smith; Ruth, Mattie Jones; Esther, Emma Hallett; Martha, Grace Culver; Electa, Minnie Fowler.

The salary of the secretary was set at \$2. The dues were 50 cents and increased to \$1 in 1912 and \$1.50 in 1922; in 1946 a jump-raise of \$1 was voted on bringing it as it is at present \$2.50. The object of the raise in 1946 was to get a spread of the expenses of the Chapter to the out-of-town members which has given it a firm financial basis. At the same time the Secretary's salary was raised from \$10 to \$25.

The first County Association meeting recorded was June 18, 1915 in Carson City. Again on May 10, 1923 the Association was invited here, only to be greeted by one of the worst snow storms of the winter. The guests were met at the Grand Trunk station by the reception committee with cutters and sleighs, all of which added to the memory of the occasion.

The Stars held some of their meetings in a hall over the now Rexall Drug Store operated by Richard Fife and in rooms back of the telephone offices which was in a building next [to] and now part of the Louis Spaniolo grocery store before joining the Mason in their Hall.

Later an Electa Association was organized which consisted of the Chapters in the corners of our four counties. These were Middleton, Maple Rapids, Hubbardston and Carson City. They met each spring and fall until a fire destroyed the Hubbardston Hall which caused the Association to disband.

In 1929 all the Past Matrons were invited to a special meeting and entertainment in their honor for the purpose of presenting Past Matron pins to all who had guided the Chapter from the East.

In 1933 there was an installation ceremony by candle light and by flashlight because a severe electrical storm had destroyed the electric service for the entire evening. It proved to be a very impressive service as Genn Tooper, Worthy Grand Patron was a visitory and obligingly did the work from memory.

Fire destroyed the rooms used as a Hall for the Masons and Stars and they moved to rooms over the building next to the Hallett Hardware store. In 1930 improvements were made to the Chapter room and the ante rooms. The kitchen was remodeled to be used as a kitchen and dining room. Heating units were kept modern. In 1942 a new lighting system was installed and OES dishes were purchased with the aid of the Past Matrons Club.

The Past Matrons Club was organized on April 30, 1940, at the home of Mrs. Leona Dumas. The officers elected were: President, Mary Gunther; Vice President, Linda Brice; and Secretary and Treasurer, Rosalind Walker. The Club has been very helpful to the Chapter besides the enjoyment they got from their dinners held once a month. Besides helping with the purchasing of the dishes they purchased silverware for the Chapter which was needed.

The first County Luncheon of the Past Matrons Club was entertained in the spacious home of Mary Gunther.

In 1945 a Government Bond Series "E" was voted to be bought.

In 1946-47-48 efforts were made to obtain a much needed electric Sign which now graces our hall and has been of great value due to the large number of initiations which have been held since it was dedicated in a fitting ceremony.

During the Polio Drive of 1950 the combined efforts of the Stars and Masons served a dinner in the Home Economics room of the High School which netted a fine sum for the benefit of the dread disease.

Supervised by the Worth Matron, dinners are now being served for families of Masons and Stars, which has been visited by sorrow or death in the family.

Carson City Chapter has given 100 per cent per capita for the International Temple in Washington, D.D. Some of our members who have visited it have urged all who can to do so as it is amazingly arranged and beautifully built Temple.

The Children's Villa at Adrian and the Mason Home at Alma receive annual donation for help in carrying out their work.

Because of the need for ground-floor facilities, and a larger Hall, the O.E.D. No. 271 and F. & A. M. No. 306 turned to planning such a building. The actual starting of the building was in October 1962 for a building to fit our needs.

This was under the supervision of a Board of Trustees comprised of 7, to be 4 Masons and 3 Stars. This Board organized in 1960 comprised of the following: President, Dan Bowerman; Secretary, Carleton Wilson trustees, Basil Souders, Wayne Souders, and Clyde Straight, Dorothy Geib and Ida Sweet. The hall was built from personal donations from members of both organizations. The building built was 32 x 65 of redwood exterior with brick trim. It provides a lodge room of 32 x 48 and rooms of dining room, kitchen, lobby and rest rooms. It was dedicated in 1965.

The new building has proved a definite asset providing not only space for not only the organization meetings but has been utilized by the people of Carson City for large gatherings such as receptions, family gatherings, etc. which the space of the Temple provide.