

## Oddfellows

DWIGHT LODGE 513 I. O. O. F.

Written in 1954 for 100th Ann book.

This Lodge was established in Dwight on May 22, 1873. In October, the same year, a charter was issued by the Grand Master to the following charter members: C. C. Gilbert, W. Simms, M. W. Tambling, John L. Clark, Thomas Weldon, Hugh Stevens, and E. P. Utley.

A very short time after the charter was issued they purchased the land and built the Dwight Opera House, which is now known as the Blackstone Theatre. Later this property was sold to The Leslie E. Keeley Company and the funds from this sale were invested in a two hundred acre farm in Iowa. This did not prove to be a profitable transaction, as the price of land dropped and it became necessary in order to save some of their funds to sell this land. The proceeds from the sale of the farm were invested in what was known as the Weicker property on East Street, upon which they built an Odd Fellows building which was dedicated on May 4, 1917. The lower floor of this building has been under lease to The National Tea Company of Chicago for several years and the Lodge and Clubrooms on the second floor are used by the Lodge and several of the fraternal organizations of Dwight.

The Lodge helps to maintain an orphans' home at Lincoln, Illinois, and an Odd Fellows old folks' home at Mattoon, Illinois.

Howard Seymour of Dwight Lodge is secretary of the board of trustees of the "Old Folks Home" and Dwight also has a member that was reared in the orphans home, Fred Schoen of Mazon, The present officers are N. G.-Albert Mortensen, V. G.-Richard Foersterling, Secretary-Howard Burkhart, Treasurer-Frank Perschnick, Chaplin-John Dornbierer, R.S.N.G.-Delo Flint, L.S.N.G.-James E. McConnell, R.S.V.G.-Percy Weaver, L.S.V.G.-Sanford Fergueson, Warden-Donald Anderson, Conductor-Carl Paulsen, Inside G.-Ingman Christensen, O.G.-Leo Pedersen, R.S.S.-Walter Paulsen, L.S.S.-Edward Delong, Lodge Deputy-C. M. Clausen, and Trustees are; Delo Flint, Harvey Kime, George Fredensborg, Elmer Jacobsgaard and Ingman Christensen.

## Dwight Lodge No. 513 of Oddfellows

The Oddfellows Lodge of Dwight was instituted in Dwight on May 22, 1873 and received its charter from the Grand Lodge in October of the same year, making it have over 100 years old.

The following were charter members C.C. Gilbert, W. Simms, M.W. Tambling, John Clark, Thomas Weldon, Hugh Stevens and E.P. Etley.

Shortly after being instituted they bought land on West Main Street and built the Dwight Opera House. They meet on the second floor for a number of years. Later it was sold and the present building on East Main Street was built and dedicated on May 4, 1917. The Lodge has meet there continuously since that date. Burgers Tru Valu Store leases the lower floor.

The Oddfellows are active in supporting an Old Folks Home in Mattoon and a Childrens Home in Lincoln. At the present time a new home is being built in Mattoon at a cost of over \$ 3 million to be completed in 1976, with tentative plans for a high rise apartment building on the same grounds for our members in the near future. They join with the Oddfellows in Illinois in sending a bus load of young folks to the United Nations in New York for a week of study, each summer, contributed to the Educational Foundation Revolving Fund for higher Educationa for youth, help sponsor an Eye research Chair at John Hopkins University, and assist in the Eye Bank Program which has given sight to many by donating free eye transplants

The present Officers are Noble Grand, Delbert Seabert, Vice Grand John Flint, Louis Hitt Secretary, Treasurer Frank Perschnick, Chairman of the Trustees Delo Flint.

*Written in 1976*