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Lodge Highlights

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Salisbury Lodge #699, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was organized under a disposition granted by Grand Exalted Ruler Jerome B. Fisher to J. E. Alexander, Sterling Smith and W. J. Roberts on the 24th of April 1901.

The Lodge, sponsored by Charlotte Lodge #392, was duly chartered by the Grand Lodge at its annual convention on July 25, 1901 with the following listed on the Charter as Charter Members:

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|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| O. W. Spencer | W. B. Ryder, Jr. | J. H. Horah |
| James M. Davis | H. S. Heilig | Bill M. Johnston |
| Walter Murphy | T. C. Evans | C. O. Brown |
| J. M. Flippin | A. C. Mauney | R. L. Ramsey |
| C. L. Thompson | C. H. Russler | J. M. McCorkle |
| A. W. Tucker | J. B. Lanier | S. S. Blackmer |
| J. M. Turner | H. L. Dalton | A. B. High |
| C. D. Keealy | W. P. Thornton | J. W. Neave. |
| D. W. Julian | W. G. Nicholson | |

~~Of these only J. M. Flippin, P.E.R.~~
Of these only J. M. Flippin, P.E.R. survives. O. W. Spencer served as first Exalted ruler of the newly organized Lodge.

The Lodge was highly successful from its inception and was soon playing an important part in the life of the community with most of its social, business, professional and political leaders being ~~members~~ enthusiastic members. The Lodge, also, was strongly tinted by the same brush that painted the original founders of Elkdom. ~~For~~ ^{many} years the Lodge presented an annual minstrel and sponsored the first performance of Sparks Brothers Circus as it ~~was~~ began its spring tour. Charles ~~Sparks, owner of the circus~~

Sparks, owner of the Circus which wintered in Salisbury, and many of his employees were members of the Lodge.

The Lodge, although constantly beset by housing problems, flourished until the mid-twenties when a gradual decline set in. This decline was made acute by the onset of the great depression and for the next decade the Lodge was kept alive only by the unequalled loyalty and dogged determination of a small handful of brothers who refused to believe that Elkdom was dead in Salisbury. In the early forties this devotion began to pay off and today Salisbury Lodge #699 stands as one of the finer ~~finest~~ and more active small Lodges in Elkdom.

The Lodge for nearly a quarter of a century occupied quarters in the building which houses the Center Theater, was for a few months in the Washington Building on North Main Street, and for another quarter of a century was quartered in the Yancey Building on the Southwest corner of Lee and Innes Sbs.

Salisbury Lodge #699 on April 24, 1957 entered its fifty-seventh year of continuous existence looking on the past with pride and on the future with confidence and determination to expand and exploit the benefits of Elkdom to our community.

Excerpts from the secretary's minute books.

- Sept. 30, 1912 — "A rising vote of thanks was extended to the Exalted Ruler for his kindness and consideration of the Lodge for being present promptly at 8 O'clock."
- Dec. 11, 1912 "The proposition to build an Elk's home was strongly agitated."
- Jan. 15, 1913 "Moved, seconded and carried: Resolved that no further rent be paid until proper heat is secured."
- May 2, 1917 "Report of the special committee for providing an Elk's Home ———
 1 — there has been a radical change in domestic and financial affairs of the people of the United States by reason of a declaration of war ——— conditions are not opportune to carry out will of the Lodge. 3: "

- Oct. 3, 1917 "Bro. J. M. Miller wanted to know why we were not getting heat in the club and same was referred to the house committee." 60
110
- Sept. 30, 1919 "Committee on entertaining N. C. Grand Lodge (sic) in June 1920 appointed by Exalted Ruler."
- 1922
Feb. 8, 1922 "Chair officers appointed as committee to purchase wireless telephone."
- May 3, 1922 "E.R. appointed following committee to see about the purchase of a home."
- Apr. 16, 1924 "Moved, seconded and passed that we accept Mr. Yancey's proposal.) (To rent third floor of building on corner of Lee and Innes streets then being erected.)
- Apr. 23, 1924 "Trustees stated they have rented Washington Bldg." (As temporary quarters until Yancey Bldg. completed.)
- Mch. 18, 1931 Because of financial condition Lodge voted "to store furniture on 1st of month and we keep charter."
- April 15, 1931 "Bro. Carter reports for committee — Bro. Yancey agrees to rent hall for \$25.00 per mo. with conditions." Lodge decides to struggle on.
- Jan. 5, 1944 "Bro. Jones makes motion we give C. A. Dowell \$50.00 for additional heat for four months."
- Apr. 3, 1946 "Bro Carter reports on property — motion — to give chair officers authority to buy property."
- Feb 5, 1947 "Bro. Rike makes motion we employ architect."
- Feb 1, 1950 "Moved, seconded and carried that bid for \$8,000.00 for Kerr St. property be accepted."
- Mch. 1, 1950
~~Feb 15, 1950~~ " — Grand Lodge permission to buy property at 508 S. Main St. —."
- Sept. 6, 1950 "Bro. Cox gave report of building committee."
- Oct. 3, 1951
~~1950~~ "Bro. Cox — plans sent to Charlotte to see if possible to get steel."

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May 6, 1953

"Bro Cox reported Trustees and Building Committee met and signed contracts for new home."

Feb 17, 1953

First meeting in new home.