

5/16/11

History of Golden Elks Lodge # 2740 as remembered by Wayne Rogers, charter member, first Esquire, 2 x PER, DDGER, and on the original organizational committee and signer of the organizational charter for Golden.

Late in 1986 JW Hunt, a local realtor, and Fran Leeper, owner of the Rock Rest Restaurant contacted the Elks about starting an Elks Lodge in Golden. They were put in touch with Dan DeNeice PER of Lakewood Lodge and State Chairman for new Lodge development and Chuck Riedel PER of Lakewood and district chairman for new lodge committee. An organizational committee was formed and I picked up a flyer at the 7-11 store and called them to offer my help. It took us about 13 months to recruit the 300 members PGER George Klein insisted we obtain before we could be chartered as an Elks Lodge but on May 15, 1988 we were instituted at the Green Center of the Colorado School of Mines at 1pm.

Some of the dignitaries in attendance were George Klein PGER, Dean Larson DDGER of CNW District, Walter Johnson Longmont Lodge and Grand Lodge Tiler, Eugene Costello Denver Lodge SDGER, John Heard Boulder Lodge, member GL Government Relations Committee, James Viola Florence Lodge member GL Development Committee, Leonard Bennett Rifle Lodge Past GL Treasurer, George Strain La Junta Lodge Past Grand Lodge Esquire, Wayne Patterson Grand Junction Lodge Past GL Tiler. State Association President Alex Weimer Ft. Morgan Lodge, Gene Harris Montrose Lodge 1stVP, Gunter Lippman 2nd VP Arvada Lodge, Rex Cross 3rd VP Littleton Lodge, Jim Sterling Canon City Lodge, Secretary, Jim DuMond Broomfield Lodge Treasurer. My father PSP Skip Rogers of La Junta Lodge, installed me as Golden's first Esquire and JW Hunt was installed as our first Exalted Ruler by Donald Jaynes of Cripple Creek Lodge.

Our other officers were: Leading Knight Bud Cromwell, Loyal Knight Bob Clark, Lecturing Knight Lenny Nixon, Sec. Don Halbeisen, Treasurer Dan Dunn, Trustee Earl Maxon, Clarence Granquist, Bill Haulman, Norm Hicks, Terry Chelius, Tiler Herman Schwenke, Chaplain At Atkinson, Inner Guard Bruce Jackson. Out of the original officers JW Hunt, Bud Cromwell, Dan Dunn, Earl Maxon, Norm Hicks, Herm Schwenke, and Wayne Rogers went on to become PER's.

Lakewood Lodge is our Mother Lodge.

After becoming a Lodge we rented a space in the Village Shopping Center and did a complete buildout on it, obtained a liquor license and did all the things a Lodge is suppose to do. We were told, apparently wrongly, that it was customary to go to other Lodges on visitations and take something from their Lodge, so we became famous as the "Hole in the Wall Gang" for we would take the Lodges charters and leave a hole in the wall were it was. On one trip to Las Vegas for National convention we visited 22 Lodges from here to there and back and came back with 22 Charters. We mailed them all back and were asked not to do that anymore, so we have curtailed that bit of activity, pretty much, since that time.

We weren't able to afford the rent at the Village for long and became a roaming Lodge for the next 15 years or so, meeting in the VFW hall and the American Legion, Arvada Lodge, Westminster and Lakewood Lodge's before finally being able to buy a property at

16795 W. 50th Ave. in Golden in 2004-2005. We have been working on remodeling it since then and hope to soon get our certificate of occupancy. We have always done a good job with the Elk programs and charities. We have had the highest in per capita donations to ENF several years and are up there in all years. We have won the Americanism trophy so often there is talk of just giving it to us. Our Lodge bulletin consistently wins 1st place in our division. We have had and continue to have many District and State Chairmen. We have had 3 District Deputies in our Lodge. We give many scholarships every year to students at Golden High and sponsor a presentation clock to one of the Valedictorians every year. We give out about 300 dictionaries to the 3rd graders in 6 area schools every year and sponsor a drug awareness poster contest and Americanism Essay Contest every year. We hold a Hoop Shoot and once had a State Hoop Shoot Champion from our Lodge. Well that about covers the first 23 years in a nutshell.