

ABOUT EFFINGHAM ILLINOIS LODGE 1016

Effingham Lodge 1016, BPOE was instituted on March 19, 1906, with the Charter Members being initiated into the Order by Mattoon Lodge #495.

Since every lodge year begins on April 1 of each year, the institutional meeting was the last meeting for that lodge year and the first officers were elected for Lodge year 1906-1907. Brother C. E. Ryman was elected first Exalted Ruler. Lodge 1016 was chartered by the Grand Lodge on July 20, 1906, the official founding date of this Lodge.

The Lodge brothers immediately began a search for a permanent Lodge home and after several months rented Mr. Schnabelin's hall in what was then known as the Trade Palace Building. The Lodge later purchased that building which was located at the southeast corner of Third Street and Jefferson Avenue and occupied by the Glove Factory now the City Government Building

The new Lodge wasted no time in getting to the primary business of Elkdom - Charity. In April of 1906, San Francisco suffered a devastating earthquake. On May 7, 1906, the Lodge - not quite two months old - donated \$50 to the Grand Lodge for the San Francisco fund. In February, 1907, the Lodge furnished Room #15 at St. Anthony's Hospital. This same spirit of charity has continued through the years and will continue in the future.

In February, 1907, the initiation fee was raised from \$15 to \$25 and dues were then \$12 per year. The initiation fee is still \$25 and dues were just raised last year from \$14 to \$25 with the \$11 increase being earmarked to retire building indebtedness.

One of the first acts of the proud new Lodge was to challenge the local Knights of Columbus to a ball game. The outcome is not known but Lodge minutes reveal that only two such challenges were made. In March, 1912, the first bowling committee was appointed. The Lodge had three fine bowling teams.

In September, 1915, the Lodge moved to John Jones's Hotel building at the northwest corner of Banker and Jefferson. In 1916 the Lodge purchase the building and for almost 50 years this was "home" for Lodge 1016. In recent years the ground floor was leased to Effingham Drugs and to Loy Hardware, later to the Post Office.