

75

75 Years

The Story of
Charlevoix Lodge
No. 282, F. & A. M.



75th Anniversary Banquet

December 20, 1946

Charlevoix - - - Michigan

*I*T was on June 4, 1870 that "A Lodge was opened on the third degree of Masonry in due and ancient form."

So runs the account in the old minute book of Charlevoix Lodge No. 282, recording the first formal Masonic meeting here.

Acting under a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Michigan, Brothers E. H. Green as Worshipful Master, I. S. Webster as Senior Warden and W. A. Smith as Junior Warden organized the new Lodge.

Serving with them at that first meeting as officers pro tem were Jackson Ingalls, secretary; William Nelson, treasurer; Lemuel Skinner, senior deacon; Orville D. Wilson, junior deacon; and George Keyes, tyler.

The first petition for membership was from Ammon J. Beers, who was approved and subsequently admitted to the degree of Entered Apprentice at the July 2 meeting, being the first man received into the new lodge.

The story of Charlevoix Lodge for the next ten years is one of growth and the usual growing pains. E. H. Green served as master until June, 1874, being succeeded by Archibald

Butters. The original by-laws were changed from time to time to fit the needs of the Lodge. Hard times were marked in the minutes by dues being remitted.

During those first ten years the Lodge from the first had met in the Fox and Rose hall. This was upstairs in a wood building standing on the east side of Bridge Street near the present ship channel. But the Masons had grown both in numbers and resources to a point where they wished something better. So when in 1879 Willard Smith planned a new building near the present drive to the harbor office, the Lodge made an agreement with him. He built the first floor, the Masons the second. The lodge then leased the second floor from him for 50 years.

On June 24, 1880, this new hall was formally dedicated, with E. H. Green, the original Worshipful Master, representing the Grand Lodge at the ceremonies.

For half of that 50 year term, the Lodge continued comfortably in the building. But being a wooden structure, repairs became more frequent and the feeling grew that the order should have something still better.

It was in 1904 that Brother Sam Rose

learned the lots between Mason and Antrim streets could be bought for about half their assessed value. Swift action followed and within two days the Lodge had bought 55 front feet of A. K. Daugherty for \$2,200. The lodge sold tickets at \$10 each to supplement the \$900 in the treasury to meet the cost. These tickets were to be repaid in 1 to 90 months.

A short time after this more repairs were urged for the old building. Instead of using the money for them, a move prevailed to spend the sum on the new lot. Sam Rose, Charles See and Calvin Price were named as a committee to handle it. They met after Lodge; the next morning work started digging the basement. In one month the foundation was completed. Joists and a covered floor were put in. Then the money ran out and for eight years the empty basement with its exposed floor stood on the corner.

Then it was suggested that a Masonic Building Association be formed. Arthur Fitch and John Ackert drew up the needed papers and the association was duly incorporated by the State of Michigan. It is the same organization which still is functioning today and holds title to this building.

The first officers were Hershel Miller, president; Charles See, secretary-treasurer; John Ackert, Frank Hines, Olaf Nordrum, Swayne Paten, Arthur Fitch, Frank Wilkerson, and Sam Rose, trustees.

The Association issued \$12,000 in bonds and sold stock at \$10 a share when other money ran out. Within one year the building was completed and dedicated. There remained however the task of paying off bonds, notes signed by trustees, and finally the stock, all of which have been cleaned up.

Today with a membership of 177 and this building, Charlevoix Lodge No. 282, has come a long way from that 1870 meeting of eight Brothers in a rented hall. But now as then, the Lodge still practices and teaches Masonry "in due and ancient form."

Officers, 1946, Charlevoix Lodge

Worshipful MasterS. E. Coleman
Senior WardenGlenn Ingalls
Junior WardenRonald Abfalter
TreasurerErnest Hiller
SecretaryBradford Foster
Senior DeaconThomas Leo Carey, Jr.
Junior DeaconJames Hiller
TylerJudson K. Moore
Senior StewardSander Halverson
Junior StewardGetchell Campfield
OrganistWilliam Bellinger

Officers, 1946, Masonic Building Association

PresidentSam Rose
Vice-PresidentH. A. Craig
Secretary-TreasurerM. A. Levinson
Trustees—T. L. Carey, F. M. Glassford, J. C.
Marshall, B. Nickerson, Harold Withers.