OAKLAND HILLS COUNTRY CLUB AFFORDS MEMBERS REAL TREAT IN WINTER SPORTS

ELIZABETH BRAY, RUTH ARMSTRONG, VINETTA COOK, JEAN HEACOCK, MILDRED PATTERSON

MRS. J. J. SLUSSER, MAXINE JEWELL, BERNICE SMITH, IRENE BRAY, MILDRED SREER

MRS. F. PALMER

ARIS GRANLIN, DOROTHY COOK, ELIZABETH HASCALL, UNICE LEWIS, MARIAN QUARTON

—Photo Courtesy Detroit Times.

Every day and evening for the past two weeks gay artes of members of the Oakland Hills Country Club nd their friends enjoyed the winter sports at the club's attractive country side out W. Maple Ave. near Birmingham. The lighting of the grounds made possible many evening parties. Both the school set and older crowd took advantage of the tobogganing and skating. After the zest of the winter sports was enjoyed the company gathered around the great open fireplace and refreshments were served. Some guests wore snowshoes and this sport, quite new to many, lent a real thrill. Some preferred skating. The toboggan was the center of much merrymaking.

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Mon., Tues. and Wed., Jan. 25, 26 and 27

"THE BEST PEOPLE"

A Sidney Olcott Production

– Vaudeville – News – Orchestra –

-Always A Good Show-

CONCERNING BUILDINGS ONCE NEW

(Continued From Page 9)

Building on Woodward Avenue. Their stay there was destined to be short, but uneventful. A fire of unknown origin which burned out the north wall of the place and purporting to be anti-mason in intent, drove the Lodge forth to new quarters. So it advanced the money for the building of the second floor of the new red brick store, and received a ninety nine year lease from Captain Bigelow entitling them to a permanent occupancy. And for fifty years, exactly, they remained in this place. For fifty years the narrow precipitous stairway on the Pierce Street side, now marked by a newer, easier flight, resounded to the ascent of many loger Masons, and many fearful ones. For a quick turn in the stairs brought one to the ante room, the preparatory room and the Tyler's Room where lived the nimbie "Goat." One need not let his imagination run far wild to assert that the Bigelow family, resident both below and above, heard strange noises on many occasions.

The grocery store and post office, presided over by Captain Bigelow, occupied the same general room down stairs now used by Shain's Drug Store. There in 1873 tea cost $2.00 a pound and clerks received $1.00 a week. In the center of the room where now stands the clock column was a big trap door through which hogsheads of brown sugar were hoisted from the cellar. The corresponding room upstairs was the big hall for lodge purposes. The Chapter, and the Blue Lodge were held together. A rather bare, barn-like room, to be sure, with a very high ceiling. Around the walls above the moulding, Wes. Faint painted a series of allegorical figures, meaningful to Masons, figures which with the passing of years became so dim and dingy as to disclaim any resemblance to their original intent.

One large wood stove near the Tyler's room, and a woodbox filled with heavy chunks of good oak and hickory kept the hall in some degree of comfort. The Master's chair at the extreme front, the Junior and Senior Warden's Stands at left and right, the altar in the center and an old Bible presented by Dr. Ebenezer Raymond, completed the list of the main articles of furniture.

On the evening of December 23, 1873, this new home was dedicated. Alanson Partridge, then Worshipful Master of Birmingham Lodge Number 44, presided, and the most Worshipful Master of all Michigan, Hugh McCurdy, officiated at the dedication ceremony, and delivered the public address later at the Methodist Church to an audience of six hundred. It is related that the Bible used on this occasion was loaned by Mrs. Cordelia James, wife of Squire James of Merrill Street. The old Bible of the Lodge was then being rebound. The relics of this service have been guarded and preserved for many years.

During the passing of years, the Grocery store beneath the Lodge changed hands coming into the possession of the firm of Whiteneed & Mitchell. On a balmy day in December 1885, the Bigelows moved out West Maple to a new and palatial residence on the corner of Bates Street. The little green front yard with the neat board fence gave way to a new addition built up front of the street, for the First National Bank. Blacksmith Barnum with his leather apron became Cobbler Billy Maiser with his leather apron, and Martha Baldwin began her never ending crusade to "save the trees" that were in the path of progress.

During the fifty years between 1873 and 1923, all of Birmingham passed daily and nightly in and out of the post office, grocery store, bank and Lodge room. The present Shain Block contains the same solid brick walls and sturdy beams of the original structure. These soon will outdate the memories of the oldest residents, mute, yet persisting chroniclers of an age long past.

ALANSON PARTRIDGE WAS A MUCH VENERATED CITIZEN

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of an erring brother than he, and the widow and the fatherless never appealed to him in vain for advice and assistance in their hour of need. He filled many positions of trust and importance in our fraternity as well as in business life with honor to himself and satisfaction to those who put their faith in him. He watched the growth of this village from its early days until, at the time of his death, it was beginning the symptoms of the phenomenal growth which it has since attained.

HUGH McCURDY LEFT IMPRINT ON MASONRY

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him. That a man so distinguished should have lived in our village and been initiated in his long career of service in Masonry in our own lodge brings home to us the fact that distinction founded on character and achievement knows neither time nor place.

Born in Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland, December 22, 1828 he emigrated to America with his parents in 1836 and took up his residence in Birmingham where he resided through youth and young manhood for nearly twenty years. The resolute courage and ambition that laid the foundation for his future success were nurtured and developed in this community. His early determination to secure an education led him to enroll in a select school, conducted by J. R. Corson. His first recognized work was as a cooper's apprentice, at which job he worked with the same conscientious devotion to duty that characterized his later life. He fell under the notice of Dr. E. Raynale who became interested in the perseverance and ambition of the lad and persuaded him to study law. To undertake the study of law in those days was what we would characterize as "a man's sized ambition." The resources of public school, academies and university were not as readily available as they are today. Nevertheless Hugh McCurdy, his purpose once formed persisted with indomitable courage pursuing by studies on one hand and supporting himself on the other by a variety of occupations. He was freight agent at Birmingham on the old Detroit and Birmingham railroad no vestige of whose strap rails or other primitive equipment now remains. He taught school in Birmingham and in Royal Oak. He took up the "reading of law" in the firm of Baldwin and Draper at Pontiac and was admitted to the Bar of Michigan in 1854. Shortly after he moved to Corunna, Michigan where he resided the rest of his life. In public affairs he served as prosecuting attorney, judge of probate, State Senator and for many years on the county board of supervisors of Shiawassee County. He established the First National Bank of Corunna and served as President for eight years. He won an enviable record as a jurist and a still more enviable record for fidelity and benevolence that never wavered in the course of humanity.

The record of Judge McCurdy's Masonic life, extending over a period of years, almost one fourth of the entire life of Freemasonry in America contains almost every distinction which the Masonic order can bestow. The names alone of these honors are unfamiliar to most of us but the record, starting in our own Birmingham Lodge should be a peculiarly constant inspiration to us in Birmingham. In bold outline it is as follows:

1850—Initiated in Birmingham Lodge No. 44, August 5, and raised to the degree of Master Mason ten days later. It is interesting to note that his initiation was under special dispensation from the Grand Lodge as the Charter had not yet been issued.

1851—Formed Corunna Lodge No. 115 and served as Master for six years.

1864—Received Chapter degrees and was exalted to the Royal Arch in Washington' Chapter No. 15 at Flint.

1865—Established Corunna Chapter No. 33 and served as High Priest six years.

1866—Received the order of the Temple in Fenton Commandery No. 14 Fentonville, Michigan.

Received the Council degrees of Royal and Select Master in St. Johns Council No. 21 at St. Johns, Michigan.

Received Consistory Degrees in Detroit Consistory.

1869—Grand King of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

1870—Deputy Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

1871—Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

1872—Deputy Grand Master of Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Michigan.

1873—Unanimously elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge—the only unanimous election ever recorded up to that time.

Received the 33rd degree and was created honorary member of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Laid the cornerstone of the new State Capitol at Lansing.

1875—Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery of Michigan.

Instituted a Council of Royal and Select Masters in Corunna and served as its Thrice Illustrious Master for eight years.

1876—Deputy Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery.

1877—Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery.

1879—Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons.

Grand Marshal of the Camp in the Supreme Council, which office he held for four years.

1880—Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States.

1883—Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States.

Elected and crowned an Active Member of the Supreme Council ad vitam.

1884 — Illustrious Commander-in-Chief of the Detroit Consistory of Detroit.

1886—Grand Generalissimo of Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States.

1889—Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States.

1892—Unanimously elected Most Eminent Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United States.

In 1909 The Supreme Grand Master summoned Hugh McCurdy from his labors on earth to everlasting refreshment in the Paradise of God, and in the cemetery at Corunna, stands a plain marble shaft that symbolizes the affection of surviving friends and marks the place of his interment.

WITH THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:

(Continued From Page 9)

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Dale D. Carter, Painter-Decorator.
Burt Moore, Sign Painter.

WHERE LOCAL MASONS FIRST MET

(Continued From Page 9)

gram.

We learn from the funeral of Scriba Blakslee, one of the charter members who was buried in Greenwood cemetery following Masonic services in the original lodge rooms, something of the sincerity and devotion and esteem which these twenty-eight men as individuals, as organizers and as a lodge reflected. There was such a long funeral procession that when the first carriage reached the cemetery the line extended along Woodward far south of Maple avenue.

And it would seem a fitting memorial to this first modest home of Birmingham's Masonic order, on the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary, if we, with all of our happy prospects, our complete equipment, our commodious Masonic Temple, could dedicate our lives as individuals and as an organization to reflect as favorably to our children as our forefathers have reflected to us.

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PROGRAM OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1926

Baldwin High School Auditorium, Wednesday Evening, January 20, 1926

Introduction ..... Stellar Quartette
Address ..... Rev. Charles H. McCurdy
..... Brother Warren Lincoln Rogers
(Coadjutor Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio)
..... Stellar Quartette
Thomas C. Evans, 1st Tenor ..... Edward J. Galer, 2nd Tenor
George L. MacDonald, 1st Bass ..... John D. Renton, 2nd Bass

PROGRAM OF THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1926

Diamond Anniversary of Birmingham Lodge No. 44 F. & A. M.
Lodge opened at 4:30 P. M. and first section of 3rd degree conferred.
Dinner at 6:30 Sharp.

A PAGEANT OF MASONRY

Written by ..... Clarence Vliet
Directed by ..... Mrs. Harold Middleton
Second section 3rd degree conferred upon Brother Stanley Treadwell.

Pageant Characters

Time ..... Ellsworth Plumstead
Beautiful Virgin ..... Mrs. Pearl Taylor
E. A. ..... Ernest A. Burtraw, Past Master
F. C. ..... Charles A. Bingham, Past Master
M. M. ..... Charles J. Shain, Past Master
3 Royal Arch Masons—Louis M. Randall, Past H. P., Geo. W. Forrester, Past H. P.; Charles Kamine, Past H. P.
Order of Eastern Star ..... Mrs. Gladys Chissus
Star Points—Mrs. Rose Baird, Mrs. Kate Leonard, Mrs. Lillian Moore, Mrs. Margaret Burtraw, Mrs. Dorothy McClellan.
Order of DeMolay ..... Carpenter Hewitt

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