

HISTORY OF ORANGE VALLEY LODGE NO. 13

By Brother David L. Ross and Brother David E. Jenkins

INTRODUCTION

This project began out of general conversation, curiosity, and because of a heart-felt desire to do something for the Craft. It is not a professionally-prepared paper — nor was it intended to be such. The paper matured because of Brother David T. Ross' persistence. It was he who dug through the maze of Riverside County official records to get the information. Brother David E. Jenkins assisted in the document's preparation. It is hoped that the Worshipful Master, Wardens and members will favorably consider the information and place the document in the archives of Orange Valley Lodge Number 13. Part I addresses real property--land and building values--plus the efforts of three Pioneer Trustees in securing the property. Part II explains the origin of the Lodge's name, looks at the Masonic Study Club, and some other significant events. Part III lists all of Orange Valley's Past Masters.

PART I

Orange Valley Lodge Number 13 springs from humble beginnings. The land on which it is presently situated was described as "Lot 15 of Block 4, Mapbook 6, Page 14". This appears on a map of the Santa Fe Tract dated December 24, 1887, within the records of San Bernardino County. The first structure was erected in the year 1905 and, at various times, the building served as a private dwelling, general store, and Lodge.

The following chart shows values of the land and building:

YEAR	LAND VALUE (\$)	BUILDING VALUE (\$)
1899-1907	102.00	775.00
*1908-1912	135.00	688.00
1913-1919	168.00	600.00
1920-1926	170.00	686.00
1927-1932	160.00	966.00
1933-1936	145.00	693.00
** 1937-1942	190.00	845.00

* Record not available; however, average figure is shown.

** In 1939, Trustees (O.L. Harris, S.Y. Beverley, and A.L. Williams) began the purchase of the lot (recorded on March 2, 1939, Deed #2247) from Mr. and Mrs. David A. Stokes. The agreed upon price was \$2,120.00 at 7 principal and interest. The monthly installment/payment of \$30.00 would begin on April 10, 1939. In March 1939, according to the county documents, the trustees paid a total of \$12.80 for having the necessary transactions recorded.

** From other records, we also know that S.Y. Beverley served as Worshipful Master (WM) during 1936, 1937, 1942, and 1943; that O.L. Harris was accorded this honor in 1939; that A.L. Williams was elected Worshipful Master for the year 1947.

II. Since the first building was erected during 1905, we can be assured that in the year 2005 our Lodge will be 100 years old and eligible for consideration as a Historical Landmark - if date of construction is primary.

III. This report ends. Hopefully it does not duplicate information already on hand or easily accessible to the Craft. It is hoped, also, that other members will be encouraged to undertake a research project relating to Freemasonry. It is our feeling that acquired knowledge must be shared. If sharing ceases, members will lose interest, the "Word(s)" may once again be lost, and our organization will wither away and die.

PART II

THE NAME

The city of Riverside is noted for its orange groves, and is situated in a valley, known as the "Valley of Paradise", and from this came "Orange Valley".

THE BEGINNING

Reverend James H. Wilson was instrumental in forming a Masonic Club in the city of Riverside, California. After a short duration, they were, on May 24, 1905 instituted as Orange Valley Lodge U.D. (Under Dispensation).

After having served the necessary period of time in a manner satisfactory to the Grand Lodge, Orange Valley was duly constituted on October 2, 1905, and received its charter to work as a regular lodge owing obedience to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California and Jurisdiction.

The founder, Reverend James H. Wilson, served as first Worshipful Master of Orange Valley Lodge Number 13 with T.W. Cooper, S.W.; C.H. Gordon, J.W.; J.W. Williams, Treas.; B.F. Edwards, Secy.; W.G. Goodwin, S.D.; S.H. Goodwin, J.D.; J.B. Culpepper, S.S.; M.M. Gordon, J.S.; R.B. Williams, Marshall; G.P. Little, Chaplain, and J.W. Wiley, Tyler.

Reverend Wilson, after moving from the city of Riverside, demitted to Hannibal Lodge Number 1 in San Francisco. He was later elected Grand Master and served this jurisdiction from 1920 to 1930 in that office.

In 1928, Orange Valley Lodge, along with the help of Queen Elizabeth Chapter Number 8, Order of the Eastern Stars, entertained the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Prince Hall Masons, the Golden State Grand Chapter, and the High Court Heroines of Jericho of California. This was the

first time such a large body of Masons and their adopted Sisters had ever been entertained in Riverside. The social clubs and citizens of Riverside also helped to make this event a great success.

The Lodge, in 1939, purchased its meeting hall - a modern and fully equipped building. Orange Valley is proud of its heritage, being one of the most solid and outstanding Lodges of this Jurisdiction.

1949 - Orange Valley Lodge Number 13 has the very distinct honor of having had one of its members elected to the highest office within the Gift of the Craft: Starling J. Hopkins was elected Most Worshipful Grand Master (MWGM), Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Jurisdiction of California and Hawaii, Incorporated. Grand Master Hopkins served honorably between the years of 1949 and 1955.

Between the years of 1965 and 1975, two additional affiliations emanated from Orange Valley Lodge: Sheik Temple Number 98, Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine, and Riverside Consistory Number 273, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, Prince Hall Affiliation.

In 1979, Orange Valley presented its first Past Masters (PMs) Banquet honoring the Master Masons who served as Worshipful Master of Orange Valley Lodge Number 13. (We presently have twenty-four [24] living Past Masters).

Major refurbishing and upgrade of our facility took place between 1985 and 1995. The efforts centered around bathrooms, stairs, kitchen, and backyard.

Rising Sun Chapter Number 12 - This youth group (Pythagorean Knights/Knights Pythagoras) was mentored by Lodge members. A few of them were: William Barr, Jr., David E. Jenkins, Houston Layton, Jr., Larry B. Martin, Lovell Morgan, and Thomas White, Jr. The chapter was modeled after a lodge. Education was stressed, and the youth were encouraged to be even more respectful toward parents, elders, and each other. The mentors helped chapter members with reading and provided ideas on how to better retain elements of the Ritual. Lodge members provided transportation to/from sporting events, other chapters, plus the Annual Conclave - and assisted with housing requirements. Brennan Banks, one of the Chapter Number 12's members, would be elected Grand Master Knight and served the jurisdiction for the years 1993 and 1994. (Chapter existed from 1987 to 1995).

Further, another of our Past Masters served the Grand Lodge with great distinction - in a variety of positions and throughout many years. He is the

Most Worshipful Past Grand Master (MWPGM) of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Jurisdiction of California, Incorporated, the Honorable Joseph Vincent Nicholas. Brother Nicholas served this jurisdiction as Grand Master between 1995 and 1998.

During 2004, we completed the \$27,000.00 purchase of two (left facing) lots. Therefore, we now have additional property to use for parking, an added structure, lease, rental, etc. The Worshipful Master, along with our Board of Trustees, is considering these as well as other options.

2005 - a very productive year. July - The 150th Annual Communication (Grand Lodge) was convened in Riverside, at the Convention Center and Orange Valley was the Host Lodge. The event was held from July 15th through July 22nd. In attendance were Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters Ronald Robinson and Joseph Vincent Nicholas. Also present: Right Worshipful (RW) Senior Grand Warden Carl C. Corbin, and RW Junior Grand Warden Carl D. Parker. Other Grand Lodge officers - RW Grand Lecturer Tommie E. Phillips, Sr., and District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) George W. Whitfield of District 13. Others present: MWGMs of Prince Hall Grand Lodges of Washington, D.C., and Washington State. Also: the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of California, Free & Accepted Masons. During meetings, reports were presented, and outstanding individuals and committees were recognized. Co-fraters from the Order of the Eastern Star, Royal Arch Masons, Heroines of Jericho, Knights Templar and the Guild were present. Leisure time was filled with visitations, hospitalities, golf and bowling. A public religious service was conducted on Sunday, July 17th. Vendors had items on display. (Over 2500 persons were expected, but we do not have an exact count of attendees). October -Events for Orange Valley's 100th Anniversary. Kicked off with an open house, October 15th. Presentations included: What is Freemasonry or Masonry? (WM Ardis Franklin), Masonry and Religion (Milton F. Hardison), Brief History of Prince Hall Masons and Relationship to Other Masons (William Barr), Prince Hall Grand Lodge (Lovell Morgan), Brief History of Orange Valley Lodge #13 (David E. Jenkins), and Order of the Eastern Star (Worthy Matron Barbara Whitman). JW Lany B. Martin MC'd the event, and he had gathered and displayed several priceless Minute Books, Programs, and other memorabilia which covered many years. Following the Question and Answer portion of the program, a guided tour of Lodge property was conducted. On October 22nd, - again, with the able assistance of Queen Elizabeth's members, we had a banquet at Riverside's Convention Center to formally celebrate the Lodge's 100th Anniversary. It was well attended by members of organizations mentioned in regard to the Annual Communication. Our guests included the Mayor of Riverside, Ronald O. Loveridge, and City Councilman Ameal Moore (Ward 2). Special recognition: to Brother Albert L. Wallace (oldest active lodge member), SW Lorenzo Martinez (Master Mason of the Year), RW Milton Hardison

(Master Mason of the Decade) Nathaniel T. Owens (50 Year Membership). Another highlight was the comments by our Guest Speaker - the Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Joseph Vincent Nicholas (MWPGM). He remarked on the good works by lodge members; support and influence of church and other organizations; problems encountered by early African American migrants (principally from southern states) to Riverside's East-side; and hopes for the future. He stated that Orange Valley should be congratulated on its success, and endurance; that their accomplishments were not done alone, and that the Lodge had come "from a mighty long way". Brother Nicholas' remarks were timely and very well received. Though-out, he emphasized the "The Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of Man". NOTE: Brother Nicholas, who resides in Utah, stated that he was honored to be the Guest Speaker. The dinner was delicious, and approximately 200 persons took part in this auspicious celebration.

Orange Valley Lodge Number 13 is indeed blessed. We can identify Other members who have had the honor and privilege of wearing the "purple apron" which designates grand lodge officers, namely: Right Worshipful (RW) Damon L. Alexander, Board of Directors; RW William Barr, Jr., Chairman/Director of the Knights of Pythagoras/Pythagorean Knights; RW Darywl B. Bowden, Chairman, Youth Department; RW James E. Gist, Vice Chairman, Research & Education; RW Barrington Grogan, Jr., Vice Chairman, Ways and Means; RW Milton F. Hardison, Chairman, Emeritus of Charity and Benevolence Team, and District Deputy Grand Master; RW Houston Layton, Jr., Secretary, Youth Department; RW Guy L. Moore, Sr., Chairman, Research & Education; RW Lovell Morgan, Deputy Grand Master; RW Walter L. Sewell, Member of Health Systems Committee, and RW Vemon Spence (assignment not available).

MEETINGS:

Orange Valley Lodge Number 13, F. & A. M., meets the First and Third Thursdays, 8 PM at 2931 - 12th Street, Riverside, California.

(PART III which lists all Past Masters is not included with this printed article, but will be available on the Research Lodge's website.)