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HISTORY OF KELSO LODGE #94 F. & A. M.

A petition for a dispensation to start a new lodge at Kelso was signed by David Malone and eight others. Kalama #17 was the sponsoring Lodge. Grand Master Augustus Plummer granted the dispensation January 16, 1893.

The first Master was David Malone and he was to serve as Master for five years, though not consecutively. Jesse Moon served as Master four years.

This was a full moon lodge, meeting on the Wednesday of or before the full moon. The fees for the degrees was set at \$30 with dues of \$4 a year.

At the first stated meeting held on February 15, 1893 four petitions for the degrees were received. The first candidate to be raised was E. S. Collins of the Ostrander Railway and Timber family. The second candidate was Dan Jones on April 19, 1893. He died January 19, 1937.

The first by-laws stated that in the order of business, "the subject of charity shall always have preference." And so it was to be in this lodge over the years.

As was the custom for many years upon the raising of a candidate, the lodge put on a banquet and invited the brethren from Kalama #17, Castle Rock #62 and Rainier #24 A.F. & A.M. from across the river in Rainier, Oregon to join the celebration. After the dinner the lodge passed out cigars. A typical bill for cigars was 75 for \$2.85.

A Charter was granted the new lodge June 14, 1893. By the end of the first year the lodge had 29 members.

The first member to die was Brother Ott.

Hall rental was \$2.50 a month. The lodge had very tough sledding, being born at the start of the famous panic of '93. For a decade the balance in the treasury flirted around \$5 and for a long time was in the red. At one time it was \$72 in the red.

In February 1893 the meeting night was changed to the first, third and fifth Wednesdays of the month. Then in August 1893 the meetings were changed to the first Wednesday of each month.

In the early days there were very few roads. Kelso is situated at the confluence of the Cowlitz, Columbia and Coweeman Rivers. The Cowlitz was navigable by stern wheelers as far as Toledo. There were no roads on the north bank of the Columbia between Kelso and the sea. Travel was by boat out of Stella and Cathlamet. Consequently it was the usual practice for petitions from Stella and Cathlamet to be presented to Rainier #24. Kelso would grant the waivers of jurisdiction.

In February 1895 the meeting place was changed to the I.O.O.F. Hall in the town of Catlin. The Grand Master granted a dispensation to meet in another town. Catlin tried but failed to get a post office as it was found that there was already a town by that name. Catlin quietly passed out of existence and was absorbed by what is now West Kelso. Rent for this hall was \$25 a year. The Od Fellows Hall was at 1st and Main in West Kelso, diagonally across from the Big Four Furniture Store of the thirties and forties that W. Bros. Wasser and Silverman operated. Anderson's Drug Store was downstairs.

The G.A.R. was active in those days and had a hall of their own. Each year they would invite Kelso Lodge to march with them in the Memorial Day parade. The G.A.R. Hall was above Olson's store.

The panic of '93 was proving to be quite a handicap to the fledgling lodge.

Some of the members were unable to pay the \$4 dues so they would pay the secretary \$1 now and then. The fees which had been raised to \$40 in 1893 were dropped back to \$30 in 1895. By now the lodge was paying \$17 in annual Grand Lodge fees.

In the early days the by-laws of the individual lodge specified the qualifications for membership petitioning. This may be the reason that there were no rejections for quite some time - 14 years as a matter of fact.

During the hard times it was common to receive requests for financial aid from other lodges. One such request was from a lodge in Illinois asking help in lifting the \$6000 mortgage. A lodge in Everett and a lodge in Florence, Oregon also asked for help.

In 1897 the place of meeting was changed to the G. A. R. Hall, which could be rented for \$9 a year, "lights and fuel furnished."

Masonic funerals were held on Sundays. When the lodge was asked to give a departed Brother a Masonic funeral they did just that - literally. Bills presented for one typical funeral included \$2.50 for rent of a carriage, \$31 for a coffin and \$5 for digging the grave. The lodge walked from the Temple to the cemetery in Catlin.

In 1898 the meeting night was changed to Thursday. Later in the same year the meeting place was changed to the Maccabee Hall and the meeting night changed to the Monday of or before the full moon. Later in 1898 it was changed to the Saturday of the full moon.

Tragedy struck the lodge on November 22, 1899. On that day the body of W. Bro. William Shanklin, the secretary of the lodge, was found in the ashes of his home on a farm on what is now called the hill in Kelso. It was generally assumed that the fire was to cover up a murder. Although what follows is strictly speaking not lodge history. It is related because of its

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connection with three of our Brothers, Stuart Bush, Bill Uhri and W. Bro. Lester Huntington.

The murderer was not discovered until two more murders were committed on a farm in Hazel Dell near Castle Rock. A Mr. and Mrs. Knapp were lined up through the kitchen window and killed with a single shot, as they were eating. The bodies were discovered the next day. The sheriff was notified in due time. Kalama was the seat of county government then. The sheriff tracked the assailant to the river by means of some spilled flour. The killer had ransacked the house for money and provisions and had taken a sack of flour. Later a boat was discovered to be missing from its customary moorings. Later the same boat was found adrift on the Columbia opposite what is now the Weyerhaeuser mill site. The boat had the outline of a person on the thwart in flour. The sheriff then searched upstream and found a Martin Stickle in a houseboat washing blood out of some clothes.

In the meantime the sheriff had deputized Percy Ely to help him. When they approached the houseboat the sheriff covered Ely while he forced the door and surprised Stickle, who had a loaded shotgun. The arrest was made. Stickle confessed the murders and when Shanklin's watch was found in his possession he confessed to the murder of W. Bro. Shanklin. Robbery was the motive in all cases.

Stickle lived with the Knapp family. On the day of the double slaying Mr. Knapp had sold some stock. Stickle was aware of this and plotted the murders to get the money. He was not very bright and by today's standards would be considered only slightly above a moron. According to V. W. Bro. R. Daniel Welch, Percy Ely was a roundabout distant cousin. He was Dan's father's uncle's half-brother. He ran the newspaper in Kelso later and built the Ely Building. Sheriff Kirby was the father of a man who was later to be Judge Kirby.

Our Brother Bill Uhri lived on the Knapp place at one time.

Also found in Stickle's possession at the time of his capture was a list of future robbery victims. The father of our Bro. Stuart Bush was on this list.

Stickle was tried and found guilty and sentenced to be hanged at the Court House in Kalama. Kirby, the sheriff, did not relish the task and successfully stalled until he was out of office. The incoming sheriff was the father of our W. Bro. Lester Huntington. He did not want to carry out the order of the Court either but there was no way out. So he fortified himself with a pint of whiskey, turned his back and sprang the trap and then ran from the scene. This hanging in 1901 was the last one in Cowlitz County.

On November 12, 1901, largely due to the urging of Bro. Fred Stewart the lodge purchased from W. G. Adams, Lots 3 & 4, in Block H of Commercial Addition to Kelso for a future building site. The consideration was specified to be for \$275 in gold coin.

In January 1904 the lodge adopted a resolution to organize a lodge of the Eastern Star.

In June 1905 the meeting night was changed to the first and third Friday and the place of meeting changed to the Gray Hall at a rental of \$10 a month. Dues were raised to \$5.

The W.M. appointed a committee to go down to the street and see if they could hear what went on upstairs. They returned and reported that they could hear every work perfectly.

For the first time since the lodge had been formed the finances were in comparatively good shape. So affluent did they feel that they voted to pay the secretary 50¢ a meeting plus his dues.

Taxes on the lots were \$5.75 in 1905 and \$11.92 in 1908.

From the start of the lodge and until very recent times it was the custom upon the death of a Brother for the Master to appoint a Committee of Condolence. This committee would draw up resolutions about the departed Brother and in very flowery language extoll his virtues, express the sorrow of the lodge at their loss and express the best wishes of the lodge along with their sympathy for the widow. The resolution would be copied at length in the minutes, a copy sent to the widow and a copy sent to the newspaper. Incidentally, there was not a newspaper in Kelso until 1906.

In 1906 there was the first mention of the use of the telephone, for which there was a bill for 60¢. Electricity came in 1906. There was a flat rate of \$4.25 a month. The lodge was assessed for sewers in 1907, for paving in 1911 and for sidewalks in 1912.

By 1909 the lodge treasury had swelled to \$600. The lodge voted to loan to one of its members \$500 at 10% interest.

In 1910 the lodge voted to lease their lots to W. Bro. Fred Stewart for \$200 a year. The lots had been fenced to keep livestock out. After Stewart leased the lots there was a grocery store there.

When the lodge was meeting in Catlin the members had to cross the river on a temperamental lift bridge. Sometimes the bridge would be raised and would not come down. Then the members would have to be ferried back by boat. When the river was flooding this was a perilous venture.

In 1911 the lodge moved to the I.O.O.F. Hall at a rental of \$20 a month.

In 1911 the lodge adopted a resolution to notify the Grand Master that in the opinion of Kelso Lodge the office of District Deputy Grand Master should be abolished.

In 1912 the fees for the degrees were raised to \$40.

W. Bro. Claude Shipley remembers (1968) a forest fire when it was necessary to keep the lights on night and day for 12 days. The year was not specified but it could have been the great Yacolt burn.

Inflation came in 1914. Taxes were now \$98.94. The economy slowed down. Fourteen members were dropped for N.P.D. This was a very large percentage of the membership.

In 1914 the lodge received an urgent appeal from the Grand Master for each lodge to send funds to help alleviate the terrible suffering in war-ravaged Belgium.

In 1915 the lodge held its first trial and expelled a member.

In 1917 the Lodge invested \$200 in war bonds.

In 1920 the lodge began seriously to explore the possibilities of building. As a first step a clause was inserted in the lease of the lots to W. Bro. Stewart providing for termination after six months notice. W. Bro. Stewart objected so it was changed at the next meeting to 18 months notice. At this time the Lodge was meeting in the Ely building.

W. Bro. Stewart was head of the Kelso State Bank which went broke in the early twenties. There was a connection with the rumors that the Long-Bell Lumber Co. was going to build nearby. Some bad guesses were made on land speculation and the bank failed.

W. Bro. Stewart was known to have gone to Portland with a briefcase of securities in an attempt to raise some money. He returned by train on the Oregon side of the river and was known to have stopped at the bank in St. Helens. Later he boarded the ferry at Goble. He was seen getting aboard at Goble but no one remembered seeing him disembark at Kalama. Since his brief case was found on board it was assumed that he had fallen overboard or jumped. There were rumors connected with the case that he was later seen in Mexico but this was just a rumor. According to V.W.

Bro. Dan Welch, Fred Stewart squired his aunt at one time. His aunt was a Kelso school teacher and never married.

W. Bro. Stewart received his three degrees in three consecutive days - something of a record. He was very sharp mentally. V.W. Bro. Dan Welch and Bro. Stuart Bush remember W. Bro. Stewart as a very honorable man who tried desperately to save his bank.

In the early twenties the Long-Bell Lumber Co. began construction of the new town of Longview. However, it was not where W. Bro. Stewart had supposed they were going to build. There was a large influx of workers to the area and this, of course, resulted in a flood of new petitions to Kelso Lodge. They were swamped with degree work and put on as many as five Master Mason Degrees in one day.

In 1921 the fees were raised to \$50 and to \$60 in 1922. The salary of the secretary was raised to \$20 a year plus his dues. When W. Bro. Jack Sandstrom signed the by-laws in 1922 he was #97. Six years later, in 1928, when he was Master, the Lodge had 200 members.

In 1923 a committee was empowered to arrange for financing a new building. Bro. Dr. R. L. Parrish was chairman of the building committee. By now the treasury had swelled to \$2400 and the lodge was 30 years old.

An architect was hired at a fee of \$1000 to plan a building. The plan adopted was for an ambitious undertaking for the fledgling lodge. The cost for the proposed building would be in the neighborhood of \$70,000. A loan was obtained from the State Savings and Loan Association, at a high rate of interest. This led to considerable future difficulty.

The cornerstone was laid December 22, 1923 by M. W. Bro. Tom Holman, Grand Master.

On February 1, 1924 the contractor was urged to speed up the job.

Kelso Lodge moved into its new Temple April 4, 1924 and to celebrate the great occasion a special team of Past Masters conferred a third degree. The new Temple was dedicated October 3, 1924 by M. W. Bro. R. C. McCroskey, Grand Master, assisted by many of his Grand Lodge officers.

In 1925 the salary of the secretary was raised to \$75 a year plus his dues.

On February 1, 1924 Kelso adopted a resolution to sponsor a new lodge in the town of Longview.

In September 1925, jointly with Longview #263, Kelso sponsored a Chapter of DeMolay.

With the new Temple in operation expenses escalated rapidly. Taxes were now nearly \$1500 a year. A janitor was required at a salary of \$60 a month. The lodge was paying \$3200 in interest alone. Something had to be done. The debt of the lodge was refinanced with the Acacia Mutual Life Association by means of a first mortgage of \$30,000 at 6% interest. The method of repayment was by 40 separate notes coming due at six month intervals.

On May 3, 1931 W. Bro. William Braack, the last surviving Charter member, passed away.

Hard time returned again in 1931. It was necessary to sell some shares of Puget Power stock for whatever they would bring to get some operating cash. The fees for the degrees were lowered from \$85 to \$70. In 1931 there were 15 N.P.D. and in 1932 another 19 were N.P.D. But in spite of the heavy drains upon the treasury the lodge still saw fit to contribute the sum of \$20 a month to the support of the widow of a departed Brother. In addition, the Lodge paid for eye glasses for the children.

In 1933 the dues were reduced to \$6 in an attempt to stop the rising tide of N.P.D.'s.

On May 19, 1933 a 40th anniversary celebration was held. There were two 40 year members present. They were E. S. Collins and Dan Jones. Bro. Jones said he owed his life to Kelso Lodge. His reasoning was this way: Jones and a partner had planned to go to Alaska to prospect for gold. At about the time they were to have departed Jones received notice that his petition for the degrees had been accepted. Jones decided to delay his departure until he had proved up on his degrees. His partner went on ahead. His partner was one of those hardy pioneers who toiled over the Chilkoot Pass to the Yukon. There he laboriously built a boat or a raft and attempted to float his supplies down the treacherous river. The raft was overturned in the rapids and Jones' partner was drowned. So Jones figured that had it not been for Kelso Lodge intervening he quite possibly would have been lost along with his partner.

At the time of the 40th anniversary celebration Bro. Jones was living at the Masonic Home at Zenith. W. Bro. Morris Wasser brought Bro. Jones down here for the event.

It is interesting to note that as late as 1926 the meeting place was heated with wood. It was quite a chore to get the wood upstairs. A load of wood cost \$5 plus \$1 to get moved upstairs. The lesser lights were candle power until 1935. In that year a committee was authorized to purchase a cluster of electric lights.

On December 18, 1936 a new agreement was made with the Acacia Mutual Life for a debt of \$27,000 over a period of 30 years at 6% interest, with payments of \$144.99 a month.

In 1938 there was started a series of return visits with Unity Lodge #106 A.F. & A.M. in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. They were started when W. Bro. Charles Brayne, along with some of his close friends, came down to Kelso to see his son, W. Bro. R. Harry Brayne, installed as W. M. of

Kelso Lodge. The Brethren from Canada had such a good time that they invited Kelso to pay them a return visit. This was accordingly done and the brand of hospitality showed us overwhelmed us. As a result the lodge enthusiastically voted to continue the visits. The visits have continued for more than 30 years and have come to be recognized as one of the best examples of international brotherhood at work in all of Masonry. Deep and abiding friendships have been formed. The annual get-together is the high point of the year for Kelso Lodge.

On July 7, 1939 two arsonists set fire to the Temple. The building and furnishings were extensively damaged. The Charter and priceless heirlooms were destroyed. Many of the written records of the lodge were lost. Longview Lodge #263 graciously offered the use of their Temple while Kelso was rebuilding.

The fire apparently started behind the piano in the northeast corner. W. Bro. Joe Lebo was one who helped lug a hose up the stairs and direct water at the base of the fire or it would have been much worse. The roof was burned off.

At the time of the fire the law firm of Atwell and Moore rented space upstairs as did Bro. Bill Sibbald. There was a music store and a grocery store downstairs. The combined rental from these tenants was \$500 a month.

W. Bro. A. D. Byram had suffered some financial reverses in the business he was engaged in and the lodge had come to his rescue. He operated the Washington Hotel, which was on the site of the present Safeway Store on Pacific Avenue. The lodge loaned W. Bro. Byram \$500 and he was to be forever after grateful to the Lodge. He showed it in many ways but perhaps this is the best example: W. Bro. Byram made the discovery that apparently no one owned the alley behind the lodge building. This alley was

essential for the operation of the building as sawdust trucks had to use it to get back to the boiler room. W. Bro. Byram filed a claim for the narrow strip of land and purchased it. He later donated it to the Lodge. This was to have great significance after the fire.

On August 4, 1939 a committee was appointed and chairmaned by W. Bro. Morris Wasser to negotiate with Acacia Mutual Life re repairs to the Temple. Armed with the fact that the mortgage did not cover the alley W. Bro. Wasser was able to use it as a powerful lever to effect a settlement. The committee offered to give the Temple back to Acacia but they refused the offer. W. Bro. Wasser then pointed out to the representative that without the alley the building was useless. Acacia Mutual then came to terms.

At the next meeting on August 18, 1939 the committee was authorized to negotiate a loan for \$15,000. This proved to be impossible. Then W. Bro. Aren Holleman and Bro. Fred Holleman approached their parents with the proposition to loan the Lodge \$10,000 at 4% interest. This was accordingly done. But the Lodge still needed more funds to complete repairs.

The committee came up with the plan for the Lodge to issue certificates of indebtedness to its members. The members took these certificates to the bank and used them as collateral for personal loans. The money so obtained was then turned over to the lodge. The value of these certificates totaled about \$25,000.

One Brother had a certificate in the amount of \$5,000. He had a chicken ranch near Kalama. His chicken ranch went broke. The bank went broke and a receiver was appointed to liquidate the assets. W. Bro. Wasser went to the receiver and told him he understood he had a note with the Masonic Lodge involved. He told the receiver he did not like the idea of the Masonic Lodge being mixed up with the receivership and offered to buy the note. He offered \$250 for it. After thinking over the realities of the situation

for a while he accepted the offer. W. Bro. Judge Earl Stone was the Judge of the Superior Court at the time and he gave permission for the deal. Whereupon W. Bro. Wasser marked the note paid in full. W. Bro. Wasser learned that Bro. E. S. Collins had a note for \$2,000. He made it a point to get acquainted with Bro. Collins and went to see him. He showed Bro. Collins the \$5,000 note marked paid and asked Bro. Collins to do likewise, and to the surprise of W. Bro. Wasser, Bro. Collins did just that. Many more of the notes were paid off the same way.

The furniture of the lodge was so badly burned that it appeared useless to try to repair them. However, Kelso Lodge was fortunate in having two furniture experts among its members. W. Bro. Abe Silverman and W. Bro. Morris Wasser undertook the task of restoring the furniture. It was moved to the shop of their Big Four Furniture Store at 1st and Main in West Kelso. Many members of the Lodge donated their time and effort to the task at hand. W. Bro. Jack Sandstrom and W. Bro. Charley Strange, for instance, would stop by after getting off work at the Crescent Shingle Mill and work for a while. There were many others and no slight is intended by failing to mention all the names.

You can note the fine workmanship of the Altar, the pedestals in the East, West, South and North, the seats in the East and the desk of the secretary. You can note the working tools in the East and how they were cut out by hand. Truly a remarkable job of craftsmanship!

On December 1, 1939 the Lodge moved back into its Temple.

In 1946 during the term of V. W. Bro. Al Novick as W.M. the mortgage was paid off and burned upon the Altar with appropriate fan-fare.

Due to the changing economy of the area a new pattern of membership was emerging. At the time the lodge was chartered there were few roads and no automobiles. The railroad had only recently arrived and at first the

trains crossed the Columbia from Goble to Kalama on a ferry. Before the railroads there was a stage line from Monticello Landing to Olympia. Logging and log booming, sawmilling, shingle weaving, farming and fishing were some of the principal occupations. Logging would shut down around Thanksgiving at the start of the rainy season and not start up again until in the spring.

Then came the Roaring Twenties. The wood products industries with pulp and paper mills and later the aluminum smelters came to the area. These required around the clock operation seven days a week. This meant shift workers. In the early thirties the 40-hour week was adopted as general practice. This gave considerable leisure time for the first time and coupled with the improved automobiles and better roads brought up the problem of attendance at Friday night meetings. School activities had long been centered around Friday night. When the stores began to stay open on Friday nights a king-size parking problem was created in the vicinity of the Temple. And then television was invented. Bowing to the inevitable the lodge once more changed the meeting night. This time to the first and third Tuesday of the month.

Bro. Carl Moore presented to the lodge a beautiful glassed trophy case that is in the Tyler's room. In it are kept some of the most treasured keepsakes of the lodge. The trowel used to lay the cornerstone in 1923 is there. Also to be found are the Washington Monitor, Holy Bible, Apron, and Past Master's Jewel of our beloved departed Brother, V. W. Bro. Ralph Edmonds, who was always referred to as Mister Masonry.

Also in the Tyler's room is a beautiful piece of true craftsmanship - Tyler's desk - presented to the lodge by W. Bro. Robert K. Kellog.

In the secretary's office is a steel desk presented to the lodge by the surviving heirs of our Bro. Jimmy Sipes. One of the brothers of Jimmy

Sipes was a Past Master of his lodge in Nebraska. He was instrumental in returning his share of Bro. Jimmy Sipes' estate to purchase the desk. A name plate with Bro. Sipes' name on it is attached to the desk, which was presented to the lodge in 1956.

In 1965 the lodge began a series of fund-raising campaigns to purchase a new rug for the Temple. This was led off with a successful crab feed. Others followed. One memorable one was a moose meat dinner. There were many outright cash donations and the fund grew rapidly. In 1967 the new rug was purchased and installed during the summer vacation.

The ladies of the Eastern Star presented new drapes and rods. The Eastern Star was also responsible for donating the round-backed arm chairs and for lavishly furnishing the ladies' lounge. They also presented the lodge with a new 50 star flag of our country.

W. Bro. Morris Wasser gave the lodge a new typewriter after the 1939 fire.

In 1964 Bro. Max Moore and his wife presented the lodge a grand piano in memory of their parents.

In 1968 W. Bro. Basil Bashor donated 100 theater seats to the lodge. W. Bro. Les. Garrett began the task of heading up work parties to re-upholster the seats.

Before the 1939 fire (exact date unknown) the banquet room was on the same level as the main lodge room. It was situated where the property lockers are in 1968. It is not known when the third floor dining room was built.

On February 20, 1968 Kelso Lodge "adopted" Tillie Mae Johnson, a permanent guest at the Masonic Home at Zenith. The lodge remembers her on all festive days and members and officers of the lodge make frequent visits to the Home to look in on her.

Kelso Lodge has seven 50 year members. Rt. Worshipful Bro. Milt. Poe, Washington #4, presently the Junior Grand Warden, is an Honorary member of Kelso #94.

On February 20, 1968 Brothers Joe Lebo and Jack Hanna were elected Honorary Past Masters in recognition of their long faithful service to the lodge.

On the occasion of the 25th anniveraary of the exchange visits with Unity Lodge #106, Vancouver, B.D., Unity presented Kelso with a beautiful framed verse: "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethern to dwell together in unity." It is proudly displayed on the wall of the lodge room.

In addition, there is an over-size travelling gavel that changes hands each return visit. On the head of the gavel is an engraved name plate for each of the years since the visits began, with the names of the presiding Masters.

In 1940 Bro. Bob Flye made a beautiful Charter container and presented it to the Lodge. One night two sojourners were passing through town when the Old Pacific Highway still went down Pacific Avenue. They stopped to eat and while returning to their car noticed that the light was on in the front of the Temple. On an impulse they decided to visit the Lodge. They were greatly impressed by the fine workmanship of the Charter container and complimented Bro. Flye for being a true craftsman. Whereupon Bro. Flye told them he would just build one for their lodge. This proved to be easier said than done.

The war in Europe was well underway and strategic metals were in short supply. It took a little time and politics to secure the metal for the project but finally it was accomplished. Then it took more time to get it plated and engraved but at last it was done. Destiny Lodge #197 in Tacoma, the home lodge of the two visitors, was notified that we were coming up

with the container. They made a big occasion of it. They held Charter night and had 17 Charter members of their lodge present. The container was presented to Destiny with appropriate ceremonies.

During World War II, 22 members of Kelso Lodge served in the various branches of the military. One member, Bro. Lt. Col. W. E. Chinn died in the service.

In 1968 Kelso Lodge had 372 members - down from a high of 400. The average age of the members is steadily increasing. It is now rare to see a young man in his twenties or even thirties petition the lodge.

Kelso Lodge born in a depression weather three of them. It has survived five wars, numerous floods and earthquakes and two fires.

On June 14, 1968 the Lodge had been chartered 75 years. The Worshipful Master in this the Diamond Jubilee is W. Bro. Billy Sisson. The secretary is W. Bro. Jack Wormwood.

For many years the lodge has used a device to streamline the business of the lodge and save time. This has been by way of appointing an Operating Committee to take care of maintenance and rentals of the building. While this has proved to be an effective way of handling these problems as they arise, it has at least one defect as far as compiling a history is concerned. The Operating Department keeps their own set of records, which are audited at the end of the year by another committee appointed by the Master. Usually this committee merely reports to the lodge at the

conclusion of the audit that they had found everything in order. Unfortunately, some of the records of the Operating Department have not survived time and perils of fires. For that reason this history may be lacking in some important details, simply because they were not found.

On November 5, 1968, a Diamond Jubilee was celebrated. W. Bro. Claude Shipley came down from his home in Tacoma for the great occasion. W. Bro. Shipley has been a member for 58 years and is the oldest living member and Past Master.

Two Grand Lodge officers were present and assisted in closing the lodge. Rt. W. Bro. Milt Poe, the Junior Grand Warden was in the East and W. Bro. Percy Veile, the Grand Tyler, was in the West. In the South was W. Bro. Gordon Young, W. Master of Kalama #17, the sponsoring lodge in 1893. V.W. Bro. Al Novick was the Chaplain and offered the following prayer at the closing:

"Most Holy and Lord God - as we are about to separate - accept our humble gratitude for the privilege of meeting as men and Masons and for the lives and efforts that have made this 75th Annual Celebration possible. We thank Thee for both the past that is gone and for the future that is before us, and we humbly pray that our efforts and talents may be so used, that hopefully, those that follow us will be glad for our being. We thank Thee for our W. Bro. Claude Shipley, our oldest link to the past, and for our newest member, our link to the future. Be with us as we continue our efforts until that day when we shall all meet in that Sublime Lodge Above. Amen."

So mote it be.

In 1969 constant inflation and rising costs of taxes, insurance, and fuel were draining the savings of the Lodge. A

resolution to raise the dues was defeated. The secretary's expenses were increased to \$60 a month.

In 1971 a resolution to raise the dues from \$12.50 to \$17.50 was defeated. It was necessary to increase the building insurance to \$105,000 to equal the required 80%. A proposal to change the meeting night to the first and third Fridays was rejected. A proposal to change the meeting night to second and fourth Tuesdays was approved. The same year a proposal to raise the dues to \$18 was defeated. The finances of the Lodge were in a crisis.

In 1972 due to large expenses with the boiler, it was necessary to withdraw \$1,000 from savings to pay the bills.

In 1973 there was a dispute with the City of Kelso re: the alley behind the temple. The Lodge had title to it, it having been donated to the Lodge by W. Brother A. D. Byram.

In 1974 a proposal to raise dues to \$17.50 was finally approved. The Lodge voted to retain ownership of the alley behind the temple and not give it to the city for a park.

In 1975 Kelso Lodge laid the cornerstone of the new Hall of Justice on October 18.

In 1976 occurred the first discussion of installing a stair lift.

In 1978 there were extensive repairs to the roof plus insulation in the attic space. First discussion on building a new refreshment room and kitchen on the second floor level. Subsequently done at no expense to Lodge. All labor and material

donated. It was reported that a stair lift could be installed for \$4,980. The Lodge voted to proceed.

In 1979 there was a proposal to install a public address amplifier, and the first discussion of life memberships. The Lodge in trouble again with expenses exceeding income. Necessary to withdraw \$1,500 from savings to pay the bills.

It was proposed to raise dues to \$25 and it was approved. The fees for the degrees raised to \$200.

In 1981 it was reported that a sound system could be installed for \$1,475 or \$1,986.

In 1982 the Order of Rainbow folded. Due to an expenditure of \$2,980 for roof repairs, it was necessary to withdraw \$1,798 from the building fund to pay the bills.

In 1983 V.W. Brother Jeff Ensworth was elected to Grand Junior Warden. A discussion was had on the proposal to secure a fire-proof storage for the Lodge records. The cost would be \$1,100. The proposal was tabled.

The Lodge now has 67 life members. At the invitation of the City of Kelso, Kelso Lodge laid the ceremonial brick for the Cowlitz Historical Society and the Kelso Centennial.

In 1985 roof repairs cost \$4,645. The flat roof is a constant source of expense.

There were extensive plumbing repairs costing \$1,988. Due to the Mt. St. Helens eruption in 1980, there was high turbidity in the Cowlitz River, where Castle Rock, Kelso, and Longview get their water. They mistakenly tried to remove the turbidity by

over-chlorinating. The net result was to seriously damage all the piping in the three cities. That was what accelerated the corrosion of the piping in the Kelso Temple.

In 1986 there were 83 life members. The fees were established to be:

21-35	\$450
36-45	\$400
46-55	\$300
56-65	\$250
66 and over	\$200

Plumbing in the drug store rental cost \$900 for repairs.

In 1989 the Rainbow Girls folded for the second time. Ryderwood Lodge now meeting in the Kelso Temple. Income from investments of the life membership fund now \$2,523 a year. First discussion of the feasibility of installing an elevator.

In 1990 the Lodge began preparations to celebrate the centennial in 1993. The Lodge raised \$613 for the elevator fund by manning the coffee breaks at the rest stop on I-5.

In 1989 the fees for the degrees were lowered to \$175. Another manning of the coffee stop on I-5 netted \$555. Due to potential liability suits for possible injury in the Temple, Grand Lodge recommended incorporating the Lodge. The recommendation was acted upon and a Temple Board was formed. Upon advise of the counsel, this would relieve the Lodge and individual members from liability.

In 1992 a resolution to permit alcoholic beverages in the building, but not in the sanctum, was balloted upon and soundly rejected.

In 1992 a work party replaced all of the windows in the Temple.

The druggist who rents the bottom floor of the Temple offered a proposal to buy the Temple. The proposal was referred to the members and it was voted to proceed with the sale. Temple Board is negotiating the sale.

The lodge now has 144 life members with \$35,700 invested in a trust fund.

Taxes on the Temple are now \$1262.06.

When W. Brother Aren Holleman died in he established a trust fund whereby his niece would receive the income during her lifetime, after which it would go to Kelso Lodge.

At a special communication on January 16, 1993, Kelso Lodge was opened by the following:

W.M.	V.W. Tom Morgan
S.W.	V.W. James Mosley
J.W.	Dale Wallace
Secretary	W. Jack Wormwood
Chap.	W. James Newman
Marshall	Pat Petrie
S.D.	W. James Joplin
J.D.	R. Graham Cross
Tyler	W. Art Huntington

Then with the following officers:

Master of Ceremonies	W. Jerry Shields
W.M.	M.W. George Leslie, Grand Master
Secretary	V.W. Maynard Brent
Marshall	M.W. Jeff Ensworth P.G.M.
Chaplain	V.W. Harry Rau

The following were installed as officers of Kelso Lodge for 1993:

W.M.	V.W. James Mosley
S.W.	Dale Wallace
J.W.	W. James Joplin

Treasurer	W. Ernest Clark
Secretary	W. Jack Wormwood
S.D.	R. Graham Cross
J.D.	Melvin Friedland
S.S.	Daniel Sinclair
J.S.	Charles Speed
Chaplain	W. James Mack
Marshall	Steven McKee
Organist	W. Keith Jacobs
Tyler	V.W. Maynard Brent

The charge to the wardens and Lodge was delivered by W. Brother James Newmon. The proclamation was delivered by M.W. Brother Jeff Ensworth P.G.M.

The following benediction was delivered by V.W. Brother Harry Rau:

"Almighty and everlasting God; from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, send down upon thy servants here assembled the healthful spirit of thy grace, that they may truly please thee in all their doings. Grant O Lord, power of mind and great understanding unto those whom we have this day clothed with authority to preside over and direct the affairs of this Lodge. We ask O Lord God to be with them into our next century of brotherly love, relief and truth. Help them to be worthy. Guide their hands, thoughts and deeds to make them better in thy sight, and so replenish with the truth of thy precepts and adorn them with humility of life, that, both by word and good example, they may faithfully serve thee, to the glory of thy holy name and to the advancement of all good purposes. We ask this in thy holy name, Amen. So mote it be."

Lodge was closed with the oldest living Past Master V.W. Brother Al Novick in the East, assisted by:

S.W.	Dale Wallace
J.W.	W. James Joplin
S.D.	W. Dennis Charlton
J.D.	Dennis Robbins
Secretary	W. Jack Wormwood.

Peace and harmony prevailed.

These are the men who have served as Worshipful Masters of Kelso:

1893 David Malone
1894 Jesse Moon
1895 Thomas Fisk
1896 W. M. R. Laughridge
1897 Jesse Moon
1898 Jesse Moon
1899 Jesse Moon
1900 George Gray
1901 David Malone
1902 David Malone
1903 David Malone
1904 David Malone
1905 Fred Stewart
1906 Fred STewart
1907 A. E. Cagwin
1908 E. G. Bixler
1909 Clement Bales
1910 B. L. Hubble
1911 A. T. Laurie
1912 Earl Knight
1913 Alfred Davis
1914 Richard Parrish
1915 Claude Shipley
1916 Lee Jones
1917 George Smith
1918 George Kerr
1919 Martin Baker
1920 John Dugan
1921 Quincy Young
1922 A. C. McDonald
1923 Sherman Vogel
1924 Jesse Bennett
1925 A. D. Byram
1926 R. Daniel Welch
1927 Ralph Edmonds
1928 John F. (Jack) Sandstrom
1929 Byron Oyster
1930 Charles Strange
1931 Gy Meatchem
1932 Harry Weiss
1933 Leonard Leach
1934 Robert Baxter
1935 Morris Wasser
1936 Abe Silverman
1937 Abe Silverman
1938 R. Harry Brayne
1939 Frank Bullock
1940 Charles Hendrix
1941 Aren Holleman

1942 Homer Willet
1943 Xavier Baker
1944 Oscar Olsen
1945 Jack Kelly Jr.
1946 Albert Novick
1947 Robert L. Kellogg
1948 Ed Roles
1949 Ralph Imeson
1950 A. Conland Wilson
1951 Merrill Crowe
1952 Basil Bashor
1953 A. O. (Chet) Crump
1954 Archie Putas
1955 Fred Stover
1956 Don Shannon
1957 Al Lushenko
1958 Richard Wilson
1959 Jeff Ensworth
1960 John W. (Jack) Wood
1961 LaVerne Chandler
1962 Ralph Middendorp
1963 Robert Kelly Kellogg
1964 Clyde Townsend
1965 Jack Wormwood
1966 Leslie Garrett
1967 Lloyd Elford
1968 Billy Sisson
1969 Mark Andrews
1970 Carl Blaine
1971 Bill Uhri
1972 Elmer Alston
1973 Archie Adirim
1974 Ken McIntosh
1975 Gary Boyd
1976 Les Suttles
1977 Keith Jacobs
1978 Harry Rau
1979 Maynard Brent
1980 Jack Wohl
1981 Dale Ashley
1982 Jim Newman
1983 Pat Goodbla
1984 Alan Hiatt
1985 Erne Clark
1986 Jim Mack
1987 Duane Rexford
1988 Harvey Good
1989 Garner Churchill
1990 Al Petersen
1991 Jerry Shields
1992 Tom Morgan
1993 Jim Mosley