CHANNEL ISLANDS LODGE No. 214

History

This accounting of the history of the Lodge is written in large part based upon the work of Most Worshipful Louis C. Drapeau who was responsible for the 75th Anniversary History, Most Worshipful Donald G. Ingalls who assisted in the Centennial History and to Worshipful Lemuel L. Coy who was instrumental in both pieces. Additional research was completed by Perry W. "Bill" Coy.

Research for the years after the 125th Anniversary was done Worshipful William Kavanaugh and Worshipful Ray Broomfield.
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### Affiliated and Consolidated Past Masters

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In 1870 it took a long time to go along the coast of California from the mission town of San Buenaventura, to the other mission town of Santa Barbara. The best way to travel then was by horse and buggy. And the road was a rough and rugged one. Where the causeway was later built along the Rincon highway, travelers could pass only at low tide. Journeys had to be timed according to the tide, and it took at least six hours to make the trip one way.

We can almost hear the conversation on that long road, coming home from the Lodge at Santa Barbara Saturday night on the full moon, when Lemuel C. McKeeby said to Brice Grimes and Henry Spear: "Why don't we have a Masonic Lodge in San Buenaventura?" They heartily agreed, and the rest of the ride really seemed short because of the plans they were formulating.

This was, perhaps, the very first thing which occurred in the history of San Buenaventura Lodge, No. 214, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of California.

On page 1 of Vol. I of the priceless minute books of San Buenaventura Lodge it is set forth that November 5, 1870, at 3 o'clock p.m. eleven brethren of the craft "recognized by each other as Master Masons" assembled at the Santa Clara Hotel in the town of San Buenaventura for the purpose of taking the necessary measures for the establishment of a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons "in this place." Lemuel C. McKeeny was selected to confer with Henry Spear to arrange for the rental of a hall in a building then being constructed.

Six weeks later, December 17, 1870, the next meeting was held in the same place. The committee to secure the hall reported they had secured a lease on a room in Spear's Hall at $50.00 a month, the room being 40 by 22 feet, with two ante-rooms. This was a second-story room in a two-story building at the southwest corner of Palm and Main Streets. These arrangements were approved.

At this meeting, it was decided to call the new lodge "San Buenaventura Lodge." Its first officers were nominated for recommendation to the Grand Master: Lemuel C.
McKeeby, Master; J.E. Stevens, Senior Warden; L.D. Chillson, Junior Warden; and a petition was ordered to be presented to the new Grand Master for a dispensation to form and open the new lodge.

At the third meeting, December 28, 1870, the petition for dispensation was signed by the following charter members of the lodge:

- L.C. McKeeby, Santa Barbara Lodge No. 192
- L. Cerf, Fidelity Lodge No. 120
- R.G. Livingston, Alamo No. 122
- Andrew Clemmans, Escurial No. 7
- Tarlton Colwell, Tuolumne No. 8
- Richard C. Pearson, Santa Barbara No. 192
- Wm. D. Alaxander, Tuolumne No. 8
- Robert Ramson, Augusta No. 45 Ark.
- L.D. Chillson, Washoe No. 157 Nev.
- Henry Spear, Santa Barbara No. 192
- E.A. Edwards, Palmyra No. 151
- H.W. Snow, Naval 87
- Brice Grimes, San Luis Obispo No. 148
- V.A. Simpson
- T.B. Nicerson, Mumy No. 380 N.Y.
- A.B. Smith, Michigan City No. 47
- Joseph Everett Stevens, Alamo No. 122
- Geo. A. Ash, Independence No. 76
- Edward A. Bedell, Arktareas No. 80
- John T. Snow, Santa Barbara No. 192
- Robert N. Riggs, Franklin No. 7 Ark.

To defray expenses the committee levied an assessment of six dollars upon each of the brethren, securing a total of $102.00.

The first knowledge the public had of San Buenaventura Lodge was a notice in Volume One, No. 4, of the Ventura Signal, published at San Buenaventura, Santa Barbara County, California, Saturday, May 13, 1871.

There was then in this locality a population of 800 men, women and children, mostly newcomers attracted by the genial climate and rich agricultural lands of this favored area. Unlike most pioneer settlements of the American in his conquest of this continent, there was already here the beginnings of a civilization. The Mission Fathers had laid its foundations.

But the American brought with him, as always, the Protestant Church, the school, the newspaper, and the Masonic Lodge. These institutions have endured and prospered and grown in our beloved San Buenaventura, through good times and bad, through war and pestilence, through happy days and sorrowful ones, through sun and shade and storm and quiet for three-quarters of a century. The good things of our little city; its clean government, its institutions of learning, its libraries, its modern up-to-date public utilities
were dreamed of and put into effect, and have been carried on by men and women of
good will. And not the least among such men have been the brethren of the Masonic
fraternity.

THE FIRST TYLED MEETING

And then came the first meeting under dispensation, March 4, 1871, when San
Buenaventura lodge was opened in due and ancient form on the third degree of Masonry.

The first petition for affiliation was received from Orthe Oswald. Petitions for the
degrees were received from eight candidates, six of whom were later elected, and two
rejected.

Lodge Room at Spears Hall circa 1875

TROUBLE

One of the rejected candidates was a prominent citizen of the town. As happens
sometimes, his friends in the lodge were outraged. A petition was presented to the Grand
Master for a dispensation to ballot again upon this candidate. The dispensation was
granted; this time he was elected, and in due time received the degrees. He made a good
steady member for many years until his death, when he was buried by the lodge.

THE FIRST DEGREES

April 1, 1871, the first degrees were conferred, the Entered Apprentice degree
upon Louis Glass and Truman Fletcher Chapman.

On June 17, 1871, Brother Chapman became the first candidate to receive the
sublime degree of Master Mason in the new lodge.
THE LODGE IS CHARTERED

At the annual convocation of the California Grand Lodge in October, 1871, a charter was granted to the new lodge. November 6, 1871, the first meeting under charter was held when the lodge was duly constituted and its officers installed. Owing to the difficulties of transportation of the times, it was not possible for the Grand Officers to attend and Grand Lodge was formed and opened by brethren living here, appointed by the Grand Master.

THE FIRST ELECTION AND INSTALLATION

December 23, 1871, the first election of officers was held, resulting in the election of Lemuel Clarke McKeeby, Master; J.C. Stevens, Senior Warden; and L.D. Chillson, Junior Warden. The first installation was held December 27, 1871, whereupon the lodge was called off and the brethren marched in a body to the Presbyterian Church where they listened to an oration by Rev. Bro. H.H. Dobbins.

For many years, the annual recurrence of St. John's day was commemorated. Installations were held as near to that date as possible. Generally, on the Sunday nearest the day the members attended church service in a body. And generally, the installations culminated in a grand dinner and ball.

As an aside, indicative of the monetary situation of that day, it was decided that the Tyler would be compensated $2 for each meeting and the secretary $2 a month.

THE FIRST CORNERSTONE

In 1872, the trustees of San Buenaventura School District decided to construct a brick building for school purposes and invited the lodge to lay the cornerstone with appropriate Masonic ceremonies. This was the first school building of any moment in San Buenaventura. For many years, it stood, on the point below the cross on the hill above the city - a landmark looking out across the Pacific.

The Grand Master authorized and empowered the Master of the Lodge to open Grand Lodge and lay the cornerstone. September 16, 1872, Grand Lodge was convened in the lodge room, officered by members of San Buenaventura Lodge. Then the members marched to the school and there laid its foundation stone.

The ceremony was interesting and impressive. An oration was delivered by J. Franklin Williams, Esq. But he spoke under trying circumstances, as he was facing the sun, and the great-grandfather of all east winds threatened to lift the speaker and audience to the cross on the hill back of the school. In spite of the inclement weather, not less than two or three hundred persons were present.
**THE FIRST PUBLIC INSTALLATION**

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, December 25, 1873, occurred the first public installation of officers, Lemuel C. McKeeby again as Master. The installing officer was Col. Jonathan Doan Hines, Missouri. Col. Hines made a speech which was printed in full in the *Ventura Signal*. And an original poem was delivered by Col. J.E. Stevens.

The installation wound up with a grand ball at the Mission Hotel, which was well attended, and was enjoyed by all. Thomas R. Bard, a member of the lodge, later United States Senator from California, was installed as treasurer.

**RENT TROUBLES**

In 1874 the Lodge had rent troubles. At a stated meeting, a request was made by another lodge, a tenant in the building, to have its rent reduced, whereupon a resolution was proposed that the hall be rented to and occupied by the Masonic Order only. This resolution was debated at length and was lost. Then a resolution was presented to reduce the rent, which resolution was likewise debated at length and lost. Finally, a resolution to reduce the rent of another lodge using the hall was also debated at length and lost. Then later the rent was reduced.

**OUR FIRST MASTER ENDS HIS SERVICE AS MASTER**

December 19, 1874, the several terms of our first Master came to an end, and the following resolution was adopted by the lodge:

"Resolved that the thanks of this Lodge be tendered to Brother L.C. McKeeby for the faithful, able, and impartial manner in which he has presided over the Lodge since its organization and that as a tribute of the respect which we entertain for his high character as a Brother and officer and as a memorial of our regard and personal esteem, that a photograph of our worthy Brother and Master be ordered and accorded a perpetual place upon the east wall of the Lodge room."

Thus, was inaugurated the custom in San Buenaventura Lodge of having pictures taken and framed of each of its retiring masters, a custom which has been continued from that date until this.

In later years, and with changing places of abode for the Lodge, Brother McKeeby's picture has been changed from the east wall of the lodge room to its honorable place as the first of a long line of splendid Past Masters.

**JONATHAN DOAN HINES**

Jonathan Doan Hines was installed St. John's Day, 1874, and served as Worshipful Master of this lodge in 1875-76-77-78 and 79, and was Grand Master of Masons of the State of California two successive years, 1883-84 and 1884-85.
DEATH OF A SOJOURNING BROTHER

April 10, 1875, Capt. James Miner, a member of the Golden Gate Lodge No. 30 died on board the schooner California. His remains were taken in charge by a committee appointed by the Lodge and at the request of his friends were placed aboard the steamer Constantine, to be transported to his home in San Francisco.

ROYAL ARCH ORGANIZED

In 1875, a chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of California was organized, and the Lodge premises rented to it.

FUNERALS

In 1876 the Lodge buried one of its early members, William Rose Bradshaw, who died September 26, 1876. In this and all other funerals for many years the following procedure was had:

The body was placed in the lodge room, the Lodge then formed a procession and escorted the remains to a church for the funeral sermon, after which the members of the Lodge, marching in procession, accompanied the body to its last resting place in the city cemetery. There the impressive burial service of the Craft was delivered by the officers. This cemetery now serves as a city park in the 1300 block of Main Street.

LAFAYETTE F. EASTIN

On St. John's Day, December 27, 1879, Lafayette F. Eastin was installed as Worshipful Master and served in 1880, 1881, and 1882.

TYLER TROUBLE

In 1880 there was a disagreement with the Tyler. He was a splendid old gentleman, with years of service in the Lodge and good standing in the community. He must have been getting old, because he refused to serve further as Tyler. There were oil lamps in those days, and the wicks had to be trimmed, and the chimneys cleaned. It was charged that he failed to clean the lamp or trim the wicks, or even to light the lamps in the Lodge room, or to clean the Lodge room in any manner. Whereupon there must have been some red hot interviews, because the old gentleman told the brethren on a committee which interviewed him where to get off. In any event the Lodge selected a new Tyler. But, evidently there were no more hard feelings, because this good brother was paid in full for his services and continued a member in good standing.

GARFIELD OBSEQUIES

In 1881 occurred the death of President James A. Garfield. He was, as have been many presidents of the United States of America, a Master Mason. His lifetime effort
from a humble canal boy to the highest office in the United States, his dramatic assassination, and his gallant fight for life ending with his death 80 days after he was shot, created a profound impression upon the minds of the Masons of this country. In California, almost every Masonic Lodge held a Lodge of sorrow, with appropriate tribute paid to life and memory of our martyred president.

September 26, 1881, San Buenaventura Lodge met with a full compliment of officers and members, and adjourned to take part in the public tribute to the memory of the late president. The city was crowded with people who came from all parts of the county at odd times all during the day. A procession was formed, headed by a brass band, followed by the Masonic Order, other orders, and a hearse. The hearse was flanked by honorary pall bearers, all members of the Lodge. There were at least a thousand persons in line. Then came the ceremonies held upon the grounds of the Saxby place, with prayers, speeches and appropriate resolution of sorrow.

VENTURA COMMANDERY ESTABLISHED

In 1881 Ventura Commandry was formed, and was rented quarters by the Lodge.

MARION CANNON

December 27, 1882, our fourth Master, Marion Cannon was installed.

RECEPTION TO GRAND MASTER HINES

October 27, 1883, a reception was tendered to our Past Master Jonathan Doan Hines upon the occasion of his election to and installation as Grand Master of Masons of the State of California. Bro. Hines was escorted to an honored chair in the Lodge and made a few well chosen remarks; then the Lodge adjourned in a body to the refreshment hall, where amid toasts and good cheer the evening was spent with pleasure to all. Later the Lodge paid bills for the banquet.

Indeed, they were men in those days - men who could take it. It seems a requirement for this meeting was an iron seat-of-the-pants. One wonders what time they went home.

CORNERSTONE OF TOWN HALL LAID

November 17, 1833, Grand Lodge convened, with Grand Master Hines presiding, for the purpose of laying the cornerstone of the town hall and public library being erected by the town authorities of San Buenaventura.

Proceedings were inaugurated with a song from the quartet - Messrs. Brewster, Oliver, Forth and Wagner - after which the Grand Chaplain, W.A. Knighten, rendered an impressive prayer. The Grand Master then delivered an address, there was a selection by the band, and the cornerstone was laid with due and ancient ceremony.
KENNETH P. GRANT

Kenneth P. Grant was installed January 12, 1884, and served one year as Master. Installing officer was the Most Worshipful Grand Master Hines.

February 9, 1884, Bro. J.S. Collins was authorized to contract for the construction and renting of a hall at a rental not to exceed $50.00 a month.

EASTERN STAR CHARTERED

It was in this year that Ventura Chapter No. 79, Order of the Eastern Star was chartered.

EUGENE PRESTON FOSTER

December 27, 1884, Grand Master Hines installed the new Master, Eugene Preston Foster, who served as Master in 1885 and 1886.

Bro. Foster was presented a fifty-year jewel by Bro. David J. Reese, September 17, 1929, in Trotter Hall of the new Methodist Church, East Santa Clara Street in Ventura.

DEDICATION OF NEW HALL

At the meeting, December 27, 1884, a new hall was dedicated, the Lodge having moved from the old Spears Hall. The new lodge room was on the second floor of a building located on the southwest corner of Main and California Streets.

For thirteen years San Buenaventura Lodge, had occupied the first lodge room. It was small and inconvenient; its furnishings were crude and homely; it was noisy and inadequate; but some of the finest men in California practiced our ancient craft in that old lodge room; and they practiced it well.

PROPOSED MASONIC LIBRARY

About this time the Lodge became interested in Masonic literature. A copy of "Solomon's Temple or the Holy Houses" was purchased. Brethren were asked to donate or loan to the Lodge any Masonic books or literature which they had, and the secretary was instructed to subscribe for the "Masonic Record." Bro. A.D. Seward donated to the Lodge "Transitions of Free Masonry" by A.F.C. Parson.

FINAL ELECTION AND DEATH OF BRO. HINES

At the stated meeting, December 11, 1886, Bro. Jonathan Doan Hines was again elected Master, having completed his term as Grand Master. But he was not installed because of his accidental death December 30, 1886.
EDWIN TAYLOR HARE

January 8, 1887, Edwin Taylor Hare became acting Worshipful Master and continued as such until January 28, 1888, when he was regularly installed Master.

GAS COMES TO THE HALL

In 1886 arrangements were made to get a supply of gas throughout the lodge rooms.

SANTA PAULA LODGE ORGANIZED

May 26, 1888, a petition was received from brethren of Santa Paula requesting favorable action by the Lodge upon their petition to Grand Lodge to form and organize a Masonic Lodge in that place, which was of course granted.

CHARITY

Illustration of the charity implicit in the conduct of any Masonic lodge is the recital in the minutes that the Worshipful Master reported the case of a stranger, member of a Lodge in Massachusetts, who was sick and alone and for whom the Master had employed a nurse. On motion the Master was ordered to continue the assistance and communicate with the Massachusetts Lodge to ascertain their pleasure in regard to the brother. Later on, it is recorded that this Massachusetts Lodge did reimburse San Buenaventura Lodge for all expenses incurred.

BENJAMIN TULLY WILLIAMS

December 15, 1888, an unusual circumstance occurred. Benjamin Tully Williams, a member of Los Angeles Lodge No. 42 was elected to membership by affiliation, and on the same night and at the same meeting, he was also elected Master. None of the other line officers was advanced. Bro. Williams was elected and installed for a second term, 1890. He was elected and served an additional two years in 1895 and 1896.

BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH THE EASTERN STAR

A motion was ordered that the organ, the property of the Lodge be turned over to the Chapter of the Eastern Star, to be used by them in part payment of a piano, the piano to become the property of the Lodge.

WE MOVE AGAIN

In 1889 initial steps were taken for a new hall and arrangements entered into with owners of the property to build the same and to rent it to the Lodge. The building which was subsequently erected still stands and is the property of the local Odd Fellows Lodge.
on Main Street in Ventura. The lease was for ten years at $50.00 per month. In January, 1890, the Lodge moved to its third hall, along with the Chapter, the Commandry, and the Eastern Star. It was during the eight years that the Lodge occupied this property that some of the most elaborate banquets and installation in its history were held. Those were the halcyon days of old Hueneme, when merchant princes of the day vied with each other in giving banquets and entertainments - lucullian affairs in Hueneme Lodge spoke of with awe by old timers who attended them. San Buenaventura had to at least try to keep up with her brilliant daughter.

Odd Fellows Building, 500 Block of Main Street.
Over front door “Masonic Block”. Photo 1901

FREDERICK WILLIAM BAKER

January 9, 1891, Frederick William Baker was installed as Master and served three terms, 1891, 1892, and 1893.

ELECTRIC LIGHTS

During 1891 the Lodge installed electric lights, and entered into a contract with the Ventura Land and Power Company to provide the same at the rate of $5.00 per month, "the Power Company to make good all time lost."

NEW LODGE AT HUENEME

At the stated meeting, April 9, 1892, petition was received from the brethren resident in the area to form and open a new lodge at Hueneme in this County.

HERBERT ALVARO GIDDINGS

December 27, 1893, Herbert Alvaro Giddings was installed Master. He had been carried on the rolls as Herbert A. Giddings, but took proceedings to have his middle name spelled out in full "Alvaro."
PURCHASES

One-half dozen lambskin aprons were purchased at $9.00 per dozen.

MASONIC WIDOWS AND ORPHANS FUND

The first contribution of the Lodge was made to the Masonic widows and orphans home. It was unanimously resolved that the Lodge pledge $100.00 toward a fund to be used for the erection of the Masonic home at Decoto.

MORE THAN ONE DEGREE PER EVENING

July 27, 1895, for the first time in the history for the Lodge the Fellow Craft degree was conferred upon two candidates in one evening.

In this year, there was considerable trouble with the owners of the hall, and a resolution was adopted advocating the purchase of suitable land and the building of a Masonic Temple thereon.

WILLIS P. LINCOLN

January 16, 1897, Willis P. Lincoln was installed Master. He also served in 1898.

ANOTHER MOVE

July 30, 1898, another change of lodge halls was discussed. It was proposed to rent the entire third floor of a building to be built by the Collins Bank at the southwest corner of California and Main streets. The rental was not to exceed $40.00 per month.

This was the last meeting in the old hall, because on the night of July 30, 1898, a fire of unknown origin practically destroyed the interior of the building. Water and fire rendered useless much of the contents of the Lodge room. Pictures of the Past Masters were injured, but were later replaced or restored. In its predicament, the Lodge gratefully accepted the invitation of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows to use their hall.

The agreement for occupancy of the new hall, in addition to fixing the rental terms, provided also that the Lodge should have the right to purchase the third floor of the building to be erected. This option, however, was never exercised.

PARKE W. KAUFFMAN

At the Stated Meeting December 24, 1898, Brother Parke W. Kauffman was elected Master, and Bro. J. L. Argabite secretary.

Bro. Kauffman bore a heavy load as Master. It was he who had to assume the responsibility of the litigation with Jacob I. Gries, hereafter to be told, and it was during
his year that the lodge moved to the old First National Bank Building, as above recited. He was the one who selected the turkey red carpet which graced the floor of the lodge room. And it was he who secured and selected a great deal of the furnishings of that lodge room.

First National Bank Building

OUR FIRST BROTHER IN THE MASONIC HOME

During 1898, for the first time in the history of the Lodge, a brother was admitted to the Masonic Home at Decoto. Later records disclose several interesting letters from this brother; that the Lodge paid his doctor bills and bought him glasses; looked after him with fraternal care all his life, and paid his funeral bills.

J.L. ARGABRITE

Bro. J.L. Argabrite was re-elected secretary year after year for twenty years. Upon his death, his enlarged photograph was hung in the tyler's room.

RENT ALSO PAID BY OTHER BODIES

The rent schedules for the new lodge room were fixed as follows: Ventura Commandry, $10.00 per month; Royal Arch, $10.00 per month; Eastern Star, $5.00 per month; balance to be paid by the lodge, $15.00 per month. Later the rental of the Eastern Star was reduced to $2.50 per month; then back to $5.00; then down, then up again.

WE OCCUPY THE NEW HALL

The Lodge moved to the new hall with an elaborate dedication ceremony, August 13, 1899. This hall was in a brownstone building on the corner of Main and California, the same location as our second hall.
WE GET INTO TWO LAWSUITS

No history of San Buenaventura Lodge would be complete without a recital of the two law suits in which the Lodge was an interested party. Jacob L. Gries, around the turn of the century was a well-to-do-man. After many years of married life, his first wife died. After an interval, he married a widow of Ventura County who had considerable property inherited from her first husband. Not long after her marriage to Mr. Gries the second Mrs. Gries died. When her will was probated, it was found that part of it read as follows:

"I also give and bequeath and devise to my said husband all that portion of my real estate property in Ventura County, California, lying on the east sides of Saviors road, and north of the row of gum-trees and more particularly described as followed, to-wit: ...containing 99.58 acres, as shown upon map of my real property made by George C. Power in June, 1895.

"It is my desire and I hereby request my said husband to convey in such manner and at such times as he may deem best, under contract of otherwise, the said above-described 99.58 acres of land to Ventura Lodge, No. 214, A.F. & A.M., of the town of San Buenaventura, California, or to trustees for its use and benefit in such manner as to impose upon said lodge or the trustees thereof the obligation to properly care for, protect, and maintain in good order the cemetery lot in said Springfield Cemetery in which I may be buried."

The will then gave to Mr. Gries a life estate in other separate property belonging to the widow, with remainder to other beneficiaries.

But Mr. Gries refused to convey the property to the Lodge. After trial in the Superior Court and appeal to the California Supreme Court it was held that the language of the will was such that it was not mandatory upon him to convey the property, or to even hold it in trust for the Lodge, and therefore the Lodge received nothing under the will. (Kauffman v. Gries, 141 Cal. 295.)

In the same will there was also a bequest to the lodge of $1,000.00 for the purpose of taking care of the burial lot of Mrs. Gries. Mr. Gries likewise refused to pay the $1,000.00 to the Lodge, but in a later case his estate was forced to do so. (Kauffman v. Foster, 3 Cal. App. 741.)

Having received the $1,000.00, the Lodge was obligated to take care of the Springfield cemetery lot. In later years, anticipating the abandonment of the Springville cemetery, the Lodge purchased lots under perpetual care in Ivy Lawn cemetery and moved the bodies and headstones of Mrs. Gries and her family to that location.

With eighty-five members, this protracted and expensive litigation was a heavy burden upon the Lodge for many years.
WILLIAM E. READY

January 13, 1900, William E. Ready was installed Master.

THE READY FAMILY

July 22, 1919, Bro. William E. Ready was present in Lodge with his three sons, members of the craft; Charles E. Ready, member of San Buenaventura Lodge, Virgil Elbert Ready, member of Elwood Lodge, Cleveland, Ohio, and Lester Seward Ready, member of Berkeley Lodge No. 363, Berkeley, California. All of these boys were raised in San Buenaventura Lodge, and in conferring the degrees their father was Senior Deacon. "Bill" Ready was always considered our most proficient ritualist in the work of Senior Deacon. And this wonderful Masonic Family goes up and down linearly was well as collaterally. Amos Dudley Seward, known as "Father" Seward, chaplain of our Lodge for twenty-five years, was the father of Mrs. William E. Ready, grandfather of the generation named above.

JAMES E. REYNOLDS

December 29, 1900, James E. Reynolds was installed Master.

CORNERSTONE MASONIC TEMPLE, OXNARD

In 1900, the Lodge was invited to attend the cornerstone laying of the Masonic Temple at Oxnard. Many members attended and were pleased with the entertainment.

WILLINGTON G. WILDE

December 27, 1901, Willington G. Wilde was installed Master.

TYPEWRITTEN MINUTES

March 22, 1902, for the first time, all the pages of minutes of the Lodge appears in typewriting. It was a resolution drafted by a committee and adopted by the Lodge expressing regret at the death of a visiting brother and condolences to his widow and family.

DAVID JOHN REESE, OUR SIXTEENTH MASTER

January 10, 1903, David J. Reese was installed Master and served two years.

David John Reese was made a Mason in Santa Paula Lodge, demitted to San Buenaventura Lodge, of which he was Master for two years. He was inspector of the district for seventeen years, and closed his Masonic career as Grand Master of the Masonic Grand Lodge of California.
MERLE J. ROGERS

January 21, 1905, Merle J. Rogers was installed Master, and served two years.

THOMAS E. CUNNANE

January 26, 1907, Thomas E. Cunnane was installed Master.

JOSEPH MAYO ARGABRITE

January 9, 1908, Joseph Mayo Argabrite was installed Master.

OUR FIRST PAST MASTER'S NIGHT

May 9, 1908, it was resolved that we have what was to be called a Past Masters' Night.

THE RENT IS RAISED

January 2, 1909, the lodge was notified that the lease on the premises occupied by it had expired and that the rent would be raised $50.00 per month.

CHRISTOPHER WREN CANNON

January 30, 1909, Christopher Wren Cannon was installed Master by inspector David J. Reese.

SMOKING PROHIBITED

During this year, a resolution was adopted prohibiting smoking in the lodge room. This rule has never been abrogated.

AMOS DUDLEY SEWARD

May 20, 1909, was the occasion of Amos Dudley Seward's funeral. P.M. Marion Cannon presented a tribute: "A stalwart oak has fallen, an honest, firm and true Mason has gone to his reward. While the dreamless night of long repose must embrace all that is mortal, yet the generous soul of him we loved has risen from its tenement of clay to its immortal mansions in the skies, where we will all follow after a brief pilgrimage here below." He died past ninety years of age; for more than twenty-five years, he served as chaplain of the Lodge.

It was resolved that an enlarged photograph of Bro. Seward be framed and hung in the hall.
FRANK CARLETON DOTY

February 19, 1910, Frank Carleton Doty was installed Master.

He died July 11, 1934, in San Francisco, wearing the uniform of a Knights Templar, while marching in a parade of that order. At the time of his death he was Secretary of this Lodge, a position which he had held since 1910.

THE MEETING NIGHT IS CHANGED

Before July 16, 1910, all Lodge meetings had been held on Saturday on or before the full moon. On this date, it was resolved that thereafter the lodge meet on Tuesday on or before the full moon. The matter had been discussed and debated at length on two stated meetings.

MARK E. V. BOGART

January 31, 1911, Mark E. V. Bogart was installed Master.

FRED E. MERCER

January 15, 1912, Fred E. Mercer was installed Master. He was re-elected and also served in 1913.

GRAND MASTER WILLIAM P. FILMER VISITS #214

One of the highlights of 1913 was the visit by M.W. Grand Master William P. Filmer, April 12, 1913. There were present two hundred visiting Masons, officers and members of Lodges of Santa Barbara, Oxnard, Santa Paula and Fillmore.

DISSATISFACTION WITH THE HALL

In this year, discontentment with the lodge hall was again expressed. Ventilation was terrible. A committee on ventilation was appointed, as was a committee to consult with members relative to the advisability of purchasing a lot appropriate to building a Masonic Temple.

MILTON W. PHILLIPS

December 31, 1913, Milton W. Phillips was installed as Master.

MINUTES IN TYPEWRITING

January 6, 1914, is a red letter day respecting the records of the Lodge. Up until that time the minutes were written in long hand, in old fashioned ledger books. There had been a few pages written in typewriting, but with tightly bound pages of a ledger
book, typewriting was not practicable. At this time the Secretary purchased a loose-leaf ledger, and from January 6, 1914, the minutes were then bound into a book.

Unfortunately, there are several breaks in the minutes, because of the sudden death of Past Master Frank C. Doty, who served the Lodge as Secretary for nearly seventeen years. It is thought that these minutes were kept by Bro. Doty in a separate book, possibly for safekeeping, but after his death they could not be found.

DELBERT A. REESE

February 2, 1915, Delbert A. Reese was installed Master.

WE FAIL TO GET A NEW TEMPLE

In 1915 the Lodge resolved to purchase a lot for a new Temple. Opposition to the plan was so vigorous and sustained by owners of the bank building, that it finally caused the abandonment of the plan. Two of the members who had advanced $250.00 each to purchase an option on the lot on Main street were reimbursed by the Lodge, so we lost $500.00. Subsequently when the owners of the bank building decided to tear it down and build a new building, without any quarters for the Lodge, it was done without regard to its effect upon the Lodge, and with very little notice.

WARREN M. STOCKWELL

February 5, 1916, Warren M. Stockwell was installed as Master.

SCOTT M. WILSON

At the meeting held February 3, 1917, Scott M. Wilson was installed Master.

FIRST CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND

On December 5, 1916, the report of the first endowment committee for funds for Masonic homes was received by the Lodge. With other lodges in this Masonic district, the Lodge subscribed $443.83.

EARL E. MOSS

February 2, 1918, Earl E. Moss was installed Master.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The first world war ended in this year, 1918. Throughout the war, contributions were regularly made by the Lodge to the Masonic War Fund and the American Red Cross. A service flag was procured, with thirteen stars representing the members of the Lodge who served in that great conflict.
The names of the members of this Lodge who served in the first world war were:

George L. Barnes  Karl Van Horn Cavanah  James C. Dunn
Will J. Lewis  Richard N. Hayden  Carl P. Olsen
Rodney J. Putman  Chester F. Robbins  Harry Van Delinder
Daniel V. Webster  Victor D. Weldon  James B. Stone
Louis C. Drapeau.

Sons of two of the brethren lost their lives in the first world war: Sheldon Gerry and Wallace H. Chaffee.

**OUR FLAG IS FIRST ADVANCED TO ITS PROPER PLACE**

February 2, 1918, for the first time the flag of our Country was escorted to its appropriate place in the Lodge room. M.W. Wm. Rhodes Hervey was received as Grand Master and made one of his characteristic and wonderful addresses. He held the attention of more than 250 brethren present for two and one half hours. Bro. Hervey was one of the most popular of all our Grand Masters, and thereafter addressed the Lodge upon many occasions.

**THE ARGABRITES**

By special dispensation of the Grand Master, Walter M. Argabrite, then in the armed forces and on his way overseas, was initiated, passed and raised, October 3, 1918, October 4, 1918, and October 14, 1918, respectively.

This was a proud and happy time for our former Secretary, Jacob L. Argabrite. His was a wonderful Masonic Family. He had the good fortune to live to see Walter take his degrees in this phenomenally short time, and to see two of his sons serve as Master of his Lodge.

**LOUIS C. DRAPEAU**

February 4, 1919, Louis C. Drapeau was installed Master, and installed for a second time a year later.

**SIXTY CANDIDATES RAISED**

During the two years of this Master, sixty candidates were raised, twenty-nine were received by affiliation, and the lodge practically doubled in membership.

In fact, on June 4, 1919, for the first time five persons were initiated in one evening. Thereafter, for many months it was necessary to initiate five candidates each meeting.
INFLUENZA STRIKES

During these two years (1919 and 1920), the terrible influenza epidemic in the United States fell with a heavy hand upon our Lodge. A number of members passed away and funerals were conducted by the lodge officers, sometimes two and three every day.

PAST MASTERS CONFER THIRD DEGREE

During the month of January, 1920, the third degree was conferred by several past Masters as follows: Joseph M. Argabrite, Frederick W. Baker, C.W. Cannon, Frank C. Doy, Herbert A. Giddings, Fred Mercer, Earl. E. Moss, M.W. Phillips, W.E. Ready, D.J. Reese, and Merle J. Rogers. This was the last time most of these men presided as Masters all the way through in conferring the third degree.

VISIT OF GRAND MASTER CHARLES ADAMS

June 22, 1920, this Lodge was host to the several lodges of the 53rd Masonic District upon the occasion of the visit of the Grand Master, Charles Albert Adams. The program of the evening was a school of instruction conducted by Grand Lecturer Thomas J. Baker.

FIRST OBSERVANCE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

September 28, 1920, was held the first observance of Public Schools Week, which has been carried on annually ever since. For the first few years these meetings were under the auspices of the Lodge, thereafter they were under the auspices of the schools, with members and officers of the Lodge taking an active part.

At this first school meeting, addresses were given by Mrs. Blanche T. Reynolds, County Superintendent of Schools and wife of our Past Master, James E. Reynolds, by Bro. Arthur L. Vincent, City Superintendent of Schools, and by Merle J. Rogers, then Judge of the Superior Court.

WE PURCHASE A LOT FOR A TEMPLE

December 7, 1920, the Master reported the purchase of a lot for a Masonic Temple at a cost of $5,000.00.

OUR SECOND BROTHER AT DECOTO

January 4, 1921, a second brother went to the Masonic Home at Decoto. He lived there happily all of the rest of his life.
JOHN JAMES MacGREGOR

February 1, 1921, John James MacGregor was installed Master, and served for a year.

WE APPOINT A BUILDING COMMITTEE

June 7, 1921, the following members of a building committee were appointed by the Master: Louis C. Drapeau, Chairman, Henry C. Chase, Charles W. Petit, David J. Reese, and Scott M. Wilson.

WE ASSIST IN PLACING CHILDREN IN COVINA HOME

The Lodge took necessary steps to secure entrance to the children's home at Covina of three sisters, children of a deceased brother, whose mother passed away in the influenza epidemic. The older brother of these three sisters was placed in California Junior Republic.

OUR FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

October 4, 1921, the Lodge observed its 50th anniversary. David J. Reese was chairman at the meeting; Bro. Robert Ramsauer, a charter member was present, as was Bro. Delos D. DeNure, who was initiated in the early days of this lodge. Bro. Merle J. Rogers gave a historical review of the lodge, and the address of the evening was given by Bro. Louis C. Drapeau.

ERNEST W. ARGABRITE

December 13, 1921, Ernest W. Argabrite was installed Master.

GRAND MASTER SAMUEL E. BURKE VISITS LODGE

April 25, 1922, the Lodge was honored by a visit from Bro. Samuel E. Burke, Grand Master.

LYMAN E. HALLOWELL

Lyman E. Hallowell was installed Master.

THEODORE C. TYCHSEN

January 7, 1924, Theodore C. Tychsen was installed Master.

While Bro. Tychsen was Junior Warden of the Lodge in 1922, he traveled 114 miles from Casmalia to Ventura for every meeting and never missed a one.
SPECIAL TRAIN TO LOS ANGELES

On the occasion of the installation of Bro. Reese as Grand Master, a special train was used by several hundred members of the Lodge residing in Ventura County to go to Los Angeles.

THOMAS A. PROCTOR

Thomas A. Proctor was installed Master in 1925. It was during Bro. Proctor's year as Master that the Lodge was ordered out of its quarters in the First National Bank Building and had to move to the Pythian Temple. It was there a month or two, and then moved to the Stiles-Canet Building. The latter building was built over a part of the lot on which was located the old Spear Hall.

MAYNARD M. PERRETT

Maynard M. Perrett was installed Master in 1926.

CLARENCE E. THOMPSON

Clarence E. Thompson was installed Master in 1927,

POINSETTIA LODGE No. 633 FORMED

San Buenaventura Lodge is the parent lodge of all the lodges in Ventura County. Oxnard secured favorable recommendation of Hueneme Lodge, which had theretofore been recommended by San Buenaventura Lodge; and Fillmore secured favorable recommendation of Santa Paula Lodge, which had theretofore been favorably recommended by San Buenaventura Lodge.

It was then recommended by San Buenaventura Lodge, and dispensation to form and open Poinsettia Lodge No. 633 was issued by Grand Master Albert E. Boynton, March 1, 1926. The first officers were Louis C. Drapeau, Master; Conley L. LaForce, Senior Warden; and Cassie D. Starnes, Junior Warden.

OJAI LODGE No. 663 ORGANIZED AND CHARTERED

March 12, 1927, Ojai Lodge No. 663 was organized and its charter was granted November 9, 1927.

JOHN E. BARKER

December 29, 1927, at the first joint installation of San Buenaventura and Poinsettia Lodges, Bro. John E. Barker was installed Master of Lodge 214.
Bro. Ed was the first president and one of the organizers of the Masonic Dinner Club.

**MICHAEL LeGRANDE BRAZIL**

Michael LeGrande Brazil was installed Master December 29, 1928.

Bro. Brazil was Inspector of this Masonic District for six years. In 1992 he was awarded his pin for 75-years in Masonry by Grand Master Stanley Cazneaux.

**G.W. CHRISMAN, FIFTY YEARS OF MASONRY**

Bro. G.W. Chrisman for fifty years a member of this Lodge, was presented the Veteran's Award. The presentation was made by Bro. Past Master E.P. Foster, the oldest member of the Lodge in point of years.

**WE LOSE OUR MEETING PLACE**

The Bank building occupied by the Lodge was torn down and the Lodge was entirely without a home. Together with Poinsettia Lodge it occupied for a time two different halls on Main Street, neither of which was satisfactory. They were small dirty, and tenants on the ground floor with mechanical pianos and otherwise made a racket which was unpleasant and disturbing at all times.

**WE FINALLY BUILD OUR MASONIC TEMPLE**

For fifty-nine years, Masonry in Ventura had no place to call its own. All those years this Lodge moved from place to place. Sometimes the moves were caused by the landlord; at others by dissatisfaction of the brethren with the accommodations. But there was always the hope that sometime we would have a home of our own.

Finally, in 1929 the dreams of nearly sixty years came true. The Temple was built.

In order to build the Temple, and hold ownership to it, the Masonic Temple Association was organized as a California corporation in January, 1922. Stock of the corporation was subscribed by brethren of San Buenaventura and Poinsettia Lodges, and partly by the Lodges themselves.

Bro. Merle J. Rogers was the first president of the association. He was succeeded by Bro. A.L. Hobson, since deceased, who held the office from 1924 until 1929. Bro. T.C. Tychsen was the first secretary. Bro. Hobson was succeeded by Bro. Louis C. Drapeau who served as president of the association.

After buying and selling several lots, the association finally determined to build upon the present location at the southwest corner of California and Santa Clara Streets on
March 1, 1929, the first earth was turned, and was completed and furnished before the end of that year. The cornerstone was laid by Grand Master Gustav A. Hutaaff, June 7, 1929.

The cost of construction was $149,000.00; the heating and ventilation equipment, fixtures, furnishings and dining room equipment brought the cost of the furnished building to $180,000.00; valuing the lot at $45,000.00, makes that total investment $225,000.00. In order to complete the building, it was necessary for the Temple Association to borrow $50,000.00. No payment of interest or principal was ever missed, and the indebtedness was paid off and the mortgage burned in 1937.

January 3, 1930, the Temple was dedicated in due and ancient form by Grand Master Charles M. Wollenberg, Grand Lodge, and the brethren of the two lodges which occupy it.

FRED G. MERKER

December 31, 1929, Fred G. Merker was installed Master.

TWO MORE FIFTY YEAR BUTTONS

On the same occasion fifty year Golden Veteran buttons were presented to Bros. Charles E. Healy and John A. Walker.

HARD TIMES

Just as the temple was completed and dedicated came the great financial depression of the 1930's. The Temple Association had borrowed to build and furnish the building; the lodges had borrowed to purchase stock. Along with countless individuals, the Masonic Temple Association entered upon a grim struggle for economic survival. The ground floor of the Temple which was designed for business, was entirely vacant for some considerable period of time. Because the condition of the Temple Association and because of the stress of the times, San Buenaventura Lodge had to curtail its social activities. There were few candidates; its members struggled to pay dues, and the dues could not be lowered. Therefore, not a great deal can be said of Lodge activities during
the terms of the Masters who served in the 30's, except that each one of them rendered yeoman service in saving the temple and in carrying the lodge through these times.

**T.C. (TOD) WALLACE**

December 31, 1930, T.C. Wallace was installed Master.

**GLENN D. COREY**

December 29, 1931, Glenn D. Corey was installed Master.

**COURTLAND R. STRONG**

December 21, 1932, Courtland R. Strong was installed Master.

**WILLIAM J. HEWSTON**

December 30, 1933, William J. Hewston was installed Master.

**HOMER WHEELER**

December 31, 1934, Homer Wheeler was installed Master.

**CHANNEL COUNTIES MASON**

March 5, 1935, *Channel Counties Mason*, edited by Ernest Reagan Carey, was named the official bulletin of the Lodge. The publication became the official publication of all the lodges of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties and part of San Louis Obispo County, taking the place of bulletins of individual lodges.

**JAMES R. HENDERSON, JR.**

December 31, 1935, James R. Henderson was installed Master.

**POST OFFICE BUILDING CORNERSTONE**

September 1, 1936, Grand Lodge laid the cornerstone of the new Post Office building in Ventura. Rollie W. Miller, Past Grand Master, as Grand Master, placed in a copper box records of the city, pictures, rosters of various civic organizations, a copy of *Channel Counties Mason* and other articles.

**HUGH M. WOOD**

December 29, 1936, Hugh M. Wood was installed Master.
LODGE PAYS OFF STOCK DEBT

One of the outstanding events of this year was the payment by the Lodge of its indebtedness to the Bank for money borrowed to purchase stock in the Temple building. The Masonic Club was also started in this year.

CECIL J. RAINEY

December 28, 1937, Cecil J. Rainey was installed Master.

CHESTER B. TRIMBLE

December 27, 1930, Chester B. Trimble was installed Master.

LEMUEL L. COY

December 26, 1939, Lemuel L. Coy was installed Master.

FRANK E. KELLOGG

December 31, 1940, Frank E. Kellogg was installed Master.

HOWARD V. KEIR

December 30, 1941, Howard V. Keir was installed Master.

OUR BRETHREN IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

As in the first world war, so in the second world war, there was a flag with stars representing members in the armed services. Those members were:

Peter Altpeter Marines, Cecil C. Martin Army, Herman J. Ashton Navy,
Lawrance J. Mitchell Army, James H. Boatner Navy, Gerhard W. Neilson Navy,
John G. Chase Army, Charles Newman Navy, Howard J. Clow Navy,
George W. Ormsby Navy, Perry Wm. Coy Navy, Harvy E. Owen Navy,
John C. Crump, Jr Navy, Hubert C. Parrish Navy, William F. Fear Navy,
Julius J. Renger Army, James E. Fulkerson Navy, Edwin G. Schiller Navy,
Sidney L. Gardner Army, Alfred M. Stanley Army, Jubie E. Hendricks Navy,

The Lodge invested in war bonds to its total resources.

**WILLIAM D. BREWER**

December 12, 1942, William D. Brewer was installed Master.

**CARL A. MILLER**

December 18, 1943, Carl A. Miller was installed Master.

**VICTOR A. PARKER**

December 16, 1944, Victor A. Parker was installed Master.

**BYRON S. RAINEY**

December 15, 1945, Byron S. Rainey was installed Master.

**75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED**

February 9, 1946, the Lodge celebrated its 75th Anniversary. Past Master Drapeau wrote a 75-year history of the Lodge, assisted by Past Master Lemuel Coy, and it was published in honor of the occasion. Roast turkey highlighted a banquet at which Brother Coy cut the birthday cake made in the shape of a Masonic officer's apron; white decorated in blue, with a blue compass and square on the flap.

Present were Past Grand Masters Dana Weller, Rollie W. Miller, R. E. Blight, Grand Lodge committeeman; G. A. Quick, Inspector; Ralph C. Hine, Inspector; Most Worshipful Brother Drapeau, Past Masters of both Ventura Lodges and Past Grand Master; and many other Masters and Past Masters.

Lodge opened at eight o'clock on the third degree of Masonry. Brother Weller introduced Brother Blight who was speaker of the evening. The senior Past Master, Merle J. Rogers, was introduced and presented a fifty-year button to Past Master Mark E. V. Bogart. After numerous remarks, all of great interest, lodge was closed on a most memorable evening.
ANSON P. BROWN

December 31, 1947. Anson P. Brown was installed as Master, after which the brethren and guests adjourned to the ballroom and danced in the New Year.

MASONIC BIBLES

A custom initiated in Bro. Brown's year is still carried on by the Lodge. Brother Brown presented each candidate raised during his term with a Masonic Bible. After his year as Master was over he continued the presentation until the time of this death, giving 250 Bibles in all, at his own expense.

CECIL M. McKNIGHT

December 31, 1947, Cecil M. McKnight was installed Master, and like the previous year, members and guests adjourned to the ballroom to dance out the old year and bring in the new.

NEW ELECTRIC ORGAN DEDICATED

After the installation ceremony, Brother Drapeau spoke and then dedicated a new electric organ to the lodge Temple Association, given by Mrs. Willett and son Richard in loving memory of departed brother Kuktar Willett. Several stirring musical numbers were rendered by Brother Gordon Paulson. Austin Rice, Temple Association secretary, accepted the organ for the association.

Miss Mary Jo Faust, accompanied by Miss Georgette Floys at the organ, rendered the benediction by singing the Lord's Prayer.

H. GEORGE LEPPER

December 18, 1948, H. George Lepper was installed as Master.

GRAND MASTER EDWARD H. SIEMS VISITS THE LODGE

An official reception was rendered the Most Worshipful Edward H. Siems, Grand Master of Masons in California. The chairs were filled with Masters and Past Masters of the 70th and 71st Masonic Districts, with Brother Lepper occupying the East. The Grand Master spoke to a large gathering on "the workings of the Grand Lodge of Masons in California." Honored guests were the Right Worshipful Louis C. Drapeau, Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge; the Worshipful Gus A. Quick, Inspector of the 70th district; and the Worshipful Ralph Hines, Inspector of the 70th Masonic District.

NORMAN O. DEARDORF

December 10, 1949, Norman O. Deardorf was installed Master.
375 YEARS OF MASONRY HONORED

The outstanding event of the year was held May 16, 1950, when, preceded by a trout dinner, Lodge was opened on the Master Mason degree. The Lodge was opened for the purpose of honoring Brother Edward M. Selby and to listen to an address by the Right Worshipful Louis C. Drapeau, Senior Grand Warden.

The Worshipful Master directed the Marshal to escort the following brethren to the East: Brother William B. Ogden, Past Grand Master; Brother Louis C. Drapeau, Senior Grand Warden; Brother Gustaf A. Quick, Inspector of Masons in the 71st Masonic District; Brother Mark E. V. Bogart, Senior Past Master of the Lodge, 54 years a Mason; Louis A. Durfee, 54 years a Mason; James A. Donaldson, Past Master of Ninevh Lodge No. 473, Colony, Missouri, 52 years a Mason; Frank Fourt, Past Master of Clinton Lodge No. 15, Fairfield, Iowa, 59 years a Mason; and Brother Edward M. Selby, honored guest of the evening. Brother Drapeau presented Brother Selby with a 50 year button made of pure gold from the hills of California. The honored brethren present represented 375 years of Masonry.

DAVID B. HILL

December 9, 1950, David B. Hill was installed as Master.

GRAND MASTER DRAPEAU VISITS THE LODGE

Louis C. Drapeau, Grand Master that year, made his official visit October 10, 1951. He was accompanied by several of his Grand Lodge Officers including Thomas Grice, Grand Chaplain; Conley L. Laforce, Grand Standard Bearer; Ralph C. Hines, Grand Orator; Lyman E. Hallowell, Sr. Grand Deacon; A. C. Currie, Jr. Grand Deacon; and Arthur T. Mead, Grand Sword Bearer. This was the Grand Master's first reception after election to his office.

The cornerstone of the city hall was laid March 24th.

WILLIAM L. MACOMBER

December 15, 1951, William L. Macomber was installed as Master.

WALTER R. STELLER

January 3, 1953, Walker R. Steller was installed Master.

CLAUDE J. GRAHAM

December 19, 1953, Claude J. Graham was installed Master.
GEORGE C. ETTER

George C. Etter was installed as Master on December 11, 1954.

GEORGE N. FITCH

George N. Fitch was installed as Master on December 10, 1955.

It was through Brother Fitch's efforts that the Ventura Masonic Temple Association was reconstructed. The administration of the Temple was set up to equalize the rents and establish a legal corporate body to manage and refurbish the Temple.

WALTER R. WILSON

Walter R. Wilson was installed as Master on December 8, 1956.

STOCK AGREEMENT REACHED FOR LODGES

In January 1957, Grand Master L. Harold Anderson rendered his decision concerning the 1939 stock agreement between Lodges 214 and 633.

NORMAN J. MEAD

Norman J. Mead Served as Master in 1958. He was the Master who started the blood bank. It has been very successful and is now joined with Poinsettia Lodge No. 633.

WARREN H. EAKINS

December 6, 1958, Warren H. Eakins was installed as Master.

DUES RAISED

During the April Stated Meeting of this year, the brethren voted to raise annual dues to $18.00 to meet the expenses of the Lodge. In this year, San Buenaventura Lodge lost by death, five of its beloved and active Past Masters: William D. Brewer, Claud J. Graham, Theodore C. Tychsen, Glenn D. Corey and Thomas C. Wallace. Also, a beloved member, Reverend Howard C. Taylor.

CHARLES E. STELLER

Charles E. Steller was installed Master on December 5, 1959.
**ELEVATOR FUND STARTED**

This was the year that the movement to secure an elevator was started. San Buenaventura and Poinsettia each purchased $2,500 worth of Temple stock to start it. The Lodge was saddened by the death of Brother Hugh M. Wood.

**HENRY L. WARD**

Henry L. Ward was installed Master on December 10, 1960.

**NEW INSPECTOR NAMED**

Brother Frank E. Stevens, a member of Ojai Lodge No. 663, was appointed by the Grand Master to be Inspector of this Masonic district.

**REGINALD B. JAMES**

Reginald B. James was installed Master on December 9, 1961.

**LODGE ELEVATOR INSTALLED**

The elevator was installed during this year. The Ventura Shrine Club raised most of the money and all the Masonic bodies were very grateful.


**JOHN N. DRYDEN**

John N. Dryden was installed Master on December 8, 1962.

**WORSHIPFUL HALLOWELL AWARDED 50-YEAR BUTTON**

At the Stated Meeting of February 5, 1963, Past Master Lyman E. Hallowell received his 50-year button. The button was presented by the Most Worshipful Louis C. Drapeau. Brother Hallowell served as Senior Deacon in 1919, the year Brother Drapeau was Master of No. 214. Brother Hallowell also served as Senior Grand Deacon in 1952, the year that Brother Drapeau was Grand Master. Besides the 50-year button presented to Bro. Hallowell, three other veteran members received 50-year buttons. They were: Bro. Harry L. Howard, Bro. James Middleton and Bro. Harvey Strobridge.

**LUTHER HACHTMANN**

Luther Hachtmann was installed Master on December 7, 1963.
NEW FLAG PRESENTED TO LODGE

At the stated meeting of January 7, 1964 Past Master Michael Brazil presented the Lodge with a new American flag, with 50 stars in the blue field.

E. RAY BROWN

E. Ray Brown was installed Master on December 5, 1965. A reception and dance was held after the installation.

GRAND LODGE BY-LAWS ADOPTED

During the Stated Meeting of July 6, 1965, the uniform code of by-laws as set by the Grand Lodge of California, was read and adopted by the Lodge.

The portrait of Past Grand Master David John Reese (1925) was presented to the Lodge by his daughter, Dorothy Drapeau. It was hung in the hall at the north end.

HOWARD F. SCHEELE R

Howard F. Scheeler was installed Master on December 11, 1965.

HOSPITAL CORNER-STONE LAID

On February 12, 1966, the Grand Lodge of California was opened for the purpose of laying the corner-stone for the new Community Memorial Hospital. The Most Worshipful Myron E. Smith was present with several of his Grand officers. Before a large group, the Grand Master, assisted by his officers, laid the stone according to the ritual.

CHARLES D. STRIMPLE

Charles D. Strimple was installed Master on December 10, 1966.

WORSHIPFUL BRAZIL RECEIVES 50-YEAR PIN

At this installation, the Worshipful Frank Stevens, Inspector of the 510th Masonic district, presented Past Master Michael L. Brazil with a 50-year button. Bro. Brazil was a very devoted member of the Lodge. He served as Inspector for several years. He was Master of San Buenaventura Lodge No. 214 when the Temple was built.

At the stated meeting of February 7, 1967, the Secretary read a letter from the Grand Lodge to the effect that the Worshipful Jules J. DeMoor, Past Master of Poinsettia Lodge No. 633, had been appointed Inspector of the 510th Masonic District.
HARRY L. MAYNARD

Harry L. Maynard was installed Master on December 9, 1967.

JOTS OF INTEREST

This year the members were saddened by the death of Past Master Carl. A. Miller. Brother Miller was a leader in the DeMolay.

Brother Maynard re-established the annual roll call. This meeting was held on January 30, 1968. When the roll was called, 113 members answered "present", 23 of them being Past Masters. Past Master Ernest Argabrite was the oldest member present, having been raised in 1917. Bro. Clarence Mattson was the member traveling the greatest distance to be present, coming from Yreka, California. The youngest member present was Brother Hugh Sanders.

In 1968, San Buenaventura Lodge suffered its worst year in memory in the loss of members by death. Besides Past Master Carl Miller, thirteen members passed away, among these the beloved Past Master Anson P. Brown.

CHARLES D. RHOADS

Charles D. Rhoads was installed Master on December 14, 1968.

At the annual roll call meeting held on January 28, only 106 members answered the call. There were 20 Past Masters present, out of a possible 29.

JOTS OF INTEREST

On April 29, 1969, a special meeting was held to honor Past Master Lemuel L. Coy and Past Master Jalmar Lawson. The Lodge was called to refreshment and the members assembled with their ladies and friends to witness the presentation of 50-year buttons to the two Past Masters. The presentation was made by Worshipful Jules DeMoor. The two Past Masters spoke of their Masonic careers. The lodge was honored by the presence of Worshipful Gustaf A. Quick and Worshipful Ralph Hine, both Past Inspectors.

On the evening of May 27, 1969, Brother Julian G. Hathaway was presented with a 50-year button by Inspector Jules DeMoor. Other 50-year buttons presented this year were to Raymond H. White, Carl Steller, Sidney Stueck, and Louis Schnitzer.

JERRY L. CALLAWAY

Jerry L. Callaway was installed Master on December 6, 1969. Brother Jerry was an operative Mason as well as a speculative one.
JOTS OF INTEREST

At the stated meeting of March, Brother Coy stated that it was time to get busy preparing for the Centennial Celebration.

A committee was appointed to prepare a history to be published commemorating a century of Masonry in Ventura. Committee members were: Jack Joe, Senior Warden; Lemuel Coy, P.M.; Don Ingalls, P.M.; George Fitch, P.M.; and William Macomber, P.M.

This year also, a Masonic Workshop was held on Saturday, July 27, and was well attended by Masons from many Lodges in Ventura County.

JACK W. JOE, JR.

Brother Jack W. Joe Jr. was installed Master on December 5, 1970.


JAMES B. COLLINS

James B. Collins was installed Master on December 11, 1971.

RAYMOND A. JEFFERY

Raymond A. Jeffery was installed as Master on December 9, 1972.

JAMES W. NEWTON

James W. Newton was installed as Master on December 8, 1973.

ROBERT B. SIMCOX, JR.

Robert B. Simcox, Jr. was installed Master in December 7, 1974.

DONALD E. OLESON

Donald E. Oleson was installed Master on December 6, 1975.

WILLARD P. MEAD

Willard P. Mead was installed Master on December 11, 1976.

RICHARD H. LOWE

Richard H. Lowe was installed Master on December 10, 1977.
LEW T. JOHNSON
Lew T. Johnson was installed Master on December 9, 1978.

HOWARD D. LARSON
Howard D. Larson was installed as Master on December 8, 1979.
He passed away on February 22, 1994.

NORMAN HENRY ROSENBLAD
Norman H. Rosenblad was installed Master December 6, 1980.

JOHN GEORGE CHASE
John Chase was installed Master on December 5, 1981.

JESSE S. ATKINSON
Jesse S. Atkinson was installed December 11, 1982.

E. ROBERT GUYLL
Brother Erwin Robert Guyll was installed December 10, 1983.

DANIEL J. McGRATH
Daniel John McGrath was installed Master on December 8, 1984.

WILLIAM WALTER KIRKLAND
William Walter Kirkland was installed Master December 7, 1985.

BYRL E. ROBINSON
Byrl Elmer Robinson was installed Master December 6, 1986.

HOWARD W. MARSH
Brother Marsh was installed Master December 5, 1987.

RICHARD I. HOGAN
Richard Ira Hogan was installed Master December 10, 1988.
STEPHEN C. JOHNSON

Stephen Conde Johnson was installed Master December 9, 1989.

MARVIN G. BLOCK

Marvin George Block was installed Master December 8, 1990.

ALAN R. RIEKKI

Alan Ray Riekki was installed Master on December 7, 1991. He was installed by Past Grand Master, the most Worshipful Harry Maynard assisted by Past Master Worshipful Jack Joe, Jr.

JOTS OF INTEREST

There was much discussion as to who was the youngest Master to date. Research tells us that Past Master Joseph Mayo Argabrite, 1908 is the youngest by eleven months and then Past Master Alan Ray Riekki.

NOTE

We the members were saddened by the death of Past Master Mike Brazil, 1929. Brother Mike passed away in Santa Paula at the age of 102, five days after receiving his 75 year pin presented to him by the Grand Master of California, the Most Worshipful Stanley M. Cazneaux. Others present were Harry Maynard, P.G.M. and Jack Joe, Jr., P.M. Brother Mike will be missed.

DALLAS M. WOLF

On December 5, 1992, Dallas Mickail Wolf was installed Master.

ROBERT E. SMITH

On December 11, 1993, Robert Edward Smith was installed Master by PGM Harry Maynard, assisted by PM Jack Joe, Jr.

DAVID A. GOMEZ

On December 10, 1994, David Anthony Gomez was installed Master.

RUSSELL E. CHARVONIA

Russell E. Charvonia was installed Master December 2nd, 1995 by MW Harry Maynard, at the 125th Installation of Officers.
THE LODGE OFFICER VISIT THE JOBS DAUGHTERS

On the evening of February 26th, 1996, the Officers of San Buenaventura Lodge No. 214, dressed in full Lodge attire (tuxedos and aprons) attended the meeting of the local Job’s Daughters Bethel.

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

200 guests and state Masonic Brothers under the leadership of the MW Grand Master Allen Gresham joined in this occasion and partook of a very tender and tasty Bar-B Que steak prepared by the Brownies' crew under the direction of Jim Stallings. A beautiful gavel was prepared by Brother Glen Stallings and presented to the Grand Master. Ventura Mayor Jack Tingstrom presented a City proclamation recognizing our Lodge and a Representative of the Ventura County Supervisors presented us with a similar document. In addition, the 125th Anniversary Celebration History book was published.

ALECK RAFALOVICH

Aleck Rafalovich was installed Master December 15th, 1996.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE FORMED

An investment committee was formed at the June Stated Meeting to handle the Lodge’s investments.

JOHN L. DENTON

John L. Denton was installed Master December 10th, 1997.

BERNARD N. MILLIGAN

Bernard N. Milligan was installed Master December 12th, 1998.

ALTERNATIVE LIFE MEMBERSHIP PLAN ESTABLISHED

An Alternative Life Membership Plan was approved at the June Stated and was submitted to the Grand Master for approval.

JOHN D. ROBLES

John D. Robles was installed Master December 4th, 1999.
FIRST DEGREE CONFERRED AT THE MASONIC HOME IN COVINA

The Lodge conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree on Mr. Dale Lotspiech at the Masonic Home in Covina on May 20th, 2000. Several of the Brothers from the home attended.

A SMOKY HALLOWEEN PARTY

On October 24th, the Lodge held a Halloween Party and dinner for the Rainbow Girls and their parents. Part of the party required a “Fog” Machine. It turned out that it was a “Smoke” Machine. The Lodge soon filled up with smoke and set off the Smoke Alarms. Worshipful Bill Scott had to be called in to secure them. A good time was had by all in spite of the excitement.

CHILD ID EQUIPMENT PURCHASED

Brownies Shrine Crew purchased the necessary equipment for the Child ID Program to be used by the Lodger and the 316th District. The Lodge will administer the use of the equipment.

JOHN H. HANSON

John H. Hanson was installed Master December 9th, 2000.

75 YEAR AWARD PRESENTED

The Most Worshipful David C. Decker, Grand Master of Masons in California, presented Brother Walter J. Clark with the 75 Year Award.

SAN BUENAVENTURA LODGE NO. 214 AND POINSETTIA LODGE NO. 633 CONSOLIDATE

San Buenaventura Lodge No. 214 and Poinsettia Lodge No. 633 consolidated in September and held the first meeting of Ventura Poinsettia Lodge No. 214 October 2nd, 2001.

MELVYN ROGER FARRIS

Melvyn Roger Farris was installed Master December 1st, 2001.

DAVID W. HOPKINS

David W. Hopkins was installed Master December 7th, 2002.
ANOTHER CONSOLIDATION

Ventura Poinsettia Lodge No. 214 and Ojai Lodge No. 663 consolidated in March and held the first meeting of Ventura Poinsettia Ojai Lodge No. 214 May 6th, 2003.

GLEN D. BULT

Glen D. Bult was installed Master in December 2003.

JOE F. STORMONT

Joe F. Stormont was installed Master December 4th, 2004.

THE MAIN SEWER LINE AT THE CENTER FAILS

The Main Sewer Line for the San Buenaventura Masonic Center failed and the Association had to request funds from the Lodge to repair it.

AND YET ANOTHER CONSOLIDATION

Ventura Poinsettia Ojai Lodge No. 214 and Camarillo Lodge No. 824 consolidated in December and held the first meeting of Channel Islands Lodge No. 214 January 5th, 2006.

DAVID W. HOPKINS

David W. Hopkins was installed Master of the newly consolidated Lodge January 16th, 2006.

WE ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

At the Stated Meeting in February, we established an Annual College Scholarship Fund for worthy Seniors in our local area.

DAVID R. VADBUNKER

David R. VadBunker was installed Master December 2nd, 2006.

. OUR DUES STRUCTURE CHANGES

The Dues structure for the Lodge was changed at the Stated Meeting in February to a fixed amount plus the current per capita from Grand Lodge.
WE HAVE A CELL TOWER INSTALLED ON THE ROOF

The Center Association entered into an agreement to lease a portion of the roof to Metro PCS to install a Cell Tower as an additional source of income.

DAVID R. VADBUNKER

David R. VadBunker was installed Master January 5th, 2008.

WE GET A LARGE SCREEN TV FOR THE LIBRARY

Brother Eric Lyke donated a Large Screen TV for the Lodges use in the Library.

WORSHIPFUL RUSS CHARVONIA BECOMES THE GRAND ORATOR

Worshipful Russ Charvonia was appointed as the Grand Orator for the 2009 Masonic year.

ROBERT D. MATSON

Robert D. Matson was installed Master December 13th, 2008.

THE LODGE STARTS AN ANNUAL TOY DRIVE FOR NEEDY CHILDREN

Brother Woody French proposed and the Lodge approved an Annual Program to collect toys for needy children for Christmas. The first annual Toy Drive was conducted in December.

CHARLES A RODEY II

Charles A Rodey II was installed Master December 5th, 2009.

WE PASS 5 NEW FELLOW CRAFT MASONS IN THE SAME NIGHT

The Lodge passed 5 new Fellow Craft Mason on February 11th, 2010.

JAMES C. CLAY

James C. Clay was installed Master December 4th, 2010.

WORSHIPFUL RUSS CHARVONIA BECOMES THE GRAND LODGE NOMINEE FOR GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN

Worshipful Wes Reed, Inspector of the 511th Masonic District announced at the February Stated Meeting that Worshipful Russ Charvonia was the Grand Lodge nominee for Grand Junior Warden.
WE START THE TRANSITION TO AN ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED TRESTLEBOARD

The Lodge voted to start to transition to an electronically transmitted Trestle Board at the March Stated Meeting.

RAMON D. BABILONIA

Ramon D. Babilonia was installed Master December 3rd, 2011.

WE HOLD OUR FIRST STATED MEETING WITH ENTERED APPRENTICES AND FELLOW CRAFTS

The Grand Lodge of California passed legislation allowing Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons to attend the Stated Meetings.

JAMES C. CLAY

James C. Clay was installed Master December 8th, 2012.

WE UPGRADE THE ELEVATOR

The Elevator underwent a major upgrade due to it having been in service for over 50 years.

WE REFURBISH THE FIRE ESCAPE SYSTEMS

The Fire Escape Systems were found to be in need of a major refurbishment.

WE START ACCEPTING CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

The Lodge voted to accept Credit Card and Electronic Payments for Dues and other events such as Stated Meeting Dinners at the September Stated Meeting.

CHARLIE VANONI

Charlie Vanoni was installed Master December 7th, 2013.

WE PAINT A SQUARE AND COMPASS ON THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING

The Lodge voted to paint the Square and Compass along with the name of the Lodge on the East Side of the Building at the March Stated Meeting.
WE ESTABLISH A BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO MANAGE THE LODGES INVESTMENTS

The Lodge voted to establish a Board of Trustees to manage the Lodges Investments at the March Stated Meeting.

MOST WORSHIPFUL RUSS CHARVONIA IS INSTALLED AS THE GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN CALIFORNIA

Most Worshipful Russ Charvonia was installed as the Grand Master of Masons in California at the Annual Communication in October.

THOMAS J. PHILLIPS II

Thomas J. Phillips II was installed Master December 6th, 2014.

WE HAVE A FLOAT IN THE ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE

The Lodge joined with some of the local Masonic Groups and rode in a float for the City of Ventura’s Saint Patrick’s Day Parade March 21st, 2015.

THE LODGE HOLDS A RECEPTION FOR THE MOST WORSHIPFUL RUSS CHARVONIA GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN CALIFORNIA

The Lodge held a Dinner and Reception on July 10th to honor the Most Worshipful Russell E. Charvonia, Grand Master of Masons in California.

HOSPITAL CORNER-STONE LAID

The Grand Lodge of California was opened on September 3rd, for the purpose of laying the corner-stone for the new Community Memorial Hospital Expansion. The Most Worshipful Russell E. Charvonia was present with several of his Grand officers. Before a large group, the Grand Master, assisted by his officers, laid the stone according to the ritual. After the Cornerstone Ceremony, Most Worthy Russ and some of the Grand Lodge Officers joined the Lodge for Dinner and the Stated Meeting.

MICHEAL D. BLODGETT

Micheal D. Blodgett was installed Master December 2nd, 2015.

WE HAVE A FLOAT IN THE ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE AGAIN

The Lodge again joined with some of the local Masonic Groups and rode in a float for the City of Ventura’s Saint Patrick’s Day Parade March 19th, 2015.
WE EXPAND OUR ENTRY INTO THE SOCIAL MEDIA AGE
WITH THE LODGE APP FOR SMART PHONES

The Lodge continued its movement into the Social Media Age, by initiating the Lodge Phone App on May 10th, 2016.

GARY E. ADKINSON

Gary E. Adkinson was installed Master January 14th, 2017.