

On the 15th day of September, 1898, the General Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, granted thirty two petitioners of Evanston, Wyoming, a charter for an Eastern Star chapter at Evanston. The charter was signed by Sister Mary E. Partridge, Most Worthy Grand Matron, Brother H.H. Hinds, Most Worthy Grand Patron, Sister Lorraine J. Pitkin, Right Worthy Grand Secretary. Brother George Bristol, Sister Anna Bristol, and Sister Mary Osborn, whose names appear among the thirty-two written on our charter, had taken their demits from Alpha Chapter No. 1 in Laramie, Wyoming.

The first meeting was held in the Masonic Hall, October 4, 1898, with 26 of the members present. Brother George Bristol presiding at the formal institution of the chapter, which was to be known as Esther Chapter No. 9, was completed.

Our first chapter officers were: Sister Anna Bristol, Worthy Matron; Brother Victor Engstrum, Worthy Patron; Sister Nellie Pepper, Secretary. Sister Anna Bristol and Sister Nellie Pepper were re-elected for 1899, at the election of officers in December 1898.

Originally, the chapter met on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, except in July and August. They were later changed and meetings are now held on the first Tuesday of each month.

In a quote from an early chapter history, Sister Nellie Romick reports the following: "On the 14th day of September 1898, the Grand Chapter of Wyoming was organized. It was zealous in its duties and in December 1899 asked Esther Chapter to exchange her charter for one granted by the Grand Chapter of Wyoming. Esther Chapter preferred to keep her General Grand Chapter Charter. One important event in the history of our chapter was the erection of the new Masonic Temple. We first enjoyed the spacious new chapter room in May 1911.

Esther Chapter first entertained the Grand Chapter of Wyoming in 1904. then in 1913, and not again until 1985.

In 1900 the chapter voted to pay \$1.50 toward the expense of a hotel room and carriage service for the Worthy Grand Matron. The chapter also sent a donation to the "Galveston Sufferers."

In 1930 the office of Associate Patron was first created. Brother Howard Mosey was the first to fill that office in our chapter.

During the war years, donations were given to the Seeing-Eye Dog Fund, war bonds, ambulance fund, the red cross, rehabilitation fund and Chinese relief.

Our Brother Harry C. Hawkins was elected Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Wyoming in 1949 and presided over the Fifty-third Annual Session with Sister Pearl Alcott, Worthy Grand Matron, in 1950. Theirs was the "Pioneer" Session held in Sheridan.

Sister Beth Corson served the Grand Chapter of Wyoming as Worthy Grand Matron in 1962. She presided over the "Wonderful Wyoming" Session with Brother Jack Nixson, Worthy Grand Patron, in Casper.

During 1989 Esther Chapter purchased a new Electa's cup. Also this year, Sister Hazel Mitchell presented a Worthy Matron's pin to the chapter, in memory of Sister Mildred Mitchell who loved Eastern Star and its teachings.

This pin is to be presented to each Worthy Matron to use during her year in office. The decade of the 90's brought a new tradition. We have a "come as you are" breakfast as an ice breaker. It is fun going around picking up the members and taking them to the lodge for breakfast.

Another big event was the scene of Tri-State, including Idaho, Utah and Wyoming. There were 143 members in attendance. It was held at the Cowboy Casino where we had introductions and entertainment.

The chapter voted to give financial aid to one of our members, whose daughter had a muscular problem. A gift of \$100 was given toward a chair-lift to be added to their van to assist her getting into the vehicle.

In 1992 the Ship Mast that was used at our Grand Visitation was placed in the atrium at Grand Chapter in Sheridan. Esther Chapter was very proud.

During Sister Kathy Rigoli's year as Worthy Matron her project was to purchase pins for the Worthy Patron, Associate Matron and Associate Patron, for them to use during their year of office.

In 1993 Esther Chapter again hosted Tri-State with 149 members present. Following the meeting came the banquet at the Elk's Lodge where we had introductions and a "Prom Dance".

In 1993 we changed our By-laws from one meetings per month, to two. We also purchased five new star point chairs as ours were wearing out.

Our Sister Jo Meyers served the Grand Chapter of Wyoming as Worthy Grand Matron in 1995. She presided over the "Take Time" Session in Sheridan with Brother Morris Odde as Worthy Grand Patron. During their year of service, a total of \$45,000 was raised by Wyoming Chapters for charities. \$26,074.14 was specifically raised for the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children. The Grand Chapter of Wyoming received a beautiful plaque from the Shriner's Hospital for this donation.

At her Homecoming celebration in May 1995, she and Brother Morris were driven in a cart, pulled by two miniature horses, to the Elk's Lodge for the banquet. (The horses did not like the crowd of people). A fun time was had by all who attended. Sister Jo will always be remembered by her Critter Stories and hospitality, as well as her fun times.

We purchased beautiful new funeral robes in 1996. They are mauve in color and have O.E.S. printed on them.