

SCOTTISH RITE MASONS ACCEPT NEW CATHEDRAL

Impressive Ceremonials of Order Used in Dedicating Santa Rita Lodge Home

Following the dedication of their new building on south Scott street, last night, the Scottish Rite Masons Santa Rita Lodge of Perfection No. 1, A. & A. S. R. of Free Masonry, began this morning the introduction and initiation of a large class of candidates. All degrees from the first to the thirty-second will be given to candidates from every district of the state. Officials from California and Arizona points are on hand to aid the officers of Santa Rita lodge in the installation.

Officers of the local lodge, members and visitors to the number of almost 1000 last night took part in and witnessed the dedication of the new temple to the order's work. The ceremonies opened with a parade of members from the old temple on Congress street to the new edifice, where the families and friends of the lodge had already assembled. The hall was filled when members had filed in. The pipe organ installed by the lodge, one of the best and the largest in the state, opened the ceremonies in the auditorium of the new cathedral.

Dedication Ceremony

Perry W. Weidner, of Los Angeles, inspector general for California and Arizona, and active member of the supreme council of thirty-third degree Masons, conducted the dedicatory exercises. Officers of the Santa Rita lodge carried out the intricate and impressive program of the order. Included in those who accepted the building and dedicated it were W. T. Pyott, Fred Hafer, Fred Gooddell, G. H. Sawyer, W. S. Allen, George R. Roskruge and J. E. Bentz.

The ceremonial of acceptance and dedication consisted in the sprinkling of water, oil, wine and wheat on the floor of the cathedral, the lighting of incense, and the giving of perfume offerings. Appropriate words were said with each offering, and music by a choir in an invisible loft accompanied the ceremony.

The history of Scottish Rite Masonry in the state of Arizona was outlined by Colonel George J. Roskruge who told of the planting of the little acorn in 1882 and of its subsequent growth. His address was filled with reminiscences of the early days in Arizona and of pioneer characters.

Judge William Rose Hervey, of Los Angeles, thirty-third degree Mason and for twelve years past an official in the Los Angeles Scottish Rite bodies, delivered the principal address of the evening. He defined Scottish Rite Masonry for the audience, outlining the manner in which the order has attempted to include in its rituals the composite ideals, knowledge, and the best of human nature of many nations for several thousand years. That Scottish Rite Masonry aids the man, makes him larger, better, broadens his view of the world and his brotherly affections, was the chief burden of his message. He closed his address with a striking tribute to a Scottish Rite Mason.

Inspect Building

Following the dedicatory address three sets of the stage scenery, a dungeon scene, a crucifixion scene and a Cathedral setting were placed on the stage. Seventy-nine settings are provided for on the rostrum of the new auditorium, each set symbolical and used in the conferring of degrees. Guests of the lodge visited the various rooms in the building after the ceremonies in the auditorium were completed. Their especial attention was directed to the costume chamber in the basement, the dancing floor, the cooling room and the various lounging rooms.

Music for the ceremonies was under the direction of John M. McBride, organist. The choir, which gave several selections during the dedicatory ceremony consisted of Mesdames R. C. Fisher, F. O. Gooddell, A. V. Grossetta and E. K. Miller, and Messrs. H. H. Foster, Arthur Jenkins, E. Kinney Miller and H. E. Nixon.