

THE

"FIRST 35"



THE COLORFUL HISTORY OF

T O M K I T A C H A R A L O D G E

ORDER OF THE ARROW #96

SAMOSET COUNCIL

WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

THE "FIRST 35"
was made possible by the earnest
efforts of ...

Lyle Bates
Historian

Fred Locher
Assistant to the
Historian

Many have slept beneath the skies of Tom Kita Chara Lodge in the past 35 years. Many have made everlasting friends in the past and know that more await in the future. The same with memories, for we each have our own to live by. But, many of our memories have become dim and uncertain and many of us have far too few because we are young.

To those memories and those absent, this effort is made. We hope you enjoy The "First 35" as much as we did in making this booklet possible.

Sincerely yours in the Brotherhood,

Lyle Bates
&
Fred Locher

In the land of the leaping buck it all began in 1936. In the camp newspaper, THE SUN STAR, came the announcement:

"In an elaborate ceremony last evening which was patterned after an Indian council fire, a number of new candidates for the Order of the Arrow were named.

The Order of the Arrow is a national camping honor fraternity.

Today the candidates are going through their ordeal."

Through the efforts of Scout Executive, William E. Hoffmann, the Executive Board voted to adopt the Order of the Arrow as part of the council program. The council had a local organization formed on the legend of the Lenni Lenape before this. But on July 26, 1936, the ritual team from Ma Ka Ja Wan Lodge out of Highland Park, Ill. inducted the first 15 members of our lodge. The ceremony took place at Camp Tesomas, a short distance out on the north logging trail, overlooking the swamp.

And The Sun Star followed with the fanfare. Later in the summer another group was inducted, including William E. Hoffmann.

Our first year was a busy one. One of the Lodge's first activities was a trip to Madison in August of '36 for a camporee. Believe it or not, paper tepees weathered a rainstorm and a tornado. Later in the fall some brothers traveled to Owossippe Lodge of Chicago, and got acquainted with the Order a little more. Our first Bylaws were written. In it the lodge took on its symbol, the leaping buck and its name Tom Kita Chara, along with the antler of the white tailed deer as totem. The familiar legend:

"Long years ago, in the dim ages of the past . . . "

first appeared, and we have been moving onward and upward ever since.

The remainder of the thirties was filled with firsts for our Lodge. Our first lodge meeting took place in 1937 at Wausau; and our first lodge officers were elected: Bob Tanck was Chief, Art Schaefer, Secretary, and Jim Kerr, Treasurer. Service to our camps also began in '37, in two "spasms", a pair of groups developed an athletic field at Tesomas. Other firsts were our first national conference, our first fellowship conference, our patch, and we helped start a new Lodge.

The national conference of 1938 highlighted the year for 19 of our brothers. We had the third largest delegation, behind the host, and a New York lodge, at Camp Irondale 80 miles south of St. Louis, in the foothills of the Ozarks. A stay at a hotel with the Cleveland Indians, but missing Bob Feller, a trip to the 300, a dance on a riverboat, a swimming pool instead of a lake, and the conference highlighted the trip to Missouri. This conference was especially important because it was the first not held on the east coast, and for the first time no eastern brothers were elected to offices: in fact Bob Tanck was on the national nominating committee and William Hoffmann was elected to the national committee of the O.A. Tom Kita Chara too had his hand in the Order of the Arrow at the national level.

1939 saw our first fellowship conference and a patch for it. It took place over Labor Day week-end, and ninety brothers from Wisconsin and Upper Michigan attended. The national treasurer, George Mozealous from Owosippe Lodge, was our guest. All seven Lodges present agreed to have a repeat in 1941, two years later. '39 also saw our Lodge grow into two chapters: The Mystic Arrow Chapter at Camp Chickagami joined the Tesomas chapter.

As we grew we helped the Lodge grow and on May 20, 1939 a group of our brothers journeyed to Green Lake and established a new lodge for the Four Lakes Council at their Camp Ticra. Four Lakes is out of Madison and scouts from there, Portage, Mineral Point, Beaver Dam, Richland Center, and surrounding towns became arrowmen.

The forties were years of contrast for our Lodge, as they were for the nation. A war, impeded growth, yet Tom Kita Chara was getting bigger, better and stronger.

In 1940 was a big year for the Lodge. In the spring one of our ceremonial teams traveled to Camp Tichora and established a new lodge for the Four Lakes Council, and in the fall to Camp Grooss of the Nicolet Council, where Chiquah Lodge was founded. Copper country and Iron Range Councils also asked us to help them start Lodges.

Twenty-five of our brethern traveled for nine days in August and September to Camp Twin Echo, Pa. for the 13th national lodge meeting. They made the trip by railroad, but first journeyed to New York City and the World's Fair. It was at this conference that our Lodge was honored by the election of our own William E. Hoffmann to a place on the National Executive Committee. At this time there were 164 chartered lodges with 13,165 active members in the country. The nine days, including "train fares, transportation, hotels, meals, admissions to Fair, registration and lodging at the conference, etc." cost each honor camper \$54.30.

That year also saw the writing of Regulations for our Lodge. At that time all scouters, cubbers and officers of the Lodge and Chapters could wear deer horn points on their thongs. One had to be 14 years old to become a member and one had to meet the requirements of the Ordeal without flinching. We had a Lodge Chief, First Deputy Chief, Second Deputy Chief and a Secretary-Treasurer who were elected, and dues were twenty five cents. In place of a Fall Conference that year there was a Winter Camp at which many Arrowmen were present and a reunion of the National Conference delegation was held.

The highlight of 1941 was the "second biennial Order of the Arrow Fellowship Conference" in August at Camp Tesomas. Ten Lodges were invited and three councils were invited to send delegations or selected candidates to form the nucleus charter groups for Lodges.

The next big event for Tom Kita Chara was the Regional Fellowship Conference held in Wausau, October 7-8, 1944. A full program, including discussions, souvenir swapping and fellowship took place. The highlight for our Lodge was the reorganization into district chapters. About 200 Arrowmen from Wisconsin and Michigan attended.

In the fall of 1945 this fellowship conference became a Lodge function as Tom Kita Chara gathered at Camp Tesomas in what would become our Fall Conference.

The following year was a big one for us, as the 14th National Conference finally was held and a future President visited us. The then General Eisenhower was vacationing with his brothers in Vilas County and became an honorary member of our Lodge. It was then that we were presented with the letter and sword which now traditionally passes from Lodge Chief to Lodge Chief.

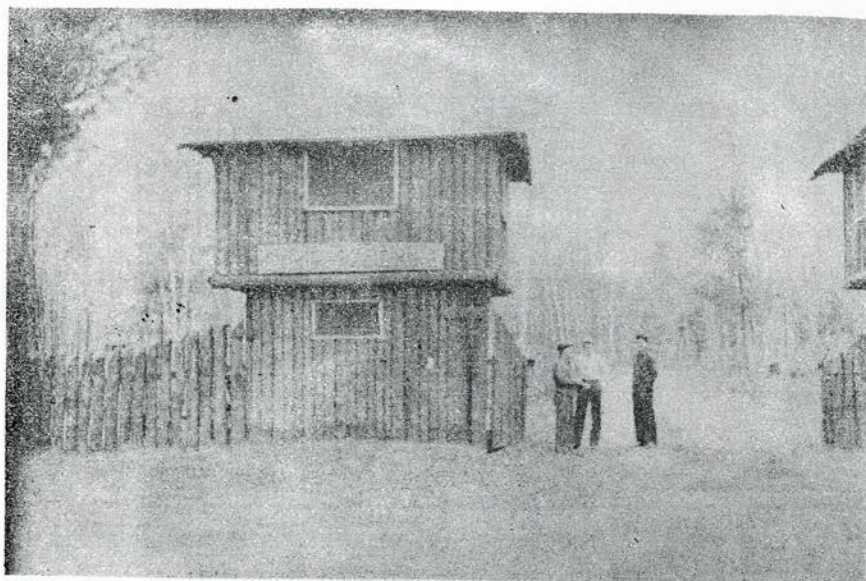
Chanute Field: an army air force base near Rantoul, Ill. was the site of 1947's National Conference at which 12 of our Lodge's members were present. The Conference saw 114 Lodges gather in late August. It is interesting to note that long time par 100 camp inspector Herman Brandmiller, "Brandy", then of Appleton, who inspected Samoset camps in the sixties, was given the Vigil Honor at that conference. Also William E. Hoffmann received a distinguished service award for his many years in the W.W.W.

Locally, we had an area meeting hosted by Wazyata Lodge which 30 from Tom Kita Chara attended. It took place at Camp Sinawa near Manitowoc. There was also a fellowship conference in September which had been postponed due to the prevalence of polio. This was the meeting now called the Fall Conference.

The next year, 1947, again was a year of strengthening and innovation. The '47 Lodge Conference was held without a delay this year but there was no patch given for it because the cost was deemed excessive. This year saw Indian Mound Reservation hold the Wisconsin Fellowship meeting. Milwaukee County Council



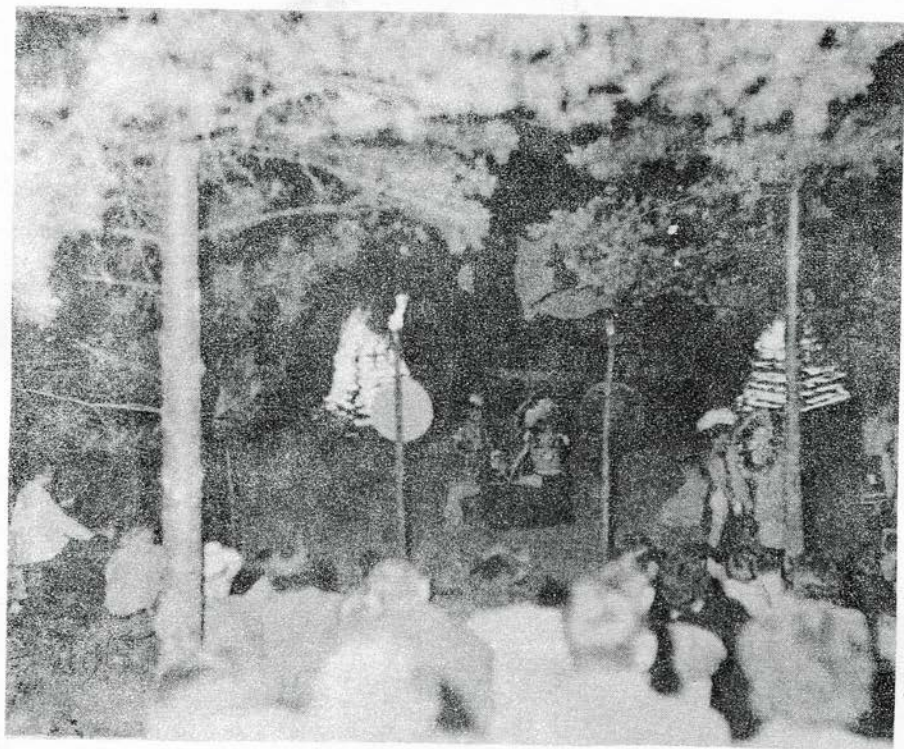
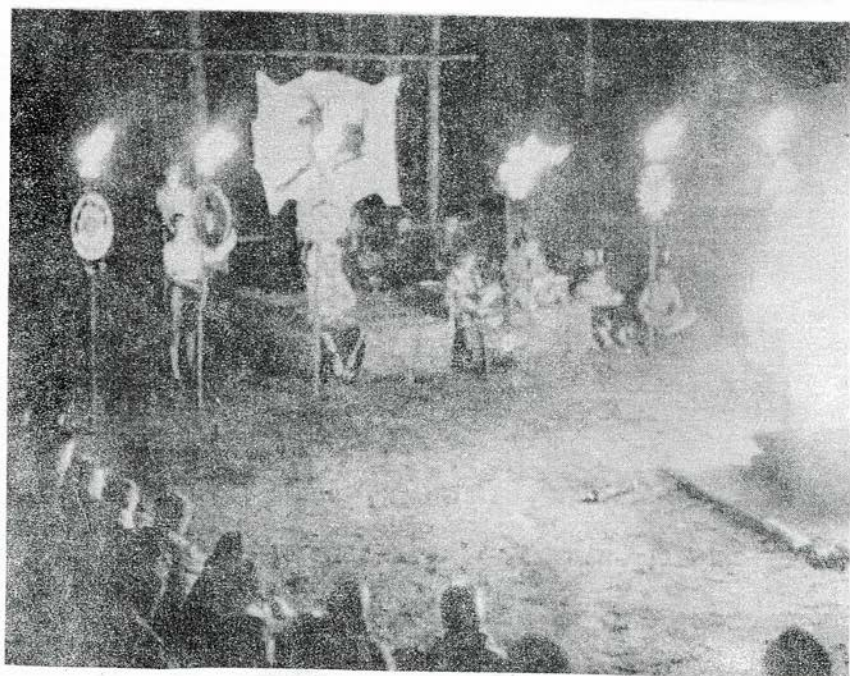
In the early 40's, the callout bowl portrayed signs of a realistic Indian village.



The building of the blockhouses was seen by the Lodge in 1940. The blockhouse soon grew to be known throughout the state as the symbol for Samoset and Tom Kita Chara.



TOM KITA CHARA'S FIRST BUCKSKIN, 1949-1950



CALLOUT CEREMONY - Late 40's



The Lodge suffered the loss of an outstanding brother, Miles Treviranus, a Lodge advisor and the guiding light of the 7-A area from its start until his death in 1963.

put on a fine conference, which saw our Bill Hoffmann as guest of honor. He was then Scout Executive in Springfield, Illinois. The most noteworthy events of this year though were new to the Lodge. We held our first Christmas Banquet on December 22, 1947. Eighty fellows gathered in Wausau at Immanuel Lutheran Church for an informal program, and a good meal. Everyone seemed to have a good time and optimism was expressed concerning making this an annual event. We also scored a first for the nation with our ceremony revision. In January of 1947, Kurt Krahn, wrote the dramatization of the induction ceremony based on the legend of the Lenni Lenape. In the December 1947 National Bulletin, Illinek Lodge no. 132 of Springfield, Illinois published their call out ceremony and wrote:

"Credit for working out the action and lines originally should be given to Tom Kita Chara Lodge no. 96" A ceremony very similar to ours follows. A change was made in our ceremony in '47. The mystic fire became a part of it and the Great Spirit became a part of our tradition. At that time the close of the ceremony was signalled by six loud drum beats, not the five of the past few years. The 1947 fall conference also saw the Lincoln County Chapter, one of our 9 chapters, officially authorized to publish our first Lodge newsletter.

In 1948 the Lodge formalized the "how and when" to wear insignia and this report was published in our new newsletter. '48 did not see an area conference, but it did see a National Conference at Indiana University. The Fall Conference and Christmas Banquet were also held. In 1949 the three big events were again the Fall Conference, the area P Conference and the Christmas Banquet. Perhaps the highlight of the year was the first performance of the flaming hoop dance by Lloyd Berner, the dance would become such an important part of our ceremony.

In 1950 our Lodge became a member of area 7 - F which was composed of some of the Lodges of the old Area P. The 7 - F conference was held at Gardner Dam's Camp, near Appleton, Camp Linowa, and we had 20 attending. The last weekend in August the 35th anniversary meeting of the National Order was held, again at Bloomington, Indiana. One of the big things coming out of this conference was the elimination of an age requirement. Our Lodge, for the first time, held a spring conference. It was held at Camp

Chickagami, and many of the scouts from the north saw it for the first time. The Fall Conference was again held at Camp Tesomas and the cost was \$3.00.

In 1951 the annual Christmas Banquet was special because we introduced the Eagle Feather Award at it. This award is bestowed upon three non-arrow persons who have given outstanding service to our Council. May of 1951 saw an Area 7 - F Conference at Camp Chickagami upon Kirk's 25th anniversary. About 142 arrowmen from the area attended. At this conference Tichora Lodge planted a small white pine, symbol of its Lodge, as a living token of their appreciation. We also rewrote our Lodge traditions and by-laws that year to conform to the new revisions of the National, especially age and membership requirement changes. At the Area 7 - F Fall Conference at the Camp of Wag-0-Shag Lodge it was decided not to have a spring get together. Discussion groups on various phases of the Arrow were held. About this time our Marathon Chapter had a dance team, the Wauhaukee Indians, which they had formed in 1948.

In 1952 there was another National Conference, on the planning committee was Area 7 - F Chief, from Wausau, Dick Salzer. The gathering was held at Miami of Ohio University in August. Dick was our Lodge Chief that year too. The annual Fall Conference was held again at Tesomas in September. A month later we had the largest group to attend, 48, the 7 - F Conference at Camp Tichora. Some of the skill demonstrations put on were: dancing, make-up, headdresses, leggings and warshirts, and ceremonial grounds. Group discussions were also held. The Christmas Banquet was held in December 20th for a charge of \$1.50.

In 1953 we again switched areas: we were now members of 7 - E and not 7 - F and Camp Tesomas was the sight of the 7 - E Pow Wow. Dick Salzer presided as Conference Chief. The Fall Conference was highlighted by the presentation of an eagle feather bonnet to "Doc" Bersch, who left our council to become executive at Indians Trails Council in Janesville.

The year of 1954 saw our two annual events reported as usual, and a 7 - E Conference was also held. It was hosted by The Braves of Decorah of the Gateway

Area Council. The Conference was concerned mainly with national policy concerning the nature of the Order. Our by-laws were again changed a little, partially because of this conference: The nature of the brotherhood became less rank like, and other ideas about requirements were slightly changed. The high spot for this year however was the presentation to Tom Kita Chara of a certificate of Merit for achievement in conservation by the U. S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior.

The Lodge printed a camp promotion guide in 1955. It included sections on procedures, history, and general information and was passed out to promotion team members. In addition to the Fall Conference and the Christmas Banquet that year the Lodge held a Spring Fellowship Conference-O-Ree. Both Arrowmen and non-Arrowmen were invited.

Then in 1956 Myles Treviranus compiled a Lodge Manual for Tom Kita Chara. It included sections pertaining to the legends of the Arrow and history of our Lodge and Council. Inspired by this the Lodge also revised the by-laws again and recorded the calling out ceremony as it was then. It was actually quite different then, and even included a Medicine Man in the dialogue. That year we had our Fall Conference at Camp Chickagami, and the usual fellowship was highlighted by an Indian lore discussion and dance instruction. The Lodge adopted what is still the official Lodge Flap patch that year. The rules set up then still make our pocket flap one of the most valuable patches in the country. Another big event that year was another change in areas. We were now members of 7 - A and our own Myles Treviranus was made the advisor. He sparked the area until shortly before his death in 1963.

The next year, 1957, in addition to our annual events, the Lodge wrote an election manual, which was in a sense, an improvement and revision of the '55 camp promotion booklet. Then the next two years were again highlighted by our annual events and lots of cheerful service.

The first two years of the sixties were largely concerned with improvement of camp promotion for the Council, continuing the efforts of the late fifties. Plans were made for a Where to go Camping Booklet to be issued to

our unit leaders. There were the usual events, including a National Conference in 1961 in Illinois, which was closed by our founder E. Urner Goodman in his seventieth year. 1961 was our 25th year of cheerful service and our Christmas Banquet that year saw 200 brothers attend the anniversary dinner. It was also the year we purchased our eagle feather bonnet, which now traditionally adorns the head of Allowoat Sakima.

In 1962 the rules of our annual LaCrosse Tournament were written by Doug Cook, who then designed our first Lodge neckerchief: The yellow silk screen one with the leaping buck. Election procedures were improved the next year in an effort to keep the standards of our Lodge high.

The high point of 1964 was the Area 7 - A Conference at Camp Gardner Dam. It was a gathering dedicated to our own Myles Treviranus, who had passed away the preceeding year. At that Conference we tied for first in dance competition and got Tom Kinney elected Deputy Chief.

The next year was the 50th anniversary of the Order, and a National Conference was held at the University of Indiana in honor of the event. For Tom Kita Chara it was another big reorganizational year. In order to conform to national policies we changed to a system of four elected officers and a group of committees. 1965 was also the year Tony Lazewski designed a new Lodge neckerchief similar to our patch. It was adopted and rules similar to those governing our patch were instituted.

In 1966, our 30th year, we held a mass ordeal, something we tried once in 1960 and decided again that our weekly system meant more to the ordeal candidate. In late August the Myles Treviranus Health Lodge at Tesomas was dedicated, Tom Kita Chara Served as color guard.

1967 was a banner year for the leaping buck. The Spring Conference became an annual event and this year it was a training conference. The National Conference in Nebraska found a large delegation from our Lodge present, "with hearts and wills united."

Membership requirement changes of that Conference would create quite a bit of controversy. This was also the year that a Policy and Traditions paper was first written under the Direction of Brian Jensen and several other brothers. The next year was more or less a continuation of 1967. The new Policy and Traditions Paper was revised a little in order to straighten it out. For the first time our Lodge had a budget: in order to keep better track of our expanding Lodge's money, a committee wrote a Lodge budget which was accepted at the Christmas Banquet. Tony Lazewski started the Area 7 - A newspaper, Chippewa Chatter, a welcome improvement of the area's communications. In 1968 a new chapter was added as the Park Falls Area became our newest chapter.

Then 1969 was highlighted by the National Conference at which Boy Power '76 was outlined for Arrow Lodges. The membership requirement changes of 1967 were reviewed and it was agreed that they must be changed. All in all the year closed out another decade of service.

The seventies began with some more re-organization and several promises of things to come. We were told at the 1970 7 - A Conference that we would now be part of Area 9, along with several old 7 - A and some new Lodges. The past few 7 - A Conferences had been very exciting as our Lodge had won dance competitions, cleanest campsite awards, and had elected several Deputy Chiefs; so many of us regretted the split. The "Where To Go Camping" Booklet was finally printed and is now generally available. On the eve of our 35th anniversary as a Lodge, much promise can be seen in our future.

In conclusion, it must be noted that this is only a brief history of our first 35 years of service. We have tried to pick out the highlights of those years, and we hope that we have succeeded to some degree. The best way to learn about our history is to talk with our brothers of past years.

