

KP HALL AT 8<sup>TH</sup> & SCOTIA STREETS IN VANCOUVER  
WHERE DOGWOOD COURT #3 STARTED MAY 22, 1952



A special session of Supreme Council was called to order at 7.30 pm on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1952 at the KP Hall in Vancouver (pictured) by HL Lois Levine, acting SRM for the purpose of organizing a new Court to be known as Dogwood.



Many PSRMs, PSRPs, Deputy SRMs and PGRM and other Supreme officers took part with many Washington State members present.

The GRM and GRP of Washington presided for the initiation of 112 candidates and these included Robert and Marion Brown (Marion is still a member). On looking through the names I find many that are familiar to me as quite a number were also members of the Order of the Eastern Star. Another charter member was Mary Buxton, the mother of HL Molly Laughlin. Some were not able to attend, making the total of 125 names on the Dispensation. After the initiation the members attended the altar to receive the obligation given by the SRP SK Robert Burgunder. The first RM was HL Pat Drysdale and the RP was SK Daniel Lace. HL Mary Armitage who would later become a wonderful musician would hold the office of Charity.

Many items of paraphernalia were presented. HL Eileen Kullman of Mizpah #2 and her mother presented an ablution bowl. Officers jewels were presented by Evergreen Court #2 in Seattle Washington.

The first silver march donation raised 43.35.

The next meeting took place on June 26, 1952 with only 1 officer absent. The RM & RP came up from Bellingham Court for this meeting.

In the early days the person in charge of sickness and distress was called "The Happiness Convenor". 24 petitions were received. An initiation was held for 9 new members.

July 25<sup>th</sup> the SRM visited. 4 more petitions were received and petitions were balloted on from the June meeting. An initiation was held for 22. SK Bob Brown donated a new ballot box. The receipts of the evening totalled \$97.09.

The Court was constituted in July and the officers were installed. The RM was HL Henrietta Drysdale, RP was SK Daniel Lace and the AP was SK Bob Brown. Courts represented were 8 from the US and Mizpah from the Island.

At the Sept. meeting 4 more petitions received, balloting and initiation. 5 members requested a withdrawal in order to organize a court in North Vancouver.

A special meeting of Arbutus Court which would be #4 was to take place on Jan. 30 1953 in the IOOF Hall on lower Keith Road. Jewels were discussed for the PRM and PRPs. Those for the PRMs not to exceed \$50 and the PRPs \$35 and all were to be alike.

At the December meeting, under new business, the election of officers took place. The RM was HL Evelyn Tait and the RP was SK Bob Brown.

In January 1953 the installation ceremonies took place. One of the appointed officers was HL Evelyn Osmond as Marshal in the East. HL Janet Rae Marshal in the West.

At the February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, petitions that were received had those persons recommending the petitioners listed in the minutes. A social club was formed. A \$5.00 donation was made to the Mayor of Vancouver for their flood fund.

March 1953 - Many meetings had petitions received, balloting and initiations. It was decided that there should be one designated prompter in the room and that members and visitors on the sidelines should not hold open rituals and follow the work during the meetings. This was suggested by the SRM HL Lois Levine who was a Dogwood honorary member.

June 1953 – a few members withdrew their membership to join a new court which will be in New Westminster.

Oct. 1953 – the RM H.L. Evelyn Tait reported that there would be a new court being formed in Victoria on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>

Dec. 1953 - At this meeting a letter was received from the Supreme Secretary asking for the altar to be draped for 60 days in memory of Past Supreme Officers.

January 1954 was the installation of the new officers for the year. Early in this year Evergreen Court #7 was formed and the Constitution took place on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the IOOF Hall on West 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.



Effective June 1<sup>st</sup> the rent for the meetings would be \$15.00.

It was noted that at the end of the April minutes the books of the Secretary and Treasurer had been inspected and all was in accord to date. Signed by HL Margaret Kemo, DSRM to BC.

May 1954 –This was the evening of the OV with several distinguished guests. Six new members were initiated. A Memorial Service was held for 3 chartered members. The DSRP complimented the Fishermen on their singing in the anteroom during the initiation.

HL Evelyn Osmond was appointed as the “Happiness” convenor.

Each year the Royal Matron has a ball, sometimes with entertainment. Invitations often came from Bellingham Court to attend various meetings and other functions.

Nov. 1954 – this was the first time a vote for life membership on 2 members was taken but it was not unanimous. It was moved that a new Standard be purchased.

Dec. 1954 – Under communications received I noted that HL Harriet Finbow was the Royal Matron of Coronation Court.

HL Evelyn Osmond was elected as the Associate Conductress for the next year.

Jan. 1955 –This was a momentous time for Amaranth. A letter was received from the SRM and SRP re the organization of a Grand Court in BC. Letter was tabled until the next meeting.

A ceremony was held this evening with the dedication of the swords. One of these swords had been donated by HL Marion and SK Bob Brown.

The outgoing RM said that this year had been a happy one. She ended with these words

***Twilight falls, my year is ended, gone the sun's revealing light***

***Lines of earth and sky all blended, softly, gently, comes the night.***

The installation then followed. The Secretary was HL Margaret Robertson and the Marshal in the East HL Marion Brown.

HL Lois Levine, PSRM, spoke of the Court as an inspiration to the growth of the Order.

Feb. 1955 – Plans for the year included a spring tea, old time box social, smorgasbord, rummage sale and the RM's ball. These were to be held from April to November.

The date for the organization of BC Grand Court will be March 25 and to take place in the Lonsdale Hall in North Vancouver. The Institution to be at 4 pm, a no host dinner at 6 pm and open installation at 8 pm. It was stated that an HL Pat Drysdale PRM was the new GRM Elect. It appears that she was also known as Henrietta as her name was shown as the first RM to be installed and is listed as the first GRM as Henrietta. The early minutes in July 52 refer to Henriette as Pat.

March 1955 – the SRP attended this meeting which was the first time after the formation of our Grand Court. The GAM was HL Harriet Finbow from the Island. The Grand Lecturer was SK Bob Brown.

At the RM's ball the cost for a turkey dinner would be \$2.00. A \$10.00 advance was the deposit for the hall for the function.

During the year the Court was known to purchase Canada Savings and Victory Bonds.

May 1955 – This was Dogwood's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. PRMs and PRPs were invited to the Throne and received a gift. The Chartered members were recognized and each received a Dogwood flower which had been made by one of the members.

After some of the meetings a form of entertainment was enjoyed by all.

Sept. 1955 – Plans were being made for Grand Court and Dogwood was invited to take part in an evening of fun. HL Mary Armitage would be in charge.

Oct. 1955 – This was the OV of the GRM and she received a cheque for \$25 as a gift to go to the Grand Court. PSRM HL Lois Levine and PSRP SK Livey Nelson were guests. Many Grand Officers were also present. Over 150 had attended the RM's ball. There was a net balance of \$55.80 that was turned in and to be given to the RM's benevolent fund. The garage sale netted \$47.40. The bazaar proceeds were \$347.07 plus \$186.50 from the smorgasbord and the raffle made \$68.35. One can see that the Court did well in their fundraising.

Under New Business the RP let the court know that a new and better hall was available at 12<sup>th</sup> and Fir St. and that Dogwood has the first opportunity to meet there. The rent would be \$30 per meeting and half rate during the summer. After discussion a notice of motion was made that they move to the new hall.

The GRM reported of the forming of a new court to be known as Laburnum. A Laburnum is a yellow tree or shrub with hanging clusters of yellow flowers.



Nov. 24, 1955 - At this meeting a motion was passed to go to the new hall and have everything moved there from the KP Hall where the meetings have been held.

The banner that the Court no longer uses will be given to Laburnum Court. Their new RM expressed her thanks.

Dec. 22, 1955 - It is noted that the minutes are usually very detailed, ie. The Special Dispensation was written out in full, from the GRM re the change of our hall. In some minutes the Secretary would say "on motion of" and then state it, or "it was moved by" and then state the motion. Also many times it was noted that Hon. Lady so and so did something but only SK for the Sir Knights. They would also use HL as well. One custom the Court had was to add something new in the way of equipment or paraphernalia at the end of each RM's year, to a value of \$100.00. This year it was suggested to purchase stainless steel knives and forks.

HL Evelyn Osmond was elected as Conductress and HL Janet Rae as AC. Both later would be of course the RM , then the GRM. HL Mary Armitage was elected as RM and SK Roy Byrnell as RP .

The new incoming RM asked for an open installation. Her request was granted and it was decided the business part of the meeting and the uncrowning would be a closed session and installation and crowning would be open to guests with each member to be allowed to have one guest. The GRM told about another new court to be opened and will be know as Silver Birch.



Jan. 1956 – It was noted that the GRM was also a DSRM to Manitoba so received Supreme Honours when she was presented. Some members asked for withdrawals so they could become members of the new court. A donation had been made to the Central City Mission. Baby spoons were presented to new babies of members.

During the Uncrowning I noted that many times it would be the GRM who would do this for the outgoing RM. There were mother and daughter members and the outgoing Royal Matron's daughter was the Crown Bearer for this occasion and HL Marion Brown was appointed as a flower attendant.

Feb. 1956 – Under communications a directive came from the Gr. Secretary re Supreme Council that a request was made that all courts in our concurrent jurisdiction be notified in writing of all applications for membership before the meeting they are to be balloted on. This was so ordered.

The Ways & Means planned several functions for this year and included a Mother's Day tea, card party after the Sept. meeting, a smorgasbord, the R's ball, a bazaar and a draw. It was decided to have ode cards. A revised article to the R & R was proposed that the court meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month. Grand Court would be held in North Van. at the Lonsdale Hall.

April 1956 – Acacia Court UD was formed on April 21<sup>st</sup>. It was moved the Court move to the IOOF Hall with meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday. 4 were opposed, but there was a majority in favour.

May 1956 – Tonight was birthday night with 43 chartered members in attendance.

June 1956 – This was the first time the Court met at 1443 West 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.- Petitions read this evening were from Bill Rae, Albert Osmond and Margaret MacKinnon. Under discussion during the meeting was about having balloting and initiation on the same night. The Gr. Lecturer felt, along with a majority of the members, that they be on different nights – to save any embarrassment happening. It was so ordered.

Sept. 1956 - OV. 25 Grand Officers were in attendance as well as the Supreme Lecturer from Washington. A special session of the Grand Court was held Sept. 15 to constitute Acacia Court.



At the November meeting a notice of motion was put forth to change the meeting night to the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at a rental of \$22.50 Laburnum Court #8 held its first birthday this month.

Dec. 1956 – Grand Court was take place March 22-23 in the Georgian Room at the Empress Hotel in Victoria. The vote was taken to change the meeting night to the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday. HL Evelyn Osmond was elected as Associate Matron and SK John Nunnerly as AP.

Jan. 1957 - Installation evening. SK Bert Osmond was appointed Historian. At many of the meetings members travelled from the Island and also several fundraising events were held.

March 1957 - It was moved and seconded that if a Dogwood member became a GRM or GRP they would be presented a gift at the Grand Court to the value of \$10.

HL Lois Levine, PSRM often attended Dogwood's meetings as did HL Henriette Drysdale, PGRM. At the meeting in September HL Henrietta received her PGRM's pin from HL Lois Levine, PSRM.

Dec. 1957 was election of officers with HL Evelyn Osmond as RM and SK John Nunnerly as RP. HL Marion Brown was appointed Standard Bearer and SK Robert Brown as Sword Bearer for the installation in January 1958.

Note these minutes came from the first minute book of Dogwood Court.

I found the reading of these first few years of minutes most interesting and I am sure the ones that follow will be of a great deal of interest.

HL Pat Haywood, DSRM, Dogwood Court No. 3.



