

DESERT DUST

Carlin Historical Society - Carlin, Nevada

The Carlin Oddfellows

WRITTEN BY ELLA B. TRUJILLO



Carlin played host to a variety of groups, organizations, and clubs throughout its years. Two of the most prominent and long-lasting were part of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows or IOOF. The Oddfellows were originally a fraternal (male-only) organization but later had a female branch, known as the Daughters of Rebekah. Carlin had one of each. The Carlin Oddfellows began in 1910 when Carlin Lodge, No. 41 was created by the State's Grand Master. Charter members included E.E. Kappler, Elmer R. Young, George Arthur, A.M. King, and C.B. Kappler.

The Kappler brothers, Ernest and Charles, were two of the driving forces behind the new organization. Charles would be chosen as the Grand Master of the of Nevada in 1915 and his brother, Ernest would be in 1925. The organization has a charitable purpose and its primary principles are friendship, love, truth, faith, hope, charity, and universal justice. The lodge initially met upstairs in a building known as the Monte Carlo located on the corner of 7th and Main Street.

Although involved in a multitude of ways in the community, one such instance was the laying of the cornerstone of Carlin's new schoolhouse in 1926. The governor of Nevada visited the community to give a speech to commemorate the moment and when the school was torn down in 1990, a time capsule was discovered behind the cornerstone. Inside was a booklet of rituals used by the Odd Fellows.

In 1915, Carlin's women would formed their own lodge, commonly known as the Rebekahs. They would also be a driving force in the state organization and Ernest Kappler's wife, Dora Maul Kappler, Carlin's long-time postmaster, would serve as State President and later their daughter, Beulah, would serve. In 1932, Carlin's Oddfellows and Rebekahs held a joint installation ceremony. They had to hold the ceremony in the auditorium at the school because over 100 members and guests attended. The Who's Who of Carlin were members of the organizations. The last mention of the Rebekahs in newspapers was in the 1940s but it likely survived beyond that. The Oddfellows also became oddly quiet even before the 1940s. It is generally known that the Rebekahs utilized a building on the corner of 8th and Cedar for their activities. This building known as Rebekah Hall was actually built as Carlin's first high school and was purchased by the Oddfellows for use as a lodge in 1930. It was torn down in the 1990s. Today the only reminders of the organizations are special sections of the cemetery dedicated to members.



Ernest Kappler, Founding Member
of the Carlin Oddfellows



The Oddfellow/Rebekah Hall being torn down.

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