

Oklahoma Indian Degree Team



Estancia Lodge #33 Outdoor Communication will be held on June 30th at Elliot Ferrer's place in Mountainair, New Mexico. The Oklahoma Indian degree team will be doing a third degree on the 30th and will put on a pow-wow and dance exhibition. The whole family is invited. There will be games and good food.

The Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team has performed before thousands of Freemasons all across the country putting on the third degree in colorful Native American dress. The Degree Team's story encompasses 50 years and well over 800 performances and is a tribute to one of the finest Degree Teams you will ever see. As the Team demonstrates by example, it is still possible to know your part, deliver it well, and perform excellent floor work.

In 1952 the Oklahoma Indian Degree Team was formed, to commemorate the centenary of the death of Cherokee Bro. Will Rogers. Since then the team has traveled all over the United States demonstrating the making of a Mason, in their traditional ritual, normally on an actual candidate.

By March 2001 the Team, who are all Past Masters from various Lodges, had completed their 800th demonstration. Freemasonry in Oklahoma was in existence long before the two territories, Oklahoma territory and the Indian Territory joined together in 1907 to become the State of Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma lodges represented in the team are: Broken Arrow #423, Cherokee #10, Delta #425, Daylight #542, Dustin #336, Ottawa #492, Sapulpa #170 and Skiatook #416. The team consists of 15 active members, 11 of which are Past Masters. Nine recognized tribes are represented: Apache, Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Oneida, Osage, Ottawa, Seminole, and Sycamore.

To get there: from Albuquerque take 1-25 south, get off at the Mountainair exit (Hwy 60 east) into Mountainair to the only stop light and turn right (south) go over the rail road tracks and follow the signs. From Hwy 40 (Moriorty) take Hwy 41 south to Hwy 60, turn right (west) into Mountainair to the only stop light and turn left (south).

From Santa Rosa take US-285 south to Fort Sumner and take Hwy 60 west through Vaughn and Willard to Mountainair to the only stop light and turn Left (south) go over the R/R tracks and follow the signs.

There are motels in Mountainair available and a few accommodations with RV hookups.

The meals will be pot luck with Estancia providing the meats. Bring a dish to share; but if you don't, please come anyway because we want you there. Estancia is turning 100 years this year and we want to make this a special event. So come on out and enjoy this time with us.

If you need further info please call Mansell Gilmore at 505-603-9534 or Tommy Crosswhite at 505-384-2579 day / 505-384-2575 night.