



Charter members, Joe Hadraba, Ed Donat and James Rebal were caught by the Journal photographer a week ago as they appeared at the Eagles hall. — Journal Photo

Active Charter Members

Forty-eight years is a long time to stick to one project, but sticking seems to be endowed in the three active charter members of Plattsmouth Aerie No. 365, Fraternal Order of Eagles.

The three, still members after signing the original charter 48 years ago, are Joe Hadraba, James Rebal and Ed Donat.

All more or less retired now, they have as their one common denominator, the Eagle lodge.

James Rebal, who recently observed his 87th birthday, is the grand-daddy of the charter members. His younger partners are 83 and 75, with Hadraba holding the diaper role.

All residents of Plattsmouth for more than 60 years, their 48 years with the lodge is indicative of their strong association with the community.

James Rebal was the first of the three to locate in Plattsmouth. He came here from Iowa City, Ia., in 1885, and had been actively engaged in his work, lodge and community until three years ago.

Mr. Rebal was a broom manufacturer in Plattsmouth for almost 50 years after coming here. Five years ago he began to cut his working day, and three years ago retired. He is a past worthy president of the lodge.

Ed Donat claims 61 years of residency in Cass county's largest city. Now 83, he came here from Moravia in 1899. He was in business here for more than 50 years.

May 1, 1901, he moved his tavern to the present corner location of Donat's Tavern. And he can still be found at the tavern everyday.

The kid, as Joe Hadraba might be referred to, came to Plattsmouth with his parents from Ohio when he was just a boy.

As a lad he entered the employ of the Burlington railroad as an apprentice in the boiler shop. Following an injury to his hand, he transferred to the paint shop where he learned the trade of a coach painter. He worked for the railroad until 1922. A past worthy president of the local lodge, he attended the

national convention in Baltimore one year. To them, local Eagles will be eternally indebted.

Rochester Host To 1951 Convention

The 1951 Grand Aerie convention will be held in Rochester, New York, August 9 to 12. Several hundreds of Eagles are expected to attend from the Eagle jurisdiction in the United States and Canada.

It will be the 53rd convention in the history of the order and will be the first time that the sessions will be held at Rochester.

Eagles Kept Busy

Weekly dances, recreational activities and numerous lodge functions are housed in the large, spacious hall in the upstairs. Plans are being made to make room of the Eagles building, use of their motion picture projector to provide weekly entertainment for youngsters.

Doran Bowman Is Elected Eagles New President

Doran Bowman was elected president of Plattsmouth Aerie, No. 365, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Thursday night, April 12, at the lodge's annual election. He will succeed Wm. P. O'Donnell.

Other officers elected were: Amos F. Strough, worthy vice president; Leslie V. Steinbach, chaplain; Marion W. Barnard, treasurer; Thomas J. Mendenhall, secretary; Sterling Cole, conductor; Stewart Gochenour, outside guard; and Ray O. Abel, trustee.

Abel and Mendenhall were elected for three year terms, the others will serve one year.

The Eagles also named Doran Bowman and Ray Abel delegates to the state convention to be held at Beatrice, Chas. Janacek and Wm. K. Wilson were named alternates.

The new officers will not be installed until June, 1951.

State Convention To Be At Beatrice

The state convention of the Fraternal Order of Eagles will be held June 3, 4, and 5 at Beatrice chapter No. 531 will be host to the group.

For local Eagles it will be the next main attraction on the agenda. Their only local open house takes priority.

Thanks Extended To Benefactors

In commemoration of our 48th anniversary and the support given the lodge, the Eagles wish to thank M. L. Brown, director, the editorial staff of our Eagle publications; our Plattsmouth merchants and associated retail and wholesale firms of the Aerie; our charter and local members, and the staff of the Plattsmouth Journal; all who have contributed to make this splendid edition.

WM. P. O'DONNELL, Worthy President

Eagles Host At Open House In Observance of Their 48th Anniversary At Plattsmouth



H. M. Soennichsen

Oldest Initiate Active

The oldest initiated member of Plattsmouth Aerie is H. M. Soennichsen. He was one of the first initiated after the original charter was granted in April 1903, and has been active since that time.

The Eagle Records show that he was initiated at the age of 37, July 15, 1903. He has held continuous membership since that time.

An active community man as well as an Eagle, Mr. Soennichsen retired from active affiliation with his business two years ago.

A native of Germany, he came to Plattsmouth in 1882 and began his business career in

1889 in the establishment known as Lenhoff and Soennichsen. In 1891 he organized the "Five Corner Grocery," and four years later purchased a coal business.

He later joined A. H. Weckbach & Co., as a partner. He became sole owner when his partner died a few years later. His business interest, as well as his community service, spread after the turn of the century.

Now 85 years old, he can look back on an active life as a former member of the board of education, city clerk, city treasurer and county assessor. But his Eagle affiliation still grows.

Plattsmouth Aerie No. 365, Fraternal Order of Eagles will be host to Eagles throughout the area at their lodge hall Sunday, April 22, 1951. The special meeting is in honor of the local Eagles 48th anniversary.

Plattsmouth Aerie will note its 48th anniversary April 19. It was founded in 1903. The special open house also commemorates remodeling completed here recently.

Devere Watson, past grand worthy president and a member of the grand trustees, will give the principal address in the main lodge hall at the Eagles building.

Lodge Burned Mortgage Here February, 1944

Burning the mortgage on their present building in February 1944 was one of the features points in the 48 years of Eagle history here. It marked the high point in their development.

The Eagles purchased their present home on March 27, 1929, for \$6,742 from the Modern Woodmen of America. On February 10, 1944 they voted to make final payment, and two weeks later burned the mortgage during a special meeting.

Wm. P. O'Donnell, current president, was president in 1944. He held the mortgage while C. U. Nolan, representative of the national order lighted it. Eagles gleefully watched it burn.

The Eagles were instituted in the Beacon building, later transferring to the Atwood building. They switched back to the Beacon building, returned to the Atwood building, and finally were at the Beacon building before buying.

Join the Eagles.

A United States Congressman from Iowa, Watson is from Council Bluffs. He has been prominent in Eagle activities in his home Aerie and in the grand lodge.

Other high ranking Eagle officers slated to attend the Sunday convention are John Smith, state president from Beatrice, and Herbert Montgomery, state secretary from Nebraska City.

Clement Woster, Mayor of Plattsmouth and a member of the local Eagle lodge, will give the welcoming address.

Registration will be held starting at 11 a.m. An estimated three to four hundred Eagles from throughout the area are expected to attend. Invitations were sent to lodges throughout Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa.

A business meeting and initiation will be held at 2:30, with Devere Watson delivering the address following the meeting. At the same time Auxiliary members will be entertained at games in the game rooms of the club.

Lunch will be served from five until seven by members of the local Eagle Auxiliary. After dinner guests will be treated to a floor show, with a dance scheduled to close evening activities.

Selected to serve on the dinner committee are Mrs. Frank. Continued on Page 3

Plattsmouth Aerie No. 365



Fraternal Order of Eagles

Proudly Celebrate Their

FORTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY

with OPEN HOUSE for

ALL visiting Eagle and Auxiliary Members who wish to inspect our newly REMODELED Home

Sunday, April 22, 1951

REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS FROM 11:00 A.M.

Business Meeting and Initiation - 2:30 P. M. - Free Game Party For Ladies

Guest Speaker: DEVERE WATSON, Grand J. P. W. P.

Cafeteria Lunch Served - - 5:00 P. M.

Dance at Aerie Home - - - 9:00 P. M.

Special Entertainment for All 7:00 P.M.

Music: Glen Mendenhall and Orchestra

Entertainment :- Lunch :- Speakers :- Initiation

Auxiliary Officers

- ★ Past Madam President DOROTHY JANECEK
- Madam President ANNE SCHUBECK
- Madam Vice-President MATHILDA BOMBERG
- Madam Chaplain CLARA JORDAN
- Madam Conductor IRENE SMITH
- Madam Secretary DELOMA MULLANEX
- Madam Treasurer EDITH HALEY
- Madam Inside Guard MARJORIE DALBOU
- Madam Outside Guard MARY GOBELMAN
- Trustees RUBY GOCHENOUR, MINNETTE SYLVESTER, VLASTA LAND

Aerie Officers

- ★ Junior Past President EDWARD M. KOHRELL
- Worthy President WM. P. O'DONNELL
- Worthy Vice-President WILLIAM K. WILSON
- Secretary I. JAMES HALL
- Treasurer MARION W. BARNARD
- Chaplain AMOS FRANK STROUGH
- Conductor CHARLES JANECEK
- Inside Guard RICHARD GOCHENOUR
- Outside Guard JOHN SMITH
- Trustees TONY LAHODA, SR., FREDERICK A. BRUCE, JOHN P. SATTLER