

# Board of Governors of Ak-Sar-Ben for 1900

Photographs Specially for The Bee  
By Louis R. Bostwick.

**M**EMBERSHIP on the Board of Governors of the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben carries with it an allotment of hard work and an obligation of personal expense that is no inconsiderable draft upon the resources of the business men who accept it. Some of the men who took up the burden in the initial year have continued to bear it year after year and are found in the harness today.

Among the latter is H. J. Penfold, who was in attendance at the original meetings. He was born in 1854 at Lockport, N. Y., attended the public schools of that city and at the age of 15 years entered a drug store to master the mysteries of the pestle and mortar. Two years later he went to Angola, a small town near Buffalo, and

Petersburg and was sent to a hospital in Washington, where he was at the time of the assassination of President Lincoln, and was discharged from that institution at the close of the war.

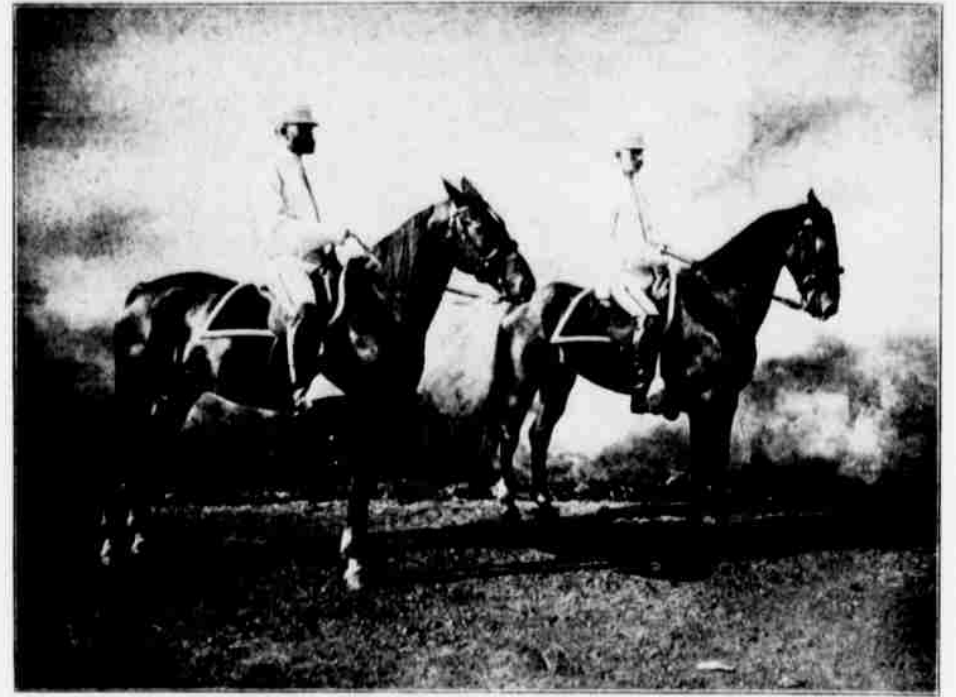
In 1871 he entered the employ of Race Bros., oyster dealers, of Chicago, with whom he remained nine years, and on the day following that upon which he quit their service, eighteen years ago, he entered the employ of Browning, King & Co. For six years he was a salesman for that firm in Chicago, but for the past twelve years he has been manager of the Omaha house.

Thomas A. Fry is another who has been actively connected with the order since its inception. He is a native of Lawrence, Kan., where he was born in 1860. That city was

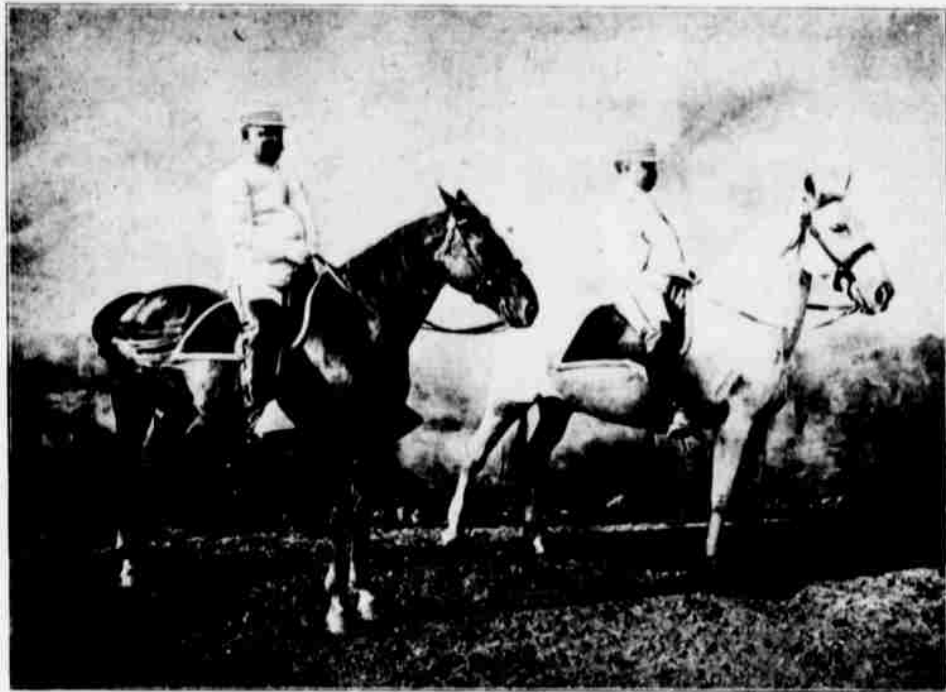
located in the shoe business and other Omaha enterprises.

A. H. Noyes is secretary of Ak-Sar-Ben. He was born in Maine January 4, 1858, and his ancestry was always well known and prominent in that state. Both his father and grandfather were prominent in the politics of the state for many years. Mr. Noyes finished his education at Colby university, Waterville, Me., in 1880. Two years later he went to Boston and entered the employ of a large mercantile establishment. Removing to New York in 1884, he entered the employ of George H. Hammond & Co. He has been with this company for sixteen years, holding numerous positions of trust and responsibility in different parts of the country, having for the last nine years been manager of its packing houses at South Omaha and St. Joseph, Mo., as well as all of its branches and connections in the west and south. He has been a member of the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben since its organization.

H. Vance Lane was born in Webster City, Ia., January 13, 1862, removed to Nebraska in 1869 and acquired his education in the public schools at Crete and Doane college. He entered the employ of the Nebraska Telephone company August 1, 1882, and has



H. J. PENFOLD. A. H. NOYES.



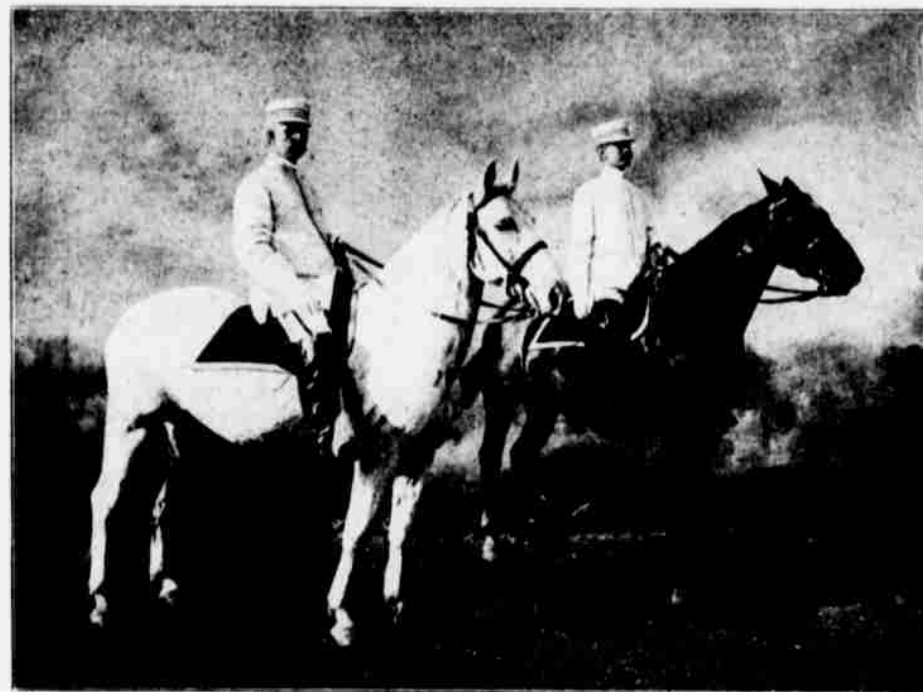
J. G. MARTIN. FRED METZ, JR.

engaged in the drug business for himself. For fifteen years he conducted the retail drug business in that place as his principal vocation, but during the last five years of the time he was also engaged in the publication of a weekly newspaper as a side issue. He established, edited and owned the Angola Record, a paper which is still in existence with an antiquity of twenty-five years and which he sold out to good advantage in 1884 to come west.

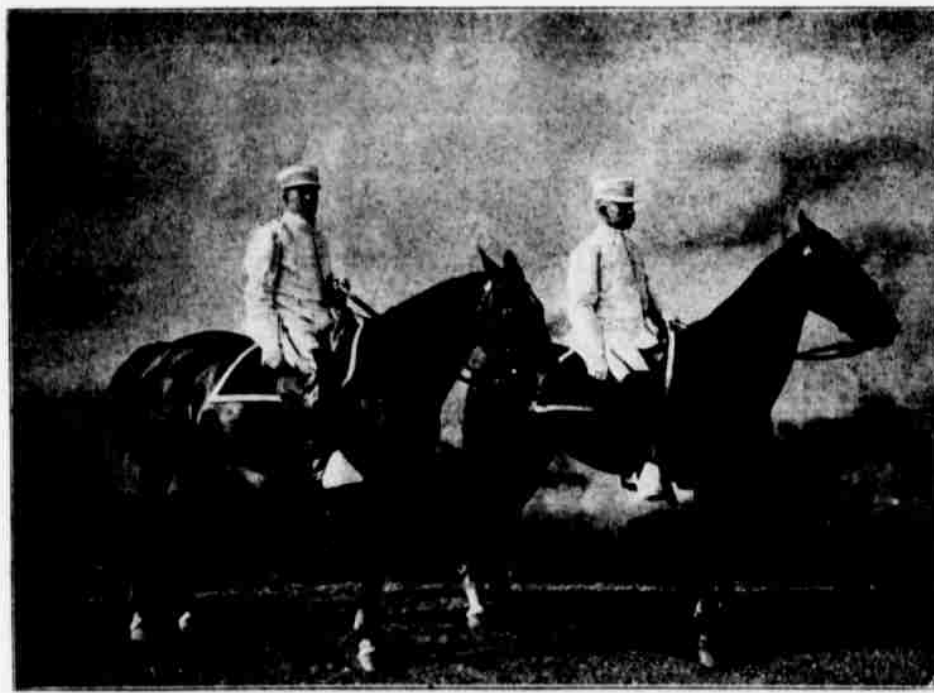
Upon reaching Omaha in 1884 he entered the employ of C. F. Goodman, then conducting a wholesale drug house on lower Farnam street, as city salesman, and later became manager of the business of the Goodman Drug company. Leaving that position in 1891, he established the Aloe-Penfold company, of which he is now the active manager. He is connected with most of the secret orders of the city, was one of the original organizers of the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben and has been a member of its Board of Governors and treasurer of the organization from the start.

Major R. S. Wilcox has also been a member of the Board of Governors from the date of its organization. He was one of the retail merchants at the initial meeting. Major Wilcox was born in Bath, Steuben county, New York, April 6, 1845. Before he had finished his schooling, at the age of 16 years, he enlisted in Company E, First New York Light Infantry, and went to the front. At Chickahominy swamps, in front of Richmond, he suffered a severe shock from lightning and was sent to Carver hospital, New Jersey, and after having been laid up there for a long time he was discharged and sent home, where he lay sick for a year or more. In the spring of 1864 he re-enlisted in Company C, One Hundred and Seventy-ninth New York infantry, in which he served until the close of the war. In June, 1864, he was wounded in front of

his home, with the exception of a period of schooling in the east, until 1877, and there he enjoyed a four years' course at the state university of Kansas. In the year last mentioned he removed to St. Louis, where he entered the employ of A. Booth of oyster fame the following year. He lived in St. Louis for ten years and was manager of Booth's St. Louis business before he removed to Omaha in 1887 and established the branch house here, of which he has ever since been manager. He is also quite extensively inter-



R. S. WILCOX. H. VANCE LANE.



MEL UHL. MILTON C. PETERS.

Rheem in the compilation of the first ritual.

Mel Uhl was born on a farm in Holmes county, Ohio, June 28, 1863, and accompanied his parents to Nebraska in 1872. He was educated at Doane college and at the age of 17 came to Omaha, which has ever since been his home except about a year and a half spent in Texas in 1890 and 1891, in charge of a branch house of the Western Newspaper union. For six years he was connected with the advertising department of The Bee, resigning upon the establishment of the Daily News to cast his lot with the new paper. In January, 1900, he was elected a member of the Board of Governors of Ak-Sar-Ben, serving since as chairman of the advertising and invitation committees and a member of the amusement committee, having charge of the Oriental carnival. Mr. Uhl is a nominee of

growing sections. He has been a member of the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben since the order was first instituted.

M. C. Peters is the most recent addition to the Board of Governors, having been elected during the last year to succeed E. P. Peck, who was compelled by stress of business exactions to give up his efficient work with the order. Mr. Peters was born in St. Louis, October 14, 1863. He has lived in Omaha since April, 1887.

Fred Metz, Jr., has been a member of the Board of Governors for four years and has contributed heavily of his time and money for the advancement of the purposes of the knighthood. Mr. Metz is an Omaha boy by birth. He was born April 1, 1863, and has resided in Omaha ever since. His schooling was acquired here and he literally knows no personal loyalty to any other city. He is vice president of the Metz Bros. Brewing company, which position he has held ever since the company was established.

George P. Cronk has been a member of the board only since last winter, but he has been prominent in the organization since its institution and has taken an active part in its ceremonies. He was born at Savannah, Ga., October 21, 1862, removing with his parents to New York at the age of 3 years. His youth was passed in that city and his education acquired in the schools of New York and Brooklyn. At the age of 16 he came west and began the active duties of life as a prospector for coal in Boone county, Iowa, where he remained during the year 1878. The following year he entered the employ of the Eclipse Coal Mining company at Des Moines, continuing with it for five years. He came to Omaha in 1885, in which year C. B. Havens & Co. was organized. He has been with it since its organization, becoming its secretary in 1891 and its treasurer in 1898, so that he now holds both positions.

Walter S. Jardine has not only been identified with the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben since the preliminary meetings, but he has been a member of the Board of Governors since the start and always one of the most active men in the ranks. Mr. Jardine

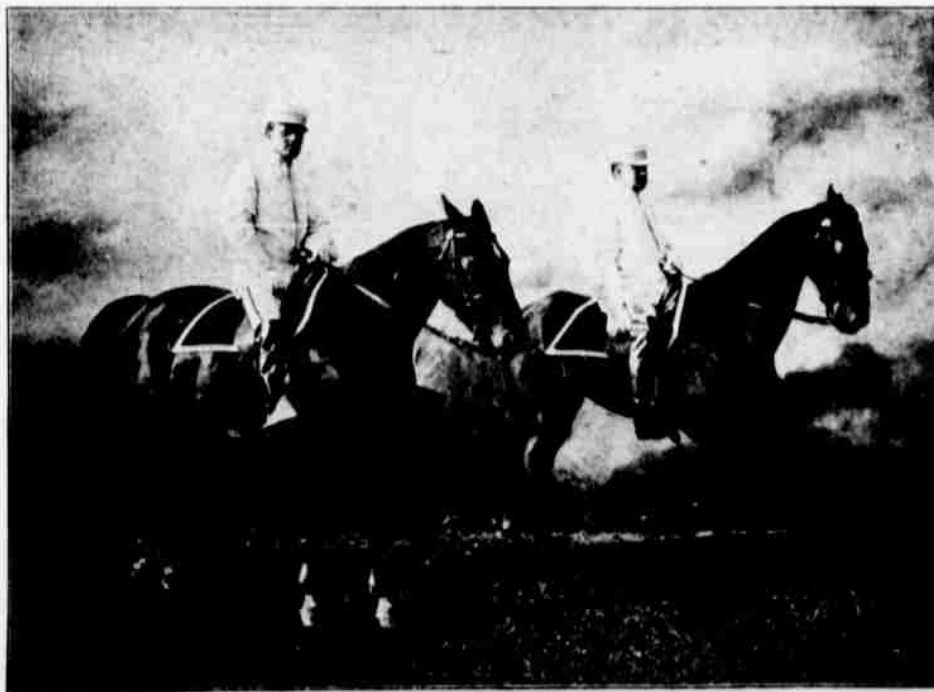


THOMAS A. FRY. WALTER S. JARDINE.

the republicans for member of the legislature.

James G. Martin, cattle salesman for Martin Bros. & Co., live stock commission merchants of Chicago and Omaha and a member of the Board of Governors of Ak-Sar-Ben, was born at Kirkwood, Ill., March 19, 1864, but has made his home in Omaha for the last fourteen years. Mr. Martin enjoys a wide and favorable acquaintance throughout the state and adjacent stock

was born in Pennsylvania September 21, 1854, and at the age of 10 years came to Omaha. While attending school in 1871, when but 13 years old, he possessed himself of a team and began operating an express line. That was the beginning of the Jardine express and delivery business that subsequently grew to considerable proportions, until ten years ago he sold his outfit and business to the Omaha Merchants' Express and Transfer company, in which he has ever since been a partner and the manager.



GEORGE P. CRONK. EDGAR ALLEN.

since been connected with that company, having held various responsible positions. He has been manager of its office at Fremont, Kearney, Council Bluffs and Omaha. He was appointed superintendent of the company in 1897, which position he held until he was elected its general manager in 1899. Mr. Lane has served on the Board of Governors for the last five years and in 1896 and 1897 was its secretary.

Edgar Allen is another member of the board who has taken an active interest in the organization ever since its birth and has been one of the energetic promoters of its arduous work. He was born in Stephensport, Ky., February 18, 1858, and began his business life as a telegraph operator. About the last work he did at that calling was in the Western Union telegraph office in this city handling the news of the death of President Garfield. He came to Omaha in 1880 and four years later started in the wholesale grocery business. He is now vice president of Allen Bros. & Co., engaged in that line of business. He assisted in the first initiation ceremonies of the Ak-Sar-Ben knighthood at the old den in Odd Fellows' hall and has ever since been one of the mainstays of the order. He was an associate with L. M.