

ODD FELLOWS ARE DOWN TO BUSINESS

First Session of the Grand Lodge Was Held Tuesday Morning.

GRAND MASTER RALPH PRESIDED

Opening Exercises of the Day Were Held in the Tabernacle With a Large Attendance—Reception of Odd Fellows at the Dormitory Tonight.

The opening day of the session of the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was one full of glory as far as nature was concerned. There was just the proper temperature to cause those who proposed to participate to feel good, and those who were managing the affair were happy when they awoke early in the morning to find a clear, blue sky, with every indication of the weather being favorable. A great many of the representatives from various sections of the State awoke early and walked about the city, admiring the beautiful water oaks and the surroundings, and returned to their respective boarding houses and stopping places to thank themselves and the actions of their brothers at the last Grand Lodge meeting for selecting Gainesville as the meeting place for 1905.

The day's program was opened with a march from the Masonic Hall, where

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- Fresh lot of Oranges, not frozen, 20c per dozen.
- Fresh Onions and Turnips.
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Phone 176

the Grand Lodge meetings are being held, to the Tabernacle, where the opening ceremonies were held. The procession formed at the Masonic Hall at a few minutes before nine in the following order:

The Formation.

Battalion of cadets from East Florida Seminary, under command of Cadet Major Graham.

Young lady students of East Florida Seminary, under direction of Major W. L. Floyd, and commanded by Captains Miss DaCosta and Miss McLain Colfax Rebekah Lodge and visitors of Rebekah degree.

Grand Lodge officers and representatives.

Members of Center Lodge No. 11, I. O. O. F., and visiting brothers.

The procession when complete was fully a block and a half long, and presented a most inspiring spectacle.

Opening Exercises.

The procession moved to the Tabernacle, where the opening ceremonies were held. The meeting was opened by prayer by Rev. S. B. Rogers, pastor of the First Baptist Church, who delivered a most beautiful and appropriate invocation for the "health, happiness and safety of the members of the order," etc., concluding with the remark that he hoped their stay among the people of Gainesville would be pleasant, and that they would receive great good from the meeting which was about to transpire.

In the absence of His Honor Mayor W. R. Thomas, who is in Tallahassee, Hon. Horatio Davis, in a most eloquent and friendly manner, welcomed the visitors to Gainesville, and hoped they would enjoy themselves while guests of our little city.

Captain George M. Lynch, one of the most eloquent speakers in the State, welcomed the visitors in behalf of Center Lodge No. 11. Captain Lynch delivered one of the most impressive addresses of his life, which is saying a great deal, and at its conclusion he was applauded heartily.

The response to the address of welcome was responded to by Grand Master Thos. W. Ralph of St. Augustine, who is an excellent and eloquent speaker. His remarks regarding the city were very complimentary and the order most appropriate.

Grand Lodge Organizes.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies at the Tabernacle the officers and members of the Grand Lodge returned to the Masonic Hall, where they held a morning and afternoon session. These sessions were full of interest, as there was a great deal of important work to be attended to.

In the evening the Rebekah degree held a meeting at the opera house, when work was conferred upon several candidates by a team from Naomi

Lodge, Pensacola. The work was said to be very impressive, the members of this lodge manifesting especial pride in the secret work.

Encampment Meeting.

Through an oversight the Sun omitted to state that, at the meeting of the Grand Encampment, I. O. O. F., held Monday, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

George R. Pierce of Key West, G. P.; Thos. C. Watson of Pensacola, G. V. P.; W. J. H. Taylor of Key West, G. S. W.; N. E. Benson of Gainesville, G. J. W.; Thos. W. Ralph of St. Augustine, G. M.; J. W. Blending of Gainesville, G. I. G.; — — Hendry of Orlando, G. O. G.

On Monday evening Alachua Encampment No. 9, J. G. Torrey, Chief Patriarch, held a special session, at which seven applicants were initiated into the mysteries of the order by a special team composed of Grand Lodge representatives.

Today's Program.

Sessions of the Grand Lodge at 10 a. m. and 3 p. m.

Reception to officers and members of Grand lodge and visiting ladies and brethren at the Dormitory of East Florida Seminary. This reception will be open to all Odd Fellows and their families and friends, all of whom are cordially invited.

P. O. S. of A.

Owing to the presence in the city this week of a number of prominent members of the Patriotic Order Sons of America, the members of the local Camp, Washington No. 8, are expected to be present in full force at the meeting Wednesday night to greet the visiting brothers.

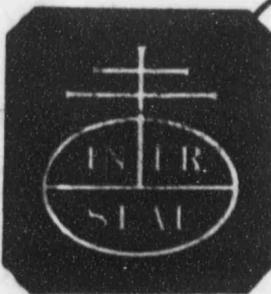
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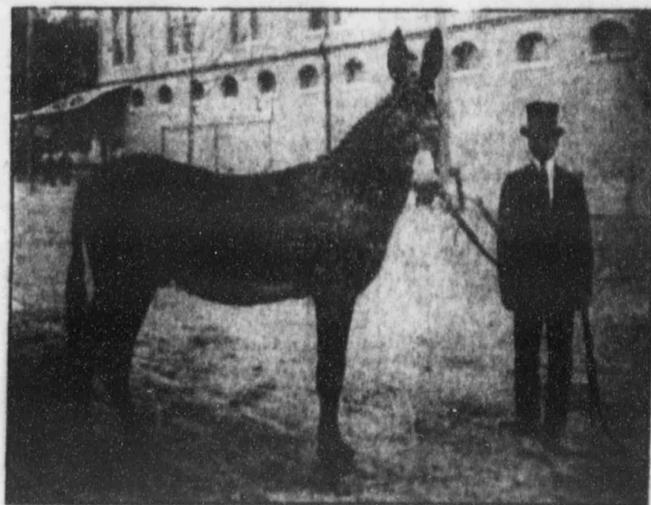
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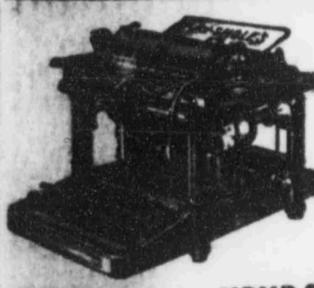
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