

Former Lodges that merged to form Takachsin 173 in January 1973



Name: Ojibwa 173
 Founded: Fall 1939 (chartered in 1940)
 Council: Harrison Trails Council, Lafayette
 first council Lafayette Council founded 1921

meaning: An Algonquin Tribe, Chippewa

Totem: Cabin superimposed on arrowhead

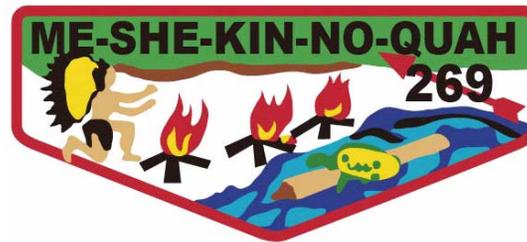
Unlike the other two merged lodges who had other honor camping programs (other than the OA), records indicate that in 1939, the lodge was formed in the OA as the initial camping honor program. The lodge had 16 charter members who worked in the Fall of 1939 to come up with its constitution and was chartered in 1940.

This council's OA program was the 173rd lodge to register with the Order of the Arrow.

The lodge did issue a round patch along with several variations (primarily border color) of its lodge flap. One time, the patch company made an error and instead of Ojibwa, they made it Opiowa. They also issued neckerchiefs.

The first advisor was Robert Hayes from 1940 to 1957, and the second and final advisor was Frances Lee from 1957 to 1972 (until the merger).

At the time of the merger, Frances Lee was Lodge Advisor.



Name: Me-She-Kin-No-Quah 269
 Founded: 1944 as Akonequa, changed in 1946 to Me-She-Kin-No-Quah
 Council: Meshingomeshia Council, Marion
 first council (Grant County) 1918

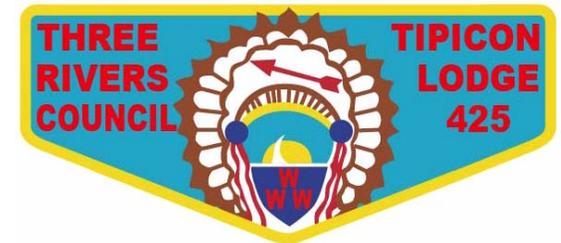
meaning: Little Turtle
 Totem: Turtle

The scouts of Meshingomeshia Council first organized into a different camping honor program other than the Order of the Arrow. That program was called Tipisa, Order of the Red Lodge. The program originated in Michigan by a Scout Executive named George Crossland. He transferred to Marion and brought a chapter of Tipisa with him. This started in the mid 1930's. (This is where the name for the Boy Scout camp came from, Crossland Scout Reservation, in honor of George Crossland).

In 1944, the members of Tipisa went through a conversion ceremony and became members of the Order of the Arrow. The lodge was originally called Akonequa, but in 1946 changed its name to Me-She-Kin-No-Quah, the name of a mighty chief of the Miami Indians. Little Turtle (as it is translated) defeated Mad Anthony Wayne at Fallen Timbers in 1794.

The lodge issued a round patch, turtle patch(es), along with some variations of lodge flaps along with neckerchiefs.

At the time of the merger, Phil Deardoff was Lodge Advisor.



Name: Tipicon 425
 Founded: 1949 as Chippewa, changed in 1952 to Tipicon.
 Council: Three Rivers Council, Logansport
 Logansport council founded in 1918.

meaning: Fish in Potawatomi

Totem: "tipping canoe"

In 1921, the scouts of this council formed a Tribe Of Gimogash which was another contending youth program. The Tribe of Gimogash is actually older than the Order of the Arrow. The Tribe of Gimogash had purposely no national structure, no dues to be paid to a national unit, which ultimately led to its demise.

In 1949 (the BSA adopted OA as the official program in 1948), members of the Tribe of Gimogash went through a ceremony and became Order of the Arrow members. Initially the lodge was called Chippewa but that was changed to Tipicon in 1952.

The totem of a tipping canoe is a bit of play on words since Camp Buffalo is located on the Tippicanoe River. The Lodge issued 4 patches not counting the section patches, etc. The first was a round 3" patch, then a cut edge headdress patch, the the conventional lodge flap in two flavors a restricted and a trader. One could buy as many trading flaps but only one or two restricted a year (as memory serves me). There was also neckerchiefs.

At the time of the merger, Hal Ivey was lodge advisor.

Why Merge?

The Boy Scouts of America in the late 1960's had a study done for the future. It was determined that financially smaller councils would not be able to survive but by merging, this would eliminate staff, as you only needed one Scout Executive, one registrar, (etc.) not 2 or 3.

National had a plan that said something like folks at Lafayette, shop in Champagne, IL and so they should merge that way. Folks in Marion shop in Fort Wayne and they should merge with that council and the folks at Logansport shop at South Bend (or was it Indy?), and should merge that way.

None of the three councils were happy about it. So they got together and merged with each other. Now I will not go into the politics of such because it is part of the big fish in a small fishbowl that all of a sudden we had a bigger fish bowl and more "big" fish. To say it politely, both on the council level and on the lodge level there were a few struggles.

As part of the lodge merger, many "rules" were set up. These rules covered trying to be "fair" to the merging three lodges so that "everything" did not come from one lodge. We took 173 from 173, the first chief came from 425 and the patch design came from a member of 269. We avoided using any totem or name from the former three lodges.

All three advisors were in the new advisor group, Hal Ivey from 425 was made the head advisor with Phil Deardorff (269) and Frances Lee (173) as Associate Advisors. Hal Ivey died in 1979, and Phil became the lodge advisor.

The lodge has hosted several section conclaves and was the service lodge to the 1994 NOAC held at Purdue University.

In October 1987, the council office burned down and the OA lodge lost over \$5000 in flaps, sashes, neckerchiefs, books, regalia, etc. The lodge issued a "black" lodge flap, known as the fire flap, and with the efforts of one OA member, most all of the cloth goods were salvaged even though they sat in 8 foot of "black" water for a week.

Patches, Patches, Patches & More Patches

The Lodge has been very successful and has issued numerous patches/flaps. The lodge flap stayed basically the same from its original design until the mid 2010's when National rules about hanging below the pocket bottom came into being.

The lodge issued its first NOAC flap in 1988 and in 2015 for the 100th anniversary of the Order of the Arrow, issued many commemorative flaps, including a 2 piece honoring our great history. In 2015, it sent the largest contingent to a NOAC ever in its history, that being a total of 22 members. (Some might argue that we had over 100 as the service lodge in 1994, and that is true, but as a contingent going outside our council, NOAC 2015 at Michigan State University was the largest contingent).

The lodge earned Gold Level Journey to Excellence in 2015 for its performance in 2014.

Oh No, 2 shades of Purple!

When the lodge was first formed in 1973, the lodge flap went on sale at the first annual lodge meeting held in June 1973 at Camp Buffalo.

There were two different color mountain backgrounds, one of a lighter purple and one of a darker purple on the first run of lodge flaps. I have read a few "stories" about how this happened, but truth be told since as a 15 year old and helping the lodge advisor carry them from his car trunk (probably 1200+ flaps) and we opened them, about every 6th patch had a lighter purple than the other 5. This was probably due to an error at the embroider, of hanging the wrong color on the machine. Stories of multiple orders of 220 don't make sense because the lodge was at least 801 members (how do I know this, see the number of 1973 vigils, with a quota of 1 per 50 members), and these were in the same box that way (I was there, I witnessed it). I bought that first day both a dark purple and light purple. By the way, after the initial run where the majority were dark purple, most of the flaps that followed were light purple.

Christopher L Birk
2015 Lodge Historian



Brief History of the Takachsin Lodge #173

In January 1973, three lodges merged (due to their councils merging) to form Takachsin Lodge. Takachsin means "Leader". The totem is the Calumet (peace pipe).

The original lodge flap was designed by Ron Huffman of #269. Due to National BSA requiring either fleur-de-lis or BSA, FDL were added in 1974 and moved from grass to sky in later runs.

The first annual banquet of the Lodge was to take place December 1984 at Logansport but due to bad weather was postponed to February 1985. In latter 1985 at the second annual banquet held at Cary Camp, a special flap celebrating the 75th anniversary of Scouting was presented to all present. This was our first special flap issued.

In November 2015, a special ashes and rededication ceremony was held called *ReKindle the Fire* at Camp Buffalo, to remember the 1st century of OA and move forth in the 2nd century.

2015 Lodge Chief: Lucas S. Bowman
2015 Lodge Advisor: Stephen Bowman