



# **Takachsin Lodge #173 History**

**As of October 2019**

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# Takachsin Lodge 173



## Takachsin Lodge #173

### The Merger/Early Years

Years ago, in the dim ages, in the valley of Indiana, were three Order of the Arrow Lodges: Ojibwa, #173 of the Harrison Trails Council (Lafayette, Indiana), formed January 10, 1940; Akonequa #269 of the Meshingomeshia Council (Marion, Indiana), formed June 1944 and changed in 1946 to Me-she-kin-no-quah; and Chippewa #425 of the Three Rivers Council (Logansport), in 1949 and remained Tipicon in 1951. Loge #269 had previously been part of the Tipisa program and #425 had been part of the Tribe of Gimogash program.

As part of national's restructuring of local councils, these three councils merged into the Sagamore Council (#162), January 1, 1973, initially headquartered out of Logansport, Indiana, now headquartered in Kokomo, Indiana. The new merged lodge was named Takachsin (meaning to lead) and they took the lowest lodge# of the three prior lodges, that being #173. The totem was the calumet, a peace pipe. It was ironic that the calumet was chosen because there was friction in the new lodge (as within the council). It should be noted that this merger action was something national was doing and originally had planned that the three councils merge with others, to which these three councils instead merged with each other. There were a lot of strong personalities both on the council and lodge level. There was a power struggle on the council executive board, which many board members were also involved in the lodge, so those personalities/struggles directly or indirectly came into the lodge.

In trying to keep peace among the newly formed lodges, all three lodge advisors were part of the new lodge structure. Francis Lee, Lodge Advisor of Ojibwa was the Assistant Lodge Advisor, as was Phil Deardorff former Lodge Advisor of Me-she-kin-no-quah. Col. Hal Ivey, a retired Air Force officer, and high school math teacher, and lodge advisor of Tipicon, became the first Lodge Advisor of Takachsin Lodge.

The first full lodge meeting of Takachsin Lodge was held in June 1973 at Camp Buffalo. This is the first time the new lodge flap, a flap designed by Ron Huffman, was put out for sale. There is a lot of discussion about the dark purple and light purple mountains in the flaps of that first issue. Some might tell you that they were different orders and that the light purple was a second run of them, etc. This is NOT the case at all, about every 6<sup>th</sup> patch was light purple in color in the first order of the flaps. Some will tell you that the first run was only 220 flaps. With the new merged lodge having probably around 1,000 members, and myself carrying in the boxes, I can assure you that there were far more than 220 flaps in that first run. And on that first day, members purchased both light purple mountains and dark purple mountains, I knew this because I did myself.

The lodge newsletter was called the Lodge Lip. It was a mimeographed paper newsletter that was mailed to all members. Once the council started a printed newspaper, called Sagamore Signals that was mailed to each scout and scouter, a column in Sagamore Signals was used for lodge information. Today email and the electronic version of the Sagamore Signals are the primary means we communicate with members. On February 20, 2000, a member of lodge registered the domain name of Takachsin.org and paid for the hosting of the site, which carries on to this day.

In the mid 1970's, National directed that all insignia had to be identified as belonging to the BSA. This meant either a fleur de lis, the words Boy Scouts of America (or BSA) or some other means. The lodge added a fleur de lis. Typically our lodge flaps were "cut edge" rather than rolled edge.

Each of the lodges had some of their own traditions, their own OA ceremonial rings, etc. and it was not a perfect transition, except that Hal Ivey, was a most likeable person and his grace kept things from blowing up. As mentioned, in the early years, due to different traditions and practices, this created friction and disagreements. Time has a way of healing all wounds and this along with lodge officers and advisors wanting to see the Lodge go and grow, it became one. One of those items was a practice where the candidates had to cook their raw egg in an orange peel, etc. When the lodge cook was appointed in 1984, he read carefully the national guidelines which not only made it clear that cooking was not another test of the ordeal but gave recommended meals, as even with the noon candidate meal there had been little consistency. He stood his ground, giving the candidates what the national guideline called for. And the lodge advisor stood with him on this. Many brothers complained over the years about such, "as when they took their ordeal they had to...". But with time, this too passed.

In the Tipicon Lodge #425, candidates wore a small log (with binder twine) around their necks during the ordeal. If you spoke, a member would cut a notch in the log and if you got three notches, it was said, you would be asked to leave. Because this was not part of the official ceremony, the newly formed lodge did away with this "tradition". Ordeal Candidates would make a single feather "headdress" that they wore into the ordeal ceremony. This also went away.

Another tradition from Mesh-kin-no-quah #269, was that only a vigil honor member could wear a double trailer headdress during any ceremony. It didn't matter if he was portraying Allowat Sakima or not, and that only vigil honor members could do the brotherhood questioning with brotherhood candidates. Over time, those traditions faded.

While most lodges might not talk about their struggles, we have included them here because it is a part of our history. Much like when high schools (at least in Indiana) were consolidated in the 1960's and you had old rivalries who were now joined, it took time to work as a team. We also tell this in our history because some day, there could be a new merger or some lodge reading this could be facing a merger and would be good for them to understand the actual truth of the matter and why certain decisions/actions were taken. There was great wisdom done by the three lodges upon the merger, giving "parts" to each former lodge, such as the patch design coming from #269, the lodge number coming from #173 and the first advisor from #425. That also played over into the first set of lodge officers who were interim officers till the June 1973 elections.

### **The Time to Shine**

In April 1979, Takachsin hosted a conclave at Cary Camp, where nearly 300 OA members attended from the section. The three most remembered items included the green scrambled eggs, the fish fry for supper both served in a very large tent and a wonderful 4" square patch rotated 45 degrees. The patch was designed by Warren Danzer who was Staff Advisor at the time. Hal Ivey who had been lodge advisor since the inception of the lodge, died shortly before this conclave in February 1979. So many volunteers had to step up to assist so this conclave would come off well (which it did). Phil Deardorff became the second Lodge Advisor. The Lodge worked very well together as a lodge not as members of this former lodge or that former lodge.

In the early years, there were approximately half dozen chapters and basically the chapters ran their own ordeal/brotherhood weekends. This continued until about 1981, when the chapters became smaller and the Lodge decided to run two ordeal weekends a year. This was also to ensure consistency in the Lodge of lodge events and to work together. So then the chapters took assignments, that is one chapter might do the pre-ordeal, one might do the ordeal, one might cook, etc.

In regards to the cooking, this sometimes caused problems, as the cooking skills to cook for 200+ people did not exist in the chapter. In the summer of 1984, the LEC asked Chris Birk to be the Lodge Cook, a position he held for ten full years before retiring from that position only to fill in when asked after that.

In 1986 the Lodge issued their first "event patches". This was because four adult members led the project. (Tom Brown, Chris Birk, George Nelson and Dave Fernung). The Lodge created their first "NOAC" flap, for the 1988 NOAC held at Colorado State University, where the Lodge sent a contingent of approximately ten members. And the lodge has made "NOAC" flaps going forth for most every NOAC after 1988.

In 1987, Takachsin Lodge hosted another section conclave, again at Cary Camp, and again with putting up a huge tent, this time on the east side of the dining hall, and the Lodge Cook with some volunteer youth members of Takachsin Lodge cooked for the conclave. Robert Todd Fernung along with Chris Birk designed the patch for the Conclave, again it was a 4" square rotated 45 degrees.

One of the items that was a problem for ceremonial teams, was the 15 candles used in the ceremony. Because of the desire not to leave ceremonial items at the OA ring for others to discover, each weekend, a new candle holder had to be built. However a lodge member saw in Scouting magazine an arrow constructed out of 2x4's painted red that had two pipes that would go over a piece of 3/8" rebar and so this arrow could be taken to the ceremony and then stored. So he built one and it was used a few times and then several more were built so there could be two at each camp, to cover when multiple ceremonies had to be held at the same time. They are still in use today, 30 years later.

## **The Annual Banquet Begins**

For years, the lodge had wanted to have an annual winter banquet but each year, plans pretty much fell through. In spring 1984, at a LEC meeting, Reggie Fairchild, Lodge Chief, made quick inquiry and asked the Lodge Cook if he would head this up. Several previous attempts had failed and the Lodge really wanted to get an annual banquet started. The first Lodge Banquet was scheduled in December 1984, but due to a bad snow storm, it was rescheduled to February 1985. It was held at Calvary Presbyterian Church in Logansport. There were over 120 OA members in attendance. The meal included turkey, green bean casserole, apple crisp and ice cream. It was a huge success. The second annual lodge winter banquet was held at Cary Camp in late 1985. Again the LEC asked the Lodge Cook to handle the banquet. Since this was the Diamond Jubilee of the BSA program, the committee for the banquet came up with a special lodge flap celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of the BSA program. There were only 220 patches ordered and one given to each person present. The rest were not handled out, and because it was part of the Winter Banquet Committee, this was an official issue of the lodge. This banquet continues today.

Also when the national OA came out with the Elangomat program, it was adopted by our Lodge.

## **The rest of the 1980's and Tragedy**

In 1987, the Lodge issued their first "Founders Award" which went to Doug Nelson who had served as Lodge Chief and section officer. Doug later was awarded a DSA, presented at NOAC.

On the evening of October 17, 1987, the local council office then located at 410 North Main Street, Kokomo, Indiana burned down (electrical was believed to be the cause). The lodge had over \$5000 worth of books, sashes, neckerchiefs, and patches that were in the basement which was flooded with 8 foot of water from fighting the fire. The Lodge came up with a black lodge flap, known as the fire flap, and sold it to raise money to begin to replace all that was lost. The patch sold for \$5 which was about double the normal lodge flap selling price. It was designed by Tom Brown, James Davis and Ed Sheets. One lodge member volunteered countless hours on the sashes, neckerchiefs and lodge flaps, saving all but those that were actually burned. Smoke smell especially back then was very difficult to remove besides the fact these cloth items had sat in blackened water for days. But nearly every patch, sash and neckerchief was saved, lessening the loss for the lodge.

Another casualty of the fire was all but one of the lodge's regalia (costume/outfit) was lost, as they were typically stored in the council basement. When the lodge was having the chapters hold their own ordeal weekends, they all had their own chapter gear, but for many years the Lodge was working on new regalia with beadwork etc. At least one chapter had fur regalia. After the fire, the chapters' regalia was used and over time various items were then replaced. Only one of the lodge outfits of that era survived the fire, that being the one worn by the Vigil Chief. It happened that the one who did the vigil ceremony took it home to be drycleaned and so it was not in the council office. That outfit then was forgotten about as it hung in this member's closet for the next 27 years, and having been discovered was returned back to the lodge for future vigil ceremonies.

The other major problem was that at that time all the lodge records were held in a multi ring binder, which was also lost in the fire. However, months earlier George Nelson and Les Rafferty, chapter advisors from Lafayette had been having youth input portions of these records into an early model of a personal computer that stored this information on 5.25" floppy disks. So it was important that the lodge get its membership information back, as there was nearly 700 to 800 members. Again, a lodge member whose family owned a computer services company stepped forward, wrote the programs to store the needed information along with getting these lists that existed (they were not complete), and then with various mailings, and the effort of all, got back this information. For several years the lodge used this service to maintain their lodge records. This allowed the Lodge to customize the letters that went to each OA member, reminding them if their dues were owed or if they were eligible for brotherhood, etc.

## **The National Order of the Arrow Conferences**

The Lodge has sent a contingent to NOAC as far back as we can recall. Of course here in the state of Indiana, Indiana University has been the home to several NOAC's including the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the OA in 1990. The Lodge asked a member of the lodge to prepare a lodge banner, that is the lodge flap that is on a pole so that a member of the lodge could march into the opening ceremony of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary NOAC with our lodge banner displayed. It was completed and used but honestly, it was constructed out of 3/8" plywood and was far too heavy to carry comfortably, and so it was retired and today hangs in the Camp Buffalo Shideler Hall.

In 1994, the NOAC was held at Purdue University where Takachsin served as the host service lodge. A special flap was issued by the lodge.

In 2008 or 2009, Bob Sorensen set up an Endowment Fund for the Lodge in the Council Endowment which grows annually for the Lodge.

## **Patches, Patches, Patches**

The lodge has issued several patches and lodge flaps, most all were based upon the original lodge flap design with the feathers that were below the pocket. A few of the other designs not chosen were used in 1986 as part of the event "flaps", which later went to more of an activity patch. The lodge issued a 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary flap which were themed off the original patch design. The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary flap was designed by Reggie Fairchild, Pete Gray, Bob Hulka and Eric Hiser who were or had been lodge officers. It is reported that only 300 were made and you could only buy one per lodge member who was present at the event.

Due to national regulations that prohibited the flap from being below the pocket bottom edge, a new design for lodge flap was instituted in the 2013-2015 period.

The Lodge, in addition to the NOAC flaps also created a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary flap (in 1990). In 1993, the Lodge issued a National Jamboree flap which was designed by Matt and Jerry Landseadel. A chapter dance team made an unofficial flap for their dance team, using a variation of the lodge flaps. The lodge also got into the hat pin craze of the late 1980's, issuing their first hat pins in mid 1980's, that being a lodge flap and also the NOAC flap (1986).

The first neckerchief of the Lodge was a pie shaped patch sewn on a dark blue cloth with a yellow border. The next edition of the neckerchief was the same basic patch (no fleur de lis) embroidered directly onto red cloth with white trim. The final issue of the lodge flap was this pie shaped patch embroidered directly onto the red cloth with white trim. The difference was now a fleur de lis on the patch part. Of this last edition, nearly 100 of them were "lost" in the fire at the council office but were able to be saved by a lodge member who was a drycleaner. The tale tell sign that it was one that went through the fire is that the white edging was typically a bit pink as these neckerchiefs sat under water for several days.

For the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Order of the Arrow, Takachsin Lodge created several 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary flaps and patches which was used to pay a portion of the cost of the contingent of 15 youth members going to NOAC in 2015.

For the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (2018), Takachsin Lodge created a special lodge flap along with a feathered border (since things hanging below the flap are no longer allowed). And for the 2018 NOAC, the lodge created a 5 two piece military honoring set of flaps, a 10 two piece Indiana honoring set of flaps, and a contingent flap and a ghosted contingent flap.

## **Ceremonial Rings and Camp Properties**

As far as OA ceremonial rings, each of the three camps (Buffalo, Cary and Crossland) had a ceremonial ring. The one at Crossland Scout Reservation (which was sold in the 1990's) had a cement fire pit and a special chair (that the ordeal master or lodge chief would sit in during the ceremony). Two of the three builders of the chair were Joe Young and Mike Young. This was done in June 1972, right before the merger so that maybe "their" camp would be the "home" of the OA for the new lodge.

You see, upon merger of the councils, Sagamore Council/Takachsin Lodge became blessed with four camp properties. Camp Buffalo, located on the Tippecanoe River in Buffalo, Indiana, which opened in 1945. Cary Camp, located east of Lafayette Indiana, located on the Wildcat Creek. Crossland Scout Reservation which was located on beautiful Lake Robinson outside the council boundaries and Green Hills which was rented out to farmers for farming. Green Hills was sold. In the early 1990's, Crossland Scout Reservation was sold to the State of Indiana. Each of the camp properties had unique offerings. Originally summer camp was ran at all three at the same time.

Then in the 1980's they moved summer camp from property to property which was a lot of work. Even the OA would rotate the ordeal weekends among the three camps equally. Eventually the Council Executive Board sold Crossland Scout Reservation, and Camp Buffalo became the boy scout summer camp and Cary Camp became a cub scout camp and training facility.

The Council has invested well over a million dollars into the camp properties in the past decade by building new dining halls and improving the facilities.

At Camp Buffalo, the original ring was across the creek, but in the late 1960's due to the expansion of the camp, a new ring was formed in the pines that existed east of the camp. The ring was designed to be portable in that everything could be removed and all you had was a clearing. That area was all yellow sand so typically the ceremonial characters would be barefoot. Later the latter part of the last century, this area was turned into a lake and so a new ring was created.

### **Previous Lodge Histories**

As far as some past history about the former three lodges that make up Takachsin, the following information can be shared. In Tipicon #425, they had both a trader patch and a member patch. Recollection serves that you could only get one or two member patches a year, but as many trading flaps as you wanted. The other two lodge "patches" were a round one and a headdress one (early years). In Ojibwa #173, one issue had a spelling error, instead of Ojibwa, it was Opiowa (a P instead of a J). There also was a round patch and there were a few versions of the orange patch, changing the boarder color. In Me-she-kin-no-quah #269, they had a turtle patch and a few variations of their lodge flap. In celebration of the former lodges, Takachsin #173 issued a large back flap that showed one of the former lodge flaps along with the camp symbols.

Me-she-kin-no-quah translates as "Little Turtle", and he was the chief of the Miami Indian Nation which occupied some of the area of the current Sagamore Council. Me-She-Kin-No-Quah (Little Turtle) was the Indian general defeated at the Battle of Fallen Timbers by Mad Anthony Wayne during the War of 1812. The lodge was created from the Indiana branch of Tipisa in 1944. Tipisa means red tipi, and this organization was started in Michigan and was a program competing with the OA (as were others across the country). When George Crossland (who Crossland Scout Reservation was named after), the Scout Executive left Michigan to come to the Meshingomesia Council, he brought this program which later converted to OA Lodge #269. For information on this, see <http://usscouts.org/honorsociety/TIPISA.asp>.

Tipicon (#425) Lodge totem was a tipped (tipping) canoe. Tipicon means Fish in Potawatomi Indian language. Originally called Chippewa, as noted previously, it changed its name to Tipicon. The irony is in the totem "tipping canoe" as Camp Buffalo, the summer camp was on the Tippicanoe River.

Ojibwa (#173) Lodge totem was a cabin superimposed on an arrowhead. The name means "An Algonquin Tribe, Chippewa (Algonquin/Chippewa)".

### **More on History/The Early Years**

We know that #269 came from the Red Tipisa program but little more is known about #269 or #425. For clarification, the reason for this excellent history being presented on only one of the former three lodges, to understand something about the time frame of all this. The country was coming out of a Great Depression and getting ready to enter WWII. Most able bodied men during 1941-1945 were in the war theatre and many programs came to a near halt during this time. For Me-she-kin-no-quah to be formed in 1944 and for the first summer camp at Camp Buffalo to



happen in 1945 were definitely out of the norm for the time, with gas rationing, food and tire vouchers, etc., with all of our country's resources going to the war effort to defeat Germany and Japan.

You read at the beginning about Tipisa and Gimogash as two other "honor" camper programs. Tribe of Gimogash is actually a year older than Order of the Arrow. Although not able to confirm, one reason these other programs existed is that during the Great Depression years (1930's), in the OA there was payment to "National" for every OA member and that was not the case in many of the other programs. So history did have an impact on the programs.

As far as lodge advisors, we know about Ojibwa (read further down). As far as Me-she-kin-no-quah, we know that Dr. John Koegel was an advisor, and from 1965 to 1970 it was George Lee and from 1970 until the merger it was Phil Deardorff. In Tipicon, the only records we have are of Harold (Hal) Ivey from 1967 until the merger.

In the back part of this history is copies of lodge #425, the last charter with the "Chippewa" name to which we know of no patch issues, to the first one as "Tipicon" along with the last "Tipicon" charter. Many of the other copies of the charters were destroyed in the council office fire. It happened that a member of the OA, purchased from the council these old certificates a few years prior to the fire. There were many others in the lodge cabinet in the basement but the member only had interest (at that time) in those three. So the rest, sorry to say were lost forever to the fire.

Alan Weaver, a vigil (1962) of Tipicon in talking about the "call-out" (which in years gone by, was actually a "tap out") had this to say:

*"Concerning the patch that was so precious it could not be traded, I was told that was a tradition so it was decided before I was part of the Lodge. I did not like the tradition or policy but when I was chief my advisors, John Gilman and Wayne (Pappy) Durbin did like the policy so as a teenage boy I kept my thoughts to myself. It was on my watch as Chief that the trading patch was developed. I kept quiet about what I thought was a stupid idea--it just made getting your hands on the actual lodge flap even more of a prize. I thought our policy was arrogant."*

*Dr. Ken Ahler and after him Terry Pullen of Medaryville, Indiana were Lodge Chiefs in the late 1950's and early 60's. I think Terry was Lodge Chief when I was Vice Chief in 1961. Ken was about four years older than me which is an eternity at those ages."*

*"Our "Call Out" or "Tap Out" ceremony was held on the beach--our waterfront and swimming hole. It was as you described. Flaming arrows from the sand hill, a canoe delivered the chief from across the river, lots of flaming torches, etc. For many there was a problem. Speed boats would anchor in the river and party and wait to watch the ceremony. Also, there were cabins across the river and they would invite friends, set up the lawn chairs, and pop the tops and party. I remember paddling across to the cabins on Friday afternoons to ask them to turn out their cabin lights and watch quietly. On one such late afternoon trip Bob Bauer (addressed) and I managed to tip over our canoe in front of dozens of visiting parents--we were in our dress uniforms which was a dinner time requirement in those days. Anyway, John Gilman, our Ldge Adult Advisor, decided we should move the ceremony off the beach because of the distractions from boaters and the cabins. His not too cool idea was to dam up the creek, create a pond, and move our ceremony. We moved the ceremony, but the creek dam didn't work so the canoe had to be abandoned. On balance moving our ceremony off the river was probably necessary, but in the 1950's Tipicon's call-out ceremony was as cool as it gets. "*

*"Hammer and Saw weekends. Buffalo was built by men who were just home from war. The Army influence was everywhere in the camp and throughout our time on staff the US Air Force supplied the camp with equipment, materials, and even Airmen on TDY (temporary duty) to augment our staff. Tipicon Lodge using Air Force surplus materials and its members with their tools did much to keep the camp operating. There was another supplier. A hardwood saw mill*

*supplied those returning soldiers with thousands of board feet of green oak. When you drove a nail into the oak it was so wet and green it would splash in your face. However, by the next year the oak would be dry and as hard as iron. Likely Buffalo still has some of those oak buildings and hopefully some OA brothers to show up on hammer and saw weekends.”*

*“Some of those lodges or maybe all of them gathered every spring for a regional meeting to exchange ideas, have ceremony and dance competitions, and sports events. Those were great times. Our Lodge sent a delegation to NOAC whenever they had one. I attended Indiana University in 61 and University of Illinois in 63.”*

Jim Hensley of #269 has this to say:

*“Here is a memory from 1950. OA # 269 had their tap outs at summer camp. Candidates were chosen from campers that week. No one was elected except the campers that were attending summer camp. We received a Turtle patch at Ordeal. Another when you got Brotherhood. I don't remember the Turtle patch ever being for sale”*

## **Ojibwa History**

Going way back, it was late summer in 1939, that camp staff of the Harrison Trails Council toured another scout camp and while there, noticed the large number of arrow sashes being worn by scouts. Upon inquiry, they learned of the “Brotherhood of Cheerful Service”, known as the Order of the Arrow. Upon returning home, William Mertz, Robert Tullis, and Robert Wells, started plans for a lodge in Harrison Trails Council. They had an organizational meeting on September 17, 1939 and on October 15, 1939, the lodge constitution was written and adopted. At a November meeting, Bill Mertz-Chief, Bob Bonner-Vice Chief, Ralf Houser-Secretary and Bob Tullis-Treasurer were elected and installed as the first lodge officers of Ojibwa. The name Ojibwa was researched by Jack Bonner and Paul Parker. It was named after this powerful tribe because they had occupied land near our area (Tippecanoe County). Jack Bonner designed the original lodge totem. Both the lodge name and totem were approved at the December meeting of 1939.

That winter, the new lodge started right out on camping promotion by sponsoring a winter campout. Lodge members of Lodge Waukhem (original spelling) inducted the charter members of Ojibwa Lodge into the Ordeal membership.

The charter members of the Ojibwa lodge were:

Robert W. Bonner Troop 3  
Jack Bonner Troop 3  
Frank Elser Troop 3  
Ralph Houser Troop 55  
George King Troop 36  
David McConnell Troop 1  
William Mertz Troop 2  
Paul E. Parker Troop 14  
Morris Robley Troop 38  
Irwin Sexton Troop 14  
Robert Tullis Troop 14  
John J. Dahm Assistant Scout Executive  
Maj C.H Hawksworth Executive Board  
Fred Marxson District Commissioner  
Robert Wells Merit Badge Counselor  
E.L “Pop” Wheeler Scout Executive

The first Lodge Advisor was Robert Hayes, January 1940 through 1957, and the second and final lodge advisor was Francis Lee 1957-1972 (until the merger). And so is the history of one of the former lodges. Steven Turnipseed designed the Ojibwa neckerchief.

### **Additional Council/Lodge History from National**

Sagamore Council (#163), headquartered in Kokomo, Indiana was formed in 1973 as a result of the merger of three older councils:

- The Lafayette Council (#161) was founded in 1921. It changed its name several times, to the Lafayette & West Lafayette Council in 1925, to the Tippecanoe County Council in 1926, to the Tippecanoe Area Council in 1932 and to the Harrison Trails Council in 1940, retaining the #161. Ojibwa Lodge (173) was chartered to the Harrison Trails Council, also in 1940.
- The Grant County Council (#163), headquartered in Marion was founded in 1918. It changed its name twice, to the Marion City Council in 1921 and to the Meshingomeshia Council (#163) in 1929. Three other early councils were founded in the area of this council, but were dissolved:
  - The Wabash Council (#167) was founded in 1919 and dissolved in 1928.
  - The Kokomo Council was founded in 1919 and dissolved in 1924.
  - The Culver Council (#153) was founded in 1920 and dissolved in 1928.A camp honor society, Tipisa, the Order of the Red Arrow was present in this council beginning in the early 1930s. It was rechartered into the OA in 1944 as Akonequa Lodge (#269). This lodge changed its name to Me-She-Kin-No-Quah Lodge (#269) in 1946.
- The Logansport Council (#162) was founded in 1918. It changed its name to the Three Rivers Council in 1946. Beginning in about 1924, a camp honor society known as the Tribe of Gimogash was founded. This society was present in about a dozen other Midwest councils. In 1949, this honor society was converted into an OA Lodge, Chippewa Lodge (#425). This lodge changed its name to Tipicon Lodge (#425) in 1952.

When the Harrison Trails Council, the Meshingomeshia Council and the Three Rivers Council merged in 1973, the three OA lodges also merged to form Takachsin Lodge (#173). The new lodge adopted the lowest of the three numbers of the predecessor lodges, which was customary at that time.

#### **Notes on Council/Lodge numbers:**

- Beginning in the early 1920's, the BSA assigned council numbers based on an alphabetic listing of states, and then alphabetically by headquarter city within the state, so that the Greater Alabama Council (headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama) is Council #1, and the former Sheridan and the Sheridan County Councils were Council #640. In this scheme, councils headquartered in Indiana generally had numbers in the 150's.
- Many early councils (such as Kokomo Council) were founded and merged or disbanded before numbers were assigned, and so never had numbers. Some councils were founded after the numbering system was developed, and these have numbers higher than 640. In a few cases, a new council received the number of a folded or disbanded council, if it was the number that they would have had by the official numbering system.
- Merged councils have generally retained one of the predecessor council numbers, usually that of the headquarter city of the new councils, so that all of the sequential numbers are not "occupied" by an existing council.
- The Order of the Arrow also assigned lodge numbers after about 25 lodges had been formed, and gave them out in the order in which the lodges were founded, with Unami

Lodge assigned #1 (although a few errors in numerical order were made). New lodges were assigned sequential numbers, up to Achsin Lodge 565 (Guam Council) in 1970, by which time there were only two councils without a lodge number. The next two numbers, 566 and 567 were for merged lodges.

- When OA lodges merged, the most common practice was to assume the lowest number for the predecessor lodges, although there were cases where a different predecessor lodge number was used. This was done by Takachsin Lodge.
- Starting in the 1970s, when many mergers took place, new lodges might instead take the lowest “unused” number from a lodge which had merged or folded. In other cases, they have adopted the number of their council, or a number that has a special meaning for the new lodge. Sakima Lodge, for example, adopted the number 573, for May 1973, the date the Lodge was formed.

Lodge numbers were not assigned after 2004, and exist today only as part of lodge traditions. Four lodges have not adopted a lodge number at all, and in one case (I-Tsu-La Lodge) a merged lodge adopted its council’s number, even though an existing lodge (Tonkawa Lodge 99) was already using that number.

### **Takachsin Lodge Advisors**

Harold (Hal) Ivey 1973-1979  
Phillip Deardorff 1979-1995  
George Nelson 1995-1999  
Debbie Ingersoll 1999-2004 (our first woman advisor)  
Bryan Shaffer 2004-2008  
Denny Unger 2009  
Mark Beattie 2010-2012  
Daniel Carbaugh 2012-2014  
Steve Bowman 2014-present

### **Vigil Honor Members of Takachsin Lodge**

Here are the Vigil Honor Members of the Takachsin Lodge:

#### **2019**

Tyler McGuire – Draven Burkholder – Daniel Hillman – David Benninghoff – Zachariah Kirk – Brad Rody

#### **2018**

Turner Parke – Ben Holley – Nathaniel Ebert –Tressa Bowman – Lee White

#### **2017**

Craig Burkholder – Cree Gerlach – Eric Chauret – Kyle Eenigenburg – Waylon Easterday – Doug Whitham

#### **2016**

Josh Pluimer – Craig Quigg

#### **2015**

Steve Bowman – Vicki Triplett – Nathan Demien

**2014**

Matthew Bowman – Patrick Tulley – Chas Triplett – Joe Alberich

**2013**

Alan Harnish - Lucas Bowman

**2011**

Daniel O'Connor - Matthew Campbell - Randy Helder - Greg Connors - Andrew Smelser

**2010**

Mark Beattie - Kenny Helder - Zeke Brewer

**2009**

Wes Beattie - Jarren Beaty - Terry Beaty - Mike Neilander - RJ Wilson - Jim Large

**2008**

Chris Perry - Lewis Day - Jerry Day - Will Orchard - Andy Brewer - Andrew Rusch

**2007**

Brad Banter - Russell Conard - Carl Mullen - Seth Mullen - DJ Unger

**2006**

Beth Carbaugh - Don Harper - Cody Mullen - Matt Spalding - Cory Tiedeman

**2005**

Jerrold Day - Michael Carbaugh - Blake Graham - Ryan Capporelli - Matt Harding - Tyler Jenkins - Pat Harding - James Hinsley

**2004**

James Kirk - Lane Sander - Joe Gust

**2003**

Alex Donathen - Andrew Gust - Garrett Harper - Diana Donathen - Terry Martin - Dewayne Pirtle

**2002**

Daniel Carbaugh - Matthew Donathen - Page Berry - Ted Grell

**2001**

Adam Griffith - Charles Lehman - Peter Rusch - Charles Perry

**2000**

Brian Killingbeck

**1999**

Pat Goss - Adam Rusch - Tony Hamaker - Andy Campbell

**1998**

Danny Cochran - Pat Kavanagh - Debbie Jo Ingersoll - Annette Miller

**1997**

Joshua McMillin - Jeremy Sites

**1996**

David Yoder - Ryan Merkel - Andy Morris - Bob Sorensen

**1995**

Myron Dill - Bart Turner

**1994**

Ben Shoup - George Drake - Kevin Doty - Tim Miller

**1993**

Nick Miller - Ravi Hasaanadka - Michael Plageman, Jr.

**1992**

Adam Morris - Clay Isley - Stacy M Guenther

**1991**

Shawn Tweedie

**1990**

Cam Brown - Scott Shoemaker - Steve Akers - Michael Crouch - Ed Myers - Samuel Elliott

**1989**

Tom Wesner - Keith Rogers - Matt Crouch - Jeff Holladay - Phil Tobin - Lerry Holladay - Eric Biggs - Randy Adams - Robbie Carr - Ted Dill - Roger Woodworth

**1988**

William Davis - William Rozzi - Marc Miller - James Davis - James Gilbert - Paul Tweedie - Jason Gaskill - Mark Freeman - Alan Pefley - Marty Gaskill - David Dill - John Shoemaker - Matt Haggquist

**1987**

Patrick Jackson - Joe Martin - Eric Shoemaker - Eddie Sheets - Brad Floyd - Herman Tweedie - Lester Rafferty, Jr.

**1986**

Robert Hulka, Jr - Andy Bowman - Paul Schini - Tony Jost - Richard Zernack - Robert Pressler

**1985**

Paul Bowman - Brian Kersey - Michael Jackson - Todd Fernung - David Fernung

**1984**

Douglas Nelson - Pete Gray - Tom Brown, Jr - Chris Birk

**1983**

Bruce Hermann - Gerald Kersey - Robert Sucharski - Garry Banter - Richard Rumble - Reggie Fairchild

**1982**

Eric Hiser - Jim Anderson - Rod Harmon - John Jones - Clyde Webb - Joe Arnett

**1981**

Tom Banter - Robin McCart - John Dempsey - Scott Walter - Richard Long

**1980**

Gary Duckwall - Brad Vice - Dick Trobridge - Nick Badgett - Bob Spencer - Allen Willard - Mike Hopkins - Doug Wolfe - Mark Bohannon

**1979**

Eric Nelson - George Bundy - Scott Pattison - Randy Lynch - Daryl Lennon - Charles Bales - Elbert York - Paul Jackson - James Knolinski - Phillip Jackson

**1978**

David Nelson - David Colford - Paul Bedford - Phillip Harris - Robert Colsher - Joseph Noble - Sam Gates, Jr - Michael McCord - Billy Moore - Rex Banter - Michael Bohannon - Kevin Wentz

**1977**

Jon Myers - Mickey Bournique - Robert Virtue - T. Gill Fuqua - Robert Cinatl - Richard Scott - Kevin Baker - Terry Munson - Russell Pierson - Christopher Alexander - Steve Christiana

**1976**

Mark Dennis - James Gryga - Rocky Henemyer - Charles Henrg - Kenneth King - Sam Wilcocon - Leslie Flott - Charles Johnson - Walter Kohlun - William Wittig - Jack Kelly - David Bloodgood - Donald Bloodgood

**1975**

Tom White - Fred Kennedy - Dennis O'Keefe - Ernest Hiatt - Robert Languell - Kevin Carnes - Robert Lowell - James Small - Hank Huffman - Don Isenbarger - Curt Bevingtin Natan Meyer - Ned Barker - Jeff Bowman - Kevin McDougle - Raymond Brunk - Gerald Bieler Herman Stine

**1974**

Glenn Meiser - Paul Zarse - Jim Frobeiter - Harvey Lobstein - Tom Carson - John Dux - Lloyd Fike - Steve Giver - Mark Schmeitter - Brian Wagner - Rick Phillips - Bill Schidler - David Fred - Richard Wood - Howard Drake - Bill Rozzi - James Hudlow, Jr - Keith Galloway

**1973**

Tony Weiss - Jeff Gibson - Andy McKellar - Paul Sheely - John Ahirichs - Don Dennis - Ron Huffman - Randy Krayzer - Jerry Bell - Dan Wagner - Dan Drompp - Wil Blankley - Don VanHorn - Mark Wagner - Jim Watson - Charles Radersfart - Bob Wilsoxon

## **Francis Lee Service Award**

The Key Three Service Award was created in 2005 to honor Arrowmen for their dedicated work to Takachsin Lodge. In 2010, the award was renamed in memoriam of a fellow Arrowman and leader Francis Lee. Francis Lee served as a lodge advisor for numerous years for both the current Takachsin Lodge and the former Harrison Trails Council Ojibwa Lodge before the lodge merge that created Takachsin Lodge. This award is selected by the Key Three leadership of the lodge, which is made up of the Lodge Advisor, The Staff Advisor, and the Lodge Chief. So in honor of Francis Lee, Takachsin Lodge presents the Francis Lee Service Award annually to those who demonstrate the values of honor, service, and dedication to the principles and values that the Order of the Arrow and fellow Arrowman Francis Lee valued.

**2018**

Kyle Eenigenburg

**2017**

Chris Birk – Lucas Bowman

**2016**

Craig Burkholder – Ethan Lutgen

**2015**

Bill Hart – Nathan Demien

**2014**

Rex Banter -Jacob Clupper

**2013**

Matthew Bowman - Don Harper

**2012**

Brad Banter - Nathaniel Tritt

**2011**

Randy Helder - Andrew Smelser

**2010**

Phil Drake - Kenny Helder

**2009**

Mark Beattie - Wes Beattie

**2008**

Andy Brewer - Lewis Day

**2007**

Matt Spalding

**2006**

Will Orchard

**2005**

Chris Gibson - Ryan Capporelli

### **Founder's Award**

The Founder's Award was created to honor and recognize those Arrowmen who have given outstanding service to their lodge. The award is reserved for an Arrowman who demonstrates to his fellow Arrowmen that he memorializes the spirit of achievement in his everyday life as described by founder E. Urner Goodman. The award is a handsome bronze medallion bearing the likeness of E. Urner Goodman and Carroll A. Edson, with a wooden base and brass plate suitable for engraving. Award recipients can also wear the Founder's Award ribbon, similar to the universal arrow ribbon, except that it is a gold colored arrow suspended from a red ribbon. Lodges may petition the National Order of the Arrow Committee to present up to four awards annually, based on lodge membership. If the lodge presents more than one award, one must be to a youth under the age of 21.

**2018**

none

**2017**

Nathan DeMien – Cree Gerlach

**2016**

Kyle Eenigenburg

**2015**

Matthew Bowman – Tressa Bowman



**2014**

Steve Bowman - Eric Chauret

**2013**

Lucas Bowman

**2012**

Andrew Semlser - Andy Brewer

**2011**

Kenny Helder - Mark Beattie

**2010**

Lewis Day - Wes Beattie

**2009**

Jerry Day - Brad Banter

**2008**

Cory Tiedamen - Don Harper

**2007**

None Selected

**2006**

Cody Mullen

**2005**

Jerrod Day - Rex Banter

**2004**

Alex Donathen - Denny Unger

**2003**

Dewayne Pirtle - Andrew Gust

**2002**

Daniel Carbaugh - Debbie Ingersoll-Nease

**2001**

Brian Killingbeck - Roger Woodworth

**2000**

Andy Campbell - Charles Lehman

**1999**

Philip Drake

**1998**

Ed Myers

**1997**

Andy Morris - Tim Miller

**1996**

David Yoder - Bob Sorensen

**1995**

Kevin Doty

**1994**

Nick Miller - Michael Plageman

**1993**

Adam Morris - George Nelson

**1992**

Eric Biggs - David Fernung

**1991**

Eric Korchnak - Lee Tweedie

**1990**

Jeff Holliday - Chris Birk

**1989**

Robbie Carr - Francis Lee

**1988**

Phillip Deardorff

**1987**

Doug Nelson

### **Order of the Arrow Centurion Awards**

This award is a one-time recognition associated with the centennial anniversary of the OA that is bestowed by the national Order of the Arrow committee. It is modeled after a similar program in the BSA's 100th anniversary celebration, the 2010 National Hall of Leadership. Accordingly, this recognition is an opportunity to highlight lodge development over the last century and the many individuals, both youth and adult, who were instrumental to this success. These honorees will serve as exemplars of leadership, modeling to others a commitment to cheerful service as the Order of the Arrow enters its second century. (from national OA website)

Lucas Bowman - Matthew Bowman – Don Harper – Kenny Helder – George Nelson

### **Vigils of Former Ojibwa #173 Lodge**

**1972**

Truman Martin – Robert Greene – Gayard Quinn – Bruce Dille – Steve Darnell

**1971**

Philip Cobb – Lloyd Darnell

**1970**

Charles Bossingham – Adolph Scaglia – Harold Dick – Robert Clampitt – Roger Barnett

**1969**

William Easterbrook – Donald Fraser – Steven Turnipseed – Clark Dobbs – Billy Smith – Donald Weatherman

**1967**

Robert Gray – William Greene – Jack Snell – Donald Blanchette

**1966**

Otto DeYoung, Jr. – David Putnam – James Warner

**1965**

Rodney Decamp – Virden Bryan – Charles Partlow

**1964**

John Crook – Ralph Greene – Mahlon Butz

**1963**

John Teegarden – Ralph Skip Kochert – Gysbertus Boom – Herry Abbett, Jr.

**1962**

Hugh Steele – Richard Wein

**1961**

Louis Alt – Robert Arnold – John Mertz – Roger Parkhurst

**1960**

Francis Lee – George Nelson

**1959**

Rober Collison – Robert Lee Hayes – Joe Heide

**1958**

Harry Boze – Robert Hayes – John Ritter – Paul Wargon

**1956**

Charles Franklin

(no information is available at this time if any vigils prior to 1956)

### **Vigils of the Former Me-she-kin-no-quah #269 Lodge**

**1972**

Patrick O-Hern - Jan Marks - Bill Morrow - Ralph Hansell - Phil Drake - Everett Ross - Robert Reynolds

**1971**

John Young – Mike Young – William Nichols – Eric Moll – Steve Hendry – David Gross – Michael Bowman – Phillip Bowman – James Turner, Jr. – Joe Petrucci – Keith Krin

**1970**

Randy Shaffer – Ray Rozales – Ronald Huffman – John Koegel – Keith Lanham – Martin Marks – Tom Clements – Charles Massey – Jim Haist – Ron Greiner.

**1969**

Linsay Sanford – Millard Huffman – James Griffith – John Hessong – Richard Gosnell – Arthur Cross – Mike Terry – Dennis Unger – Chuck Watson

**1968**

John Koegel - Ivor Burrough – Philip Huffman – Charles Hinders – Patrick Bolman – David Moody Richard Lewis – Robert Hanawalt

**1967**

Philip Deardorff – Michael Orr – Graaig Hunsberger – Howard Rientener – John Lewis

**1966**

Thomas Murry – Alan Conner – William Denis

**1965**

Christopher Copple – George Lee

**1964**

David Kearney

**1963**

Gary Weddle - George Berg

**1962**

Gene Alber

**1961**

Bruce Gates

1960 thru 1957 none listed

**1956**

Bill Kearney – Thomas Driver – Ed Leroy Brubaker

**1954**

William Maquire

(no information is available at this time if any vigils prior to 1954)

**Vigils of the Former Tipicon Lodge #425 Lodge**

**1972**

Charles Gray – Brian Gibson – Robert Halpenny – James Powell – Clarence Pratt – John Roberts

**1971**

Carry D Ashton – Gary L Ashton – Fritz Kolmerton – Harold Stayer

**1970**

David Enyart – Richard Maddox – Ronald Miler – Rod Siminski – Pete White

**1969**

David Besse – Dewey Jones – Anthonig Poduck – Thomas Ashton – Robert White – Charles Massey

**1968**

Louis Babbitt – Crag Lowry – William Rinker – Steve Rodkey – Donald Steele – Robert Turner – Bruce Wakeland – Robert White

**1967**

Harold Brewer – William Farmer – Nick Ivey – Kenneth Langdon – Bruce Merrell – James Nuckolls – Homer Steele – John TInga

**1966**

Carl Rinker – Harold Ivey

**1965**

Thomas Adams – Arthur Anderson – Hugh Markell – Jay Staggs – Ed Stout – Terry Thrall

**1964**

Thomas Perrone – Ray Phillips

**1963**

Robert Bauer – James Morrical – John Sanderson

**1962**

Albert Genek – Jack Drompp – William Hickman – Alan Weaver

**1961**

Wayne Durbin – Willis Pullins – Floyd Rose

**1960**

Lyle Durbin – John Gilman IV – John Hilficker – Charles Murray – Albert Theis

**1959**

Oscar Beasey – Kenneth Ahler – Edward Fitzgerald

**1958**

John Gilman III – Warren Hickman – Albert Holm – Thomas Shank

**1957**

Ralph Levy – Hartley Pierson – Carl Wilson

**1956**

Edwin Brubaker – George Hosler

(no information is available at this time if any vigils prior to 1956)

### **Information on the patch pictures**

On the following pages are some scans of our lodge flaps, neckerschief and event patches along with some of the former three lodges. While each time we would order a flap, they may have added a plastic back or did a different twill (or fully embroidered), the purpose of this is NOT to show necessarily every variation and/or issue of said patches but to give a broad view of the patches that are part of our history. Every time we ordered a flap, if it was a different

manufacturer, there usually was small differences. As stated earlier, the pictures enclosed is a representation of the patches used by Takachsin, not necessarily every possible variation or patch.

### **A few comments by the Lodge Historian: Christopher L Blrk**

I was fortunate enough to have been inducted into the OA in June 1972 (part of Tipicon Lodge) and was present on the first lodge weekend in June 1973 at Camp Buffalo, to earn my Brotherhood and be witness to the first annual lodge business meeting. And so much like the Indians who we honor as part of the Order of the Arrow, who would pass down an oral history, I too, having been told and seen these events and history, have put them to print for future brothers to read.

I also had the honor of working along side a few of the key adults who were part of the merger and so I heard the various stories of how things came about. Much like our Indian ancestors these things are being passed down. Unfortunately a lot of history of the former lodges are lost forever due to the passing of key individuals in the lodge. As part of the NOAC 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary lodge history book, the Lodge asked me to be Lodge Historian and to record our history, not only just for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the OA, but for future generations.

The Lodge members were emailed asking for information and that information along with those things that I knew first hand, have been recorded here. This should not be a one time history project but an ongoing history project of the lodge and as new information is learned and events happen, it will be updated to reflect said information.

Thanks to those memberA special thanks goes out to Bill Shideler and Robert Todd Fernung who provided information and to Matt and Jerry Landseadal for work done on a previous flap history book along with information from the National Order of the Arrow and web resources. And to Tressa Bowman who proofread and edited this edition.

### **Names of a few of the many great members of Takachsin Lodge**

Over the 40+ years of the Takachsin Lodge, many names come to mind of adult members who have had quite an influence on the program. I debated listing these individuals as I am sure I will have missed others. What I did was go and remove any name who either received a Founders Award or the Francis Lee Award from the list as no doubt those individuals played an important role. But I am sure I have forgotten others and I apologize. These people include:

Tom Ashton  
Tom Banter  
Mike Bohanan  
Tom Brown  
David Colford  
Howard Drake  
Ralph Hansell  
Hal Ivey  
Gerald Kersey  
Ray Phillips  
Willie Rozzi  
Tom Shank  
Bill Shideler  
Harold (Pappy) Stayer  
Dan Wagner

**Lodge Chiefs:**

2017 – Nathan DeMien  
2016 – Nathan DeMien  
2015 – Lucas Bowman  
2014 – Lucas Bowman  
2013 – Andrew Smelser  
2012 – Caleb Sedam  
2011 – Wes Beattie  
2010 – Brad Banter  
2009 – Brad Banter  
2008 – Cory Tiedeman  
2007 – Cory Tiedeman  
2006 – Daniel Carbaugh  
2005 – Daniel Carbaugh  
2004 – Andrew Gust  
2003 – Andrew Gust  
2002 – Adam Rousch  
2001 – Brian Killingbeck  
2000 – Andy Campbell  
1999 – Patrick Goss  
1998 – David Yoder \* Andy Morris  
1997 – David Yoder  
1996 – Nick Miller  
1995 – Nick Miller  
1994 – Nick Miller  
1993 – Adam Morris  
1992 – Jeff Holladay  
1991- Jeff Holladay  
1990 – Jeff Holladay  
1989 – Robbie Carr  
1988 – James Davis  
1987 – James Davis  
1986 – Todd Fernung  
1985 – G Doug Nelson \* Todd Fernung  
1984 – G Doug Nelson  
1983 – Reggie Fairchild  
1982 – Jim Anderson  
1981 – Tom Cardwell John Dempsey  
1980 – Mike Bohannon  
1979 – Allen Willard  
1978 – Bob Tolan  
1977 – Phil Harris  
1976 – T Fuqua  
1975 – Bill Rozzi  
1974 –  
1973 –one of the Ashton twins

\*Became section chief

## **Closing Comment/Personal Note**

So I give you this legend, our history in the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service called by the Delaware Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui

Yours in Brotherhood

Christopher L Birk  
Lodge Historian 2014-2015

This is version 1.3. If you find errors in this document or have further information to share, please send it to [lodgehistorian@takachsin.org](mailto:lodgehistorian@takachsin.org)



