
S. D. Masons Plan Birthplace Rites At Site of Hotel

Members to Unveil Plaque Saturday To Commemorate Location of Meeting

San Diego Masons Saturday will celebrate the birth of their organization here a century ago with the ceremonial unveiling of a plaque to mark the site of their first meeting place.

The place was the old Exchange Hotel, two doors south of the Machado House on San Diego Ave., facing the old San Diego Plaza. The building gave way to the Franklin House in 1856 and this building burned to the ground in 1872.

The unveiling has been set for 1:45 p.m. and will be performed by Albert Crosthwaite, grandson of Philip Crosthwaite, the first master of San Diego Lodge under its charter. William C. Ferrell was first master of the lodge in its pre-charter phase.

The dedicatory address will be given by Claude H. Morrison, past grand master. The principal address will be given by Lloyd E. Wilson, grand secretary of California Grand Lodge.

Others on the program include Rev. John B. Osborne, senior past master; R. M. Culbertson, past master; O. W. Campbell, city manager; George W. Elder, past master; Judge L. N. Turrentine and Orion M. Zink, lodge historian.

The program will be preceded by a procession from the Masonic Temple, 350 Cedar St., to the Old San Diego Plaza. It will be led by Past Master Maurice E. Ross, marshal of the day. Uniformed units from San Diego Commandery 25 and Harmony Comander, the Sciots Pyramid 32, and Al Bahr Shrine will parade at the plaza and the Shrine Bank will play.

Location of the Exchange Hotel was recently discovered by Zink after the records of its location had been lost for many years. References in the San Diego Herald showed that the first meeting

took place in the hotel on June 19, 1851. The Herald files also yielded the clue to the location of the old hostelry.
