

*Dr Woods
origin of ASN.*

*Dr Woods born - 1877 - May 20
This was taken in 1952 when he
was 75 years old. He
died in 1966 - Jan.*

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A F F I D A V I T

of

Dr. William P. Woods

Evansville, Indiana

MAR 14 1952
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Reported and Transcribed
by
Louis J. Carnaghi

A F F I D A V I T

Taken in question and answer form on the 20th day of March, 1952, in Room 704 of the McCurdy Hotel; present at the time of taking of affidavit was Mr. Louis J. Carnaghi, Freelance Court Reporter, and Notary Public in and for the County of Vanderburgh County, Indiana, who took the testimony by Stenograph; also present was Doctor W. P. Woods, 5050 Lincoln Avenue, Evansville, Indiana; James Hooper, of Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

It was agreed that the statement should be transcribed on a typewriter and submitted to Doctor Woods for signature and certification of Mr. Louis J. Carnaghi, Notary Public.

DOCTOR W. P. WOODS, being first duly sworn answers the following questions, to-wit:

MR. HOOPER:

Q: Your name is Doctor W. P. Woods, is that right?

A: Yes, sir, or William P. Woods.

Q: You are now living at 5050 Lincoln Avenue, Evansville, Indiana?

A: That's right.

Q: You were also living in Evansville in 1911 and 1916 is that correct?

A: I have been a continuous resident of Evansville since 1905.

Q: What is your profession?

A: Physician and surgeon.

Q: How long have you been a physician and surgeon?

A: Since 1905.

Q: You are also a member of the State Medical Association?

A: State and County.

Q: How about the A. M. A.?

A: Not unless, I think it is automatic -- if you belong to the State, you are a member of the A. M. A.

Q: You have been a member of those organizations continuously since 1905, or thereabouts?

A: Most of the time.

Q: You have been a member of the County Organization continuously since 1905?

A: That is right. But with the State I have not been continuously.

Q: But at the present time you are a member of both organizations?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Directing your attention to August 21, 1911, were you instrumental in organizing an organization known as the Royal Order of Lions?

A: I was.

Q: That was the date when the Articles of Incorporation were filed in Indianapolis, is that right?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: I appreciate, doctor, that according to the Articles of Incorporation, it is a secret Order and a Ritualistic Order.

A: That is right.

Q: So if there are any questions that I might ask you that will violate your oath or obligation, don't answer it. Just say that it is not permissible because of your obligation.

That Organization is known as a secret Order is that right?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Have you been continuously connected with that organization since it was organized?

A: I have.

Q: Have you been active continuously in it?

A: I have.

Q: What offices have you held in it?

A: I have held the office of Supreme President, or National President, as it might be known.

Q: Have you held any office in the local organization here in Evansville?

A: No, sir.

Q: Are you holding an office now in the organization?

A: Supreme President.

Q: How many subordinate lodges do you have at the present time?

A: There is only one inactive organization at the present time.

Q: Where is that located?

A: Evansville, Indiana.

Q: Who is the president of that organization?

A: That organization is known as the Home Den or Home Organization, and its constitution and by-laws provide that this home organization was originally organized for the purpose of taking care of members in other places where they did not have enough membership to support an organization in any one town.

Q: You mean that the local Evansville Den or the Home Den is a subordinate and it was organized for the purpose of taking care of people who cared to join that lived in some other town?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Is that the Den that you are a member of also?

A: Yes, sir, I am an officer of that Den. The Supreme Constitution provides that the Supreme Officers shall be officers of the Home Den.

Q: By virtue of that you consider yourself the president of the Home Den of the Royal Order of Lions, which is located in Evansville, Indiana?

A: Yes, sir, this is the Headquarters.

Q: Who is the Secretary?

A: James Crenshaw.

Q: Is that the former Judge Crenshaw?

A: That is correct.

Q: Are there other officers of the organization?

A: Yes, sir, there are other officers which are known as Trustees.

Q: Are they located locally here?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: All the officers and trustees of the Royal Order of the Lions at the present time are located and resident of Evansville?

A: That is correct.

Q: Was that true back in the days of the organization and subsequent years? Were all of the officers located in Evansville?

A: You mean of the Supreme Den?

Q: Yes, sir.

A: No, sir. Originally we had officers located all over the United States.

Q: Do you recall approximately when the situation changed, and the officers were chosen from local members?

A: Approximately 1922 or 1923.

Q: We are getting in a little bit of history here now. That was about the time that the Klu Klux Klan started here in Indiana, is that correct?

A: That is right.

Q: I wish you would narrate just what occurred that caused the change of the officers from various parts of the United States to local officers.

A: The Klu Klux Klan came into Evansville and organized; and some of our Supreme Officers and some of the members of the local organization, which was here at the time, joined the Klan; then they came back to the Lions organization and they wanted the Lions organization to go along on the same lines as the Klan was going. That led to a fight and a fuss, and it broke up the local organization; that was the time that the officers were changed, and since that time the officers have been local officers.

Q: Did you at that time withdraw from an active participation in the Royal Order of Lions?

A: No, I did not.

Q: You have always been very active?

A: Yes, sir; but it was rather dormant after the local organization and the Supreme Organization both here broke up on account of the Klan. The Organization was formed and for a number of years was quite active up until 1922, when it became dormant; then when the depression came on in 1930, what organizations were left went under also; there was nothing left then but the Supreme Organization.

Q: Going back again to shortly after 1911 when you organized the first, shall we call it Lodge, here?

A: All right.

- Q: Did you have men out in various other communities endeavoring to establish lodges in the communities?
- A: Yes, we had many organizers out at that time.
- Q: I wish you would, if you can, recall the names of the organizers and I wish if possible to confine it to the time between 1911 and 1916.
- A: W. A. Rutherford. Theodore DeSable; a man by the name of VanAlstein; there was a fellow by the name of Neiberger from Toledo, Ohio; there was a man by the name of E. A. Hicks-- quite an active organizer. I can't recall all of them.
- Q: What about G. M. Cunningham?
- A: Yes, sir. there was a man by the name of Cunningham that organized.
- Q: That is the only ones that you can recall at present?
- A: Unless I would have my memory refreshed by names, then I would probably remember them.
- Q: Were all of these men that you mentioned employed by the Royal Order to organize and institute lodges?
- A: Yes, sir.
- Q: Did they have a particular territory?
- A: Yes, they were assigned territory.
- Q: Do you recall the territory of Mr. Rutherford?
- A: Rutherford had charge of all the organizers. He was the head organizer, and the rest of them worked under him.
- Q: Do you know whether or not he is living?
- A: I understand that he is living in Knoxville, Tennessee;
- Q: Do you know what he does?
- A: I was told -- this is hearsay -- that he was the Registrar for a business college in Knoxville.
- Q: What territory did DeSable have?

A: He was up in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Q: VanAlstein?

A: Yes, he was also in Pennsylvania.

Q: And Heiberger?

A: In Ohio.

Q: E. A. Hicks and G. K. Cunningham operated and worked mostly in the southwest is that right?

A: First Mr. Hicks worked in Ohio. Then he came into the office and stated that he would like to go out in the southwest and he was transferred, or granted that territory in the southwest. We didn't have any organizer at that time in the southwest at all.

Q: He worked principally in Oklahoma and Texas, is that right?

A: That is correct. Oklahoma, Texas and he did some work in organizing in Kansas, Colorado and Louisiana, and Arkansas

Q: After he went out to Texas -- I am speaking of Mr. Hicks-- was there something that caused you to change your plans or at least to form a new organization?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Would you state what that was and how it developed?

A: When Mr. Hicks went out to the southwest to organize he went to the main hotel in a city and told the manager of the hotel that he was going to organize a luncheon club and that he would like to have the names of some of his friends who he would like to see as members of this club. That is how Mr. Hicks organized all the clubs in the southwest; that was unbeknown to the office of the Supreme Den of the Royal Order of the Lions, until they began to write in and state that "We have been misinformed. We were told that we were joining a civil luncheon club like the Rotary

or like the Kiwanis, but it seems that we have been taken into a fraternal organization." When they got their charter and other books of the organization that is when they found out that it was a fraternal organization; so they became very much dissatisfied and began to write letters from all of these clubs that had been organized; they wrote letters to the Supreme Den stating that they were dissatisfied, that things had been misrepresented to them; in talking it over with other members of the Supreme Den it was decided that if they wanted a luncheon club the best thing to do would be to organize a luncheon club and then turn the organization over to them in that way, because it was seen that the two organizations could not very well operate under the same Charter.

Q: When you speak of "they", you mean the officers of the various organizations or clubs that were organized by Mr. Hicks?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Was that same situation existent with the organizations that Mr. Cunningham organized, or do you recall that?

A: I don't recall.

Q: This situation -- did it begin after Mr. Hicks and probably Mr. Cunningham went down in Texas and Oklahoma -- that is where you got most of the complaints from?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Or at least that is where you recall receiving the most complaints?

A: That is correct.

Q: Do you have any recollection of receiving any complaint from Ohio?

A: No, sir.

- Q: The organizations or lodges that were instituted in Ohio remained as subordinate lodges of the Supreme Lodge of the Royal Order of Lions, is that right?
- A: That is my recollection.
- Q: So we can safely conclude from your recollections that there were no luncheon clubs organized by Hicks or by any of the organizers in Ohio, or Pennsylvania or any of those states in the east -- all of the trouble being down in Texas and Oklahoma?
- A: That is right.
- Q: What did you do then about satisfying these so-called luncheon clubs?
- A: I incorporated, under the laws of Indiana an association known as the International Association of Lions Clubs.
- Q: Do you recall the names of the persons who signed the Articles of Incorporation of the Royal Order of Lions?
- A: Myself, and as I remember Mr. LeSable, Mr. VanAlstein and one or two others.
- Q: Who were the incorporators of the International Association of Lions Clubs?
- A: Myself, C. H. Conen, who was my secretary, and a friend of mine who was in the insurance business by the name of Carmi Hicks, and had an office across the hall from the Lion's office in the American Trust Building at the corner of Sixth and Main Streets.
- Q: Carmi Hicks was the one who later went into the Service in World War I, is that right?
- A: That is correct.
- Q: You say that C. H. Conen was your secretary -- was that Miss Conen who was your secretary?