

Masons to Celebrate Completion of New Building Tonight

'SKY SCRAPER' PLAN DROPPED

Three Story Building Was Change From Original Proposal.

FOUNDATION IS HEAVY

When a Masonic temple for Green Bay was first proposed, its planners intended it to be a six-story "skyscraper," a show-piece of the city. Concrete evidence—to make a very bad pun—of their intention may be seen in the foundations of the present building, which, although surmounted by only a three-story structure, are of ample strength to support one of six stories.

On June 15, 1905, a motion was passed to proceed with plans for a six-story combination lodge and office building. During the next three years, the subject was frequently discussed, and it was brought out that the cost of such a structure would be about twice what it was thought advisable to obligate the lodge for at that time. The three-story building with the six-story foundation was finally agreed on.

Building Was Compromise

The earlier decision was an eloquent commentary on the times. Chicago's Masonic temple at that time was the highest "skyscraper" in the town, and many watched for the drop of the daily time ball at high noon. Green Bay's first skyscraper, the Wilbur building, later known as the Herrick building, already had been erected, a half-block from the Masonic site, and the second-story building, the Minahan building, was under consideration. Limiting the building to three stories was a compromise in more ways than one, because, ever since the question of a temple was raised, a considerable portion of the membership had favored a building exclusively for lodge purposes. Even within recent years, there have not been a few who favored disposing of the holdings at Cherry and Adams streets and building a temple at the business district.

Kept Eye On Future

As the lodges enjoyed the first home of their own, they kept an eye to the future. An opportunity to purchase the lot to the south of the temple arose in 1919, and the lodges, feeling that they might want to enlarge the ground space as well as add stories to their building, acquired the property, which of late years has been useful as an auto parking lot. No one seemed to be able to present a plan whereby the newly acquired land could fit in with the existing building; negotiations for purchasing the property to west did not work out, and a meeting of all Masonic lodges on May 16, 1920, it was decided not to build. It were glad to "mark time" during the next few years.

FLOATING FLOOR WILL AID DANCERS

Interlocking Squares of Oak Ride On Flexible Mastic.

When some debutante, dancing in the new Masonic ballroom, remarks to her escort that she seems to be floating, she will, in a sense, be right. For the entire floor "floats" on a layer of flexible mastic that never hardens.

Known as a Bruce floor, it is made up of interlocking squares of oak flooring, in contrasting shades and grains. The squares are dovetailed together on all sides, and the pieces which make up each square have the additional support of two metal strips on the under side. The floor is not nailed at any point, and this freedom from exterior support allows contraction and expansion, a major problem on a large floor, to proceed without any complications. The asphalt tile with which the other rooms are finished also is laid on mastic, providing a better cushioning and enhancing its appearance.

Ceilings as well as floors are worthy of note. Nu-wood, a fiber board product, was chosen for its acoustic as well as its decorative properties. The ceilings are in squares of contrasting color, with built-up angular bases for the lighting fixtures, and also along the molding, giving a modernistic decorative effect. This special treatment was effected on the job with a power saw.

Much comment has been directed toward the handsome oak paneling with which the lounge and billiard room are furnished. This paneling is six feet six inches high, with alternating plain and fluted sections. In the billiard room it supports the cue racks.

These unusual materials were all installed as part of the general contract, held by the Baker Construction company. The Bruce floor was sold by Enos Colburn, and secured through the Green Bay Planing Mill as jobber. The East River Lumber and Fuel company furnished the "Nu-Wood," and the paneling came from the Standard Lumber and Millwork plant.

Lord Byron's remark, "I awoke this morning to find myself famous" was written in his journal March 1, 1812 and the day that made him famous was that extra day on every fourth year, February 29th. Curiously enough, this remark of his is perhaps better remembered today than the seasonal sale of the book which led it, "Child Harold."

7 Organizations Now Make Use of Temple Building

Seven Masonic organizations use the temple building here at Adams and Cherry streets. Oldest is Washington Lodge, F. & A. M., chartered in 1848. Roosevelt lodge No. 322, F. & A. M., was organized in 1919, after the membership of the older lodge had grown so large that further expansion was inadvisable, and was chartered in 1920. The membership of these two "blue lodges" is approximately 900.

The other bodies are Warren chapter No. 8, R. & A. M., Warren council No. 13, R. & A. M., and Palestine commandery No. 20, K. T. Two women's organizations also hold their meetings in the temple; Martha Washington chapter, Order of Eastern Star No. 124, and the Nazarene White Shrine of Jerusalem No. 8.

Jurisdiction of the blue lodges is purely local, since there are lodges in nearly all surrounding cities. The chapter and commandery, however, take in a larger territory, comprising a radius of approximately 30 miles, bringing the total Masonic membership centering here well over 1,000. It is hoped that the surrounding communities will be well represented at the formal opening and dinner.

JOINT BOARD HANDLES WORK

Construction Contracts Were Let On Sept. 17.

History of the addition, just completed, to the Masonic temple at Cherry and Adams streets, goes back almost to the completion of the original building. Plans had originally been made for a six-story structure, but the cost was regarded as greater than the lodge cared to assume, so, although the foundations were built for six stories, only three were erected. Several years ago, the land immediately south of the building was purchased, with the idea of possible expansion in mind, but it was difficult to evolve a plan for expansion in this direction in view of the layout of the existing building.

Board Handled Work

Last July, the Bank of Green Bay, ground floor tenant of the Masonic building, offered the lodges the land immediately to the west which it had acquired, together with the two-story brick building which occupied it. There were two lots on the lower floor of this building, and apartments above.

On Aug. 2, 1935, a meeting of all Masonic lodges having part ownership of the temple property was held, and the joint board of trustees was given full power and authority to make the purchase and proceed with the erection of an addition thereon. The joint board of trustees consisted of J. H. Golden, chairman; R. T. Bennie, vice chairman; B. P. Cramer, F. G. Platt, L. F. Wohlfeld, W. L. Evans, E. S. Bell, E. A. Neufeld, E. S. Jones, J. C. Wilson, H. G. Stolz and P. D. Bradley.

Let Contract Sept. 17

The board promptly engaged Foeller, Schober & Berners as architects, and appointed a building committee, consisting of R. T. Bennie, chairman, H. G. Stolz, E. S. Jones, E. A. Neufeld, F. G. Platt, and J. H. Golden, ex-officio. Bids were taken, and the general construction contract was awarded to the Baker Construction company, let Sept. 17, and razily of the old structure began Sept. 18. Construction has taken less than five months.

BURGLAR ALARM TO GUARD FUR STORE

Equipment May Also Serve to Warn of Fires.

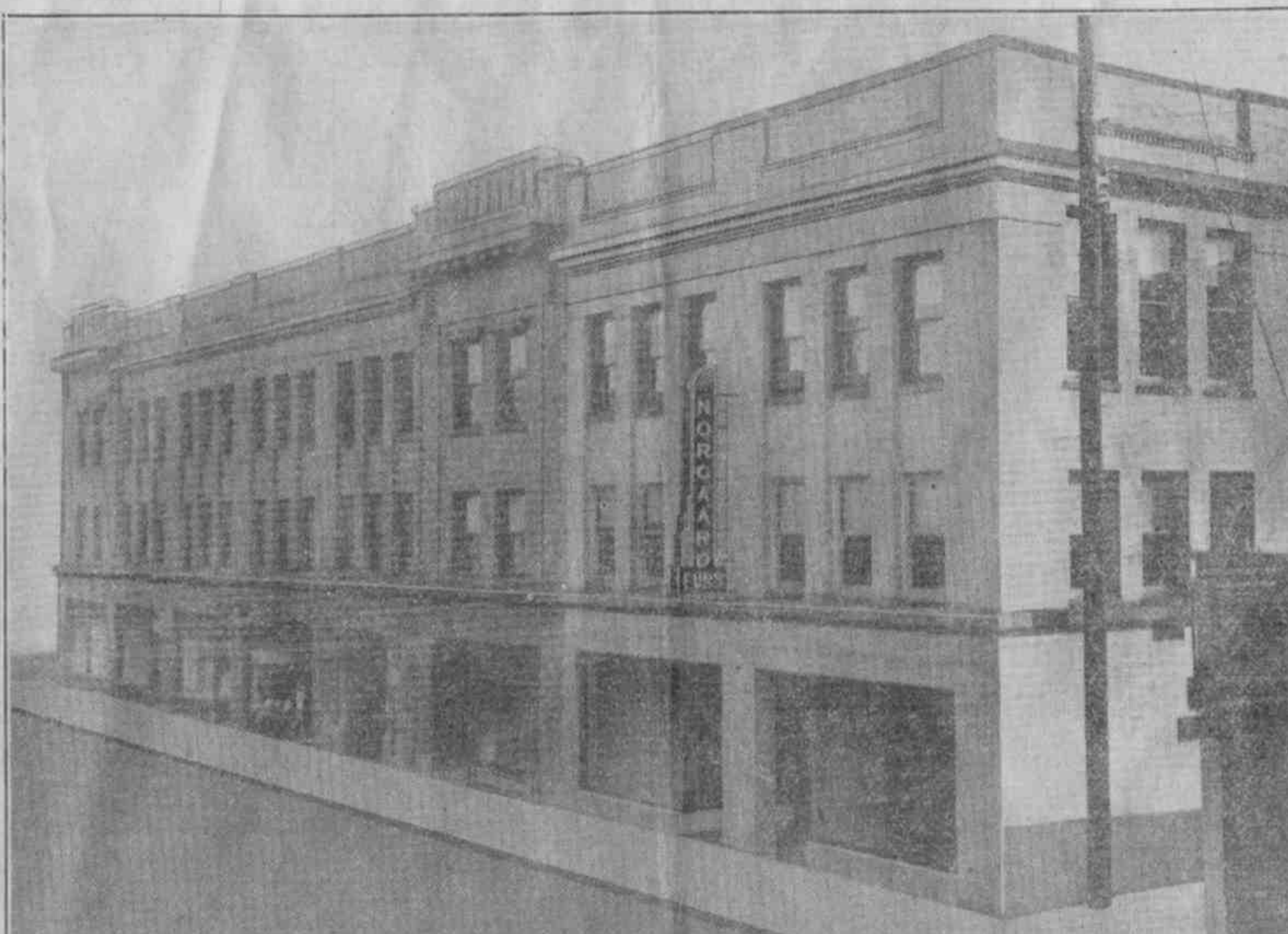
Narrow tinfoil strips around the edges of the plate glass windows in the Norgaard fur shop on the ground floor of the new Masonic temple addition are not part of a modernistic decorative scheme. They have a very serious purpose, namely, that of a burglar alarm. Any cracking of the glass will rupture one or more of these strips; this will break the electric circuit which they complete, and will sound an alarm gong on the exterior of the building.

Besides the tinfoil strips, there are other contact devices on every door and window, and connected to the combinations of the vault doors. Disturbing any of these will set off the alarm. Only the proprietor's key, inserted in a special lock, can cut it out of service.

This is what is known as a balanced relay system; that is, any change in the normal strength of current flowing through it will set it off. If the circuit is broken, short-circuited or grounded, the bell will ring. Thus, cutting the wires or bridging across them would be of no help to a burglar.

While intended strictly as a burglar alarm, these systems have frequently served automatically as fire or sprinkler alarms, when the circuits were broken or shorted by fire or water. The system is installed by the A. D. T., which maintains several fire alarm systems in Green Bay plants, working in connection with the Western Union.

NEW FACILITIES PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS OF MASONIC LODGES HERE



The addition to Green Bay's Masonic temple will be formally opened with a dinner this evening for members of the various Masonic bodies. The upper photo shows the exterior, with the new addition at the right of the older structure. Center, left, is the lounge, on the second floor, with comfortable furniture and oak paneled walls. It adjoins the billiard room, shown at the center, right. Left, below, is a view of the spacious dance and banquet hall, with special floor and ceiling. A corner of the card room is shown at the lower right.

Toastmaster



R. T. BENNIE
Mr. Bennie, chairman of the building committee for the Masonic temple addition, will serve as toastmaster at tonight's banquet, when the joint board of trustees turns the structure over to the lodges.

First Masonic Meet West of Detroit Was Held Here

Green Bay, in addition to its many other distinctions, is the site of the first distinctive Masonic gathering ever held west of Detroit. Old lodge records show that, on the evening of Dec. 27, 1823, "there was held at the farm-house of Brother George Johnston, situated on the tract now known as Tank's addition, Fort Howard, an assembly of ten Master Masons. Its object was to obtain from the Grand Lodge of New York official recognition, and a dispensation to meet and work as a regular lodge." This meeting, 113 years ago, was the forerunner of all subsequent Masonic growth in Green Bay.

Seven of the ten, the record continues, were officers stationed at Fort Howard, and the army members of Menominee lodge, as the new unit was christened. For the first two years of its existence, the lodge meetings were held in the fort, and after that date the meeting place was changed to Green Bay.

Withdrawal of most of the Fort Howard garrison was a severe blow; Menominee lodge became dormant, and ceased to exist in 1830. Its charter, kept as a valued relic, was lost when fire destroyed the lodge rooms in 1889. On December 23, 1847 a dispensation was granted to 18 Master Masons to meet and work under the name of Washington lodge, and on Jan. 15, 1848, the grand lodge, then in session at Madison, granted them a charter at Washington lodge No. 21. This lodge still flourishes, and is one of the Masonic bodies which will use the new building just completed.

The first lodge rooms were established on the second floor of

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Dinner Speaker



W. L. EVANS
Oldest trustee of the Green Bay Masonic lodges in point of service, and a member of the board of trustees when the temple was first built, Mr. Evans will be the only speaker at tonight's dinner program, celebrating the completion of the addition.

VOICE OF KING GEORGE STORED FOR POSTERITY

LONDON.—(P.) The voice of King George, recorded for posterity both on steel tape and on ordinary gramophone records, will be kept in the vaults of the British Museum. Royal broadcast Christmas messages and his speeches at the silver jubilee ceremonies last year are included.

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Dedication Talk Is Not New Task for W. L. Evans

W. L. Evans, who will be the only speaker at the dinner celebrating the completion of the addition to the Masonic temple, was the toastmaster at the banquet held when the older portion of the temple was dedicated, the evening of Oct. 3, 1911. A. E. Matheson, Janesville, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, was the principal speaker, and W. W. Perry, grand secretary, and David Harlow, Milwaukee, also gave brief talks. Local members on the program were Iver J. Terp, then principal officer of Washington lodge, S. H. Cady, Judge Carlton Merrill, and the Rev. H. A. Talbot, De Pere, who gave the benediction. Of the 53 members who attended the ceremony of the cornerstone laying, approximately 25 are still living.

OPENED TEMPLE FUND IN 1891

Land Was Purchased in 1896, Started Work in 1909.

It has been said that one of the strongest instincts in man is to own a home of his own, and this instinct appears to be only intensified when a group of men band together as an organization. Although Masonry was nearly a century on the banks of the Fox before the Green Bay lodge had its own home, plans were being made long before the turn of the Twentieth century.

As early as Mar. 5, 1891, minutes of the lodge reveal that the following resolution was adopted: "RESOLVED, That the treasurer be instructed to deposit \$300 in the bank at interest for the purpose of establishing a building fund."

On Jan. 14, 1896, the trustees of the Masonic lodges purchased the lot at the corner of Cherry and Adams street, known as the Dr. Marchant property, from Frank Hagen. On June 15, 1895, a combination lodge and commercial building was designed, as opposed to one pure for lodge purposes. During 1896 and 1909, contributions were \$1,000 and in hopes of reducing the deficit, that would be required through a bond issue. Colonel Simon J. Murphy put new enthusiasm into the campaign by announcing that if \$10,000 were raised within the next week, he would contribute the final \$1,000. At the end of the week, the committee was of the report \$10,220 donated. Table to about one-fourth the \$10,000 was needed; the balance was amount a bond issue handled by the lodge by the Kellogg for the bank. The last of the bond issue was burned at a largely attended ceremony in 1927.

Contracts were let in 1909, for the three-story addition commercial and lodgcombining. Construction began building summer of 1909, and in the cornerstone laying ceremony, the dusted by Grand Lodge regy catifies Sept. 7 of that year, the first meeting in the new temple was May 12, 1910, although the dedication was delayed until Oct. 3, 1911.

By this new addition, the lodges receive the facilities they have long needed for their lodge work, and the members will receive the club-room facilities they have desired. Members of the various bodies today voiced their appreciation of the efforts of the joint board of trustees and its building committee, and manifested their pride on the building turned over to them as the committee finishes its duties.

Heat for both old and new buildings is supplied from a battery of two boilers, one fitted with a Lawton stoker, made in De Pere, and the other hand-fired. This arrangement gives the advantages of stoker heat for sustained cold weather, and of a quick fire of wood or rubbish "to take the chill off" in spring and fall. Heat to the radiators is regulated by Johnson pneumatic thermostats.

The exterior finish of the addition is of face brick and stone trim, of the same design as the older portion. After weathering for several seasons, the new building still takes the same color as the old, and the line between it will become indistinguishable. It is claimed.

NORGAARD, FURRIER, HAS MODERN SHOP

Air Conditioned Vaults Provided for Storage.

When Arthur Norgaard, furrier, moves into his new quarters on the ground floor and basement of the new Masonic temple addition, he will occupy what is claimed to be the most modern fur shop in Wisconsin. The lease of the store was signed before the foundations for the new building were laid, and, as a result, it was built largely to Mr. Norgaard's specifications.

It has an unusually large frontage for a shop of this character, principally with the north light so desirable for viewing colors and textures. The workroom, in the rear, is well lighted and completely equipped with the latest in modern furrier's tools. A lounge room for customers will be provided, together with fitting booths, when the fixtures are installed.

But the outstanding feature of the shop is the huge vault, protected by a five-ton door that, up to recently, guarded the cash and securities of a bank in a nearby city. This door, at the rear of the display vault, which, with the exception of a small cleaning room, occupies the entire basement, providing room for 400 coats. Special air conditioning equipment keeps the interior of the vault at the proper temperature and humidity at all times. Walls, including those of the stairway, are of solid concrete, a foot thick. A time lock controls the vault door.

Along the west wall are the display vaults, closed with combination locks, and lined with moth-proof cedar. These vaults, together with all windows and doors, are thoroughly wired with the A.

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500 EXPECTED FOR DINNER

Banquet to Be Served in New Hall by Members of the Eastern Star.

W. L. EVANS TO SPEAK

Completion of the three-story addition to the Masonic temple at Adams and Cherry streets will be celebrated tonight with a dinner and open house, at which more than 500 members of the Masonic bodies here will be guests of the joint board of trustees at a 6:30 dinner, served in the new banquet hall by members of the Eastern Star. With the exception of a brief talk by W. L. Evans, veteran trustee, there will be no speeches or set program, the committee announces.

The new addition represents an investment, in land and building, of approximately \$45,000, of which \$19,200 was paid to the Bank of Green Bay for the site. The two-story brick building which occupied it was immediately razed.

Have Club Facilities
Frontage of the building is 40 feet on Cherry street, with a depth of 66 feet. The entire first floor is occupied by the Norgaard fur shop, which has been fitted with elaborate vaults and burglar alarm system. The second floor consists of a billiard room, card room, reading room, ladies' room and lounge. The banquet and dance hall occupies the third floor.

At the head of the stairs on the second floor is the lounge. The feature of this room is the oak paneling, 6 feet 6 inches high which extends all the way around the walls. The floor is of asphalt tile. Furniture, drapes and rug are in harmonizing colors.

Directly back of the lounge, through an archway, is the billiard room, which has similar oak paneling. Off the billiard room are the card room and reading room. The ladies' retiring room opens off the lounge.

All the floor above is taken up with the hall, suitable for either banquets or dances. One of its outstanding features is the Bruce floor, of oak set in a parquetry design, non-warping, and in attractively contrasting colors. The ceiling is of "Nu-Wood" in a check-board design, with contrasting shades of brown and tan. In addition to its attractive appearance, this material was chosen for its acoustic properties.

Dual Heating Plant
Adjoining the hall, in the older part of the building, is the kitchen, which has been altered and enlarged to meet the new needs. Collapsible light-weight tables are provided for serving 500 or more diners.

Heat for both old and new buildings is supplied from a battery of two boilers, one fitted with a Lawton stoker, made in De Pere, and the other hand-fired. This arrangement gives the advantages of stoker heat for sustained cold weather, and of a quick fire of wood or rubbish "to take the chill off" in spring and fall. Heat to the radiators is regulated by Johnson pneumatic thermostats.

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NEW FURNITURE IN MASONIC BUILDING

Lounge Equipped for Opening to Be Held Tonight.

Much of the attractiveness of the new Masonic temple addition is attributable to the new furniture and furnishings. Furniture for the new lounge, on the second floor, has been placed in readiness for the formal opening tonight.

It is all overstuffed, upholstered in mohair in contrasting shades, and includes davenport and easy chairs. Two tables are of mahogany and walnut. In the reading room, the furniture also is overstuffed, but is upholstered in various shades of leather. Floors are covered with chenille rugs of deep pile in solid colors. Rugs and furniture were secured from Krippner's O-K furniture.

Window shades throughout the addition, as well as the heavy drapes on the billiard room arch and at the lounge windows, were supplied by Baum's department store and were made in this establishment's drapery shop. Other new furniture includes three new pool tables and one billiard table, in addition to one of each transferred from the older quarters.

A feminine touch is given the ladies' lounge, where a vanity dresser and stool and a davenport are provided.