

## **HISTORY OF THE EL-KU-TA LODGE**

While the El-Ku-Ta Lodge was founded in 1956, proceedings to found it had been underway for some time regarding the establishment of the Order of the Arrow in the Great Salt Lake Council.

From the records it appears that C.E. Hammond, the Scout Executive had written to the national office in the early 1950's about setting up a lodge in Salt Lake.

Because of some concerns of various scouting partners, it took several years to answer all of the questions about the OA to the satisfaction of the council. However by 1955 it was apparent that a lodge would be established and in 1956 it was decided to make the establishment of the lodge a part of the summer camp program at Steiner.

The camp director at the time was Valois Zarr, a teacher at East High, and an ardent Scouter who became active in the initial establishment of the lodge and whose son Tom became an early lodge chief. It is not clear who the first lodge Adviser was, however it may have been Mr. Zarr or the Scout Executive.

Some believe that it was a ceremony team from Ogden that inducted the first ordeal lad, others that it was a ceremony team from the Tannu lodge in Reno, Nevada that actually conducted the induction. However it appears from the records that the camp staff themselves conducted the ceremony even though they were not as yet members until the conclusion of that ceremony. The source for this is Jerry Odekirk a member of the staff and part of the original Ordeal class. In June of 1956 the first ordeal class was inducted and the El-Ku-Ta Lodge #520 was launched.

