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Discover History At Canadian River Valley Pioneer Museum!

RiverValleyMuseum.org (<http://www.rivervalleymuseum.org>)

MUSEUM NOTES: MAY 14, 2020

THE IOOF HALL A.K.A. THE OLD OPERA HOUSE

In 1892, a chapter of the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) was chartered in Canadian. The Rebekahs, the IOOF's sister organization, was chartered three years later. The IOOF and the Rebekahs were the largest fraternal organizations in Canadian for many years. In 1895, this two-story wooden lodge was completed as their headquarters.

The ground floor of the lodge was used for IOOF/Rebekah meetings as well as several community gatherings. The upstairs was a large auditorium with a stage. Numerous plays, musical performances, and other events were held on that stage. This must be why the lodge was often referred to as the "Opera House."

This building played an important part in Canadian's early history as an assembly place and entertainment location for residents. In 1966, it was demolished and a new IOOF/Rebekahs lodge was built in its same location, 415 Main Street. The new lodge was constructed of brick and stucco. The Salon on Main is the current resident of the second lodge

This photograph is one of 24 historic photograph images used in the making of a patch quilt that will be raffled this summer. Raffle tickets are \$5 a ticket or \$20 for 5 tickets.

OPEN

Don't forget, we have re-opened with temporary hours, noon to 5pm on Tuesdays through Fridays and 10am to 2pm on Saturdays. You can come in to purchase raffle tickets or pre-order a "Straight Outta...Canadian Texas" t-shirt for \$20. You can also order online at <https://my-site-101314.square.site/>, or you can call and make your purchase over the phone.

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HemphillCountyHistory@RiverValleyMuseum.org

(<mailto:hemphillcountyhistory@rivervalleymuseum.org>)