

# I Remember Old Tuscaloosa

By Fred Maxwell

Once a year they had a parade, bedecked in fancy costumes and all wearing face masks. The parade started at the top of River Hill and moved south on Greensboro (24th) Ave. The minority who were riding horseback wandered two or three blocks away from the main parade, but they would return again.

My first remembered contact with these mysterious paraders occurred in front of our house on the corner of 6th St. and 27th Ave. (circa 1894). I was about four or five years old and was with my father on our front sidewalk when a band of about 12 masked riders came down 6th St. covering street, sidewalks and front yards indiscriminately. One rider came up to me and announced that he was going to take me with him. Since my father was laughing and talking with others in the gang I knew they must be friendly so I was not frightened, however, I did have some misgivings and stayed close to my father.

Who were the masked riders?

They were known as Rosicrucians. Their parades were called "Riding Rosicrucian." They were a secret order and no one seemed to know where they came from, only that they seemed to be natives of Tusca-

loosa.

The Universal Standard Encyclopedia has this to say:

"Rosicrucian Order, an international nonsectarian fraternity (said to be of Egyptian origin) operated on the lodge system and devoted to the practical application of the arts and sciences to human relationships. Allied jurisdictions send their representatives to congresses held periodically at Geneva. In the United States the organization is known as Amorc, an abbreviated form of the name, The Ancient and Mystical Order of Rosae Curcis (Order of the Rosy Cross). In most states the society is incorporated as a college as well as a fraternal order, and courses of instruction are available to members.

The order was first established in America in Philadelphia in 1693. Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson were among its early officers."

The World Almanac gives the following:

Rosicrucian Fraternity (1616) in Germany, (1859) in U.S.

Rosicrucian Order AMORC (1915) - Rosicrucian Park, San Jose, Calif.

Rosicrucian, Society of (1909); 321 W. 101st St., New York, N.Y.

So if you see a Rosicrucian parade in progress please call me.