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# Thanksgiving at Brady Hotel featured special menu



By [YVONNE LITCHFIELD](#)  
11/25/1998

The Brady Hotel put out the finest Thanksgiving spread in Tulsa in 1909, and it was offered as the regular price for dinner -- 50 cents.

Lewis B. Thompson was the thoughtful Tulsan who brought a beautiful menu from the long gone historical hotel to the Tulsa World as a remembrance of things past. This menu would be really pricey today, probably wrecking a \$20 bill without dessert.

Thompson had admired the colorful menu for three years before he asked if he could copy it. It was a special Thanksgiving memento that Jackie Daugherty always had out for the holiday meal. She was a member of the pioneer Tate Brady family, and they all enjoyed its annual appearance at the holiday feast.

The menu certainly didn't offer any frontier fare and would put to shame diners today who were trying to pronounce fancy names gracing the list of gourmet food.

"Please pass the Cream Fritters Sabayon" might pep up conversation, but Soup of Green Turtle, aux Quenelles hasn't gotten any better over the decades. The fish course was Flounder Dieppoise. Tim Murphy was the hotel's manager.

It was Brady himself who gave a thoughtful declaration of why the Brady Hotel was thankful. His new eight-story hotel was almost finished and, while typhoid had raged elsewhere, the Brady escaped the illness



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because the guests had safe soft water from the hotel well.

The Brady mansion home, said to be an imitation of George Washington's Arlington, still stands near Denver Avenue and Brady Street, looking woe-be-gone.

The Brady Hotel, once a symbol of the spirit of Tulsa when it still was known as Tulsej Town, stood near Main and Archer steets until Urban Renewel hit town and it was a blackened, desecrated shell

left from a fire. Youngsters use to laugh when they read the "Fire Proof" slogan still showing on top of the burned-out building.

Years ago, historical plaques on the old Brady building were found, still buried in a long dark tunnel beneath Main Street. The four pieces of the once-grand hotel that history buffs have tried to save were vignettes of history and bits of trivia.

**One plaque read:** "At this hotel in March 1907, the makers of the Oklahoma Constitution held their first meeting after completing their labors and it was here at that time, that Charles N. Haskell, Oklahoma's first governor, announced his candidacy."

It was at the Brady that Gov. Haskell ordered the state capitol moved from Guthrie to Oklahoma City.

**The third plaque says:** "The corner of the Cherokee, Creek and Osage Indian Nations are 2,700 feet N. 56 1/2 O"W, from this point." (A marker of this corner is located under the overpass on Edison Avenue.)

There was a time in Tulsa when the price of turkeys went so high the men would just go out and shoot wild turkeys for the Thanksgiving event. Turkey roosts abounded then, especially where you would expect them -- on Turkey Mountain. In 1905 there was a shooting tournament at the Tulsa Country Club.

Today the price of a double-breasted turkey hen goes for 89 cents a pound. Dressed turkeys went for 15 cents a pound in 1910, with larger birds selling at 20 cents a pound by 1911.

As for the cost of lodging, the Brady charged 50 cents per night for a room without a bath and 75 cents a night for a room with a bath.

[By YVONNE LITCHFIELD](#)

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