



# Legacy of Oak Crest



## PAWNEE CHOICE OF A PRIME LOCATION

The branch of Pawnee Creek running through the property is a direct link back to its ancient roots. The Pawnee tribe moved into the Platte River valley around 1500. Based upon the many artifacts found, they had encampment along the creek for centuries. The Pawnee knew how to pick a prime location for shelter, water, and growing their crops.

The "Grotto" is your opportunity for a secluded campfire site nestled in the limestone rocks and trees on the ridge. It is one of the most serene sites on the property. When gathered for a picnic in the grotto, one can vividly imagine the Pawnee as they gathered their tribe to dance around their campfire celebrating a successful buffalo hunt.



## STORZ - BLUM BREWING & WINE LEGACY

Andrew Blum can be considered the founder of what has become Oak Crest. He purchased the original 80 acres from Joe Sweeney in 1889. The Blum family had immigrated from Germany and brought their brewing heritage with them. Andrew Blum was a master brewer for Adolf Storz, and helped him start his nationally acclaimed brewery in Omaha Nebraska.

Andrew bought this property because the trees and setting reminded him of the Black Forest in his native German homeland. He planted a number of grapes on the property. Tilling the vineyard on the west ridge turned up arrowheads and artifacts from the Pawnee tribes who had made this their home.

Apparently Blum's wine was pretty good. It attracted the Italian quarry workers from what is now Quarry Oaks Golf Course. According to local accounts, the Italians marched over the hill like "a line of ants" to procure Blum's well made wine.



## Oak Crest Manor

*An Intimate Gathering  
Place in the Woods*

In the spirit of the long heritage as a retreat center, the Petersen's started building Oak Crest Manor in March, 1996.

Comprised of 43 acres of natural beauty, the property was initially designed as a business retreat and center for special events like weddings and reunions.

It grew into a place where family and friends routinely gathered to enjoy serenity and comradery.

In the spirit of the great Pawnee, many fires have been lit to celebrate events, friendship and the simple joy of life well lived.

There is nothing like watching a "sundowner" and the moon rise over the peace that is Oak Crest.

## THE LEGEND OF CRAZY "DYNAMITE PETE"

"Dynamite Pete" is one of most notorious characters who had a hand in shaping Oak Crest. Some say he received his nickname from working as a "powder monkey" in the local limestone quarries. Others claim he earned his nickname when he lit the fuse on a stick of dynamite to clear out a saloon so he could then finish drinking the beer left on the table.

Dynamite was barefoot and often shirtless. He didn't believe in paying taxes, so he lived in a nearby cave. Dynamite said he was happiest when out in the woods playing his violin. Some of the stones found in the old barn and house walls located on this property today are part of the legacy of "Ol Dynamite".



## SMITH FAMILY LEGACY OF STEWARDSHIP

The present Oak Crest Lodge started out as a small summer cottage built by Dr. Smith, an orthopedic surgeon practicing out of Omaha. He fell in love with this private setting, and through several additions, he made this his permanent home for his family. The Smith's pleasure in gardening was evidenced by their greenhouse and many paths leading to raised gardens.

Like the Pawnee and the Blums who had come before, the Smiths hand an intense appreciation for the land and the setting. Doc Smith literally planted thousands of trees, including the walnut grove which is still on the property today.

The pond, trees and the house are a living legacy to the Smith's stewardship of this natural setting. The current Oak Crest Manor incorporates the original slate floor rooms built by Doc Smith. He had the same vision of building a very special place to live, in the private woods traversed by a barefoot Dynamite Pete.