

RECORD SHATTERING FIRE DESTORYS ELKS LODGE

On January 11, 1959, the old Elks Lodge Home building located at 414 Fifth Avenue burned with 100% losses certified by the insurance companies involved. Following the fire, plans were put in motion to rebuild a new Elks Home on the same location at 414 Fifth Avenue.

In April of 1959, a new enlarged building committee was selected with Attorney Emmerett Hansen in command to proceed with plans for the new building, and to secure methods of financing this project. Dougher-Frevert-Ramsey have been working many months on the plans for the new building, the same can be said of our New Building Committee who have worked many months on the plans, holding meeting after meeting. They have all done a complete and thorough job, and you will be proud of their work.

On April of 1959 workmen commenced the task of destroying the remains of the old Elk Building, in preparation for our new building program. Dragline cranes were busy crashing the of walls of the front with huge metal hammers, scooping up the debris and dumping it into trucks for hauling Thus the old Elks Club Building becomes just a memory.



In September 1959 many leading contractors general, heating, plumbing, electrical, air conditioning, some of the best firms in the city of Des Moines, were invited to bid on plans and specifications for construction of the New Building, and on September 2, 1959, a letting was held in the temporary clubs rooms, and contractors with low bids were awarded the jobs. The general contract on construction went to John W. Nichols & Associates Inc., and up to the present time they are on schedule; the architects assure us of a new and fine club.