

# **Grand Opening and Dedication of Bangor Lodge of Elks No. 244 New Home**



**108 Odlin Road, Bangor, Maine  
NOVEMBER 19, 1983**



November 19, 1983

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our Grand Opening and Dedication Ceremonies of the Bangor Lodge of Elks #244. Much hard work and pride has gone into this tremendous undertaking for our Lodge. All of the Officers, Trustees and many, many members have devoted their time and money to make this day possible. It is a day that has been a long time coming, and, in my opinion, well deserved. We started many years ago with an idea. We worked on it, over and over again, until we came up with this beautiful complex.

Many thanks must go to M.D. Hardy, Inc., who as the general contractor, suffered thru our many changes and frustrations, over the last few years. I'm sure there were times that Mel and Dave Hardy had wished they had never been introduced to our idea of a new Home. They have done a fantastic job on this new building.

Our Dedication Ceremony will be conducted by the Maine State Elks Association Officers. Maroon Nemer, President of the M.S.E.A., will be heading up the distinguished list of dignitaries joining us in this auspicious occasion.

We thank you for attending this momentous day of celebration, and hope you will cherish the memories of our great Lodge. This building will long stand as a lasting tribute to the many, many Elks that have worked so hard in this collective effort.

Thank you all for coming and, please enjoy our facility.

Fraternally,  
Richard J. Hughes, Sr., PER  
Exalted Ruler

## THE HISTORY OF BANGOR LODGE #244

The Bangor Lodge of Elks #244 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was granted its charter on June 21, 1893.

The first Home was located on the floors above the Boston Button Store on Main Street, adjoining the Sweet's corner. A move was made into the Coe Building at the corner of Main and Cross Streets.

In 1919, the Lodge purchased the property known as the Todd residence, at the corner of Broadway and State Streets. The building, originally, was owned by Percy Todd, President of the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad. The building was purchased from Herbert J. Banton. The Elks Lodge was owned through a holding company, incorporated as the Bangor Lodge of Elks, Home Association, with a capital stock of \$20,000.00.

THEN. . .



This was the first building purchased in 1919, by the Bangor Lodge of Elks #244. The building was originally owned by Percy Todd, President of the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad. It was our home until the mid-1930's.

The membership consisted of many business and professional men. These men worked very hard to make the Lodge a success. But, along came the Great Depression and, as with many organizations, the Bangor Lodge ran into difficulties with membership and financial

obligations. In the 1930's, we lost our building through foreclosure and had to relinquish our charter. The charter was held, in abeyance, by the Grand Lodge for a few years.

When the charter was returned, under a probationary period supervised by the Grand Lodge, we were located on the two floors above Standard Shoe Store on Main Street. It took hard work by PER's, Morris Shafmaster, Manual Brickell, James Mullvaney, and many, many dedicated members to make the Bangor Lodge of Elks once again solvent.

In 1957, with a larger membership and prospering, we purchased the building located at the corner of Second and Union Streets. Once again, we were growing. Membership increased and charitable contributions, to the community and the needy, grew at leaps and bounds. The Bangor Lodge of Elks was being recognized, by the community, as a caring, civic-minded organization. We expanded that building to meet our needs. But, as our history has shown, we outgrew that location. We had looked into the future.

Now in 1983, 90 years after our birth, we are moving into our \$500,000.00 complex. This has taken several years of hard work by many dedicated Elks. The land was purchased in the mid-1970's from Wally Sawyer. On that land, now sits our new Lodge. We have room for future expansion. We have a softball field located in the westerly portion of our land. In the months to come, we foresee many outdoor activities for the entire family. Many of these areas have already been designated. Our goal, for the future, is to get the entire family involved in Elkdom.

It has taken the members and their families of our Lodge to make the dream of this new Home a reality.

NOW. . .



This is the modern new facility now owned by the Bangor Lodge of Elks #244. It is a magnificent complex, that can facilitate all of our needs now and in the foreseeable future.

## OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

EXALTED RULER.....	Richard J. Hughes, Sr., PER
ESTEEMED LEADING KNIGHT.....	John Dean
ESTEEMED LOYAL KNIGHT.....	Robert Simpson
ESTEEMED LECTURING KNIGHT.....	Jeffrey Bryant
SECRETARY.....	Jay Youngs
TREASURER.....	Doyle Wheeler, PER
ESQUIRE.....	Morris Shafmaster, PER
INNER GUARD.....	Charles Shepley
TILER.....	Frank Saba
CHAPLAIN.....	Richard Russell
5 YEAR TRUSTEE.....	Arthur Freeman
4 YEAR TRUSTEE.....	Daniel Hughes, PER
3 YEAR TRUSTEE.....	Wilbur Ranney, PER
2 YEAR TRUSTEE.....	James Owens
1 YEAR TRUSTEE.....	Donald Harriman, PER

## BUILDING COMMITTEE

Richard J. Hughes, Sr. E.R., PER  
Donald Harriman, PER, Chairman of the Trustees  
Doyle Wheeler, PER  
Edward J. Armstrong  
Daniel Hughes, Sr., PER  
Kenneth Cochrane, PER  
John Lagerquist  
John Gormely