

HISTORY OF ISHPEMING LODGE NO. 447
B.P.O. OF ELKS
By
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One Hundred years ago, on July 6, 1898, a group of twenty nine residents from the cities of Ishpeming and Negaunee combined to become Charter Members of Lodge No. 447. Escanaba Lodge No. 354 with several members from Marquette Lodge No. 405 instituted the Lodge and elected Mr. C. L. Sporley as Exalted Ruler. Throughout the remainder of 1898 and early 1899, the Lodge functioned but with poor member attendance. The early lodge home was in Negaunee, but by resolution, the lodge home was moved from Negaunee to Ishpeming in October, 1899.

Though the lodge home was changed, the membership did not particularly increase nor was the membership attendance problem resolved. On December 10, 1899, at a special meeting at the Nelson House, a motion to disband and surrender the Charter was discussed. At that meeting, it was moved and carried that the lodge make every attempt to continue and that greater emphasis be made to enlist new members. With this new enthusiasm to continue and with this fresh breath pumped back into the lodge, Ishpeming No. 447 then began to take form.

New lodge members with old Ishpeming names such as M.M. Duncan, J.W. Jochim, E.R. Nelson, G.H. Moss, A.B. Miner, J.M. Hayden, A.A. Braastad, Tim Hughes, Alfred Collick, George Newett, became members of the lodge. The first lodge home was from rental in the Anderson Building.

This then was the very early beginning of Ishpeming No. 447. One hundred years have passed since that memorable date, and on July 6th, 1998 we began commemorating our Centennial Year. To review each year of lodge history would require volumes of the written word and countless hours of research. We would like to review with you the history by decades, thus reducing the time span by ten times.

Let us then continue the decade from 1900 to 1910. The majority of this time (1901-1909) the country had Theodore Roosevelt as its president, and the City of Ishpeming had its 50th Anniversary. In March of 1900, A.J. Youngbluth served the Lodge as Exalted Ruler and the records indicate that he was our first Lodge Officer to attend a Grand Lodge Session, the Convention City being Milwaukee, Wisconsin and his total expenses for that convention trip were \$16.30

In 1901, Mr. J.H. Andrews became Exalted Ruler and the lodge home was moved to the Toutloff Building. The rental for lodge quarters was \$5.00 per month. Brother Andrews was followed in office by George Newett, a pioneer publisher who achieved fame by being sued by Presidential candidate, Teddy Roosevelt. It was during 1902 that the initiation fee was increased from \$15.00 to \$25.00. Though the initiation fee has been increased several times, it has since reverted back to the \$25.00, our present day initiation fee.

Brother W.E. McKee was our lodge leader in 1903 and was followed by Jim Clancy in 1904. In 1904 the lodge quarters were moved back to the Anderson Building and also during this year, the Michigan Elks Association was formed in Detroit. PER Clancy attended the Grand Lodge Convention in Buffalo, N.Y. at a cost of \$40.00 and E.R. John Minnie attended the first State Association Convention in Grand Rapids.

Brother Carl Tellefson served in 1906 and Brother George Wanek was Exalted Ruler in 1907. It was during the year of 1907-1908 that most Negaunee members demitted to institute a new lodge as Negaunee Lodge No. 1116. Brother Charles Moore served our Lodge as E.R in 1908 and PER Wanek attended Grand Lodge in Dallas, Texas. The decade was completed with Louis Toutloff serving as Exalted Ruler in 1909 and A.L. Brownell in 1910.

The decade from 1911 to 1920 can best be remembered nationally by the years of Woodrow Wilson as our President and by World War I.

With regard to our Lodge, Mr. A.C. Ludington became Exalted Ruler in 1911 and he was followed by Mr. F.J. Heindel in 1912. The dues were raised in 1913 to \$8.00. With Brother Devine as our leader in 1913, the lodge

quarters were moved from the Eger Building back to the Anderson Building on Canda Street. Ishpeming Lodge first observed Flag Day in 1914 with C.H. Dawson serving as Exalted Ruler. Brother Dawson was followed by H. Swanson who arranged the first ritual exchange with Escanaba Lodge No. 354. With E.H. Mohr as our leader in 1916, the lodge signed a ten year lease to use the Penglase Building for its Lodge Home. In 1917, George Wanek again became Exalted Ruler and the Lodge drafted a resolution supporting President Woodrow Wilson in the hour of national crisis, the early beginning of World War I. Mr. Alger Peterson served our lodge for two terms in 1918-1920. In April of 1919, the lodge lost its first member killed in action during the world war. He was Carl E. Anderson of Michigamme.

We can only remember 1920 with the death of President Harding. This was also the decade during which Dempsey knocked out Firpo, and the popular songs were "Little Brown Jug" and "How Dry I Am." During the 1920s Lindberg flew the Atlantic, Ford unveiled the Model A and Babe Ruth hit 60 home runs in one year for the Yankees. In 1928 we heard such presidential slogans as "A Chicken In Every Pot—A Car In Every Garage" and in 1929 we witnessed the greatest financial crisis this country has had in the famous Stock Market Crash.

Mr. Joe Pope served as Exalted Ruler in 1920 and Mr. Thor Orem served as our leader for two consecutive terms in 1921-1923. The first lodge funeral service was conducted for Brother E. Davenport who was later buried in an Elks Lot at the Ishpeming Cemetery

In 1922, the lodges in the Upper Peninsula spoke of making a separate Upper Peninsula Elks Association to avoid traveling to distant downstate cities.

In 1923, our lodge was served by Gust Swanson. The following complaints were registered during the meeting of 1923:

1. Lodge rooms were dirty and not routinely cleaned.
2. The American Flag was not being flown daily.
3. Lodge business was being discussed outside the lodge.
4. Dances were being run for a certain few.
5. Lodge expenses were in excess of income.

Now in 1998, are any of these complaints familiar?

Of interest during 1923 was that Brother Mickey Bergeron, a long time member and club steward, since deceased, was initiated on Flag Day, June 14, 1923 and also that legendary Clermont C. Watson began his coaching career in Ishpeming. Gust Swanson began serving his second term as Exalted Ruler in 1924 and our records then disappeared until 1935. It has been commonly understood that our lodge records for the period 1924 to 1935 were lost in the lodge fire on January 23, 1935.

Those that served as Exalted Rulers during that period were:

1924-1925-----Gust Swanson
1925-1926-----Earl Leininger
1926-1927-----Oscar Oie
1927-1928-----Arnold Sundblad
1928-1929-----John Knoerl
1929-1930-----Harlow Starks
1930-1931-----W.J. Miners
1931-1932-----Oscar Oie
1932-1933-----Wm Poppe
1933-1934-----Ed Wanek
1934-1935-----J.A. Peterson

In the 1930s we witnessed the great depression, unemployment was common, Hitler came into power in Germany, collective bargaining was a new word and "Good Night Irene" was a hit tune. In 1936, IGA coffee was 18 cents a pound, sirloin was 24 cents a pound, and "Old Rusty" was the favorite whiskey at \$1.30 per quart.

But back to the lodge----yes, it was on Wednesday, January 23, 1935, that our lodge home, located in the Sellwood

Block, was destroyed by what is considered by many, to be one of the worst fires in the city's history. This fire began at 7:45 AM, with temperatures at 14 degrees below zero, to completely destroy Tillsons Drug Store, Carl Erickson' Log Cabin on the first floor and the Elks Lodge on the 2nd floor. The records indicate that the Lodge's insurance on the contents was \$2200.00

Lodge No. 447 was then forced to move and they immediately took up quarters in the Denn Brothers Building on South Main Street on November 3, 1935. As a gift, Marquette Lodge No. 405 presented No. 447 with its Elks Head. The lodge was served by G.H. Gill in 1935-1936 and it was at this time that Ishpeming Lodge severed its relations with the Michigan Elks Association, not to be reinstated until 1938. Mr. M.M. Collins served as ER in 1936-1937 and in 1937-1938 our lodge was served by Brother Nathan Narotsky. In 1938-39, ER Walfred Elson was allowed \$5.00 to attend the Upper Peninsula Elks Association Convention.

In 1939 our Exalted Ruler George Neuman was our Grand Lodge Representative at the National Convention in St. Louis. Our finances became extremely low in 1939 and the lodge was forced to borrow money from the local banks to pay its bills.

During the decade between 1940 to 1950, we saw Franklin D. Roosevelt elected to multiple terms as President of our Country. World War II started after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941. Our young men were being drafted into service immediately after high school. Joe Louis was the boxer of the decade and the "Hut Sut Song" was a leader on the Lucky Strike Hit Parade. Frank Sinatra was a bobby-sox idol, and by the middle of the decade the war was over with Germany and Japan and our troops began their return to home. Many of our G.I.s took advantage of the governments program to continue their college educations. With headlines to the contrary, Harry Truman defeated Tom Dewey for President.

In 1940-41 Brother Walfred Peterson was Exalted Ruler and the so called "Money Machine Proposition" was being studied by the lodge. Mr. Bernard Maloney, a high school student and later to become an Exalted Ruler, reported to the lodge as a sponsored delegate to Michigan Boys' State. Mr. R.J. Worland was Exalted Ruler in 1941-42.

In 1941, the lodge purchased the old Trevarrow Hotel Building on Canda Street for a purchase price of \$4500 and after remodeling at a cost of \$5000.00 the building then became our lodge home in December, 1941. On January 19, 1943, our Senior PER Gust Swanson burned the mortgage to the property. The lodge was served by Bill Antilla in 1942-43 at which time an attempt was made to purchase the lot immediately west of our building. We failed in this purchase attempt and were forever hampered with parking space. Our lodge was served by John Bergeron in 1943-44 and it was during this year that the Exalted Ruler was awarded a certificate of Merit by the Elks War Commission. Ishpeming Lodge was awarded first place in the 1944-45 Ritual Competition with Sib Sundlie as Exalted Ruler.

In 1945-46, under ER Ed Maloney, the first lodge Elks Chorus was formed. Bill Sanders was Exalted Ruler in 1946-47 when a group of Ishpeming Lodge members went to Marquette Lodge No. 405 to greet and visit with the Grand Exalted Ruler. Also, it was in 1947, that the new bar was purchased for the clubrooms on Canda Street. In 1947-48 we were served by Eck Lundin and followed in 1948-49 by Brother George Mahoney. George Mahoney is our Senior Living Past Exalted Ruler. It was in 1948 that the family picnics were first held at Sodie Hoff's camp on the Dead River. Brother Vic Makela donated a parcel of land on the North Road of the Dead River, and this was later developed into a picnic area which annually hosted over 1000 Elks, families and guests. Our present day family picnics are held at the Lodge. Our Golden Anniversary Party was held during this year. In 1949-1950, the Exalted Ruler was Frank Lundin, our gold miner and prospector.

The 10 year period of 1950-60 can best be remembered by the beginning of the Korean War. Television was sweeping the country and General Eisenhower was twice elected to the Presidency. The last half of the decade of 1950 remembers that Floyd Patterson was heavyweight champ, "Mack the knife" was the favorite song, and the first Sputnik was launched by Russia. Locally, we remember the murder in Big Bay, which brought fame and prominence to John D. Voelker by his writing of "Anatomy of a Murder." We can also remember the seven convict breakout from the Marquette Branch Prison and the construction of the U.P.s first Television Station.

Within the lodge, Brother Laurie Velin served as Exalted Ruler in 1950 and Timmer Reed was ER in 1951. In 1952-53 when Bernard Maloney served our lodge, our picnic grounds began to take shape and we had our first

picnic on the new Elks "40." In 1953-54, under ER Clifton Carter, our lodge donated \$5000.00 to Bell Memorial Hospital. Paul Culbert Was Exalted Ruler in 1954-55 and was followed by Clyde Mitchell in 1955-56. This was the year of the Saturday Night Square Dance and Card Parties. The lodge won 3rd place in Grand Lodge for its flag Day Program. In 1956-57, the lodge was led by Elliott Fredrickson and as our representative, he attended the Grand Lodge Convention in Chicago. During this lodge year the Michigan Elks Association Major Project Program for Disadvantaged Children was inaugurated and Clyde mitchell became Lodge Secretary succeeding Spike Peterson. Mr. Peter DeRoche was our Exalted Ruler in isn 1957-58 and he attended the Grand Lodge Convention in San Francisco as our delegate. He returned from the convention and inaugurated our first Chicken Bar-B-Que at the family picnic. It was also in 1957 that the annual dues were raised from \$10.00 to \$15.00.

Brother Fritz Ameen was our Exalted Ruler in 1958-59 and during this year the lodge started its first Youth Day Program which became an annual activity for the next 20 years. In 1959-60, with Gus Kindstrand as ER., we remodeled and renovated the lodge with a new addition to the basement and the first floors. This was done at a cost of \$24430.00. Also during Gus' year, the lodge purchased an electroencephalograph for the Bell Hospital at a cost of \$4100.00.

During our 7th decade, we remember the 60s by the Kennedy election and assassination, the elections of Lyndon Johnson., Richard Nixon and the Vietnam war. We remember the campus violence and long hair, and it did bring out a fashion change to short skirts. Locally, we remember mob violence in Negaunee between civilians and the air force, we remember the black sit-in at Northern Michigan University, the big fire at Lords in Marquette and the decades biggest snowstorm.

During 1960-61, Brother Ansfred Holmgren served as Exalted Ruler and it was this year that the Ishpeming and Negaunee Lodges sponsored the first Marquette county Telethon for Crippled Children. The lodge was served by Cal Bjorne in 1961-62 and after the Grand Lodge Convention in Miami Beach, we undertook to install a permanent Bar-B-Que Pit at our "40". The lodge Officers were granted new Jewels and "Fish Frys" were started at the lodge for the first time. Birt Solomon was ER in 1962-63 and Birt sent a telegram from the lodge to President Kennedy supporting his actions in the Cuban Crisis. During 1963-64, under ER Edmund Nault, our PER Clyde Mitchell was elected to serve as President of the U.P. Elks Association and Cal Bjorne was appointed by the Grand Exalted Ruler to serve as District Deputy of Michigan's Northeast District. Brother Carl Fernstrum of Menominee lodge was serving as our State President when it was mandated that the State of Michigan should have only one Association and therefore the U.P. Elks Association was dissolved.

Exalted Ruler John Fassbender was in office in 1964-65 when Ishpeming was awarded the U.P. Elks Convention. It was during this year that the "365" Club of our Major Projects Commission was started. After ER Jim Smith returned from Miami in 1965-66, he started the lodge in the direction of again placing first in the District ins the President's Achievement Award Program. It was also during this year that the lodge began to award Life Memberships to those members 65 years of age and with 30 years of continuous membership.

In 1966-67 under the direction of Bill Dally as ER, the lodge placed third in the State in Major Project contributions, placed first in the District in the President's Program, a new stereo and lounge furniture were supplied, and the lodge by-laws were revised. Brother Jack Allen was our ER in 1967-68 and the B.P.O. of Elks in 1968 were celebrating its 100th Anniversary. Our lodge was presented with and American Flag that had flown over the capitol Building in Washington D.C. In 1968-69, Les Anderson as Exalted Ruler represented our Lodge at the National Convention in New York City. PER Elliott Fredrickson was appointed as DDGER for the Northeast District.

In 1969-70, under Brother Ed Lundin, we again started the very popular Fish Fry Nights. During the year we placed third in the state in per capita donations to the Major Projects Program and first in the President's Achievement Program in the District. Les Anderson became our Secretary after the resignation of Brother Clyde Mitchell.

We best remember the decade beginning in 1970 as the re-election of President Nixon and his resignation after Watergate. With this resignation of the Presidency by Nixon, Vice President Gerald R. Ford, a member of Grand Rapids Lodge No. 48, was elevated to the Presidency. We also witnessed the inaugural of Jimmy Carter from Plains, Georgia, to become our 39th President.

In 1970-71, we were led by Brother Ralph Pellow as Exalted Ruler. During this year we received three major

Project Awards, we had a state Scholarship Winner and Duke St. Onge retired as Treassurer after many years of faithful service. On March 16, 1971, Exalted Ruler Fellow was stricken with a heart attack shortly after initiating a class of candidates. Brother Ralph was transported to the hospital by ambulance and died shortly afterward. The lodge was indeed sorrowful.

In 1971-72, Brother Bob Betts was installed as Exalted Ruler in the first public installation of officers the lodge has had. Bob returned from the Grand Lodge Convention in New Orleans to lead the lodge to first place in the district in ritual and President's Achievement. This year we again had a State Scholarship Winner---Merger was discussed with the Negaunee Lodge and was later dropped when Negaunee decided to build a new lodge—and our club and lodge was burglarized.

Exalted Ruler Stan Uitto represented Ishpeming Lodge at the Grand Lodge convention in Atlantic City in 1972-73. The ritual team again won first place in the District but through error, they did not compete in State competition. The Heritage Corner became part of our Lodge and the Leading Knight started an "Adopt a Brother" program with our Elks National Home.

We were led in our Lodge work by ER Frank Brogan in 1973-74. This was the year of a concentrated effort in our Drug Awareness Program which was finalized with the very successful Art Linkletter Program sponsored by our Lodge. Our faithful steward, Werner Wesa, was honored for his service to the lodge. A new porch entry was added and the "White Issue" was resolved at the Grand Lodge Convention in Chicago.

Gary Betts became our ER in 1974-75 and represented us at the Convention in Miami Beach. This was also the year we celebrated our 75th Anniversary and our lodge officers traveled to the State ritual Contest by chartered bus to St. Joseph, Michigan. The lodge proposed that we begin the search for the site of a new lodge building.

Brother Steve Pietro was elected as Exalted Ruler in 1975-76, and attended the National Convention in Dallas and the State Convention in Marquette. It was during this year that the property on Lake Shore Drive was purchased for a new building site.

In 1975-76, PER Cal Bjorne was elected to serve as President of the 61,000 member Michigan Elks Association. Cal is only the 8th President from the Upper Peninsula since 1904 and the first ever from Ishpeming Lodge No. 447. A State President's Recognition Dinner was held at the Thimmes Building in the President's honor.

In April, 1976, Brother Keith Portale was elected to the lodge's highest chair. Most notable of the events that happened this year was our decision to proceed with the new building. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in June and steel erection was begun in July by our contractor, Roy Ness of Escanaba. The new lodge building committee was composed of Gene Bilkey, Chrmn., Cal Bjorne, Co-Chrmn., Les Anderson, Harold Kakkuri, Elliott Fredrickson, and Alan Besola. The building was completed with the transfer affected to our new lodge on November 26th and 27th, 1976. Dedication of our new lodge occurred on February 19th, 1977 with Past Grand Exalted Ruler E. Gene Fournace of Newark Ohio, Lodge No. 39 as our guest speaker. Also present were State President Neil Sheriff of Hillsdale Lodge No. 1575 and Bill Bailey, V.P. at Large, from Midland Lodge No. 1610. A host of other Grand Lodge and State Association Officers were in attendance. During the year, 138 new members were initiated, the highest ever in any one year.

In 1977-78, Don Lukkari was elected to serve as the Lodge's Exalted Ruler. Don was the Lodge's representative to the Grand Lodge Convention in New Orleans. During the year we black topped the parking lot and began work on the sauna. Air conditioning was installed. The new Memorial Tablet, donated by the Antilla Family in memory of PER Bill Antilla was positioned on the south wall of the lodge room. During the year the lodge initiated 122 new members.

In 1978-79, Angie Bosio attended the National Convention in San Diego as our elected Exalted ruler. Lodge functions were well attended with dances held every two weeks. During the year we initiated 122 new members into Ishpeming Lodge. The U.P. Elks Convention was held at "447" and the delegates were complimentary in their remarks about our new lodge facility. This was also the year in which the Lodge became incorporated. The officers were "word perfect" in their rendition of the ritual in District competition and place first in District ritual Competition.

Marvin Swarthwood was elected to serve as Exalted Ruler in 1979-80 and represented the lodge as our delegate at the Convention in Dallas, Texas. He returned to the lodge to lead it in significant contributions in our Major Project Program and the lodge sponsored several Ishpeming youngsters to the Bay Cliff Health Camp. In addition, the lodge donated diagnostic equipment to the Bell Memorial Hospital's Pediatric unit. Also, during the year the popular Steak Stag Nights were initiated.

In the decade of the 80s, we witnessed the election of Ronald Reagan to the Presidency for two terms succeeding President Jimmy Carter. George Bush succeeded President toward the end of the decade. The era double digit inflation was somewhat diminished and our country began to prosper. Dallas and San Francisco were dominant in football and the Pistons wore the crown in basketball.

In 1980-81, Rich Bjorne, as Exalted Ruler, attended the Grand Lodge Convention in New Orleans. Rich returned to stimulate further membership growth by initiating 108 new members into the lodge. Lodge activities were humming and we were enjoying growth and prosperity. A total of \$5792.00 was raised for our Major Projects and we enrolled 59 new members in our National Foundation. The Lodge was judged the best in the District in Achievements.

Daryl Champion was our elected leader in 1981-82 and attended the Grand Lodge Convention in Las Vegas. It was at this Las Vegas Convention that Raymond V. Arnold of Jackson, Mi. Lodge No. 113 was elected to the highest office in Elksdom, that of Grand Exalted Ruler. GER Arnold was the first Michigan member to become a Grand Exalted Ruler since 1921. Daryl continued to stimulate membership growth by initiating 63 new members and for the first time in our history, we exceed 1000 members on our roster.

In 1982-83, Gary Betts became our Exalted Ruler and represented us at the Grand Lodge in Chicago as our delegate. This was Gary's "second time around" as he previously served as Exalted Ruler in 1974-75. Our lodge family picnic at the Elks "40" continued to be well attended, we exchanged Flag Day Programs with our sister lodges of Marquette and Negaunee, and we continued to perform well in ritual competition and our Major Project Programs.

Honolulu Hawaii was the site of the 1983-84 Grand Lodge Convention and our lodge was represented by Exalted ruler Glenn Elliott. Cal Bjorne as a Grand Lodge Committeeman and Bob Betts as District, GER also attended this session on the beaches of Waikiki. Daryl Champion won the Grand Lodge Award in our division for the best State Youth Activities Program. Ritual performances were still very good in our District and State competition.

In 1984-85, Bob Chard was elected to the leadership position of Exalted Ruler. Bob was elected as our delegate to the Grand Lodge Session in Houston Texas. Our lodge activities continued to be well attended and our Grand Lodge and State Association programs were well attended to. Forty One new members were initiated into the lodge.

Edmund Holmgren succeeded Bob Chard in the office of Exalted in 1985-86. As our delegate, Ed attended the Grand Lodge Session in Seattle Washington. In Seattle, Cal Bjorne was elected to the Board of Grand Trustee for a period of four years. It was also during this year that the house Committee was increased from 5 to 7 members. Lodge programs continued to be active and strong. On April 1st of 1986, our paid up membership roster was at a record high of 1049 members. We at this time were the largest lodge in the Upper Peninsula. Membership began its decline at this point and has been in a slide ever since.

In 1986-87, Carl Pellonpaa was elected our leader and after returning from the National Convention in Denver, we continued with our plans for an addition to our lodge facility. After receiving our permit from Grand Lodge, we erected a kitchen and storage facility on the northwest corner of the building. A State President's Night was held at the lodge honoring our State President John Combs. A new Elks Logo sign was installed on the exterior of our building on Lake Shore Drive, and a Recognition dinner was held honoring Nate Narotzky's 50 years as a Past Exalted Ruler.

Matt Kivikko became our Exalted Ruler in 1987-88 and traveled to Atlanta to represent the Lodge as it delegate. During Matt's year, a new furnace system was installed to provide the heating needs of the building. Daryl Champion was elected to serve our State Association as a District Vice President.

Joe Harper came on board in 1988-89 to become our next Exalted Ruler. Joe made a trip to Glitter Gulch in Las

Vegas to represent the Lodge at the Convention. A Lodge Manager was hired for the first time to care for the every day activities of the lounge and kitchen. The authoritative body of the Lodge was changed from a House Committee to a Governing Board. A new Calendar Program was initiated by the Association as a fund raiser. All lodges were required to participate. Bob Ivey of Iron River Lodge No. 1671 was elected as State President. Werner Maki, a former pitching standout in organized fastpitch softball was elected to the Michigan Softball Hall of Fame. Cal Bjorne was the choice of Grand Lodge to become the Chairman of the Board of Grand Trustees.

In 1989-90, Jack Fredrickson served our Lodge as ER and represented us in New Orleans at the National Convention. It was during this year that Ishpeming No.447 was recognized to have the best Youth Activities Program in the Michigan Elks Association. Our Vets activities were strong, bingo was discussed but put on the back burner, and we continued to experience a decline in lodge membership.

In the decade of the 1990s we witnessed a change in the Presidency from George Bush to President Bill Clinton. Our economy began to pick up in the early 90s and people again began to feel comfortable. The Gulf War interrupted our lives but this was quickly resolved. Iraq was still the problem. The Clinton years were plagued with accusations from Whitewater to Travelgate to Lewinsky. Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa continue to slug the ball and break the Babe Ruth and Roger Maris home run records. Locally, the military decided to close down K.I. Sawyer and civilian enterprises are emerging

John Blanck was the lodge's choice to be elected to the Chair of Exalted Ruler in 1990-91. John, as our delegate, attended the Convention in Las Vegas. The U.P. Convention was again held in Ishpeming and was considered successful. Pumpkin Patch Halloween parties were a joint effort of our tri-city lodges. Our high maintenance sauna stove was replaced. Our Veterans of the Jacobetti Center were entertained at a Lodge Dinner. We assisted monetarily in the restoration of the Elks Memorial Building in Chicago. Pasty sales continue to be well received and a good source of income to the lodge.

Fred Achatz, as Exalted Ruler in 1991-92, was authorized to be our representative at the Grand Lodge Convention in St. Louis. Lapsation continued to be a problem and a new programs were initiated to propose new members. Our Lodge continued to host the area Fireman at a breakfast on the occasion of the Fireman's Recognition Day. This year, we enrolled 38 new members in the Elks National Foundation. Our Drug Awareness Committee became very active in the jurisdictional area of our lodge, promoting drug awareness to our youngsters on the dangers of drugs.

In 1992-93, Bernie Pearce was elected to the office of Exalted Ruler and represented us at the Convention in Dallas, Texas. New kitchen stove equipment was installed to provide for more efficient kitchen service. Bumper stickers programs were actively promoted. The Paul Valenti Scholarship Program is being assisted by proceeds from the Pasty Sales. Miniature flags were distributed at Ishpeming's Annual Fourth of July Parade. Ed Holmgren was elected to District Vice President., and Mary Lou's Fish Frys were overwhelmingly accepted. A new club manager was hired.

Perry Palomaki, our Exalted Ruler in 1993-94 traveled to Portland Oregon to attend the Grand Lodge Convention. The PERs Association has become somewhat defunct and attempts are being made to reinvigorate the group. A dress code for our lounge employees was put into effect and the results were complimentary. The Lodge continues to be in financial straights. A large screen TV has been purchased with funds from various fund raisers.. The per capita cost assessment from the Grand Lodge and State Association have been added to our dues structure to bring our annual dues up to \$52.00. A computer has been purchased to better maintain our bookkeeping and membership records. The annual picnic was held at the lodge rather than the Elks "40"

Matt Kivikko returned to active officer status be being elected a "second time around" to the chair of Exalted Ruler in 1994-95. Matt attended the Grand Lodge Session in Chicago. Our by-laws were revised this year and our financial troubles continue. Lodge activities for some reason have fallen off and revenue from bar sales sales has decreased. Though we have complied with all Grand Lodge and State Programs, membership participation has decreased.

In 1995-96, Joe Morgan was elected to be our Exalted Ruler. Joe went to New Orleans to attend our National Convention. At this Grand Lodge Session, our membership criteria was changed to admit women as members of the Order. In March of 1996, Beverly and Sally Achatz were the first female members to be initiated to our lodge.

The lodge hosted the Ishpeming High School Basketball champions at a dinner at the Lodge. The lodge purchased another copy machine. The Spring Convention of the Northeast and Northwest Districts was hosted by Ishpeming Lodge.

Tom Bianco served as our Exalted Ruler in 1996-97 and attended the National Convention in Las Vegas. Our membership is decreasing and delinquency continues to be a problem. Mary Lou retires as our manager of Fish Fry's and Banquets. She will indeed be missed. We had an exceptional Memorial Service in December and commendations were offered by the State and Grand Lodge. Sarah Stream of Ishpeming won the 10-11 year old competition in the District, State, and Regional Contests in Hoop Shoot and she went on to the National Basketball Hall of Fame to compete in the national contests. Sarah performed very well and was a commendable representative of Michigan and Ishpeming Lodge.

Scott Perry attended the Grand Lodge Convention in Chicago as our Exalted Ruler in 1997-98. At this Convention, Cal Bjorne was elected by the delegates to the second highest elected chair office in the Order as Grand Esteemed Leading Knight. Fred Achatz was appointed to serve as District Deputy, GER of Michigan Northeast. Karaoke was introduced to the lodge as entertainment. The hours of lounge operation were changed from 1:00 PM to 3:00PM. A permit was obtained from Grand Lodge to offer for sale our Elk's "40" Picnic Grounds. Our lodge placed first in District Ritual Competition and performed in the state contest. Our by-laws were changed to reflect lower initiation and reinstatement fees. In a joint effort, the Ishpeming and Negaunee Lodges combined to purchase a 35" TV for the Jacobetti Center. Our joint Memorial Service with Negaunee placed second in the nation in our division.

In our Centennial Year, our lodge elected Scott Lyman to serve as our Lodge Leader. Scott attended the Convention in Anaheim, California and returned to formulate plans for our Centennial Dinner Celebration. Our Grand Exalted Ruler, C. Valentine Bates of Gainesville, Fl., along with PGER Ray Arnold of Michigan, Grand Secretary Jim Varenhorst of Chicago, and Grand Chaplain Rev. Fr. Kevin Cassidy will attend along with our State's President and his 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents. The Centennial Dinner was held on October 14th at the Lodge and was well attended. The Spring Convention was held in Iron Mountain and the Lodge Officers captured the N.E. District 1st place trophy for the 3rd year in a row. Scott Lyman went on to be crowned "Best Exalted Ruler" at the State Ritual contest in Lansing.

The following continuation of Ishpeming #447 history is recorded by Scott Lyman, PER....

Ron Baggioire was installed as our 101st Exalted Ruler in March of 1999 and would later attend the July Grand Lodge convention in Kansas City. The Ishpeming Lodge hosted the Spring Convention in 2000 and Lodge Officers once again took first place in the District Ritual contest. Bill Erkkila would be installed as E.R. in 2000 and attended the Grand Lodge Convention in Dallas. "Skids" Perry would step up to fill void at E.R. in 2001-2002 for second time around. During his second term, Skid's spearhead a Lodge by-law revision to change our Lodge management to that of an appointed House Committee. He also attended his second Grand Lodge Convention in Philadelphia.

2002 marked the beginning of what would be a two year term for Bob Anttila as Exalted Ruler. Bob would also fill an E.R. vacancy in January of 2005 for the balance of that term. Under Bob's leadership the Lodge prospered and was award the only "Gold Star" Lodge award in the State during his first term, and a "Silver Star" award in his second year (the Lodge missed achieving Gold Star status that year by one category...three cents short of achieving the GER's ENF per capita goal of \$3.75). The Officer's continued their dominance in the Ritual contest in 2005 capturing their 9th straight District title by sweeping the competition in Escanaba. They won all but one chair, due to "repeat" status of Anttila, and won the trophy as best U.P. team overall. The team would go on to take third place at the State Ritual contest in Troy with Matt Kivikko (Inner Guard) and Matt Dewitt (Chaplain) taking first place individually. The team would be saddened later that summer at the passing of their ritual mentor and friend, PSP Jim Ryan from Sault Ste. Marie. Allen Anttila then stepped as E.R. in 2005-2006.



Ishpeming 2005 Ritual Team after taking 3rd place in the State Ritual contest
L-R; Matt DeWitt, Todd Axford, Ed Niemi, Tom Bianco, Bob Anttila, Scott Lyman, Sharon Kivikko, Matt Kivikko, Allen Anttila, and Jim Ryan)

The Ishpeming team would once again make the trip to the state ritual contest in May 2006 and put in another fine performance finishing 4th.

Ishpeming PER's were called upon to assume District and State Committee responsibilities in the new millennium. John Blanck served as DDGER in 2000-2001, as did Tom Bianco in 2002-2003 and Scott Lyman in 2004-2005. Bob Anttila served as State Lodge Activities/Star Lodge Chairman then was elected to be the N.E. District Gold Key Scholarship Commissioner. Bianco served as State Chairman of the Elks Training committee and was later elected to be the N.E. District Major Project Commissioner as well as becoming a certified Ritual Judge. Matt Kivikko was installed as the N.E. District Deputy for the 2006-2007 Lodge year at the Grand Lodge convention in Orlando, Florida in July.

Edward Niemi presided as Exalted Ruler of Ishpeming #447 during the 2006-2007 Lodge year. Serving as his right hand "man" was Leading Knight, Sharon Kivikko, the spouse of two time PER and PDDGER, Matt Kivikko. Ishpeming #447 would have its first female Exalted Ruler in 2007-2008 when Sharon was then elected to that post. Sharon & Matt would attend the Grand Lodge Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Sharon would fill out her term successfully to also become 447's first female PER. In the Spring of 2008 Michigan's Northeast and Northwest District Lodges gathered in the Soo for the annual Spring Convention and Ritual competition. The Ishpeming Ritual team once again took first place in the Ritual contest, with E.R. Sharon and Inner Guard, Dan Murphy, winning Major Trophies. The business meeting marked an affirmative vote by the delegates present to combine the two Upper Peninsula Districts beginning in the 2008-2009 Lodge year. This combining of the two Districts was brought forth as necessary during a prior Fall meeting of two Districts by our State Grand Lodge Sponsor, the Honorable James C. Varenhorst, PGER. The two U.P. Districts would henceforth be named the Upper Peninsula District #4280. The State Association Spring Convention was held for the first time in the newly completed Little River Casino in Manistee. Ishpeming's very own Tom Bianco would be elected and installed as the State Association Second Vice President.

The 2008-2008 Lodge kicked off with the installation of Ishpeming second consecutive female Exalted Ruler, Kathy Jo Stratton.