

THE

# Elks

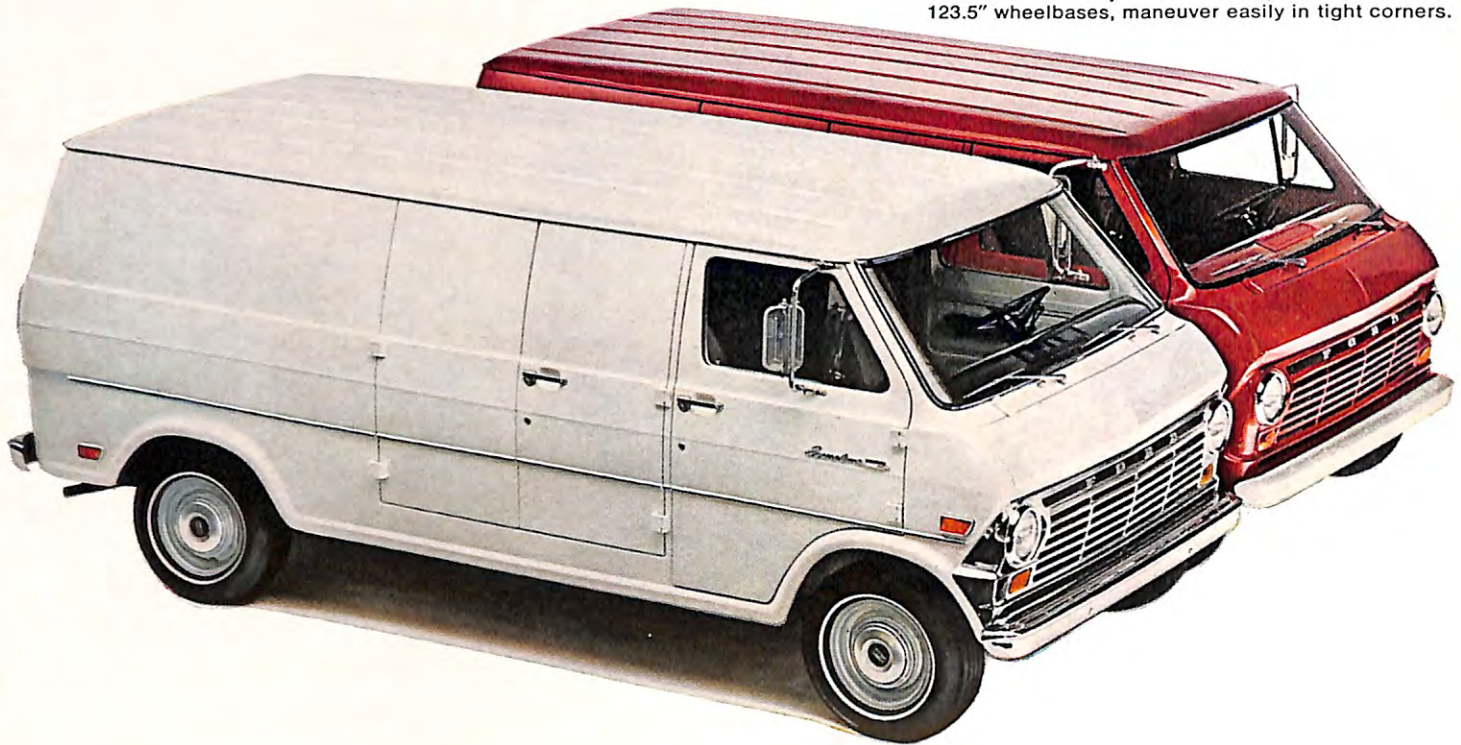
MAGAZINE  
AUGUST 1968



OTERO



New Van and SuperVan models, with 105.5" and 123.5" wheelbases, maneuver easily in tight corners.

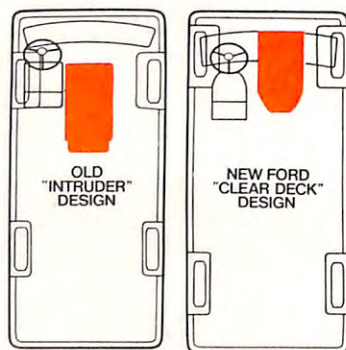


# Ford's all-new Econoline Vans. So many better ideas they make all others obsolete.

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**New! "Driver walk-thru."** New engine location gives driver easy access to rear load area. Engines include two economy Sixes and a big new 302 cu. in. V-8.

## FORD ECONOLINE VANS



Ford ...has a better idea!





# Tom Wrigley

WRITES FROM  
WASHINGTON

TW TW TW TW TW TW TW TW TW TW TW TW TW TW

**PUTTING ASIDE POLITICS** for the moment as final preparations for the big GOP and Democratic National Conventions have been completed, let's take a look at conditions in the U.S.A. Employment is at a record high. So is the cost of living. So are taxes. So are wages. The new tax bill, however, is expected to slow down rising living costs next year. Latest surveys show hospital charges are up 35 percent. Other increases above the average include hotels, household services, postal rates, movie tickets, doctors' fees, haircuts, dentists' fees, rents, footwear, tobacco products, liquor, restaurant prices, dairy products, taxis, clothing, and beauty shop services. Less-than-average increases include gasoline, telephones, cereals and bakery products, floor covering, utility charges. They say 1969 auto price tags will be higher. So where do we go from here?

**CRIME THE MONSTER** is on the loose in this country, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover stresses in his latest FBI Bulletin. He said, "It is growing in size and violence. Our population increased approximately 10 percent in 1960 through 1967. During that period, serious crimes grew 88 percent. The answer—let the guilty criminal know that when he is arrested he will be promptly prosecuted and substantially punished. A good time to begin would be now."

**MORE SECRET SERVICE** protection for presidential and vice presidential candidates this fall has been provided by Congress. The measure makes \$2 million available for extra guards. It is part of an \$8.1 billion appropriation for the Treasury and Post Office departments. It sailed through the House by a 360-10 vote and was approved by a voice vote in the Senate.

**PAY INCREASES** for over one million white collar and related government employes have at last gone into effect. The new rates, in general, reflect the sliding scale 4.9 percent raise ordered by President Johnson. Postal employes have received an across-the-board hike

of 5 percent. Additional increases will go into effect next July.

**RIOT SENTENCES** in Washington are harsh in General Sessions Court of Judge Charles Halleck. He sentenced three men to a year in jail after a jury found them guilty of looting beer and wine from a store during a riot. There was a curfew in effect at the time.

**NEONATOLOGY** is the medical specialty of Dr. Vildan Erkan who is now a member of the staff of the Columbia Hospital for Women here. He is an expert on potential high risk births and already has discovered two cases of hyaline membrane disease, which caused the death of Patrick Bouvier Kennedy, son of the late President Kennedy. Using his new treatment, he saved the lives of both local children.

**D.C. AUTO TAGS** always attract the attention of summer visitors when they see cars with low numbers. Tag No. 1 is the car of the Mayor of Washington, Walter E. Washington. If you see a car with tag 31 it is that of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. Cardinal Patrick A. O'Boyle has tag No. 37. Robert S. McNamara, former Defense Secretary, has tag No. 49. And you-all from Okla. if you see tag 112 it's the car of Sen. Mike Monroney.

**MILLIONS FOR DEFENSE** in the everlasting arguments in Congress prompts Rep. Sidney R. Yates (Ill.) to remind his colleagues that our first President, George Washington, had a similar problem. In the first Congress, under a wave of economy, a law was passed limiting the number of men in the armed services to 20,000. President Washington suggested the Congress also pass a law limiting the size of any invading force to 19,000.

**BACK AILMENTS** hurt several million Americans every year and Sen. Joseph S. Clark (Pa.) is still trying to establish a "national back institute" to study lame backs. Incidentally he has back trouble himself. Last year he proposed a bill to establish a study of

back disorders in the National Institutes of Health. There are about 500,000 back injuries a year costing industry perhaps \$1 billion in sick pay.

**JEANE DIXON**, famous Washington seeress, predicted as long ago as last January there would be a "planned attempt" on the life of Robert F. Kennedy. She told this to businessmen at a luncheon in Nashville, Tenn.; also in Nashville to Alex Belanow, real estate editor of the Washington Daily News and to former Rep. Frank Boykins (Ala.). In her 1968 forecast for Newsday, Inc., she saw a "dark cloud" over Senator Kennedy. In an interview with the Washington Evening Star she predicted Senator Kennedy might have "a great and planned accident." Mrs. Dixon also forecast the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

**TRAVEL BARGAINS** for foreign tourists are being issued this summer by the U.S., entitling them to lower prices for air and rail fares and reductions in shops and hotels over here. Just how much the reductions are has not been advertised but they are available.

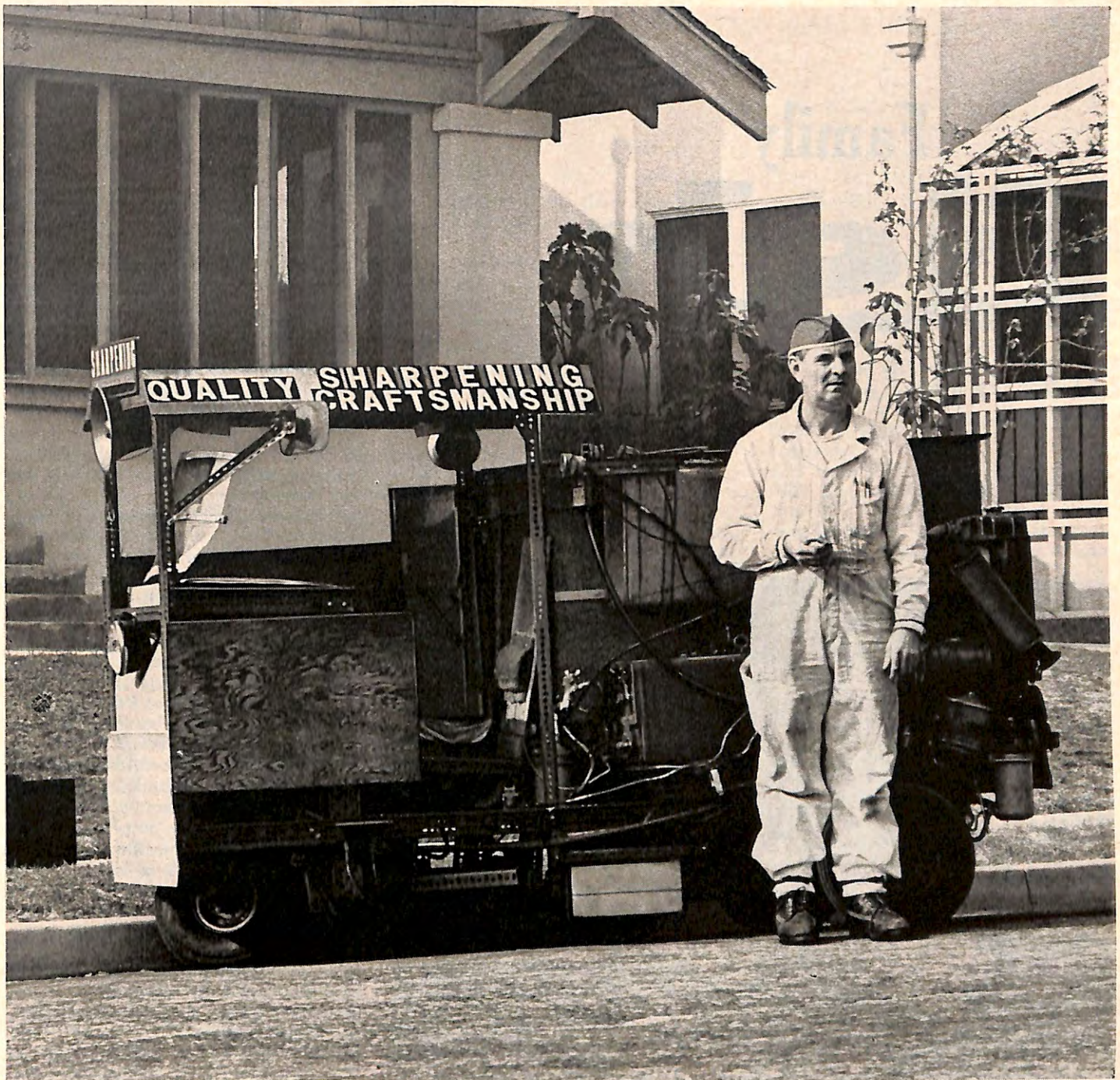
**HONORABLE DISCHARGE** from the U.S. Army after a year of argument was granted to Pvt. Jim Aufenthie. The 19-year-old lad is 6-feet-2 and weighs 200 pounds. He enlisted from Rochester, Minn. Jim has big feet, wears a 16½ shoe, width EEEEE. There ain't no such shoes in the Army.

**U. S. BAD DEBT** comes to light in a claim by Mrs. William Horner of Capistrano Beach, Cal. She is a direct descendant of John Ross of Philadelphia, who loaned the Continental Congress in 1775, 19,000 pounds sterling and never got it back. At that time the pound was worth \$4.44. In 1935 the Federal government paid Mrs. Horner \$1,800 on account. Now her Congressman, James B. Utt (Cal.) has introduced a special bill to award her the original \$86,000 which her ancestor advanced. At compound interest Uncle Sam would owe her \$164 million.









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# Family fish that fit the frying pan

by Byron W. Dalrymple



It is amusing to me to remember a summer vacation trip my family and I took several years ago, a trip during which I, the mighty angler, intended to introduce my wife and my two sons to some sensational fishing for large trout. The place was a lovely lake in Montana. We arrived overflowing with anticipation. While we were getting installed in our quarters, Terry, my younger son, ran down to the boat dock, as boys do.

Now I appeared with the full regalia of tackle. As I was piling it into the boat, Terry said, "Gosh, Dad, there are millions of nice big sunfish all along the shore here."

"Uh-huh." A man after big trout doesn't have time to hear about sunfish.

"I think," Terry said, "they're common sunfish. I didn't think we'd find those in Montana."

As one who had made a living for a good many years writing about the outdoors, I felt proud that I'd trained my boys well enough in basic ichthyology so that Terry would recognize the common sunfish, that colorful little panfish often called a "punkinseed," by seeing hordes of them swimming around the shallows. I, too, was surprised to find them way up here in northwestern Montana. In fact, I took a look to make sure Terry was right. There *were* swarms of them. Nice-sized ones, too.

Soon we were all four settled in the boat and hard at it trying to catch some of those outsized trout for which this lake was famed. By noon, however, we were back at the dock, tired, troutless, and with family ties fraying a bit at the edges. Lunch and a cold drink and an hour of relaxation perked everyone up. About 2:00 I was ready to go again.

We couldn't find Terry. Presently, however, his mother spied him down at the dock. He seemed awfully busy. When we got down there, we found Terry fishing for sunfish.

"Boy! Have I got a string of 'em!" He was tremendously excited and happy. He ran to pull up his stringer and show us. He did, indeed, have quite a string. "Couldn't I stay here and catch these?" he asked.

"But what about the big trout?" I was half annoyed.

"Well," he said, "we haven't caught any big trout. Anyway, these are just as much fun."

Mike, who is older, said, "If you don't want to leave Terry alone, I'll stay here with him."



I know these kids mighty well. I saw that little gleam in Mike's eye. He wasn't thinking one darned bit about Terry—except helping Terry add to that string of sunfish!

Toward late afternoon Ellen and I came back in, troutless and dismal. The boys were beaming. They had a big mess of sunfish all cleaned and on ice for supper. They were now fishing with small lures, catching more and letting them go. Their mother eagerly walked over to try her hand at it. That was enough for me. I went up and got my waders on, and set up a fly rod.

When I appeared again, wading the edge of the lake, Terry said, "What're you going to do?"

I laughed. "I'm going to *catch* some fish for a change. Sunfish. With my fly rod and a small wet fly."

During the next several hours I was constantly busy playing one scrappy little sunfish after another. How many hundreds of times, I reflected, had some one of the so-called panfish, the less consequential freshwater species that are found hither and yon from border to border and coast to coast by the millions, saved a day for someone, both in sport and good eating?! How many times had they furnished great family fun?! It is a fact that these fish, named for their size because all of them will conveniently fit into a skillet, get very little formal publicity. No one, as it's said, loves them except people. They are far and away the most sought after, most caught, most abundant, most willing, least lauded, of all our sport fishes. And just maybe they should be classed at the top of the list of "game" fish, for they furnish without any question more

enjoyment and action than all others of the popular larger species lumped together.

In addition, as a group these small panfish are among the most delicious of fish fare. Also, they cause no problems, even in our day of ever growing numbers of anglers, for the fisheries management people—except by becoming so overwhelmingly numerous they need even far *more* fishing than they get. What further upbeat attributes could be asked of a group of fish?!

Those Montana sunfish literally saved the day for us. They were delicious eating. They fought very well for their size. Indeed, year after year the panfish, of which the various sunfishes make up the bulk, keep giving that same kind of satisfaction. They can be caught easily and numerous by one and all, from youngest to oldest, regardless of ability. And, they can be caught by all methods and tackle, from crudest to most sophisticated.

There is no official definition of exactly which species should be called "panfish." The term has long been applied simply to the smaller varieties of common freshwater fish. A year ago I wrote in *Elks* about fishing for yellow perch. Sometimes these are lumped in with the panfish. By and large, however, the true sunfishes and a few of their relatives are the species meant when the term "panfish" is used. The list includes the black crappie and the white crappie, the rock bass, and the warmouth bass. These belong to the large sunfish family, *Centrarchidae*. But within the big family is the group, or scientific genus, that contains the so-called "true" sunfishes. These are

the deep-bodied, compressed fishes, often almost round in outline, with colorful spots and speckles and with an "earflap" protruding from the gill cover that may be black, as in the bluegill sunfish, or with a bright spot or slash or blotch of gaudy red as exhibited by several other sunfish species.

The bluegill is possibly the best known, one of the largest and scrappiest and most delicious of these sunfishes. It ranges throughout the Great Lakes region, the Mississippi Valley and from Florida to Texas, and has been stocked in many other places. This is a handsome fish, often growing to a pound or a bit more, the males during spring spawning season dappled up with bright blue around the gill covers and a dashing orange throat. Literally millions of bluegills are caught every year, by still-fishing with worms or crickets or other such bait, by casting small lures, and in particular by fly fishing either with sinking flies or with surface "popping bugs" that attract them into smashing strikes.

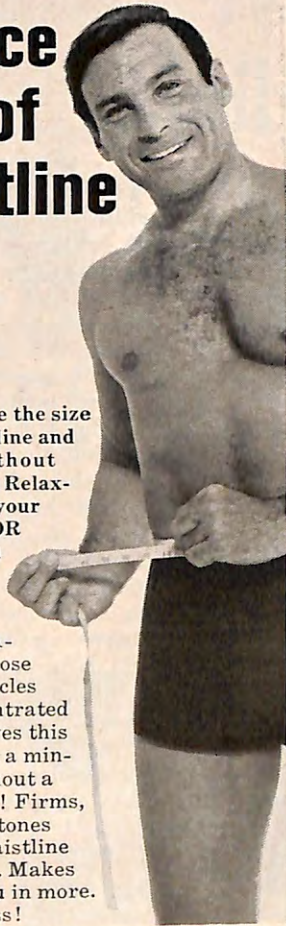
In the U.S. there are at least fifteen or twenty other sunfish species. Most of these are too small to be considered sport fish. However, at least three besides the bluegill are because of their size really fine "fun-fish." The red-ear sunfish or shellcracker is one. It grows in Florida and elsewhere in the Deep South sometimes to two pounds or more, but averages about like the bluegill. It is mottled greenish, or brassy, with a scarlet margin on the earflap. From Iowa to Texas and Florida these sunfishes are common and abundant. They are truly tremendous fighters, when you

(Continued on page 9)





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Royal Oak, Mich. The National Foundation recognized two outstanding members from the lodge for their participation in the support of the Century Club. Brothers Fred Good-year and John Pedder received their Century Certificates and golden lapel pin from PER Hank Jurrjens.



Richland, Wash. Donald J. Parsons is the recipient of an \$800 grant from the Elks National Foundation to continue his training in cerebral palsy. Presentation of the grant was made by ER Robert J. Lee. Mr. Parsons is a student at Baylor University and will return to the university this fall.



## Money-Minded Management



# It's Your Business!

by James L. Slattery and Richard Gosswiller

One of the most successful small businessmen we know opened a restaurant in Chicago almost fifty years ago. It wasn't a big restaurant, and his wife helped him run it, but Bill Higgins, as we'll call him, made some good decisions at the beginning and has kept on making them. Today that restaurant is one of the best known in the Chicagoland area even though its prices are modest, its decor unimposing, and it doesn't serve alcoholic beverages.

Today Bill Higgins is worth at least a million dollars. "My only money problem these days is taxes," he says. He could have retired years ago (his son manages the place), but he still comes to work to help handle the noon-hour rush and to greet by their first names customers who eat there year after year. But he does take time out to play golf, travel to Europe, and maintain a large assortment of friends and acquaintances, some of whom are bankers, lawyers, and investment counselors. All in all, Bill seems to have realized the goals of most small businessmen: business independence, time for himself, and wealth.

Not every restaurant owner achieves all of these goals. What, then, sets Bill apart? For one thing, he didn't depend entirely on his restaurant as a source of income, as many owners do. At an early stage Bill Higgins became a shrewd investor in real estate and corporate stocks. He chose a business location where real estate prices were fairly low, and adapted his restaurant to the needs of the local population. He invested in sound stocks with growth potential. Eventually, he came to own the entire building that housed his restaurant. Today, with urban redevelopment underway, his property is worth many times what he paid for it. His stocks have appreciated in similar fashion.

Bill Higgins clearly began his career with the aim of making money. It's surprising how few small businessmen

do! To many, their business is simply a way of earning a living that is different but much more difficult than holding a job. Bill Higgins and his family don't have to worry about suddenly losing their business, as many small businessmen do, because, while he built his restaurant on a shoestring, he was careful to make it just part of a total package of income-producing assets.

Bill might also have gone on to create a restaurant chain, but he didn't choose to. Instead, he achieved what so many small businessmen yearn for. He has the best of two worlds—the worlds of small and big business. He retained his independence; he kept his personal contact with customer-friends; he lived a full family life; he found time to take vacations. All the while his business prospered and he became wealthy.

Bill did it by developing management skills and by being money-minded. As Bill himself says, "It helps to know what you want right from the start."

### MANAGEMENT MEMOS

*Don't waste money on unproductive "assets"!* The term "assets" sounds good, but remember that "assets" is a technical term in accounting and law, and that not all assets are valuable assets. Some are actually profit-eating "white elephants." Too many small businessmen buy furniture and equipment items that don't really help build profits and have little resale value.

*Big business executives aren't supermen.* It is easy enough for a small businessman to come to believe that big business executives are "management supermen" and that the large companies serenely avoid making the kinds of mistakes that so often occur in small business. While big businesses do have large reservoirs of management skill and experience, the sheer financial strength of a large company can enable it to survive even disastrous mis-

takes. A big company is a financial "ocean liner," the typical very small business a financial "rowboat." Often it's even a financially leaky rowboat. More of the right kind of money-mindedness in a small businessman can promote his business into at least the "small yacht" class.

*Do you use your contacts?* It's one thing to have plenty of business contacts, as most small businessmen do, but it's another matter to use them productively. If using friends and acquaintances to make money sounds cold blooded, it needn't be. There are many fair ways that can be beneficial to the friend as well—if not in the short run, perhaps in the long.

*Listen to salesmen.* Next time a salesman sells you something, give some thought as to just how he did it. You'll learn not only about his methods but about yourself as an individual. You may not have much money to spend on advertising and formal sales promotion, but there are other ways to get the word around. Use them.

*Your role in your business.* Regardless of the size of your business, your main role is to be its manager! From the findings of a survey it made a few years ago, Dun & Bradstreet, Inc. reported that poor management is the cause of more than 90% of small-business failures! A large number of these had their ultimate source in the conviction that a desire to be independent—and a willingness to put in long hours and a lot of hard work—more or less constituted all the ability required for "managing" a small business successfully. Nothing could be further from the truth. In America today, the kind of highly capable general management that must be provided by the owner-operator of a small business is much harder to find than is the specialized and limited managerial skill needed by the average middle-management man in a large company. The smaller your business is, the more you have to try.





## Lodge Visits of Robert E. Boney

**B.P.O. Elks Centennial 1868-1968**

# The Journey's End

The Wyoming State Association recently completed a three-day meeting at which GER Robert E. Boney gave a stirring speech emphasizing the spirit of Americanism. Brother Boney also pointed out the important gains that the Elks have made in combatting cerebral palsy and also in aiding crippled children. Other guests at the meeting were (left to right) GL Americanism Committeeman Arthur Drehle, PGER H. L. Blackledge, and GL Committeeman Campbell Rice.



GER and Mrs. Robert E. Boney arrived at Huntington W. Va., Lodge for a Memorial Day visit. PGER Wade H. Kemper and ER H. L. Godschalk, Jr., along with a large delegation of members, were on hand to greet them at Huntington airport. During Brother Boney's visit to the lodge he presented National Foundation Certificates to members. Receiving the certificates from Brother Boney are (left to right) PER Marlin Kidd, who is also Chairman of the National Foundation Committee, PDDGER Jack M. Williams, PSP W. Don Morris, C. J. Hughes, PER Jack Stark, Treas. Oval Barr, Organist Jack Workman, E. H. Gerlach, and Oscar Foscatto.



GER Robert E. Boney enjoys a visit to the Kansas Elks Training Center for the retarded in Wichita. The center is the major project of the state association. Visiting the center with Brother Boney are Director of the center Dean Settles, PGER H. L. Blackledge, member of Grand Lodge Auditing Committee John T. Kirkwood, State Pres. Cliff Lyon, and Chairman Lloyd Chapman.



Dedication of the new lodge building for Jacksonville Beach, Fla., Lodge coincided with the visit of GER Robert E. Boney. Welcoming Brother Boney to the lodge are Trustee Henry C. Thompson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees John G. Medlock, PGER William A. Wall, ER Robert L. Spinks, and Trustee Clarence L. Gillham.



(Continued from page 5)

hook the larger individuals. They are usually caught on bait such as worms, fished on bottom. Some are taken on flies or lures, but these are predominantly bottom feeders. I have seen great spawning concentrations in Florida where literally tons of big fellows of a pound or more were packed into small areas. They could be caught, by fishing bait on bottom, just as fast as one could get the bait down. And what wonderful eating they are!

Then there is that much loved big sunfish chiefly of the east and the Gulf States, but ranging here and there from Maine and Minnesota to Florida and Texas, the "yellowbelly" or Yellowbreast Sunfish, often in the Carolinas called "redbreast." This fellow often weighs a pound, too, but is a bit more slender in outline than the other species. It is greenish, with wavy lines of blue along the cheeks, the males with bright yellow throat. The earflap is most distinctive, long, narrow, and club-shaped, but without any gaudy color. I have caught these sunfish in places like the Suwannee River in Florida both with bait such as freshwater mollusk meat, and with flies. They are predominantly sunfish of large slow streams, although some are found in lakes, too. They're great fighters and fine eating.

The common sunfish is almost too well known to need description. This is the "sunny," so often lyrically described as a "boy's first fish." Often it is small, but in some lakes it may weigh close to a pound. It is a beautiful creature, greenish with yellow flecks, or brassy, sometimes with vertical darker bars. The cheeks have striking aqua lines in a wavy pattern, and the males have a canary yellow throat. The earflap sports a long red spot at its lower rear edge. This sunfish has been stocked until it is found practically everywhere. It often resides in lakes where bluegills abound, but is in such situations seldom as numerous as the bluegill. It likes the shallower, weedier areas, is caught mainly near or on bottom, but will also strike surface as well as sunken flies.

These—the bluegill, the red-ear, the yellowbreast, the common sunfish—are the mainstays of the sunfish tribe. Two others, the common green sunfish of creeks and ponds, and the beautiful longeared sunfish found mostly in clear streams of the South, are colorful, sporty, and scrappy in their larger sizes, but often they are not as large as the others and thus are bypassed by fishermen.

The well-known crappies, nowadays super-abundant in dozens of our large impoundments, and the rock bass and its cousin the warmouth bass, all grow as large or larger than the true sunfishes. Crappies take flies and strike

lures, but by far the major share of the tremendous catch is made with small minnows. Crappies are extremely important fish in the big man-made lakes. The rock bass and its look-much-alike relative, the warmouth, will take all sorts of baits and lures. These two are not quite as sporty, nor quite as good eating, as the sunfishes. The crappies, while adored by thousands of cane pole fishermen and others, and good eating indeed, are softer of flesh than the larger sunfishes. Although it is impossible to decide which among all of these panfish is the best of the lot in catching fun, it is a fact that the various sunfishes such as the bluegill probably draw the most attention over the widest territory. And, because of their solid strike and strong, flat-sided battle, they are consequently and by consensus considered the sportiest of the panfish.

As I write that sentence it recalls vividly a time when our two boys were first trying their hands at using fly rods. I was anxious to introduce them to this grand sport, and I had long since taught my wife the rudiments. In fact, as so often happens when a girl marries a fisherman, our honeymoon started out as a proper "city" variety of trip, which I slowly and somewhat craftily changed by gentle and devious scheming until we wound up with Ellen learning to fly-

fish for several species of sunfish on a central-Florida back-country lake.

At any rate, the spring I am remembering, when the boys were small, we had taken a picnic lunch and gone to a backwoods north-Michigan lake where I had discovered that the reedy shallows were often, in June, practically stiff with big bluegills. The boys could not at this point cast very well with a fly fishing outfit. That made no difference. I tied on wet flies for them, set them up in a spot where they could hardly hang up on their backcast, and let them worry with it. There was not much worry, actually, because every time either boy succeeded in spite of himself in getting the woolly little bug out into the water, it would start to sink and a big bluegill would rush in, seize it, and race away. This caused boy to yank back as line started away, whereupon bluegill was instantly impaled. Talk about a hilarious session of kids yelling and rods bending!

Meanwhile, to add to the bedlam, their mother and I stood a bit away, casting farther out with our fly rods, and occasionally by this means picking up an outside bluegill along with the mine-run size. There was as I recall a limit at that time in Michigan of fifteen bluegills a day. At any rate, in no time we had a tremendous flopping

(Continued on page 26)

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# Witness at the Moment of TRUTH

by Charles W. Wiley



(Newsman-lecturer Charles W. Wiley expressed the following thoughts in a personal letter from Vietnam to his wife.)

"When a man is a 'Hawk'--when he has dedicated much of his time, and used whatever influence he has, to send men to war, I think that it is a damned good thing that he goes to a place like Hue. He should look at what he has asked these men to do, and live a little of it. The responsible anti-communist must very clearly face the results, and the terrible cost, of taking a strong stand.

"I've seen war before--a lot of it, in many places--but it has never been capsulated for me as at Hue. When I say we should fight, it's not a voice from an ivory tower. It's said with the full, awful knowledge of what that means. And every time the casualty reports come in, I die a little.

"But none of this has changed my determination. Sometimes suffering is necessary to avoid greater suffering. I've seen as bad as there is to see over here, but I'm absolutely sure that it's worth even this terrible price. And if I'm wrong, God help me."

**Introduction.** Charles W. Wiley covered part of the Battle of Hue--the bloodiest of the Vietnam war--from inside the ancient citadel. He spent his last hours in the city at a first aid station waiting for spare space aboard a medical evacuation (medevac) helicopter--the only transportation in or out during the critical period when all land and water routes were cut off by the communists, and low visibility and heavy fire had stopped all but the most urgent emergency flights. He saw many U.S. Marine casualties--young Americans facing their greatest ordeal. And he watched some of them die.

These are his most vivid memories of those terrible hours--recorded just after he left Hue.

A few blocks from the chopper pad, a medical corpsman goes to help a Marine with a bullet in his throat, and is himself cut down by rocket shrapnel. On the truck bringing both to the aid station, the wounded corpsman per-



forms a tracheotomy and gives his buddy mouth-to-mouth resuscitation until they reach the station. As his own wounds are treated, he watches others take over the impossible job of trying to save the young man with the tube in his throat. They finally turn around and sadly shake their heads in answer to the pleading gaze of the corpsman on the stretcher.

Every time another truckload of wounded Americans arrives, there is a mad dash to reach them—by corpsmen, to get treatment started as quickly as possible, and by newsmen, anxious to get photographs. The more pathetic the picture, the more interest by much of the press, and they nearly knock each other down in their rush to get the worst scenes recorded for, among others, the families of these brave young men to see. I suspect that vultures show more good taste—and I recall a movie (“La Dolce Vita”) about the sordid world of the gangs of heartless photographers in Rome. The conscious wounded watch them with disgust.

There is very little moaning—but much cussing. Nearly all of the

wounded men refuse to show signs of pain or fear, although their eyes often give them away. To cover up their feelings they cuss out everyone and everything—the VC (Viet Cong), the situation, and even inanimate objects. When a corpsman must hurt them while giving treatment, they yelp—and often curse him for his “poor technique” and “general meanness.” But there’s never any doubt of how they really feel about their corpsmen. One speaks for all with the shouted declaration, in the special language of this war: “Corpsmen, number one! VC, number ten!”—the highest and lowest ratings awarded in Vietnam.

One young Marine, suffering wounds from an explosion directly in front of

his face, has trouble with his vision. The more frightened he becomes, the more he swears. He talks loudly—actually shouting sometimes—telling coarse jokes about the war, the service, and himself. And I dread, for him, the moment when he will finally have to think seriously about his situation. Later he becomes very quiet—then, mercifully, falls asleep. The doctor tells me that although he anticipates temporary problems, there is probably not any permanent damage.

Are the stakes in Vietnam worth the suffering in this shabby little shack? I ask those wounded who can speak comfortably, after getting their permission to do so. Without an exception they support the United States effort in Vietnam—and all say they are willing to carry on the fight when they recover. Everyone here agrees that the U.S. must win or else we’ll have to fight communism on other areas, closer to home and under worse conditions. The consensus even includes a private who was against the war when he arrived,





having enlisted "to get my service over with." He's seen "what the communists are like" and is now convinced that they must be stopped in Vietnam.

As new wounded are brought in, any in shape to answer questions are pumped for information by those already on stretchers waiting to be evacuated. "Is that you, Smith?" "Where'd you get hit?" "Did they get the lieutenant off the wall?" "Who's in command now?" "Is Jack all right?" Always hoping that they won't get the wrong answers, and when they do, a deep breath, then silence, or a curse—sometimes shouted, sometimes barely audible.

A Marine brings the news that "they got our dog," and there is general sadness. In the middle of all this human suffering, these wonderful young men still have sympathy for another of God's creatures.

I spend nearly all of my time inside the aid station, doing what I can to help—lighting cigarettes for the wounded and putting them between their lips, giving water, anything that seems worthwhile—and I still feel totally inadequate. It probably does more good for me than for them. I try to think otherwise—but don't believe it.

Someone finds several sacks of mail and it's a mystery where they came from. The best guess is that they had been brought in previously and overlooked because of more pressing activities. In any case, I get the names of the wounded and sort through the mail, hoping that there'll be at least a letter or two for each man. When, at the end of the pile, there are fellows without mail, I think of all the well-meaning people who put off writing to loved ones in the service. For a brief moment I wish that they all could be here to see the price of their tardiness—then realize that this would be too great a punishment for those who really meant no harm.

Somehow there's a feeling of safety inside this place, even when there are explosions or small arms fire nearby—as if it is a small haven in a world of danger. Certainly not because the Communists would spare a hospital area—their record makes clear that they would not—but only because it would be just too unfair for these men to be hit again.

On arriving in Hue I had been one of several newsmen who went through a pile of discarded flak jackets and helmets that had belonged to Americans who were now beyond their protection, looking for equipment that could still be used. Many items were damaged or bloody, and I felt like a ghoul, even though there's no realistic

argument against trying to protect myself. It still somehow seemed wrong, but I took a helmet and flak jacket anyway.

Now, standing beside the wounded, the helmet in my hand, I discover that there's dried blood on the inside that I hadn't noticed when picking it out. But I don't clean it off. Somehow it doesn't really matter.

At three o'clock in the afternoon, after one year, one month, and 19 days without a cigarette, I light up one for myself.

Long after my very close proximity to the wounded, including the worst cases, I suddenly realize that I'm totally oblivious to the physical aspect of the situation. Squeamish since childhood, I had always avoided close looks at seriously wounded whenever possible and wouldn't have dreamed of watching surgery. But today it means nothing. How strange. After some thought I decide that my feeling for the men themselves, not their physical flesh and blood, is so overwhelming that the other simply isn't important any longer. And perhaps my subconscious dictates that if they can suffer the wounds, I sure as hell can look at them!

Later, a couple of newsmen—who had only looked at the wounded through the rangefinders of their cameras—told colleagues that they had been physically sick at the sight.

A truckload of wounded Vietnamese Marines arrives and I think back a few hours to when I had been at their command post. During a discussion with a veteran combat officer it had occurred to me that he had been fighting for all of his adult life, and I wondered how long he could continue to beat the odds. The answer came on the last stretcher brought from the truck. The Vietnamese officer is in very bad shape, hit by a rocket. After emergency treatment he's carried to a nearby Vietnamese hospital for an operation—the loss of at least one leg certain; his chances for life only about 50-50. I think of those, especially the reporters, who continually and unfairly criticize South Vietnamese fighting men, usually because it's the "In" thing to do. I notice that no one takes a picture of any of the wounded Vietnamese, or of the one who dies in our aid station, and try to remember seeing a photograph in the United States of a dead or wounded South Vietnamese soldier—and can't. And I wonder why there aren't any.

(Back in the U.S., many reports on the battle of Hue, as in the case of most battles, ignored the role of the South Vietnamese. And later there were vague charges by American

"doves" that they took no part in the fighting. This is not only untrue, but is a terrible injustice to the South Vietnamese Marines, rangers, airborne, infantry, and other units that did such an outstanding job during the bitter 25 day battle for Hue.

(Fortunately, there recently has been a dramatic change in the coverage of the Vietnamese armed forces. They have been given much fairer treatment by our mass-communications media.)

With our forces badly weakened by the mounting casualties, the less seriously wounded are told that their automatic pull-out from the combat zone after getting a third Purple Heart is suspended. There are no complaints.

How, after all the mistakes made by my generation and before, the errors that made it necessary that young Americans must bleed here—and after having had their country, their heritage, and their heroes downgraded for years in books, movies, newspapers, magazines, on television, etc.—how in hell do they still have the stuff to go out and fight this well?

Speaking for nearly all Americans, I lean over and say to a wounded Marine, "Thanks for picking up the check for the rest of us." He does his best to smile, and weakly gives the thumbs-up sign. Turning away, I feel like crying.

And I do.

If the people of the United States fail to back these fine men, the fate of our country will be sealed by moral decay.

While watching an American serviceman fighting for life in this faroff place, I think of Suburbia, U.S.A.—most of its inhabitants trying to hide from the world in their psychological fallout shelters while immersed in trivia.

I think of the young bums who run around in black jackets and the street gangs—the hippies and pseudo-intellectuals—the childish, irresponsible college students and the traitors who burn American flags—people who aren't worthy of holding the combat boots of the kids fighting here—and wonder why Providence spares *them* while *these* suffer. But can we be sure who suffers the most? These young men have dignity and honor. The others are sick people, struggling for a way out of their own dark inner turmoil.

The helicopter landing pad area is ringed with enemy machine guns and almost every chopper takes heavy fire on the way in or out. (The one that had brought me to Hue was hit, including two 50-calibre bullets that came up through the floor, just missing the head of another newsmen, and went out through the roof.) Only when the immediate evacuation of wounded is necessary do flights land and take off.



Nevertheless, some newsmen, very anxious to leave Hue in order to file stories, begin to pressure a radio operator. They urge him to prod the Marine medevac squadron in Phu Bai to send in a chopper to pick up wounded—and themselves. Several British correspondents even sneeringly downgrade the courage of the Marine pilots. When I heatedly point out that newsmen, here only because of the courtesy of the military, have no right to endanger a crew and passengers to solve personal problems, they suddenly show great concern for the wounded. Now the reason they want a chopper is because “otherwise one of the wounded will die.” I check this out and an angry corpsman announces to the press that such is not the case—that none of the wounded is in critical condition. Later, at a Saigon hotel, a British correspondent angrily accuses me of killing good copy; that the corpsman’s statement ruined his story of neglected American wounded! When there are men who really do need immediate evacuation, a craft runs the gantlet to pick them up—but after the wounded are loaded, there is no room to take any newsmen aboard. And I’m glad, even though I don’t get out, either. After we leave the pad, I smile at my long-faced colleagues: “Now you can relax—all the wounded are out.” If looks could kill, I’d be added to the casualty list on the spot.

.....

Eventually there are about two dozen newsmen waiting to leave Hue. Two, an American and a Vietnamese, spend much of their time helping the wounded, but few others come into the aid station for long—some not at all. Many prefer to stand outside while they worry about getting out quickly. The other major topic of discussion is the U.S. military, whose every move is criticized or made fun of.

.....

I’m angry at many of the newsmen: the ones who take tasteless, sensational pictures; the Americans who can stay neutral while our kids are dying; those whose only concern is themselves. (There are, of course, a large number of excellent correspondents in Vietnam—decent people personally, and good reporters—who have added bright new pages to the history of journalism.)

.....

On the other hand, I have nothing but admiration for the corpsmen who work without a break, never slowing their pace, always gentle and sympathetic.

The doctor in charge, a Marine captain, specializes in orthopedics as a civilian. Here he does everything and goes about his job with magnificent cool efficiency, making one critical decision after another. During a brief

respite, he explains the philosophy behind them: a mixture of humanitarian and practical considerations that make possible the most difficult and agonizing decisions within split seconds.

.....

There are other good guys here too. A chaplain works quietly among the wounded, ignoring their bad language—and laughs when one of the men suddenly realizes that a chaplain is present and warns the others to watch themselves.

The body of another chaplain was brought to the aid station after he was killed in action. Or was he? His missing helmet and the single wound in the back of his head raise suspicions that he had been captured, then executed. When found, there was a wire tied around his leg, as if the communists were driven off while preparing to booby trap the body. I thought of those in the United States—including clergymen—who march in demonstrations behind Viet Cong flags.

.....

Suddenly two helicopters come out of the clouds and I join the rush to the pad, clutching a pile of outgoing mail shoved into my hand by a corpsman. The wounded are carried out as quickly as possible, but as gently as the circumstances will allow. Running along side—including the two newsmen who

had been in the aid station—are those carrying plasma bottles, trying to keep rhythm with the joggling of the stretchers. And, after all the wounded are aboard, there’s room left for me.

As the chopper takes off, I crouch next to a stretcher, clasping the outstretched hand of a young Marine, and muster up the most encouraging smile possible under the circumstances. He answers with a faint nod—and with his eyes. Looking over the tense, weary faces, waiting to get fired on any second, I pray that none of the wounded gets hit. They’ve made it through the fighting and into the helicopter, and I keep hoping, hoping—so hard that it’s almost a physical action—that they’ll make it safely. It would be too unjust, too cruel, to let them survive and get this far before pulling down the curtain. (Later, I realize that I hadn’t been concerned for my own safety, that love does conquer fear.) And then the chopper is clear of the immediate enemy positions, and it looks like we’re home free. The feeling of relief throughout the helicopter is almost audible—even above the roar of the whirling blades.

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We’ve just left Hell, and we’re back in the light. And I’m proud—very proud—to be an American. Just about as proud as a man can be. ■

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# News of the Lodges

BPO ELKS CENTENNIAL 1868-1968



**THIS 100th BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR ELKDOM** is featured on Port Townsend, Wash., Lodge's float in the town's annual Rhododendron Festival Grand Parade, which culminates a week of celebration in honor of the Washington State flower. The eye-catching float depicting the Elks centennial was designed by Trustee Fred Meadors, and constructed by a team of Port Townsend Elks under the direction of Est. Lead. Kt. Wally Norton.



**ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey,** ER F. Frederick Perone presents a check of \$1,000—the lodge's annual contribution to the Betty Bacharach Home for afflicted children at Longport, N.J.—to Dr. David Allman, a director of the home. Allman is a former president of the American Medical Association. Also present was Mayor Leon Leopardi of Longport.



Getting ready to install the plaque which will designate the pediatrics department at St. John's Medical Center in Joplin, Mo., as "Elkland" are members of the local lodge—PER Edward L. Weber (on left), PSP Guy D. Moore, PER John T. Mattes, and Loren Olson. With them is Sister Mary Bernice, R.S.M., director of the department.

## "ELKLAND"

A newly installed plaque in the pediatrics department at St. John's Medical Center in Joplin, Missouri, designates it as "Elkland"—a tribute to the local lodge, which plays a major role in the operation of the department.

"Elkland" is located in the fourth-floor west tower of the new, \$8-million center. It is comprised of two sections, one for children under 12 years of age and an adolescent wing for teenagers. As an added convenience, Sister Mary Terence, R.S.M., administrator-president, reports "Elkland's" intensive care unit for children is equipped with adult beds where a parent can rest, yet remain with the critically ill child at all times. Complete bathroom facilities also are provided for the parent.

The pediatrics department at St. John's actually was named "Elkland" back in 1953, by Sister Mary Consolata, R.S.M., the then administrator of the hospital. The gesture was made in appreciation to

the Elks for the lodge's contribution of iron lungs and other equipment to the children's unit, in addition to financial aid for the care of polio victims.

The colorfully decorated "Elkland," with its rumpus rooms, toys, and lounge areas for children of all ages, provides a bright, cheerful atmosphere for the young patients during their stay.

An Elks advisory committee has been set up to work in cooperation with the hospital. Committee members—PSP Guy D. Moore, PER Edward L. Weber, and Brother Loren Olson—meet periodically with hospital officials to discuss the needs of the center, and to devise means for the continuous improvement in the care of area children afflicted with polio and other crippling diseases.

Joplin Elks do their share by providing financial and moral support to the department, and lodge members visit often with the hospitalized children at St. John's "Elkland."



**NEW JERSEY ELKS'** retiring SP John W. Purdy Jr. (second from left) is honored by his home Phillipsburg Lodge. Pictured with Brother Purdy as he accepts, among other gifts, an Honorary Life Membership in the lodge are PDD J. Francis Moroney, a lodge member, PGER William J. Jernick, and Phillipsburg ER Edward G. Bullock.

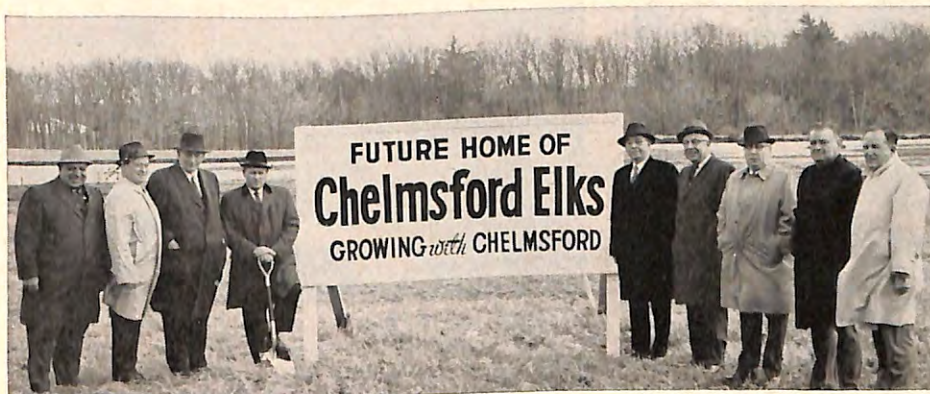




**A \$1,000 CHECK** for the Elks National Foundation—the proceeds from North Tonawanda, N.Y., Elks' bingo program—is presented to DDGER Joseph L. Lawler, a lodge member, by Brother William M. Smith, chairman. Looking on are Treas. George Siegfried, PER Harold H. Valiquette, and Joseph Gorman, co-chairman.



**PGER JOHN E. FENTON**, president of Suffolk University, Boston, addresses the more than 200 persons present at a Watertown, Mass., Lodge-sponsored banquet honoring high school hockey players of Watertown and the neighboring Belmont communities. On the left are Dr. John Kelley, headmaster of Watertown Senior High School, and PDD Louis O. Caporiccio, banquet chairman, and on the right, GL Committeeman John J. Harty, Lawrence. Among the guests at the dinner and dance were team members, cheerleaders, coaches, parents, and school officials. The players received sweaters and the girls charms. The teams also were presented plaques. Individual trophies went to the most valuable player on each team, with the Belmont players choosing the most valuable player for Watertown and the Watertown players choosing the best player for Belmont.



**THE BUILDING** of Chelmsford, Mass., Elks' new lodge home gets under way with recent ground-breaking ceremonies. On hand for the occasion are then SP Arthur D. Kochakian, Haverhill; DDGER Francis J. Buckley, Lowell; PGER John E. Fenton, president of Suffolk University, Boston; PER Joseph B. Shanahan; SDGER Edward A. Spry, of Boston Lodge; W. Edward Wilson, of Newton Lodge, GL Americanism committeeman; John J. Harty, of Lawrence Lodge, GL Credentials committeeman; 1967-1968 lodge Trustees Chairman Kendrick Phillips, and Claude Harvy, building committee chairman.



**A GIFT OF \$500** from Weehawken, N.J., Elks to North Hudson Hospital in Weehawken is being presented by immediate PER Stan Iacono (second from left) to Albert R. Sargent, hospital administrator. The money was designated for the purchase of an Ultra-Sonic Nebulizer for the care of children with respiratory disorders. Also taking part in the recent presentation are PDD Thomas H. Murphy (left), a member of Weehawken Lodge; PVP and Weehawken PER Joseph Backle Jr., chairman of the Elks' Crippled Children's Committee, and Frank Eagan, a member of the Board of Trustees.



**A BOUQUET OF ROSES** was presented to Sister Marie Paul, a recent annual of St. Joseph's Home, Peekskill, N.Y., at a recent annual "Kiddies Day" sponsored by Brookskill Lodge. Pictured with her are Brother Sam DeLuca, youth activities chairman, and ER Gregory Emery. The Elks also donated new gymnasium mats for the school. About 200 boys and girls enjoyed a stage show and a buffet supper with ice cream and birch beer, then danced to the music of a rock 'n' roll band.



## Rare Trophy at Salida

A pair of unique elk heads and antlers were put on display recently in the lobby of Salida, Colo., Elks' home. The huge horns are so tightly locked together that three strong men—one wielding a crowbar—were unable to pry them apart. The pair of bull elk were found locked in mortal combat by Shirley Avery, a long-time lodge member, who gave the trophy to the lodge.

Brother Avery came upon the elk in Bassam Park, a mountain forest area near Buena Vista. The elk apparently had been fighting with their horns locked and, exhausted, had fallen into a beaver pond, where Brother Avery spotted them. One already was drowned; the other was almost dead. They were in about 18 inches of water.

The job of mounting the massive heads was a tough one. Unable to separate them, Frank Liles, a Poncho Springs taxidermist, worked on them as they were, with the huge heads and antlers all but filling his shop. For two years also, he and Art Head, chairman of the Elks' committee on the care of the trophy, examined countless elk skins before they found the perfect match for the lower neck hair, where a patch was needed.

When word of this unusual trophy got around, the lodge was besieged with offers. But the Elks insist that it is not for sale. In fact, Brother Avery is now busy looking for just the right spot in the lodge home in which to display the rare trophy permanently.



Salida, Colorado, ER Clifford E. McClure and PER C. Stanley Hagge examine the lodge's newly installed trophy.



**MEMBERS OF VINELAND, New Jersey,** Lodge's initiation class, which includes the town's two mayoralty candidates, receive membership cards from DDGER Harry F. McGarrigel III (second from left), Atlantic City, in ceremonies marking the 100th anniversary of Elkdom. The initiates are (from left) Joseph H. D'Ippolito, Bennett I. Bardfeld, Mayor Henry A. Garton Jr., and Frank Bagot. Looking on are PER George Spieker and PSP Harrison S. Barnes, Plainfield, a GL New Lodge committeeman.



**A CHECK FOR \$1,000,** the proceeds of West Haven, Conn., Lodge's recent crippled children's party, is being presented by PER John J. Philbin to GL Committeeman Edwin J. Maley, New Haven, chairman of the Connecticut Elks Crippled Children's Committee.

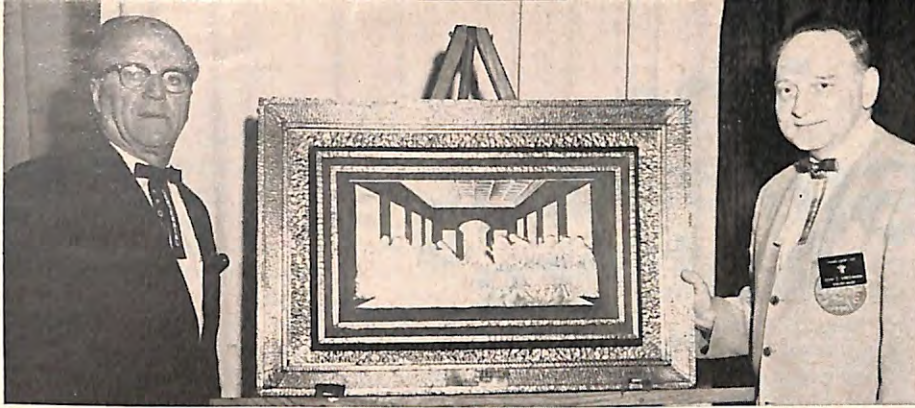
**OAKLAND, New Jersey,** Lodge recently bestowed a high honor, an Honorary Life Membership, upon Brother George Lightheiser (left). Presenting the award is DDGER David E. Dielmann, Montvale, a member of Westwood Lodge.



**THE YOUNGEST PAST EXALTED RULER** in Tyrone, Pa., Lodge's 77-year history—25-year-old Paul B. Woodring (left)—accepts a Past Exalted Rulers plaque and congratulations from his successor, ER William G. Magill.







**TACOMA, Washington,** PER John F. Kneeshaw (right) and Trustee Henry Minkema show the handmade copper reproduction of the Last Supper presented to Brother Kneeshaw by the inmates of the U.S. Penitentiary on McNeil Island during the Elks' recent visit there. Each year about 150 Tacoma members make the trip to McNeil Island, where they talk with the inmates, present entertainment, and share a meal. The gift was a token of appreciation. Brother Minkema, a former employee at McNeil, was one of the originators of the visits.



**THE PIERRE, South Dakota,** Elks golf course yielded its first hole-in-one when Bob Hines, a Pierre businessman and an ardent Elk, appeared on the scene for an afternoon's game. "It was the thrill of a lifetime," said Brother Hines.



◀ **FRANKLIN, Massachusetts,** PER George L. Woods Jr. pins a corsage on Mrs. Mary Browne, who at 96 is the oldest mother at the Palmer Convalescent Home. Accompanying Brother Woods were ER George E. Conklin and Francis Carrigan, the lodge's Mother's Day committeeman. Franklin Elks made similar presentations at each of the area nursing homes.

## LODGE NOTES

**AGANA, GUAM.** Patients at the U. S. Naval Hospital experienced delight when the lodge sponsored a "Hi Mom" program on Mother's Day. More than 30 Vietnam veterans were treated to special phone conversations with their families. These veterans are recovering from wounds received in the course of the Vietnam war.

**ESCONDIDO, CALIF.,** Elks are proud to have as a member Brother Louis A. Goldberg, a PER of Kingston, N.Y., Lodge, who now resides in Escondido. Brother Goldberg obtained 50 new subscribers for the Elks National Foundation on behalf of Escondido Lodge, thus proving, according to ER John D. Welch, "that the interest of the truly dedicated Elk spans the country at its widest points."

**QUINCY, MASS.** The lodge presented 162 students with engraved certificates for "outstanding achievement" in the fields of scholastics, scouting, volunteer nursing, water safety, and work with retarded children. More than 500 persons attended the exercises, which placed the accent on youth and fostering juvenile decency.

**CARMICHAEL, CALIF.** The lodge recently held a ceremony for the purpose of burning the mortgage on their building. They moved into their present quarters in September 1961 and are contemplating a building expansion in the near future.

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA.** A testimonial dinner was held for Secretary Leo C. Gavagan for his 38th year since he started as Assistant Secretary for the lodge in 1929. He has served continuously since that time with the exception of two years during World War II.

**CARTERET, N.J.,** Elks are acquainting area youngsters with the art of chess. The instructor is Brother Herbert Kaplan, who also assisted Carteret High School's athletic department by teaching the sport of wrestling.

**NEWARK, N. Y.** The lodge recently held the annual teenage dance which is only a part of its continuing youth activity program. It was an attractive scene as the youngsters danced to the "big sound" of a group called The Flock. Sharing in the fun was ER Howard Burgess, who attended to *observe* the festivities.

**ST. LOUIS, MO.** The Missouri Elks Association presented a scholarship grant of \$600 to Miss Ann Mitchell. The grant was awarded to Miss Mitchell as the winner of the Most Valuable Student contest and was presented at the state spring convention in Springfield. Miss Mitchell, a student at Principia High School, has been accepted to attend Wellesley College and intends to major in mathematics.

**ONTARIO, CALIF.** Donald A. Taylor, club manager of the lodge, had instructed his secretary to call Dr. Smith, chairman of the installation dinner, who also happens to be a veterinarian, to determine the number of people attending the dinner that evening. She called the doctor's office but was informed that the doctor was out of town and would be for the next few days. Realizing she needed the information immediately, she told the doctor's receptionist that she was calling on behalf of the Ontario Elks and she must speak to the doctor right away. The veterinarian's receptionist replied that she should try another doctor, as Dr. Smith handled only small animals.

(Continued on page 36)



# The Spreading Antlers of Protection



The tiny group of actors and other people associated with the theater who founded the BPOE in 1868 were certainly thinking partly of their own welfare. The preamble to the first Elk constitution read in part: *The undersigned members . . . do hereby organize an Order to promote, protect, and enhance the welfare and happiness of each other.* But anyone who took this as the prime directive of Elkdom would be sadly mistaken. Elks always did much to promote and enhance each other's welfare and happiness—but as early as 1880, they seemed to have become more interested in helping others than in merely helping themselves.

Elks did not turn their backs on their own members. Distressed or unfortunate Elks were and are still aided in innumerable ways. No Elk was to be forgotten or forsaken if his brothers could help it. But the great influx of businessmen and professionals other than the "theatricals" into the Order changed it radically. From a precarious society living on the thin edge of financial disaster, Elkdom became a body of solid American citizens able to help others. That the Elks were also inclined to help others was their great



By T. R. FEHRENBACH

shaping, distinguishing, and dominant characteristic. No one quite knows how, when, or why the Order's unofficial but real business, became that of helping people. But this was inherent in the men who founded the Order, and those who later made it grow.

The first charities of the Order, naturally enough, were for and to its own. The early benefits were designed to aid widows or families of "absent brothers." But very quickly, in 1871, the Order showed signs that its heart was not to be locked behind lodge room doors. In that year, New York Lodge No. 1 threw a large musical benefit performance to help victims of the great Chicago fire. And at that time, there was no Elks lodge in the distressed city.

The Elks were a private, social, fraternal group, not a public or official organization. Membership was never "open" to the public—you did not simply pay your money and get a card. Conviviality—getting together with the boys—was and is important to Elkdom; no truly fraternal order could exist without it. But it is safe to say that had the Order not found a more compelling purpose for its existence than going through varying sets of rituals and then rolling



out the beer barrel, it would never have spread from sea to sea nor reached the kind of men it did. The Elks early drew the Order into its real business—"business" of America, and these men drew the Order into its real business—improving life in these United States. During the Order's first thirty years, there were plenty of controversies and quite bitter family fights within Elkdom. Probably, only because more and more members saw the Order as something good—and recognized a good of the Order that transcended passing jealousies or ruffled tempers—was the BPOE able to grow and prosper.

Men who came only in search of the social session and its joys would not, and could not, have forged the mystical and material realm that became Elkdom.

There are no official records of Elks benefits or charities prior to 1880. But two broad patterns were certainly set before that year. It has been estimated that a total of \$12,000 was raised and spent by the Order between 1871 and 1879. Since in 1880 there were only 1,000 Elks, and until 1876 there were

Elk good works were being accomplished in a thousand local communities, and in many cases for causes that never were reported. Orphans in Omaha needed new shoes; a widow in Washington or Dubuque faced a Christmas without food or fuel. Some individual Elk saw it; people in trouble caught Elks' attention. There was the quiet word passed, or a motion on the lodge room floor. Nobody ever knew who started some ideas, or sponsored some new programs. But a thousand, then ten thousand, and finally, hundreds of thousands of individual Elks were doing something about them. This was not the stuff of statistics, but the quality of mercy.

Elks found themselves digging into their pockets, and they never stopped.

In the early days, charity was not all just taking up donations. There were group actions. The first, and best known, were the benefit performances, staged with the brilliant assistance of the theatrical membership. But there were other kinds of action in little towns where no famous actor ever trod. A coal merchant teamed up with dray-

Elks discounts or Elks favors. Commercialism was frowned on and finally forbidden, and an abortive insurance plan was dropped. The Order never tried to create an Elks "welfare state."

Any member who became an Elk for what he could get out of it in a material way was apt to be disappointed. He did not fit. Elkdom was not that kind of Order; the material demands on Elks transcended the material benefits. But the greater benefit, of service, transcended both of these.

This did not mean, of course, that in some communities there was no business benefit to being an Elk. People being people, they liked to do business with those they knew. In the United States, this was always true of all private clubs and organizations. But those who joined merely for the action, and who lacked the spirit, tended to be smelled out. It was hard for any man who thought only of himself to be a good Elk.

Elks were always putting pressure on themselves for some good cause. It is a small, but important point, that the causes rarely found the Elks—Elks went out and looked for them. The most successful lodges, ironically, became those with the most active, and most successful programs.

The first record of Elkdom's participation in a program as a whole came in 1889, the year of the Seattle fire and Jamestown flood. Exalted Grand Ruler Hamilton Leach called upon the Order to assist the victims of each disaster. And from this time forward, disaster relief became an important—but never the dominant—Elk function. Elks raised and sent money to relieve almost every natural disaster that occurred in America. But the major efforts of Elkdom remained at home, in their thousand towns and communities and forty-eight states. And it is significant, perhaps, that the Order often channeled its "national" programs or efforts through other organizations, usually the American Red Cross.

Money was sent to the sufferers of the Louisiana tornado of 1891. Little known to most Elks, the Order, through the Red Cross, delivered aid to famine-stricken Russian peasants in 1892. Again in 1908, Grand Exalted Ruler Holland saw to it that Elkdom helped in the southern Italian earthquake of that year. When some lodges made spontaneous offers, Rush Holland decided "the joy of giving should be shared by all." The Grand Trustees and the Elks Committee on Charity forwarded \$5,000 to the Red Cross in the name of the Order.

More than \$100,000 was given to victims of the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906. The Order was first on the scene at San Francisco, not only

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## **This eleventh chapter of the Elks Centennial history tells how the Order came of age in meeting local and national disasters of all sorts**

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only two lodges, this was an unusual sum. Dollars in those days were much "harder," and harder to come by, than after later inflations. In 1880, the Elks disbursed \$4,440.64 in charities. In a decade when a few dollars per week was considered a decent wage, this came to about \$4 per man.

These sums, and the fact that for many years no records were kept, show plainly that Elks already liked to do good works, but without much hoopla or publicity. The Order did not really become conscious of its activities on a national scale until after the turn of the century. It was spending \$350,000 a year by 1909.

Yet, 1909 was the first year that Grand Lodge made any reference to charitable expenditures in its annual report. The income tax, and the tax deduction, had not yet of course been invented. But the fact that the Order spent such large amounts without publishing figures proved that Elk charities were performed for their own sake. The men who opened their wallets weren't doing it for public acclaim.

men and grocers; a shoe shop opened its back doors on Christmas Eve.

Elks discovered a thousand individual miseries in their towns, and tried to do something about them. Put simply, there was a streak of sentiment a yard wide in the old-time Elk. The weak, the unfortunate, the helpless appealed strongly to these hardheaded businessmen from Seattle to Bangor, Maine. The name and symbol of the noble elk, the animal which courageously spread its antlers over its weak and helpless kin, meant something to men who would, curiously enough, have been embarrassed to have such sentiments made known.

By 1900, the BPOE was a curious "benevolent and protective" order—membership did not automatically entitle any brother to benevolence or protection. In fact, initiation did not "buy" a member anything except a card which, so long as he was in good standing, admitted him to any Elks lodge. No Elks constitution, of any year, ever stated any provision that the Order had an obligation to its own. There were no



with money but with organization and direction. Rescue operations were initiated and coordinated out of Oakland Lodge within twelve hours. Again, the Order placed its donations in the hands of the California state government, without restrictions as to how it might be spent. Governor George C. Pardee wrote a moving letter of appreciation, stating that many worthy people had been helped.

Although the BPOE was the first and major private organization coming to the aid of San Francisco, the Order did not try to dominate the scene or attempt to take a starring role. The Elks were not, and did not become, a predominantly service organization. They wholeheartedly supported other service organizations, from the Red Cross to the Salvation Army, for many causes. Elks preferred it this way—but possibly for this reason, the Order was not to become so generally known for its good works.

Year after year, Elks assistance went to relieve disasters minor and major, from the mine explosion at Malaga, Alabama, in 1910, to the flood in Pueblo, Colorado, in 1920. In some way, Elkdom made every tragic scene. During the years of the Great Depression, when most lodges were struggling to keep afloat themselves, subordinate lodges contributed \$100,000 directly to the American Red Cross for use in the Ohio-Mississippi floods of 1937.

This work continued, from the Ottawa, Kansas, inundation in 1951 to the Texas hurricane in the fall of 1967. Tens of thousands of unknown victims were helped in local disasters few Americans ever heard of. No disaster was minor to its victims—and there were Elks in almost every community to see and to report. This work would end entirely only when disasters ceased to happen.

For many years Elks charities, although locally important, were widely

separated, individual actions. Elks lived by the Order's dictum to "do the duty that lies nearest thee." Members of lodges, and gradually, entire lodges, supported a number of different programs: Christmas baskets at Yuletide; food, fuel, and clothing for the poor or distressed; cash donations to relief funds; subscriptions to local charitable institutions; and the like. There was no over-all direction of these works, and not much recognition that they were being carried out except within the lodges themselves.

Grand Lodge had a Committee on Charity, but no accurate insight or full statistics on what was going on. This changed after 1919, the year the Social and Community Welfare Committee of Grand Lodge was formed. The new committee requested the subordinate lodges to form similar groups, and to report fully on what they were doing in the welfare and community action lines.

These reports, first aired in 1921, established that the real business of Elkdom was helping others. Virtually every lodge had one or more benevolent or charitable projects. In 1920-1921, Elks subordinate lodges spent more than \$1.6 million to "relieve want and distress."

The chairman of the Social and Welfare Committee also made an interesting statement in his report:

"It is most gratifying that the report (of the subordinate lodges) . . . evidenced a keen desire . . . to participate in general welfare work. Hitherto most lodges have supported in a perfunctory way this movement. The relations have been cordial rather than vital. But this has changed and we find Elk lodges everywhere joining enthusiastically in plans for the betterment of social conditions in their communities. Many important matters for public good have been taken up. . . . We find . . . attention to public health, child welfare, city playgrounds, wholesale amusements and recreation, better housing conditions, elimination of the slums, education and art, law enforcement, employment. . . ."

Elks again, as with their youth work and veterans rehabilitation, were pioneering in fields to which most Americans, and both local and national governments, had up till then given little concern. Two things of immense significance were apparent when the full report of Elk activities was made in 1921. One was that the Elks were broadening their programs beyond simple charities. They were beginning to delve into such things as prison reform, employment assistance for the variously handicapped, and payment of community nurses. In the 1920s, Elks were showing a strong social conscience, as well as generous hearts.

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The second fact was that Elk charity and programs were not confined to the Order. In fact, assistance to the membership was insignificant in the sum of Elks works. Elk activities were finding their way into all conditions of American life, in all parts of town. A cardinal principle of Elk charitable actions had already been established: Elk benevolences were being distributed without regard to color, creed, national backgrounds, politics, or any of the things that still separated Americans. This would not change.

The increase in number of programs during the 1920s was tremendous. By 1924, subordinate lodges all over the country had been stimulated into new activities and efforts, partly through the reporting and encouragement by the Social and Community Welfare Committee. In this year, 2 lodges had 14 or more activities; 64 lodges had 10 or more; and 790 supported at least 5.

The Social and Community Welfare Committee was phased out in 1928; the fear was that its work would conflict with that of the newly formed Elks National Foundation. The Committee's last report of the expenditures of subordinate lodges (not including spending by State Associations or Grand Lodge) is shown in part below:

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Christmas benefactions, to 99,221 needy families, and to 426,662 children   | \$898,006.55 |
| Food relief for the needy, other than at holidays   | 112,443.40   |
| Rent paid for distressed families during winter   | 37,211.97    |
| Special medical aid to 2,862 needy cases  | 64,917.18    |
| Special aid to 4,627 crippled children  | 138,880.85   |
| Flood relief, to Red Cross or Exalted Ruler's Fund  | 128,730.70   |
| Summer outings for the underprivileged  | 135,492.13   |
| Educational assistance of all kinds   | 77,020.53    |
| Total charitable expenditures of Elk subordinate lodges in 1928 reached \$2,890,288.65. The end of the Grand Lodge Committee did not mean the close of local lodge Social and Community Welfare groups, or any decrease in their efforts, as the figures for 1952 show clearly: |              |
| Relief of members, and widows, orphans, etc.  | \$611,112.35 |
| Milk, ice, fuel   | 76,034.22    |
| Summer camps and outings for underprivileged  | 201,604.64   |
| Crippled children   | 818,134.11   |
| Medical aid and Hospitals   | 578,843.94   |
| General assistance to needy families  | 203,440.29   |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets                  | 683,480.06 |
| Elks National Foundation                            | 114,955.59 |
| Scout work  | 181,839.71 |
| Big Brother work                                    | 167,026.75 |
| Playgrounds, etc.                                   | 348,163.87 |
| Red Cross, Salvation Army, and other service groups | 318,534.36 |
| Veterans assistance                                 | 146,248.30 |
| Miscellaneous charities                             | 929,910.15 |
| Flag Day, Constitution Day, etc.                    | 193,085.24 |
| Educational assistance, scholarships, books, etc.   | 178,542.55 |

The total subordinate lodge expenses came to \$5,750,956.13 in 1952. The breakdown shows that traditional Elk charities, such as Christmas baskets, had not suffered. Millions of dollars were still being used to relieve the sufferings of needy families, widows, and orphans—all the helpless and unprotected. Now, there were many Federal and state and local relief programs that had not existed thirty years before. But these still did not reach all the needy or unfortunate, nor would they do so fifteen years later. There was, and probably always would be, something in this field for Elks to do.

The striking shifts in emphasis revealed by these reports show that more and more the Order was turning its attention to areas still not much supported by public funds: scholarships, crippled children's rehabilitation, Americanization, health and medical aid. More money now went to help crippled children than to fill Christmas baskets—because here the need was greatest, and here was work that held out great hope for the future of America.

The gradual movement was toward continuing programs that bettered the whole community. The quality of mercy was not strained, and the acts of individual charity yet sweet. But as government and other agencies filled the gaps in individual poverty or misfortune, Elkdom moved more and more toward actions that were really sound investments in the future of its country.

The broadening of activities required more and more money. Somehow, Elks found it, through good times and bad.

The state associations played an enormous role in this broadening and deepening of Elk activities. Before 1900 many Elks had realized that some fine programs were desirable but beyond the capabilities of individual lodges. This was especially true in western or more rural states, where there were few old-established, large, wealthy lodges. Several state associations or regional groupings were formed unofficially and even extra-legally before 1900, and by 1916, when they were at last recognized, there were

*(Continued on page 41)*

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(Above): PGER Robert E. Boney addresses Oklahoma Elks at their annual convention. (Right): The association's leaders enjoy convention festivities. Among the participants are (head table) Mrs. Harry C. Johnsen, Brother Boney, Mrs. Boney, PGER Earl E. James, Mrs. Pruitt and PGER Robert G. Pruitt, Mrs. James, and outgoing Oklahoma SP Harry C. Johnsen, a Bartlesville Elk.



## News of the State Associations



Some of the Order's notables at the Arizona Elks Association's annual meeting May 8 through 11 in Tucson, taking time out to pose for a photograph with outgoing SP Santry C. Fuller of Tucson (second from left), are immediate PGER Robert E. Boney and PGERs Horace R. Wisely, George I. Hall, and R. Leonard Bush.

A Centennial cake with electric "candles," prepared for the Nebraska Elks Association convention in Lincoln, is admired by guest of honor and Grand Trustee Francis M. Smith (right), Sioux Falls, S.D., and three prominent Nebraska Elks—PSP George B. Klein, Lincoln, a member of the GL Committee on Credentials, PGER H. L. Blackledge, of Kearney Lodge, and outgoing SP C. A. Thomas, a member of Scottsbluff Lodge.





NEW YORK ELKS attending the association's 56th annual convention May 23 through 26 in Kiamesha Lake donated more than \$20,000 to their cerebral palsy home service program, part of the state major project. This enthusiastic response came after an appeal by PGER and PSP George I. Hall, who reported on the work being done by the New York Elks' six mobile CP units.

More than 2,000 Elks and their ladies attended the meeting, the largest gathering since the formation of the New York Elks Assn.

Notable Elks included: PGER Ronald J. Dunn; Grand Secy. Franklin J. Fitzpatrick, of Lynbrook Lodge; Grand Trustee Francis P. Hart, Watertown; Peter T. Affatato, of Levittown-Hicksville Lodge, a GL Judiciary committeeman—all Past State Presidents; George J. Ballbach, Jackson Heights, a GL State Associations committeeman; Robert M. Bender Sr., Albany, a GL Lodge Activities committeeman, and National Convention Director Bryan J. McKeogh.

Youth Activities Chairman John F. Quinn Jr., of Freeport Lodge, reported that each of the 134 lodges in the state conducted a youth program.

Other progress reports revealed that donations to the Elks National Foundation reached a record high, scholarships totaling \$31,500 were awarded to 54 students, and Liverpool Lodge, with a 94.6 percent increase, showed the highest membership gain.

Huntington Lodge won the ritualistic contest.

Dr. Leonard J. Bristol of Saranac Lake, a PDD, was elected President. Re-elected for another term were Secy. Herman J. Wickel, Huntington, and Treas. William C. Petzke, Elmira. The new VPs are: Robert L. Sprague, Utica; George C. Schmidt, Massapequa; Clem Leffer, Monticello; Lawrence V. Laravie, Plattsburgh; Thomas Farley, Gouverneur; Thomas J. Straug, Troy; John J. Weisse, Yonkers; Joseph E. Hogg, Elmira; Philip E. Parker, Bronx (N.Y.C.); Howard T. Parker, Jamestown; Robert E. LaPierre, Watervliet; Albert R. Burch, Brockport, and James M. High, Seneca Falls.

The fall conference will be held in September in Long Beach.

**HIGHLIGHTING** Oklahoma Elks' annual state convention April 19, 20, and 21 in Oklahoma City was the presentation of keys to a Ford station wagon to the state CP committee, as part of the association's major project activities. The car will transport cerebral palsied children from the city to a corrective swimming pool in Norman.



A unique Centennial observance—a pageant depicting the history of the Elks' ritual—highlighted the Ohio Elks Association's 70th annual convention in Columbus. Participating as officers and comparable "Jolly Corks" were: (seated) Vinton Spohn, Toledo, Esteemed Loyal Knight, and PDD Ralph E. Patterson, Bellefontaine, Secretary, and (standing) Kenneth W. Strunk, Lima, Right Honorable Primo and Exalted Ruler; Eugene W. France, Bowling Green, Grand Lecturer; Russell Kaufman, Wapakoneta, "candidate"; Joseph J. Blanchard, Lima, Chaplain; Ray Earle, Maumee, Esteemed Leading Knight, and Kenneth Kidd, Bowling Green, Inner Guard. VP Sam Fitzsimmons of Van Wert was narrator.

The presentation was made at the convention luncheon, at which two Youth Leadership and four Most Valuable Student scholarships also were awarded. The guest of honor and main speaker was immediate PGER Robert E. Boney.

Tulsa Lodge won the annual ritualistic contest. Bartlesville Lodge placed second; El Reno third.

About 400 Elks and guests attended the State President's Ball honoring retiring SP Harry C. Johnsen and the incoming State President—W. Fred Schiefer, Duncan, a Past District Deputy.

Installed as Vice-Presidents were: PDD Emmett F. Hines, Tulsa; PDD Clayton Oliver, Shawnee; PDD James S. Brown, Norman; and John C. Shanklin, Stillwater.

NEBRASKA ELKS attending their annual convention May 17 through 19 in Lincoln learned that more than \$25,000 had been spent during the last year for the crippled children's program, the state major project. A special PERS' March to obtain still more funds for the program netted an additional \$2,000.

Ritualistic honors went to the team from Kearney Lodge. Winner of the centennial year Public Image contest was Ainsworth Lodge. The three winners in the Elks National Foundation contest were Falls City, East District; Kearney, Central District, and Cozad, West District. Lodges throughout the state contributed more than \$21,000 to

the Foundation during the last year.

Youth program winners according to size of membership were Lincoln, Fairbury, and Ainsworth Lodges.

The association's new "first family" includes President and PDD Max C. Stanley, Omaha; Vice-Presidents PDD Orvel Holt, York; PDD Walter W. Stewart, Ogallala, and PDD Lowell M. Lewis, Falls City; Secy. and PDD Chester O. Marshall, Kearney; Treas. Elmer L. Bradley, Columbus; Trustees Bernard Dougherty, Scottsbluff; Merle Herring, Kearney; Robert Burkley, Fairbury; Dr. L. R. Wallace, Broken Bow, and Victor Kotouc, North Platte.

Featured speaker at the Sunday morning Memorial Service was guest of honor and Grand Trustee Francis M. Smith, of Sioux Falls, S.D.

Columbus Lodge will host the fall meeting Sept. 7th and 8th, and Omaha Elks, the 1969 convention.

OHIO ELKS spent \$200,000 on charitable projects last year, delegates representing 57,000 members of the 96 lodges in the state learned at the association's annual convention May 2 through 5 in Columbus. The total, an increase of \$50,000 over the previous year, includes more than \$153,000 for community welfare programs and over \$40,000 in cerebral palsy grants.

Reporting on the rehabilitation of CP victims, Major Projects Chairman Tom Price, Zanesville, said that therapists drive Elk-operated treatment units 500





Joining in congratulating the newly elected President of the New York State Elks Association—Dr. Leonard J. Bristol of Saranac Lodge (third from left)—are PGERs Ronald J. Dunn and George I. Hall and Grand Secy. Franklin J. Fitzpatrick. The ladies, appropriately gowned in dresses dating back from the 19th century, are members of Monticello Lodge's welcoming committee: Mrs. Bea Cross, Mrs. Jackie Rosenthal, and Mrs. Molly Turner.

to 600 miles a week to reach patients. Miss Grace Roberts, Orient, the Elks' CP program director, noted that an additional therapist is being sought to expand the service. At the meeting, \$18,000 was raised for the program.

In veterans service, Chairman Logan D. Burd of Canton reported that monthly shows provided by Elks in the five Ohio VA hospitals reached 17,000 veterans. Also, cigarettes are being sent to American servicemen in Vietnam.

A highlight of the convention agenda was a pageant depicting the history of the Elks ritual, and featuring the Van Wert Elks Men's Choir under the direction of Jay Hall. Participating were Kenneth W. Strunk and Joseph J. Blanchard of Lima, Eugene W. France and Kenneth Kidd of Bowling Green, Ray Earle of Maumee, Vinton Spohn of Toledo, Ralph Patterson of Bellefontaine, Russell Kaufman of Wapakoneta, and Sam Fitzsimmons of Van Wert.

The 1,200 Elks and guests attending the four-day parley also witnessed the presentation of scholarship and Youth Leadership awards valued at \$9,700. Most Valuable Student winners of \$600 each were John P. Roe, Barnesville; Jerry A. O'Neil, Toledo; Frank D. Ciccone, Struthers; Jeanne M. Godenschwager, Conneaut; David E. Orin, McDermott; John H. Skidmore, Zanesville; Michael R. Wildermuth, Lima, and Sue E. Stancu, Dover. First-place Youth Leadership winners—Thomas F. Donini, Portsmouth, and Janice L. Scites, Delaware—received \$500 cash prizes.

Immediate PSP Elwood W. Reed of Bowling Green said that Ohio Elks spent about \$45,000 during the year to foster youth activities.

Ten student loans totaling \$4,700—boosting the sum presently on loan to Ohio college students to \$22,800—were made, Norman C. Parr, Columbus, reported.

The Rev. Fr. Richard Connelly of Lancaster Lodge, a past GL and state Chaplain, delivered the Memorial Address. A eulogy for the late PSP James W. Plummer was given by Grand Trustee and PSP E. Gene Fournace of Newark Lodge.

PDD George B. Walker, an honorary life member of Willoughby Lodge, was elected President of the association. Other new officers include: VPs E. Paul Howard, Alliance; F. H. Niswonger, Dayton, and Sam Fitzsimmons, Van Wert; Secy. -Treas. Fred M. Lees, Toledo; Trustee L. L. McBee, New Lexington; Sgt. at Arms Irving W. Davies, Lakewood; Chap. Vinton Spohn, Toledo; Tiler C. Richard Smith, Canton, and In. Gd. James A. Ryan, Euclid. PDD Robert Kennedy, Dover, was elected President of the state Past Exalted Rulers Assn. Also Trustees are Chairman M. B. Letzelter, Steubenville, and Earl E. Sloan, Elyria.

New Philadelphia again won the ritualistic contest. A posthumous "Elk of the Year" award went to the late PDD Ivan R. Hesson of Tiffin, and Martins Ferry Mayor John Lasle was named to the Elks Hall of Fame.

THE SPOTLIGHT WAS ON YOUTH during the Illinois Elks Association's annual convention May 3 through 5 in Springfield. A total of 18 applications in the Most Valuable Student contest were sent to the Grand Lodge; 15 of these were given awards, believed to be the largest number any state has ever received. The award winners included the first-place national winner in the girls' division, Sharon Dee Matthews, who was sponsored by Fairfield Lodge. Awards were presented by PGER William A. Wall, who, with PGER Lee A. Donaldson, addressed the Elks assembled at the President's Banquet.

The Easter Bunny program, originated by Illinois Elks, was reported doing well, with more than 50 lodges now participating. The Easter season of more than 10,000 institutionalized children and adults was made brighter during the past year by this program.

Pekin Lodge was the winner of ritualistic team honors, followed by Cairo and Danville. Winners of the lodge bulletin contest were Des Plaines, first, Belleville, second, and Lawrenceville, third.

Contributions to the Elks National Foundation totaled \$74,080 for the past year, an increase of \$580 over last year. This figure included a record total from individual contributions.

Income for the Crippled Children's Commission, the state major project, exceeded the previous high by \$1,000. Stamp contributions exceeded the previous high total by more than \$2,000, additional gifts increased by about \$1,000, and lodge per capita contributions reached an all-time high of \$33,500.

Elected to head the association for the coming year were President Robert T. Flynn, Sterling; VPs, PDD Roland J. DeMarco, Mt. Carmel, and PDD Robert Campbell, Blue Island; Secy. and PDD Jack F. Sullivan, Joliet, and Treas. and PDD Ray Sheahen, Highland Park.

The association's fall meeting will be hosted by Effingham Lodge; the mid-winter meeting by Champaign, and the 1969 convention by Moline.

THE 62nd ANNUAL CONVENTION of the Florida State Elks Association May 24 and 25 in Daytona Beach elected Julian C. Smith of Tallahassee as the new State President.

Named as VPs were: James M. Delaney, Panama City; William G. Dailey, St. Augustine; Robert W. Anthony, Daytona Beach; Edward Ehlers, Weirsdale; David Luikart, New Port Richey; Earl Enos, Palmetto; George McDonnell, Lake Worth, and Harty Baruch, Miami. The roster of officers includes also: Secretary, PDD William Leiberman, Leesburg; Treasurer, Frank J. Holt, Miami, a former GL committee-



man; Historian, PDD L. M. Strickland Sr., Tallahassee; Tiler, J. L. Plummer, Miami; Chaplain, PDD Norman P. O'Brien, South Miami; Organist, Eugene Mahlmeister, Delray Beach, and Sergeant at Arms, Joe Cooke, Tallahassee.

Reporting on the Harry-Anna Crippled Children's Hospital in Umattilla, the state major project, Administrator George Carver said that Florida Elks provided care for 2,300 youngsters during the past year, at the cost of \$400,000. The above total includes treatment at the hospital itself, the seven home therapy mobile service units, and seven orthopedic outpatient clinics around the state.

Elections for the hospital's Trust Fund resulted in the naming of PSP and PDD James W. Vann, Pahokee, as five-year director, and as two-year directors, PDD Donald Jordan, Jacksonville; PDD Frank Holmes, Sanford; PDD Robert Allen, Arcadia, and PDD Thomas Smith, Miami Beach.

PGERs William A. Wall and Lee A. Donaldson and their wives were the guests of honor at the meeting, attended by almost 1,000 registered delegates, visiting Elks, and ladies.

PSP Harold Colee, of St. Augustine Lodge, the Dean of Past State Presidents, delivered the principal Memorial Address. PSP James W. Vann eulogized departed members PDD Jules A. Morris, of Winter Park, and PSP Charles H. Peckelis, Fort Pierce, former chairman of the GL Lodge Activities Committee.

Orlando Lodge was announced the state ritualistic champion, and Kissimmee Lodge was declared winner of the Centennial Program contest.

**KANSAS ELKS** and their ladies, 840 strong, assembled in Wichita May 2-5 for their 63rd annual convention.

Honored guests attending with their wives were immediate PGER Robert E. Boney; PGER H. L. Blackledge; Kansas Governor Robert Docking; Lloyd Chapman, El Dorado, GL Ritualistic Committee chairman; John T. Kirkwood, Galena, a GL Auditing and Accounting committeeman, and the four Kansas District Deputies. Gov. Docking and PGER Boney were main speakers at the Saturday night awards banquet, which was followed by a dance honoring Past State Presidents.

The annual budget was adopted for the Kansas Elks Training Center for the Retarded, Wichita, the state major project. Contributions totaling \$4,050 were received for the center.

Awards totaling \$5,000 were presented to 20 young winners of the Youth Leadership and Most Valuable Student contests.

Nineteen teams entered the state  
(Continued on page 44)



PGER William A. Wall joins in the well-wishing as Florida's outgoing SP Marvin L. Kimmel (left), Miami Beach, congratulates the newly elected SP Julian C. Smith (center), of Tallahassee Lodge, during the state association's annual convention in Daytona Beach.

Ohio Elks' new President—George B. Walker of Willoughby Lodge (second from left)—is being congratulated by Nelson E. W. Stuart, executive director of the Elks National Foundation and a former Grand Trustee, who was the installing officer at the group's recent annual meeting in Columbus. Looking on are immediate PSP Elwood W. Reed (left), Bowling Green, and Grand Lodge dignitaries on hand for the occasion: Edward J. McCormick Jr., Toledo, member of the Grand Forum, and PSP Walter G. Penry, of Delaware Lodge, a GL Lodge Activities committeeman. Also attending the four-day convention were PGERs Edward J. McCormick and Fred L. Bohn.




Kansas Elks Association officers welcome immediate PGER Robert E. Boney upon his arrival in Wichita for their 63rd annual convention, May 2 through May 5. With Brother Boney and PGER H. L. Blackledge are immediate PSP Clifford A. Lyon, Hiawatha; DDGER Richard LeMaster, Wellington; DDGER Paul Helberg, Topeka; Lloyd Chapman, El Dorado, chairman of the GL Ritualistic Committee; DDGER Roy Tebo, Hill City; DDGER Scherel Booe, Chanute; John T. Kirkwood, Galena, a GL Auditing and Accounting committeeman, and the newly elected SP W. Harold Young, of Salina Lodge.

Newly elected officers of the Illinois Elks Association assembled for a group portrait include President Robert T. Flynn, Sterling, Secy. Jack F. Sullivan, Joliet, and VPs Roland J. DeMarco, Mount Carmel, and Robert Campbell, Blue Island. Seated are three proud Illinois ladies—Mrs. Flynn, Mrs. DeMarco, and Mrs. Campbell.







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(Continued from page 9)

heap of fat sunfish to contend with. I quit and bent the barbs down on all hooks, so that fish might be hooked and played but could easily get away at the slightest slack line. We all stood along the curve of shore, casting until exhausted, often with all four members of the family hooked up at once. There is no better experience, I'm sure, in all the world of fishing. But there was more. We'd long ago eaten our picnic lunch, before we began fishing. So now I cleaned bluegills until I was practically blue around the gills myself. I started a fire, got out the old iron skillet and the hunk of bacon brought purposely for such emergency. While the surplus fish chilled in an ice chest, ready to take home, we fried big bluegills to a crisp and lovely brown. With rods stacked against a white birch trunk, we sat on the grass and ate firm-fleshed sunfish with only our hands for utensils, until the only thing left to do was fall over and groan. There are many other facets of delight in pan-fishing, via family and otherwise, but all seem to have at least three things in common—tremendous and sustained action, limitless enjoyment, and that logical and almost foregone conclusion, a full stomach!

One of the great advantages of all the panfishes is that average fishermen like a lot of action, and all of these species, while not school fish in the true sense, travel in loose groups. Therefore, when one is caught, very likely a good many more are nearby. Another delightful attribute is that panfish are pugnacious. Competition among them for food simply makes each one of a group eager to beat its neighbor to the bait. And so, the panfish are almost always eager and willing. Occasionally they require expertise and guile. But generally anybody, expert or bumble-thumbed, can catch his share. Many a husband has led his spouse into becoming an avid angler by slyly introducing her via the panfish route. As soon as she begins catching fish, she's happy, and trapped. Needless to say, for kids the panfish are perfect. Youngsters "earn while they learn." They can experience the discouragements of angling later on!

The wide distribution, in the aggregate, of all these species also puts them at the disposal of everyone, everywhere. And, the prolific nature of the panfish makes untold tons of these small fish available year after year, with no danger to their populations. In fact, all of them require hard fishing pressures in order to hold their numbers within bounds. If they grow too numerous in any lake or stream, they are likely to become stunted.

This leads to the opportunity to take them during their spawning activities.

All are spring spawners. Depending on latitude, they spawn from April on through June. All enter shoreside shallow waters to do their spawning. They require certain types of bottom, and this automatically concentrates swarms of them in specific areas along a lake. I can remember fishing bluegills over spawning beds in such widely separated regions as Michigan and Louisiana when literally hundreds could be caught, and one would think the supply was endless.

Because these species are so numerous, fishing the spawning areas does no harm. These species just cannot be "fished out." Crappies are caught at such times around the bases of submerged brush such as small willows. Most are caught by dropping an inch-long minnow on a hook down near the base of each bush. Others are taken readily by casting small yellow or white leadhead jigs into shoreside areas of submerged brush and retrieving the lure near specific bushes.

These spring spawning sprees are truly bonanza time for the panfish fisherman. It is fun to watch dozens of families pile into boats in the Deep South when, as they say, the "shellcrackers are beddin'," and see them with long cane poles simply mop up over a large concentration of these fish, the red-eared sunfish. In fact, I am convinced a long cane pole, with a nylon monofilament line, and a small cork set at proper depth, is the greatest shellcracker outfit going, even if it is old-fashioned.

A man from Alabama taught me how to catch these fish for the most fun. He used very light, whippy cane poles. For bait he strung small Georgia red worms on a hook. The small bottle cork was placed on the line so the worm would rest on bottom, but with no slack. The man would drift along a lakeshore looking for a spot, in April, where shellcrackers were making beds. They often fan out spawning beds in several feet of water—deeper as a rule than the other sunfishes—so sometimes it takes much searching, and trial and error. But once this gentleman got his first red-ear, he'd quietly slip the anchor down. Then he'd wait fifteen minutes, until any fish down below got over fright. Now he let his baits down, using two poles. Sometimes he'd catch them faster than he could handle the poles.

While bluegills and other sunfishes can be caught during spawning by casting baits up into the bedding areas, or using small spinning lures likewise, the sportiest and most productive method is with a fly rod. I use either a small wet fly that sinks readily, or else a small cork-bodied popping bug, a floating lure. You cast it, then twitch it so that

(Continued on page 40)



# IT'S ALL TRUE

By BILL TRUE  
World Professional Casting Champion

## Don't Let Coho Fever Kill You!



I suppose there's not a fisherman left in the land who hasn't heard about this century's biggest fishing miracle, the success of the silver salmon or coho in the Great Lakes. The conservation people in Michigan with the help of their colleagues in Washington and Oregon pulled off the biggest boon to anglers since the invention of the fish hook. Starting late last summer thousands of fishermen caught big cohos up to 20 pounds and more, and—say the fishery people—we ain't seen nothing yet!

Next fall the even bigger chinook or king salmon will start returning to the rivers where they were planted last year and it's going to be even a greater bonanza.

All of which is to indicate that many thousands of fishermen who used to be lucky to

bring home a string of bluegills or an occasional bass from a fishing trip are now going nuts over the chance to catch a really big fish while trolling in the Great Lakes.

Just how serious the Coho Craze can be was tragically brought out last fall when seven anglers drowned in Lake Michigan when they failed to heed storm warnings and went out, all too often in small boats not suited to the fierce changing moods of the big lakes.

Everyone is hoping that such foolishness will not be repeated this August, September and October—the peak of the coho season. If every boater on the Great Lakes would keep a few safety precautions in mind all could enjoy this new fishing jackpot with little danger.

Here's my personal list of things to keep in mind for boating on the big lakes. Maybe not everyone will agree with them, but they're the things I'm going to do this year to keep my coho fishing safe:

1. Use a boat that is big enough for big water. Personally I wouldn't go out in anything less than a 16-footer with plenty of freeboard, with an 18-footer and up even better.
2. Take all the safety equipment aboard that's either mandatory or recommended for this kind of boating. I mean life jackets for all hands and plenty of preserver cushions, fire extinguisher, full set of lights in good working order, even flares.
3. Follow the loading limits set by your boat's manufacturer. Too many people in a boat makes for poor fishing anyway.
4. Neither overpower or underpower your boat. Here again, follow the boat maker's specifications.
5. Watch lake and weather conditions carefully at all times. And if the small craft warning flag is up—DON'T GO OUT. I plan to take a small transistor radio in the boat with me to check weather and boating broadcasts from time to time.

Two free informative booklets are available to prospective coho fishermen. One is the "Official West Michigan Sports Fishing Guide", available from West Michigan Tourist Association, Department E, 107 Pearl NW, Grand Rapids, Mich. 49502. It lists boating facilities, charter boats, launching ramps, outfitters, etc. The other contains more general information on the new salmon fishery in Michigan and it's called "Coho, Chinook and Steelhead in Michigan." For a copy, write to Michigan Tourist Council, Dept. E, Stevens T. Mason Bldg., Lansing, Mich. 48926.

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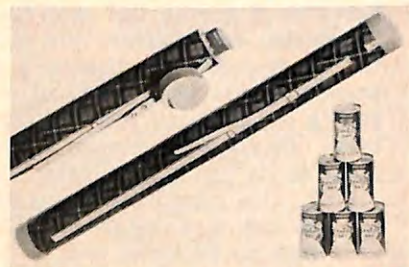


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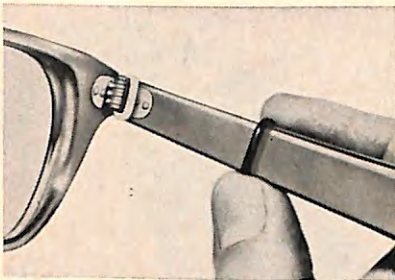
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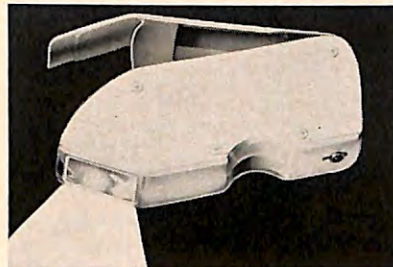
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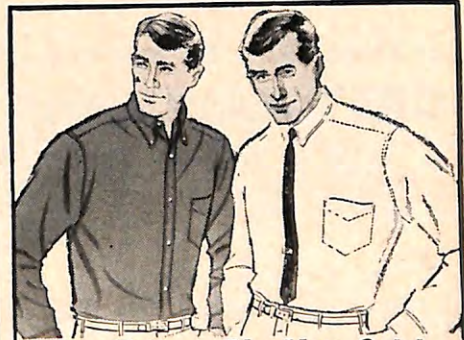


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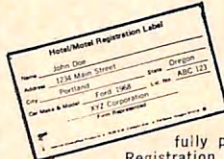


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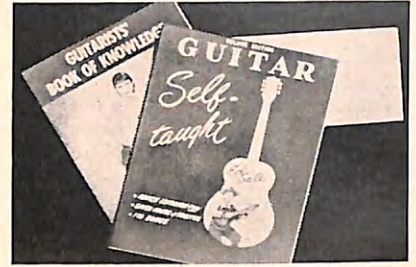
For the Lodge or the individual wishing to give a lasting gift here is a pin so handsome, so well made that not only is it a beautiful insignia of our Order, but also an exceptional example of jewelry craftsmanship.

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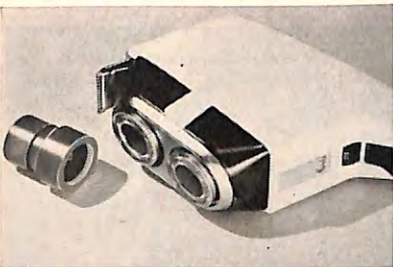
# ELKS FAMILY SHOPPER



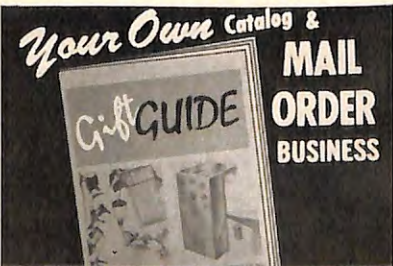
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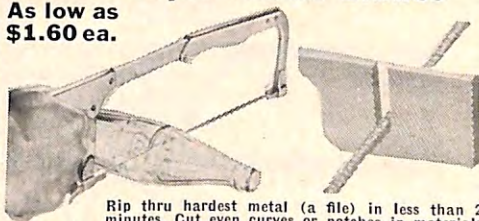
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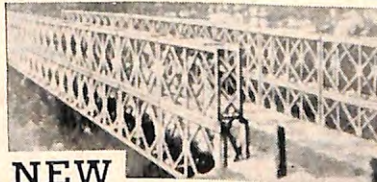
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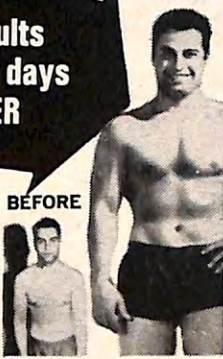


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# ELKS FAMILY SHOPPER



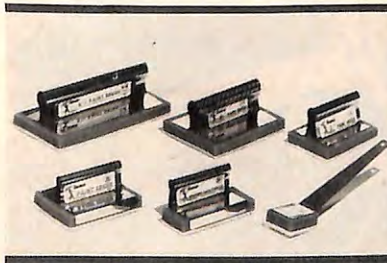
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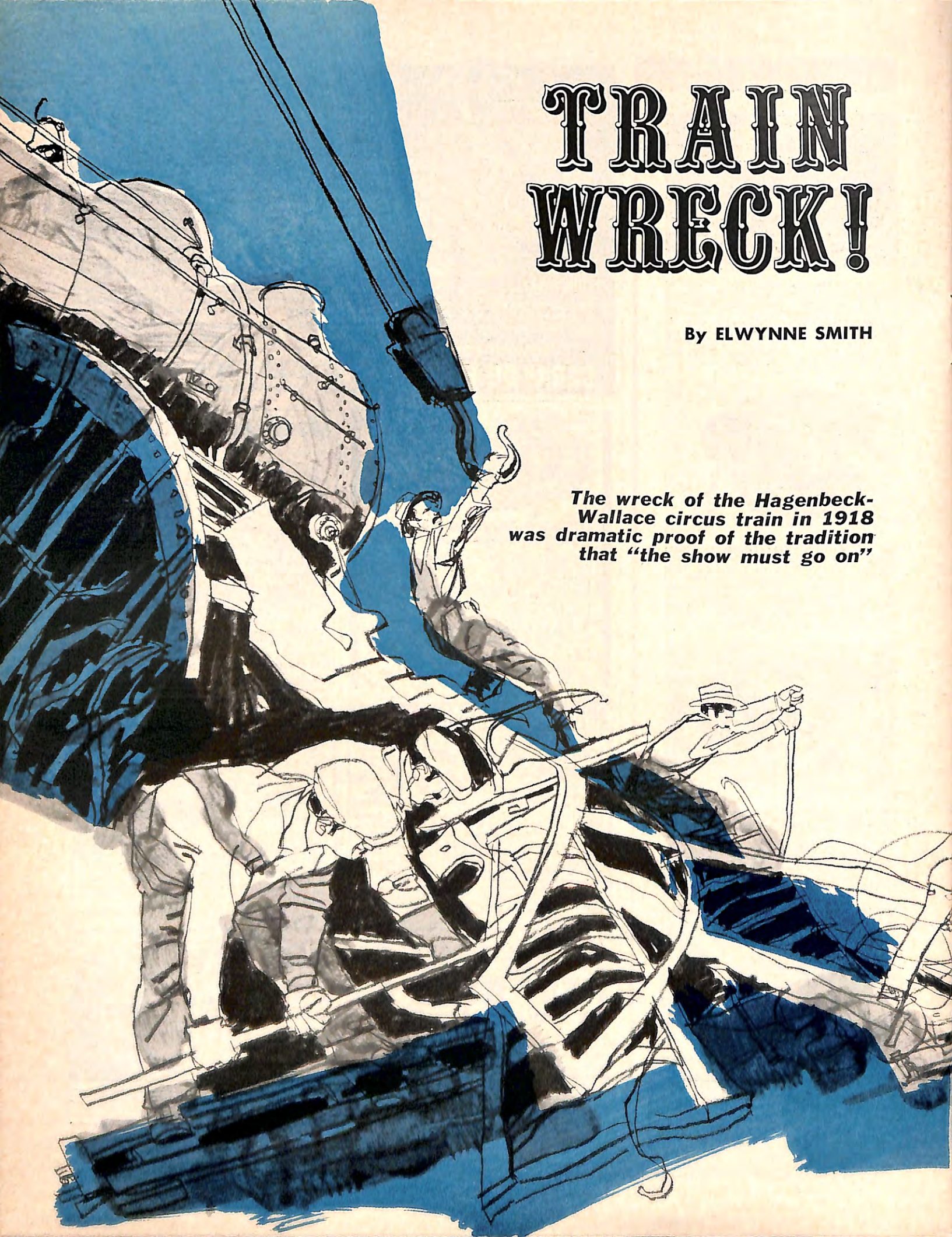
**E. A. CAREY, 1920 Sunnyside Ave., Dept. 204-J, Chicago 40**



# TRAIN WRECK!

By ELWYNNE SMITH

*The wreck of the Hagenbeck-Wallace circus train in 1918 was dramatic proof of the tradition that "the show must go on"*





An hour before daylight on the morning of June 22, 1918, the second section of the Hagenbeck-Wallace circus train slowed to a stop at Ivanhoe, Indiana, between Gary and Hammond. A hot box on one of the cars in the train had to be taken care of.

Hundreds of circus people, including all the star performers of the big circus, were asleep in four old wooden sleeping cars, many of them in double bunks three tiers high. The sleeping cars were on the rear end of the train.

Brakeman Oscar Timm went back at once to signal a train that was known to be following on the same track. He fixed a railroad warning torpedo to a rail. He lit and placed a red fusee on the track. He saw the train's headlight appear and noted that the railroad's block signals were showing red.

The train, traveling empty, was one used for carrying servicemen in this last year of World War I. It ran through two block signals. It overran the red warning fusee. It didn't stop. It didn't slow.

Timm lit another fusee and ran down the tracks swinging it. As the train thundered past he managed to hurl the flaming fusee into the engine's cab in

a final effort to get the engine crew's attention. He had a glimpse of a shadowy figure in the cab and said later that he felt positive the engineer was dead at the throttle.

Railroad towerman Hamilton Forbes was the only eyewitness to the wreck. From his switch tower at Ivanhoe, he saw the stopped circus train. Then, horrified, he saw the rapidly approaching troop train. "It was traveling fast, very fast," he told reporters later. Forbes saw the troop train plow into the sleeping cars as if they were cardboard. The rear car was split down the middle. The three sleeping cars ahead were simply telescoped and then smashed into fragments as the train's big steam engine crunched into the wreckage.

Mrs. Barney Sams, who lived near the wreck scene, was almost shaken out of bed by the crash. From her window she saw what she said looked like a huge pile of kindling wood. "I could hear people screaming and shouting," she said, "and I knew something terrible had happened."

Her neighbor, Mrs. Bert Moyer, said, "I heard screams of the injured and dying. The cars almost immediately caught fire. Flames lit up the scene.

The terrible crash, the screams, and then the crackling sound of the flames added to the awfulness of it."

It was the fire that made the Hagenbeck-Wallace wreck the most frightful railroad disaster in U.S. history. Fire started in several places at once when acetylene lamps used to light the cars were broken. It started slowly. Then, fanned by a strong wind, the flames "seemed to leap" as one survivor described it, and swiftly engulfed the whole mass of broken wooden cars.

So, many victims were trapped—not fatally injured, but pinned in the incredible tangle of wreckage that piled up when the sleeping cars were shattered. For many of them, the wreck became a blazing funeral pyre.

Circus people who were not injured dragged themselves from the wreckage, then immediately rushed back to pull others free. All around them were shrieks of pain and terror. Rescuers tore their hands to shreds on splintered beams and twisted steel in a desperate, heart-breaking effort to get trapped victims out.

Some were saved. Trapeze performer Eddie Ward, of the famous Flying  
(Continued on page 46)







**A FAMILY AFFAIR** at Redlands, Calif., Lodge honors members of the Break family. ER Wilson J. Costello (left) congratulates PER S. Wesley Break, who was presented an Honorary Life Membership for his many years of service to the lodge. Looking on are his grandson, new initiate Richard Break, representing the family's fourth generation of Elks, and his sons Richard and Robert, both former officers of the lodge.



**CARLSBAD, New Mexico**, ER James E. Calhoun presents a \$1,600 scholarship to Carlsbad High School student Epifanio Calderon at the school's scholarship award assembly. The presentation is made annually.



**A SPECIAL INITIATION** at Phoenix Lodge, held recently, welcomed two candidates home on leave from Vietnam—Lance Cpl. Michael Stevens, USMC (second from left), and PhoM 2/C David Dollard, USN. Also shown after the initiation are Brother James E. Stevens, Michael's father, and Brother John Dollard, David's brother, a member of the lodge's centennial class. The two new Elks, who are both sons of lodge members, have been friends for many years.



**HUNTINGTON PARK, California**, ER Cecil F. Smith (left) receives a sheet of the "Support Our Youth" Elks centennial commemorative stamps from Brother and Postmaster Jack L. Freeman, Bell, lodge publicity chairman.



**COLFAX, Washington**, Elks pay off a \$2,600 pledge to Whitman County Hospital with this check, which is being presented by PER Larry J. Miller (white coat) to Dan Scheideman, hospital association president. Observing the check presentation are the officers of Colfax Lodge.



**A NEW MEMBER** of Payson, Ariz., Lodge—John C. Chilson (second from right)— is about to receive an American flag from ER Eldon Hageman after a recent initiation ceremony. Looking on are the new Brother Chilson's grandfather, Charles Chilson, a lodge Trustee and 25-year Elk, and father, Fred Chilson, a 23-year Elk.



**DIGNITARIES ON HAND** for a luncheon at Oxnard, Calif., Lodge honoring immediate PGER Robert E. Boney and the 1967-1968 Board of Grand Trustees include (background): Grand Trustees Francis M. Smith, Sioux Falls, S.D.; E. Gene Fournace, Newark, Ohio; George T. Hickey, Chicago (North); Joseph F. Bader, Lyndhurst, N.J.; Francis P. Hart, Watertown, N.Y.; PGER Horace R. Wisely; PGER Boney; PGER R. Leonard Bush; Grand Trustee Frank Hise, Corvallis, Oreg.; Glenn L. Miller, Logansport, Ind., chairman of the GL Committee on Judiciary; Grand Trustee Roderick M. McDuffie, Cascade-East Point, Ga.; Doral E. Irvin, superintendent of the Elks National Home, and Grand Trustee Vincent H. Grocott, Santa Barbara, Calif., and (foreground) their ladies: Mrs. Fournace, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Wisely, Mrs. Grocott, Mrs. Boney, Mrs. Hise, Mrs. Bader, Mrs. Bush, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Irvin, and Mrs. McDuffie.



**PALO ALTO, California**, ER Lester H. Andersen (background, second from right) poses with the lodge's recipients of scholarship and youth activities awards. The students are (first row): Margaret Crockett, Paul Kirby, Cheryl Poncini, David Costa, Douglas Harris, and Laura Leone, and (second row) Catherine Collie and Catherine Hancock. Also on hand are Judge Sidney Feinberg, scholarship chairman, and Edward M. Ball, youth activities chairman. Miss Poncini, winner of a Most Valuable Student Award, also received an \$800 scholarship from the Elks National Foundation.



**A BRONZE PLAQUE** in memory of Brother Carl Jossy is presented by his widow, on behalf of the Jossy family, to Tillamook, Oreg., immediate PER Thomas A. Waud. Looking on is Secy. Harold Harp. The plaque was hung in the vestibule of the Elks Temple.



**A PANCAKE BREAKFAST** highlights a camper-trailer outing for members of Long Beach and Whittier, Calif., lodges. The Elks joined forces for a campout at Silver Lakes.



**PASADENA, California**, ER Edwin H. Simpson welcomes home a distinguished lodge member—Sgt. Major Mike Cantor, USMC. Brother Cantor had just returned from Vietnam, where he added the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry to a long list of military honors.

**WINSLOW, Arizona**, Mayor J. Lester Allen presents a certificate to a local high school wrestler during a special banquet hosted by Winslow Lodge to honor the 1967-1968 Arizona state wrestling champions. Brother W. M. "Doc" Wright served as chairman.







**PIGGY BANKS FOR CEREBRAL PALSY** containing nearly \$300 are presented by Tracy, Calif., Elks L. N. Bonneville and Woodrow Williamson, project chairman, who receive centennial medallions in return from Secy. Theodore W. Oliver (left) and ER Manuel J. Garcia. The presentation highlighted a lodge dinner, which was followed by a dance.



**A GIANT PIGGY BANK** from Chula Vista, Calif., Lodge is displayed at the California-Hawaii Elks Association convention in Fresno. The pig, displayed at the request of Charles T. Reynolds, state major projects chairman, has also appeared in local parades throughout the state to publicize the Elks' cerebral palsy program.



**AN AWARD IS PRESENTED** by Richard H. Bartels (right), San Jose, California Youth Activities chairman, to Santa Clara ER Lyle D. McDonald, for the lodge's outstanding participation in youth activities. Brother Bartels, speaking at the association's 53rd annual convention in Fresno, held May 22 through May 25, commended the young lodge for its first-place performance.



**REDONDO BEACH, California,** Lodge honors four local high school athletes for prowess in basketball, baseball, football, wrestling, and running. Shown with ER Sam Broos (background, left) are (foreground) Larry Bark, coach, Tom Rawlings, Tony Baker, Steve Patterson, and (background) Ronnie Stone, Charles Morris, principal of Redondo Union High School, and coaches Ed Austin and George Swade. Young Stone is the nation's top three-miler.



**YOUNG REPRESENTATIVES** of Lake City (Seattle), Wash., Lodge's youth programs pose with the leaders of the various programs at a lodge presentation. Each child represents a single group or activity of the approximately 3,000 youngsters involved in these programs. Looking on in the background is ER Arthur R. Dunson.

**HEAD CHEF** and PER Douglas Galbraith, leader of the Hamilton, Mont., Elks Chefs, displays some prime Bitter Root Valley beef to a surprise visitor, Montana's Gov. Tim M. Babcock. The chefs stage eight to ten dinners annually, and have served an estimated 10,000 Elks and their guests during the last eight years.





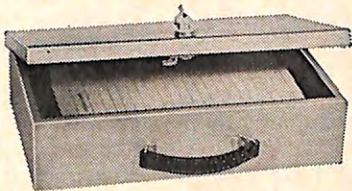


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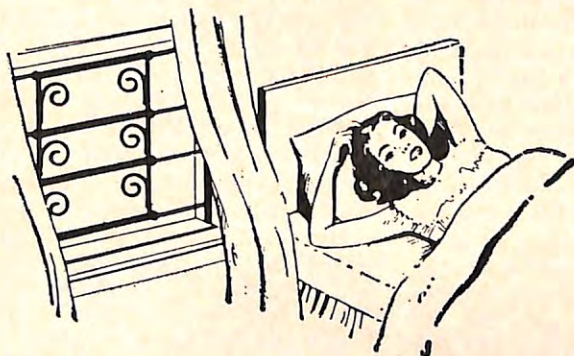
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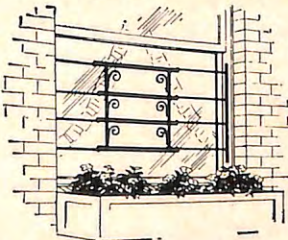
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(Continued from page 26)

it pops and gurgles on surface. Big male bluegills fanning beds or hanging around them in one to three feet of water just can't resist. They strike noisily and hard and fight brilliantly. Often you'll believe you're fast to something really big. Find a "bedding area" and it is not uncommon to catch a hundred in a quarter-acre of water. As I have indicated, these are good places to start youngsters fly fishing. They get results, and that grabs their interest.

Once spawning is over, all of the panfish scatter and go to deeper water. For a time they may be rather difficult. But by midsummer there are two general ways to catch a great many. One is to cast flies or small lures from a boat toward reedy or weedy shorelines at dawn and dusk. The other is to find deep holes out in a lake and fish these from an anchored, or drifting, boat. One lake I have fished for years in the north has a great many large bluegills. I've taken my boys lots of times and fished as follows on a summer day.

Using a spinning rod, I tie a small bell sinker to the end of the line. Up about eighteen inches I tie to the line a length of stiff monofil about a foot long. On the end of this "dropper" I tie a hook, and bait with a whole big night-crawler, hooked through the head end and strung on the hook. We then cast out and let the rig sink to bottom in 10 to 25 feet of water. Then very slowly we reel. The sinker drags along on bottom, probably stirring up a bit of mud to trail behind. A big bluegill, lying deep where water is cool and oxygen supply good, sees this and darts ahead. Now he sees the bait, which trails along just off bottom—and whammo. Once you locate an area any of the sunfishes use during summer in deep water, you can go back time after time and show the whole fishin' family a big time. This deep fishing gets the big ones, too. Smaller specimens will stay in closer to the shoreline weeds.

If you do not have bait, use a small strip of pork rind. This old standby can be bought at any tackle counter. Get the small size, in white. Place it on the same rig as above. I've caught hundreds of big sunfishes this way. If the fish don't seem too eager, another excellent rig is made by tying a fairly large spinner—I use a double-bladed No. 6 Indiana spinner—to the line's end. Now add behind the spinner about a foot of monofil. Then the hook, with the bait. By rowing or drifting slowly in deep water, the rig goes down near bottom but the revolving spinner blades, while attracting the fish, also buoy the bait up off bottom. Many times, of course, you can find panfish in ten or twelve feet of water in summer, and just anchor and still-fish.

Small streams also can be delightful panfishing spots for kids and adults. I visualize as I write that our very own creek on a small ranch we now own in the Texas Hill Country. There are deep, mysterious holes in it, and swift, talkative runs. There are still pools beneath shady rock bluffs, and miniature waterfalls, and undercut banks where lie all sorts of surprises. The U.S. is cut to ribbons with thousands of such unsung streams.

Our creek contains five different species of sunfish. Often in spring or summer the boys and I fiddle along it, getting tangled in overhanging brush, spooking a big fish that we wish we might have caught, and seeing it whisk away. But they don't all whisk away! We cast with a short spin rod up under a bank, or below a shady rock bluff. I toss a wet fly under sycamore branches. On this small creek we often take long strings of colorful panfish. It is exciting. You never know what will hit next. It is for kids, tailored precisely—for young kids, and for old kids like the kids' dad! If it were any more enjoyable it would be certain to be listed as a sin!

I'm not so sure that what often follows isn't chalked up against us in the Big Book, because it seems too good to be wholly condoned. You see, we tote a string of these panfish down the creek to a spot where there is an expanse of dry, flat, rocky streambed. A big boulder nearby has a hole under it, and in the hole is a hidden tin can, and inside the tin can is a glass jar full of salt. We break dry sticks and build a fire on the flat streambed. While it burns down to coals, we clean our fish and cut long green black-cherry sticks. Now we thrust fish onto these, and roast them swiftly over the ardent embers.

It's never difficult to wash up afterward. In fact, we usually strip down and get right into one of the clear, cool holes where the fish only recently came from. Old-fashioned, sure, and maybe in this computered age considered sort of corny. No jet flight over a weekend trying for a world's record somewhere far away—but the one thing about this panfish fishin' that's bad is this: it'll sometimes make you wish you'd been born a century earlier, and that today's world would just go on by and leave you far behind!

**Salome C. Price**

Elkdom mourns the death on April 25 of Mrs. Salome C. Price, widow of the late PGER John G. Price. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, eight grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.



(Continued from page 21)

more than 30 such associations operating.

These state associations were purely functional, rather than governmental, bodies. They had nothing to do with running Elkdom—but they had a great deal to do with running Elkdom's business of helping others. They were truly only extensions of the dictum to "do the duty that lies nearest thee." And they gave Elk operations a powerful thrust forward, justifying their existence a thousand times.

Few lodges could hope to sponsor a children's hospital or home, pay for vital medical training, or carry health assistance across a state. The associations could and did, pooling the resources and manpower of many lodges. They put Elkdom squarely into the vital field of national health, and by the 1950s the major share of all Elk philanthropies was being spent to help physically handicapped American youth.

Here again Elks pioneered an effective and spectacular form of health assistance—the mobile home-therapy program. The California State Association developed this program for cerebral palsied children, and boys and girls with other terrible handicaps. Elks paid for skilled therapists, traveling from town to town in wonderfully equipped station wagons, who visited patients at home. These men and women gave treatment prescribed by doctors, and aided and instructed parents so that they could administer further treatment.

In California alone, by 1968 some 41 therapists were on the road continually, treating more than 1,100 children. But the California association was hardly alone—thirteen other state associations had developed similar programs. In Alaska, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington, Elk-sponsored mobile medical programs were in dramatic action.

Missouri Elks brought dental care to out-of-the-way, needy youngsters. Other units, in other places, provided speech and hearing training and, especially important, diagnostic treatment to thousands of homes. But the statistics become unimportant in the vision of the new life and new hope such care has opened to thousands of American children and their families.

Other state associations, in Arizona, Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, and Texas, to name only a few, operated hospitals devoted to the care of crippled children. Florida Elks in the 1960s began to spend nearly a half million dollars a year for orthopedic patients. Oregon Elks began a special Children's Eye Clinic. Nebraska, New Jersey, and

South Dakota had thriving programs. Michigan Elks, in 1957, announced they would not allow any handicapped child in their state to go without needed medical care. They have kept that promise.

There were fifty states, but many more than fifty programs to help the crippled and handicapped children of America. The antlers of Elk protection spread wide, indeed. More significant than the recital of millions of dollars spent, or hundreds of millions of man-hours devoted to good works, or listing the names of states, was the fact that regularly, somewhere in America, a child walked again.

Elks read statistics regularly, then forgot them. But few Elks, who ever saw the sum of Elks charity firsthand, where the children were concerned, forgot. And this was good, because the work would never end.

The Elks National Foundation, created in 1928 to establish a permanent charitable fund, began slowly at first. It had to, because it could only spend income from investments, without touching principal. But over the years a significant endowment grew, as more and more Elks supported it. By 1952, the Foundation had a fund of nearly \$3,000,000, and had already disbursed about \$800,000.

The Trustees believed that educational work was the most practical program for the Foundation to take up directly. The first Foundation-sponsored project was the granting of college scholarships to needy students, on the basis of merit. And in its first thirty years, the Elks National Foundation made college training possible for more than 6,000 brilliant young Americans whose talents might otherwise have gone to waste.

The Most Valuable Student Competition, started in 1934, expanded rapidly, until by 1968 this program was awarding annual scholarships to 150 deserving girls and boys, totalling \$133,000 a year. The competition was carried out in every state. In addition, the Foundation granted another 250 scholarships, amounting to \$150,000, through the associations of the several states. Another \$200,000 was being spent to help educate the children of dead or distressed Elks, in augmentation of local association educational programs, and to finance special study and research by doctors and technicians in the field of cerebral palsy.

This \$500,000 spent each year to further American higher education made the National Foundation a major national source of aid to education. This was, surprisingly, a fact that many individual Elk members did not know.

Not all Foundation money went for education. Thirty percent of Founda-

(Continued on page 44)

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For Elks Who Travel

# PUERTO RICO



By JERRY HULSE

Hector Pineiro, who is the director of tourism for the commonwealth of Puerto Rico, told a writer recently, "What we don't want here is another Havana." The truth is the island has inherited everything from Cuba but Castro and the cigar. Back when Havana swung, San Juan merely hummed. Now with the roles reversed San Juan is the Caribbean capital for the well-heeled tourist.

When tourists made their exodus from Cuba they settled for Puerto Rico. In turn, San Juaneros responded by building skyscraper hotels along with a string of gambling casinos. The result is, there's an old spinning wheel in practically every big hotel parlor. Not the sort Grandma spun, mind you. The San Juan type weaves a comforter of gold from green dollar bills. When a guest checks into one of the major hotels he is handed a booklet titled, "The Casinos of Puerto Rico Gaming Guide." Not only does it give gambling instructions it also insists there is not a chance whatsoever of "being fleeced" and a "good chance of winning a little money." It all concerns how you interpret that part about not being "fleeced." Maybe the losers I watched were just good-natured donors.

It's a Las Vegas-Miami mixture with a Spanish accent. Unlike Las Vegas, though, San Juan's casino operators are government trained and licensed. Furthermore, it's against the law to advertise or promote a casino. Actually, it's unnecessary. Every chancy den is packed with rich Yanquis eager to pad the coffers. While not everyone looks like a Las Vegas reject, occasionally you run into one. There was the chap in the Americana's casino: double-breasted light blue sport coat, big white buttons, big cigar, dark glasses, an extra stogie stuffed in the pocket where the handkerchief belongs. He had everything but a roscoe bulging under his coat. What he turned out to be, though, was one of those government-trained pit bosses who'd obviously seen too many gangster movies. I walked into the Americana at 1:30 in the morning. It might as well have been 1:30 in the afternoon. Everyone was awake. The roof was splitting its rivets.

Off in the Gaucho Room a couple was nibbling steaks. It was like Spain where you're considered a bit balmy if you dine before the normal bedtime hour back home. There's a touch of Miami, too. It's a bagel world filled with cream

cheese and lox. San Juan is also humming a tune familiar in Havana during pre-Castro days: Bars, B-Girls and Blackjack. The big gun in the tourist office insists you won't be shot at here, but of course he's paid to paint a pretty picture.

"We are not interested in the materialistic outlook they had in Havana," he said. "More than anything, more than the weather, the warmth of the people and the variety of things to do, people come to Puerto Rico because it is a safe and peaceful place where you can relax."

Perhaps so, but bring money. Swank ocean front hotels get \$50 a day in the high season (December-April) for single rooms worth \$20 or less any place else. There is hope, though, for the tourist on a budget. For as little as \$5 single shelter is provided in San Juan's cozy little guest houses. Just across the boulevard Isla Verde from a string of Spanish-Miami hotels is a snug guest house with the un-Spanish name of Duffy's. The proprietor is Fred Van Eeghen, late of Miami. He will provide you with shelter for two with breakfast for \$14. Floors are tiled, fans spin in the ceiling. Duffy's is the sort





of place you expect to find in the tropics. (A list of inexpensive guest houses is provided in the box accompanying this article).

Sometimes a place will go to any length to snag a tourist. Take El Convento, a restored 17th century Carmelite convent in Old San Juan. Its former chapel serves as a dining room-bar. There is even an El Convento Casino, Puerto Rico's smallest. Louise Ogilvie, an ex-New York actress, has ushered in a cabaret theater. The latest smash is called "There's a Monk in the Convent." Patrons arriving early watch silent movies which are screened free. Later when show time rolls around the customers are tapped for a \$3 cover.

To orient you, this is just down the street from the spot where they buried Ponce de Leon on Calle del Cristo, reputedly the oldest street in the western hemisphere. Facing Calle del Cristo is the famous gift shop, Casa Cavanagh. You lady Elks will find some of the best buys in San Juan here beaded sweaters, tailored dresses, and a marvelous collection of knick-knacks.

Since I was last here a rash of new clubs has been launched, among them Gatsby's. Gatsby's is owned by a disc jockey who features the Twiggyburger, which turns out to be a diet of hamburger and cottage cheese. The sign at the door says Gatsby's swings from 3 a.m. to 8 a.m., which seems an odd hour to be sitting around munching hamburgers and eating cottage cheese.

To accommodate all those tourists on their gambling safaris, San Juan is on a hotel building kick that never seems to end. Among the late arrivals are Howard Johnson and Sheraton. Perched on a hillside outside town is El Conquistador, which on a flawless day af-

fords a view clear to the Virgin Islands. The 392-room hotel has casino, an immense oval-shaped den. When the eastern U.S. is white with winter the El Conquistador gets \$90 double for its rooms, including both breakfast and dinner. By summertime, though, you can get by on only \$42 a day. Guests ride to the beach in a cable car, and there is the village of Las Croabas where one may go exploring, a sleepy place with sailboats for rent. The hotel owns a catamaran and it sails off to little islands not so far away.

Still, San Juan's most elegant hotel it seems to me is El San Juan with 400 rooms, 58 suites, a health club, a dozen bars and restaurants and the grandest casino of them all. The Flamenco Bar is like a cave in old Madrid. Antonio Vargas and Manuel Gracia, both from Spain, serve Spanish melodies while the bartender serves margaritas. I had my finest meal in Puerto Rico in Le Pavilion, which is just a few steps away. In the high season rooms at the El San Juan start at \$35 a day double and drop off to \$23 in the late spring.

San Juan is where you go if you're looking for excitement. You leave the city and explore the island if you're after a little quiet. Small villages unfold along the coast and there are others hidden away in the mountains. There are nearly 4,000 miles of pretty fair roads. You can either rent a car in San Juan or join a tour. Off on the northeastern corner of the island is El Yunque with an overwhelming rain forest, the Caribbean National Forest, which is fed by more than 200 inches of rain a year, a place of wild orchids, ferns and exotic trees, along with waterfalls that spill furiously from the far off heavens. There are other tours of

rum and pineapple factories. Some people seem to enjoy this sort of *vacationing* although I'm not one of them.

If there is one place which I dearly love, though, it is Laurance Rockefeller's Dorado Beach Hotel—10 minutes by air from San Juan or about 45 minutes by car. Here there are no freeways, no smog, not even the jet noises. There is instead the murmur of the sea and the sigh of trade winds sifting through coconut palms. These sounds along with, zap, the whacking of golf balls across Mr. Rockefeller's palmy patch. Everything—palms, lawns, and seaside bungalows are spread across 1,500 meticulously manicured acres.

With so much land Laurance decided not to crowd his guests. If you like open spaces you will love Dorado. So great is the distance from one end of his little world to the other the bellboys pedal back and forth by bicycle. For the guests there is a tram which calls each 10 minutes, 8 a.m. till 1 a.m., the very same tram which carried visitors around the world's fair at Montreal last year. Mr. Rockefeller bought it for his own little spectacle off in the Caribbean.

As for his hotel, he will extract \$40 to \$50 a day per couple between now and October. Besides a room he also provides breakfast and dinner. The same room during the high season is anywhere from \$65 to \$90 a day. Guests may swim in two pools or else bathe in the ocean. During summer there is a honeymoon package priced at \$238 for a one-week spree which includes the transportation from the airport in San Juan. There are three room choices at Dorado. First, there are the air-conditioned beach houses for the ocean water worshipper. Each comes

(Continued on page 45)



(Continued from page 41)

tion grants over the years were for the support of state association projects, ranging from tuberculosis hospitals to crippled children's wards. In this way, the Foundation lived up to its original purpose to assist and expand programs that might become "unduly burdensome" upon local lodges or state associations. Matching funds from the Foundation, granted to the states, became a powerful incentive to Elk efforts across the land. By 1968, \$125,000 was being spread among the state associations for their favored activities each year.

The Foundation's support of cerebral palsy treatment research, begun first in 1950, became nationally significant. Thousands of victims, who had been denied treatment because of a shortage of trained personnel and a lack of know-how, now found help. The Elks cerebral palsy educational program trained more than 1,600 therapists in seventeen years.

The Foundation had grown to a permanent fund of \$18 million in 1968. The "Great Heart of Elkdom" was unique, yet it followed the true pattern of most Elk charities. Not one cent of its money had ever been spent for fund-

raising or administrative expense. Its few expenses were picked up directly by Grand Lodge. Its vast income was disbursed almost entirely each year. Elks were accumulating money to spend on America, not to have or to hold.

A hundred years after its founding, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was engaged in a thousand projects, great and small. Ironically, they were too many, and too diffuse, to record, or for one Elk to know or understand them all. Elks statistics on charitable expenditures were too large and varied—from hospitals, therapists, scholarships, 4-H Clubs, boys' and girls' organizations, 3,000 Little League teams, Youth Week, veterans' rehabilitation, retarded child care, Christmas baskets, and countless others—for anything less than a computer to hold and digest them all.

Good works have become vast, organized enterprises, from shiny, speeding medical vehicles on western roads to quiet men planning a new hospital wing in an eastern room. Yet some things never change. There is a story told by an aging Elk, a prominent and successful man. Many years ago, he was an orphan, in a dilapidated, neg-

lected orphanage in a Middlewestern town.

Just before Christmas, some men came to his orphanage. They took him and his fellow orphans downtown. It was late, and the stores had closed; the merry shoppers, loaded and weary, had hastened home. But the men took these boys to a clothing store. It was opened for them, and inside, among the many wonderful things, each boy was fitted personally with needed clothes and new shoes. They were the first new shoes some of the boys had ever had.

The boy who later became an Elk never knew who these men were. He did not learn their names, and the names would have meant nothing, anyway. But he heard that they were Elks. There was nothing in the papers, and few people in this town even knew this happened, or perhaps, even cared. The boy soon moved away and went out on his own. But when he told this story, this Elk businessman broke down and cried.

Human hearts will never be replaced by statistics or computers, and a million obscure, faceless men with great, good hearts will never be known. And this perhaps tells the story of the real business of Elkdom best of all. ■

## News of the State Associations

(Continued from page 25)

ritualistic competition, of which Wellington Lodge emerged the winner.

Elected to head the association for the coming year were PDD W. Harold Young, Salina, President; PDD Virgil Howey, Galena, Deputy President; Robert L. White, Pittsburg, Vice-President; PDD Clarence Chandler, Topeka, Treasurer, and Glenn E. Edwards, Wellington, a former GL committeeman, Secretary.

Salina Lodge will host the fall convention in October. Wichita was again chosen as the site of the annual convention in 1969.

VERMONT ELKS raised more than \$38,000 for the state major project—the Silver Towers Camp for retarded children—they learned at their 41st annual convention May 17 through 19 in Bellows Falls. Also, a state per capita amount of \$1.28 was raised for the Elks National Foundation.

PDD J. Paul Bushnell of Brattleboro Lodge was elected President. Reelected Secretary for his 22nd term was Roger J. Sheridan, Montpelier, and reelected Treasurer, R. Newton Owens, Rutland. Other officers include: VPs Gerald Kelley, St. Johnsbury, Dennis C. Brooks, Springfield, and John C. Taffner Jr., Newport; Tiler Karl Mowry; Chap. Joseph I. Witalis; Sgt. at Arms Stephen L. Kendrick, all of Brattleboro Lodge.

Three-year term Trustees are Edward W. Hoar, St. Johnsbury; William E. Roberts, Brattleboro; Wilfred J. Fisher, Barre, and Joseph A. Burke, Windsor, and one-year term Trustee, Theodore H. Buck, Newport.

Vermont Elks welcomed as their guest of honor PGER John E. Fenton, president of Suffolk University, Boston, who spoke at the convention banquet. Among other highlights on the agenda were the annual Memorial Service and a "centennial smorgasbord," both held at Bellows Falls Lodge.

Recognition in the various annual competitions went to Hartford Lodge for the top ritualistic team and Newport Lodge for highest achievement in membership. Montpelier Lodge won the championship in cribbage and St. Albans in golf.

Brattleboro Lodge will host the 42nd annual convention of the Vermont Elks in May 1969.

SOUTHERN EYE BANK officials addressed the more than 300 Elks and their guests attending the annual convention of the Louisiana Elks Association April 26 through 28 in Slidell. More than \$20,700 was contributed during the last year to the Eye Bank, the state major project. Certificates denoting individual lodges' participation were presented by Brother Martin F.

Moe Jr., Slidell, master of ceremonies.

Guest speaker for the convention was PGER William A. Wall.

Slidell Lodge's ritualistic team won the state title for the third year in a row. Plaques for the most outstanding lodge activities program were presented to Slidell and Shreveport lodges.

Awards were presented to Mary Ann Garrett, Shreveport, and Nelson Flint Allen, Baton Rouge, and Diane L. Somson, Baton Rouge, and Harold J. Fonti Jr., Metairie, winners of the Youth Leadership and Most Valuable Student contests, respectively.

Newly elected officers include SP Herman L. Shacklett, Baton Rouge; VPs Henry L. Riser, Shreveport, and Sam D. Sullivan, Slidell; Secy. E. F. "Gene" Heller Sr., Alexandria, serving his 20th term; Treas. C. W. McGill, Slidell; Trustees PDD Richard W. Glaholt and PDD Charles B. Emery, both of Shreveport; B. L. Champagne, Baton Rouge; PDD J. Arthur Fontenot, Opelousas, and Charles R. Champagne, Plaquemine.

Appointed to serve for the coming lodge year were Mike Sullivan, Shreveport, Sergeant at arms, Slidell ER Gary G. Snyder, Tiler, and Baton Rouge Chap. Theo J. Duhon Jr., Chaplain.

The semiannual conference of the Louisiana Elks Association will be held at Plaquemine, Oct. 11 and 12. ■



(continued from page 43)

equipped with a private terrace and beach furniture. Those addicted to the swimming pool take up residence in the Terrace Wing, which looks down on an Olympic-size pool. Lastly there are rooms on the golf course plus still others in Su Casa, a slick 20th century version of the old hacienda.

Actually, Mr. Rockefeller's world could probably perk along nicely without any outside help. Besides a hospital of its own Dorado is served by its own airline. It even has its own airport.

When the hotel opened back in 1958 it was called the Dorado Beach Hotel and Golf Club. This tended to frighten off the non-golfer. So now they tell you to come, that it's no longer necessary to carry a club to get by the guard at the gate. Besides golf, one may play tennis, go bicycling and explore a jungle-like plot complete with palm forests, vines and seagrape. Should anyone wish to take up permanent residency homes and lots on the golf course are being bid at \$75,000 to \$100,000.

No one has ever figured out whether Mr. Rockefeller intended to make money with Dorado or just spend for the hell of it. Whatever, it is a peachy paradise. Take the beach: it is one of those things that looks as if it belongs in a travel folder. Umbrellas are unnecessary. There are palm trees for shade. Bathers are protected by a reef. It is man-made. When day is beginning breakfast is served out on the terrace, next to the sea. Puerto Ricans grind coffee at your table. Others squeeze juice from plump pineapples. Guests are serenaded by the sea, pastel pink hibiscus climbing along the beach. While parents have their fling the small fry are steered off on scavenger hunts and carriage rides, plus an assortment of other endeavors to close the gap between sunup and sundown. It's pleasant, indeed—getting to live like a Rockefeller.

### PUERTO RICO GUEST HOUSES

Here is a list of inexpensive guest houses for the budget vacationer in Puerto Rico:

- Adabella: 3 Elena, Ocean Park. Doubles: \$14-\$20.
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- Island: 1017 Ashford, Condado. Doubles: \$15-\$24.
- The Duffy's: No. 9 Isla Verde Rd. (in the heart of San Juan's luxurious beach area). Doubles: \$18 (breakfast included).

Note: Prices above are the winter rates. They are substantially cheaper during the off-season.

## Obituaries

Illinois Past State President George A. Shields, 61, of Oglesby Lodge, died May 31, 1968, after suffering a heart attack.

Brother Shields, an Oglesby mortician and civic leader, as well as a long-time Elk, was initiated into LaSalle-Peru Lodge. Later, he became Exalted Ruler of his hometown Oglesby Lodge, the 100th in Illinois, established largely through his untiring efforts.

On the Grand Lodge level, Brother Shields served as District Deputy of Illinois' East Central District. In 1965 he was named Grand Inner Guard and, the following year, served on the GL New Lodge Committee.

Brother Shields had been particularly active in the state and local Elks' programs for crippled children, serving on the state committee for 14 years.

Brother Shields is survived by two brothers, Vincent and William, and two sisters, Bessie and Catherine. ■

Past District Deputy Lyle W. Webster, 68, who joined the Order April 2, 1922, died April 8. He was born June 26, 1899, at Rice Lake, Wis.

A charter member of Rice Lake Lodge, PDD Webster served as Exalted Ruler for 1936-1937. He was elected lodge secretary in 1942, an office he still held at the time of his death.

Brother Webster was appointed District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of Wisconsin's Northwest District for 1948-1949. He also served as a Trustee of the Wisconsin Elks Association from 1954 to 1964.

The members of Rice Lake Lodge voted to confer an Honorary Life Membership on Brother Webster in 1949. ■



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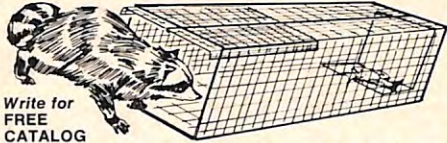
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(Continued from page 35)

Wards, and wild animal trainer Emil Schwyer carried at least 20 injured persons from the wreck. A gang of husky circus roustabouts, their heads bleeding, worked as a team in their bare feet lifting parts of the wreck so that people underneath could be moved to safety. After three men had failed to pry heavy wreckage from a screaming woman, a circus wagonman known only as "Blackie" strode in and, with superhuman strength, got her out alive.

But there was too little time. So rapidly did the fire become a holocaust that rescuers couldn't get to several people who were not pinned in the wreckage but who were too badly injured to pull themselves away from the flames. A young circus performer, his clothes burned off, was unable to save his sister from a fiery death. The Great Diericks, circus strongman, lost his life in a valiant effort to rescue still-alive victims.

Flames drove off several men who were struggling to help veteran clown Joe Coyle free his 11-year-old son who was pinned in the wreckage. This was one of the cruelest of the many tragedies that were happening so fast. As Coyle fought to save his son he could see the crushed bodies of his wife and another younger son beneath the trapped boy. The sobbing father tugged and hauled and pulled on wooden beams until flames actually got to the boy, who could be heard crying, "Daddy, Daddy. Can't you get me out? I'm burning, Daddy!"

And Coyle could not get his son free. He would have died trying if co-workers had not dashed in and pulled him away. He was taken to the hospital later, badly burned and in a condition of stunned grief.

The heat became so intense that all rescuers had to get away from the wreck. They could see trapped victims still in the blazing wreckage. They could hear their hideous screams. And they could do nothing except stand there helplessly beside the railroad tracks in the red glare of the fire and watch their fellow troupers be consumed by flames before their eyes. For many in that group of wreck survivors, this scene of appalling horror was more than they could endure.

Several hysterical women had to be restrained by force from flinging themselves back into the flames. A few survivors suffered such utter shock they were unable to stand on their feet. Others ran wildly away from the wreck scene. They were found hours later wandering, dazed, in a nearby woods.

When the Gary fire department arrived there was little they could do. No water was available at the site. At the height of the blaze it was not possible to get within 150 feet of the wreck.

There were no more screams, now, from victims trapped in the wreck. There was just the savage roar of the fire and the hiss of steam escaping from the locomotive of the troop train, derailed but still upright in the middle of that tangle of flaming wreckage.

Eighty-five circus people lost their lives in the Hagenbeck-Wallace wreck; 127 were seriously injured. It was not possible at all to identify 48 of the bodies recovered from the wreckage. These were buried together in a mass grave at Showmen's Rest, a plot furnished by the Showmen's League of America, in Woodlawn Cemetery, Forest Park, Illinois.

The entire nation grieved for the stricken circus. Those who had perished were circus people, and the circus was a much-loved institution in 1918.

The wreck of the circus train took such a high toll in dead and injured because the wooden sleeping cars were old and flimsy and broke up so completely in the collision and then caught fire so quickly. Some who burned to death were almost literally cremated. Their charred remains were picked up with shovels and taken from the wreck scene in baskets.

When the troop train's engine split the rear sleeping car apart, those who were asleep there, many of them, were spilled into the middle, right ahead of the engine. Then they were pushed and ground along the tracks in front of the engine and up against the accumulating wreckage. Railroad workers later picked up severed arms and legs, parts of torsos.

Miraculously, May Curtis, wardrobe mistress for the circus, escaped from the complete disintegration of that last car with only a broken ankle. She was knocked unconscious in the collision and was then somehow tumbled through what must have been a maelstrom of splintering wreckage. "When I came to," she said, "I found hissing steam scalding my arm. I was under the engine. How I got there God only knows."

Circusman Henry Miller, who was asleep in the next to the last car, told how he emerged without a scratch when this car was shattered. "I was pounded into the corner of my berth. Then the train buckled on itself. I felt my car rising as the engine plowed into it. The car roof exploded off. Smoothly and gently, I was lifted up to the top, above all the wreckage."

From his hospital bed, Alex Codd, an acrobat, told what it was like to be almost killed in the collision and then almost burned alive in the wreckage. "The car broke like the cracking of an eggshell. My legs doubled up under the pressure of the walls of the car as they caved in. I couldn't move. Then, the cars were on fire. It became hotter



and hotter. Around me was pandemonium. I could feel the fire and hear the shrill cries of those I had worked with so long. Then I lost consciousness."

What about the engineer of the troop train? Had he been dead just before the wreck as the circus train's brakeman thought? Railroad officials at the wreck scene agreed that it must have been a case of a dead engineer in the engine cab. In no other way could they account for the fact that all warning signals were ignored.

Then a trainman reported that he had seen the engineer, Alonzo Sargent, after the wreck. He had been badly shaken up but was alive and uninjured. It was learned that he had left the wreck scene. That evening he was arrested in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Sargent at first told investigators that steam had obscured the block signal behind the circus train. He was reminded that there were two block signals, a signalling brakeman, an exploding torpedo, red lights on the rear of the circus train, a brightly flaming red warning fusee, and another fusee thrown into his engine cab. And he was told that the throttle of his engine was almost wide open when the engine stopped. The engineer finally changed his testimony and admitted that he "must have been sleeping."

The day after the wreck there was a mass meeting of all the circus people—those who were left—on the circus lot in Hammond, Indiana, where the circus had been scheduled to set up. It was decided to continue the tour.

To outsiders, this was an astonishing decision, considering that circus owner Ed Ballard's personnel roster showed red lines drawn through the names of 100 performers. Of the 25 acts in the circus, only one was without casualties in dead or injured.

Circus performers of that decade possessed an unquestioning acceptance of an unwritten law that had been passed on to them for generations. The law said: "When it comes circus time you go in there and put on your act. No matter if the heavens are erupting and the thunder is crashing or if hurricane winds are whipping or even shredding the white tops . . . still, you go in there and you go into your act."

The tradition of the circus had never been broken. Besides, the circus could roll. Little damage had been done to the circus properties, loaded in baggage wagons on the flatcars up forward on the train. No horses were lost. The menagerie was intact. From other circuses had come offers to help, to loan whole acts, or furnish replacements. This was the Golden Age of the circus and at the time there were a dozen big "under-canvas" circuses.

Four days after the disaster the Ha-

genbeck-Wallace circus picked up the tour at Beloit, Wisconsin. There were many new faces on the circus lot. There were many bandages under the spangled costumes worn in the opening pageant that day. But every trouper able to walk was there when it came circus time.

To the spectators at that afternoon's performance it was the same wonderful circus as always. They didn't know that Millie Jewell, Queen of the Lion's Den, always rode in that chair high above the purple plumed horses. Today the gilded seat was empty. They weren't told that The Avalons were replacing the McDhu Sisters, circus artists who would not again perform under the Big Top. They couldn't see the tears in the eyes of the clowns, who put on their acts without Johnnie Carter. And Eddie Ward. And Joe Coyle. And Eddie Devoe.

One of the surviving clowns, Lon Moore, had been rescued from the flaming wreckage the night of the disaster. He had suffered quite severe burns. When circus time came it was painful for him to move. Even though his clown routine was a rough and tumble one, the 52-year-old Moore ignored the tortures of his spills and falls and put on his wild buffoonery with the same heartiness as always. After the performance he limped to his dressing tent, his face contorted with pain. But before Lon Moore left the Big Top that afternoon he had succeeded in making every youngster at the circus scream with joy. Such was the magic of a great circus clown.

The Cottrells, famous bareback riders went on without star equestrienne Louise Powell. Bob Cottrell had watched them take the horribly burned body of his partner from the wreckage of the sleeping cars. He had been strangely silent. Now, as he awaited his entrance, he seemed well-composed until the band broke into "Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight." This had always been the cue for the petite and popular Louise Powell to dance out into the spotlight in the center ring and begin their fast-paced riding act. Suddenly, Cottrell threw his arms up and cried, "I can't go on! I can't go on!"

But he did go on. And, flashing recklessly from the back of one horse to another, Bob Cottrell that afternoon put on one of the most magnificent exhibitions of his difficult art.

It was good that the circus went on with the tour. Those who had lost loved ones in the wreck—and that included just about everyone in the circus—discovered there was a healing power in getting back to work. Only when they "went into their act" were they able to forget that awful day in Indiana when the engineer of the troop train fell asleep at the throttle.

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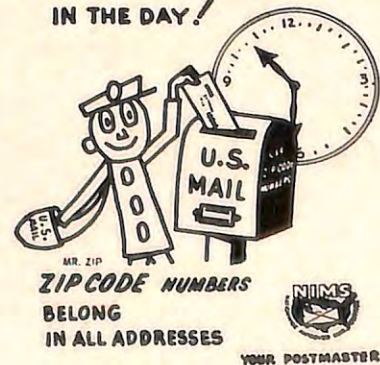
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Digest of

# annual reports

Submitted to the Grand Lodge at New York, July 1968

*This digest consists of excerpts and summaries of the Annual Reports of the Grand Exalted Ruler, the Elks National Service Commission, the Elks National Foundation, the Elks National Memorial and Publication Commission, the Board of Grand Trustees, and the Grand Secretary*



Robert E. Boney

## Grand Exalted Ruler

I have been privileged to serve as Grand Exalted Ruler during this significant year as we celebrate the Centennial anniversary of the founding of the Order of Elks. Rare is the human being who lives a hundred years. Rare, too, is the human institution that survives a century. We do accord a certain respect to the centenarian; but at the same time, we remember that life is measured not in hours but in accomplishment.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has met the test of accomplishment well, and as a result, faces the future with courage and determination, dedicated to continue building, shaping, improving, but holding fast to the great principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and with the Fidelity that has guided our fraternity for the past one hundred years.

A proud past, yes, and as I have travelled some 152,196 miles to all 50 of our great United States of America, I have seen Elks everywhere stand ready and anxious to continue the accomplishments that will meet the challenge of the future.

In my acceptance speech in Chicago, I stated that, with me, Americanism comes first. As I have travelled our 50 states, I have stressed the importance of

every Elk standing up and being counted as a true citizen who is proud to be called an American.

There was never a time when active support of the true principles of our American heritage was more important than it is today. We are faced not only with pressure from without but with a great internal movement which threatens our American way of life. The dissenters are operating under the sanctuary of the very freedoms they seek to destroy. It is up to Elks everywhere to insist that law and order should apply to everyone, and that the privilege of true dissent as guaranteed by our Constitution should not be used as a coverup for insidious propaganda intended to bring our nation under some other kind of "ism" than Americanism.

The Grand Lodge Committee on Americanism has prepared excellent material for use on the local lodge level. I strongly urge every lodge to use the checklist of programs as a guide so that on every occasion indicated, the lodge will let its community know we are proud Americans who intend to see that our nation remains free and strong.

The Order of Elks, cooperating with other patriotic organizations through the All-American Conference to Combat Communism, is waging a counter-offensive to the communist effort. We have set up what we call the Education About Communism Through Refugees Program—ECR, for short. With this program, persons who have lived under communism and fled to freedom are available to appear before college audiences and tell our young people face to face just what it is like to live in a communist country—no theory, just plain fact. Pamphlets are available which give details on how to arrange for a speaker, and I strongly urge every lodge to schedule speaking engagements un-

der this program right away for the school year that begins next September. This is so important, I hope every opportunity will be taken to bring this program before the young Americans in the schools and colleges in your area.

A great tribute was paid the Centennial Planning Committee by the number of Lodges and State Associations across the country that responded with excellent use of the material that was furnished. Many special programs and much publicity resulted in a great new awareness on the part of the public that the Order of Elks does have a proud past record of patriotic, charitable and benevolent good works involving millions of dollars and thousands of worthy citizens of all ages.

The special Centennial membership class program resulted in a total of over 30,000 members being added to the roll during February, birthdate of the Order, and this event will leave its mark for years to come upon those who participated.

Even though the Centennial Committee, under the chairmanship of Past Grand Exalted Ruler Emmett T. Anderson, led the way, the fine cooperation and enthusiasm of everyone at all levels of the Order made for a most successful program, and I hope this momentum will continue through the year 1968.

The Elks Centennial Stamp program in Chicago on May 1st was most outstanding and I wish every one of our million and a half members could have witnessed this memorable program, which certainly enhanced the image of Elkdom with the hundreds of young people and others who were present.

I hope every new Exalted Ruler will take full advantage of the material that is available from the Grand Lodge which is intended to be helpful in commemo-



rating this Centennial year, and that before the year is out, every one of our Lodges will have had some type of Centennial program.

Your Order participated in the President's Council on Youth Opportunity January 29-31, 1968, in Washington, D.C., and in the JOBS National Conference, sponsored by the National Alliance of Businessmen on March 16th, 1968, also at Washington.

The Youth Opportunity conference had an attendance of over 600 people. This was a sincere effort to create opportunities for youth and to channel their energies into productive sources not only for the summer months but on a year around basis. Elks lodges are urged to cooperate to the fullest extent in Youth Opportunity programs in their respective communities. They should especially bring to the attention of the public and officials the fact that many of the new ideas being projected now by others have been a part of the Elks Youth Activities programs.

The JOBS National Conference was attended by nearly 1,500 of our nation's top business leaders, who were briefed on plans to implement Job Opportunities for the hard-core unemployed. The President of the United States spoke at this conference about those who do not have suitable employment because they are school dropouts, under 22, over 45, handicapped in some way, or subject to special obstacles to employment. The National Alliance of Businessmen has created a plan to implement job opportunities for these people, and local Elks lodges can assist by helping the hard-core unemployed get in touch with business leaders in the community who are interested in this program or with the Department of Labor in Washington.

I hope every Elk will acquaint himself with the outstanding record which had been set by the Youth Activities Committee this year. The young people I have met who are involved in the various leadership, scholarship, and other youth activities sponsored by the Elks have given me new confidence that the future of our country will be in good hands. I have found the great majority to be concerned young citizens who are just as interested in our American institutions as we are, and are not at all typical of the few young rabble-rousers who seem to get all the publicity.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Every Exalted Ruler should continue the publicity, public relations, and programming surrounding the Centennial observance of the founding of the Order of Elks. Closely associated with this is the solicitation of members to the

Century Club of the Elks National Foundation. The continuation of the Centennial theme for the balance of 1968 will provide a wonderful opportunity to increase lodge membership and to enhance the image of Elksdom.

2. District Deputies should, by conference with the immediate Past District Deputy, schedule early visits to lodges which have problems or need assistance, so there will be time for all concerned to accomplish necessary objectives and corrections as soon as possible.

3. Every lodge should take advantage of the materials offered by the Grand Lodge Americanism Committee and develop to the fullest extent the programs and special events that are set out therein.

4. Every Elk must take a firm and militant stand for law and order. When lawlessness, under any name, becomes the order of the day, then anarchy is sure to raise its ugly head. Every lodge should have programs to teach our young people and all citizens the difference between legal dissent and civil disobedience. We must disclose the true motives of those who incite others to hate and violence, and remind all citizens that each cannot pick and choose the laws with which he agrees, nor can each be his own legislature, his own judge, his own jury. *Be proud to speak up for America . . . and for Americanism.*

5. All lodges should thoroughly indoctrinate each new member on the traditional principles of the Order of Elks, and impress him with the many good works of the Order. Pride of membership will keep a man in good standing long after the pleasures of club activities are forgotten, and we must always remember that the greatest asset we have is Elksdom itself.

6. Section 179 of the Grand Lodge Statutes should be changed to read, "A member owing one year's dues to the Lodge . . . must be dropped from the rolls of his Lodge upon a majority vote . . .", instead of the present *may* be dropped. Too many lodges carry too many members on, and on, and on.

7. Application forms should clearly set out all the qualifications for membership.

8. Reappraisal of weak lodges, especially those with small memberships, should be made in all areas. Many are not a credit to our Order and serious consideration should be given to revoking the charters of these lodges.

9. Studies should be made toward better planning of the Grand Exalted Ruler's schedule of visitations whereby time and expense could be curtailed.

10. It is recommended that the Grand Lodge Newsletter, which has been so informative to all concerned in the past, be continued.

## National Service Commission



James T. Hallinan  
Chairman

The work of the Elks National Service Commission goes on as it has for almost a quarter-century, serving the memory of the millions of gallant servicemen of all wars and the needs of those sick and disabled still in Veterans Hospitals.

This task has been carried out on a continuing basis by Elks and their ladies in Veterans Administration hospitals throughout the country. They have brought recreation and entertainment of a sort that would not otherwise have been available to the bedridden, the crippled, the mentally ill veterans. In giving evidence that Elks really practice brotherly love, they have earned and deserve profound gratitude. Their efforts bring little public acclaim, but they do bring the participating Elks a sense of fulfillment that cannot be measured in ordinary terms.

The local committee workers also were encouraged and rewarded by commendations graciously extended to them by Grand Exalted Ruler Robert E. Boney whenever his extensive travels brought him in contact with them. GER Boney's personal visits to Veterans Administration hospitals, despite his full travel schedule, was concrete evidence to hospital authorities of the Elks' continuing interest in the welfare and disabled veterans.

Any Grand Lodge program that achieves even a small degree of success must have the close cooperation of the Grand Secretary's office. This has always been cheerfully and willingly given by Grand Secretary Franklin J. Fitzpatrick and his efficient staff, and to them all we extend our deep appreciation.

As Grand Exalted Ruler Robert E. Boney said in his final report, "In my extensive travel this year, I have seen our Veterans Service Commission, which is headed by our distinguished Past Grand Exalted Ruler, the Honorable James T. Hallinan, through the cooperation of many Elks in communities where a VA hospital exists, faithfully carry out the pledge that 'So long as there is a disabled veteran in our hospitals, the Elks will never forget him.'

"This program is even more important today than in the past, because in the hustle-and-bustle in which we are now living there is a tendency for people not to have time to think about others as much as they should. The Order of Elks



has always paid tribute to our men in service. I am proud to be part of an organization that does not forget what these veterans have sacrificed for us, even after the martial music and flag-waving have ceased and the veterans are left in the quiet of their personal lives."

A year ago, the Elks were cited in special ceremonies at Washington by the Veterans Administration Voluntary Services as follows.

"As a member [of the VA Committee] your organization has played a major role in helping us to plan and develop our nationwide program of volunteer participation in the medical care and treatment of patients.

"Your organization's contributions, along with those of other members of our national volunteer advisory committee, to the recovery and rehabilitation of veteran-patients have brought a new dimension to citizen volunteer participation.

The great abundance of assistance on all levels would be meaningless without the cooperation and support given by the officers and members of subordinate lodges. We take pride in reporting that this aid was given in the fullest degree. Commission funds have been augmented by individuals, lodges, and State Associations to make our programs more attractive. Truly, the great heart of Elksdom is represented by our subordinate lodges.

Through its many years of activity, our Commission has established itself firmly as an effective nationwide branch of civilian aid to our government. Our record during the war years and in the years following the cessation of hostilities has earned for the Order of Elks an outstanding reputation for willingness to serve and results achieved.

We dedicate ourselves to the preservation of this prestige and stand ready for whatever the future might present.

*Members of the Elks National Service Commission are Past Grand Exalted Rulers James T. Hallinan (Chairman), George I. Hall, William J. Jernick, John L. Walker, Emmett T. Anderson, Fred L. Bohn, and William A. Wall.*

## Elks National Foundation



John L. Walker  
Chairman

Increased contributions, a conservative investment program and securities sales have resulted in another record year financially for the Elks National Foundation. The Foundation's annual

report for the fiscal year April 1, 1967, through March 31, 1968, reveals contributions totaling \$984,722.14. Sales of securities during the year brought the total book value to \$13,417,017. The Foundation's investment portfolio is appraised at \$17,582,640. These figures do not include vast amounts indicated in wills and pledges.

The following record of disbursements totaling \$574,617.53 contains no item of expense for administrative purposes. The Foundation emphasizes again that as the Order's principal benevolent trust, it makes no deduction from income to defray administrative costs. During the past fiscal year these costs amounted to \$158,889.58 and were paid by the Grand Lodge.

*State Association Projects*—\$130,100. Foundation funds assist State Associations with established major projects and those being organized. The success of the program is reflected by an increase of nearly \$7,200 in disbursements over last year.

*Scholarships Allocated to States*—\$147,200. This amount was distributed by the State Associations and does not include scholarships administered directly by the Foundation.

*"Most Valuable Student" Awards*—\$108,000. This program provides scholarship awards ranging from \$800 to \$2,000 to outstanding students.

*Grants for Special Training in Treatment of Cerebral Palsy*—\$86,017.26. To date, hundreds of qualified persons—as a direct result of this program—have received vital training in connection with the treatment of cerebral palsy victims.

*Emergency Education Fund*—\$73,300.27. This fund makes available assistance to the children of any Elk in good standing who loses his life or becomes incapacitated.

*Youth Awards*—\$25,000. The Foundation makes this sum available annually to the Grand Lodge for its program of awards to the youth with outstanding leadership qualities.

*T. L. Bear Fund (Grants for Vocational Training)*—\$2,000.

*Nathan O. Noah Scholarship Trust Fund Grants*—\$2,000.

*Samuel A. Moore Bequest*—\$1,000.

The annual report states, in conclusion, that no part of the principal fund is distributed for any purpose; it is income earned through wise investment that perpetuates our charitable programs.

The Foundation's report, now in print, contains detailed tables on all financial transactions and every Elk is urged to study them.

*Trustees of the Elks National Foundation are Past Grand Exalted Rulers John L. Walker (Chairman), H. L. Blackledge, John E. Fenton, Edward J. McCormick, William A. Wall, L. A. Donaldson and Horace R. Wisely.*

## Board of Grand Trustees



Joseph L. Bader  
Chairman

Following the close of the Grand Lodge Session and installation of officers in Chicago July 20, 1967, the Board of Trustees met, organized, and elected Joseph F. Bader as Chairman; Frank Hise, Vice-Chairman; Francis P. Hart, Secretary; E. Gene Fournace, Home Member; George T. Hickey, Pension Member; Vincent H. Grocott, Approving Member; and Roderick M. McDuffie and Francis M. Smith, Building Application Members.

The Board of Grand Trustees held meetings during the year as follows; October 1967, Elks National Home, Bedford, Virginia; February 1968, New York City; May 1968, Santa Barbara, California; and, starting July 11, 1968, at the Hilton Hotel, New York City. This last meeting will adjourn at the conclusion of the Grand Lodge session.

The Board of Grand Trustees by direction of the Grand Lodge in session in Chicago procured and presented suitable testimonials to retiring Chairman of the Board of Grand Trustees Robert E. Boney and retiring Pension Member Raymond C. Dobson.

The Board of Grand Trustees reviewed the limits of the surety bond covering all officers, officials, and employees of Grand Lodge, and considered these amounts as being adequate. It also reviewed the coverage and limits of the insurance on the buildings and physical property of the Elks National Home, and these have been adjusted to conform with the best judgment of the Board.

The Merchants National Bank of Boston is continuing to act as counselor for the investments of the Grand Lodge.

A report on the Retirement Trust stated that "since the Annual Report of May 31, 1967, we have taken approximately \$32,000 in capital gains and from inception to date the Trust has taken approximately \$77,000 in gains. Since the date of our review, which is April 16, we have taken an additional amount of \$35,000 in gains. As a matter of general investment policy, we are putting all available funds in the purchase of common stock, as we feel a longer-term outlook for common stocks is more attractive than the outlook for bonds. Our goal for common-stock participation in the Elks Trust is 55 percent at book value, and we will probably want to increase the proportion to a higher figure."



At the last accounting, the assets of the Trust had a book value of over \$895,000, a market value of over \$987,000, and a current yield of about 4.1 percent.

## National Memorial and Publication Commission



John S. McClelland  
Chairman

At the Los Angeles Grand Lodge session of July 1921, the National Headquarters Committee, appointed the previous year, recommended the erection of an Elks national headquarters building. Also recommended was the establishment of a journal to be issued monthly, commencing in June 1922, and to be known as *The Elks Magazine*.

Both institutions have continued and are now under the direction of the National Memorial and Publication Commission, with John S. McClelland as chairman, Emmett T. Anderson, Wade H. Kepner, James T. Hallinan and Earl E. James, all Past Grand Exalted Rulers.

While the Memorial Building was originally dedicated in July 1926 as a memorial to Elks who served in World War I and particularly to those who made the supreme sacrifice in that conflict, it was rededicated 20 years later to the memory also of all members of the Order who served in World War II.

In describing the Memorial Building it is difficult to avoid superlatives. The majesty of its architectural design, the beauty of its interior, its masterpieces of art, have led poets, artists, critics and laymen alike to acclaim its perfection and to accord it a high place among the notable memorials of the world.

During the past year more than 60,000 people visited the building. Since its erection total visitors number 2,774,475. Expenses covering maintenance of the building are paid from the earnings of *The Elks Magazine*.

There have been printed approximately 50,000 Memorial books. Of these approximately 3,700 copies are still available for sale at the price of \$2.25 per copy. "The Story of Elkdom" is the title of the latest edition and it not only reports the accomplishments of the Order but presents in full color many of its beautiful murals and other artistic embellishments. Orders should be mailed direct to the Memorial Building.

The Fidelity Appraisal Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in its most recent report, has appraised the Memorial Building at a replacement cost of \$7,146,488.00, a sound value of \$5,831,676.00 and an insurable value of \$5,582,600.00.

Appropriate insurance coverage is maintained at all times by the Commission.

### THE ELKS MAGAZINE

There were printed during the year ended May 31, 1968, 17,994,076 copies of the magazine. Total pages, exclusive of business inserts, in the 12 issues for the current year being reported, including covers, were 708, an average of 59 pages per copy.

In 1922 when the first issue came from the press there were 1,310 lodges in the Order with a membership of slightly over 800,000.

As this report goes to the printer, there are 2,108 lodges with a membership of 1,452,187.

At the Grand Lodge session in Miami Beach, Florida, in July, 1965, the delegates unanimously approved and adopted a resolution offered by the National Memorial and Publication Commission that the Grand Lodge erect, immediately adjacent to the National Memorial Headquarters Building in Chicago, Illinois, on property owned by the Order, a two story, modern office building and that the offices of *The Elks Magazine* be removed thereto from New York City.

Construction of said building has been completed and occupancy by the editorial, advertising, circulation and general administrative departments of the magazine has been effected. A cordial invitation is extended to all Brothers expecting to visit the city of Chicago at any future time to stop in and inspect the handsome and modern accommodations that now house the official journal of the Order.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Order has received more publicity inspired by our Centennial celebration than at any other time in its history. Working in close cooperation with the Centennial Committee, we developed a publicity program aimed both at national and local exposure in press, radio and television.

Subordinate lodges were supplied, at no cost, with a complete package of publicity materials to be distributed by them to their local press, radio and television stations. Our Centennial Publicity Kit was mailed to all lodges on October 27, 1967. It also went to the complete list of Grand Lodge officers, committeemen and district deputies, state association presidents and secretaries and state association, public relations and publicity chairmen.

Lodges cooperated excellently. They ordered 1,973 radio packets, 499 TV packets and 1,109 additional press pack-

ets. This gave coverage of more than 80% of the commercial TV stations in the country and about two-thirds of the AM radio stations. In March those lodges that had not ordered radio packets were advised that if they did not order them, same would be mailed directly to the stations. In May there were mailed some 450 radio packets directly to the leading stations in each town where the Elks lodge had failed to respond. In this way coverage of the AM radio stations was raised to about 80%.

## Grand Secretary



Franklin J. Fitzpatrick

During the year ended March 31, 1968, our subordinate lodges added to their membership rolls 122,436 by initiation, 19,424 by dimit and 10,631 by reinstatement. In the same period 65,661 were dropped from the rolls for non-payment of dues, 75 expelled, 29,694 granted dimit and 22,309 lost by death. The total membership of the Order as of March 31, 1968 is 1,452,187, showing a net increase of 34,752. The total number of Lodges on March 31, 1968 is 2108.

The Grand Lodge holds in its various investment accounts United States Government, other securities and cash in the following amounts, at cost:

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| General Fund .....         | \$787,389.98 |
| Reserve Fund .....         | 665,139.68   |
| Home Fund .....            | 320,597.80   |
| Emergency Charity Fund.... | 97,124.00    |
| Uninvested Cash .....      | 19,294.49    |

Current assets of the Grand Lodge are \$2,796,971.06 and fixed assets are \$2,011,207.35 making the total assets of Grand Lodge \$4,808,178.41.

At the Chicago Session of the Grand Lodge, the Elks National Memorial and Publication Commission turned over to the Grand Lodge, from surplus earnings of *The Elks Magazine*, the sum of \$130,000 which amount was credited to the General Fund of Grand Lodge and was of material assistance to the Board of Grand Trustees in making up the final budget.

### GROWTH OF THE ORDER

During the fiscal year just concluded our Order celebrated its 100th Birthday and the calendar year 1968 was designated as our Centennial Year. Under the spirited and dedicated leadership of Grand Exalted Ruler Robert E. Boney, our Lodges and our members were urged and inspired to mark the Centennial by



making 1968 the greatest year in our history. It is most gratifying to record that our beloved Order met the challenge by registering significant advances in all of our major programs and activities and by achieving in the year ended March 31, 1968 a net gain in membership of 34,752, the largest gain registered in recent years. Total membership reached 1,452,187, the highest ever in our Order's existence, and the number of active Lodges attained an all-time peak of 2108.

However, despite the many noteworthy advances achieved during the fiscal year 1967-68 an analysis of the membership statistics appearing elsewhere in this Report reveals that lapsation continues to be a most serious problem. During the year our Lodges dropped for nonpayment of dues a total of 65,661 members, the highest number in recent years. It is reasonable to assume that many of these delinquents could have been saved for the Order by closer application to the problem of dues collection on the part of lodge officers and lapsation committees. Space does not permit a lengthy discussion of the subject in this report but once again, as in other years, those responsible, especially lodge secretaries, are urged to approach the vital problem of lapsation in a systematic and businesslike manner by following closely the program and suggestions set forth in the Lapsation Section of the Membership Control Manual.

### DISPENSATIONS

Granted By Grand Exalted Ruler Raymond C. Dobson:

| GRANTED DISPENSATION | NAME AND NUMBER OF LODGE            | INSTITUTED |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 12-29-66             | Evergreen, Colo., No. 2363          | 4- 2-67    |
| 3- 6-67              | Perryton, Texas, No. 2368           | 4- 1-67    |
| 3- 6-67              | Maryvale (Phoenix), Ariz., No. 2369 | 4-23-67    |
| 3-15-67              | East Brunswick, N.J., No. 2370      | 4-30-67    |
| 3-20-67              | Ord, Nebr., No. 2371                | 4-30-67    |
| 3-20-67              | Meramec (Arnold), Mo., No. 2372     | 4- 9-67    |
| 3-21-67              | Dresden, Tenn., No. 2373            | 4- 1-67    |
| 4-25-67              | Montvale, N.J., No. 2374            | 5- 7-67    |
| 5-17-67              | Vernal, Utah, No. 2375              | 6-25-67    |

Granted by Grand Exalted Ruler Robert E. Boney:

|          |  |          |
|----------|--|----------|
| 8-18-67  | Kansas City (Northland), Mo., No. 2376 | 9-17-67  |
| 8-22-67  | Milton, Fla., No. 2377                 | 11- 5-67 |
| 8-31-67  | Englewood, Fla., No. 2378              | 10-15-67 |
| 9-13-67  | Newhall-Saugus, Cal., No. 2379         | 11-15-67 |
| 9-27-67  | Falmouth, Mass., No. 2380              | 12-16-67 |
| 10-18-67 | Bay City, Texas, No. 2381              | 12-10-67 |
| 11-27-67 | Front Royal, Va., No. 2382             | 12-10-67 |
| 12-11-67 | Brandon, Fla., No. 2383                | 1-28-68  |
| 12-15-67 | Dallas Northwest, Tex., No. 2384       | 1-13-68  |
| 12-22-67 | Carson, Cal., No. 2385                 | 3- 9-68  |
| 1- 2-68  | Wadena, Minn., No. 2386                | 2-10-68  |
| 3-20-68  | Cocoa Beach, Fla., No. 2387            |          |
| 3-29-68  | Lakewood, Wash., No. 2388              |          |
| 4- 4-68  | Yucaipa, Cal., No. 2389                |          |
| 4- 8-68  | Dalhart, Tex., No. 2390                |          |
| 4-15-68  | Cinnaminson, N.J., No. 2391            |          |
| 4-17-68  | Berkeley Heights, N.J., No. 2392       |          |
| 4-22-68  | Crestline, Cal., No. 2393              |          |
| 4-29-68  | Bayville, N.J., No. 2394               |          |
| 5- 2-68  | Overland Park, Kansas, No. 2395        |          |
| 5-13-68  | Webster-Fairport, N.Y., No. 2396       |          |

### BENEVOLENT ACTIVITIES

Below is a list of Charitable, Educational, Welfare and Patriotic activities in which Subordinate Lodges are engaged, together with total moneys expended for the same during the Lodge year from April 1, 1967 to March 31, 1968:

| ACTIVITIES   | AMOUNT                |
|--|-----------------------|
| Relief of Members, Widows, Orphans, Dependents, Burials, etc.        | \$ 657,936.10         |
| Summer Outings, Camps and Health Resorts                             | 389,804.29            |
| Cerebral Palsy   | 971,019.60            |
| Crippled Children  | 982,788.02            |
| Medical Aid and Hospitals  | 487,084.54            |
| Care of Needy Families, including Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets | 1,121,710.83          |
| Elks National Foundation   | 364,045.17            |
| Youth Work (except for scholarships, free textbooks, etc.)           | 1,380,347.75          |
| Scholarships, Free Textbooks, etc.                                   | 604,353.33            |
| Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc.                                      | 251,515.83            |
| Veterans' Relief   | 221,799.75            |
| Miscellaneous  | 749,018.29            |
| Flag Day, Constitution Day, Fourth of July, etc.                     | 273,219.64            |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$8,454,693.14</b> |

### ACTIVITIES BY STATE

The following table shows the amount expended in Charitable and Welfare work

by each State and Special Jurisdiction, during the period from April 1, 1967 to March 31, 1968.

| State           | Amount       | State              | Amount                |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Alabama         | \$ 72,668.54 | Nebraska           | \$ 123,538.21         |
| Alaska          | 63,988.43    | Nevada             | 39,840.49             |
| Arizona         | 183,312.76   | New Hampshire      | 41,023.00             |
| Arkansas        | 29,530.64    | New Jersey         | 528,421.40            |
| California      | 1,303,420.48 | New Mexico         | 86,821.17             |
| Canal Zone      | 12,479.38    | New York           | 546,948.02            |
| Colorado        | 260,394.05   | North Carolina     | 109,726.14            |
| Connecticut     | 163,163.42   | North Dakota       | 81,852.24             |
| Florida         | 284,312.09   | Ohio               | 189,104.73            |
| Georgia         | 166,543.15   | Oklahoma           | 83,752.17             |
| Guam            | 5,050.00     | Oregon             | 297,672.57            |
| Hawaii          | 14,730.05    | Pennsylvania       | 422,592.16            |
| Idaho           | 120,876.68   | Philippine Islands | 4,075.50              |
| Illinois        | 275,086.68   | Puerto Rico        | 2,310.00              |
| Indiana         | 216,913.83   | Rhode Island       | 47,324.35             |
| Iowa            | 58,204.63    | South Carolina     | 92,446.57             |
| Kansas          | 131,520.88   | South Dakota       | 53,179.76             |
| Kentucky        | 35,797.79    | Tennessee          | 89,226.67             |
| Louisiana       | 30,000.79    | Texas              | 207,037.81            |
| Maine           | 26,328.25    | Utah               | 133,086.07            |
| Md., Del., D.C. | 112,708.19   | Vermont            | 60,006.70             |
| Massachusetts   | 423,593.99   | Virginia           | 72,483.70             |
| Michigan        | 223,168.07   | Washington         | 399,569.99            |
| Minnesota       | 75,498.10    | West Virginia      | 97,314.29             |
| Mississippi     | 23,005.14    | Wisconsin          | 163,037.60            |
| Missouri        | 85,856.36    | Wyoming            | 35,673.14             |
| Montana         | 108,421.82   | <b>Total</b>       | <b>\$8,454,643.14</b> |

### Membership by States-1968

| State                                 | Membership | State              | Membership       |
|---------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Alabama                               | 7,655      | New Hampshire      | 7,707            |
| Alaska                                | 8,537      | New Jersey         | 46,151           |
| Arizona                               | 21,999     | New Mexico         | 12,644           |
| Arkansas                              | 4,158      | New York           | 78,758           |
| California                            | 162,726    | North Carolina     | 14,263           |
| Canal Zone                            | 1,656      | North Dakota       | 23,750           |
| Colorado                              | 37,570     | Ohio               | 58,780           |
| Connecticut                           | 26,182     | Oklahoma           | 13,353           |
| Florida                               | 41,559     | Oregon             | 69,227           |
| Georgia                               | 19,655     | Pennsylvania       | 93,894           |
| Guam                                  | 299        | Philippine Islands | 455              |
| Hawaii                                | 1,746      | Puerto Rico        | 337              |
| Idaho                                 | 23,152     | Rhode Island       | 7,515            |
| Illinois                              | 71,896     | South Carolina     | 10,245           |
| Indiana                               | 51,946     | South Dakota       | 14,629           |
| Iowa                                  | 29,630     | Tennessee          | 14,792           |
| Kansas                                | 28,991     | Texas              | 25,557           |
| Kentucky                              | 7,412      | Utah               | 8,974            |
| Louisiana                             | 4,273      | Vermont            | 7,456            |
| Maine                                 | 5,768      | Virginia           | 13,466           |
| Maryland, Delaware, Dist. of Columbia | 15,565     | Washington         | 97,104           |
| Massachusetts                         | 46,048     | West Virginia      | 20,926           |
| Michigan                              | 57,506     | Wisconsin          | 25,483           |
| Minnesota                             | 17,876     | Wyoming            | 13,447           |
| Mississippi                           | 4,777      |                    |                  |
| Missouri                              | 13,895     |                    |                  |
| Montana                               | 23,951     |                    |                  |
| Nebraska                              | 29,164     |                    |                  |
| Nevada                                | 7,713      | <b>Total</b>       | <b>1,452,187</b> |

### Membership Gains and Losses by States

| Lodge Year Ended March 31, 1968       |       |      |                    |        |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|------|--------------------|--------|-------|
| State                                 | Gain  | Loss | State              | Gain   | Loss  |
| Alabama                               | 452   | 310  | New Hampshire      | 242    |       |
| Alaska                                | 697   |      | New Jersey         | 1,688  |       |
| Arizona                               |       | 182  | New Mexico         | 385    |       |
| Arkansas                              |       |      | New York           | 795    |       |
| California                            | 2,488 |      | North Carolina     | 563    |       |
| Canal Zone                            | 119   |      | North Dakota       | 1,593  |       |
| Colorado                              | 1,959 |      | Ohio               | 1,045  |       |
| Connecticut                           | 1,161 |      | Oklahoma           | 440    |       |
| Florida                               | 1,644 |      | Oregon             | 4,432  |       |
| Georgia                               |       | 409  | Pennsylvania       | 1,959  |       |
| Guam                                  | 29    |      | Philippine Islands | 212    |       |
| Hawaii                                | 82    |      | Puerto Rico        |        | 47    |
| Idaho                                 | 30    |      | Rhode Island       | 122    |       |
| Illinois                              | 504   |      | South Carolina     | 644    |       |
| Indiana                               | 135   |      | South Dakota       | 1,094  |       |
| Iowa                                  |       | 503  | Tennessee          | 181    |       |
| Kansas                                | 562   |      | Texas              | 671    |       |
| Kentucky                              | 97    |      | Utah               |        | 112   |
| Louisiana                             | 146   |      | Vermont            | 135    |       |
| Maine                                 | 210   |      | Virginia           | 78     |       |
| Maryland, Delaware, Dist. of Columbia | 627   |      | Washington         | 4,057  |       |
| Massachusetts                         | 1,110 |      | West Virginia      |        | 234   |
| Michigan                              | 1,442 |      | Wisconsin          | 145    |       |
| Minnesota                             | 833   |      | Wyoming            |        | 70    |
| Mississippi                           | 156   |      |                    |        |       |
| Missouri                              | 472   |      | Gain               | 37,409 |       |
| Montana                               |       | 146  | Loss               |        | 2,657 |
| Nebraska                              | 2,555 |      | Net Gain           | 34,752 |       |
| Nevada                                | 62    |      |                    |        |       |

The foregoing Digest of Annual Reports was prepared by the staff of THE ELKS MAGAZINE from texts of the official reports involved. Each of the reports was published separately in its entirety. In addition, the Grand Exalted Ruler, the Grand Secretary, and the several Chairmen presented supplementary remarks at the Grand Lodge Session held in New York July 14-18. These remarks appear in the printed Proceedings of the Grand Lodge Session.



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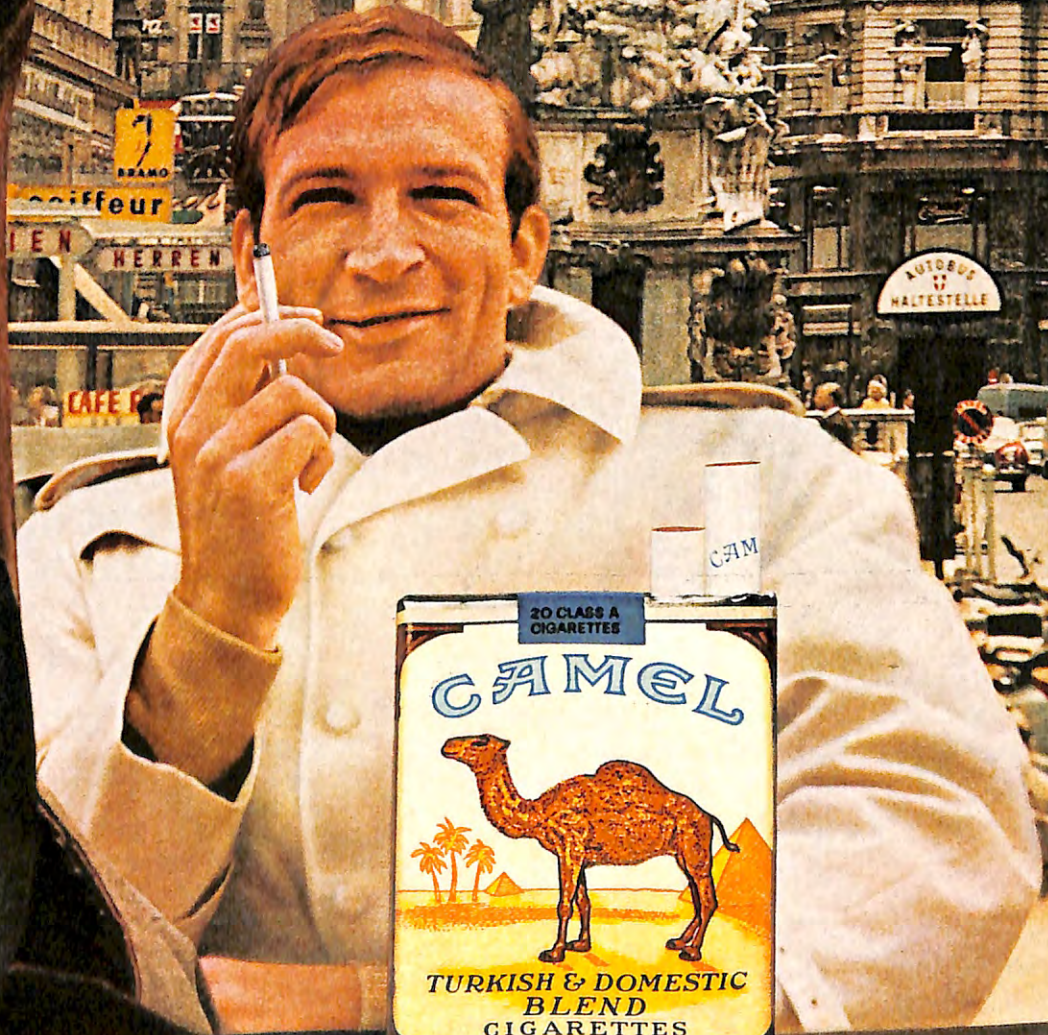
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