

Elks gym ready soon

The finishing of the interior of the Elk's gymnasium at 13-15 South Highland, is nearing completion and the lodge is considering plans for its formal opening, which will probably occur about the last of the month, according to the Tribune of November 17, 1915. The new gymnasium is modern in every particular and the big swimming pool, one of its features, compares in size with the best to be found in the athletic clubs over the country. In fact, the pool in the Kansas City Athletic Club's gymnasium is but little more than half the size of this one.

The pool is 55 feet long, 22 feet wide and the depth of the water will range from 3½ feet at one end, to 7 feet at the other. About 38,000 gallons of water will be required to fill it. In cold weather the water will be tempered by "shooting" it with live steam from the boiler of the heating plant.

A spring board will be provided at the deep end of the pool and along its entire length, rings suspended from the ceiling will hang over the water for the performers of fancy stunts. A line carried by rings above the edge of the pool at the surface of the water, affords a safety device to be grasped by the exhausted swimmer. Three coats of white enamel paint are being applied to the interior of the cement surface, instead of tile which, according to many complaints, is very slippery.

The building is 50 by 90 feet and is a generous two stories in height to provide a high ceiling in the gymnasium-dance hall. It is of brick and, equipped, represents an expenditure of \$19,000. It is on Highland Avenue

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on Chanute's earliest years.

half a block south of Main Street.

The rear of the gymnasium is opposite the rear of the club rooms on Main Street and an enclosed passageway built across the alley connects the two as effectively as if they were a single building.

From the front entrance one passes right-up the stairs which lead to the gymnasium and the spectator's balcony. To the left one passes into the bowling alleys. Directly from the entrance way is the door leading to the swimming pool, the locker and dressing rooms. Above the locker rooms is a spectator's balcony overlooking both the swimming pool and the bowling alleys. The shower baths are on the rear of the first floor.

Front and rear stairs lead to the second floor. There the gymnasium, which will also serve for a dance hall, is 40 feet wide and 87 feet long. As a gymnasium it will be equipped for hand ball, volley ball, indoor tennis, etc.

The floor is of hard maple, finished by an electric sanding machine and polished. It is said to be the best dance floor in the city. The balcony overlooking the hall will seat 100 persons. An orchestra balcony is built in one corner of the hall.

Gymnasium lockers and dressing rooms and a ladies' dressing room is also on the second floor. This floor

connects with the Main Street club rooms by an arcade built over the alley. Stairways at both the front and rear lead to the first floor.

The high windows in the gymnasium and those above the swimming pool are controlled by a system of levers and are operated from one end of the building.

The steam heating plant, using coal for fuel, is equipped with the latest type of a Kewanee low pressure boiler. A tank, operated in connection with the heating plant, furnishes warm water for the shower baths.

The two bowling alleys are equipped with patent pin spotters.

The building is 50 feet back from the walk on the Highland Avenue side and W. W. Kaney, the club's water lily and gold fish expert, has been commissioned to look after the parking. The plan is to build a concrete fish and lily pond.

The walk leading from the street will either skirt the side of the pond or will cross the pool by means of an arched bridge of artistic design. An ornamental iron fence is to be placed across the front of the lot and a low concrete wall will likely be built along the alley.

The members of the building committee in charge are: Charles Larrick, Seth J. Bailey, G. R. Hurt and O. G. Buchanan. A. T. Simons of Bloomington, Ill., was the architect. George Copley of this city is the general contractor and C. H. Hogue is installing the plumbing and heating.

From the microfilm files of the Chanute Tribune as prepared by the Chanute Historical Society.