Cambridge Lodge No. 1272 B.P.O. ELKS

100 YEARS 1912—2012





2012-13 Officers and Trustees

Front row from left: Rich Loeffler Jr., Esquire; Cathy Gullion, Treasurer; Tim Leverage, Leading Knight; Exalted Ruler Charles "Butch" Hachemeister; Marty Kues, Loyal Knight; Dan Kane, Lecturing Knight, and Jim Bostic, Chaplain. Second row: Trustees Gage Thomas, Chairman; Rich Loeffler, Sr., Ray Shelly, Stu Kerr and Zeke Willey. Dickie Hargis, Tiler; Millie Kerr, Inner Guard; and Bill Marshall, Secretary.

Cambridge Elks Lodge 1272 reached it's 100th Anniversary on April 19 of this year. The first meeting was held on that date in 1912 at the Masonic Lodge. In this booklet, you will find a history of the Elks as an organization, as well as historic information about our local Lodge.

Elks 1272 is proud of its traditions and of its service to members and the community at large. Though fundraising activities such as Bingo, dances, catering for special local events, and its slots machine revenue, the Lodge has been able to support local non-profit charitable organizations, as well as youth sport teams and Scout activities. The Lodge currently sponsors a Little League Team, Cub Scout Pack No.209, and Boy Scout Troop No. 209. Additionally, Elks have contributed to all Boy and Girl Scouting groups in the County that have requested assistance. The Lodge also supports Elks Camp Barrett and numerous boys and girls from Dorchester County have attended the Camp.

The Elks National Scholarship programs offer assistance for traditional college degrees, as well as technical/vocational certification. Over 40 students from Dorchester County Schools have received awards from these programs.

An important part of the Elks tradition is promotion of family-based activities. Besides providing a beautiful swimming pool for summer activities, the Elks also hosts children's parties for Easter, Halloween, and Christmas.

Officers and Trustees of Elks 1272 are honored to continue these traditions. Current membership of the Lodge totals over 400 dedicated men and women who are the backbone of this organization, and with their volunteer time and support, we have no doubt that the Lodge will continue to thrive for the next 100 years.

HISTORY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE ELKS

The following history of the founding of BPO Elks was contained in one of the many albums found in storage here at the Lodge. It opens with, "This history has been gleaned from articles in various magazines and Lodge publications and original authorship is unknown." The vocabulary used in the document indicates that it was written many years ago, probably within 75 years of the founding of the organization based on the statement at the end of the third paragraph.

The founders of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks had no idea that it would have a future beyond the scope of their vision. They had built it better than they knew, of which later years have given bountiful evidence.

At a chance gathering of actors and musicians in New York in 1867, a suggestion was made that a permanent organization be formed. This idea was carried out and the group called themselves the "Jolly Corks" after a game introduced to them by Charles Algernon Vivian. The object of the Corks at this time was entirely convivial, with its membership composed of professional and semi-professional entertainers with a sprinkling of legitimate actors. At the meeting held on the 2nd of February, 1868, presided over by Charles A. Vivian, one member offered a motion to organize the "Jolly Corks" as a lodge along benevolent and fraternal lines and providing a committee be appointed to formulate rules and regulations for its government, prepare a suitable ritual, and select a new name. Vivian having in mind an English organization, "The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffalos," but the majority was desirous of bestowing a distinctively American title upon the new organization. A committee visited Cooper Institute Library, where the Brothers found the ELK described in a work on Natural History as an animal "fleet of foot, timorous of doing wrong, but ever ready to combat in defense of self or of the female of the species". This description appealed to the committee as containing admirable qualities for emulation by members of a benevolent fraternity and the title "ELK" was incorporated in its report. Mr. Vivian stood firm for the "Buffalos" name, but as the new organization was to be entirely democratic, Vivian bowed to the will of the majority, and the name "Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks" was adopted.

The order is founded on four cardinal principles, namely Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity, and of these, Charity is foremost. Charity is not only ever ready with open hands and willing heart to relieve distress, but she writes the faults of brothers upon changing sands, while their virtues are inscribed on enduring tablets of love and memory. Shining like the evening star besides this noble virtue is that grand principle of Brotherly Love, which has made the Order greater and grander in its fraternal relations than any other in existence. Fidelity is required of all its members—both to the teachings of the Order and to each other. Justice, as it inclines to mercy, completes the quartet of foundation stones on which rests the four corners of the truly American edifice which we have reared in the past three-quarters of a century.

Though thespians of the 1860's founded the order, an organization with such grand principles, could not confine its membership to that noble profession, and men in other walks of life soon sought membership in the Elks. Its membership spread to more than 2000 Lodges being instituted, with current membership at over 1,000,000, including men and women from all walks of life.

History of Cambridge Lodge No. 1272 B.P.O. Elks

Cambridge Lodge No. 1272 held the first meeting on April 19, 1912 in the reading room of the Masonic Temple, which was located at 543 Poplar Street. At this meeting Grand Exalted Ruler of Maryland, Henry J. Broening of Baltimore Lodge No.7, duly installed the following charter members:

Eldridge E. Wolff
Milford Nathan
Philips L. Goldsborough
Brice W. Goldsborough
William H. Medford
Ivy L. Phillips
J. Howard Hirst
Thomas H. Sherman
W. Hamilton Spedden
Hazelton A. Joyce, Jr.
Emerson C. Harrington

Levi B. Phillips
John A. Tschantre
Martin W. Smith
Earl W. Orem
George H. Dawson, Jr.
John B. Roszelle
Clarence L. Selover
John Mace
J. Ben Brown
Frank C. Hanna
Samuel E. Hubbard

A. Stengle Marine Winder F. Harrington Scott Meekins James Steele Russell P. Smith Fred E. Meekins James A. McCready William E. Hooper Robert H. Matthews

On Friday, May 19, 1912 the lodge met and was duly organized with a set of Bylaws and committee list. This being the fifth meeting of the lodge, the members thought that it was time they look for a permanent home. After much discussion Brother J. Ben Brown, Levi B. Phillips and Brice W. Goldsborough were appointed as a building committee. On May 29, 1912, the committee reported that an option was secured to purchase the property at the comer of Locust and High Streets from Jos. H. Sauerhoff, George W. Woolford and John G. Mills. The minutes of June 14, 1912 recorded the purchases of this property.

The minutes stated that on June 14, 1912, Cambridge Lodge was incorporated and the first meeting of the Board of Trustees was held.

After forty-three years at the Locust Street home with a membership increase from the 31 charter members to four hundred members, the lodge agreed that a new home site should be had. A committee composed of Brother Levi B. Phillips, Jr. Frederick C. Malkus and the officers of the lodge proceeded to look for a new location. On Friday, October 21, 1955 the committee reported that the lodge could purchase the estate known as the "Eldon" from

Mr. Elmer J. Reinhart. The membership accepted the report and "Eldon" was purchased on December 13, 1955.

The main house was renovated and made into a lodge home, of which the members were very proud. The first meeting was held at "EI Don" on September 7, 1956 and on November 11, 1956 the home was dedicated.

Exactly 2 months from the date of dedication, on January 10, 1957, the home was completely destroyed by fire. The fire had gained such headway by the time the firemen arrived that nothing was saved. As fate would have it, we had not disposed of our Locust Street home, and on January 11, 1957 we held a meeting at the Locust Street home and continued there until October 24, 1958 when the first meeting was held in the building which we are now in.

For the first time in the history of Cambridge Lodge, we were the hosts for the 1960 Maryland, Delaware and D.C. Tri-State Elks Convention. In 1963, a swimming pool was added for the convenience of our members and our membership has increased from 350 to 651 as of June 30, 1966.

The above History was taken from the program produced for the Tri-State Convention, which Elks 1272 hosted in 1966.

PAST EXALTED RULERS OF CAMBRIDGE ELKS LODGE 1272

1912	2 Eldridge E. Wolfe	D = Deceased	1962 Harry T. Slacum, Jr.	D
1913	B Eldridge E. Wolfe	D	1963 Elvin D. Thomas	D
1914	4 John B. Roszelle	D	1964 Richard L. Roche	D
191	5 Milford Nathan	D	1965 Edgar I. Gore	D
1916	5 P. Watson Webb	D	1966 Wendell Vickers, Jr.	D
191	7 Scott Meekins	D	1967Charles G. Slacum	D
1918	3 Scott Meekins	D	1968 Everett P. Creighton, Jr.	
1919	9 Winder F. Harrington	D	1969 L. Mace Bailey	D
1920	D Ernest R. Brannock	D	1970 Barry B. Murphy	D
192	1 James B. Noble	D	1971 C. Allen Davis	D
1922	2 Alfred C. Hayden	D	1972 Thomas L. Linton	D
1923	3 Percy P. Payne	D	1973 James W. Vickers	D
1924	1 James K. Shriver	D	1974 Roy E. Ferguson	D
192	5 Leroy L. Wallace	D	1975 John W. Matthews III	
1920	5 John E. Groff, Jr.	D	1976 Reginald A. Maguire, Jr.	
192	7 F. C. MacSorley	D	1977 Reginald A. Maguire, Jr.	
1928	3 L. Gorman Hill	D	1978 James B. Trader	D
1929	George D. Holder	D	1979 Thomas H. Wright, Sr.	D
1930) William F. Williamson	D	1980 Richard S. Hargis	
1933	1 James P. Swing	D	1981 Robert J. Zimmer	
1932	2 Levi B. Phillips, Jr.	D	1982 Philip W. Rice	
1933	3 Hobart Phillips	D	1983 Edward T. Budd, Jr.	D
1934	1 Phillip B. Matthews	D	1984 Michael L. Hager	
193	5 William M. Paul	D	1985 Stanley J. Werner, Jr.	
1936	5 Daniel E. Ecker	D	1986 Harvey R. Travers	D
193	7 Cecil G. Webster	D	1987 Herbert R. Dodson, Jr.	
1938	B Edwin M. Henry	D	1988 Wiley A. Young III	
1939	Hubert H. Wright	D	1989 Richard R. Hallowell	D
1940) John W. Matthews, Jr.	D	1990 Richard R. Hallowell	D
1943	l Benjamin J. Brittingham	D	1991 Reginald A. Maguire, Jr.	
1942	2 T. Woodrow Wilson	D	1992 W. Daniel Kurth, Jr.	
1943	3 Ivy R. Todd	D	1993 Edward E. Barnes	
1944	1 Clarence T. Stephenson	D	1994 V. Robert Turner	D
1945	Charles E. Edmondson	D	1995 Raymond H. Shelly, Jr.	
1946	5 J. William Robbins	D	1996 Stanley J. Werner, Jr.	
1947	7 Grover P. Johnson	D	1997 Reginald A. Maguire	
1948	3 George N. Groff	D	1998 Reginald A. Maguire	
1949	9 Calvin W. Mobray	D	1999 Roy E. Ferguson	D
1950	C. Audrey Thompson	D	2000 George W. Enders	D
195	1 Robin M. Kirwan	D	2001 George W. Enders	D
1952	2 C. Burman Mace	D	2002 Dottie L. Enders	
1953	3 Charles E. Brohawn, Jr.	D	2003 Dottie L. Enders	
1954	1 Frederick C. Malkus	D	2004 Reginald A. Maguire	
195	5 Allen M. Baird	D	2005 Reginald A. Maguire	
1956	6 L.D.T. Quimby	D	2006 John W. Matthews, III	
	7 William L. Wise, Jr.	D	2007 John W. Matthews, III	
	3 William L. Wise, Jr.	D	2008 H. Gage Thomas	
	Owen B. Hess		2009 H. Gage Thomas	
	D Lee A. Brohawn	D	2010 Mildred Kerr	
	1 Glen E. Leonard	D	2011 Mildred Kerr	
			-	

^{*2005} was the 8th term for dedicated member, Reginald ("Reg") Maguire as Exalted Ruler. Reg also served on the District level as State President and District Deputy. He also served at the Grand Lodge level as Special Deputy for the GER.

One of the most unpleasant memories for the Lodge occurred in 1957 with the fire that destroyed the long-sought permanent home for Elks 1272 of Cambridge.....



FLAMES ENVELOP the front the Choptank River. The Lodge of Eldon, former waks Home on rebuilt on the site.

REPRINTED FROM THE DAILY BANNER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1957

Another Chapter In Eldon History

Thursday's heart-breaking fire at the Cambridge Elks' new home at Eldon has a couple of tragic angles. Foremost, of course, is the physical loss of a building which had only recently been completely redecorated and furnished. Future researchers will view with dismay the loss of records which went up in smoke. Gone are the original charter, which included the names of two governors of Maryland, and forty-two years of Lodge records. Fortunately there are two living charter members to fill in some of the details, but the written record can not be restored.

The Eldon property has close links with the early history of the county. The late Arthur Laskowski in a paper written about Eldon says it was an original tract of land granted to Col. Thomas Ennalls, whose ancestor Batholomew came to Dorchester from Virginia about 1669. The original mansion was noted for its woodwork, panelling and lavish ball room. In 1836 the property was purchased by Dr. Francis P. Phelps. At that point tradition steps in with two versions. One says that fire destroyed the house in the 1880's at which time the good doctor was able to salvage nothing except a hot stove. A second version says the owner was a semi-invalid when fire struck the two-story building in 1846, Determined not to be trapped in any future fire, Dr. Phelps supposedly replaced the mansion with a one-story building from which his chances of escape would be higher.

At least two fires have burned out important links connecting Eldon with the present. The wind which has blown over Eldon from the Choptank a time or two before was the villain this week. It defied the best efforts of firemen and wrote the finish to another chapter in its history. But it would not be surprising to see another building rise on the sturdy field stone foundations which defied the latest misfortune.

Surviving Charter Members



ROBERT H. MATTHEWS



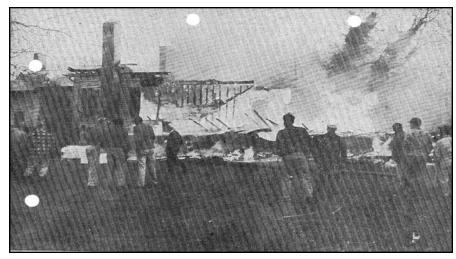
EARLE W. OREM

You can read more detail from the clipping to the left.

On the following pages, you can read more about the fire, and then vies the original home which housed Lodge 1272 from June of 1912 until November of 1956.

An excerpt from the special edition of the Banner commemorating the Lodge's 50th Anniversary, describes the rebuilding of Eldon.

".. As fate would have it, we had not disposed of our Locust Street property and on January 11, 1957, a meeting was called. Plans were started for a new home on the same site. The Lodge agreed to sell part of the farmland and retain the property where the main house stood and start rebuilding. Culminating almost 2 years of planning and honest to goodness hard work, under the leadership of Exalted Ruler William L. Wise, Jr., the new home was dedicated on January 25, 1959. Gov. Tawes made the dedication address. In 1962, the Lodge membership voted to construct a swimming pool for the 1963



THIRTY MINUTES AFTER FIRE was discovered at the Elks' Home at Eldon, the building was almost totally destroyed. A 40-mile wind whipping off the Choptank fanned the fire out of control. Firemen were forced to run their hoses to the river to get water. They were able to keep the fire from spreading to an adjoining caretaker's house and several other buildings. Small wings at either end of the lodge home were gutted. The property was purchased about a year ago and the Elks only recently completed a renovation program. The fire started in the basement of the building.

(Excerpt from The Daily Banner, 1957)

LOSS IS SET AT \$65,000

Fire Breaks Out in Basement, Wind Sends Blaze Out of Control

Fire leveled the newly renovated Cambridge Elks Lodge yesterday afternoon. Lodge officials estimated their loss at \$65,000. The fire was discovered about 3:45 p.m. and companies from Cambridge, Secretary, East New Market, and Trappe responded. A 40-mph northwest wind sent the fire out of control almost at once. The lodge was destroyed within a half hour. Fire hoses were laid to the Choptank, which borders the property, and firemen were able to save several adjoining buildings.

Furnace Just Converted

Rescue Fire Chief Wesley Horner said the blaze was discovered in the basement near the furnace. Lodge members said the furnace only recently had been converted from coal to oil.

No one was in the building when the fire broke out. Edgar Slaughter, Jr., the caretaker who lives in the guest house next door, was out of town at the time. His wife is reported to have phoned in the alarm.

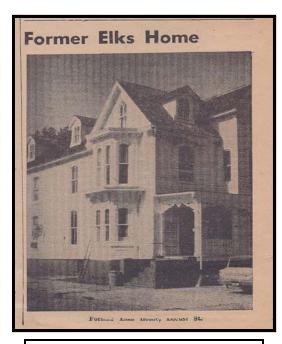
Lodge members said the building was insured.

The Lodge was located on a 182 acre estate known as Eldon, which dates back to the 17th Century. This was not the first disastrous fire at Eldon. Tradition says that another Eldon house burned in 1846. Lost yesterday were: The original Lodge charter, all lodge records, except for the last four years, and all Lodge jewels. The Charter was dated July 11, 1912, and this year will mark the Elks 45th Anniversary.

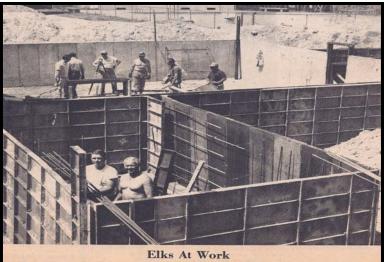
Eldon was purchased from Elmer Rhinehart in December 1955. the property fronts the Choptank for 1,500 feet. The Lodge itself was set on a 10-acre plot. Nearly all the rest of the property is farmland.

The main dwelling was a one-story unit of frame construction with a copper sheathed roof. Its field-stone foundation is three feet thick. The interior of the building was extensively renovated by the Elks and newly furnished last summer. The members moved from their Locust Street home to Eldon for their first meeting in September. Dedication services were held on November 11.

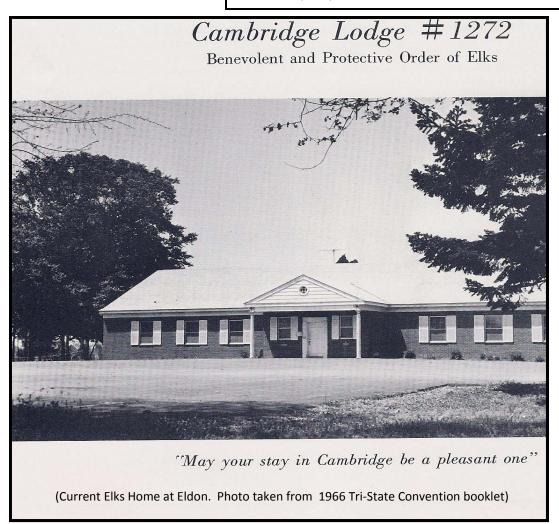
L.D.T. Quimby is grand exalted ruler of the 430-member Lodge. Members said they expected to return to the Locust Street Lodge building until further plans can be made.



First Elks Home, located on Locust Street, near High Street.



Members of Cambridge Elks Lodge start work on a \$90,000 addition to the home at Eldon. It will include a 40×40 foot dining room with a seating capacity of 200 upstairs and a separate Lodge room underneath. The addition will permit doubling the capacity of the present kitchen. The addition will be entirely air-conditioned. The volunteer crew is being directed by Lee Brohawn (hands on hips in background). The members will do as much of the work as can be done by volunteer labor. The rest will be done by professionals. Hopefully, the work will be done in the fall.



Elks Initiation Ritual

The initiation of an Elk involves a ritual that is both the most important and elaborate of any Elks ceremony. It is designed to instruct and inspire the initiate; and, in an appropriate setting, to secure their assumption of solemn and binding obligation of membership. It is conducted throughout with dignity and decorum. It is wholly devoid of any feature which will embarrass or annoy the candidate, or subject them to ridicule or to any discomfort, physical or mental.

Each year, the Lodge officers have an opportunity to exhibit their skill in performing the initiation ritual at both the District and the National level. Cambridge Lodge 1272 has participated many times over the years and has won at the District level 13 times. Below is a photo of the team that won in 1970 and retired the trophy. They also won the following year.



WINNING TEAM — Members! tedding knight; Barry B. Murof the winning. Cambridge Lodge
phy, lecturing knight; J. Mace
Sallery, scalaber ruler; C. Allen
von the Tribush of the Maryland, Delaware, District
of Columbia Association. From
left to right are: Charles Siacum, coach; E. Carlvin Robbis
Lodge ritualistic committeeman.
Lodge committee of the Grand
Lodge ritualistic committeeman.
Lodge committeeman

Elks Team Wins Ritual Contest

Lodge 1272 Ritual Success and ER Team Leader

1953-54 Fred Malkus

1964-65 Richard Roche

1965-66 Edgar Gore

1966-67 J. Wendell Vickers

1967-68 Charles Slacum

1968-69 R. Eeverett Creighton

1969-70 J. Mace Bailey

1970-71 Barry Murphy

1972-73 Thomas Linton

1974-75 Roy Ferguson

1975-76 John Matthews

1983-84 Edward Budd

1989-90 Richard R. Hallowell

Family Holiday Fun....



1969—"The Real Meaning of Christmas is the title of the annual show which will be given by the Does of BPOE No. 1272, Sat. Dec. 12 at the Elks Home at Eldon. The show was written by Faye Bromwell, and directed by Mr. and Mrs. David Bromwell and by William L. Wise, Jr. (From Daily Banner)



It has been an Elks tradition to observe the Christmas, Easter, and Halloween holidays by providing family oriented activities for members, their children, and their guests. Member volunteers decorate the hall, serve meals and/or refreshments, and, in general work to make the holidays fun and memorable for all who participate.



Holiday Traditions are important to Elks!





Fun at the Pool on the Beautiful Choptank

May 1970—"Fasionable Belles" These beauties took part in the fashion show which marked the opening of the Elks pool on Memorial Day. Fashions were from the Leggett Department Store. Jimmy Vickers, Master of Ceremonies, introduced Senator Frederick C. Malkus. Organ music was by Jimmy Spedden. From left to right: Shirley Hurley, Ann Ferguson, Paula Ferguson, Juanita Rawlings, Betty Ann Fitzhugh and Diane Fitzhugh.

Scouting is an important activity supported by Elks 1272. Cub Scout Pack 209 and Boy Scout Troop 209 both meet at the Elks and hold many activities inside and outside the Lodge. Scouts use the pool for swimming badge and lifesaving requirements. They have also taken advantage of the Creek access to learn canoeing skills. Since the Troop was formed in 1997, 17 Scouts have received the Rank of Eagle, including 2 boys in 2012, Sean O'Connor and Jesse Bartrum. It is interesting to note that the first Eagle Scout rank was awarded by Boy Scouts of America in 1912...100 years ago!



Cub Pack 209 holds the Pinwood Derby each year at the Lodge.

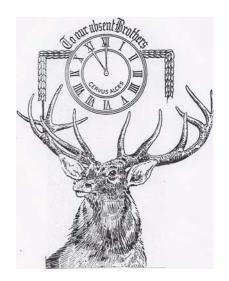


The Elks members built the Pavilion to offer a shady option for birthday parties and reunions and other activities





Troop 209 visited the Dorchester County Circuit Court House in 2012. Pictured: 1st row, Nicholas Corkran, Jeremy Dryden and Brendan Elzey. Row 2: Bill Craig, Surveyor; Amy Craig, Clerk of the Court; Joshua Matthews, Luke Guillemart, Ben Doyle, Jesse Bartrum, Aiden O'Connor, and Susan Meredith, Land Records Supvr. Row 3: Scoutmaster Jay McKelvey, Troop Comm. Mem. Eva Bartrum, Greg Loeffler, Zack Ellis and Asst. Scoutmasters Mike O'Connor and Ron Andrew.



THE ELEVEN O'CLOCK TOAST

(From an article that appeared in a special supplement of The Daily Banner, September 25, 1962)

Regular meetings of subordinate lodges have always been held at night. In the earlier days, they were usually held on Sunday nights, and were concluded about eleven o'clock. As the participants departed, they naturally made inquiries about the absentees and expressed sympathetic interest in the causes of their absence. It soon became a custom for some member to propose a toast to the brothers who were not present. And in the course of time, this custom was quite generally observed whenever a group of Elks were together at eleven o'clock.

Eventually, the Grand Lodge specifically provided for such a ceremonial to be observed during lodge sessions, and designated it as "The Eleven O'Clock Toast." Under this provision, whenever a lodge is in session at that hour, the regular order of business is suspended for a few moments while the Exalted Ruler recites the beautiful ritual prescribed, concluding with the words, "to our absent Brothers."

Upon other strictly fraternal occasions, this "golden hour of recollections" is generally observed in somewhat the same manner. A designated brother, with or without a few preliminary remarks, proposes the toast to which all members respond with the words, "To our absent Brothers" and by uniting in singing Auld Lang Syne. Even when small groups or Elks are together at this hour, although it be not a formal fraternal occasion, it is not inappropriate to recall the sentiment with a moment of dignified silence.

The ceremonial is a very effective one, distinctively associated with the Order of Elks. The sentiment it embodies is wholesome and commendable.

*Since the admission of women as Elk members, the toast has been changed to substitute "brothers" with the word "members."

The Eleven O'clock Toast

My brothers*, you have heard the tolling of eleven strokes. This is to remind us that with Elks, the hour of eleven has a tender significance. Wherever an Elk may roam, whatever his lot in life may be, when this hour falls upon the dial of night, the great heart of Elkdom swells and throbs. It is the golden hour of recollection, the homecoming of those who wander, the mystic roll call of those who will come no more. Living or dead, an Elk is never forgotten, never forsaken. Morning and noon may pass him by, the light of day sink heedlessly in the West, but ere the shadows of midnight shall fall, the chimes of memory will be pealing forth the friendly message, "To our absent Brothers."