

bar had a brass foot rail. In the back was the billiard room, with cavernous 20 ft high ceilings and could have easily sat 300 people.

In the 1930's much of the space was converted for dancing with a fine maple floor and cans of dance wax were easy to find. Dances of the day were the waltz, two step, fox trot, polka, swing and Charleston. Bands were usually 3 or 4 piece.

Climbing the steps to the third floor is the lodge room. Green carpets, high ceilings and many windows line the room. Along the walls were long old fashioned bench seats with red leather trim. The officers stations are tall oak with the stations marked at the top. At the sides of the exalted rulers chair are two brass tablets, 6 ft x 3 ft., presented to the lodge by the past exalted ruler, J.E. Davidson. Inscribed on them are the names of many departed brothers. The room could have accommodated easily 250 brothers.

The grade level door overhead was made of colored leaded glass which had the B.P.O.E. letters on it. At a time long ago a famous debate happened regarding the long climb to reach the second floor. Many steps had to be mounted. It took great stamina and so monies were collected to buy and install an elevator, which took forever to top-out. From 1903 to 1968 the grand old building was our much celebrated home.

The tide now turned, from a stage cigar smoking club to a family setting. In 1964 the exalted ruler James Tarter ordered a vote by ballot to be taken. The out come was in favor to build a new family friendly club. A building committee was selected naming Jerry Greenwood, an accountant as president. Also, named were Fred Jackman and Fred Abendroth. Together they found and purchased 10 acres of land located at 660 W Hampton Road. The property had open boundaries and access to the Bay County Golf Course. Architect, Doug Morris was hired to design the new building. Bill Nelson kept track of the construction project and reported its progress to members until it was completed in 1969.

In the fall of 1969 the Elks #88 moved into the new club. The exalted ruler at the time was Dick Boyce. A grand opening party was held and visitors came from all over the state to see the new two story building. The new block structure had an elevated landscape resting upon a hill. The back faced the golf course and had a large terrace around the outside second floor. The main dinning room located on the upper level had a grand view of the surrounding golf course. The large building was a multi complex of rooms which could be sized up or down by movable wall dividers. A bar off the dinning area and a stag bar in the lower level near the locker rooms. The lodge room contained most of the furniture brought from the old lodge. The Victorian furniture covered in dark purple velvet upholstery with the room trimmed in gold accents. The huge mounted elk head with rack adorned the stairwell off the dance floor.

During the first year spring run off water flooded the lower level lodge room. Six inches of water covered the new red carpet, including the alter area. A vote was taken to complete a new pool and patio complex and the problem was solved. At this time our