

# Elks Celebrate 70th Year

**"OUR NAME** — the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks — indicates the aims of our organization . . . to be benevolent, especially to youth and the underprivileged," suggested John R. Wright, president of the Waukesha Elks' Lodge No. 400, which will celebrate its 70th Anniversary, Sunday.

Highlighting the lodge's 70th year will be the construction of a proposed \$300,000 Elk clubhouse, near Hy. 18 and Springdale Road.

The proposed lodge will have a large meeting hall, a dining room, cocktail lounge and recreational room. The plans also include provisions for bowling alleys, tennis courts, and possible health facilities as hand ball and a sauna bath. The lodge has purchased a four-acre site.

Scheduled for beginning construction late this summer, the club has planned the facility for the present membership of 360 Elks and their families.

In the midst of this anniversary year, the Elks are taking time to recognize the centennial anniversary of the national organization and their own beginnings in 1898.

That gay 90's summer, when the Spring City resort hotels were crowded with young America's aristocracy, Elks from other cities gathered here to discuss with Waukeshans the work of the order.

One of the frequent visitors at the Fountain Spring House (one of the city's largest resort hotels, located between College Avenue and Laffin Avenue, on Grand Avenue) was Basil M. Allen, a Grand Lodge Officer of the Elks at Birmingham, Ala. Said to be a quiet gentleman, enthusiastic about the Elks' objectives, Allen soon aroused interest in the organization among a group of Waukesha men.

During this period, the Wisconsin Central Railroad, which had its car shops and division offices located in Waukesha, transferred its facilities and a large portion of its employees to Fond du Lac.

Many of the railroad men joined the

Fond du Lac Elks lodge No. 57 and continued to arouse the interest of Waukesha men.

It was soon learned that the No. 400 would be available to some lodge. Since the "400" of Mrs. Astor's social register was prominent at that time, the Waukesha men thought the number would indicate belonging to the social aristocracy. An interim charter was issued on December 8, 1897.

Charter members included A. F. Warden, E. Merton, R. L. Gove, D. L. Tullar, A. H. Youmans, Dr. J. P. Ward, Donald Ploss, Holmes Daubner, Orlow Daubner, George L. Walker, W. A. Nickell, C. F. Merrill, J. C. McCue, C. E. Chilson, L. F. Horm, G. Harkness, W. H. Strachan, G. M. Gray, J. A. Ryan, D. K. Smith, A. W. Park, H. A. Tullar, R. J. Rogan, E. D. Walsh, H. T. Meriman, F. J. Clasen, John McKinley, C. E. Armin, W. P. Dunlap, E. S. Park, H. J. Mjelde, G. C. Gerken, J. F. Tighe, M. J. McCoy, W. H. Nicholl, C. A. Bergeler, H. G. Morgan, C. W. Fraser, J. L. Williams, T. B. Quinn, J. J. Clark, T. E. Ryan, J. L. McGowan, R. A. Harko, John Conner and Fred D. Abell.

Fifty of the former Waukesha residents traveled from Fond du Lac to establish the Waukesha lodge.

On May 12, 1898, the number 400 was assigned to the Waukesha lodge, which is the reason the group celebrates its anniversary in May rather than in December. A. F. Warden was chosen the first Exalted Ruler of the Waukesha Elks and also became the first president of the Wisconsin Elks Assn.

One other Waukesha Elk was past presidents of the state association, George L. Dwinnell in 1924.

The first clubhouse of the "400" was composed of rented rooms above the Enterprise department store on Grand Avenue. In 1906, a hall in the Columbia Block was rented. In 1921 the group moved in quarters on Wisconsin Ave. and Clinton St., which remained as their clubhouse until recently.

Included in the Elks traditional activities has been the observance of Flag

Day at both the local and national level. The first Elks - sponsored Flag Day ceremony took place at Cutler Park on June 14, 1912 as a rededication to democratic principles.

Other Lodge activities include an annual scholarship contest, leadership contest, and food-clothing programs for the needy. The group also sponsors a Scout Troop for retarded boys and a book program for the Wales Boys School. They also contribute to national scholarship and charity programs.

The national organization was founded in New York on February 16, 1868 by an Englishman, Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian.

Leading the Waukesha lodge today are seven officers. They are John R. Wright, exalted ruler; Bob Lee, esteemed leading knight; James Collins, esteemed lecturing knight; Joe Siegl, secretary; Ray Kurtz, treasurer, and Niel Butchart, tiler.

Started with a small number of men, Waukesha Lodge No. 400, now 70 years old, has continued to grow, not only in numbers, but also as a civic and cultural aspect of the Waukesha community.

## Tamil Language Honored On Purple Indian Stamp

The Tamil language is spoken over a large section of southern India as well as Ceylon. The literature of the Tamil language dates back to the 9th century and the Tamil people are considered the original inhabitants of India. Thus, to honor the Second International Seminar of Tamil Studies, the government of India has issued a new 15-paise stamp, reports the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department.

The purple stamp depicts the symbol of the seminar and also bears the legend "Every Country Is My Country; Every Man Is My Kinsman."

The completion of a new clubhouse (above) will highlight the Waukesha Elks' 70th Anniversary celebration. The building will be located on Hy. 18 and Springdale Road. The estimated \$300,000 clubhouse will have meeting, rehearsal and dining facilities.

Below, the Waukesha "400" moved from their old clubhouse on the corner of Clinton St. and Wisconsin Avenue in 1967. They had purchased the building in 1921 and laid the cornerstone for the addition in 1924.

