Impact Grants

Impact grants are a program of the Elks National Foundation. Impact grants are larger, competitive grants than Gratitude and Promise grants. They are intended to address unmet needs in communities where Elks live and work. Impact grants provide substantial funding and give Lodges the opportunity to conceptualize, develop, and implement a new program or to strengthen an existing one.

All Lodges are eligible and encouraged to apply but only a select number of grants are awarded annually. With an Impact grant, a Lodge can start a summer soccer group for kids, collaborate with a local organization that helps support the needs of individuals with disabilities, open a soup kitchen to serve dinner to the homeless, or beautify the community by planting trees, shrubbery, and flowers to replace garbage.

Impact grants were introduced in 2007 giving Lodges an opportunity to receive up to $10,000 to fund a project in their community. There were 112 Lodges that applied in the first year, and 25 Lodges received grants. In 2008-2009, the Elks National Foundation Board of Trustees increased funding for Impact grants to $500,000.

Improved Order of Elks of the World

In his report at the annual session of the Florida State Elks Association held in Jacksonville on May 16 and 17, 1906, State Secretary Ackerly called attention to the delegates of a matter of Negro Lodges bearing the name of “Improved Order of Elks of the World” (or of the United States of America). Secretary Ackerly said that while the Elks do not wish to debar any race of men from profiting by the experience of their loved order, they should take notice of this very improper use of a part of the name for an order or supposed order that does not at its inception require the upholding of the Constitution and flag of the United States of America. This association should take such steps to prevent encroachments of this kind as they may think available or that will prevent such unauthorized use of the name of “Elk.”

Several states, he said, had already in addition to having laws passed to prevent such organizations, taken the matter to their state courts and had won signal victories by preventing the use of the name or emblems by such unauthorized parties, notably New York and Georgia.

Ackerly said that one Lodge in the association (Jacksonville) had taken the matter in hand and would no doubt be glad to cooperate with such committee or persons as might be designated to act for this association.

The Florida State Elks Association appointed a committee consisting of Maxwell, Hartridge, and Ackerly to present a memorial and law before the next legislature preventing the use of emblems, etc. of the order.

The resolution read that “each lodge of B.P.O.E. in Florida be requested to appropriate the sum of $50 if it shall be necessary to assist in carrying out this work, said money’s to be subject to the order of said committee.”

(See Insignia, Ritual, Names, Titles, or Ceremonies, Use Thereof)

Indoctrination Committee

(Laws of the Order, Section 13.070 and Section III of the Grand Lodge Membership Control Manual)

The Indoctrination Committee shall prepare, supervise, and conduct a planned program for indoctrination of candidates and their families prior to initiation so that all candidates and their families may become fully informed about the good works of Elkdom.

The work of the Indoctrination Committee is the first vital step in building a strong membership. It is the first effort toward a solid foundation. Also, it is the first opportunity for the candidate to meet Elkdom.

The committee is charged with the responsibilities of carrying out a well-planned program for candidates about to be initiated into the order. This is their first real impression of Elkdom and usually the most lasting impression. This committee, in their eyes, reflects Elkdom and what the new candidate is to expect in the future. The Exalted Ruler must be sure that this committee is functioning properly and that the program is designed to educate the candidates to familiarize them with the programs and to permit them to envision a rewarding experience from their membership.

The most successful indoctrination program involves the attendance of the candidates and their spouses accompanied by the sponsors and their spouses. If a new member’s spouse sits in on the indoctrination, the new member will become a better Elk and both will come away with a true understanding of who the Elks are, what they are doing, and where they are going.
The indoctrination program supplied by the Grand Lodge should be used and supplemented with additional material about the State Association, local Lodge history, and community activities. In some Lodges, each of the chair officers also gives a short talk in regard to some facet of Elkdom and its activities.

**Initiation Ceremonies**

In the early years, there were several different kinds of initiation ceremonies. Five of them were The First Degree, The Second Degree, The Third Degree, The Fourth Degree, and Thanatopsis.

**EARLY INITIATIONS EGO-DAMAGING**

By Lowell P. Tyler, State Historian

First impressions by the new candidate are of considerable importance because they tend to be lasting impressions. The ceremony of initiation should present, in a dignified manner, the fundamental principles that Elks subscribe to. Probably no other duty performed by an officer is more important than the proper rendition of the initiation ritual.

The forms of ritual have been changed by Grand Lodge dictate from time to time. Each new slate of officers has its own influence on the ritual and how that ritual is delivered and received by a new candidate. The work that officers put into this ceremony and the commitment that they give to that ritual and its rendering can enhance the beauty of the ceremony.

During some of the pre-World War II days, it was common practice for one Lodge to travel to another Lodge in their district for the purpose of rendering the ritual for new candidates.

These early initiations included horseplay and fun (at least for those performing the ritual, if not for the candidate). The candidates had to appear at the Lodge at a designated hour. Prior to this hour, the initiation team dressed in uniforms. One Florida Lodge dressed in matching trousers, white shirts, purple sash, and South American hats. This team would march the candidates through the downtown area and to the Lodge, sometimes with an accompanying band. In those early days the Lodges were quite often in small towns and so were well known among their residents. The citizens seeing the parade of candidates knew an initiation was about to be performed. Shouting would come from these citizens when they recognized the candidates..."Oh, I know you, Louis; I know where you're going."

One ego-damaging scene would occur after the candidate had been initiated and become a member. While the new member was sitting on the sidelines after the ceremony, an older member of the Lodge would get up and loudly announce to the Exalted Ruler that he knew the new member, he was a womanizer, liked his liquor, and generally was an undesirable human being, and if the Lodge was going to allow such persons of ill repute into the Lodge, then he was not going to continue his association as a member. Another member would arise loudly protesting the admitting of such man into the order. Soon several would be protesting, and finally a couple would proceed to exit the Lodge in loud protest. Many times the new member would respond by saying that if that was how they felt they could stay where they were and he would leave. Then it would be necessary to restrain the candidate and explain the joke.

Another prank involved blindfolding the candidate and marching him across the “sands of time” with sand in a sandbox. They would be wearing brogan shoes that were wired and hooked up to a magneto. As they were walking across the “sands of time,” the magneto would be cranked up by one of the members resulting in a good shock to the feet.

Still another prank was they would be sat on wooden slat chairs on the sidelines of the Lodge after initiation. The slats were loosely wired to a magneto held by a member in the second row behind them. The Exalted Ruler would then announce some weird project that was to be undertaken and ask that volunteers willing to serve on the committee please stand up. No one would stand, so the man with the magneto would proceed to crank it up. The new members would receive a jolt of electricity, jump from the chairs, and the Exalted Ruler would recognize them as volunteers for this strange project. If they did not rise immediately, they just cranked the magneto a little faster until they did stand.

Sometimes the candidate would be placed in a tilting chair, the lights dimmed, and someone would proceed to tell a very ghostly story. At the right moment the chair was quickly tilted back as they produced a simultaneously loud bang making the candidate think for a moment he had been shot.
In another instance, the candidate would be placed in the center of the room in pajamas to be branded an Elk. A branding iron would be heated for him to see. He would be blindfolded and his pajama top would be opened to expose his chest. Then a cube of ice would be placed on his chest making him think he had been branded.

In one scene a boxing ring was set up in the center of the room. The candidate would spar with another candidate with large padded gloves. The floor of the ring was wired and hooked to a magneto. Then as they were sparring around the ring, the magneto would be cranked up, and the resulting shock would cause considerable dancing around the ring.

For a number of years there was a Second Degree. It was not mandatory in the last years of the Second Degree that all Elks participate. Periodically, a Second Degree initiation would be held at one Lodge while a neighboring Lodge would visit in order to participate. Elks from all over a district would gather for the initiation, bringing their candidates with them. Second Degree candidates would be dressed in striped prison uniforms and ropes would be tied loosely around their necks and from one neck to the next. Then they would be marched single file through the streets of town accompanied by a mule and a goat. Other members would be dressed as guards and the scene received stares from the citizens along the way. A large tub of water might be filled with ice and if anyone got out of hand, he was dunked into that tub of ice water.

They were made to climb greased fire poles. A large net shaped as a long tunnel was placed on the floor of the Lodge, and a man was placed at each end and directed to crawl through the tunnel. As they met halfway, there was no room to pass. Then they would prod the candidate with an electric rod and he would start tearing to get out. Sometimes they would just tear up the net.

In one instance, relayed to me by an older member who was a local sheriff in the jurisdiction of the Lodge and another member who was an attorney and for years Attorney General for the state of Florida, both candidates were mounted upon a mule. Once securely in place, someone poked a palm tree limb between the rear legs of the mule; it bucked, throwing both candidates into a pond at the rear of the building.

The last Second Degree and horseplay event was put on about 1932. The Grand Lodge concluded that there were some risks in the initiation pranks. Additionally, they felt that it would be undignified to require men of stature, such as Congressmen, Presidents, and business executives, to submit to such undignified practices.

**Inner Guard**

In 1874 the Appointed Grand Inner Guard was added to the list of officers.

**Inn on the Green**

Inn on the Green is a hotel located in Lake County in Tavares, FL. It was previously known as the Great Western and Hospitality Inn. For many years it has served as lodging quarters for Florida Elks attending meetings of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital (later Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services), the Florida Elks Youth Camp, and the Florida State Elks Association.

The inn offers spacious rooms; free cable, HBO, and ESPN; 24-hour availability of coffee and tea; and other amenities. A free continental breakfast was served each day. For those wishing an extended stay, there are suites with fully equipped kitchens and dining areas. Internet hookup is available in some rooms. Onsite golf practice facilities, a large swimming pool, a shuffleboard court, and a sand volleyball court provide recreation.

Inn on the Green was hit by several hurricanes in 2005 as were many other Florida businesses and homes. In subsequent quarterly sessions of the association, rooms seemed to decline. Many drifted away although others continue to stay here and obviously the inn has corrected many of the problems left by the hurricane.

Inn on the Green is located at 700 E. Burleigh Blvd., Tavares, FL 32778. The telephone number is 352-343-6373 or 877-220-2687. The web site is www.innonthegreenflorida.com.
Insignia, Ritual, Names, Titles, or Ceremonies, Use of

In his report at the annual session of the Florida State Elks Association held in Jacksonville on May 16 and 17, 1906, State Secretary Ackerly called attention to the delegates of a matter of Negro Lodges bearing the name of “Improved Order of Elks of the World.” Secretary Ackerly said that while the Elks do not wish to debar any race of men from profiting by the experience of their loved order, they should take notice of this very improper use of a part of the name for an order or supposed order that does not at its inception require the upholding of the Constitution and flag of the United States of America. This association should take such steps to prevent encroachments of this kind as they may think available or that will prevent such unauthorized use of the name of “Elk.” Several states, he said, had already in addition to having laws passed to prevent such organizations, taken the matter to their state courts and had won signal victories by preventing the use of the name or emblems by such unauthorized parties, notably New York and Georgia.

Ackerly said that one Lodge in the association (Jacksonville) had taken the matter in hand and would no doubt be glad to cooperate with such committee or persons as might be designated to act for this association.

A bill was introduced into the Florida state legislature in 1906 or 1907 that covered the B.P.O. Elks to “prohibit the unauthorized use of the name, titles of officers, insignia, ritual or ceremonies of certain orders and societies.”

The following year during Taylor’s second term of office, an appointed committee entered the following statement:
To the Florida Elks Association:

Brothers - The undersigned, your committee appointed at the last meeting held in Jacksonville, beg leave to make report of progress and have attached herewith copy of bill for passage at the present term of our State Legislature, which has been handed our own representation from Duval County, and ask that each member of this Order do what lies in his power to assist in its passage, by conference or correspondence with the local representative from their respective sections. This bill is on the same lines as the law adopted by the New York Legislature. Respectfully submitted,

J. S. Maxwell
J. E. Hartridge
G. D. Ackerly

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

An Act to Prohibit the Unauthorized Use of Name, Titles of Officers, Insignia, Ritual or Ceremonies of Certain Orders and Societies.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Any person who willfully wears the badge or button of the Grand Army of the Republic, or the badge of the United Confederate Veterans or the Sons of Confederate Veterans, or the badge or button of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, or the Knights of Pythias, or of any society, order or organization of ten years standing in the State of Florida, or uses the same to obtain aid or assistance within this State, or willfully used the name of such society, order or organization, the titles of its officers, or its insignia, rituals or ceremonies, unless entitled to use or wear the same under the constitution and by-laws, rules and regulations of such order or of such society, order or organization, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not more than $500 or imprisonment not more than six months in the county jail.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor.

Installation Services

Installation services were composed by Hugh O’Neil, namesake to H. P. O’Neil.

Insurance

Under the Master Policy of the Grand Lodge, there is an insurance program that is divided into two general parts. One is liability and the other is property.

Section 12.070 of the Grand Lodge Statutes, in part, states that the trustees of each Lodge shall be responsible for the Lodge property. One of the duties of the board of trustees of each Lodge should be to examine the insurance coverage limits to see if they are adequate for the property and exposure.

Two areas not covered by the Master Liability Policy are employment practice claims arising from alleged discrimination in the membership selection process.

Lodges will have to bear the entire burden of defense costs and the payment of any judgment rendered against the Lodge in either of these two areas.

One way for the Lodge to decrease its exposure in these two areas is to purchase a Directors and Officers Liability Insurance policy. The Lodge will be provided a defense, which is often the costliest part of a lawsuit. Depending upon the nature of any judgment rendered against the Lodge, the D & O carrier may possibly pay the judgment.

The Grand Lodge Insurance Department encourages trustees of all subordinate Lodges to consider purchasing a D & O policy, particularly to provide protection against claims of improper employment practices and alleged discrimination in the membership selection process.

As of October 1999, applications for D & O coverage can be obtained by calling the Grand Lodge Insurance Carrier, Marsh, Inc., at 1-800-421-3557.
Interlodge Visitation Committee, Florida State Elks Association

The Interlodge Visitation Committee promotes visitations among the Lodges, and it is the duty of the members of this committee to set an example to other Lodge members by personally visiting other Lodges.

Inverness Lodge 2522

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 98th Lodge</th>
<th>North Central</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Institution:</td>
<td>October 18, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Chartered:</td>
<td>December 14, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Exalted Ruler:</td>
<td>Martin R. Barwick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2004 Membership:</td>
<td>1,206</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2009 Membership:</td>
<td>1,016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Martin R. Barwick moved to Inverness, FL in the early 1970s from Winter Park, FL where he had served as Exalted Ruler of that Lodge. Inverness was an active, tiny, little town highly motivated politically and commercially but there was no organization that fostered social contact.

Barwick’s friend, Bill Wall, Past Grand Exalted Ruler of Florida, suggested that it might be a good place to start an Elks Lodge. They wrote to the Grand Lodge and received the names of stray Elks in Citrus and Sumter counties. An invitation was sent to all of the gentlemen to attend an organizational meeting on June 10, 1974 at the Sumter Electric Lounge in Inverness. Thirty-two men responded. They came from Inverness, Crystal River, Dunnellon, Brooksville, Homosassa, and Beverly Hills. They were from different lifestyles: sales and service, law, medical, construction, real estate, civil service, and insurance. Many were retired.

When it appeared that they met all of the requirements, they applied to the Grand Lodge for dispensation that was granted on October 18, 1974. It took several months of intense work to develop the concept of a new Lodge and to stimulate interest in prospective members in becoming Elks.

Finally, they were ready. Grand Lodge officers from around the area instituted Inverness Elks Lodge #2522 on December 14, 1974 at the Inverness Golf and Country Club. They also installed the charter officers who were:

- Exalted Ruler: Martin R. Barwick
- Leading Knight: Richard D. Duncan
- Loyal Knight: S. Crowder
- Lecturing Knight: Charles Salerno
- Secretary: Ray W. Johnson, Sr.
- Treasurer: Herb Bergman
- Inner Guard: Raymond G. Johnson, Jr.
- Organist: Paul Speckman
- Trustees: 5 year, Ron Grumbling; 4 year, Herb Helseth, Sr.; 3 year, Raymond J. Gibbs; 2 year, Jack B. Klinehoffer; 1 year, William J. Bugajeski

Acting Grand Lodge Officers:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: Earl N. Roth, DD
- Grand Leading Knight: Jim Oliver, Hospital Administrator
- Grand Loyal Knight: Ed Ehlers, PDD
ENCyclopedia of FLORida ELKDOM

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Grand Lecturing Knight  Bodo Kirchhoff, PDD
Grand Secretary  Bill Lieberman, PDD, State Secretary
Grand Treasurer  Willis V. McCall, PSP
Grand Tiler  Jesse O. Miller, DD
Grand Trustee  Ted Griffith
Grand Esquire  Malcolm V. McCall, PDD
Grand Chaplain  Lamar Hutchinson, PDD
Grand Organist  Ted Ostrander, VP
Grand Inner Guard  Bob Howell, PDD

Guests of Honor:

William Wall, Past Grand Exalted Ruler
Al Ehrlich, Past State President
Pat O'Brien, Past State President

Leesburg Initiation Team:

Exalted Ruler  Jack R. Griffith
Leading Knight  Ralph Cleland
Loyal Knight  Bill Tweedle
Lecturing Knight  Jack Penturff
Esquire  Mike Cone
Chaplain  Jack Holloway
Inner Guard  Bill Lindahi

At institution, Eustis Lodge presented Inverness with the plaques which grace each officer’s station. Ocala Lodge gave the antlers and bible to Inverness.

The initiation fee was $35 and dues were $18 per year.

Inverness was officially in the Central District at that time which included Orlando, Winter Park, Eustis, Apopka, Winter Haven, Leesburg, Winter Garden, and Lakeland. Although the distance between Lodges was great, Inverness members were active in making visits to different Lodges and, at one time, received an award for having the greatest number of people on Lodge visitations in their district.

The North Central District was formed in 1975 and Inverness became part of that district.

Inverness Elks had a number of homes in the early years. The first few meetings were held at the Citrus County Courthouse. Following that they met at the old Catholic Church at Sportsman’s Park on Highway 41. From there they went to the Villa Maria, now known as The Gathering, on Highway 41 South. The restaurant was closed on Monday night so that was the perfect time and place for the Lodge to meet. Since Monday was the only time available to them, there was no place to practice the ritual. Charles E. Davis offered the casket display room at the mortuary where officers used casket boxes for the altar and stations.

A shooting occurred at the restaurant, the ABC closed the facility, and Inverness Elks had to look for a new home.

Mr. John’s Restaurant, now known as Cinnamon Sticks, on Highway 44 was their next home for a short time. On Monday, April 5, 1975, John Crowder was installed as the second Exalted Ruler. In his retiring speech, PER Martin Barwick announced that Inverness Lodge #2522 led the North Central District in membership growth for which they later received a plaque. They contributed $3,000 to the planned Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital and made a substantial contribution to the Citrus Concerned Citizens Program. They also gave over $880 worth of toys for Christmas distribution. It had been a productive first year.

That year they rented the IN & OUT store on Turner Camp Road and this was their home until they built and moved into the present building. They completely refurbished the store to suit their needs. A recollection of that period was of the good times. Everyone was so energetic and enthusiastic. There were steak and fish fries and barbecues, especially when someone donated a hog. Chester Dellich owned a large pasture and he often hosted turkey shoots and horseback riding for the children and he had a great concrete floor for dancing.

Members of Inverness Elks planned to build their own facility from the very beginning. In March 1975, a site committee was formed and chaired by Ray W. Johnson. He and his committee found a desirable piece of property in Inverness owned by the Holz family which they could purchase for $75,000 plus an additional frontage
from someone else for $40,000. The Lodge actually voted to approve the purchase when Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bergman, Jr. donated a piece of land on the Hernando section of Lake Tsala in Apopka. The Lodge members gratefully accepted the generous offer and immediately began making plans to raise money and build.

Members purchased $50 bonds. Gaston Desautels matched each $50 purchase with an identical amount for the first six weeks they were on sale. One member related that most of the money was raised eating and drinking, since members donated most of the food and drinks. They had a booth at the Citrus County Fair which brought in a considerable amount of money. Walt Connors was instrumental in raising large amounts of cash and pledges with all sorts of schemes, such as selling R & R tickets, which was a complete donation. He came up with a plan at each meeting or social. Of course what they needed was a large lump sum. The trustees approved a loan from the bank. Several members guaranteed a $60,000 bank loan.

James F. Calwell, Sr. was selected as General Contractor. There were many capable and willing hands to help prepare the property for a building and then to help during the actual construction in order to save money wherever possible. The building was constructed much as you see it today, with a Lodge multipurpose room, kitchen, lounge, offices, and restrooms. Over the years, modifications and additions have been made as needed, indoors and out. The total cost was $85,682. Additional money had to be raised for furnishings.

Chester Dellich gave sod to the Lodge at cost and donated shrubs for the landscaping. Again, members did all the work. A fence was built around the property donated and maintained by Herbert Helseth, Sr. who continued to repair and paint it for a number of years.

Inverness Elks moved into the building as soon as it was possible to do so. Newly formed Does donated drapes for the windows. The Elks bought black stack chairs and tables for the Lodge room and a member built the stations. They purchased padded chairs and tables for the lounge, they obtained their liquor license, and they were in business.

The building was formally opened on a Sunday afternoon in November 1976. It was a gala affair. Lodge members from around the district came to celebrate with Inverness. Government officials added their welcome into the community. Lodge members and their ladies marked the event with a fabulous dinner/dance. They felt pride for having accomplished so much in so little time.

After a huge expense of the building and furnishings, there were times when the Lodge was in financial difficulty. Sometimes there was not enough money to pay the utility bill. Sometimes a member would pay it and sometimes they had to pass the hat or hold a special drawing to raise enough money to take care of that immediate need.

A remarkable event occurred in 1977. The Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital was about to open. The building was ready but they needed furniture for their patients’ rooms. Inverness decided to furnish one of those rooms. They solicited private donations and held dances, steak and fish fries, and raffles and they raised $10,000 to
I completely furnish a four-bed room, Room 95. A plaque just left of the door was designated, “Furnished by Inverness Elks #2522” for all to see.

In February 1978, their neighbor, the VFW, presented a flag to Inverness Lodge for their new pole.

In June of the same year, the sports pages of the then weekly *Chronicle* featured stories about the Inverness Elks sponsored teen boy and girl softball teams. Both teams were eliminating all contenders and were in the finals. The boys went on to the international finals for two years in a row, losing to Taiwan the first year and Japan the second.

In 1980 the trustees recommended raising the initiation fee to $100 and dues to $50 a year. Membership stood at just over 1,000 at that time. When the vote passed, 300 Elks did not renew their membership. It was about this time that bingo was adopted as a moneymaker for various Elks charities. In October 1980, Lodge members approved construction of a dock on the lake. Part of the cost came from selling signature planks for $10 each. Jim Sutherland was in charge then, as he was in 1999, nineteen years later.

In 1981 they received the Outstanding Achievement Award.

In 1984 the ritual team won the district trophy for the best opening and closing at the state convention.

On May 21, 1985, DDGER Spraker presented Inverness Elks with an award from the Grand Lodge designating Inverness Lodge #2522 as an “All-American Lodge.” This refers to the fact that members participated in at least five Grand Lodge activities in an outstanding manner. It was also about this time that a dress code was adopted for the dining room during the dinner hour. Records show that the code has been challenged a couple of times but was defeated each time it was brought on the floor.

In 1986 the Lodge refurbished one of its offices and made air-conditioning available to accommodate their first computer. In November of that year, Citrus Memorial Hospital Auxiliary received permission to establish a chapel at the hospital. They requested funds from the Lodge; members donated $300 for this project.

In May 1988, Inverness Lodge was recognized with a traveling trophy for the Most Improved Youth Activities program. They were in competition with 123 other Lodges in the state.

An ongoing project which lasted about ten years was the booth at the Citrus County Fair chaired by Walter Mabie. Although it required a lot of work, it became very lucrative.

Inverness Elks Lodge faces the lake and it is not easily seen from Highway 41. Members agreed a large attractive sign placed on the highway would be an asset and make the Lodge’s location a bit easier to find. Ben Cheeseman raised the money and made all the arrangements to have the present sign put in place.

In 1994, $60,000 was spent upgrading the kitchen and air-conditioning system. In 1999, $46,000 was spent to renovate and upgrade the lounge area.

In 1999, initiation fees were $75 and dues were $65 per year. In 1999, membership was at 930 active members in the Lodge. Shirley Adrian and Carolyn Keris were the first two ladies to be initiated into Inverness Elks Lodge on September 25, 1999.

The Lodge has always been involved in community service. The Hoop Shoot is a Grand Lodge program and has been promoted locally since Inverness Elks were first formed. The veterans’ program is another long lasting activity in this Lodge. Members visit vets at the Veterans’ Hospital in Gainesville, furnish personal care items and special goodies, have card parties and bingo, and, on occasion, invite them to visit the Lodge for lunch. Inverness Elks participate in the scholarship program on the Grand Lodge and state level. Locally they honor a Student of the Month at several schools and invite all honorees and their families to an awards luncheon at the close of the school year. The Florida Elks Youth Camp remains high on the Inverness Elks’ list of beneficiaries of Elks Charities. Flag Day, Mother’s Day, Christmas and Easter parties for children, and the Drug Awareness program are among the standard activities. Inverness Elks have assisted with the Special Olympics; sponsored junior football and baseball teams and Boy, Girl, and Cub Scouts; and worked at the hospital providing social services. Citrus United Basket (CUB) is the recipient of a substantial contribution each year. Elks look after their own too, sometimes financially and sometimes with needed medical equipment. All these programs go on year after year.

There have been, as of 1999, 25 Exalted Rulers, and each has contributed to the growth and stature of Inverness Lodge. Some liked it so well that they served a second term and some went on to serve as leaders in the district, state, and Grand Lodge. The following represented Inverness and the North Central District:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Barwick</td>
<td>DDGER</td>
<td>1978-1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James K. Sutherland</td>
<td>State Americanism Chairman</td>
<td>1988-1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>District Vice President</td>
<td>1989-1990</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DDGER</td>
<td>1990-1991</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Several members have demitted to Inverness Elks Lodge from out of state. Richard Halsey from Hunnington, IA Lodge #2803 was District Vice President in 1964-1965, was President of the district in 1965-1966, and was DDGER in 1968-1969. Thurman B. Shipley from Oceanside, CA Lodge #1561 was District Vice President in 1967-1968, was DDGER in 1969-1970, was State Publicity & Public Relations Chairman in 1987-1988, and was a California-Hawaii Elks Association Trustee from 1988-1991.

The Past Exalted Rulers formed an association in April 1984 with PER Don Smith serving as the first President. They meet once a month at the Lodge. They sponsor a golf tournament twice a year to raise funds which they use to assist in Lodge activities such as honoring longtime members with fifteen consecutive years or more on Old Timers Nite with a dinner and a pin denoting the number of years that person has been an Elk. They also have, on occasion, purchased needed equipment for the Lodge.

The Ladies organized themselves as Does Drove #232 in 1976. The Charter President was Lana Barwick. Over the years they have not only contributed thousands of dollars but have also purchased various items for the Lodge and have worked countless hours on behalf of the Lodge. They are invaluable to Inverness Elks Lodge #2522.

The above historical narration was contributed by the work of PER Ray Fink, Chairman of the 25th Anniversary Committee, and Charlie Lucente, Co-Chairman. The words were mostly written by Jean Shipley. She gave special thanks to Martin Barwick, Walt Connors, Walter Mabie, Charles E. Davis, Dick Craft, Jim Sutherland, and Don Smith who allowed her to travel back in time with their memories.

A note in January 2009 called their Lodge the Best Kept Secret in Citrus County. It paints the picture of a very active, very friendly Lodge in the quiet and relaxing atmosphere of their location. For example, they had a three-day open house with officers of the Lodge on hand to greet visitors. They were invited to bring the family and learn about their scouting program, scholarship opportunities, and the Florida Elks Youth Camp. They have a Thursday morning golfing group whose members enjoy stopping for their usual lunch and later on in the evening, they try their luck at the luck of the draw darts game in the lounge, a lounge that has several TV sets and snacks available all day. On Friday they open at noon along with the lakeside tiki bar. You can have a hamburger or a hot dog at the bar or on one of their picnic tables on their shady lawn overlooking the lake. They follow that with a Friday evening dinner/dance. They enjoy Saturday with a lakeside music concert starting at 2 p.m. with the lounge and tiki bar open at noon. Then they open their BBQ barn at the lakeside with chicken, ribs, hamburgers, and hot dogs. They support a Boy Scout troop, veterans’ programs, summer camp for kids, local charities in Citrus County, and scholarships awarded to Citrus County students. How could anyone not enjoy this Lodge hidden away in Hernando on the lake next to the beach and boat ramp?

Past Exalted Rulers:

- 1974-1975: Martin Barwick
- 1976-1977: John Crowder
- 1977-1978: George Thompson
- 1978-1979: Jon Perry
- 1979-1980: Jerry Candrilli
- 1981-1982: Chuck Vessey
- 1982-1983: Charles E. Davis
- 1983-1984: Don Case
- 1984-1985: Gale Tyler
- 1985-1986: Jim Sutherland
- 1986-1987: Lee Kennealy
- 1987-1988: Walter Mabie
- 1989-1990: Don Case
- 1990-1991: Robert Carroll
<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1991-1992</td>
<td>Don Gittings</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992-1993</td>
<td>Dick Craft</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993-1994</td>
<td>Ray Fink</td>
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<td>1994-1995</td>
<td>Charles Dunham</td>
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<td>1995-1996</td>
<td>Charles Osborn</td>
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<td>1996-1997</td>
<td>Thurman Shipley</td>
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<td>1997-1998</td>
<td>Gerard McCoy</td>
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<td>1998-1999</td>
<td>Jim Sterin</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>Dennis Candrilli</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>Tom Graham</td>
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**Charter Members:**

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Louis R. Albanese</td>
<td>Otto F. Allen</td>
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<td>Carrol F. Anderson</td>
<td>H. G. Anderson</td>
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<td>Livingston V. Anderson</td>
<td>Carmine A. Annunziato</td>
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<td>George M. Applegate</td>
<td>David S. Arthurs</td>
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<td>G. William Austin</td>
<td>Dr. J. M. Ball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Barwick</td>
<td>Frank P. Bauer</td>
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<td>John A. Beaulieu</td>
<td>Robert M. Bellot</td>
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<td>Charles R. Bennett</td>
<td>Harry Bennett</td>
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<td>Robert Bentayou</td>
<td>Herbert L. Bergman, Jr.</td>
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<td>Herman Bishop</td>
<td>George A. Bistorious</td>
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<td>Jacob E. Blanton</td>
<td>Dr. Harry S. Blethen</td>
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<td>H. C. Bonner</td>
<td>Don Bradshaw</td>
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<td>Preston L. Breaux</td>
<td>Louis W. Brienza</td>
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<td>Theodore I. Brinck</td>
<td>William L. Bugajski</td>
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<td>Walter Bunts</td>
<td>Joseph F. Burkhardt</td>
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<td>Michael E. Butts</td>
<td>William L. Campbell</td>
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<td>Louis P. Cappola</td>
<td>A. T. Carroll</td>
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<td>Lorelo Cellucci</td>
<td>Stephen Chinnici</td>
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<td>Larry W. Christy</td>
<td>Nicholas J. Colavito</td>
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<td>James Collin</td>
<td>Walt Connors</td>
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<td>Kenneth T. Cooper</td>
<td>Paul C. Cowan</td>
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<td>William P. Cox</td>
<td>Donald R. Crist</td>
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<td>Ralph Curles</td>
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<td>A. Cugell</td>
<td>Thomas D’Ambrosia</td>
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<td>Charles E. Davis</td>
<td>Ray DeBlois</td>
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<td>William DeCarlo</td>
<td>Ross J. DeFrancesca</td>
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<td>Victor E. DeMartini</td>
<td>Albin W. DiPasca</td>
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<td>John G. Dampier</td>
<td>Charles R. Debus</td>
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<td>Chester P. Dellich</td>
<td>Joseph W. Denison</td>
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<td>Walter R. Dinger, Sr.</td>
<td>John M. Douglas</td>
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<td>Bill B. Dumas</td>
<td>Richard D. Duncan</td>
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<td>Charles R. Eddy</td>
<td>Emanuel Edelman</td>
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<td>Robert N. England</td>
<td>Robert V. Evans</td>
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<td>James Eyster</td>
<td>O. J. Dan Fero</td>
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<td>James Forrester</td>
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<td>Joseph Fox</td>
<td>George A. Fuderer</td>
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<td>Fred M. Fulkerson</td>
<td>Frederick M. Fulkerson, III</td>
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<td>Max Gallant</td>
<td>Arthur Gambini</td>
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<td>Dominick Gangi</td>
<td>E. A. Garcia</td>
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<td>Edmund E. Gauthier</td>
<td>Benedick M. George</td>
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<td>Edward A. Gervais</td>
<td>Raymond J. Gibbs</td>
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<td>Jack P. Gibson</td>
<td>Richard E. Gilbert</td>
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ENCyclopedia of Florida Elkdom

I

Frank P. Gilleeny  Robert Asa Gilstrap
George L. Goodin    Charles Leon Goodwin
Joseph Gordon       Ron S. Grumbling
Gordon Gustavson    Dwight F. Hall
John D. Hall, Jr.   Phil W. Hammaker
F. Wells Harling    Howard F. Harloff
Thomas E. Hawken    Herbert H. Helseth, Sr.
John R. Henderson   William H. Herbert, III
A. H. Hershey       John Hodgkins
Alfred H. Hoffman   Harry A. Hornbogen
Thomas V. Infantino, Sr.    Richard H. Jenkins
Raymond O. Johnson  Raymond W. Johnson
Doug Johnston       Robert C. Jones
Herbert D. Kempter  W. Owen Kennedy
Albert O. Kjos      John J. Kleinman
John J. Klinehoffer Thomas J. Klinehoffer
James R. Kraiker    Frank Krompke
John Kranwinkel, Jr. Vito J. LaTorre
Tom Largo          Paul A. Leeper
Charles E. Lertora, Jr.  Melvin F. Lesse
Roland L. Levert, Jr. Henry M. Long
Edward J. Love      Frank Lundy
Chester Main, Jr.   William F. Marcum
Wilbur E. Martin    Claude Masterman
Carl F. Mathews      Scott A. Matthias
Elra L. McCoy       Marcus E. McDilda
H. J. McDonald, Jr.  Harry Meinket
Ed Messer          Edward E. Messer
Vincent Milioti     Phillip E. Miller
Charles Minotello   Michael E. Mollis, Jr.
Arthur E. F. Molnar  Philip T. Montgomery
Charles L. Moore    Ernest Morris
Donald E. Morton    George P. Moscoso
Michael Mountjoy    George W. Muns
Frank Napolitano    Angelo Navetta
Joseph Newton      James E. Osborne
Dominick N. Paparazze George H. Parks, Jr.
Frank Patrick      James E. Patton
Richard P. Patton   Roger F. Paulhus
Donald G. Pearson  Joseph R. Pepe
Joseph P. Pigeon    William Polakowski
Arthur T. Pool       David Ayers Potter
Howard F. Price    Burton R. Quinn
Emil A. Rampakeek  John W. Randall
T. Gordon Ray      Ray L. Rife
Walter F. Ritz      Cecil L. Roberts
Robert A. Roberts  William J. Roche
Peter Rommel       Charles Salerno
Salvatore J. Saprito Max J. Schnieder
John E. Schotter    James S. Scofield
J. G. Sectz        Rudolph W. Seebeck
Walter C. Shaffer, Jr.  Kenneth H. Smith
Lance E. Smith    Stephen R. Smith
Alfred Sofia       Paul Speckman
Ralph R. Spitznogle Donald Steimle
Harold B. Stephens  Charles M. Stern
Inverness Does Drove No. 232

Following the establishment of Inverness Elks Lodge #2522 on December 14, 1974, Lana Barwick, wife of the Lodge’s first Exalted Ruler, decided she would start a Does Drove of the Benevolent and Patriotic Order of Does, a charitable and community organization whose Grand Lodge was located in Omaha, NE. Fifty-four women gathered during the summer of 1975 for the organization’s first meeting in a “7-11” building on Turner Camp Road that the Elks had acquired for their meetings. These ladies laid the groundwork for the chartering of the Inverness Does Drove #232 which took place on June 17, 1976. With a membership of 104 Does, Lana Barwick was elected their first President. The initiation was held at Ernie Glove’s Jolly Fisherman Restaurant in downtown Inverness across from what is now Stimpknockers.

Adhering to the bylaws of the Grand Lodge of the BPOD, the Inverness Drove opened its membership to wives, widows, mothers, sisters, daughters, stepdaughters, nieces, and aunts of Elks in good standing. Although an independent organization from the Elks, the Does stand ready to cooperate with the Elks in their charities and social projects. Their organization is dedicated to the principles of patriotism, charity, loyalty, and love.

Inverness Does Drove #232 elects thirteen officers annually: a President, First Counselor, Senior Counselor, Junior Counselor, Secretary, Treasurer, Conductor, Outer Guard, Inner Guard, Musician, and three Trustees. There are eleven appointed officers: Chaplain, Assistant Musician, Assistant Conductor, four Color Bearers, and four attendants. Since 1976, there have been 23 Presidents. Through their leadership and foresight, and their selflessness, perseverance, and hard work, the Inverness Does Drove has grown and prospered.

From the beginning, the Does have initiated several creative and fun-filled annual fundraising activities in order to raise the necessary money to support their countless charities and projects. There have been card parties, “bakeless” cake sales, bingo, Crazy Golf, yard sales, car washes, luaus, fashion shows, themed dances, delicious breakfasts, and raffles to name a few.

Over the years, the Does have shared their monetary earnings with the Elks and the community. A total of $61,778 has been presented to the Elks (providing many useful items for the improvement of the Lodge as well as assisting them in many of their projects) and to the Florida Children’s Hospital.

To date, the various charities have received $69,174. In just two years, there was a total of 11,147 hours of benevolent work accounted for by the Inverness Does Drove #232.

In the early years of the Drove, the Does adopted an elder from a geriatric home and took special interest in the needs of the Lakeside School. They contributed to the community library, the Citrus County Swimming Association, the Barbara Fallon Fund, the Saltmarsh Fund, and Civil Air Patrol. One year they were able to assist a family burned out of their home.
In addition, the Drove has been and still is contributing to CASA, Key Center, the Florida Sheriff’s Ranch Hospice, Pregnancy Crises Center, college scholarships for needy students, local and national disaster relief, CUB, Dogs for the Dear, and a Little Sister program to name a few. They supported the Elks Children’s Hospital in Umatilla (now Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services) and St. Jude’s Ranch for abandoned and abused children. They have long supported and participated in the March of Dimes Walkathon. They also became involved with the Eckerd Family Youth alternative program at Camp E-Nini-Hassee.

The Drove works for and supports the Does’ national project, WIMSA (Women in Military Service for America). With this project they actively seek names of women who are or have been in the military from their area to place their names with others across the country on a monument at the entrance to Arlington Cemetery honoring women of the military.

Four times a year, the Does bring food and sundry items and assist the Elks when they go to the Veterans’ Hospital in Gainesville to hold bingo games for the patients. They have adopted a lady veteran at the hospital and remember her on her birthday and holidays and try to see her during their visits.

Originally a member of the Florida North District, Inverness Does Drove #232 came under the Florida West District in May 1982 and held the first West District meeting at the Plantation Inn in 1985. Each year, a member Doe represents the Drove at the District Convention.

Past Presidents:

- 1976 Lana Barwick
- 1977 Diana Largo
- 1978 Vickie Hanstein
- 1979 Connie Connors
- 1980 Lucille Seebeck
- 1981 Dolly Colavito Payne
- 1982 Jeanette Latorre
- 1983 Elizabeth Leinwander
- 1984 Hilda Holmberg
- 1985 Jean Conlin
- 1986 Josephine Broska
- 1987 Bobbie Craft
- 1988 Joyce Kennealy
- 1989 Carolyn Kearney
- 1990 Jean Conlin
- 1991 Vivian Taylor
- 1992 Elaine Naipavel
- 1993 Eileen Bledsoe
- 1994 Audrey Zediana
- 1995 Mamie Richards
- 1996 Mary “Dot” Cook
- 1997 Florence Reed
- 1998 Doris Rife
- 1999 Laura Ireland

Charter Members:

- Edwina Vick
- Ruth Ann Wagner
- Louise Davis
- Peg Johnson
- Vicky Hanstein
- Alice Albanese
- Jo Salerno
- Anne Fertal
- Jo Miliota
- Regina Bauer

- Jonnie Grumbling
- Linda Bergman
- Ruby Bentayou
- Jo Ann Johnson
- Maryann Bellia
- Joette Uzar
- Jo Reilly
- Connie Chinnici
- Dorothy Miller
- Ann Stone
Gertrude Albro served fifteen years as Musician.
Lille Mabie served five years as Conductor and six years as Secretary.
Agnes Sharon served five years as Secretary.

Investigating Committee

(Laws of Order, Section 13.080 and the Grand Lodge Manual for Investigating Committee)

“The Investigating Committee shall carefully examine into the character of all applicants for membership, verify their statements made in the application and report thereon at the next regular meeting of the Lodge. The committee shall require that applicants personally appear before the Committee and may require the proposer or proposers of an applicant to appear before the committee.”

The selection of qualified and acceptable candidates of membership is of prime importance to each subordinate Lodge. The investigation of all candidates for membership is probably the most important task a Lodge has, for the good standing of the men and women taken in Elkdom must be maintained. The order is hurt, not helped, when a large membership is gained at the expense of quality in that membership.

In addition to the responsibility of the proposer to make a discriminating selection, the Laws of the Order set up the requirement for the Lodge to make a thorough investigation of each applicant through an Investigating Committee.

The investigation should reveal that the applicant meets the qualification of membership as set forth in the Constitution and Laws of the Order, that the questions asked on the application form have been truthfully answered, that the applicant understands the purposes of the order and agrees with them, that he is socially and financially acceptable, and that he is willing to share in the programs of the Lodge.

Improper investigation leads to loss of members through misunderstanding by the members of what they should expect from their membership. It is the purpose of good investigation to assure that new members will be well informed of the objects of membership in the Elks and that they will be socially and fraternally compatible with the other members of the Lodge. The selection of the Investigating Committee is a most important and discriminating task. This committee must be interested in the welfare of the Lodge. The basic responsibility of this committee is to verify the statements made by the applicant in his application and to determine if the applicant is the kind of person who will be an asset to the Lodge.

Be certain to obtain a written report from the Investigation Committee and make it a part of the Lodge meeting minutes.
Ireland’s Chop House and Star Hotel

Ireland’s Chop House and Star Hotel was the first stop for Charles Vivian upon landing in America, located at 5 Lispenard Street in the upper end of the wholesale district of New York City.

Alighting from the vessel that had brought him from England, Vivian was met by a small, grimy faced boy who thrust a handbill into his palm advertising Ireland’s Chop House and Star Hotel. Clearing customs, Vivian headed out into a strange city, quite uncertain as to what lay ahead. As much as anything, because he knew nowhere to go, or no person to make some contact with, he began his search for Ireland’s Chop House.

Ireland’s was known as a free and easy, a thoroughly respectable institution quite popular at the time. The chop house specialized in steaks, chops, rarebits, and ale. Customers were entertained on Tuesday and Friday nights for entertainment while they enjoyed their meals by paid singers, dancers, and other acts, although they were often given performances by volunteers, many of whom were New York performers who frequented Ireland’s. This type of entertainment was a forerunner of the later day cabarets.

Other free and easies ran on different nights so as not to conflict with one or another in nearby locations.

(See Free and Easies)
(See Vivian, Charles)