Jacksonville Lodge 221

Date of Dispensation: November 23, 1891  
Date of Installation: December 12, 1891  
Formally Opened By: Grand Exalted Ruler Hunter of Savannah Lodge No. 183, the Mother Lodge of Jacksonville  
Charter Members: 184 (Constitution & Bylaws show 184 charter members, but only 24 are listed in minutes of the organizational meeting)  
Year 2004 Membership: 428  
Year 2005 Membership: 477  
Year 2006 Membership: 354  
Year 2007 Membership: 352  
Year 2008 Membership: 337  
Year 2009 Membership: 339

The following officiated: delegates from said Lodge No. 183, Savannah, GA.

The following officers were elected and installed:

- **Exalted Ruler**: J. E. Hartridge  
- **Esteemed Leading Knight**: F. M. Ironmonger, Jr.  
- **Esteemed Loyal Knight**: J. D. Burbridge  
- **Esteemed Lecturing Knight**: C. W. Johnson  
- **Secretary**: M. P. Turner  
- **Treasurer**: R. Bowen Daniel  
- **Inner Guard**: J. E. T. Bowden  
- **Esquire**: E. I. Gordon  
- **Tiler**: J. R. Tysen  
- **Trustees**: W. A. Bours; P. E. McMurray

The following are charter members: G. R. Hubby; J. F. Edwards; W. A. Shaw; W. P. Lawshe; Wilmer Seig; W. H. Lucas; J. E. Hartridge; F. M. Ironmonger, Jr.; J. D. Burbridge; C. W. Johnson; M. P. Turner; R. Bowen Daniel; A. M. Bond; J. H. Colvin; J. E. Starke; E. H. Seabrook; J. A. Leslie; Chaplain G. H. Fleming; E. I. Gordon; J. R. Tysen; W. A. Bours; P. E. McMurray; C. I. McGowen; and J. E. T. Bowden.
Past State Presidents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1922-1923</td>
<td>C. C. Kirby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927-1928</td>
<td>John DuBose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938-1939</td>
<td>M. Frank O’Brien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948-1949</td>
<td>Robert L. Bohon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964-1965</td>
<td>Thomas E. Mallem</td>
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Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers (a partial list):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1893-1894</td>
<td>John E. Hartridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894-1895</td>
<td>James D. Burbridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>1895-1896</td>
<td>W. G. Toomer</td>
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<td>1896-1897</td>
<td>G. D. Ackerly</td>
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<tr>
<td>1897-1898</td>
<td>G. D. Ackerly</td>
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<tr>
<td>1898-1899</td>
<td>W. T. Cotter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899-1900</td>
<td>W. T. Cotter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903-1904</td>
<td>James D. Burbridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>1904-1905</td>
<td>James D. Burbridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916-1917</td>
<td>J. W. Ingram</td>
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<tr>
<td>1921-1922</td>
<td>C. C. Kirby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926-1927</td>
<td>C. C. Kirby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930-1931</td>
<td>William Kenneally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936-1937</td>
<td>M. Frank O’Brien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941-1942</td>
<td>Robert L. Bohon</td>
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<tr>
<td>1946-1947</td>
<td>Alan C. Winter, Jr.</td>
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<td>1949-1950</td>
<td>James T. Lowe</td>
</tr>
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<td>1954-1955</td>
<td>John P. Riordan</td>
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<tr>
<td>1955-1957</td>
<td>Thomas E. Mallem</td>
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<tr>
<td>1958-1959</td>
<td>Donald Jordan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-1961</td>
<td>J. A. Budd, Sr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977-1978</td>
<td>Gerald P. Wilson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Past District Vice Presidents (a partial list of only those surviving at the time this list was made):

- C. C. Kirby
- John DuBose
- M. Frank O’Brien
- Robert L. Bohon
- Thomas E. Mallem

State Conventions held in Jacksonville:

- 1916
- 1922
- 1962
- 1970
- 1992

State Association Secretaries:

- 1904-1908 G. D. Ackerly
- 1909-1910 F. E. Boylston
- 1911 G. D. Ackerly

State Association Treasurers:

- 1937-1940 R. L. Bohon
Jacksonville is located in Duval County along the St. John’s River. The early inhabitants were the Timucuan Indians who named it wacca pilatka (close to Palatka) which meant, “place where cows cross.” The Spanish called it the Pass of San Nicolas, probably because of nearby Fort San Nicolas. In 1763 Pass of San Nicolas was changed when the British took possession. They called it Cow Ford.

Early streets were laid out and named Newman, Market, Liberty, and Washington. These were dissected by Bay, Forsyth, Monroe, Duval, and Adams. It was an early settler, John Warren, who suggested the name of Jacksonville, honoring Andrew Jackson, whom he had served under.

St. John’s River is the nation’s longest north flowing river and the city has become a major seaport and naval station. Mayport Naval Station is second to Norfolk, VA as the largest aircraft carrier basin on the East Coast.

Jacksonville is the first Lodge formed in Florida and is the mother Lodge of Florida Elkdom. Savannah, GA Lodge #183 is the mother Lodge to Jacksonville Lodge #221.

Jacksonville Lodge was instituted on December 12, 1891. This was the year that the title of Exalted Grand Ruler was changed to the present Grand Exalted Ruler. Grand Exalted Ruler Simon was the only man ever to carry the two titles. He was elected by the first title in 1889 and the second title in 1890. Grand Lodge membership at this time was 18,424 and had charitable expenses totaling $14,978.63.

There were 196 Lodges in the Grand Lodge in 1891. There were 222 Lodges in the Grand Lodge in 1892. This was the same year that the Grand Lodge decreed that Lodges must confine their Lodge titles to the name of the city where located and that numbers must ascend serially. Additionally, this was the year that the Grand Lodge proposed to consolidate the two degrees into one strong, fine degree. Four chair officers became named as they now are. The forget-me-not was adopted as the flower of the order.

Jacksonville was one of the founding Lodges of the Florida State Elks Association. The meeting for the formation of the Florida State Elks Association was held November 16-17, 1904. Jacksonville was one of the first six Lodges to respond to this first convention meeting. Florida at this time became the seventeenth state to form an Elks State Association.

Jacksonville received a dispensation to form a Lodge on January 23, 1891 and was instituted on December 12, 1891. Institution took place in the Lodge rooms of Montifiore Lodge #2 of the Knights of Pythias located in the Mohawk Building at the southwest corner of Bay and Market Streets. Acting Grand Exalted Ruler Hunter declared Jacksonville Lodge #221 duly organized and presented the charter to Exalted Ruler Hartridge and then closed the Lodge. The newly installed officers then took their posts and under directions of the visiting members, they opened and closed the Lodge in both degrees.

J. E. Hartridge not only served the initial Elk year, but he also served the Lodge year of 1892-1893. Although the charter was presented at the organizational meeting of December 12, 1891, it was dated June 15, 1892. The charter that now hangs in the Lodge room is a duplicate, as the original was destroyed by the fire of May 3, 1901 (cited below).

The second meeting was held only four days later on December 16, 1891 in the Knights of Pythias Hall, but just prior to closing the meeting, Exalted Ruler Hartridge notified the members present that the next meeting would take place the very next day, December 17,1891, in new Lodge rooms in the Mohawk Block.

Jacksonville’s building was destroyed by fire in 1901; they rebuilt and stayed there until 1925. They then built again and also in early 2000.

They celebrated 100 years as a Lodge on December 12, 1991. Mayor Austin of Jacksonville proclaimed Centennial Week. Jacksonville Lodge and some Savannah members attended the anniversary dinner.

Jacksonville’s Ladies organization is the Ladies of Elks #221.

Mohawk Building

Following the organization of the Lodge, rooms were rented in the Mohawk Building and furnished for Lodge and club purposes. The Lodge remained in this location for several years.

Its membership ledger states 184 charter members, but the minutes show only 24. One year later its membership ledger shows a membership of 150.

In 1898 the Spanish American War saw embarkation camps in Jacksonville, a city of activity.

Northeast Corner of Adams and Main Streets

Jointly with the Board of Trade and the Public Library Association, they erected a three-story building on the northeast corner of Adams and Main Streets, the Lodge occupying the two top floors.
In 1899, the Lodge was having financial difficulties and owed considerable back rent to the Building Association. As a result, they deeded their equity in the building to the association to settle the debt and rented quarters over the Belvedere Café at 132 West Forsyth Street. They moved in here on May 6, 1899.

Belvedere Café

The Belvedere Café was located at 132 West Forsyth Street and the Lodge moved there on May 6, 1899. In March 1900, this property was sold and a committee on new quarters was appointed to locate new quarters.

On February 25, 1901, the Elks Lodge was incorporated.

207 Laura Street

The committee to search out new property was given the opportunity to purchase the mansion of the late Dr. Abel Seymour Baldwin, located on the northeast corner of Laura and Adams Street. After considerable negotiating, the property was purchased for $18,000 on March 2, 1901. On this site, the Florida Medical Association was founded in the office of Abel Seymour, MD on January 14, 1874. The building was remodeled and refurbished for Lodge and club purposes, and on April 9, 1901, the Lodge moved in. Regular meetings were held here on April 13th, 20th, and 27th.

Fire Erupts

On May 3, 1901, just two months after its purchase, fire erupted in Jacksonville. Flames raced across the heart of Jacksonville for eight hours covering 146 blocks and destroying 2,368 buildings including 23 churches, 10 hotels, and the Elks Lodge.

On the day after the fire, Saturday, May 4, 1901, a regular meeting night, a meeting was held in the Federal Building. A building committee of five members was appointed at this meeting to obtain a mortgage loan and make plans for a new home. While plans for a new building were being prepared, a wooden shack was erected on the vacant lot for Lodge and club purposes, and a space was loaned to the city for use as a temporary fire station.

A New Cornerstone

The cornerstone for a new building was laid on Sunday, December 8, 1901, and work proceeded rapidly on the new home. The first meeting in the new home was held on May 3, 1902, although the Lodge room was not completed. This was one year from the date the club had been destroyed by fire, the hurried occupation being taken in order to celebrate in a small way a year of triumph over the troubles caused by the loss of the building in the great fire.

The Lodge and club settled down in the new building which was one of the downtown attractions of the city and continued to grow and prosper. The building was built in the early English Renaissance style of architecture. It was three stories high with heavy and substantial brick walls trimmed with granite, stone, and rock face quoins of light colored brick.

The Laura Street street front was protected by a spacious portico supported on Ionic columns 24-feet high. The Adams Street street side had a comfortable shady veranda supported on similar columns of smaller size. The windows throughout were lard and those of the front had observation bottom sash. The interior arrangement for club purposes could not be surpassed for the comfort of the members and their favored friends.

The basement was arranged in good style with a buffet, smoking room, and ping-pong room. The basement was neatly finished and decorated throughout with a billiard room 30 x 50 feet, an adjoining card room 14 x 24 feet, and toilet room accommodations all neatly wainscoted with paneled wainscoting and paneled timbered ceilings. A commodious bathroom with the latest improvements in bathroom appliances was conveniently located in the basement and suitable dressing rooms were attached. Shower, needle, and tub baths were provided. Floors were of composition and walls were of glazed tile. A fine piazza on the south afforded a pleasant place for the members who desired to watch the passing throng, read, or talk in the open.

The kitchen and pantry were also located in the basement and were connected to the stories above with a dumbwaiter, electric bells, and speaking tubes.

The main floor had a club parlor 18 x 20 feet, a library room 16 x 20 feet, a ladies’ parlor 14 x 16 feet, a club assembly room 14 x 42 feet, large toilets, and the buffet rooms.
The main hall was 10 feet wide and extended from the front through to the assembly room. It had a large sliding door connecting to each room and was divided from the staircase hall with ornamental arches and paneled columns.

The ladies’ parlor was finished and decorated in a manner and style that reflected credit upon the club and won the admiration of the women. All the woodwork including floors of this room was of Florida magnolia, highly polished in its own natural cream white color.

The vestibule front and vestibule doors were of bird’s eye cypress, a Florida product of exquisite beauty. All other rooms throughout were finished in Florida yellow pine and polished in the natural wood. It was the desire of the organization to complete the building with native material as much as possible.

The main staircase was five feet wide extending from the basement to the top floor and was broken by convenient platform landings. It was lit by large ornamental windows of stained glass which served to light the main hall.

The top story contained a Lodge room 26 x 50 feet and had the usual anterooms. There were two sleeping rooms, one for guests and one for the club manager. There was also a large room for the use of the secretary and directors. Toilets were conveniently located and fitted up in superb style.

The Lodge room had paneled wainscoting. The ceilings showed a timber finish pitched to rake of trusses, paneled with plaster, and enclosed with wood moldings. This room had a ceiling height of about twenty feet in the center and was corniced with ornamental wood cornices, all with a natural wood polish. Folding doors provided room for receptions and social sessions.

Ornamental brick and wood mantels were provided for all principal rooms. Gas, electric lights, electric call bells, and speaking tubes were placed in all rooms and halls. In fact, everything necessary to make a club comfortable and attractive was supplied.

In 1902, the Elks Lodge was reincorporated under a new charter to fit the occasion.

**Elks Property is Exempted from Taxation**

On June 22, 1904, the City Council of Jacksonville met in regular semimonthly sessions. An action of that session was that of the tax status of the Elks Lodge.

An article appearing in the *Metropolis* regarding this issue stated the following:

A gratifying action to a large body of citizens was taken last night when the Council exempted the property of the Elks in this city from taxation. A petition from the members of this organization stated that the order was purely a benevolent order; that the property owned by the Jacksonville Lodge was simply for the purpose of having a permanent home for the lodge; that the lodge was not conducted for profit; that during the past three years the lodge has expended more than $5,000 for charitable purposes; that directly after the fire of 1901 the lodge expended several thousand dollars in charity among people of the city who were in want and who were in no way connected with the order; that the property owned by it is exempted by the state and county from taxation; and that all other similar organizations are exempted from taxation by the city.

As the committee of the Elks consisting of Cromwell Gibbons, A. G. Hartridge, and Philip Walter was present, the privileges of the floor were extended to Mr. Gibbons, chairman of the committee, and he addressed the council briefly, pointing out why the petition should be granted.

The petition was granted.

**Florida State Elks Association Formed**

On November 16, 1904, Tampa, FL Lodge No. 708 published a call to assemble a convention for the purpose of forming a State Association. The convention was held on November 16th and 17th. Six of nine Lodges in the state attended. Pensacola, St. Augustine, and Tallahassee did not send representatives.

In accordance with the published call for a convention of Elks Lodges for the purpose of organizing a State Association for the state of Florida, the following Lodges were represented: Jacksonville No. 221, Key West No. 551, Tampa No. 708, Fernandina No. 795, Ocala No. 851, and Lake City No. 893.

At the proceedings of the first convention, G. D. Ackerly of Jacksonville served as Secretary and W. A. Jones served on the Executive Committee. Serving on the Credentials Committee were Jacksonville’s Philip Walter and Gustav Muller.
The following were delegates from Jacksonville Lodge #221 at the organizational meeting for the Florida State Elks Association in 1904:

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philip Walter</td>
<td>David A. Leon</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. H. Rafftery</td>
<td>C. D. Ackerly</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. W. Ingram</td>
<td>Harwood Rosser</td>
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<tr>
<td>G. Muller</td>
<td>James Douglas</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. B. Pickett</td>
<td>Frank E. Chase</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Sanders</td>
<td>J. W. Hollister</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas W. Dunk</td>
<td>Frank C. Boylston</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. K. Munnerlyn</td>
<td>Fred H. Puckhaber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward M. Fettina</td>
<td>C. C. Better</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. C. Halsema</td>
<td>George M. Nolan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walter F. Coachman</td>
<td>Charles B. Rogers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edwin Brolston</td>
<td>E. E. Cheney</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. A. Cranford</td>
<td>Byrd G. Tarver</td>
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<td>T. R. Osmond</td>
<td>W. A. Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. P. Healy</td>
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Jacksonville had 38 votes.

It was found that a permanent organization could not be formed if the voting power was given on the basis of membership as the smaller Lodges would not feel the same interest in the work or business of the organization if the larger Lodges held the power of voting. After considerable discussion, it was decided to give each Lodge in the organization five votes.

**Elks Lodge #221 Sponsors Society Circus in 1905**

In November 1905, the Jacksonville Elks sponsored a circus. An article appeared in the Jacksonville *Times-Union* on October 24, 1905 announcing the upcoming event. It is included below.

**SOCIETY CIRCUS COMING TO TOWN**

Local Lodge of Elks Has Arranged for Novel Attraction

**PROMINENT PEOPLE TO HELP**

Grand Tent Show, With Leading Citizens Filling Every Part Of Program

Jacksonville is to have a genuine society circus early in November. This event will be the first of its kind ever held in the State of Florida. This society circus is to be undertaken by most of the prominent members of the local Elks Lodge, and in aid of the Christmas charity fund.

The arrangements for the society circus were made at the club yesterday, with Louis W. Buckley, formerly of Jacksonville, but now an amusement manager.

In the North and West these affairs have met with splendid success and have proved very entertaining and attractive. A society circus is in reality a burlesque on the real article, but on this occasion the management will see that the salient features of a genuine tented circus will be furnished, as well as the burlesque part.

The dates set for the circus are Wednesday and Thursday, November 8th and 9th, with a matinee on Thursday for the ladies and children. In addition, the usual, though somewhat more elaborate, street parade will be given Wednesday afternoon before the big show commences.

**Will Be Real Thing**

Those in charge of this big event are enabled to give it in its entire splendor through one fortuitous fact. A man with a real circus outfit in the shape of side walls of canvas, a round top and real circus blue seats and a grand stand of red and gold with folding chairs to place thereon happened to be in this vicinity about the time the Elks decided to give a circus.
What would a circus be without the canvas top, the sawdust arena, the red lemonade and the clowns!
The arrangement entered into with Louis W. Buckley, owner of the “Fighting the Flames Show,” will be a
big feature at the Tampa State fair in November, will furnish the seats and the canvas and some of the needed
properties for the production. Mr. Buckley will also, as far as possible, help the local committee to put on this circus.
Several high-class specialties, such as a trick bicycle act, a slack wire act, a double return trapeze act, a
fancy skating act, a comedy boxing act and some acrobats will be brought from New York for the occasion, and this
will furnish the real circus end of the program. These people have all been featured with Ringling Bros. and other
regular circuses, and this in itself will be a drawing card.
The tents will seat five thousand persons, and will be well lighted and with fine circus rings and a center
stage. The clowns will be much in evidence and will number half a hundred. There will be grave and reverend
seigniors selling lemonade and peanuts, as well as concert tickets over the seats, and the side shows and the concert
after the big show will be worth going miles to see.

All Willing To Help

The executive committee met with great success in persuading prominent merchants, professional men and
friends of the order to serve on committees, to take an active part in the parade and the program of entertainment in
the tents and the appointments so far made have all, or nearly all, been accepted, and what is more the men who
accept can be counted on to serve and do their part of the entertaining well. The committee and the various ones who
take part will meet at Elks Hall Wednesday evening at eight o’clock and be measured for costumes and hear all
about their duties. A number of trucks and horses have been promised for the parade, and the cages and floats will
be built in a large warehouse in advance of the occasion and all will be in readiness for the event. One band of thirty
and one of twenty men will be features.

Parade Ten Blocks Long

The parade will be fully ten blocks long, and the line of march will be announced by the grand marshal
later. It will take place at 3 o’clock, November 8. The evening performances will be given at 8 o’clock sharp and
there will be one matinee. The members of the circus and all men in charge of features must meet at Elks Hall
Wednesday evening at 8. Plans will be formulated and all details explained. Measurements for costumes will also
then be made.

The parade consisted of the following:
Two, four, and six-horse drivers of chariots, teams and float teams
Trick bicycle act
Chief of rubber necks
Trapeze act
Slack wire act
Juggling act
Mounted police
Six-horse bandwagon
Cage of hippopotami from the banks of the Nile keeper
Group of European, South African, and Florida clowns
Open cage Circassian snake charmer and Amazonian and Brazilian anacondas in subjection
Open cage wild man from Borneo and keeper
Side show curiosities, double-headed wonder, the fat woman, the tattooed man
Giraffe
Lions
Elephants
Ostrich
Monkey, lizards
Expansion and New Building: 1925

Early in 1925, it was decided to tear down the building that was erected in 1901-1902 just after the fire. Growth of the Lodge required new facilities that would better accommodate the membership which by now had grown to about 485 members.

A building fund amounting to $250,000 was raised, and construction started on June 1, 1925. In the meantime the Lodge rented temporary quarters to hold meetings, and at the June 17, 1925 Lodge meeting, Past Exalted Ruler T. W. Haney presented to the Lodge a zinc box taken from the corner of the building erected in 1901 which contained a roster of membership of that date, copies of the Times-Union and the Metropolis, cards, etc. which were to be placed back in the cornerstone of the new building. Architect Ray Benjamin designed the Mediterranean Revival style Elks Lodge, later designated by the Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission as one of the most historic and architecturally interesting buildings in the city. Benjamin also designed other Jacksonville landmarks including the Florida, San Marco, and Five Points Theaters.

The facility was completed on June 1, 1926. The members moved into their new quarters, and on Thursday, August 26, 1926, the building was thrown open to the public and a reception was held for the nearly 1,500 guests who attended. Since that date many changes have been made. The club rooms and Lodge rooms have been remodeled several times, an elevator was installed for the benefit of older members, and several new bars were installed. There have been trials and tribulations and financial troubles and worries, but as in the past, there were always the usual fine and dedicated Elks to step forward and solve the problems.

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of Jacksonville Lodge #221

The Lodge’s 75th anniversary was celebrated on Saturday, December 10, 1966 in the club rooms. The lowest membership in those years was 70 back in 1900. Their peak membership occurred in 1954 when it had reached 1,423 members. At its 75th anniversary celebration, membership was at 1,203 members.

Outstanding citizens of Jacksonville who were on their membership roster included the following old families: Hartridge, Burbridge, J. E. T. Bowden, Mundee, and Ackerley.

At this time, mention was made of the life-size elk that stood at the entrance to the building. This elk was purchased by the Ladies of #221 at a cost of $600, one of the most beautiful in the state.

One Hundredth Anniversary

On November 12, 1991, a proclamation was issued by the City of Jacksonville:

Proclamation

Whereas: The Benevolent and Protective Order Of Elks of the United States of America was founded in 1867; and

Whereas: Jacksonville Lodge #221 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was instituted December 12, 1891 As the Mother Lodge of Florida; and

Whereas: December 12, 1991, marks the 100th Anniversary of Jacksonville Lodge #221 of the Benevolent and Protective Order Of Elks; and

Whereas: It is fitting that the City of Jacksonville pay tribute to Lodge #221 on this auspicious occasion of its centennial celebration,

Now, THEREFORE, I, ED AUSTIN, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of Jacksonville, Florida do hereby Proclaim December 12, 1991, as THE CENTENNIAL OF JACKSONVILLE LODGE #221

And commend the members of Jacksonville Lodge #221 for their Volunteer contributions to our State and nation, and urge all Jacksonville citizens to join in commemorating 100 years of Elksdom in Jacksonville.

In Witness Whereof, this 12th day of November in the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-one.

Ed Austin, Mayor, City of Jacksonville, Florida
On December 26, 1991, the Lodge received congratulations on their centennial observance from President George Bush on White House stationery:

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
December 26, 1991  

I am delighted to send my warmest greetings to the members of Lodge No. 221 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks on the occasion of your 100th anniversary.

Throughout our history, the spirit of volunteerism has been a hallmark of our way of life. Our ancestors knew that their ability to build a new Nation depended on their working together, and American history is filled with moving accounts of neighbor helping neighbor. That same spirit flourishes today in towns and cities throughout our land. United by a sense of duty, sacrifice, and patriotism, millions of people are quietly and purposefully reaching out to their neighbors and to those who are less fortunate.

Members of B.P.O. Elks #221 can be proud of their efforts to keep this great tradition alive and vital in their communities. I salute you for your dedication and your hard work. As you devote your time, energy, and material resources to helping others, you are also enriching the life of our Nation.

Barbara joins me in sending best wishes for every future success. God bless you.

George Bush

Dignitaries at the centennial celebration included State President Ben Brown with his wife, Sherry. Savannah Lodge #183 was invited as the mother Lodge of Jacksonville and 29 of their members and ladies attended. Dinner consisted of prime rib, baked potato, vegetable, salad, tea, coffee, and dessert. Music for dancing was provided by Swift Shift.

Two members in attendance were older than the Lodge. David Bunbrick was 101 years old. He was Exalted Ruler in 1927-1928 and had been an Elk for 69 years. He was Leading Knight at the time of their building’s grand opening. George Boutwell was 102 years old. He had been a member for 46 years. Both Bunbrick and Boutwell received congratulatory letters from President George Bush.

Centenarians Honored

On January 16, 1991, Jacksonville Lodge #221 honored their two centenarians and several 50-year members in a ceremony that preceded an initiation meeting which was adjourned until after the President of the United States, George Bush, announced the allied air attack against Iraq.

Attending this affair were:

President    Ben Brown  
Vice President at Large    Tom Elmore  
Past State President    George Dominiananni  
Past State President    Richard Shashy  
DDGER    Wily Doty

Southside Jacksonville Lodge #2014 Merges with Jacksonville Lodge #221

After nearly two years of discussions between Southside Jacksonville Lodge #2014 and Jacksonville Lodge #221, a vote to merge was taken on December 17, 1994 at a regular meeting of Southside Jacksonville resulting in 32 votes to merge with Jacksonville #221 and one against. The merger became effective on April 1, 1995.

The merger willed that Jacksonville Lodge #221 would retain its name and number as the mother Lodge of Florida. Elections of officers took place at a joint meeting of the two Lodges in February. All chair officer positions were open at this time. All trustee positions were declared open and would be filled in the following manner: two would be filled by Southside #2014, two would be filled by Jacksonville #221, and one would be filled by combined Lodges.
All members of Lodge #2014 would be voting members of the Elks, Inc., the corporation that controls the properties now owned by Lodge #221.

An executive order of merger from Grand Exalted Ruler Ken Moore in concurrence with State Sponsor Bob Grafton declared the following:

GRAND LODGE
Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks

Executive Order No. 94-168
To The Officers And Members Of
Jacksonville, Florida Lodge No. 221 and
Southside Jacksonville, Florida 2014

Pursuant to the authority of the Constitution, Section 11.060, of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the approval of the Board of Grand Trustees, and with the concurrence of State Sponsor, Robert Grafton, Past Grand Exalted Ruler, I hereby approve your proposal to merge your Lodges into one Lodge to be known as Jacksonville Lodge No. 221.

This merger shall become effective upon issuance of this Executive Order. The Charter of Southside Jacksonville Lodge No. 2014 shall be allowed to go to Jacksonville Lodge No. 221 for posterity. The property of Southside Jacksonville, Florida No. 2014 shall be merged with the property of Jacksonville, Florida No. 221 in conformance with Section 11.060, Laws of the Order.

Executed this 17th day of March 1995, in the City of Corona, County of Riverside, State of California.

Kenneth L. Moore
Grand Exalted Ruler

More Renovations: 1999

In 1999 a building committee headed up a modest expansion and thorough renovation of the Lodge. The plan focused on a 2,000-2,400 square foot addition. A new and larger bar area, a separate dining area, larger men’s and ladies’ restrooms, Secretary and Exalted Ruler offices, a larger game room, a children’s room, and a greatly expanded kitchen were part of the total renovation. Remediation of the existing facility included a much larger electrical system, enhanced plumbing system, and drainage improvements to the land. Also included were a paved parking lot, a remodeled Lodge room, and a fire protection/sprinkler system throughout the entire facility.

Lodge 101

Exalted Ruler Jim Adams started a new concept in 2001 called Lodge 101. Lodge 101 became a comprehensive discussion on the bylaws, officer and committee responsibilities and duties, and insight as to the why and how the order operates whether at the local or national level. Jim said, “It is time to step up to the plate” in knowing what is right and what isn’t when operating under the rules of Elkdom.

Ongoing Events of General Interest

In 2002, the Lodge received recognition as Volunteer Organization of the Year for their support of the Jacksonville Children’s Home Society.
Jacksonville Beach Lodge 1901

Date of Dispensation: April 25, 1953
Date of Installation: June 4, 1901
Formally Opened By: Charles Poole, DDGER
Charter Members: 113

The following officiated:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: Charles Poole
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: Victor O. Wehle
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: Robert L. Bohon
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Cullen H. Talton
- Grand Secretary: James J. Fernandez
- Grand Treasurer: Victor H. Kuhl
- Grand Tiler: William T. Knight
- Grand Chaplain: Frank Thompson
- Grand Organist: Finley Moore
- Grand Esquire: J. T. Lowe
- Grand Inner Guard: Al Coe

The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: I. D. Sams
- Esteemed Leading Knight: C. L. Gilham
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: C. L. O’Brien
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: V. R. Deane
- Secretary: Roy S. Pike
- Treasurer: Karl H. Beu
- Inner Guard: Leon Stephens
- Chaplain: N. S. Floyd
- Organist: Don Tupman
- Esquire: Fenton Acheson
- Tiler: H. M. Burch
- Trustees: Edw. W. McCormick, J. C. Dickinson, Sr., Frank M. Lipscomb

The following are charter members: C. D. Amerson; G. J. Vetter; F. T. Stanley; J. G. Medlock; Roy S. Pike; G. C. Farwell; F. E. Brunson, Jr.; J. W. Windham; R. R. Spriggs; J. G. Patterson; J. J. Kavanaugh; L. S. Paroda; A. G. Lerch; R. R. Craig; I. W. Brant; H. J. Lynch; G. P. Hall; O. C. Clark; W. B. Reagor; G. B. McDonnell; J. R. Wohanka; H. A. Durden; Earl Toole; R. S. Thames; T. J. Hightnote; C. H. Franks; N. W. Carter; M. A. Carr; R. H. Jones; R. W. Lampkin; J. L. Russell; E. F. Shore; E. F. Smithers; L. H. Stephens; Winnie D. Cundiff; N. S. Floyd; H. J. MacCotter; Samuel E. Lipman; W. H. Hoffman, Sr.; Park W. Gardner; Wm. E. Haskins; Wilson C. Wingate; Robert F. Hyatt; Meyer Black; I. H. Topp; I. C. Bancroft; V. E. Townsend; W. H. Weathersbee; L. E. Floyd, Jr.; V. R. Deane; M. A. Haley; W. S. Greiner; F. W. Acheson; N. A. Minchew; J. R. Kepner; H. A. Wisham; E. Gabriel; R. H. DeBell; S. Wample; H. W. Davis; D. W. Casey; W. O. Mize; C. H. McDougal; U. S. Patillo; B. R. McCormick; C. L. McDowell; J. A. Lester; E. E. Lewis; G. E. Ivey; M. L. Smith; E. R. Lambert; W. W. Cook; H. O. Bryan; George Bell; V. Arrants; L. Silver; Peter B. Jensen; E. W. McCormick; J. C. Dickinson, Sr.; J. T. McCormick; Frank M. Lipscomb; Frank A. Griffen, Jr.; I. D. Sams; Karl H. Beu; Paul S. Little; A. G. McFall; Marvin E. Schorr; Russell E. Smith; R. D. Gray, Jr.; E. H. Horton; Ernest Butt; David T. D’Olivo; Wm. D. Talbert; Bernard Kass; Don H. Tupman; Felix C. Sharp; Robt. R. Pyle; C. L. O’Brien; Jos. H. Dunlap; H. M. Burch; Mayhugh Courson; Miles E. McLeod; Adam Krezner; David D. Daviau; W. G. Webber; H. R. Purdy; Francis W. Webb; Clarence L. Gillham; Daniel B. McNeill; Richard L. Cantley; F. J. Thurman; C. Leslie Wilson; and W. A. Lester.

Jacksonville Beach’s Ladies organization was the Does Drove No. 111. It was organized on October 28, 1954. They were instituted by Orlando Drove 66.
Jacksonville Lodge No. 221 is the mother Lodge of Jacksonville Beach Lodge No. 1901. In January 1953, J. T. Lowe, PDDGER was instrumental in bringing together an organizational committee of five members which consisted of Ed Mums, Ed W. McCormick, Jim C. Dickinson, I. D. Sams, and J. T. Lowe.

On June 19, 1953, Jacksonville Beach Lodge No. 1901 was instituted by Charles Poole, DDGER with 113 charter members in the old community center that was located on North Second Street in Jacksonville Beach. Grand Lodge sponsor was William A. Wall, PGER. The first Exalted Ruler was I. D. Sams who was then serving as Mayor of Jacksonville Beach. Many official dignitaries attended the ceremony and a 33-car parade was the highlight of the day.

The Lodge first met in the old VFW building at the corner of Pablo Avenue and 5th Street. On October 14, 1953, the Lodge began meeting in new facilities in a two-story building that was leased in the name of John W. Medlock, PER at the corner of 3rd Street and 6th Avenue North. Many affectionately recall their activities “over the fish market!” The Lodge moved into their final facilities at 628 First Avenue North on August 29, 1967. In 1971, again through the help of John W. Medlock, PER, the Lodge planned, financed, and completed a major building expansion to their present configuration.

The following members have distinguished the Lodge and themselves by serving the order as District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association, Inc. and as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Florida Northeast District. At this writing, they were also the only members who had been voted honorary life membership in Jacksonville Beach Lodge No. 1901:

- Clarence L. Gillham, PDDGER 1961-1962
- Robert L. Spinks, PDDGER 1971-1972
- John S. Shannon, PDDGER 1979-1980
- Harvey K. Warnock, PDDGER 1988-1989
- Charles E. Graham, Vice President 1991-1992

Jack Shannon also served as Vice Chairman of the board of directors and was a member of the Major Projects Board of Directors which supervised the development of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital when it was dedicated on March 26, 1977.

In 2001 they were in the process of many improvements within the Lodge. These included improvements in the kitchen area, a new walk-in cooler, and the redecorating and painting of the lounge.

Jewels

On November 20, 1870, Charles T. White, acting as a member of a committee on Jewels, presented New York Lodge with the first set of officers’ jewels.

John F. Malley Society

Named for the person who first championed the idea of an Elks National Foundation, the John F. Malley Society recognizes and honors those individuals who plan gifts to the foundation. Membership benefits include:

- An exclusive John F. Malley Society pin
- A medallion
- Recognition in Heartbeat, the ENF donor newsletter
- Name listed on the web site at www.elks.org/enf/MalleySocietyMembers.cfm (no longer accessible)
- Recognition in the Annual Report
The following officers were elected to serve for the 1969-1970 term:

- **President**: R. Lamar Johnston, Miami
- **Secretary**: William Lieberman, Leesburg
- **Treasurer**: Frank J. Holt, Miami
- **Tiler**: Gerald P. Wilson, Jacksonville
- **Historian**: L. M. Strickland, Sr., Tallahassee
- **Sergeant at Arms**: Gordon Johnston, Vero Beach
- **Chaplain**: Norman P. O’Brien, Coral Gables
- **Organist**: Everett E. Ware, New Smyrna Beach
- **Vice President, Northwest District**: Robert C. Gonzalez, Pensacola
- **Vice President, Northeast District**: Robert L. Spinks, Jacksonville Beach
- **Vice President, East Central District**: Earl Bethune, Ormond Beach
- **Vice President, Central District**: Jimmy Neal, Winter Park
- **Vice President, West Central District**: Ed Lynch, St. Petersburg
- **Vice President, Southwest District**: Doyle G. Sweeney, Sebring
- **Vice President, Southeast District**: Carl J. Hartman, Riviera Beach
- **Vice President, South Southeast District**: Donald A. Schuerer, Pompano Beach
- **Vice President, South District**: Harry F. Knight, Key West

**Jolly Cork Trick and the Naming of the Jolly Corks**

The Jolly Cork trick was a prank introduced by Charles Vivian to uninitiated people while gathering as a group at Mrs. Arnold Geisman’s Boarding House. It was a prank that had been popular in England.

On November 23, 1867, Dick Steirly had gone over to the American Theater where Vivian was performing for the purpose of taking notes to enable him to orchestrate some of his songs. After the show, Vivian took Steirly over to Sandy Spencer’s place which was located at Broadway and Fulton Streets. They met up with Hughey Dougherty, Cool Burgess, and Henry Vandemark. Vandemark suggested that they shake dice to determine who would purchase the drinks. Vivian told them that he had never played dice but he would show them a game popular in England. He then asked for three corks. Steirly gave them one of them, Vandemark received the second, and Vivian held the third. Burgess was the judge and Dougherty did the 1-2-3 count. Then they rehearsed the game, each dropping his cork on the bar and picking it up as rapidly as possible. They repeated this several times and the idea was conveyed that the last man to lift his cork was to buy the drinks. The game commenced and Dougherty gave the count. Vivian and Steirly passed their hands over the corks while Vandemark quickly lifted his cork from the bar, anxious not to be the last one to pick up. But Vandemark was both the first and last to pick up and was made to buy the drinks. The game then became popular whenever they initiated new members into the group. The trick played on McDonald amused him so much that he began to call their organization the Jolly Corks, a name which stuck and lasted until the forming of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

This became a regular part of initiation into the Jolly Corks. The candidate would give Vivian his name and a fee of fifty cents. Each man would produce a cork and put it on the table and the new member would be presented with his cork. The Imperial Cork would then count to three, whereupon the cork game was executed on the new candidate.

The rules were that each member was to carry a cork at all times. Failure to do so carried a penalty of buying a drink for the challenger when unable to produce the cork. When drinking at a bar, they were required to
always have the cork displayed in front of them. This led to a trick of diverting the attention of a companion at the bar, stealing his cork, and sticking him for drinks for all.

Vivian was named “Imperial Cork.”

**Jolly Cork Award**

At a meeting of the Florida State Elks Association held November 15-16, 2002, it was announced that a new trophy would be given out at the State Convention in May. It would be called the Jolly Cork Award and would be awarded to the overall best performance by an individual in the state ritual contest. This award was originated by Ritual Chairman, Charles Brown, of Ocala Lodge 286.

**Jolly Corks, History of, by Gnacinski, 1898**

The Jolly Corks
Compiled by Janneyne L. Gnacinski
Sometime around 1898

When any organization has attained national importance and celebrity, it is natural to conduct an investigation of all attainable facts in the annals of its origin and incipient stages. The unusual name given to one organization at its formation and the lifestyle of the founder have prompted me to share with AFRA readers the data about the organization’s early history, which was published in book form in March of 1898.

On a Friday, in the fall of 1867, Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian, the son of an English clergyman, who had been a comic singer in England, landed in New York from an English trading vessel. On the afternoon of the same day he found his way to the old “Star Hotel,” a celebrated free and easy, but very respectable chop-house, kept by John Ireland, on Lispenard Street, near Broadway. Richard Steirly was the pianist to this place, and whilst he was engaged for the singing of some parties who were present, Vivian volunteered to sing a song for the company. He sang ‘Jimmy Riddle, Who Played A Fiddle,’ with which the proprietorship was so much pleased that he pressed him to sing other songs. After Vivian had sung three additional songs, with great success, Ireland sent for Bob Butler, of the American Theater, No. 472 Broadway, who was so delighted with the very superior voice of the stranger that he immediately engaged him for a week.

Steirly invited Vivian to take dinner on Saturday at his boarding house, kept by Mrs. Geisman, at No. 188 Elm Street. Having been introduced to Mrs. Geisman and also meeting W. L. Bowron, whom he knew in England, Vivian was so well impressed with the place that he remained there permanently. Mrs. Geisman’s house was at that time a favorite resort with a number of choice spirits, amongst whom were several musicians and others connected with the theatrical profession. At that time the excise laws of New York were very stringent, in consequence of which Vivian and a number of congenial associates were in the habit of assembling in the boarding house parlors on Sunday afternoon for the purpose of spending the time in social intercourse. On one of these occasions, Vivian suggested that their association be given a more permanent and tangible form, which proposition was enthusiastically received, the organization being made early in the winter of 1867-68.

The social society thus formed was termed the ‘Jolly Corks’ in allusion to a trick which Bros. Vivian and William Lloyd Bowron had learned in England, and which they had practiced, with infinite amusement to all concerned upon their associates in the social gatherings. Vivian was the first ‘Imperial Cork,’ as the presiding officer was designated. The organization was patterned largely after the ‘Buffaloes,’ a popular social and benevolent order in England, of which Vivian had been a member. The ‘Corks’ were not a benevolent society.

Of the fifteen original ‘Jolly Corks’ the following are not (1898) living. Their business vocations as well as present resident addresses are herewith appended for the information of the brotherhood.

Richard R. Steirly, pianist and teacher, No. 349 Hudson Avenue, West Hoboken, a member of Hoboken, No. 74.

John T. Kent, clerk, No. 233 Montgomery St., Jersey City, a member of Jersey City No. 211.

Harry Vandemark, clerk, Mills Hotel, N.Y.
E.W. Platt, clerk, 610 East 138th Street, N.Y.

Harry Bosworth, clothing business, Fourth Avenue and Eighth Street, N.Y., residence, Hallett’s Point, Astoria, Long Island.

John H. Blume, clerk in Pettingil’s Advertising Agency, residence, No. 411 North Twenty-seventh Street, N.Y.

Frank Langhorn, photographer, Plainfield, N.J.

William L. Bowron, leader of the Fourteenth Street Theater orchestra, N.Y. A member of New York No. 1.

Thomas G. Riggs, actor, now residing in Australia.

The deceased members are:
Charles Algernon Vivian, comic singer
M. G. Ashe, Photographer, who died in New Orleans of yellow fever in 1868
William Carlton, Irish comedian
William Sheppard, Negro minstrel
George F. McDonald, Actor

J. W. Wilton, wood-turner. In Wilton’s case there has never been any positive intelligence of death, but he has not been heard from for a period of fifteen years. It was he who made the original small ebony gavel, which is now in the possession of the G.E.R. for the purpose of being handed over, at New Orleans, to the Grand Lodge for perpetual preservation.

The popularity of the new organization soon caused it to overtax the capacity of the boarding house parlors. Accordingly new quarters were secured in a portion of the building, No. 17 Delancey Street….

Continuing to grow in numbers and financial strength, steps were taken for placing the new society on a more enduring basis than that of the first crude beginning. It seemed necessary to secure a more dignified title than the one first adopted, and the proper selection became a matter of grave consideration. The members of the committee to select a new name were Charles Vivian, Richard Steirly, Thomas G. Riggs, Harry Vandemark and George F. McDonald.

Vivian, mindful of the English society of which he had been a member, favored the name of ‘Buffaloes,’ but the majority were desirous of a designation purely American in its suggestions, and finally, on Sunday, February 16, 1868, the name of ‘Elk’ was adopted by a vote of 6 to 7, whereupon Thomas Riggs arose and said, he was glad to be an Elk, as he had been born on Elk Street, in the city of Buffalo. (Note: One can’t help but wonder if the name Buffalo was not selected because of its use in England. If any animal was purely American in its suggestion, it was the Buffalo, whose numbers in America have been estimated to be from 30,000,000 to 60,000,000, and in 1870 were approximately 5,000,000.)

There can be no doubt but that the date given above is correct as the natal period of the B.P.O.E. This is shown both by the date upon the original Constitution and also upon the first banner carried by the Order. As a further and complete confirmation, the first certificate given to Devout Elders in 1871 contains this date, likewise the original charters of New York and Philadelphia Lodges.

The first printed copy of the Constitution, rules and regulations adopted (1868) is a little black book of twelve pages, 2 ½ x 3 inches in size….Photographed pages then taken were subsequently published in the Antler. It can be found in the latter publication on page 28 of Vol. 1, NO 3, August 1895….More information about this organization can be found in the following reference for this text:

Detweiler, Meade D.  AN ACCOUNT OF THE ORIGIN AND EARLY HISTORY OF THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS OF THE U.S.A., together with sketches and portraits of the first member of the Order. All Past Grand Exalted Rulers, and other prominent Elks, containing also the Grand Lodge Proceedings for the years 1871-1878 inclusive. Published by the authority of the Board of Grand Trustees as directed by the Grand Lodge, July 1897, Harrisburg, PA. Harrisburg Publishing Company, 1898.
Jones, Clarence Newton, President, Florida State Elks Association, 1975-1976

Jones was more known by his friends as C. Newt Jones. He was a member of Cocoa Elks Lodge No. 1532 for 45 years. He served as Exalted Ruler for two consecutive terms. He was Vice President of the East Central District, DDGER of the East Central District, and was State President of the Florida State Elks Association for the year 1975-1976. He also served the Grand Lodge on the Credentials Committee from 1976 to 1978. From 1978 until his death, he served on various Florida State Elks Association boards and committees.

While occupied with Elkdom, he did not neglect his civic duties. During World War II, he served aboard a Navy destroyer. In civilian life, he worked in the Brevard County School Board Finance Department, served as Chief Deputy Tax Collector, and later became Brevard County Tax Collector.

He died at the age of 71 on December 24, 1991. Carl Vaughn, PSP gave his eulogy.

Jones’ motto was “Think Dedication – Know Success.”

Sixty-Ninth Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
May 29-31, 1975
HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

State President Norman P. O’Brien gave his annual report. The association was now divided into ten districts. Governor Reuben Askew recognized Elks National Youth Week. Tallahassee No. 937 won the state ritual contest.

The following officers were elected to serve for the term of 1975-1976:

President: C. Newt Jones, Cocoa
Vice President, Northwest District: Charles L. Newlin, Tallahassee
Vice President, Northeast District: Joe Ponzio, Gainesville
Vice President, East Central District: Arthur N. Thoman, DeLand
Vice President, North Central District: George Roller, Apopka
Vice President, South Central District: H. A. Durnell, Kissimmee
Vice President, West Central District: Robert Thomas, Largo
Vice President, Southwest District: Frank Spadafora, Englewood
Vice President, Southeast District: James Davidson, Jupiter
Vice President, South Southeast District: Gilbert Van Horn, Pompano Beach
Vice President, South District: Daniel E. Smalle, Miami
Secretary: William Lieberman, Leesburg
Treasurer: Frank J. Holt, Miami
Tiler: Lorne Allers, Kissimmee
Historian: George McConnell, Lake Worth
Sergeant at Arms: Jessie O. Miller, St. Augustine
Chaplain: Clyde Brown, Fort Lauderdale
Organist: Norman D. Right, DeLand

Kissimmee was selected as the site for the 1976 convention.
Judiciary and Convention Committees, Florida State Elks Association

In addition to the committees listed in Section 1 above, the President shall appoint the Judiciary and Convention Committees whose term of office and duties are set forth below:

(A) A Judiciary Committee which shall be composed of six members serving staggered terms of one, two, three, four and five years. Those presently serving shall continue to hold office until resignation, death, completion of their term or other reason causes the office to be vacant. A member shall be appointed each year for a five-year term. Vacancies in office which occur prior to expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term.

All proposed legislation and amendments to the Constitution and Laws shall be referred to this Committee, which shall report thereon to the Annual Meeting of the Association; the Committee shall also issue advisory opinions and interpretations including appropriate recommendations together with such other matters encompassed by the intent hereof. The Committee is empowered to elect its own Chairman and such other officers as it deems proper, and to adopt rules for its meetings and for the conduct of its business.

(B) A Convention Committee which shall be composed of five members, three of whom shall be Past Presidents of the Association, serving staggered terms of one, two, three, four and five years. Those presently serving shall continue to hold office until resignation, death, completion of their term or other reason causes the office to be vacant. A member shall be appointed each year for a five year term. Vacancies in office which occur prior to expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term.

This Committee shall make arrangements for all meetings of the Association. In addition to other duties in connection with meeting arrangements for the Association, the Convention Committee shall ascertain which cities of the State of Florida have the required facilities to house the Midyear and Annual Meetings. This information shall be provided the Board of Directors in sufficient time for the Board to select.

Judiciary Committee, Grand Lodge

Grand Exalted Ruler Henry P. O’Neil (1875-1876) gave shape and form to the legislative work and was the first man to institute a sensible code in the order, writing the basic part of the present day Elks jurisprudence, and its development therefrom has been an evolution in accordance with the needs of the order itself, various laws being since framed to meet requirements.

The Grand Lodge has eleven standing committees, one of which is the Judiciary Committee. Grand Lodge statute 4.030 mandates that the Grand Exalted Ruler, immediately following his installation, shall appoint the members of these committees for a term of one year.

Grand Lodge statute 4.370 provides that the Judiciary Committee “shall be the legal advisor to the Grand Lodge” and in addition defines the duties and authority of the committee.

The Grand Lodge has divided the country into eight areas; Florida is part of Grand Lodge Area No. 3. The Grand Exalted Ruler, upon the recommendation of the Area Grand Lodge sponsors, appoints one committeeeman for each area.

One of the duties of a member of the Judiciary Committee is the rendering of opinions to Lodge officers concerning interpretations of the Grand Lodge statutes where they are not fully understood. Any request for an opinion must be submitted in writing and include a complete statement of the fact upon which the requested opinion is predicated. Proscriptions include, but are not limited to, rendering of legal advice and involving the Judiciary Committee in the internal affairs of a subordinate Lodge. Any such dispute should be resolved within the Lodge, and if it is not possible, a resort to the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler is in order.

The major portion of a Judiciary committeeeman’s expenditure of time and effort concerns itself with the responsibility of approving articles of incorporation, bylaws, and rules and regulations of Lodges and homes or clubs connected therewith including revisions and amendments thereof. See Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations of State Associations. See Grand Lodge statute 4.370 (e). Finally, it includes the approval of publishing a bulletin, newsletter, or any manner of publication. See Grand Lodge statute 16.150.

None of the above are effective until submitted to, and approved by, the Judiciary Committee.
When contemplating any amendments or revision of bylaws or house rules, first read Grand Lodge statute 17.060.

Write to the Grand Secretary in Chicago requesting prescribed forms for amendments and/or revision booklets, certification forms, and instructions contained in the front of the booklet. Note that any changes or modifications must be contained within the booklets upon revision. Do not use booklets, however, for amendments.

When revising, read the form booklets modifying the language where amended and deleting extraneous language where unnecessary or unwanted. Read the notes under the various sections for they answer many questions.

Be meticulous in your preparation, for when you send the product to your area committeeman, it takes time to review the effort and if not correct, it will then be returned for corrections, doubling the time and effort as well.

When forwarding material for approval, everything must be in triplicate. When approved, one copy will be returned to you, one will be sent to the Grand Secretary, and one will be retained for the area committeeman’s files.

Once the revised bylaws are approved, the Lodge should order copies printed from the Grand Secretary’s office in Chicago for distribution to your membership.

Paragraph 2 of Grand Lodge statute 17.060 mandates that bylaws must be generally revised every five years. Check the date of Lodge bylaws for the last revision in the front of the booklet, and if they are due for revision, write to the Grand Secretary in Chicago. Failure to comply with this provision of the statutes makes a Lodge guilty of contumacy. For definition, see Grand Lodge statute 1.010. For possible penalty, see Grand Lodge statute 9.070 (d).

(Judge Thomas M. Coker, Jr., PSP)

Junior Elks

Organized: July 1926 Dissolved: April 1, 1929

This group was actually a forerunner of the well-known Antlers. It was organized with the understanding that the Grand Lodge would foster it. It was conceived in February 1922 and was organized and promoted by Brother C. Fenton Nichols, a member of San Francisco Lodge No. 3. The idea was that the junior organization would be created by and directed by individual subordinate Lodges of the order. For the next five years, it would be a subordinate Lodge program within the state of California.

By 1925 there were sufficient Antler Lodges in California for the first Antler Convention. Gradually other states began to form Junior Lodges and by 1927, GER Grakelow suggested the program should become part of a national movement.

In 1928 the Social and Community Welfare Committee had been preparing a ritual for the Junior Elks organization and also the statutory laws under which the organization would operate. It was cautioned that the policies adopted in respect to this innovation required great vision and sound judgment as would any problem dealing with the youth of America. It should be approached with solemn appreciation of the responsibility involved.

(See Antlers, Lodge of)

Junior Orange Bowl Sports Ability Games

The Junior Orange Bowl Sports Ability Games were for kids with certain disabilities sponsored by the South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge 1676. The Lodge began the annual Junior Orange Bowl Sports Ability Games, a developmental meet consisting of sailing, swimming, and track and field competition for athletes aged 8 to 18 years old who had some form of physical disability. These disabilities were classified as amputation, blindness, deafness, cerebral palsy, spinal lesion, and les aut autres (which means “all others”). Many of the athletes competing in these games went on to compete in the Paralympics and have earned world records in so doing.

The Lodge hosted the awards banquet for the kids and a dinner/dance was held as a culmination of the weekend’s activities. McDunnough awards were given to athletes for their extraordinary spirit during the competitive events. Once all awards were given out, the kids rocked and rolled to a disc jockey while photographs captured the excitement.

Teams from as far away as Israel, Canada, New York, and the Caribbean attend these games. The Elks participation in the Orange Bowl has since disbanded.
Evaristo’s 97th Lodge
Date of Dispensation: September 27, 1971
Date of Installation: November 7, 1971
Formally Opened By: Wm. S. Plummer, DDGER
Charter Membership: 328
Year 2004 Membership: 526
Year 2005 Membership: 470
Year 2006 Membership: 407
Year 2007 Membership: 492
Year 2008 Membership: 452
Year 2009 Membership: 476

The following officiated:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>Carl J. Hartman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Esteemed Leading Knight</td>
<td>James W. Vann, Pahokee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight</td>
<td>Dr. Lamar Johnston, Vero Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>Frank Dooley, Belle Glade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Secretary</td>
<td>William Lieberman, Leesburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Treasurer</td>
<td>Joseph T. Russell, Poughkeepsie, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Trustee</td>
<td>Howard Sullivan, North Miami</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Trustee</td>
<td>Richard Hufpel, Stuart-Jensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Trustee</td>
<td>Kenneth Morton, Titusville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Trustee</td>
<td>W. E. Poland, West Palm Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Trustee</td>
<td>P. P. John Mickels, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Tiler</td>
<td>Clarence Gunn, North Miami</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Chaplain</td>
<td>George McConnell, Lake Worth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Organist</td>
<td>Bodo Kirchhoff, Kissimmee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Esquire</td>
<td>Clyde H. Brown, Fort Lauderdale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Inner Guard</td>
<td>Anthony Amoroso, Plantation</td>
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The following officers were elected and installed:

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<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>Howard H. Koch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Leading Knight</td>
<td>Lionel E. Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Loyal Knight</td>
<td>Robert C. Lacasse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>Robert W. Zavitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Edsel E. Harrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>J. Wilbur Mudge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner Guard</td>
<td>Peter G. McGeary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>James E. Stump</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organist</td>
<td>E. Harlow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esquire</td>
<td>Don Harrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiler</td>
<td>Philip J. Kenny</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trustees</td>
<td>5 Year, Dewight L. Stewart</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4 Year, Joseph Lang</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Year, Carl Haider</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Year, Paul J. Mitchell</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 Year, Thomas Little</td>
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The following officers initiated the new members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>Edward W. Earle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Leading Knight</td>
<td>Harry B. Brooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Loyal Knight</td>
<td>Harry W. Curran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>Dallas S. Luce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esquire</td>
<td>Ben Medley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>Walter H. Pleva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner Guard</td>
<td>Jack Cabre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiler</td>
<td>Thomas Gumbs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
There were 328 charter members. The membership moved into their present building in November 1972. Their Ladies organization is the Elkettes. Mrs. Jane Gorman was their first President.

Past Exalted Rulers:

1971-1972  Howard Koch
1972-1973  Lionel Smith
1973-1974  James Davidson
1974-1975  James Stump
1975-1976  Don Harrison
1976-1977  Tom Harkins
1977-1978  John Rogers
1978-1979  Ralph Denton
1979-1980  Gene Hall
1980-1981  Bob Smith
1981-1982  Pat Patchin
1982-1983  Don Sheldon
1983-1984  Jim Dobson
1984-1985  Emery Weary
1985-1986  Ed Reist
1986-1987  John McLean
1987-1988  Art Shepherd
1988-1989  Bill Patterson
1989-1990  Steve Unsworth
1990-1991  Bob Buenger
1992-1993  John Fryman
1993-1994  Alvin M. Crouse
1997-1998  Frank Fritz
1998-1999  James A. Taggart
2003-2004  Herb Nasoni
2004-2005  Herb Nasoni
2005-2006  James Taggart
2006-2007  Michael Orlando

Elks of the Year:

1972-1973  William Presser
1973-1974  Harry Hetzel
1974-1975  Bob Smith
1975-1976  Leroy Labertow
1976-1977  Richard Steele
1977-1978  Charlie Wise
1978-1979  Charles Mullaney
1979-1980  John Roth
1980-1981  Don Spear
1981-1982  Dick Valario
1982-1983  Whit Lavene
1983-1984  Larry Amsden
1984-1985  John Brown
1985-1986  Jack Clavin
1986-1987  Jerry LaPrade
1987-1988  Leo Richie
1988-1989  Pat Patchin
1989-1990  Bob Nelson
1990-1991  Neal Valentine
House Chairmen:

- 1971-1972 Wes Arrance
- 1972-1973 Willie Dages
- 1973-1974 Willie Dages
- 1974-1975 Bob Wilson
- 1975-1976 Bob Wilson
- 1976-1977 John Roth
- 1977-1978 Charlie Wise
- 1978-1979 Charles Mullaney
- 1979-1980 Larry Huber
- 1980-1981 Jack Kahle
- 1981-1982 Jock Kohler
- 1983-1984 Mike Woodard
- 1984-1985 Jim Widman
- 1985-1986 Dave Bahne
- 1986-1987 Don Sheldon
- 1987-1988 Ed Hogan
- 1988-1989 Whit Lavene
- 1989-1990 Ed Hogan
- 1990-1991 Neal Valentine

District Vice Presidents:

- 1974-1975 James Davidson
- 1985-1986 Ralph Denton
- 1994-1995 Art Shepherd
- 1996-1997 Emery Weary

District Deputies:

- 1976-1977 James Davidson
- 1987-1988 Ralph Denton
- 1995-1996 Art Shepherd
- 1998-1999 Emery Weary

Ritual:

- 1973-1974 Southeast District Ritual Champions
- 1975-1976 Southeast District Ritual Champions
- 1977-1978 John P. Rogers, Florida All-State Leading Knight
- 1978-1979 Southeast District Ritual Champions
- 1978-1979 James A. Dobson, Florida All-State Chaplain
- 1980-1981 Charles W. Mulligan, Jr., Florida All-State Chaplain
- 1983-1984 Southeast District Ritual Champions
- 1984-1985 John L. McLean, Florida All-State Loyal Knight

Jupiter is one of several area towns named after Roman gods. The early Celestial Railroad began in Jupiter and on the way to Lake Worth traveled through the towns of Mars, Venice, Neptune, and Juno.

The 105-foot Jupiter Lighthouse built in 1860, just one year before the American Civil War erupted, is a prominent landmark. Today you can still climb to the top of the tower.

The organizational committee for Jupiter Elks Lodge consisted of Howard H. Koch, Chairman; Edsel E. Harrison, Secretary; J. Wilbur Mudge, Treasurer; Lionel E. Smith; and Joseph Lang.

Jupiter Lodge was instituted on November 7, 1971, the 97th Florida Lodge, with 328 charter members. Institution took place at Stuart-Jensen Elks Lodge #1870 with immediate Past District Deputy Carl J. Hartman.
acting as Grand Exalted Ruler. The ceremony began at 2:30 p.m. An estimated 500 Elks attended the institution ceremonies conducted by Hartman and Grand Lodge officers.

Following the acceptance of 63 Elks demitting from other Lodges to the new Jupiter Lodge, Hartman turned the chair over to Ed Earle, Exalted Ruler of Stuart-Jensen Lodge, who with his Lodge officers initiated candidate Bill Presser, representing 175 initiates, to give the new Lodge a charter membership of 238.

With the officers of the new Lodge in their chairs, William S. Plumer, District Deputy of Florida’s Southeast District, congratulated all who had taken part in the ceremonies, particularly thanking the Stuart-Jensen Lodge for providing its facilities. Grand Secretary Bill Lieberman read a letter from Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bill Wall expressing his deep regrets for not being able to be at the institution ceremonies due to a special meeting of the Grand Lodge Advisory Committee. Grand Secretary Bill Lieberman then read a list of gifts and donations from the different district Lodges. Motions were then passed for Jupiter Lodge to join the Florida State Elks Association and for the new Lodge to purchase a $1,000 National Foundation Certificate and a $1,000 Harry-Anna Hospital Certificate. William S. Plumer, DDGER, made introductions. The Honorable Robert Grafton, President of the Florida State Elks Association, addressed the group.

While ritual work was going on in the Lodge room, the Anna Miller Circle of the Stuart-Jensen Lodge entertained the visiting ladies in their own wing of the building.

The new Lodge raised Florida membership to more than 47,000 and the national total to more than 1,850,000.

Until its own building was constructed, the Lodge met at the American Legion building on U. S. 1 in Tequesta.

**Purchase of Land on U. S. 1**

In May 1972, the trustees and officers met to witness the transfer of title for 4.18 acres of land for their new Lodge building to be located on U. S. 1 south of Indiantown Road. It was financed by bonds purchased by members.

**Incorporation**

On Wednesday, May 27, 1972, the Lodge was set to vote on incorporation. A barbecue was held in conjunction with this.

**Ground Breaking**

On Sunday, October 14, 1973, a ground breaking for the new building was held. Approximately 250 people were in attendance including town and county officers as well as Elks dignitaries.

**Homecoming Dance Held for District Vice President Denton**

(Taken from the *Leader*, Thursday, September 12, 1985)

The Brotherhood of Elks gathered in Jupiter last Saturday night for the homecoming of District Vice President Ralph Denton. Denton of Jupiter returned to his home lodge after completing the traditional circuit of visits to lodges throughout the district which encompasses an area from Ft. Pierce to Lake Worth and west to Pahokee. The new District Vice President is a native of Tennessee and attended Columbia Business College. He is a veteran of 21 years of distinguished service with the U. S. Air Force. With his family, he retired to Jupiter in 1970. His community service in Jupiter has included several years as a volunteer with North County Ambulance Service. In 1971, he became a charter member of the newly established Jupiter Elks Lodge 2469 through the sponsorship of First Exalted Ruler, Howard Koch. Denton has served in all chairs of the Lodge with one exception, the Chair of Chaplain, and in 1978 became Exalted Ruler of Jupiter Elks.

Guests at the Elks homecoming dance included Past Grand Exalted Ruler, Bob Grafton and his wife, Patricia Grafton.

Attending from Jupiter was Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler James Davidson and his wife, Frances. Five others holding that high office were present from other lodges.

The 1,378-member Jupiter lodge has become noted for community service in the local area. Sponsorships include Jupiter High School Band, Boy Scouts, The Medical Center’s Convalescent Pavilion, Miami Veterans Hospital, a comprehensive drug awareness program and related services.
The primary Florida State Charity is the Elks Children’s Hospital located in Umatilla, Florida. The hospital treats disabled and handicapped children, burn victims and other types of children’s cases.

**President Shelton Visits**

Florida State Elks Association President, Harold R. Shelton, and his wife, Mary, with Vice President at Large, Frank Spadafora, and his wife, Donna, made an official visit to the Southeast District to the host Lodge, Jupiter, the home Lodge of District Vice President Ralph Denton, on Saturday, November 9, 1985. Present were Past Grand Exalted Ruler Robert Grafton and other Elks dignitaries. President Sheldon’s slogan is, “Elkdom Is: Love and Concern.”

Cocktails were served at 6:30 p.m. At 7:15 p.m. Exalted Ruler Ed Reist called the audience to order. PDDGER James Davidson welcomed everyone; introductions were made by Past State President Carl Vaughn and following an address by President Shelton, remarks were heard from PGER Robert Grafton.

**Ritual Competition**

For eleven consecutive years, from 1980 through 1991, the Jupiter Lodge ritual team swept the district ritual competition and represented the district in the state ritual competition. In 1990 Exalted Ruler Steve Unsworth was designated All-State Exalted Ruler.

**Bulletin**


**Community Service**

Although short on Grand Lodge and State Association awards, the Lodge is constantly working on improving the quality of Elkdom for its members. This is achieved through a constant upgrading of the facilities, services, and support activities. In the community they are becoming the bedrock of support. In 1989 Jupiter Lodge helped the high school marching band raise over $12,000 for their trip to New York City and the honor of leading the annual Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. Again in 1990 they assisted the band in raising over $5,000 for a trip to Texas to participate in the annual Cotton Bowl Parade.

The middle school marching band, the American Legion baseball program, the AARP, the Burt Reynolds Institute for Theater Training, the community athletic program (Jupiter-Tequesta Athletic Association), four scouting units, and countless others have also been assisted by Jupiter Elks Lodge. It is through endeavors such as these that the Jupiter Elks are recognized as a pillar in the community.

**Satisfaction of Mortgage**

In 1995, the mortgage on their U. S. I property was paid off and a celebration was held which included the burning of the mortgage.

**Buchanan Honored for Blood Donations**

In 1995 Buck Buchanan was honored for donating approximately ten gallons of blood to the needs of the blood bank on scheduled Sundays. Normally every eight weeks the Lodge hosts a Sunday morning of blood letting for the Palm Beach County Blood Bank. Almost every Sunday of the program, Buchanan would be at the Lodge to supervise the proceedings and to offer a continuous commentary on the need for blood. His unselfish giving of time to this project resulted in a tremendous public relations image for the Lodge and approximately forty pints of blood donated to the needs of the blood bank on scheduled Sundays.

On Sunday morning, August 20, 1995, his bleeding nature and untiring efforts were recognized by John Flynn, President and CEO of the blood bank, by awarding him a beautiful gold wristwatch commemorating his giving of ten gallons of blood and fourteen years of devoted service to the program. At the same time, Linda Rooney, representing the blood bank, affixed a gold plate to the Lodge commemorative plaque recognizing the
significant contribution of the Lodge to this giving program. At the same time of the award, over 3,000 pints of blood had been donated.

**Addition of Storage Building**

In 1995 the Lodge needed a storehouse. The trustees explored the means of saving money while providing more space and eliminating the cost of the commercial storage. A fundraising drive was launched in March 1995 and within several weeks, nearly $1,700 was raised. Plans were approved, permits were issued, and construction was under way. Building codes were difficult to meet but that obstacle was finally overcome on August 31. By October a slab was in place. Skilled volunteer labor kept costs down and within the limits of the funds raised. The building was 16 feet long, 11 feet wide, and 10 feet high. The front door was a rolling door 7 feet wide. There was a side door 35 inches wide.

**Major Renovation and Improvement Fund**

On August 30, 1995 at a regular meeting, Art Shepherd placed a motion on the floor “to establish a restricted fund for major renovations and improvements to the lodge through special fundraising efforts. Restrictions on the fund stated that no money could be withdrawn from the fund without a vote of the Lodge membership. It would require an advance of funds from the General Account to purchase give-away prizes and mailing to members but would be reimbursed to the Lodge Account, and none of the fundraising would come from dinners/dances.”

The activities related to the raising of the fund could be used to “put a little spark into the membership and give them a challenge.” He believed that the membership should have the privilege of making the decision and that the moneys taken in at dinner/dances should go to the club profits. A motion was passed with lots of lively discussion. The need for planning for future renovations and improvements was immediately recognized. Many ideas were advanced and discussed and in every case required action by a Lodge officer, committee chairman, or voluntary efforts on the part of the members. There had to be a means of galvanizing interest in the Lodge and to increase the interest in participating in Lodge affairs.

**Lodge Up for Sale**

In 1999 the Lodge placed their Lodge on the market for sale. The Lodge was in need of extensive repairs and it was felt by the trustees that it might be better to sell their present facility and relocate to another location in facilities that might be easier to maintain. However, sometime later, at the time that an offer was made on the property, the members felt that they would be better to remain in their present location and go into an extensive remodeling.

A bond sale to finance the project was opened with Morgan Stanley Dean Witter on June 29, 2000 and sales began on July 1, 2000. Interest was 8% simple and paid out on an annual basis. These bonds were issued for a five year period except for bonds that were redeemed on lottery basis. The date of the annual lottery was the last day of September 2001 and interest would be paid from the first day of December 2001 and each year thereafter on those dates. By August 2000 the $100,000 issue was nearly sold-out. Work immediately started on air-conditioning and the roof. Carpeting followed with other renovations throughout the facility. The bond committee consisted of J. Taggart, Bond Manager; Paul Mozzocci, PER; F. Fritz, PER; and R. Matriscino, Roof Committee Chairman.

The following is a Jupiter Lodge history as remembered and written by Al Nelson.

November 7th, 1971 [is] a truly historic day in the life of Jupiter Lodge. This is the day we received our charter to become a Lodge in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. But this was not the beginning of Jupiter Lodge but was the result of hours and days of work by many dedicated men. DDGER Carl Hartman, S.E. District received a request to form a new Lodge in the City of Jupiter and with that request he found several Elks living in Jupiter and formed a steering committee. This committee met several times either at the Jupiter Ranch or Village restaurants seeking ways of collecting members. One way was advertising in the *Courier* and of course contacting friends and neighbors. These men working together were able to collect the signatures of 300 potential members either by initiation or transfer demit as Grand Lodge required. In truth they collected 359 who became the charter members of the Lodge. One outstanding recruiter was Bill Presser who toured all over Pratt and Whitney with pads
of applications on the seat of his delivery truck collecting signatures as he made his rounds. Over a period of years Bill proposed over 350 new members.

Once this Lodge was completely formed an election of officers was held with Howard Koch as Exalted Ruler followed by Lionel Smith, James Davidson, Jim Stump, and Donald Harrison along with the initiation of about 200 men and the transfer of about 159 from other Lodges. Then our thoughts became centered on building a permanent home even though we were able to meet at the American Legion Hall for only $25.00 a meeting.

With a permanent home in mind a building committee was formed and the first order of business was to find land. In those days Jupiter had much more vacant land than land already occupied and the person to contact was John D. McArthur who at that time seemed to own most of Palm Beach and Martin Counties and was the owner of the particular plot of land in the minds of this committee.

For many years in the files of the Secretary there was a letter (which has disappeared) from Mr. McArthur that stated he no longer owned that particular property but had influence with those that did (Bankers Life and Casualty) and that he would talk to them. He went on to say he had been an Elk in the 1930s and thought very highly of the Elks’ goals but had to drop his membership because he couldn’t afford the $25.00 a year dues.

With his influence we were able to purchase the land we now own for the huge sum of $65,000. Now we were off and running, well at least walking pretty fast. Under the able leadership of Howard Koch, Lionel Smith, Jim Davidson, and Jim Stump, activities were started to help pay off our tremendous debt and also start building an Elk home.

We sometimes had a BBQ twice a month and fish fries using donated fish caught by our members during fishing tournaments. (I think one year we had four annual fishing tournaments.) Our BBQs became real moneymakers with meals costing $3.50 and because the American Legion did not have a large grill, all the cooks brought their home grills and cooked on these. Some looked like garbage can covers with a grill and some were sawed off oil drums but all of them worked. Water to wash the pots and pans came from a cold-water hose.

During this time, our weekly meetings were held in a building without air-conditioning; our bar was transported every Wednesday in the trunk of Willie Dages, chairman of the house committee’s, car. We had no license but the two mayors and the two chiefs of police and many of the police force were charter members so we didn’t worry too much about getting raided. Even so, we often would have 150 attendances with the meeting actually lasting until 11:30 p.m. with poker games following the meeting.

Our cooking time usually started about four in the morning and kept on until we ran out of customers, food, or beer. In my memory the largest turnout we had was 1,600, but there were some claiming to remember over 2,000. Between Jupiter and Tequesta there were only 7,500 residents so our activities were “must-attend” community activities. These activities were not only good for the community but became the glue holding us together during some trying times, creating lifelong friendships and great times for a party.

It didn’t matter what the function was; our ladies were there selling desserts and craft items, helping serve the meals, collecting the moneys at the door, and doing what was ever necessary, all for the building fund.

Since we had no liquor license or credit we had to pay cash to our local merchants for anything we needed. Most of the merchants were charter members whose payments could usually be delayed. We obtained beer and food from Pantry Pride where Leroy Lebertew was manager and liquor from Ralph’s Standup Bar owned by Bob Hughes.

Finally with the plans drawn up and approved for the new building and money raised by member activities, the sale of building bonds, and a bank loan, construction was started on our Lodge with all the necessary pomp and ceremony.

Volunteers did much of the construction. One of our members put in the footing during the time his construction company had no work.

Before the slab was poured, contract plumbers with members doing much of the work put in the plumbing. Electricians worked evenings and weekends using drawings made up by a PER, Jim Davidson, holding an electrical degree. Masons who were members laid block while other unskilled members did most of the lifting and toting. In the northeast corner there is block painted with my blood when I didn’t move my hand fast enough and it got pinched.

It wasn’t all work though. After putting in a morning and part of an afternoon working, we quit and all gathered around tables that had been set up and had a grand potluck dinner provided by our ladies. Also the beer was finally opened and something other than water quenched our thirst. The rule was nobody drank while working. In the southeast corner I have my own time capsule from one of these parties: two cans of Blue Ribbon Beer stuck in a core hole of a building block.

Finally the building was finished and we had our first initiation. Being Secretary of the Lodge during the last three months, meetings were held in the American Legion Hall. I asked each prospective member if he minded waiting for initiation in the new building with most being willing. Nearly 200 were initiated that night.
By now the Lodge had a liquor license but no track record of payments so it was still cash on delivery.

Move Again to a New Building – West Jupiter

By early 2000, the Lodge had made a decision that it would be in its best interests to sell their existing building and move to another location. Maintenance had become a major factor along with an aging membership. A move to a newer developing area and a new building might bring in newer and younger members, address the problem of maintenance, and infuse new life into the Lodge.

The property was put up for sale, but all was not easy.

The Advisory Board for the sale of the building met on June 24 and made the following report:

Jupiter Lodge 2469 met in special session on June 24, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. with Exalted Ruler Lillian McLeish presiding. Visiting dignitary Tom Elmore was present.

The Exalted Ruler conducted the opening ceremony and then turned the meeting over to Lodge Advisory Board Chairman, Roger Santa Maria. He reviewed the status up-to-date and then turned the meeting over to Herb Jasoni for a presentation as to the estimated value of our property and the estimated cost for a new Lodge in a different location. Roger then made a motion seconded by Orla Nasoni as follows: “Motion authorizing the Lodge Advisory Board to enter into negotiations with a real estate agent or developer for the sale/swap of the current Lodge property and negotiate the purchase of a new facility.” After a lengthy discussion the question was called with an affirmative vote, 44 yes, 5 no, and 3 abstain.

This meeting closed at 9:07 p.m. with 53 members present.

This is a report of the latest development from the Advisory Board. Team #2 is waiting for bids from one developer and one real estate agent. The developer has offered us a swap, which means we swap our Lodge/property with another parcel of land of our choosing and build us a Lodge furnished, etc. and still have some money in the bank.

All of this will be accomplished within the scope of the Grand Lodge Statutes section 16.0-50 on page 137 of the Annotated Statutes year 2000.

In the meantime two hurricanes came through the area doing damage to the building and because of a binding financial position and a sales contract still pending, they were in no position to meet necessary repairs. Occupancy became a problem and so they temporarily met at the local American Legion.

In March 2003 the Lodge had approved a sale of their building on U. S. 1. A new Lodge building was on the drawing board designed by Roger J. Johnson, Senior Project Architect for Opus. The floor plan for the Lodge was designed by some members of the Advisory Board. At this time they are looking to get approval by the City of Jupiter for a building permit prior to expiration of 120 days due diligence period.

The work materialized in 2006 when the Lodge moved into new facilities on Indiantown Road in West Jupiter. Dedication services were held in an all new facility with dignitaries from around the district as well as PSP Ben Brown, Administrator of the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, and his wife, Sherry.

Exalted Ruler Mike Orlando, PER made the following remarks before a capacity attendance:

“On December 7, 1971 the Jupiter Elks Lodge was instituted. In 1972 property was purchased at 1222 U. S. Highway 1 at a cost of $65,000.

“Jupiter Elks became hugely successful as an Elks Lodge. Officers were moving through the chairs, competing in the ritual, and winning. Past District Deputies Jim Davidson, Ralph Denton, and Roger Santa Maria provided leadership advice and the Lodge was blessed with a great group of Exalted Rulers and Ladies organizations over the years.

“Age has a way of catching up with us and it has the same effect on our facilities. It is very sad to see the deterioration of a building and the Lodge go into a negative membership. In 1991 the Lodge had 1,593 members. In 1995 - 1,421. In 2000, a drop to 861. In 2002, down to 700, and in 2006, 407. It is obvious that the Lodge cannot withstand a drop in membership this significant and continue to maintain an older facility needing constant attention.
“In the late 1990s an effort was made to accept an offer to sell the U. S. Highway 1 property for $1,800,000, but the membership voted not to sell regardless of the problems that many could see.

“In 2000 the Lodge had to spend money just to keep the building going. Roof repairs and A/C were needed. Bond sales provided $100,000 for the project but many of us knew that this was merely a band-aid situation. Thirty-one voted to proceed with two against.

“After we had made necessary repairs, maintenance continued to be a problem, and income was not enough to support the expenses, a situation the membership did not want to acknowledge. The leadership knew that for some users the U. S. 1 property was a prime location and could bring appeal to those such as the city and private developers for high-rise apartments, etc. As membership continued to decline, funds to operate the Lodge also declined. Dues income in 2000 was $73,702 but by 2002 had settled to $41,445, while at the same time finding officers and volunteers to serve continued to drop.

“In 2001 a serious meeting was held to discuss the future of the Jupiter Lodge and decide where, what, and when to do something to save the Lodge. Many felt the continued cost of operating the Lodge and maintaining the building needed to be addressed. A committee was formed to investigate available real estate that would better serve the Lodge’s future. PDDGER Roger Santa Maria, PER; Mike Orlando; Secretary, Richard Nelson; Herb Nasoni; Will McLeach; and others worked very hard to find something of interest but the cost of land and potential building programs in a location that would see growth became an almost impossible situation. Hope in finding a place was brief but after studies were concluded, it appeared to be hopeless.

“Several real estate firms and developers were consulted and a buyer came in the name of Opus. After several rather heated and very long meetings, the membership approved by a mere four votes to accept the buyer and go forward.

“The committee at that time became the Building Committee. They little knew how long it would take to go through a process that involved city, county, and federal agencies. Mike Orlando became Exalted Ruler to see the project go forward after ER Herb Nasoni became ill. This committee worked so hard on behalf of the Lodge to see what we have here today.

“On November 13, 2002, a Notice of Summary of Project was sent to the Advisory Building Committee.

“Finally, after review and inspection to be sure all issues were in line, a building application was submitted for approval. We had little doubt about the approval as our sponsor, PGER Robert Grafton, had been kept advised of the progress and gave us the benefit of his legal knowledge to make sure we are protected.

“As happens in many cases, with dissent and disagreements between the membership and the illness of Roger Santa Maria, it appeared an outside advisor was needed. I asked that PDDGER Rick Peluso be appointed as a Special Representative and Lodge Advisor to assist in the completion of the building project and try to unite the officers and membership. As always Rick has done an outstanding job. He has assisted me in solving problems in the district and service to the State Association.

“After a long run of red tape the stage was set to bring the plan to conclusion:

- March 25, 2005 Building permit submitted
- June 14, 2005 Permit issued
- July 1, 2005 Site work to start
- December 1, 2005 Target completion date

“We know the completion did not occur until the summer of 2006, but it was worth the heartaches, the challenges, and oversight to see this wonderful facility finished and the keys turned over to the Lodge officials.

“I have discussed with you today some of the history of the Lodge because I feel it’s very important not only for this Lodge but others to review and discuss where we are
today and our intentions to have successful Lodges in the future. We must never become complacent or feel we do not need change or plans to improve our facilities and service to our communities. We must at all times move forward in a positive direction and at the same time support and be involved in the programs of Elkdom and the State Association major projects.

“As we move forward it is imperative that we as members build with growth by adding members to our rolls. We must go after and secure younger members who will be the leaders of Elkdom. In the future, just because our average age is high doesn’t mean we cannot welcome new life and ideas. We must be proud of our membership in the order, and the pride we exhibit in our community will bring new growth. Let the younger members come and be a part of the solutions. They many have different ideas or agendas than we are used to but we have to remember that things change; the world we live in today is different for better or worse. Elkdom needs to survive the proven services to our veterans, youth, and our communities. It’s been said that ‘if Elks don’t do it, who will?’

“What kind of member are you?

“I would ask that each of us think about the years we have been involved in Elkdom. Think about the friends you have made who would not have appeared if you had not become an Elk. The fun times, the meetings, the projects, and fellowship we have gained are valuable assets in our life as we Florida Elks work to improve the major projects of our state. We can be proud because these projects are second to none in the USA. I personally would not give up the friendship of those who I have made over the years.

“It is my prayer that Jupiter Elks Lodge 2469 will take this opportunity as a new birth to move forward and grow in a positive direction. This community needs the services of an Elks Lodge. The western part of this county has grown and the opportunity exists to be back to the position of membership this Lodge has always enjoyed.

“Pride is an over high opinion of oneself, self-respect, satisfaction in one’s achievements. You as members of this Lodge can be proud of your new facility; the building committee can be proud of the wonderful job they have done. Elkdom is very proud of Jupiter Lodge and hopes you will continue to grow and increase your support in the charitable work we are involved in. With dedication, unity, and involvement we can always show that ‘Elks Care – Elks Share.’ God bless each of you and may you be blessed with good health and happiness.”

So Jupiter Lodge has shown a remarkable comeback in a new area of expansion in the western community. Membership has had a sudden growth; in 2007 it was at 700 or more.

**Congressional Medal of Honor Winner, Reginald Myers, Member of Jupiter Elks Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps Retired. Since deceased.**

**MYERS, REGINALD R.**

**Rank and organization:** Major, U. S. Marine Corps, 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, (Rein.)

**Place and date:** Near Hagaru-ri, Korea, 29 November 1950

**Entered service at:** Boise, Idaho

**Born:** 26 November 1919, Boise, Idaho

**Citation:** For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as executive officer of the 3d Battalion in action against enemy aggressor forces. Assuming command of a composite unit of Army and Marine service and headquarters elements totaling approximately 250 men, during a critical stage in the vital defense of the strategically important military base at Hagaru-ri, Maj. Myers immediately initiated a determined and aggressive counterattack against a well-entrenched and cleverly concealed enemy force numbering an estimated 4,000. Severely handicapped by a lack of trained personnel and experienced leaders in his valiant efforts to regain maximum ground prior to daylight, he persisted in constantly exposing himself to intense, accurate, and sustained hostile fire in order to direct and supervise the employment of his men and to encourage and spur them on in pressing the attack. Inexorably moving forward up the steep, snow-covered slope with his depleted group in the face of apparently insurmountable odds, he concurrently directed artillery and mortar fire with superb skill and although losing 170 of his men during 14 hours of raging combat in subzero temperatures, continued to reorganize his unit and spearhead the attack which resulted in 600 enemy killed and 500 wounded. By his
exceptional and valorous leadership throughout, Maj. Myers contributed directly to the success of his unit in restoring the perimeter. His resolute spirit of self-sacrifice and unflinching devotion to duty enhance and sustain the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

Charter Members:

Collins, William  Connerley, Dewey
Coombs, Kenneth A.  Corson, Lloyd
Cote, Alphonse J.  Cox, Charles N.
Crimi, Clifford E.  Cromer, Robert L.
Culppepper, Robert F.  Dages, Wilbur J.
Day, Nelson S.  Davidson, James W.
Delay, John  Denton, Ralph T.
Dill, William D.  Driskell, Robert B.
DeBois, Malcolm  Dubois, Neil
Eagle, Billy Ray  Fergus, Robert A.
Fleming, John J.  Fibel, Ottmar J.
Fieldman, Dan T.  Fisher, Gerald E.
Foley, Douglas H.  Ford, Jr., Frank S.
Frank, James  Frank, Jr., William F.
Frederick, Jack R.  Fritse, John V.
Gache, William F.  Gambin, Joseph
Gardner, Earle J.  Georgian, Arthur H.
Girard, Walter R.  Gongaware, Stuart G.
Gordon, Gerald R.  Gordon, Tom B.
Grainger, Roger D.  Grainger, Alfred D.
Green, Harry E.  Green, James M.
Green, John W.  Greer, Woodrow O.
Grooms, David  Grooms, Danny
Grooms, David  Haider, Carl
Hamilton, O. William  Letta, William L.
Lewis, John E.  Little, Thomas J.
Long, Carl  Lowery, Russ
Lawry, Robert D.  Ludwig, Robert B.
Lund, Robert E.  MacColeman, Godfrey P.
MacKenzie, Russell G.  Magrogan, William R.
Mashburn, Alton David  Mastromattee, Nick
Mather, Dale A.  Marts, Charles R.
Mathis, Jack D.  Mayo, Glynn E.
Meaney, William H.  Merle, Harold T.
Miller, Knute K.  Miller, Manly J.
Miller, Norman N.  Minkel, William J.
Montgomery, William R.  Morris, George C.
Morris, Thomas E.  Morris, William G.
Moschera, Thomas  Mullaney, Charles J.
Muller, Edwin H.  Murphy, Gerald V.
McCray, James H.  McDonald, William
McGoldrick, John J.  McGearry, Peter
McGrael, Austin J.  McIntyre, Donald W.
Nelson, William R.  Neigh, James E.
Neubauer, Rudolph O.  Neubauer, Otto
Newton, James A.  Nicholas, Robert J.
Nobits, Raymond J.  Noller, Charles R.
Norris, Marion  Norris, Marvin M.
Oldham, Stephen L.  Oldham, Wilbur L.
Orr, Thomas L.  Armstrong, Philip J.
Elkettes are Formed  (This material was contributed by Rachael Denton, Past Elkettes President.)

The Jupiter Elks Lodge was instituted in the fall of 1971. In January 1972 eighteen ladies of the Elks met informally to discuss the formation of a Ladies group to assist the new Lodge.

At this first gathering, a dessert table at the next Elks barbecue was decided upon. The ladies would furnish and sell the desserts. In the years after January 1972, the ladies operated a dessert table at every barbecue. The proceeds were sent to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Thirty-nine ladies who chose a steering committee to expedite the organization of the group attended the second meeting. The meeting date of the third Tuesday of each month was set.

A charter was applied for from the Secretary of the State of Florida. A Bylaws Committee, officers, and committees were chosen and were soon on their way. They would be called the “ELKETTES.”

In April 1972 after much discussion, the colors of lavender and white and the chrysanthemum flowers were selected to be their official symbols.

Since the Elks had no home of their own, neither did the Elkettes. Many different locations were used in those early days, but every third Tuesday a meeting was held.

Their first installation of officers was a potluck dinner held at the American Legion building which was the temporary home of the Elks until a building of their own could be completed. Many functions and activities were held in this building and although both Elks and Elkettes were just getting started, many happy memories were made and shared.

On June 20, 1972 the first initiation of new members was held at the South Martin County Fire Station which was at this point their temporary home. There were fifty-two paid members at this date.

The November meeting was held at their new temporary home, the Junior Citizens building on Seabrook Road.
In the next several months their problems were mostly how to earn money and once earned, how best to spend it.

The first thoughts would be the needs of the Elks and the Harry-Anna Hospital. Gifts to both were made very early after their inception. Many other charities and causes were the beneficiaries from time to time. Charity really became the name of the game.

In March 1973 their charter was granted and they were officially a nonprofit charitable organization. Also, in March 1973 they officially adopted a budget which, at the start, was small indeed.

As with all groups, they continued to grow but experienced growing pains along the way, but they were always able to find the cure and go forward.

After the second election of officers and installation was complete, they didn’t feel like such babies anymore and the group enlarged. More and more committees were formed, and many functions were held to earn money to support the larger number of charities that they became involved with.

Fundraising activities were many and varied with weekly public bingo becoming the most lucrative. Although many of their activities did not always prove fruitful, they at least learned from each one, lessons that made the next activity have a greater chance of success.

One of the most challenging and lasting projects requested by the Elks was the finishing and furnishing of the ladies’ powder room in the new Lodge building then under construction on U. S. 1 in Jupiter. It was a fine accomplishment from the ladies who now numbered over one hundred.

In June 1975 they again packed their possessions and moved to the last temporary home, this time, the United Methodist Church. The Elks Lodge was nearing completion. This was accomplished in September 1975 and was a very proud moment for everyone connected with the Jupiter Elks Lodge.

Charter Members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrance, Lorraine</td>
<td>Chambers, Brenda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dages, Hazel “Ping”</td>
<td>Davidson, Frances T.</td>
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<td>Day, Dorothy</td>
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<td>Dickerson, Peggy L.</td>
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<td>Green, Clara</td>
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<td>Grody, Margaret B.</td>
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<td>Jones, Alice F.</td>
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<td>Jordan, Peggy Ann</td>
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<td>Kinney, Wannie</td>
<td>Klee, Marie C.</td>
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<td>Teaney, Mildred</td>
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<td>Van Buren, Vivian A.</td>
<td>Van Dusen, Faye D.</td>
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<td>Walsh, Florence</td>
<td>Wilder, Lenora</td>
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<td>Worth, Kay</td>
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Past Elkette Presidents:

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1972-1973</td>
<td>Jane Gorman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973-1974</td>
<td>Sandra Price</td>
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<tr>
<td>1974-1975</td>
<td>Rachael Denton</td>
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<td>Year Range</td>
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<tr>
<td>1975-1976</td>
<td>Dorothy Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>1976-1977</td>
<td>Wanda Stump</td>
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<tr>
<td>1977-1978</td>
<td>Mary Sawyer</td>
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<td>1978-1979</td>
<td>Margie Rogers</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979-1980</td>
<td>June Nichols</td>
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<td>1980-1981</td>
<td>Gail Kohler</td>
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<td>1981-1982</td>
<td>Lynda Armstrong</td>
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<td>1982-1983</td>
<td>Betty Kirby</td>
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<td>1983-1984</td>
<td>Ardath Widman</td>
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<td>1984-1985</td>
<td>Gail Klember</td>
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<td>1985-1986</td>
<td>Wilda Weary</td>
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<td>1986-1987</td>
<td>Ardath Weary</td>
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<td>1987-1988</td>
<td>Agnes Spowart</td>
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<td>1988-1989</td>
<td>Betty Kirby</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989-1990</td>
<td>Ivy Amsden</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990-1991</td>
<td>Nancy Shepherd</td>
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