The Social Side of the Grand Lodge Convention

A general view of the parade which concluded the Success capped Grand Lodge Convention at Los Angeles.

All the color, pomp and ceremony of traditions marked the Grand Lodge Reunion which convened in Los Angeles, Calif., on Monday, July 13, 1936. Prior to the official opening meeting of the 73rd Grand Lodge Convention, however, a round of memorials and social events occupied the time of the Grand Lodge officials and delegations. Trains, planes, automobiles and private cars brought thousands to the gathering of the Elks at Los Angeles.

Early arrivals included Grand Exalted Ruler James T. Hallinan, of Queens Borough, N. Y., Lodge, who reached the Southern California city on an eight-car special train paired with guests from the Knickerbocker State via the Santa Fe Lines. With a flash of color and a martial strain of music by Los Angeles Lodge, No. 59, in attendance, he was received by officials, guests and officers, and a tumultuous reception. Among the hosts of the Convention at the station were Past Grand Exalted Ruler Michael P. Shannon; Grand Adept John J. Doyle; Exalted Ruler Robert V. Bostrum, of Los Angeles Lodge, and Trustee Robert Casey.

Later in the afternoon Governor David Sioli, of Florida, who was later elected Grand Exalted Ruler of the Order, held a conference with Judge Hallinan, and planned for wide-spread activities of an Elks Americanization campaign during the next twelve months.

In brilliant regalia drill teams paraded in Westlake Park. Elk bands played patriotic music and the quiet of the Los Angeles Sunday evening reverberated to the effervescence of the delegates primping themselves for the important and spectacular events of the week.

On Monday, the 13th, the first day of the official Convention, many important events took place. In the morning the 34-hole golf tournament started with eighteen holes, medal play and a daily handicap at the Westward Hills Course. Other activities of the morning were the National Ritualistic Contest, the Bowling Tournament at the Lodge Home, and two films, including sightseeing at universities, Westward Hills, motion picture studios and other local points of interest. Grand Lodge registration took place at the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel. At noon the arrival of the Purple and White Fleet, headed with Ambassadors of THE ELKS MAGAZINE was celebrated. The ski cars, bearing greetings from 600 Lodges which they had visited throughout the year, were received with a stilted demonstration.

In the afternoon a practice trap and skeet shoot was held at the Santa Monica Gun Club.
Opening Public Session

At 8 o'clock in the evening the official public opening meeting of the Seventy-second Session of the Grand Lodge was held in the magnificent home of Los Angeles Lodge. The program was an elaborate one marked by many highlighted events. With P.E.R. John G. Mott of Los Angeles Lodge, presiding, the meeting came to order to hear an organ prelude by Wade Hamilton. A choral interpretation of "America the Beautiful" was sung by the audience and the celebrated Chanters of Los Angeles Lodge, under the direction of J. Arthur Lewis. The invocation was given by the Rev. Arthur O. Sykes, Grand Chaplain. Next Signor Romberg's famous "Desert Song" was sung by a trio of the Chanters.

The first speech was a greeting of welcome delivered by P.R. Robert E. Redington, of Los Angeles Lodge. Mr. Redington's remarks were followed by another musical number, "CARRY ME BACK TO THE LONE PRAIRIE," by the Chanters. The Welcome from the City of Los Angeles was delivered by Frank L. Shaw, Mayor of the city.

The speech was followed by a Welcome from the State of California ably delivered by Frank M. Merriman, Governor of California. The guest soloist of the opening session was the renowned baritone, Nelson Eddy, well known to opera gurus, motion picture enthusiasts and radio listeners. In a glowing address, Past Grand Exalted Ruler William M. Abbott next took the opportunity to intro-

duce Grand Exalted Ruler James T. Hallman.

Surrounding the basic keynote of the structure of the Order, Judge Hallman redefined the fight of the Elks to destroy communism and all other "isms" opposed to the present system of government. In a stirring address Judge Hallman urged the entire membership of the Order to continue its fight for true Americanism. "The fight must be carried on," the Judge declared, pointing out the speaker's rest room enthusiastically. "We have always great progress in this battle during the past year. We have continued sending out petitions to Congress asking for legislation. We have given our vigorous support to the McCormick bill making it a crime to distribute anti-American literature in army and navy bases.

"I may say to the President of the United States and to the Governor of your state and to every one else that the best use America has today in its struggle against communism and every other kind of "ism" is membership in the B. P. O. E.

"To provide over an organization that has only the principles of Americanism for membership requirements, that welcomes to its doors the rich and poor alike, that takes into its membership, the Catholic, Protestant and Jew, is indeed a rare pleasure."

Judge Hallman, a New York Supreme Court Justice, was wildly cheered as he struck at the subversive influences at work in the nation. He also reviewed activities of the Order during the past year—pointing with pride to a gain of 3,000 members in the 1,200 Elks Lodges of the nation, compared with a loss of 33,000 members during the preceding year.

"During the past twenty years," he reported, "the Order has distributed $20,000,000 in charities. In the depression years an average of $2,000,000 annually was spent."


Judge Hallman's remarkable address was followed by two interpretations by the Chanters, "Friendship," and "To the Elks." The opening public session closed with the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" by the Chanters and the large audience.

Left: The precise Drill Team of the National Drill Team Contest

Below: The handsome float of the Indiana State Elks Association which won the prize for all floats entered in the parade outside of California
Tuesday's Activities

On the following day, Tuesday, July 14th, the principal event of the program was the first official session of the Grand Lodge, which was held at the Biltmore Hotel and which was reconvened in the Convention story as it appeared in the August issue of The Elks Magazine.

Early in the morning the National Golf Tournament resumed its play at the Rancho Golf Course. The National Bowling Tournament was continued at the Lodge Home, and those at the Santa Monica Gun Club saw the National Trap and Skeet shoot get under way. In Lafayette Park as excited crowd witnessed the Drum Corps Contest.

At the home of Santa Monica, Calif., Lodge a Fiesta Mexican was held and thoroughly enjoyed by many Elks who had journeyed there to join in the celebrations. Early in the afternoon Santa Barbara held its Pioneer Days Historical pageant.

Meanwhile, back in Los Angeles the State Association Presidents and Secretaries met at the Biltmore Hotel, afterward going to the vesper organ recital in the Lodge Room of the home.

That evening more than 5,000 Elks, with their wives and families gathered at the Paladium for the Grand Ball, and entertainment presented as a prominent social feature of the Convention. The brilliant throng alternately danced through the evening to the colorful successions of special numbers provided for their entertainment. Dazzling screens and costumes, a spectacular review, music by Henry Goodman and his band, a traditional Convention contest and the selection of Miss Liberty, all contributed to the gaiety of the Ball. Miss Liberty, the woman of the beauty contest which was held at the Ball, Miss Shirley Wilf, of Seattle, rejoined to the Americanism float at the beautiful Electrical Pageant the following night.

Wednesday's Activities

The morning of Wednesday, July 15th, found many of the delegates occupied by the second official session of the Grand Lodge at the Biltmore Hotel. Other Elks witnessed or participated in the Golf Tournament which this day was held at Sunset Park Golf Course, the Bowling Contest, the National Handicap Trap and Skeet Shoot and the National Drill Team Contest which took place in Lafayette Park. In the afternoon another business session of the Grand Lodge Convention at the Biltmore was held. In Westlake Park the National Band Contest drew hundreds of spectators and again in the afternoon a vesper organ recital provided a peaceful moment in the Lodge Room of Los Angeles Lodge.

That night was "City Hall Night," including an inspection of America's finest municipal building, exhibition of police shooting and entertainment and dancing in the marble corridors.

Thursday's Activities

Thursday morning opened with the Grand Lodge Session at the Biltmore Hotel. Various activities of an entertaining and educational nature occupied the hours of the delegates prior to witnessing the Grand Parade which took place last afternoon and the Elks Motion Picture Electrical Pageant which was presented that evening in the Auditorium.

With bands playing, flags flying, the teams parading through hilarious sculptures, floats and pretty girls, glittering uniforms, mounted men and thousands of marchers, the Parade of the 72nd Grand Lodge Convention and delegates took place. Promptly at two P.M., aerial bombs burst, flags fluttered high in the air and the parade swung into motion past the City Hall. Police estimated that at least 100,000 persons were massed.

Rosen: The smart drum and bugle corps of American, Calif., Lodge which was judged the best at the National Convention.
and W. J. Kelly, of Iowa City, La. Lodge. The double championship was won by Grant Ivey, who was also second and third by S. Nave, of Santa Ana, Calif., and William Buckman, of Vinala, Calif., Lodge. In the handicap event Grant Ivey also took first place. C. F. Smith, of San Bernardino, Calif., Lodge, placed second and Mrs. Mary Knight, of San Bernardino, came third. The Bowmar team event was won by five members of Iowa City, La., Lodge. They are F. M. Smith, W. J. Kelly, C. D. Schlesser, William Ruppert and W. F. Russell. Grant Ivey and H. H. Ford took the three-man event. Mrs. Mary Knight won the Ladies' Championship shield. The Skeet Championship was won by W. F. Kerr, of Orange, Calif., Lodge with Grant Ivey placing second and C. B. Clark, of Nevada City, Calif., coming in third. (Continued on page 52)

Photographs below: J. photograph of the Grand Lodge efforts recently always at the Skeet second Season of the Grand Lodge, but they were being installed in ashes by last Grand Exalted Ruler. Joseph J. Fanning

Right corner: The Biannual Tournament of the Elks National Golf Tournament, which won the Grand Lodge Biannual Contest.

At bottom, right: The champions of the Elks National First Tournament, the team of Iowa City, La., Lodge which has captured the title for four successive years.

Below: J. French, extreme left, of Roosevelt, Calif., Lodge being presented with the John J. Hoare Trophy as winner of the Elks National Golf Tournament.
The Elks Motion Picture Electrical Pageant
The Social Side of
The Grand Lodge Convention

Other social activities which took
place during the four days of
the Convention included a dinner
given by Grand Exalted Ruler
David Shoitz at the Ambassador which
was held before the Grand Ball.
More than 100 Elks and their
wives were also guests at a break-
fast and program given by the Ken-
tucky delegation of the Convention
at the Hillspace. Governor Shoitz, newly
elected Grand Exalted Ruler, was the
honored guest and principal speaker.
Prof. Henry C. Counts, of Lexington,
was Toastmaster. The Grand Lodge
Officers attending included Past
Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Camp-
bell, Grand Trustee Henry C. War-
er, Judges Frank B. Leonard, of
Champaign, IL, Chairman of the
Grand Lodge State Associations
Committee, and Judge H. B. Freder-
icks and D.D. Carpett, Jr. of Florida.

Another social feature of the Con-
vention was a dinner party for Grand
Lodge officials and their wives given
by E.R. and Mrs. Robert S. Reding-
ton.

The ladies of the Convention were
magnificently entertained during
their stay in Southern California
even with bridge parties, teas, shop-
ing expeditions, sightseeing tours
and various other affairs.

Other events included a trip to
Redondo Beach, Calif., Lodge, where
a huge entertainment entitled "Sea-
shore Day" was enjoyed by hundreds
of Elks.

The East District of New York
also gave a dinner at the Biltmore
Hotel. Among the distinguished
Elks present were Lodge Hallman,
Charles Spencer Hall, Chairman of
the Grand Lodge Activities Commis-
sion, and District Deputy John P.
Dolph.

That Thursday night, the last of
the Convention, 50,000 men and
women stood with bowed heads in
Memorial Coliseum and offered a
silent and impressive toast to de-
parted friends, a fitting close to the
most successful Convention the Order
of Elks has ever known. It was the
success of not only the Convention,
but of a day filled with spectacular
events.

No place on earth but Southern
California could stage a pageantry so
inspiring as was arranged by the mo-
tion picture industry, as a tribute to
the visiting Elks in the "Elks Motion
Picture Electrical Pageant." Millions
of candlepower in light were used to
transform the field of the Coliseum
into a picture from the Arabian
Nights. Each of the dozen floats
designed by the major studios of Hol-
lwood was gloriously illuminated.
First in the long procession of bril-
liant floats was that entered by No.
99, "America the Americans." From
almost every city of any size in Cali-
ifornia a beautiful girl was sent as a
representative at the pageant.

Among the many motion picture
stars on parade were Leo Carrello,
Toastmaster, Shirley Temple, Jack
Searle, Freddie Bartholomew, Fran-
ces Lederer, Doris Nolan, Loreta
Young, Irene Dunne, Wallace Beiers,
Cesar Romero, George Burns and
Grace Allen, Anita Louise, Pat
O'Brien and Jack Benny.

Suddenly out of the darkness a
great shaft of light from a million
candlepower searchlight picked out
the enormous purple clock dial.
As the chimps continued to strike the
hour, great gold numerals described
by living figures appeared. Conrad
Napier, motion picture star, proposed
the Eleven O'clock Toast, while the
multitude stood with hands bowed in
silent tribute. The speeches came to
a conclusion with the singing of
" Jihad Lang Bara.

Thus ended the 72nd Session of
the Grand Lodge, one of the most memo-
orable meetings in its long and honor-
able history.