

**The History of
The Legendary Louisville
Elks Lodge #8**

1877 thru 2013

by

Terry Akin, PER

Sources provided by

Jack Anderson, PER

Ed Black, PER

Foreword

I joined Lodge #8 in 1999 and like so many others before me, ignored the serious side of our Order. I always enjoyed the social events and for several years just attended when it was convenient.

Then one night I was standing in the corner of the hall and our old charter, hanging on the wall caught my attention. I was shocked to read that the Lodge had been started in 1877 and that the charter seemed to be the original. It also dawned on me, that there might be something special about a Lodge that bore the number eight out of an order that had chartered nearly three thousand and still had approximately two thousand remaining.

About that time, I started attending our regular business meetings and I made the acquaintance of several of our older members. I began to ask them about their knowledge of Lodge history and found Jack Anderson to be a great source of written and oral history. Jack loaned me my first book of Lodge history and it has served as a stimulus to collect what I present here.

Greg Swinney, Past Exalted Ruler, played a large role in the development of our history organization when he appointed me as Lodge Historian and dedicated a room at the Lodge to show our collection.

After that started taking shape, Ed Black offered me his extraordinary collection of lodge memorabilia and documents. He had been collecting items of historic prominence for decades and had them in pristine condition.

Among the many and varied items in his collection, Bro. Black had the wisdom to carefully preserve the first history book ever written concerning Lodge #8. I have carefully read and reread this artifact, copied the entire book electronically and have it available on CD for those who would enjoy reading it. Every time I study it I discover links and clues to questions that I have posed. I have to assume that it is the only remaining copy available and we have it carefully locked away in the display case in our History Room.

I have been very slow in starting this collection, as I wanted to ‘get it right’ the first time.

It seems like it is time, so here we go.

1877 – 1903

The Legendary Louisville Lodge #8 owes its existence to three gentlemen from Cincinnati Lodge #5. Lewis R. Kean, Thomas D. Parmele and J. B. Keiser came to Louisville in 1877 and recruited 12 other gentlemen as charter members of the fledgling Louisville Lodge.

Bros. Kean and Parmele can be found in the following photos along with Bros. Robert S. Brown, Sidney Gates, Al Bourlier, Charles German, Emile Bourlier and Victor Foster.

Not shown are the charter members, Charles Ballard, Charles Woodruff, J. H. Phelps, William Osbourne, Charles Monsch and J. G. Brown. We are still looking for a photo of J. B. Keiser.

Charles German will surface again at the end of this segment, as he is the writer and historian that produced the book this chapter is gleaned from.



AL. BOURLIER.
Esquire 1877. Member Grand Lodge.



SIDNEY J. GATES.
Chaplain 1877. Member Grand Lodge.

THE FOUR PRESENT LIVING CHARTER AND HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS OF NO. 8
Initiated April 29, 1877.



CHAR. W. GERMAN.
Sec'y 14 years, to 1909. Member Grand Lodge.



ROBT. S. BROWN.
Exalted Ruler 1877. Member Grand Lodge.

1892

HISTORY OF LOUISVILLE LODGE.



LEWIS R. KEAN.
Charter Member and First Exalted
Ruler April, 1877.



EMILE BOURLIER.
Grand Est. Leading Knight 1890.
Honorary Life Member.

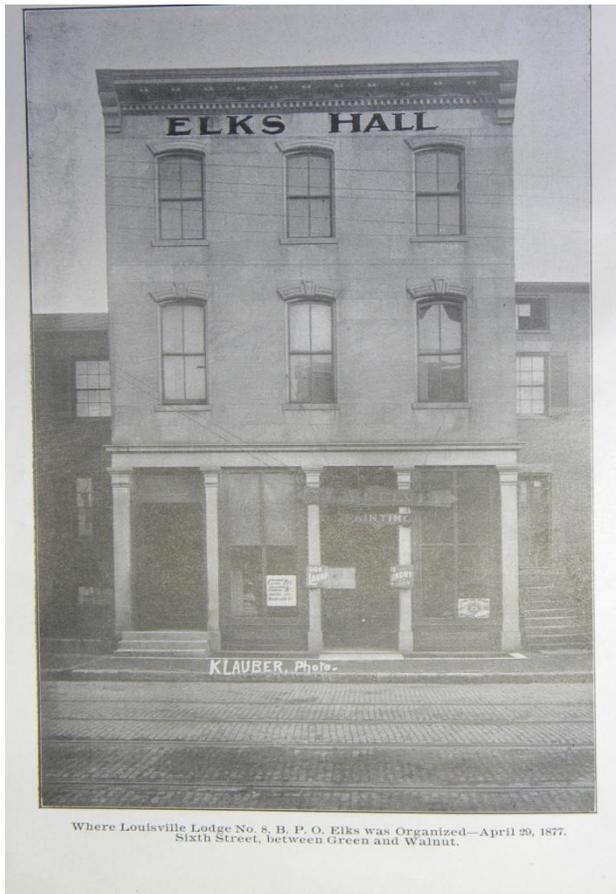


VICTOR FOSTER.
Charter Member and Inner Guard 1877.
Demitted and Reinstated.



THOS. D. PARMELE.
Est. Loyal Kt. 1877. Demitted to New
York Lodge Feb. 27, 1887.

The next photo and the book it came from are likely to be the only known existing copies. Thanks to Ed Black and others that preceded him, we have a look at the humble beginnings of our Lodge home. It is said that our meetings took place on the second floor for approximately six months. It was determined at that time to move to the Histrionic Hall of which there is no available history of.



Where Louisville Lodge No. 8, B. P. O. Elks was Organized—April 29, 1877.
Sixth Street, between Green and Walnut.

Unfortunately, due to lack of interest, on May 13, 1879, Lodge #8 was given permission to surrender her charter and ceased to be an active member of the Grand Lodge.

After a lapse of approximately five years, Bro. Frank Girard, a man who had been active as Grand Exalted Ruler and was currently District Deputy to the Grand Exalted Ruler, came to Louisville and gathered a group of individuals whose purpose was to revive Lodge #8. This group included many of the original charter members and some new members who helped to accomplish their aims.

The Grand Lodge was petitioned in good order and the Lodge was rechartered on Jan. 9, 1884.

On mar 16, 1888, it was decided to move the meeting night from Wednesday to Monday, which it remains to this day.

Lodge #8, as the Motherlodge of the State of Kentucky was always active and involved in the organization of new Lodges. In keeping with this, we note that on Feb. 26, 1890, a delegation from Lodge #8 made the trip, by railcar to Middlesboro, where they helped to establish our newest Lodge.

During this period, it was fashionable for each established Lodge to have parade units to perform locally and especially at the National Conventions or Reunions as they were referred to.

These normally consisted of marching bands and, or drill corps and Lodge #8 certainly competed in this area.

The next photo is typical of many that we have in our collection.



Drill Team at Cleveland Ohio. Grand Lodge Meeting and Reunion, July 8th, 9th and 10th, 1890.

A devastating tornado hit Louisville on March 27th, 1890. Lodge #8 responded with a massive effort to aid the community. Nearly six thousand dollars was raised for the relief effort.

During the year of 1891, the Elks Rest section of Cave Hill Cemetery was purchased and dedicated.

The event occurred during the Grand Lodge Reunion that took place in Louisville. A crowd of approximately 10,000 turned out for the event, which was reported as far away as the New York Times.

REUNION OF THE ELKS.

DEDICATION OF A NEW "REST" IN A LOUISVILLE CEMETERY.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., May 17.—The sixth annual reunion of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks began here to-day. Delegations are present from Indianapolis, Baltimore, Erie, Penn.; Cleveland, Ohio; Butler, Penn.; Columbus, Ohio; Evansville, Ind.; St. Louis, Chicago, Reading, Penn.; Pittsburg, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Detroit, Birmingham, Ala.; Greenville, Miss.; Middlesborough, Ky.; Hartford, Conn.; Washington, New-York, Boston, and San Francisco. The meetings will continue three days.

This afternoon at Cave Hill Cemetery, in the presence of 10,000 people, the "Elks Rest" was dedicated. After a march through the streets the delegates formed upon their grounds. Judge W. B. Hoke, of Louisville, made the first address, delivering the grounds to the order, and Exalted Ruler A. Apperly of the Louisville lodge accepted them. Prof E. Eichhorn then gave a cornet solo, "Nearer, My God, to Thee." The unveiling of the monument by Grand Esquire W. C. Dudley of San Francisco, was next in order, and an address by Grand Exalted Ruler Dr. Simon Quinton of Chicago, the reading of Will Carleton's poem, "Cover Them Over," by Exalted Ruler William H. Friday of Brooklyn, an address by Post Grand Chaplain the Rev. Henry G. Perry of Chicago, and the benediction by Grand Chaplain George A. Reynolds of Hartford, Conn., concluded the programme.

The monument consists of a bronze elk, twelve feet high, upon a base four feet high. The plot is to be the last resting place of members of the order, as shall seem proper. The meeting will be continued to-morrow with business and social sessions.

The New York Times

Published: May 18, 1891

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The 'Rest' is highlighted by an impressive bronze statue that was cast and installed for \$1,000.00.

We still have the original invoice that was used in its purchase and the statue is in very good order as you can see in the next photo.

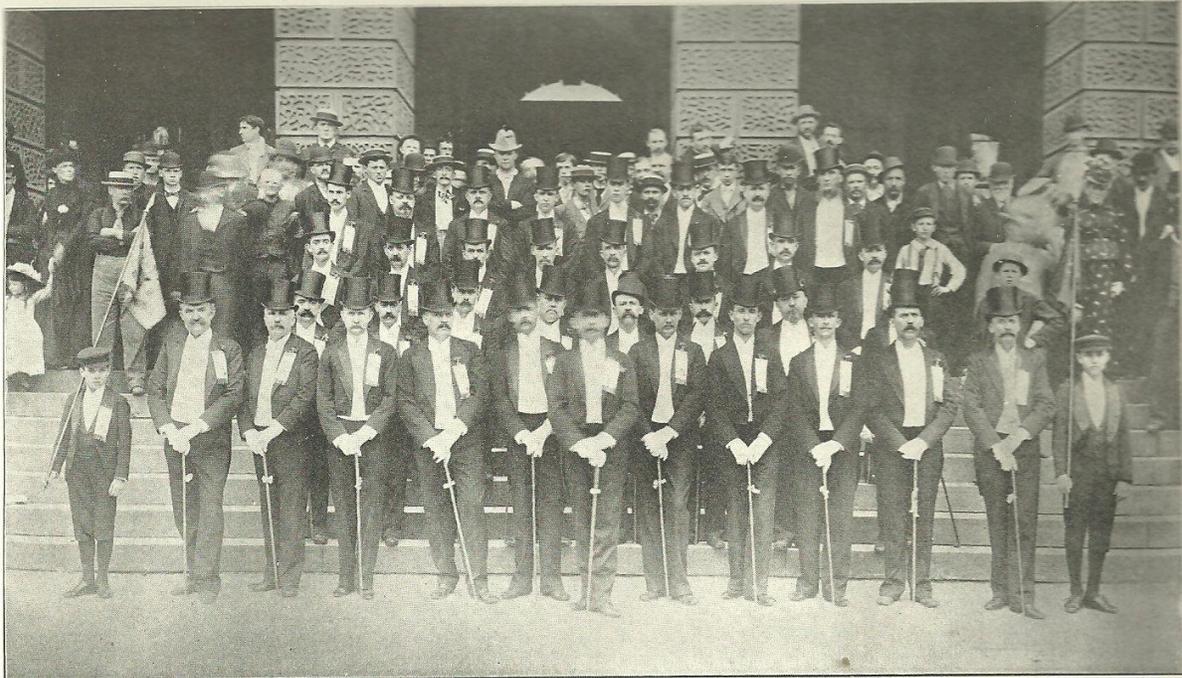


Photo courtesy of Lou Zweibel

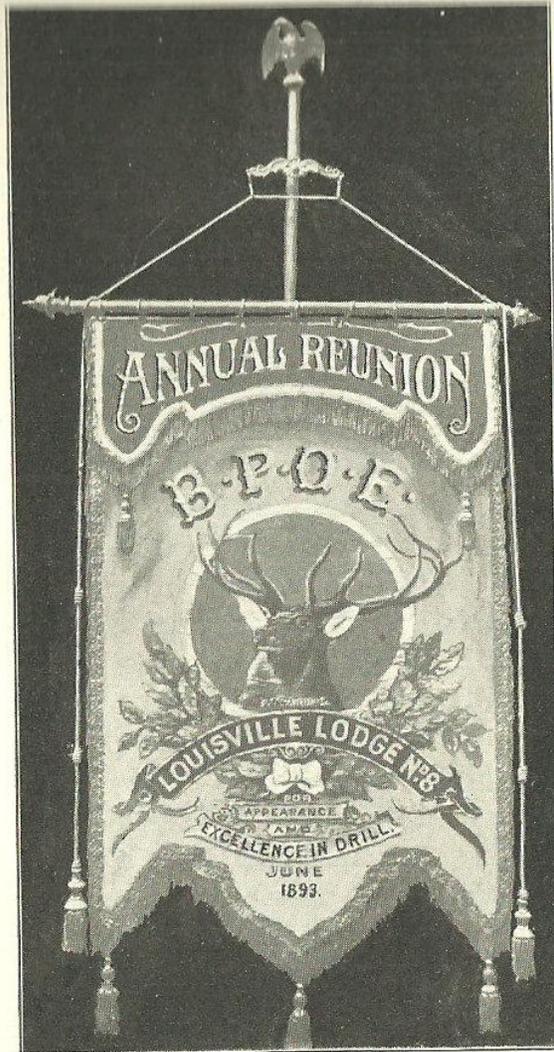
On April 18, 1892, the Lodge adopted a resolution to place the name of their Exalted Ruler, Astley Apperly into nomination for the position of Grand Exalted Ruler.

During October, 1892 the first report was given regarding the construction of a new Lodge home. This report was but the first of many that preceded a beautiful, elaborate building that tragically had a very short life. More on that in a later chapter.

During the month of June, 1893 many of our members, joined by a contingency of Elks from our Motherlodge, Cincinnati #5 traveled by chartered train to Detroit, where along with winning first place in the Drill Corps competition, our Exalted Ruler, Astley Apperly was nominated and elected to the office of Grand Exalted Ruler.



Louisville Lodge Drill Team that won first Prize at Detroit, June, 1893.



FIRST PRIZE BANNER, DETROIT, JUNE 1893.

MEMBERS OF DRILL CORPS.

John H. Leathers, Capt.: Wm. H. Meffert, 1st. Lieut.: Archie Johnson, 2nd Lieut
Masters Brooks Brown and Ed. B. Guthrie, Markers.

A. Apperly,
C. L. Nelson,
W. C. Herr,
J. W. Ropke,
Wm. Ryan,
Thos. J. Batman,
Clarence Johnston,
S. M. S. McPhie,
Walter E. Glover,
Jno. R. Botto,
J. Pink Cuneo,

Augustus Kane,
W. Allen Kinney,
W. B. Thomas,
Jno. H. Thomas,
Henry J. Draudt,
Robt. S. Brown,
Jas. J. Guthrie,
Byron W. Orr,
Samuel L. Rubel,
Allen Leathers,
Jno. W. Flood,

Ed. B. Sloan,
W. J. Rice,
Wm. B. Lucas,
P. G. Berle,
Thos. Syers,
John Fultz,
Oscar Hummler,
Chas. W. German,
Otto Hinzen,
J. P. Simmons,
T. G. Williams.



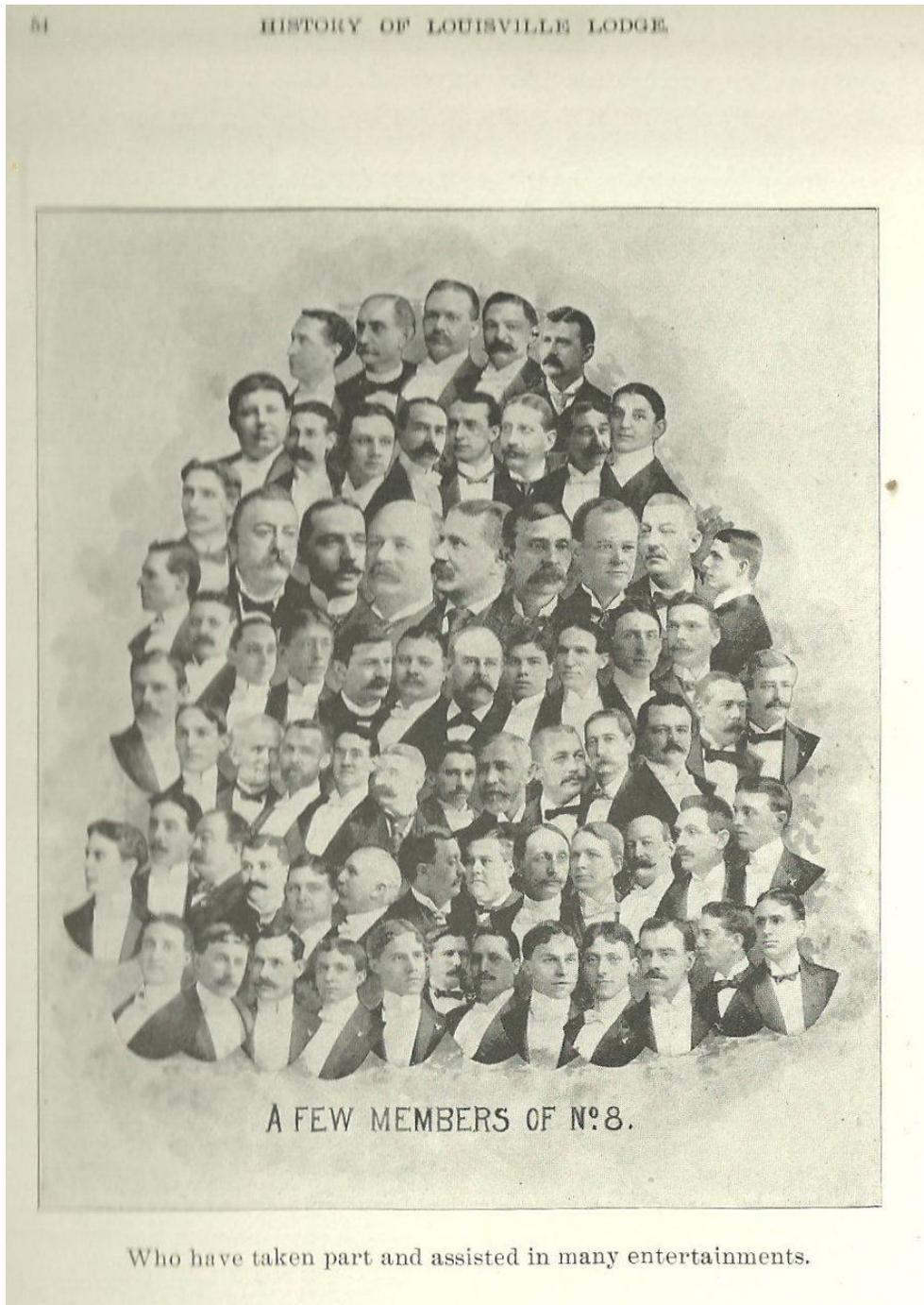
ASTLEY APPERLY
1893-94

Lodge #8 has the distinct honor of having two Past Grand Exalted Rulers in its history, whereas most Lodges would feel blessed to have just one.

Bro. Apperly served with distinction, but was unfortunately outmaneuvered in a political struggle not of his making. The Grand Lodge split into two factions over the selection of the coming Grand Lodge Convention. Actual conventions were announced and held in two separate cities; Atlantic City and Jamestown, NY, which was favored by Bro. Apperly.

Each convention selected its own slate of Officers and later was ruled on by the Supreme Court of the state of New York, in favor of the Atlantic City faction.

The following montage is unique, in that it was accomplished without the use of photoshop.



On July 24th, 1898 the 'Lodge Home' committee reported purchasing the property for the new Lodge. The plot was situated on Walnut St. between Third and Fourth Sts. and was bought for seventeen thousand – five hundred dollars. The Lodge entered a very popular period and the membership grew steadily, as the Lodge Home Fund grew. One of the major factors was the Carnival and Street Fair. It took place at the turn of the century and was reported to be an event unparalleled in the South.

Next is an excerpt from our original history book that relates the struggle to finance and acquire the Lodge Home better than I ever could.

FINAL REPORT OF THE ELKS' HOME COMMITTEE.

From the final report of the "Home Committee," as submitted to the Lodge, we extract the following very interesting matter pertaining to the Home from its inception and the various ways and means devised to insure its completion:

The Home of the Louisville Lodge of Elks is located on the South side of Walnut street, between Third and Fourth streets, one of the most central and notable places in the city of Louisville. Part of the present structure is the same building occupied for many years by the Hampton College, and is one of the few remaining historical edifices of the city.

For nearly twenty years the members of Louisville Lodge of Elks have been considering the matter of securing a permanent Home, and many attempts have been made heretofore to establish a fund which would ultimately secure such a place. In fact, on several occasions quite respectable sums have been raised, but in each case the projects have been without material results. When the present Home Committee was appointed it was contemplated that a Home would be secured costing about \$20,000, and provision was made for setting aside forty-five per cent. of the gross receipts of the Lodge for this purpose. The Home Committee, realizing that the forty-five per cent. assessment from the receipts of the Lodge would probably not amount to enough in several years to accomplish the desired result, set to work to find other means of raising the necessary funds, and later on met with success far beyond their highest anticipation.

The first efforts of the Committee were directed in securing subscriptions from our brother Elks to this work, and the Committee gave a great deal of their time and attention to visiting many of our members

at their places of business and their residences; dividing the city into sections for this purpose and securing thereby, after several months' application, the handsome sum of a little over \$11,000.

The first public project set on foot was the series of river excursions during the summer of 1899, which resulted in a profit of about \$1,500 for the Home Fund. The next project set on foot by the Home Committee was the carnival of 1899, a stupendous undertaking, and the result of which exceeded the most brilliant hopes of the committee, resulting in a profit in round numbers of \$21,000. Encouraged by the success of the first series of river excursions, a second series in the season of 1900 was given and resulted in securing \$1,600 additional. Then came the Carnival of 1900, undertaken with more or less misgivings on the part of many of the members, there being some doubt among the members of the Lodge as to whether a second carnival would prove a success. The various committees handling the carnival, being practically the same members who managed the carnival of 1899, by extraordinary effort, industry, and the introduction of many new features, made a success of the second carnival, which resulted in a profit of about \$18,000, of which \$1,250 was donated to the Newsboys' Home. From this amount, also, there was purchased \$5,000 in bonds, and placed in the Sinking Fund, the Home securing about \$11,900 from the profits of the second carnival.

While the second carnival was not as great a financial success as the first one, it was in many respects more of a success than anyone had any right to expect. The expenses of the second carnival were much greater than those of the former one, because every person and institution performing any service in behalf of the carnival, outside of the Elks' Lodge, demanded full pay, while in the case of the first carnival they were much more liberal. Besides, the people of this community had seen the first carnival, and as many of the features of the first were part of the second the side-show patronage was not quite as liberal; besides, during the second carnival, much rainy and disagreeable weather was experienced, and since nearly every carnival enterprise throughout the United States proved more or less of a failure, this committee feels proud of the fact that the second carnival was the success it turned out to be. It has been acknowledged by the members of a number of the largest business institutions of the city that the second carnival resulted in greater good to the business interests of the city of Louisville than any other like enterprise ever undertaken. Aside from what the Elks have accomplished for themselves by the two carnivals, they have occasion to be proud of the fact that many of our best citizens give them credit for successfully conducting this great enterprise, and the many subordinate features connected therewith—two of the most important of which were the great industrial parade of 1899 and the magnificent floral pageant of 1900, which is said by many of our citizens and by traveling people and persons who have witnessed such affairs in several parts of the world, to have exceeded in extent, beauty and perfection of details anything of the kind ever given.

Among the other enterprises from which the committee has secured material aid was the Park Day, contributed by one of the brothers, and the base ball game with the Red Men graciously volunteered by that organization, and the work of the Elks' Drill Corps at St. Louis, which latter resulted in securing the handsome prize of \$1,000 in cash, which was turned over to the Home Fund.

The attention of the committee was invited to quite a number of pieces of property located in various parts of the city, and they investigated all that they believed were worthy of consideration, but finally decided on the handsome Hampton College property, about which clusters many historical reminiscences dating back into the thirties.

The services of brother Chas. D. Meyer were secured as architect and several plans for remodeling, improving and adding to this property were submitted in detail to the Lodge. That method of improvement decided upon by the Lodge was adopted by the Home Committee and faithfully carried out. In consideration of the increasing membership of the Lodge, the committee realized as the work progressed the necessity of further additions and improvements, and encouraged by the success of its efforts to raise the wherewithal to pay for the same, the committee continued to extend and expand the property until it reached its present dimensions.

The following is a summary of the receipts and expenses:

RECEIPTS.

Forty-five per cent. of Lodge Income.....	\$ 7,690 69
Donations by Lodge from General Fund	1,650 00
St. Louis Drill Corps Prize.....	1,000 00
Net profits 1899 Carnival.....	21,342 52
Net profits 1899 River Excursions	1,495 69
Net profits 1900 River Excursions.....	1,761 55
Collections from Subscriptions obtained by Committee and Interest on Subscription Deposits	8,757 87
Proceeds Base Ball Game with Red Men.....	50 50
Donation by R. W. Brown of expenses to Atlantic City.....	67 50
Some small Special Donations	21 75
Net proceeds of Bro. Senning's Day at his Park.....	374 35
Interest obtained by Treasurer on Deposits	275 00
Amount turned over by Lodge from 1900 Carnival.....	11,966 69
Additional for Furnishing and Equipping Cafe and for Heating Plant.....	2,471 52
Total placed in hands of Committee.....	\$58,925 63
Loss amount paid on account of expenses for General Fund....	1,503 36
Net amount for Home, Improvements and Furnishings..	\$57,422 27

SUMMARY OF EXPENSES.

Cost of Property.....	\$17,500 00
Improvements	30,308 87
Furnishings	9,613 40
Total.....	\$57,422 27

The following Bros. composed the Home Committee:

Robt. S. Brown, Chairman; Astley Apperly, Vice-Chairman; Enos Spencer, Secretary; Wm. J. Hogan, Treasurer; Edward Klauber, M. J. Winn, Pinkney Varble, Edward Marret, Sidney J. Gates, Herman Schwabacher, W. Allen Kinney, Frederick Klooz, William E. Riley; Robert W. Brown, Exalted Ruler, ex-officio member; Hamilton Griswold, Augustus Miller, Jas. G. Guthrie, Trustees; Zachariah Phelps, Counsel; Chas. D. Meyer, Architect.

This following article from the Kentucky Elk accurately describes the prominence that our Lodge projected at that time.

Events of 1901.

The Louisville Times of January 1st, had the following to say of how our Lodge observed the outgoing of the old and the incoming of the new century :

The Elks welcomed the new century in impressive fashion at their beautiful new home last night. The regular lodge session, which preceded the watch service, was notable also. Twenty new members, including some of the most prominent men in the city, were initiated, raising the membership of No. 8 to 867.

According to agreement, whereby he was continued in office until the new home should be completed and occupied, Exalted Ruler R. W. Brown presented his resignation, but the Lodge voted unanimously in favor of his retention of the office until the expiration of the regular term, three months hence.

A large number of visiting Elks from all parts of the country attended the lodge session.

After the regular session of the Lodge adjournment was taken to the club rooms, where a reception was conducted until 11:30, when all repaired to the lodge room. Members and visitors united in singing "America," after which Mr. Zack Phelps delivered an address, "The Nineteenth Century, a Retrospect." He closed just before midnight, and on the stroke of the hour all joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne," after which Mr. R. W. Brown spoke to the sentiment, "Adieu and welcome." This was followed by a bright and breezy address from Mr. W. E. Riley on the "Twentieth Century—a Prophetic View." Altogether the occasion was delightful and impressively memorable. Organist Hazzard contributed a number of beautiful selections.

The centerpiece of the new Lodge Home was the Hall as can be seen in the following photos.



Lodge Room—Looking East—Exalted Ruler's Station.



Lodge Room—Looking West—Esteemed Leading Knight's Station.

It was in this great Lodge Home that Louisville #8 gave what is called its finest hour. Under the leadership of one of its greatest Exalted Rulers, R. W. Brown, the Lodge hosted nine thousand children from the poorest neighborhoods of Louisville for a grand Christmas party. The following excerpt describes it in detail.

The following from the "Kentucky Elk," published by our good brother Chas. J. Cruise, is a glowing account of how No. 8 gladdened the hearts of 9,000 of the poor children of Louisville on December 28th. It was the biggest undertaking ever attempted by the Lodge; and much praise was accorded the Elks by the citizens of Louisville for their great success in carrying out this grand work of charity :

He whom millions call Divine, and all the civilized world recognize at least as a great prophet, has said that blessed is the man who shall give a cup of water to a little child. What, then, must be the portion of an Order that in one day brought delirious joy and Christmas cheer to nine thousand children, to whom, otherwise, the three hundred and sixty-five days in the year would have been all alike? And this is what Louisville Lodge of Elks did on Saturday, December 28th. From the highways and byways, from the streets and the alleys, from the little cottages, the back rooms and the garrets, they gathered them in for one grand Christmas offering. It was a dragnet haul of the city's poor.

And the earnest searchers found nine thousand little ones who knew naught, practically naught, of Christmas. To most of them it was simply "a day on which man couldn't work;" so there was less to eat than usual. They knew nothing of the glad times and the Christmas gifts and of Santa Claus who comes down the chimney. All these things the Elks taught them. It was a liberal education to the children, but a bigger lesson in charity to a city like Louisville, Ky.

Weeks ago the plan was conceived in the mind of Bro. R. W. Brown. He thought it would be a fine thing to let some of the poor

children of the city share with the Elks in their festivities at Christmas time. Charity is one of the watchwords of our Order, and what could be more charitable than helping little children who needed it? They made Bro. R. W. Brown chairman of the committee on arrangements, and then the work began.

It grew and spread. Wider and wider became the scheme, until it took within its scope the whole city and all the young city poor.

The Elks threw themselves heart and soul into the work. They hunted a poor child as hard as ever they hunted the nimble nickel at other times. And the result came on Saturday, December 28th. All the city knew the project, but none knew how they would carry out the gigantic Christmas party. They carried it out—well, as the Elks have carried out every other undertaking—to a splendid success.

By 7 a. m. the children had begun to gather for their party. They came to the Sunday-school room of the First Christian Church, at Fourth Avenue and Walnut street, to the Newsboys' Home, on Third avenue, and to Trinity Church, Third Avenue and Guthrie street. The Sunday-school room of the Christian Church filled first. Then they began sending them to the Newsboys' Home, and soon that was full. The third, the overflow station, Trinity Church, was crowded next. But Santa Claus had been delayed. It was a murky morning, and report said that he had to come carefully with such a heavy load for fear one of the reindeers might miss his footing among the chimney tops and the present for child No. 8,025 be lost. But at last Santa was there and all was ready.

"Let her go," said Bro. Brown, and "Let her go," shouted Bro. W. E. Riley, chief of the marshals.

Bro. Capt. Jim. Jacobs, at the head of twenty policemen, was there to keep the street clear. Not a vehicle was allowed on Walnut between Third and Fourth avenues.

An Elk running—all the Elks ran—bringing news to the First Christian Church that Santa Claus had really come.

So the guardian Elks straightened them out, and held them until a long line of bright-faced, eager children, in column of twos, extended from the Sunday-school room of the First Christian Church clear around to the Elks' Home. And still the church was not completely emptied. The well-dressed, happy-looking people, passing along the street stopped and crowded up to watch that thinly-clad beaming line until traffic was blocked and Capt. Jacobs, with Sergt. Buddell and his policemen had to compel them to move on. And then not a few, as they walked along the line, would stop here and there, perhaps before some motherly ten-year-old girl with her five-year-old brother beside her, to drop a dime with a wish into the hand of the little woman. But none, not even those who gave the most, had faces as happy as the children in that line. For the givers Christmas time had long ago become hackneyed, but for the little ones it was the first excursion into a mysterious land of unknown joys.

The police kept the way clear, and gradually the line moved up. At

the head went Bro. Riley, and after him trooped the children, treading on one another's heels in their eagerness to keep up. So the line disappeared within the big door that lets one into the ground floor of the Elks' Home.

And, from within, as the door was opened, there came to those waiting without the sound of sweet music, broken now and then by joyful shouts and shrieks of laughter.

The Elks' Christmas party had truly begun.

The front ground room of the Home was filled with big-eyed, open-mouthed children, all facing one way. There was a big covered-up box with a little stage on top of it over in one corner, and on this stage did Punch and Judy perform to an appreciative audience. The order was given to march upstairs to the first floor from the basement. At the top of the stairs two brothers called on the visitors to show their tickets.

It was like going on a train, for the children had embarked on the Elks' special for Christmasland and they must show the credentials of their worthiness.

If the ticket bore the number three, its owner kept on to the left, up another flight of stairs to the shoe room, and most of them went there. Mrs. Al. Bourlier and Miss Fanny McCoy, a trained nurse, stood at the top to welcome the little ones. If they were sound and strong Mrs. Bourlier and Phil Barbour led them around to be fitted at the Elks' shoe store. If they were weak Miss McCoy received them, but there was little for her to do.

That shoe store made a record for Louisville. Over five thousand pairs of shoes distributed, one pair at a time—that would almost drive a local shoe store out of business for want of stock. Five brothers fitted all day, and up to 10 o'clock at night.

All were in readiness, waiting. The Elks' electrician, William W. Schachleiter, turned on the hundred little incandescent lights that made the tree shine and glisten with Christmas joy. The tree, which was a beautiful pine, was planted thirty years ago in Shawnee Park, by the father of Bro. Ernest Kettig, who cut the tree, and with the aid of his seven employes from the above park, of which he is superintendent, it was placed in position in the center of the lodge room to the amazement of a crowd of brothers, who said the tree would have to be cut to pieces, as the front doors were seven feet wide, while the tree was twenty feet high and its branches had a spread of fourteen feet. Up in the organ loft was Bro. Andrew Seibert, with his First Regiment Orchestra, whose services, as on other occasions, our generous brother donated free of charge.

On shelves placed about the walls were bags and bundles of good things piled up high, almost out of reach. Four rows of temporary shelves, made by placing tables on top of tables, all loaded, ran across the big lodge room.

In the center stood the huge Christmas tree, with the rich tinsel that flashed back in myriad rays wonderful rainbow effects from the incandescent lights that adorned it. Everything was ready.

There came a patter of little feet along the hall outside.

"Here they come," whispered the doorkeeper.

The bandmaster arose. His baton swung and in the fullness of the Christmas joy there floated out over the big hall the gloriously swelling anthem—"Hark, the herald angels sing."

The head of the line reached the door. A little boy of the streets in knee pants led it. The line stopped stock still. The boy stood feet apart, mouth open and eyes stretched wide, gazing into the room. Then his little jacket stretched tight from the deep heave of his chest.

"Hully gee!" he almost whispered.

And a little girl standing just behind the boy, burst into tears from pure joy at the sight.

It was a charge of the nine thousand.

As fast as they were served they were passed out through another door, and here, going through, each child was stamped on the right hand with the figure 8: It was the mark to keep any shy youngster from trying twice. One little chap was passed over, but promptly came rushing back to the stamper: "I wants to git all 'at's comin' to me."

From the big room the children swept on down, now in a burdened line, to the basement. There was the toy room, where Bro. Max Bloom, who proved "himself a 'wonder,'" and his able assistants were stationed.

During the day the Elks, in order to keep the children from suffering served sandwiches to all of them, and every one who wanted to take bread home, received a loaf.

The most surprising thing was the excellent health of the youngsters. Throughout the entire day but six cases of prostration were reported. Bro. Dr. T. Hunt Stucky, whose ability for emergency work causes him always to be chosen, had a splendid medical corps that had nothing to do but sit around and watch other persons work.

Late into the evening the rush kept up; some children coming through the rain at 8 and 9 o'clock. Even then the place was not cleared of presents.

Sunday morning Maj. Hughes ordered out two of the fire department wagons, to which were added seven more, which some of the brothers placed at the disposal of the committee. These, loaded with packages, made the rounds to carry Christmas to the little ones who, either from illness or some other cause, could not attend the Christmas tree. However, the well ones were expected to present themselves at the Elks' Home between 9 and 2 o'clock to receive their gifts on that day.

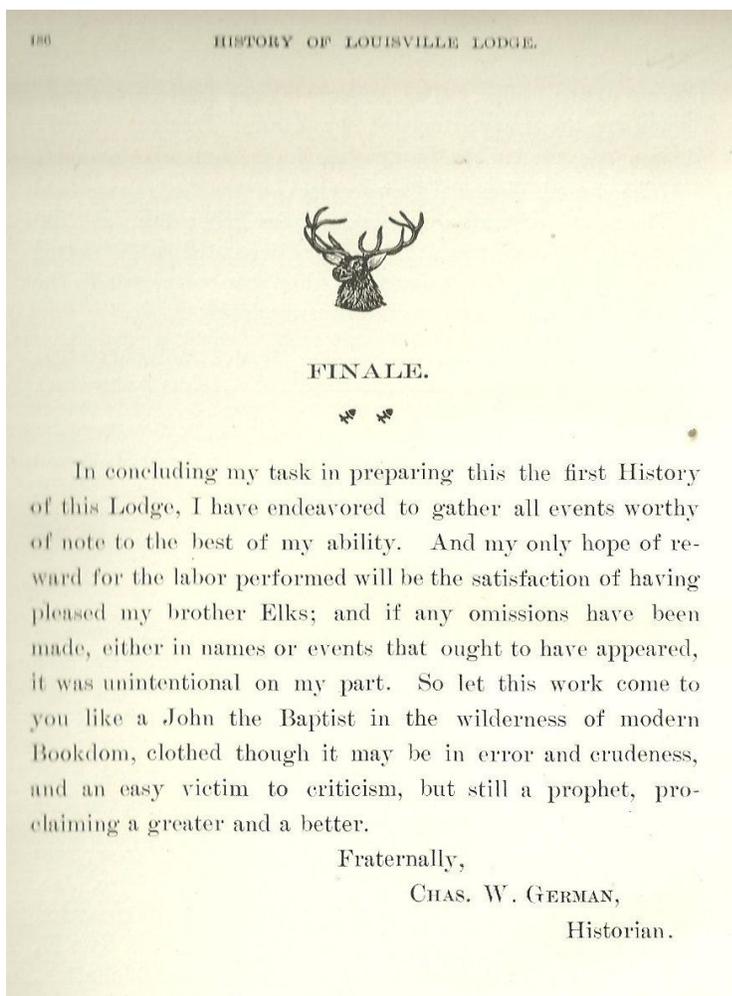
Tuesday, December 31st, marked the ending of the biggest charity, unselfishly carried out, that Louisville has ever known. But if it records the end of the Christmas tree party it also marks really but the birth of that love which from this time forward the poor of Louisville must bear the Elks.

All the remaining packages were sorted out and put together with what was reserved to be distributed at the Children's Free Hospital and the Colored Orphan's Home, which was sent to those institutions on December 31st. The packages given out, in eight out of ten cases, contained a hat and suit of clothes, underwear and a pair of shoes and stockings, besides candies, nuts and oranges and a toy, which was given to each child as it was leaving the building. The girls also received wearing apparel, which consisted of dress patterns or dresses, fascinators, shoes and stockings and a hat. All the wearing apparel which was distributed was direct from the factory or store, there being no old, cast-off clothing or shoes given to any child by the Louisville Lodge of Elks. It is estimated that the value of the goods given out will easily reach \$12,000. Many of the brothers in the dry goods, shoe and clothing business made liberal donations, while in many cases the merchants of Louisville sold the purchasing committee goods at far below cost. Some of the boys' suits given away were marked at prices ranging from \$4 to \$7.50 per suit, while some of the dresses donated by one of our brothers, who is one of the leading dealers, were worth as high as \$10 each, and some of the shoes were worth \$2.50 per pair.

Much credit is due to the wives, sisters and daughters of the brothers of No. 8, as well as a number of their lady friends, who rendered valuable assistance in putting up the thousands of packages, and in assisting in the distribution of the packages to the children.

Bro. Brown gathered many accomplishments during his lifetime and one of them was helping to establish the Kentucky State Elks Association and becoming its first President. This took place on May 29th, 1902 at our new Lodge Home in Louisville and was attended by most of the state's Lodges, many of which had been established with the help and guidance of Louisville #8.

The next photo is reflective of the quality of character that our members exhibited during Lodge #8's formative years. Bro. German was a charter member and actually took part in nearly all of the events described in the first twenty five years of our Lodge's existence.



1903 – 1923

We start this period with the same subject that we ended with. Robert W. Brown was the Exalted Ruler of Lodge #8 for two years. He brought our Lodge through the turn of the century, as he presided from 1899 through 1901. He had a remarkable history both locally and with the Grand Lodge.

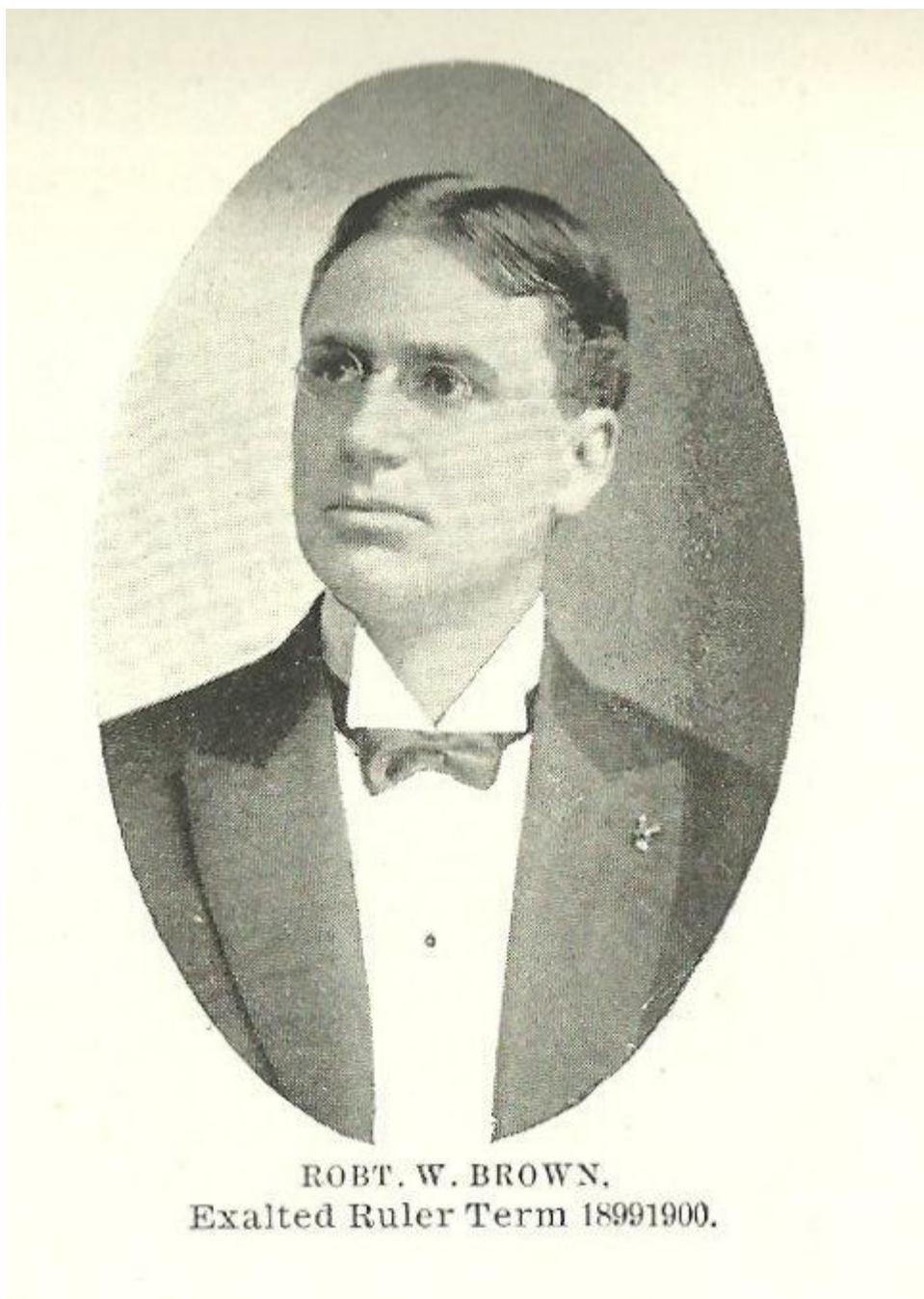
He was our second Grand Exalted Ruler during the years of 1905 & 1906. He served with distinction and was able to inscribe several feats on our tablets of love and memory by presiding over the modernization of our Rituals, which for the most part are still in use today and as Grand Exalted Ruler, he was able to relocate to San Francisco and personally supervise the enormous Elk relief effort that helped the victims of the great Earthquake of 1906.

He served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Grand Lodge during the years of 1903 – 1904.

He had the honor of serving as Chief Justice of the Grand Forum during the years 1911 – 1912.

He had the distinction of serving as the first editor of the Elks Magazine, which we all enjoy, still today.

In addition to all of the above, he helped organize and was the first President of the Kentucky State Elks Association that still provides us with its many benefits and pleasures yet today.



After giving a large portion of his life and energies to Lodge #8, Bro. Brown retired to San Diego, CA where he passed away on Dec 28, 1925.

Lodge #8's grand meeting hall that was added on to the rear of the Lodge building that we had resided at on Walnut St. was renowned as the most majestic hall in the order.

Big Crowd Enjoys Stag Social Given by No. 8 Last Month.



Interior of Lodge Room of Louisville No. 8 where Stag Social was given.

The stag social given by Louisville Lodge, No. 8, on the evening of September 23d, at the Elks' Home, was in every respect a "hummer." It was attended by one of the largest crowds that ever visited the Elks' Home, there being only standing room after 10 p. m. As Chairman of the Social Session Committee, Bro. J. P. Clemens not only delivered the goods, but endeared himself to all his brothers of No. 8, as well as the many visi-

tors present. There were twenty numbers on the program, and in "theatrical slang" every number was "A Headliner." Bro. Geo. Cuscaden, Jr., who fixed up the ham sandwiches is deserving of much thanks for handing out the finest that have been served at a stag social for some time past. The refreshments were relished by all present who were lavish in their praises of the entire committee, and those who took part on the program, for a delightful evening of pleasure which lasted till midnight.

Sadly, it was not to be for long, as it burned to the ground several years after its completion.

FIRE IN ELKS' HOME CAUSES LOSS OF \$25,000

Magnificent Lodge Room, With Its Expensive Furnishings,
Destroyed By Early Morning Blaze.

Fire at 4 o'clock this morning destroyed the beautiful lodge room at the Elks' Home, 314 West Walnut street, together with the furnishings and lodge paraphernalia, entailing a loss on the building and furniture of about \$25,000. Owing to a stout fire wall and the excellent work of the fire department the main building of the Home was unharmed.

The fire is believed to have originated from the furnace heater in the basement of the lodge room and was discovered by James Larkin, night watchman at the Stewart Dry Goods Company's store, who turned in the first alarm from box 43 at Fourth and Chestnut streets at 3:51 o'clock. A second alarm was sent in at 3:53.

When Larkin first saw the fire, flames were shooting through the ventilators of the roof of the lodge room and by the time the fire department arrived the room was a seething furnace, preventing any attempt by the Salvage Corps to protect the contents. The efforts of the fire department were directed mainly toward preventing the fire from spreading to surrounding buildings and confining it to the portion of the Home already doomed.

No One in Building.

No one was in the building at the time the fire started. The lodge room had been used last night by the Knights of Columbus for their regular meeting, and when the building was closed everything was in perfect order.

Until the lodge has acted on the matter, the question as to whether the building will be restored cannot be certainly answered. A. P. Barnard, chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Home, said this morning, however, that it is probable that this will be commenced at once.

With the exception of a series of concerts which had been projected by the Elks for the winter none of the activities of the lodge will be disturbed by the fire. Numerous meetings for which the room had been leased to other organizations will have to be otherwise provided for. There will be no interference, however, with the Society Circus planned by the Elks to be given at the Armory for the benefit of the Home of the Innocents and the Tuberculosis Hospital.

Finest in the Country.

The part of the building destroyed this morning was known far and wide as probably the best appointed lodge room in the country and a model of convenience and luxury for fraternal purposes. The furnishings were all of the best material and of elegant design. Much of the fixtures had been designed and built especially for the lodge. All of the furniture was solid mahogany, richly carved, as were the stations and other parts of the installation.

The lodge room was built especially for the purpose for which it was used

before it became the property of the lodge it hung for years in the lobby of the old Masonic theater at Fourth and Jefferson streets.

Only Blackened Walls Remain.

Many other valuable and unique pieces were in the room at the time of the fire, along with the paraphernalia of several fraternal organizations that used the room from time to time as tenants, and all were destroyed. All that remains is four bare, smoke-blackened walls, supporting a few of the charred roof-timbers. The floor is buried through over more than half of the basement and the furniture is but a mass of soaked ashes and charcoal.

The Evans restaurant which occupied the basement of the front portion of the building suffered in the kitchen and pastry room, and will not attempt to serve patrons to-day. Mr. Evans said this morning, however, that the restaurant will be ready for business again to-morrow.

The Elks carry \$25,000 insurance on the Home and its contents.

DESTRUCTION WROUGHT BY FIRE AT THE ELKS' HOME



VIEW OF INTERIOR OF LODGE ROOM WHICH, WITH ITS MAGNIFICENT FURNISHINGS, WAS DESTROYED.

The hall burned overnight, with no injury to any personnel, causing little damage to the main building and business at our Lodge carried on as always.

As an indication of the charity of our organization, when plans were laid to have a circus show to town, some sought to use the profits to help rebuild the hall. That idea was cast aside as self serving and the moneys derived from the circus were promised to charity.

ELKS' LODGE ROOM IS GUTTED BY FIRE WITH \$20,000 LOSS.

Beautiful Structure Almost Completely Destroyed at an Early Hour This Morning.

MAIN BUILDING ESCAPED WITH LITTLE DAMAGE.

Evans' Restaurant Suffers \$500 Loss, and Mr. and Mrs. Dietz Lose Household Effects.

LODGE ROOM WILL BE REBUILT.

Fire this morning completely gutted the lodgeroom in the rear of the Elks' Club, on the south side of Walnut street, between Third and Fourth, entailing a loss estimated at between \$15,000 and \$20,000. The club-house was slightly damaged in the rear by fire and water. The loss was covered by insurance. Defective insulation on an electric wire is the cause assigned for the fire. The lodgeroom was two stories in height, furniture valued at \$10,000, costly paraphernalia, a pipe organ, piano, and about \$3,500 worth of theatrical costumes and property. Furniture in rear rooms of the club-house escaped damage from water, as it was protected by tarpaulins laid by the Salvage Corps.

Revolver Shot Gave Alarm.

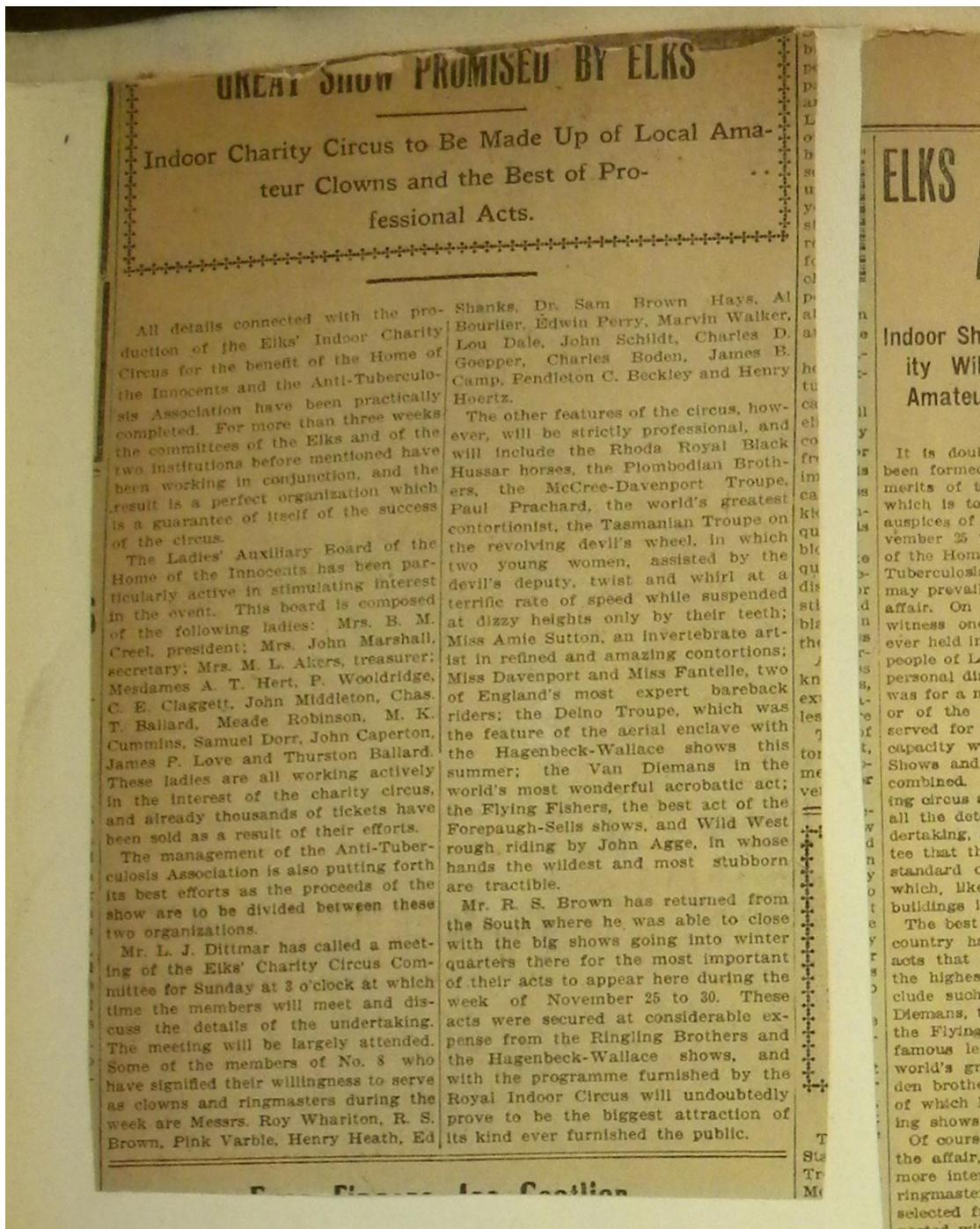
Night Watchman Larkin, for the Stewart Dry Goods, at the New York Store, saw the fire, when the flames darted from the roof of the lodge-room and gave the alarm by firing a revolver from a window of the store. Some one then telephoned the fire department.

Mr. Parsons and William Neal, Exalted Ruler of the lodge, were the last persons to leave the club-house last night. They left at midnight. Mr. Parsons said that he was of the opinion the fire was caused by an electric wire that was not properly insulated. The Royal Arcanum lost paraphernalia valued at between \$300 and \$400. The records, however, were kept by Mr. Stokes, the secretary, at his place of business. The Royal Arcanum will meet tomorrow night in another part of the Elks' building.

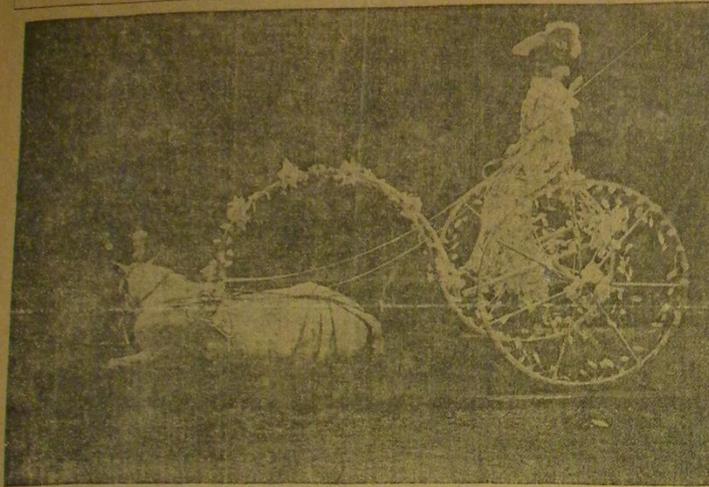
OFFERS

OF ASSISTANCE TO ELKS

The following are some of the many articles describing the elaborate show that Lodge #8 put on for its charities.



ELKS' INDOOR CIRCUS, TOMORROW NIGHT, OFFERS UNIQUE FEATURES



ONE OF THE STAR EQUESTRIENNES AT THE INDOOR CIRCUS.

The Elks' indoor circus, to be held at the Armory throughout this week, beginning tomorrow night, promises to be one of the most exciting circus exhibitions ever seen in Louisville. In order to make it even more interesting a score or more of local Elks are to take part, two each evening, as ringmasters, or equestrian directors, as they are called, and about a dozen as clowns.

Added local interest is given the enterprise inasmuch as the entire net

proceeds will be devoted to charity, to be distributed equally between the Home of the Innocents and the Kentucky Anti-Tuberculosis Association. Although local people of prominence will take part in the production, the circus proper is composed of trained men and women, who were recruited from the best features of the largest circuses in America, including Buffalo Bill's, Barrum & Bailey's, Wallace's, Forepaugh & Sells', Ringling Bros., and Robinson's. The best trained horses and dogs in the country are carried for the circus and are quartered in the basement of the Armory.

The Armory is equipped for the circus as it was for the Horse Show, except that provision has been made to have a continuous entertainment on an elevated central platform and two side rings and aerial performances. The entertainment will open with the picturesque equestrian novelty, introducing the famous Royal Black Horse Hussars, and a distinct innovation, entitled "The Gathering of the Garlands," exciting intricate and novel stunts, such as "Threading the Needle."

The choral efforts of the entire clown contingent on the elevated stage will be led by Mr. Lon Moore, "Prince of Clowndom." The "Game of the Rose," the favorite pastime of the South African desert natives, requiring marvelous horsemanship, will be exhibited on the hippodrome track.

The bareback exhibition will be given by the MacCree-Davenport troupe. Miss Emma Stickney, America's foremost lady rider, will give thrilling leaps through blazing banners, assisted by the imported clowns and the local celebrities in laughter-making stunts.

Aerial Sensations.

The next display will be one of aerial sensations by the Delno troupe. The Rhodo Royal troupe will exhibit its highly trained horses, ridden by John Agee, Miss Carrie Moresberg, Miss Sara Agee, Kirkland Chambers, Henry Potter and Miss Marie Elisee. Miss Lula Davenport, lately recruited from Hagenback's circus, and Miss Stickney, formerly with Ringling Brothers, will furnish a bewildering exhibition of bareback riding.

Acrobatic contortion and gymnastic tricks will be presented by representatives of three of America's most famous circuses. The Crown Band, in numerous barbers of famous bandmasters and musical organizations, led by a dozen well known local men, will be the feature in the next act. John Agee, recently with the Forepaugh-Sells shows, will lead a daring band of Rough Riders in a championship exhibition showing most stubborn and untractable horses and the manner in which they are trained. Chesterfield, the famous contortion horse, and Savoy's troupe of dog actors will imitate faithfully the acrobatic tricks performed by their masters, and a troupe of trained horses will give a remarkable exhibition of animal intelligence.

The Devil's Wheel.

The usual circus thriller will be in the hands of the Van Diemans on the revolving Devil's Wheel, the acme of aerial navigation, in which three young ladies, assisted by the devil's disciple, twist and whirl at a terrific rate of speed while suspended at dizzy heights only by their teeth.

Misses Lula Davenport and Daisy Parrella, of the John Robinson shows, and Reno McKeed and William Marke will give an exhibition of animated and artistic poses on the backs of running and unbridled horses.

Another dazzling act is that of the Five Famous Flying Fishers, which was featured with Ringling

Bros' circus for three years. At a dizzy altitude they perform feats requiring muscles of steel, an iron grasp and a nicety of judgment of space with an abandon that is almost reckless, when a single false move would precipitate them downward to destruction.

The entire next act is made up of a convocation of clown celebrities, in which will be featured John Winslow and his electrified mule, "Strak of Lightning," Billy Bounce and his Original Seven Skating Brothers, in juncative and ludicrous pantomime, and Billy Marks, in a comical and startling imitation of "Si and Maud."

In addition to these acts, there will be nine races of all kinds, probably the most thrilling of which will be the Royal Roman Standing Races, in which a woman and two men will race around the ring, each with one foot upon the back of a different horse. The newboys' race also promises to furnish great entertainment.

ASSOCIATED CHARITIES.

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Taking Active Interest In Elks' Indoor Charity Circus.



MRS. JOHN MARSHALL. MRS. B. M. CREEL. MRS. MATT L. AKERS.
 Members of the Ladies' Auxiliary Board of the Home of the Innocents which is to be joint beneficiary with the Anti-Tuberculosis Association in the proceeds of the novel entertainment provided by Louisville Lodge, B. P. O. E., for November 25-26.

SOCIETY

Billy Marks, Louisville Boy and Noted Clown, With the Royal Indoor Circus



LULU DAVENPORT AND RENO M'CREE.
 Expert bareback riders of unbridled steeds with the Royal Indoor Circus. "It is one thing to make people laugh in a theater, where the audience can see every word spoken, but when it comes to amusing people from a circus ring, the performer must be pantomime in a different proposition," said William B. Marks, a former Louisville boy and one of the numerous clowns engaged for the Royal Indoor Circus at the Ar-
 mory, "considering on the stage," com-
 mended Mr. Marks, "the disconcerting
 use of light music and the disconcerting
 help him interest his audience. Then
 again, he has two hours to get into the
 good graces of his audience, where the
 circus clown only has about five min-
 utes in which to introduce his pantom-
 imic long years of behavior," which
 Mr. Marks is considered one of the
 foremost clowns in the business, and
 he comes from a line of forbears who as gratifying.

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The circus wound up, by all accounts being a huge success, both financially and with public acclaim. The profits were transferred to the Home of the Innocents and other charities.

The next major project Lodge #8 embarked on was the planning, funding and construction of the finest Lodge Home in the Order.

Located at the corner of Third and Chestnut Sts, It was to be as modern and as efficient as the current technology could present.

Again, it is best to rely on our historical newsletters to describe the buildings progress

OUR NEW BUILDING.

The new building is progressing in good shape according to schedule. A great deal of under-pinning was necessary on the West side to protect Chestnut Street buildings and several sewers and conduits were encountered on Chestnut Street and in the alley to the South. Our architect has three men watching this job and the committee feels very much pleased with the progress made. It always seems slow on a building of this kind until you get out of the hole, but one is amazed upon investigation to see how much has already been accomplished. The Brown Hotel started two months before we did and once out of the hole they have been going very fast. Our steel which necessarily was made especially for this job will not be ready for delivery before the next three weeks. As soon as this comes in it will take about thirty days additional to run the steel up to the fifth floor and prepare for the next three floors of concrete construction. George H. Rommel Company have promised us that they would finish the building in January which is very quick time. Most of the contractors are Elks and everyone is apparently doing his best to make this particular job the best he has ever done. The Building Committee feels that when completed this structure will stand as one of the show places of Louisville for many year to come and that it will make our Lodge famous for progressiveness and efficiency in Elkdom throughout the land.

PROGRESS ON OUR NEW HOME.

By Bro. Alfred Joseph.

Have you ever visited Churchill Downs or any other race course of prominence, just before the Derby race was run? No doubt you have, and undoubtedly you have experienced a nervous feeling and high tension when the horses all lined up at the barrier, anxious and waiting for the starter to say the word "Go!" Your feeling at the time, only expressed to a minor degree, the actual feeling of the starter. This pictures to you somewhat, the nervous feeling through which we have lived for some considerable time.

You no doubt recall about a year and a half back, a new building was contemplated. This seed gradually took root and grew to some large proportion. There were many frosty nights and threatening freezes, endangering the growth of this plant, with a possibility of extermination. However, it was sturdy, and outlived the many dangers it underwent. Even at the time that it had matured to such an extent as to bear fruit, it was in serious danger.

On December 19, 1922, plans were completed, bids taken and temporary contracts drawn with the lowest bidders, but not until January 8, of this year, was it possible for your committee to officially sign contracts for the \$1,600,000 new home.

At that time you will recall the condition of the building site, at Third and Chestnut streets, where the old Shirley residence had formerly stood and the old stone fence which surrounded the place. But look at it today! An excavation hardly conceivable where 25,000 yards had been removed, where the adjoining property on the west had been underpinned with concrete walls, some of them as deep as 25 feet below the old foundation, without even as much as a hair crack disturbing the smooth finish of the plaster on the inside. If you consider the magnitude of the underpinning, which has been done and the method employed in the execution of same, you must necessarily marvel at the progress which has been made.

This underpinning was done by the excavation of pits, approximately 4 feet in width going down to a depth under the old wall, and the depth required for the wall in the new building. These pits were cribbed up with heavy lumber on four sides to prevent the

earth from caving in. They were then filled with concrete up to and within about 3 inches of the bottom of the old wall, which they were to support. After this concrete had set sufficiently hard, the space that was allowed to remain open was then keyed thoroughly and substantially to the underside of the wall. This same operation became necessary for each and every pier that was used to hold the old wall.

If you are familiar with underpinning you will realize that safety first requires only a few of these holes to be dug at one time and these widely separated from each. Intermediate holes are then dug and by repetition of the same procedure, a solid wall is eventually obtained.

To a casual observer, hardly any concrete has been placed in the main building. Where in reality, about 95 per cent of the foundations to support the new steel columns, has been constructed and are awaiting the arrival of the steel to tower above them.

The deep basement has been dug for the boiler room and swimming pool, and as only hand work can be done from now on, the steam shovel has been removed from the premises. Forty per cent of the concrete retaining wall, which sustains the pressure of the street and alley, has been put in place, and we feel some relief that all of this has been done to the present time, without mishap.

Of course, it may seem that this work has taken an interminable time, where in reality wonderful progress has been made. There are two periods in the construction of a building, where things seem to be at a standstill: First, in getting foundation work in place, and the building above ground; second, in the interior finish after superstructure has been erected.

No doubt there has been unjust criticism from those without proper understanding, where on the other hand, there has been considerable praise those with building experience.

At the present writing Henry Bickel Company is practically out of the hole, the steel men on the job are arranging their rigging preparatory to placing the base plates, 18 cars of steel are in town and unloaded, and in the next few days a real showing will be made.

As we are going to press, one-half of the first floor columns will be set and fully one-half of the steel for the entire building will be in town ready for erection.

PROGRESS ON OUR NEW BUILDING

By Bro. Alfred Joseph.

Since our last article, considerable progress has been made on the building, although it may not seem so to the casual observer. All of the eleven hundred tons of structural steel required for the construction up to the fifth floor level, is in the city and over fifty per cent of the tonnage, erected in place.

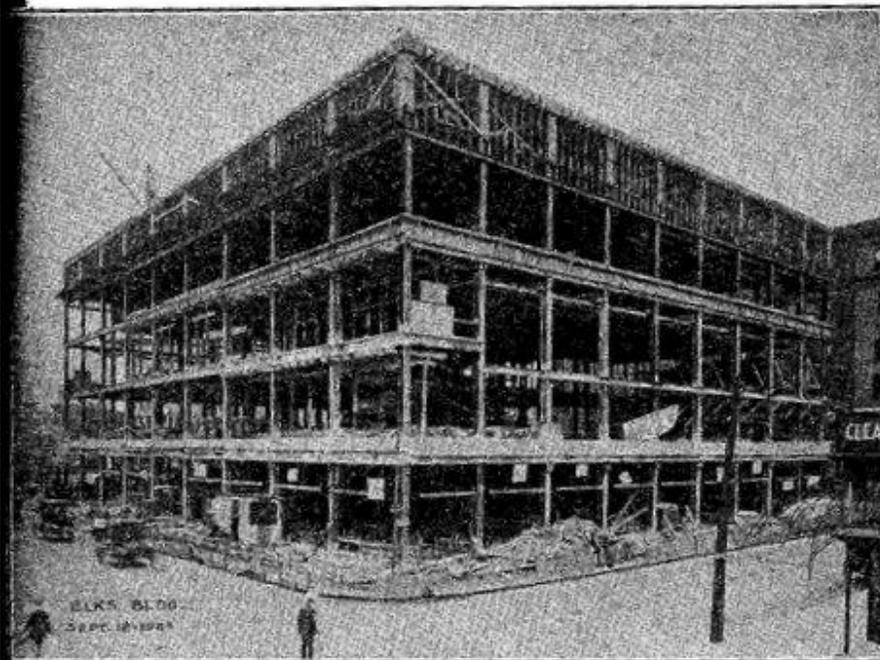
A great deal of time has been devoted to riveting the material together, so the next tier of steel work can be erected. Considerable work has also been done on the basement concrete walls and about seventy-five per cent of same as complete.

It is the intention as soon as practical, to place the form work for the first floor construction, in order to construct the reinforced concrete floors. This will enable the general contractor to store considerable material on the building site. Of course, material is being fabricated and made, at the mills and factories, so that it can be incorporated in the building at such time as the case warrants.

Unless something unforeseen occurs by the time the next article is written, we anticipate all of the structural steel work to be completely erected and some of the concrete floors poured in place.

The area of the building is so large, that the progress from day to day is hardly apparent, but thus far no time has been lost and the operation is moving very satisfactory.

Let us abide our time with patience and in the near future, the corner of Third and Chestnut will be placed permanently and conspicuously on the city map.



PROGRESS ON NEW ELKS' BUILDING

BY ALFRED JOSEPH

In this issue will appear a photograph of the new building under construction. This will give Brother Elks a better impression of the condition and progress, than a word picture, however, I will attempt to describe in some detail what has been done. Of course, the picture was taken sometime back and does not show the amount of work that has been done from that date to the time that the bulletin is issued.

You will notice that all of the steel work including the four lower floors has been entirely completed. The form work for the fifth floor has been erected. At the present time, however, the sixth floor slab has been poured and preparation has been made for the sixth floor columns, which support the seventh floor. Brick work has also been started on the South and West sides, and these two walls enclosing the first floor, have been completed.

Various contractors including the plumbing, electric wiring and heating have been diligently at work bringing their trades along, with the balance, so that no delay will be occasioned from this source. In a few days interior partitions will be started on some of the floors, so that interior as well as exterior work will progress with the same rapidity.

The sidewalk has been completed and covered with sawdust to protect same against injury, while the building is under construction. We believe that satisfactory progress is being made, so that no criticism can be offered from the members. We hope that by the latter part of October, the last concrete for the roof will be completed. This is in accordance with the schedule of progress handed us by Geo. H. Rommel Company, the general contractors.

The terra cotta is practically all in the city and no doubt, that within a very short time, a favorable showing will be made on the Third and Chestnut Street fronts, so that the skeleton will be more or less covered and take on the appearance of a building, rather than frame work.

All possible power and influence is being brought to bear to shape our dreams in tangible and concrete form, and day by day we are drawing nearer to the time that will mark an epoch in the history of local Elkdom as well as National, to which every true Elk is looking forward.



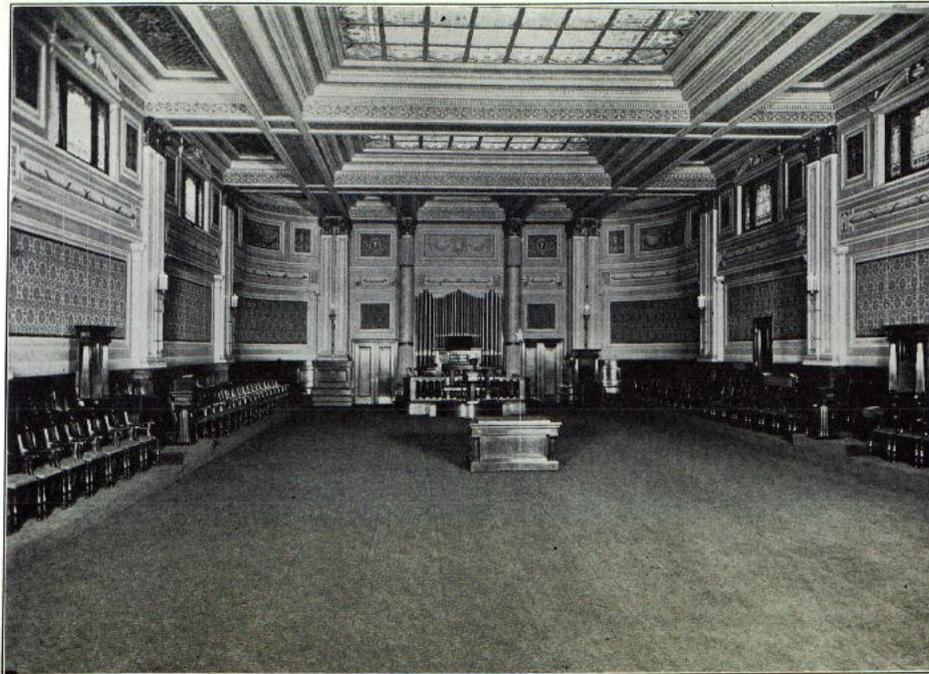
We have a very complete record of our next historical period. This is due to the efforts and forward thinking of two completely disparate groups of people. Our leaders during the period we are covering (1923 - 1949) were very serious about documenting our history and after discovering these documents, two individuals (Jack Anderson, PER and Ed Black, PER) were very careful to save many important publications and photos that are relevant to the existence of Lodge #8.

We are graced with many original photos of our Lodge Home and it is necessary to begin with the two that show our Lodge Room in its splendor. We still retain and use at all regular meetings the three pedestals that are in front of the Lecturing, Loyal and Leading Knight's stations. None of the other furniture remains.



S. END—LODGE ROOM

This photo taken from the Exalted Ruler's Station shows our beautiful pipe organ behind the Leading Knight's Station.



N. END—LODGE ROOM

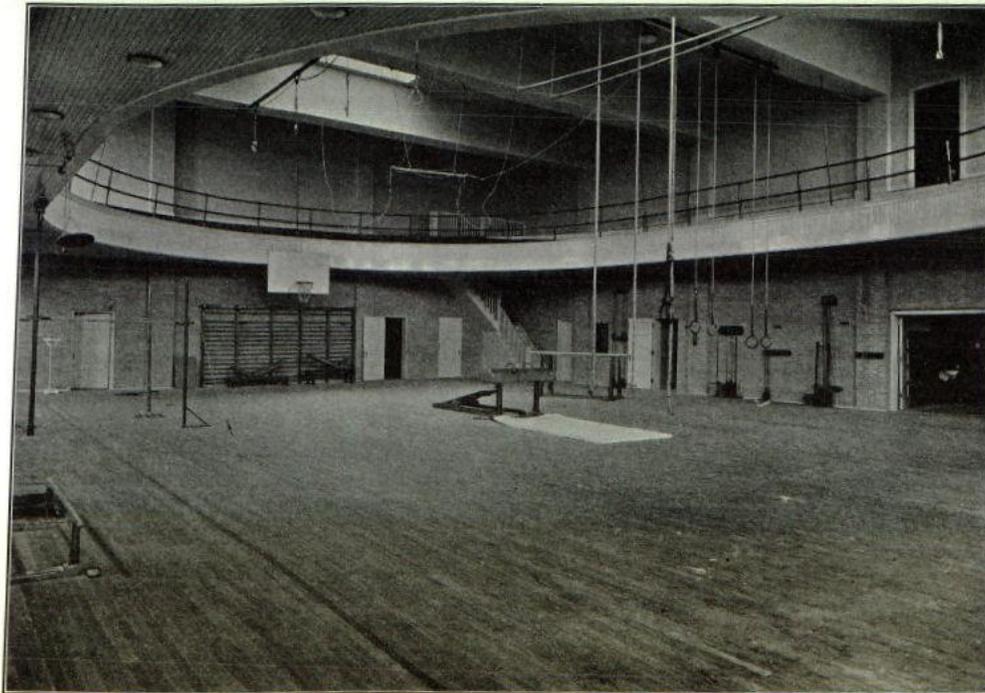
This room is built as an addition to the main building and the skylights were originally true skylights. They are now covered with a waterproof structure and lit by fluorescent bulbs.

Among the many surprises the building offered was the billiard and grill room, a strictly male entity.



BILLIARD AND GRILL ROOM

This was accompanied by the modern gymnasium and running track.



GYMNASIUM

Our pool with diving board was a luxury seldom found indoors.



SWIMMING POOL

These are the Brothers that were in office when this great building was opened. Exalted Ruler Heidenberg was the head of this group that included the best that Louisville had to offer and that is proven by the addition of the gentleman in the upper right corner. He is Astley Apperly, Past Grand Exalted Ruler.



We have in our history collection many more photos that detail the grand design that was used in the construction of this building. Many more than this small book would allow. Many of them are available on a CD composed solely of photos.

Brother Heidenberg had the honor of presiding at the opening of this building and he responded by delivering a speech that perfectly embodies the heart of Elkdom. *If any one part of this history should be considered prime, than the following deserves your attention.*



PRELUDE TO HISTORY.



THE following history is but the printed word made from cold type in a feeble effort to broadcast the deeds which have been indelibly inscribed upon the immortal tablets. Time will yellow these leaves and age efface the words, while eventually decay will level the wonderful monument erected as the home of Louisville Lodge No. 8.

But through all ages, the good that has been accomplished will live and re-live, each time with renewed vitality.

As the hour nears the stroke of eleven, our Exalted Ruler, William S. Heidenberg, prepares to enter the ranks of our Past Exalted Rulers and another steps into his place.

The year during which Exalted Ruler Heidenberg has served has been marked by great accomplishments and by great sorrow.

He entered office in April, 1924, and two months later, June 26, the most magnificent Elks' Home in America was thrown open. This \$1,600,000 edifice was thrown open for public inspection June 27, when fully 20,000 persons passed through its doors. The following night a dinner dance was held for the 4,000 members.

August 12 and 13, hundreds of Elks from all parts of Kentucky saw for the first time the new home. The State convention held here during those dates was the greatest gathering of brethren ever to take place in Kentucky, the principal speaker being Grand Exalted Ruler John G. Prie.

The first big thing done by Louisville Lodge in the last decade to raise money, was held November 19, 20 and 21, when the Christmas Bazaar was staged on the first three floors of the club and a net sum of \$11,000 raised.



WILLIAM S. HEIDENBERG
Exalted Ruler

Following the New Year's Eve dance when 700 Elks greeted the birth of 1925, the annual birthday dinner was held January 8.

Friday, January 9, the body of Robert Wood Brown, past grand exalted ruler, editor of the National Elks' Magazine and one of the most be-



loved men in Louisville, who died in San Diego, Calif., was brought to Louisville to lie in state at the Elks' Club until Saturday, January 10, when the solemn and beautiful funeral ceremony of the lodge was held. That night the remains were taken to Russellville to be placed beside those of his mother.

(This record would hardly be complete without the address delivered by Exalted Ruler Heidenberg at the opening of new club.)

"We come tonight," said Mr. Heidenberg, to celebrate the realization of the hopes, aspirations, and visions which we have nurtured through the passing years. Through the myriad of ages, through the fingered pages of the history of Civilization, the leaders in the various channels of life, the torch bearers in the procession of Advancement have been dreamers—yea, even more—men of vision and of courage. Moses of old dreamed of a Promised Land. In a later era, Christopher Columbus had visions of an unknown and undefined continent, while George Washington and his contemporaries perceived in their minds' eye, a free and sovereign America. Abraham Lincoln foresaw the injustice of a fettered and enslaved people, while the altruistic spirit of Woodrow Wilson, during a chaotic period of carnage and strife nurtured the hope that a distant people might enjoy the benefits of their God-given rights.

"So, perhaps in a lesser way, the leaders of this organization during the passing years, cherished the hope that in some distant day this Lodge might enjoy a home worthy of its best traditions. As courage and vision have been the stepping stones to advancement and progress in the past, so these two attributes have made possible the magnificent edifice whose advent we celebrate on this occasion.

"Success can not be measured by the yard stick of wealth; neither is reputation a necessary criterion. It is not given to all of us to be princes of finance, leaders in the marts and trades, or to occupy positions of prestige or renown in the social or political world. But whether a man tread the highways of life or whether his lot be cast among the lowly and humble, each, in his sphere, can be counted as a success if he gives to his fellow-man the largest percentage of the energy and true worth which lies

within him. So, tonight, the membership of this organization and the leaders in this enterprise, who have given so unselfishly and unstintedly of their time, their energies, and their means, who have given the best that lays within them, may be marked successful in the curriculum of life.

"If this building, however, had been erected with the sole purpose of promoting our own selfish pleasures and personal conveniences, or if mercenary motives had inspired our leadership, or selfish advantages had prompted our efforts, this magnificent structure would fall far short of attaining the success for which it was designed.

"The polished marble and the deftly hewn stone will but reflect within its corridors the spirit of affection, assistance, and devotion which each Elk should bear toward his brother. The soft glow of the silvered lights which burn within our temple must penetrate the length and breadth of our city and bring cheer and warmth to less fortunate humanity. The gilded goddesses that adorn our walls must stretch forth their arms and gather to their breasts the stricken widow, the hungry babe, and the afflicted within our midst. Then, and only then, have we achieved that success for which we strive.

"Elkdom is the great melting pot of American civilization. She gathers within her fold Catholic and Protestant, Jew and Gentile. Her only allegiance is that to a Supreme Being. Her loyalty is alone to the Stars and Stripes; she stands as a bulwark against invisible government and against those forces that would strike at the foundation stone of constituted authority. Her only creed is that of Charity—charity not alone of the purse but of the heart as well; that charity which gives to every man the right to worship his God according to the dictates of his own conscience. Resting upon such a foundation, our efforts could not fail, and this edifice will be an inspiration to future generations whose lasting gratitude you have so justly earned.

"Mr. Toastmaster, on behalf of the Louisville Lodge of Elks, I accept this building, and on its behalf I extend to you, and that honorable Board who have so ably and unselfishly assisted you, the plaudits of your fellow Elks. You and they may be counted as successful. Well done thou good and faithful servant. What greater tribute could be paid to any man!"

It is a fitting tribute also to the end of the life of Robert W. Brown, PGER who was responsible for many of the finest accomplishments of our early Lodge.

The magnificent building still remains, virtually intact and carefully restored, but Lodge #8 surrendered ownership a mere six years later, due to the depression of 1929. The Lodge was able to negotiate a lease agreement with the new owners and remained as a tenant until 1949. Those twenty years were marked with charitable efforts that continued to multiply and social events that included the best and brightest of Louisville's business and professional leaders.

The year 1934 marked the initiation of one of our more prominent leaders, that of Joseph Kraemer. Brother Kraemer deserves a chapter of his own and we would be remiss and disrespectful without it.

Joseph G. Kraemer

A while back, I was entrusted with the archived history of Lodge 8. After reading through much of it, several names surfaced repeatedly. I know I'm a slow learner, but it didn't take even me, too long to realize that Joe Kraemer played an important role in the development of Lodge 8.

I then began to think about writing some sort of biography of his rich life. I played around with the many original essays and poems he had penned and sat in wonder at the prose that sprang from this man. He was a prolific writer who used Victorian language as it was meant.

While letting my mind sort through the myriad details that appear in scattered notebooks and scraps of his original notes, I realized that I needed a lot of facts that I didn't have. Then I discovered a folder that I had not yet seen and to my amazement, it was Joe Kraemer's autobiography.

So what we have drifted to is a collection of writings, articles and photos of and about Joe Kraemer, along with a copy of his own life history. I'd rather be lucky than good, any time !

Below is a photo that shows Bro. Kraemer, back row at right, with his fellow Elk Officers at the Broadway Lodge.





Above is another of him, second from right, in a very dapper outfit, enjoying the Boardwalk at one of the Atlantic City Conventions. I am guessing the '38' convention from the evidence I have.



Name BRIEF AUTOBIOGRAPHY Student No. _____
Address Jos. G. Kraemer, Past State President *Elks Lodge*

A member of Louisville Lodge No. 8, He was initiated in 1934; fifty three years ago. Served as Exalted Ruler 1939/40. District Deputy G.E.R. Kentucky-West, 1944/45, and elected President of the Kentucky Elks Ass'n, 1946/47.

Appointed Special Deputy G.E.R., 1951, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61 & 1963..

Was instrumental in organizing and instituting St. Matthews Lodge No.2052

Honorary Life Member of Louisville Lodge No.8, and of St. Matthews Lodge No.2052

Served as Secretary, Louisville Lodge No.8, and was also Secretary-Treasurer of the Kentucky Elks Ass'n.

Was Chairman of the Elks National Bowling Tournament in 1956, h~~o~~ld in Louisville, and was elected a Director of the Elks National in 1957. Served as its Chaplain for a number of years and is now an Honorary Life Member .

In ~~his~~ early years was Traveling Freight & Dairy Agent for the Erie Railroad with headquarters in Minneapolis, Minn., covering the States of Minnesota, North & South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin; Manitoba, Canada-Winnepeg to the peaks of Calgary.. Transferred to Peoria, Ill., as Commercial Freight Agent; then to Indianapolis, IN as General Agent of the Erie Railroad. In Indianapolis was a member of the Chamber of Commerce; The Columbia Club; The Hoosier Athletic Club and the Indianapolis Traffic Club. In 1925 was elected President of the Indianapolis Traffic Club, of which ~~he is~~ now an Honorary Life Member. Established the monthly Magazine of the Traffic Club, and served as its Editor. ~~He~~ was also Editor of the Hoosier Athletic Club's monthly publication named "Hoos-Hoo."

Returned to Louisville to become Secretary to the Vice President of the Southern Railroad. After the Second World War served as Secretary to the Vice ~~President~~, Standard Oil Company, Louisville.

A prolific Writer, ~~he~~ ^{she} attended The University of Minnesota for a 2 year course in Journalism, and later completed the Famous writers Course, Principles of Good Writing of the Famous Writers School, Inc., Westport, Connecticut.. Gordon Garroil, Director.

A Fifty-Year Member of the Kiwanis Club of Louisville, and a Past Secretary, ~~he~~ has a 37 year perfect attendance record. Was selected Kiwanis Layman of the Year, 1983/84; and in 1985 was elected Poet Laureate of Kiwanis, receiving engraved plaques as awards for both honors.

Entering the paper business, ^{I am} ~~he is~~ owner and still operator of The Kraemer Paper Company, Louisville, Ky., distributors of Industrial Paper and allied products (at age ninety-seven.) (jgk-1987).

Above is a copy of his actual autobiography, typewritten on a page from the Famous Writer's School he was proud to be a member of. The corrections match his handwriting from other samples we have, so this should be his original autobiography in draft form.

One of his major accomplishments was the chartering of St Matthews Lodge, which led to the organization of Lyndon Lodge. We have in our collection, one of the original documents authorizing the beginning of St. Matthews Lodge.

REC'D SEP 4 - 1957

<p>GRAND LODGE OFFICERS</p> <p>H. L. BLACKLEDGE GRAND EXALTED RULER ELKS HOME HEARNY, NEBRASKA</p> <p>L. A. DONALDSON GRAND SECRETARY ELKS NATIONAL MEMORIAL HEADQUARTERS BUILDING 2750 LAKE VIEW AVENUE CHICAGO 14, ILLINOIS</p> <p>ROBERT G. PRUITT GRAND TREASURER 3174 PEACHTREE DRIVE, NORTHEAST ATLANTA, GEORGIA</p>	 <p>GRAND LODGE <i>Benevolent and Protective</i> ORDER OF ELKS UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</p>	<p>BOARD OF GRAND TRUSTEES</p> <p>ARTHUR M. UMLANDT CHAIRMAN BOX 17 MUSCATINE, IOWA</p> <p>HORACE R. WISELY VICE-CHAIRMAN AND APPROVING MEMBER 121 EAST GARIBOLD STREET SALINAS, CALIFORNIA</p> <p>W. A. WALL SECRETARY BOX 586 WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA</p> <p>DEWEY E. S. KUHN HOME MEMBER SECOND FLOOR, TERMINAL BUILDING CHARLESTON 1, WEST VIRGINIA</p> <p>EDWARD A. SPRY BUILDING APPLICATIONS MEMBER 50 WESTLAND AVENUE BOSTON 19, MASSACHUSETTS</p>
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L. A. DONALDSON
Grand Secretary

September 1, 1957

Elks National Memorial Headquarters Bldg.
2750 Lake View Avenue
CHICAGO 14, ILLINOIS

Joseph G. Kraemer, Chairman
Kentucky Elks Association New Lodge Committee
218 S. Clay Street
Louisville 2, Ky.

Dear Brother Kraemer:

- Re: St. Matthews, Ky. Lodge No. 2052 -

The organization file for the above Lodge was received this morning and we sent you a wire today advising the Lodge would be NO. 2052.

The supplies will go forward promptly - the Lodge Seal, Membership cards and the engrossed dispensation will follow in time for your planned institution on September 21st.

I acknowledge receipt of the dispensation check in the amount of \$50.00. I return to you herewith the three Transfer Dimits and one typewritten copy of the applicants' names received in the organization file. You can send me the additional names after September 16th as you suggested. There is no hurry about the Minutes and you can forward such Minutes as actually pertain to pertinent parts of the organization work, such as voting on applicants, election of officers, etc. It is better if such Minutes are on very lightweight paper as the permanent organization envelope is not too large.

As you say, you can always order such additional supplies as you will need.

Thank you for your cooperation is working so hard to furnish the required data - I think it is splendid you plan to start off with 75 charter members and I wish for this new Lodge in Kentucky a splendid institution. In view of your selected membership the Lodge is bound to succeed.

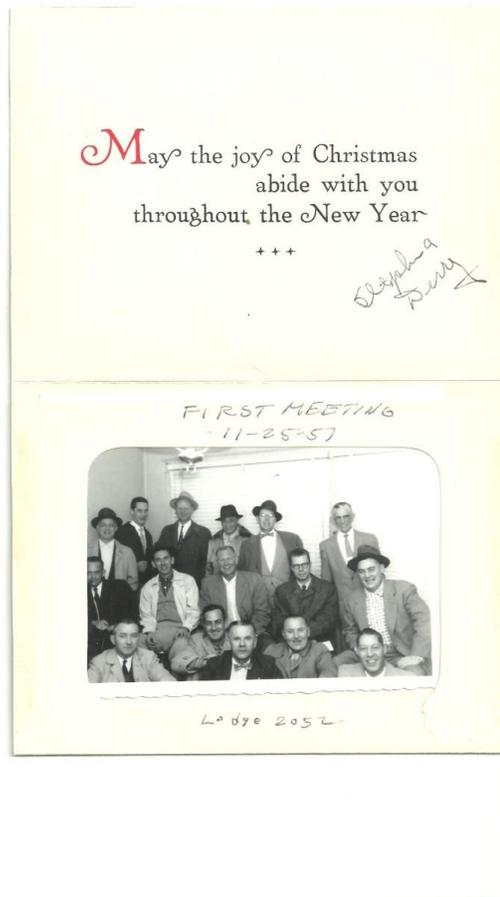
Sincerely and fraternally yours,


L. A. DONALDSON
GRAND SECRETARY

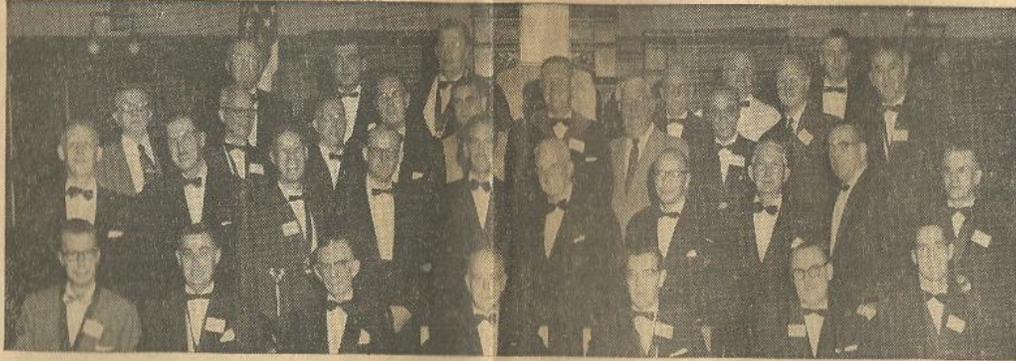
cc WHK
cc DD

Elkdom's 90th Year

Below is a piece of history that Lodge #2052, currently, Lyndon Lodge, will undoubtedly hold dear. A photo of the members attending the inaugural meeting of St. Matthews Lodge #2052 with Bro. Kraemer in attendance at the upper right. The photo is enclosed in a Christmas card.



Another impressive photo is the following, which details the Acting Grand Lodge Officers and the newly installed Officers of St. Matthews Lodge on the night of their birth. Bro. Kraemer can be found third from left on the bottom row.



St. Matthews Elks' Lodge installed in impressive rites

St. Matthews Lodge No. 2052, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, was installed on last Saturday evening in the Elks' Home at 212 West Broadway in Louisville by Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Joseph G. Kraemer, and in the presence of Past Grand Exalted Ruler Wade H. Kepner of Wheeling, West Virginia, assisted by members and officers of Louisville Lodge, No. 8, as acting grand officers.

Shown above are the installing officers and the officers of the new lodge. First row, left to right, Sam Evans, treasurer of the new lodge; Dan Gray, Esteemed Lecturing Knight of the new lodge; Joe Kraemer; Wade Kepner; Nelson Perry, Exalted Ruler of the new lodge; Bill Cruse, Esteemed Leading Knight of the new lodge; Bill McGuirk, Esteemed Loyal Knight of the new lodge.

Second row, Herb Brown, acting Grand Esquire; Parker Smith, Exalted Ruler of Louisville Lodge; Kenny Hahn, Esquire of the new lodge; Joe Blankenship, Esquire of Louisville Lodge; Al Haynes, acting Grand Treasurer; Fred Jones, acting Grand Chaplain; Wilbur Hahn, acting Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight; Harold Lane, acting Grand Leading Knight; Joe McKeown, Esteemed Loyal Knight of Louisville Lodge; Steve Derry, Secretary of the new lodge.

Third row, A. F. Solbrig, acting Grand Trustee; Mayor Noland of St. Matthews, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the new lodge; Joe Baker, Trustee of the new lodge; Jim Martin, acting Grand Organist; Bob Hujo, acting Grand Trustee; Bill Bryant, Inner Guard of the new lodge; Jack Wells, acting Grand Tiler; Rene Buchholz, Trustee of the new lodge; Bud Eline, Trustee of the new lodge; Harry Schuermeyer, Trustee of the new lodge.

Fourth row, Cullie Carder, acting Grand Inner Guard; Ernie DeSoto, installing acting Grand Exalted Ruler; Lou Eyeremann, Tiler of the new lodge; Arnold Westermann, acting Grand Secretary; Ray Huelisman, acting Grand Trustee; and Wilbur Fitzner, Esteemed Leading Knight of Louisville Lodge.

Meetings of the new lodge will be held at the hall of Zachary Taylor Post of the American Legion until the permanent home of the lodge can be secured. The first regular meeting will be held next Monday evening, September 30, at 8 p.m. All Elks are invited to meet with us.

City contests

(Continued from page 1)

<p>BROWNSBORO VILLAGE Pyramid — for trustees—James J. Drautman, Mortimer Goldsmith, W. H. Hauptli, H. P. Marion, and Richard H. Stout.</p> <p>***</p> <p>CHEROKEE UNIT NO. 3 Volunteer Party — for police judge — Armer Mahan; for trustees — William C. Miller, William B. Moore, J. B. Reimer, W. A. Torsch, and Earl Wallace.</p> <p>***</p>	<p>PARKSIDE Independent Party — for police judge — Charles R. Hembree; for trustees — Carl A. Mory, H. E. Rinne, Howard Scholl, M. C. Sweeney, and C. E. Ziegler.</p> <p>***</p> <p>PLYMOUTH VILLAGE The Mayflower Party — for police judge — Ernet W. Smalley; for trustees — James M. Ballard, Jr., Robert T. Langan, D. H. Larger, William R. Molinar, and</p>
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Bro. Kraemer went on to lead the effort to charter Lodges in Elizabethtown and Columbia, Kentucky, both of which failed to survive, through no fault of his.

He continued to be a strong and active Elk throughout the remainder of his life which lasted to the age of one-hundred and one years.

I will conclude with a copy of his history that was written by his Nephew, Ed Black, himself a fine example of Elkdom and the source of information for this biography.

HISTORY OF JOSEPH GEORGES KRAEMER

Joseph Georges Kraemer was born on October 31, 1890 in Rome, New York and moved with his family to Louisville, Kentucky, at the age of eight (8). When he started school he didn't speak a word of English, only French and German, due to the fact that both his parents came from Strasbourg, France. After moving to Louisville, Kentucky, and resuming his grade school education, he was able to improve on his knowledge of the English language.

After completing a business course, he was hired by the Remington Typewriter Company as a free lance stenographer for a brief period. Later he was offered a position by the General Agent of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad off-line office and was hired as Chief Clerk. After this office closed and on the recommendation of the Director of Transportation of the Standard Oil Company (Kentucky), he contacted the Personnel Manager and was hired as Secretary to the Vice President.

At the end of World War I and considering his railroad experience he was appointed Commercial Freight Agent of the Erie Railroad Line Office with headquarters in Minneapolis. After serving in Minneapolis for many years he was transferred to Indianapolis as General Agent of the Erie. In Indianapolis he joined the Indianapolis Traffic Club and was elected President in 1925. He also established a monthly publication and dubbed it "The Trafficgram" and served as its Editor. At the same time he became affiliated with the Hoosier Athletic Club and served as Editor of its monthly magazine called "Who's Who".

Due to illness in his family, he returned to Louisville and obtained employment. He was offered a position with the Southeastern Paper Company, serving as Vice President & Sales Manager. After gaining considerable experience, he established his own business in May, 1944 and called it "The Kraemer Paper Company" and was President and Sole Owner.

A prolific writer, he attended The University of Minnesota for a two (2) year course in Journalism, and later completed the famous writers course, "Principles of Good Writing of the Famous Writers School, Inc.", in Westport, Connecticut.

A Fifty-Year member of the Kiwanis Club of Louisville, and a Past Secretary, has a 37 year perfect attendance record. Was selected Kiwanis Layman of the Year, 1983/84; and in 1985 was elected Poet Laureate of Kiwanis, receiving engraved plaques as awards for both honors.

He was a 57-year member of Louisville Elks Lodge #8, in Louisville, Kentucky, was Secretary of said Lodge and was later made an Honorary Life Member. He served as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for Kentucky West 1939/40, was President of the Kentucky Elks Association 1946/47 and held the job as Secretary/Treasurer for the Kentucky Elks Association. He served as Special Deputy for the Grand Exalted Ruler 8 years. He organized several new Lodges, the most prominent being "St. Matthews Lodge No. 2052", of which he was an Honorary Life Member.

He was Chairman of the Elks National Bowling Tournament in 1956, which was held in Louisville, Kentucky and was elected a Director of the Elks National Bowling Association in 1957. He served as its Chaplain for a number of years and was an Honorary Life Member.

As a freelance writer, he wrote and had published more than 200 articles which included songs and poems for fraternal, religious and business publications.

He married Jane Reiss, a native of Louisville, Kentucky on June 17, 1914 and they had two daughters, Doris and Martha. His wife Jane died in 1968 after 52 years of marriage. Two years later at the age of 80 years he married the former Helen Davis, whom he had known for many years. They were married 21 years.

He disposed of his business in May of 1989, and in November, 1990 with his health failing he never really was able to get out and go like he wanted and

then in February of this year (1991) he entered the hospital and lived 10 days before passing away on February 22, 1991 at the ripe age of 101 years.

Respectfully,

Edw. C. Black,
Past State President
Kentucky Elks Association



JOSEPH G. KRAEMER
September 1989

Brother Joe Kraemer at age ninety-nine, two years before his death.

The period during which the Lodge rented space at the now, Henry Clay Hotel, as it was renamed, was filled with a continuous chain of social and charity events that placed Lodge #8 at the head of Louisville's society.

The flyer presented below is a good example of the quality events that took place all through that period.

A. C. THOMPSON
EXALTED RULER

C. J. FRANZ
SECRETARY



LOUISVILLE LODGE NO. 8
B. P. O. ELKS
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY



ELKS CHRISTMAS CHARITY BALL AND BAZAAR
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1934 8:30 P. M. TILL 2 A. M.
"Let's Share With Others What We Have"

The Christmas Season, which brings joy and happiness to many is close at hand. The real happiness we feel comes in helping those who are less fortunate. There are many families in Louisville this year that will not be visited by Santa Claus.

GOOD DANCE ORCHESTRA
WOULD ADVISE YOU TO MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY

LOUISVILLE Lodge has never failed to assist in bringing cheer and joy to the poor. For this purpose we are giving a Christmas Charity Ball and Floor Show in our Club Rooms; Fourth floor Henry Clay Hotel on Saturday night, December 15.

TWO BIG FLOOR SHOWS
10:00 P. M.
AND
1:00 A. M.

This affair will be for Elks and their friends. The entire proceeds will go for Christmas Charity. The price of admission will be fifty cents a person.

We are enclosing two tickets, which amounts to \$1.00. If you are unable to assist, it is not necessary to return the tickets, but please destroy them. This will be an enjoyable affair, and we hope you and your friends will be with us.

SOCIAL GAMES AND A BIG TIME IN STORE FOR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS

As this will be our last communication before Christmas, we take the opportunity of extending to you the Season's Greetings and a prosperous New Year.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION LARGE or SMALL WILL BE APPRECIATED

Fraternally yours,
Elks Christmas Charity
Ball Committee
Louis F. Houderle
Chairman

Inevitably, Lodge #8 regained its financial health and purchased a very suitable home at 212 East Broadway in the year 1949, where the members were to spend several decades of comfort.



The Broadway Lodge was the home of many well documented events, such as the Seventy-Fifth anniversary celebration, of which we have a copy of its program.



Announcement

of our

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

1877—DIAMOND JUBILEE—1952

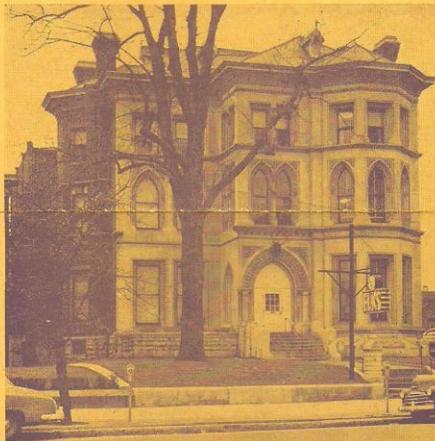
Mammoth Celebration and Rally for all Good Elks

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3RD — 9TH 1952

LOUISVILLE LODGE NUMBER EIGHT

of the

BENEVOLENT and PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS, U.S.A.



Elks' Home — 212 W. Broadway
Louisville, Kentucky

As seen below, Joe Kraemer continued to play a major role in the Club's grand events. Notice his invitation at bottom right.

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

1877 — DIAMOND JUBILEE — 1952

GREETINGS BROTHER ELKS:

Time now that we give you advance notice of the Coming *Celebration* of our *Seventy-Fifth Anniversary *Diamond Jubilee*, scheduled for the week of February 3rd to 9th, inclusive, and to describe a few of the highlights of the tentative program prepared after careful thought and deliberation by the Committee in charge, headed by Past Exalted Ruler, Jos. G. Kraemer, General Chairman.

This seems to be one occasion during the year 1952 when the Fraternity of Louisville Elks should be willing to lay aside the seriousness of all other tasks, and relax in the festive surroundings of gaiety and Good Fellowship. To attend every activity scheduled. To meet and greet, not only the Brother Elks of our Lodge, but Elks of other Lodges who will attend and who will honor us in a tribute for all that was accomplished down through the years 1877-1952.

Note carefully the program as outlined on the pages of this brochure. Join with us on the occasion of this celebration. Mingle with Brother Elks and friends in the pleasant atmosphere and memories of Louisville Lodge Number Eight of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks during the period of the celebration of our *Diamond Jubilee*.

Most important: Invite the Ladies and your Friends to the functions scheduled, in which they are entitled to participate.

You are cordially invited.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

FRANK M. HAYDEN, *Exalted Ruler*

Officers of Louisville Lodge

Frank M. Hayden.....	Exalted Ruler
A. L. Haynes.....	Esteemed Leading Knight
Jas. H. Polsgrove.....	Esteemed Loyal Knight
Fred W. Jones.....	Esteemed Lecturing Knight
Fred K. Hesper, P.E.R.....	Secretary
David Cohen, P.E.R.....	Treasurer
John W. Wells.....	Tiler
Edward L. Stemen.....	Esquire
Joseph E. Dittmeier.....	Chaplain
Cullie A. Cárder.....	Inner Guard
James C. Martin.....	Organist

Trustees

Gus Cappel, Chairman

J. S. Breitenstein, P.E.R.	J. Wm. Kaster
Wilbur M. Hafner, P.E.R.	C. J. Steffen

An Invitation to All Elks

A most cordial invitation is extended, not only to members of Louisville Lodge, but to Brother Elks of every Lodge in the State of Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Michigan, Wisconsin, in fact every Elk in the United States. Real Southern hospitality will prevail in true Kentucky Fashion. Come and make yourself acquainted. We'll do the rest.

JOS. G. KRAEMER, P.E.R.,

General Chairman

The Lodge continued in this fashion until 1965 when the membership began to ask for a home where more outdoor activities could be found. Due to an unfortunate construction incident, the building's foundations were weakened and the Lodge Home was eventually deemed obsolete and sold.

The Lodge appointed a committee to secure a new and appropriate site and during this period, rented space once again.

This period was spent in the confines of the Seelbach Hotel's Rathskeller Room. The room was small, but very unique.



The one of a kind, Rathskellar Room, under renovation, at the Seelbach.

Little can be found of our history, while our Lodge occupied the Rathskellar, but with the room's flair for intrigue, many stories lie waiting to be discovered. This arrangement lasted for a year and a half, during which a search was made for our new home.

Lodge #8 has been blessed with exactly the right leader who always appears at exactly the right time. Such is the case with Jack Anderson PER, 1966 through 1968.

Brother Anderson, along with a group of our members, located our present Lodge Home on Klondike Lane, negotiated a fair price with the owner, designed the transformation from a beautiful rural home to a spacious cozy Elks Lodge and supervised the move and settling in of our members. No small task, while conducting the business of a busy, sociable and charitable Elks Lodge.



Lodge #8, shown here just after moving in.

Jack remained active and very close to Lodge #8 the remainder of his life and played many roles, filled many offices and served as a mentor to many of us. His largest contribution was as a supporter of our swimming and diving pool, the construction of which was a major project for a small Lodge. Again, we are very pleased to have photos of this period.



Members shown above are unknown to author.



The pool has continued to add to the attractiveness and ambiance of Lodge #8 and today is a contributing factor to our success.

Previous two photos, courtesy of Margaret Fowler.

We have many photos of our 100th anniversary in 1977, but the Lodge newsletter seems to express the events charm and importance much better than I can.

IT WAS THAT KIND OF A CONVENTION

OBSERVATIONS OF THE 69TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

of the

KENTUCKY ELKS ASSOCIATION - MAY 25, 26, 27, 28 LOUISVILLE, KY.

By Jos. G. Kraemer, PSP

YES! It Was That Kind Of A Convention "A you-all come and have fun" kind of Kentucky Elks Association Convention, hosted by Louisville Lodge No. 8, May 25, 26, 27, 28, 1977 "We could hardly wait for State Elks to arrive" kind of City of Louisville Hospitality Welcome extended to Brother Elks and their Ladies from many sections of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and the Host Committee of Louisville Lodge laid it on as thick as the irresistible filling of a sweet-potato pie.

And the Elks of Louisville spread out the "red carpet" guaranteed to soothe the "footfalls" of every Elks' State Convention visitor . . . In fact, for a "first-time" participant it didn't take long to realize that the Sixty-Ninth Reunion of Kentucky Elks was something apart of the usual "run-of-mine" Conventions. This was a different kind of meeting of Kentucky Elks, which ignited another image and sparked a different feeling, since it is the last of many heretofore hosted by individual lodges and which in the future will be conducted and spearheaded exclusively by the Kentucky Elks Association at locations of interest within easy access to all Kentucky Lodges, focal distance considered.

YES, INDEED! It Was That Kind Of A Convention Actually, the 1977 State Convention can be summed up in three words: BROTHERHOOD, FELLOWSHIP and FUN, mixed with the more serious aspect of Important Business Sessions on President TED ZIMMER'S Agenda, his Officers and his Committeemen. It was the simple beauty of Brother Elk meeting Brother Elk and our Ladies, renewing Auld Acquaintances and making New Ones . . . Individual Elks and Ladies from practically every lodge in our Commonwealth extending and receiving friendships and hospitality.

THEN! What made it more important was the added impetus of the Centennial Celebration of Louisville Lodge No. 8 Its One-Hundredth Anniversary, 1877-1977; solemnly observed on Thursday evening, May 26, 1977, in the Elks' Home, with an appropriate program as a preliminary to the Official Opening of the State Convention. Participating in the Observance were the following: Grand Exalted Ruler, George B. Klein; Past Grand Exalted Ruler, Edward W. McCabe; Grand Lodge Organist, Ramon "Red" Ringo; Past State Presidents: James W. Franklin, PER, Jos. G. Kraemer, PER; C. Gay Hatfield, PER-SDGER; Past District Deputy, Col. E. J. DeSoto, PER; Edw. C. Black, Exalted Ruler, Louisville Lodge No. 8.

Special recognition was given Past Esteemed Grand Lodge Leading Knight, Arnold Westermann, PER, Louisville Lodge, and Ted Callicut, Member Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committee and PER Paris, Tenn. Lodge No. 816; Ted Zimmer, PER Newport Lodge No. 273, State President; Garland F. Guilfoyle, PER, Newport Lodge No. 273, State Secretary-Treasurer and Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight-Designate, as well as Past State President.

IT WAS THAT KIND OF A CONVENTION

(Continued from preceding page)

The Centennial Ceremonial was witnessed by Officers and Members of Louisville Lodge No. 8; many Officers and Members of other subordinate Lodges in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and their Ladies.

SUMMARY! It was a memorable Reunion of Elks and Ladies attending the Sixty-Ninth Annual State Convention, during which Brotherhood and Fellowship was extraordinary ... The Elk Emblem and the Convention Badges were an invitation to instant comradeship .. No matter where Brother Elks and their Ladies congregated .. at the Elks' Home ... at the Headquarters in Stouffer's Louisville Inn ... on the sidewalks, or just crossing the streets, citizens stopped and chatted with our BrotherElks and Ladies.

AND! The folks of Louisville were in on the Fellowship and Fun with the Elks, both receiving and giving all gesturing broadly ... Look! There's an Elk! IT WAS THAT KIND OF A CONVENTION

KLEIN HONORED

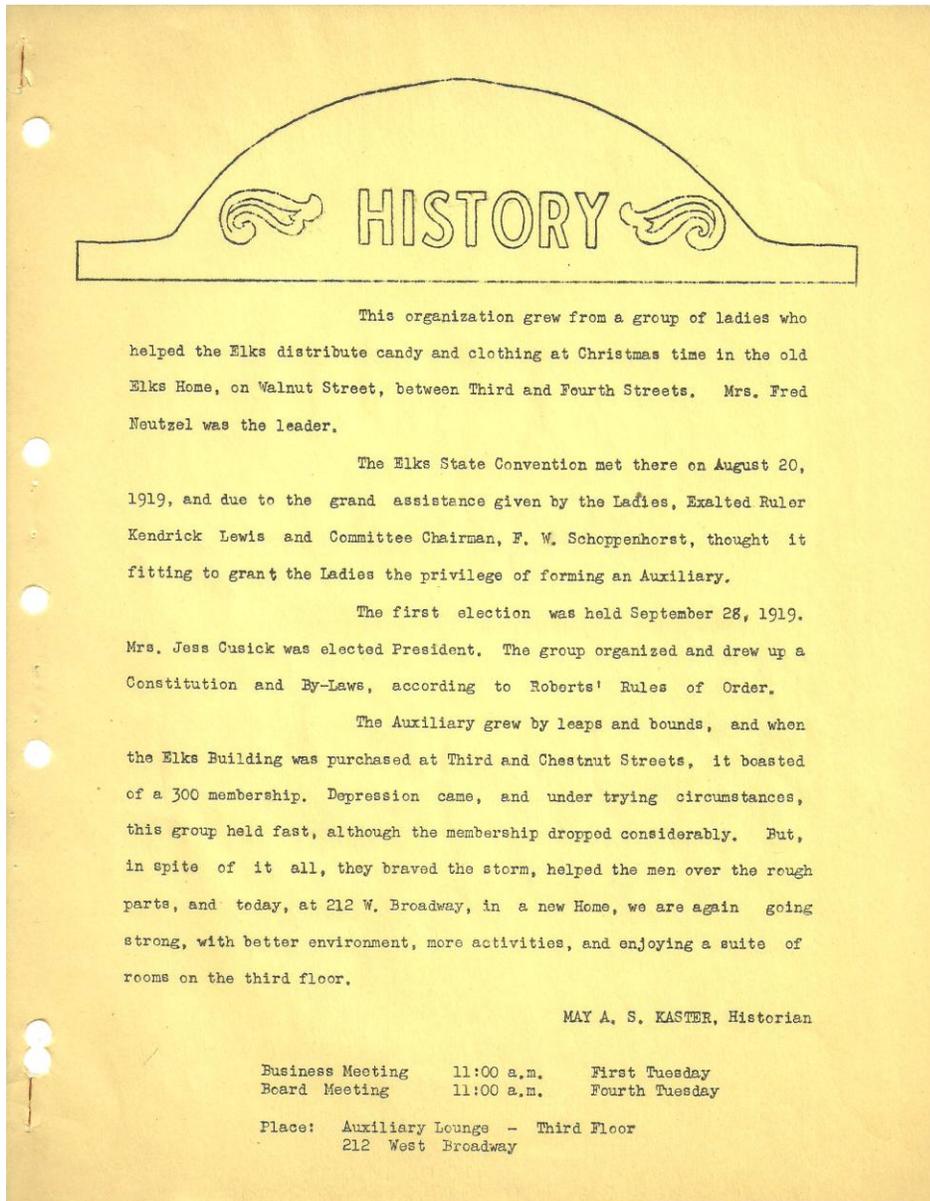


Brother Joseph G. Kraemer is shown presenting an "Appreciation Certificate" to Grand Exalted Ruler George B. Klein, for appearing at and speaking at our State Convention.

Please notice that PER Joe Kraemer is introducing our Grand Exalted Ruler, George B. Klein and also authored the newsletter article. This marked Brother Kraemer's 43rd year as an Elk.

Ladies Auxiliary

In 1919, our Lodge authorized the charter of our Ladies Auxiliary. Since that beginning, our Lodge has prospered and grown as a result of the hard work and influence of our Ladies. The Auxiliary will soon celebrate its one-hundredth anniversary and could possibly be the oldest Auxiliary in the Order of Elks.



Our Lodge continues to thrive with the cooperation and leadership of its Auxiliary and we look forward to a maintaining a partnership that benefits all.

The Auxiliary recently established their Annual Jackie Polsgrove Scholarship award in honor of one of their most respected and valued members. Mrs. Polsgrove was instrumental in holding together the Auxiliary during troubled times and helped make advances across the state for the Ladies and the Order.

In the year 1995, the Grand Lodge voted to allow the membership of women into the previously all male fraternity. This has proven to be not only the right thing to do, but has also been recognized as the saving grace in the failing membership of our national order. The addition of women to our ranks has given our organization new strength and vitality that helps to augment the progressive directions from our past leaders.

Our original Lady PER, Janice Wehunt, 2006-07 served with distinction and graced our meetings with her impeccable attention to detail. Her ability to memorize lengthy passages effortlessly made her an unforgettable orator and a formidable leader.

In the following years, our Ladies have filled many gaps by assuming the responsibilities at each Station, chairing and serving on our many committees and most of all, by regularly attending our business meetings. Their participation in our democratic process has helped to shape our Lodge into its present form.

Current History

Along with the Ladies presence, our Lodge has benefitted from the addition of many young people. Shortly after the turn of the century and millennium, it was recognized by Lodges throughout the order that we needed to recruit younger members that would provide new energy and modern methods and bring our order back to the levels of its past.

This has been accomplished and continues to be implemented by the inclusion of Grand Lodge programs that are attractive to younger members. These include the Drug Awareness, Hoopshoot, Soccershoot and Scholarship programs.

Our State Major Project, Kids With Cancer, has its roots in part from Lodge #8's Donna Fletcher, PER and is a perfect example of a program that attracts young people with much energy to embrace its good deeds.

Our Lodge #8 swimming pool, since reopening in 2009, has been a major attraction for kids and young adults from our neighborhood and has been recognized as a conduit for acquiring new, energetic members. We can thank our Pool Restoration Co-chairmen, Jeanne Boyd and Greg Swinney for laying the foundation for a successful restoration and a very large thank you to Carol Malone for acquiring the funds that enabled the remodel and restoration of our attractive pool facility. Carol has continued to manage the pool and with the help of many others, made it an attraction that has brought us many valuable members.



Lodge #8 has continued to advance the Grand Lodge programs and to strengthen its presence in the community, while maintaining its position as Motherlodge of the great State of Kentucky.

Our main attribute has been and always will be the quality of our membership. This can be seen in our history of Past Exalted Rulers and the positions they have held.

I think it is only fitting to conclude this history with a list of our PER's.

Lewis R. Kean	Apr. 1877 - Nov. 1877
Robert S. Brown	Nov. 1877 - May 1879
Lodge was dark during this period	May 1879 – Jan. 1884
George Pearce	Jan. 1884 – Nov. 1884
George W. Northup	Nov. 1884 – Nov. 1886
M. J. Burk	Nov. 1886 – Nov. 1887
Charles W. Taylor	Nov. 1887 – May 1889
A. D. Mullikin	May 1889 – May 1890
Astley Apperley	May 1890 – Mar. 1893
Bro. Apperley was Grand Exalted Ruler	1894 – 94
Pinkney Varble	Mar. 1893 – Mar. 1894
Zack Phelps	Mar. 1894 – Mar. 1895
S. M. S. Phelps	Mar. 1895 – July 1895

Brother Phelps died in office

William B. Thomas July 1895 – Apr. 1896

Dr. G. W. Griffiths Apr. 1896 – Nov. 1896

H. M. Brennan Nov. 1896 – Mar. 1898

Thomas J. Batman Mar. 1898 – Mar. 1899

Robert W. Brown Mar. 1899 – Mar. 1901

Brother Brown was Grand Exalted Ruler 1905-06

And the State Association's first President 1902-03

J. J. Fitzgerald 1901 – 1902

Fred Neutzel 1902 – 1903

Brother Neutzel was Grand Esteemed Leading Knight and was State President

Smith T. Bailey 1903 – 1904

Simon N. Jones 1904 – 1905

Norton L. Goldsmith 1905 – 1906

J. Ed. Marret 1906 – 1907

William Neal 1907 – 1908

Brother Neal was State President

Charles D. Goepper 1908 – 1909

John C. Schildt 1909 – 1910

Laban Phelps 1910 – 1911

George H. Fisher 1911 – 1912

Isaac T. Woodson 1912 – 1913

J. S. Miller 1913 – 1914

Dan H. Russell 1914 – 1915

Brother Russell was State President

W. Clyde William 1915 – 1916

Nathan Kahn 1916 – 1917

David W. Gray 1917 – 1918

Benjamin H. Sachs 1918 – 1919

Kendrick R. Lewis 1919 – 1920

Ross E. Gordon 1920 – 1921

John L. Woodbury 1921 – 1922

L. S. Jamison 1922 – 1923

Louis F. Steuerle 1923 – 1924

William S. Heidenberg 1924 – 1925

Neville Miller 1925 – 1926

Charles A. Sawyer 1926 – 1927

Roscoe Conkling 1927 – 1928

William J. Goodwin 1928 – 1929

Leland O'Callaghan 1929 – 1930

Brother O'Callaghan was State President

William H. Bauer 1930 – 1931

J. S. Miller 1931 – 1932

Gus Jacoby 1932 – 1933

Arnold Westermann 1933 – 1934

Brother Westermann was Grand Esteemed Leading Knight and was State President

A.C. Thompson	1934 – 1935
David Cohen	1935 – 1936
Dave Wells	1936 – 1937
Edwin F. Franz	1937 – 1938
Sylvester H. Grove	1938 – 1939
Brother Grove was State President	
Joseph G. Kraemer	1939 – 1940
Brother Kraemer was State President	
J. S. Breitenstein	1940 – 1941
Brother Breitenstein was State President	
Urban Herre	1941 – 1942
John L. Batman	1942 – 1943
Colby Shrader	1943 – 1944
Harold D. Lane	1944 – 1945
C. Brent Hobday	1945 – 1946
Michael M. Hellmann	1946 – 1947
Brother Hellmann was State President	
Fred K. Hespen	1947 – 1948
W. M. Hafner	1948 – 1949
Charles D. Dunne	1949 – 1950
Robert G. Hujo	1950 – 1951
Frank M. Hayden	1951 – 1952

Albert L. Haynes	1952 – 1953
James H. Polsgrove	1953 – 1954
Herbert Brown	1954 – 1955
Michael M. Hellmann	1955 – 1956
Ernest J. DeSoto	1956 – 1957
H. Parker Smith	1957 – 1958
Frank W. Fitzner	1958 – 1959
Joseph D. McKeown	1959 – 1960
Robert L. Meisburg, Jr.	1960 – 1961
C. Gay Hatfield	1961 – 1962
Brother Hatfield was State President	
James H. Frazee	1962 – 1963
Norbert Bishop	1963 – 1964
Guy M. Ashmore, Jr.	1964 – 1965
James W. Franklin	1965 – 1966
Brother Franklin was State President	
Jack A. Anderson	1966 – 1967
Albert J. Karcher	1967 – 1968
Harry E. Oliver	1968 – 1969
C. Gay Hatfield	1969 – 1970
James W. Franklin	1970 – 1971
William M. Dixon	1971 – 1972
Frank W. Sandusky	1972 – 1973

William P. Marks	1973 – 1974
Gary L. Vogel	1974 – 1975
L. Edward Givan	1975 – 1976
Donald L. Black	1976 – 1977
Edward C. Black	1977 – 1978
Billy Curd	1978 - 1979
Donald L. Black	1982 – 1983
Edward C. Black	1984 – 1985
Bro. Ed Black was State President	1987 - 1988
Donald L. Black	1986 – 1988
Raymond Williams	1988 - 1989
Donald L. Black	1989 – 1991
Harry Cash	1991 – 1992
Urban Steckler	1992 – 1993
Frank King	1993 – 1994
Brother King was State President	2007 - 2008
David Bradbury	1994 – 1995
Joseph Cavallero	1995 – 1996
Pat Fletcher	1997 – 2000
Joe Cavallero	2000 – 2003
Pat Fletcher	2003 – 2004
Joe Cavallero	2004 – 2004
Brother Cavallero passed away in office	2004

George Hagar	2004 - 2005
Brother Hagar served remainder of term	
Janice Wehunt	2006 - 2007
Terrance L. Akin	2007 – 2008
Donna Fletcher	2008 – 2009
Robert Ringenberg Sr.	2009 – 2010
Greg Swinney	2010 – 2012
Frank King	2012 – 2013
George Hagar	2013 - 2014

With the grace and blessings of our Heavenly Father, our Lodge of Elks will continue to do its good works. This thought served as a foundation for my efforts to record and present the remarkable history of Lodge #8. For those who are disappointed, I apologize and for those who approve, my thanks.

It was difficult to decide what to include and what should be left by the wayside, as every member adds to our history in some way. At this writing, Lodge #8 has recorded 136 years of history and much of it is documented in our History Room.

An effort is being made to present these documents on computer disks. Much more detail is available than what this book can offer. Please see the Lodge Historian or Secretary for access.

The study of our Lodge's history has presented me with many thoughts. The one I keep returning to is that our Lodge and Order has faced huge obstacles in its past. It has remained viable, simply because it has done things for the right reasons and if we continue that practice, we should have no fear or reservations concerning our future.

Fraternally Yours,

Terry Akin, PER

Chaplain and Historian

The Legendary Louisville Elks Lodge #8