Three Far Flung Lodges

Widely Separated by Geography—But Closely United in the Fraternal Bond

Whether it be far up in frozen Alaska, or down in the perpetnal summertime of the tropics, or embossed upon an Oriental tile beyond the Pacific, the Order of Elks follows and supports the American flag, and is at home with the flag, wherever it is unfurled. Collectively, these widely scattered Lodges are attractive to read about. Wherever they are, the American flag is there with them. It is the happy fate of the Order and of the flag that they go everywhere together.

Where a Disappointment Turned Out to Be a Blessing

For more than four centuries, Panama has been the lure of the wandering spirit. First came Christopher Columbus, who explored the Isthmus in 1502. Years later, and after many others had played their parts, the American Elk appeared on the scene, and in his footsteps quickly followed "The Wandering Herd of Elks." To-day, in the Panama country, it is Balboa Lodge of Elks, No. 1414. Up until last year, "The Wandering Herd" had come and gone, as herds do, and remained homeless and unorganized, and with no legal status acquired. Then it was that William M. Abbott, while Grand Exalted Ruler, was persuaded to wave aside a few seeming technicalities, and authorize a dispensation to institute a Lodge.

This happy dénouement was due to the untiring efforts of Richard M. Davies, originally a member of Chicago Lodge No. 4. Whatever glory attaches to the title of "Father of the Lodge" belongs to Mr. Davies. At the beginning, 28 members were enrolled. Since that time, the number has been increased to approximately 200. About one half of these are citizens of Colon, living on the Atlantic side of the Isthmus, 438 nautical miles from Balboa. As Anchorage Lodge is the farthest north, on the American continent, so Balboa is the extremest southern point so distinguished.

Balboa Lodge has plans to erect a Lodge building. When it gets ready to proceed, it is proposed to equalize accommodations and social advantages for members resident in Colon by putting up a clubhouse for their enjoyment. At present, the Lodge is quite handsomely housed in leased premises. An accompanying photo reveals the building and its tropical surroundings.

In personnel, Balboa Lodge represents American citizenship at its best. In the main, its members are the prominent of official life on the Isthmus. The present Exalted Ruler is Robert W. Glaw. Mr. Glaw is paymaster in Panama for the government. The secretary is Fred H. Spreckel.

On account of its isolated position, the Zone is practically a government within itself. The government owns and operates the large hotels, cold storage and packing plants, poultry and dairy farms, electric light and power systems, the railroads and the commissaries; the government also owns the largest coalings and dry docks in the world. On the fortifications on both the Atlantic and Pacific sides, are assembled divisions of the Army, Navy, Air and Hydroplane Service, Radio, Artillery, Batteries and Submarines.

Chicago Lodge is given credit for having inspired the thought that came to happy climax in Balboa Lodge itself. In March 1913, word was received by Elks on the Isthmus that Chicago members planned a trip to Panama. Mr. Davies immediately assembled 25 of his friends and outlined a program of entertainment. Among other things, a sightseeing train was chartered.

Circumstances prevented the Chicago visitors from arriving, but the Elks in Panama celebrated anyhow, and carried out every program detail as originally arranged for the Chicagoans. The event will always remain memorable on the Isthmus.

This pleasant experience strengthened "The Wandering Herd," until then more or less desultory, into an organization, which, winking obliviously at the law of the Order, preserved its strength of personality by restricting membership in the "Herd" to Elks in good standing in a Lodge back in the States. No regular Lodge formalities were attempted, but Club sessions so-called, were held, at which features of the Ritual were observed. Principally the social enjoyments were cultivated. Memorial Sunday and other calendar fixtures were given attention. Never was the eleven o'clock Toast forgotten. But the overshadowing event of "The Wandering Herd" was its annual outing.

After the organization of Balboa Lodge had been completed, a request was made of Grand Exalted Ruler Mountain to visit Panama. The Grand Exalted Ruler found it impossible to accept the invitation, and Charles A. White, Chicago banker and Past Grand Treasurer of the Order, was named to represent the Grand Exalted Ruler. Accompanied by Mrs. White, Mr. White arrived at Colon on Feb. 13 of this year. (Continued on page 59)
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During their stay on the isthmus, Mr. and Mrs. White were accorded a period of frontier adventure and weary waiting, until one day came a cablegram telling that the dispensation had been granted, and shortly after, to the relief of the party, to which the news was communicated, they were able to embark on their long voyage. The White family had been preparing for the journey for some time, and the cablegram brought them a sense of relief and excitement.

With the official papers all sealed and signed, they boarded the boat at Ship Creek, and were greeted by the rough and ready society of the frontier. The boat was loaded with supplies, and the journey was long and arduous. They had to face many challenges, including the dangers of the sea and the harsh conditions of the region.

In the meantime, the news of their arrival on the isthmus had spread, and the Lodge there was eager to welcome them. The Lodge had been founded by a group of men who had come together to form a fraternity of brothers, and they were thrilled to have new members.

The Lodge was located in a small town near the isthmus, and the members were all from the region. They were a close-knit group of men, and they welcomed the White family with open arms. The Lodge had a strong sense of tradition and values, and they were proud to have a representative of the community as one of their members.

The White family were immediately integrated into the Lodge, and they were given a warm welcome. They were invited to join in the traditions and activities of the Lodge, and they quickly became an integral part of the community. The Lodge was a center of social and cultural life in the region, and the White family were soon involved in many activities and events.

During their stay on the isthmus, the White family had the opportunity to explore the region and to learn more about the history and culture of the area. They were also able to make many new friends, and they formed lasting bonds with the members of the Lodge.

The White family's stay on the isthmus was a time of growth and adventure, and they brought with them memories that would last a lifetime. They returned to their home with a sense of accomplishment and a deep appreciation for the region and its people.
where. It developed later that they were unable to meet the constitutional requirement of 5,000 bona fide members, and as a consequence, the grand and supreme assembly at Washington, D. C. was forced to grow. However, two years later, and with no diminution whatever of their enthusiasm, these stalwarts were able to qualify with the necessary population statistics.

Meantime, and proceeding wholly unofficially, our comrades of the frozen North had not been remiss in inculcating the Elk sentiments, and carrying their Elk messages into the every-day life that surrounded them. They conducted club meetings and club dances and club smokers. At Christmas, they remembered the poor children and made them happy with gifts. Everybody roundabout became infected with the Elk spirit. In the midst of these things, a contract was let for a club building for "The Bills." Of course, the structure was to be of logs, so eager were our friends to see it completed, that they volunteered to assist, and saved and hampered at such a lively rate that it was not long before the building took on the proportions of a miniature skyscraper, and had been equipped in the style of the country and was ready for occupancy. The historic date is March 22, 1916.

Still another historic date, as concerns Anchorage Lodge, is December 23, 1917, for it was on this date that notice was received that a dispensation had been issued to the Lodge. Subsequently, Charter No. 1332 was bestowed in its favor. Anchorage picked its finest citizenship in the selection of its 33 charter members. Skagway conducted the ballot approval. The Lodge was instituted under the supervision of George W. Forrest, District Deputy, Grand Exalted Ruler, assisted by Elk representations from Seattle, Bremerton, Skagway, Juneau and San Francisco. The first Exalted Ruler was Samuel McDonald. The present club building was completed during the régime of Exalted Ruler W. H. Howard. The building is outstanding and distinguished amid the architecture of the city, and it is modernly equipped. Anchorage Lodge, in raising funds for its new Home, hit upon a bright and novel idea. A friendly controversy arose among the members as to who should lift the first shovelful of earth from the foundation site. This suggested the appointment of a committee to raffle tickets and to conduct a sort of lottery to decide the honor, with a further condition that the individual holding the winning number, should become the permanent owner of the shovel used in this service. Tickets sold almost as rapidly as the city had grown in population. Little Miss Caroline David drew the lucky number, the duplicate being held by A. B. Johnson. Mr. Johnson, according to all reports, acquitted himself with "grace and dignity." The spading ceremony was turned into a jubilee event.

Through the courtesy of the Anchorage Daily Times, the Lodge issued a special illustrated number in three sections. It was printed purple on white and dated February 13, 1922, carrying the Associated Press news service. It contained stories of the Lodge, its struggles, its success, F. B. Camp, poet laureate of Anchorage Lodge, versified the glories of that place, to wit:

"Your beauty is silver and gold, And thousands will live in your arms, For thousands will furnish you foodstuffs, From thousands of dairies and farms. The white men will always support you. Are the very Best People on Earth."