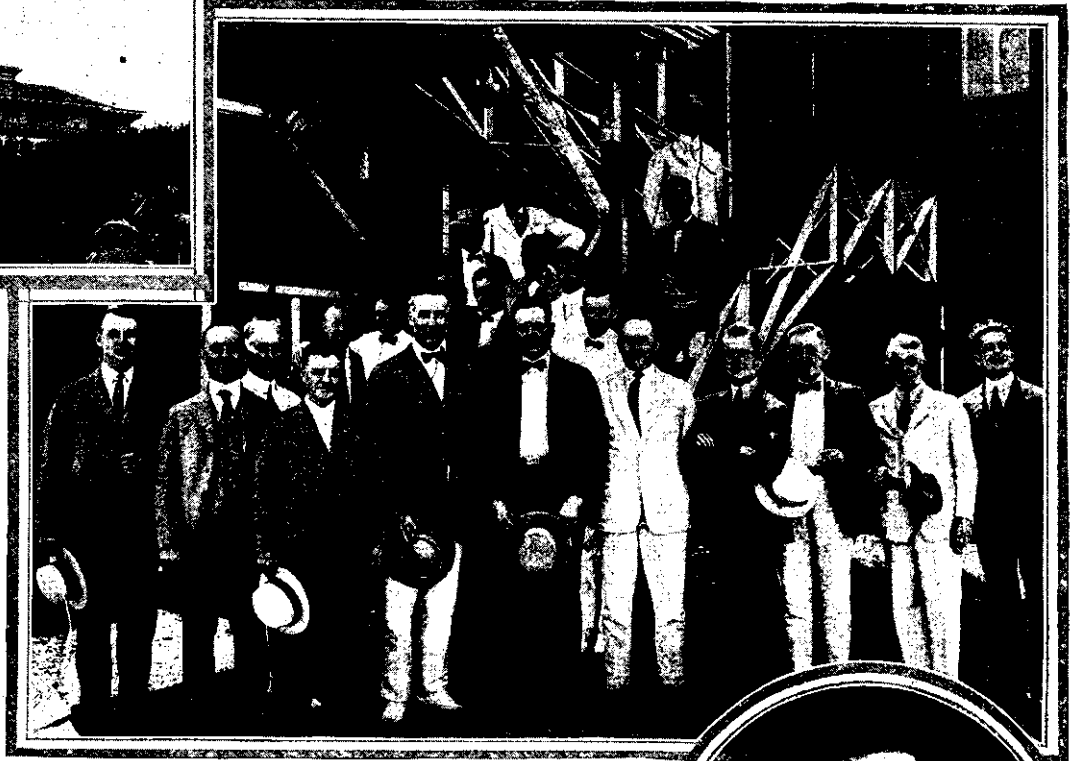


Balboa Lodge, Panama Canal Zone, is housed in the old Administration Building. It was instituted there September 4th, 1921

Exalted Ruler Richard M. Davies, Past Grand Treasurer Charles A. White (front row, third and fourth from left) and members of Balboa Lodge in front of the Strangers' Club at Colon



Boatswain John D. Walsh of Newport, R. I., who installed the Lodge on the Island of Guam

## Three Far Flung Lodges

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

**W**HETHER it be far up in frozen Alaska, or down in the perpetual summertime of the tropics, or embosomed upon an Oriental isle 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, 43.8

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 on 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 prominents 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. Sprecken.

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 coaling 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 obliquely 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 56)

## Three Far Flung Lodges

(Continued from page 40)

During their stay on the isthmus, Mr. and Mrs. White were accorded all the social honors.

Recalling the name of Balboa, in this fraternal association, history tells that the original Balboa was a subject of Spain, noble of birth, poor in purse, filled with ambition; and that he secreted himself in a barrel and was rolled aboard a vessel that he might join the fortunes of Martin Fernandez de Encisco in penetrating Cartagena, in 1500. After that, he settled in Darien in 1509, proclaiming himself Governor. From Darien, he undertook, with a handful of followers, a hazardous journey across the Isthmus of Panama. On September 25, 1513, he was the first to behold the Pacific Ocean. Three days' walk brought him to the water's edge. As he waded into the Pacific Balboa formally took possession of that mighty expanse including all countries near it, in the name of the Spanish kingdom.

Balboa's fame as discoverer of the Pacific Ocean, proved a means of his tragic undoing. He was of a type generous and overconfident. Pedaris Davila plotted against Balboa. As time ran on, Balboa suspected the Governor, who promptly allayed his distrust by giving to Balboa his prettiest daughter in marriage. Before the honeymoon was over, Balboa was accused of treason to his king. He was beheaded in his forty-second year.

The spirit of Balboa, symbolizing the gentle and the charitable, the protective and the courageous in his life, is believed by the native Panamanians to hover over the Canal Zone. Whether the spirit of Balboa continues to hover, or whether it be simply delusion, surely there is no delusion about the gentle and charitable and protective spirit that characterizes the Lodge of Elks that bears his name.

### The Jinx that Almost Ruined Agana Lodge

AGANA LODGE, No. 1281, representing the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in an obscure corner of the world. Roughly measured, Agana is 7,500 miles distant from the metropolitan centers of America. In round numbers, the Lodge membership is 200.

To fix our locations a bit more accurately, and to introduce Agana Lodge with greater geographical intimacy, the following particulars are set forth: Agana is located on the island of Guam, which island reverted to the United States as a war prize from Spain. The island is eight miles wide and thirty miles long. The location is 400 miles from Yap, 1,506 miles from Manila, 3,002 miles from Honolulu, and more than 5,000 miles from San Francisco. There are many people who have never heard of Agana, and would not know where to find Guam on the map of the world.

After a remarkable succession of misadventures, a Lodge of Elks was instituted there with a membership of 27. At the time of the institution, the population of Agana, which is the capital, was 10,000. By the census count to-day, there are 18,000 natives and 1,200 Americans. The language is Polynesian, but instruction in English is compulsory in the schools.

Notwithstanding its disadvantages and environment, Agana Lodge has proven itself an upstanding exemplar of fraternal and patriotic deportment. It participates in all public demonstrations for the common good, it ministers to public and private misfortune, and it is looked up to as the civic leader of the country. In honoring American holidays, it is foremost always. Its Flag Day celebrations and July 4 parades are stellar events. So much for the island and the Lodge. Now for the origin of Agana Lodge:

It was in October, 1911, that members of the Jagatna Civil Club, at a round table session, discussed the possibility of forming an Elk Lodge in Guam. In this assemblage of kindred spirits, were five members of the Order: Lieut. Whitehead, of Brooklyn (N. Y.) Lodge No. 22; Chief Boatswain John D. Walsh, of Newport, (R. I.) Lodge, No. 104; Chief Machinist Thormahlen, of Port Angeles (Wash.) Lodge, No. 353; Lieut. Schmidt, of Kearney, (Neb.) Lodge, No. 984; Hospital Steward Martin, of La Junta (Colo.) Lodge, No. 701. The formalities of application were complemented. Thirty-two names made up the charter member list.

With the official papers all sealed and signed and forwarded, there followed a period of long and weary waiting, until one day came a cablegram telling that the dispensation had been granted. More weary waiting, and then, after the lapse of almost a year, in July of 1912, to be exact, a letter arrived announcing that a trunk containing paraphernalia "had been shipped care Manila Lodge via New York." Hope fell with a dull thud, or like an outgoing tide. Shipment had been made by the wrong route. There would be interminable delay in delivery—perhaps disappearance of the trunk. Agana was in despair. To abbreviate the story, and without attempting to keep track of the wandering trunk, it was eight months before it reached Agana. The trunk had gone around the world to get there.

And the worst of the vexation was not yet. By the time the trunk at last arrived, every Elk but one, Chief Boatswain John D. Walsh, had quit the island, ordered away in the service of the government; and Walsh was daily expecting to go, too. There was panic among the men who had eagerly anticipated becoming members. A Grand Lodge regulation imposes that at least three members of the Order must participate in the ceremony when a Lodge is instituted, whereas on the whole island, there was just one Elk left, Boatswain Walsh, as above mentioned and the next nearest Elk was 1,506 miles distant and wet every step of the way. Then one bright morning, Gunner Evans arrived in Agana, and after that there were two Elks. Walsh cabled the Grand Exalted Ruler and recounted the dilemma. As a result, the Grand Lodge restriction was lifted; and one epochal night, Agana Lodge became an actuality.

As Elks understand, after dispensation and organization, comes the issuance of a charter. By some neglect, Manila Lodge had never been consulted or asked to consent. The Committee on Charters of the Grand Lodge rested upon its constitutional rights. Manila stood virtuously pat. The situation looked typhoonish. Yet, Agana Elks are resourceful and proved themselves so. Having overcome all other difficulties, the Lodge valiantly refused to surrender, and continued the good fight until its charter was ultimately issued and bestowed at the session in Denver in 1913. Since then, the flag on the altar and the stars and stripes rippling from the roof of the Elks building in Agana, indicate the place of greatest prestige and popularity on the island.

### Building a City to Get a Lodge

THE Elk Lodge farthest North is at Anchorage, Alaska, and the story of its genesis and how it has expanded and prospered and the real good it has done and the splendid animations by which it is controlled is highly engaging.

It was early in the Spring of 1915 just after the first steamer arrived at Ship Creek, that several Elks from the States began, with older residents of Alaska, to plan and build the future Queen City of the North. At that time, Anchorage was just a tract of land bordering a great harbor. Yet even in those primal days, it was thrifty with tents and temporary business houses. The newly-arrived Elks, missing the familiar fellowship and good cheer, and feeling the need of something similarly stimulating to take its place, yearned for an Elk Lodge. There were privations and hardships to endure which they believed could be more easily endured if they were united as one man in the bonds of a Brotherhood all of them loved.

Accordingly, in July of 1915, this desire expressed itself in an open meeting called and presided over by A. J. Wender, who carried his card from Baker City, Oregon. There was a representative attendance. Everybody was intensely in earnest. Until they were better organized or legally chartered, it was resolved to call themselves "The Bill's Club." F. A. Martin, of Decatur, Indiana, acted as Secretary. Until there were funds in the treasury, a Mr. McCullough was granted the privilege of paying all bills.

They were bubbling with the Elk spirit, but apparently, there was an obstacle hidden some-

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where. It developed later that they were unable to meet the constitutional requirement of 5,000 bona fide population, as a condition precedent to an application for dispensation. Anchorage had 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 sawed and hammered 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 12, 1916.

Still another historic date, as concerns Anchorage Lodge, is December 22, 1917, for it was on this date that notice was received that a dispensation had been issued to the Lodge. Subsequently, Charter No. 1351 was bestowed in its favor.

Anchorage picked its finest citizenship in the selection of its 50 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.

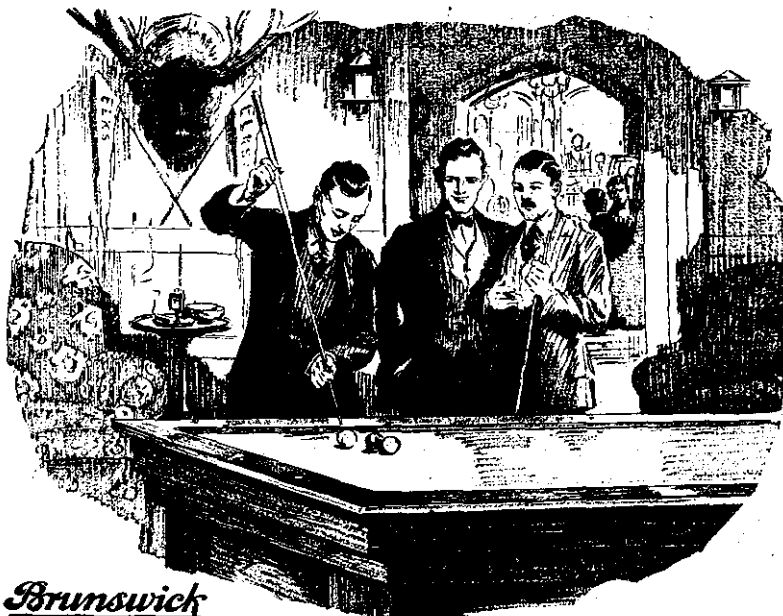
The present club building was completed during the régime of Exalted Ruler W. H. Howard. The building is outstanding and distinguished amid the architecture of the city; and it is modernly equipped. Anchorage Lodge, in raising funds for its new Home, hit upon a bright and novel idea. A friendly controversy 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,  
Your heart of the fruit and berries,  
Your hair of the grain and hay  
That grows through the nights of summer  
And ripens throughout the day.  
Your eyes are the mirrors of happiness  
Found in this new Northwest;  
Alaska has no city like you—  
You're the youngest and the best.

"New blood will mingle with old blood,  
And thousands will live in your arms,  
And thousands will furnish you foodstuffs,  
From thousands of dairies and farms.  
The white men will always support you,  
Till you prove to the world your worth.  
And the Elks who live in this district  
Are the very Best People on Earth."

Credit is ascribed to members of the Order for rendering great assistance in transforming a virgin land into an empire of homes, opening up vast agricultural, mineral and other industries, and for placing Anchorage in the forefront of Alaskan cities.



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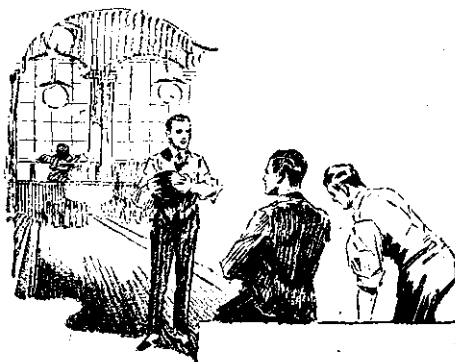
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