

THE GRAND EXALTED RULER'S VISITS

State Pres. Talton and D.D. Ernest A. Green accompanied them.

"Aidmore", the home for crippled children which is maintained by the Georgia Elks was visited by the Lewises on the morning of the 4th. Georgia lodges which received a call from the Grand Exalted Ruler were **ATLANTA NO. 78, SAVANNAH NO. 183, DUBLIN NO. 1646 and EAST POINT NO. 1617**. At East Point, Mr. Lewis was entertained at a banquet in the main dining room of the lodge home. About 350 members and officers were present, as were Past Grand Exalted Ruler John S. McClelland, Past State Presidents Ed A. Dutton and Roderick M. McDuffie and D.D. Clay P. Davis.

The members of the host lodge presented a solid silver serving tray to Mr. Lewis Birmingham, Ala., Lodge No. 79, gave him a set of silver candleabra and Dalton Lodge presented to him a lovely chenille bedspread.

E.R. Charles Worthen of East Point Lodge accompanied Mr. Lewis to "Aidmore", when the Order's chief had the opportunity to see the splendid work on behalf of physically handicapped children which these Southern Elks are doing.

On the 4th of February, the members of **SUMTER, S. C., LODGE, NO. 835**, were host to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis who were met at the county line by a group of Elk luminaries, including the Mayor-pro tem, Styles Marshall; Grover Kinsey, Lieutenant of the State Highway Patrol; Chief of Police W. M. Hall, and E.R. El. T. Gullledge and his committees. Later on, Mr. Lewis met Exalted Rulers of various South Carolina lodges, State Association and local officers, when he awarded certificates to Boy Scouts in patrols sponsored by the lodges. Following this meeting a banquet was held, and the 300 persons who attended heard Mr. Lewis' splendid address which was broadcast over the radio. A highlight of the affair was the presentation to Mr. Lewis of a citation commending his valuable efforts in Scoutdom, by the Pee Dee Council of Boy Scouts, representing eight counties.

Among those present were D.D. Edwin W. Johnson, E.R. and Mrs. Gullledge, Doug Youngblood, manager of Radio Station WFIG and a member of the lodge, and many others. M. M. Weinberg, Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements who was present with Mrs. Weinberg, gave Mrs. Lewis a beautiful silver tray on behalf of the lodge.

COLUMBIA, S. C., LODGE, NO. 1190, entertained the California visitors who were met at the county line by a committee of Elks and their ladies, Boy Scouts and motorcycle police who escorted them to the Wade Hampton Hotel. From there a visit was paid to the Governor of the State, J. Strom Thurmond, at the Capitol, where Mr.

Lewis was extended the courtesy of the floor of the State Senate and delivered one of his important and inspiring addresses. After luncheon, the Grand Exalted Ruler paid a call on the U. S. Veterans Hospital where a party was in progress through the efforts of the local Elks and the hospital's efficient Recreation Staff. After greeting the boys there, a trip was made through the wards when Mr. Lewis talked with many of the bed patients.

A reception for the travelers was held at the home of P.E.R. Wm. Elliott, Jr., and later in the evening a banquet was given at the lodge home when over 200 Elks and their ladies were on hand. The visitors received a basket of red roses, perfume made from yellow jessamine, the State flower, and a sterling silver pitcher. Another honor conferred on Mr. Lewis by the Boy Scout organization occurred at this meeting when Maxie Collins, Jr., President of the local "Order of the Arrow", National Scout Camp Fraternity, made Mr. Lewis an honorary member of the fraternity and gave him a membership sash. Early the next morning Mr. and Mrs. Lewis were escorted to the county line, en route to Wilson, N. C. Sumter and Hendersonville Lodges were also visited.

SOUTHERN PINES, N. C., LODGE, NO. 1692, had the pleasure of entertaining the Order's leader and Mrs. Lewis at an informal luncheon on the 6th. D.D. Charles Thomas, E.R. Jack Carter, Secy. Col. Donald L. Madigan and P.E.R. John Cline were among those present.

Another Southern lodge to welcome the California visitors was **RALEIGH, N. C., LODGE, NO. 735**, whose mortgage the Grand Exalted Ruler took great pleasure in burning at ceremonies held the afternoon of Feb. 7th and attended by 300. Mrs. Lewis was entertained by the Raleigh Elk ladies at the Sir Walter Hotel. A banquet was given for the Californians that evening, when Mr. Lewis delivered his second address of the day. Among those who heard him were Gov. Gregg Cherry, D.D. C. A. Thomas, Past State Pres. Thad Eure, who is Secretary of State for North Carolina, D.D. Skinner, E.R. George D. Vick and many other members and their wives.

Mr. Lewis visited **ASHEVILLE, N. C., and KNOXVILLE, TENN., LODGES** on the 9th. About 100 out-of-towners and 300 local Elks attended the dinner-dance held by Knoxville Lodge. Many dignitaries were present, including Vice-Mayor Milton Roberts who delivered the welcoming address, and D.D. Edward W. McCabe and B. B. Fraker. Other Tennessee lodges represented at this meeting were Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, Greeneville, Oak Ridge, Johnson City, Morristown, Jackson, Columbia, Bristol and Trenton.

1 When Houston, Tex., Lodge welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, a very lovely gift was presented to them. Here E.R. A. A. Gharrett gives the Grand Exalted Ruler and his wife the painting of a "Bluebonnet Field in Texas".

2 Texans are rightfully proud of their beautiful landscapes, as was evidenced when Mr. Lewis accepted from Houston Lodge's E.R. Paul Le-Sure, left, and Maxie Scott, right, another delightful painting of one of the views in which the State abounds.

3 At Sumter, S. C., Lodge's dinner in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis were, left to right, M. M. Weinberg, D.D. Edwin W. Johnson, Mrs. Lewis, the Grand Exalted Ruler and E.R. E. T. Gullledge and Mrs. Gullledge.

4 When Grand Exalted Ruler Lewis visited Raleigh, N. C., Lodge he had the pleasure of burning the mortgage on the lodge's recently-acquired property. Left to right are P.E.R.'s Gayle Cox, Graham Andrews and John Prescott, P.D.D.; Trustees W. R. Boyle; E.R. George D. Vick; E.L.K. Dr. P. G. Fox; Mr. Lewis; P.E.R. Robert Wynn; Thad Eure, Past Pres. of the State Elks Assn., and P.E.R. D. Staton Inscow.

5 Here is a view of the crowd of Wichita Falls, Tex., Elks who turned out to honor the Grand Exalted Ruler.