

ANTLER



Don Booker
EXALTED RULER



ANTICS

VOLUME 31, NO.4


Editor, Jerry Serota

July 2002

"ALL ABOARD FOR ELKDOM...



and RIDE WITH PRIDE"

2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN	EXALTED RULER Don Booker	2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
ANTLER ANTICS: Jerry Serota, Editor NEW FACILITIES: Tom Ryder, PSVP HISTORIAN/SCRAPBOOK: Jerry Serota GREETERS: Jack Loughran, PER PUBLIC RELATIONS: Jerry Serota BUILDING MAINT.: "Mac" McDonald		PARLIAMENTARIAN: Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL LODGE VISITATIONS: Jack Loughran, PER BBQ WAGON: Lee Grindle AUDITING: Tom Ryder, PSVP ELKS TRAINING: Joe Smith BEQUESTS & LIVING TRUSTS: Chet Kozlowski, PER

Members and Friends,

Well we are back on "Track", and would like to express my goals for this year of 2002-'03. We will call it "Operation Face Lift", and to accomplish this I am asking everyone to participate in our effort to raise the funds we need to finish the job.

Our first priority will be to making our patio a place where our smoking members are as comfortable as possible. We are about to install a new air conditioner on the patio roof, thanks to Greg Metzgs for donating the unit to our Lodge.

After completing our patio my second priority will be our Lodge room and then the ladies room. My 3rd priority would be repair and restucco the outside of our building.

We have some talented people among our members, who are willing to help us reach our goal. To start the ball rolling we have two great people, Sally Claunch and Annie Pearson who will have an event on July 20th to auction off "Our Officers" plus some others for the first four hours todo "What Ever". There will be a chicken dinner that evening for \$10.00 and it will be a fun evening, so come on down and join in. This will be the first of many events to raise funds for our "Operation Face Lift". Lets make our Lodge one of our top priorities this year.

An attractive Lodge will attract new members and encourage our members to ask their friends to join our Lodge. So let us all get on track. Together we can do it!!

While speaking of "Getting On Track" we need a trailer to transport our train to special events, parades etc. If any one has access to one please contact me. It would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Ben Martin and the Oxnard Elks Lodge for donating their organ to our Lodge. Thanks also to Jim Wagner for drawing it to my attention that we needed one. Thank You.

ER, Don Booker,

And remember it's a good life!

FIRST LADIES CORNER

Barbara Booker, FL



Hi,

I just have to thank you again for all of your sympathy cards and support.

Every one has been so great to us and it really helps. Thank you doesn't express our feelings. We really do have wonderful people here in our Lodge.

We are also going to work together to fix our Lodge. If you all support Operation Facelift as well as you did Don and I, we will have a beautiful Lodge.

Love and Kisses,
Barbara



The Face Lift begins with the air conditioner in place waiting for the duct work and electrical

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY



EDITORS CORNER

Can be contacted at:
jserota497@earthlink.net

FREEDOM FOREVER

Upon celebrating our 50th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, 90 year old John Adams, the last living signer and champion of that document was asked for a statement celebrating July 4, 1776. Our second president had just two words "**FREEDOM FOREVER**", before he passed away.

Patriotism is always close to our heart as loyal Elks and Americans. In reviewing history how lucky we were to have such champions who were dedicated, brave and courageous. They were our Founding Fathers and on July 4, 1776 they put their '*Lives, Fortunes And Sacred Honor*' in jeopardy. When they signed the Declaration of Independence, they committed treason against King George and could wind up on the gallows. Many of the original signers lost their families, homes and their fortunes. Freedom was not easily won.

How lucky we were to have founding fathers who set before us the framework of government with the Constitution that has lasted 226 years and is still the voice of the people.

Since then we have been engaged in many wars to preserve our freedoms and today our resolve is being tested by terrorists. The events of 9/11/01 was a deadly wake up call that we are not immune from the uncaring people who do not value life, their own and those of innocent others.

Freedom is precious and it must be guarded and defended at all costs. Thus far we have lost around 40 brave and courageous Americans in Afganistan. In the name of freedom that our founding fathers bequethed us, they gave up their lives. We must redouble our resolve that their lives and so many more in the past shall not have been lost in vain and that their sacrifices will be for us, "**FREEDOM FOREVER.**"



**First Lady, Barbara and ER, Don Booker
 saddle up for the CVD Parade**

TRAIN MAINTENANCE FUND

Jerry Serota, Engineer #1

be-hold-en (b¹-h¹/₂"d..n) *adj.* Owing something, such as gratitude, to another; indebted.

Just a brief recap of Conejo Valley Days Parade. The Santa Maria contingent came down and did Elkdome and our Lodge proud with their entry and prize winning Covered Wagon and Mounted Flag Patrol. We owe them a debt of gratitude. Unfortunately we were not able to reciprocate for the Santa Maria Parade this year for lack of a trailer.

We have set a goal for this year of securing a trailer for our train so that we can tow it anywhere and promote our Lodge and Elkdome. We will not be beholden to anyone. Another goal we will accomplish this year is to be in the Santa Maria Parade next year to repay them for their kindness and gratitude for appearing in our CVD parade this year.

A Lodge member said he did not receive a bill this year for his renewal of membership as a participating Train Engineer. We will be remedying this by mail, and asking you for your renewal of commitment for this worthy endeavor.

We are a proud Lodge which supports, Handicapped Children, Scholarships, Veterans and the Scouting community to name a few. How better to make the public aware of this than at parades and special events that sells Elkdome to thousands.

We are a proud Lodge we do not wish to be beholden to anyone. Thanking you in advance for your support,

2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LEADING KNIGHT

Greg Metzgus

2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

MAJOR PROJECT/PURPLE PIG:

Dave Naccarato

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Sally Claunch**INVESTIGATION:** George Meehan**ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:** Jay Block**CHRISTMAS BASKETS:**

Don & Barbara Booker

**INDOCTRINATION:** Jack Loughran, PER**MEM. CONT. COM.:** David Pearson**CVAC:** Tom Hartin**COMMUNITY RELATIONS:** Jerry Serota**OFFICERS ROUND TABLE:** Jack Panczak**CHARITY DINNERS:** Don & Barbara Booker

The warm weather has finally arrived and hopefully by the time you read this, the patio area will be nice and cool. Your lodge officers are doing all they can do to make the lodge comfortable for all of our members.

In the coming months there will be an effort to give our lodge a face lift. We will be calling upon members to share in making our lodge the best it can be. There will be various fund raisers and work days. Please be receptive when called upon to help.

The public Bingo proposition is still pending. To date, 2 members have stepped forward volunteering to help. That is not enough participation by our members to make this effort work. Please contact a lodge officer if you are interested in helping with Bingo.

Our card-playing members have started a Wednesday night after meeting poker game. New faces (money) are always welcome. The lodge will benefit with every hand dealt. There are lots of tables in the lounge; we hope to have at least 2 tables playing every Wednesday.

Remember, we still have meetings every Wednesday night. Our capsule drawings are getting larger every meeting; they are just waiting to be won by an attending member, one who has bought a measly \$5.00 worth of raffle tickets. There is also a good hot meal served each Wednesday. Come join us and support your lodge.



BSA Troop 754 carried our banner Elks Care & Share at the CVD Parade

MAJOR PROJECT/PURPLE PIG

By David Naccarato chairman



May ends the collection period for this year I am happy to report to you our lodge tally and the amounts that our Exalted Ruler brought with him to the state convention. First let me report that you our lodge donated \$12,395.71. This is

money collected on the first Wednesday of the month, which is Purple Pig night. All the fines of the evening are put towards the Purple Pig. Out of that figure we cut a check for \$7,000 to be taken to State Convention with the remainder to start off our next years collection. The Elks Ladies cut a check in the amount of \$2,000 and the Konejo Kampers gave \$500. When Don and Barbara went to state convention we found we had on account in Fresno \$2,103.75. This account is money sent to the Major Project fund in the name of our Lodge 2477 giving us a grand total of \$9,803.74. Short from last year but still a great effort with so many other projects that need fund raising that our Lodge is involved with. Lodge beautification is a major need in our Lodge so I feel we did a good job in raising money for the Purple Pig. The money raised by our Lodge and all the other Lodges in California and Hawaii goes to serve children with disabilities. The program has been around since 1950. We provide physical therapy, occupational therapy speech-language therapy and preschool vision screening. Also Major Projects gives grants to hospitals and clinics.

Institutions having received Elks assistance are: Children's Hospital, Los Angeles, Orange County, Stanford Loma Linda Medical Offices Inland Eye Institute Pacific Hospital, Long Beach, School for the blind, Berkley And the University of California San Francisco, Children's Eye Clinic . So you can see the money is being put to good use. You can feel secure the monies are being used with the best intentions. Keep up the good work and we'll have a banner year 2002-'03.

EL KONEJO KAMPERS

By Pat von Wittenburg

May – at Kenney Grove. This campground seems to have become the favorite of many of our members. It certainly is mine – even with State Convention going on – we had 13 rigs out.

You just never know what you might experience when you get out with the group. The Mullenaux and D'Ambrogios were finally out again. A couple of us had been bugging Peggy and she arrived with a sack of shuttles – prepared to teach “tattooing”. If you haven't seen the gorgeous items she turns out – ask her, they're great! Marva throws a mean shuttle also and was very patient with me (the paraplegic mud sucker). Beverly Erickson felt as though she had all thumbs, but Donna Colleran seemed to pick it up rather well – maybe working with all that fine beading gave her an advantage (who knows?).

There are quite a few of us “crafters” in the group and it was delightful to learn that I'm not the only one who has “projects” that have hung around for quite a while and have not been completed. Marva dragged out a rug she had started some (years) time ago and finished this weekend – it was pretty neat – crocheted with yarn that had been cut into pieces, tied back together and then crocheted leaving a fringed look.

Speaking of crafters – PLEASE BE ADVISED – Donna & Ed Colleran are wagonmasters in October at Point Mugu. Donna says she is planning to have a “Craft Faire”. So put this on your calendar and (God forbid) plan ahead!

Someone commented that they received their campout notices – late – often after all sites were taken. REMEMBER – Joel Erickson is doing a great job updating the campers' website elkonejokampers.net/firms.com. If you really want to know what's happening in advance – check it out.

We had a series of adventures. A lot of us know that Gene Ewald spoils Carol rotten. He scheduled an over nighter at Shambala – a preserve organized by Tippie Hedren (you remember “THE BIRDS”). Carol got to meet 59 wild cats and one elephant on her stay (an early birthday present) in the “safari” tent. When another cat lover (Cheryl) arrived Friday night – Carol was going to tell her later and – proceeded to relay the whole adventure (#5) right then and there - AGAIN!! Well, let me tell you, after hearing the story 5 times, I could relay most of it with decent accuracy - after Carol lost her voice. It was real quiet around the campfire then.

Rarely does a camper start out with the rig they will keep. Of course a lot depends on cost, but mostly it depends on the features you learn that you want - over a period of time. The Collerans arrived with their new (to them) rig. We all celebrated with them even if we had to wait til Saturday afternoon and the Debbies to show up with the glasses. They certainly have “paid their dues”, having started out in a tent trailer, moved on to the 1970 (beyond classic) Beachwood and finally getting their

current Winnebago “Adventurer”. When Ed discovered there were at least 6 places he could sit without moving anything he was as happy as a kid in a candy store – Congratulations you two!!



Another pair – shows up once in MONTHS – Carlos and Julie Carbajol did and walked away with the 50/50 – Incredible.

Gloria and Larry Simer; Bob and Twila Alexander were co-wagonmasters and did a fabulous job - cracked me up though! Gloria I can understand – Larry – not sure what his excuse might be – but the Alexanders' 39 ft rig don't fit real well in a 35 ft. space. Gotta remember people as some of these rigs get larger, have slide outs, etc. – space choice becomes VERY limited.

TECK TIPS: While in the convoy going to Quartzsite last year – overheard on the CB some our members discussing the applicability of the 55 mile per hour limitation on vehicles towing and whether or not it applied to motorhomes towing cars.

Didn't really want to jump into that until I checked my source, which happens to be a retired Commander of the Ventura CHP division.

YOUBETITAPPLYS.

Also questioned the distance between rigs - Sorry to advise some of you – it's the same as driving a car – one car length for each 10 miles per hour of speed. Okay guys – that means if you're driving a 30 foot rig – going 50 miles per hour – your are supposed to be a minimum of 150 feet from the rig in front of you. If you can be seen in the leading rigs backup camera – YOU'RE TOODAMN CLOSE!!

DID YOU KNOW????


According to a newsletter published by Blue Cross –

- (1) Take pills with a large glass of water – DO NOT swallow pills with a hot drink because heat can destroy the drug's effectiveness!
- (2) Coffee and asthma medications do not go together.
- (3) Spinach can be dangerous for people who take blood thinner medication.

I didn't know that, did you?

Well, people it's been fun – guess you'll hear from me again when the Kozlowskis miss another campout.

Pat von Wittenburg
Stand-In Reporter.

2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN	LOYAL KNIGHT Jay Block	2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
CONEJO VALLEY DAYS: Lee Grindle LODGE ACTIVITIES: Dave Naccarato SCOUTING: Greg Metzgus/Gary Holton HOOPSHOOT: Heather Maddox WED. NIGHT DINNERS: DRUG AWARENESS: Tom Ryder, PER STRAY ELKS: David Pearson MOTHERS DAY: Jim Rochford		ENTERTAINMENT: Joe Smith WED. NIGHT TICKETS: George Meehan/Len Cardoni LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION: Scott Dool DISTRICT PICNIC: Tom Ryder, PER PRESIDING JUSTICE: Dick McCann YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Heather Maddox

July Summer Time.... Vacations....Trips.... AND AN ACTIVE LODGE CALENDER.

Our Jr. Elks had their first car wash on the Sunday, June 30, and will have another on the 14th in conjunction with Power Dave's Breakfast, and yet another on the 28th when the Kamper's are having their monthly breakfast bash.

I'm pleased to say that beginning LAST month, ALL of our Wed. Night Dinners now have a predictable and more important, outstanding crew of cooks. The 1st Wed. will be handled by Kevin Metzgus and Wayne Flittner, the 2nd Wed. is Myrna Block, the 3rd is Robert and Carole Neuner and the 4th (Initiation Night) Tom Ryder. Having said all of this I must point out that this month (July) will have to have its exceptions due to the fact that Myrna will be at the National Convention in Reno, and the Visitation by the State VP here on Wed. the 17th. Therefore, on the 10th the Neuners will provide the meal and the 17th will be handled by Greg Ryder and his crew.

The Kampers are having their monthly outing at Lake Casitas, and the BINGO games will be called by Neuner and Maddox on Coopers Fish Fry Friday the 19th. Remember, the Vet Visitation on the 18th, the Ladies are having an Auction of the Officers on the 20th to raise funds for the continual improvement of the patio, and again the Konejo Sporting Klays on the 21st.

The major effort taking place under the auspices of this chair is the closing of the Kitchen from the 29th to the 1st of August. During this hiatus (Wed. the 31st being the 5th Wed. and therefore open) a dedicated crew of members led by Lee Grindel and Frank Coley, will attack, with vigor, the awesome task of CLEANING THE KITCHEN. The plan is to take all of the kitchen equipment out and pressure steam spray the walls, ceiling and vents, while a second crew is "GI'ing" the stoves, ovens, and other major fixtures in the parking lot. The Elk ladies have graciously taken on the task of inventorying all of the dishes, utensils, flatware, pots and pans, and provide the Lodge with

recommendations for replacement and or repair.

As you will note, Heather Maddox is our Chairperson for Youth Activities, She and I are putting together a plan to present to the Supt. Of Schools here in the Conejo with the intention of increasing the participation of our youth in the Elks Annual HOOPSHOOT. We are stressing the HoopShoot over the Soccer Kickoff, because the Soccer Kickoff can be coordinated with the AYSO with greater ease, and almost guarantees a high turn out of boys and girls.

This month also sees several of us off to the National Convention in Reno. Our Esteemed Leading Knight Greg Metzgus will be conducting the meeting on the 10th, in the absence of the ER Don Booker.

Please take note of the time change that the Konejo Sporting Klays have initiated for their monthly activity....1:00pm on the 3rd Sunday not 8:00am.

Our Jr. Elks will have a car wash on the Sunday, June 30, and will have another on the 14th in conjunction with Power Dave's Breakfast, and yet another on the 28th when the Kamper's are having their monthly breakfast bash. Cowboy Jim Rochford and the beautiful Teri will be serving breakfast on the 7th and Eddie Rice and the Cruisers on the 21st.

138th Grand Lodge Convention
July 6-11
Reno Nevada

STATE VICE PRESIDENT
Jim Diacono, WCCD

VISITATION SCHEDULE

July 16 Simi Valley
July 17 Thousand Oaks
July 18 Ventura
July 30 Santa Barbara Homecoming

ANDREW "ANDY" ENROTH
Theme Child 2002

Andrew "Andy" Enroth represents one of the Thousands of children that are helped each year by the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. He is three year old and lives in Palm Desert with his parents., Lorana (Lori) and Doug.

For Lori and Doug, their lives were changed forever on February 27, 1999 when their first child, Andy, was born four months prematurely and weighed only 1 pound, 4 ounces (a micro preemie). Needless to say, they have been on an emotional and financial roller coaster ever since that has included over 5 months in different hospital, ten surgeries to date and countless doctors' appointments and tests. Andy sustained long-term medical complications that include major visual impairment, feeding through a stomach tube, asthma, seizures, mild cerebral palsy and mental retardation. Even so, Andy is considered by most medical professionals to be a miracle baby

The most miraculous of his stories is related to his diagnosis of Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP). Upon discovering that Andy had gone completely blind with Stage 5 ROP, Mon, Dad and Andy flew overnight to Detroit, Michigan to see surgeon Dr. Trese, one of only four doctors that does surgery for this stage of ROP. Dr. Trese was able to successfully reattach Andy's retinas giving the family hope that Andy will see. Currently Andy sees light. There are hopes for him to see color and to gain enough vision to be able to walk around. For a child who was totally blind, this a true miracle!

The medical costs for Andy's care and treatment have been astronomical, exceeding \$4.5 million. While the family's insurance has covered Andy's direct medical needs---the surgery, doctor's appointments and ongoing eye care---the parents discovered that insurance would not pay for the special glasses needed by Andy to aid in his treatment program. His glasses, due to special lenses required a minimum of \$500 a pair! The parents were seeking out financial aid from family to help pay for glasses when they first learned of the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project.

According to Andy's mother, Lori, the compassionate assistance shown by Elizabeth Holzhauser, Major Project Pediatric Vision Screener, helped make this process for obtaining glasses easy and efficient. The sensitivity to Andy's special needs, reports Lori, and the professionalism of all those involved in the process were exceptional.


Andy is now three years old and is a very happy and loving child. He loves to crawl and walk in his walker all around the house. Among his favorite things to do are sing, listen to music,



and play with his musical toys. Music plays a very important role in Andy's life. Although his language skills are still quite delayed, he is adding words to his vocabulary and can sing the tune and all the words to *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*. Andy currently receives physical and occupational therapy through California Children's Services in his area, is scheduled to receive speech-language therapy services through the county school program and participates in a home program through the schools for visually impaired children.


Andy's mom and dad say it has been amazing to witness their child's joy, patience and strength throughout the wonderful and sometimes difficult moments of his life.

By sharing their son with you as the 2002 Theme Child, Lori and Doug express their grateful thanks to you. They hope that you will continue to be inspired by the results of the help you give to children with disabilities. The Elks of California and Hawaii truly make a difference! By providing preschool vision screening, physical therapy, occupational therapy, financial aid to children with the Vision Care Program and through scholarship aid to students with disabilities, the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project transforms hope into reality.

2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN	<h2 style="margin: 0;">LECTURING KNIGHT</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Sally Claunch</h3>	2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
<p>AMERICANISM: Vern Jossy</p> <p>FLAGDAY/FLAG RETIREMENT: Sally Claunch</p> <p>SCHOLARSHIP: Bobby Holm</p> <p>GOVT. RELATIONS: Marilyn Harding</p> <p>MEMORIAL SERVICE: Jay Block</p> <p>KONEJOSPORTING KLAYS: Don Corts</p>		<p>NATIONAL SERVICES: Jim Kellogg</p> <p>KIDS XMAS PARTY: Chet Kozlowski, PER</p> <p>GOLF TOURNEY: Dave Pearson Tommy Claunch</p> <p>LODGE PICNIC: Bobby Holm</p> <p>MEMBERSHIP: David Pearson</p> <p>CHRISTMAS TREES: Terry Baker</p> <p>EL KONEJOKAMPERS: Bob Hardy, PER</p>

Operation Facelift! has been launched! But what is it? a new procedure? a covert CIA maneuver? my new look?-No. It is a project to beautify our Lodge home and grounds. As every home needs occasional attention, our Lodge is no exception. It needs cleaning, painting, and remodeling. But these undertakings require capital and labor. To help facilitate fundraising a committee has been formed headed by me, which will generate monies for the jobs. In the August edition of the Antler Antics detailed plans and procedures will be outlined.

Dining the month of July the officer auction on July 20~ will be the first in a series of events to generate revenue. This evening offers members the unique opportunity to purchase an officer's services for four hours. The officers have stated that they are willing to be your slave (nothing immoral or illegal however). Even if you do not want to bid, join the fun- partake of a delicious meal-win a door prize-buy a raffle ticket-laugh at (with) your officers. To plan for food sign up sheets will be in the lounge or RSVP to me or the Pearsons. Thank you in advance for your support!!! Let's have fun yet raise funds.



YOU TOO CAN HAVE AN OFFICER!!!

---OWN ONE FOR FOUR HOURS ---TREAT THEM LIKE A SERVANT OR ROYALTY

JULY 20 \$10
6 P.M.-SOCIAL HOUR
7 P.M.-DINNER FOLLOWED BY AUCTION

AUCTION OF SURPRISE MEMBERS
DOOR PRIZES
RAFFLES

PROCEEDS-GO TO OPERATION FACELIFT

RSVP- LOUNGE- CALL CLAUNCHS-495-0877, PEARSONS-492-3707

AMERICANISM

Vern Jossy, Corn. Chairman



The most important national holiday in the United States is Independence Day, also called Fourth Of July, which celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. Thomas Jefferson, 3rd president of the United States was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence.

The day has always been the occasion for parades and patriotic speeches and for every variety of noisy jubilation, in fact, the firing of cannons and fireworks caused so many injuries that by the early 1900s ordinances forbidding private pyrotechnics were passed in many cities. Today, Fourth Of July fireworks are largely handled by professionals.

The first anniversary of the Declaration was marked by a festive impromptu celebration in Philadelphia, but celebrations became common only after the War of 1812. Thereafter, civic minded groups worked to link the ideals of democracy and citizenship to the patriotic spirit of the day.

Many undertakings of public interest have been initiated on July 4th: Digging the Erie Canal, 1817; Building the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad , first railway in the country, 1828; Laying the corner- stone of the Washington Monument, 1850; Formal recognition of the Philippines' Independence, 1946.

After 9/11, American flags seemingly were flying everywhere. Many of these flags are no longer flying. Some have fallen from our autos and can be found on the ground or in our streets, If you see one, why not stop and pick it up.

Remember to fly your flag on the 4th of July displaying your patriotism and devotion to our country.

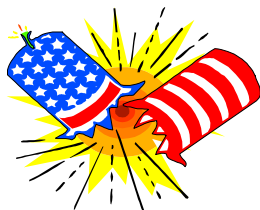
TAKE A WATERLESS CRUISE- - NON-STOP!!!



Ever been on a Cruise? The scenery, with its sights and sounds, constantly changes; the cheerful staff waits on you hand-and-foot; the other passengers are happy and care-free; and the food is better than anything you could ever make yourself. Like living in a dream, the calendar and the clock cease to rule your every move, and life is beautiful- that is, of course, until the ship pulls into the dock, the party ends and you drag your luggage and yourself back to the dreary, workaday world.

Yes, a few lucky billionaires can afford to stay in those magical surroundings every day of the year, floating majestically and untroubled across the seven seas. But most of us don't fit in that category (however much we may really deserve it). We work all our lives and then finally get to retire and try to catch up on the relaxation and enjoyment that had beckoned like a distant mirage over the decades. Sadly and all too often, years after we can stop going to "The Job", we still find ourselves following the same habits and routines in the same place as we had done all our working lives. Didn't you promise yourself something better every one of those thousands of mornings as you shut off the alarm, dragged yourself out of a warm bed and stared into the mirror? How long are you going to wait? **YOU ARE OVERDUE! Make TODAY** the day you take control of your future happiness, the day when you point your bow toward the horizon and begin really enjoying your life! It is the only one you've got, you know.

How, you ask? Well, take all those good points about Cruisin' but bring them together on dry land in one beautiful and balmy retirement village at Bedford, Virginia (for ELKS ONLY, yet), chop the price tag down to a small fraction of Cruisin', and you've just described the fabulous lifestyle on board our good ship **B. P. O. ELKS HOME**. Interested? A simple call or letter to your own State Association's Elks National Home Chairperson or to the Elks Home itself will get you all the facts you need to find the life you've always dreamed about. Check it out! Write Bill Pickett, Executive Director, Elks National Home, 931 Ashland Avenue, Bedford, VA 24523, or email enhome@aol.com, or call 703-586-8232. Don't waste another minute- **GET CRUISIN'!**



MY HEROES

Orville W. Weiss, Member G/L Americanism Committee

As a young boy, I had a lot of heroes. My heroes were the professional athletes that would stop and take the time to sign an autograph, get a picture taken with a child in a wheelchair, run his hands through the hair of an admiring young boy or girl. I wanted to grow up to be just like Don Drysdale or Paul Horning. In my young and innocent eyes, these guys were the epitome of what an American gentleman was all about. They were heroes and patriots; they were America.

As a young adult, I discovered that my hero was right there in my own back yard. You see, my father paid the supreme sacrifice on June 20, 1945 fighting beneath the folds of that majestically colored red, white, and blue Flag on the island of Okinawa in World War II. I was just two years old and never had the chance to know who my father was. As I grew older, I wanted to know more about him. Doing research to determine who my father really was, I found that Clarence Fred Weiss, my father, was a real and true hero. He was posthumously awarded the distinguished Silver Star for heroism in battle. Was he a hero just because he was awarded the Silver Star? I no longer believe that! He was a hero and a patriot because he, just like the thousands of others before and after him, was willing to pay the supreme sacrifice to ensure that our mighty Country remains the greatest democracy in the world and the home of "the Free and the Brave!"

As an aging adult, and in the aftermath of September 11th, 2001, a new generation of heroes has emerged. In addition to all of the soldiers who served our Country, my new heroes are the policemen and firemen who so willingly gave their lives, and the men and women who desperately tried to save those perilously caught in the holocaust of the 9-11 tragedy. One cannot even imagine the terror and helpless feeling those policemen and firemen felt as they saw people jumping from the windows, the twin towers collapsing before their eyes, the fire and smoke erupting from the Pentagon, that black cloud of death reeling through the air like a tidal wave, and the horror they must have felt as the men, women and children lay breathless and motionless around them. But these men and women, my heroes, took charge of an unknowing, bewildering event. These heroes and patriots stood tall and were accounted for.

Let us all remember these heroes who fought to preserve our freedom, who struggled through the 9-11 tragedy and those who are serving in these capacities today. Take the time to say "Thank You" to a serviceman, policeman or fireman. It doesn't cost anything to say those two little words. "Thank You" has a tremendous influence and impact on those who serve our great Country every day. Thank You, Servicemen, Policemen and Firemen.

WELCOME ABOARD OUR NEW MEMBERS



Kenneth Gage with sponsor Don Ansell, PER



Steve Chiszor with sponsor Frank Coley



ER, Don Booker thanks the Mothers on Mothers Day and thanked our Chaplain Jim Rochford and his crew for a great brunch.



Leading Knight, Greg Metzgas shared a Mothers Day story with us.



George Meehan corals the real star on Mothers Day, his beautiful, energetic grand daughter, and gets a smile from grandma

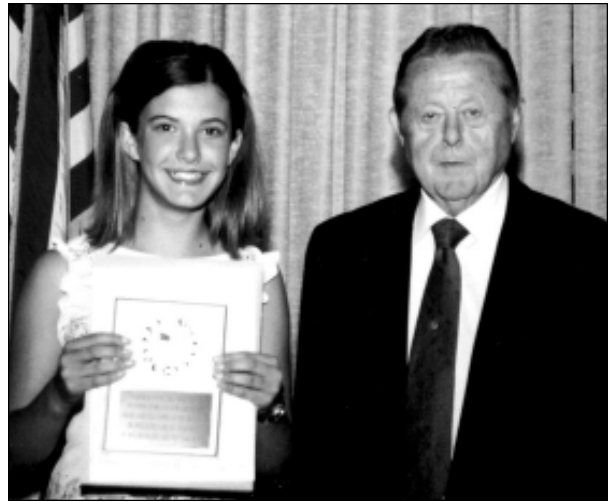


Organist, Jim Wagner always makes Mothers Day special

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS



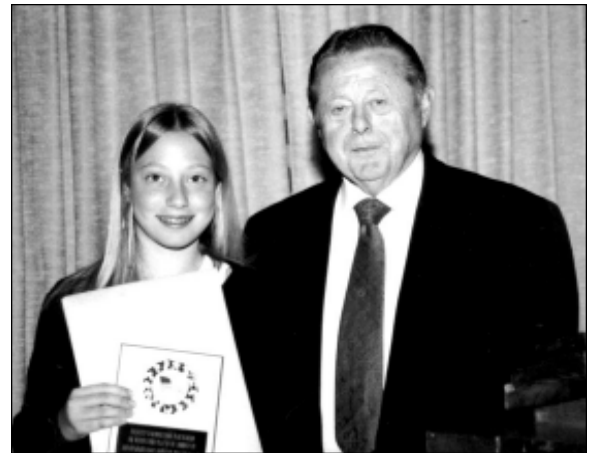
Thousand Oaks City Councilwoman Linda Parks presents Proclamation the first week in May, Youth Appreciation Week



Katrina Schay, 2nd Place, 7th Grade



Judy Steinmeyer, Teacher and Danielle Shorts, 1st Place, 6th Grade




Summer Dashe, 3rd Place, 5th Grade



Lisa Menningsen, Teacher and Chloe Prudhomme, 2nd Place, 6th Grade



Judy Young, Teacher and Bethany Young, 1st Place, 8th Grade

2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	THE ELKS LADIES Myrna Block	2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Melinda Pekow 2ND VICE PRESIDENT: Karen Naccarato 3RD VICE PRESIDENT: Alice Wagner SECRETARY: Alice Kennedy/Dee Swanson TREASURER: Donna Hardy AUDITOR: Kathy Ryder TELEPHONE: Patti Serota		PARLIAMENTARIAN: Shirley Kozlowski CHAPLAIN: Marilyn Cissell MAJOR PROJECTS: Gladys Ennis/Anne Ogden CVD: Dee Swanson & Marilyn Cissell HISTORIAN: SUNSHINE: Pat Smail

**FROM THE ELKS LADIES
2ND VICE PRESIDENT**

The next ladies meeting will be July 2nd at 8:00 pm. The EL Board Meeting will be July 16th at 7:30 pm. Congratulations to Annie Pearson who won the major projects drawing and Phyllis Riding, who for the first time, won the bubble drawing.

There will be no bake sale this month. June 16th was the All American Father's Day Buffet. I would like to thank all the ladies (and men!) who participated and Sally Claunch for organizing this function. I'm sure the Dads really enjoyed it!

The Fashion Show Luncheon has been changed to Saturday, September 28th. Alice Kennedy will be selling tickets and taking reservations starting at our next meeting. She will have tickets at the Friday night dinners as well. The price: \$12.00 Hope to see you there!

And just to give you a heads up for next year - The Major Projects Sweetheart Ball, chaired by your one and only (Me!), will be February 15, 2003. Also the Inagural Ball will be April 5, 2003 at the Los Robles Restraurant in Thousand Oaks. So mark your calendars now.



**WE DO NEED YOUR
APPROVAL**

Marilyn Cissell

**Although you are our teacher, Lord,
we think we know the plan.
To move ahead and make it work
just any way we can.**

**Back to your instructions, now,
you know our every need.
We do want your apporval, God,
in the life we hope to lead.**

Amen



JULY

- 11. Bette Pape
- 22. Audrey Huffman
- 30. Barbara Booker

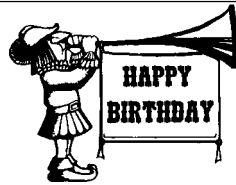


Sunday September 1st, 2002
BPO ELKS LODGE 2477
ANNUAL PICNIC
WILL BE HELD AT THE ELKS LODGE
158 Conejo School Road
Thousand Oaks
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

HONOR ROLL



Bar Purple Pig
 Ritual Team
 Greg Metzgas
 Marilou Van Leuven
 Vern Jossy
 Gene Ewald
 Scott Dool
 May 2nd Meeting
 Sal Aparicio, Jr., PER
 El Konejo Kampers
 Elks Ladies of T.O.



1. James Eaton,
Arthur Robitaille
2. Marshall Matz
3. "Tommy" Thompson
Marc Donovan
Ben Passarelli
5. Dick Rogge
Ed Colleran
Don Booker
6. Donald Newcomer
Michael Habicht
7. Tom Corrigan
Larry Semer
9. Mike Cavinder
Al McCloud
Michael Bleahu
Jerry Oberle
10. "Sam" Samora

JULY

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-----|-------------------|
| 12. | Chris Meske | 25. | Mike O'Beirne |
| | Chet Kozlowski, PER | 26. | Bill Dierker |
| | Jim Wilkes | | Don Ansell PER |
| 13. | Bill Smail | | Bill Wilkinson |
| | Feliz Gomez | | John Leadam, |
| 14. | Lester Hight | | Marius Ehrhardt |
| 15. | Donald Barnes | 27. | Bob Clark, Jr. |
| | Bob Stevens | | Melvin Appel |
| | Marc Lowman | | Donny Long |
| 16. | Larry Lowman | | Robert Di Simone |
| | Ron Maddox | 28. | Craig Nigg |
| 17. | Roy Sapp | | Walter Eagan, Jr. |
| | Eddie Bray | | Donald Kerins |
| 20. | Alton Larson | 29. | Ted Lipka PER |
| | Rick Bennett | | John Kolb |
| 21. | Patrick Lynch | | Sherwood McDonald |
| | John Ennis | | Tom Lara |
| 22. | Richard Smith | 30. | Jim Rapp |
| | Marshall Schreiner | | Tony Redburn Sr. |
| 24. | Al Lenahan | | Tom Wolf |
| | Debra Carafelli | 31. | Rich Case |
| | Jim Rochford | | |

**FROM THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE
 PROPOSED AND WILL BE BALLOTTED ON
 DATE: July 10, 2002**

NAME	OCCUPATION	SPONSOR
Deneice Whorton	HTML Support	Harold Calvin
Arlene Tellez	Receptionist/Switchboard	Jay Block

CRYING TOWEL



May	1	\$500.00	#848	Clifford Jones
	Lucky	150.00	#1920	Marilou Van Leuvan 'WINNER'
				No Winner
May	8	\$500.00	#1494	Jeff Enger
	Lucky	25.00	#1397	Richard McDonald
				No Winner
May	15	No Meeting		
May	22	\$500.00	#1180	Joe Blum
	Lucky	50.00	#460	Bill Cairns
				No Winner
May	29	Open Meeting		

THE ESQUIRE'S CORNER

By David Naccarato Esquire 2002-2003



Having been in my position now for a few months I have come to admire our PERs. PER stands for Past Exalted Ruler. To become a PER you first have to become an Exalted Ruler and that takes a great deal of dedication to this Lodge. It takes 7 years of service to this Lodge to become an Exalted ruler. Some sooner, some longer (like Don Ansell). During Ritual practice you could be at the lodge 6 days a week. Your family will definitely need to be behind you one hundred percent. When their time is through they are still willing to help out at the Lodge or State and national level. So over the next couple of months I will be interviewing some PERs to get their story on Elkdom.

To start I had a long talk with Robert McKee ER 1977-1978. Robert's father was a Mason. His mother was an Eastern Star. So he knew all about fraternal orders. One day he asked his Dad if he could become a Mason. His Dad told him to check back when he turned 21. So the day came but his Dad said "No son your still to young." So Bob went to the Masonic Temple found a friend and asked to join and Bob became a Mason. He got involved.

Robert McKee was very family oriented. He built Dune Buggies. Built one a year and he and his wife and the kids would go up to Pismo Beach to ride the sand dunes. But kids grow up and move away and Bob found lots of time on his hands. Across the street lived John Nichols.

(ER 1982-1983) and he had invited Bob and Eula to many functions here at the lodge and enjoyed it very much. One afternoon Eula says to Robert "I'm bored" and he could tell by the sound of it he'd better do something so he said "hang on" and went across the street to John Nichols and said "I want to be an Elk". John Nichols signed him up in 1972 and started going through the chairs and became Exalted Ruler in 1977. He and Eula had a great time with the Lodge but the turning point came when he went to convention. This is back when it was male only but up on stage was this beautiful woman. 29 years of age slim and trim and she was introduced as the first recipient of moneys from the major project Purple Pig.

A film was then showed of how she was as a child. She had MS her back was crooked and her arms and hands were curled and were given no hope for a normal life. But the Elks stepped in and sent a physical therapist to the home to

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Marilynn Harding, Com. Chair.



All of us with our strong beliefs in the American way of life, love of our country and respect for law and order, we should let our legislators know our intrerests and concerns. To do this we need to keep in contact with our public officials, build a good base for cooperation and have an influential voice in our government. If you need to contact your govenment officials, go to the Stars web site for the information, www.insidevc.com. I keep a list also if you need to call me, my phone number is with Dee at the office.

Again CONPOR (Conference of Private Organizations) is doing a good job for us with updates on State Legistlaive news. There is a Care law being reviewed and decided by both the California and the U.S. Dupreme Courts about what a truly "Private" organization is and what types of selectivity they can participate by our Constitution.

I want to share "Another Something Special". Our Shirley Kozlowski has retired form the Thousand Oaks Senior Council on Aging. She has been active for some years now. Also Shirley has served on our Ventura County Grand Jury. I congratulate her for all the dedication and time she has given in our local government and to us.

By the way, I'm going to start a little personal interview question monthly. So, Smile! your on the Antler Antics.

Till next month,
Marilynn Harding

work with her and helped get her to how she was today. And at that moment Bob knew why he was an Elk. He knew all the fund raising was not in vain. The proof was in the pudding. Robert McKee went back to the Lodge in full steam and did not stop there. After his term as Exalted Ruler he went on to become State Vice President. District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and Public Relations Chairman. Robert McKee and many others gave their heart and soul to B.P.O.E. When you see him at the lodge, shake his hand and let him know we appreciate him.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE BROTHERS, SISTERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THOUSAND OAKS ELKS LODGE #2477

On behalf of the "Duchess" and myself, I want to sincerely thank the members and supporters of Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477 for their outstanding generosity in giving of time and money to the 2002 Conejo Valley Days Grand Marshal race.

The Elks Lodge has always been a formidable entrant in this race, and this time it was no different. The lodge and its supporters dug deep and produced their best effort ever. However, the Kiwanis and Hospice entrant dug deeper and raised more money than we did and they were named the Grand Marshal. To them, I offer my sincerest congratulations for a job well done. Because of the efforts of all, three major charities in Thousand Oaks are the real winners.

A major 'Thank You' goes out to our campaign manager, Bob Hardy. Without his enthusiasm, organization and all-around support, we would not have been as successful as we were. To those of you who ran major events, I say 'Thank You, Thank You, Thank You'. Your support and contributions will not be forgotten. Many of you worked behind the scenes, but your contributions did not go unnoticed. I believe the lodge has benefited, not only in the short term, but also will continue to benefit in the future due to all fine participation we witnessed during this campaign.

I say 'Thank You' to the lodge for choosing me to be your representative in this community affair. To paraphrase John Gore (from the other side), "It was a fun six weeks".

Joel "The Dakota Kid" and Beverly "The Dakota Duchess" Erickson



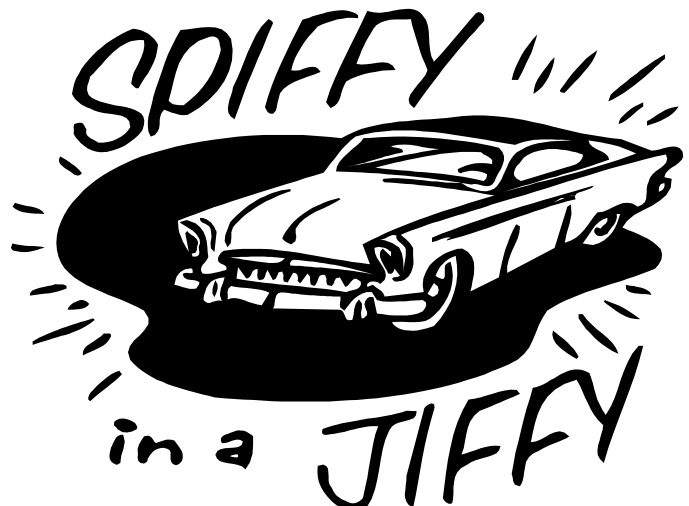
JR. ELKS

Heather Maddox, Youth Activities Chair.

In order to fund special activities for our young people please come down and enjoy a fine breakfast and have your car washed by our kids.

THE JR ELKS WILL BE CONDUCTING CAR WASHES ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS.

**Sunday June 30th
Sunday July 14th**





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POETS CORNER

By: Ken Muellerleile



Old Glory

Far in the distance
I can see Old Glory,
it seemed to be waving
and saying, don't worry

We are fortunate for
the Red, White and Blue,
It's the color of freedom
of which we pursue.

We are a free nation
of this, there's no doubt,
we try to keep the peace
but if we need, we can clout.

We stand for Freedom
for which we pursue
we proudly wave our flag
the red, white and blue.

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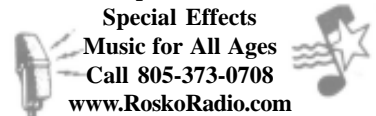



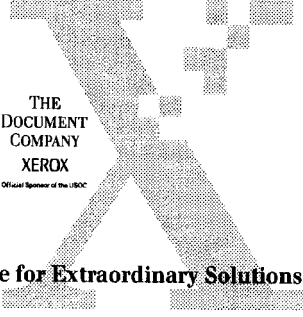


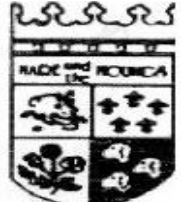
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 TREASURER - Bob Hardy, PER
 TILER - Terry Baker
 ESQUIRE - Dave Naccarato
 CHAPLAIN - Jim Rochford
 INNER GUARD - George Meehan
 ORGANIST - Jim Wagner
 OFFICER AT LARGE - Jack Loughran, PER

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John Ennis-	2 Year
Herb Jellander-	3 Year
Walter Ogden	4 Year
Denise Goldner	5 Year

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1972-73 *Marvin D. Smith	1993-94 Jim Wallace
1973-74 Erle Pittman	1994-95 *George Pekow
1974-75 Richard Flake	1995-96 Gil Riding
1975-76 Bill Wagner	1996-97 Jack Loughran
1976-77 John E. Henry	1997-98 John Kelly
1977-78 Robert McKee	1998-99 Chet Kozlowski
1978-79 *Frank J. Rindone	1999-00 Richard Goldner
1979-80 Edward F. Stogsdell	2000-01 Jacob Panczak
1980-81 Frank "Tex" Hastie	2001-02 John D'Ambrogio
1981-82 Robert Hardy	
1982-83 *A. John Nichols	By Affiliation:
1983-84 John Nau	1981-82
1984-85 Vern Ogden	Robert L. Thornton
1985-86 Dan Snyder	
1986-87 Bill Lloyd	
1987-88 John E. Henry	
1988-89 Ted Lipka	
1989-90 Don Skinner	
1990-91 Don Ansell	
1991-92 Gary Sleigh	
1992-93 Tom Ryder	

*Deceased

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