

ANTLER



Don Booker
EXALTED RULER



ANTICS

VOLUME 31, NO. 11

Editor, Jerry Serota

February 2003

THOUSAND OAKS
ELKS LADIES PRESENT

An

OLD FASHIONED BBQ
And
VALENTINE DANCE IN THE PARK

\$20. P/P



6:30 p.m. No Host Bar
DiNNeR 7:00 p.m.
DaNciNg 8:00 p.m.
prizes
sat. FeBbruary 15th



*Remember this is a special event for the
Major Project
Handicapped Children*



Karen Naccarato, Chair.
For futher information 805.375.1089

<p>2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN</p>	 EXALTED RULER Don Booker	<p>2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN</p>
<p>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</p>		<p>PARLIAMENTARIAN: Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL LODGE VISITATIONS: Jack Loughran, PER BBQ WAGON: Lee Grindle AUDITING: Tom Ryder, DDGER ELKS TRAINING: John D'Ambrogio, PER BEQUESTS & LIVING TRUSTS: Chet Kozlowski, PER</p>

Members and Friends,

We have some good news from the City of Thousand Oaks. Having appeared before the City Council with a request to waive our application fees for the rezoning of our 3 parcels of property they agreed to absorb the fees which will save our Lodge over \$5,000.

Thanks to Denise Goldner, Dick McCann, myself and others. Dick McCann was our spokesman. He did an excellent job.

Thanks again to PER, Bob Hardy and crew at our Christmas Tree lot. We cleared over \$7,000 in sales.

Thanks to the support and hard work of our members we can be proud of our Lodge #2477.

We learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life goes on, and it will get better tomorrow.

And remember it's a good life!



FIRST LADYS CORNER

Barbara Booker, FL

Hi,

The Tom & Jerry party was a great success. We all had a lot of fun. Bob Phillips music was great as usual. The food catered by the Red Wok and donated by the PERs and members was complimented frequently.

I want to thank Marilynn Harding, Sharon Baker, Angie Prizzi, and Shirley Kozlowski for decorations. Also Tom Hartin and Kevin Metzgas for being our bartenders.

Remember every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love that human touch, holding hands, a warm hug or kiss, or just a friendly pat on the back.

Don't forget the Valentine Dance in the Park!

Barbara



IN MEMORIAM

THE CLOCK OF THEIR DAY HAS STOPPED AND ACROSS ITS DIAL A MOTIONLESS SHADOW MARKS THE HOUR OF ELEVEN, WITH US ---

“THE GOLDEN HOUR OF RECOLLECTION”

Don W. Steinhelper

Born: January 18, 1919

Initiated: May 11, 1957

Died: November 16, 2002



EDITORS CORNER

jserota497@earthlink.net

First and foremost we wish to apologize to Bev for omitting Bro. Bill Witney from our list of Absent Brothers for the year 2002. Bill was an important member of our Lodge and a Past Elk of the Year.

Although this is for the February issue, today is Dec. 26th and in review Dec. was a very busy month as evidenced by our many accomplishments. We wish to praise our Esteemed Leading Knight, Greg Metzgas for his business like approach to the Charity Ball, and the organization of the Christmas Basket Program. All that scout training and following their motto, "**Be Prepared**" came to the forefront.

We wish to laud our Past Exalted Rulers for their support by putting on a wonderful "**Ominous Omelet Elks Memorial Breakfast.**" They were so enthusiastic that they over taxed our electrical circuits. Will have to upgrade them so our Lodge will not go up in flames. The Officer Corps paid homage to our Absent Members and the widows and members enjoyed the breakfast.

The Elks Ladies did a monumental job of collecting toys for the Christmas Baskets. On Wednesday December 18th, Santas favorite helpers the Thousand Oaks Elks Ladies started wrapping gifts for 93 boys and 84 girls ranging from 1-16 years of age, from 76 families who enjoyed a better Christmas because of their efforts. They also made a donation to the annual Childrens Christmas party. Jimmy Jo the clown entertained them with his artful skill of creating balloon animals etc.

Let us not forget our marvelous crew at the Christmas Tree lot. Bob Hardy, PER, with the able assistance of our Esteemed Loyal Knight, Jay Block plus all the volunteering Elks and their Ladies who put in long hours and cold evenings in making the Christmas Tree lot a financial success. Special thanks to Carlsons Building Center in helping us meet our charity goals.

To everyone who lent a hand, worked on the various committees, donated time and money, please take a bow for you are what Elkdom is all about. We take pride in our Lodge and it was reflected in our December accomplishments.


Roy Cooper and his
Fabulous
Fishing Crew

Announce the First
Catch of the Year '03

FISH FRY
Friday February 21st

\$7.50



2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN	<h2 style="margin: 0;">LEADING KNIGHT</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Greg Metzgus</h3>	2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
<p>MAJOR PROJECT/PURPLE PIG: Dave Naccarato</p> <p>SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Sally Claunch</p> <p>INVESTIGATION: George Meehan</p> <p>ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION: Jay Block</p> <p>CHRISTMAS BASKETS: Greg & Barbara Metzgus</p>		<p>INDOCTRINATION: Jack Loughran, PER</p> <p>MEM. CONTROL. COM.: Darren Zigler</p> <p>CVAC: Tom Hartin</p> <p>COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Jerry Serota</p> <p>OFFICERS ROUND TABLE: Jack Panczak</p> <p>CHARITY DINNERS: Greg & Barbara Metzgus</p>

It is the beginning of another Ritual Training season. Hour first practice for the incoming officers (if elected) was held the first week in January and on the first night the team was able to make it all the way through the ceremony. Granted, there were a few, ok, a lot of word errors but we made it through. This means that everyone prepared and is serious about bringing home some plaques this year. Welcome to Raven West, she joined our team as the Inner Guard. Our coaches, Gil Riding, Richard Goldner, Jack Loughran and Jack Panczak will be working with the team. Many thanks to them for putting up with us. (all misspellings are intentional, it's a ritual thing.)

Our lodge has adopted a new Venture Crew into our Boy Scout family. The number is 9109 based in Ventura. They are a special needs unit with physically challenged young men and women. I have always admired the adults that devote so much time to these youth and I am honored that our lodge is able to sponsor them. We have also brought 7 new adults and 8 new youth into our Venture Crew 2929. For those of you from the old school of Scouting, Venture Crew is the program that replaced Exploring. It is for youth, boys and girls, from 14 through 21 years of age. Venture Crew 2929 meets on Thursdays at the Methodist Church in Westlake Village. Any youth or adults that want to join this high adventure group, please contact me, Greg Metzgus, the Scouting coordinator for our lodge.

Hope to see you at the lodge on meeting night; come join us for a fine meal and fellowship. See you at the lodge.

Jerry,
 I took these pictures last night at the pack meeting for pack #3763. They are the brand new cub pack that we are now sponsoring. They are presenting me with their Charter for the year. I will send you the names later. Greg



Hi Greg


It was nice to meet you tonight at Sycamore Cyn and thank you once again for your support of our new Pack. We are all learning as we go here.

The following folks were at the meeting (Dad / Son):



Steve & Alex Herrel (Tiger Cub)
 Greg & Connor Bosch
 Doug & Jacob Grue
 Richard & Jeffery Newmark
 Tom & Dylan Reynolds

If you need any other information, please let me know.

	<p style="text-align: center;">Roasting of Jr. PER, Johnny D' Sat. Feb. 22nd By the PERs Pot Roast \$8.50 Coleen & Larry Morris</p>
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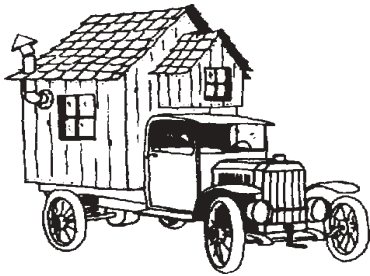
At the Elks Ladies X-mas party the ladies donated a mound of toys for the charity baskets as shown by Greg and Barbara Metzgus



KAMPERS CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Pat von Witterburg

My memory is not always completely accurate (a slight understatement) but I don't remember so many people or as many delightful raffle prizes when we began attending this function six or seven years ago.



It seems very few activities go off without a couple of hitches. Our delightful

Chaplain, Marilyn Cissell's arrival was delayed so Jay Block stood in for our opening prayer doing a fine job. Our perennial raffle and 50/50 ticket sellers, Sally Claunch and Annie Pearson's arrivals were also a bit behind schedule and those jobs were temporarily reassigned. Okay people – how many years has this activity started at 10:00 a.m.?

If you didn't find something to suit your palate – there's a problem. The buffet had an array of seafood, all types of fresh fruits, egg dishes, custom omelets (not quite comparable to Richard Goldner's) but still very good and way too many dessert type things for the waistline. I've probably failed to mention many other things and the champagne did flow!

Walter and Anne Ogden did a terrific job of heading up the activity this year. This is the most "highly visible" job of the Vice President for the Kampers Klub, but as Walter stated, "It isn't that bigga' deal, because of the great cooperation of the group." Wish I could write it with an English accent.

The officers for 2003 were introduced and are as follows: President – Walter Ogden; Vice President – John Kolb; Secretary – Pat von Witterburg (also reporter for the Antler Antics); and Treasurer – Donna Hardy; Chaplain – Marilyn Cissell.

As retiring President, Bob Hardy thanked all the officers for their hard work for the past year. He even called me Pat von Pain but kindly stopped there – can you imagine???

We were entertained by a new twist on the "Twelve Days of Christmas" performed by Don Newcomer and acted out by Gene & Carol Ewald, Doris Newcomer and the Ewald's daughter and son-in-law, Christa and Kody Harper. Carol's creative imagination was very apparent and I especially liked Gene's five golden rings. For those of you who weren't at Lake Lopez several years ago, this will mean absolutely nothing, but I sincerely hope Drucella visits us again in 2003.

Ya know I thought by the time I reached this age and stage in life I would understand a whole lot more than I do – but Sally Claunch was observed pulling down the top of her jumpsuit to expose one of her covered boobies – what was that all about?



New Officers for 2003; Marilyn Cissell, Chaplain; Shirley Kozlowski, Past Historian, Donna Hardy, Treasurer, Bob Hardy, Past President, Pat von Witterburg, Historian and Walter Ogden, President for the year 2003



Bobby Williams and Annie Pearson were the big 50/50 winners at the Kampers X-mas party


Then there was Jackie Coley – she was absolutely ecstatic having won the raffle prize she had just donated! Do you understand? I'm confused.

It was decided to divide the 50/50 since this becomes quite a large pot. \$50, \$200 and \$300. Bobbie Williams won the \$50, Annie Pearson took the \$200 and would you believe, Bobbie Williams took the \$300. It was terrific.



KAMPERS TAKE NOTE – In the past at Far West we've had more sites allotted but due to no shows the campground has limited our reservations. With the wagonmasters and four officers (5 sites) there's room for 4 additional rigs! Come on now people – this campground has been cleaned up over what it was years ago, it's a beautiful location and if we get our act together perhaps we may be able to get additional spaces. I've heard comments about "bugs" – ever hear of "Cutters" or "Off"?

KAMPERS – REMEMBER YOUR DUES FOR 2003 ARE NOW DUE!!!
15 BUCKS TO DONNA HARDY ASAP OR IN AN ENVELOPE
APPROPRATELY MARKED AT THE BAR

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

If it hasn't been explained before by one of my fellow officers, I would like to take this opportunity to enlighten the readers of this august publication that these articles are always written at least four weeks in advance of the month they are published. So as I sit down to pen this immortal prose, it is the 5th of January, and we are still recovering from a fantastic New Years Eve. With that cogent explanation I will proceed...

Well the holidays are over, and I'm glad to report that every event the Lodge put forth was highly successful. Even with the shortened time interval between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Tree Lot did VERY WELL thanks to the able leadership of Bob Hardy. Our Leading Knight with the invaluable support of Tommy Claunch and David Pearson, again out did them selves with the Christmas Basket Program. The New Years Eve Party was a smash hit, and everyone who attended had a great time.

I want to thank the Kampers for the new Multi-zone grill. It is a wonderful addition to our kitchen.

Enough OLD news, on with the NEW news.

The Elk Ladies are presenting "An Old Fashioned Valentines Dance in the Park", It will be held on Saturday the 15th. For further details see posted flyers All profits of this event are going to the Major Project, so come one and come all.

Operation Face Lift and Lodge Beautification continues to be the front burner items for the calendar year, any and all support in whatever form from the membership is most welcome.

With the start of a new Ritual Season, I want to personally thank our coaches, Gil Riding, Richard Goldner, Jack Loughran, and Jacob Panczak for the outstanding efforts they put forth in preparing us for competition.



ESQUIRE'S CORNER

by David Naccarato

You've heard the expression pillar of the community this month I write about a pillar of this lodge Past Exalted Ruler Tom

Ryder ER 1992-1993 This year Tom was District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler the road to this position started back in 1977 sponsored into our lodge by Jack Heisler when they both attended a bowling league together and immediately took over the kitchen and still he's in the kitchen at every Initiation to prepare the nights meal.

Tom got involved in the lodge heavily. Tom started going through the chairs at the Leading Knights Station. A lot of officers like to ease into a position but not Tom he jumped right in. Tom was well versed in the workings of the lodge. Tom was a Trustee for 9 years, 5 before being Exalted Ruler and 4 after he was Lodge Activity Chairman and Drug Awareness Chairman. He started going to Elk Conventions in 1982 and liked the social aspect of Elks and the noble work we do and when it gets in your blood he was hooked. With the support of his wife Kathy after his year as Exalted Ruler he went on to be State Vice President and State Public Relations Chairman. During Toms year as ER with a lot of help from his Esquire they refurbished this lodge with a lot of cleanup and fixing up, trimming the trees on the grounds of the Lodge and still now he's very active in our Lodge Beautification Project.

This year as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Tom and Kathy must visit all 12 Lodges to inspect that these Lodges meet Grand Lodge requirements, a lot of responsibility but they have the right couple for the job.

Lost Silver Watch
on Dec. 28, 02
 Private Party. If found please call:
 Chet or Shirley @ (805) 492-0939.

**AN INVITATION
To the
LEADING / LOYAL KNIGHTS
CLINIC**

Saturday ~ February 8, 2003

On Saturday February 8th the DDGER is hosting a clinic at the Santa Barbara Elks Lodge scheduled to start at 9:30 AM. This clinic is titled as a Leading Knights/Loyal Knights Clinic but it is open to all Elks and their spouses. The general theme of this clinic will be directed to the duties of the Exalted Ruler and the Leading Knight, what is expected of Elks Officers and how they should interface with their lodge members, the California-Hawaii Elks Association, Grand Lodge and their community. This is for Elks members!

Another meeting will be going on at the same time for the members' spouses. Here ladies of Elks will talk about the protocol in the lodge, at visitations, when dignitaries are visiting the lodge and the purpose of Elkdom for members and their spouses.

Past State President John Holt, a past Area 7 Auditor will be a part of the members meeting and will talk about financial responsibilities of the lodge and the year-end financial reporting requirements as required by Grand Lodge.

All persons seeking the offices of Exalted Ruler or Leading Knight are required to attend. Their Spouses are requested to attend.

**SHOULD BE A GOOD INFORMATION SESSION
FOR ALL IN ATTENDANCE**



**GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS
Marilynn Harding**

**States Facing Major Fiscal Crisis As
Tax Collections Plunge and Costs Rise**

Governors and state budget officials say the fiscal condition of almost every state is more dire than anything faced by the national economy. Legislatures convening next month will be facing calls to cut services and raise taxes. Elks lodges should be alert to any efforts to take away property tax exemptions or other tax breaks or bills that would impose new taxes and fees on nonprofit organizations whose charitable activities provide services to the poor and disabled.

"Nearly every state is in fiscal crisis," the National Governors Association said in a new report surveying the states. The state's money on hand at the end of the fiscal year had fallen to \$14.5 billion, from a peak of \$48.8 billion in 2000. Total state tax collections fell by 6 percent last year and declined in every quarter, even as spending grew by 1.3 percent. Medicaid and other health costs, accounting for 30 percent of state spending, grew last year by 13 percent.

There is little hope for aid from Washington, where the Federal government faces growing deficits. The Senate overwhelmingly approved a temporary increase in federal grants for Medicaid and social services, but it never became law. President Bush sought \$3.5 billion to train and equip local police, firefighters and rescue workers, but Congress adjourned without providing the money.

ELKONEJOKAMPERS CONTINUED

UPCOMING CAMPOUTS:

FEBRUARY 8 & 9 Oak Park – Simi
MARCH 14–15 Travel Village – Valencia
APRIL 11 - 12 - Far West (Steckel) –
Santa Paula 9 sites only
MAY 16–17 – Kenney Grove (Fillmore)

For specifics – check the website - elkonejokampers.netfirms.com


TECK TIPS

Sometime ago I saw an article in Highways about three different products for the restoration of fiberglass. We had done the Gel-Gloss and Mother's Gold Wax on our motorhome one too many times. After checking the websites for all three products, I talked to the owners of Poli Glow Products in Florida. They have been in the business for a number of years primarily selling their product to boat owners and only in the past seven years to motorhome owners. I

was favorably impressed with their guarantee that if their product did not perform as stated they would refund my money – all of \$70.85, which included shipping and handling. I wasn't present while the oxidation was being removed, but I understand my well-being might have been in jeopardy. Bill said that it appeared it had been water sanded. (Poli Prep) The second stage is the application of Poli Glow, which is applied with a chami, covered sponge type applicator and it's recommended 4 to 6 coats. It is a product that will not wash off with soap and water and may need to be reapplied every 4 to 6 months. It's kinda like Future Floor Wax – no buffing polishing or anything. It isn't really Hard work but it is time consuming. We're really pleased; it weathered numerous rainstorms through the mid-west.

Their statement "Make Old Fiberglass Shine Line New" is really true!

Poli Glow Products, Inc (308) 827-1927
www.poliglowproducts.com

2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN	LECTURING KNIGHT Sally Claunch	2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
AMERICANISM: Raven West FLAGDAY/FLAGRETIREMENT: Sally Claunch SCHOLARSHIP: Bobby Holm GOVT. RELATIONS: Marilyn Harding MEMORIALSERVICE: Jim Rochford KONEJOSPORTINGKLAYS: Don Corts		NATIONALSERVICES: Jim Kellogg KIDS XMAS PARTY: Chet Kozlowski, PER GOLFTOURNEY: Dave Pearson Tommy Claunch LODGE PICNIC: Bobby Holm MEMBERSHIP: Darryl Vadnais CHRISTMASTREES: Bob Hardy, PER EL KONEJOKAMPERS: Bob Hardy, PER

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRPERSON WANTED... NO Experience NEEDED

Flexible hours:

Duties: distribute scholarship applications to area schools

judge application forms with a committee

present scholarships at high school awards banquet

Pay: the reward of helping youth attain their dreams

Experienced committee persons available for advice and counsel

Apply at office or call Dee at 496-2477 or Sally Claunch 495-0577

The ad says it all. Our Lodge is looking for a new scholarship chairperson to continue the great work done by Bobby Holm for the past 10 years. Each year we provide monies to area seniors for college attendance. The Elks National Foundation also provides one year merit-based scholarships to children and grandchildren of Elks who are members in good standing, and one year educational grants to children of deceased or totally incapacitated Elks.

Happenings this month under this station:

- Veteran's Visitation- the third Thursday of the month-meet at the Lodge at 5 P.M.-call Jim Kellogg 379-3822
- Sporting Klays- call Don Corts 495-5002 for date and time
- El Konejo Kampers-Feb.7 & 8 at Oak Park

SICKNESS & DISTRESS

Sally Claunch, Com. Chair.
495-0577

OUR CONDOLANCES: To the Hartin family on the passing of his father and to Roy Sapp on the passing of 92 year old father.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Jim Wallace, PER ; Darryl Vadnais; Phil Reardon and Dick Flittner all had bypass surgery; also in our prayers Lee Grindle; Verna Cairns was hospitalized briefly.

ON THE MEND: Cornelia Meehan with a knee replacement.

AN INVITATION
To the
JUNIOR PER'S ROAST
Saturday ~ February 22, 2003

John D'Ambrogio has joined the ranks of Past Exalted Ruler and it is his turn in the barrel! The PERs of the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge invite you to join with them in the fun of the evening. You are all invited to join in and say a few words directed at he who is being roasted. All in fun though! Join us for a GREAT evening!

No Host Cocktails ~ 6 PM
Dinner ~ 7 PM \$8.50 per person
Roast ~ Sometime thereafter!

Dinner is to be a lodge favorite. Pot Roast especially for Johnny D. by Colleen and Larry Morris, the Master Pot Roast Makers!

SHOULD BE A NIGHT OF FUN FOR ALL
For more information contact PER Gil Riding at 805-492-9380



TAKE A WATERLESS CRUISE - NON STOP!!!!

Ever been on a Cruise? The scenery's sights and sounds constantly changes; the cheerful staff waits on you hand-and-foot; the other passengers are happy and carefree; 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, until the ship pulls into the dock, the party ends and you drag your luggage and yourself back to the dreary workday 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 that 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 futures 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 place at the Elks Home.

A special message from William Pickett Executive Director Elks National Home.

Eileen and I, and the residents and staff of the Elks National Home, extend our very best wishes to all during this holy and joyous season. May you be blessed with the peace of Christmas and enjoy prosperity in the coming year.

As we leave the old year behind and enter 2003, the Elks National Home will be planning a very special celebration — our 100th anniversary.

The Grand Lodge of the Order of Elks purchased the Hotel Bedford in a bankruptcy sale for less than \$50,000 in 1902 and dedicated it as the Elks National Home on May 21, 1903. Many changes have occurred over the years, including building a new facility on the same site. That building was dedicated in 1916, and then many additions and renovations were made as time progressed. The latest renovation project was in 1999 when the new apartments made way for ladies and Elk couples to live at the Home. Presently the value of the Home is well over \$25,000,000, which makes it one of the greatest assets of the Order.

As the New Year marks a new beginning, we at the Home are looking forward to new beginnings as the Home moves into its second century. We are convinced that the second hundred years will be even more successful than the first.

William P. Pickett
Executive Director



AMERICANISM

Raven West

Although the United States is young compared to other countries, its culture and traditions are rich because of the contributions made by the many groups of people who have come to its shores over the past three centuries. One of these traditions which made its way across the ocean is Valentine's Day.

Historic research tells us that St. Valentine was a bishop living near Rome in the year 270 A.D. At that time, Roman Emperor Claudius-II felt that married men were more emotionally attached to their families, and thus, would not make good soldiers. So, to assure quality warriors, he banned marriage. In defiance, Bishop Valentine arranged to meet young lovers in a secret place and perform outlawed marriage ceremonies. When Claudius learned of this "friend of lovers," he ordered the bishop arrested and put to death.

While Valentine was in prison, his jailer, Asterius requested the Bishop pray for his blind daughter. It is said that through his faith, Valentine miraculously restored her sight. Just before his execution, he asked Asterius for a quill and parchment to write a farewell message to his daughter. The message was signed "From Your Valentine." Valentine thus became the Patron Saint of Lovers, and a spiritual overseer of an annual festival held on February 14, in which young men would offer handwritten greetings of affection to women they admired and wished to court. These "greeting cards" acquired St. Valentine's name. One of the earliest "Valentine's Day" cards was sent in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was a prisoner in the Tower of London. The card is now preserved in the British Museum. The tradition of the Valentine's Day card and annual holiday is now celebrated on February 14 around the world!

Fortunately, American men of the twenty-first century don't have to be imprisoned to be motivated to send their sweetheart a Valentine's Day card. Nor do they have to rely on mere quill and parchment to deliver warm thoughts to their loved one. Flowers, jewelry, candy and a romantic dining experience make up the traditional Valentines Day package, but with a little imagination, traditional can turn magical. And if there's one thing the Thousand Oaks Lodge #2477 has in abundance is imagination!

To one and all the very best Valentines Day!

HAPPY NEW YEAR '03 AT RICKS PLACE



Welcome to Rick's Place



Roxanne & Jim Horning rang in the New Year with style



Louise & Marilyn were all smiles



Don & Dee sporting new head wear



Rick & Ilsa waiting for their letter of transit
(Dave & Karen)



Bob Hardy, PER, Com. Chair. of the Christmas Tree lot and Esteemed Loyal Knight, Jay Block,



A special thanks to Carlsons Building Center for their generosity in lending us their property to vend our Christmas Tree



Richard Goldner, PER, with a certificate for his \$500 donation to the Millenium Club, Dave Naccarato with certificate for second place finish in our district for the Purple Pig




Jimmy Jo at the Childrens Christmas party with Holly



Richard Goldner, PER, creator of the famous Ominous Omelet



ER Don Booker presented the President Award for Per Capita donations for ENF

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 ELK LADIES
Karen Naccarato, 2nd Vice President

Hello Ladies! Hope all of you had a nice Holiday and a Happy New Year!!
Our Major Pojects Event is just around the corner. An Old Fashion Valentine Dance is Saturday, February 15th starting at 6:30 pm. Dinner, Dancing and Prizes. \$20.00 p/p Please call Carol Neuner at 493-4713 or myself at 375-1089. Tickets will also be behind the bar. It will be alot of fun so come on down. Remember this is a special event for the Major Project Handicapped Children. Our next Ladies Meeting will be February 4th at 8:00 pm. The Board Meeting will be February 18th at 7:30 pm.

**THOUSAND OAKS
ELKS LADIES PRESENT**

An

**OLD FASHIONED BBQ
And
VALENTINE DANCE
IN THE PARK**


\$20. P/P

**6:30 p.m. No Host Bar
DINNEr 7:00 p.m.
DaNCiNg 8:00 p.m.
priZes
sat. FeBRuary 15th**

*Remember this is a special event for the
Major Project
Handicapped Children*



BY YOUR GRACE
Marilyn Cissell, Chaplain




Your forces are all strong, Dear Lord,
the winds, torrential rains above,
These things we need not understand,
most powerful of all - your love.

And loving us will never change,
no matter what we do or say.
By asking your forgiveness, Lord,
Your grace will wipe mistakes away.

Amen

FEBRUARY



1. Grace Wallace
5. Jackie Coley
- Lori Lambert
9. Pat Smail
10. Kathy Ryder
14. Karen Naccarato
24. Kathy Jenkins
- Judy Panczak



The Block family enjoyed the Elks Ladies Christmas party. The ladies ate and Jay was part of the officers crew of waiters

HONOR ROLL



Tom Sheridan
 Dave Naccarato
 Jim & Frances Bodenhamer
 Konejo Sporting Klays
 John & Marva D'Ambrogio
 Gary & Peggy Mullenhaus



FEBRUARY

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Dick Flittner | 13. Arnie Antle | 21. Jim Wallace, PER |
| 3. J.R. Maddox | Mark Owens | Terry Baker |
| 4. Terry Gicking | Charles Rees | Jim Gordon |
| Fred Britton | Richard Whitmire | Patricia Stanfield |
| Nick Schiele | 14. Bob McKee, PDDGER | 24. Marilou Van Leuvan |
| Darren Ziegler | Armando Moroni | 26. Bill Bell |
| 6. Ray Church | Bruce Fitzgerald | 29. Tony Dyer |
| 7. Bart Manzo | 16. Jim Brown, Jr. | |
| Joseph Galante | Lou Thomas | |
| Richard Eddy | 18. Joe Blum | |
| 8. Rick Herrera | Bob Philips | |
| 10. Jerry Olson | 19. Ernie Walta | |
| 11. Ross Thompson | Van Hafer | |
| Joe Smith | 20. Bob Huffman | |
| | Leonard Kurmas | |
| | Charles Christensen | |
| | Tony Hug | |
| | Toni Sheridan | |

**FROM THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE
 PROPOSED AND WILL BE BALLOTTED ON
 DATE: February 12, 2003**

NAME	OCCUPATION	SPONSOR
John Ferrie	Retired	Harold Calvin
Frank Lussier	Civil Engineering	Bob Hardy, PER

**CRYING
 TOWEL**



December	4	\$100.00	#474	Ed Cassese
Lucky 13		No Winner		
December	11	\$125.00	#1909	Lou Mages
Lucky 13		No Winner		
December	18	No Meeting		
December	25	Christmas		

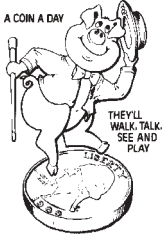


CALIFORNIA-HAWAII ELKS MAJOR PROJECT, INC.

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WHAT IS BLT?



BLT is a full time committee of the Major Project approved and budgeted by the CHEMPI Trustees upon approval of the Past Grand Exalted Rulers. Its staff consists of a state committee directing district and lodge chairmen who will serve without compensation.

THE BLT CONCEPT

The idea behind BLT is to encourage all Elks to name the Major Project as a beneficiary of their estate in any amount a member and his/her spouse can afford. It is recognized that an Elk's first responsibility is to his/her family.. We just ask that they remember our disabled children if they have any extra money or property available.

THE PURPOSE OF BLT

BLT was not begun as a replacement for the Piggy Bank Program. Its aim is to insure the future of the Major Project. To guarantee that future, the BLT Committee is seeking commitments from Elk members and their spouses, stating that they have provided for a distribution from their estate (upon their death) to continue the good works of the Major Project. Giving to the Major Project through BLT is not limited to Elks alone. Anyone can direct that a charitable gift be given to the Major Project from their estate.

HOW TO GIVE

If you provide for your Major Project in your will, trust or as a beneficiary of an insurance policy, IRA, pension plan or annuity, you then qualify to become a BLT benefactor. You will then receive a beautifully framed certificate and lapel pin. Just notify the Fresno office that you have made that provision for the Major Project in your estate plan.

WHERE TO GET HELP

There will be questions. Direct all inquiries to the district or state chairmen who are all listed in the state directory or contact the Major Project office in Fresno at 5450 E. Lamona Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727. They are just a phone call away at 559-2554531.

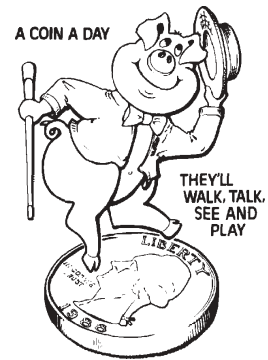
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PURPLE PIG

By David Naccarato, Com. Chairman



A lot of time donations are made and you never really know where the money goes or who received it, the Major Project or Purple Pig. All the Elk lodges in California and Hawaii are programmed for disabled children.

To give you some statistics for the month of November we had 877 Occupational Therapy visits to 527 different children. To accomplish this the therapist had to drive 20,496 miles all paid for by the Elks. Preschool Vision Screening 5031 children had eyes checked, 171 visits by screeners paid by the Elks. Of those 5031 children 294 were advised to seek medical attention, 7 were discovered with Amblyopia (lazy eye) if not detected and treated, can cause permanently faulty vision or even blindness. It is estimated that about 100,000 children pass beyond treatment age each year. Our screeners also found 6 potential cases of lazy eye and 125 others with other serious conditions. In all, the vision screeners drove 10,815 miles.

Check our Purple Pig honor role for those who donated this month: I would like to make mention of a couple: James Bodenhamer and wife Fran who own Valley Pacific Swimming Pool Service gave \$1500; the Sporting Klays gave \$645.56; Marva D' Ambrogio and her sister in law Peggy Mullenaus made some crafts and sold them and donated \$200.00; Norman Panczak gave \$150.

I thank all of you for your help and support. To give you a tally at the end of December we had \$2,925.65 and January 8th we have \$5,074.25 in our fund. These therapist and screeners have a busy schedule and need our support to make it work. Thank you,

David Naccarato
Major Project Com. Chairman

**26th ANNUAL
LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIREFIGHTER AWARDS
January 29, 2003**

6:00 p.m. Social Hour

7:00 p.m. Dinner Cooked by Elks Volunteers/Served by the Junior Elks

8:00 p.m. Welcome: DON BOOKER, Exalted Ruler

Presentation of Colors: Girl Scout Troop 243

Introductions: SCOTT F. DOOL, Awards Chairman

Elks Awards: **Sergeant PATRICIA SALAS, Ventura County.** Comments and presentation by Sheriff BOB BROOKS, Ventura County Sheriff's Department.

Fire Fighter Engineer STEPHEN MATSUURA, Ventura County. Comments and presentation by Fire Chief BOB ROPER, Ventura County Fire Protection District.

Officer DAVID W. SONGER, Ventura County. Comments and presentation by Captain MARK LUNN, Ventura Area California Highway Patrol.

Sergeant STEPHEN H. GLENNAN, Los Angeles County. Comments and presentation by Acting Captain PATRICK HUNTER, Malibu/Lost Hills Station, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Fire Fighter Specialist TOM BRADY, Los Angeles County. Comments and presentation by Assistant Fire Chief PAUL A. SCHUSTER, Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Officer ROBERT BLOOMFIELD, Los Angeles County. Comments and presentation by Captain WARREN STANLEY, West Valley Area California Highway Patrol.

Thousand Oaks Awards: Presentation by ANDY FOX, Mayor, City of Thousand Oaks.

Ventura County Board of Awards: Presentation by LINDA PARKS, Member of the Supervisors, Second District, County of Ventura.

To Members, Associates, and Friends
of the Konejo Sporting Klays Club
Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477

Due to a declining interest and participation in Konejo Sporting Klays (KSK) activities, the KSK will no longer hold scheduled meetings or monthly shoots. Effective February 1, 2003 the KSK will close its books and cease operations as an organized club within Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477.

I will take this opportunity to thank those who faithfully supported the club by maintaining their membership and interest in club activities as well as those members who maintained their yearly membership even when they held little hope of being able to break away from demanding schedules to attend our monthly shoots.

I have been the club Secretary/Treasurer since its formation October 12, 1995 and have maintained a record of all club activities and financial transactions. I will maintain an archive file of these records for a reasonable length of time. The file will be available for inspection by any authoritative function within the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks organization.

The club had only one financial account, a checking account at Washington Mutual. At the termination of club activities the account had a total of \$648.56. This account was closed and the funds turned over to the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #24 77 as a donation to the California Hawaii Elks Major Project fund, (Purple Pig).

In closing I would like to say that although the Lodge's interest in shooting little clay disks doesn't warrant a full blown organization; I know there are a few of us who enjoy the sport and will find time to pursue it. To those I say call me and we'll go and enjoy the fun and ridicule which the sport can provide. My telephone number is (805) 495-5002.

Don Corts
Ex Secretary/Treasurer
Konejo Sporting Klays

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POETS CORNER

By: Ken Muellerleile



THE FINAL MOMENT

At the peak of my death
when life has no meaning,
caution will be waived
in request of my appealing.

There's time for remorse
and prayers to be said,
asking forgiveness
while living, not dead.

When I stand at the gate
and I'm met by the Holy One,
may I be greeted with joy
for a new world to come

I've left the sadness behind
I am now walking on a cloud,
my prayers have been answered
I'm singing, happy and proud.

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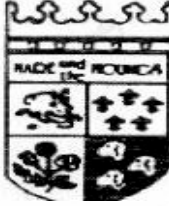
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