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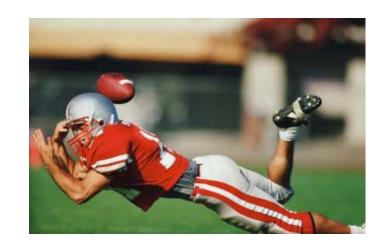
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Editor, Jerry Serota

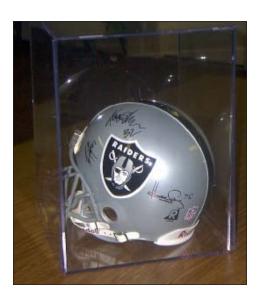
January 2004

'Elks For Scouting and Scouting For Elks'

SUPER BOWL PARTY



- FEBRUARY 1ST
- 2 P.M.-?
- FOOD-DRI NK-RAFFLES
- BRING AN APPETIZER TO SHARE=CHANCE TO WIN \$100



SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

FOOTBALL ENTHUSIASTS RAFFLE

On display behind the bar is an authentic Oakland Raiders football helmet signed by former Raider footballers, Howie Long, Marcus Allen and Bo Jackson.

For the price of just 1 Dollar you can win a piece of football memorabilia that is a real treasure. It will be drawn on Super Bowl Sunday. February 1, 2004

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN



2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

ANTLER ANTICS: Jerry Serota, Editor NEW FACILITIES: Tom Ryder, DDGER HISTORIAN/SCRAPBOOK: Jerry Serota GREETERS: Jack Loughran, PER PUBLIC RELATIONS: Jerry Serota BUILDING MAINT.: Wayne Flittner



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

I know you are all anxious to hear what is going on with the bond issue and the new lodge. Here is where we are. We are required by Grand Lodge Statutes to request Grand Lodge permission to assume debt (issue bonds). We completed the application to Grand Lodge and submitted a rough draft to Past Grand Exalted Ruler Don Dapelo. He complimented us on the completeness of our work (thanks to David Pearson and Bill Lloyd), gave it his blessing and directed us to submit it to Grand Lodge for their approval. That has been done and we are waiting for their reply. It should be back to us by the time you are reading this. At that point we will submit a preliminary building permit to the City of Thousand Oaks and begin issuing bonds. From there it is up to our members. The faster we sell out the bond issue, the faster we can build. I will be starting column beginning April outlining the progress of our project.

The fund raising for the Christmas Baskets went very well this year. We do indeed have a generous lodge. Although as I am writing this we have yet to distribute the baskets, I am sure all went well with the help of our members. I am also confident that the New Years Eve party went well. We should all be recovered from the holidays now and ready to concentrate on the issue at hand, namely our new lodge building.

Our Christmas Tree Lot is going well as I write, thanks to all that made it work, particularly Bob Hardy, Herb Jellander and Terry Baker. Along with that I would like to thank our 43 BBQ team members. They have worked very hard this past year. They all have new purple personalized aprons. Want an apron with your name on it? Join the new BBQ team forming to work on the first Saturday of every month. There is a sign up sheet in the lounge.

As you may have heard, our current Bar Manager Bob Cissel has retired from the Bar Manager duties effective the 31st of December. Bob has served us well and we are looking forward to spending time with him on the member's side of the bar. Interviews have been made for a new manager although at the time of this writing I don't know whom the House Committee will choose. There is one very easy way to find out, come on down to the lodge and see.

Hope you all had a good holiday season, looking forward to seeing you at the lodge.

ER Greg Metzgus



FIRST LADIES CORNER

Barbara Metzgus, First Lady

Happy new year to everyone. The holidays are behind us now for another year. Thanks to everyone that helped Greg and I with our Tom and Jerry party. Everything went

so fast but it was a great evening and we enjoyed seeing all that attended.

Shirley and Chet did a great job with the Children's Christmas Party along with Heather Maddox and Carol Neuner. There was lots of yummy food, good music and the kids were all entertained. Thanks to all that made this such an enjoyable event to start off the holiday season.

ER Greg and all of the officers have been working hard to get our new lodge building off of the ground. I hope when it comes time to purchase bonds that everyone will help as much as they can. We are all looking forward to a building and grounds that we can be proud of.

Thanks again for your help everyone.



Died:



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"

December 1, 2003

Marilynn Harding
Born: December 11, 1939
Initiated: April 25, 2001

Ernie Walta

Born: February 19, 1933 Initiated: March 14, 1973 Died: October 19, 2003



EDITORS CORNER

jserota497@earthlink.net

What is the 7 letter word for White knights.....

We were working a crossword puzzle and for the life of me could not figure it out. I can tell you of 2 gentlemen who qualify for that lofty title. Bros. Roy Sapp and Jacob Panczak, PER., Jacob came in riding his stead and rescued your Editor from a fate worse than death. He donated a computer before ours died of mortal wounds.

Brother Roy Sapp spent long hours of his valuable time doing emergency internal surgery and saved our hard drive and all our data files before the mother board on our old computer completely died of internal wounds suffered at the inept hands of yours truly.

We owe both of these gentleman a huge debt of gratitude. More than mere money can repay. It was their gift of love that saved the day for us personally and our Elks Lodge Antler Antics. They came through for Elkdom when everything looked bleak and hopeless and for that we are most grateful.

And now I know what that 7 letter word in the puzzle was. It was **SAVIORS**. Bros. Roy and Jacob qualified as our White Knights and saviors even if they don't wear shining armor we hold them in the highest esteem.

SPECIAL POLISH NITE By The Kozlowski Klan



Fri. February 27, 2004

DISASTER RELIEF FUND FOR CALIFORNIA FIRE VICTIMS

Californians are in urgent need of help and immediate charitable donations.

Once again, the members and friends of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks are being asked to respond to a natural disaster and aid those Americans effected by severe California fire storms. Several out-of-control wildfires claimed 20 lives, over 3,300 homes and 750,000 acres of property as they destroyed people's dreams and consumed family possessions.

It has been the Elks heritage to rally in aid of needy American communities; regardless of location during national disasters. Since 1868, it was the Elks who were first on the scene to supply money and rescue assistance after the Chicago fire of 1871 and again in 1906 after the San Francisco earthquake. From the Johnstown flood to hurricane Andrew, the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks helped unfortunate citizens effected by catastrophe.

As part of the "Elks Caring and Sharing" program, on October 31, 2003 the national President of the Elks, Amos McCallum, requested monetary relief for the victims of the horrific California fire disasters and requested that tax deductible donations be made to the B.P.O.Elks California Fire Relief Fund. Contributions should be mailed to:

B.P.O.Elks California Fire Relief Fund c/o Elks National Foundation 2750 North Lakeview Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60614-1889ank You.

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LEADING KNIGHT Jay Block

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

MAJOR PROJECT/PURPLE PIG:

Joe Smith

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Sally Claunch

INVESTIGATION: George Meehan ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:

Jack Malone

CHRISTMAS BASKETS: Jay & Myrna

Block



INDOCTRINATION: Jack Loughran, PER MEM. CONTROL. COM.: Herb Jellander CVAC: Tom Hartin

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Jerry Serota OFFICERS ROUND TABLE: Jack Panczak CHARITY DINNERS: Jay & Myrna Block

Here we are at the beginning of a new year, one which will go down in our history as the year in which we began building our new LODGE. This event is, and will continue to be, due to the efforts put forth by so many of our LOYAL and dedicated members. Members who work the BBQ Wagon, work the kitchen, work around the Lodge, work the Christmas Tree Lot, work in fixing up and decorating the Lodge Room when a special event is at hand and of course the ones who participate in our Lodge Functions by attending them, as well as those who support our lounge with an almost religious fervor. These members are the rank and file guys and gals who always seem to come forward when needed. Sure we seem to direct a lot of the attention on the participation of the Officers and PERs, but they are expected to do what is necessary, since that's their job duties, and besides they are really only a small percentage when compared with the total participation.

After all that, I would especially like to thank Dave Pearson, Tommy Claunch, and Tom Hartin, with the absolutely essential help and assistance in the real grunt work of defining the Christmas Baskets needs. And of course all of the fine people who helped with decorating the Lodge for the Holidays. A special thanks to Santas helpers who did the stuffing and sorting of the boxes, wrapping of the presents and delivery to the families.

Just as a reminder, we still are looking for a few GOOD people to help form another BBQ team so that we can provide our BBQ every Saturday. ER Greg has put up a couple of Signup sheets around the Lodge, so if you care about what we do, use this as an opportunity to really help ourselves and acquaint people with what Elkdom is all about.

AND REMEMBER......ELKS CARE...... and......ELKS SHARE

Your Leading Knight, Jay Block



Bill Lloyd displays a check from the El Konejo Kampers Pres. Bob Hardy of \$700 for the Christmas Baskets, and Jay Block, Com. Chair Xmas Basket Program

CHARITY BALL

On Saturday November 15, 2003 the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477 held its annual charity ball. There were over 70 members and guest present and they enjoyed a Beef Wellington or Chicken Cordon Bleu dinner. The dinner was prepared by the Jesse Gonzales, Past Exalted Ruler of the Oxnard Elks Lodge #1443, his wife Shelley who is their current Leading Knight, and son Cory, plus the help of their Lodge Secretary, Robert Saynay and his wife Carol.

Spearheading the chairty drive was our Leading Knight, Jay Block and his wife Myrna. The highlite of the evening was the raffling off of a one week vacation in Maui, complete with condo, air fare, and the lease of an auto. The winner was Bill and Jeri Miller of Thousand Oaks.

There was over \$3,000 collected for Elks Charities half of which will go toward the Christmas Basket Charity program. Last year we helped 70 families enjoy a happier holiday at this important time of the year.



New members Jeri and Bill Miller being congratulated by Leading Knight, Jay Block, Chairman of the Charity Ball, and Bills sponsors, Herb Jellander and Rusty Kennedy



EL KONEJO KAMPERS

Pat von Wittenburg

FUN & FRUSTRATION AT KENNEY GROVE



Can you believe we had 11 rigs in on Wednesday night, already. Since it was a tad chilly I thought it would be a great idea to have a "soup-a-rama". Certainly

couldn't ask Joel for help – so racking my brain – who's another top-notch chef and handles quantity well. Johnny D of course. PLEZ – don't talk to Marva when she's confused! She told me they were having guests and Peggy was bringing the sausage. I said she'd better let Peggy know cause Peggy was bringing rolls to go with the soup. Well actually – Marva was a day off (?) and Johnny made a big pot of great vegetable soup and I did my bean soup. Mary Ferragamo (Martha Stewart) made a salad, I think Donna Colleran did desert and Donna Hardy made some great cornbread. When I mentioned my plans to the Ogdens – they and the Ennises had other plans. Okay! About FACE – there they were – guess things just smelled too good. It was great – good food and laughs with people we hadn't seen in a while.

So much was happening, Thursday flew by with more rigs coming in, I'm not really sure I can relate everything. Tommy Clauch arrived. He said Sally had sent stew along and he had to feed Walt Egan. Walt can't feed himself? But then Tommy said Walt had dessert so he was willing to feed him. Oh my goodness.

Then Friday evening, Pat Hardin pulled in and his rig was like one of those little clownmobiles – the back door flew open and all kinds of women came piling out. Hey Pat what's the story on that?

But I digress, I left Friday morning, came back to Thousand Oaks to drive Barbara Kurmas and her new rig out – although she had driven it, she just wasn't quite comfortable taking it to Kenney Grove alone. Well that random act of kindness would come back to bite me you know where. So I missed some of the happenings on Friday morning.

Poor Cheryl – without whom we might never have known we had the wrong date for this campout and might have shown up a week early to have found the place full – came down with a horrible case of bronchitis – and wasn't able to join us until Saturday. She did manage to get out Saturday, after having a sink overflow in her kitchen at home – her camping gods weren't smiling on her a'tall, a'tall.

Saturday dawned a bit cloudy but not unpleasant. We managed to have our craft faire, book sales and after many months a washer toss tournament. Now I do hope I have the names of the winners correct, cause I only have first names. Well wait – I do have a couple with initials. I believe the 1st place winners were Don Newcomer and Jim Hamilton; 2nd place Heather Maddox and Robert Koeritz; 3rd place Catherine Koeritz and Debi Drake.

At our meeting, the new slate of officers for the year 2004 will be Bill von Wittenburg, President; Cheryl Templeton, Vice President; and guess these are no surprise – Pat von Wittenburg, Secretary and Donna Hardy, Treasurer.

It was also decided that since the conflict in the date with the Charity Ball – the Kampers would donate an additional \$200 to the previous \$500 for the Christmas Basket Fund.



Here is where the frustration begins. About one hour before the food was to come out – the rain began – as did the scuttle to relocate food & raffle prize & people to the SMALL rec room. We had

NUMEROUS day visitors. When there's no room for the wagonmaster to sit to eat; and out of 6 turkeys hardly enough meat, something must change. We managed – but next year – we haven't decided how yet – there will be a limit. If we could have stayed outside it wouldn't have been a problem, but the room at Kenney Grove is NOT designed to accommodate 75 or more people. OH well – we'll worry about that later.

Because of the size – there were 3 Sheriffs. Peggy Mullenaux for the upper level. She unrolled a list like the proverbial Santa Claus. Dinged everybody. Mary Ferragamo – for the 2nd level – she got 'em too, especially her husband Mike, cause he refused to act as Sheriff so he could play poker. Now here's where a random act of kindness doesn't pay. What kind of boob would fine a person for helping a neighbor? Well BOOB Hardy – that's who!

THAT'S ALL FOLKS!

Campouts

January 16 & 17 – Port Hueneme February 13 & 14 – Oak Park March 12 & 13 – Valencia Travel Village

Els Care - **Els** Share

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LOYAL KNIGHT Sally Claunch

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

CONEJO VALLEY DAYS: Ed Rice LODGE ACTIVITIES: Tom Hartin SCOUTING: Jacob Panczak, PER HOOPSHOOT: Tom Hartin WED. NIGHT DINNERS: DRUG AWARENESS:

STRAY ELKS:

MOTHERS DAY: George Meehan



ENTERTAINMENT: Pete Padilla
WED. NIGHT TICKETS: Raven West
LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIRE FIGHTER
APPRECIATION: Scott Dool
DISTRICT PICNIC: Tom Ryder, DDGER
PRESIDING JUSTICE: Dick McCann
YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Heather Maddox

Random Thoughts from Claunch

At this time of year, people around the country make their New Year's resolutions. Here is list of the top ten as complied by Tigerx.com.:

- 1. Lose weight
- 2. Stop smoking
- 3. Stick to a budget
- 4. Save more money
- 5. Find a better job
- 6. Become more organized
- 7. Exercise more
- 8. Be more patient at work/with others
- 9. Eat better
- 10. Become a better person

But the trick-How does one achieve their goals? Some experts recommend that the key to success is three fold. Don't try everything at once. Once you have picked a few, make a specific plan. Stick up the plan in a visible place. That way you have a constant reminder of the resolution. Good luck in accomplishing your resolutions. I know mine are to eat better and exercise more (or at least to exercise).

Dining and Entertainment

After the New Year's festivities, Two Guys-Bill Dennison and Robert Neuner kick off the Friday night dinners on January 2nd. They will be preparing their famous pork chops and salmon. However the kicker are the new side dishes- ala gratin potatoes and deluxe salad. Back by popular demand on January 9th is Coleen (with one l) Morris cooking pot roast, as only she can. I think Larry will have his hand in the cooking pot also. On January 16th Chuck Busch will do his legendary pork loin with homemade sauerkraut. Making a return guest appearance is Crystal Dool on the 23rd. Last year's beef stroganoff was a sellout Following dinner will be the officers' night at the races and

Megabucks. Bring your appetite and wallet for a fun filled evening. Lastly on January 30th \$.50 a dip will be the featured entrée. Carol Neuner will probably be calling you to bring a dish for others to purchase for \$.50 a dip. If you do not receive a call, just bring a dish/dessert to share. After filling our bellies, Phil Birdsell will entertain in the lounge.

Friday night chefs are not the only ones featuring special menus. Chuck Busch and the Ladies will include French toast on the bill of fare on Sunday, January 11th. On Wednesday, January 14th Carol Neuner and Alice Kennedy will introduce their international cuisine theme. The first food is Chinese.

We all have an opportunity to personally express our thanks to the courageous firefighters and police who battled the devastating fires in our area by attending their appreciation dinner on January 28th. Your attendance will be evidence of your admiration for a job well done. Scott Dool as usual will be spearheading the project. I would also like to personally thank Tom and Kathy Ryder and their crew for preparing an outstanding dinner for the New Year's Eve party. As always he proved himself to be the king of prime rib.

There will be RV parking available at the Lodge for the New Year's Eve party. You may park in the lot or on the street. Call Sally Claunch for reservations. 495-0577

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS 495-0577

OUR CONDOLENCES TO: the family and friends of Marilynn Harding on her passing; to the family of Ernie Walda on his passing; and belatedly to the families of Dave and Jet Parry on the passing of his mother and to Pat and Bill VonWittenburg on the passing of her mother.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Bob Riebe, Raven West's father.

ON THE MEND: Bob Jones from a motor scooter accident; Jack Loughran; Vera Bailey and Gene Ewald.

•



ENTERTAINMENT

Pete Padilla, Com. Chair.

It's the beginning of the new year and as we look back at the previous months we have

had some fun Friday nights. I'm still trying to find new and different entertainment for your enjoyment but we still need input from all of you. We have tried to keep the entertainment free for everyone with no cover charges to anyone but the entertainers can't work for free. The tip jar has been a great help to cover some of the costs of the entertainment so if you have enjoyed the Friday night fun please remember to put something in the jar.

January 9th brings us back by popular demand the "Party of 5" if you missed them the first time they played for us at the lodge you do not want to miss them again.

January 30th, Mr. Phil Birdsell will be at the lodge and he has a big surprise for you with a one man entertainment band. It will be a night of dancing, singing, and laughs for all. He does impressions of many of your favorite artists. He will get you up and dancing and you will want to sing along with him.

I am working on more entertainment for your enjoyment so watch the bulletin boards for fliers of entertainment that does not get on the callendar or in the news letter. I hope that the holliday season was a great one for all and the coming newyear is a great one for everyone.

Pete





NEW ELK AT THE HOME'S HELM!



The Board of Grand Trustees is pleased to announce that they have confirmed employment of the individual chosen by the Search Committee to administer the day-to-day operations of the Elks National Home in Bedford, Virginia. Effective

October 15, 2003, **DARRYL B. GARRISON** along with his wife **SANDRA**, assumes the management of our Order's retirement community. Both are Members of Lynchburg, VA Elks Lodge No. 321, and prior to this position Brother Garrison had been the Home's Controller since September of 1987 under retiring Director Bill Pickett. Darryl's qualifications and experience as a C.P.A. with degrees in business administration and accounting will certainly keep the Home in capable hands. Proud parents of four children

and grandparents of three, both Darryl and Sandra are warm and outgoing people, deeply involved in their church and community, who plan to continue the Home's "family atmosphere," a quality well-known and appreciated by all its resident Elks. On behalf of all the Order's Members, we extend the warmest of welcomes.

CALIFORLVIA -HAWAII ELKS MAJOR PROJECT INC. UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

For the academic year 2004-2005 the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. Board of Trustees will offer over \$40,000 in undergraduate educational scholarships.

During the years in which this annual scholarship assistance competition has been in existence, the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. Undergraduate Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities has increased from five scholarships of \$1,000 each to twenty to thirty scholarships of \$1,000 - \$2,000 each. Scholarship recipients can reapply each year. If qualified, they can receive up to a total of four years of assistance.

This scholarship is a financial needs-based and academic use scholarship. It is intended for undergraduate work at a licensed vocational school, accredited community college, or four-year college. The funds are to cover academic expenses, which include tuition, books, lab fees and on-campus room and board only.

Individuals applying must be a United States citizen and a resident of California or Hawaii; have a physical impairment, neurological impairment, visual impairment, hearing impairment, and/or speech-language disorder; and be a senior in high school, a high school graduate, or have passed the General

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LECTURING KNIGHT David Naccarato

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

AMERICANISM: Raven West FLAG DAY/FLAG RETIREMENT: David Naccarato

SCHOLARSHIP: Rick Herrera GOVT. RELATIONS: Denise Goldstein

MEMORIAL SERVICE: George Meehan NATIONAL SERVICES: Jim Kellogg



KIDS XMAS PARTY: Chet Kozlowski, PER GOLF TOURNEY: Dave Pearson TommyClaunch

LODGE PICNIC:

MEMBERSHIP: Every Lodge Member CHRISTMAS TREES: Bob Hardy, PER EL KONEJO KAMPERS: Walter Ogden

Happy New Year,

Where did the year go? Our lodge had a good year. With lots accomplished and more to come we will have a banner finish. Ritual Practice with the new team starts up soon. A few changes some additions and some deletions. All and all we look forward to a good competition.

Some words of thought For attractive lips, speak words of kindness. For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.

For poise, walk with Knowledge that you'll never walk alone. Remember if you ever need a helping hand, you'll find one at the end of your arm. Your "good old days" are still ahead of you. May you have many of them. As morning breaks and we wake from sleep we are yours, Lord, my soul to keep, lead and guide me through the day. Direct my thoughts -- this I pray. Amen Thank you Lillian Claire, Vista Lodge1968

An English professor teaching Composition gave this assignment: "Using a minimum of words, write a story incorporating the themes of religion. Royalty, sex and mystery." One student earned an A+ with this:" Good God, the Queen is pregnant! I wonder who dunnit?

Now to business please mark your calendars for our Police and Firefighter Appreciation Night Dinner is at 7:00 PM with a cost of \$12.00 for baby back ribs and chicken.

BEQUESTS AND LIVING TRUSTS

David Naccarato BLT Com. Chair.

Gifts that last beyond tomorrow. Morgan Evan's Theme child year 2001, Sammy Otero 2003 theme child, Jonathan Reynoso theme child 1999, Jonathan Chapin theme child 1994. Many names but the harsh truth is we are only scratching the surface. whether its fair or not, right or wrong the fact is there are more disabled children that need our help and there will be more in the future. Only God knows why but we as Elks can make these children's life's a little more bearable. We can assure their future with a pledge to the Elks Bequest and Living Trust program. This program was created in 1991 to ensure the perpetuity of the California-Hawaii Major project. a pledge of \$1,000,00 will give you a certificate and a BLT pin for your lapel. An investment of \$10.000 dollars or more receive the following benefits

1. Immediate income tax deduction:

PURPLE PIG

By David Naccarato Com. Chairman 2003 As of December 3rd. Our Major project fund is up to \$2140.97 About normal for this leg of the year. From time to time I like to report where the money goes and this is no exception. In October The Elks provided for 1064 therapy visits. 240 preschool eye screenings running through 5163 children. 306 found to have problems that needed medical attention if the parents could not afford the doctor visit or the glasses the child may need. The parents could make a request to the Elks and we would provide it to them. Our therapist and Eye screeners traveled over 13,499 miles in Ford Escorts and Chevrolet Astro Vans. And one addition I would like to announce The Grand daughter of George Meehan our Chaplin(so you know he wouldn't lie) her preschool was visited by the Elks preschool eye screening screeners right here in the Conejo Valley. Thanks for the tip George. Its nice to see this going on so close to home. Keep up the good work

2. Monthly Income for as long as you and your spouse live;
3. when you are gone, the monies remaining in your BLT-CT will continue to take care of disabled children. A donation of \$52.00 or a dollar a week to the major project makes you a member of the Fifty-two Club A donation of \$100.00 makes you a member of the Century Club. A contribution of \$499. dollars or less is allocated to the operating income and expense account of the major project (lodge receives per capita credit) A contribution of \$500.00 or more is allocated to the BLT Legacy Trust Fund (lodge does not receive per capita credit)

See me for appropriate forms .

CONEJO VALLEY DAYS GRAND MARSHALL FOR 2004

By unanimous vote at the regular meeting held December 10, 2003 on the floor of the Lodge, Lodge 2477 will run a candidate for Marshall. Nominations and election will be at the second meeting this month, Jan. 14, 2004.

Our first nominee is Annie Pearson, who will have as her campaign manager, David Pearson.

Any others who wish to run, must have their name placed in nomination on the floor at the 2nd meeting in January.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Heather Maddox, Com. Chair.

Hi everybody!! It's been awhile, so let me fill everyone in on what's been going on with the Youth Activities and our Jr. Elks Program.

We had our Soccer Shootout in Sept. and our Hoop Shoot in November. I'd like to Thank Tom Hardin, Carol Neuner and everybody else that helped them at the Soccer Shootout, since I was on vacation. I'd like to thank Joe Smith who got the Teen Center reserved for the Hoop Shoot, thank you Joe. Thanks to Tom Hardin, Jay Block, Sally Claunch, Jim Kellogg and our Jr. Elks, who were our participants in the Hoop Shoot. And thank you to anybody else that I may have forgotten to mention.

With all the busy summer schedules that our Jr. Elks had we were still a success this summer. We managed to help get another Jr. Elks Program started at the Simi Valley Elks Lodge by helping them have their first successful Car Wash. I got all the car wash supplies for Simi donated from Tyler at Martin Distributor's. Then with the help of our available Juniors, Eddie & Sue Bray (Eddie for supervising) while Sue and my husband, David worked at drying cars - along with our Juniors, the new S.V. Junior Elks and most of the S.V. Lodge Officers. We raised \$260.00 in 3 1/2 hours for the startup of the S.V. Jr. Elks(Antlers) Program Fund. A Big "Thank You" to all, for all your help and support, we couldn't of done it without you!

The Jr. Elks have been busy these past few months: They have served dinner for a few functions and participated in one, the Cruise Night Talent Show, which they also served dinner. That evening turned out to be a special night, Greg Metzgus asked David & I to join him at his table, The Captians Table, where he introduced us to Dan & Jean from the Santa Barbara Elks Lodge. Dan and Jean were very impressed by our Jr. Elks Program and mentioned that they would like to have our Jr. Elks come and serve at their Lodge one evening. That's not all, Jean, who owns/operates a horseback riding stable, at Pismo Beach, invited all our Jr. Elks for a whole day of Horseback Riding on the beach in January. Do you think they are excited? I know we are!!

Along with Carol & Robert Neuner, the Jr. Elks helped with the games at the Fun Faire, while David & I watched the parking area. They had one car wash to raise money for the Jr. Elks Program and one car wash as a Fundraiser for D.A.R.E. They raised \$106.00 and donated \$100.00 out of their Jr. Elks Program Fund and presented a check for \$206.00 to Deputy Marc Fullerton, D.A.R.E. Program Officer at a Wednesday night General Meeting

In October they had a "Spooky Cake Auction" that did really well. We did a craft project on Dec. 5th after the Lady Elks Tree Trimming dinner was done, even the adults got into that project of making and decorating little sleighs. They served dinner on Dec. 6th for an awards banquet that Jim Rochford was doing. I would like to also thank Abe Gamble, who won a 50/50 drawing the Friday before Thanksgiving and said that he would like to donate the money towards a trip to the Long Beach Acquirium for the Jr. Elks. Abe stated, "The Jr. Elks have done so much for our

SUPER BOWL PARTY

- FEBRUARY 1ST
- 2 PM-?
- FOOD-DRINK-RAFFLES
- BRING AN APPETIZER TO
- SHARE=CHANCE TO WIN \$100



Lodge, and I would like to Thank them myself, by doing this for them". THANK YOU, Abe!!

I also want to mention that without Carol Neuner by my side, I wouldn't of achieved all this, Thank You So Much Carol for being there. Carol is there, not just when I call either, she is there all the time, willing to help and working hard to make sure everyone is happy!! THANK YOU, Carol, everyone should have a friend like you!

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Heather Maddox Youth Activities Chairman



(Standing L-R)) Heather Maddox, Jay Block, Sally Claunch, Tom Hartin. Robby, Jessica, Raymond, Breanna and Jennifer



Jeri & Bill Miller being congratulated by FL, Barbara and ER, Greg Metzgus winners of the Maui vacation



Jim Kellogg, National Services Com. Chair., and ER, Greg Metzgus welcomes Henry Wheeler to the Veterans Brunch in November



Jack Malone, ENF Com. Chair. presents ER, Greg Metzgus a certificate for the donation to the Elks National Foundation honoring Jim Diacono, DDGER Visitaiton



Geo. Meehan, Terry Baker, Dave Naccarato, Jim Rochfor, Sally Claunch and FL. Barbara Metzgus did the honors for the Veteran Brunch



Jack Malone, Trustee continues his sponsordhip of popcorn for the coming year.



Jim Kellogg and ER, Greg Metzgus greet Theresa Cracchiolo, who was a Dental Tech. and who lost her husband at Pearl Harbor

CHARITY BALL A Big Success



FL, Barbara, Er, Greg, and Teri Rochford all smiles as they enjoyed the Charity Ball



Best dancers on the dance floor, Jay and Myrna Block



David and Karen Naccarato en masked



The Garcias all smiles as they trip the light fantastic at the Charity Ball



PFL, Barbara and PER, Don Booker took a friendly 'Roasting' from PER, Gil Riding and the gang



The PERs put on an excellent breakfast, Chet, Bob, Tom, Jacob and Johnny D'. You guys did a great job.

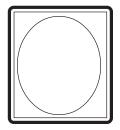
2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

THE ELKS LADIES President

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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PARLIAMENTARIAN: Myrna Block

CHAPLAIN: Marilyn Cissell

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Carol Neuner/Deanna Savokinas CVD: Dee Swanson & Marilyn Cissell

HISTORIAN:

SUNSHINE: Pat Smail



Happy New Year!

The old year is gone, and what a year. We have had some good times and some bad. We have seen some changes and they are

still happening. You need to attend our January meeting to elect a new president to fill in the last months of this term. We are also in need of an election committee to find officers for the coming year. The election and installation of new officers are just around the corner. But, we are not finished with this year's activities!

If you haven't recovered from all the holiday parties, you have a month to rest and get back to normal (whatever normal is). Then, on February 21st the Ladies will be having their annual Major Projects Dinner. This is going to be a little different and very exciting. We are having a Murder Mystery-Casino Night! You have to come to this one! This is truly going to be something to attend. There is going to be a little something for everyone to enjoy. So make an X on your calendar to reserve February 21st! I will see you there!

The year is new and fresh. Do something that you have always wanted to do. See something that you have always to see. Enjoy every new day. I wish you all the best.

God Bless Alice Kennedy





ELKS LADIES CHRISTMAS PARTY

Marilyn Cissell

We celebrate our savior's birth, this season filled with hope and joy, And blessed by you right now, Dear Lord, our strenghth to build and not destroy.

With fun and friendship here tonight, this party happens every year. Our thanks to all who helped create the meal and evening of good cheer.

Amen



JANUARY

15. Darlene Stogsdell

22. Alice Wagner

27. Sheila Aitken

Elaine Goldner

ELKS LADIES MYSTERY NIGHT Sat. February 21, 2004

> Casino Prizes

HONOR ROLL



Greg Metzgus, **Exalted Ruler** Jack Panczak, PER Gil Riding, PER Richard Goldner, PER El Konejo Kampers John Swanson **Roy Ratcliff Raven West** Vern Jossy Jay Block **Robert Jones Candy Bar Participants**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Tom Skaff **Zig Aukstkalnis** Maleah Earle **Paul Kruspir**
- 4. **Vincent Coffin Gus Chinery** 5. **Chuck Morsa**
- **Derrick Stevens Dick McNeal** 6. Ralph Campbell
- 7. **David MacFarlane David Pearson** 8.
- **Drew Oliver**

JANUARY

30.

- 11. **Jack Murray** Jeff Johnson Philip LaFata Ron Mason 12. **Dan Hammond**
- 13. Jon Preston James M. Barron

14.

- **Stephen Pence Arlene Tellez** 15. **Tommy Claunch** Michael Markey
- Lou Mages 16. Jerry Risvold Dennis O'Connor **17.** Leo Lambert Stan Fitzgerald

18. **Sterling Wetzsteon** Frank Corrigan Lawrence Savokinas, Sr.

19. **Stacy Shaw** 20. **Heather Maddox**

23. Terry Vineyard Glen Gatlin 24. John Swanson 25. **Izzy Prugh**

27. **Cheryl Templeton** Ted Radabaugh Marilou Van Leuven 29. Robert Garcia

William White

FROM THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

PROPOSED AND WILL BE BALLOTED ON **Date:** January 14, 2004

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November 5 \$150.00 #1156 **Timothy Kelly**

WINNER Lucky 13 Jack Panczak

\$175.00 #1860 **Hugh Mulloy** November 12 Lucky 13 No Winner

November 19 \$200.00 #773 **Larry Deeder** Lucky 13 No Winner

November 26 No Meeting

LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION NIGHT



LAW FOR ORDER





Wednesday, January 28, 2004 Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Menu: Baby Back Ribs & Chicken \$12

Scott Dool, Com.Chair.

As Elks, when we were initiated, each of us faced the open Bible, emblem of the Esteemed Loyal Knight's Station, whose motto is Justice. We took an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, local laws and the Laws of the Order of Elks.

As American citizens, whether natural-born or naturalized, we depend on our local, state and federal laws for our safety and well-being. Those laws are in place to protect us and our families from those in society who don't choose to abide by the law to preserve order in our society.

Let each of us renew our pledge to support our law-makers and those in local, state and federal government as loyal American citizens and patriots. Be proud of your Americanism programs and continue to honor law enforcement professionals and firefighters at Lodge activities throughout the year. Re-dedicate your efforts to your Government Relations Committee and their work throughout the year.

Renew your dedication to America, cradle of democracy, land of a 21st century melting pot of cultural diversity and home of the brave. We have the opportunity to rise above the challenge to make America and the Order of Elks stand for freedom across the world and require a new way of thinking, a spirit of resolution and a pride in our Flag and in our country. Dedicated, caring Elks Members using our laws to promote and preserve order, will once again demonstrate to our nation that "Elks Care - Elks Share."

Kenneth L. Curto, Member G/L Public Relations Committee



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Honor Them with your Thoughts & Prayers: Poet Anonymous

'Twas The Night Before Christmas, He Lived All Alone, In A One Bedroom House Made Of Plaster And Stone.

I Had Come Down The Chimney With Presents To Give, And To See Just Who In This Home Did Live.

I Looked All About, A Strange Sight I Did See, No Tinsel, No Presents, Not Even A Tree. No Stocking By Mantle, Just Boots Filled With Sand, On The Wall Hung Pictures Of Far Distant Lands.

With Medals And Badges, Awards Of All Kinds. A Sober Thought Came Through My Mind.

For This House Was Different, It Was Dark And Dreary, I Found The Home Of A Soldier, Once I Could See Clearly.

The Soldier Lay Sleeping, Silent, Alone, Curled Up On The Floor In This One Bedroom Home.

The Face Was So Gentle, The Room In Such Disorder. Not How I Pictured A United States Soldier.

Was This The Hero Of Whom I'd Just Read? Curled Up On A Poncho, The Floor For A Bed?

I Realized The Families That I Saw This Night, Owed Their Lives To These Who Were Willing To Fight.

Soon Round The World, The Children Would Play, And Grownups Would Celebrate A Bright Christmas Day.

They All Enjoyed Freedom Each Month Of The Year, Because Of The Soldiers, Like The One Lying Here.

I Couldn't Help Wonder How Many Lay Alone, On A Cold Christmas Eve In A Land Far From Home.

The Very Thought Brought A Tear To My Eye, I Dropped To My Knees And Started To Cry.

The Soldier Awakened And I Heard A Rough Voice, "Santa Don't Cry, This Life Is My Choice;

I Fight For Freedom, I Don't Ask For More, My Life Is My God, My Country, My Corps."

The Soldier Rolled Over And Drifted To Sleep, I Couldn't Control It, I Continued To Weep.

I Kept Watch For Hours, So Silent And Still And We Both Shivered From The Cold Night's Chill.

I Didn't Want To Leave On That Cold, Dark, Night, This Guardian Of Honor So Willing To Fight.

Then The Soldier Rolled Over, With A Voice Soft And Pure, Whispered, "Carry On Santa, It's Christmas Day, All Is Secure."

One Look At My Watch, And I Knew He Was Right. "Merry Christmas My Friend, And To All A Good Night."

Air Force Army Marines Coast Guard Navy

A Marine stationed in Okinawa Japan wrote this poem. The following is his request. "PLEASE. Would you do me the kind favor of sending this to as many people as you can? Christmas will be coming soon and some credit is due to our U.S. service men and women for our being able to celebrate these festivities. Let's try in this small way to pay a tiny bit of what we owe. Make people stop and think of our heroes, living and dead, who sacrificed themselves for us. Please, do your small part to plant this small seed."

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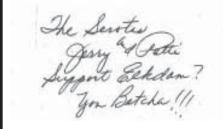
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Robert L. Thornton

*Deceased

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