



George Meehan,
Exalted Ruler



ANTLER ANTICS

Vol 38, No. 12

Editor, Sally Claunch, PER

March '09

Reaching Out in Elkdom



THOUSAND OAKS LODGE #2477

37th **INAUGURAL BALL**

IN HONOR OF OUR NEW
EXALTED RULER

APRIL 4, 2009

AT OUR LODGE

\$25

No Host Cocktails & Appetizers 6 pm

Dinner 7 pm

Grand Processional 9 pm

Menu:

Salad

Roasted Lamb Shank or Chicken

Tuscany Baked Apples

Music by One Last Dance Band



Wild Women on Wine



GO DOWNHOMES!

Friday - March 6, 2009

COMFORT FOOD WITH FLAIR

Home Style Soup and Tossed Salad

Gourmet Meatloaf Medallions

Mounds of Spuds

Down-home Country Vegetables

Hershey Delight Dessert



Dinner \$8.00 Wine \$1.00

The Wild Women:

Catherine Koeritz
Toni Hartin
Mary Woodlief

Sally Claunch
Cherri Peterson
Raven West



2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS


EXALTED RULER
George Meehan

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

ANTLER ANTICS: Sally Claunch, PER, Editor,
 Jerry Serota, Photographer

Calendar: Tom Ryder, PDDGER

NEW BEGINNINGS:

HISTORIAN/SCRAPBOOK:

GREETERS: Dorothy Murray

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

OPERATION FACELIFT: Tom Ryder, PDDGER



BUILDING MAINT. : Max Maxwell/Tom Hartin

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL

LODGE VISITATIONS:

BBQ WAGON:

AUDITING: Chet Kozlowski, PER

ELKS TRAINING: George Meehan

SHOE TOURNAMENTS: Mike Budenski

BEQUESTS & LIVING TRUSTS: Robert Jones

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

THE END...

This is the last time that I will be writing an article for the Antler Antics.. Although I think I will miss it sometimes, the deadlines for writing the article came around fast and I have to hustle to get it written.

I will say that it has been an experience being the Exalted Ruler. Going to the National Convention in Anaheim and the two State Conventions were wonderful experiences because you get to see how Elkdom works from the top down to the subordinate lodges. Having the opportunity to meet the Grand Exalted Ruler and people you usually just read about is a delightful experience. I would recommend that any Elk who can, go to convention.

Now, the day to day operation of the lodge is a challenging experience especially if you don't have an experienced lodge Secretary. It almost felt that I had gone back to a full time job after being retired for eleven years. Well my time is almost up and time to pass the torch to a new person. Some goals were met and some were not. I would like to say that I gave it my all and did the best job that I could.

I want to thank my officers for their support and wish them good luck in their leadership roles in Elkdom.

Finally, I would like to say to all members, support your lodge officers. They are all volunteers, giving their time to help Elkdom survive and continue to grow stronger and continue to be the fine organization that it is.

Lodge Members:

A motion was passed on the lodge floor that I, as Exalted Ruler, should let you know what happened with our bookkeeping system.

Donna Hardy was our bookkeeper for the last twenty years. She always did a fine job, her work was always acceptable and John Holt, our outside auditor, who, by the way, audits the books for about forty lodges in California, never found fault with her work.

About a year ago, Donna started to feel ill and she had a suspicion that cancer she had five years ago was returning. Well she was right because within a few months she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. However, because she felt she had beaten it before, she was determined she was going to beat it again. Unfortunately, she didn't and she died this summer. Now, the reason I am telling you this is because I allowed her to continue to do our books, thinking that with her determination, I had hoped that the work would give her something to think about other than her health.

After Donna died, the Lodge had to retrieve our accounting information from her computer. We did not find it in very good order and so we, the officers, had to hire some outside accountants to straighten out our books. This needed to be done because the office and accounting system were not in very good shape.

Now, the reason for this letter is that there is a member, who will remain nameless, thought that we should have taken this problem to the lodge floor before we acted. We did what we did with best interest of the lodge in mind and the crisis had to be cleared up as quickly as possible so that suppliers would not cut us off, taxes had to be paid and employees had to be paid. We also acted in getting Bob & Carol Saynay to come in and run the office which they do very efficiently.

So that is the story on our bookkeeping. I am not going to mention any dollar amounts, because these facts should come from the Trustees. I will say that the amount we were paying Donna was less than what we paid the accountants because it took many hours to get the books straightened out.

Fraternally yours,
 George R. Meehan, Exalted Ruler





Sally Claunch, PER Editor
 claunchsally@gmail.com
 articles are due the 5th of the month
 send as a word document

Again this month, I am encouraging members with email to receive your copy of the Antler by email only. It is a saving to the Lodge budget and you get it in living color. Ads in the Antler subsidize the cost, but there is still a \$1000 difference. If you wish to take advantage of this offer, please notify the office. If you have been receiving the Antler both ways-email and snail, even after notifying the office only email, please contact the office again. Thank you in advance for considering the email only option.

OFFICERS/HOUSE COMMITTEE MTG.

- * New hall rental is in place.
- * Happy Hour will cease in March.
- * Suggestions were made to have a greeter more often and to have Elroy the Elk at Saturday BBQs.
- * 1000 Elk information flyers will be printed and made available at all Saturday BBQs.
- * The formation of an entertainment committee is being investigated.
- * Elks Ladies donated \$1000 for parking lot lighting.
- * Lodge truck shell was sold for \$200.
- * The Secretary will inquire with Southern California Edison concerning retrofitting lighting in Lodge

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees started the preliminary budget process for 2009-2010. Some line items were re-aligned.

House Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Trustees meet the first Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Your input is valued. Your attendance is welcomed.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

805-495-0577

OUR CONDOLENCES TO: Ed Bianchi on the passing of his uncle

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Mary Ann Swallows has had a stroke; Pat Smail is having radiation treatment; Vernon Noell has prostate cancer; and Jim Kellogg has a blood disorder

ON THE MEND: Dorothy Murray's infant grandson from surgery; Jack Loughran's cat scan was clean; Bill Miller from foot surgery; Jerry Feldman from hip replacement

REMEMBER CARDS AND CALLS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED!!!

COMING ATTRACTIONS



March 4-Pin Night Meeting
 March 10-Elks Ladies Installation
 Dinner
 March 17-St. Patrick's Day Party
 March 27-Elk of the Year Dinner

April 1-Officer Installation Dinner
 April 4- Inaugural Ball

<p>2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</p>	<p>LEADING KNIGHT Raven West</p>	<p>2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</p>
<p>MAJOR PROJECT/PURPLE PIG: David Naccarato, PER SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Sally Claunch, PER INVESTIGATION: Bob Arbetman ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION: Tom Ryder, PDDGER</p>		<p>CHRISTMAS BASKETS: Raven West INDOCTRINATION: Dave Naccarato, PER MEM. CONTROL. COM.: CVAC: Tom Hartin COMMUNITY RELATIONS: CHARITY DINNERS: Raven West</p>

The "Magic" Card

When I was a little girl my father was a charter member of Ellenville Elks Lodge #1971 and served two terms as Exalted Ruler. The old black and white photo of the night of his installation, along with all the officers (all men) hangs on my wall alongside the awards he received during his 50 years of service.

When I would go with him to his Lodge, I remember waiting patiently as he took his "magic card" from his wallet to open the door which led into walking a huge foyer which had separate rooms for social events and one mysterious locked door which led into their very private meeting room. He never knew how many times I would sneak into that room when no one was looking and gaze at the huge podiums which read Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity, having no idea what they meant. I only knew that my dad was part of some wonderful organization, one which I was not allowed to participate.

I knew that no matter where we traveled, we were never really strangers when dad flashed his "magic card", and I wanted one of those cards more than my driver's license!

Over the years my parents and I would travel to various states visiting relatives, and at each stop the first question my dad would ask was "where is the ELKS Lodge"? He would use his "magic card" so all of us would have some place special to go for a few drinks, or a dinner, or just to meet new friends.

When I went to college, miles from home in Columbia, Missouri, I was a stranger in a strange land. I checked the phone directory and, much to my surprise, I found that there was an ELKS Lodge in that town! I called my dad who sent me a "child of member" card, and one night my girlfriend and I visited the Lodge. We buzzed in, and at first the bartender looked at us, thinking we were lost, until I showed him the "magic card". Suddenly he was all smiles, warm and inviting, and for the first time since I'd left New York, I felt as if I'd found a bit of home away from home.

I moved to California, and in 1982 I joined the Glendale Emblem Club. It was the closest I could get to being a "real" ELK since women were still ineligible to become members, but it wasn't the same. The Emblem Club's membership card wasn't "magic". Every time my parents would visit, my dad and I would do an "ELKS" visitation. From Palm Springs, to Culver City, to Glendale and Burbank, to Pasadena, and of course when our family moved to Thousand Oaks, dad was a frequent visitor. Dad and his "magic card", took me places none of my friends could go!

In 1994, my husband and I opened a stationery store in Thousand Oaks. A few years later, Denise Goldner came in to purchase invitations for her father's Exalted Ruler Inaugural Ball. We started talking about our dads and our ELKS experiences and I told her how excited I was that the ELKS now allowed women as members, but since I didn't know anyone in Thousand Oaks, and my dad couldn't sponsor me in a different Lodge, I didn't see how I

could join.

About a week or so later, Denise came into the store and showed me her very own "magic card" and offered to sponsor me into her Lodge! Even though I didn't know a single member, she introduced me to everyone that night and two weeks later I was the new Americanism Chair!

The night of my initiation, I called my dad in NY, even though it was 1:00 in the morning his time and yelled; "Dad, I'm a real ELK. I know everything you know, but I can't tell you cause it's a secret! We laughed. I think the universe also laughed because my membership number is the same as his Ellenville Elks: 1971! He sent me his Elks tooth, which I now wear at every meeting.

Over the years, I've used my "magic card" to open doors in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Del Ray Beach, Florida, and others throughout California. I've saved every card I've had since I became a member, they are in a frame next to my dad's picture. I believe that every time I add another one, I can see him smiling a bit more.

Dad passed away in June of 2007. I made a shadow box similar to those in our Patio, which contains his pin, his name badge and, of course his last "magic card" This memorial to my father is now on display on the wall in his Lodge in New York.

The "magic card" which was so very special to my dad and myself. The "magic card" is a privilege and honor to keep in my wallet. It opens doors all over the country which were once barred to women. The "magic card" that says you have friends and a "home" even when you're far from family and familiar surrounds.

When members grumble at having to show their membership card to gain admittance to the Lodge. When members "buzz in" because it is easier than taking a few seconds to take the card from their wallet. When those without the card are able to enjoy the amenities of our Lodge and all that this card represents, some of the "magic" is lost, and I find that a bit sad.

We can all use a bit of "magic" in our lives, even if it only exists in a tiny card.

SHARE THE MAGIC CARD

SPONSOR A NEW MEMBER

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

LOYAL KNIGHT Terry Gicking

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

CONEJO VALLEY DAYS: Ed Rice
LODGE ACTIVITIES: Dave Naccarato, PER
SCOUTING: Bill Miller
HOOPSHOOT: Dave Naccarato, PER
WED. NIGHT DINNERS: Terry Gicking
DRUG AWARENESS: Robert Jones
STRAY ELKS: Herb Jellander



MOTHER'S DAY: Rick Herrera
ENTERTAINMENT: Corinne Richeson
WED. NIGHT TICKETS: Leo Rodriguez
**LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIREFIGHTER
 APPRECIATION:** Scott Dool
PRESIDING JUSTICE:
YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Robert Jones

Words from our Ritual

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD? A simple question from our ritual, but your answer carries a lot of weight to it. Because had you not so believed, you would not have been permitted to take the solemn and binding obligation of this great fraternal organization called BPO Elks. Seems like a simple answer, but think about all of the privileges that come with a YES! This great country of ours was built upon God's word & teachings. So it is only fitting the Elks should follow the same path. From "the chaplain will lead us in prayer" to "upon the alter there lies the open bible", God's teachings are imbedded in the great swelling heart of Elkdom! GOD's words teach us many things, but one of the most common teachings is that of love. Love is entwined in every aspect of the 10 commandments and with out love, nothing works.

So it goes without saying that the Elks would not work without Brotherly Love. Think it's a stretch? Without Brotherly Love there would be no teamwork, and without team work, there are no Elks! No BBQ, no Charity basket deliveries, no hoop shoot, no scholarships, heck, no Officers! I like to think that around our lodge, though no one wants to say that they love each other, yet they all work together as a team because of the love they have for what the order of Elks stands for. And a team with a common goal can do a lot of wonderful things. I would like to think that, in addition to the things that we already do together, we set a goal of all of us members helping to rebuild all of our differences. As a divided lodge, nothing can get accomplished. But as a united team we can put this lodge back to where it was! "THE FREINDLIEST LODGE IN THE DISTRICT", let alone Elkdom! But no one person can do it alone. It takes the help of many with the same goal in mind! "Are you willing to assume such an obligation"? Please join the team in rebuilding this great lodge! There are many things that need to be done. Please do not hesitate to help in this endeavor. Contact any officer or me personally. Together we can make a difference. Wow, I almost sounded like a politician, but that was from the heart! And the heart is love – love is a team and my team, just won the Super Bowl!! WOW! Ok what a stretch!! But seriously, if you could join our team effort in some capacity, that would be wonderful! Step up, make a difference. "The daily gifts we bestow increase our own riches; the help we extend to those in need

is added to our own strength. The witchery in wealth is not in having, but in sharing. The real benefactors of mankind count their store in what is given, not in what is saved"!

In closing, I would like to thank all of you who help me through this past year. From all of the suggestions for the kitchen, where to go, what to do, how to do it, a big thank you! To Chuck Busch, I could not have survived this year without you doing all that you did in the kitchen for this lodge. In case you were not aware, almost all of the meals that I served out of the kitchen window were prepared and cooked by Chuck. Chuck is an example of what great teamwork is. THANK YOU CHUCK! And to Corinne, with out her help in setting up the calendar every month, don't know what I would of done without you! THANK YOU CORINNE! We all need to thank these two for duty above and beyond the call of duty! And thank you to the rest of you who help keep me grounded. 2009 is gonna be a great year!



Back row Scott Dool, Chair Appreciation Dinner and ER, George Meehan honoring the police and firefighters at the annual dinner.



ENTERTAINMENT

March 6-Deep Sea Band
March 20-One Last Dance
March 27-Karaoke

Corinne Richeson
Bar Manager



I want to give a huge thank you to the lodge members who came over to my home and helped me with 3 1/2 years of yard work and waste. I had been unable to take care of yardwork since my spinal injury.

My pride made me not want to hire out to have this work done for I have always done it myself in the past. On Monday February 5th a crew headed up by Gerry Gillies and Ben Reiger with the help of Tom Hartin, Dave Anderson, Alan Hardie , Jim Mullen, Dwight Williams and brand new member, Jerry Kamm,came by the house and spent about 8 hours cutting and trimming and hauling to the dump. Edison had come by to cut my trees out of their power lines, but left the debris behind. It was much work and I thank them for it. It saved me money, and it is keeping my house decent looking. I don't think new member Jerry knew what he was getting himself into, but this is Elkdom at its best.

Also Max Maxwell was over at the same time making my shower handicap accessible. Big help. I hope to one day be able to return the favor. From my wife and myself Thank you gentlemen for your generous act of kindness reinforcing "Elks Care Elks Share"

David Naccarato

I would like to thank my whole crew for working hard and making our taco dinner a success. I could not have done it without your help. I would also like to thank all who came down and supported us. All 95 of you. If you missed this dinner, please come down for the next one.

Edl Bianchi

COMING SOON
LEGENDS IN CONCERT
ON BROADWAY



PULL TAB COLLECTION

The Elks did a great job collecting pull tabs in January. With both Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley Elks collecting tabs, I was able to deliver 48 pounds to the Pasadena Ronald McDonald House. Great job!! The Thousand Oaks contributors that I know of are: Dorothy Murray (Jafra), Beverly and Louis Reis, Jim Wiems and Myrna Block. I also picked up numerous zip lock bags from the collection box that added up to quite a few tabs. Thanks to all. Another thing the Ronald McDonald Houses could use travel toiletries. If you happen to be traveling, please save those hotel soaps and shampoos and other toiletries. Thanks again to all.
 Gerry Gillies

Jessica Stull and the Elks Ladies did it again. M.A.S.H. 2477 for our Major Project was a huge success. This was the type of evening this lodge used to enjoy quite frequently and I hope it continues. The theme was from the popular t.v. show M.A.S.H. Although it was not mandatory most everyone came dressed in their favorite character. It made for a fun evening. David Stull came as Father Mulkaie. There were many Hawk Eye's and B.J.'s even a few Hot Lips, but the show stopper was Jay Block as Klinger in drag. It was scary. I will have nightmares and will need professional help. The most scary part about it is that Jay enjoys it too much. I'll have to keep my eye on him from here on out. It was good to see brand new members taking in the fun. The party didn't break up til well past 12:00 even though the event ended at 10:00. My hats off to the Elks Ladies in helping our Major Project program and providing a way for Elks to have a good time, and at the same time raise money for this worthy cause. Our therapist have a average case load of 500 children that they visit every week. They drive thousand of miles every month and our eye program services thousand of kids every year. Thank you to all who came out to the event and for those who give on Purple Pig night every month.

David Naccarato, Major Project Chair



ATTENTION SINGERS

Legends in Concert III Broadway/Hollywood is underway. If you can sing and would like to participate in our lodge production, please see me or call 375-1089 with your name and the song you wish to sing. Between Robert and Catherine or myself, we probably have the music or we'll get it. The music we are targeting is songs from plays or movies. Thankyou, David Naccarato

MEMBERSHIP LONGEVITY PIN RECIPIENTS FOR 2009



5 Year

FREDRICK ANDERSON #2029
 DENISE BYRNES #2034
 GARY ERLAND #2040
 GEORGE ESTOCK #2026
 HARVEY FLAM #2015
 CATHERINE KOERITZ #2048
 IRVING KOERITZ #2035
 EUGENE LETOURNEAU #2016
 DAVID MCFARLANE #2022
 MIKE MILLER #2038
 JAMES MULLEN #2019
 ELISE MURRAY #2020
 RUSSELL OVIATT #2027
 CHARLES PEDERSON #2037
 JOHN QUINN #2018
 RICHARD WIXON #2025

10 YEAR

TOM BOLTON #1851
 JACK CARTER #1852
 CHARLES CHRISTENSEN #1841
 PATRICK HARTIN #1826
 MICHAEL IDOL #1849
 HOWARD JOHNSON #1843
 DANIEL KOZLOWSKI #1847
 PATRICK LYNCH #1835
 VERNON NOELL #2082
 NORMAN PANCZAK #1846
 LOUIS WOLFF #1855

15 YEAR

JOEL ERICKSON #1662
 JIM KELLOGG #1655
 RONALD MADDOX #1654
 ED RICE #1644
 BILL VON WITTENBURG #1661
 WILLIAM WILKINSON #1650

20 YEAR

TOMMY CLAUNCH #1407
 NEILS GLICKMAN #1400
 KENNETH KOLDE #1413

25 YEAR

DON ANSELL 1138
 WILLIAM DOODY #1057
 HENERY GERMAIN #1070
 RICHARD JOHNSON #1087
 ROBERT JONES #1109
 JERRY SEROTA #1064

30 YEAR

DONALD ALLEN #300
 ARNOLD ANTLE #293
 RICHARD DAHSE #676

35 YEAR

EDWARD CASSESE #474
 ANTHONY FEDERICO #255
 ROBERT THORNTON PER #1842

45 YEAR

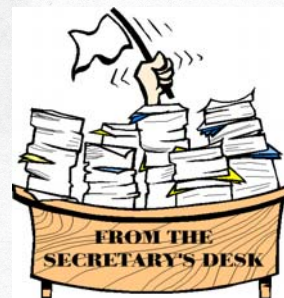
JACK LOUGHRAN #1123

55 YEAR

RALPH VESTER #2083

60 YEAR

HUBERT OFER #2213



The first meeting in March is dedicated to honoring members with longevity pins. invitation from the Lodge invitng them to dinner and a pin. If you feel that your name should be on the list, please contact the office.

ELK LADIES M.A.S.H. PARTY



**FEB. 7TH
MAJOR PROJECT FUNDRAISER**

WELCOME ABOARD OUR NEW MEMBERS



Sponsor June Leadam And New Member Carol Fredericks



Sponsor Ben Rieger and new member Jerry Kamm



Chuck Kudra sponsor and new member Mark Rediger



Rick Herrera sponsor and new member Jim Moye



Third Place Photo Best Image of Elkdom presented to Jerry Serota by ER, George Meehan



Tom Ryder, PPDGER with ENF Certificate for his \$2,000 donation



**Pat VonWittenberg
Konejo Kampers**

TRAVEL VILLAGE - JANUARY 2009 - WHAT A DIFFERENCE

Was it last year we nearly froze, in fact, water hoses did? This year the weather, except for a bit of wind, was as perfect as January could possibly be. The wind did deliver a blanket of very large leaves. Our dogs had not a clue what this ground covering might be and watching their reaction was quite funny.

Now, I ask you, is this some kind of planning or what? Pat and Jay Peterson are proud owners of a lovely new trailer. Instead of waiting until March, the original plan, they decided it would be much less expensive, champaign wise, to come to the January campout instead of the sold out campout at Newport Dunes in March!

Oh, speaking of March at NEWPORT DUNES!

All who have reservations be aware of the Park's cancellation notice - **10 WORKING DAYS** prior to planned date of arrival.

ALSO those of you who do not currently have reservations, if you would like to get on a waiting list, please call me (805) 523-7758. Very few of our campouts come off without several cancellations, this month the Chiszars had to cancel because Molly had fallen at work which required her to stay off her feet for a while. We did see Steve when he delivered Cheryl's motor home and he advised Molly is recovering well. We miss'ya gal.

Last year, Chet and Shirley, had three cancellations for our campout at the Santa Barbara Lodge - one of my favorites.

In the alternative, if you still wish to go, you may make reservations directly with Newport Dunes. Your rate will more than likely not be the same as for the group, however, use any means for a discount you may have available, AARP, Good Sam or whatever they may honor.

Back to January. It is so wonderful to have Margaret and Bob Thornton out with us more in the last few months than in a long time. Despite the fact that late last year, Margaret accomplished what very few have managed before, dislocating BOTH shoulders simultaneously, she is on the mend and out and about. What a delightful couple. However, their luck with raffle tickets just hasn't worked well at all - - maybe next month!



Donna and Ed Colleran were wagon masters and as usual did a great job. However, one can never be quite sure that all information provided is correct, for example. Their flyer advised that Friday nite would be "on your own". NOT - Debi Drake had rescued the leftover pulled pork from the New Year's Eve campout and made enchiladas with it. After a bit of confusion as to who was going to bring Spanish rice (me) and re-fried beans (Beverly Erickson) - - the surprise Friday nite "on your own" was a very pleasant surprise, along with margarites - OH YAH!

As, probably more than a few of us know, Steve Chiszar is a crazy-man over UCLA's football team. Chuck Kudra, while checking out Pechanga for a campout later this year, ran across a shop in Temecula with numerous USC banners, flags, etc. When Steve was at the campsite, he HAD to drag them out. Thought Steve would have an attack of some type. (giggle).

Saturday nite dinner was billed as "Comfort Food". I'm not exactly sure that the pasta salad prepared by Cheryl Templeton qualifies as comfort food but it was very good. Donna has specifically mentioned macaroni and cheese as something she'd like, so on my second try, I think "I Got It". Donna's sloppy joes in casserole was very tasty - - as was everything else. If ya go hungry round this group there is definitely something wrong.

Upcoming Campouts

March 13-14 -Newport Dunes
April 17-18-Camp Comfort
May 15-16-Kenny Grove
June 19-20-Santa Barbara Lodge
July 10-11-Pechanga, Temecula
August-7-8 Oak Park, Simi Valley

visit the website:
<http://elkonejokampers.oaksdata.com>



to join call Bev Erickson 495-9715



Dave Naccarato, PER

OUR HISTORY

April 1st 1979- Edward "Ed Stogsdale takes over as Exalted Ruler. About this time it should be brought up that this lodge has had three Tommy Thompson's. But one stands out for his notoriety,

Tommy "the Author" Thompson was a writer for T.V. and movies as well as books. Tommy knew the western stars old and new. He wrote scripts for Gunsmoke, Bonanza and other westerns. He worked with another Elk Bill Witney on many westerns.

Tommy had two other areas that he excelled in. When Tommy attended meetings, he represented all consenting Elks when protesting a fine for a misdemeanor during the meeting, and he was a noted "barrister" It usually ended up that the Elk represented had to pay double for "court cost" but it was worth it!

Tommy also was a gifted speaker and the Lodge took advantage of the talent.. The stories that he told about his mother and her stay in logging camps had everyone laughing til it hurt.

Tommy passed away in the early nineties. I miss not meeting him. I'm told all of the Mother's Days Brunches since then have been lacking his special tribute to all mothers.

February 1980- Bob Clark Sr. is Elk of the year 1980/1981
April 1st. 1980- Frank "Tex" Hastie takes over as Exalted Ruler.

Somewhere around this time give or take a year. PER, Jack Henry while out gathering oak wood for Lodge bbq's falls out of the tree and compresses two disks in his back

July 1980- Erle Pittman is sworn in as DDGER
September 1980- ER, Tex Hastie breaks a leg throwing out the first bowling ball to open the Elks league at Conejo Bowl. Of course Tex insisted on wearing cowboy boots and not bowling shoes. Wrong choice. Leading Knight Bob Hardy was to have a busy year as acting ER.
January 27th 1981 Scott Dool chairs another Law Officers and Firefighters Appreciation Night. It was an outstanding success. Thousand Okas Mayor Madge Schaefer presented awards

March 1981- Jerry Tait was presented to the crowd on hand as this year's Elk of the Year 1981/1982
April 1st 1981- Robert "Bob" Hardy takes over as Exalted Ruler

Spring 1981- ER, Bob Hardy leads a crew of house wreckers, plumbers, electricians, planners, carpenters, and grunts in a remodel of the Lodge bar. During this time, if you needed work at your home you had to call the lodge for everyone in town was here at the lodge working,

advising, or just watching.

March 1982- PER, Bob McKee is announced as Elk of the Year 1982/83

March 24th- Exalted Ruler, Bob Hardy, leads a celebration of the Thousand Oaks Elks 10th year as a lodge.

April 1st 1982- A. John Nichols is in the chair as Exalted Ruler.

Jube 12th 1982- Annual Flag Day services were held at the lodge

September 1982- A notice goes out that original ugly wall plaques (from old bar) must be picked up by Wednesday, Sept. 8th 1982 at the regular meeting. Otherwise they will be thrown out. These plaques were white ceiling tiles that for a fixed donation the donor's name would be stenciled on it and the tile glues to the wall of the lounge. An early fund raiser was a success.

March 1983"- John's John"! what is now the men's room is under construction A. John Nichols ,ER, pet project; It was a new men's room, something to replace the one holer currently in use.

With donations of time and materials from many, it becomes reality and "Johns John" is ready for the Grand Flush Opening!



CALLING ALL CARS !! CALLING ALL CARS!!

All lodge members i am looking for vintage cars for a small car show during one of our Bar B que's. Preferred parking next to picnic tables for our customers to enjoy and a get together for our lodge brothers. Bobby Williams showed up at our last barbbque in a 57 chevy and a light bulb goes off above my head. All intrested members please call me with your name and model of car or motorcycle at 375-1089 or see me at the lodge. Thank you David Naccarato

**In your birthday
month --have a free
drink on the Lodge--
Happy Birthday**

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

LECTURING KNIGHT Greg Metzgus, PSVP

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AMERICANISM: Grant Thistle
FLAG DAY/FLAG RETIREMENT:
 Robert Jones
SCHOLARSHIP: Rick Herrera
GOVT. RELATIONS: Scott Dool
MEMORIAL SERVICE: Rick Herrera
NATIONAL SERVICES: Jim Kellogg
KIDS XMAS PARTY: Chet Kozlowski, PER



GOLF TOURNEY: Dave Pearson
LODGE PICNIC: Joe Clancy & Ed Bianchi
MEMBERSHIP: Every Lodge Member
CHRISTMAS TREES: Herb Jellander
 Bill Sternberg, PER/Terry Baker
EL KONEJO KAMPERS: Mike Flannery

It has been an honor.....

I will start this article by saying it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Lecturing Knight for our lodge this past lodge year. I had not served in this position on my journey to ER so it was a new experience. Whenever a Past Exalted Ruler goes back and serves as an officer again, it means there is a shortage of new blood in the officer corps. We have had that problem and I am in hopes that we can get back into a normal rotation of officers.

I will be serving as the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler beginning in July. As District Deputy I will be the personal representative of the Grand Exalted Ruler. I will serve as the liaison between the lodges of our district and the Grand Lodge. There will be a visitation to every lodge in our district to determine and ensure that they are operating in accordance with the Laws of the Order, adhering to the prescribed Grand Lodge procedures, and render advice and assistance when needed. Chet Kozlowski will serve as the Auditor to the District Deputy and Bill Sternberg will be the Esquire to the DD. Chet will be reviewing the books of each lodge and Bill will make a physical inspection of the lodges. Somewhere along the line we are going to fit in some fun and fellowship.

The California Hawaii Elks Vice President this year will be Jesse Jolly from San Luis Obispo Lodge #322. He will be visiting each lodge in the district starting in May. Both Jesse's visitations and mine are open to all Elk members. Spouses and significant others are also invited for the social portion but the lodge meeting is closed to all but members. A program is put on for all non-Elks. These visitations give members a chance to socialize and network with members of other lodges. I think most of us joined our organization for the social aspect and these visitations will allow you to broaden your horizons so to speak.

Please support your officers for the upcoming year, no matter who they may be. Without officers we cannot exist. When called upon to serve in a committee position, please look at it as your way to support our lodge and all of Elkdom. We cannot do what needs to be done without everyone's help.

This will be my last written reminder; our Army of Hope cans are placed in our lounge and at several businesses around town. The proceeds from this donation are being used to help our veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. The Vietnam Veteran's Association has partnered with the Elks in this effort. Please dig deep and give what ever you can. This campaign will end in July of 2009. There are additional cans available for placement in local businesses. See the new Lecturing Knight if you would like to work with this program.

**THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!**

Duke Kopacz and Paul Stein for donating to the Army of Hope cans



The graduating class 2009 for Elk Training (l-r) Bill Sternberg, Terry Gicking, Robert Jones, Greg Metzgus, Raven West, Leo Rodriguez, Kiren Spreights, Bob Arbetman, Bill Dyer, Gerry Gillies

2008-2009 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	THE ELKS LADIES Jessica Stull	2008-2009 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Pat Peterson 2ND VICE PRESIDENT: 3RD VICE PRESIDENT: SECRETARY: June Leadam TREASURER: Diane Isaman AUDITOR: Beth Kozlowski TELEPHONE: Patti Serota		PARLIAMENTARIAN: June Leadam CHAPLAIN: Marilyn Cissell MAJOR PROJECTS: Niki Case CVD: Alice Kennedy & Marilyn Cissell HISTORIAN: SUNSHINE: Shirley Kozlowski


M.A.S.H. and More...

When Klinger, Hot Lips Houlihan, Radar and Hawkeye pitched their lines to a crowd of over 100 people, you could see the thinking going on. What a great bunch of actors. Congrats to Lynn Rodriguez and Greg Metzgus on winning the Quotable Quotes and M*A*S*H Trivia games. Terry Gicking, Chuck Bush and crew did a wonderful job on the food. John and Cherri Peterson had set up a large screen and episodes of M*A*S*H played all evening. What a great ambiance. Now, Sharon Baker outdid herself again with her beautiful baskets entitled The Frank Burns "Whine" Basket and the Tokyo R & R Basket just to name two. It seems that just about every women in our group got into it and were either decorating, shopping, selling, serving or doing some other form of creative endeavor. And the men were not idle either – they built a still, critter cages, the signpost and more.

This was one of the greatest teamwork effort you can imagine and all the guests cooperated by having the time of their lives. No one got sick, but if they had we had a bushel of doctors, nurses and surgeons to put them back on track. To insure everyone had something to do, the table centerpieces consisted of playing cards, dice, candy and other assorted goodies. The band was fab as usual with a nice variety of dancing music and they even played a 1/2-hour longer than we paid them for. We were treated to an impromptu surprise by three young men who sang a cappella.


They are raising money for Veterans. The crowd passed the hat and raised almost \$300 for their cause. All and all, it was such a nice party. I would be remiss if I didn't single out and recognize Niki Case for all her hard work, cheerful willingness to do what ever needed doing. She never missed a beat, I'm not sure if the support came because it is for Major Project, or maybe the Major Project gods were smiling down on M*A*S*H #2477.

Mark you calendars for the Ladies installation dinner – March 10, 2009. The invitations will be going out in the mail, so if you don't receive yours, contact June Leadam for your reservation and entrée choice. Husbands and others are welcome, of course. Come



MARCH

Rubye Metzgus-1
 Angie Prizzi-1
 Phyllis Riding-5
 Dee Ansell-6
 Jeanne Stermolle-23
 Jessica Stull-25



YOUR BLESSINGS ARE CONSTANT

Do we tell you daily, Lord
 How much we do love you?
 And do we thank you constantly
 Each time desires come true?

And are we grateful every night
 For all you did that day?
 Protecting us in silent ways
 From harm you push away.

Amen

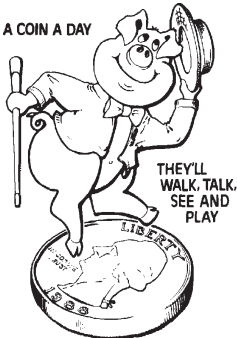
meet the new officer corps and enjoy a wonderful meal by Tom Ryder.



Westlake High School Choral Group entertaining at the Elks Ladies Christmas party

HONOR ROLL

A COIN A DAY



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Paul DeNubio-1
 Harvey Flam-1
 Rubye Metzgas-1
 Steve Plymale-1
 Leslie Smith-1
 John Tapking-1
 Ron Collins-5
 Jack Henry, PER-7

Tom Hartin-8
 Mark Rediger8
 Pete Jackson-10
 George Meehan-10
 Bob Thornton, PDDGER-11
 Tony Lerner-12
 Carmine Prizzi-12
 Timothy Kelly-14
 Kevin Metzgas-16
 Mike Idol-17

Dave Puenta-19
 Don Peterson-20
 Denise Byrnes-21
 Jay Schmidt-21
 Gary Erland-22
 Richard Goldner, PDDGER-24
 Kevin Porter-25
 Robert Revell-25
 Bill Jones-30
 Richard Case-31

Cherri Peterson
 John Peterson
 Gerry Gillies

Max Maxwell
 George Meehan
 Greg Metzgas
 Rubye Metzgas
 Paul Stein
 Bob Arbetman
 Robert Jones

FROM THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE PROPOSED AND WILL BE BALLOTTED ON:

March 11, 2009

Homer Garten
 Lydia Moccaldi

Proposed by Pete Jackson
 Proposwd by Cherri Peterson

Life Membership
 Tom Ryder, PDDGER

CRYING TOWEL



1/7/09	\$300	#2137 Herb Jellander
Lucky 13		No Winner
1/14/09	\$325	#1887 Jim Rochford
Lucky 13		WINNER Grant Thistle
1/28/09	\$350	#1624 Pete Nolan
Lucky 13		No Winner

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6 7 8 9 10

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INSERT YOUR NAME AND ENJOY ONE ON US

We would like to celebrate your birthday with you
 Bring in this coupon and receive a
 Well Drink, Glass of Wine or a Beer
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We look forward to seeing you!!!
 Bring driver's license as proof of birthday

Offer good during your Birthday month. Limit one drink per member

Help Fund



Our Scholarship Program

Bring your aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles to the Lodge




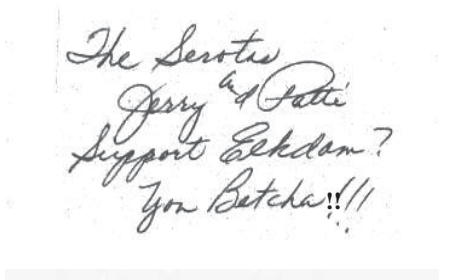










Drop off at Wed. meetings or at Sat. BBQ by rear entrance to the bar parking lot

Thanks- Rich Herrera Scholarship Chair.

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The ANTLER ANTICS is published monthly in Thousand Oaks, California as the official Bulletin of the Thousand Oaks Lodge no. 2477 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks of the United States of America, 158 Conejo School Road, P.O. Box 2110, Thousand Oaks, 91358. Publication of the ANTLER ANTICS is an activity of the Lodge and contributions and interesting and pertinent reading material and photographs are welcomed. *Photographs MUST be identified and captioned or they will not be published.* Deadline for receiving ALL material for publication is the **5th** of each month.