

ELK-GRAM



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LINCOLN LODGE NO. 80

Home of Past Grand Exalted Ruler Vincent R. Collura Nebraska Sponsor and Past Grand Exalted Ruler George B. Klein



SPAGHETTI DINNER

January 25, 2003

ALL YOU WANT TO EAT!

Cocktails 5:30, Dinner 6:30

SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT



Shearing the Hair of One ER!!!

Total cost - \$10

\$8.00 for dinner, \$2.00 to the Renovation Fund

EXALTED RULER CHALLENGE SURPASSED

A few months ago Tom Roper, Exalter Ruler, challenged the Lodge to not only meet the Grand Exalted Ruler's goal of giving \$3.65 per member to the Elks National Foundation, but to almost double it to \$7.00 per member! As an incentive to giving, ER Tom said that if we did this he would allow us to witness the public shaving of his head and face. That's right – the hair and moustache will go!

On January 25th a Special Spaghetti Dinner prepared by our own Italian Chef – Pam – will precede this unusual spectacle. What a finish to one of the most significant accomplishment that has occurred at this Lodge in recent times. And did you know that for each of those dollars we gave, our Lodge receives approximately \$2.00 in return from the Grand Lodge?



Exalted Ruler Message

Dear Members,

As I reflect on 2002, the only words that come to mind are: WHERE DID IT GO!.....

In December we had our citywide Hoop-Shoot contest with roughly 90 kids participating. I want to thank all of the members and their families who helped to make this event a success. A special thanks to Glen Pumel for organizing, strategizing and producing a really great event for all the people that were involved.

We had our traditional chicken dinner that was hosted by Phil Stettinger with a great turnout by the membership. The supplier of the chicken, did not get the order right, thus, we didn't have enough to go around but, we have such wonderful and understanding members that it didn't seem to be much of an issue. Camaraderie and fellowship, as its primary goal, was successful.

We hosted our 95th Annual Children's Christmas Party at Pershing Auditorium to a crowd of about 1200 people. I would also like to give a special thanks to all of the members who contributed their time and efforts. The smiles and laughter generated by this event is the fuel that makes this party such a success every year. I want to give a very special thanks to Chuck Meisinger for his tireless efforts so that this labor of love could come to fruition.

We also hosted the Elks Memorial Service for 19 of our members who died in 2002. This was an inspiring service with an equally inspiring message from Rev. Gil Karges. Although losing 19 members in one year is very difficult for our lodge, that pales in comparison to the difficulty that the families of those that lost their Husband, Father, Grandfather or friend. Please extend a helping hand by calling these families and offering your assistance in whatever way you can.

I want to let the members of Lincoln Elks Lodge know that their contributions to the Elks National Foundation (ENF) has placed us in 2nd place in the State of Nebraska. We are very close to overtaking Omaha and I couldn't be more proud. True to my promise, since our generous members reached, and in fact, exceeded the \$7.00 per capita goal (we have not seen this level of giving for quite a few years) we will be having a sheep shearing party on January 25th in conjunction with an all-you-can-eat spaghetti feed. The evening entertainment will be watching your Exalted Ruler get his head sheared in front of everybody!

My original thoughts on this project was that I was fairly safe in setting a realistic but much higher goal than what we have seen in years past. I will say that the generosity of the Elks has surprised me yet again, and even though I will be entering into the meat of the cold weather season without any hair on my head, I am warm with the thoughts that our scholarships and other Elks sponsored programs will continue.

Tom Roper
Exalted Ruler

ELK-O-GRAM

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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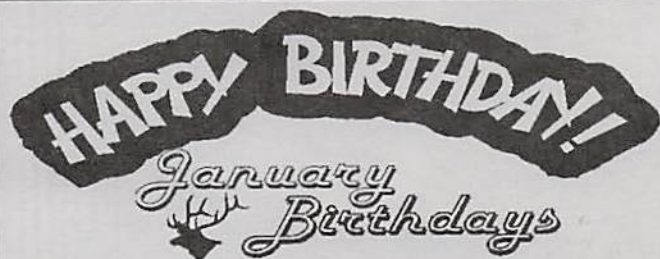
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Chuck Meisinger
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Thomas H Lynch	01	Sanford H Nelson	18
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Roger White	06	Terry L Edwards	19
Roxanne Thomas	08	Robert H Taylor	20
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Leo Hill	09	Leroy Butherus	22
Gene M Obrecht	10	John H Robel, Jr	22
James M Nabb	11	Bob Clinkenbeard	24
Allen O Wasenius	11	Ronald L Colin	25
Willis K Harding	13	Robert Peterson	25
M E Whitehead	13	Harry J Blum	26
Richard L Myers	14	Raymond G Plotts	28
Clarence C Knosp	17		

IN MEMORIAM

Our apology to the family and friends of Leonard Sinkule for the error in the name in the memorial entry last month.

Our deepest sympathy to the family and loved ones of our departed members:

Leonard Sinkule: DOB 11/25/1929, Init 9/18/1974, DOD 10/31/2002, Age 72, 26 years as an Elk.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS

Royal Helzer @ Milder Manor; **Dale Adkins** @ Homestead; **Bob Taylor** @ Madonna; **Bud Dietrich** @ home.



Santa is handing out bonuses to Linda and Roxy and others on the staff.

CLUB NOTES

Linda Denkinger and Roxy Thomas welcomed Santa to the Christmas Party. Everyone was having a good time, especially Santa! From the picture above it appears Linda and Roxy have convinced Santa that they have been "good little girls" because he is about to give each of them a nice Christmas bonus. The employees' Christmas party, held December 13th, was the occasion for distribution of bonuses to all club employees. Thanks to all who contributed to the appetizer buffet.

It should be noted that the operation of the club, under the stewardship of Linda has been the best in recent memory. Linda, who has worked for the Lincoln Elks on previous occasions, returned in July '01 as our club steward.

We all know the club wouldn't be the same if Roxy weren't there on Thursday and Saturday each week. Her dedication, friendliness, and just plain hard work make you feel welcome and well cared for each time you come in.

Those of you that use the club facility should take a moment to let these two wonderful employees know how much they are appreciated. And, if you are not coming to the club - **then its time you did!** Stop by during the week Monday through Saturday, 11 A.M. to 6 P.M and enjoy the company of these "good little girls."

Remember, whether it's Lunch, a drink, or stimulating conversation, it's **YOUR ELKS CLUB** for the best of everything.



Count's down, but Santa pulls 'em in

BY ANDREW NELSON / Lincoln Journal Star

When Patricia Hernandez was a little girl during the late 1980s, her favorite part of the Lincoln Elks Lodge Children's Christmas Party was getting gifts from Santa Claus at the end. It was where she got her Cabbage Patch doll when she was 12.

"It was my favorite. I waited so many years for it," she said. "I still have it."

Elks Lodge 80 of Lincoln held its 95th annual party Sunday afternoon at Pershing Auditorium. The program included stage entertainment such as magicians and dancers and a visit from Santa.

Chuck Meisinger, party chairman, said the Elks' goal is to entertain the children of Lincoln.

"For some, it's the only Christmas event of the year," he said.

Meisinger said the lodge sometimes receives letters along with donations for the Christmas party from adults who say that when they were children, the party was the only holiday event they had.

"It's still needed today," he said.

"You can see that we're putting smiles on a lot of faces here and helping the community," Meisinger said. "That's what the Elks do."

Despite the city's growth, attendance at the Christmas party isn't what it used to be.

Meisinger said that when he was growing up during the 1950s, the party was held at the Coliseum on the University of Nebraska campus. The Elks would bring in a circus with animal acts and professional clowns.

They would give away 5,000 bags of candy to kids. Now they generally give out 1,500 bags of candy.

The decline in attendance coincides with a loss of interest nationwide in fraternal organizations. Meisinger said that in the late 1960s and early 1970s the Lincoln Elks lodge had more than 5,000 members. Now there are only 500.

About 1,100 people attended the party Sunday, 800 of them children.

That numbers were down so much was disappointing to Hernandez.

"It used to be when I was a kid that this whole place would be full," she said, looking around the half of the arena where the party was held, noting how many seats were empty. "We came in today, and I just couldn't believe how few people were here."

Hernandez, 25, was at the Christmas party with much of her family, including her daughter, Emily, 7, and husband Matthew, 27.

Near the end of the party Santa Claus showed up.

The children and parents emptied out of their seats and crowded into line in front of him as he passed out gifts and balanced children on his lap.

As Emily took off to see Santa, Patricia Hernandez said he was Emily's favorite part of the Christmas party.

"She reminds me a lot of me," she said.

Children's Christmas Party a Success!

As Chairman of the Children's Christmas Party I would like to thank everyone who contributed and helped at the event. The donations have been most generous and I am sure all expenses will be covered. We were a little shorthanded with the sacking and on the day of the party. It would be nice to see more members participate in these events. Maybe next year you will be able to come down and see the joy we bring to over 800 children. It will remind you why we are here.

The Shrine Band kept the audience entertained until the show began. This year we had outstanding entertainment with the Capital City Cloggers and a fantastic magician from Omaha, Steve Nespor. Bob Wittstruck did his usual great job of leading the audience in Christmas carols, accompanied by Dorothy Applebee.

The prizes we gave out were three bicycles, a karaoke machine, TV/VCR combo, boombox, CD Walkman; cassette Walkman, a gift certificate from Rod Kush's and more small items. The clowns passed out 200 free video rentals and candy to the kids. Unfortunately we only had three clowns this year, so they were spread pretty thin. As every year, each child left with a treat bag. Many adults were able to receive them also.

Again, thank you for your generosity.

Fraternally,

Charles J. Meisinger, PER

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Judson B. Douglas III
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CHRISTMAS TREE

The Elks Christmas Tree was beautifully decorated for the Holiday Season by Jan Wieting and several other ladies including Arlene House, Donna Bryan, Diane Kurtzer and Kay White.

It was more beautiful than ever this year because Virg & Jan Wieting donated all new lights & ornaments. Our thanks to them; and Vera Wendelin who donated the mantle decorations and the Jerry Gorton Family for donating the lights in the Club.



GRAIN TRAIN

"ELKS CARE--ELKS SHARE" again. The Nebraska Elks have given two \$500 checks to support the Hay and Grain Lift effort in Nebraska. The checks were presented to Orphan Grain Train at Norfolk, by Aaron Walter, past president of the Nebraska Elks Association. One of the \$500 gifts is to be used for "Operation Hay & Grain Lift." The other was given for "Operation Fence Post," an Orphan Grain Train effort to gather and ship used fence posts to range fire stricken areas of southwestern Nebraska.

As of November 22, 2002, volunteers and hay & grain donors working through Orphan Grain Train have shipped over 3,986.3 tons of hay to 218 recipients. Requests total 509. There are 291 requests left to fill.

DEPARTED ELKS HONORED

On December 1 the Elks Lodge held the traditional service to commemorate the memory of departed Elks Brothers. The wreaths were set at the altar in honor of each member who has been laid to rest this past year.



JANUARY IS CASH CALENDAR TIME AGAIN

By the time you read this we will have started our daily drawings to distribute \$2250.00 in prize money back to those who purchased January '03 cash calendars. Our appreciation goes out to each of you who helped make this annual fund-raiser a huge success.

To the members who worked hard to sell calendars, and to all those who purchased them, the Trustees of Lincoln Lodge #80 offer a big **THANK YOU**. We hope your name is drawn.

ENF DONATIONS

The last reported figures from the Grand Lodge Elks National Foundation show we now have a total amount for this year of \$6.445 per member. Our goal was to be \$7.00 per member. Congratulations!! You are doing very well. It looks like we won't have any trouble making our goal. It looks like we will have some hair trimming on ER Tom Roper at the Spaghetti Dinner on January 25.

LODGE NOTES

Saturday, January 11th, a group of Lodge officers will be traveling to Fairbury for the annual winter District Deputy clinic. All Lodges from the East district will be in attendance at a meeting chaired by Jim Schroeder, of Fairbury. Jim is the Grand Exalted Ruler's East District representative for this year, and as such, visits each individual Lodge and conducts a District clinic to further the program of the GER. You can expect six to eight officers of your Lodge to attend this important meeting.

DOES NEWS

Our January meeting will be held on Saturday January 11th at 11:00 a.m. Lunch following the meeting. At the meeting we will have our calendar for 2003 Meetings and events.

Have you paid your 2003 dues? If not, please send to Dorothy Ann Haar, 3130 N. 60th Street, Lincoln NE 68507.

Veteran's Committee Report

The Veteran's Committee—Vi Berst and Sam Carter, visited the Veteran's Medical Center December 16th. We handed out 170 Christmas sacks along with a nylon drawstring bag containing soap, deck of cards, pair of socks, nail file, handkerchief, and some lotion. All the Veterans were most appreciative of the Elk's gifts. We even had a few telling us about when they were young boys, going down to the Coliseum for the Elk's Annual Party. One said that was all he and his six brothers and sisters got for Christmas. He will never forget those times as he tells his Grandchildren. We should be very proud of our organization for we have touched a lot of lives.

Visitations were made in December to Bryan East and West along with St. Elizabeth's. The Veteran's are always pleased to see the Elk's at work.

Chairman Vi Berst
Member Sam Carter

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Jan. 2003 GER Message

A Message From The Grand Exalted Ruler

In this season of good cheer, Marilyn and I extend to each of you a sincere wish that the New Year will be a wonderful one for you and your family.

The beginning of a new year is the time for resolutions. I hope that one of your New Year's Resolutions is a pledge that your last three months of the Lodge year will be one of your Lodge's best years ever.

Every Elk should resolve to advance our charitable and community causes that are such a large part of Elkdom. Some resolutions that we as Elks can make and keep are: sponsor a friend for membership; join or complete a pledge to the Elks National Foundation; attend Lodge meetings; join a committee. The more we exemplify the precepts of Elkdom, the easier it is to spread the word that "Elks Care — Elks Share?"

January is also the time for District Deputy Clinics. Encourage all Officers to attend, plus as many Members as possible. Everyone will come away with a better knowledge of the Grand Lodge Programs and feel they are a member of the Elks TEAM (Together Elks Achieve More).

Now is the time to move forward with that final burst of energy to put your programs over the top! With all Elks doing their parts we can continue to spread the word that "Elks Care — Elks Share!"

Sincerely an Fraternally

Roger R. True Grand Exalted Ruler

Submitted by: Grand Lodge Newsletter

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JANUARY 2003

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION- Resolve to have lunch at the Club any Monday-Saturday 11:30 to 1:30			1 LODGE CLOSED NO MEETING	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 District Deputy meeting at Fairbury
12	13	14 BEER & BURGER NIGHT	15 Trustees-6:30 LODGE MTG. 7:30	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 SPAGHETTI DINNER Cocktails 5:30 Dinner 6:30
26	27	28 BEER & BURGER NIGHT	29	30	31	

NO PITCH TOURNAMENT THIS MONTH

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