



A Brief History of Elks Lodge No. 1315 Holland, Michigan

Early in 1914, a group of Holland men decided to form an Elk's Lodge in this city, submitted an application to Grand Exalted Ruler Edward Leach in March of 1914. Final dispensation to form the new lodge was granted by The Grand Lodge on April 20, 1914.

On Saturday, May 19, 1914, the Lodge was formally installed. It was a day that was to be long remembered in the city of Holland. The men who were to be the Charter Members gathered at the local railroad station to await the arrival of the members of Grand Haven Lodge No. 1200 who were to be the installing officers and a large delegation from Grand Rapids Lodge No. 48. When all the Brothers were assembled, the parade started. Led by the local Fife and Drum Corps, the parade traversed the length of 8th Street to River Avenue, then north to 7th Street where they turned east to the old City Armory. In this building, the Holland Elk's Lodge was formally initiated.

During its years in Holland, the Elks have met in several locations. For the first few years they met each Wednesday at 8:00 P.M. where the Penney store stood. In 1919 they moved to rooms on the second floor of the Niles building on 8th Street. The west half of the building was then owned by C. Lokker. In 1924 they moved to the Tower Clock building. There they remained until 1933 when they moved into the Elk's Temple at 210 Central Avenue. In 1979 the Elks were ready to move into their new, self designed building at 569 East 24th Street. Since then, this building has been Home to Holland area Elks.

No history, perhaps, would be complete without listing some of the accomplishment of the local Lodge.

Through donations by local members, the first iron lung in Ottawa County was donated to Holland Hospital, and untold numbers of local children have benefited through Elks Major Projects, a National Elks organization dedicated to aiding handicapped and under-privileged children.

At the Elks State Convention at Kalamazoo in 1962, while Paul Fabiano was serving as Exalted Ruler, Holland Lodge was voted the best in the state and presented with a beautiful trophy by Fritz Coppens, the State President, Michigan Elks Association.

Yes, our first 90+ years is history, and as we look to the future, let us, as those who have gone before us, keep always in sight the goals they set forth to accomplish, forever keeping in mind the Cardinal Principles of our Order: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity. Let us all again renew our pledge to live by our motto: The faults of our Brothers we write upon the sands, their virtues upon the tablets of love and memory.