

# HISTORY OF BELLEVILLE LODGE



On April 21, 1899, Belleville Lodge #481 was chartered and subsequently an organizational meeting was held on April 25, 1899. The lodge records show that the following brothers were introduced and initiated in due form:

William Bender, Exalted Ruler  
Fred J. Kerns, Esteemed Leading Knight  
Otto A. Krebs, Esteemed Loyal Knight  
E. W. Steinman, Esteemed Lecturing Knight  
Arthur E. Krebs, Secretary  
Albert Hucke, Treasurer

Dr. C. H. Starkel, Martin W. Schaefer, and R. D. W. Holder  
Trustees.

The names of 37 additional men forming the charter membership will be found on a separate page herein. After the organization meeting (held in the K. of P. Hall on the third floor of the Penn Building on the Public Square) the lodge met once every week. The initiation fee was set at \$25.00 and annual dues \$6.00.

## MOVE TO NEW QUARTERS

The lodge membership instructed the trustees to inspect the Academy of Music Building (now the Belleville National Bank Building) as to having it arranged suitably for lodge purposes. This change was subsequently made.

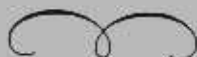
The membership totaled 74, and increased rapidly in the next few years to about 150 and later became 250, where it remained for some time.

As the lodge prospered and continued to grow, the membership was too large for these quarters and in 1910 began occupying its present location. J. K. Conroy was the Exalted Ruler at this time.

J. Nick Perrin and George W. Stanley had the honor and distinction of serving the lodge as Exalted Ruler for two consecutive terms and since their time only one member has had that distinction, he being Brother Richard W. Gass, although his terms were not consecutive.

In 1919 under Exalted Ruler Frank W. Sahlender, a lodge bulletin came into being. It was titled "Lets Go". It is still being published at the present time and has won some State and National awards. The first issue was 3½ x 6½ inches in size and was 4 pages. One of the articles in the first issue was:

This is the smallest Elks publication in the United States. It is printed every once-in-a-while in the interest of Belleville Lodge #481. We try to say as much as possible in as few words as possible. Some of it good. Excuse us for the rest.



## TWENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

In 1924, under Exalted Ruler Earl G. Wangelin, the lodge observed its 25th anniversary with 3 day celebration from October 30 through November 1.

At this time plans were also being made for the erection of an addition to the home and these plans were carried out and the present dining room and the six bowling alleys directly below it were built in 1925. The membership at this time was 490.

Recognition of Members on State and Grand Lodge Level.

Nick Perrin, Jr., and Dr. Nick H. Feder have served as State Association Presidents.

Dr. Nick Feder also held the post of Chairman of the Grand Trustees.

# DISTRICT DEPUTIES GRAND EXALTED RULERS

Lester E. Schneider  
Ferd J. Friedli  
William D. Peel  
C. C. Dreman  
Anton J. Schmid

Robert Costello  
Charles Wasem  
David Wheeler  
John Moreiko

The lodge prospered and increased in membership until 1929 with 520 members. The depression years of the 1930's saw the membership dwindle until they numbered 297 in the middle 1930's.

The years 1948-1949 brought about the most radical change in the lodge building itself - changes which have streamlined the entire first floor, to make it one of the most modern large homes in the Midwest.

The 1950's proved to be good years for 481. Leadership remained at a high level and participation increased satisfactorily. It was during this period that the official Family took the "Bull by the Horns" and became actively engaged in "Ritualistic Competitions". Belleville Lodge won the district crown 5 years in a row and went on to place officers on the Championship State Team. We also increased our activity in the "Elks National Foundation" and we now have contributed more money to this Elk Charity than any lodge in the S. W. district.

Committee activity increased all along the line and our youth activity and social and community welfare members received awards for this participation in the different segments of that part of Elkdom.

Our ladies committees increased their activity during this period and, in fact, laid the foundation for many committees to follow.

From 1960 to the present years of 1974 the BPOE #481 underwent many changes. On the National level of Elkdom, the theme "Family Participation" was adopted and promoted. Our lodge embarked on this theme and once again was on the upswing with membership steadily growing.



## WESTHAVEN - BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA RESUME

The most significant thing of this era was the purchase of Westhaven Bath and Tennis Club in 1966. It is operated by a board of governors comprising of eight elected members. Plans for 3 additional lighted tennis courts plus a new concession stand which was completed prior to the opening of this year have been completed.

Over a period of nine years, there have been \$35,000 of capital improvements made, not including the new Concession Stand and three new tennis courts which will cost approximately \$55,000.00.

The present lodge building has had many improvements such as new kitchen equipment, new fixtures such as tables, chairs and general renovation. The board of trustees in the last five years purchased additional property adjacent to Elks Westhaven Bath & Tennis for future expansion.

Belleville Lodge #481 gained National Elks recognition for the visiting of thousands of returning veterans from Viet Nam at the Casualty Staging area at Scott Air Force Base.

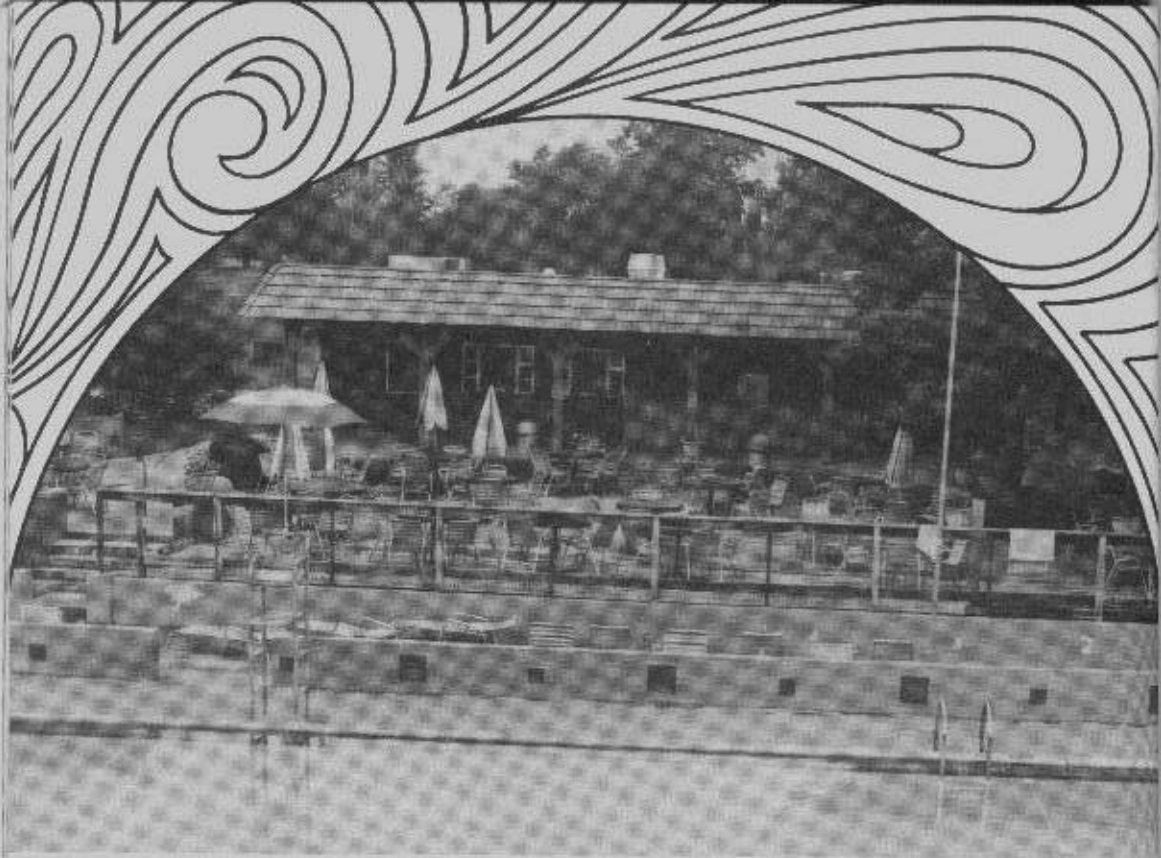
The lodge with other donations from various Elks Lodges in the state gave color TV's and electric shavers and various items for the patient's comfort. The patients were taken to St. Louis Busch Stadium for professional baseball and football games.

#### A RESUME AT THIS TIME SHOWS:

MEMBERSHIP	1366
DECEASED MEMBERS	436
EXALTED RULERS	75
SECRETARIES	10

This brings us up to the present time and we can think of no more fitting climax for this brochure than that contained in an admonition to all Elks by the first editor of "Let's Go" which appeared in the October, 1919 issue and which sets forth the aims and objects to strive for and the duties of membership in the Order of Elks. We quote:

"Each of us has a fraternal duty to perform and we as Elks know that duty. What higher ideals than those of the Order of Elks could possibly exist? Think for a moment the possible pleasure that could actually be derived from the practice of those virtues which we hold as sacred principles of our Order. Boost for your Order. Boost for your brothers. Boost for the United States of America and ever exemplify Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity."





# EXALTED RULER



William Fenoughty

75 Years - How can someone say something appropriate to cover 75 wonderful and prosperous years? Belleville Lodge has grown consistently except for the lean years of the thirties. We have spent thousands of dollars on charitable projects such as crippled children, youth sports, youth scholarships, National Foundation, Veterans, needy children. We have renovated our Lodge, bought Westhaven Bath and Tennis Club, additional property and enjoyed a most active social calendar.

All of the above things were accomplished by hundreds of Brothers cooperating with each other for the betterment of our Lodge and Elksdom. As your Exalted Ruler this eventful year I, Lorraine and our family are proud and humble to serve in this responsible position. The present and past Officers along with you the Members have worked countless hours through the years to make this 75th Anniversary possible. The theme of the Grand Exalted Ruler this year best explains the future of our Lodge and Elksdom "Better Elks-Better Americans" We are the Best People on Earth.

# LODGE NO 481



LODGE OFFICERS: Pictured above (standing L to R), Dave Fournie, Ken Dahm, Bob Tyler, Wilbur Wright and Tony Polito. Seated is Bill Fenoughty.

## 1974-75 OFFICERS

EXALTED RULER  
LEADING KNIGHT  
LOYAL KNIGHT  
LECTURING KNIGHT  
SECRETARY  
TREASURER  
ESQUIRE  
CHAPLAIN  
INNER GUARD  
TILER  
ORGANIST

WILLIAM FENOUGHTY  
BOB TYLER  
TONY POLITO  
KEN DAHM  
WILBUR WRIGHT  
PAUL SEELMAN  
DAVE FOURNIE  
HOWARD BRENNER  
AL MUELLER  
ROBERT MICHAELIS  
BOB BOLT

### TRUSTEES

CHARLES WASEM, JR.  
CHAIRMAN

MARCUS BAUER  
JERRY GIBBONS

CARL GRUMLEY  
JOHN MOREIKO

ALAN KNOWLES  
CLUB MANAGER



# PAST EXALTED RULERS

1899-	Wm. Bender	1927-1928	Harold Knollhoff
1899-1900	Fred J. Kern	1928-1929	A.J. Steurnagel
1900-1901	Otto A. Krebs	1929-1930	Ferd J. Friedli
1901-1902	R.D.W. Holder	1930-1931	Lee Grandcolas
1902-1903	Martin W. Schaefer	1931-1932	George Wuller
1903-1904	William Snyder	1932-1933	A.T. Hausmann
1904-1905	J. Nick Perrin	1933-1934	William Peel
1905-1906	J. Nick Perrin	1934-1935	Richard Gass
1906-1907	George W. Stanley	1935-1936	Joseph B. Herman
1907-1908	George W. Stanley	1936-1937	C.J. Keller
1908-1909	Arthur Bassler	1937-1938	R.T. Richards
1909-1910	Dr. J. K. Conroy	1938-1939	Dr. Nick Feder
1910-1911	L. N. Nick Perrin Jr.	1939-1940	George Kloess Jr.
1911-1912	Charles Webb	1940-1941	C.C. Dreman
1912-1913	H. F. Weingaertner	1941-1942	Allen Niess
1913-1914	B. T. Coggan	1942-1943	Homer Liebig
1914-1915	C.H.G. Heinfeldten	1943-1944	Frank Ward
1915-1916	Fred J. Paro	1944-1945	Richard Gass
1916-1917	Julian W. Smith	1945-1946	Walter F. L. Rhein
1917-1918	H.C.G. Schrader	1946-1947	Anton J. Schmid
1918-1919	Robert F. Imbs	1947-1948	Armin Ganter
1919-1920	Franklin E. Sahlender	1948-1949	R.G. Willman
1920-1921	William Schmidt Jr.	1949-1950	Leroy Schauffler
1921-1922	M.T. Weingaertner	1950-1951	Howard Tritt
1922-1923	Dr. Cecil R. Conroy	1951-1952	Clifford Hammel
1923-1924	H.K. Pilkington	1952-1953	Charles Griesmeyer
1924-1925	Earl G. Wngelin	1952-1953	John R. Kurtz (PER No. 9)
1925-1926	Arno Grossart	1953-1954	Arthur Reissen
1926-1927	Lester H. Schneider	1954-1955	Merlin Erdmann

1955-1956	Roy J. A. Mank	1965-1966	Dr. David G. Wheeler
1956-1957	Robert Costello	1966-1967	Glenn H. Deffendall
1957-1958	Charles L. Wasem Jr.	1967-1968	Richard P. Gundlach
1958-1959	Hansel V. Johnson	1968-1969	Paul Seelman
1959-1960	Marcus Bauer	1969-1970	John J. Moreiko
1960-1961	Norman F. Ackerman	1970-1971	E. William Parker
1961-1962	David W. Costello	1971-1972	Roger Wagner
1962-1963	Carl E. Grumley	1972-1973	Ronald A. Green
1963-1964	William Hartell	1973-1974	Jerry L. Gibbons
1964-1965	Donald L. Wilke	1974-1975	William Fenoughty

## LADIES COMMITTEE

Marianne Wessel (Chairwoman)  
 Lorraine Fenoughty  
 Phyllis Bollinger  
 Lois Brenner  
 Rose Colloton  
 Sis Costello  
 Shirley Dahm  
 Lavonne Fournie  
 Joyce Gibbons  
 Donna Hill  
 Jackie Molitor  
 Rose Moreiko  
 Marilyn Polito  
 Mary Lee Thompson  
 Joan Tyler  
 Kelley Wessel  
 Bev Carl  
 Dolly Roth  
 Sally Berkel

## 75th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Roy J. Mank General Chairman  
 Bud Erdmann Co-Chairman  
 Homer Leibig - PER  
 Donald Wilke - PER  
 Glen Deffendall - PER  
 Art Reissen - PER  
 Paul Seelman - PER  
 Charles Hill  
 Clarence Mullett  
 Richard Kurtz - PER  
 Wilbur Wright  
 Charles Wasem Jr. - PER

