

meticulous reporting of the event. Anyway, they came near to catching the Shaw speech of that day almost word for word.

**CORNERSTONE OF ORDER**

The speaker pointed out to the audience of several hundred who had gathered on the spot to witness the observance that, "The cornerstone represents the great cornerstone of our order which is Charity without ostentation and cement which has made the stone a part of the common mass of the building, is symbolical of that brotherly love which unites the members of our great Order into one common brotherhood.

"The other cornerstones of our order are Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity". At this point the speaker paused to describe these principles of the order, and then continued:

"Upon these cornerstones, great and enduring, we will erect four walls: the wall upon the north will be the wall of Protection. It will protect us from the biting blasts of winter and the sudden changes of our northern climate. It will be symbolical of that protection which is safeguarded and guaranteed to every man who takes the obligation of this order; that protection which every man needs in the struggle for happiness in this selfish world.

"We will erect a wall upon the east, facing the rising sun, through which light will be admitted that light which will make the building pleasant and cheerful: it will be symbolic of the attitude of all good hearts toward the light of truth and will remind us each day that we should turn our faces at stated intervals toward that which is high and Holy and true.

"We will build a wall upon the south facing the noon day sun; this will be symbolic of that fervency which makes every member of this Order enthusiastic in another's cause.

"We will erect a wall upon the west facing the setting sun and as we turn our faces toward the beauties of the sunset, we will be reminded of that land to which we are all hastening, where we shall find joy rest from our labors and receive the approving smile of the Father from the Grand Exalted Ruler of the Universe."

**ON APPROPRIATE DAY**

The speaker took note of the appropriateness of selecting Memorial Day as the occasion for holding the exercises of laying the

sons of loyalty to the flag and patriotism is a fitting one for these services, he said.

Noting the fact that the Elks Lodge is essentially a patriotic Order, PER Shaw continued his discourse in this vein:

"At the very portals through which the candidate enters, he must answer the question, 'Are you an American?', and if he answers 'Nay' he must be refused admittance and whoever is admitted and takes the obligations of the Order must put his hand upon the Flag and swear allegiance to his country. We practice as well as preach loyalty to the Nation, to the State, to the Home and to the Brothers and this building will stand on these principles as long as Time and Truth endure."

The newspaper account observed that the Elks Lodge would become the first secret society in Houlton to attempt building a home of its own, and the laying of the cornerstone was the first event of its kind ever witnessed in the town.

Further along its discourse the reporter's story of the event pondered the progress that the building connotes in the short period of three years in which the lodge had been in existence in Houlton.

**THE ELK SPIRIT**

He said "When it was announced six weeks ago that the Elks of Houlton were to build a lodge home 60 x 85 in dimensions, the idea was rather tabooed by an otherwise public, and the scheme was called impossible. The public were not able to judge rightly because it was not sufficiently acquainted with the Elk spirit."

A commentary of the enterprise of the eager young Elks of that day is the fact they went to Caribou, Fort Fairfield and Presque Isle, in addition to their own membership and the citizens of Houlton to raise the first \$26,000 of the total of \$50,000 that was estimated to be needed. There was \$30,000 at hand on the day of the laying of the cornerstone and, a short time after that, the entire goal of \$50,000 had been reached. This figure represents land, building and furnishings.

It is a safe assumption that the entire amount needed to buy the land and build and equip the building was not available in cash when it had to be used. It is a quite well known fact of history within the lodge that a first mortgage of \$14,000 was endorsed by loans from individual members and a second

# Four of the Eight District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers



Harry H. Baulch

**DEBT OF GRATITUDE**

But this matter of financing as handled by shrewd business men of their day in no way detracts from the lustre of their accomplishment. In the light of the enjoyment that thousands of brothers have taken from the building which they strove so valiantly and so diligently to acquire, all who followed after them owe a sizeable debt of gratitude.

The site was especially well chosen, being at the eastern end of the business section, convenient for the use of the members, and overlooking the then proposed park which is the Monument Park we know today. It truly became "the ornament to the town, the pride of every citizen and the joy to the Elks" which an early writer predicted.

Next big milestone in the eventful history of this lodge took place less than a year later, April 17, 1907, when the exercises of dedicating the building were held.

The town was proud of its newest and finest building. In fact their pride took in considerable more territory than just Houlton. The Aroostook Pioneer of April 8, 1907 crowed, "Not only is it the handsomest and best club edifice in the State but is also claimed to be second to none in New England. Everyone who has been in Houlton is familiar with the beauty of the outside and many are familiar with the richness of the interior."

The Aroostook Times issued on the day of the dedication, while not carrying any account of the



Oscar P. Benn

planation that "The house itself is perhaps the best arranged and handsomest of any club building in New England." In those days this statement undoubtedly would have been somewhat difficult to challenge.

**HAS CHANGED LITTLE**

The description of the building, its decor, its construction and interior arrangement, the explanation of each floor and the furnishings as well as the facilities could almost as well have been written today. True, the appliances for both heating and cooking are of a slightly modern vintage as is the sprinkler system, compared with the original fire protection arrangements which were "Stand pipes run all through the building to which are attached at frequent intervals, 50 foot lengths of two inch hose."

The dedication was an event of outstanding social importance to the community. Some there are now alive who attended the exercises and the dance which was a part of it and can testify to the combined solemnity and gaiety which combined to make the event a memorable occasion.

**ONLY SURVIVING OFFICER**

Thomas V. Doherty, then one of the Knights of the order, and who the following year, in 1908, became its fifth Exalted Ruler, is the only member of that official family which had such a prominent part to play on this historic occasion, still living in Houlton. The Tyler, George McIntire now resides with



George E. Roach

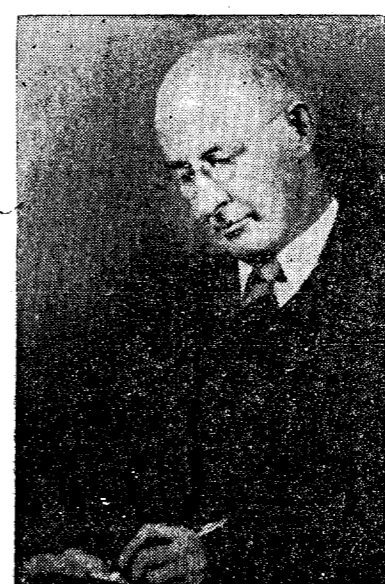
the evening and "dainty refreshments were served". This function was the beginning of a custom that has changed little during the intervening years. At that time the lodge announced the continuance of such functions on the third Tuesday of each month.

**FIRST ANNUAL BALL**

The first annual reception and ball in the new home appears to have been held February 26, 1908. It was a lavish affair for its day and was attended by 300 who danced to music by Bryson's Orchestra, enjoyed a "sumptuous banquet (which was) served continuously from 10:30 until there was nobody left to serve, and broke up at three the following morning."

The Aroostook Pioneer the following day, called it "the most delightful and successful social event in the history of the town.

"The grand march was started about nine o'clock and was participated in by nearly 100 couples. The elegant costumes and the handsome faces of the ladies together with the beautiful decorations of the ball room combined to make it



Dr. P. L. B. Ebbett

a scene of brilliance and gaiety seldom seen in a Houlton gathering."

**GRAND EXALTED RULER**

In its over 50 years of existence and service in that section of northern Maine to which its jurisdiction extends, only one Grand Exalted Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has ever paid a visit to Houlton Lodge No. 835.

This outstanding event occurred September 16, 1947 when G.E.R. Lafayette A. Lewis of Anaheim (Calif.) Lodge No. 1345, in the course of a visitation of Elks Lodges in Maine, selected Houlton as one of the few lodges he would visit in the state.

It was a gala occasion for Elksdom in this part of the nation and was fittingly observed by a banquet and a program in the ball room of The Northland Hotel followed by a dance at the Elks Home.

G.E.R. Lewis was an engaging man with a warm personality and possessed of considerable eloquence as a speaker as well as

great charm as a person. He made a fine impression on the large turnout for the occasion.

Thomas C. Vose was Exalted Ruler of the Lodge for that historic occasion. He was assisted by the following other occupants of the various chairs: S. Earle Pierson, Esteemed Leading Knight; Keith Lilley, Esteemed Loyal Knight; Harry H. Baulch, Esteemed Lecturing Knight; P.E.R. George E. Roach, Secretary; P.E.R. John O. Willey, Treasurer; Henry W. Victory, Tyler; Dargel E. Hovey, Inner Guard; W. J. Alexander, Chaplain; Clayton M. Currie, Organist.

P.E.R. and P.D.D.G.E.R. George E. Roach acted as toastmaster of the program which followed the banquet. The National Anthem was sung by Mrs. Ira K. Tarbell and the late Bro. Rev. Gilbert Condit gave the invocation.

**LODGE MEMBERS SPEAK**

The speakers included two other representatives of the local lodge, both of whom had been exalted rulers and district deputy grand exalted rulers. They were the late Albert G. Merritt and Dr. P. L. B. Ebbett. Edward J. McMann of Bath Lodge, president of the Maine Elks Association, E. Mark Sullivan of Boston, a past Grand Exalted Ruler, and John F. Malley of Springfield, Mass., also a past Grand Exalted Ruler, contributed to the brief speaking program.

Principal speaker of the evening was, of course, G.E.R. Lewis, who delivered a masterful and a thought provoking discourse on Elksdom and its meaning and principles.

The eventful day closed with a reception and dance at the Elks Home.

Exalted Ruler Thomas Vose acted as general chairman for the occasion. He was assisted by the following: transportation, Earle Pierson; reception, John R. Hall, chairman, with Albert G. Merritt, George E. Roach, J. K. McKay, Dr. P. L. B. Ebbett and William Washburne, Jr.; tickets, Dr. John O. Willey; entertainment, D. Keith Lilley, chairman and Darrel E.

Hovey, Clayton Currie and Alfred Adler; publicity, Bernard E. Esters; housing, Harry H. Baulch.

**EIGHT DISTRICT DEPUTIES**

Houlton lodge has had eight of its members serve the grand lodge as district deputies of the Grand Exalted Ruler. The first was W. S. Lewin, who served the lodge as Exalted Ruler in 1918. The others, in order of their service, were: Dr. F. L. B. Ebbett, A. L. Skinner, Albert G. Merritt, George E. Roach, John R. Hall, Oscar P. Benn and Harry H. Baulch.

Of the four cornerstones of the order to which R. W. Shaw so eloquently and symbolically referred in his speech at the exercises of laying the cornerstone a half a century ago, probably the two which can be said to have most typified the achievements of the order in this community over the years are, Charity and Brotherly Love.

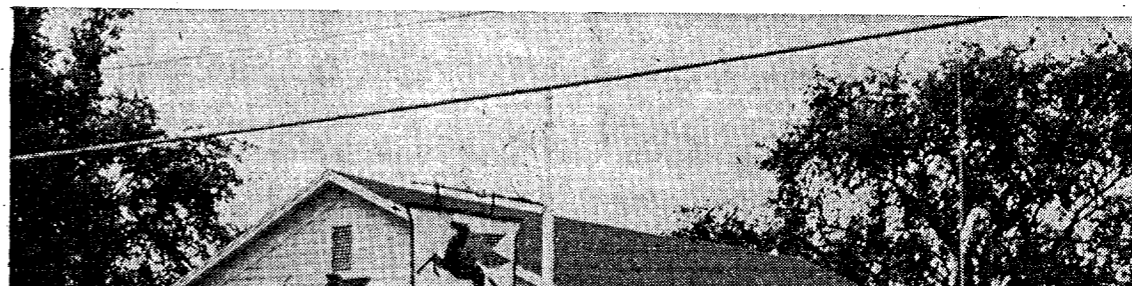
It would be impossible to estimate the dollar value to this town represented by the charitable work that the Elks Lodge has performed for needy people, families and causes since its earliest days.

**THANKSGIVING PARTY**

Probably the most familiar charitable activity associated with the Elks Lodge was its annual Thanksgiving party for needy families or children. No sooner had the new home been completed and occupied in 1907 than this welcome and humane affair was started.

Announcing its plans well in advance, the committee conducted a vigorous search throughout the town for names of children who might go hungry on Thanksgiving Day. The result was a turnout of 103 youngsters of all ages who were given the meal of their lives by a committee of 15 members. The children were allowed to play in the rooms for awhile prior to the meal.

The success of this first venture undoubtedly had a large part in its continuance for so many years. The annual affair was maintained in one form or another up to the



holding the exercises of laying the cornerstone of a building to house an Elks lodge. The day when the nation undertakes to teach the les-

individual members and a second mortgage of an undisclosed amount was also applied to make the completed structure possible.

not carrying any account of the actual exercises, also took the opportunity to do a little chest thumping, with the restrained ex-

George McIntire now resides with his daughter in New York.

Charles Carroll, who was exalted ruler, at the time of the laying of the corner stone the previous May, was still in the chair. The other knights were Walter F. Titcomb and Don O. Pool. George T. Honyoke was secretary, George A. Russell, treasurer, R. W. Shaw, chaplain, and George McIntyre, Tyler. Frank P. Clark was Esquire, and Leroy B. French, Inner Guard. The first trustees of the order were Martin Lawlis, Simon Friedman and Henry J. Hathaway.

The committee in charge of the dancing part of the festivities was made up of Thomas V. Doherty, Llewellyn H. Powers, Harry M. Briggs and Eugene A. Holmes.

Samuel C. Webber was floor manager for the affair and he was assisted by Charles C. Newell, Lee W. Ervin, J. Chester Feeley, W. P. Mansur, all of Houlton, and Joel Wellington of Monticello, Halbert P. Gardner of Patten, Herbert T. Powers of Fort Fairfield, Atwood W. Spaulding of Caribou, Stephen F. Hart of Presque Isle, Dana L. Theriault of Fort Kent and J. Woodside Loane of Ashland.

**FUTURE GOVERNOR SPEAKS**

The program of the dedication was carried out under the direction of Exalted Ruler Charles Carroll, who gave the address of welcome.

The principal speaker for the occasion was Hon. William T. Haines, a past exalted ruler of the Waterville Lodge, who was later to become Governor of Maine. In addition there was informal talks by Hon. George H. Smith of Presque Isle, Hon. Ira G. Hersey and Don A. H. Powers of Houlton, all members of the local lodge.

Mrs. Fred Harrison and Bernard Archibald contributed vocal solos to the program which were described as "greatly enjoyed and loudly encored".

Principal guest representing the Grand Exalted Ruler was District Deputy G.E.R. Robert E. Green of Brookline, Mass. who conducted the exercises.

The official presentation to the lodge of the keys to the new building was made by the building committee composed of Martin Lawlis, O. B. Buzzell and Dr. George Q. Nickerson.

The lodge held its first "Ladies Day" May 21, 1907 and during the afternoon and evening the spacious new club house was "thronged with the wives and unmarried lady friends of the members, who enjoyed the privilege of the club in every way". Bryon's orchestra furnished music for dancing during



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**OUR BEST WISHES TO THE RESIDENTS OF HOULTON ON ITS 150th BIRTHDAY . . .**

Also our congratulations to the Houlton Pioneer Times on the 100th year of service in Aroostook County.

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