

Manahawkin Elks
Lodge #2340
“Our History”

The Early
Years.....

The contents of this publication contain various facts, short stories and photographs about the early formative years of the Elks Organization and our Lodge, graciously submitted by a few of our founding members.

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Section I - Preface

The objective of this documentary is to establish a historical record of the formation of our Lodge, from those who were actually there and witnessed this historic event firsthand, telling their story in their own words.

The following series of articles were written by Harold Spedding, PER, Jack Witkoski and Bill Wilkie, a few of the Lodge's founding members.

Various personal photographs and local news clippings were also contributed by Jack Witkoski and others found in the Lodge archives.

Rick Payton provided the list of Past Exhalted Rulers....*(1966-to-present)*.

In the future, we will continue to enhance the content of this documentary with additional contributions from our members.

I hope you will enjoy reading about our history, as much as I enjoyed collecting the information from our founding members.

*Dan Boesman, PER
Editor*

Disclaimer - The articles submitted in this document contain opinions by the individual contributors that may not necessarily be shared by the rest of the Manahawkin Elks Lodge membership and/or the Elks organization nationally.

SECTION II - Lodge History

(Contributed by Harold E. Spedding, PER)

The Elks Organization – Few Facts About the Elks Actual Beginning.....

Friday, November 15th, 1867 Charles A. Vivian, an English Comic Singer arrived in the USA and stopped at the Star Hotel on Lispenard St. near Broadway. He struck up a conversation with Richard Steirly the piano player, and began to sing some popular songs.

On November 23rd, 1868 the two visited at a bar on Broadway and Fulton Street, and met several other actors and after a few drinks started playing a game called "CORKS".

They enjoyed each others' company so much they began to meet each Sunday over a bar at 17 Delancy Street, and began calling their group the "Jolly Corks". with Vivian being the "Amperial Cork".

On February 2nd, 1868 they agreed to form a benevolent and fraternal organization and attempted to agree on a more formal name.

Vivian wanted to call the group the "Buffalos" after a similar group in England but the majority present, after reading an article on a display at the Museum of Natural History about the "Elk", wanted that name. On February 16, 1868 a committee reported and recommended that the Jolly Corks be merged into the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. The outcome of the vote was 8 for Elks, and 7 for Buffalos. Vivian was so upset, and caused such a commotion that the others present rejected him from membership.

The fraternity became so popular among actors and other entertainers that lodges sprang up throughout the country.

New York, NY #1, *Philadelphia #2, San Francisco #3, *Chicago #4, Cincinnati #5, and Newark, NJ were #21, Elmwood Park/Paterson #60. (* ***denoting no longer active***).

Many aspects of our ritual were originally copied from the Masonic Order, but often with a lot more humor. Older ritual books had the candidates blindfolded, and the Exalted Ruler would call for the "Candidates to be Clean Shaven", and the "City Barber" would shave them with a dull file. Other changes included the "***password***" eliminated in 1899, a "***badge***" was eliminated in 1902, the "***secret grip***" in 1904. *The blindfold was eliminated in 1952, and women were admitted in 1995.*

Famous Elks have included Presidents Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy, and Gerald Ford. General Blackjack Pershing was a lifelong member of New York #1. Vince Lombardi, Casey Stengel, Mickey Mantle, and Whitey Ford were members.

So you find yourself in good company!!!!!!

Section II – Lodge History (Continued)

Manahawkin Elks Lodge - The Beginning

Manahawkin Elks Lodge #2340 - Instituted on March 27, 1966

"May Establish Elks Lodge in Manahawkin", was the headline in an article, which appeared in the Beach Haven Times on October 20th, 1965. It was the result of discussions at a meeting held by the New Lodge Committee of the New Jersey State Elks Association involving the population growth in southern Ocean County, and the possibility of forming a new lodge in the area. Elk members from Bordentown Lodge, Point Pleasant Lodge, Toms River Lodge, Brick Township Lodge and the Lakewood Lodge began telephoning "stray Elks" (those without current Lodge affiliation) living in the area, and inquiring if they would be interested in joining a new lodge if one was established in the area. Those who were interested were asked to attend a meeting to be held at Jimmies Restaurant, Route #72, in Manahawkin, NJ on October 17, 1965. That meeting was chaired by the then Elk State Chairman of the New Lodge Committee; Harrison Barnes, and present were District Deputy Lem Earley, Diron Avedisian, Jack Gorman of the Lakewood Lodge and Al Clayton of the Toms River Lodge. The procedures in forming a new lodge were fully discussed with approximately five perspective members present. Vincent Passeri of Forked River and Harold Spedding were named Publicity Directors for the new venture in Elkdom. A future meeting was set for October 26, 1965.

As the recruiting for new members of the proposed lodge continued, meetings were held weekly at Jimmies' Restaurant, now known as the Element Restaurant & Bar. At each meeting, officers from lodges throughout the State gave presentations on the workings of the Elks Lodges to encourage new members. As an example, on November 4, 1965, Walter Meseroll, Past District Deputy, of Point Pleasant Lodge gave an address entitled "What Elkdom Has Meant to Me". On November 11, 1965, Walter Whalen, Past District Deputy, spoke before 85 prospective members on "What Is Elkdom". On December 16th, 1965, Harrison Barnes, State Chairman of the New Lodge Committee told the audience the applications were "pouring in" at a rate faster than any other new lodge community. On January 5, 1966, Elks State President, William Windecker, of Orange, NJ announced that March 27, 1966 had been selected as the Institution Date for Manahawkin Elks Lodge #2340 and it was hoped that 150 new members would be initiated. On March 2nd, 1966, at a meeting at Jimmies, the prospective members of the new lodge held an election and selected the first slate of officers for Manahawkin Elks Lodge. Elected were Harold E. Spedding, Tuckerton, Exalted Ruler; William Kafer, Waretown, Esteemed Leading Knight; Robert Mears, Waretown, Esteemed Lecturing Knight; Joseph Miller, Beach Haven, Secretary; James Woehr, Waretown, Treasurer; E. Myers Haines, Barnegat, Esquire; Myron Smurko, Waretown, Tiler; William Antonelli, Waretown, Inner Guard; Robert Way, Manahawkin, Organist; Donald Steadman, Manahawkin, Chaplin; and Francis Tanner Sr., Barnegat, Justice of the Subordinate Forum. Elected Trustees were Henry Levy, Manahawkin, Russell Cramer, Manahawkin, James Mascola Jr., Manahawkin, Vincent Passeri, Forked River and Karl Sutterlin, Manahawkin.

Section II – Lodge History (Continued)

The Early Days

The early days of Manahawkin Lodge #2340, by Harold E. Spedding, PER. The information regarding the "Golden Antlers" was contributed by Jack Witkoski, a true friend, and fellow Elk, who was there!

Once the initiation was over, and we were moved into our new lodge on Route #9, Manahawkin, the fun really started! From the very beginning, each meeting's largest debate was "Rogers Rules of Parliamentary Procedure". Roger never knew how many experts there were in Manahawkin! Slowly, and I mean slowly, each of the issues were resolved, and Elkdom moved forward. We had the very best in dinners one could imagine.

Bob Holmes was outstanding with corned beef, and cabbage. At least once a month we packed the lodge with members who enjoyed the festive evenings with dinner and of course drinks. We had a softball team that was almost unbeatable. We played Bordentown, Toms River, and Point Pleasant Elks, and if we didn't win, we out drank them. Perhaps the greatest achievement was the organization of the "Golden Antlers" football team. In 1968, the Manahawkin Elks undertook a major youth project by forming, sponsoring, and developing the Manahawkin Elks "Golden Antlers" Pop Warner Football Club. As the first commissioner, Jack Witkoski asked the lodge membership for the grand sum of \$1,416.00 to uniform two teams of twenty four players and ten cheerleaders, and to get the program up and running. The lodge fully supported the effort, and Pop Warner Football, a national youth organization, came to be in a very rural southern Ocean County. Some of the first coaches were Jack Witkoski, Dave Cagney, Robin Parker, Danny Harris, Joe Miller, Narb Godshall and Vince Maoriano.

Many others contributed as fund raisers, sellers of the ad book, and even as bus drivers for our own team bus. Our very first game was played at Southern Regional High School against Point Pleasant's "Golden Elks", who agreed to travel to Manahawkin and help our team "kick off" the memorable occasion. Believe it or not, more than a thousand people showed up including Point Pleasant's Lodge Officers, and our own Officers in Tuxedos. It was a wonderful lodge event. For many years, our lodge was the meeting place for the football club, with team banquets, and after game activities held at our lodge. Some years later, the name of the team was changed to the South Ocean "Little Rams" who continue to play in the Jersey Shore Pop Warner League. From this small beginning, the local team has grown, and now has several hundred boys and girls participating in multiple teams, winning championships, and even participating in bowl games in Florida. Although the Elks are no longer part of the current operation, as an organization, we can be proud that in our own formative years we always found time to work with the youth of our community.

The days between March 2, 1966, and March 27th, were extremely busy. Not only did we have to arrange for the installation, but we also had to locate a meeting place for the new lodge, and get it

Section II – Lodge History (Continued)

set up for the first meeting. We chose the largest space available in Southern Ocean County, Southern Regional High School for our installation.

With the able assistance of our Mother Lodge, Toms River Elks, we invited Elk Lodge Officers from throughout the state to fill the chairs of the installing lodge and of course Grand Lodge representatives. The new officers had to order tuxedos, and of course, learn their ritual parts. The search for a lodge meeting place resulted in our renting of a medium sized building right on Route #9, Manahawkin, NJ. It was formerly a store about 30 feet by 75 feet. It had a large front room for a meeting hall, and a smaller room in the back for a bar, a storage room, and restrooms. That building was very old, and the floor sagged in the center, but it was ours. We took down the old sign, restored it,

installed lights, and had it proudly painted, "Manahawkin Elks #2340", and re-hung it. The location was where Stafford Township now has its park, right across from Carroll's Restaurant. We applied for and were granted a club license for the club and installed a bar that would seat about twenty. Then we had to order coolers, glassware, and those many items necessary for a bar operation, plus the beer, soda, and liquor. After many weeks and a lot of hard work, we were soon ready for business. Russell Cranmer, Manahawkin, NJ, one of our oldest prospective members, was appointed Lodge Steward, and did an outstanding job in the preparation of our building. All this time, materials and supplies that were necessary for an Elks Lodge were arriving at my home in Tuckerton. Box after box of manuals, reports, record books, flags, a bible, officer jewels, and even a plastic Elks Head for the altar arrived, was inventoried, and transported to our new building. The newly elected officers met night after night, and rehearsed our roles and of course, tried out the new taps. We still had our weekly meetings at "Jimmies" and we received more and more applications for membership and each one had to be "investigated" prior to approval. One of the most difficult chores was notifying each prospective member of the installation date, receiving his dues of \$20.00 a year and his initiation fee of \$50.00. We sold an "ad book" to pay for the costs of the installation had it printed ready for installation day. Finally, after three weeks of hard work, we were ready for installation day!

March 27, 1966, the day has finally arrived. The day was bright and sunny, but it was a bit chilly, typical for late March. The newly elected officers, in their brand new tuxedos, arrived early in order to welcome the new members, welcome the installing officers and visitors, of course, insuring that everything was in order for their big day. Fifteen minutes before the installation was to begin, new members were still being processed. At exactly 1:00 PM, 148 members were ready to be installed. While most were new to Elkdom, there were several who had demitted (transferred) from other lodges. The Ceremony of Institution of the Lodge was presided over by DD Lemuel Earley of Lakewood Lodge. The Ceremony of Initiation of new members was under the direction of Toms River Lodge #1875, with Past Exalted Ruler Howard Carpenter in the role of Installing Exalted Ruler. The Installation of Officers was conducted by William Windecker, State President of the New Jersey Elks Association. (It is noted that way back then, the Elks was strictly a men's organization, and women were not permitted to see the installation. They were entertained by a fashion show at the Fire House during this time period). The latter part of the ceremony was open to the public, and the wives, family, and friends of the candidates were welcomed by Honorable

Section II – Lodge History (Continued)

Jack Cervetto Sr. Mayor of Stafford Township. (Jack was also one of the new Elks). The guest speaker for the afternoon was Honorable William J. Jernick, Past Grand Exalted Ruler. He outlined the history of the Elks, and pointed out how Elks translate their Cardinal Principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity into their daily lives and acts. The newly formed Lodge was presented with pedestals for the stations, by their "Mother Lodge" Toms River #1875. A Holy Bible was presented to the Lodge by Diron Avedisian, P.E.R. Organizing Chairman. The ceremony at the school was ended by the new officers closing the lodge in due form. The day was made complete by a buffet, and program of dancing held at the Stafford Township Fire House. All in all, it was a beautiful day, a wonderful ceremony, a great evening, and best of all, a wonderful beginning for our Lodge, Manahawkin #2340. Those of us, who were there, will never forget it!!!!

The final chapter of "The Early Days"

In the early years of our lodge, we certainly did our share of good work that related directly to lodge activities, supporting the Special Children and Adults in our community, Camp Moore, National Foundation, and Aid to our Veterans. Like all good Elks, we certainly had our share of fun doing it. Perhaps the greatest accomplishment was the building of a lodge home to call our own. The first few years were spent in a storefront building we rented on Route #9, Manahawkin, NJ, in the area where now stands a community park. It was very small, and it was obvious that a larger facility would be needed if we hoped to grow, increase our membership, and continue to serve our community. Many meetings were held, and as the years passed, plans developed to build our own permanent lodge home.....

520 Hilliard Boulevard

As we had little equity at that time, we devised a bond purchase plan that would sell \$25.00 bonds, that would return 6 ½% in five years, 7% in ten years, and 7 ½ % in fifteen years. All members were encouraged to purchase these bonds, "for the building fund", and money starting coming in. The sales really increased after one of our members stood up at a meeting and announced that he would purchase \$10,000.00 worth, an amount that was unheard of at that time. Everyone cheered, rushed to the bar for a drink, and sales boomed. Three plots of land were considered, and of the three, a parcel of 3.8 acres on Hilliard Boulevard was chosen as our new lodge site. Maybe it was because the property was completely surrounded by state hunting and fishing land, or maybe it was because it was owned by a member who announced he would take bonds in lieu of a cash payment. By 1970 we had sold \$80,000 in bonds, and since the building cost at the time was about \$100.00 a square foot, we decided to build a building 100 X 80 feet. Building layout plans really developed then, and as the weeks passed, they were changed time and time again as each member came up with a new idea. Member Russ Scala, a local builder, was chosen to be our "Lead Contractor", and the entire membership voted to build the new lodge ourselves. One of the very few contracted jobs was laying the cement block foundation and walls, and we got a great price

Section II – Lodge History (Continued)

for that work. Members volunteered each weekend to work on the building, starting with land clearing. Members who had special skills such as heavy equipment operators, carpenters, roofers, plumbers, and a hundred other necessary craftsmen, worked endlessly to complete their assigned tasks. For the roof, eight trusses, each 100' long and 20' high, were lifted by a crane, supplied by an Operating Engineer member. Members swarmed over the trusses, and added 200 8X10 purlins each 10' long. To keep the purlins straight, 1000 bridge pieces were installed, and this was all done before pneumatic Nailers were around.

The roof was enclosed with $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood, and these same volunteers nailed on every shingle. The greatest thing was that there was not a single serious injury during construction. The interior work was completed in short order, and the kitchen and bar installed. A few final touchups were made, and as I recall, our new building was opened for business in 1973. With very few changes, our building still stands, is in constant use, and is a tribute to all the volunteers who built it. In these articles I have covered the first seven years of our lodge, and hope that someday someone will continue the story. I would like to thank all those fine people who have worked so hard to make our lodge the success it is. It is often said that BPOE means Best People On Earth, and during my 44 years of being an Elk, I can attest to that!

***Written by Harold E. Spedding, PER, Life Member of BPOE #2340, Membership Card #12
Our first Exalted Ruler (1966-1967) and Five Year Trustee on the Board of Directors
(2015-2020)***

SECTION II - Lodge History (*Continued*)

(Contributed by Jack Witkoski)

INTRODUCTION:

When I was asked to participate in the writing of the Manahawkin Elks history documentary, my initial thought was, at the age of 84, is my memory still good enough to do justice to such an important task? Realizing that I possessed very little in the way of hard facts, I decided to leave that part of our history to others more qualified and to concentrate my writings based on my personal, believe it or not, somewhat "fuzzy" recollections. No in-depth research was attempted. Certainly, there will be disagreements with my version of some of the long ago events. That is to be expected. You can be sure that whatever is written is not a figment of my imagination but is just memories, again not facts, indelibly etched in my mind forever.

It is important to understand that my observations and comments are written in the context of the 1960's and 1970's when Southern Ocean County and specifically Stafford Township were sparsely populated and "Manahawkin" was better known as the gateway to Long Beach Island. Respectfully, none of my writings are intended to discredit any lodge member or officer, past or present, or to embarrass this fine organization in any way. I am honored to share my almost ancient knowledge of our lodge with both former and current members, so that this information can be recorded in our lodge archives forever.

Topics:

- The Manahawkin Elks Lodge (original building on Route 9)
- The Manahawkin Elks Lodge (new building on Hilliard Boulevard)
- The Road Ahead.....My Thoughts

SECTION II - Lodge History (*Continued*)

THE "OLD" BUILDING ON ROUTE 9. **MEMORIES OF THE WAY WE WERE**

DID YOU KNOW.....

Our original Manahawkin Elks Building was an antiquated storefront located on the west side of Main Street (Route 9) backing up to the lake. This historical building was said to have been a local movie house and most recently housed Phoebe's Ladies Clothing Store.

The combination meeting hall/dining room accommodated approximately 80 members for official club meetings and occasional dinners. A small bar, where much of the business of the lodge was openly discussed and finalized was situated at the rear of the structure and seated 15 patrons. No paid bartenders, all volunteers. An attached poolroom served as a food warm-up area as there was no kitchen and all food was cooked outside on barbecue grills. Our first shuffleboard lined the meeting hall north wall and was always in play except for meeting night.

The floors of the building were worn and dangerously uneven, giving one the impression that you were intoxicated when entering and not when leaving. All this came with your membership. The rear door off the bar was strictly for the use of disruptive non-elks. Rather than call the police, they were escorted by the bartender to their own special door and told "just go". No lighting, no steps, four feet to the ground, alot of mosquitoes. Ouch. For some reason we never had many customer problems.

Most of our members at this time averaged 30-40 years of age. Therefore, many small children frequented the lodge while their parents performed Elks Lodge business or socialized at the bar. Elk's ingenuity solved the baby-sitting problem. A small nickel sized hole drilled into the wooden floor provided hours of entertainment for the little ones, who were given small change by their parent(s), pennies, nickels and dimes, to drop into this mysterious hole. Sometimes pushing and shoving for the opportunity. Was this a way to save or spend money? Remember this was before bars had pole dancing or even television. No smart phones or handheld games either. It has been estimated that thousands of dollars in change was dropped into the crawl space by our children. The money was never recovered. This mystery of the unaccounted money will never be solved as the building was eventually demolished in the middle of the night.

Steak dinners were the specialty of warm weekends at the Elks. Complaints of meat being too rare were quickly corrected by Chef Bob Holmes by wringing the meat out by hand. Instantly, rare to well done. Not exactly how it was done at Carroll's Mainland Restaurant down the street. This method was very effective for our problem diners.

Our annual picnic held at the lake was the premier social event of our early years. There was no picnic competition between Toms River and New Gretna and we were the only game in town.

SECTION II - Lodge History (*Continued*)

THE "OLD" BUILDING ON ROUTE 9. **MEMORIES OF THE WAY WE WERE**

Estimated crowds of 700-900 people attended and special police were needed to manage traffic at the park's entrance. Twice during the 1970's, counterfeit \$10 was passed as ticket payment. No prosecution occurred. The matter is still under investigation. Of course, Elks volunteers prepared the food, set up the picnic grounds, served the food and cleaned up afterwards. Tired as they were, party time at our house of Elks.

Weekend Softball quickly became popular with our members and their families. We competed against other Elk Lodges from Bordentown, Clayton, Lakewood, Bayville and Toms River, local Fire Departments and Service Clubs with great success. At one point the team was undefeated over a three-year period. Manager John Roth guided the team and always had "ringer or two" hiding in the dugout for any emergency. Augie Cervetto often pitched with Joe Miller behind the plate. Dave Cagney and Buzzy Holloway provided our homerun power. The team had a large following and created wonderful enjoyment for our fans, galvanizing our members and the community. There is a story still circulating around that a wife of a Manahawkin Elks player got lost in the woods around Bayville after a game and still has not been found. We are continuing to investigate this.

The Manahawkin Elks basketball team played a number of charity games at Southern Regional High School benefiting local folks in need. We found out quickly that this was really a young man's game. A team photo is archived.

In 1968 the lodge undertook the sponsorship of the Manahawkin Elks Pop Warner Football Club and named the youth football teams, the "Golden Antlers". Lodge membership pledged financial support and many members raised money for uniforms and equipment, insurance, transportation as well as coaching the boys on the field. Not to be forgotten, the cheerleaders were financially sponsored and coached by the now defunct Ladies of the Elks Auxiliary. Our cheerleaders proudly wore their uniform sweaters displaying the Elks antlers. Home games were played at Southern. Before and after games the lodge and bar became a popular spot for members and the football and cheering team's families. Lodge membership soared and suddenly we became the hub for all youth activity in Southern Ocean County, including the Elks National Hoop Shoot Contest and NFL Punt, Pass & Kick Competition.

On September 1, 1968, the "Golden Antlers" kicked off their initial season hosting the long established team sponsored by the Point Pleasant Elks. It was a never to be forgotten day at Southern as surprisingly nearly a thousand spectators showed up. Some Elks officers from both lodges wore their tuxedos and jewelry for an afternoon game. It was clearly a thoughtful gesture on the part of the Point Pleasant Lodge to help our lodge succeed in our new undertaking. Elkdom had come to Manahawkin in the form of youth football. Enough money was raised that day to finance our teams for the rest of the season.

SECTION II - Lodge History (*Continued*)

THE "OLD" BUILDING ON ROUTE 9. **MEMORIES OF THE WAY WE WERE**

Unfortunately, the Elks gave up sponsorship after a few years and this youth activity is now under the auspices of the Stafford Township Recreation Committee. The team has been renamed the "Southern Little Rams".

Manahawkin's favorite son, Roger "Doc" Cramer, a former longtime major league baseball player, resided diagonally across the street from our building and was often serenaded to sleep by music provided by the Manahawkin Elks.

Our musicians, usually the "Pine Coners", provided weekly free entertainment to "Doc" and his family. We were told he loved the banjos. Residents of member Tom Shinn's nearby funeral home also benefitted.

THE NEW BUILDING on HILLIARD BOULEVARD - GETTING STARTED

When discussing the building of our new Elks Club on Hilliard Boulevard, one must realize the monumental task it presented. Like now, our treasury at that time was not bursting at the seams and in fact we had very little real cash on hand. Some said we were broke. Given the state of our lodge finances, uncertain membership levels and many questionable elements of the proposed building project, there were valid disagreements among the membership and varied differences of opinion. Just imagine, if you can, attempting to convince today's membership, to build a new lodge, especially with today's construction costs, not to mention our 2015 financial condition. Do you think it would be any different or less difficult? Although the overall bonding-financing was in order, some of our members and local citizens were predicting it would never happen, claiming there were just too many obstacles. One local provincially suggested there were too many out of towners involved. Another Manahawkin resident, later to become a member, called our building location "a great place for a gunning shack". This was the mindset that had to be overcome. Despite all the resistance, the lodge officers and members forged ahead and would not be deterred. In the beginning some of the dissident members simply refused to participate, even though it was apparent we badly needed a permanent place of our own. Eventually, once it became clear there was no stopping the proposed construction, the entire membership, including the non-participants and unsure, joined in. At this point there was no turning back. It would not be easy. Optimistic certainty prevailed. Failure was not an option.

SECTION II - Lodge History (*Continued*)

GEOGRAPHIC & ECONOMIC CONTEXT:

The proposed Manahawkin Elks Building, other than existing Ocean County High Schools, once constructed, would be one of the top five largest structures from Toms River southward to Atlantic County. No meeting or banquet halls existed in the entire area that could accommodate more people than ours. Geographically, Stafford Township was still very rural causing legitimate questions of whether the local population/members could sustain our construction or even if such a large Elks building was feasible. Consider this, the 1970 U.S. Census indicated 3,684 people resided in Stafford Township back then, as compared to the current (2014) estimated population of 26,493 residents. Southern Ocean County Hospital had just opened its doors in August 1972. Stafford Township's organized Police Department was still in its infancy and the primary shopping area was still located on Bay Avenue. Most of the mall-like stores on Route 72 were still many years from construction. People from Philadelphia and North Jersey couldn't find Beach Haven West and Ocean Acres developments without a roadmap.

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME (1971-1972).....

Thanks to charter member Frank Tanner Sr. of Barnegat, N.J. gifting us a parcel of ground on Hilliard Boulevard in the early 1970's, serious planning for the construction of our first "owned" lodge began. Some minor legal problems with the new property were promptly cleared up and we were the proud owners of a 3.8 acre building lot, surrounded by wetlands. A place where we would never have to disturb "Doc" Cramer or our downtown neighbors again. A perfect place for an Elk to roam. This is where we would call home for many years to come.

Land clearing started immediately at the site. Members were upbeat and already anxious to get it done. Teams of 10-20 volunteer members eagerly signed up for weekend work once construction got underway. It was inspiring to watch our guys happily toiling in the cold of winter and the stifling heat of summer as the support pilings and block work was progressing. Since the piling and masonry work was contracted out, members were limited in the early stages, and then it was time for the roof work and activity at the site really picked up. The huge free standing roof trusses were set in place by member William "Luke" Cullen's family members, of course with the aid of a large crane. The price was right. From all accounts that was an exciting day and a sight to behold. Unfortunately for me, I wasn't there that day but did arrive for the after party. Now our guys had plenty of work to do in our hurry to get the structure closed in.

Certain members experienced in the building trades, such as Russ Scala, Carl "Dutch" Sutterlin and Marty Flagg directed our non-skilled members in much of the carpentry work, sub-flooring, roofing and shingling. Without a doubt, the most difficult and dangerous work performed by our members involved placement and nailing of the supporting wooden pieces between the roof trusses across the entire open roof.

SECTION II - Lodge History (*Continued*)

One of our older members, Mike Luciani of Waretown, assisted on the floor level, hoisting lumber and tools as needed above. Although not a single accident or injury occurred during the entire project, I do recall a close call experienced by Mike when a large piece of lumber dropped from above, narrowly missing him before it impaled in the plywood sub-flooring in the center of what is now our meeting room. Work was immediately suspended for the day. The crew all went over to the "old place" on Route 9 and drank our lunch. Mike was back at work the following day. Some months later, when the roofing plywood and shingles were nailed down and completed by our men, the building was finally enclosed. A monumental task by anyone's standard. Work at the building slowed after that and the interior of the building became the priority. The traffic on Hilliard Boulevard noticeably increased. People were now driving past just to see the largest building in Manahawkin. Even the naysayers.

As mentioned previously, several men, including this writer, worked off portable scaffolds to access the highest part of the roof from inside the building. Some of these members were Bill Wilkie, Mike Flynn, Albert Hooper, Dave Cagney, Harold Spedding, Joe Miller, Paul Nathanson, Vince Maiorano, Dan Harris, Marty Flagg, George Metz, Joe Severini and so many others whom I can't remember. I can still vividly see Bill Wilkie, Vince Maiorano and Albert Hooper straddling the trusses as they nailed away.

As best I can recall, contractors John Guld of Ship Bottom did most of the masonry and block work and I'm reasonably sure that Perk's Electric of Manahawkin installed the electric and air conditioning systems. I remember that some early problems with our structural pilings delayed things for a week or so, while a digging process called "mucking" was utilized to help correct it. To this day I don't know what this meant, but a deep hole, perhaps 15' deep was dug around the pilings near the front of the building to facilitate access. Heard rumors that some pilings were sinking and had to be lengthened? Must have been a false alarm. Me and my friends normally sit at that end of the bar, and we complain about everything but not that. Just my observation. Short delays and unexpected expenditures such as this obviously stretched our budget, but at no time did it ever discourage our workers and membership. As each step of the construction progressed, the intensity of the work crews increased. There was always light at the end of the tunnel. In my lifetime, never have I seen such a dedicated group of people taking on what seemed like an insurmountable job in the beginning. This was not like building their own home. Their enthusiasm, while working on the building for what seemed like two years or so, never stopped. Guys, bound only by being a club member, became lifelong friends. More importantly, lifetime Elks. They sacrificed their days off and quality time with their families. That's really the way people were back then. To each of these men, whether dead or alive, you have my deepest respect. I'm certain that our current membership, as we still get to enjoy the fruits of your labor, appreciate your dedication on their behalf. For those members whose names I have omitted, you have my sincere apology. A toast, It's nearly the 11th hour for many of us.

SECTION II - Lodge History (*Continued*)

Our New Home - 520 Hilliard Boulevard (Few Closing Comments.....)

Our picnic area was a deep, watery hole in the ground when our building was being erected. Francis Tanner, Jr. Trucking Company transported fill dirt around the clock over a weekend and leveled it to its present grade.

One of our members obtained dozens of small apple trees and planted them in the picnic area for some shade. Bees attacked our picnic goers and they had to be replaced, i.e. the trees.

Many of our building materials were donated by Home Lumber Company, then of Manahawkin.

Our meeting hall has been the venue for professional wrestling and amateur boxing.

Sport jackets were required at one time in the lounge after 6PM. This dress code only lived for a very short period of time and was eliminated shortly thereafter.

All bartenders were volunteers. Tips were accepted. Many even wore vests.

Children were allowed to play shuffleboard, pool and the jukebox. No darts

Volunteer workers in the new building used plain old hammer and nails. No air hammers.

The busiest place in our building at one time was the telephone area in the front vestibule. No cell phones back then. Pay telephone in old building was always mobbed.

The Elks Ladies Auxiliary always had money in their treasury. Men always borrowed from them when their cash on-hand was low.

Members Russ Scala and Paul Nathanson names are finger written into exterior wall concrete near bar entrance.

Benjamin Morstatt designed and oversaw interior decorating of the lounge area.

SECTION II - Lodge History (*Continued*)

THE ROAD AHEAD.....

Soon our 50th charter year will come and go and it's back to the future. Perhaps now is the time to think about, not where we've been, but rather where we're going as an Elks Lodge. Certainly, we will continue to contribute to all the wonderful causes and community needs as in the past. Our record speaks for itself. This is our legacy. In my opinion, as one of the people tasked with writing our history, we simply cannot be satisfied with just memorializing our past without thinking about our future growth, even though I won't be a part of it.

There are many issues to consider going forward. The most important question is, have we planned beyond this year as to the future direction of this organization and more importantly, sustaining our building.

Our recent bonding for the sorely needed alterations and improvements is an excellent temporary action, that is, if we intend to stay at this location for the next 50 years. Obviously, these necessary building costs will continue to escalate yearly unless we decide to let the building slowly decline and sink into our surrounding wetlands.

We are at the same crossroads as back in the 1970's when we were confronted with either standing still or moving forward. Is it now time to start debating a new geographical location for our building or are our officers and members content with our building as is? Could we financially justify and support a 21st century building, at a more visible, profitable and convenient location? I'm definitely not taking a position on this subject but merely pointing out the obvious. Stricter, onerous or changing environmental regulations could greatly impact or decrease our ability to comply. Simply put, the Department of Environmental Administration could wipe us out by a stroke of their pen? Can our antiquated 1973 septic system be upgraded or altered, or shall we wait until the State of New Jersey, Ocean County or the municipality bails us out by placing sewers along Hilliard Boulevard? Should this not happen, will our compliance with DEP be cost prohibitive or impossible?

You should have fun dealing with some of the potential questions I have posed. But like our previous challenges, the right decisions will be made. The next half century belongs to you. Good luck.

SECTION II - Lodge History (*Continued*)

FINAL THOUGHTS:

My wife reminds me that the lodge building would not have been built without the tremendous support and the behind-the-scenes efforts of the now defunct Manahawkin Elks Ladies Auxiliary. They are no longer in existence but should never be forgotten. These were our wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, girlfriends and yes even grandmothers. Wherever you are ladies, you will always have a special place in the hearts of the guys that built the largest building in Manahawkin, at least at the time. You immensely helped make our originator and 1st Exalted Ruler Harold E. Spedding's impossible dream come true.

Written by Jack Witkoski, N.J. Life Member of BPOE #2340, Membership Card #15.

Section III - Elks Short Stories

(Contributed by Bill Wilkie)

I am not sure how many new member classes it was after the Manahawkin Lodge #2340 was formed that I joined, but my membership number is 335. Since Harold described the formation of the lodge as only he could and Jack described the environment in the early days, I thought I would just expound a little on what was already said.

Harold mentioned that we started selling bonds to members and the response was excellent. We had bond drive dinners. Ben Morstatt was the lodge secretary and was managing the bond effort, designing the new building and if I remember correctly, he also tended bar. It was soon evident he needed help. Ralph Evans was a printer and worked three days on each shift and then three days off so he volunteered, was drafted or caught in a week moment, and he ended up managing the bonds records.

When I joined the lodge, it was an old store front on Route 9 across from Carroll's and what Jack said about the floor was absolutely true. When you opened the door, the floor was concave. It was high at the door, sinking by what seemed to be a foot (although I am sure it was much less) in the middle and rising again to the bar on the other side of the room. We had had one member who would arrive on a Friday night like clockwork and after closing the entrance door, get a huge grin on his face, hike up his pants and starting at the door, walk to the middle of the room picking up speed as he went, and slowing down as he reached the bar at the top of the incline at the other end. When he got there, he would say "Are we pals?" and order a dry martini. As you were taking the cap off of the dry vermouth, he would say "that's enough". He was an accountant and had a memory like an elephant and could quote batting averages of any baseball player as well as his life history. There were constant challenges and out came the baseball trivia book, but he won all the time.

I remember back in those days; we were always doing some kind of cooking at the lodge and Joe Kiel was playing the organ. Joe was a building contractor who built large churches and shopping malls and had all the toys. He would invite everyone to breakfast at his place. When I asked where his place was, he said in the parking lot. Joe had about a 35-foot motor home where he would cook breakfast after we closed the lodge at 2:00 or 3:00 Am. Joe had a 35- or 40-foot boat called the Scottie that was fully loaded with radar, depth finders etc. that he kept up in Beach Haven near the inlet. After breakfast at Joes and a few more cocktails, we all left for the motor home for a day of fishing. I can remember one blue fishing trip where it was rough, and the boat wasn't the only thing that was heaving. Joe just stood there laughing and enjoying every minute of it while several others were heaving more than the boat. We didn't do it all the time, but when we did, it was fun.

Besides playing the organ, Joe played the Coronet. I did a lot of travelling for my job, so Friday night was my night to be out and I always called my wife to pick me up. Joe knew this and would say to me don't call for a ride, I am going that way anyway, I'll drop you off.

Section III - Elks Short Stories (Continued)

We both liked breakfast, so Joe would say, "Stop for breakfast with me and then I'll take you home" So we would stop at Joes house and either Joe or Lil would do the cooking and soon after Lillian would go to bed. One night, at about 4:00 AM and after playing the Organ since about 3:00 AM, Joe mentioned that he used to play the coronet. He said he was a little rusty but could probably still play it so he decided to belt out that song they play at the racetrack before the start of the race. For anyone who knew Joe, I am sure you can picture this. Joe was one-of-a-kind. Anything the Lodge needed, he and his two brothers were always there to help.

When we decided that we would build the lodge ourselves, we had a member Bill "Luke" Cullen who was a union iron worker volunteer to put up the trusses with his crew and family. I remember Bill showing up with his crew and a crane and soon the trusses were in place. As I recall, they donated everything. Then we were ready for the roof. We asked for volunteers to do the building and fortunately we had a few senior builders who could tell us all what to do. While I don't remember everyone, I remember Russ Scala and Carl "Dutch" Sutterlin and Bill Hooben telling us how to build the roof across the trusses and they watched us closely as it began to take shape. I was straddling the trusses nailing in the "*Purlins*" (I think that's what they were called) between the trusses while the strong guys passed up all of the lumber for the purlins. And as Jack said, it was amazing that nobody got hurt.

After the trusses were up and the purlins in, we had another member, Bill Hooben who was a roofer, volunteer to help put the roof on and supervise the rest of us. After the plywood was put on, we could get more members up on the roof to help with the tarpaper and shingles. We had an older member, Gus Lindenburg, who loved projects like this and loved a practical joke. Gus had a roll of tar paper and after stapling one side, was rolling it along the roof. Right In back of him, we had another member rolling it back up so when Gus got to the end of the roof and turned around, the roll of tarpaper was right behind him. Gus got a little upset until we talked about it later around the bar and we all laughed. Gus and his wife Gert loved the Lodge and loved working at the Lodge.

I can recall one night we had a dance at the lodge. I had just gotten home from work, so I was at the bar enjoying a beer when Gert Lindenburg, Gus's wife, came over to me to ask if I had seen Gus. I said no, but I would check the men's room to make sure he was ok. In those days, we had one of those continuous towels that when you pulled one side down, the other side rolled up, so you must picture this. I opened the door to the men's room and here is Gus with what seemed like an entire roll of towels all over the floor. When I asked what he was doing, he said to change the towel! But that was Gus. So while Gert was at the dance, Gus was changing the towels in the men's room. Whatever needed to be done at the Lodge, Gus was ready and willing to do it. So, I told him we would find someone else to change the towel and he should join Gert at the party but a half hour later, he was STILL THERE.

Section III - Elks Short Stories (Continued)

George and Tilly Metz were at the lodge all the time back in those days and George loved the Elks. He had an Elks logo on his jacket, smoked an Elks pipe with antlers and was one who loved the camaraderie of the lodge and his fellow members. I can remember one night that Gus went around the bar telling everyone that George and Tilly were coming in that night to celebrate their anniversary and we should all just ignore him. So, when George and Tilly arrived and announced it was their wedding anniversary, people just said "Yeah, that's good" and NOBODY offered to buy them a drink or otherwise make a fuss over them. For anyone who knew George, this was like a knife through the heart. So, disgusted and dejected, they left the lodge and went home. We gave them about a half hour then gathered everyone at the bar to go over to their house at about 2:00 AM. We allowed enough time for them to get home and go to bed. George owned the trailer park on route 9 near the high school. When we got there it was about 2:00 AM and the house was dark, but we all gathered outside their bedroom window and started singing "Happy Anniversary to you". Soon the lights flashed on and off several times and George came to the door in his bathrobe and said with huge grin "I thought you boys forgot about me". We left about 7:30 AM.

Ben Morstadt played a huge role in the early days of the Lodge. He was Secretary, bartender, decorator and Exalted Ruler several times. When the first computer came out, Ben decided to put the Elks mailing list on it to print labels. He couldn't figure it out so called me and we started doing the labels for the newsletter. Soon, the requirements dictated that it required much more programming, so I developed an Elks management system using a database product. We ran with that for several years, but soon it required more changes and there was now software out there for running a lodge, so I suggested they just transition to one of them. When Al Stirling took over the secretary's job, he brought in the new computer system, and I worked with the developers to transition our data to the new system.

Vince and Ginny Maiorano played a very important role in the early days of the lodge. Vince knew how to cook and had owned several restaurants, so he started dinners on Friday and Saturday nights. They were also involved with Pop Warner football and cheerleading. Vince was also an ER about three or four times. Besides being an officer and cook, Vince would tend bar and always had a cute little dirty song to sing and always had his crazy Gugenheim imitation at the ready. It didn't take much prodding to get him to do it. All you had to do was say "Hey Craze, what's going on?" and you got the full routine. Vince loved the Elks and whenever there were some problems, he would always step up. I can recall a time when we were short on cash, and membership was waning. The secretary at the time had to give it up to take care of his own business. Since I had written the computer system we were using, Vince asked me if I would take over as secretary. So, I did. He decided that in addition to dues which we needed we should ask each member for a \$25 donation. We did and they responded. We made deals with anyone whose membership had lapsed to get them back and the donations we received along with the dues that started to come in, we were able to turn over a lot of money when Al Stirling volunteered to take over as secretary.

Section III - Elks Short Stories (Continued)

Al was a BIG man, and I can remember someone asking Al what he did before he retired, and he said he was a mounted cop for the NYC PD. We always kidded him about the poor horse, and we always laughed. Al really took the reins and was secretary for quite a few years and, he was the one responsible for paying off the lodge. We all owe Al a debt of gratitude for that. He paid extra every time he had some more money. I think everyone was shocked when he announced it was paid off.

Harry Schmoll was the Municipal Court Judge in Stafford Township and the legal advisor for the Lodge as long as I remember. He was also a professor of Law and Business Studies at Burlington County College. We would occasionally stop at the local diner after leaving the Lodge and I can remember one night, Harry, Joe Kiel and I stopped for breakfast. This one guy proudly announced that he was sitting with a cop. Joe said, "GOOD FOR YOU, WE GOT THE JUDGE". I thought Harry would die.

But I will digress here to share another short story. At one time Verizon asked us if we could lease them some land in the picnic area. We were very interested in closing it for additional revenue. It never happened, but several years later, Harry asked me what ever happened to that, and I told him I didn't know. Harry contacted them and told them that he felt they owed the lodge some money for each year we held that open for them. I forgot the amount they sent but I believe it was 10-\$20,000. Thanks, Harry! I remember Harry's feelings were hurt because when he stopped by the lodge, nobody knew who he was.

Ron and Ann Kohler spent a lot of time at the Lodge, and one night everyone started prodding Ann to get up and sing and when she did, I was shocked. She was incredible. It turned out she was a jazz singer before dating and marrying Ron. Ron donated a lot towards creating the picnic grove in memory of his son. When Ann was collecting money to build the bathrooms in the grove, she collared everyone who walked through the door. I gave her \$100 and when I got home and told my wife, she said I thought they only wanted \$25 per person, and I said "Trust me that's the BEST \$100 I ever spent. Ann was RELENTLESS. I miss them dearly.

I forget how it happened, but Leroy Lewis was the main attraction up on LBI at the Surf City Hotel. In the summer he played in a packed house every night. There was no way we thought we could ever get Leroy Lewis to play at the Elks, but one night in the winter, he stopped in with a friend named Tommy Wayne who was also an organist and both put on a show that was beyond awesome. Leroy was booked solid, but Joe Kiel talked Tommy into playing at the Lodge and we were mobbed. We even had a mirror over the keyboards so people could see them play and it was FABULOUS. I forget when it happened but after Tommy left Leroy started to play at the Lodge and decided to play there during the summer because I believe where he used to play burned down. His dad Sid, and mom Trudy Nichols were also members. We had some great times at a packed house when he was there.

Section III - Elks Short Stories (Continued)

As if that wasn't enough, we had another great organist who owned the RipTide bar up on LBI named Herbie Feiler. Herbie played the organ and his wife Sissy tended bar. Whenever Herbie stopped by the lodge, he would also play a few songs. How lucky were we to have such talented members?

Bob Holmes owned a trucking company and Dutch Sutterlin worked at Home Lumber where Cranmer Lumber is now. Both loved to cook and could ALWAYS be found in the kitchen. They cooked for almost every Lodge affair that I can recall. Back in those days, we frequently had a band called the "pineconers". The Albert Brothers were part of it. They had a cabin out in the woods and would invite people there on Friday and Saturday nights to hear country music. Others used to stop by as well and it turned out to be a country music jam session. When the older folks couldn't do it anymore and people wanted to keep the tradition alive; they formed Albert Hall, where you can still go on a Saturday night in Forked River to hear various country music groups.

When I look back and think of all of the friends I have past and present, it is because of our Elks Lodge. But beyond the friendships we have formed and the good times we have had, I must also recall everything we have done for charity. I can recall getting a phone call before Christmas one year about a neighbor calling to see if we did anything for families who were really down on their luck and didn't even have a tree. We had several members who put up \$100 each to go out and buy things for the kids. I can remember one guy who was a mechanic for United Airlines who asked for the children's names and ages. We found out later when we got a thank you from the family that he bought a Christmas tree and 3 new bicycles for the kids and delivered them from Manahawkin Elks. We always tried to not let anyone go without during the holiday season, especially.

Thanksgiving and Christmas were always special times at the Lodge and if Ben Morstatt didn't decorate the lodge, the Ladies Auxiliary did and later Member Bobby Schultz decorated with a Christmas scene that was totally animated and absolutely amazing.

Since we were always just making ends meet we weren't always able to give as much as we wanted to. So we started Monday night BINGO to help out with our charitable causes. Paul Greiner handled the Monday night Bingo for years. When I was secretary, Paul always made donations from Bingo to Senior Citizens, handicapped Children and various charitable events.

One time when I was Secretary, Vince was asked to make out a check for all the money we collected for the Sweetheart Ball for the Poster Child's family. I forget the amount but when the child's mother came in to collect it, I told her that we all wished that it was more. Her reaction was that when you have a special needs child, you never have extra money and this would allow her to get new tires on her car. She was in tears when I handed her the check. That is when you realize how important it is to never forget these families, these kids or our vets.

I often look back on my life and think of what my life would be like if I had not met my wife and reflect on how grateful I am that my life has taken the course that it did. Likewise, I am thankful for our Elks lodge. All of the people we have helped throughout the years, the lifelong friends we have made and the good times we have had there and none if it would have been possible had Harold Spedding not started it all. Thank You Harold! And Thank You Dave Cagney for the long balls. We miss you.

What I Hope for the Future:

I would like to see pictures taken of new members so when they are sick or pass away, we know who they are. The technology is available now. Many times if I didn't recall someone's name, you would hear something like "You remember him, he used to read the paper at the end of the bar". Having a picture would be great.

Written by Bill Wilkie, N.J. Life Member of BPOE #2340, Membership Card #335.

Section IV

*Photographs,
News Articles,
&
Ad Books*



520 Hilliard Boulevard – New Building Construction 1970-1971



520 Hilliard Boulevard – New Building Construction

April 17, 1969

TUCKERTON CHRONICLE



INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS was held Sunday, April 13, at the Manahawkin Elks Lodge #2340. (1 to r) Back row are Cal Dixon, Chaplain; Hank Levy, Treasurer; Mitch Zumerko, Esteemed Leading Knight; Al Scully, Esteemed Loyal Knight; Karl Sutterlin, Trustee; Second row (1 to r) Sal Marino, Innerquard; Marty Flagg, Esteemed Lecturing Knight; V. Passieri proxy for J. Godfrey, Trustee; Ken Seekell, Secretary; First row (1 to r) August Cervetto, Esquire, Jim Morre (Alias Mike Murphy), Tiler; William Wells, Exalted Ruler; and William Kafer, Trustee.



CHAIRMAN of Youth Activities Robin Parker, right, presents bonds to Jill Prevost and Harry Leads for essays on leadership.

*Installation of Officers
April 13th, 1969*

*ER William Wells receives
congratulations from PER George Metz*



EXALTED RULER William Wells, right, receives a hearty handshake from George Metz former Exalted Ruler.



ELK OF THE YEAR AWARD was given to Jack Witkoski, right, by George Metz, left, looking on is Esquire Cervetto.



Ladies of the Elks (Ladies Auxiliary) Award (1967 – 1992)



Ladies of the Elks - Lady of the Year Awards

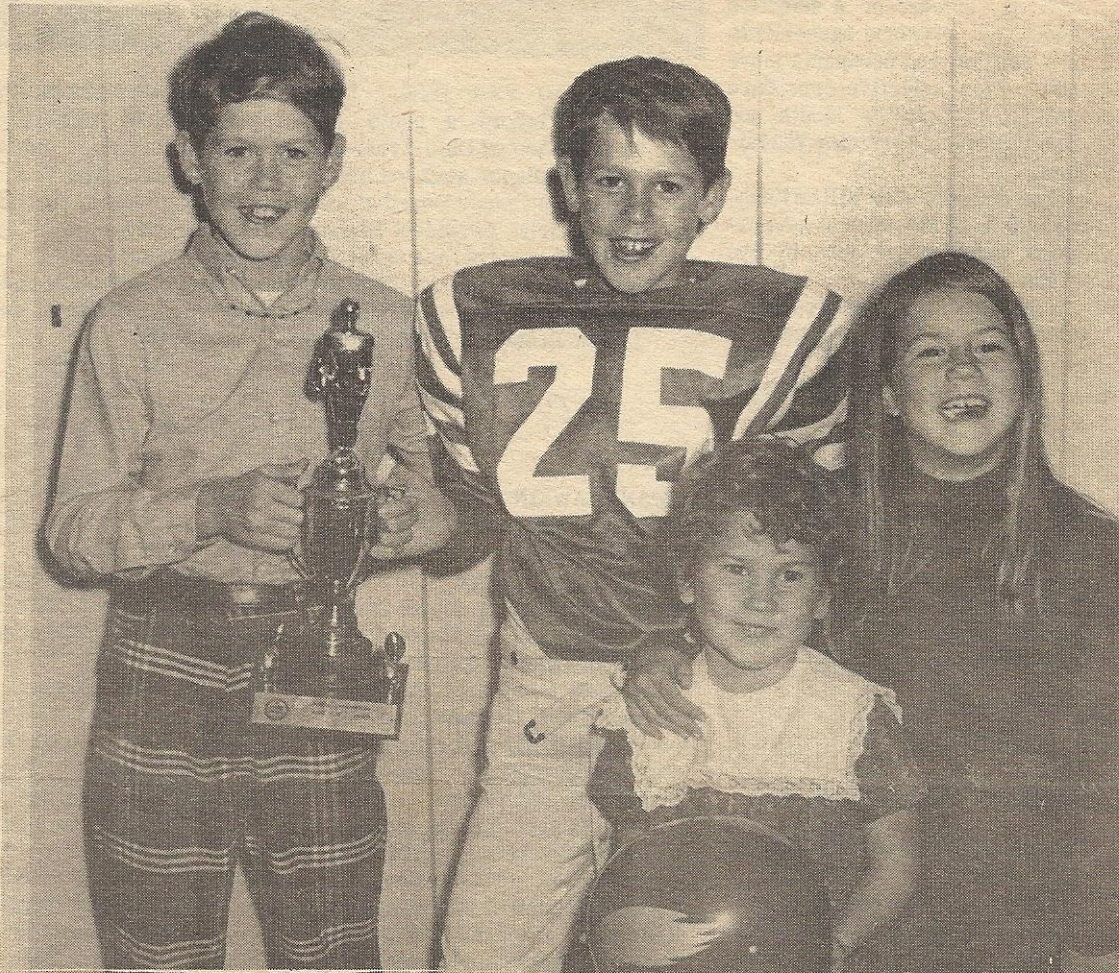


*Ladies of the Elks (Ladies Auxiliary) – circa late 1960s
Fran Witkoski holding special achievement award (Lady Elk of the Year)*



Newly Installed Officers of Ladies Auxiliary – April 23rd, 1970

WENAL WINS AGAIN



KEITH WENAL as shown with Eagles uniform on is mighty popular with his brother Michael on the left and sisters Kelly and Christy on right. Keith has won area competition of Ford's Pass, Punt and Kick in Philadelphia and now will represent the Eagles Division competition in Dallas. During halftime of Baltimore and Dallas game, Keith will vie for Division trophy. If successful Keith will go on to Miami and the Orange Bowl. In our next edition we will have photo of Keith, and trophies he has won up to date. Out of one million contestants (as of Nov.15th) the competition has narrowed down to 125. Ocean County is proud of you Keith Wenal.

November 15, 1969 - Keith Wenal from Beach Haven (in Eagles uniform) won area competition of Ford's Pass, Punt and Kick contest in Philadelphia and will represent the Eagles during halftime in Dallas during Baltimore / Dallas NFL game.



KEITH WENAL was honored at Pop Warner Banquet held Tuesday, Nov. 18th, at Wida's, Keith is shown with Pop Warner Coaches from left to right: Dave Cagney, Dan Harris and Jack Witkoski. Also shown are trophies won for local, zone district and area competition in which 9 year old Keith Wenal took first place. Keith Wenal will represent Conti Ford of Manahawkin at division competition which will be held in Dallas, December 13.



FOR THE BENEFIT of the Pop Warner Football League, the Manahawkin Elks Lodge #2340

***Keith Wenal – November 27th, 1969
Honored at Pop Warner Football Banquet held at Wida's on LBI for taking 1st place at
Local, Zone and Area levels***

THE OCEAN COUNTY ADVERTISER MAGAZINE, Wednesday, November 26, 1969 — Page 20



Nine year old Keith Wenal, 415 Center Street, Beach Haven, receives a trophy in recognition of having won the right to represent the Philadelphia Eagles in his age group in Punt, Pass & Kick competition at Franklin Field on Sunday, Nov. 16. Ron Yanessa, Ford Division Philadelphia district sales office, makes the presentation. Boys eight through 13 years of age from the Philadelphia and Newark districts completed before the Eagles-Los Angeles Rams game. Keith will now represent the Eagles in the PP&K national semi-finals to be held in Detroit on Sunday, Dec. 14.

Nine year old Keith Wenal, receives PPK trophy and will represent the Philadelphia Eagles in Pass. Punt & Kick contest national semi-finals in Detroit age group on December 14th, 1969

SOUTH - OCEAN POP WARNER CLUB, INC.

FOOTBALL

THE GOLDEN ANTLERS

1969 SCHEDULE



2340



August 31 -	Fort Monmouth (H)
September 7 -	Keansburg (H)
September 14 -	Belmar (H)
September 21 -	New Shrewsbury (A)
September 28 -	St. Joseph (H)
October 5 -	Jackson (H)
October 12 -	Red Bank (A)
October 19 -	W. Long Branch (A)
October 26 -	Atlantic Highlands (A)



DONATION 50c

Lodge Officers :

Exalter Ruler

William Wells

Esteemed Leading Knight

Martin Flagg

Esteemed Loyal Knight

Albert Scully

Esteemed Lecturing Knight

August Cervetto

Secretary

Kenneth Seekell

Treasurer

Henry Levy

Esquire

Vincent Maiorano

Tiler

James Moore

Chaplain

Calvin Dixon

Inner Guard

Sal Marino

Board of Trustees

Harold Spedding, Chairman

Karl Sutterlin

Vincent Passeri

William Kafer

James Godfrey

Pop Warner Football Committee

Robert Lehman, President

David Cagney, Vice President

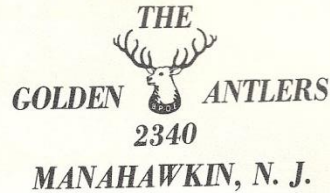
James Woehr, Treasurer

Harold Spedding, Secretary

Jack Witkoski, Public Relations

SOUTH—OCEAN
POP WARNER
FOOTBALL CLUB, INC.

Sponsored By Manahawkin Elks Lodge

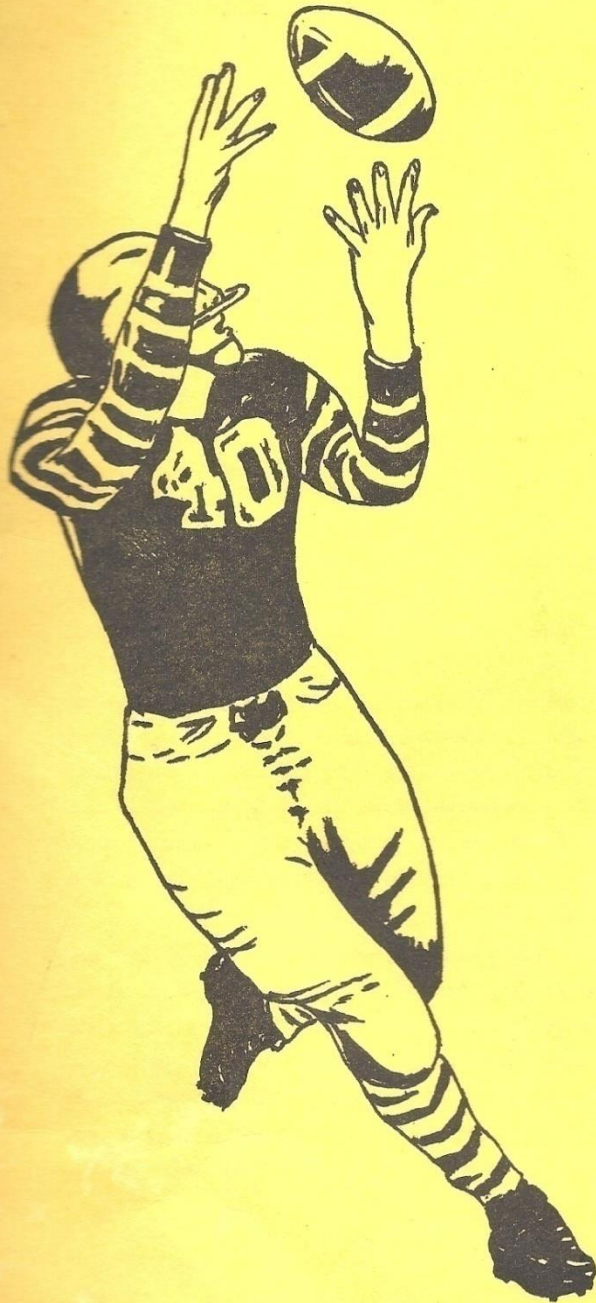


Statement of Purposes

To inspire youth, regardless of race, creed or color, to practice the ideals of sportsmanship, scholarship and physical fitness as reflected in the life of the late Glenn Scobie (Pop) Warner; to bring area youth closer together through the means of a common interest in sportsmanship, scholarship, fellowship and athletic competition; to encourage adults to behave in an exemplary manner when supervising youth, and to keep the welfare of youth foremost and free from any adult compulsion for power and glory.

To promote safety-first play by encouraging only local programs with strict controls over ages and weights, equipment, and behavior of adult coaches and spectators; to acquaint boys with such fundamentals as blocking, tackling, running, kicking, passing, and of maintaining a sound physical, mental, moral condition.

MANAHAWKIN ELKS POP WARNER FOOTBALL CLUB, Inc.



GOLDEN
THE  ANTLERS
2340

1968 SCHEDULE

September 1 — Pt. Pleasant (H)

September 8 — Keansburg (A)

September 15 — Belmar (A)

Sept. 22 — New Shrewsbury (H)

September 30 — St. Joseph (A)

October 6 — Jackson (A)

October 13 — Red Bank (H)

October 20 — W. Long Branch (H)

Oct. 27 — Atlantic Highlands (H)

Donation 25c

MANAHAWKIN ELKS
POP WARNER FOOTBALL CLUB, Inc.

B.P.O.E. Lodge Officers

Exalter Ruler

GEORGE METZ

Esteemed Leading Knight

WILLIAM WELLS

Esteemed Loyal Knight

MYRON ZMURKO

Esteemed Lecturing Knight

GLAZIER STEADMAN

Secretary

JOSEPH MILLER

Treasurer

JAMES WOHR

Esquire

ALBERT SCULLY

Tiler

AUSTIN LINDENBERG

Chaplain

MARTIN FLAGG

Inner Guard

ROBERT WAY

Board of Trustees

HAROLD SPEDDING, Chairman

KARL SUTTERLIN

VINCE PASSERI

HENRY LEVY

JAMES GODFREY

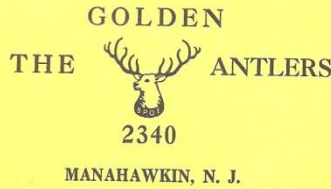
Pop Warner Football Committee

ROBERT HOLMES, President

DAVID CAGNEY, Vice President

PATRICK BAIRD, Secretary-Treasurer

JACK WITKOSKI, Public Relations



Statement of Purposes

To inspire youth, regardless of race, creed or color, to practice the ideals of sportsmanship, scholarship and physical fitness as reflected in the life of the late Glenn Scobie (Pop) Warner; to bring area youth closer together through the means of a common interest in sportsmanship, scholarship, fellowship and athletic competition; to encourage adults to behave in an exemplary manner when supervising youth, and to keep the welfare of youth foremost and free from any adult compulsion for power and glory.

To promote safety-first play by encouraging only local programs with strict controls over ages and weights, equipment, and behavior of adult coaches and spectators; to acquaint boys with such fundamentals as blocking, tackling, running, kicking, passing, and of maintaining a sound physical, mental, moral condition.

April 2, 1969



MANAHAWKIN ELKS - Standing, left to right, Jack Witkowsky, Dave Cagney, Jim Godfrey, Harold Spedding, "Champ" Perry, Norb Godschall. Left to right: Vince Mairano, Al Sculley, Bob Gower, Arnold Svelling, Gus Cervetto.

Manahawkin Elks Basketball Team – April 2nd, 1969

Section V – Past Exalted Rulers

<i>Harold Spedding</i>	1966-1967	<i>Ron C. Haegele</i>	2004-2005
<i>Bill Kafer</i>	1967-1968	<i>Cathi Landers</i>	2005-2006
<i>George Metz</i>	1968-1969	<i>Eric Payton</i>	2006-2007
<i>Bill Wells</i>	1969-1970	<i>Bea Albanese</i>	2007-2008
<i>Martin Flag</i>	1970-1971	<i>Pete D'Antoni</i>	2008-2009
<i>August Cervetto</i>	1971-1972	<i>Pete D'Antoni</i>	2009-2010
<i>Ben Morstatt</i>	1972-1973	<i>Teri Payton</i>	2010-2011
<i>Ben Morstatt</i>	1973-1974	<i>Robert Smith</i>	2011-2012
<i>George Secor</i>	1974-1975	<i>Thomas Vallebuona</i>	2012-2013
<i>Joe Severini</i>	1975-1976	<i>Pete D'Antoni</i>	2013-2014
<i>Ben Morstatt</i>	1976-1977	<i>Pete D'Antoni</i>	2014-2015
<i>Vince Mazzi</i>	1977-1978	<i>Tom Kurzweil</i>	2015-2016
<i>Vince Maiorano</i>	1978-1979	<i>Carol Keany</i>	2016-2017
<i>Michael J. Flynn</i>	1979-1980	<i>Dan Boesman</i>	2017-2018
<i>Ron Kohler</i>	1980-1981	<i>Kim England</i>	2018-2019
<i>Dominic DeMelfi</i>	1981-1982	<i>Kim England</i>	2019-2020
<i>Robert Farenga</i>	1982-1983	<i>Bruno Czerwonka</i>	2020-2021
<i>Nestor Von Vissor</i>	1983-1984	<i>Bruno Czerwonka</i>	2021-2022
<i>Walter Paulaski</i>	1984-1985	<i>Evelyn D'Antoni</i>	2022-2023
<i>Paul Bayer</i>	1985-1986	<i>Deborah England</i>	2023-2024
<i>Fred Porter</i>	1986-1987	<i>Brian Counihan</i>	2024-2025
<i>Michael Mann</i>	1987-1988		
<i>Paul Toth</i>	1988-1989		
<i>Mat Cutano</i>	1989-1990		
<i>Vince Maiorano</i>	1990-1991		
<i>Harry Stettes</i>	1991-1992		
<i>Charles Hargrove</i>	1992-1993		
<i>Vince Maiorano</i>	1993-1994		
<i>Karl Robinson</i>	1994-1995		
<i>Karl Robinson</i>	1995-1996		
<i>Mark T. Schnepf</i>	1996-1997		
<i>Jack Blomquist</i>	1997-1998		
<i>Jack Blomquist</i>	1998-1999		
<i>Nunzio Iurato</i>	1999-2000		
<i>Nunzio Iurato</i>	2000-2001		
<i>Jim McNally</i>	2001-2002		
<i>Joe Banasiak</i>	2002-2003		
<i>Dan Olivier</i>	2003-2004		

***To Be
Continued.....***