

P.E.R. BILL O'HEARN

When I think of the term, Mystic Roll Call, among the many notables, those whose memories are written on the tablets of love and memory, Irish Billy always comes to mind. For those who don't know, that was Bill O'Hearn's nickname during Rudy Kaul's Night at the Races. Bill was not only an exemplary exalted ruler, brimming with Elkdom, but he was an amazing ambassador to 1952 and what it stands for.

During his time as an officer, not only was he a state ritual winner in 2008, he was a champion of our lodge and where we stood in the community. Most initiates will remember the introductory video featuring his voice in which he championed the Dictionary program. He spoke glowingly of a young boy coming up to him and showing him his dictionary and how proud he was of it. Bill also helped to ensure Garden Grove Police got bullet proof vests during his ER year of 2013-14. It is through charitable acts like these that put Bill O'Hearn as our first quarter Mystic Roll Call honoree.

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NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY is observed every year in the United States on February 1st. It commemorates the day in 1865 when President Abraham Lincoln signed the Joint Resolution that proposed the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution – the amendment that ultimately abolished slavery. Major Richard Robert Wright Sr., a former enslaved person and educator, advocated for a national day honoring freedom and promoted the idea until his death in 1947. In 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed the bill establishing National Freedom Day as an official observance.



National Freedom Day aims to celebrate freedom for every American, acknowledge the struggle to end slavery, promote unity, harmony, and equal opportunity, and encourage continuous commitment to civil rights and equality. Commemorations usually involve ceremonies at the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, educational events focused on freedom and civil rights, as well as community gatherings and historical programs.

As Americans and Elks, by recognizing the significance of this day we honor the sacrifices made in the struggle for freedom and equality. National Freedom Day serves as a reminder to uphold the values of unity, harmony, and equal opportunity for all, as well as charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity! Through our continued dedication, we help ensure that the ideals celebrated on this day remain vibrant and meaningful for generations to come.

B.P.O.E. Trivia

Which of these famous entertainers was NOT an Elk?
Lawrence Welk, Bob Hope, Will Rogers, or Jack Benny.

Garden Grove Trivia

The Garden Grove Historical Society maintains property on Euclid. What is it called?

GG Elks Trivia

What year did construction begin on the original Garden Grove Elks Lodge building on Trask Ave.?

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE GARDEN GROVE ELKS HISTORIAN COMMITTEE

CONTACT US AT HISTORIAN.BPOE.1952@GMAIL.COM WITH SUGGESTIONS, CONTRIBUTIONS OR COMMENTS

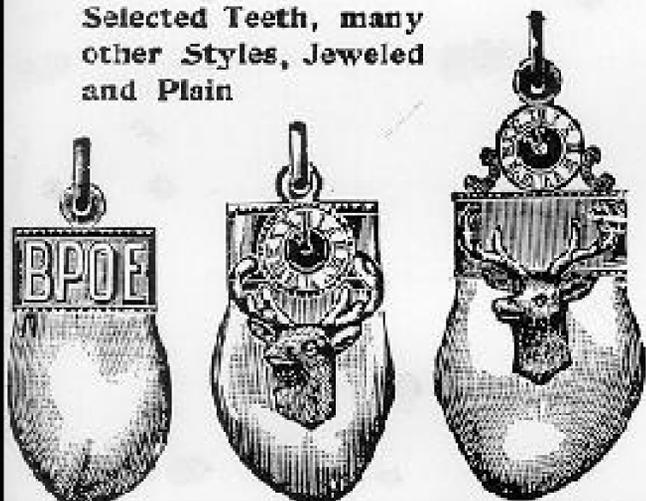
ELK TEETH & THE BPOE

Incorporating elk teeth into fashion and jewelry began long, long ago. Among many Native American tribes, elk teeth held deep symbolic meaning, representing qualities such as strength, longevity, good hunting, and spiritual power. Commonly woven into clothing and headdresses, used as gifts, or to mark significant achievements, elk teeth served both decorative and talismanic purposes.

With the founding of the BPOE in 1868, the organization embraced the elk as its symbol, choosing it for its nobleness, strength, and its association with American heritage. The ivory tooth, often adorned with a gold cap engraved with the BPOE initials and lodge number, became a common accessory. Items such as cufflinks, watch fobs, and pendants not only denoted status and affiliation but also provided members with opportunities to share stories about their ties to the lodge.

1903 ADVERTISEMENT

Selected Teeth, many other Styles, Jeweled and Plain



The increased demand for elk ivories inadvertently resulted in a severe decline in elk populations. In response, the BPOE investigated the situation and in 1907 recommended that members stop wearing elk tooth jewelry, recognizing the detrimental impact on elk herds. It became a major force for conservation, using its nationwide influence to advocate for legislation at both state and federal levels to protect elk populations and their habitats.

Today, elk are no longer hunted solely for their two ivory teeth, and Elk's members are free to collect vintage pieces with a clear conscience! If you're lucky enough to own one, take some time to research its origins – have fun and enjoy your unique piece of history!



THE INTERESTING HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Do you think you know everything about St. Patrick's Day?

Read on, as you may be surprised!

Each year on March 17, people around the world celebrate St. Patrick's Day, a holiday that blends rich history with joyful traditions. For the Elks, the day is a wonderful opportunity to honor Irish heritage, enjoy fellowship, and "maybe" enjoy one or two of Raffi's creations at the bar.

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Roman Britain (most likely Wales) in the late 4th century. As a teenager, he was captured by Irish pirates and taken to Ireland, where he was enslaved for several years. After escaping captivity, he later returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary, devoting his life to spreading Christianity. Tradition holds that St. Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity, a symbol that remains closely tied to the holiday - and to Ireland - today. He is believed to have died on March 17th around the year 461, so St. Patrick's Day is actually celebrated on his day of death.

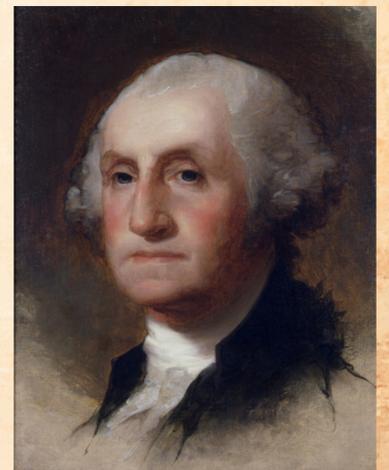
Originally, St. Patrick's Day was observed as a solemn religious feast day in Ireland, marked by church services and quiet reflection. Public celebrations were minimal. Over time, especially through the Irish immigrant experience in America, the holiday evolved into a broader celebration of Irish culture and pride. Irish communities used the day to come together, strengthening bonds of fellowship during challenging times —values that resonate strongly with the Elks' commitment to charity, brotherly love and fidelity.

A few fun facts many may not know:

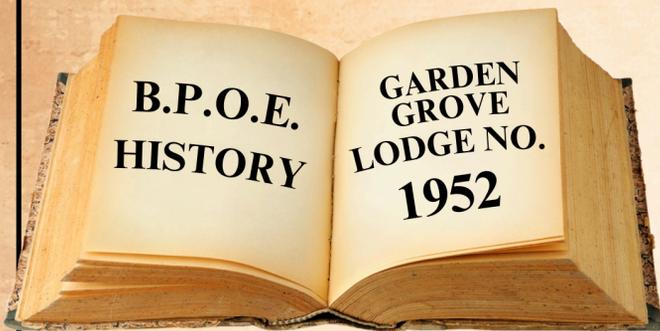
- 1) The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in 1601 in St. Augustine, Florida, not Ireland. Today, parades, music, and festive gatherings are central to the celebration and can be found worldwide.
- 2) Until the 1960's, pubs and taverns were closed on St. Patrick's Day throughout Ireland because it was such a sacred holiday.
- 3) The color green was not always associated with St. Patrick—historically, blue was his color. Green later became dominant due to its ties to Ireland's landscape and national identity.

From corned beef and cabbage (an American creation) to Irish music and laughter among friends, St. Patrick's Day is about coming together. At its heart, the holiday reminds us of the importance of fellowship—something Elks proudly celebrate every day!

PRESIDENTS' DAY, observed on the third Monday of February, is a federal holiday established to honor the leadership and legacy of our nation's presidents. Its origins trace back to the 1880s, when the birthday of George Washington (February 22) became one of the first federal holidays. Over time, particularly after the Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1971, the day evolved into Presidents' Day, a celebration not only of Washington but of all U.S. presidents, past and present. Today, the holiday serves as a reminder of the nation's democratic foundations, the transfer of executive power, and the contributions of those who have served in the country's highest office. While Presidents' Day is not officially connected to the BPOE, the values highlighted by the holiday closely align with the organization's long-standing commitment to patriotism and civic duty.



George Washington



RICHARD P. HASTER was born in Hillegom, Holland in 1890 and came to America in 1907, settling in Orange County in 1915. He served in World War I in 1919. Once back from the war, Haster gradually became a prominent rancher in the Garden Grove/Anaheim area.

In 1943, Dick Haster sold approx. 230 acres to the Navy Dept. for \$225 an acre, plus \$175 an acre for crops then on the property. The government gave him no choice but to sell, but it was probably a blessing under the circumstances. Haster Farm Field was to be an auxiliary base to Naval Air Station Los Alamitos. However, its official status as a flight

training field only lasted for ninety days before the Navy abandoned it. No Navy aircraft ever landed there.

In 1949, Haster (who then lived at 9222 Trask Ave.) repurchased ten acres of his old land from the government and leased another 220 acres from them for agriculture. He also allowed civilian pilots to use the old Navy runway. The tiny "airport" was home to a handful of small private aircraft and about six Civil Air Patrol planes.

In 1955 Richard Haster was elected Charter Exalted Ruler to our Garden Grove Elks #1952. By 1956, the Navy was looking to get rid of the 110 acres of Haster Field that Haster has been renting as farmland. Initially, they offered to sell it back to Haster. But rather than selling to Haster, in January 1957, the General Services Administration gave initial approval for the sale of "the forty-acre wartime auxiliary landing strip" directly to the newly minted City of Garden Grove.

Richard Haster, E.R. 1955-56



A deal with the GSA became effective in August. In addition to selling the land for a park, the government gave 20 acres to the Garden Grove High School District, 20 acres to the Elementary School District, and 18 acres to the State for a right-of-way strip adjacent to the planned 22 Freeway. The elementary school district offered its 20 acres to the high school district so that there would be enough space for a new high school. The street Haster St. is named after our first Exalted Ruler. Haster Basin Recreational Park, on the corner of Lampson and Haster is also named after him.

Dick Haster died in 1979. By then his "field" had served the Navy, private pilots, the Civil Air Patrol, hundreds of housing tract residents, thousands of Bolsa Grande students (originally named Haster High School), and the countless thousands who'd enjoyed Garden Grove Park and Atlantis Play Park. Today, the land continues to serve the community well.

JAMES N. WYLAM — A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP AND FLIGHT

Another memorable page in the history of Lockport Lodge #41, B.P.O.E., was written in the early 1930s through the remarkable life and service of James N. Wylam - Elk leader, aviation pioneer, and devoted representative of his Lodge.

Service to the Order of Elks: James N. Wylam served the Lockport Elks Lodge with distinction as Exalted Ruler from 1931-1932, exemplifying the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity. His Leadership reflected a steady hand, a forward-

looking spirit, and a sincere commitment to both Lodge and community. As a trusted member of the Order, Wylam was selected to represent Lockport Lodge #41 as a delegate to the Elks National Convention held in Seattle, Washington, July 6-9, 1931.

A Historic Cross-Country Flight: Rather than traveling by rail, Wylam chose a bold and uncommon route for the era - he flew himself across the United States and back. Departing from the Lee-Van de Mark Airport on June 29, 1931, he embarked on a journey covering approximately 15,000 miles, flying at altitudes ranging from 1,000 to 14,000 feet and averaging 100 miles per hour.

Piloting his four-place cabin Stinson monoplane, Wylam reported that the aircraft "behaved marvelously" throughout the demanding trip. Planned western stops included Omaha, Cheyenne, Salt Lake City, Denver, Butte, Casper, and Spokane, before his arrival in Seattle on July 6, where he remained for the duration of the National Convention as the proud delegate of Lockport Lodge #41.

On the return journey, Wylam's flight gained additional notoriety when he carried as passengers from Big Sand Lake in Phelps, Wisconsin, to Chicago, Illinois, the famed golf champion Walter Hagen and Mrs. Hagen - a testament to both his piloting skill and the growing confidence in long-distance aviation.

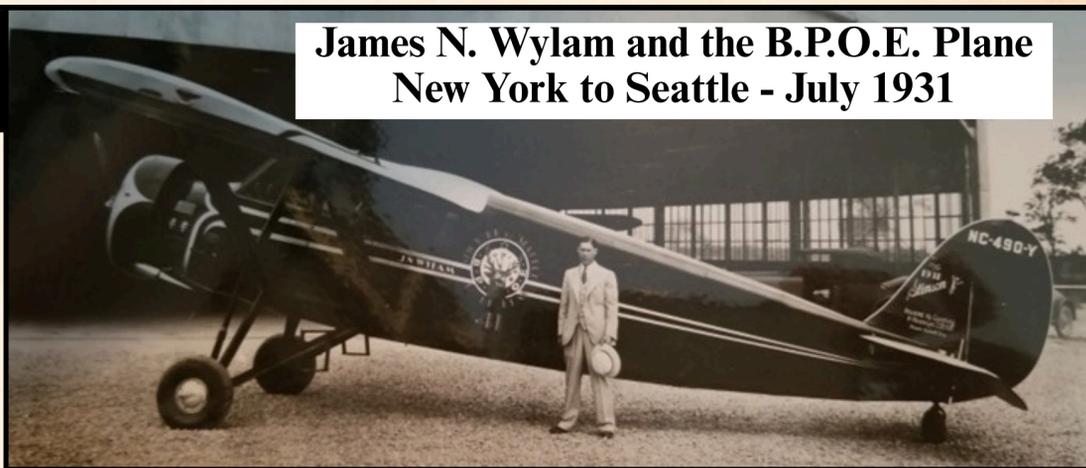
At a time when such cross-country flights were rare and demanding, Wylam's journey stood as a symbol of innovation, courage, and devotion to Elkdom. With every mile flown, he carried the name and pride of Lockport Lodge #41 across the nation, demonstrating to Elkdom at large the strength, character, and forward spirit of his home Lodge.

Tragic Loss: Tragedy struck on Sunday, May 2, 1932, when James N. Wylam, age 40, and Vernon C. Fuller, age 35, were killed instantly in an airplane accident at the east end of the Lee-Van de Mark Airport. The two men had flown to Buffalo earlier that afternoon and were returning to Lockport with Wylam as pilot.

While preparing to land, the plane circled the field and began its descent. At an altitude of approximately 200 feet, the aircraft suddenly dropped and nose-dived into the ground. The accident was believed to have been caused by a sudden and tricky wind condition.

Enduring Legacy: James N. Wylam is remembered as more than an accomplished aviator. He was a devoted Elk, a respected Lodge leader, and a man whose pioneering spirit reflected the very heart of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. His willingness to take flight - literally and figuratively - mirrored the Elks' mission to lead, to serve, and to rise to the needs of others.

As an Elk, James N. Wylam carried his Lodge not only in his heart, but on his wings. His leadership on the ground and his courage in the air remain a lasting testament to the pride, unity, and enduring legacy of Lockport Lodge #41, reminding future generations that the true spirit of Elkdom knows no limits.





APPRECIATING THE MEANING BEHIND OUR ANNUAL AWARDS

In the months leading to the end of our Lodge Year, special awards are given to recognize those that exceed the expectations of our members and officers. Some awards are given nationwide by all lodges and some are unique to our lodge. All are special in their own way, but all are awarded for excellence in service and dedication to our lodge.

BEST FOOT FORWARD AWARD

The Garden Grove Elks Lodge presents the **Best Foot Forward Award** in honor of the late Larry Hudson, a beloved member and Past Elk of the Year (2002-2003). Larry served as an Officer and retired as a Tiler. He was known for his tireless volunteering, infectious humor, and unwavering dedication - all accomplished while on crutches, having only one leg.

Larry's legacy of service lives on through this special award, which recognizes a member who has consistently "put their best foot forward" for the lodge throughout the year, whether volunteering at events, supporting lodge operations, or showing exceptional spirit and commitment.

The award plaque, unique to the Garden Grove Lodge, features a single tennis shoe, a heartfelt tribute to Larry's unique and inspiring journey. It serves as a lasting reminder that dedication and heart matter far more than physical limitations. The **Best Foot Forward Award** continues to celebrate those who follow in Larry's footsteps, helping to keep the lodge strong, welcoming, and full of spirit.

FRED MORRISON AWARD

The **Fred Morrison Award**, established in 1988 by the Garden Grove Elks Lodge, stands as the first locally created award recognizing exceptional service and dedication. Named after Fred Morrison, a long-time member and Past Exalted Ruler who was also honored as Elk of the Year in 1979-1980, the award pays tribute to those who go above and beyond in service to the Lodge.

This prestigious recognition is given to one Elk from the Garden Grove Lodge who has demonstrated outstanding commitment throughout the year. Unlike other awards, the **Fred Morrison Award** is uniquely selected solely by the Exalted Ruler, reflecting the recipient's extraordinary contributions that exceed standard expectations.

Honorees are forever remembered on a permanent plaque proudly displayed in the hallway of the Lodge, listing all past recipients. The **Fred Morrison Award** continues to symbolize the highest standard of Elkdom and selfless service within the Garden Grove Elks community.

THE BLAKE BARREGAR AWARD

The **Blake Barregar Award** was created to honor the extraordinary dedication of Blake Barregar, who was chosen as Elk of the Year for the Garden Grove Elks Lodge (2006-2007). As owner of an electrical company, he generously donated countless hours of labor and materials, powering installations and repairs that helped maintain the Lodge's facilities. His contributions went far beyond the ordinary, reflecting true service above self.

This award is bestowed on a member of the Garden Grove Lodge who exemplifies outstanding commitment and selflessness, mirroring Blake Barregar's own spirit. Recipients have their names engraved on a plaque displayed in the hallway, alongside Barregar's and other honorees in recognition of their year-long contributions.

The **Blake Barregar Award** stands as a tribute to his leadership and lasting legacy within the Lodge community.

ELK OF THE YEAR

The **Elk of the Year** award is one of the highest honors given annually by lodges, recognizing a member who has shown exceptional dedication and volunteerism throughout the year. This prestigious award, part of Grand Lodge recognition, is presented to a non-officer, who consistently goes above and beyond in service to the lodge.

Chosen by the Exalted Ruler, often with input from a specially formed committee, the recipient is selected based on their volunteer work, commitment to Elks' charities, and involvement in lodge events or committees. Whether chairing a committee or quietly working behind the scenes, this Elk is known for always being there to lend a hand.

A banquet is held to celebrate the honoree alongside members, family and past Elks of the Year. Their photo is proudly displayed in the lodge hallway, marking their contribution to the Elks' mission.

With many deserving members, selecting just one can be difficult, but the **Elk of the Year** is always someone whose selfless service has left a lasting impact on the lodge.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The **Officer of the Year** award is given to a current Officer. The Past Exalted Rulers Association considers each officer's performance for the year. Having been in the officer's roles, they understand what is required from each officer of the lodge. They take their recommendation to the Exalted Ruler. With the PERs recommendation, the ER decides who will be named **Officer of the Year**.

The Officer must go above and beyond what is assigned to them. They must have helped other officers and/or committees. They must have done their job better than just what is required of their duties as an officer to earn the honor of being **Officer of the Year**.



Conversations with our Exalted Ruler, First Lady, and C.O.B.

CHRIS GARLAND --- EXALTED RULER 2025-26



Chris Garland, PER! Seems odd to be saying that, but as of April that will be Chris' new title. As with all Exalted Rulers, there are challenges that arise throughout the year. This year has been no different. Chris has accepted these challenges, and his group of Officers and Trustees have done their best to resolve the issues.

Trying to reduce losses has been an ongoing task. One big accomplishment has been our incorporation. Chris has also worked to identify our "missing" members; he has tried to let them know that their lodge is here for them and encouraged them to take advantage of events, dinners and everything we have going on.

This year, we celebrated the lodge's 70th anniversary. We had a big party - a lot of members showed up and had a great time! Chris is also proud of the Ritual Team. At State Convention, all of our officers earned All-State awards!

Chris was asked if he has any advice for our incoming Exalted Ruler, Alice Salinas. He replied, "Have a good relationship with your officers and members", "don't put anything on the 'back burner' - handle issues when they occur".

Chris grew up locally in Westminster. He describes his childhood as the "typical Norman Rockwell Family". Dad was an engineer at Rockwell and mom was a teacher. He has one younger sister that lives in Florida.

Chris was active as a child. He was in Scouts and enjoyed camping. He played Little League Baseball for a few years, but soccer was his sport. He played soccer for approximately 38 years, which covered youth, high school, college, and then some.

Chris has been a member of the Elks for 11 years. He originally became an Elk to have a location for an outside business but quickly found that the Elks do so much good for the community, that he quickly got involved and never looked back!

Timeless Tracks would like to say "Thank You" to Chris and Karen for dedicating this last year to making our lodge better, friendlier and a fun place to visit!

KAREN GARLAND --- FIRST LADY 2025-26



As we are excited for the new Elk year, we are saddened to bid farewell to our outgoing 1st Lady, Karen Garland. Although the year was filled with added responsibilities and roles, Karen enjoyed attending the visitations at other lodges and meeting members from other lodges.

Karen wishes Jennifer Kushner, Exalted Ruler Alice Salinas' 1st Lady all the best this year. She encourages Jennifer to attend meetings and visitations throughout the year, meet new people and assist Alice whenever possible.

Karen was born in Anaheim and moved to Mission Viejo when she was 10 years old. At the time, her father was coaching football at Saddleback College, and the commute was becoming too much. Karen's brother Mikey was very outgoing and loved by all. Karen describes him as "the star of my life". Although Mikey was 2 years younger, he managed to teach Karen many life lessons before his passing. He is greatly missed by many.

Karen was very sociable in school and believes that helped her with her duties as 1st Lady. There were times when she had the choice to meet new people or sit and not talk to anyone, she chose to meet new people every time.

Karen has been a member for 13 years. Chris and Karen knew about the Elks and one day she, Chris and Paul Pelasky PER went to the Mission Viejo lodge for a ukulele lesson. During the lesson, Karen talked to the ladies running the snack bar. Next thing you know, she had an application!

Although being 1st Lady could keep a person busy enough, Karen has many other hats she wears! Being chairperson for Youth Activities and Purple Pig are her main loves. During her leadership, the Youth Activities Committee has adopted 6 local schools. The committee has donated playground balls and dictionaries to these schools. In addition, Karen has led her team to help needy kids at these schools. Youth Activities recently donated 280 jackets to keep kids warm this winter.

Karen's role as 1st Lady may be coming to an end, but we can rest assured that she will still provide the same amount of energy she has given over the years. The 2025-26 year flew by, and we all appreciate the work Karen has done as our 1st Lady.

KAY KEARNEY --- CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD 2025-26



As the 2025-26 Elk Year comes to an end, we look back on the first year our lodge has been led by a female Chairman of the Board, Kay Kearney! Kay became an Elk during Covid, 6 years ago. She was impressed with how the world stopped and yet the Elks did not! Under Kay's leadership this year, the Trustees made several positive changes, and they continue to work hard for our lodge and membership.

As a team, the Trustees coordinated the incorporation of our lodge, as recommended by Grand Lodge. They also have recently formed a true non-profit 501(c)(3) entity to accept tax-deductible donations, which will help our lodge tremendously going forward. In addition to these business improvements, the Trustees have also spearheaded the recent West Bar renovation project, which is coming to completion soon. It has already had positive financial impact, making the lodge room more attractive for outside event rentals. Kay's advice to the incoming COB is to ensure that the Trustees have a combination of business background and construction, as this balance of financial matters and property maintenance is essential to the role.

Kay is not all business, however - she also loves to have fun! She is an integral part of the Entertainment Committee, and has a hand in planning Friday night dinners, theme nights, wine tastings, and so much more! Kay lives in West Garden Grove and is the proud mom of 2 adult children, and grandmother of 3 amazing grandkids. Kay, we thank you for your ongoing service to our lodge!

HISTORIAN COMMITTEE MERCHANDISE

USING VINTAGE ELKS' SYMBOLISM TO BRING THE PAST INTO THE PRESENT

The Elks have a history of designing elaborate jewels, coins and pins. The Historian Committee has created some great items, each of them was thoughtfully designed to represent our Orders' history. The closest details were taken into consideration in the design, even using "No. 1952" and not the currently used "#1952". If you're wondering how we came up with the designs, here are brief descriptions of the items we have for sale.

The first item is a pin commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Garden Grove Elks Lodge. It has our lodge name and number, "70" in the center for the years, a strawberry representing Garden Grove, the classic II O'clock Toast symbol, the years 1955 and 2025, and it says "Platinum Jubilee" which describes a 70-year anniversary celebration. The overall shape of the pin is based on vintage lodge pins from the early 1900's.

The second item is a collector coin, and the team worked hard on this design! The "heads" side contains classic symbolism of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Inspiration for this side of the coin came from researching historical symbols and looking at vintage convention medals and other memorabilia from the late 1800's and early 1900's. The "head" is a strong and proud Elk, which is surrounded by the letters "BPOE", Forget-Me-Nots (official flower of the Elks), "Cervus Alces" (scientific name for the North American Elk), the II O'clock Toast symbol, "Hello Bill!" (traditional greeting of the Elks since 1897), and "Garden Grove No. 1952". The "tails" side of the coin is a tribute to the Semiquincentennial (250th anniversary) of our great country, from 1776 to 2026. It features the classic Colonial drummer from the 1976 Bicentennial Quarter, the Liberty Bell, and two crossed flags (the Betsy Ross flag and the current US flag).

The last item is a remake of the vintage "Made An Elk" coin, as featured in an article in our premier issue of Timeless Tracks (visit Elks1952.org to read archived issues). The "heads" side is an Elk and II O'clock Toast symbol, and the reverse side reads "MADE AN ELK B.P.O.E." with room for personalized engraving, such as your lodge name and number, member name, and initiation date. It's a chance to create your own piece of history! Ask any of our committee members how you can get a Made an Elk coin and the other items!

Proceeds benefit the Historian Committee, which will use them in the production of our newsletter Timeless Tracks, to improve historical displays in the lodge, for special projects, and to offer support to the Lodge and other committees. If you'd like to learn more about the designs, or purchase any of these items, please see Amber Spurlock or email the Historian Committee at Historian.BPOE.1952@gmail.com.

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Make a Difference Today!**

**Garden Grove #1952
USA Semiquincentennial (250 Years)
Collector/Challenge Coins**



**Garden Grove #1952
70th Anniversary
Lodge Pins**



**Only
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Each!**

B.P.O.E. Trivia Answer

Bob Hope

Garden Grove Trivia Answer

The Stanley Ranch Museum

GG Elks Trivia Answer

1957

PLEASE LOOK FOR OUR NEXT QUARTERLY EDITION - COMING IN APRIL 2026
GARDEN GROVE ELKS HISTORIAN COMMITTEE