

CHESTER TIMES – February 22, 1906

DEDICATION SERVICES FOR ELKS' NEW BUILDING TODAY – Hundreds of Big Horns from Many Cities in This Part of the Country Foregathered in Chester to Participate in the Ceremonies – “BEST PEOPLE ON EARTH” HOLD HIGH CARNIVAL

The Elks own the city today. The keys have been turned over to them, as far as the City Hall is concerned, with the exception of the combination secret of the safe in Treasurer McClenachan's office, but as the big horns are provided with plenty of money, the city's bank account will not be molested. The weather man consulted yesterday he agreed to use his influence with the elements and the Commissioner of Highways, and provide clean streets and sunny skies for the demonstration today, and he has been as good as his word. The rest is with the Elks themselves, and they promise to cut a caper during this afternoon and evening that the old town has not seen since the day when Billy Penn landed on the Delaware shore at the foot of Penn Street, where the monument to his memory marks the spot of foreign invasion on Chester's virgin soil.

PROGRAM FOR THE DAY – The arrangements for the dedication of the new home are about as complete as could well be made, and the event will be one of the most important in the history of the order in tis vicinity. Hundreds of visiting Elks are in the city and they will be well taken care of during their brief sojourn. The feature this afternoon will be the parade, in which the public is interested, but the dedicatory ceremonies that follow in the building will be of a secret nature and none but Elks will be permitted to enjoy that impressive part of the program. The interior of the building has been beautifully decorated for the occasion, and the exterior has been made most attractive by long streamers of red, white and blue electric lights, which were tested last night and found to be just right. The basement has been converted into a banquet hall that rivals Delmonico's and the guests of the lodge will be lunched and dined to their heart's content by the reception and entertainment committees. Elmer N. Pennell is at the head of the “feeding combination” that will have charge of the banquet arrangements at the former headquarters of the lodge at Sixth and Market Streets, where a fine spread will be served from 4:30 to 6:30 o'clock.

THE PARADE – The parade is announced to start at 2:30 o'clock from the new home at Fifth and Welsh Streets, and the route is down Welsh Street to Fourth Street to Madison Street to Broad Street to Edgmont Avenue to Market Street to Market Square and countermarch to the point of beginning. There will be some fine music in line, and a bunch of high hats and full-dress suits that the old town has not seen on parade for several moons. James T. Ryan will be chief marshal, and he has appointed William H. Williams as his assistant. The formation will be as follow:

Dedication committee, reception committee, First Regiment Band of Philadelphia, 40 pieces; Philadelphia Lodge, which will comprise the first division.

The second division will include Jennings' Band of Camden at the head of Camden Lodge; Bristol Lodge; Wilmington Band, heading Wilmington Lodge, West Chester, Atlantic City, Norristown, and other lodges.

The third division will be composed of Chester Lodge, which will be headed by the Citizens' Band.

DEDICATION CEREMONIES – The dedication ceremonies will take place in the lodge room at 3 o'clock. The program will include the following, Organ voluntary; orchestra; prayer by the chaplain; dedication service, conducted by the officers of

Philadelphia Lodge; building up of altar by the officers; opening ode; presentation of the keys by John J. Mahoney, chairman of the building committee; singing by double male quartet; vocal solo; acceptance of the keys by Exalted Ruler Samuel B. Logan, Jr.; singing by the quartet; oration by Rev. Thomas Henry Johnston, of Mt. Carmel Lodge and rector of St. John's P.E. church of Huntingdon, Pa.; singing by quartet; closing of lodge. The singing will be an interesting feature of the afternoon program, and the First Baptist church double quartet will sing the following selections: Tenor solo, selected, Thomas B. Shaw; quartet, "Lift up Your Heads," by Holden; "God is Love," by F. von Flotow; "The Heavens are Declaring," by Beethoven. The singers are: First tenors, Thomas B. Shaw and Edward Hibberd; second tenors, William D. Pullen, Jr., and Dr. Charles I. Stiteler; first bass, Loveland Earnshaw and James Lord; second bass, William Glasson and Cantwell Wright. The organist is Harry V. Baxter.

EVENING EXERCISES – The program for the evening will consist of a reception and social session. The address of welcome will be delivered by Mayo Samuel E Turner, and among the toasts will be the following" "To the Order of B.P.O. Elks," Joseph H. Hinkson, Esq.; "To the Grand Lodge Members," by B.R. Bonner; "Philadelphia Lodge, No. 2," by J. Craig, Jr.; "To Our Visitors," by Dr. D.W. Jefferis; presentation speech, by Josiah Smith, Esq. The musical and vaudeville talent for the evening will be provided by Heller and Gladding of Philadelphia and the caterer for the occasion will be George J. Reynolds, formerly chef at the Imperial Hotel.

There will be a display of fireworks in front of the new home early in the evening, and the Elks will burn up considerable money in this way just to help along the red fire and powder manufacturers, who have to make a living at the expense of the public and private organizations who believe in pyrotechnics.

The dedication committee, which has been a busy one for several weeks past, is composed of James R. Creamer, chairman; W.T. Woodrow, secretary; Elmer N. Pennell, treasurer; Charles E Coppock, Samuel F. Bloom, Joseph Hinderhoffer, E.F. White, Dr. J.H. Crist, M.. Weinstock, C. A. Goheen.

Past Exalted Ruler Thomas P. Fennell enjoyed the distinction of being in the chair when the building committee was appointed by him and other arrangements were made for the erection of the new home