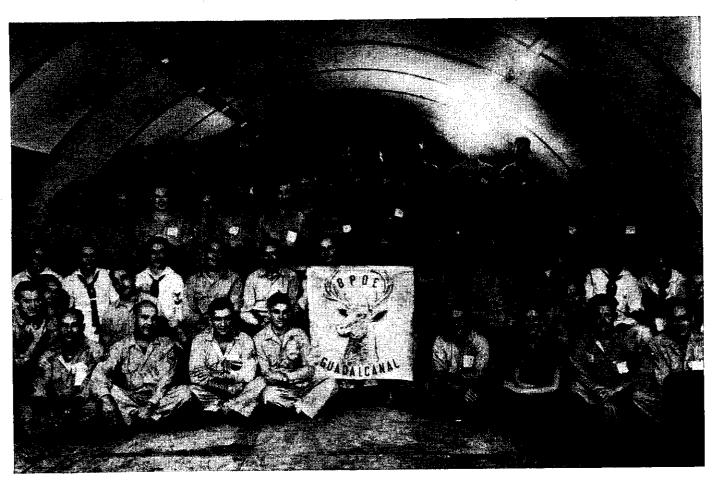
ELKS FORM CLUB ON GUADALCANAL



Even in the South Pacific the spirit of the Order keeps our men together.

N an island in the South Pacific which few Elks had heard of before the War, members of lodges back in the States have gathered together and set up a club which would do credit to many a town in America. It boasts some sort of record for having the greatest turnover in membership and officers of any group in the Order.

It all started in the late summer of 1944—the brainchild of Army S/Sgt. Ernest C. Frey of Houston, Tex., Lodge, No. 151, who was the first to be elected president. While on the prowl for Brother Elks, Sgt. Frey met Army Colonel C. H. Nichols of Bakersfield, Calif., Lodge, No. 226, who immediately offered the use of his offices in the Army Port Superintendent's Building where the first meetings were held. A handful of Elks searched this island outpost of the Armed Forces for others, and

enlisted the cooperation of the local Army Special Services radio station. Soon 35 Elks gathered at the Port Superintendent's office to discuss plans.

Meetings were held regularly from then on and now the club has an average active, paid-up membership of 60. More than 200 Elks have visited the Guadalcanal club at one time or another, when the Army, Navy and Marine Corps provided them with a temporary residence there. Almost every meeting brings new faces to the clubhouse and all too many sessions end with officers turning over their duties to others, in preparation for departure to the battle-fronts, but they carry on with an enthusiasm undimmed by the shadow of war.

After two months of meeting in whatever Army or Navy building was available, the Elks began dreaming of a clubhouse. How they obtained it is one of those things generally called "American ingenuity" but which more nearly resembles a scavenger hunt.

A Quonset hut was salvaged from a dump heap. That was a start, but another problem was to find a site for the

Members of the Guadalcanal Elks club meet in their Quonset hut.

building. No Army or Navy organization wanted the responsibility of a private club on its premises, even for recreational purposes. Through diplomacy, the Elks induced one Army commander to provide land for the clubhouse by making it an official building through its use as a classroom in the daytime.

A Quonset hut, as such, is a drab looking clubhouse, especially when it has no floor, no doors, no windows, no furniture. The boys solved this problem, too. With scrap lumber and beaverboard from the dump heap they turned the interior into a bright and cheerful place. A mechanically inclined Elk rebuilt a generator from scraps discarded by the Armed Forces. From then on, things turned up from all over. Ash trays were built from old bomb casings. A bar was constructed with plywood from a junked building. An electric fan was produced from a motor

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Elks Form Club

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salvaged from an old airplane turret and a fan from a wrecked jeep. We might add here that Houston, Tex., Lodge got wind of what was going on and that their fellow member, Sgt. Frey, was elected the first president, and another Houston Elk, Navy Seabee T. O. Montgomery SK 2/c, the first secretary. No. 151 decided to do something to help and very graciously sent a gift of \$100 which was used to procure a radio and an electric fan.

Chairs and tables were constructed and the Army Special Services branch and members chipped in with magazines, games and cards. The building was finished in December, in time for a Christmas party.

Among the leaders in organizing the club and obtaining the building was Army 1st Sgt. Walter C. Ridenor of Knoxville, Tenn., formerly a member of Helena, Mont., Lodge, No. 193, who is vice-president of the club.

"The Brothers really did a fine job of getting this place together," he said as surveyed the finished "There were soldiers, sailors and Marines in the original group, and they pitched in like a football team in a tough game. Everyone contributed what he could find in dumps over the island and the results look pretty good.

"We just wanted a place to meet and a place where transient Elks in the Armed Forces could stop and find something like the atmosphere of the club back home."

The latest president was Navy Aviation Radio Technician 3/c Leslie E. Kephart, a member of San Diego, Calif., Lodge, No. 168, who also took care of the clubhouse, cleaning it up before meetings and seeing that everything needed was on hand.

"It's been a lot of work, and we're proud of it," Kephart said. "This building is far beyond all the expectations when we first started planning it."

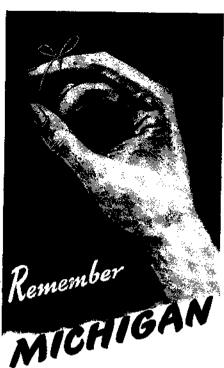
The secretary, Army Sgt. Wayne A. Glew, of Turtle Creek, Pa., a member of Braddock, Pa., Lodge, No. 883, said he had trouble keeping track of members because of the rapid turnover.

"We issue a card to members who are in good standing in their lodges back in the States," he said. "We have a \$5 membership fee, and the men who the clubhouse contribute \$5

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WEST MICHIGAN TOURIST & RESORT ASSOCIATION Rowe Hotel Bidg., Grand Rapids 2, Mich. month to keep up the building."

"We don't have any trouble collect-ing money," the treasurer declared. He is Army 1st Sgt. Fred Miller, Jr., of Schenectady, N. Y., a member of Battle Creek, Mich. Lodge, No. 131. "The men out here have more money than they can spend on this island. They figure the entertainment and relaxation they get here is worth more than the small charge we have.'

The bar is supplied with beer and soft drinks by members contributing from their own Government issue. Cigarettes and candy purchased at Army exchanges are kept on hand for sale. The small profits made from the sale of drinks go into the club treasury and are spent for the benefit of the members. Probably no Elks club in the world concentrates so much effort upon finding ways to spend its money. In January there was more than \$200 in the till.

Sgt. Miller explained that membership attendance was encouraged by a lottery every Monday night-the regular meeting time-when members' names are drawn from a hat and \$25 in cash prizes awarded. The winners generally turn right around and spend this money getting something for the club.

Rank is dropped at the door when members assemble, and rivalry among branches of the Service vanishes. Brother Elks ranking from colonels to privates and apprentice seamen enjoy the same privileges at the clubhouse. Honorary memberships have been given to several service officers who were helpful in getting the club started, and these members drop around occasionally to see how things are going.

In good home-town Elk tradition, the members have had one "outing"-a beach party at which beer was served free: the men induced their mess sergeants to provide the steaks which normally would have been served to the Elks at their regular service camps.

These men have given encouragement to other fraternal organizations in this war zone. The clubhouse is used by Masons who have formed a Square and Compass Club. Other fraternal orders will be permitted to use the building so long as their meetings do not interfere with Elk activities.

The members have plans for the future, hoping to establish clubs on some of the other islands when they change stations at the behest of the military. This club is one of the two known to exist in the South Pacific. The other is at Esperito Santu. A group of Elks meets occasionally in the Russell Islands but has no clubhouse. The boys at Guadalcanal claim they have the best club building their side of the International Date Line.

MEMBERSHIP LIST GUADALCANAL FLKS CLUB

NAME

Ernest C, Frey Thos. O. Montgomery Powers S. Agnew Ray A. Craven Powers S. Agnew
Ray A. Craven
Fred Miller, Jr.
Forrest W. Buckmon
A. S. Regan
Walter C. Ridenor Watter C. Ridenor Henry Hawkins Gordon R. MacKerrow Logan D. Burd Wayne L. Howe John W. Hackelman John W. Hackelma Anthony A. Post Michael Boyle John P. Kennedy Gus D. Brown Alfred M. Haynes Oriss G. Warthen H. Y. Helly R. G. Elliott William McNulty W. J. Born Wayne A. Glew Jesse A. Steiner Wm. C. Rasmussen R. C. Hoftman Jack B. Allison Tony Rota A. Ingersoll Lawrence E. Hobbs A. Ingersoll
Lawrence E. Hobbs
Albert D. Elkins
Ira J. Talton
Edward P. Roberts
A. A. Andrade
Jeremiah J. O'Neli
Ernest C. Galde
John M. Wilson triest C. Galde John M. Wilson Fred C. Ziegenhardt L. E. Kephart Fred C. Triebel George N. Ward D. E. Markean Walter A. Moore George W. Jones John A. Monning Robert S. Lewis J. M. Floanigan Floyd W. Peterie J. P. Germer Robert D. Britton John D. McGrath Woodrow W. Gr Sam J. Schilleci M. L. Earl James G. Orphan Oscar H. Gibson George B. Witman Elmor H. Nothan W. C. Shealy Dermont C. Miller Edword K. Crawford Joseph B. Pearson George L. Bonedist Don K. Gent O. K. Fisher K. Fisher O. K. Fisher
R. R. Reinke
C. H. Nichols
Ralph W. Root
George C. Peterson
John V. Simmons
Andrew B. Allen
Boris G. Demitroff
George M. Pratt
Dan Estron
Edward C. Leckleite Edward C. Lechleitner C. E. Davidson Leonard A. Miller W. W. Martindole James J. Guyler Leonard Joseph Leonard Joseph Warren J. Morris Roy C. Miesse James E. Fritsch Leo J. Orlikowski Edwin F. Coons Leonard E. Olsen Harrison P. Bolton Edward F. Patts George R. Algeo F. J. Craig Gerold C. Foster James S. Jordon W. L. Templetan Lurs A. Sollid Virgil R. Briakman Wilfred G. Skeels

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Bartle Creek, Mich., No. 50
Corpus Christi, Tex., No. 1628
Helena, Mont., No. 193
Montgomery, Ala., No. 596
Helena, Mont., No. 193
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Kelsa, Wath., No. 1482
Eugene, Ore., No. 357
Modison, Wis., No. 410
Freshold, N. I., No. 1454
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Greeley, Cola., No. 358
Eugene, Ore., No. 337
Bremerlon, Wash., No. 1181
Greeley, Cola., No. 358
Eugene, Ore., No. 337
Bremerlon, Wash., No. 1181
Greeley, Cola., No. 101
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East Chicago, Ind., No. 1362
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Phoenix, Ariz., No. 336
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