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How Were The Elks Formed?

ORIGINATORS OF THE B.P.O.E. ELKS-1868.

In New York City, a small group of actors and entertainers, wishing to continue their social gatherings on Sundays, when New York's blue laws prevented the opening of public establishments, began to meet regularly as the "Jolly Corks," a name derived from a bar trick introduced by the group's organizer. While the meetings were held with regularity, apparently no form nor substance resulted, except for the adoption of a toast to members of the group not in attendance. Shortly before Christmas in 1867, only a few months after the fellows began to meet, one of their number died, leaving his wife and children destitute.

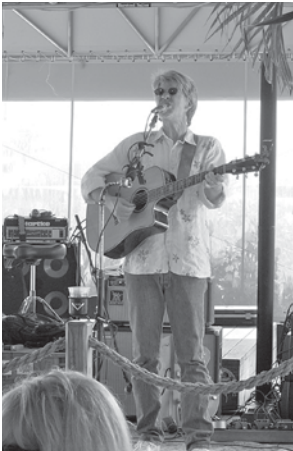
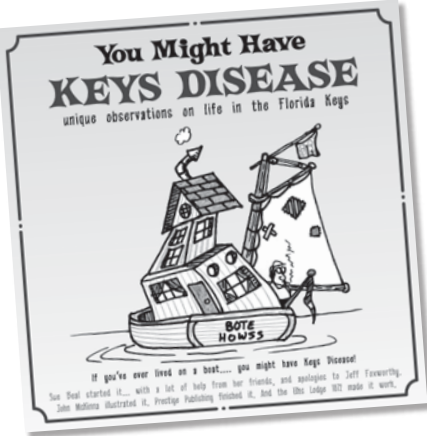
This event gave rise to the notion that, in addition to good fellowship, the Jolly Corks needed a more noble purpose in order to endure, and serving not only their own in need, but others as well, would be appropriate. Two months later, on February 16, 1868, with a statement of serious purpose, an impressive set of rituals, a symbol of strength and majesty and such other elaborate trappings that might be expected of a group of actors and musicians, the new fraternal order was launched.

Photo (L-R) E.M.Platt, F.Langhorn, W.M.Carleton, W.W. Shepard, R.R.Stirely, Charles Vivian, John T.Kent, M. Vandermark, Mr. Bosworth, M.G. Ashe.

Thanks for your support!

Keys Disease

Some think it means you're an alcoholic, some think it means you have no work ethic, and it definitely means you have no money... but it also means you appreciate what a weird and wonderful lifestyle we have in this unique island community! May you get a least a little Keys Disease and inoculate yourself!!



Scott Youngberg



Sweetwater Band



Pat & Ray Eubanks



Beth Dunlap & Iris Rodriguez



The Stingrays



Kevin Hurley



Teresa McKinna, Kathy Miller, Sue Beal



Sharon Archer, Denise Malefy, Bill Andersen & Sue Beal, photo by Patrick Foley



Judge Reagan Ptomey, Judge candidate Sharon Hamilton, and Susie Ptomey

"You Might Have KEYS DISEASE" Book Signing and Benefit for the Musician's Relief Fund was May 23rd at Gilbert's Resort

First and foremost, thank you to the musicians:
Scott Youngberg, Kevin Hurley, Sweetwater, The Stingrays,
and The Usual Suspects. The music was outstanding!

Special thanks to Gilbert's for hosting, especially GM Rob LeBrun.
And thanks for funding the first printing of the book!

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Waterfront Tiki Bar, Restaurant, Motel & Marina

Thank you to volunteers Iris Rodriguez and Melanie Malefy
who helped the evening of the event.

Thank you to those who donated items for raffle and auction:
Scott Youngberg, Paul Mieszczenski, Kevin Hurley, Capt. Josh, Denny's Appliance, Shell World, DePaula Jewelers, Harriettes, Coral Financial Pawn, Olive Morada, Island Coin Laundry, Keys Kritters, Moped Pam, Ray Eubanks, Keys Diver, Pilot House, Art Box, Sharkey's, Sundowners, Florida Keys Jewelry, Shear Paradise, Key Largo Princess, Dolphins Plus Bayside, Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill, Mindful Mermaid Cafe, Hideout Restaurant, Ocean View, Gilberts, Rob LeBrun, Gloverian Art Glass jewelry, Gjyle Mazelin, Jane Wasmund Tropical Realty, Craig Beattie, and American Legion Post 333.

Thanks go to these people for cash donations:
Rori Scheffler, Jimmy Hawkins, Elizabeth Henderson & Karen Beal

Thank you to Patrick Foley of Foley Communications for outstanding advance PR for the event, and to Sun 103 Radio, The Reporter, and The Weekly for coverage.

Thanks to the Elk's Lodge, especially Pat & Ray Eubanks, for their help with raffles and funds handling.

And thank all of you for attending and buying books!

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100% of all monies go to the Musicians Relief Fund, B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge, PO Box 255, Tavernier, FL 33070-0255. You can also donate by check. The fund, administered by the Elks Lodge 1872 in Tavernier, is for Upper Keys musicians unable to work due to accident or illness.