

HISTORY OF THE GRAND NEST

Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International

2004 – 2005



**The Ninety Ninth Year
Gerald F. Hale**

**Prepared by:
Barry L. Snyder, PMLGG
Grand Nest Historian**

GRAND NEST HISTORY

FOXWOODS RESORT AND CASINO---LEDYARD, CONNECTICUT---AUGUST 6-10, 2005

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS



The current and past Grand Nest Officers started arriving Friday, August 5th to gear up for the ninety-ninth Grand Nest Convention that started Sunday, August 7th. On Saturday, August 6th the current and past PMLGG 's meet in the Aspen Room for their Pre-Convention meeting, MLGG Hale presided, Grand Wielder Maloney called the roll. The following current officers were present. MLGG Gerry Hale; Grand Supervisor Tim Seider; Grand Custodian Keith Strohecker; Grand Guardian Jack Fitch; Grand Keeper JoAnn Clark; Judge Advocate Robert Ross and Grand Nest Historian, PMLGG Barry Snyder. Also, present were the Past Most Loyal Ganders Bruce Bolton; Rex Clark; George Harwood; Jerry Simpson; John Bishop; Larry Lewer; Ed Morgan; Chris Reith; Marvin Wilson and Marc Thurber.

In the meantime while this was going on the Hartford Pond was hard at work making sure everything was in place. The caravan left Kevin Brady's house on Friday morning August 5. It traveled from Vernon into Manchester and East Hartford, toward Glastonbury and through Norwich. Heading down Route 2, it made a right turn into Foxwoods, and stopped at the Grand Pequot Hotel. In the caravan were half a dozen cars and a Servicemaster truck filled with 117 freshly loaded and catalogued cartons. Cartons of tie-dyed shirts and backpacks for the children, cooler bag gifts for the adults, hundreds of newly printed Convention program books, rosters and pocket schedules, and games and supplies for the children's room. At the same time, people in Michigan and Alberta and Texas were at their airports, checking their departure times to Bradley or T. F. Greene. Others in Pennsylvania and Quebec and Maryland double checked their Map Quest printouts, zipped up their suitcases, and jumped into their cars. After six years of planning and hundreds of hours of meetings, Blue Goose's 99th Grand Nest Convention was becoming a reality. (Taken from the Hartford Ponderings)

The Hartford Pond was honored to welcome 352 Ganders and guests (including a total of 66 children) to their Convention. Congratulation to the Hartford Pond and all the Ganders for a very successful Convention.

The Most Loyal Ganders' wife, Joanne Hale on Saturday August 6, during the Grand Nest Spouses Luncheon in Mystic, tripped on a cobblestone stairway, lost her footing

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and fell, breaking her lower right leg and twisting her left ankle. She was taken to Lawrence & Memorial Hospital in New London for surgery and rejoined the Convention on Tuesday August 9th.

On Sunday morning additional Ganders, spouses and guest were arriving. All those that wanted to play golf arrived Saturday to get an early start Sunday morning to play golf at the brand new Lake of Isles golf course across the street from Foxwoods.

The convention officially opened on Sunday evening with a Welcome Party held in the huge glass atrium of the Pequot Museum. There were open bars, a buffet dinner, and DJ with dancing. There was special food for the kids. Ganders, spouses and guest visited with old friends that they have not seen for a year. Many meet new friends that they will long remember.

The Mashantucket Museum and Research Center is nestled in the woods less than a mile from the resort, the 308,00 sq ft complex features films, videos, crafts and exhibits depicting Mashautucket Pequot life from its earliest beginnings.

On Monday morning we enjoyed a full breakfast. After breakfast the Ganders, Spouses and Guest meet in the Tahoe room for the Opening Ceremonies. The Grand Nest Officers took their proper places. The gavel was dropped by MLGG Hale and the Ninety-Ninth Grand Nest Convention officially open. The Governor's Foot guard carried in the flags of the United States, Canada, Australia and Connecticut. The National Anthems were sung by Kimberly Barronte of Cheshire. MLGG Hale introduce The Honorable Susan Gogswell, Connecticut Insurance Commissioner. Bob DeSalvio, the Executive V. P. of Marketing for Foxwoods welcomed us to the Foxwoods. Lori Kovada, MLG of the Hartford Pond suggested that since four of the six Pond officers were women that rather than having a PMLG Night this year the name of the event should be changed to PMS Night with the male officers coming in drag. Hartford's Bob Partridge and Kevin Brady, of the Hartford Pond were presented honorary symbols of office for their dedicated five-year service as bartenders in the Hartford Pond Hospitality Suites.

After the Opening Ceremonies, the National Capital Pond presented the Memorial Service. This is a very moving ceremony, where the Ponds are called one by one to stand as the names of their departed Ganders that have taken their last long flight are read.

PMLGG Rex Clark and his wife JoAnn, Grand Keeper eulogized Charles Palmerton. Chuck was a Past Most Loyal Gander and served for many years as the Judge Advocate. He attended thirty-seven Grand Nest Conventions. He is survived by his wife Helen and a son.

As each Pond was called, a power-point presentation displayed the name of the Pond along with images for the Pond and where possible an image of the departed Gander. Music was played as the images were displayed. Two tables were set up in the front of the room, each with votive candles, which were lit one by one as the names were called. This was a very emotional service.

The New York City Pond performed the initiation ceremony. Twelve new members were initiated into the Hartford Pond. The NYC Pond has a recent history of conducting imaginative, original, and highly enjoyable initiation ceremonies.

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Dressed as Harpo, Groucho and Chico Marx, the team reeled off dozens of routines and one-liners from the Marx Brothers movies and incorporated them into the initiation Ritual. You should have seen the faces on the initiates as they were marched into the room.

Ganders meet in the Acapulco room for the All Industry Luncheon, yes there was OPEN BAR. We were entertained by Ted Alexandro, a New York stand up comedian. Ted had appeared on the David Letterman and Conan O'Brien shows and also hosted his own special on the Comedy Central Network.

Monday afternoon were the breakout meetings. The meetings were Membership, Future Conventions, Pond Publications, Wielders and MLG. Following the committee meetings were the five Regional Meetings to discuss the issues of the Ponds and the Region.

Monday evening, we traveled to Ocean Beach Park in New London for a clambake. Yes, OPEN BAR on the pavilion. After the cocktail hour there was a buffet dinner, clam chowder, lobster, steamed clams, BBQ chicken, red bliss potatoes, corn on the cob, salad and ice cream. A local band, The Driftwoods that specialized in songs of the Beach Boys and Jimmy Buffet, entertained us.

Tuesday morning the Ganders assembled, the Grand Wielder, Terry Maloney called the roll of the delegates. MLGG Hale give his report for his year in office, printed in the Grand Nest Bulletin No. 99, followed by the Grand Wielder's report. Membership grew by seventy-nine last year. Michigan is the largest Pond with 429 members. Quebec and St Louis are next with 215 and 211 members respectively.

The Grand Nest Historian, Barry Snyder gave his report, followed by the Judge Advocate, Robert Ross. He has been working to bring the Constitution, By-Laws and ritual up to date. JoAnn Clark the Grand Keeper gave her report, see Grand Nest Bulletin No. 99.

Following the Officers reports, the Committee chairs gave their reports. Linda Melk, Education, PMLG Phil Sbar on Jurisprudence and PMLGG George Harwood on the Constitution & By-Laws. The Grand Nest awards were presented to the Ponds for their accomplishments this pass year. The winners are listed in the 99th Grand Nest Bulletin.

The membership voted on the amendment that was presented eliminating the PMLGG fifty percent reimbursement for conventions. Amendment passed unanimously. The second amendment regarding dual membership was withdrawn for further evaluation.

The meeting was adjourned for the day and will reassemble Wednesday morning. The remainder of the day was fee allowing families and friends to spend the afternoon and evening together. The Penn Pond hosted a hospitality suite Tuesday night.... it was wall-to-wall Ganders....some having more fun then others. The Eastern Region knows how to party and have fun. Don't forget they have Chip Dale, known as Billy Bob.

Wednesday morning the Wisconsin Home Nest put on a presentation about their Convention that will be held in Milwaukee. This will be the centennial year of the Blue Goose International. After the Convention a special side trip is being offered o the Heidel House in Green Lake, Wisconsin, where 100 years ago Blue Goose Founding Fathers dreamed up the Honorable Order that we belong to today.

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After the Wisconsin Home Nest made their presentation, spouses and guest had the rest of the day to themselves. The current Grand Nest Officers took their positions on the banks of the Pond. Terry Maloney the Grand Wielder called the roll. The slate of offers were placed in nomination, it was seconded and the closing remarks were given for each Gander as they ascended the Chairs of the Grand Nest. Each current officer moved up to the next position. Bill Wasekanes of the Penn Pond was elected as the junior officer of the Grand Nest; he is the new Grand Keeper. In 2010 Bill will be the MLGG and the Convention will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, called the *City of Brotherly Love*. PMLGG John Bishop of the Nova Scotia Pond installed the new officers.

After the business meeting there was a Family Luncheon with spectacular entertainment by illusionist Lyn Dilies. She and her partner appeared and disappeared at will, twisted into a human pretzel, made fiery magic wands melt into and emerge from a balloon, she sliced herself in half with metal plates and then shrunk herself down to two feet in height. For her big finale, she recreated Houdini's famous illusion *Metamorphoses* where she exchanged places with her partner while tied inside a body bag and encased in a wooden crate.

The Grand Nest Officers meet for their Post Convention Meeting after the Family Luncheon. The other conventioners were getting ready for the big event that closed the Convention, *The Grand Banquet*.

The final activity was the Mardi Gras Banquet and Ball. Beads and masks were everywhere. We dined on beef tenderloin topped with béarnaise sauce accompanied by shrimp scampi, dessert was a chocolate sampler. Entertainment was a six-piece swing-boogie-rock band, *Eight to the Bar*. The band kept the people dancing. No one wanted to leave until Foxwoods management asked us to leave so they could turn the room over for the next day.

Thursday morning as we part we say to our new friends-----We feel you must know as you go away, that the ties formed these days are sure to abide in our hearts. We will see you next year. To our old friends, good cheer---Our thoughts of you will never change, as all good friends are very dear. To all---May the Great Master guide you safely home, be it near golden prairies or ocean's foam. May the links we have added to Friendship's bright chain grow stronger each year and forever remain.

Our beloved Order congratulates and thanks PMLGG Gerald Hale and his wife Joanne, all members of the convention planning committee, their spouses and families, and the Hartford Pond for a successful Grand Nest Convention.



Governor's Foot Guard

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GRAND NEST OFFICERS PRE-CONVENTION MEETING

Saturday, August 6, 2005

1. Roll Call: All current GN Officers: Gerry Hale, Tim Seider, Keith Strohecker, Jack Fitch, JoAnn Clark, Terry Maloney, Robert Ross, and Barry Snyder.
2. Roll Call: PMLGG's attending the convention: Bruce Bolton, Rex Clark, George Harwood, Jerry Simpson, John Bishop, Larry Lewer, Ed Morgan, Chris Reith, Marvin Wilson, and Marc Thurber.
3. GSF Seider presented the Wisconsin budget and provided an Excel spreadsheet format that he is asking all future budgets utilize for uniformity. This will enable an easy comparison of each future convention. Motion by GSF Seider to accept. 2nd by GCG Strohecker. Passed Unanimously.

GCG Strohecker said the Virginia Pond has a \$100,000 goal for fund-raising. Mid-year meeting is set for March 10-12, 2005 in Williamsburg. There will be a \$180 room rate.

GGN Fitch stated no contract was signed yet. \$50,000 is raised. No budget is set yet, but they will get one soon.

GKGG Clark said Reno is \$85 per room at the Grand Sahara Resort. \$31,500 is raised to date. There is a tentative \$300 registration. The convention dates are slated to be July 16-25, 2009. A budget is being developed.

GSF Seider explained briefly about the Milwaukee and Green Lake presentation.

MLGG Hale suggested more notices be made to members regarding convention registration. GWGQ Maloney will use numerous email reminders in addition to original notice. Registration will also be posted on the web site. Wisconsin will send out a mailing.

Future conventions still have to be tied in to our discussion on realigning our Regions. Penn is set for 2010, Michigan for 2011, however after that, there is uncertainty. Alberta may be in 2013.

4. GWGQ Maloney reported a very good year. No accounts receivable past due more than 60 days. All dues paid for 2005 and membership was stable. It is the best report since 1987.
5. Regional concerns and opportunities: East – West Virginia & Empire State are problems. Potential Rhode Island Pond and Elmyra Puddle. South – Houston went back to a Puddle. Keith is going to visit Texas & Kentucky. Central – Heart of America and possibly Peace Garden may be problems. West – California is gone with San Diego too small. Potential areas include Sacramento, Reno, Montana, and Alaska. MLGG Hale suggested he could help with Alaska.
6. Presentation of awards was assigned by MLGG Hale.

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7. Committee members of MLGG Hale's year in office are PMLGG Harwood, Bolton, and Lewer.
8. Resolution Committee members will be PMLGG's Reith, Snyder and Clark.
9. Nominations for Officers were confirmed.
10. PMLGG Bishop will do the installation.
11. GWGQ Maloney confirmed insurance contract is in place.
12. Bill Wasekanes is the only one requesting stationary for this year.
13. GKGGE Clark presented her Audit report.
14. There are 3 Constitutional Amendments proposed: a "housekeeping" amendment one deleting the 50% reduction in PMLGG registration costs and the 3rd charging dues for Dual Members. After discussion, the Dual amendment will be withdrawn. GCG Strohecker motion. 2nd GSF Seider. Unanimously Passed.
15. Committee reports were filed.
16. MLGG Hale indicated that the convention survey would be given to attendees.
17. Grand Nest new membership software is being tested now by some Ponds. The goal is to go fully on-line July 1, 2006.
18. GWGQ Maloney itemized all the information available on-line for Grand Nest Officers.
19. GWGQ Maloney made a similar presentation of what is available for our Pond Officers.
20. Discussion was held on the Seattle Pond's conception for the future Pond Publication Awards. Nora Saldona of Seattle will provide criteria for changes.
21. Discussion led by GSF Seider on reducing number of Regions. He indicated he will make this a major item on his agenda for this year
22. There was discussion strongly advising that future conventions contract with meeting planners for assistance. These negotiations are more complicated than ever before. GWGQ Maloney was told to continue to work closely with each future convention insuring continuity and hopefully avoiding unnecessary costs. No contracts should be signed without GN approval.
23. The "First Time" attendee-mentoring program will be a focus of this convention.
24. GNH Snyder reported that attention to a 2nd 50-year history will utilize a DVD format. Less expensive and more in line with today's computerized society.
25. GSF Seider reminded the Officers, Past and Present, of the value to becoming a Century Club member.

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GRAND NEST OFFICERS POST CONVENTION MEETING August 10, 2005

1. Roll Call: all Current Officers and PMLGG's at convention attended.
2. MLGG Seider confirmed reappointments of the GWGQ, JA & GNH.
3. GWGQ contract was executed and signed by the current Officers.
4. Bank cards and resolutions were signed by MLGG Seider.
5. No honorariums needed.
6. GSF Strohecker made a motion to approve Grand Nest Officers expenses for Foxwoods. GGN Clark 2nd. Approved Unanimously.
7. The 2005-2006 budget was approved.
8. Williamsburg, VA will be the site of the next mid-year meeting march 10-12, 2006.
9. GKGGE Wasekanes will do the Audit in Elm Grove, WI in July 2006.
10. GKGGE's photo and signature were given to GWGQ Maloney.
11. CPCU site is Atlanta, GA in October 2005. GSF Strohecker will investigate attending.
12. Committee reports and Regional reports plus Regional roll calls were given to GWGQ Maloney.
13. MLGG Seider will send out duties to the GN Officers.
14. MLGG Seider will finalize all committee and deputy assignments.
15. A mileage rate of 40.5 cents per mile was approved.
16. MLGG Seider reemphasized the importance of continuing thoughtful discussions on the reorganizing of our Regions.

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IN MEMORIUM

CHARLES "CHUCK" PALMERTON

Though you're gone from our sight and our touch. We know that one day the gap will close. Until then may the Lord God keep us in the palm of His Hand Until we meet again.

I remember meeting Chuck in 1973 at Grand Nest in Montreal. Seattle had a hospitality room as we were planning on bidding next year for the 1979 convention, with Chuck as our candidate for national office. We were eager.

Chuck received some complaints from the officers, since a Pond was not supposed to start campaigning until their Gander would be elected, which in this case was a year away. Rex was our MLG and our small room was the hospitality place. It was packed with twenty plus folks with more in the hallway. Chuck didn't say anything to us until it was over. We knew he was not upset as he had a twinkle in his eye when he mentioned, we probably shouldn't have been so early or eager.

Protective of his Pond, our guiding Gander Chuck liked to be in the know and to help solve problems quietly behind the scene, avoiding the grandstand plays.

Rex became Co-Chairman of the 1979 convention and I became Co-Chairman of the spouse events. This of course involved fund raising. We started seeing the Palmertons frequently at these affairs and at their home for committee meetings.

To become a national officer in the Blue Goose was a long-term goal for Chuck. He was dedicated to this fine organization

Chuck told me one time that it was very difficult for him when he first joined, because some company members did not want Mutual Company personnel in the organization. One Gander came up to him and told him he was sorry they had let him join. Chuck said that was the moment he decided he would become a Grand Nest Officer.

Blue Goose and its members gave the Palmertons many happy times and multitudes of friends. We would meet Helen and Chuck at Grand Nest and spend the time together. They educated us on the way of Blue Goose. When the Convention in 1979 was over we had formed a great friendship with those two people and did not want the relationship to end. So, we started the monthly dinners that continued until they moved to California.

Chuck was loyal, dependable and so proud to have attended thirty-nine Grand Nest Conventions. He loved Blue Goose.

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We all had Blue Goose in common, but nothing like the dedication or loyalty that he had for this association. After serving as a national officer he became the Judge Advocate of the group for sixteen plus years. Chuck really liked counseling people and enjoyed the need to get cooperation on voting issues from Ganders. Being instrumental in constitutional amendments bringing the association into current thinking.

Reliable, you could count on Chuck to be there when needed. Hard working, honest and ethical. Many did not see his emotional/sentimental side, but he had it in spades. And, most people in the front lines and very visible in his company and association he was the target of some rather harsh remarks and gossip, but he stayed the line though he never quite overcame some of the hurt.

A calm appearance and very serious, but underneath tender feeling and a generous heart. Many years ago as Vice President in a company he was assigned the task to close several offices. Chuck traveled around the country being the messenger to tell employees that their jobs were terminated. An unpopular job and he knew what employees would think, but the job had to be done. Regrets, yes, but he did not shirk his duty as unpleasant as it was. Professional, this is the insurance industry, it can be hard, but it is a great challenge too. He did this job. He earned his way.

As time passed he decided to retire and became an expert witness for about two months, but he needed more of a challenge. That is when he went to work for PEMCO, as Special Assistant to the President. He started traveling frequently....but we never feared Chuck would forget a date for our monthly dinner together. We tried out many different restaurants and always enjoyed our evenings. One favorite memory, we all ordered coffee after dinner and he always commented on the number of bubbles on top of the poured coffee and noted you were supposed to spoon them up and drink as they represented money to come.

He kept and valued his friendships, knowing their importance in his life. One memorable year the four of us took the train from Vancouver to Toronto to the Grand Nest. What a pleasant journey, meeting them in the lounge car for libations, before going to the dining car. Just one of the many great times together.

A good traveling companion, kind and quiet. Great promoter of Blue Goose and attending Grand Nest. We did not always agree with one another and had some pretty stiff arguments at Blue Goose Conventions and dinners, but we always parted with the next get together arranged.

A few quirks, like the all of us, somewhat traditional about Blue Goose, but after thought came out in favor of progress and changes. Chuck was very proud of being an attorney and a fifty-year plus member of the bar. He liked negotiation and was a well-respected member of the insurance industry.

Belonging to the bar was important to him. He liked traditions. But most of all he was a loyal steadfast friend. Ready and willing to help when needed. When Seattle decided to have another convention he supported Rex to run for national office and enjoyed serving on the board with him. Then this year when Seattle again came forth to sponsor Grand Nest in 2009 and I was the candidate he asked to be my nominator for office. This was a grave gesture for him as many of his buddies did not care to have

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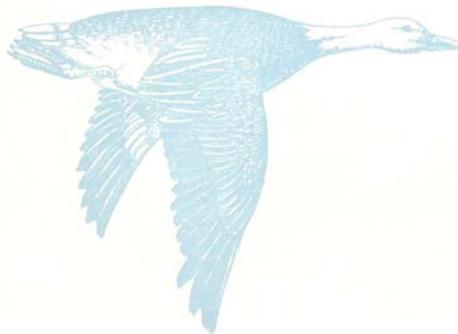
women members let alone an officer. He did a good job and helped overcome any problems that might occur.

Moral courage, doing what should be done, regardless of consequences. Two years ago the Palmertons returned to Seattle after a few years in Arizona and our monthly dinners resumed with Christmas Eve dinner added. Then with his health news not too positive and possible construction projects across from their condo the decision to move came. Of course the logical place was the Sacramento area to be near their son and grandchildren. We had a dinner with plans to meet them in Los Angeles.

Even temporary farewells are hard when youth and health are no longer with us. The visit to Los Angeles was busy and short, but lots of fun being together again with the Seattle group. We thought Chuck looked somehow fragile though he stood tall and straight. He was concerned that this might be his last Grand Nest convention as travel was difficult. We said our good-byes, but they weren't supposed to be the last ones----yet that is how life happens. During our long friendship we had many opportunities to observe his great respect and admiration for Helen.

There was one constant in his life his love for Helen, his wife for over fifty years Honored, departed PMLGG Chuck Palmerton, we salute you and greet you in the silent hall of memory.

HAIL, FRIEND AND FAREWELL.



Prepared for presentation during the Memorial Service at The Ninety-Ninth Grand Nest Convention, PMLGG Rex Clark and Grand Keeper JoAnn Clark, Seattle Pond, Foxwoods Resort and Casino, Ledyard Connecticut, August 8, 2005

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Historical Highlights

1944 - 1945

The 38th Annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Hotel Nicollet, Minneapolis, Minn., August 22, 1945. It was called to order by Most Loyal Grand Gander Thomas G. Linnell.

The impressive presentation of the Colors of the United States and Canada by a Color Guard of the U. S. Marines, was followed by the singing of “America” and ‘God Save the King”, and Invocation by the Reverend Paul L. Wetzler.

The return of the Dove of Peace of this war torn world, was celebrated one week earlier, according to Honorable Newell R. Johnson, Commissioner of Insurance of the North Star State—Minnesota—who give the address of welcome.

Removal of the ban on travel, tire and gas rationing in the U. S. permitted a better attendance. Forty delegates representing 37 of the 44 Ponds were present. Registered visitors numbered 112.

The Model Initiation was put on by the Wisconsin Home Nest Team. Gander George G. Wright, Wisconsin Home Nest, was an honor guest. He was introduced as the First Gosling to be initiated at the organization meeting of the Order at Green Lake, Wisconsin on June 19, 1906.

In his report Grand Gander Linnell said, I would like to state...that in my opinion, the Fire Insurance business, as conducted on North American Continent, is a better business today, because of he Blue Goose.

Grand Wielder R. A. Kenzel, reported a net increase in membership during the past year of 353, bringing the total membership to 8,055. Also, that \$1.00 of the dues was remitted in lieu of Delegation Expenses by action of the Grand Nest and the approval of the Ponds.

Judge Advocate H. O. Wolfe, reported that several more Ponds have incorporated and stated additional advantages to such Ponds. He said that while a candidate for Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg must be a delegate to be eligible, under the provisions of the Constitution, such provision does not apply to other Grand Nest Officers who are candidates for promotion, but Grand Nest Officer who is not a delegate does not possess voting rights, because such rights are reserved to Delegates alone.

Other Committees reporting were: War Activities, Ritual, Emblem, Memorial and War Veterans Service. This last committee was endeavoring to assist in place ex-servicemen in positions suitable to their talent. In all, 167 Ganders were aided in finding work in territory other than those which they had left when entering service.

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Gander Ray J. Hull, Indiana Pond was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. The new officers were installed by PMLGG Benallack.

1929-1930

The Twenty-fourth Annual Grand Nest Meeting of the Order was held at the Hotel Alex Johnson, Rapid City, South Dakota, September 9 to 12, 1930, with the Most Loyal Gander David L. McCoy, Dakotas Pond, presiding. (No printed Bulletin is available).

A special train from Chicago and special Pullmans from other directions had brought a record number of delegates and visitors, including many ladies.

Following invocation by a local pastor, one verse each of "America" and "God Save the King" were sung.

In his address Most Loyal Grand Gander McCoy assured all of us a very warm welcome, and told briefly of the unusual entertainment and side trips that awaited delegates and visitors the next four days.

The audited Secretarial Report of the Grand Wielder showed cash on hand in the bank as of September 6, 1930, of \$11,126.26, representing gain since the report of last year of \$4,2023.34. In addition to this there were Victory Bonds (Canadian) of \$1,439.15, bring the total assets to \$12,565.41, as of September 6, 1930.

An Employment Committee was created at this meeting.

By action at this meeting the Group Life Plan was turned over to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill Paul E. Rudd, to be handled from Grand Nest Headquarters.

After the usual rotation of Grand Nest Officers. L. H. Bridges, Nebraska Pond was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. Grand Wielder Paul E. Rudd was re-elected for the fifteenth and last time.

Milwaukee was chosen for the Silver Anniversary Grand Nest meeting in 1931.

1914-1915

The Ninth Annual Grand Nest Meeting of October 5, 1915 was held in the Red Room of the La Salle Hotel in Chicago. Most Loyal Grand Fred W. Ranson, Ohio Pond presiding, who said, "Exemplification of the spirit and the principle of the Order is bound to put the fire insurance business on the higher plane where it belongs."

Seventeen of the 22 Ponds were represented by 24 delegates

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Changes proposed in the Constitution and By-Laws last June were adopted as follows: (Unnumbered 4 page Bulletin of June 15, 1915). *CONSTITUTION*: Amend to include as eligible to membership First Deputy State Insurance commissioner and First Deputy State Fire Marshal. *BY-LAWS*: Membership in more than one Pond. Honorary membership. Ganders at large. Annual Pond dues. Reinstatement. Notice by Wielder to his Pond of those Ganders who have failed to pay dues and possible suspension therefore.

New Ponds organized and chartered during the past year were Western Canada at Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; Tennessee at Nashville, Tennessee; Oregon and Washington members decided to unite as Washington-Oregon Pond at Spokane, Washington. Net Ponds 22.

The Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill reported an increase in membership of 114, making the total 1,676. Net cash balance in the treasury after all bills were paid was \$1,521.59

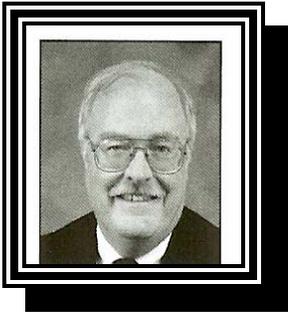
After the usual rotation of officers, John Hanson, Minnesota Pond was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg and B. A. Lehnberg, Wisconsin Home Nest was re-elected Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill.

MOST GRAND NEST CONVENTIONS ATTENDED TWENTY-FIVE OR MORE YEARS (THROUGH 2005)

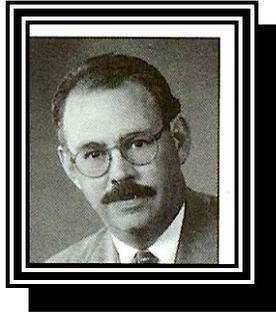
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| 38 Phillip J. Simpson PMLGG | 29 Walter Bennett, PMLG |
| 35 John B. Gravenstine, PGWGQ (34 Gander, 1 youth) | 29 Nancy J. Bennett (15 Gander, 14 spouse) |
| 35 Bruce B. Bolton, PMLGG (23 Gander, 12, youth) | 27 King G. Luck, PMLGG |
| 33 Ivar H. Awes, PMLGG | 26 Clifford C. Needham, PMLGG |
| 31 Rex W. Clark, PMLGG | 26 Don Grott, PMLG |
| 31 JoAnn M. Clark, PMLG (10 Gander, 20 spouse) | 25 Claude W. Purvis, PMLG |
| 30 William J. Wasekanes, PMLG | 25 Jason Smith, PMLG |

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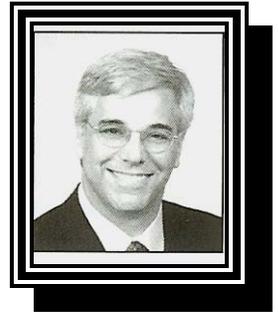
2004 – 2005 GRAND NEST OFFICERS



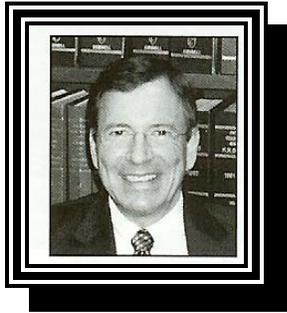
Most Loyal Grand Gander
Gerald F. Hale



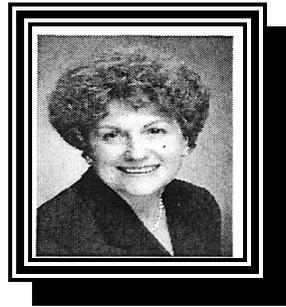
Grand Supervisor
Timothy T. Seider



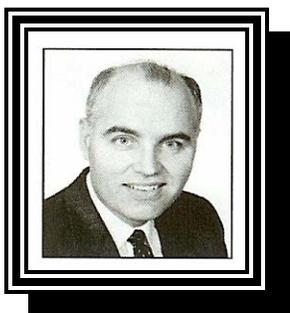
Grand Custodian
Keith Strohecker



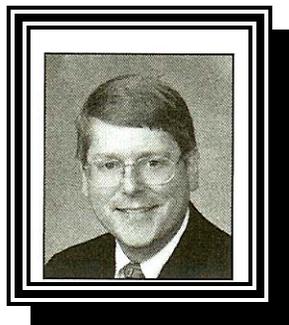
Grand Guardian
Jack Fitch



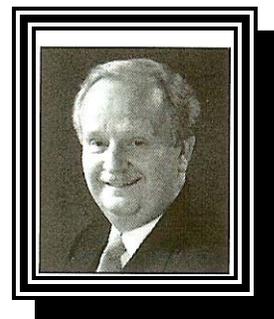
Grand Keeper
JoAnn M. Clark



Grand Wielder
Terrence M. Maloney



Judge Advocate
Robert Tayloe Ross



Grand Nest Historian
Barry L. Snyder

GRAND NEST HISTORY



GRAND NEST ARCHIVES DISPLAY

WANTED! PLEASE DONATE

- **Blue Goose Jewelry** (pins, medals, ribbons, badges, etc.)
- Grand Nest **convention gifts items** (ladies and men)
- Old Grand Nest **trophies and awards** (membership, charity, golf, etc.)
- Old Blue Goose **costumes** (ritual teams, fun events, etc.)
- Old **Grand Nest Bulletins**
- Old **Grand Nest Convention programs**

Please assist us in “rebuilding” our Grand Nest archives. We are only interested in items that have a general interest to all Blue Goosedom, not just one Pond. **Please provide us with origin and history of each item to be donated.** If you can help us, contact the Grand Historian.