



## HISTORY OF THE GRAND NEST

*Honorable Order of The  
Blue Goose International*



PAUL E. RUDD

*Grand Nest Historian and  
Past Grand Wielder of The Goose Quill  
Of The*

HONORABLE ORDER OF  
THE BLUE GOOSE, INTERNATIONAL

PAUL E. RUDD—born in Ohio. Educated at Oberlin. Entered local insurance business in Indiana in 1901. In 1906 became Special Agent for a casualty general agency at Indianapolis, covering four States. Went with Aetna (Fire) Insurance Company, Hartford, Conn., as Special Agent in Indiana in 1907. Was transferred to Toledo, Ohio, in 1910, then to Milwaukee in 1913, as Wisconsin State Agent, where he completed forty years with Aetna in 1947.

# History of The Grand Nest of The Honorable Order of The Blue Goose International

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HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE, INTERNATIONAL  
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## Foreword

To the many thousands of members of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International, an authentic history of its nativity and the ensuing years to date should be one of great interest and value. The Order is particularly fortunate in having this history compiled and written by Paul E. Rudd, who became a member of the Indiana State Nest in 1907, at which time he became a Special Agent for the Aetna (Fire) Insurance Company. He transferred to Ohio in 1910, and to Wisconsin in 1913, and ever since he has been a loyal member of the Home Nest, even after his retirement in 1947 by the Aetna after forty years of service, and with his home now being in North Carolina.

He was personally acquainted with practically all of the fieldmen who participated in the June 1906 Green Lake proceedings, which was the beginning of Blue Goose, and with Ganders in the other States and Provinces who, within a year or two thereafter, organized Ponds therein.

From 1916 until 1931 he was the Grand Wielder of the Order. He took over this important position at a time immediately prior to and during World War I, when membership and morale were at a low ebb, and with the future of the Order really hanging in the balance. His administration was a most efficient one, and with the assistance of men like Past Grand Gander W. E. Mallalieu, Blue Goose was placed upon a firm and enduring foundation.

After his retirement as Grand Wielder, and as the Wisconsin field representative for the Aetna Fire, Mr. Rudd kept up his keen interest in Blue Goose affairs. Because of his close association and acquaintanceship with the men,—most of whom have taken their last long flight,—who were most active in the formative days of the Order, and by his continued interest in the Order's affairs through the ensuing years, there is no one in a better position to write a history of the first fifty years of Blue Goose, nor is there any one better equipped to recount and interpret the history of Blue Goose than Paul E. Rudd. It is a pleasure and an honor to introduce with these commendations the author of the "History of the Grand Nest and of the Order of the Blue Goose, International," to our fellow Ganders, and to those who will carry on the work as future initiates.

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 2nd day of April 1957.

(Signed) H. O. WOLFE,  
Judge Advocate, Honorable Order of the  
Blue Goose, International.

## Introduction

**T**OO often more history is neglected than written—it is not thought of as important enough to be recorded, although it is often the little things that count most in the long run, but if not written down and preserved, they are apt to be lost and not available for accurate reference, especially after those who participated and made the history are no longer with us, as was mostly the case when the writing of this historical record was commenced.

Exact information as to the date and day in June 1906, when the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose had its birth, was not found in any of the records of the Order. The first official No. 1, Grand Nest Bulletin is dated April 1908, nearly two years later. It refers to the event as having been "in June 1906." It does say that the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose had its origin at that time. The idea was intended as a joke and for that occasion only, to promote good fellowship and pass the time on that cold, rainy day by inducting new field men into the fake lodge. This was at the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Field Men's Club, being held at the Oakwood Hotel, Green Lake, Wisconsin.

A few weeks before going to press, it was concluded to ask The National Underwriter Co., (successor to The Western Underwriter); The Insurance Field Co., and the New York Journal of Commerce, to search their files for Blue Goose items in issues of late June 1906. Following are the findings:— One paragraph of 33 words was found in The Western Underwriter of June 21, 1906,— in the article reporting the annual Field Club meeting with the heading "Green Lake, Wisconsin, June 19—Special." The one paragraph reads: "The Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose will hold its meeting on the lake shore at 10 o'clock tonight. George Wright, W. J. Cecil and Jim Heaney are the candidates for initiation." Nothing further was found in the old files of that newspaper through September 1906, but that one paragraph contains all the information needed to prove the date of the founding of the Order to be the 19th of June. Charter member Robe Bird said: "June 19, 1906 fell on Tuesday." That brief paragraph of news also proved that the name Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose was agreed upon before the original meeting that June night (instead of at a later meeting in Milwaukee) and it identifies the three candidates for initiation in the order of their initiation. We could hardly have asked for more in so few words.

The Insurance Field Co., found no mention of the Blue Goose in

its columns until its issue of June 20, 1907. The item of that date with a Green Lake, Wisconsin date line bears the heading: "Back To Parent Nest — Ganders Flock To Green Lake To Celebrate Anniversary of Organization." The article reads, in part: "Green Lake, Wis., June 20 (Special)—The Blue Goose was organized a year ago last night on the festive shores of Green Lake and the Ganders have come back to the Mother Nest for a celebration of the event. Most Loyal Grand Gander Atwater is not here, his place being filled by M. M. Hawxhurst. Most of the Wisconsin Ganders are on hand. - - - The annual election of officers will be held next week in Milwaukee." (But it was not held until September 16, 1907, as you will find later in this History.)

We were informed by the New York Journal of Commerce that all of its old issues are filed with the New York Public Library. Those files were searched as requested and we were advised just before going to press: "We have examined the Insurance pages of the New York Journal of Commerce, from June 18, 1906, through August of the same year, but are unable to locate any account of the founding of this fraternal organization."

These facts bring clearly into view that the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose was regarded very casually at its inception and during its early existence, but it was destined for good and has proven its worth.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following pages of factual history of the Grand Nest of the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, as it was known from June 19, 1906, until August 29, 1928, when its name was changed to Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International, was prepared from Grand Nest records and Bulletins, and the memory of some of the older members, including the author, who served as Wielder of the Goose Quill of the Wisconsin Home Nest in 1914.

\* \* \* \* \*

The pattern of the Order was being formed during the first twenty-five years, hence more detail is necessary for that period to make the record complete.

\* \* \* \* \*

All Grand Wielders of the Goose Quill have been chosen from Wisconsin Home Nest, and Grand Nest headquarters always maintained at Milwaukee.

\* \* \* \* \*

What is in a name? The blue goose is a native wild migratory bird of North America, having grayish blue body plumage with white neck and head. It has many fine qualities; flies high and sure, mates only once even though it loses its mate and is very clean in its habits. It nests Summers in Baffin Land in the Arctic, making one continuous flight each Fall to its Winter sanctuary in the rice swamps near the mouth of the Mississippi River, returning in like manner to the Arctic each Spring to nest and raise its young. (Bulletin Vol. 21, No. 1, February 1928, pages 43 & 44.)

In the early 1900's most States had rival Insurance Field Clubs, and aggressive non-affiliated Fire Insurance Companies were a menace to the business. Competition was ruthless. Organized rating was in its infancy. Blue Goose, with Charity, Goodfellowship and acts of Benevolence as its objects, proved the common ground for engendering a new type of cooperation and friendly feeling, which meant much in the correction of many objectionable factors of the business. It justified its existence or it would not have steadily grown in membership and stature. Its high purpose was taken seriously by its members, reflecting only good upon the Fire Insurance Business.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Order did have its ups and downs—more than once during its first ten (10) years there were times when interest was at a low ebb. In his Thanksgiving message to members, Most Loyal Grand Gander E. G. Carlisle, who was elected October 3, 1916, said: "I have heard it stated, that the Order is now at its zenith, which means the extreme height of success and prosperity, and that hard work will be necessary to keep it from falling." He set a goal for new members to be accomplished during his year in office. It was exceeded. From that time through 1931 sizable increases were reported yearly. The Order thrived and grew from 1796 members in 1916 to 7340 in 1931, or over 400% in 15 years.

\* \* \* \* \*

This organization knew its place. It never in any way tried to dictate to the Fire Insurance Companies, nor had it any idea of organization for control of employees of the companies, as is common with many other big businesses.

There is, therefore, no doubt but that the Blue Goose has been and is a predominating factor for good in the Fire Insurance World, all in orderly fashion. There is no other business or profession where such friendly competition exists. Our watchword " " has had a good effect, begetting the high principles, traditions and tranquility of the Order.

When the Order was originated, the Fire Underwriters' Association of the Northwest in Chicago was in its prime, serving its membership of fire insurance company managers and field men in an educational way. The Insurance Field, in its Northwest-Blue Goose Supplement, page I, part II, of October 11, 1911, had this to say: "The Fire Underwriters' Association of the Northwest is the academic nucleus around which clusters the history, the traditions and the basic principles of the fire insurance business in the United States. Its influence is broader, more far reaching in many ways than that of the National Board of Fire Underwriters itself, and its gatherings are the social event of the year in the Western field."

In the same edition of The Insurance Field on page 10, under the heading: "Resplendent Night of the Blue Goose - Good Fellows Get Closer," appears: "The night of nights in the great Blue Goose was signalized by the attendance of the greatest aggregation of Ganders that ever flocked to the Grand Nest. Five hundred members gathered at the



Good Fellowship dinner promptly at 6:30 Tuesday night at the Hotel La Salle, Chicago, in the great banquet hall." (The first Blue Goose Goodfellowship dinner, with John F. Stafford, Minnesota Pond, the chairman, was held the day following the Annual Meeting of the Fire Underwriters' Association of the Northwest, at the Auditorium Hotel, Chicago, Friday, October 9, 1908, and ever since has been an annual event at the close of each Grand Nest Convention).

The Northwest Association was referred to in those years as the "kite", and the Blue Goose as the "tail of the kite". However, as the years passed this was reversed in the onward and upward flight of the Blue Goose.

\* \* \* \* \*

Membership in the Blue Goose has always been confined to Fire Insurance men, as defined in the eligibility rule of its Constitution. Unsuccessful efforts have been made by some of its own members to change the rule to admit men in the casualty business. There has never been any perceptible desire on the part of casualty men to be admitted to membership. Had they wanted to they could long ago have formed a similar organization of their own. When our Order came into being there were comparatively few casualty companies. Today there are more casualty companies than fire, whose officers and field men far exceed the fire men in number. So, our membership, through elected delegates, has always shown its wisdom by declining to take a chance on surrendering its tranquility and identity by admitting casualty men who have had little in common with them, socially. The Grand Nest and many Ponds are incorporated as organizations of Fire Insurance men.

\* \* \* \* \*

**OUR EMBLEMS:** In September 1906 the round, solid gold lapel button with standing goose in blue enamel was sold to members for \$1.

All of our metal emblems have been prepared with the goose in blue or blue and white enamel.

The April 1908 Grand Nest Bulletin announced that a stick pin emblem was on sale and that wives and daughters of members would be permitted to wear one.

At the October 4, 1910 Grand Nest meeting in Chicago, an emblem for all officers of State Ponds (to be handed down to successors in office) was introduced; also delegates were presented with a special emblem, while all Gander visitors present, were given an appropriate badge for the occasion. The following emblems were on sale: Lapel Button, Stick Pin and Watch Fob. (The watch fob was of heavy black silk ribbon with gold mountings and an enamel Blue Goose on metal.)

That each Past Most Loyal Grand Gander should be presented with an emblem to be worn during Pond and Grand Nest meetings, was adopted at the October 3, 1911 Grand Nest meeting. Soon thereafter each Grand Nest officer was provided with a yellow gold emblem on blue ribbon with clasp pin fastener to be worn during Pond and Grand Nest meetings, then handed down to successors in office.

Between 1916 and 1920 the gold Watch Chain with round gold emblem; yellow and white gold Cuff Links; the metal and leather Grip Tag with place inside for name and address; and Auto Radiator Plate (about 4 inches in diameter) with large Blue Goose on white enamel background, were put on sale.

After the 1922 Grand Nest meeting Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Wm. T. Benallack, was appointed chairman of the first Emblem Committee. He held that office continuously until 1944.

Emblems for Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders and Past Most Loyal Ganders, were announced in October 1923, as follows: Scarf Pin, Lapel Button and Vest Clasp Pin. Those for P.M.L.G.Gs: A Goose Egg in white gold or platinum, bordered with jewels. For P.M.L.Gs: A Goose Egg in yellow gold, bordered with jewels.

On the Silver Anniversary of the Blue Goose an attractive emblem in white gold was provided and presented to members completing 25 years of continuous membership. The goose on this emblem was the first one showing a blue goose correctly, with head and neck white to the body, which is blue. It is standing and a fine replica of its original. In 1936 the committee brought out an attractive oblong design in white gold enameled field, blue enameled flying goose with wings up (neck and head not white), lettered "25 years a Blue Goose."

In 1938 changes were made in the design of the individual lapel button. Some wanted a flying goose design on the emblem.

In 1940 an emblematic badge to designate the Most Loyal Gander from the rest of the flock, was adopted. (To be turned over to his successor in office.) Also an emblem for all Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders and Deputies-at-Large, giving the date of term of office, and to be retained as a valuable memento.

In 1952 a decal for use on inside windows of autos was adopted. At that time, as well as in 1954, considerable discussion ensued as to whether the wings of the goose should be up or down. No decision was reached.

At the Golden Anniversary celebration in August 1956, the 50 year emblem for members with 50 years of continuous membership was introduced.

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**POND BANNERS:** The first Pond Banner made its appearance at a contest of Ponds in Chicago in 1910. By the early 1920's most of the Ponds had a Banner. It became the custom for Ponds to exhibit Banners at Grand Nest meetings. Some even brought their State Banner. The new Banner of the Grand Nest was on the wall of our meeting room in Milwaukee for the Golden Anniversary meeting.

Early and persistent Blue Goose poets, were Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders Wm. T. Benallack and John F. Stafford, also many others. (See early Grand Nest Bulletins.)

Blue Goose song writers of note, were: Ben A. Lehnberg, Past Grand Welder of the Goose Quill and Roy L. Nicholson, Past Most Loyal Gander of Wisconsin Home Nest, and others. (Roy or Nick, as he is

called, wrote both score and verse.) (See Grand Nest Bulletins for the evidence.)

These pieces of poetry and song verse, scattered through many of our official Grand Nest Bulletins, have never been assembled into one booklet.

\* \* \* \* \*

That beloved Grand Gander, William T Benallack, was a charter member and one of the first officers of Michigan Pond in November 1906, and served as Most Loyal Grand Gander 1911-1912. He attended every Grand Nest annual meeting and was active in the deliberations until the year before he took his "long last flight", February 21, 1951. He always acted as installing officer at Grand Nest meetings. His good deeds and poetical trend of mind are a lasting monument to him.

\* \* \* \* \*

From the chartering of Minnesota Nest July 17, 1906, until after his service as Most Loyal Grand Gander in 1923-1924, John F. Stafford was an ardent supporter of the Order. He was the first (and continued for several years) Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, the first Deputy Most Loyal Grand Gander to be appointed, and the first and only Company Manager at Chicago to serve as Most Loyal Grand Gander. His name appears frequently in the first 20 years of this history.

\* \* \* \* \*

At the time of this writing, Gander Lloyd S. Wallace, Sr., is the only remaining member of the group of founders of the Order. The minutes of the Grand Nest meeting held at Milwaukee the night of Sept. 30, 1907, record his election to the newly created office of Grand Honk Honk which carries with it the duty of providing musical entertainment for all meetings of the Wisconsin Grand Nest, and the annual Grand gatherings in Chicago.

\* \* \* \* \*

Gander Wilbur E. Mallalieu, Manager of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, attended the annual Grand Nest meeting in October, 1918. We were apprehensive that he might be checking up on us, for we were not sure in what favor the Order stood with the Fire Insurance Companies at that time. Instead, we were disillusioned. He saw in the organization much good for both its members and the companies. He took an active and constructive interest, which meant that our progress was accelerated with the growing favor of the companies, reflected by many more executives becoming members of the Order. He was elected to the Grand Nest in 1920 and served as Most Loyal Grand Gander in 1925. His active interest continued as long as he thought he was needed.

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The classification: "Attorneys-at-law regularly employed by companies", was added by amendment to ARTICLE II of our Constitution, October 16, 1923, with the immediate intent of allowing Hubert O Wolfe of Milwaukee, to become a member. He quickly became an active member and has been Judge Advocate (legal adviser to the Grand Nest and

Ponds), since 1937, and Chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee (for interpretation of our Constitution and By-laws), since 1938. His services, always gratis, have proven of inestimable value in many ways. It was his wisdom which led to the decision to incorporate the Grand Nest in 1938, and made it possible for Ponds to incorporate.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Once a Blue Goose always a Blue Goose, so long as a member remains in an honorable business and pays his dues", was first voiced by our first Most Loyal Grand Gander Walter E. Atwater. It is still a familiar slogan.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is not stated in so many words in any of the printed Grand Nest Bulletins, but after pondering the contents of the earlier bulletins it is conceivable that, had not field men from Minnesota been in attendance and become charter members at that now historic meeting on the banks of Green Lake, Wisconsin in June 1906, when the Wisconsin Home Nest was "born", and had they not been so imbued with what took place that rainy day that they took the idea home to their fellow field men, the Grand Nest "egg" might never have been "hatched."

The record shows that only a few weeks later, July 17, 1906 to be exact, when the annual meeting of Minnesota Field men was on at Lake Osakis, Minnesota, Gander Frank Barney, one of those who attended the Green Lake meeting and participated in the deliberations when the Order was in the conception stage, proposed to his fellow field men that they too should form a similar organization, following which a wire was sent to Most Loyal Grand Gander Walter E. Atwater at Milwaukee. The record does show that he had a hurried conference with other Grand Nest officers. When the wire reply came back from Atwater granting the Charter for the Minnesota Nest and asking for a Ten dollar fee, the Grand Nest was being "born."

It was after this that steps were taken at Milwaukee by the founders to encourage the organization of other State Nests, all of which might or might not have been done had not the wire been received from Minnesota.

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The Grand Nest found its way into the 'deep South' when, December 1, 1906, the Louisiana-Mississippi Nest was chartered at New Orleans, with Charles H. Pescay its first Most Loyal Gander. He was elected Most Loyal Grand Gander in 1909, and presided at the 1910 Grand Nest meeting in Chicago when he said in part: "The Blue Goose has done more towards bringing about that community of fraternal feeling between members in the South, and between the Southern Blue Goose and its Eastern and Northern brothers than any other influence in the business. We thank the Northerner for having given us this means of rubbing elbows, getting in touch with our associates, superiors and subordinates, without in any manner affecting the duty an employe of the company owes to his company, to the laws of the State, and to himself . . . The South thanks the North for having given us this Order."

Under sheltering wings of the great Blue Goose, Puddles, as valuable adjuncts to Ponds, became a part of this Order when, with Grand Nest sanction, Fresno Puddle of the San Francisco Pond was organized at Fresno, California, in April 1927. This is claimed to be the number One Puddle. Later that year Oakland and Sacramento Puddles were formed by members of that Pond. The officers of Puddles are: Big Toad (President), Pollywog (Vice President), and Croaker (Secretary-Treasurer).

Gander J. Charles Harris, San Francisco Pond, while on the Grand Nest, was given much of the credit for the Puddle idea. At the close of his term as Most Loyal Grand Gander he said: "Another thought advanced at the start of my term on the Grand Nest, was the development of Puddles in an endeavor to tie our membership together by giving all a social contact no matter how small the field in which they worked."

Puddles were given official Grand Nest recognition in September 1929 "as authorized component parts of Ponds, but with no voting privilege." (Constitution ARTICLE I, paragraphs (d) and (e)).

The idea has proved of value through the succeeding years, as many members reside and work in areas remote from the headquarters of the Pond to which they belong. It may also have held down the number of new Ponds. There were 45 Ponds in 1931, at the end of the first twenty-five years, with total membership of 7,340, while today, (June 30, 1956) at the end of fifty years, there are 61 Ponds, with total membership of 14,170, an increase during the 2nd twenty-five years of our Order of only 16 Ponds and 6,830 members. After the close of fifty years the number of Puddles is 52. This reflects, not only the growth of our Order, but the Fire Insurance Industry, as well.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ladies' Auxiliaries, as such, are not a constitutional part of our Order but, with only eleven then organized, their value was stressed at the 1949 Grand Nest Convention at Seattle by the then Most Loyal Grand Gander E. W. Trenbath, when he said: "They add tremendously to the Ganders' interest in their Ponds and the Order." The committee on his address concurred with the remarks in that "the formation of additional Ladies' Auxiliaries would be beneficial to the Order." He appointed the first Grand Nest committee headed by Jack C. Neer of Portland, Oregon.

Ladies' Auxiliary organizations, sometimes called Ladies of the Blue Goose and other names, are composed of wives and daughters of Ganders, first made their appearance in 1917, when one was organized in Iowa. At the Kansas City Convention in 1955 the Ladies' Auxiliary Committee submitted with its report an advisory Constitution and By-Laws. (See Bulletin Vol. 47, No. 1, page 70. (Also see list of 41 Auxiliaries page 133).

In his annual message recorded in the Grand Nest Bulletin of February 15, 1916, the then Most Loyal Grand Gander J. Ross Stewart, Ontario Pond, said in part: "Last October I was in Western Canada. I was out on the prairies and saw the wild goose in his autumnal flights for the feeding grounds in the south. The unbroken lines, the fidelity of the leader

and the strength of progress in the flight, stirred my Blue Goose soul in admiration. What the patron bird does in his life is an example our noble Order can well emulate."

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Past Most Loyal Grand Gander H. Verne Myers served as Grand Historian from 1934 until his passing in 1941. Data on the Grand Nest and all Ponds was being included. His wife passed soon after he did and no trace was ever found of his writings, which were said to be voluminous.

The history of how the Grand Nest came into being, and how, after "illnesses" during some of its earlier years, it fully recovered and became the sturdy parent organization which has continued to grow and prove its worth to the great business of Fire Insurance, and is expected to do so indefinitely, is set forth in these pages.

Additional facts and details concerning the Grand Nest, as well as individual Ponds of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International, may be found in the set of five (5) bound volumes of Grand Nest Bulletins which were published prior to the year 1951. These are at Grand Nest Headquarters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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(Note: The bound volumes do not contain copies of the two (2) first official but unnumbered, printed Grand Nest Bulletins having four pages each, with only two pages printed, dated December 3, 1906 and September 16, 1907. The only copy of each of these is in the possession of your Historian. The official "Number One Grand Nest Bulletin" is dated April 1908 and has eight printed pages).

No copy of the original Constitution and By-Laws of the Order, as drawn and adopted at the Constitutional Convention held at the Auditorium Hotel, Chicago, November 16, 1907, was preserved, and your Historian has the only known copy of the Constitution and By-Laws, as amended at the Second Annual Grand Nest Convention in Chicago October 9, 1908. An exact copy of its wording is printed in this history.

The preparation of this history has been a labor of love, and appreciation is given to those who rendered assistance.

May 1957.  
Hendersonville, N. C.

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PAUL E. RUDD,  
*Grand Nest Historian.*



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NOTE—Grand Wielders of the Goose Quill have always been chosen from Wisconsin Home Nest and Grand Nest headquarters maintained at Milwaukee.

## History Of The Grand Nest

**I**T WAS June 19, 1906, and the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Field Men's Club was in session at The Oakwood Hotel, on the bank of Green Lake, Wisconsin. There was the usual attendance of field men, managers, and advisory raters of the State. The Field Club largely controlled the rating bureaus. "Judgement" rates frequently obtained. The Dean Schedule was in a formative stage. Many States had anti-compact laws prohibiting organized rating. A special train out of Milwaukee had brought the crowd, including many of the ladies.

The cold, rainy day, added to the gloom already in the minds of those present as the result of the San Francisco conflagration sixty days before, was not allowed to dampen their ardor, but was responsible for the 'laying' and 'hatching' of the 'egg' which conceived the birth of the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose. All in fun, intended for that day only, it proved to be a beginning destined for good, not alone for its members, but the Fire Insurance business as well.

The instigators of the fun-fest (regarded as the Founders of the Order) as recorded in the first official eight page Bulletin No. 1 of April 1908, labeled "The Honk-Honk of the Blue Goose," included: Walter E. Atwater, William E. Golden, Carl E. Hilbert, Chas. W. Silkworth, Geo. Heller, Jr., Lloyd S. Wallace, George A. Roberts and Frank H. Barney (the last two from Minneapolis).

According to the article "Origin of the Blue Goose" by Carl E. Hilbert in the April 1908 Grand Nest Bulletin, it was: "During noon dinner on the first day, while at the table with Mr. James Heaney, Mr. Frank Barney and others, the writer suggested jocularly that, this being the first meeting attended by Mr. Heaney, he had much to see and learn and should be initiated into the inner circle. Mr. Barney saw a joke in sight and followed up the suggestion with proper comments, so that Mr. Heaney was sufficiently impressed to apply for membership. After Mr. Heaney had left the table Mr. Barney and the writer, laughing over the conversation, decided that a good evening's entertainment might be had in carrying out the joke and initiate Mr. Heaney into a fake society."

"Messrs. Atwater, Golden, Silkworth, Heller and others were met on leaving the dining room and agreed to enter into the joke and help carry it through. These men then held an informal meeting, and a name being called for Mr. Golden suggested "The Blue Goose Society," the writer offering the amended name, "Ancient and Honorable Order of

the Blue Goose," which was adopted and is still in use, after which Mr. Barney and the writer withdrew."

Walter E. Atwater, George Heller, Jr., and Lloyd S. Wallace (according to Lloyd) hurriedly prepared an impromptu ritual for the initiation that night in the Club House of the hotel on the bank of Green Lake. It was arranged that Atwater would act as chairman.

That night, after calling the meeting to order Atwater announced: "I have prepared a list of titles for those who shall conduct the work of the initiation and, if they have your approval, let us proceed to the election of such officers." Approval was given,—then he continued: "For President or head of the Blue Goose we will nominate a Most Loyal Grand Gander,— For Vice-President — His Highness — Supervisor of the Flock,— For Treasurer — Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg,— For Secretary — Wielder of the Goose Quill, and For Doorman or Guard — Custodian of the Goslings. These titles were approved by acclamation, accompanied by cheers and much laughter, and, needless to say, Atwater, and his coadjutors had the admiration of all for the ingenuity of the initiation scheme and the natural appropriateness of the titles." Those elected are shown in a later paragraph. Lloyd Wallace officiated at that old, battered upright piano, as he did in those days when the inspiration of the piano was required. The titles for the officers, originated at that time, have continued without change, except "His Highness" was transferred 10-3-1911 from the title "Grand Supervisor of the Flock" to "Most Loyal Grand Gander", then its use was discontinued entirely in 1928 out of deference to our Canadian members.

Without further fanfare Most Loyal Grand Gander Atwater said there were innocent and unsuspecting Goslings who want to 'swim' in our pond, which started proceedings much the same as it has ever since. George G. Wright was the first candidate or Gosling, who took the first 'swim', encountering many pit falls along the way. He was followed by Goslings Wm. J. Cecil and James Heaney. It is said that our watchword came to M.L.G.G. Atwater at the very moment he used it during the first initiation.

The April 1908 Grand Nest Bulletin says, in the article by M.L.G.G. Atwater: "The evening's entertainment presented an opportunity to promote good fellowship in the business of fire underwriting and the charter members decided to perfect a permanent organization. A few weeks later several Ganders prepared a Constitution, By-Laws and Initiatory Work, which, with a few changes, are now (1908) used by all State Ponds."

No early record of the original charter members has been found. The first list made public is in Grand Nest Bulletin Vol. 22, No. 1, Page 14, but we found that list inaccurate after finding the original minutes of several of the early meetings. The following corrected list, published for the first time, include the names of those who were officers and all others who we believe were in the Club House and witnessed the initiation the night of Tuesday, June 19, 1906 at Green Lake, Wis., when our Order had its birth:—Walter E. Atwater, George Banta, Fred B. Barnes, Frank

Barney, Robe Bird, Wm. B. Calhoun, Phil. Check, Walter W. Conklin, Chas. E. Cormany, B. M. Culver, John E. Davies, Carroll DeWitt, R. B. Ellis, Wm. E. Golden, Geo. B. Gray, H. C. Griffin, H. C. Griffing (these are not duplicates), Wm. J. Hatcher, John Hall, Frank E. Halle, M. M. Hawxhurst, Jas. J. Hayes, Geo. E. Heaney, Arthur F. Hebgen, Geo. Heller, Jr., S. Herdegen, Carl E. Hilbert, H. M. Hilton, J. N. Hobbins, Wm. C. Hughes, Chas. A. Keith, J. W. Lancaster, O. E. Lane, John McClure, J. H. Macfarlane, John Nelson, Wm. E. Page, Frank H. Phillips, A. F. Pray, Emil A. Rademacher, Geo. A. Roberts, J. W. Robertson, Theo. Schnitzler, Chas. H. Silkworth, Jas. Tallman, Fred E. Tolles, Lloyd S. Wallace, B. M. Welch, and Geo. G. Williams. Of these Barney, McClure and Roberts were from Minnesota. There is some uncertainty about it, but C. M. Cartwright, Editor of The Western Underwriter may have been present.

\* \* \* \* \*

Shortly before going to press with this book Gander Robe Bird, one of the four remaining original charter members of the Order, and the second "His Highness, Supervisor of the Flock," advised that he and Otho E. Lane, who is also one of the four, were sitting on the porch of the Oakwood Hotel at Green Lake, Wis., that rainy day in June 1906, discussing the San Francisco fire of 60 days previous, which created the disturbing question—what would be the future of stock fire insurance, when George Heller, Jr., approached and remarked that it would be an excellent stunt to initiate George Wright, a new field man, into the mysteries of insurance and that he would tell Wright that he would be initiated into the secret order of the field men that night. They agreed this would be a prime idea providing an hour or two of amusing entertainment and distraction from the existing tenseness which prevailed. They called in Walter E. Atwater, Chas. H. Silkworth and Dr. Wm. F. Golden and told them there needed to be some kind of a ritual and procedure. Heller and Wright were college men and fraternity members. (At the University of Wisconsin a novitiate had to be thrown into the lake to become a 'regular guy'.) A rough draft of ritual was drawn up, and they intended to throw Wright into the lake as a part of the initiation. However, Carroll L. DeWitt made a talk which captivated the audience and diverted the idea of ducking Wright, to some fantastic stunts. Past Grand Gander Bird (what an ideal name for a Blue Goose) also said that some one thought of the famous Colonel Military Company in New England, the "Ancient and Honorable Artillery," which is where the "Ancient and Honorable" part of the name of our Order came from. He accords the credit for the name "Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose" to Dr. Golden and Mr. Hilbert. Robe Bird was one of the three delegates from Wisconsin Home Nest to the Constitutional Convention in Chicago, Nov. 16, 1907, and chairman of the committee on revision of the Constitution and By-Laws, as shown in the minutes of that meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

In the early days of the Order, interesting happenings often took

place after careful planning. For instance,—at the close of the Grand Nest Meeting, Oct. 5, 1909, the present and past Grand Officers and John F. Stafford, Chairman of the Grand Nest Entertainment Committee, were guests of honor at the banquet, given by the Illinois Pond at the La Salle Hotel, Chicago. E. M. Jewell was the Most Loyal Gander.

The tables were in V-shape to symbolize geese in flight. At the apex sat Thomas E. Gallagher, the toastmaster. On his right was M.L.G.G. Geo. C. Main, and on his left sat His Highness S.O.F. Chas. H. Pescay. Many visiting delegates were guests of Illinois Ganders.

The tables were decorated with swamp grass, wild rice and other evidences of the marsh. The big 'blue goose' of the Illinois Pond sitting on a nest of grass was surrounded with cat tails, grain and marsh weeds. At each plate floated a white pennant with a goose of blue and appropriate inscription.

When M.L.G. Jewell presented Gander Gallagher as honk-master, all Ganders arose and waived Irish flags in tribute to the popular raconteur of "Casey Stories." Then all sang the "Wearing of the Green."

The affair was in charge of a committee headed by Gander C. M. Cartwright.

One feature was the introduction of Gander William T. Benallack, in the midst of which the honk-master said he had been given some instructions by Gander Benallack, but he forgot to look them over. He paused and perused the page, then called M.L.G. Jewell and Chairman Cartwright to one side for a conference. A heated argument ensued as to whether the instructions should be read. Jewell told the honk-master to proceed, while Cartwright urged him not to. It ended with the honk-master reading the "pome" given him by Benallack, which started:

"My dear Mr. Gallagher:"

Space will not permit printing the "pome" of 4 verses, signed "Ben." One from Ben to Gallagher of 2 verses followed. By that time Ben, who acquired a wide reputation for his verse, delivered himself of one of 16 verses, covering a variety of subjects. These are contained in Bulletin No. 5, of Nov. 1909, in a bound volume at Grand Nest Headquarters.

\* \* \* \* \*

The finding, a few months before going to press, of the original minutes of the Order from June , 1906, to and including October 12, 1912, with the exception of the minutes for the year 1910, allowed replacing the history already written for that period with the facts as to just how the Order progressed, after it came into being, also giving names and events not included in the early Bulletins, which are rather meagre. Therefore, copies of the original minutes for the first eleven (11) meetings, from June , 1906, to and including the record made for the Constitutional Convention, held November 16, 1907, will be found in the next few pages of this History.

1906 - 1907

# "MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATION MEETING

of the

## ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE.

Held at Green Lake, Wisconsin, June , 1906.

The Ancient and Honorable order of the Blue Goose was organized at Green Lake, Wisconsin, on the above date and the following officers elected:

MOST LOYAL GRAND GANDER ..... Walter E. Atwater  
HIS HIGHNESS, SUPERVISOR OF THE FLOCK ..... W. E. Golden  
GRAND CUSTODIAN OF THE GOSLINGS ..... W. W. Conklin  
GRAND WIELDER OF THE GOOSE QUILL ..... Geo. E. Heller, Jr.  
GRAND KEEPER OF THE GOLDEN GOOSE EGG ..... Geo. A. Roberts

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. Heller, Jr., G.W.G.Q."

\* \* \* \* \*

No one thought that more than a pleasant memory of that night would survive, but the founders had built better than they knew, for soon after the officers returned to Milwaukee, an application for Charter to permit the formation of Minnesota State Nest was received by Most Loyal Grand Gander Walter E. Atwater, who, after a hurried conference with other Grand Nest Officers, advised them "to remit the sum of \$10.00 for full authority to proceed with the organization of their State Nest.

Past Most Loyal Grand Gander John F. Stafford (then a field man in Minnesota) told your Historian more than once how dimes and quarters were collected from the field men at that annual meeting at Lake Osakis, Minnesota, and how he was the only one present with a checkbook, so the \$10.00 in change was turned over to him, and his check for that amount sent down to Walter E. Atwater for the first "Nest" Charter. However, it was too early for the regular form of Charter to be issued, so our first Most Loyal Grand Gander made response as follows:

"Remittance of \$10.00 is received, being payment for Charter for the purpose of organizing Minnesota State Nest of the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose. In the absence of a regular printed form of Charter, you may take this letter as full authority to proceed with the work."

It was Frank H. Barney and George A. Roberts who carried the word from the Green Lake meeting to their field associates in Minnesota.

Minnesota Nest was organized and chartered July 17, 1906, with officers and guards chosen at Lake Osakis, Minnesota, as follows:

Most Loyal Gander.....	George C. Main
Supervisor of the Flock.....	Frank H. Barney
Custodian of the Goslings.....	W. O. Chamberlin
Wielder of the Goose Quill.....	F. A. Mannen
Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg.....	Thos. P. Herbert
Guards: Chas. S. Whittlesey, W. C. Cree, Wm. J. Tippery, L. F. Daniel, W. H. Higley, J. R. Hobbins.	

The \$10.00 received by the Grand Nest from Minnesota Nest for its Charter was spent for printing and postage. A call for Annual Dues of \$2.00 per member was sent out and "Noble Ganders of Wisconsin and Minnesota responded to a bird, and the Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg gathered \$134.00 in the "egg basket." With such a sum on hand, the Grand Officers now decided to place an order for 100 solid gold emblems, and spent the balance for a supply of stationery and paraphernalia necessary to continue the work of the organization.

On a Sunday morning in September, 1906, three months after the Green Lake gathering, several enthusiastic Wisconsin Ganders met in the office of Most Loyal Grand Gander in Milwaukee Atwater and decided to issue a call for the first Grand Gathering of the Flock to be held in Chicago at the time and place of the meeting of the Fire Underwriters' Association of the Northwest. The original prospectus prepared by these Ganders read as follows:

"ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF THE  
BLUE GOOSE  
GRAND NEST

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 22, 1906

"At the 1906 annual meeting of the Wisconsin Field Men's Club held at Green Lake, Wisconsin, originated a social organization now known as the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, which sprung into instant popularity to such a degree that the originators have been requested to enlarge its group for the entertainment and benefit of co-workers in sister communities.

"A subordinate 'Nest' has already been organized in the State of Minnesota, and it is now the plan to organize in other States. With this end in view, I take pleasure in handing you herewith an application blank and suggest your name as a Charter member of the 'Nest' to be organized for your State during the meeting of the Fire Underwriters' Association of the Northwest at Chicago in October.

"The object, for the present at least, is purely social, and the membership will be limited to supervising officials and field men engaged in the business of fire insurance.

"Hoping to have the honor of a favorable response, I beg to remain,

Yours sincerely,

WALTER E. ATWATER, M.L.G.G."

(See eight page April 1908 Bulletin Number One, page 2).

(Copy of original minutes.)

"ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE  
Meeting held at Milwaukee, Wis., October 1st, 1906.  
Meeting called to order by Most Loyal Grand Gander.

CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS: Reading of Constitution and By-Laws. Moved and seconded that the Constitution and By-Laws be adopted. Motion carried.

NEW MEMBERS: Reading of names of applicants, R. J. McIntyre, E. O. Basse, Fred Gordon, F. L. Weineck, Wm. Wright, H. J. Zechlin, Clarke Munn, H. L. Dalton, J. R. Sullivan, A. T. Jones, F. G. Dela Hunt, H. E. Bloomer. Moved and seconded that the above named applicants be declared elected. Motion carried.

CHICAGO MEETING: The following committee appointed to pass upon names of applicants for Chicago Meeting, Oct. 3rd, 1906. Ganders Tolles (Chairman), Barnes, Hawxhurst. All above named initiated with the exception of Wm. Wright.

MOVED AND SECONDED that the Milwaukee Board of Fire Underwriters be extended our heartfelt thanks for the use of their rooms. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF WORK: Moved and seconded that the Grand Officers be empowered to make provisions for Nests in their home state and report at next meeting. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that we have an additional set of officers known as a Board of Trustees, whose term of office shall be one (1), two (2) and three (3) years respectively, and their duties shall be the supervision of the finances and all property of the Grand Nest. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that rules be suspended and Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill be instructed to cast unanimous ballot for Ganders Chas. H. Silkworth as Trustee for one year, E. O. Basse as Trustee for two years and Clarke Munn as Trustee for three years. Motion carried and ballot cast accordingly.

Ganders Sullivan, Della Hunt and Bloomer appointed to pack up "Goose" and send same to Chicago, Ill.

MEETING ADJOURNED. GEO. HELLER, JR., G.W.G.Q."

In answer to the letter sent from Milwaukee Sept. 22, 1906, by M.L.G.G. Atwater, 164 innocent and unsuspecting Goslings from all parts of the country filed their applications with \$3.00, to cover initiation fee \$2.00 and emblem \$1.00. All arrived in Chicago, and took the work. This gathering of the Flock on Wednesday night, October 3, 1906 was one long to be remembered by all in attendance. Four classes of five Goslings each were given their first swim. The initiatory work was conducted by the officers of the Wisconsin Grand Nest and Minnesota State Nest. (For further detail see page 2, Bulletin No. 1 of April 1908).

(Copy of original minutes.)

"ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE.



Meeting held at Chicago, Ill., October 4th, 1906.

Meeting called to Order by the Grand Officers, Frank Mannen acting as Grand Wielder of the G. Q.

**TAKING OATH:** Remarks by S. E. Cate that less levity be displayed by members in taking oath.

Moved by H. C. Stamt of Iowa and seconded by D. E. Jones of Minnesota that the oath of this Order be secret. Carried. Same was made in pledge by Gander Hawxhurst and pledged by all members standing on oath.

**INDIANA:** J. H. Gray of Indiana suggested that papers be sent to B. J. Gilmore for the establishment of a Nest.

**KENTUCKY:** A. F. Bolling, J. Smith and Mr. Clutia apply for Charter for Kentucky.

**MISSOURI:** S. E. Cate, Roy Smith, F. W. Bowers, Ed. Schoen and Fred Shaper apply for charter for Missouri.

At the suggestion of a Gander it was stated that all members of this meeting be members of the Grand Nest until their local state Nest be formed.

**INITIATION:** A number of Goslings, 164 to be exact, were initiated.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

GEO. HELLER, JR., G.W.G.Q. F. E. MANNEN, Acting G.W.G.Q."

\* \* \* \* \*

Following the Chicago Gathering of October 4, 1906, applications for Charters for State Nests were received from all parts of the United States. For many weeks the officers of the Grand Nest at Milwaukee were required to meet in special session on Sunday mornings to pass upon applications, grant Charters and arrange for installation of State Nests. The little gold emblem which had been adopted as official insignia was already being worn by the members as a sign of good fellowship and friendship.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Grand Nest started off with five Officers and Six Guards. Minnesota Nest was the same. However, commencing with the Indiana Nest, which was chartered October 20, 1906, a Guardian of the Nest was elected, making six Pond offices and Officers. The first Grand Guardian of the Nest was elected at the first annual Grand Nest meeting in Milwaukee, September 16, 1907. There is no record as to why that office was added.

\* \* \* \* \*

Indiana Nest was chartered at Indianapolis, October 20, 1906, with the following officers: John H. Gray, Most Loyal Gander, Gus Wise, Supervisor of the Flock, B. J. Gilmore, Custodian of the Goslings, C. L. Easton, Wielder of the Goose Quill, W. P. Tobias, Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg and Lester E. Cate, Guardian of the Nest. Gander Irving Williams was elected Wielder at the first annual meeting of Indiana Nest and held that office for 38 years with much credit to himself and great credit to his Pond and the Order, until his business retirement.

Missouri-Kansas Nest was chartered at Kansas City, Missouri, October 20, 1906, with the following officers: J. H. Walsh, M.L.G., E. M. Schoen, S.O.F., A. E. Pinkney, C.G., R. W. Smith, W.G.Q., W. F. Holden, K.G.G.E., and L. K. Proudfit, G.N.

Oklahoma Nest was chartered at Oklahoma City, October 26, 1906 (Oklahoma was still a Territory), with the following officers: Wm. F. Watson, M.L.G., J. C. Jamieson, S.O.F., Tom E. Braniff, C.G. (later established Braniff Airways), John L. Misner, W.G.Q., H. C. Upham, K.G.G.E., and A. C. Robertson, G.N.

Michigan Nest was chartered at Detroit, November 5, 1906, with the following officers: W. T. Hawxhurst, M.L.G., W. G. Abbott, S.O.F., W. T. Benallack, C.G., D. W. Andrews, W.G.Q., N. A. Bloom, K.G.G.E., and A. F. Powrie, G.N.

Iowa Nest was chartered at Des Moines, November 23, 1906.

Louisiana-Mississippi Nest was chartered December 1, 1906, with Charles H. Pescay, M.L.G., and headquarters at New Orleans. It was the first Nest in what is known as the 'deep South.'

Illinois Nest was chartered December 11, 1906 at Chicago.

Ohio Nest was chartered at Columbus, February 5, 1907.

\* \* \* \* \*

The first official, but unnumbered Grand Nest Bulletin was a 4 page affair with only 2 pages of printed matter, and bore date of December 3, 1906. It recorded the reception accorded the new Order from all parts of the country as having "been most enthusiastic and inspiring, far exceeding the fondest hope at its inception."

In that first Bulletin, it is also stated: "No person or officer connected with the Order receives any financial compensation whatsoever." This statement was made over the names of the Board of Trustees: E. O. Bass, C. J. Munn and C. H. Silkworth.

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(Copy of original minutes.)

**"ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE**

Meeting held at Milwaukee, Wis., December 3, 1906.

Meeting called to order by Most Loyal Grand Gander.

**CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS:** Reading of constitution and by-laws, followed by remarks of the Most Loyal Grand Gander.

**DUES:** Moved and seconded that \$1.00 be remitted for each member, to the various State Nests, who received the initiation at Chicago, Ill. Oct. 3rd, 1906, provided the State in which he resides organizes and maintains a nest; and further provided such member becomes an active member thereof.

Amendment made that such Nest must be organized within six months from date of Chicago meeting. Amendment and motion carried.

**OFFICIAL REPORTS:** Reports of Most Loyal Grand Gander, Report of Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, Report of Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, read. Moved and seconded that reports of above officers be placed on file. Carried.

**PRINTED REPORTS:** Moved and seconded that the report of the Most Loyal Grand Gander and the financial report be printed and sent to all members in good standing. Carried.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Following applications were presented: H. E. Getzlaff, H. E. G. Kemp, F. N. ReQua, Wm. Hughes, S. F. Wiser, A. Landolt, F. E. Wright, J. M. Moran, G. F. Krumdick, H. E. Miller, Ed. Bliven.

Goslings elected and initiated.

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** That a vote of thanks be extended to the Milwaukee Board of Fire Underwriters for their kindness in allowing the use of their rooms for this meeting. Carried.

**OBLIGATION AND SECRET WORK:** Remarks by Gander Tolles in reference to obligation and secret work.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Geo. Heller, Jr., G.W.G.Q."

(Copy of original minutes)

**"ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE**

Meeting held at Green Lake, Wis., June 19th, 1907

Meeting called to Order by His Highness,

W. E. Golden, Grand Supervisor of the Flock.

Most Loyal Grand Gander Atwater, absent.

Gander Hawxhurst conducts and initiates.

**ILLINOIS:** W. L. Steele takes obligation and degree conferred at request of Illinois Pond.

Ganders Replinger and Hayes appointed to assist Guardian of the Nest for the evening.

**WISCONSIN NEST:** Discussion as to organization of a Wisconsin Nest. Whole matter laid on the table.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Following applications received: Montgomery Clark, W. F. Hug, E. W. Hosford, D. O. Stine, M. A. Freedy. Declared elected and initiated.

Gander Root of Illinois Nest extends invitation to attend a meeting of the Illinois Nest on Sept. 9th, 1907, at the Masonic Temple, Chicago, Ill.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

Geo. Heller, Jr., G.W.G.Q."

\* \* \* \* \*

The next 4 page (2 pages printed) Bulletin, also unnumbered, bears date of September 16, 1907. It gives the membership as 1,112, one of which is credited to Canada, but the Province is not named.

Counting Wisconsin Grand Nest (which was soon changed to Wisconsin Home Nest) there were 15 "State Nests", as they are recorded in that bulletin. The list and number of members for each follows:

Illinois, 161; Iowa, 131; Kentucky, 47; Indiana, 48; Louisiana, 46; Michigan, 72; Minnesota, 91; Missouri-Kansas, 74; Nebraska, 39; North and South Carolina, 39; Ohio, 77; Oklahoma, 58; Texas, 64; Virginia, 27;

and Wisconsin Grand Nest, 98. Members in other States not yet chartered, are by States: Arkansas, 5; Colorado, 6;; Massachusetts, 4; New York, 9; Pennsylvania, 4; Washington, 11; Canada, 1 (Name of Province not stated).

The financial statement shows receipts from date of organization to September 16, 1907, of \$2,599.30 and expenditures of \$1,409.32, leaving cash on hand of \$1,189.98.

## 1907 - 1908

(Copy of original minutes)

**"ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE**

Meeting at Milwaukee, Wis., September 16th, 1907

Meeting called to Order by Most Loyal Grand Gander

All members reported in good standing by Custodian of the Goslings.

Remarks by Most Loyal Grand Gander.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** Moved and seconded that the reading of minutes of previous meetings be dispensed with. Carried.

**WIELDER'S REPORT:** Report of Grand Welder of the Goose Quill read. Remarks by Most Loyal Grand Gander.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Mr. Scheibs application referred to Ohio Nest.

Mr. F. F. Post's application accepted and he is requested to appear at the Chicago Meeting in October.

**GANDER BASSE** called to the Chair.

Moved and seconded that the appointment of Committees be laid over until after election of officers. Carried.

**M.L.G.G. Atwater** takes the Chair.

It is understood that new business be taken up after election of officers.

**Gander Dalton** called to Chair:

Gander Atwater presents following petition: "Resolved that the Constitution of the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose be amended to create the office of the Grand Honk Honk, said office to carry with it the duties of providing musical entertainment for all meetings of the Wisconsin Grand Nest, and the annual grand gathering Chicago. Referred to next regular meeting.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Remarks by Gander Conklin. Election of M.L.G.G. Gander Golden nominates Gander A. F. Hebgen. Seconded by Gander Gordon. Gander Atwater nominates Gander Hawxhurst. Seconded by Gander Conklin. Moved and seconded that nomination be closed. Carried. **GANDER HEBGEN** elected M.L.G.G. Ganders Roberts and Weineck being appointed Tellers.

Other officers elected were:

Robe Bird, His Highness, Grand Supervisor of the Flock George A. Roberts, Grand Custodian of the Goslings George Heller, Jr., Grand Welder of the Goose Quill G. A. Krumdick, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg Wm. B. Calhoun, Grand Guardian of the Nest (a new office).

Moved and seconded that a vote of thanks be extended to Gander Atwater. Carried.

Moved and seconded that a committee be appointed to secure a fitting memorial for Gander Atwater upon which shall be inscribed "Past Most Loyal Gander". Carried. Ganders Hawxhurst, Roberts, and Wallace appointed to act as Committee.

Moved and seconded that the M.L.G.G. draw a check for \$25 to be paid to Marie Heid as a donation for her work for this Order. Carried.

#### *Election of Guards:*

Following nominated and elected. Chas. A. Kieth, Jerry Sullivan, Mr. Wm. Wright, Montgomery Clark, E. V. Munn and F. L. Weineck.

REVISION OF CONSTITUTION: Moved that a committee of three be appointed to revise the Constitution, By-Laws and Ritual of the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, to report at some future meeting, not later than three months from date, and if possible before the Grand Pond at Chicago. Seconded and carried.

Moved and seconded that Most Loyal Grand Gander Hebgen take the Chair and Gander Basse escort him to the Chair. Carried.

Presentation of Most Loyal Grand Gander button by Gander Atwater. Acceptance by Hebgen.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Geo. Heller, Jr., G.W.G.Q."

(Copy of original minutes)

#### "ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE

Held at Milwaukee, Wis., September 30th, 1907

Meeting called to order by Gander Basse, Acting M.L.G.G.

ACTING G.W.G.Q. Gander Clark appointed acting G.W.G.Q.

MINUTES of last meeting read and approved

Remarks by various Ganders.

Moved and seconded that Gander Hawxhurst be placed in entire charge of the Chair at the Chicago Meeting. Carried.

GRAND NEST: Remarks by Gander Basse as to establishment of a Grand Nest at Chicago meeting. Remarks by various Ganders.

NEW MEMBERS: Moved and seconded that applications of D. J. Laughlin, Julius G. Graeff and H. E. Lingenfelter be referred to Membership Committee. Carried.

Remarks by Gander Sullivan as to costumes to be worn at Chicago meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:30 P. M.

M. Clark, Acting G.W.G.Q. Geo. Heller, Jr., G.W.G.Q."

\* \* \* \* \*

(Copy of original minutes)

#### "ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE

Meeting held at Milwaukee, Wis., 9:35 P. M., September 30th, 1907

Meeting called to order by Gander Basse, Acting M.L.G.G.

Gander Clark acting as G.W.G.Q.

READING OF MINUTES: Moved and seconded that reading of minutes of last meeting be dispensed with. Carried.

AMENDMENT: Amendment of Constitution presented at last meeting read as follows: Section 6, 7 and Sec. 3 "The Parent Wisconsin Nest shall be and is hereby constituted the Wisconsin Home Nest, and shall be located in the City of Milwaukee, in the State of Wisconsin, and there shall be a gathering in the Grand Pond at the time and place of the annual meeting of the Fire Underwriters Association of the Northwest. There shall be a Grand Nest composed of a delegate from each State Nest. The officers of the Grand Nest shall be known as "Grand" Officers and shall consist of:

Most Loyal Grand Gander,  
His Highness, Supervisor of the Flock,  
Grand Custodian of the Goslings,  
Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill,  
Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg,  
Grand Guardian of the Nest,  
Grand Honk Honk,  
Six Guards to the Grand Custodian of the Goslings,  
Three Trustees."

Such officers to be elected by a majority of the delegates present at the Gathering in the Grand Pond at the time and place of the Annual Meeting of the Fire Underwriters Association of the Northwest.

The delegates for the year of 1907-1908 shall meet at Chicago for the election of Grand Officers not later than two months after the Annual Meeting of the Fire Underwriters Association of the Northwest. The present Grand Nest officers shall retain their offices until after the Grand Gathering in the Grand Pond at the time and place of the Annual Meeting of the Fire Underwriters Association of the Northwest, and from such time until the next annual meeting of the Wisconsin Home Nest shall assume the offices and duties of the State Officers, as follows:

Most Loyal Gander,  
Supervisor of the Flock  
Custodian of the Goslings,  
Wielder of the Goose Quill  
Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg.  
Guardian of the Nest  
Six guards to the Custodian of the Goslings.  
Honk Honk

Section 3. Following added:

"And a delegate and an alternate, one of whom shall attend the Grand Pond in Chicago."

Amendments carried. Remarks by various Ganders.

HONK HONK: Gander Lloyd Wallace nominated for Grand Honk Honk.

Moved and seconded that rules be suspended and G.W.G.Q. cast unanimous ballot for Wallace. Carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

M. Clark, Acting G.W.G.Q. Geo. Heller, Jr., G.W.G.Q."

(Copy of original minutes of the First Annual Grand Nest Meeting)  
 "ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE"  
 Meeting held at Chicago, Ill., Oct. 9, 1907,  
 Meeting called to order by M. M. Hawxhurst.

ELECTION: The following ganders acted as Grand Officers:

M. M. Hawxhurst	Most Loyal Grand Gander
W. E. Golden	His Highness, Supervisor of Flock
E. O. Basse	Grand Custodian of Goslings
F. W. Tolles	Grand Wielder of Goose Quill
G. A. Roberts	Grand Keeper, Golden Goose Egg
E. M. Shoen	Guardian of the Nest
L. S. Wallace	Grand Honk Honk

Chas. A. Keith, Jerry Sullivan, Montgomery Clark,  
 W. S. Wright, F. F. Gordon, G. A. Krumdick Guards  
 Address of Acting Most Loyal Grand Gander Hawxhurst, during  
 which Gander W. T. Benallack of Michigan was called to preside.  
 No action taken on address.

READING MINUTES: Motion made, seconded and carried that the  
 reading of the minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with.

REPORTS: Report of W. E. Atwater, M.L.G.G. and Geo. Heller,  
 G.W.G.Q. read, and part of Trustees financial statement was read.  
 Moved by S. E. Cate that reading of financial statement in full be  
 dispensed with and same be accepted and placed on file.

NEW MEMBERS: Following petitions for membership were received  
 and candidates were elected, each state nest voting on their candidate.  
 A. H. Dinning, J. C. Wharton, Clarence J. Neare,

G. W. Cleveland	Ohio
Fred C. Sammis, Harry A. Crandall	Minnesota
Thos. H. Smith, H. W. White	Illinois
John W. Brooks, J. P. Smith, Jr., Jul. G. Graef	Wisconsin
W. G. Sanderson	Michigan

All petitions except W. G. Sanderson and Clarence J. Neare were  
 voted on, they having been duly elected by their respective State Nests.  
 Acting Most Loyal Grand Gander Hawxhurst called the officers of  
 the Michigan Nest to the stations of the Grand Officers for the pur-  
 pose of work, as there were several Goslings waiting to be received  
 into the Order as Ganders.

Following acted as officers:

W. T. Benallack, M.L.G.  
 A. F. Powrie, S. of F.  
 J. W. O'Brien, C. of G.  
 C. A. Reekie, W.G.Q.  
 D. W. Andrews, G. of N.

Then proceeded with the work and made the following Gosling gan-  
 ders in due form:

J. W. Brooks, J. G. Graef, J. P. Smith, Jr., F. E. Post	Wisconsin
W. G. Sanderson	Michigan
F. C. Sammis, Harry A. Crandall	Minnesota

W. H. White Illinois

A. H. Dinning, J. C. Wharton, P. B. Martin, C. J. Neare Ohio  
 Thos. H. Smith and Geo. W. Cleveland were not present to take the  
 work.

After the Goslings had been duly examined and thoroughly plucked a  
 short business meeting was held by about one-quarter of the members  
 who witnessed the work. All were requested to stay but apparently on  
 account of lack of interest the balance left the hall.

A motion was made by N. C. Rowland and received a second, That  
 it shall be the sense of this meeting that we recommend that the three  
 principal officers of each state Nest or their alternates be named as  
 delegates to Chicago, to attend a meeting to be called within sixty  
 days, the object of which is to form a Grand Nest, the Grand Nest  
 to govern subordinate Nests within their jurisdiction, and to provide  
 a constitution and by-laws for said Grand Nest. Motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Geo. Heller, Jr., G.W.G.Q. F. W. Tolles, Acting G.W.G.Q."

Initiation by competing Pond teams attracted much attention and  
 created new interest at this First Annual Grand Nest Meeting.

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(Copy of original minutes)

"ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE"

Meeting held at Milwaukee, Nov. 4th, 1907

Meeting called to order by M.L.G.G. Hebgen.

In the absence of Wielder of the Goose Quill Heller, Gander Bird was  
 asked to take his place.

MINUTES: Moved by Gander Krumdick that the reading of the minutes  
 of the preceding meeting be dispensed with. Motion adopted.

Remarks by Gander Brown.

Moved that the recommendation made at the Chicago meeting, asking  
 that the three highest officers of the Wisconsin Nest be chosen  
 unanimously to visit Chicago as delegates to confer with delegates  
 from other Nests which are to be assembled at the Auditorium Hotel  
 on Nov. 16th to revise the Constitution and elect officers of the Grand  
 Nest, made. Seconded and carried.

Motion by G. Sedgewick that Wielder of the Goose Quill Heller be  
 nominated to act as delegate to the Chicago conference, in case any-  
 thing should come up to prevent the principal attending. Motion sec-  
 onded and carried.

Motion by Gander Kieth nominating Gander Atwater to act as  
 alternate for Gander Bird at Chicago Conference.

Gander Bird nominates Gander Silkworth for the same position.

Ballots distributed by Sellers & Krumlick and Moran, and a counting  
 of votes resulted in Gander Atwater securing 8 and Gander Silkworth  
 7. Gander Atwater decided to have been the successful candidate.

Gander Kieth nominates Gander Silkworth as alternate to act for

Gander Basse, in case he is unable to attend. Nomination seconded. Gander Brown nominates Gander Golden. Nomination seconded. Ballots distributed by Tellers and result of vote is as follows: Gander Golden 12, Gander Silkworth 2, Gander Brown 1. It was decided that Gander Golden was the successful candidate. Motion made by Gander Silkworth that Wielder of the Goose Quill Heller attend the Chicago meeting in the capacity of advisory counsel to the visiting delegates, in case the three principals should attend, the expense of the trip to be borne by the Wisconsin Nest. Motion seconded and carried.

Gander Krumlick moves Meeting Adjourns; seconded and carried.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED.

Geo. Heller, Jr., G.W.G.Q.      Robe Bird, Acting G.W.G.Q."

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(Copy of original minutes)

#### "MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DELEGATES CHOSEN TO REPRESENT THE VARIOUS STATE NESTS

HELD AT THE AUDITORIUM HOTEL, CHICAGO, NOV. 16, 1907

Arthur F. Hebgen of Wisconsin called the meeting to order and the following delegates answered the roll call:

ILLINOIS—R. S. Odell, Geo. Redfield, present; F. C. Hazelton, absent on account of illness.

OHIO—C. F. Deatrick, C. F. Barnard, J. E. Smith—all present.

IOWA—J. W. Warnshuis, E. S. Phelps, H. C. Stuart—all present

MINNESOTA—Geo. C. Main, John F. Stafford, present; F. A. Mannen, absent.

WISCONSIN—A. F. Hebgen, Robe Bird, E. O. Basse—all present.

KENTUCKY—A. F. Bolling, F. G. Synder, W. H. Wheeler—all present.

MICHIGAN—W. T. Benallack, present; W. F. Hawxhurst, C. A. Reekie, absent.

NEW YORK—C. M. Tobin, F. E. Burke—all present.

INDIANA—J. O. Gable, came in after roll call; B. J. Gilmore, absent; John H. Gray, absent.

NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA—H. C. Stockdell, present; N. J. Heyward, B. J. Smith, absent.

LOUISIANA—E. H. Addington, absent; Sol. Bloodworth, absent; J. W. Watkins, absent.

Total of 21 delegates present representing 10 State Nests of a membership of 725 out of 1112.

A temporary chairman of this convention of State Nests was chosen, Col. Wheeler of Kentucky elected and took the chair. Basse of Wisconsin was elected as temporary secretary. Remarks regarding purpose of meeting were made by Messrs. Burke and Stuart and a number of delegates moved and seconded that meeting proceed with regular work to organize a permanent Grand Nest. Remarks by Deatrick and Benallack. Several delegates pointed out harmful effects of the entrance of politics into our organization

and after discussion Mr. Tobin of New York introduced the following resolution:

#### WHEREAS:

In establishing the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose at this, the first meeting of the Federation of State Nests; and realizing the harmful disorganizing and destructive effects of permitting politics to enter in any manner into the administration of operation of the Order.

#### BE IT RESOLVED:

That it is the unanimous opinion of this Convention that the head and all branches of the Order should prohibit the entry of politics into any of the workings and that this resolution be furnished the State Ponds as the first resolution passed in the first Congress.

F. E. Burke, C. M. Tobin, F. C. White—New York

After some discussion and slight amendments, motion was made that this resolution be adopted as the first resolution passed by the Grand Nest.

When put to a vote, motion was carried. The meeting then took up the revision of Constitution and By-laws.

Remarks were made by Delegates Warnshuis, Main, Tobin, Snyder after which it was moved and seconded that a committee of five be appointed to revise present Constitution and By-laws and report at afternoon session—motion carried. The following delegates were elected to this committee:

Messrs. Smith, Ohio; Warnshuis, Iowa; Burke, New York; Main, Minnesota; Robe Bird, Wisconsin, chairman.

In the same manner a committee of five were elected to revise present Ritual:

Messrs. C. M. Tobin, New York, chairman; Benallack, Michigan; Stafford, Minnesota; Redfield, Illinois; Bolling, Kentucky.

A number of suggestions were offered by the delegates and meeting then adjourned until 2 P. M.

After reconvening, the report of Committee on Revision of Constitution and By-Laws was heard and it was moved and seconded that the report of Committee be read, after which remarks were made by Messrs. Smith, Stuart, Tobin and Burke; it was then moved and seconded that the report be taken up seriatim. A suggestion was then offered by Mr. Tobin of New York to make his resolution, previously referred to, the Preamble to Constitution and By-Laws, motion made and carried. After this each section of the Constitution was taken up, discussed and adopted.

Motion made by Snyder of Kentucky 1st Section be adopted as read, seconded by Burke, New York—carried.

Motion made by Mr. Stafford, Minnesota Section II be adopted, seconded by Warnshuis, Iowa—carried.

Motion made by Mr. Snyder, Kentucky Section III be adopted, seconded Gable, Indiana—carried.

Motion made by Mr. Burke, New York Section IV be adopted, seconded by Mr. Deatrick, Ohio—carried.

SECTION V. After considerable discussion and the reading of a legal opinion by Mr. Warnshuis, Iowa and a number of changes in the report submitted by committee, it was moved by Mr. Warnshuis of Iowa



that this section be adopted, seconded by Odell, Illinois—carried.

Motion made by Mr. Bolling, Kentucky section VI be adopted as read, seconded by Stafford, Minnesota—carried.

Motion made by Mr. Burke, New York Section VII be adopted, seconded by Smith, Ohio—carried.

Motion made by Mr. Stafford, Minnesota Section VIII be adopted, seconded by Benallack, Michigan—carried.

Motion made by Mr. Barnard, Ohio Section IX, be adopted, seconded by Mr. Stafford, Minnesota—carried.

Motion made by Mr. Hazelton, Illinois Section X be adopted, seconded by Mr. Phelps, Iowa—carried.

Motion made by Mr. Warnshuis, Iowa Section XI be adopted, seconded by Mr. Smith, Ohio—carried.

#### BY-LAWS

Motion made by Mr. Burke, New York Section I be adopted, seconded by Mr. Benallack, Michigan—carried.

Motion made by Mr. Deatruck, Ohio Section II be adopted, seconded by Mr. Tobin, New York—carried.

Motion made by Mr. Bolling, Kentucky Section III be adopted, seconded by Mr. Benallack, Michigan—carried.

Motion made by Mr. Benallack, Michigan Section IV be adopted, seconded by Mr. Snyder, Kentucky—carried.

Motion made by Mr. Bolling, Kentucky Section V be adopted, seconded by Mr. Tobin, New York—carried.

Motion made by Mr. Phelps, Iowa Sections VI, VII and VIII be adopted, seconded by Mr. Deatruck, Ohio—carried.

Motion made by Mr. Bolling, Kentucky Section IX be adopted, seconded by Mr. Burke, New York—carried.

Motion made by Mr. Benallack, Michigan Section X, XI, XII, XIII XIV, XV, and XVI be adopted, seconded by Mr. Barnard, Ohio—carried.

Motion made by Mr. Stafford, Minnesota Section XVII be adopted, seconded by Mr. Deatruck, Ohio—carried.

Motion was then made by Mr. Stafford, Minnesota, that the Constitution and By-Laws be adopted as a whole, seconded by Mr. Snyder, Kentucky—carried.

Motion was then made by Mr. Tobin of New York to thank the committee for their work in revising the Constitution and By-Laws, seconded by Mr. Snyder of Kentucky—carried.

Motion was then made by Mr. Barnard of Ohio that the Constitution and By-Laws be printed, seconded by Mr. Phelps, Iowa—carried.

The report of committee on the revision of Ritual was then heard. Same was read and commented on favorably. Mr. Main of Minnesota moved same be adopted as read, seconded by Mr. Smith, Ohio, motion was carried. Mr. Tobin of New York then requested permission to have this Ritual printed—the point he made was that he would like to read and correct the printer's proof himself; no objection was offered with the understanding that when the supply was printed same should be sent to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill for distribution to State Nests. Mr. Basse of Wisconsin then suggested that the Ritual, which will be printed

separate from the Constitution and By-Laws, be numbered and a receipt be taken from each of the State Nests for the number of copies that are sent to them and each State Nest held responsible for their copies; Rituals to be sent by registered mail—the suggestion met with approval.

Meeting then proceeded with the election of officers. Chair called for nominations for Most Loyal Grand Gander; Mr. Stafford, Minnesota nominated Mr. George C. Main, Minnesota; Mr. Tobin of New York nominated Mr. W. H. Wheeler of Kentucky; Col. Wheeler withdrew his name; rules were suspended—secretary instructed to cast the ballot for Mr. Main.

Chair then called for nominations for His Highness, Supervisor of the Flock.

Mr. Deatruck, Ohio, nominated Mr. W. T. Benallack of Michigan. Mr. Snyder, Kentucky, nominated Mr. A. F. Bolling, Kentucky. There being no further nominations, ballots were prepared, vote cast, tellers selected with the result that Mr. Bolling received the majority of votes and was declared elected.

Nominations were then in order for Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill:

Mr. Basse of Wisconsin nominated Mr. C. H. Silkworth, Wisconsin, and there were no other names placed in nomination, therefore rules were suspended and secretary instructed to cast ballot.

Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg: Mr. Stafford, Minnesota, nominated Mr. Tobin of New York; there being no other nominations, rules were suspended, secretary instructed to cast the ballot for Mr. Tobin.

Grand Custodian of the Goslings: Mr. Bolling, Kentucky, nominated Mr. Deatruck of Ohio; there being no other nominations, rules were suspended, secretary instructed to cast the ballot for Mr. Deatruck.

Grand Guardian of the Nest: Mr. Benallack of Michigan was nominated, rules suspended, secretary cast the ballot.

Guards: The following gentlemen's names were placed in nomination as Guards, it being the intention and sense of this meeting to distribute the honors and offices of the Grand Nest as far as they would go around:

James Marshall, Nebraska; Wm. P. Folger, Washington; F. C. Hazelton, Illinois; T. L. Monagan, Texas; J. W. Warnshuis, Iowa; H. C. Stockdell, North and South Carolina.

Rules were suspended, secretary instructed to cast the ballot and above named gentlemen were declared elected as Guards to the Grand Nest. This completed the work of the meeting and fulfilled the purpose of same.

Remarks were then made by Col. Wheeler of Kentucky about incorporating into our organization a Benevolent feature and he suggested that a fund be created for this purpose. Further remarks on this subject were made by Messrs. Bolling, Deatruck, Snyder and others, which resulted in a motion that this matter be referred to a committee and gone into very thoroughly as it was realized that a life insurance feature of this kind was a very important proposition and the present Most Loyal Grand Gander, at the suggestion of Mr. Snyder of Kentucky, is to appoint and

name a committee to look into this proposition and report on same at the next Annual Meeting.

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded and meeting adjourned—motion carried.

E. O. BASSE, Acting G.W.G.Q.”

(This meeting of November 16, 1907, has since been referred to as the “Constitutional Convention”).

(“Pond” is now the term used for State organizations, instead of “Nest” for all but the Grand Nest and Wisconsin Home Nest, respectively).

\* \* \* \* \*

Evidently no copy of the first edition of the Constitution and By-Laws, as drawn and adopted November 16, 1907, was preserved, but following is an exact copy of what is believed to be the only copy in existence of what was drawn and adopted November 16, 1907, as amended at the Second Annual Grand Nest Meeting in Chicago, October 9, 1908, as shown herein, in our digest of the Second Annual Grand Nest Convention on October 9, 1908.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Copy of)

## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

of the

## ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE

Adopted November 16, 1907

Amended October 9, 1908

### CONSTITUTION PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, in establishing the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose at this, the first meeting of the Federation of State Ponds, and realizing the harmful, disorganizing and destructive effects of permitting politics to enter in any manner into the administration or operation of the Order,

*Be it Resolved*, That it is the unanimous opinion of this convention that the head and all branches of the Order should prohibit the entry of politics into any of their workings and that this resolution be furnished the State Ponds as the first resolution passed in the first Congress.

### ARTICLE I.

#### NAME

The name of this Order shall be ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE,

### ARTICLE II.

State organizations shall be designated as “Ponds” and the national body as “Grand Nest”.

### ARTICLE III.

All persons engaged in the business of fire insurance as Officers of Companies, General Agents, Managers, State Agents, Special Agents, Adjusters (employed exclusively by Insurance Companies), Insurance Editors and Company Inspectors, in the United States and Canada, shall be eligible to membership (excepting those employed temporarily or on a per diem basis).

### ARTICLE IV.

The objects of this Order shall be the promotion of charity and acts of benevolence among its members.

### ARTICLE V.

The officers of each Pond shall be elected annually by a majority of the members present at each annual meeting and shall consist of:

Most Loyal Gander,  
Supervisor of the Flock,  
Wielder of the Goose Quill,  
Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg,  
Custodian of the Goslings,  
Guardian of the Pond,  
Six Guards to the Custodian of the Goslings.

### ARTICLE VI.

Meetings of any Pond may be held at any time on call of the Most Loyal Gander, and an annual meeting shall be held at a time and place to be designated by the executive officers.

### ARTICLE VII.

The government of the Order shall be vested in the officers of the Grand Nest, such officers to be elected annually by a majority vote of the delegates from the State Ponds, each State Pond being entitled to two (2) delegates, said delegates and their alternates to be elected by each State Pond.

### ARTICLE VIII.

The officers of the Grand Nest shall be known as the Grand Officers and shall consist of:

Most Loyal Grand Gander,  
His Highness, Supervisor of the Flock,  
Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill,  
Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg,  
Grand Custodian of the Goslings,  
Grand Guardian of the Nest,  
Six Grand Guards to the Grand Custodian of the Goslings.

### ARTICLE IX.

The officers of the Grand Nest shall meet annually in Chicago on the second Friday in October at such time and place as shall be designated by the Most Loyal Grand Gander. The delegates from each Pond shall meet at the same time and place for the annual election of Grand Officers and the transaction of such other business as shall properly come before the Grand Nest. The Grand Gathering of the Order shall be held at the time and place of the annual meeting as above described.

## ARTICLE X.

All Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders shall be ex-officio associate life members of the Grand Nest and, as such, entitled to all the privileges of a regular delegate at the annual meeting of the Grand Nest.

## ARTICLE XI.

Application for charters for Ponds shall be made in writing to the Grand Nest and shall be signed by at least fifteen (15) goslings or ganders, and said application shall be accompanied by a fee of Ten Dollars (\$10.00).

## ARTICLE XII.

This Constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of the Grand Nest upon written notice of the proposed change having been given to each Pond sixty (60) days previous to such annual meeting.

## BY-LAWS

SECTION 1. The election of Pond officers shall be by ballot at the annual meeting; the candidate receiving the majority of votes shall be declared elected and shall hold office until the next annual meeting, or until his successor is elected and qualified. No gander shall be permitted to vote by proxy.

SECTION 2. Goslings desiring membership in any Pond shall apply therefor by written application to the nearest Pond, which application shall be approved by two (2) Ganders in good standing and same shall be filed with the Wielder of the Goose Quill.

SECTION 3. Applications for membership in this Order shall be determined by ballot at a regularly called meeting, and it shall require a unanimous ballot to elect.

SECTION 4. Ganders desiring to transfer allegiance from one Pond to another shall secure permit for flight from the Wielder of the Goose Quill of his home nest, with certificate of good standing countersigned by the Most Loyal Gander.

SECTION 5. Any vacancies in office of the Pond shall be filled by ballot at any meeting, and a majority vote shall elect.

SECTION 6. All stationery, seals, charters and emblems of the Order shall be furnished to each Pond by the Grand Nest.

SECTION 7. The seal of this Order shall be the outline of a Goose upon a blue field, said seal to be two (2) inches in diameter.

SECTION 8. On or before September 1st of each year, each State Pond shall make up and forward to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, a certified roll of membership of such State Pond, together with a remittance in full of Grand Nest dues at Two Dollars (\$2.00) each.

The Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg shall deposit all moneys in his care in some bank or banks regularly incorporated under the laws of some State or the United States, approved by the Grand Officers, and in the event of the failure of such bank or banks, the Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg shall not be individually liable for loss so caused.

The Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg shall furnish a surety

bond in the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000), payable to the Most Loyal Grand Gander, the expense of said bond to be paid by the Grand Nest.

Annual dues of each State Pond shall be determined by a two-thirds vote of the ganders present at the annual meeting of such State Pond, and shall be payable on or before the first day of September in each year and remitted to the Wielder of the Goose Quill of such State Pond.

SECTION 9. Any gander who shall fail to pay his annual dues for a period of one year shall forfeit his right to mingle with the flock, and may be reinstated only upon payment of all arrears and by being balloted upon in the same manner as provided for goslings.

SECTION 10. The station of the Most Loyal Gander shall be on the North side of the Pond and his duties shall be to call the flock together and direct its meanderings, to superintend the conferring of the degree, to deliver the secret work of the Pond, to maintain dignity and decorum and to have the general superintendence and management of the offices of the Pond and the promotion of its increase.

SECTION 11. The station of the Supervisor of the Flock shall be on the South side of the Pond and his duties shall be: to preside in the absence of the Most Loyal Gander, to assist in preserving order, to order the admittance of all ganders entitled to enter during the session upon the satisfactory report of the Guardian of the Pond and to assist in the conferring of the degree.

SECTION 12. The station of the Custodian of the Goslings shall be on the West side of the Pond and his duties shall be to welcome and introduce visiting ganders, to receive innocent and unsuspecting goslings, and to accompany and give them safe guidance at their first swim in the Pond, to superintend all preparations for conferring the degree, to take up the pass word upon the opening of the Pond and satisfy himself that all present are ganders, when he will report to the Supervisor of the Flock thus: "I am satisfied that all present are ganders and entitled to mingle with the flock."

SECTION 13. The station of the Wielder of the Goose Quill shall be on the left of the Most Loyal Gander and his duties shall be to keep a proper record of all proceedings of the Pond, to receive and present applications from strange goslings seeking entrance and such other communications as may be presented, and to collect and transmit to the Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg all dues and fees.

SECTION 14. The station of the Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg shall be on the right of the Most Loyal Gander and his duties shall be to receive all moneys paid over to him by the Wielder of the Goose Quill, giving proper receipt therefor, to keep an accurate account of the receipts and disbursements of the Nest and to pay out such sums as may be called for by voucher of the Most Loyal Gander duly countersigned by the Wielder of the Goose Quill.

SECTION 15. The station of the Guardian of the Pond shall be at the entrance of the Pond and his duties shall be to receive the pass-

word from all ganders desiring to enter therein while in session. If found correct, to admit them on order of the Supervisor of the Flock, to whom he reports the name of the gander and that he is entitled to enter.

SECTION 16. It shall be the duty of the Guards to prepare and present strange goslings for their first swim in the Pond and to assist the Custodian of the Goslings in conferring the degree.

SECTION 17. Order of business:

- (1) Reading of proceedings of preceding meeting.
- (2) Report of officers.
- (3) Report of Committees.
- (4) New business.
- (5) Election of officers.
- (6) Balloting on applications.
- (7) Conferring the degree.

\* \* \* \* \*

Over the name of Carroll L. DeWitt, one of the original charter members, and under a Chicago heading dated July 18, 1908, appeared the following, taken from Bulletin No. 2, September, 1908: "The future of the organization, in fact its very continuance, in my opinion, depends to a very great extent upon the injection into our meetings, and into our endeavor, of a more serious vein of thought and action. Conceived in the spirit of a joke and jollity, and with no thought of life beyond the night of its birth, its growth in membership has astonished all who have followed its course—and so far all is well. But it should be remembered that no society whose members come from a common calling, ever lived for long, unless, above and beyond the spirit of good fellowship and fun and horse play of the initiation, was a fixed principle and an earnest effort made for the betterment of its membership and the uplift of the life pursuits in which we are engaged. The principle we have—the earnest effort to uphold it and to be helpful and beneficial to our members both in our meetings and out of them, has been sadly lacking.

"As a charter member of the Order, and one who assisted at the initiation of the first candidate, I have, and always have had, a deep personal interest in its affairs, and wish for it a healthy growth and a long life. There are many ideals that might be worked out along the line of my thought and I trust that the Grand Nest at the October meeting will give this subject its careful consideration.

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Bulletin No. 2, Sept. 1908 (12 pages), announces the Second Annual Grand Nest Meeting of the Order. Lists 25 Ponds with total membership of 1718 and giving the month and year each was chartered, also officers for each. Announces appointment of Committees on Entertainment and Arrangements: John F. Stafford, Minn. Pond, Chairman, C. M. Cartwright, John Marshall, Jr., Geo. E. Redfield and R. M.

Bennett, all of Chicago. This committee originated the Good Fellowship Dinner.

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Bulletin No. 3, May 1909 (12 pages), reports the Second Annual Grand Nest Meeting, held Fri., Oct. 9, 1908 at Auditorium Hotel, Chicago. Most Loyal Grand Gander George C. Main, (Minnesota Pond) presided. In closing his annual address he said: "Beloved Ganders, let me entreat you to take home to your innermost souls the meaning and purpose of this beneficent Order. It embraces the brotherhood of man and the comradeship and fellowship of kindred souls. This is the only fraternity we Fire Insurance men have peculiarly adapted to our work and to our needs, and as such should be tenderly fostered, cherished and respected. Let us love one another and help one another, for by so doing we help ourselves. Let us put on the broad mantle of Charity and in our acts of benevolence let not our right hand know what our left hand doeth."

According to the original typed minutes of that meeting, the Committee on Credentials approved 46 delegates from 18 of the 25 Ponds, and 3 Grand Nest officers, or a total of 49 entitled to vote. The chair appointed an Auditing Committee to consider reports of the Grand Wielder and Grand Keeper. He also appointed committees on revision of the Constitution and By-Laws and Ritual. The proposed Benevolent Feature was reported upon and held over until the next Annual Meeting. The Auditing Committee reported approval of the reports of Grand Wielder and Grand Keeper, in which funds of the Wisconsin Home Nest were separated from those of the Grand Nest. It left a balance of Grand Nest Funds on hand as of Oct. 9, 1908, in the hands of the Grand Keeper of \$1,824.73. Since the Constitutional Convention, Nov. 16, 1907, the following Ponds were chartered: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia-Alabama, New England, New Jersey and Pennsylvania with a total of 345 members, or a total of 1707 members for the 25 Ponds.

Resolutions were adopted providing for payment by individual Ponds of expenses of delegates to the Grand Nest Convention. Expenses of Grand Nest Officers to be paid from Grand Nest funds. The compensation of the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill was fixed at \$300.00 per annum, payable monthly. A suitable charter for Wisconsin Home Nest was provided. The number of Ponds which may be organized in any one State to be decided by a committee composed of the first three Grand Nest officers.

It was announced that it is perfectly proper for wives and daughters of members to wear an emblem. The stick pin type is available at \$1.00.

Proposed amendments to Constitution and By-Laws were read, considered and adopted by sections as follows:

#### CONSTITUTION.

Art. II. Insert the word "Grand" between the words "AS" and "NEST"

- Art. III. Amend by adding the words "OFFICERS OF COMPANIES" between the words "AS" and "GENERAL AGENTS". After discussion it was decided to add the words "INSURANCE EDITORS" before the words "COMPANY INSPECTORS".
- Art. IV-V. Amend by placing Art. V ahead of Art. IV.
- Art. IV. Amend by substituting the word "POND" for "NEST" after "GUARDIAN OF THE".
- Art. IV. Insert the word "ANNUALLY" between the words "ELECTED" and "BY" in the first line.
- Art. VII. Amend by substituting the word "TWO" instead of "THREE" delegates.
- Art. IX. Amend to read: "The officers of the Grand Nest shall meet annually in Chicago on the second Friday in October at such time and place," etc. Also amend this Article by substituting the words "THE GRAND NEST" for the word "IT" in the seventh line.
- Art. X. Amend by eliminating this Article entirely and substituting the following: "All Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders shall be ex-officio associate life members of the Grand Nest, and as such, entitled to all the privileges of a regular delegate at the annual meeting of the Grand Nest."

#### BY-LAWS

- Sec. 8. Amend by eliminating the first sentence of the first paragraph and substituting: "On or before Sept. 1st of each year, each State Pond shall make up and forward to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, a certified roll of membership of such State Pond, together with a remittance in full of Grand Nest dues at Two Dollars (\$2.00) each. Amend the second paragraph of this Section by substituting the word "OR" for the word "OF" between the words "State" and "The UNITED STATES" in the third line. Amend the third paragraph by substituting the words "MOST LOYAL GRAND GANDER" for the words "OTHER OFFICERS OF THE GRAND NEST."

(From the copy of Constitution and By-Laws, as amended Oct. 9, 1908, you may now, by deduction, determine the wording of the original Constitution and By-Laws adopted at the Constitutional Convention of Nov. 16, 1907.—Historian).

The election of Grand Nest Officers October 9, 1908, resulted as follows:

George C. Main, Most Loyal Grand Gander, Minnesota Pond; Charles H. Pescay, His Highness, Supervisor of the Flock, Louisiana-Mississippi Pond; C. H. Silkworth, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, Wisconsin Home Nest; C. M. Tobin, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, New York Pond; T. H. Williams, Grand Custodian of the Goslings, California Pond; William T. Benallack, Grand Guardian of the Nest, Michigan Pond. (New York Pond of Syracuse, N. Y.)

At the evening session thirty-one (31) candidates were voted on

and elected. The officers of the Kentucky Pond performed the initiation ceremony.

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Below is the list of 25 Ponds, with membership of each as of May 15, 1909, and dates of organization:

Arkansas 31, April 6, 1908: California 33, January 1908: Colorado 60, February 2, 1908: Florida 20, April 16, 1908: Georgia-Ala.-Fla. 86, January 14, 1908: Illinois 200, December 11, 1906: Indiana 65, October 20, 1906: Iowa 105, November 23, 1906: Kentucky 67, May 7, 1907: Louisiana-Mississippi 70, December 1, 1906: Michigan 91, November 5, 1906: Minnesota 126, July 17, 1906: Missouri-Kansas 102, October 20, 1906: Nebraska 42, June 16, 1907: New England 69, January 24, 1908: New Jersey 55, March 16, 1908: New York 83, November 14, 1907: North and South Carolina 57, March 9, 1907: Ohio 99, February 5, 1907: Oklahoma 48, October 26, 1906: Pennsylvania 47, May 18, 1907: Texas 132, January 30, 1907: Virginia 40, May 1907: Washington 44, October 7, 1907: Wisconsin 104, June 19, 1906. Total membership, 1877. (See Bulletin No. 3, May 1909.)

#### 1908 - 1909

Bulletin Number 4 dated September, 1909, announces the Third Annual Grand Nest Meeting, Tuesday morning, October 5, 1909, at the new La Salle Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. It also includes a list by Ponds of the officers of the 26 Ponds, and news of Ponds. Ontario Pond is being organized at Toronto, and will be the first Canadian Pond. The total membership is now 1956.

Bulletin Number 5 (12 pages) dated November 1909, reports the Third Annual Grand Nest Meeting. Most Loyal Grand Gander George C. Main, Minneapolis Pond, presided. In his annual address he said: "It affords me sincere pleasure to welcome you this morning to this, the third annual convention of our beloved Order . . . The day is not far distant, I believe, when it will be an exception to find the Fire Insurance man who is not a member of the Order, when membership in the Order will be considered of the utmost value, both in a business and a personal way, and when the high objects and principles for which the Order stands, will be understood and appreciated by all." There were 33 delegates present, representing 18 of the 25 Ponds. The organization is in healthy condition, with cash on hand and all bills paid of \$1,268.62. Chairman C. T. Deatrick of the Committee on the Benevolent Feature reported the Ponds as not in favor of the proposition and that further consideration be dispensed with. Accepted by vote and the committee discharged.

A committee headed by William T. Benallack was appointed to re-draft the Ritual during the ensuing year.



The Afternoon Session was held in the quarters of the Chicago Board of Underwriters, top floor of the National Life Building, 159 LaSalle Street, Chicago.

Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws were adopted as follows:

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE IX

Grand Nest Officers shall meet annually at such time and place as determined by a majority vote of the delegates present at the previous Grand Nest meeting. Delegates from each Pond shall meet at the same time and place for the annual election of Grand Nest officers and the transaction of other business.

The Grand Gathering of the Order shall be held at the time and place of the annual meeting.

### BY-LAWS

SECTION 2. Goslings desiring membership in this Order shall make written application to the nearest Pond, same to be approved by two Ganders in good standing, then filed with the Wielder of the Pond with initiation fee, as determined by that Pond.

SECTION 3. Wielder to report to the Pond all applications for membership received, which were accompanied by the fee and the Pond shall vote by ballot. Unanimous ballot required to elect. Failure to be initiated within one year after election will cause election to become void, and his initiation fee shall be returned to him. No names shall be entered as members until initiated. Fee to cover to end of the current fiscal year.

SECTION 4. Transfer from one Pond to another of members in good standing permissible, without extra dues.

SECTION 8. Within ten days after a new member is admitted, the Wielder shall make full report and remit \$2.00 enrollment fee and \$1.00 for Emblem to the Grand Wielder.

On September first of each year each Pond shall send certified list of members to the Grand Wielder with remittance in full of Grand Nest dues of two dollars for each member.

Annual dues of each Pond shall be determined by a two-thirds vote of the Ganders present at the annual meeting of such State Pond. Ganders failing to pay annual dues before the beginning of any fiscal year shall forfeit their rights to mingle with the flock and the Wielder shall drop their names from the rolls and notify them to that effect. They may be reinstated only upon payment of all arrears and by again being balloted upon. The Wielder shall notify the Grand Wielder of any member dropped for non-payment of dues.

SECTION 9. The Grand Keeper shall deposit all moneys in his care in some bank or banks regularly incorporated under the laws of some State of the United States, approved by the Grand Officers. In event of failure of bank, the Grand Keeper shall not be held liable for loss.

The Grand Keeper shall furnish a \$5,000.00 surety bond to the Most Loyal Grand Gander. The expense of same to be paid by the Grand Nest.

SECTIONS 10 to 16 will each be one number higher.

SECTION 17. The Most Loyal Gander, Supervisor of the Flock and Wielder of the Goose Quill of each State Pond shall constitute the Executive Committee of such Pond and shall be empowered in the intervals between meetings to transact routine business needing immediate attention.

SECTION 18. Active membership in good standing may be terminated by resignation. A majority of members at any regular Pond meeting may accept such resignation, then notify the Grand Wielder.

SECTION 19. These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present.

SECTION 20. Order of Business:

- (1) Reading of proceedings of preceding meeting.
- (2) Reports of Officers.
- (3) Reports of Committees.
- (4) New business.
- (5) Balloting on Applications.
- (6) Conferring the Degree.
- (7) Election of Officers.

Resolutions adopted were:

"That it is the sense of the Grand Nest that the term 'Insurance Editors' as used in Article III of the CONSTITUTION shall be construed as to future applicants for membership to mean only such men as are regular members of editorial staffs of insurance newspapers but space correspondents and business staff members are not to be included.

"A second Pond in any State is to be left to the Grand Officers.

"That we rise in silence showing respect to our departed Ganders."

The election of officers for 1909-1910 resulted as follows: Charles H. Pescay, Most Loyal Grand Gander, Louisiana-Mississippi Pond; T. H. Williams, His Highness, Supervisor of the Flock, California Pond; William T. Benallack, Grand Custodian of the Goslings, Michigan Pond; C. H. Silkworth, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, Wisconsin Home Nest; Frank G. Snyder, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, Kentucky Pond; Hart Darlington, Grand Guardian of the Nest, New York Pond.

The social session, initiation ceremonies and grand vaudeville entertainment were held on Wednesday evening, October 6, 1909, in the banquet room.

The Good Fellowship Banquet was a colorful affair with Thos. E. Gallagher presiding as toastmaster. The tables were arranged in V-shape to symbolize a flock of geese in flight. The dinner was tendered by the Illinois Pond. (See Bulletin No. 5, pages 5, 6 & 7, November 1909).

"Most Loyal Grand Gander George C. Main of Minnesota Pond served in that office two full terms of one year each, during which he

did much to assist in carrying the Noble Bird of Blue through the crucial period when it was emerging from a sham of pure fun into a great and lasting institution.

Canada has been officially welcomed into Grand Nest membership.

The Ontario Pond of the Blue Goose started in an auspicious manner on Saturday, October 30, 1908, at the Queen's Hotel, Toronto, Canada. At the request of Most Loyal Grand Gander Pescay, the Michigan Pond conferred the degree and the officers were installed in an impressive manner by the Grand Custodian of the Goslings William T. Benallack of Detroit, Michigan, as the official representative of the Grand Nest. Lyman Root was elected Most Loyal Gander and J. R. Stewart Wielder of the Goose Quill.

Other new Ponds chartered and installed during 1909-1910 were: Golden Gate at San Francisco by Grand Supervisor Williams; Dakota at Sioux Falls by John F. Stafford, Supervisor of Minnesota Pond and Deputy Most Loyal Grand Gander; (Stafford was the first Deputy Most Loyal Grand Gander to be appointed) and Alabama at Montgomery by Most Loyal Grand Gander Charles H. Pescay. This increases the total to 29 Ponds.

Bulletin Number 6 (42 pages) labeled the "Honk-Honk", dated March 1910, shows great interest and progress being made. Profitable visits to several Ponds were reported by Most Loyal Grand Gander Charles H. Pescay. The sudden passing of Grand Wielder C. H. Silkworth of Milwaukee was reported with sincere regret. Our first Most Loyal Grand Gander Walter E. Atwater was appointed to fill the vacancy, and at the next annual Grand Nest meeting was elected to that office.

## 1909-1910

Bulletin Number 7 of September 1910 (36 pages) announcing the Fourth Annual Grand Nest Meeting contains much Pond and Grand Nest news, poems, pictures and information.

The unnumbered 72 page Bulletin of December and January 1910-1911, labeled "Christmas Greetings", reported the Fourth Annual Grand Nest Meeting held in Chicago, October 4, 1910, with Most Loyal Grand Gander Pescay, Louisiana-Mississippi Pond, presiding.

He recommended and the delegates unanimously adopted the following:

- (1) A uniform membership card.
- (2) A suitable bond to be required of the Grand Wielder.
- (3) Dues to the Grand Nest to be rendered on September 1 of each year.
- (4) A limit of \$1,000 to be placed on the Grand Wielder to cover his salary and expenses of the year.

Authority was given the Grand Wielder to purchase necessary office furniture. He was allowed \$1,000 per annum for the expense

of his office to be proportioned as follows: Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, \$300; Telephone \$25; Stenographer and Clerk, \$500; Office Rental, \$120; Incidentals, \$55.

A new office was created, that of Assistant to the Grand Wielder. This was conferred upon Miss Edna Weitzonech, and a draft for \$100 was given her to cover past services.

Thirty-eight delegates from 22 of the 29 Ponds were seated.

The membership October 1, 1910, was 2,213, an increase of 344.

The audited financial statement showed cash on hand October 5, 1910, of \$2,284.46, reflecting the healthy growth of the order.

Chairman William T. Benallack presented a finished draft for a Ritual based on the original which was of necessity drawn in some haste that cold and rainy day at Green Lake in June, 1906. The delegates were enthusiastic in their approval and gave the Chairman a rising vote of thanks.

The first Necrology Committee headed by Chairman W. S. Campbell, Louisiana Pond, made its report. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee reported.

Georgia at Atlanta (formerly Georgia-Alabama), is the new Pond.

Silkworth Memorial Fund was established by the delegates at the Grand Nest meeting October 4, 1910. The sum of \$1,000.00 was raised to be given to the widow.

The following officers were elected: Most Loyal Grand Gander, T. H. Williams, California Pond; His Highness, Supervisor of the Flock, William T. Benallack, Michigan Pond; Grand Custodian of the Goslings, Ed E. Wells, Colorado Pond; Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, Walter E. Atwater, Wisconsin Home Nest; Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, Frank E. Snyder, Kentucky Pond; Grand Guardian of the Nest, W. O. Chamberlin, Minnesota Pond.

In the evening over forty "goslings," including a number of prominent managers and company officials, were inducted into membership.

After this the following degree teams: Michigan, Louisiana-Mississippi and Wisconsin, put on spectacular exhibitions, which created high interest. Wisconsin won first honors, Michigan second, and Louisiana-Mississippi third.

During the past year the Blue Goose Watch Fob made its appearance. Price \$1.00. It is a metal and porcelain affair hung on a double black silk ribbon with gold snap.

In the unnumbered December-January 1910-1911 Bulletin, page 16, Most Loyal Gander John F. Stafford, Minnesota Pond, in an article "Beauty and Beneficence of the Blue Goose" says in part: "This Blue Goose spirit, which pervades the land, is the very salt of all gracious intercourse between man and man. While it recognizes the values of frivolity, it teaches the futility of all distrust and brings home to our minds the need we all have for the merciful judgment of our fellow men. It brings out all that is good and true and just in man. It eradicates all the selfishness and the meanness of a man's soul. It strengthens us, helps us, and gives to us the right to look each other straight in the eye and feel that, man to man, we are on the square."

(This Bulletin contains lists of names by Ponds of all officers, also members of each Pond. See pages 47 through 72.)

## 1910 - 1911

The Fifth Annual Grand Nest Meeting of the Order is reported in the 34 page Bulletin Number 10, dated December, 1911. It was held at the Hotel La Salle, Chicago, October 3, 1911, and was called to order by Most Loyal Grand Gander T. H. Williams of California Pond. Eighteen of the 25 Ponds were represented by 31 delegates.

In his address, Most Loyal Grand Gander Williams spoke of the past year as a trying one, but said most emphatically that the Blue Goose can and will continue to exist.

It was decided to transfer the title, "His Highness", to Most Loyal Grand Gander, thus dropping it from Grand Supervisor of the Flock. The order of Grand Nest officers was also altered, Grand Custodian of the Goslings now coming third on the list, Grand Guardian of the Nest fourth, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg fifth, and Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill sixth.

The Constitution was amended as follows:

ARTICLE II: All white persons engaged in the business of fire insurance in any of the following capacities, provided they shall have served in one or more of such capacities for the six months preceding their election, shall be eligible to membership in this Order: Officers of Companies, General Agents and Assistant General Agents and Managers, and Assistant Managers and Superintendents of Agents for territories of not less than one State or Province, and Salaried Managers for smaller territories, State Agents and Special Agents, Adjusters (employed exclusively by fire insurance companies), not including local agents, regular members of the Editorial Staff of Insurance Publications, Officials acting as State Insurance Commissioners, Managers and Inspectors of Salvage, Inspection and Scientific Bureaus to which fire insurance companies are subscribers in the United States, Canada, or anywhere else in the world, shall be entitled to membership. (In case of question of eligibility of candidate it shall be referred to an officer of the Grand Nest).

ARTICLE VII changing the order of Grand Nest Officers to: His Highness Most Loyal Grand Gander, Grand Supervisor of the Flock, Grand Custodian of the Goslings, Grand Guardian of the Nest, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg and Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill. Six Grand Guards to the Custodian of the Goslings.

ARTICLE X: Changes the order of officers of Ponds to correspond with those of the Grand Nest.

ARTICLE XI (b): The fiscal year of every Pond shall begin on July 1st of each year and end June 30th of the succeeding calendar year.

By-Laws were amended as follows:

Section 11: Hereafter ganders taking flight to a Pond will not become members of such Pond until elected. In case they fail of election, their membership in their former Pond will be automatically restored.

Section 13, Paragraph (c): The amount to be paid to the Grand Nest on the initiation of each gosling will hereafter be \$2.00 instead of \$3.00. The annual Grand Nest dues are reduced from \$2.00 to \$1.00 per capita and are payable on September 1st of each year for every member of each Pond, except those who have been initiated within ninety days before September 1st.

Section 28: That elective Grand Nest officers, not including Grand Guards and Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders, are to receive from the Grand Keeper their necessary expenses for attendance at the annual meeting only when such attendance is at individual expense, and delegates to the Grand Nest meetings are to receive their necessary expenses from the Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg of their Ponds, only when attendance is at their individual expense.

The Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill reported total receipts for the year were \$5,959.44, with expenses of \$4,768.75, or a net balance on hand of \$1,190.71 plus amount from Ponds for annual dues of \$2,190.00, making a total of \$3,380.81 for the coming year. Cost of printing the revised Ritual is included in the above.

The membership was reported to be 2,047 with twenty-five active Ponds. Alabama, Georgia, New England, New Jersey and New York Ponds surrendered their charters, but many of the members have asked that their membership be continued. (New York Pond of Syracuse.)

Oregon Pond at Portland was chartered and installed during the year. Most Loyal Grand Gander Williams and Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Main were present and officiated.

Several Ponds were visited and good results obtained during the past year by Deputy Most Loyal Grand Gander John F. Stafford, Minnesota Pond.

The following recommendations of Most Loyal Grand Gander Williams were adopted:

1. The position of Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill to be made an honorary one and the compensation now allowed the Assistant to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, Miss Edna Weitzonech be increased to \$400 a year.
2. The Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg be given authority to remit a sum not exceeding \$100 to assist in defraying the funeral expenses of deceased members whose families are in distress.
3. That the expenses of Grand Nest Entertainment be kept at the lowest possible figure.
4. That the Grand Nest dues be reduced to \$1.00 per capita.
5. The members of retiring Ponds be allowed to become members of the Grand Nest until they may afterwards be attached to some existing Pond.
6. The two immediately preceding Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders be made members of the Executive Committee each year.

7. Provision be made in the Constitution and By-Laws requiring notice of not less than thirty days before any Pond can legally retire.

Grand Nest officers elected for 1911-1912:

His Highness, Most Loyal Grand Gander William T. Benallack, Michigan Pond; Grand Supervisor of the Flock, Ed E. Wells, Missouri-Kansas Pond; Grand Custodian of the Goslings, O. E. Chamberlin, Minnesota Pond; Grand Guardian of the Nest, Fred W. Ranson, Ohio Pond; Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, F. G. Snyder, Kentucky Pond; Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, C. C. Clark, Wisconsin Home Nest.

"Here's to the goose of azure hue  
May its honk ring loud and clear  
And its wings of blue shelter each of you  
For many and many a year."

W. T. Benallack

Bulletin Number 11 (50 pages) published the Spring of 1912, has pictures of present Grand Nest officers and Pond officers, Pond information and names of officers of all 25 Ponds.

## 1911 - 1912

"Sixth Annual Cackle" was the heading on the 10 page Bulletin Number 12 dated October 1, 1912, announcing the Annual Grand Nest Meeting at the Hotel La Salle, Chicago, which was held on that date.

"Christmas, 1912—New Year's, 1913" is the heading on the 34 page Bulletin Number 13; published December, 1912, it reports the annual meeting of October 1, 1912, with other items of interest.

On page 4 with a border of holly leaves is . . . "A Sermon in Rhyme."

"If you have a friend worth loving,  
Love him: Yes, and let him know  
That you love him ere life's evening  
Tinge his brow with sunset glow;  
Why should good words ne'er be said  
Of a friend—till he is dead.  
"Scatter thus your seeds of kindness  
All enriching as you go,  
Serve them, trust the Harvest-giver,  
He will make each seed to grow.  
So, until Life's happy end  
You shall never lack a friend."

On page 22 of Bulletin Number 13, appears an article by C. M. Cartwright (for many years Editor of the National Underwriter) entitled "Why Should I Join the Blue Goose?"—in which he said in part: "There is no business where the actual daily duties bring men into such close and inti-

mate contact as fire insurance. This demand for close business association causes fire insurance men to become well acquainted and in many cases brings intimate friendships. Men have to rely on one another, to have faith in their pledged word.

"The Blue Goose affords an opportunity for men in this close business fraternity to reveal the warmth and depth of their personalities.

"We hear some men say that because certain members do not live up to their obligations they have no use for the Order. What a weak excuse. The obligation is the moral ideal. It is a high standard toward which we try to travel.—The average standard of the Blue Goose can be raised by the men in the business getting in and becoming active in the promotion of its principles.—It carries a message of love. It is founded on noble principles. At the meetings of State organizations, at the meeting of the Northwest Association, at gatherings here and there, the Blue Goose represents the social side of the business, a factor that should not be overlooked."

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His Highness, Most Loyal Grand Gander William T. Benallack, Michigan Pond, presided at the Sixth Annual Grand Nest Meeting held at Chicago, Illinois, October 1, 1912. His constructive address was received amidst much applause and was ordered printed in full in the Holiday Bulletin Number 13 of December 1912. One potent sentence is quoted: "The under-lying principle of the homely motto of the Blue Goose, " "remains the same, just as truth and the Golden Rule continue unchanged."

The roll call showed the Committee on Credentials had seated 26 delegates from 16 of the 22 Ponds.

The Necrology Committee reported.

North and South Carolina, Pennsylvania and Virginia Ponds retired from the jurisdiction of the Grand Nest during the past year. Some of the members availed themselves of the opportunity of becoming members-at-large of the Grand Nest.

"The report of the Grand Wielder showed further that the membership October 1, 1912 was 1,731, and net cash on hand was \$1,139.59.

"During the year two meetings of the Executive Committee were held.

Emblems for Grand Nest officers have been made, in accordance with adopted recommendation of Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Williams last year.

It was decided by adopted resolution that from here on rotation of Grand Nest officers, except the office of Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, will be practiced. However, W. O. Chamberlin, who served the past year as Grand Guardian of the Nest, dropped out. This resulted in Canada being represented on the Grand Nest for the first time. The 1912-1913 Grand Nest Officers elected were: Edwin E. Wells, Missouri-Kansas Pond (originally elected to the Grand Nest from Colorado Pond), Most Loyal Grand Gander; F. W. Ransom, Illinois Pond (formerly Ohio Pond), Grand Custodian of the Goslings; J. Ross Stewart, Ontario Pond, Grand Guardian of the Nest; Frank G. Snyder, Kentucky Pond, Grand Supervisor of the Flock; E. G. Carlisle, Illinois Pond, Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose

Egg; and R. H. Wieben, Wisconsin Home Nest, Grand Wielder.

The newly printed revised Ritual was distributed.

Following the Goodfellowship Banquet, nine Goslings responded to the roll call for initiation. They were from coast to coast and as far south as New Orleans. The Missouri-Kansas Degree Team officiated.

## 1912 - 1913

There is no record available of the 1913 Grand Nest Meeting, but we know it was held at the Hotel La Salle in Chicago in October, 1913. Neither is there available data with which to compile much of the history of the fiscal year, 1912-1913, except that Ed E. Wells, Colorado Pond, served during that year as Most Loyal Grand Gander, and Gus M. Wise, Indiana Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, while R. H. Wieben, Wisconsin Home Nest, was re-elected Grand Wielder.

## 1913 - 1914

The unnumbered 8 page Bulletin of October 6, 1914, announced the Eighth Annual Grand Nest Meeting to be held that date at Hotel La Salle, Chicago. His Highness, Frank G. Snyder, Kentucky Pond, presided. He reported the past year as satisfactory. "The Ponds have been active, all showing a healthy increase in their membership." He also said, "The cardinal virtues of character, charity and fellowship are centered in every man to a more or less degree, and to the extent that we individually and collectively can bring them to a perfect standard, to that extent are our troubles to the rear of us. This is our aim."

Providing badges for State Pond officers and delegates has become a custom.

Grand Nest officers are provided with official badges for their respective offices.

After the Goodfellowship Banquet, the Kentucky Pond Degree Team, costumed as Kentucky colonels, put on an impressive initiation with an innocent gosling from the Kentucky rice fields.

Quebec Pond at Montreal was chartered early this year, while Utah Pond came into being at Salt Lake City, July 25, 1914. The following Ponds surrendered their Charters: Florida, Louisiana-Mississippi, Texas. This left a net of 21 active Ponds.

After the usual rotation of officers, W. J. Sonnen, Illinois Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, and B. A. Lehnberg, Wisconsin Home Nest, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill.

The unnumbered Grand Nest Bulletin of February 15, 1915, shows cash on hand February 1, 1915—\$685.80, and contains a brief report for each of the 21 Ponds. The Necrology Committee reported.

Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Williams was appointed Special Deputy to represent the Order at the World's Insurance Congress to be held in San Francisco, October 4-16, 1915.

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Unnumbered Bulletin (4 pages) dated June 15, 1915, gave Ponds notice of proposed changes in the Constitution and By-Laws to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting October 5, 1915. Western Canada Pond at Winnipeg, Canada, with list of its officers and all members is announced. Installation was in charge of Grand Supervisor of the Flock J. Ross Stewart of Ontario Pond.

## 1914 - 1915

The Ninth Annual Grand Nest Meeting (See unnumbered Bulletin of October 5, 1915, 4 pages, and February 15, 1916, 16 pages.) was held in the Red Room of Hotel La Salle, Chicago, October 5, 1915, with Most Loyal Grand Gander 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.

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 therefor.

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.

The Necrology Committee reported.

After the usual rotation of officers, John A. 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.



## 1915 - 1916

The unnumbered, 4 page, Grand Nest Bulletin headed "TENTH ANNIVERSARY" dated October 3, 1916, contains the announcement proclamation for the next annual meeting. The unnumbered, 12 page, Thanksgiving Bulletin of November 1916 reports that meeting held at Hotel La Salle, Chicago, October 3, 1916, when Most Loyal Grand Gander J. Ross Stewart of Toronto, Canada, presided, and pointed out that there were nearly 1,800 members and added, "This growth and its continued strength is most gratifying, but why the growth and why the strength? I can give no better answer than that contained in lines written by a noble Gander away back in 1909!"

"Should you ask me what she stands for,  
What is the signification,  
Of that name we all revere so,  
I should answer, I should tell you,  
That to us she stands for Union,  
Brotherhood and kindly feeling,  
Loyalty to one another  
Toting fair in all our dealings."

His Highness made official visits to five Ponds during the year.

Arkansas and Utah Ponds surrendered their Charters during the past year, while Mississippi Valley Pond at St. Louis has been chartered and installed. This leaves 21 Ponds.

Gander E. D. Marr, Missouri-Kansas Pond, outlined a proposed Mortuary Fund to be conducted by the Grand Nest. (See Thanksgiving Bulletin of 1916).

A new edition of the amended Constitution and By-Laws is being printed.

The Necrology Committee reported.

The total membership is 1,796, a net increase of 106. The cash balance on hand \$2,131.44.

After the usual rotation of officers, E. D. Marr, Missouri-Kansas Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, and Paul E. Rudd, Wisconsin Home Nest, was elected Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill.

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Most Loyal Grand Gander Carlisle, Illinois Pond, in his Thanksgiving message to the Ganders, stressed the good fellowship that binds the men in our business firmly together in a real spirit of brotherhood. All stand on one platform. He warned, "I have heard it stated, that the Order is now at its zenith, which means the extreme height of success and prosperity, and that hard work will be necessary to keep it from falling." He set the goal at 2,000 members for 1916-1917.

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A ninety-four (94) page DIRECTORY, covering the United States and Canada, containing lists of names of past and present Grand Nest Officers; members-at-large; officers and members of Ponds, by Ponds; all stock Fire Insurance Companies with member officials and field men; all

Fire Underwriter Association,—headed by the National Board of Fire Underwriters and insurance publications with their members; insurance attorneys; and State Insurance Commissioners and Fire Marshals, was published and a copy sent to each member, September 1, 1917.

## 1916 - 1917

The Eleventh Annual Grand Nest Meeting was held at La Salle Hotel, Chicago, October 1, 1917, with His Highness, Most Loyal Grand Gander E. G. Carlisle, Illinois Pond, presiding; reported in the unnumbered, 12 page, Thanksgiving 1917 Bulletin. He reported an increase of members during the year of 276, thus passing the mark he set of 2,000 by seventy, (2,070). Two new Canadian Ponds were chartered: Alberta at Calgary, November 1916, and British Columbia at Vancouver, March 1917. We now have 23 thriving Ponds. He stressed our desire for more Ponds and expressed the belief that the Ponds which have retired from our Order could be brought back, namely, Arkansas, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, North and South Carolina, Virginia, the New England Pond at Hartford, the New Jersey Pond at New York and the New York Pond at Syracuse.

The sudden and untimely passing of Past Most Loyal Grand Gander George C. Main of Minnesota Pond is reported with great regret.

The membership of the Blue Goose performed many patriotic and useful functions during the War, with no expense whatever to the United States Government. Annual dues of Ganders in service were remitted. Gander MacMillan Weddell of Illinois Pond expressed appreciation for this by having a huge Blue Goose painted on the side of his airplane.

By adopted resolution \$1,000 has been invested as follows: \$800 in United States Liberty Bonds and \$200 in Canadian Liberty Bonds.

The audited cash balance on hand October 1, 1917, was \$2,993.21.

The proposed Mortuary Fund presented by E. D. Marr of Missouri-Kansas Pond and referred to a committee headed by J. F. Stafford, Minnesota Pond, at the last Grand Nest Meeting reported the inadvisability of attempting such a fund.

The Necrology Committee reported.

Donations of \$200 to American Red Cross and \$50 to the Canadian Red Cross were made.

It was suggested that each Pond put every other Pond on its mailing list, and whenever a Pond issues a bulletin a copy thereof be mailed to each of the other Ponds. Ponds were encouraged to establish such exchanges, which will be sure to have a stimulating and encouraging effect with the exchange of ideas and activities.

A message of loyalty to President Wilson was sent following resolution at our meeting October 1, 1917.

The Most Loyal Grand Gander desires bulletins quarterly. Suggestions and contributions are invited, also poetry. The members will then be kept in closer touch with activities and a spirit of loyalty will be engendered. All bulletins are edited by the Grand Wielder.

An item in this bulletin headed "Many Eastern Officials are Members", lists 29 with headquarters in New York, Hartford, Springfield, Philadelphia, Trenton, Glens Falls and Rochester.

By resolution, adopted, DEPUTIES are to be appointed at different points in the United States and Canada to bring about a resuscitation of former Ponds that have relinquished their Charters, and such other activities as His Highness may desire.

At the time of the Twelfth Anniversary Grand Nest meeting, October 1, 1918, a list of the Roll of Honor of our members was published. There were ninety-three and two gold stars.

After the usual rotation of officers, A. R. Monroe, Illinois Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, and Paul E. Rudd, Wisconsin Home Nest, was re-elected Grand Wielder.

Realizing the value of publicity, the Grand Wielder made contacts with various insurance newspapers and established what proved over the years to be a splendid asset in the growth of the Order.

## 1917 - 1918

Grand Nest Bulletin Vol. 13, No. 1, bears date of November, 1918. (NOTE—Bulletin Number 13 referred to on an earlier page, should not be confused with Bulletin, Vol. 13, No. 1.) Several of the earlier bulletins were unnumbered—only dated.) The Thirteenth Grand Nest meeting had been held October 1, 1918, in Chicago, with Grand Supervisor of the Flock W. J. Sonnen, Illinois Pond, presiding in the absence of His Highness, Most Loyal Grand Gander Gus M. Wise.

Thirty-three delegates from 19 of the 24 Ponds were present, also Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders Atwater, Benallack, Wells, Snyder, Ransom, Stewart and Carlisle.

Most Loyal Grand Gander Gus M. Wise of Kansas City, Missouri, in his annual message, read in his absence by Grand Supervisor of the Flock W. J. Sonnen, recommended that the Order be put on a more thorough War basis.

It was decided to safeguard the interests of enlisted members in every possible way. It was to be the privilege of enlisted members to select two members of their Ponds as a special service committee who would be in charge and look after their affairs, personal and business, during their absence.

Chartering of two more Canadian Ponds was reported: Manitoba-Saskatchewan at Winnipeg, and Maritime at St. John, while Western Canada Pond had surrendered its charter. This nets a total of 24 Ponds, 6 of which are in Canada.

The Necrology Committee reported.

It has always been the custom at Grand Nest meetings for delegates to present reports from their respective Ponds. These reports showed the Order to be in healthy condition. They will be published in the next bulletin.

A Memorial Trust Fund, to be known as the George C. Main Fund,

was established by the Grand Nest for the benefit of the family of the deceased. Minnesota Pond is the Trustee of the fund.

Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill Paul E. Rudd reported the net membership 2,176 or a gain of 106 members. After the donations and buying War Bonds there was left in the Treasury \$1,727.77.

In accord with the rotation of Grand Nest officers, except Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, the next four officers moved up, and Gander M. M. Hawxhurst of Michigan Pond was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. Grand Wielder Rudd was re-elected.

Grand Nest Bulletins, Vol. 13, Nos. 2 and 3, dated February and September 1919, devoted considerable space to members in service, of which there were 159, with sons of members in service set at 148.

## 1918 - 1919

His Highness, Most Loyal Grand Gander W. J. Sonnen, Illinois Pond, presided at the Thirteenth Annual Grand Nest Meeting at La Salle Hotel, Chicago, September 30, 1919, as reported in Bulletin Vol. 14, No. 1, of that date. Eighteen of the 25 Ponds were represented by 27 delegates. Grand Gander Sonnen stated in his address that "an organization is only great by reason of the good it does", and added, "There are deeds of kindness in each Pond that will not be written in records or given publicity. These deeds are often not known beyond the banks of individual Ponds. That is what makes the Blue Goose what it is."

The Grand Wielder reported that we have all Bulletins issued by the Grand Nest since 1907. There are none for 1913, and only the unnumbered 8 page Bulletin of October 6, 1914, announcing the Eighth Annual meeting of that date. We have a copy of each of those issued from that time on. (Note—Efforts over the years to locate the missing copy or copies have been fruitless).

Gander W. E. Atwater was appointed to head the Committee to go carefully over the Ritual and advise if changes are considered advisable and report at the next meeting. Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg Hawxhurst reported a balance on hand of \$2,353.92 to which would be added \$1,300.00 in United States Liberty Bonds and \$200.00 in Canadian Bonds, making a grand total of \$3,853.92. R. H. Wieben, Chairman of the Auditing Committee, verified the above figure.

Grand Wielder Rudd reported the membership on September 30, 1919 as 2,346. Net increase of 171.

The Necrology Committee reported, as did the Ritual and George C. Main Fund Committee.

On January 14, 1919, Montana Pond was chartered, and Milton E. Pinney was appointed a Deputy Most Loyal Grand Gander to properly install the Pond. He was elected its first Most Loyal Gander. There are now 25 Ponds.

Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders were appointed for Central, East-

ern, Southern and Western Districts of the United States. The Canadian District is divided so that three Deputies cover Canada.

Grand Gander John A. Hanson was advanced to His Highness, Most Loyal Grand Gander; E. D. Marr to Grand Supervisor of the Flock, but Grand Guardian A. R. Monroe declined re-election and was replaced by M. M. Hawxhurst, who moved up from Grand Keeper to Grand Custodian, while W. P. Fess, Manitoba-Saskatchewan Pond, was elected Grand Guardian and John F. Stafford, Illinois Pond, Grand Keeper, while Grand Wielder Rudd was re-elected.

Vol. 14, No. 2, Bulletin of September 1920, contains a brief history of our Order "By a Charter Member", Pond news and items of interest, also proclamation of the next annual meeting.

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Through the efforts of Deputy Most Loyal Grand Gander W. E. Mallalieu, the New York City Pond was organized in February and chartered in April, 1920, with 15 Charter members, which was increased in a few weeks to 70. (See Bulletin Vol. 14, No. 2, Sept. 1920).

### 1919 - 1920

The Fourteenth Annual Grand Nest Meeting, at La Salle Hotel, Chicago, October 5, 1920, was presided over by His Highness, Most Loyal Grand Gander John A. Hanson, Minnesota Pond, of Grand Rapids, Michigan. (See 20-page unnumbered Bulletin of December-January 1920-1921). He reported having visited various Ponds during the past year.

Thirty-five delegates representing 21 of the 29 Ponds were present.

A contest was put on during the year for new members, with good results.

The Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill reported a net increase in membership of 656, making the membership October 2, 1920, 3,002. The financial report of the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, certified by an auditing committee, showed total net assets of \$5,603.81. This includes the following: U. S. Liberty Bonds \$1,300.00, Canadian Liberty Bonds \$200.00 and U. S. War Savings Stamps \$801.80.

Utah-Idaho Pond has been chartered at Salt Lake City. The following Ponds have been re-organized and installed: Arkansas at Little Rock, New England at Boston. New York City Pond at New York has been chartered and installed a new Pond. This leaves the total Ponds at 29.

The audited financial report of the Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg John F. Stafford showed a balance of cash on hand October 2, 1920, of \$2,757.56.

The Ritual Committee reported that preliminary work had been done, but recommended that the Committee be continued and should have eight members instead of four.

The Necrology Committee reported, as did the Committee on the George C. Main Fund.

Individual reports were read by each Pond delegate.

The idea presented by His Highness at this meeting regarding the

elevation of Pond Wielders to the highest Pond office, after a reasonable term of service, without passing through the different chairs, was accepted and approved by action of the delegates.

It is now the custom for each Pond represented at a Grand Nest meeting to display its Pond flag or banner.

Officers advanced in the usual rotation. Gander W. E. Mallalieu, New York Pond, was elected Gand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, and Grand Wielder Rudd was re-elected.

The Bulletin of September, 1921, is devoted to news of Ponds and the historical side of our worthy Order and announces the forthcoming Grand Nest gathering.

### 1920 - 1921

The Fifteenth Annual Grand Nest Meeting was held at La Salle Hotel, Chicago, October 1, 1921. (See Bulletin December-January, 1921-1922). His Highness, Most Loyal Grand Gander E. D. Marr, Missouri-Kansas Pond, presided. In his annual address he said in part: "May your deliberations result in great good and may each delegate go from here fully imbued with the true Blue Goose spirit, with the determination to both preach and practice the cardinal principles of our Beloved Order."

#### ROLL OF HONOR

Resolution was adopted that a permanent Roll of Honor, well framed, to be retained in the custody of the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill and exhibited at Grand Nest meetings, be engrossed. Names to be listed under the sub-headings of "Class A" those who made the supreme sacrifice as well as those who stood ready to make the supreme sacrifice; "Class B", the names of the original officers of our great Order, while the meaning of "Class C" was left open for the Grand Nest to determine. A committee of three was appointed to carry this out.

The Necrology Committee reported, as did the Committee on Delegates' Expenses.

The membership a year ago was 3,002. The goal at that time was set at 4,000. The total today is 4,436, a net gain of 1,434 or 44 per cent. There are 33 Ponds.

His Highness visited several Ponds during his year in office. The Grand Wielder accompanied him on visits to New York City Pond and New England Pond. This was a new departure.

Never in the history of the Order had there been such a Pond meeting, never before for a single Pond such a number of goslings for initiation as took place March 1, 1921, at Newark, New Jersey, when the New York City Pond staged a dinner and mass initiation of 66 goslings. However, that record was far exceeded when in May 368, of whom 256 were goslings and the rest ganders, assembled at the same place and with His Highness Most Loyal Grand Gander Marr to assist, New York City Pond jumped from 18th to 1st place in number of members.

Four Ponds were reorganized and chartered: Carolinas at Charlotte, N. C., (formerly N. and S. Carolinas Pond), Louisiana-Mississippi at New Orleans (formerly Louisiana Pond), Texas at Dallas, and San Francisco (formerly Golden Gate Pond). This raises the total Ponds to 33.

John F. Stafford, Grand Guardian of the Nest, flew from Chicago to San Francisco to assist in the installation of that Pond.

The audited financial report of Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg W. E. Mallalieu showed total receipts for the year of \$9,608.38 and disbursements of \$6,294.76, leaving the balance on hand September 30, 1921, of \$3,313.62.

The audited financial report of the Grand Wielder showed cash on hand \$3,988.13, U. S. Liberty Bonds \$1,300.00, Canadian Victory Bonds \$945.44, U. S. War Savings Stamps \$801.80, or total assets of \$7,035.37. The amount of \$745.44 was added a year ago to the \$200.00 already invested in Canadian Bonds.

There is a Trust Fund (Canadian Victory War Bonds) in the hands of Grand Gander W. P. Fess, Winnipeg, amounting to \$1,421.65 as of October 2, 1920. The details of this Fund are as follows:

Cash in bank October 2, 1920	\$ 545.28
Received for dues	\$514.15
Received for emblems	47.00
Received for interest on Victory Bonds	32.00
Received from G.W.G.Q. Rudd to be invested in Victory Bonds	274.72
Interest on bank deposit	8.50

Total receipts 876.37

\$1,421.65

(Note—This Fund was started last year to permit the handling of Canadian Funds in Canada).

These accounts were audited and certified to by R. H. Wieben, Chairman of the Auditing Committee.

No salary was paid to any Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill from 1911 until October 1921, when \$50.00 per month or \$600.00 per year was awarded to him.

The Ritual Committee headed by George R. Crosley of Wisconsin, Chairman, submitted the revised Ritual which was adopted by unanimous vote of the delegates and ordered printed.

The Necrology Committee and the Committee on Delegates' Expense reported.

All delegates present read reports for their Pond.

South Texas Pond of San Antonio is the latest addition to the growing list of Ponds. Its members are from San Antonio and Houston and officers alternate between the two places. Total Ponds now 34.

The passing of Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Charles H. Pescay of New Orleans is announced with deep regret.

After rotation of officers, H. Verne Myers, Iowa Pond, was elected Grand Keeper and Grand Wielder Rudd was re-elected.

On Monday afternoon, October 3, 1921, the first international golf match between Canadian Ganders and those of the United States was staged at Hinsdale Golf Club. This is intended to be a permanent recreation and entertainment feature at future Grand Nest meetings.

On the cover of the unnumbered September, 1922, Grand Nest Bulletin is printed: "Every Gander should remember: Fellowship is that happy attribute of the human mind which makes the individual a social creature—cultivate it—receive in the spirit of equality those who may be members of this Order."

"This trinity of virtues if practiced through your business life will aid you in achieving the objects for which this Order was created—be firm in character, broad in Charity, and free in Fellowship and you will learn how quickly the intensive string of competitive strife is made to vanish through the brotherhood of man."

Pacific Northwest Pond has been chartered and installed at Seattle. Charter has been granted for West Virginia Pond at Charleston.

There are now 36 Ponds, 6 of which are in Canada.

Emblems on sale at the office of the Grand Wielder include: Gold lapel button, gold watch chain, gold cuff links, and metal and porcelain grip tags with leather strap and buckle, also metal and porcelain auto radiator tags or plates.

## 1921 - 1922

The Sixteenth Annual Grand Nest Meeting held in Chicago at the La Salle Hotel, October 17, 1922, was presided over by His Highness, Most Loyal Grand Gander M. M. Hawxhurst, Michigan Pond. One verse of "America" and "God Save the King" were sung. (Bulletin Vol. 16, No. 1 of February 1923). In his address, he said in part: "Your business, gentlemen, is a most honorable one, and I dare say that there is no other profession or business, the members of which are more trusted by those they serve or where fewer instances of betrayal of trust can be found. The fundamental principle upon which the Blue Goose was founded is the Golden Rule, and the highest accomplishment our Ancient and Honorable Order can attain is in the promotion of the principles of Toleration, Kindness and Loyal Friendship. On the banks of our Ponds it is expected that the Ganders of every sect and clan may meet in harmony and generous good fellowship. There the worries and annoyances, the competitions and disappointments and the struggles of our daily life are laid aside, and for a few hours forgotten, while we enjoy the restful influence of fraternity and harmless fun."

He recommended and the delegates unanimously approved: The creation of a Committee of three on Jurisprudence to be appointed by the Most Loyal Grand Gander and be comprised of Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders. The need for a committee to help interpret the Constitution and By-Laws brought this authority. Also that an Emblem

Committee be established and an emblem presented to retiring Most Loyal Ganders of Ponds.

Grand Gander Hawxhurst was the third of the original charter members of the Order to hold the office of Most Loyal Grand Gander. Walter E. Atwater and Arthur F. Hebgen were the first two.

Committees reported as follows: Ritual, Golf, Honor Roll, George C. Main Fund, Constitution and By-Laws, and Necrology. The Most Loyal Grand Gander visited four Ponds.

The first "IN MEMORIAM" in printed pamphlet form prepared by the Necrology Committee made its appearance. In addition to the names of the Committee members, it was personally signed by His Highness and the Grand Wielder. A copy was sent to the families of the deceased members.

A button to be given to retiring Most Loyal Ganders as a token of esteem by Ponds was approved.

Grand Wielder Rudd reported an increase in members during the past year of 734, bringing the total to 5,170, and in his financial report he showed \$8,120.50 total assets which had been audited by a committee. Pond reports were read by delegates.

Because of the lengthy report of the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws, it was voted to have proof copies sent to all Ponds.

The election of Grand Nest Officers rotated four and Gander Wirt Leake of Dallas, Texas, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, while Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill Rudd was re-elected.

## 1922 - 1923

The Seventeenth Annual Grand Nest Meeting held at La Salle Hotel, Chicago, October 16, 1923, was presided over by His Highness, Most Loyal Grand Gander W. P. Fess of Manitoba Pond, Canada. (Bulletin Vol. 16, No. 2 of October 1923 & Vol. 17, No. 1 of January 1924)

One verse of "America" and "God Save the King" were sung.

We quote from the address of His Highness: "This Order of ours has grown beyond all expectations, but it can only complete its destiny by our having a complete grasp of its possibilities and of its needs, and by leaving no stone unturned to promote the welfare of the individual Ponds."

Thirty-six of the 39 Ponds had 57 delegates present.

New Ponds: Chesapeake at Baltimore and Kansas at Topeka, while Alabama at Montgomery and Florida at Jacksonville have been re-organized and re-chartered. Total Ponds 39.

Visits to all Ponds, particularly those located at more distant points, by the Most Loyal Grand Gander, his officers and deputies were approved. His Highness visited eleven Ponds in the United States and Canada during the past year.

To promote harmony and avoid the possibility of self appointed candidates presenting themselves for election to the Grand Nest, a

resolution was adopted that a candidate for election to the office of Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, or any other Grand Nest elective office, must be a delegate and come not only with the endorsement of his own Pond, but of neighboring Ponds.

Heart of America Pond at Kansas City has been chartered. Merely a new name for Missouri-Kansas Pond.

The compilation of a history of the Order and appointment of a Historian was approved.

The International Golf Contest has come to be a feature of Grand Nest meetings.

The membership increased 587 during the past year, raising the total to 6,162.

The audited financial report of the Grand Wielder showed total receipts of \$12,469.74 and disbursements of \$7,288.97—

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee reported printer's proof copy of the revised Constitution and By-Laws were sent in June to all Ponds. After discussion of changes recommended by the committee, they were adopted and ordered printed and a copy sent to each Pond. By comparison of contents of that edition of October 16, 1923, with earlier ones, it was developed that the digest of changes, as set forth below, were the important changes made at that meeting:

### CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE II. Eligibility to Membership, to include: (a) "All white male persons over 21 (twenty-one) years old engaged in the business of fire or automobile insurance"; and (b) Company employees are classified: (Local agents not eligible); (c) Officers, Managers and their assistants, of Boards, Bureaus and Associations; (d) State Officials; (e) Members of Editorial Staff of Insurance Publications; (f) Attorneys-at-Law regularly employed by companies; (g) Individual Salvage Operators; (h) when in doubt refer to Committee on Jurisprudence.

ARTICLE IV. Officers of the Grand Nest shall be elected annually and hold office until their successors shall be elected and installed.

ARTICLE V. Election of Delegates: (a) Two (2) delegates shall be elected at the annual Grand Nest meeting. No voting by proxy.

ARTICLE VI. All Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders shall be ex-officio associate members of the Grand Nest, with all the privileges of the floor, except voting.

ARTICLE VII. (a) All elective officers of the Grand Nest must be accredited delegates of their Ponds, and shall consist of: (No change in names of offices).

ARTICLE IX. Officers of Ponds shall be elected annually and hold office until their successors are elected and installed.

### BY-LAWS

SECTION 2 (a) Committee on Jurisprudence. The Most Loyal Grand Gander shall appoint three (3) Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders for one (1), three (3) and five (5) years, then one (1) to be appointed each year. (b) To have jurisdiction over the interpretation of the Con-

stitution and By-Laws, Eligibility to Membership, disputes and controversies, but not to supersede powers granted Ponds. (c) Any matter submitted shall be considered as decided by the Committee as constituted at time of submission though term of service of some of its members may have expired. (d) The Most Loyal Grand Gander shall appoint a disinterested member to fill temporary vacancy, if any member is interested, absent or unable to serve. (e) Decision shall be binding until next meeting of Grand Nest and final unless revoked.

SECTION 3. (b) Ten members of a Pond shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 4. Vacancies in office of a Pond shall be filled by ballot at any meeting of Pond.

SECTION 5. (a) A membership committee of three (3) members to be appointed by Most Loyal Gander to investigate applicants and report to Wielder of the Goose Quill. (b) Most Loyal Gander to appoint other temporary members to this Committee, if necessary.

SECTION 6. (Was Sec. 3).

SECTION 7. Provides for membership in more than one Pond.

SECTION 8. (a) Honorary Members. Ponds may elect only one (1) per year. Pond shall pay Grand Nest \$1.00 dues annually. (b) This honor to be conferred only upon members in good standing, who have rendered special or distinguished service to the Order, and those after long service who retire from business. (c) All members proposed for honorary membership shall be passed upon by the Grand Nest officers. Appeal to Committee possible.

SECTION 9. Ganders-at-Large provided for an initiation fee set at \$1.00. On election he shall subscribe to our obligation. Shall pay annual dues to Grand Nest of \$1.00 on September 1 of each year.

SECTION 10. (a) Provides for balloting on applications. (b) How to act when applicant is rejected. (c) Goslings not initiated within one (1) year, his election void and fee returned. (d) Commencement of membership.

SECTION 11. Petition for Flight, from one Pond to another or to become a Gander-at-Large.

SECTION 12. A change in occupation, if of a lawful character, shall not prevent a Gander from retaining membership if dues are kept paid. Also provision for re-instatement.

SECTION 14 (c) Provides for re-instatement of a Gander after resignation.

SECTION 15. (a) (Was last paragraph of Section 9). Provides for suspension or expulsion of a Gander. (b) To examine accused member. (c) Wilful failure or refusal on part of accused to give information. (d) The convicted may appeal to Committee on Jurisprudence within thirty (30) days after verdict. (e) If appealed the Pond shall send complete record to Committee on Jurisprudence, who then render decision. (f) Pending decision the decision of Pond shall stand.

SECTION 16. Any member convicted of a felony or high crime by a court of record shall be automatically dropped from membership.

SECTION 17. Provides for depositing Grand Nest funds and securities by Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, and he shall furnish

surety bond in the sum of \$5,000 payable to the Most Loyal Grand Gander. Bond to be paid for by Grand Nest.

SECTION 20. In absence of Most Loyal Gander and Supervisor of the Flock, a member present shall be elected to preside.

SECTION 28 (a) (Was Sec. 20) (b) (Was part Sec. 20—no change). (c) "The Grand Nest is authorized to re-imburse each Pond (outside the States of Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming) to such amount as shall be authorized by the Grand Nest officers, to be applied toward the expense of accredited delegates in attendance at the Grand Nest annual meeting, provided such delegates attend such meeting at the expense of the Pond. (d) Expense of Most Loyal Grand Gander and his deputies shall be received from Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg when at individual expense."

SECTION 29. "All stationery, seals, charters and emblems of the Order shall be furnished each Pond by the Grand Nest."

SECTION 30. "The seal of this Order shall be the outline of a Goose upon a blue field, said seal to be two (2) inches in diameter."

SECTION 31. (Was Sec. 21). No change.

SECTION 32. "All Ponds shall give the Grand Nest thirty days' notice before disbanding, stating specifically their reasons for so doing."

Chairman Wm. T. Benallack of the Uniform Emblem Committee reported in accordance with the resolution adopted at our annual meeting in October 1922, that Past Most Loyal Grand Gander emblems are now being made in three styles: Scarf Pin, Lapel Button and Vest Clasp Pin. These will be in white gold for Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders, and in yellow gold for Past Most Loyal Ganders.

Reports were made by chairmen of the following Committees: Honor Roll, Ode, Emblem, Ritual and Necrology. Pond Reports were read by delegates.

Grand Nest officers rotated four and T. L. Geraghty, Quebec Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, while Grand Wielder Rudd succeeded himself.

## 1923 - 1924

His Highness, Most Loyal Grand Gander John F. Stafford, called the Eighteenth Annual Grand Nest Meeting to order at Hotel La Salle, Chicago, October 14, 1924 (See Bulletin Vol. 18, No. 1) when 51 delegates from 37 of the 42 Ponds answered to the roll call. He reported the Order to be in a very healthy condition, with an increase in membership of 30 during the past year. This brings the total to 6,061. The message of His Highness was given largely to reviewing the early history of the Order with which he is so familiar.

His elevation to the highest office was a fitting tribute to his contribution in so many ways to the upward flight of the Order. He was

the first and only Company Manager to be elevated to the office of Most Loyal Grand Gander.

He visited 14 Ponds during the year, 2 of them in Canada, and recommended that all Ponds be visited by His Highness or his Deputies, once each year.

Saskatchewan Pond at Regina, Canada has been chartered and was installed by Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Fess. Thus Manitoba-Saskatchewan Pond at Winnipeg, has been chartered Manitoba Pond. Ponds re-organized during the year: Georgia at Atlanta and Virginia at Richmond. His Highness officiated at the installation of these latter two, and visited twelve other Ponds in the United States and Canada. Total Ponds, 42.

As two efforts to add life insurance for benefit of members of the Order have been unsuccessful, it was recommended and adopted that further consideration of the matter be dropped.

Cash assets have decreased to \$7,496.39 with cash in the bank October 13, 1924, of \$3,955.44. Chairman R. H. Wieben of the Audit Committee reported the accounts of the Grand Wielder and Grand Keeper were in good order.

Chairmen of the Constitution and By-Laws, Ritual Jurisprudence, Necrology, Honor Roll, Golf Tournament, Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Emblem and George C. Main Fund Committees reported. The revised Constitution and By-Laws were adopted by the delegates, same to be printed and sent to all Ponds. Uniform P.M.L.G.G. and P.M.L.G. emblems were adopted.

The Honor Roll Committee's report showed that a total of 776 members of this Order served in the World War.

To insure more equitable and regular coverage of representation on the Grand Nest, it was agreed by the delegates that the U.S.A. and Canada shall be divided into five territories or districts from which, by rotation in regular order, the Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg is to be chosen from year to year; Canada to constitute one District and the U.S.A. the other four Districts. The U.S.A. lines were drawn and agreed upon.

As the years passed more Pond Banners were brought by delegates for display at Grand Nest meetings, until now it has become a routine matter. Some brought their State Flag. Others were urged to do so.

After the usual rotation of officers, J. Charles Harris, San Francisco Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, and Grand Wielder Rudd was re-elected.

The April, 1925, Grand Nest Bulletin, Vol. 18, No. 2, chronicles the last long flight of Past Most Loyal Grand Gander M. M. Hawxhurst on March 25, 1925. Otherwise it was devoted to articles by various officers and illustrious members with their pictures.

"Wielder's Number" Bulletin Vol. 18, No. 3, is dated September, 1925, and contains articles by Pond Wielders as well as one by the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, with the picture of each.

## 1924 - 1925

The Nineteenth Annual Grand Nest Meeting was held at the La Salle Hotel, Chicago, October 13, 1925, with His Highness, Most Loyal Grand Gander W. E. Mallalieu, New York Pond, presiding. (See Bulletin Vol. 19, No. 1 of January 1926).

Fifty-four delegates from 32 of the 42 Ponds answered the roll call.

In his address, His Highness said in part: "In numbers, our Order shows a healthy growth. But how can one measure any development of the principles upon which the Blue Goose was founded? Have we kept in mind the purposes for which the Order was created, and have we followed the precepts of the Golden Rule in our dealings with our fellowmen? If the answer to these questions on the part of each *member* is in the affirmative, then the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose has enjoyed true prosperity, and its members are more firmly bound together by those strong ties of friendship which makes for mutual respect and even affectionate regard. If the answer of each *Pond* is in the affirmative then, Fellow Ganders, we are a body united in the furtherance of fair dealing, loyalty and courage—and I would remind you that these are proven characteristics of the bird which our noble Order has adopted for its emblem. Fair dealing toward our fellowmen in business transactions, loyalty to each other and to ourselves, and courage to support our beliefs, to defend our ideals and to protect our business from unjust criticism. Our organization has its foundation upon broad, friendly lines, and the world of insurance has a certain philosophy of good fellowship which is not found in other business vocations."

His report called for no special recommendations, but the Committee reporting on his address said in part:

"The important position that His Highness fills in the underwriting profession, his friendly and cordial personality, his recognized ability, and his high type of American citizenship have given our Order a standing prestige during his particular administration, with no disparagement of many worthy predecessors, of which every Gander may well feel proud."

"Your Committee enthusiastically and sincerely, unanimously goes on record in highly commending Mr. Mallalieu on a most successful administration, with the feeling that the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose fills a very necessary and important place in the insurance profession, and stands today on a firmer foundation than at any time in the nineteen years of its history."

A net increase in membership of 581 during the past year and an audited balance in the bank October 12, 1925, of \$3,762.92 were reported.

The passing October 21, 1925, of Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Edwin E. Wells is announced with deep regret.

Changes in the Constitution and By-Laws as adopted were:

**CONSTITUTION—ARTICLE IV** (b) Each Pond entitled to two votes. If only one delegate, he shall cast two votes. (c) Should a Grand Nest officer resign or become incapacitated, His Highness Most Loyal Grand Gander, shall have the authority to appoint a successor until the next annual meeting of the Grand Nest.



**BY-LAWS—SECTION 1.** (a) Grand Nest officers shall be installed at same meeting at which they are elected. (b) The office of the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill shall at all times be held by a member of the Wisconsin Home Nest and shall be maintained in the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

**SECTIONS 8, 9 and 13.** The words, "Two dollars" (referring to dues) are to be inserted in the place of the words, "One dollar," in each section.

**SECTION 14.** (a) Delete "for the fiscal year just ended".

Other Committees reporting were Necrology, Ritual, Honor Roll, Jurisprudence, George C. Main Fund, Golf Tournament, Emblem and Regalia.

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The Afternoon session was given over to reading of Pond reports by delegates. After the usual rotation of officers, David L. McCoy of Dakotas Pond was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg and Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill Rudd succeeded himself.

Last month His Highness Most Loyal Grand Gander Wilbur E. Malla-lieu, accompanied by Grand Wielder Paul E. Rudd, went with the Insurance Commissioners and Fire Marshals by special train to San Antonio, Texas, where the South Texas Pond and the Texas Pond were hosts to the National Convention of Insurance Commissioners and Fire Marshals. The following Saturday at Dallas, the Texas Pond was host to the Grand Nest officers at a breakfast. Then, with Ganders and many of the Insurance Commissioners and Fire Marshals, were entertained by the Pond at a luncheon at the Dallas Country Club.

\* \* \* \* \*

The first known Blue Goose radio broadcast was made April 4, 1924, at 7 P.M. by the Grand Wielder on invitation of Station W.I.A.O. (School of Engineering) Milwaukee. The origin and purpose of the Order was briefly outlined.

\* \* \* \* \*

A mounted specimen of the male blue goose shot near Spring Valley, Illinois, was presented to Grand Nest headquarters.

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The "Souvenir Number" unnumbered Grand Nest Bulletin issued in July 1926, announced plans for the Twentieth Anniversary Grand Nest meeting to be held at Milwaukee in September, and contained articles by several prominent members written for this number.

## 1925 - 1926

The Twentieth Annual Grand Nest Meeting (Vol. 20, No. 1, 44 pages) marked an important new departure, because it was the first time such a meeting was ever held outside Chicago and not in conjunction with the Fire Underwriters' Association of the Northwest. This was held at Hotel Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 8, 9 and 10, 1926, with His Highness, Most Loyal Grand Gander H. Verne Myers, Iowa Pond, presiding. Mayor Daniel Hoan of Milwaukee delivered the address of welcome.

His Highness introduced Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders Walter E. Atwater, Wm. T. Benallack, Frank G. Snyder, Fred W. Ransom, W. J. Sonnen, John A. Hanson, E. D. Marr and John F. Stafford.

Seventy-six delegates representing 40 of the 43 Ponds answered the roll call.

In his address, His Highness said in part: "We are pleased indeed to report that there are no clouds on the horizon of Blue Goosedom and the members throughout the country are apparently determined to find for themselves the real value of our cardinal principles. It has been my privilege to study the Order in widely scattered fields and I am highly pleased with the spirit that prevails throughout our entire jurisdiction. (He traveled over 13,000 miles from coast to coast and in Canada, during which twenty Ponds were visited. He was accompanied on most of his travels by your Grand Wielder). "I am pleased to say we have admitted to membership 651 new members, and there have been re-instated 49, a total gain of 700 during the year."

Departing from the usual custom His Highness, had requested Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill Paul E. Rudd to prepare and read an address, which he did.

The books of the Grand Keeper and Grand Wielder after audit by a committee showed cash in bank September 8, 1926, \$7,900.48, an increase of \$4,137.56 from a year ago. This is in addition to the Victory Bonds (Canadian) \$1,439.15, or total of \$5,576.71.

**CONSTITUTION:** Proposed changes in the Constitution and By-Laws, as reported by that Committee, were made in the form of a motion which was adopted, making the following changes: That the last two words of ARTICLE VI, Page 5, be struck out. This will permit Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders to vote at Grand Nest meetings.

**BY-LAWS:** Page 17, SECTION 13, Paragraph (b).

On September 1 each Pond shall forward to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill a certified roll of membership with remittance of Two dollars (\$2.00) for each member for Grand Nest dues. Dues advanced by a Pond for a member suspended later may be claimed as credit.

Other committees reporting: Ritual, Jurisprudence, Necrology, Emblem, Golf, Regalia, George C. Main Fund and Entertainment.

Empire State Pond was chartered, then on April 20, 1926, it was installed at Syracuse by His Highness, accompanied by the Grand Wielder. (This was the home of New York State Pond, which resigned in 1908). Oregon Pond was re-organized, chartered and installed at Portland, while Maritime Pond at St. John had dropped out. Total Ponds, 43.

Historian W. J. Hatcher (Wisconsin Home Nest) and a member from the time of the original meeting at Green Lake in June 1906, said he was unable to give a full report because only part of the Ponds had reported to him.

There was a new departure at this Twentieth Anniversary Grand Nest meeting in that Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders each made written reports of their activities.

The salary of the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill was increased to \$100.00 per month.

An afternoon session proved necessary to dispose of the large number of important matters.

Various Ponds and cities through their Chamber of Commerce were anxious to secure our next annual Grand Nest Meeting. Dallas, Texas, and its Texas Pond was chosen by unanimous vote.

The subject of Group Life Insurance for our membership was again brought to the floor, this time by Deputy Most Loyal Grand Gander W. F. C. Fellers of Florida Pond, who used facts and figures relating to that form of insurance which was recently taken out by that Pond for its members, some of whom could not get one dollar's worth of insurance in any other way, but by this method they are covered for \$5,000 each.

Motion was adopted that a committee be appointed to investigate the matter of group life insurance thoroughly and report at the next annual meeting. His Highness appointed Wm. F. C. Fellers, Florida Pond, Chairman; Walter B. Erfert, Wisconsin Home Nest, and E. D. Marr, Past Most Loyal Grand Gander, Missouri-Kansas Pond.

Deputy Most Loyal Grand Gander John W. Wilson of British Columbia Pond gave a pleasant surprise when he presented the Grand Nest with a beautiful heavy silk Canadian Ensign on a standard, immediately following which the orchestra struck up the Canadian song "The Maple Leaf Forever."

Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders present were: Wm. F. C. Fellers, Jacksonville, Walter B. Erfert, Freeport, Illinois, D. Maury Pollard, Beaumont, Texas, E. D. Marr, Kansas City, J. C. Buchanan, Los Angeles, and John W. Wilson, Vancouver, B. C.

The meeting concluded with the reading of Pond reports by delegates, and the election and installation of Grand Nest Officers.

There was the usual rotation of Officers, and Henry L. Rose of Chesapeake Pond was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill Rudd was re-elected.

As always, Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Wm. T. Benallack performed the installation ceremony.

While the Good Fellowship Dinner was breaking all previous records, except in attendance, some sixty ladies, wives of delegates and Wisconsin Home Nest members, were given a banquet in the same hotel. It was the first time the ladies were so entertained at a Grand Nest Meeting. After the banquet, dancing was indulged in.

A perfect day greeted those Ganders and their wives who made the trip the following day to the Blue Goose Rice Fields and Shrine at Green Lake where the original 'egg' was 'laid' and 'hatched' back in June, 1906.

On Friday morning, September 10, 1926, a special train took the happy throng to enjoy dinner at the Oakwood Hotel, which a few years later was torn down. (See Bulletin Vol. 20, No. 1, Pages 39-40-41, for pictures of the hotel, a view of Green Lake from the Oakwood Hotel lawn, and more details.)

Representatives of 40 Ponds in the United States and Canada, watched the little group which included Founders Atwater, Hilbert and Wallace,

reproduce the original preliminaries on the porch and in the office of the Oakwood Hotel.

The Ganders present had the rare treat of observing in the same club house on the bank of Green Lake, the only repetition of the original initiation as enacted that rainy evening of June, 1906. Once more did Walter Atwater, suggester of the original idea, and co-formulator of the first obligation and the original Most Loyal Grand Gander, confer the degree upon George G. Wright, who was the first initiate.

Lloyd S. Wallace, Sr., co-formulator of the first obligation, played the same music on the same old piano and some of the other founders took their original parts, while the places of those who have taken their last flight were filled by younger leaders in the Wisconsin Home Nest. Others of the original members present were George C. Williams, Fred Barnes, and W. J. Hatcher. Charles H. Hutchinson, took the place of William E. Golden as Supervisor of the Flock in the original team; Charles L. Easton, acted for Walter W. Conklin as Custodian of the Goslings, and Milton A. Freedy represented George Heller, Jr., as Wielder of the Goose Quill.

At 4 p.m. all departed by special train for Milwaukee.

It was a happy day, never to be forgotten by those who participated. (See Bulletin Vol. 20, No. 1, pages 39 and 40).

## 1926 - 1927

The Twenty-first Annual Grand Nest meeting was called to order by His Highness Wirt Leake at the Adolphus Hotel, Dallas, Texas, October 26, 1927. (See Grand Nest Bulletin Vol. 21, No. 1, 48 pages).

Seventy-three delegates representing 40 of the 44 Ponds responded to the roll call.

Following invocation by a Dallas clergyman, there was community singing, including "The Star Bangled Banner", "God Save the King", "Blue Goose Bye Bye", and "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here."

Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders present were: Wm. T. Benallack and H. Verne Myers.

His Highness extended a very warm welcome to all, and in his address dealt with matters vital to the future welfare of our Order and told of having traveled thousands of miles while visiting twelve Ponds during the past year. He gave his Deputies credit with calling on several Ponds he could not visit.

The Nova Scotia Pond has been established at Halifax, and the former Maritime Pond at St. John, New Brunswick, has been revived and its name changed to New Brunswick Pond. The Pacific Northwest Pond is now Seattle Pond. Saskatchewan Pond at Regina has become dormant. This leaves 44 active Ponds.

It was decided to change the name of our organization to include the word "international", and drop the word "Ancient". This involves a change in the Constitution, so it was necessary to wait and vote on it at the next annual meeting.

In his annual address His Highness said: "The matter of extending our membership to include casualty men has been brought up from time to time. I am not in sympathy with the idea.

"Men in the Casualty business are high grade citizens and perfectly eligible for membership in some organizations, but ours is solely for fire insurance men, so I cannot see the warranty for letting down the bars to include persons not engaged in our business.

"I would suggest our Constitution and By-Laws be modified and that the Article relating to this subject be so clear and unambiguous that no doubt can possibly arise as to its interpretation, thereby making it impossible for any Pond to incorrectly treat the subject, as has been reported in several instances.

The Committee on the address of His Highness presented the following on that portion of the address: (which was adopted)

"We fully concur in the idea that the membership should be confined to the fire insurance business and kindred lines, and should not be extended to casualty and similar lines. We recommend that the Constitution and By-Laws Committee so clarify that section of the By-Laws as to remove any question of eligibility."

On another recommendation of His Highness relating to the Ritual, the committee recommended (and their entire report was adopted) "that all ritualistic work be by word of mouth, and we believe that those accepting office should obligate themselves to memorize the Ritual."

Grand Wielder Rudd reported a net increase in membership of 62 with membership October 22, 1927, of 6,549 for the 44 Ponds.

Committees on Constitution and By-Laws, Ritual, Jurisprudence, Golf, Emblem, Regalia, George C. Main Fund, Necrology, and Historian reported.

Chairman Wm. F. C. Fellers (Florida Pond) of the Group Life Insurance Committee made a verbal report in the absence of other members of that committee. He gave considerable information based much on the present group life coverage now being enjoyed by the Florida Pond members. He said in part as follows:

"Your Committee is most enthusiastic on this subject. You will recall it was before the Grand Nest some years ago" . . . "There was a disposition to abandon it as impossible, and then came the George C. Main tragedy, and out of that came the idea of insisting upon the continuation of this committee, that every Pond here might be made to provide against such a contingency ever happening to another one of our members, that he should be at least afforded the opportunity and the urge from his fellow Ganders to give his family the proper protection in such a case."

It was moved and adopted that the report of the Group Life Insurance Committee be approved and placed on file.

His Highness called the afternoon session to order and immediately resumed the subject of group life insurance by introducing Gander R. L. Kimberly, delegate (Heart of America Pond) who made remarks as a result of a conference he and Past Most Loyal Grand Gander E. D. Marr (Heart of America Pond) had with Shannon C. Douglass of the

American National Insurance Company of Galveston, Texas. His remarks showed that the one principal objection to their proposition was that all members of our Order would be required to come under the cover, and that there would be a uniform charge per thousand of cover, irrespective of age.

The entire matter was referred back to the Committee on Group Life Insurance.

By adopted motion, item (c) SECTION 13, page 19, of the BY-LAWS was deleted.

No time was left for the usual reading of Pond reports by delegates. They were filed and published in the Bulletin.

Of various invitations that of the Quebec Pond, Montreal, Canada, was accepted as the place to hold the next meeting, 1928. After the usual rotation of officers Wm. F. C. Fellers, Florida Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg and Paul E. Rudd was re-elected Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill.

Unadulterated Southern hospitality was further enjoyed by all present who participated in the splendid varied entertainment provided, including the barbeque feast at Wright's Country Home.

The Good Fellowship Banquet for the delegates and a dinner for the ladies at the Athletic Club, were grand affairs. The spirit of true Southern hospitality prevailed throughout the entire meeting.

## 1927 - 1928

Forty-eight page Bulletin Vol. 22, No. 1, December, 1928, reports the Twenty-second Annual Grand Nest Meeting of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International, Windsor Hotel, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, on August 28 and 29, 1928, the first ever held in Canada.

Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders present were: W. T. Benallack, W. P. Fess, John A. Hanson, Wirt Leake, E. D. Marr and W. J. Sonnen.

Most Loyal Grand Gander T. L. Geraghty called the meeting to order, followed by the singing of one verse of "God Save the King" and "America," with 81 delegates answering the roll call. Every one of our 45 Ponds were represented. He reminded those present this was the first time our Honorable Order had met beyond the confines of the United States, then extended a cordial welcome. All were accorded that warm hospitality which is comparable with the traditional hospitality of the southern part of the U.S.A.

He pointed to the rather large number of members dropped during the past year resulting in a net decrease of 21. He said he felt that the adoption of the Group Life Plan will have the effect of not only bringing back a large percentage of those members, but will be an incentive for prospective members, so that growth in membership during the coming year should be a very healthy one.

A new Pond has been added as a result of the splitting up of the Louisiana-Mississippi Pond, namely the Mississippi Pond at Jackson,

and a new Charter issued to the Louisiana Pond at New Orleans. This leaves a net of 45 Ponds.

Eight Ponds were visited by His Highness during the past year, while 15 others were visited by other Grand Nest officers and deputies.

"The past year has witnessed the fulfillment of our hopes in the successful working out of the group life proposal," he said.

"After a vast amount of work and time has been given by the Committee in charge, a most favorable contract was made with the American National Insurance Company of Galveston, Texas, and is now in operation. The cover includes accident indemnity features.

Audited reports of the accounts of Grand Wielder and Grand Keeper showed cash in bank \$7,449.93 and Victory Bonds (Canadian) \$1,439.15.

Changes in the Constitution and By-Laws recommended by the Committee and adopted were:

### CONSTITUTION

Page 1, Paragraph 3, Name

"The name of this Organization shall be Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International.

"ARTICLE II, Page 1, Paragraph (a) "The words 'or automobile' are eliminated. This to settle for all time the question of casualty representatives becoming members of our Organization, same having been voted down more than once."

ARTICLE II, page 3, Paragraph (b) Company Employees.

The changes were considered expedient to clarify what is meant by "Assistants."

ARTICLE VII, Page 5, Paragraph (a) All elective officers of the Grand Nest must be accredited delegates of their Ponds, and must have served at least one full term as an officer of a Pond or as an officer of the Grand Nest, and shall consist of: (no change).

New—ARTICLE XV. Life Membership.

"Any Gander who has been a member in good standing, affiliating with one or more State Ponds or Provincial Ponds for at least twenty consecutive years, shall be entitled to State or Provincial Pond life membership, under the following named conditions:

1st—Once a Blue Goose always a Blue Goose.

2nd—Upon reaching the age of seventy years, whether actively engaged in the various phases of fire underwriting, engaged in other business pursuits, or retired from active business life;

3rd—Upon reaching the age which brings complete retirement from active duties of company employment through operation of the company's rules;

4th—Any Gander honored by either the 2nd or 3rd Sections of this resolution shall cease to pay annual dues to the State or Provincial Pond of which he is a member. State or Provincial Ponds shall be relieved of paying Grand Nest dues of the Gander honored by life membership;

5th—State or Provincial Pond life members shall enjoy all the privileges of regular membership.

### BY-LAWS

SECTION 13, Page 17, Paragraph (b)—Reporting Membership to the Grand Nest.

No change in first paragraph. Second paragraph, to determine status of members insured under Group Life Insurance.

SECTION 28, Page 27, Paragraph (c)—Expense of Delegates. This is amendment of amendment adopted October 13, 1925: Each Pond to be reimbursed for actual expenditure for rail transportation and Pullman berth fare of accredited delegates, if at expense of Pond. Grand Nest not obligated for expense for more than one delegate from any Pond which has not 100 active members on its roll. If over 100 members the Grand Nest will not be obligated to reimburse more than 75 per cent of the amount remitted to the Grand Nest as dues for the current year. No reimbursement for expenses until the Pond has paid its annual dues for current years.

SECTION 28, Page 27, Paragraph (d) as follows:

"The Most Loyal Grand Gander or his Deputies shall receive from the Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg the expense incurred by reason of special trips authorized by the Grand Nest, but only when such special trips are made at individual expense."

Other committees reporting were: Ritual, Jurisprudence, Golf, Emblem, Regalia and Necrology.

Post Most Loyal Grand Gander E. D. Marr, Chairman of the Group Life Insurance Committee, and Temporary Insurance Secretary, gave a report of the activities of the Committee during the past year, with considerable detail of the policy cover.

Mr. Shannon G. Douglass of Kansas City, Missouri, through whose office the Master group life insurance policy was negotiated and issued, was then called into the meeting room and answered questions by delegates so satisfactorily that delegates expressed the opinion that they would be able to go home and tell the facts to the members of their Ponds and remove any misunderstanding.

Report of the Historian was read. It is too lengthy to record here, but it is very interesting, having been prepared by two of the original members, W. J. Hatcher, Historian, and Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Walter E. Atwater, Associate Historian. (Bulletin Vol. 22, No. 1, pages 12-14). On page 14 appears a list of the names of the charter members at that historic first meeting at Green Lake, Wisconsin, in June, 1906, but the list of forty-eight names is not correct. The name of Arthur F. Hebgen should be added, and Dalton, Gordon, Jones, Sullivan and Zechlin, were not charter members, so should be omitted. (See page 2 of this history).

There was the usual rotation of Grand Nest officers. H. Churchill Smith, Ontario Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, and Grand Wielder Rudd was re-elected.

The Goodfellowship Banquet was held in the Ball Room of the Windsor Hotel. A dinner for the ladies was staged in the Prince of Wales Salon, same hotel, attended by 79. Dancing followed these dinners.

Thursday afternoon, August 30, 1928, the Field Day Program was held at the M.A.A.A. Ground, Westmount, Quebec. It drew a large crowd to witness the fourteen special races and events. (Blue Goose.)

The International Golf Tournament was held between eleven United States players and eleven Canadians in twosomes, resulting in a win for Canada.

Friday evening, August 31, 1928, 60 Ganders and ladies embarked on the S.S. New Northland for the planned excursion trip of three days on the St. Lawrence and Saguenay Rivers, including a stop at Quebec and other points. (See Bulletin for story and list.)

## 1928 - 1929

The 56 page Bulletin, Vol. 23, No. 1 of February, 1930, records the proceedings of the Twenty-third Annual Grand Nest Meeting held September 25, 26, 1929, at the Fairmount Hotel, San Francisco, California, with Most Loyal Grand Gander J. Charles Harris, San Francisco Pond, presiding.

Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders present were: Walter E. Atwater, William T. Benallack and W. J. Sonnen.

The meeting was opened with the singing of one verse of "America" and "God Save the King", followed by an address of welcome by the Secretary to the Mayor of San Francisco in the absence of the Mayor.

It has for years been the custom of Ponds represented at Annual Grand Nest meetings to display their banners in the meeting room.

In his annual address, Most Loyal Grand Gander J. Charles Harris referred to our Group Life Insurance Fund as probably the outstanding activity of the Order with about half of the active members under the cover. He said that several of our members who took their last long flight during the past year were insured by this fund and their families have benefited. He urged each delegate to try to impress upon the members and officers of his Pond that they owe a duty to the Grand Nest to push this Group Life plan to a successful conclusion.

He said, several Puddles were organized during the past year, thus promoting and developing the Blue Goose spirit and adding incentive for new members in isolated places. This is a new departure, destined to grow and prosper.

Accompanied by his wife, he visited many Ponds in Canada and the United States, and would have visited more but for the handicap of his physical condition (an automobile accident since his election to the Grand Nest). Much of his entire time was used for the promotion of the Order.

Sixty-two delegates represented 41 of the 45 Ponds.

The report of the Grand Welder showed an increase of 313 new members, bringing the total to 6,841. His audited financial report showed balance in the bank Septembe 3, 1929, \$7,102.92 and Victory Bonds (Canadian) \$1,439.15 or total \$8,542.07.

Past Most Loyal Grand Gander W. J. Sonnen, Chairman of the

Group Life Insurance Committee, reported. His committee was appointed at the Montreal meeting, he to serve three years; John A. Hanson, two years, and John F. Stafford, one year, and were empowered to make necessary rules and regulations covering the insurance privilege of this Order, and its rulings shall be binding.

He reported that in April this committee visited the office of Insurance Secretary Marr and the insurance company agent at Kansas City, then defined in a set of rules the duties of the Insurance Secretary. They also modified the eligibility to membership, and increased present limit of insurance coverage from \$2500 to \$5000 for members less than 60 years of age, and set a service charge for the Insurance Secretary.

Insurance Secretary E. D. Marr made his first report to the Insurance Committee. It covered the year ending June 30, 1929, and showed only 3,313 of our members were insured at that time, which was disappointing considering the effort that had been put forth. The number insured one year previous was 2,982. A total of \$62,500 was paid during the year to 31 beneficiaries.

Two executive sessions were held during this annual meeting for the discussion of the group life problems.

At the Thursday morning session September 26, 1929, the Committee on the address of Most Loyal Grand Gander Charles J. Harris made its report which was accepted by unanimous vote of the delegates present, as follows:

(1) It endorsed his recommendations that intelligent constructive efforts should be made to increase the percentage of our membership to be insured under the Group Life Insurance Fund, by a closer co-operation between the Grand Nest officers, Insurance Committee, Insurance Secretary and Pond Welders.

(2) To place funds of the Order in a bank in one particular location instead of changing each year to the city in which the Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg resides.

(3) Commended the recommendation for carrying on relief work, and the establishment of Puddles where warranted.

(4) Strongly approved his comment on making most careful selection of Welders and to keep them in office reasonably permanent instead of changing each year.

The lengthy report of the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws was made by Chairman Herbert C. Ford (South Texas Pond) and those here recorded are the principal ones adopted.

## CONSTITUTION

Amendments of ARTICLE 1, Page 1, to be Paragraph (b)—Authorizing Puddles as component parts of Ponds, but with no voting privilege.

(Explanation—A Puddle covers a group of Blue Goose members in a city remote from Pond headquarters. It is to keep them together as members and to help keep up interest between Pond meetings).

Amendment of amendment adopted August 29, 1928, Article II,

par. (b), page 3, under heading 'Note': Add "fulltime" after the word "employed."

Amendment of ARTICLE III, page 3: The insertion of "Not exceeding" is to conform to the new provision as to reimbursement for delegates' expenses, provided in Section 28, par. (c), amended August 29, 1928.

Amendment of ARTICLE V, par. (a), page 3: Add "not exceeding" after "elect," to conform with Section 28, par. (c), amended August 29, 1928.

Amendment of amendment adopted August 29, 1928, to ARTICLE VII, par. (a), page 5: Eliminate the words "His Highness" from the title of Most Loyal Grand Gander. This term is not only probably superfluous, but affords embarrassment to our Canadian Ganders.

Amendment of ARTICLE XII, page 7, to be known as paragraph (b): No charter to be granted where prospective membership of a Pond is not at least one hundred (100).

#### BY-LAWS

Delete Paragraph (b) of SECTION 1, page 9, relating to location of office of the Grand Wielder.

Add Paragraph (c) to SECTION 1, page 9. Defining duties of all Grand Nest officers and designing the Most Loyal Grand Gander, Grand Supervisor of the Flock and Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill as the Executive Committee of the Grand Nest with final authority in all cases of difference between officers and committees, between meetings of the Grand Nest.

The Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill is a member of the Insurance Committee. He shall furnish a surety bond of \$5,000.00 at Grand Nest expense.

Amendment of SECTION 1, Paragraph (d), as follows:

The Executive Committee of the Grand Nest shall have the privilege of meeting at least once a year, and in the interim between Grand Nest meetings, at Grand Nest expense. Paragraph (e) Defines the duties of the Insurance Secretary.

Amendment of SECTION 2, Page 9: Eliminate present paragraph designations, i.e. (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e).

Create new paragraph (a) There shall be appointed by the Most Loyal Grand Gander a committee on Jurisprudence, consisting of three (3) Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders, to serve for one, two and three years, respectively, and each succeeding Most Loyal Grand Gander shall fill, by appointment, any vacancies created each year by the operation of the one, two and three year requirement, or for any other reason. (With added provisions for its operation).

(a) Provides for filling vacancies. New paragraph (b) creates and defines duties of Group Life Insurance Committee consisting of five (5) members.

SECTION 6. The word "two" in the fourth line be made to read "three."

SECTION 8, Paragraph (b), page 23. Honorary members. Takes

five (5) consecutive years of membership in good standing, and only those who are retiring or clearly merit the honor, shall be eligible.

Create Paragraph (d) Section 8: All retiring Most Loyal Grand Ganders shall automatically become honorary members of the Pond to which they belong. Ponds to pay \$2.00 dues to Grand Nest annually.

Amendment of SECTION 9, page 13, (a), (b) and (c). Ganders-at-large. Relates to Goslings who may wish to become members, but who are not within the jurisdiction of a State or Provincial Pond.

SECTION 10, create Paragraph (e): When a Gosling is bona-fidely prevented from attending a regular Pond meeting, the obligation and charge shall be administered by the Most Loyal Gander or the Supervisor. Initiation later.

Amendment of SECTION 11, page 15: Broadens Petition for Flight.

Amendment of SECTION 13, page 17, paragraph (b): Provides automatic suspension of any Gander whose dues are not paid. Ponds may advance dues, then obtain credit when necessary.

SECTION 17, page 21: Eliminate, as now included under new Section 1, paragraph (c) just adopted.

Amendment of SECTION 18, page 21: Extends authority of Most Loyal Gander to execute vouchers.

Amendment of SECTION 24, page 25: To make this Section to conform to such portion of Section 23, as pertains to vouchers.

Amendment of SECTION 28, paragraph (a) page 25: Add word "Present" before word "Grand" in first line, and substitute "Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg" for the word "treasurer" in the second line.

Amendment of SECTION 28, paragraph (d), page 27: Relates to expense of the Most Loyal Grand Gander and his Deputies, and adds the words "as well as other Grand Nest officers" in the second line after the word "Deputies."

Amendment of SECTION 29, page 27:

(a) All letter heads, envelopes, additional Rituals, Seals, Charters and Emblems of the Order shall be furnished each Pond by the Grand Nest, upon receipt of proper payment therefor.

NEW (b) All Grand Nest elective officers shall be furnished stationery free.

New (c) Any Grand Nest appointive officers shall be furnished stationery upon request and payment therefor.

Resolution adopted authorizing the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill to promptly publish a complete new Constitution and By-Laws and a new Ritual.

Other Committees reporting were: Necrology, Jurisprudence, Emblem, Regalia, Ritual (addition of a Memorial Service was left to incoming administration), Golf Tournament.

The Historian was not present, but in his report he recommended appointment of Pond Historians.

After two full days of business meetings, Pond reports were filed instead of read for lack of time. Were printed in Bulletin.

After the usual rotation of officers, D. A. McKinley, Washington

Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. Paul E. Rudd was re-elected Grand Wielder. As always, Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Wm. T. Benallack officiated at the installation ceremony.

Thursday evening, September 26, 1929, the Good Fellowship Banquet was held in the Gold Room of the Fairmount Hotel, and for the first time in the history of the Order the ladies attended. There were short talks, entertainment by the Glee Club of San Francisco Pond, followed by dancing.

On Tuesday afternoon the delegates and ladies were entertained with a ferry boat ride, then a trip to Mt. Tamalpais. Friday morning there was an auto tour of the interesting parts of the city and nearby areas, including Stanford University at Palo Alto, Emerald Lakes, the Oakland Airport, Berkely, and the University of California.

The San Francisco Convention was characterized as the "best we have ever held."

It was reported at this meeting that the Oakwood Hotel, at Green Lake, Wisconsin, the birthplace of the Blue Goose, is being torn down to be replaced by a private summer home.

The delegates accepted the invitation of Dakotas Pond to hold the Twenty-Fourth Annual Grand Nest Meeting at Rapid City, South Dakota, September 9, 10, 11 and 12, 1930.

There was an enjoyable circle tour by special Pullman from Chicago with stops at points of interest (Petrified Forest, Grand Canyon, Yosemite National Park, Portland-Multnomah Falls and Columbia River Highway in the U.S.A., and Lake Louise, Banff and Fort Garry in Canada) and visits in the form of Pond entertainment for the Ganders and their wives at Los Angeles, San Francisco (Annual Meeting), Portland, Seattle, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Minneapolis, then on to Chicago. (Bulletin Vol. 23, No. 1, Pages 40-45). Also see report of 1952-1953 Grand Nest Convention at Winnipeg.

## 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 Most Loyal Grand 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 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 September 6, 1930, of \$11,126.26, representing a gain since the report of last year of \$4,023.34. In addition to this there

were Victory Bonds (Canadian) of \$1,439.15, bringing the total assets to \$12,565.41, as of September 6, 1930. The audited financial report of the Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg H. Churchill Smith, Ontario Pond, Toronto, Canada, agreed with those figures.

An Employment Committee was created at this meeting.

The following committees made reports: Golf, Emblem, Regalia, Constitution and By-Laws, Necrology, Ritual and Group Life Plan. This last report was referred back to the committee with recommendation that it confer with past and present Grand Nest officers at this meeting in an effort to find a solution to the problems faced in this connection. A long session was held that afternoon, and another the following day.

By action at this meeting the Group Life Plan was turned over to 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, and 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.

## 1930 - 1931

The Silver Jubilee Anniversary of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International, was held at the Schroeder Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on September 9 and 10, 1931, with Most Loyal Grand Gander Henry L. Rose presiding (Bulletin Vol 24, No. 1).

Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders present were: Walter E. Atwater, W. T. Benallack, W. E. Mallalieu, and H. Verne Myers.

This meeting marked the close of a quarter of a century of successful operation of the Order, during which it experienced a growing acceptance by all in the Fire Insurance business, assuring it of the permanent place it deserves as a fraternity, intent on the best interests of its members and the Fire Insurance business.

The meeting was opened with Invocation and the singing of one verse each of "America" and "God Save the King." Sixty-eight delegates from 43 of the 45 Ponds were present.

Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Walter E. Atwater presented to our Honorable Order a gavel made from an oak timber taken from the Oakwood Hotel at Green Lake, Wisconsin, when it was razed. It will be used at all future Grand Nest meetings.

Forty-one Ponds were visited by Most Loyal Grand Gander Rose during the past year.

The audited Secretarial Report of the Grand Wielder, shows forty-five Ponds with a total membership of 7,340, a net gain of 222 for the past year, and cash assets of \$13,059.95, of which \$1,439.15 represents Victory Bonds (Canadian).

Arizona Pond at Phoenix has been chartered, but will not be installed



until November 28, 1931. Penn Pond at Philadelphia has been re-organized, while New Brunswick Pond at St. John, and Nova Scotia Pond at Halifax have become dormant. This leaves 45 active Ponds.

Admission to membership of casualty men was again presented and rejected.

The passing during the year of Past Most Loyal Grand Gander David L. McCoy was reported with deep regret.

The Employment Committee, created at the last annual meeting, made its first report. Other committees reporting were: Necrology, Ritual, Group Life Insurance, Emblem, Regalia and Golf Tournament. Historian W. J. Hatcher made a brief report and asked for co-operation by Ponds.

There are now 11 thriving Puddles.

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee reported and the following were the principal amendments adopted:

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE XIII

Relates to amending the Constitution.

#### By-Laws

Sec. 1, Par. 4, page 13. Relates to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill. Bond of Thirty thousand (\$30,000.00) Dollars required, payable to the Most Loyal Grand Gander, as Trustee. Grand Nest pays for bond.

Sec. 1, Par. 5, page 17. Relates to the Insurance Secretary. Bond of Thirty thousand (\$30,000.00) Dollars. Premium to be paid by Grand Nest.

Sec. 6, page 23. Relating to application for membership. Changes.

Sec. 8, Par. (c), page 25. The words "Grand Nest Officers", in the second line changed to "Executive Committee of the Grand Nest." Same as in line five.

Sec. 8, Par. (d), page 25. The second sentence is eliminated.

Sec. 10, Par. (a), page 27. Add after the word "Membership" in the third line "accompanied by initiation fee, which have received approval from the committee on membership since the last called meeting, and the Pond shall vote upon such applications by secret ballot. (No change in remainder of the Section).

Sec. 14, par. (b), page 33. Provides for re-instatement of suspended Ganders.

Sec. 27, par. (d), page 41. Add the words "executive Committee of the" in lieu of the words "Grand Nest" in the fifth line.

Sec. 32, page 43. "These By-Laws shall be the only By-Laws for the government of the Grand Nest and all Ponds and said By-Laws may be altered or amended at any annual meeting of the Grand Nest by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present."

Past Most Loyal Grand Gander W. J. Sonnen, Chairman of the Group Life Insurance Committee, in his report said that over \$250,000.00 in claims had already been paid by the carrier. He urged that the delegates take to their Ponds the need of bringing a larger percentage of their members under the cover. The average for all Ponds is 42%, while the Master Policy calls for 75% of the entire membership.

Grand Supervisor of the Flock Wm. F. C. Fellers, Florida Pond, was elected Most Loyal Grand Gander.

Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, Paul E. Rudd, retired after completing 15 years in that office and was, by resolution, presented with a gold card conferring Life Membership in the Grand Nest, engraved as follows:

"Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International, Silver Jubilee. By action of delegates at Milwaukee, Wis., September 10, 1931. Paul E. Rudd, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill from October 1916, to September 1931, is certified as a Life Member of the Grand Nest with privileges of the floor at any meeting. Henry L. Rose, M.L.G.G."

The new Grand Wielder elected was C. P. Helliwell, Wisconsin Home Nest, who also assumed the duties of Insurance Secretary.

Samuel A. Mehorter, New York City Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg.

Retiring Grand Wielder, Paul E. Rudd, accepted appointment as Chairman of the Constitution & By-Laws Committee, for the express purpose of recodifying the entire Constitution & By-Laws of our Order.

\* \* \* \* \*

Past Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, Richard A. Kenzel, who served in that office from 1937 to 1951, kindly prepared part of the data herein for the years 1931-1932, 1932-1933, 1933-1934 and 1935-1936.

## 1931 - 1932

Most Loyal Grand Gander William F. C. Fellers presided at the 26th annual meeting held at La Salle Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, on September 7 and 8, 1932. The Grand Nest meeting of this year was brought to Chicago because of the economic conditions that recommended a centrally located city. The Florida Pond waived its desire to hold the meeting within the confines of that State. Chicago was selected for a purely geographical reason, being readily accessible and, with Labor Day weekend, special fares were announced on all the railroads and considerable savings for travel expense was possible. The Illinois Pond Ganders met this unusual and unexpected demand with their cooperation.

Section 2, Par. (b) of the By-Laws, governing the appointment and duties of the Committee on Life Insurance, was amended to read:

"There shall be a Committee on Multiple Life Insurance consisting of seven members, of which five shall be appointed by the Most Loyal Grand Gander and serve for one, two, three, four and five years respectively, and each succeeding Most Loyal Grand Gander shall fill by appointment any vacancies created each year by the operation of the one, two, three, four and five year requirement or for any other reason. The Most Loyal Grand Gander and Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill then in office shall be members of this Committee. Should a vacancy occur on this committee during the interim between Grand Nest meetings, the Most Loyal

Grand Gander shall make an appointment to fill such vacancy for the unexpired term involved. The Insurance Committee shall appoint an Insurance Secretary who shall hold office for a term of one year, or until his successor is appointed. The Insurance Committee shall formulate and enforce rules governing the office of Insurance Secretary, having jurisdiction over all rules and regulations relating to our multiple life cover, and have authority to act in the settlement of differences, controversies or any other matters pertaining to our life insurance, all subject, however, to the approval of the Executive Committee of the Grand Nest."

Other committees reporting were: Jurisprudence, Education, Ritual, Emblem, Regalia, Employment, Multiple Life Insurance and Memorial.

Fifty-six delegates from 39 of the 45 Ponds were present. Membership increase for the year was 209.

It was recognized with profound regret that on July 3, 1932, Walter E. Atwater, the first Most Loyal Gander and the first Most Loyal Grand Gander of our Order, took his last flight.

Grand Supervisor of the Flock H. Churchill Smith of Québec Pond sent word that he preferred not to advance on the Grand Nest. This made two offices to be filled. Gander T. Ray Phillips of the Oklahoma Pond and Gander D. Maury Pollard of the South Texas Pond were placed in nomination for the office of Grand Guardian of the Nest. Gander Pollard withdrew, because the year before at Milwaukee he told Gander Phillips that he considered Oklahoma a Southern State, and if the Oklahoma Pond had a candidate for Grand Nest honors in 1932, he wanted to have the privilege of supporting that candidate no matter who he was, so pledged his support and that of the South Texas Pond to Gander T. Ray Phillips, who was then unanimously elected Grand Guardian of the Nest.

Gander H. B. Leuty, British Columbia Pond, Vancouver, Canada, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. (See Volume 25, No. 1).

Special Grand Nest Bulletin Volume 25, No. 2, of July 1933, contains: "Message of Most Loyal Grand Gander D. A. McKinley" and articles by several prominent Ganders.

## 1932 - 1933

The Twenty-seventh Annual Grand Nest Meeting was held at the Royal York Hotel at Toronto, Ontario, on August 23 and 24, 1933, with David A. McKinley presiding. Consideration at this meeting was given to the proposition that the office of Grand Wielder should be placed on a full-time basis, with consequent remuneration. Most Loyal Grand Gander McKinley in his report to the convention stated: "--- It is, however, my studied recommendation that we should no longer sponsor a life insurance plan as a Grand Nest activity and that the Grand Nest should definitely instruct its officers and Insurance Committee that whenever the Lincoln National shall restrict or cancel the present Master Policy, the Grand Nest be not empowered to negotiate, apply for or accept any life insurance poli-

cy, plan or contract of any nature." The recommendation was approved and adopted, which action placed a plan of consideration of the life insurance feature in the category of having definite instructions for the future conduct of the multiple life insurance committee. Gander Ralph W. Hukill, Chairman of the Committee on Regional Representation, made his report, outlining the States and Provinces to be embraced in the five regional sections comprising the jurisdiction of the Grand Nest. (See Const. & By-Laws, Art. VI (d).)

The recodified Constitution and By-Laws as submitted by the Committee of which Past Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill Paul E. Rudd is Chairman, was gone into thoroughly, then adopted and ordered printed in a new volume for distribution. (A brief one page Historic Sketch of our Order is included in that recodified document).

Other committees reporting were: Ritual, Employment, Educational, Emblem, Regalia, Life Insurance and Memorial.

There were 64 delegates present from 41 of the 45 Ponds. The net decrease in membership the past year was 317. The total membership is 6,814.

Past Most Loyal Grand Gander W. E. Mallalieu, and Past Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill Paul E. Rudd, were present.

The passing during the past year of Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Henry L. Rose was announced.

Gander J. Clark Buchanan of California Pond, Los Angeles, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. (Vol. 26, No. 1).

## 1933 - 1934

Most Loyal Grand Gander Lawrence H. Bridges presided at the Twenty-eighth Grand Nest meeting held at the Fontenelle Hotel, Omaha, Nebraska, on August 22 and 23, 1934. The Committee on Jurisprudence recorded its opinion that a candidate for any and every Grand Nest Office must be an accredited delegate from his Pond. The recommendation of Most Loyal Grand Gander Bridges, based on the fact that the amount of money spent from Grand Nest funds for the promotion of the life insurance coverage, having been fully paid back to the Grand Nest, he recommended that 70% of the so-called surplus accrued or that may accrue shall annually be remitted to the various Ponds in proportion with the insured membership that each Pond bears to the total number of insured members, with the express provision that such sums remitted shall be used by the various Ponds solely for the purpose of enabling indigent or needy members to maintain their insurance with our carrier company, and that 30% of the surplus is to be retained by the Life Insurance Committee for necessary and legitimate expense of operations and administration, was adopted.

The following committees reported: Jurisprudence, Ritual, Constitution and By-Laws, Emblem, Employment, Educational, Regalia, Life Insurance, Insurance Secretary and Memorial.

Sixty delegates from 40 of the 45 Ponds answered the roll call. Decrease in membership during the past year 199.

Gander Ralph W. Hukill, Ohio Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. (See Vol. 27, No. 1).

## 1934 - 1935

The Twenty-ninth Annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Madison Hotel, Atlantic City, N. J., August 28, 29, 1935, with Samuel A. Mehorter, presiding.

Sixty-nine delegates from 45 of the 46 Ponds, were seated.

Two hundred guests registered.

During the past year Alamo Pond at San Antonio, Texas, was chartered and installed.

The membership increase for the year was 84. The total membership now is 6,699.

In his report Most Loyal Grand Gander Mehorter recommended that Grand Nest officers distribute their visits so that not more than one would visit the same Pond at the same time. That expense of Grand Nest officers attending Grand Nest meetings to be paid to the hotel in one check out of Grand Nest funds. That their expense of travel be reimbursed on the same basis as delegates, and that space be devoted in Grand Nest Bulletins to the history of Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders. The delegates voted approval.

Committees reporting were: Jurisprudence, Constitution and By-Laws, Emblem, Regalia, Life Insurance and Memorial.

Gander Col. Joseph R. Knowlan, Penn Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg.

Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Wm. T. Benallack, performed the installation ceremony.

Past Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill Bernard A. Lehnberg, took his last flight during the year. (See Vol. 28, No. 1).

## 1935 - 1936

Most Loyal Grand Gander T. Ray Phillips presided at the 30th annual Grand Nest meeting held at the Biltmore Hotel, Oklahoma City, Okla. on October 14 and 15, 1936. The Honolulu Puddle was established during this year under the direction of Past Most Loyal Gander Elmer Bonstin of the San Francisco Pond. Most Loyal Grand Gander Phillips recommended that no conferences, regional meetings or territorial groupings of Blue Goose Ponds shall be held except with the sanction and full approval of the Grand Nest. At this meeting, Past Most Loyal Grand Gander W. T. Benallack, Chairman of the Life Insurance Committee, reported the cancellation of the Life Insurance Contract by the carrier company, effective December 31, 1935, and because of the report of

Past Most Loyal Grand Gander McKinley adopted in 1933, the Life Insurance Committee was not justified in attempting to replace the coverage as a Grand Nest function, decided to turn over the activities, life insurance-wise, to Insurance Secretary Helliwell, with the idea that his energies should be as an individual, in the hope that if the proposals of other life insurance companies received the numerical support, his earnings would be sufficient to permit a reduction in expense in connection with the Grand Wielder's office.

Other recommendations of Most Loyal Grand Gander Phillips, and accepted by the delegates were: Interchange of Pond Publications; improvement of technique of Pond Officers in initiatory ceremonies, and that all Pond meetings be maintained on a high and dignified scale. He stressed the importance of more careful observance of our Eligibility Rule, and a resolution was adopted to that effect.

There were 68 delegates representing 43 of the 46 Ponds. Increase in membership for the year was 112.

By adopted motion the 1933 Edition of our Constitution and By-Laws were amended by striking out all rules relating to Multiple Life Insurance.

By adopted motion Par. (h) of Sec. 10 of our By-Laws, providing for the waiving, by a Pond, of Pond dues for a member out of employment, also the waiving of Grand Nest dues, became permanent.

Other committees reporting were: Jurisprudence, Ritual, Emblem, Employment, Historical and Memorial.

It was reported with deep regret that our first Past Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill George Heller, Jr., took his last flight during the past year.

Gander Ben S. McKeel, Carolinas Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, and Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Benallack installed the new officers. (See Vol. 29, No. 1).

Commencing in this issue are short biographical sketches of Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders Atwater, Main, Pescay, Williams and Benallack.

## 1936 - 1937

The Thirty-first Annual Grand Nest meeting was held August 17, 19, 1937, at the Vancouver Hotel, Vancouver, Canada, with H. B. Leuty, Most Loyal Grand Gander, presiding.

Sixty-five delegates from 44 of the 46 Ponds answered the roll call.

Guests registered numbered 332, or 397 present.

Fine Canadian hospitality was in evidence at all times.

In his address Most Loyal Grand Gander Leuty reported increasing interest and activity on the part of the Ponds, with more social functions. He recommended, and the delegates approved: 1. A Model Initiation at each Grand Nest meeting. 2. More Pond Publications. 3. A uniform blank for use of Ponds in keeping membership records. 4. A change in Constitution and By-Laws in respect to appointment of the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill.

The Ritual Committee made recommendations for specific changes, which were adopted.

The Committee on Constitution and By-Laws dwelt on the question of eligibility, as so clearly defined in our rules and remarked: "In spite of the clarity and intent and wording of our Constitution, many so-called 'border line' cases have been submitted to our Jurisprudence Committee for rulings and many have been initiated into the Order whose eligibility is extremely questionable."

Amendments to both our Constitution and By-Laws were adopted, as follows: CONSTITUTION: Article IV, Par. (b) page 9, by inserting the words 'nor receive the major portion of their compensation from', before the word 'other' in the 8th line.

Amend Art. VI, by striking out Par. (b) and substitution Par. (b) to read, in part: "The Officers of the Grand Nest, other than the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, shall be elected annually by a . . ."

Amend Art. VI, Par. (c) providing for the appointment of the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill by the five other Grand Nest Officers upon the nomination of the Most Loyal Grand Gander. He shall be a member of the Wisconsin Home Nest or duly endorsed by the Home Nest, and shall serve during the tenure of office of the M.L.G.G. by whom he was nominated, and he may be removed at any time by the unanimous vote of the five other Grand Nest officers.

Amend Art. VI, Par. (f) by striking out the words: "Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, and insert in place thereof the words: "Grand Custodian of the Goslings", thus the Executive Committee shall be composed of the Most Loyal Grand Gander, the Grand Supervisor of the Flock and the Grand Custodian of the Goslings.

Amend Art. VI, Par. (h) by inserting a comma for the period at the end of the sentence and adding: "except the office of G.W.G.Q., which shall be governed by Par. (c).

By-Laws, amendments adopted consisted of co-ordinating changes of Section 1, paragraphs (a) to (f) inclusive.

Other committees reporting were: Emblem, Educational, Regalia, Historical, Employment and Memorial.

In the latter part of the administration of Most Loyal Grand Gander Leuty, the resignation of Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill C. P. Helliwell was accepted. Gander Richard A. Kenzel of Wisconsin Home Nest was appointed to serve the remainder of the year. He was reappointed by the Most Loyal Grand Gander and the other Grand Nest Officers year after year, until his resignation in 1951 to allow him to accept an executive position with his company.

The office of Judge Advocate was created and established by the Grand Nest Officers at this convention, by appointment of Gander Hubert O. Wolfe (a practicing insurance attorney) of Wisconsin Home Nest. He will act as legal advisor or counselor to the Grand Nest Officers and to the Ponds.

Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders present were: Benallack, Myers, and McKinley.

Gander Clifford J. Malcolm, Ontario Pond, Toronto, Canada, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. The newly elected officers were installed by P.M.L.G.G. Wm. T. Benallack.

Appearing in this issue (Vol. 30, No. 1) are short biographical sketches of Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders Wells, Snyder, Ransom, Stewart and Carlisle.

## 1937 - 1938

The Thirty-second Annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, California, August 23-25, 1938, with Most Loyal Grand Gander J. Clark Buchanan, presiding.

Forty-four of the 46 Ponds were represented by 66 delegates.

During the past year the membership increased 240 to a total of 6,987. After Invocation by Dr. Frank Chalmers McKean, Pastor of the West Hollywood Presby. Church, the City of Los Angeles through its Chamber of Commerce gave a cordial welcome to the large number of Ganders and ladies present. 288 registered besides the 66 delegates, or total 306.

In his report Grand Gander Buchanan recommended more appropriate membership certificates, and for more Ponds to establish a House Organ or Pond Publication. They were accepted by the delegates.

Judge Advocate H. O. Wolfe, in his first annual report, said in part: "After repeated conferences with the Secretary of State of Wisconsin, it was determined that all that was necessary to effectually incorporate, was to have the Constitution of the Order provide that the Order deems itself to have a corporate entity. This . . . creates a corporation status under the Wisconsin Statutes. Accordingly I prepared the requisite proposed amendment to be submitted for consideration."

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee presented amendments, as follows, and which were adopted: Amend Article V of our Constitution by adding two paragraphs (f) and (g) providing: (f) The Grand Nest Officers shall be the Trustees of the Order and shall have the possession, management and control of the property belonging thereto and transact all the business relative to the investments and disposal thereof. To sue and be sued in all matters pertaining to such property or business affairs of the Order in the name of the Trustees. They and the Order shall be deemed to have corporate entity under and pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 188 of the Statutes of the State of Wisconsin." (g) The Grand Nest Officers . . . may authorize any Pond or the Wisconsin Home Nest to incorporate as a subordinate lodge or division of the Grand Order, but for the purpose of uniformity in the administration of the privilege . . . of the Order, and all Articles of Incorporation and Association, shall provide that such corporation or association shall be subject to the Constitution and By-Laws and the rules and regulations pertaining to Pond Government. Article II was amended, as follows: "(d) If a Pond desired to change its name, it shall, by a majority vote of its members, adopt a

resolution authorizing its officers to petition the Grand Nest for such change."

Other committees reporting were: Ritual, Emblem, Educational, Historical, Employment, Publicity, Jurisprudence and Memorial.

The sudden but peaceful passing on of our beloved Past Most Loyal Grand Gander J. Charles Harris, August 21, 1938, at his home on Lake Tahoe, California, was reported during this meeting. He was given a special eulogy at the Memorial Service. It is reported in full in Bulletin Vol. 31, No. 1.)

Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders present were: Benallack and Myers. Gander Howard A. Reynolds, Colorado Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg.

Biographical sketches in this issue are of: P.M.L.G.Gs. Wise, Sonnen, Hanson, Marr and Hawxhurst.

## 1938 - 1939

The Thirty-third Annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Netherland Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio, August 29-31, 1939, with Most Loyal Grand Gander Ralph W. Hukill, presiding (Vol. 32, No. 1.)

Seventy delegates from 45 of the 46 Ponds answered the roll call. Four hundred and forty-four visitors registered. Total attendance 518.

The National Anthems of Canada and the United States were sung while spotlights were turned onto the flags of the two countries.

Grand Gander Hukill, in his address, said in part: "We are strong not only in numbers and the quality of our membership, but financially as well." He recommended and the delegates approved: 1. Thanking Past Most Loyal Grand Gander H. Verne Myers for his untiring efforts in preparing the History of our Order. Note:—He passed on before it was finished, and none of the papers were ever turned over to the Grand Nest. His was to have been a much more extensive record, covering Ponds, as well as the Grand Nest.) 2. Present to each new member a suitable framed certificate of membership. 3. Pond officers be urged to memorize the Ritual and give particular attention to the appointment of the two members who give the Obligation and Charge. 4. Pond officers give serious thought to formation of local Puddles to hold the interest of members living in areas remote from Pond headquarters.

At each Grand Nest meeting the Pond having the greatest percentage of increase in membership for the past year is presented the Membership Cup, to be retained until the next annual meeting. The name of such a Pond is engraved on the cup. This year the cup was awarded to the Alamo Pond of San Antonio, Texas.

Gander E. J. Beauvais, Quebec Pond, Montreal, Canada, made an eloquent response to the address of Grand Gander Hukill.

No legislation was enacted at this meeting, but reports were made by the following committees: Jurisprudence, Judge Advocate H. O. Wolfe, Ritual, Educational, Constitution and By-Laws and Memorial.

The Model Initiation was very ably put on by the Kentucky Colonels Team of the Kentucky Pond.

During the year we learned of the passing of Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders, William F. C. Fellers, October 12, 1938, and E. D. Marr, August 3, 1939.

Gander Louis L. Law, Minnesota Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. P.M.L.G.G. Benallack installed the officers.

Biographical sketches for Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders Fess, Stafford, Mallalieu, Myers and Leake are in this Bulletin (Vol. 32, No. 1.).

## 1939 - 1940

The Thirty-fourth Annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Ben-Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa., August 20-22, 1940, with Colonel Joseph R. Knowlan, Most Loyal Grand Gander, presiding.

The singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" and "God Save the King", followed by Invocation opened this convention. In his address Grand Gander Knowlan said in part: "One of the yard sticks by which an organization measures its accomplishments in its field of endeavor is the increase or decrease in membership. It is very gratifying to your Grand Nest Officers to be able to report that for the fiscal year recently completed we have surpassed any previous membership attained, with a total of 7,369 members. This is an increase of 29 over the former peak year of 1931 with a membership of 7,240, and an increase over last year of 139. His recommendations included: 1. That the Constitution and By-Laws be revised and reprinted under the supervision of the Judge Advocate. 2. That there be incorporated into our Constitution and By-Laws, provision for the appointment of a Judge Advocate, and the outline of his qualifications and duties. 3. Placing in nomination more than one candidate for the office of Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. 4. Placing of greater responsibilities upon Deputy M.L.G.Gs. in several outlined ways. 5. That Pond officers be encouraged to avail themselves of the services of Deputy M.L.G.Gs., and that Ponds build one of their meetings around a visit of a Grand Nest Officer or Deputy. These were accepted by the delegates.

Recommendations of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, that amendments as stated to sub-sections (c), (e), (f) and (k) of Section 10, page 35, of our By-Laws, as recorded in Bulletin Volume 33, No. 1, of August 1940, were adopted.

Other committees reporting were: Jurisprudence, Judge Advocate, Ritual, Emblem, Employment, Publicity and Memorial.

It was reported that Past Most Loyal Grand Gander J. Ross Stewart, Ontario Pond, Toronto, Canada, took his last flight August 22, 1940.

Gander P. M. Winchester, New York City Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. Installation of the new officers was by P.M.L.G.G. Benallack.

Biographical sketches of P.M.L.G.Gs. Geraghty, Harris, McCoy, Rose and Fellers are in this issue. (See Vol. 33, No. 1.).

## 1940 - 1941

"The Metropolis of the Land of the Sky", Asheville, N. C., was the scene of the Thirty-fifth Annual Grand Nest meeting, which convened in the City Auditorium, August 26-28, 1941, with Most Loyal Grand Gander Ben S. McKeel, presiding.

After singing "America" and "God Save the King", followed by Invocation by Rev. Harry J. Berry, the Mayor of Asheville welcomed those assembled.

Seventy-four delegates from 44 of the 46 Ponds were present, also 294 registered visitors.

In his report, Most Loyal Grand Gander McKeel made the following recommendations, which were approved by the delegates: 1. Bring our Ritual up-to-date and reprint. 2. Have more inter-Pond or Regional meetings. 3. Outline duties to Deputies and furnish them with a badge. 4. Publicity—study further and place before insurance public and the press. 5. The possibility of the Grand Nest lending financial aid to Host Ponds. 6. That no further attempt be made to define or further clarify our Eligibility Rule, nor to extend same to include other classifications. 7. That a committee be appointed to work with the Grand Wielder in drafting a new application for membership. 8. When practical, some form of charity be undertaken by Ponds. 9. All Ponds are urged to cooperate with the Government Agencies to the extent of their ability in matters pertaining to National Defense activities.

Judge Advocate H. O. Wolfe, reported that the recodifying of our Constitution and By-Laws, as ordered last year at Philadelphia was complete, and that the Grand Wielder has been instructed to proceed without delay with the reprinting. He also stated that practically one-half of the Ponds are now incorporated.

The amendment recommended last year by Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Knowlan, providing for the services of a Judge Advocate, was presented by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee and enacted in new sub-section (j) to Article VI, giving the Most Loyal Grand Gander the authority to appoint an attorney for the Order, who shall be a Gander in good standing.

During the past year the Grand Nest and the American Ponds subscribed to the purchase of an ambulance, which was dispatched to Coventry, England. By adopted resolution, the dues of those Ganders serving in the armed forces were waived until their return to civilian pursuits, or until their resignation was tendered and marked resigned in good standing.

San Francisco won the membership cup.

The net gain in membership 114, total membership 7,483.

The famous Model Initiation Team of Kentucky Pond, known as the Kentucky Colonels, put on the Model Initiation.

Other Committees reporting, were: Jurisprudence, Ritual, Emblem, Educational, Publicity and Memorial.

The last flight of Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Lawrence H. Bridges, Nebraska Pond, on April 1, 1941, was reported.

Gander George E. Edmondson, Florida Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. Installation of the new officers was by Past M.L.G.G. Benallack.

Biographical sketches of P.M.L.G.Gs. Mc Kinley, Bridges, Mehorter, and Phillips are in this issue. (See Vol. 34, No. 1.).

## 1941 - 1942

Grand Nest Bulletin Volume 35, No. 1, reports the 36th Annual Grand Nest meeting, held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Aug. 25-27, 1942, with Most Loyal Grand Gander Clifford J. Malcolm, presiding. Those present sang a verse from "God Save the King" and "America," followed by presentation of the Colors, and the Invocation.

Sixty-five delegates from 42 of the 45 Ponds answered roll call. Visitors registered numbered 195, or total present of 240.

During this Grand Nest year the attack on Pearl Harbor was committed.

In his annual report, M.L.G.G. Malcolm gave interesting and constructive details on the busy and profitable year, with a net gain in membership of 77.

The war, and what the Blue Goose might do to help under varied circumstances, should they develop, was the theme of his address, and his recommendations.

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee reported that it had very thoroughly examined the recodified Constitution and By-Laws including the supplements and amendments, which were presented to the delegates and adopted by them. The amendments and additions were: Constitution, Article I, new Par. (f) formation and government of Puddles, merely refers to new Sections 23 & 24 of our By-Laws for rules governing.

Sub-section (a) of Article II was amended to reduce the number of signatures to an application for a Pond charter, from 50 to 35, and sub-section (b) was amended by striking out the words "one hundred (100)" and substituting the word "fifty (50)".

By-Laws Governing Puddles were provided and enacted.

New sub-section (c) was added to Section 15 of our By-Laws, providing for reinstatement of a resigned member in good standing, by payment of current years dues accompanied by petition for reinstatement.

The report of the Ritual Committee, which was adopted, included a prayer as an addition to our Memorial Service, also a closing prayer for all Pond meetings.

The report of Grand Wielder R. A. Kenzel, showed the Order in healthy financial condition.

Other Committees reporting were: Judge Advocate H. O. Wolfe, Jurisprudence, Emblem, Educational, Publicity and Memorial.

Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders Benallack, Fess and Buchanan were present and introduced.

A fine demonstration was put on by the Model Initiation Team of the Ontario Pond.

Indiana Pond won the membership cup.

Empire State Pond of Syracuse surrendered its charter during the past year.

The passing of Grand Custodian of the Goslings Louis L. Law of the Minnesota Pond made it necessary for M.L.G.G. Malcolm to appoint a successor, as provided in Art. VI, Par. (h) of our Constitution (1933 Edition), Minnesota Pond agreed with him in the appointment of Gander Thomas G. Linnell of that Pond, to complete the unexpired term of the deceased Grand Nest officer.

Past M.L.G.G. H. Verne Myers, took his last flight on Nov. 27, 1941.

Gander E. J. Beauvais of Quebec Pond, Montreal, Canada, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg.

The newly elected officers were installed by P.M.L.G.G. Benallack. Biographical sketches of P.M.L.G.Gs. Buchanan, Knowlan, McKeel and Malcolm are in this issue. (See Vol. 35, No. 1.)

## 1942 - 1943

The 37th Annual Grand Nest meeting that had been planned at Colorado Springs, Colo., was called off, due to the war. The Grand Nest Officers met in Executive Session in Milwaukee (a central location) Sept. 15-16, 1943. All the officers were present, also Judge Advocate Hubert O. Wolfe. Most Loyal Grand Gander Howard A. Reynolds, presided, and read his report, as did Grand Wielder R. A. Kenzel. The report of the War Activities Committee outlined 12 important activities, including: working through Service Clubs; sending gifts to men overseas; visiting families of men overseas and giving assistance where necessary; Red Cross work; assisting Air Force Units, Salvation Army Huts, YMCA and Naval Cadet Units; salvage drives; selling War Stamps and Victory Bonds; providing phonographs and records; collecting and distributing clothing and comforts; providing reading material; donations to blood banks and assisting Civil Protection Committees and workers throughout the country. The Ladies' Auxiliaries were complimented for their splendid work in this connection in the United States and Canada.

There were 1,207 Ganders in the American and Canadian armed forces.

Judge Advocate Wolfe reported on the closing out of the Empire State Pond and the New England Pond. He also reported that the Government had decided the Grand Nest, as a corporation, is not subject to income tax. Also, additional Ponds had incorporated.

Every Pond was reported by the Grand Nest War Activities Committee to be doing some type of war activity.

Because of there being no expense of delegates this year, it was decided to refund \$1.00 per active member of each Pond.

Pond reports submitted in time were published in this Special Grand Nest Bulletin reporting the Special Officers' Meeting at Milwaukee.

Because there could be no Constitutional election of officers at this meeting, the present Grand Nest Officers continued for another year in their respective stations, as 'Resolved' at Toronto a year ago.

## 1943 - 1944

Assembled at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in the mile high City of Denver, Colo., August 23, 1944, the 37th Anniversary Grand Nest meeting, with Most Loyal Grand Gander Howard A. Reynolds presiding, opened with the singing of "America" and "God Save the King", then Reverend Paul D. White gave the Invocation. The Honorable Luke Kavanaugh, Insurance Commissioner of Colorado, was introduced, and gave the address of welcome, which included some interesting historical incidents about the early cliff dwellers and many places of interest in that State.

Sixty-one delegates from 36 of the 44 Ponds were seated. The visitors registered numbered 203, or a total of 264 present.

The report of Grand Gander Reynolds reviewed the activities of the Order during the past 2 years, and outlined a plan for the future, both curtailed on account of the war. This completed his 2nd year as Most Loyal Grand Gander. The net gain in membership for those years was 175. The present membership of 7,702 is the highest in the history of the Order. There are 877 of our members serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and Canada. The Ottawa and East Iowa Puddles were established under the Ontario and Iowa Ponds, respectively. Of his several recommendations the following were accepted by the delegates: 1. That the various Ponds emphasize the committing of the Ritual to memory and that no officer should accept when elected, unless he pledged himself with that thought in mind. 2. The Ponds are especially advised on the importance that all meetings be conducted with due dignity and decorum. 4. Issuance of Certificates of Membership can be better handled through the Grand Nest.

P.M.L.G.Gs. Buchanan and Colonel Knowlan, were introduced.

Other Committees reporting were: Judge Advocate H. O. Wolfe, Jurisprudence, Ritual, Emblem, War Activities and Memorial.

The last flight of P.M.L.G.G. William P. Fess, Manitoba Pond, Canada, on March 9, 1944, was reported.

Gander E. W. Trenbath, Seattle Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg.

Biographical sketch of P.M.L.G.G. Howard A. Reynolds was in this issue. (See Vol. 36, No. 1.)

## 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 to 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 gave the address of welcome.

Past M.L.G.Gs. Benallack and Col. Knowlan were present and introduced.

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. His address is published in this issue. (See Vol. 37, No. 1.)

In his report Grand Gander Linnell said in part: "I would like to state . . . that in my opinion, the Fire Insurance business, as conducted on the North American Continent, is a better business today, because of the Blue Goose." He made 9 constructive recommendations all of which received the approval of the 5 Gander committee to which it was referred. Briefly they are: 1. Expansion of the Order with new Ponds where possible. 2. Encouragement of Regional Pond meetings. 3. More Pond publications. 4. A quarterly or semi-annual News Sheet. 5. Every officers commit Ritual to memory. 6. Make no changes in the present Ritual. 7. More and larger Pond Fellowship Funds for relief of distressed Ganders and their families. 8. Give thought to an amendment to our Constitution, which would permit mail balloting to elect new Grand Nest Officers, or on Constitutional matters in event of conditions making holding a Grand Nest meeting impossible. 9. Ponds take a more active interest in the civic affairs of their community.

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 a Grand Nest Officer who is not a delegate does not possess voting rights, because such rights are reserved to Delegates alone.

The Jurisprudence Committee reported that its recommendations in the past be collated and published, was adopted by the delegates.

Other Committees reporting were: War Activities, Ritual, Emblem, Memorial and War Veterans Service. This last committee was endeavoring to assist in placing 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.

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

The biographical sketch of P.M.L.G.G. Thos. G. Linnell is in this issue. (See Vol. 37, No. 1.)

## 1945 - 1946

The 39th Annual Grand Nest meeting was held at the Hotel New Yorker, New York, August 20-22, 1946, with Most Loyal Grand Gander P. M. Winchester, presiding, with all 45 of the Ponds being represented by 73 delegates. The Colors were presented by the Insurance American Legion Post and the Canadian Legion Post of New York City. The Invocation was pronounced by the Reverend Merle S. Irwin of the Presbyterian Church of Westfield, N. J. Dr. Paul John Witte, Secretary of the Board of Standardization of the City of New York made an address of welcome.

The Model Ritual Team of the New York City Pond, performed the model initiation.

In his report, Grand Gander Winchester said in part: "The return of the majority of our over 1,000 veterans to active participation in the affairs of their Ponds, and the addition of 841 new members . . . give new impetus to . . . Blue Goosedom." The total membership now stands at 8,899. All 8 of his recommendations were approved by the committee on his report, and by the delegates. These include: 1. A committee to be appointed to promote Ladies' Auxiliary organizations. 2. Another committee to improve present Pond Publications and establish new ones. 3. A Constitutional amendment be prepared clarifying our Eligibility Rules. 4. Issue specific instructions to Deputy M.L.G.Gs. as to duties, and each Pond in the territory of each Deputy be informed of his appointment. 5. Regional Pond meetings be held. 6. Memorizing Ritual by Pond officers. 7. Appoint a Special Committee to study the subject of Visual Education and report at the next Grand Nest meeting. 8. No change in ritual.

The War Activities Committee made its final report and was discontinued. Other reports made: Judge Advocate H. O. Wolfe, Jurisprudence, Constitution and By-Laws, Emblem, Publicity, Ritual and Memorial committees.

The West Texas Pond of Lubbock, Texas, was chartered. The charter was presented by Grand Gander Winchester at this meeting to Delegate F. W. Mallalieu, Jr., of that new Pond. It was formerly a Puddle.

Three new Puddles were established during the year at Hamilton, Ontario; Decatur, Ill.; and Stockton, California.

A resolution in memory of P.M.L.G.G. Thos. G. Linnell, Minnesota Pond, who took his last flight on May 15, 1946, was read and adopted. With his demise the War Veterans Service Committee files and activities were transferred to Grand Gander Winchester.

Pond Reports were filed and printed in the Grand Nest Bulletin.

Delegates and visitors registered numbered 384.

Gander Paul M. Fell, Penn Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. Installation of the new officers was by P.M.L.G.G. Benallack.

The biographical sketch of P.M.L.G.G. P. M. Winchester is in this issue. (See Vol. 38, No. 1.)

## 1946 - 1947

The Roney Plaza Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida, was the scene of the 40th Annual Grand Nest meeting, Oct. 8-10, 1948. Most Loyal Grand Gander George E. Edmondson presided.

The Color Guard, a detail from the Harvey W. Seeds Post No. 29, American Legion Drum Corps of Miami, presented the Colors of the U. S. A. and Canada. Those assembled sang "America" and "God Save the King", then Gander Hudson McEacham, Florida Pond, gave the Invocation. Addresses of welcome were made by Mr. Tom Smith, Manager of the Convention Bureau of Miami Beach; Mr. Neal Lang, Manager of the Roney Plaza Hotel; and Most Loyal Gander Sam Myrick, Florida Pond. Gander E. J. Beauvais, Grand Supervisor of the Quebec Pond, made the response.

Grand Gander Edmondson introduced P.M.L.G.Gs. Benallack, Stafford, Knowlan, Malcolm and Mehorter, also P.G.W.G.Q. Rudd and Deputies M.L.G.Gs. Young, Frey, Campbell, Stewart, Rohwer, Cox and Hedgepath.

The Model Initiation Team of the Carolinas Pond put on a fine exhibition.

Seventy-two delegates from 43 of the 45 Ponds answered roll call.

In his report Grand Gander Edmondson, said in part: "Fellowship in my book is just as necessary as the air we breathe and nothing should be overlooked that would encourage it. . . . We are all old enough to know that the approbation of principles is won by proper conduct, and lost when we over do the fellowship side." ". . . there are some changes perhaps that should be made, . . . if we are to progress", as follows: 1. Section 3, Page 29 of our By-Laws—reimbursement for delegate expense, be changed to read "150 members instead of 100." This would affect only 8 Ponds. 2. That the Grand Nest receive \$2.50 per member instead of the \$2.00 now assessed. 3. Wielders should comply with By-Laws, Sec. 9, Page 35, Par. (f) & (g) pertaining to reporting new members and remitting G. N. dues. 4. Eligibility for 25 year button be definitely established and strictly enforced. 5. Continue efforts to have officers memorize their parts of Ritual. (These last 3 were approved by delegates.)

Grand Wielder R. A. Kenzel reported a net gain of 707 in membership, with total membership of 9,606.

Judge Advocate H. O. Wolfe reported several more Ponds had incorporated and recommended the remainder who have not should study the advantages of incorporation.

The Jurisprudence Committee reported it had ruled that a Life Member under our By-Laws (Sec. 3 (c)), being relieved from paying Pond dues, and the Pond being relieved from paying Grand Nest dues, such a Gander would be treated as an active Gander when calculating, for the purpose of delegate representation, the number of active members of a

Pond, and must be counted to determine whether or not a Pond has 100 or more Ganders on its membership roll.

The Visual Education Committee reported, and the delegates adopted a motion that no further consideration be given this subject.

Sub-section (c) of Article IV of our Constitution was clarified by amendment to permit Special Agents and Fieldmen of National and Governing Boards and Prevention and Protective Associations to become members.

Other committees reporting were: War Veterans Service, Publicity, Financial Assistance to Ponds Holding a Grand Nest Convention. and Memorial.

A committee was appointed to explore the proposal for proportionate representation of delegates, based on Grand Nest membership.

The International Golf Match was won by the Canadian Team.

Southern hospitality was in evidence at all times.

Registered visitors numbered 121, or total of 193 all told.

On behalf of Wisconsin Home Nest, Gander H. O. Wolfe presented a resolution inviting the Grand Nest to hold its Fiftieth Anniversary of the Order in 1956, in Milwaukee.

An aquatic show by experts, in the Roney Plaza Pool, attracted many of us on Wednesday evening.

Gander Charles L. Beale, Texas Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. P.M.L.G.G. Benallack was installing officer.

The convention wound up with the Fellowship Banquet, followed by dancing. One of those present was P.M.L.G.G. John F. Stafford, who was Chairman of the Entertainment Committee for ten years, from 1907 and who conceived the idea of a Goodfellowship Dinner as a part of the Blue Goose meeting, which was held the same week as the meeting of the Underwriters of the Northwest Association in Chicago, and has been the culminating feature of every annual Grand Nest meeting since.

A biographical sketch of P.M.L.G.G. Geo. E. Edmondson is in this issue. (See Vol. 39, No. 1.)

## 1947 - 1948

The Mt. Royal Hotel, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, was the scene of the 41st Annual Grand Nest meeting, Sept. 7-9, 1948, presided over by E. J. Beauvais, Most Loyal Grand Gander.

The Color Guard presented the Standard of each country, followed by the singing of "God Save the King" and "America". The Invocation was pronounced in French and English by Rev. Father John O'Rourke.

Past M.L.G.Gs. Benallack, Buchanan, Col. Knowlan, Malcolm, Winchester and Edmondson, were introduced.

General Chairman Stan F. LeRiche extended words of welcome to Delegates, Ladies and Members. Gander William Bullock, a member of the Montreal City Council, gave a fraternal and official welcome, then Most Loyal Gander Tremblay of the Quebec Pond added his welcome. The response on behalf of the Grand Nest was made by Grand Supervisor of the Flock E. W. Trenbath.

Seventy-four delegates from 45 of the 47 Ponds answered roll call. Three hundred seventeen visitors registered. Total in attendance 391.

The Model Initiation was performed with precision and perfection of Ritual.

Diplomatically giving others the credit for the splendid progress of the Order during his term in office, Grand Gander Beauvais read his very excellent report with several recommendations, all of which were concurred in by the delegates. The committee on his report: "Heartily concurs with his remarks that 'We should give an effect to that portion of our Ritual—This Trinity of Virtues, Character, Charity and Fellowship, if practiced throughout your *business* life, will aid you in achieving the objectives for which the Order was created'—Tribute to Ladies' Auxiliaries and Joint Meetings between Ponds with attendance of Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders at more Pond meetings, were others.

Grand Wielder Kenzel reported a net increase in membership of 680 the past year, bringing the total membership to 10,286. The San Francisco Pond won the Membership Cup.

The International Golf Match was won again by the Canadian Team, allowing that Team to retain the cup for another year.

The question of Eligibility and the possibility that multiple lines companies would soon obliterate the standard set for eligibility for membership was brought out in the report of the Jurisprudence Committee, which said that every Pond should have a membership committee made up of its Past Officers and older and more conscientious members, and should strive to keep membership confined to those whose primary occupation is serving the "Business of Fire Insurance" in capacities designed in Article IV of our Constitution. The adoption of the report indicated the consensus of opinion of the delegates was to adhere to the rules, and let well enough alone.

An amendment to Section 11 of our By-Laws was adopted to permit a Gander desiring to transfer allegiance from one Pond to another to file a Petition for Flight, when the M.L.G. and W.G.Q. shall endorse and *immediately* send to the G.W.G.Q. for the execution of a Certificate of Flight. Should the Gander be rejected by the Pond to which he has taken flight, he shall be restored to membership in the Pond from which he asked a transfer, which Pond shall again enroll him as a member.

Other Committees reporting were: Ritual, Publicity and Memorial. That warm Canadian hospitality was constantly available to all.

Appropriate tribute was paid to the passing of P.M.L.G.Gs. Ralph W. Hukill on January 10, 1948 and Thos. L. Garaghty on May 22, 1948.

Gander Samuel L. Sterling, Manatoba Pond, Winnipeg, Canada, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, and installation of the new officers was conducted by P.M.L.G.G. Benallack, as always.

The biographical sketch of P.M.L.K.K. E. J. Beauvais is in this issue. (See Vol. 40, No. 1.)

## 1948 - 1949

The 42nd Annual Grand Nest meeting was held in the Olympic Bowl of the Olympic Hotel, Seattle, Wash., Aug. 23-25, 1949, with Most Loyal Grand Gander E. W. Trenbath presiding.

The Color Guard, composed of a detachment of the United States Marines presented the Colors of the U.S.A. and Canada. The audience sang "America" and "God Save the King", followed by the Invocation. The Honorable William F. Devin, Mayor of Seattle, and the Honorable William A. Sullivan, Insurance Commissioner of the State of Washington, and Most Loyal Gander Alvin C. Tregoning, Seattle Pond, gave words of welcome. Grand Supervisor of the Flock J. Ray Hull, Indiana Pond, made response.

The Model Initiation Team was composed of Ganders who had been initiated into Seattle Pond during the past year.

Eighty-five delegates from 46 of the 48 Ponds responded to the roll call. Visitors registered numbered 300, or total of 385 present.

M.L.G.G. Trenbath in his report said in part: "No greater tribute can be given to those who founded this Order than by keeping our membership wholly within the limits first suggested by them, and from which we have thus far chosen not to change. Today we look with pride on Blue Goose as an organization encouraged by its happy years of history and still possessing those same ideals and principles that were incorporated in its original Constitution, By-Laws and Ritual. Ours is an organization composed of Fire Insurance men, working for the betterment of the insurance business, in which 'no reference is made of distinction created as to the class of companies or their modes of operation', and which continues to gather in greater numbers each year in the belief that the ultimate object of the Fire Insurance business is to protect life and property from destruction by fire. This we are endeavoring to accomplish by working together in peace and harmony as fellow Ganders with the principles and precepts of our Order ever before us. We honor those who founded our Order with the same sincerity that we do our forefathers who gave us the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada to keep as our own so long as we are able. If, in your minds, there exists a tendency to broaden the eligibility rules, I hope you will proceed cautiously lest, for the fallacy of numbers, we destroy our heritage." He reported further that: The Fresno-San Joaquin Pond was chartered 11-12-48 at Fresno, California, also a number of Ponds have organized Puddles during the past year and other Puddles have been activated, perhaps 30 in all,—several of our present Ponds were originally formed as Puddles. He added: "Ponds remote from headquarters of a M.L.G.G. that desire his attendance at a meeting, might arrange with other nearby Ponds for a series of meetings, also wherever possible regional meetings be held and a Grand Nest officer would attend. The formation of additional Ladies' Auxiliaries would be beneficial to the Order. He asked that the address of P.M.L.G. Lloyd S. Wallace, Sr., Wisconsin Home Nest, at the luncheon given in his honor, be printed in the GN Bulletin.

Sub-section (b) of Article IV of our Constitution was amended by striking out all provisions after the word "Adjusters" and substituting therefor: "Provided that the principal occupation and duties of all of the foregoing described persons is in connection with the Fire Insurance Business. The writing and servicing of Fire Coverage incidental to the Business of Casualty Insurance shall not qualify an applicant for membership, and further that local agents shall not be eligible to membership."

Chairman Jack C. Neer read his Report of the Ladies' Auxiliary Committee, then introduced a Resolution providing that the Grand Nest go on record as favoring . . . the formation of Ladies' Auxiliaries in Ponds where such organizations do not now exist . . ." This was adopted.

Grand Gander Trenbath reiterated what he had said before on many occasions that "the Ponds which have an Auxiliary are indeed fortunate. They add tremendously to the Ganders' interest in their Pond and the Order."

Judge Advocate Wolfe, his Jurisprudence Committee and committees on Ritual, Employment, Emblem and Memorial reported.

The Secretarial Report of Grand Wielder R. A. Kenzel showed an increase in membership for the past year of 297, raising the total to 10,583. Colorado Pond won the Membership Cup.

Two Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders took their last flight during the year, Ben S. McKeel, Carolinas Pond on Nov. 26, 1948 and Gus M. Wise, Indiana Pond in January 1949. Also reported was the last flight in Sept. 1948 of Gander George Gould Wright, Wisconsin Home Nest, who was the first Gosling initiated.

Gander John Henry Martin, San Francisco Pond, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg.

A boat ride through Lake Washington, Pudget Sound and the Locks intervening was enjoyed by many.

The Rev. John P. Craine, Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church, Seattle opened our meeting with the Invocation on Wednesday. and the Good-fellowship Banquet was closed with his Benediction.

The biographical sketch of P.M.L.G.G. E. W. Trenbath is in this issue. (See Vol. 41, No. 1.)

## 1949 - 1950

The 43rd Annual Grand Nest meeting was called to order in Convention Hall, French Lick, Indiana, Aug. 9, 1950 by Most Loyal Grand Gander J. Ray Hull, who presided.

After presentation of the Colors, those present sang "America" and "God Save the King", followed by Invocation. Then all were welcomed by a representative of the Governor of Indiana. Grand Supervisor of the Flock Fell, made the response.

The famous Kentucky Pond Team "The Kentucky Colonels" once more put on the Model Initiation with precision.

Eighty-one delegates from 48 of the 49 Ponds answered the roll call. There were 234 visiting Ganders and ladies registered.

In his annual report M.L.G.G. Hull said that the Order experienced one of its best years in growth and financially. The increase in membership during the year was 475, bringing the net total to 11,058. He pointed out that the growth in membership during the past 15 years is almost 50%. That at this meeting P.M.L.G.G. Trenbath, Seattle Pond will present a charter dated 7-1-50, to the delegate of the new Idaho Pond, which is an outgrowth of a Puddle of the Utah-Idaho Pond. A new charter has been issued to Utah Pond. Also the organization of a number of new Puddles and the formation of several new Ladies' Auxiliaries during the past year.

Grand Wielder R. A. Kenzel reported that the Fresno-San Joaquin Pond won the Membership Cup. It was chartered 11-12-48.

The committee on the report of M.L.G.G. Hull concurred with all 6 of his recommendations, that: 1. No change be made in our Ritual. 2. Officers of Ponds memorize the Ritual. 3. Ponds spread Pond news. 4. News of important activities be spread through newspapers and our trade journals. 5. Appoint a committee to study our Eligibility Rules from multiple lines operations standpoint. 6. Organize more new Ponds and Puddles, wherever advantageous. The delegates adopted.

The Proportionate Representation Committee report was not adopted, and the proposed amendment to the Constitution on that subject was rejected by the delegates.

Other committees reporting were: Judge Advocate Wolfe, Jurisprudence, Ladies' Auxiliary, Memorial and some Pond Reports were filed by the delegates to be printed in the Bulletin. Delegate Haral Cobb of San Francisco Pond, dressed in full Chinese regalia, gave his report in Chinese.

Delegate R. F. Swaine, Manitoba Pond, expressed very special thanks for the generosity of the Grand Nest, the many Ponds and the Ganders themselves, for donations to the Manitoba Flood Relief Fund.

Past M.L.G.Gs. present and introduced were: Phillips, Buchanan, Knowlan, Winchester, Beauvais and Trenbath.

Gander Alex B. Young, Heart of America Pond was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg.

A biographical sketch of P.M.L.G.G. J. Ray Hull is in this issue. (See Vol. 42, No. 1.)

## 1950 - 1951

The Forty-fourth Annual Meeting of Grand Nest was called to order in the Crystal Ballroom of the Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa., on Wednesday, August 22, with Most Loyal Grand Gander Paul M. Fell presiding. A Color Guard of the United States Marine Corps presented the Colors, followed by all present singing "America" and "God Save the King," then Invocation was pronounced by Father Norton, Commander of the Chaplain Corps of the U. S. Navy. M.L.G.G. Fell welcomed the Ladies, Ganders and guests, then introduced His Honor, the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, Bernard Samuel and First Deputy Insurance Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Mr. Ralph Alexander, who, in turn, each gave an address of welcome.

Eighty delegates representing all of the 49 Ponds answered the roll call. The registered visitors numbered 395.

Past Grand Nest officers present and introduced were: P.M.L.G.Gs. Buchanan, Winchester, Beauvais, Hull, also P.G.W.G.Q. Rudd.

The Model Ritual Team of the Penn Pond performed the Model Initiation.

The specific recommendations made by Grand Gander Fell were approved by the committee on his address and adopted by the delegates. Briefly they are: 1. Pursue and complete establishment of Ponds at Hartford and Pittsburgh. 2. Encouragement of Regional or Inter-Pond meetings. 3. All Pond officers memorize the Ritual. 5. Make some redistribution of membership by changing lines of districts, so membership per district will be more evenly divided. Appoint a committee on this. 6. Continuance of all Pond Papers and Bulletins and periodic bulletins by all other Ponds. 7. Send notices of Pond meetings and other activities to daily papers and insurance trade journals.

The report of the Special Committee on Multiple Lines was rejected, but the following resolution was adopted.

"Be it resolved that the membership eligibility standards of this Order be broadened to permit persons who devote substantial activity to the fire insurance industry to become eligible for membership.

"Be it further resolved that all other eligibility requirements presently imposed by our Constitution be preserved intact and unimpaired.

"Be it further resolved that the Judge Advocate be instructed to draft a proposed constitutional amendment which will implement and give effect to the foregoing resolution and that copies of said proposed constitutional amendment be sent to each Pond sufficiently in advance of the 1952 Grand Nest Convention so that it may be voted upon at said 1952 Grand Nest Convention."

The very important and meaningful report of the Jurisprudence Committee dealing with the question of the Eligibility to Membership requirements was adopted by the delegates.

Other committees reporting were: Judge Advocate Wolfe, Ritual, Publicity, Emblem, Ladies' Auxiliary and Memorial.

The resignation of Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, R. A. Kenzel, was received and accepted, with the understanding that he would serve temporarily until his successor had been named.

It was quite appropriate that, upon his departure, after 14 years in office, Grand Wielder Kenzel reported the membership at 11,273,—the highest ever. This represented a gain during the past year of 215 and a net increase during his term in office of 4,526 members.

Resolutions were adopted, marking the Last Flight of Past Most Loyal Grand Gander William Tecumsch Benallack on February 21, 1951, and Past Most Loyal Grand Gander E. M. Trenbath on November 4, 1950.

By adopted resolution, members in the armed forces were made exempt from the payment of dues until their return to civilian pursuits and to the nearest beginning fiscal year.

Gander Robert L. Wiseman, National Capital Pond was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg.

Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Paul M. Fell and his daughter, Norma Fell, were host and hostess at the International Good Fellowship Banquet and Ball in the Crystal Ballroom. Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill R. A. Kenzel acted as Master of Ceremonies.

A biographical sketch of P.M.L.G.G. Paul M. Fell is in this issue. (See Vol. 43, No. 1.)

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Gander Henry L. Mauritson, Wisconsin Home Nest, was appointed and took over the office of Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill on November 1, 1951. He established Grand Nest Headquarters at 110 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee (2), Wis., having moved same from the home of Past Grand Wielder R. A. Kenzel at 601 E. Lexington Blvd., Whitefish Bay, Wis., (A suburb of Milwaukee.) A few months later he moved "headquarters" to his home at 7544 N. Crossway Road, Milwaukee 17, Wisconsin.

(Grand Wielders of the Goose Quill have always been chosen from Wisconsin Home Nest, and Grand Nest Headquarters maintained at Milwaukee.)

## 1951 - 1952

The Forty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Grand Nest was held in Crystal Ball Room for Baker Hotel, Dallas, Texas, August 27 and 28, 1952, with Most Loyal Grand Gander Charles L. Beale presiding. (Bulletin Vol. 44, No. 1). The colors were presented by a Color Guard of the United States Marine Corps, then those assembled sang the first verse of "America" and "God Save the King." The invocation was by Reverend Wm. H. Dickson, Jr. Seventy-eight delegates from 50 of the 52 Ponds responded to the roll call. At this meeting its was definitely decided not to broaden the membership eligibility standards of the Order (Art. IV of our Const.). Judge Advocate H. O. Wolfe reported that an additional number of American Ponds incorporated during the current year. Charters were presented to three (3) new Ponds: Northern New England Pond of Manchester, N. H., Palmetto Pond of Columbia, S. C., and Steel City Pond of Pittsburgh. This brings total Pond to 52. The report of the new Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill H. L. Mauritson showed total membership as 11,839, a gain of 566, and an excess of expenses over income for the twelve months ended June 30, 1952 of \$742.97, with total assets on that date \$22,916.57, of which \$11,827.92 is invested in Bonds of the U.S.A. and Dominion of Canada. The Membership Cup for the highest percentage of gain was won by National Capital Pond. Motivated by a desire to recognize Past Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill Richard A. Kenzel, for his many years of loyal and unselfish service, Section 17 (a) of the By-Laws pertaining to Life Membership of Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders, was amended to read: "Each Past Most Loyal Grand Gander, was amended to read: "Each Past Most Loyal Grand Gander, and every retired Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, who shall have served at least ten years, and who shall have the recommendation of the Grand Nest Officers for such membership, shall become a Life Member of his Pond and the Grand Nest shall issue a certificate of such membership and forward same to the Pond for signature and presentation, all subject to

paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Section." The Grand Wielder was instructed to prepare and send to Past Grand Wielder Kenzel a Life Membership.

As recommended by the Emblem Committee a decalcomania (decal) sign or emblem 2½ inches in diameter for use on the inside of auto wind-shields, was approved by the delegates.

The Ladies' Auxiliary Committee reported the formation of a new auxiliary by the ladies of the South Texas Pond.

Other committees reporting were: Judge Advocate Wolfe, Jurisprudence, Publicity, Equal Distribution of Membership Districts, Resolutions and Memorial.

Past Grand Nest Officers present and introduced were: P.M.L.G.Gs. John F. Stafford, T. Ray Phillips, Joseph R. Knowlan, P. M. Winchester and J. Ray Hull, also P.G.W.G.Q. Paul E. Rudd.

The Model Ritual Team of the Alamo Pond, San Antonio, Texas, dressed in typical 'Texas style' performed without a flaw.

One of the largest registration of visitors at a Grand Nest Convention was recorded at 514.

Gander Jules E. Simoneaux, Louisiana Pond, New Orleans, unopposed, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg.

The enjoyable entertainment, like other features, was 'Texas style' with plentiful Southern hospitality. The Texas welcome of "Howdy Podnah", a chuck wagon feed one evening, followed by a rodeo made us want to stay longer.

WINNIPEG, "It's the place to be in '53."

A biographical sketch of P.M.L.G.G. Chas. L. Beale appears in this issue. (See Vol. 46, No. 1.)

## 1952 - 1953

The Forty-sixth Annual Meeting was held at Royal Alexandria Hotel, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, August 25-27, 1953. Most Loyal Grand Gander Samuel L. Sterling presided. After the invocation by the Very Reverend John O. Anderson, official welcoming addresses were given by Honorable W. L. Miller, Minister of Education for the Province of Manitoba; His Worshipful Mayor Garnet Coulter of Winnipeg, and Mr. Fred Swain, Supt. of Insurance for the Province. Official response was made by Grand Supervisor of the Flock Martin. Ninety-two delegates from 53 of the 54 Ponds responded to the roll call. In his address, Most Loyal Grand Gander Sterling, reported progress of the Order in many ways. This was reflected in the report of Grand Wielder Mauritson which showed a net gain in membership of 640 and an excess of income over expenses for the twelve months ended June 30, 1953 of \$5,020.25, and total assets that date of \$27,936.82.

Grand Gander Sterling told in his address of his extensive travels from coast to coast and from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, and said: "There is a growing and sincere effort on the part of Pond officers to exemplify the initiation ceremony with the utmost decorum and dignity. Almost every Pond visited by Grand Nest officers, the Ritual was given from memory, as it should be." . . . "I found in my travels that wherever

there is a Ladies' Auxiliary, the Pond is better for having the ladies participate in some of the activities. If, during my term of office, I have been able to interpret the philosophy of Blue Goosedom and, if I have contributed anything toward the betterment of our beloved Order, I have been amply repaid. To me it has been a labor of love."

The Committee reporting on the address of Grand Gander Sterling, approved his recommendations that wherever geographically possible, Ponds hold joint meetings to co-operate with the travel requirement of Grand Nest Officers; that deputies be chosen carefully and fully appraised of their duties; also continued encouragement should be given to the formation of Ladies' Auxiliaries. Reports of the Jurisprudence and Ritual Committees were made with no important recommendations. The Ladies' Auxiliary Committee reported formation of four new Auxiliaries the past year. The following Committees had no reports to make: Constitution and By-Laws, Publicity and Emblem. Motion was adopted that the Grand Nest Executive Committee be empowered to approve, at its discretion, if needed by a host Pond, not to exceed ten (10c) per member. An amendment to our By-Laws was enacted, providing that transportation expense of the wives of Grand Nest officers be paid from Grand Nest funds. New Charters were presented to Edmondton Pond (formerly a Puddle) of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and Garden State Pond of Newark, N. J. A new Puddle has been formed at Saskatoon in the Province of Saskatchewan, Canada. The Membership Cup was won by Oregon Pond. Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders present: Charles L. Beale, Texas; E. J. Beauvais, Quebec; J. Clark Buchanan, California; Paul M. Fell and Joseph R. Knowlan, Pennsylvania; Clifford J. Malcolm, Ontario; and Samuel A. Mehorter, New York City. Thursday morning. Motion carried that the word "consecutive" in the third line of Section 17, Par. (b) on page 45 of our By-Laws, be deleted. The passing of Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Wm. J. Sonnen, Illinois Pond, August 1, 1953, was announced. Pond reports were filed with Grand Wielder Mauritson for publication in the Bulletin. Gander Robert L. Fenerty, Alberta Pond, unopposed, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Sterling personally conducted the installation and expressed the hope that, in performing this last official act, it would set a precedent to be followed in the future. Typical Canadian hospitality was always in evidence. It's "San Francisco once more in '54."

A biographical sketch of P.M.L.G.G. Samuel L. Sterling appears in this issue. (See Vol. 45, No. 1)

During this Winnipeg meeting we were told by M.L.G.G. Sterling of an interesting and important event that should be recorded. It happened late in September 1929, as the Circle Tour of Ganders and their wives were returning from the San Francisco Convention. At Calgary, your Historian—then Grand Wielder—sent a wire to P.M.L.G. Harry Smith of Manitoba Pond at Winnipeg, saying our party on special Pullmans would arrive the next morning for a day. Due to the illness of its M.L.G., Manitoba Pond had held no meetings for over a year. A hurried



meeting was called by Smith and a group was organized to meet the visitors. It was headed by Gander Samuel L. Sterling, who was chosen to act as Most Loyal Gander. The visitors were accorded a full day of sight-seeing and entertainment, accompanied by an abundance of that cordial Canadian hospitality. No one even suspected that Manitoba Pond had been dormant. Shortly after that a reorganization meeting of the Pond was called and Gander Sterling was elected Most Loyal Gander. The Pond was on its way again. At the meeting the following January every word of the Ritual, opening, initiation and closing, was given from memory for the first time since the Pond was Chartered in 1915. It has flourished ever since.

Sam said last August (1953) at Winnipeg: "If it hadn't been for that wire from you Paul, I probably would not have had the privilege of serving the Order as Most Loyal Grand Gander for 1952-1953." It was a very fortunate happening for the Order.

## 1953 - 1954

The Forty-seventh Annual Grand Nest Meeting was held at the Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco, California (for the second time in exactly 25 years) August 24, 25, 26, 1954, with Most Loyal Grand Gander John Henry Martin presiding. The invocation was followed by presentation of the Canadian and United States colors, and the singing of "God Save the Queen" and "America." Distinguished representatives of the city and State welcomed the visitors. Then, in a most unique and colorful manner,—the story book variety,—greetings by beautiful young ladies in their native costumes and tongues of many nationalities that make up the very cosmopolitan atmosphere of this fabulous city—Chinese, Swedish, Italian, Spanish and finally Hawaiian (where San Francisco Pond has a Puddle, visited this year by Grand Gander Martin. Appropriate official response was made to the welcome and greetings by Grand Supervisor of the Flock Alex B. Young, during which he said in part: "Distinguished representatives of this City and State, the Reverend and the charming young ladies for their nationalities, from all of us who come from the regions beyond this City, many thanks for your warm words of welcome. You make us feel you are genuinely happy we are here. . . . This Order of the Blue Goose was born of the tragic time of your great San Francisco fire in 1906, when it was touch and go whether this city, or the insuring companies whose policies protected it, could continue to survive. It was a time when all had to work together. Then, those who composed the great army of fire underwriters, banded together under the name of that noble bird, the Blue Goose, to obtain that greater strength that comes from fraternity. . . . We stand for strength of character, for charity, tolerance, for fellowship towards other Ganders and mankind in general." Most Loyal Grand Gander Martin opened his address: "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth is our city, the city of St. Francis" then added: "George Sterling, San Francisco's poet

laureate in the immortal ode of his beloved city expresses this sweet thought.—and great is thy tenderness—O cool, great city of love." . . . "As we sit down together at a Blue Goose luncheon, or deliberate together at a Blue Goose business meeting, the words of the 133rd Psalm are particularly appropriate. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." . . . "I have, as time would permit, visited many of our Ponds and Puddles. . . . I am sure that there is an ever increasing determination on the part of our Pond Officers to so conduct their meetings that new candidates and members old and new will exert every effort to warrant and deserve the confidence and respect of everyone engaged in our business. To that end every effort must be made to memorize the ritual. When a degree is being conferred the utmost decorum must be observed and, after we have left the meeting, our daily lives must measure up to the precepts contained in the ritual. I have observed what seems to be a growing consciousness among our members, that the only excuse for our existence as an Order is to really and sincerely inculcate character, charity and fellowship. I have on occasions quoted from the 13th Chapter of Corinthians I, a familiar passage, i.e. "THOUGH I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as a sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." I am convinced that our Order can be instrumental in translating this particular precept into action and in so doing justify its existence. . . . We must not be weary in well doing. . . . I have been thrilled to see the ever increasing interest manifested by our ladies in forming auxiliaries. They have accomplished wonders in sponsoring and carrying through to successful consummation many social and philanthropic activities. . . . New Ponds were formed during my reign at Hartford, Memphis, San Diego and Saskatoon, Canada (the last two were formerly Puddles). . . . Our membership now stands at 13,294, a net gain of 615." The Committee reporting on the address, concurred in that the precepts of Charity become vital in our thinking and when translated into action, we will find ourselves looking for opportunities and projects which will contribute to the welfare of those who, in some way or another, need our consideration and help; also expressed accord on his report on Ladies' Auxiliaries, . . . then added their agreement that consideration be given to conducting Grand Nest Meetings under the jurisdiction and with the financial assistance of the Grand Nest, rather than the local Ponds so that smaller Ponds can bring forth a suitable candidate and not be burdened with the financial problems. It was suggested that a committee be appointed to study this recommendation and report at the next Grand Nest Meeting, to permit its becoming effective for our 50th Anniversary Meeting in 1956. Grand Wielder Mauritsen reviewed briefly the financial report, which showed total assets of \$32,578.31 (net), a gain for the past year of \$4,641.49. The Membership Cup was awarded to the Garden State Pond. It was the twentieth time this cup has been awarded to a winning Pond. In his report as Chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee H. O. Wolfe related how representatives of organizations such as Retail Credit, Air Kem and



others not engaged in "the business of FIRE INSURANCE" have had to be ruled on by the committee and, of course, found ineligible to membership. Because of the apparent confusion that still exists in many of the Ponds relative to such organizations, he re-announced its rulings in respect thereto, so that they will be recorded in full in the 1954 Grand Nest Bulletin, and therefore readily available for future Pond guidance. Judge Advocate H. O. Wolfe, in his annual report told how he was first appointed to that office at Vancouver in 1937, and something about the general nature of his duties. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee offered no report, as a full committee, but a minority report by committeeman Bienvenu (Louisiana Pond) was discussed and considered as "received" and referred to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. Ladies' Auxiliary Committee reported two new Auxiliaries:—West Texas and Florida. The committee recommended that the Auxiliaries with their Presidents and Secretaries be listed in the Grand Nest Bulletin separately from the Ponds. "Thus we will give them semi-official recognition." "It is further recommended that an advisory Constitution and By-Laws be prepared and sent on to new as well as old Auxiliaries." "A motion to accept and file the report was made, seconded and carried." (For the first time, a list of all Auxiliaries, the names and addresses of President and Secretary of each, appeared in Bulletin Vol. 46. This was the work of G.S.F. Alex Young. It proved a great stimulus to Auxiliaries.) The Golf Committee reported. The report of Paul E. Rudd, Grand Historian and P.G.W.G.Q., suggesting the Golden Anniversary Meeting as the goal for each Pond to file its History, was accepted and filed.

Past Most Loyal Grand Gander John F. Stafford, took his last flight on November 12, 1953.

Thursday morning August 26, 1954, the meeting was continued with Most Loyal Grand Gander Martin presiding. After the invocation Grand Martin proceeded with the very happy event of presenting Charters for the four new Ponds, previously mentioned. To conserve time Pond Reports were filled with Grand Wielder Mauritsen to be published. Gander Mark A. Wells, California Pond, unopposed, was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. Kansas City was the choice for the 1955 Grand Nest Convention. This report would be incomplete indeed without mention of the cordial hospitality and fine array of entertainment meted out to all by San Francisco Pond, whose slogan was "The Time of Your Life." (See 96 page Bulletin Vol. 46 for full report on this 48th Anniversary Meeting with 410 registrations—page 44.)

A biographical sketch of P.M.L.G.G. John Henry Martin appears in this issue. (See Vol. 46, No. 1.)

## 1954 - 1955

The Forty-ninth Anniversary of the Grand Nest of our Order known as the "Fellowship Convention" was held at the Muchlebach Hotel, Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 9-10-11, 1955, with Most Loyal Grand Gander Alex B. Young, Presiding. (Bulletin Vol. 47, No. 1, with 144

pages.) It was the Forty-eighth Annual Meeting.

That this might be a more purposeful convention, each delegate and others in attendance received, when registering, a copy of the M.L.G.G.'s report, also a copy of all committee reports (printed),—a new and very forward departure. It gave all the equal opportunity of knowing ahead of time exactly what was on the agenda. All reports had been passed upon and approved by the Grand Nest Officers. The idea was to get the convention off to a running start, to efficiently cover more subjects in less time and permit adjournments on schedule, just as it did.

The soft and changing color of the lighting with the cathedral organ music made an impressive background to the opening ceremonies. Convention Chairman Lloyd E. Barber was in charge. First he introduced the Past Grand Nest Officers present as they mounted the rostrum, then were escorted to special seats by the uniformed guards of the Host Pond. In like manner he presented the active Grand Nest Officers as they took their places on the rostrum.

Most Loyal Grand Gander Young took over and the color guard of the Kansas Pond presented the Canadian and United States Flags, followed by the singing of "O Canada" and the "Star Spangled Banner," concluding with "God Bless America." Rabbi Cashden gave the invocation. Then M.L.G.G. Young extended a sincere welcome to all and introduced John Thornberry, a prominent local civic leader, who made the address of welcome on behalf of the Governor of Missouri, the State Superintendent of Insurance and the Mayor of Kansas City, Mo.

Western Manager of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company, Phil Beebe responded for the Fire Insurance Industry and our Order. Grand Supervisor of the Flock, Wiseman, made the response to Mr. Beebe.

Grand Gander Young introduced the leaders of the Ponds who made this convention possible. St. Louis, Nebraska and Kansas Ponds were co-hosts with Heart of America Pond. He also paid tribute to accomplishments of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

The concise opening session took just one hour including the close grouped picture, which would not have been possible at the banquet, and the entire proceedings of this convention involved many "firsts" of valuable advances in planning and execution, which proved pleasing and kept interest high. This convention stands as an example of possible high standards in the future. The innovations were real time savers. A table microphone on the rostrum and a floor megaphone with hand microphone attached, (This megaphone is property of the Grand Nest and may be used at future conventions) proved their worth, for twice the microphone failed and costly delays would have occurred.

To expedite further, delegates, identified by their red badges, were seated at tables by themselves in labeled and numbered seats. This proved another splendid departure, speeding roll call and voting.

The Buzz Luncheon on Wednesday was made up of table groups assigned to given subjects. Much was accomplished. After the Buzz Luncheon M.L.G.G. Young had each table chairman or appointee read a condensed version of their reports,—table comments and questionnaire re-

sults. P.M.L.G.G. Knowlan was table spokesman on the address and recommendations of M.L.G.G. Young,—a two table report or comments—who was highly congratulated on accomplishments of the year. The Committee concurred that a Blue Goose operations manual would be a valuable aid in the conduct of Grand Nest and Pond responsibilities; that memorizing the Ritual, increasing membership, formation of new Ponds and Puddles, and establishment of Pond publications, fellowship funds and women's auxiliaries, had resulted in great progress and should be continued, and that one each of the Grand Nest Officers be charged with the responsibility for one of these aids and so appointed by the incoming M.L.G.G.; that Grand Nest activities, as news, be given to Pond publication editors by the Grand Wielder; that it is very much in the interest of the Order and the Ponds that Grand Nest Officers attend Pond affairs; that all Ponds seriously consider sponsoring a candidate for Grand Nest honors and holding a Grand Nest meeting; that the appointment of Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders for border States be given serious consideration by the incoming M.L.G.G. Other committees reporting with Table Comments, were: Golf,—Lack of ability to plan before game time, led to confusion, so team play will be abandoned and the cup to be awarded to the golfer with the lowest number of strokes, no handicaps, from Canada or the US. A new trophy to be purchased, as no space left on old one, and be on rotating basis from winner to winner, for only one year. A smaller trophy to be purchased each year and presented, symbolic of the large trophy, to the winner, to be retained as a memento; Grand Nest Convention,—Report was in the form of a Resolution in the interest of encouraging small Ponds to bring out capable and deserving candidates for Grand Nest office and his Pond to act as Host to a Grand Nest Convention, with the certainty, supported by an amendment to the By-Laws, which was a part of the Resolution, empowering the Grand Nest "to finance and otherwise assist any Pond which may require assistance to the extent, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, necessary and advisable in the interests of the Order; Membership,—A cup is awarded by the Grand Nest to the Pond doing the best work in increasing our membership, but because of certain inequalities it was brought out that perhaps two awards would help solve problems, . . . many points for determining eligibility were outlined, making membership to new Ganders very worth while.—Decision was left until next year or the 1957 convention; Pond Life Insurance,—Outline of requirements under any Group Life Plan, and operation of such a Plan by the following Ponds: Alberta, British Columbia, New York City, Ontario, Quebec; Pond Publications,—At least 26 Ponds have publications, and Insurance Publications number 3 in Canada and 20 in the US, . . . the hows and whys of Pond Papers were gone into thoroughly, and recommendations adopted that the Grand Nest establish a Pond Publication Cup to be awarded each year to the outstanding Pond Paper, but no Pond to be allowed to win two years in succession; Pond Welfare,—It was the opinion of the committee that a better name for such a Pond Committee is "Fellowship Fund Committee," . . . Forty Ponds were reported to have Welfare or Fellowship

Plans, . . . the consensus of opinion was that more and larger Funds be established. These committees just covered are not standing committees, but were appointed by M.L.G.G. Young, to report to him.

Standing Committees reporting were: Constitution and By-Laws, which resulted in adoption of an amendment now known as, Section 8 (a) and Section 9 (a) (1) reading as follows: "Section 8 (a). Each Pond, as an alternate method shall, with a written request from a member in good standing, cause to be presented to the Committee on Membership the name of any person believed eligible when such person's qualifications as being worthy and of good repute are vouched for by two Ganders in good standing. If such person is approved by the Committee on Membership the name of such person or persons shall be balloted upon at a regularly called meeting of the Pond by secret ballot, and, if not over two (2) negative ballots are cast for such persons, such person or persons shall be deemed to be elected to membership. Immediately after such meeting the Committee shall notify the sponsors of all persons who have thus been voted upon favorably by the Pond. Regular membership application shall then be taken and presented to the Membership Committee and then referred to Wielder."

"Section 9 (a) (1). At any ensuing, regular called meeting of the Pond the Wielder of the Goose Quill shall report on the applications for membership which have been received of such Goslings who have been elected pursuant to the provisions of the Section 8 (a), and which applications must be accompanied by the initiation fee, and at which meeting the Goslings who have thus been elected to membership shall present themselves for initiation."

Standing Committees continued: Emblem,—table comments approved adoption of the official emblem on Pond banners, when any replaced; Grand Nest Historian,—stressed the advisability of each Pond having a Historian and being ready to report at the Golden Anniversary Convention—gave list of ten (10) points as an outline to those Ponds having no history prepared; questionnaire results showed that 34 Ponds have a History; Jurisprudence,—reiterated its duties and some experiences and a bit of good advice; Judge Advocate,—very helpful information for Ponds; Ladies' Auxiliary,—contained the advisory Constitution and By-Laws designed primarily for the encouragement of present auxiliaries and formation of new ones (A very exhaustive file is in the files of the Heart of America Pond); Publicity,—each Pond and its auxiliary should have a Publicity Chairman, also pointed out the importance of giving publicity to Blue Goose news, and gave very good advice to Pond editors—questionnaire results showed 32 Ponds have good publicity; Ritual,—lauds our Ritual, which gives us one of the most beautiful and impressive ceremonies ever designed and recommended no change in the Ritual itself, but does recommend preparing a page by page discussion of the Ritual to assist in handling proper arrangements of the meeting room, the safe conduct of initiations to avoid reflection upon the Order, and urging the memorizing of the Ritual and avoidance of revealing any of its secret parts,—thirty-four Ponds reported that they present

the Ritual from memory in the conduct of their meetings, their initiations, their installation of officers and their Memorial Services,—the report of this committee was adopted; Memorial Committee report is included at this point, as the Memorial Service is part of the Ritual,—the report made recommendations for changes in the time and conduct of Memorial Services.

Most Loyal Grand Gander Young introduced three (3) Ganders who have served this Order since 1906, all were early members of Missouri-Kansas Pond (now Heart of America Pond). They are Bob Air, Dent Painter and Roy Smith. (Roy was the first Wielder in 1906). The two latter are now members of the St. Louis Pond.

Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders present were: Beale, Buchanan, Edmondson, Fell, Hull, Knowlan, Luety, Martin and Phillips.

The Model Initiation was executed by the Nebraska Pond. The following is taken from the article on this feature in Feb. 1956 "Skylines," published by the Heart of America Pond: "Those who attended this convention—and have been privileged to attend others—consider the performance of the Nebraska Model Initiation Team, outstanding. The months of rehearsal under expert coaching, were at once apparent, . . . West Point precision was shown by the officers and guards and the chosen initiates. The Team was called back a second time, but time did not permit them to give their marching song. The initiation was so designed that it could be a model for any Pond. All of those taking part were attired in dress which will be their own and add dignity and impressiveness to the Pond's future initiations. This fine performance will live in the memory of all who witnessed it, and be an inspiration to an ever higher standard."

Ninety-five delegates, representing 58 of the 60 Ponds responded to the roll call.

The Secretarial Report of Grand Wielder Mauritsen showed a new gain in membership for the past year of 615, bringing the total to 13,909. His financial report showed a deficit, due to higher delegates expenses, of \$2,143.05, leaving the cash surplus 6-30-55 of \$30,435.26.

Hartford Pond with 96 new members (74% increase), won the new membership cup. The old membership cup with the names of 19 winners from 1934-1935 to 1952-1953, is now retired. Garden State Pond, 1953-1954 winner, is shown on the new cup. Garden State Pond was awarded permanent possession of the old membership cup last year. The new cup was presented to the Hartford Pond for possession until next year.

Two new Ponds,—Empire State at Syracuse and Peace Garden at Fargo—were chartered and installed during the year. Their delegates were present. This increases the number of Ponds to 60.

Deputy M.L.G.G.'s present and introduced were: Albeiz, Garden State; Hake, Heart of America; Hannan, St. Louis; Hansen, Iowa; Holland, Mississippi; Hughes, Oklahoma; McCaffery, Heart of America and Petterson, Illinois Pond.

It was conceded that the Ladies' Auxiliary was indispensable to

the success of the convention. There are 41 Auxiliaries listed. The local Auxiliary took excellent care of the lady visitors.

Too much credit could not be accorded to the "Buzz" type luncheon, which consumed a minimum of time, but gave bountiful results for the advancement of the Order via the questionnaire and table comments.

The Roster of Registrants gives the names and addresses of 600, a new high in attendance. Early in the convention a printed Directory with the names and address of 476 registrants, their home addresses and hotel room number, was handed out. Another "first."

Pond Reports were filed with the Grand Wielder and published in the Bulletin. (Vol. 47)

The bus ride "sold" the Kansas City Area to the visitors.

Even the many entertainment features were different.

Another "first" was the colored Movies, which J. Marc Demers, delegates from the Quebec Pond, made of convention,—it was the first time that such a moving record of a convention had been attempted, and, considering the fact that it was a "first," the result was unusually good. The movies began with the opening of the convention; recorded those portions of the Model Initiation that could be shown, then took portions of all the events as they occurred. This should prove not only a stimulus to the attendance by Ganders who have never gone to a Grand Nest Convention, but pleasantly remind those who have been there, the good times they had, and whet their appetites to attend more.

It is characteristic of Grand Gander Alex to give the credit for his own accomplishments to others. He did that in his Annual Report. The whole convention was a splendid example of team work with an excellent 'General'. The pattern was being carefully drawn ever since before he became a member of the Grand Nest. The whole thing is evidence of preparedness. Its success insures the future use of the new departures used so effectively this year.

Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Samuel L. Sterling took his last flight Oct. 9, 1954.

The usual rotation of officers and election of Gander E. C. Saulcy, Michigan Pond, to the office of Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, brought the business meeting to a close with adjournment at 12:30 p.m. Thursday.

This meeting proved its worth as a 'spring-board' with the goal our Golden Anniversary Festival on the banks of the Grand Pond in Milwaukee next August.

A biographical sketch of P.M.L.G.G. Alex B. Young appears in this issue. (See Vol. 47, No. 1.)

## 1955 - 1956

The Golden Anniversary of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose was held August 19-23, 1956, at the Schroeder Hotel, Milwaukee, Wis. Most Loyal Grand Gander Robert L. Wiseman of National Capitol Pond presided.

The unwritten rule has been to meet annually in the Region from whence the Most Loyal Grand Gander that year, hails from, which would have taken this meeting to the Eastern Region and Washington, D. C. But, this being the 50th Anniversary, it is only fitting that that Region of our Order and particularly the National Capital Pond, graciously gave up the privilege, to permit acceptance of the imploring invitation of the Wisconsin Home Nest, that we celebrate this auspicious occasion here within 90 miles of where the first "egg" was "laid" and "hatched" on the banks of Green Lake, Wisconsin, June 19, 1906.

Invocation was pronounced by Rev. Victor Barteld of the Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church. Presentation of the Colors was by the Color Guard of the Iowa Pond. All joined in singing "God Save the Queen" and "The Star Spangled Banner".

Mr. Ray H. Weisbrod, Executive Vice President of the Milwaukee Association of Commerce extended an official welcome from the City of Milwaukee. Honorable Paul J. Rogan, Insurance Commissioner of the State of Wisconsin was introduced. He extended a welcome on behalf of the insurance industry of the State of Wisconsin.

Mr. H. A. Clark, Vice President of the Fireman's Insurance Co., of Newark, N. J. responded to the words of welcome on behalf of the Fire Insurance Business. He reviewed briefly the history of the insurance industry and its relation to the National economy. He gave credit to the Blue Goose for its contributions to the industry, pointing out that "through its collective organizational strength, it can and does obtain for its members those benefits, privileges and accomplishments which they themselves could hardly achieve." "The founders of the Blue Goose were inspired by the fundamental precept that in any organization individual interests and preferences must be subordinated to the advancement of the welfare of the whole membership."

Mr. Clark also said: "The history of the Blue Goose presents a colorful and romantic story of valor and achievements. Its founders—pioneers in every sense of the word—were intensely practical men—men of sturdy common sense. They conceived and made possible this organization which has done so much to instill and perpetuate within our ranks the spirit of good fellowship . . . Each year demonstrates that its effectiveness has been immeasurably expanded, and that its constructive influence on our business will not only continue, but will be pyramided with each succeeding year."

Grand Supervisor of the Flock Jules E. Simoneaux made an appropriate response on behalf of the Blue Goose.

Gander Walter Schroeder, owner of the host hotel, and a 50-year member next month, was out of the city or he would have been called upon and thanked for hospitality given.

"GEMUETLICHKEIT"—with all that expressive term signifies was really the watchword and spirit of this Golden Anniversary celebration.

For the first time at any Grand Nest meeting the number of delegates present and seated, exceeded 100. There were 101 from 58 of the 61 Ponds. One was Delegate Gordon Brady from the newly organized and chartered Nova Scotia Pond, Halifax, N. S., Canada.

Grand Gander Wiseman introduced P.M.L.G.Gs. Mehorter, Knowlan, Reynolds, Winchster, Edmondson, Beauvais, Hull, Fell, Beale, Martin and Young. Also P.G.W.Q.Q.s Rudd and Kenzel.

Past Most Loyal Gander Lloyd S. Wallace of Wisconsin Home Nest, the only remaining of the 6 Founders of the Order, was guest of honor. He is hale and hearty and enjoying retirement at Phoenix, Ariz. He was presented with the first 50 year emblem.

Gander Robe Bird one of the original charter members, the second Grand Supervisor of the Flock and who was one of the 21 Delegates (there were 3 in all from Wisconsin Home Nest) that took part in the Constitutional Convention at the Auditorium Hotel, Chicago, Nov. 16, 1907, attended the Sunday evening Reception of this meeting, returning to his Home in Rockford, Illinois that night. He and Ganders Wm. B. Calhoun, O. E. Lane and Lloyd S. Wallace, Sr., are the last of the group of fifty-one (51) charter members present at the first meeting and initiation in the Club House of the Oakwood Hotel, Green Lake, Wisconsin, June 19, 1906.

The Minnesota Nest was the first organized and chartered unit of the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose. Its charter is dated July 17, 1906. Some of the Past and present officers of the Minnesota Pond ("Nest" was changed to "Pond" in 1907) came to this meeting and presented each Grand Nest Officer and Judge Advocate Hubert O. Wolfe with a permanent Golden Symbol to remind delegates at this and future Grand Nest meetings of the high value of the fraternal spirit that prevails in our Order. Each symbol was different.

M.L.G.G. Wiseman in his report said in part: "The past year to my way of thinking has been a good one for Blue Goose. Our membership has reached an all time high of 14,170, our Ponds number 61. With the institution of a new Pond in Nova Scotia in March 1956, we now extend from Halifax in Nova Scotia to San Diego and from Florida to British Columbia embracing two great countries, the border of which comprises merely a geographical line with no fortifications or armed guards at points of entry. We are throughout these two countries as one people." Also "It has been noted that where a Ladies' Auxiliary functions in conjunction with a Pond, even though entirely independent, the Pond is a strong one abounding in enthusiasm. During the past year the formation of numerous Ladies' Auxiliaries has been called to my attention. I know the Ponds with which they are affiliated and our entire Order will benefit greatly as a result, as evidenced by past experiences." His recommendations included: 1. Emphasis on the importance of memorizing by Pond officers their parts of our Ritual. 2. Formation of additional Ladies' Auxiliaries. 3. Direct all requests for attendance at Pond meetings to the M.L.G.G. to avoid confusion, and do so well in advance of the scheduled date of meeting. 4. Strict adherence to our Eligibility Rules. 5. Urged continuance of present Pond Publications and the continued encouragement of new ones. 6. Strict observance of the obligation with respect to the use of our Salutation. The committee reporting on the address of M.L.G.G. Wiseman not only concurred with all six recommendations, but asked all Ganders present to im-

plement each one of them by having them brought to the attention of their Pond officers and adopted as Pond procedure.

The Secretarial and Financial reports read by Grand Wielder Mauritsen were accepted as read. He reported the net increase in membership during year ended June 30, 1956, is 1,086. (See page XII of "Introduction" for membership records for 25 and 50 years.)

The Membership Cup was won by the Saskatoon Pond, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Judge Advocate Wolfe in his report gave a timely appraisal of the Constitutional provision governing Honorary Membership, pointing out that only those who are already members are entitled to that honor by vote of the Pond and payment yearly by the Pond of \$3.00 dues.

The Membership Cup Committee presented the following, which was adopted by the delegates: "That no Pond will be eligible for competition for this cup until after twelve (12) full months of affiliation with the Grand Nest." In addition to this new rule there is an older rule that no Pond may be awarded the membership cup two years in succession.

Grand Nest Historian Paul E. Rudd, who is also a P.G.W.G.Q., read his report on Pond Histories, and one relating to the History of the Grand Nest.

Other committees reporting were: Jurisprudence, Constitution and By-Laws, Membership Cup, Emblem, Publicity, Ladies' Auxiliary, Pond Publications, Memorial and Resolutions. This last one not only extended thanks to fellow Gander Walter Schroeder, owner of the hotel, but to the hotel management and employees for the efficient and courteous service to all Ganders and Ganderettes. Also thanks to the Milwaukee Association of Commerce and the City of Milwaukee, also the Commissioner of Insurance in the State of Wisconsin for their words of welcome. Deep gratitude was also extended to General Chairman Irvin E. Frey, his committee and the entire membership of the Wisconsin Home Nest. General Chairman Frey's Arrangements Committee members were: Ganders E. H. Knox, J. Freeman Reilly, H. W. Bailey, H. J. Lacey, A. M. Nick, T. L. Mulcahy, A. Schlosser, Urban Krier, W. H. Pierce, J. J. Johnson and L. E. Knaube.

Gander Kenneth M. Kenney, Wisconsin Home Nest was the golf winner and was awarded the traveling Pond Trophy and a permanent individual trophy.

The Model Initiation ceremony was perfectly presented by the Illinois Pond Ritual Team.

Nine new Ladies' Auxiliaries were formed during the past year. This brings the total to 60.

Six hundred forty-four Delegates and Guests were registered, the top attendance record for all time.

Pond Reports were filed and are published in the Bulletin, Vol. 48, No. 1.

Gander Robert F. Stumpf a Past Most Loyal Gander of Garden State Pond, Newark, N. J. was elected Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg.

The gavel used at this meeting and all Grand Nest meetings, commencing with the 25th Anniversary meeting (also held in this same

Schroeder Hotel) is the gavel P.M.L.G.G. Walter E. Atwater presented to our Order on Sept. 9, 1931. It is made from an oak timber taken from the Oakwood Hotel, Green Lake, Wisconsin (the birth place of our Order June 19, 1906) when it was razed in 1930.

The matter of arranging for a suitable marker on or very near the spot where our Order had its birth on the bank of Green Lake, Wisconsin in June 1906, is in the hands of Judge Advocate Wolfe, and is expected to be brought to a favorable conclusion during 1957.

The precedent set at Kansas City last year of printing in booklet form, in advance of the meeting, as many as possible of the reports to be submitted at the meeting, was followed this year and it proved a time saver, reducing to a minimum the discussion on the floor.

The volume of business disposed of at the 1954-1955 Grand Nest meeting materially reduced the amount of business that needed attention this year, leaving more time for the celebration of our Golden Anniversary.

Wisconsin Home Nest members acted as guides on the sightseeing tour by bus Tuesday afternoon. That night a "Night in Old Milwaukee" was put on with derbied guests at tables with red checkered table-cloths. Pond banners decorated the walls. German music played by musicians costumed as Bavarians made dancing popular. Plenty of what "made Milwaukee famous" was dispensed by specially costumed waiters and waitresses. A barbershop quartet of Home Nest Ganders sang many of the pieces popular in gone by years. Twenty or more Canadians delighted all present by singing that old French Folk Song "Alleuetta" with its maze of meangingful verses.

Perhaps the Committee on Arrangements overlooked arranging with the Milwaukee Braves and New York Giants to co-operate for the benefit of the many Ganders and Ganderettes who attended the game Wednesday afternoon, for the Giants won, much to the joy of the New York delegation.

The Fellowship Banquet was presided over by Grand Wielder Henry L. Mauritsen. During this colorful dinner Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Jules E. Simoneaux was presented with the live goose "Alberta" by Most Loyal Gander Craig Montgomerie and Gander Norm Scott of the Alberta Pond on behalf of that Pond. Grand Officer Simoneaux was admonished to take good care of "Alberta" and bring her to the New Orleans meeting in 1957.

New Orleans, which is on the threshold of the Mississippi River rice fields feeding grounds of the thousands of blue geese that 'Winter' there, is to be the Summer "feeding grounds" of those Ganders and visitors fortunate enough to join the flock at New Orleans Aug. 26-28, 1957, for the next annual Grand Nest meeting.

In his final remarks at the banquet Most Loyal Grand Gander Jules E. Simoneaux said in part: "I feel rather fortunate in that I shall be accorded the privilege to serve as your Most Loyal Grand Gander during the first year beginning the second half century of our Order. I feel fortunate also that I am taking the lead of our large flock in flight when it is at its peak—at its peak numerically but more important at its peak in stature, in prestige and in accomplishing the purpose for which we were organized fifty years ago.

"With great humbleness, I have accepted the honor with full realization of the obligations that go with it.

"The insurance business is a great business. Those of us who derive our livelihood from it have a moral obligation to conduct it in all its phases in a high ethical moral basis, (I include all you ladies in this category because of your great influence on we Ganders). Our Honorable Order is a tool with which to perform this task. Let us all use it to a better insurance business and hence to a better world in which to live and we are bound to be rewarded when the great day comes to each of us.

"Thanks again for this high honor and I hope I may have the pleasure of seeing at least many of you, if not all, on your own home ground sometime during the next twelve months."

A biographical sketch of P.M.L.G.G. Robert L. Wiseman is in this issue. (See Vol. 48, No. 1.)

PAUL E. RUDD,  
*Grand Nest Historian and P.G.W.G.Q.*

At Hendersonville, N. C.  
P. O. Box 1022  
May, 1957.

## 1906 - POND ROSTER - 1956

This book would not be complete without a list of the sixty-one (61) Ponds that were flourishing at the time of our Golden Anniversary Festival in Milwaukee, August 19-23, as recorded in Grand Nest Bulletin Volume No. 48. The list will show the dates of organization (reorganization where necessary), names of each Pond and city where located, also the membership of each. "Reorganized" as used, could mean only a change in name, or the reorganization of a former or dormant Pond at that location. Grand Nest Bulletins at Grand Nest headquarters contain the facts.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Chartered Pond</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Membership</i>
1908	Alabama	Birmingham. Reorganized 1910 & 1922	181
1934	Alamo	San Antonio	185
1916	Alberta	Calgary	119
1931	Arizona	Phoenix	168
1908	Arkansas	Little Rock. Reorganized 1920	184
1917	British Columbia	Vancouver	203
1908	California	Los Angeles	331
1923	Chesapeake	Baltimore	66
1908	Colorado	Denver	184
1910	Dakota	Sioux Falls	135
1953	Edmonton	Edmondton	77
1907	Empire State	Syracuse. Reorganized 1926 & 1954	107
1908	Florida	Jacksonville. Reorganized 1923	286
1948	Fresno	Fresno	125
	San Joquin	Newark	242
1953	Garden State	Atlanta. Reorganized 1908 & 1911 & 1924	435
1907	Georgia	Hartford	178
1954	Hartford		
1906	Heart of America	Kansas City. Reorganized 1923	338
1954	Heart of America	Boise. Reorganized 1950	60
1920	Idaho	Chicago	443
1906	Illinois	Indianapolis	304
1906	Indiana	Des Moines	214
1906	Iowa	Topeka	273
1923	Kansas	Louisville	245
1907	Kentucky	N. Orleans. Reorganized 1921, 1928	274
1906	Louisiana	Winnipeg. Reorganized 1917 & 1924	177
1915	Manitoba		

<i>Year</i>	<i>Chartered Pond</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Membership</i>
1906	Michigan	Detroit	563
1954	Mid-South	Memphis	79
1906	Minnesota	Minneapolis	410
1921	Mississippi	Jackson. Reorganized 1928	152
1919	Montana	Great Falls	103
1948	National Capital	Washington, D. C.	88
1907	Nebraska	Omaha	257
1949	New Mexico	Albuquerque	100
1920	New York City	New York City	383
1907	North Carolina	Greensboro. Reorganized 1921 & 1952	13
1952	Northern New England	Manchester	52
1927	Nova Scotia	Halifax. Reorganized 1956	70
1907	Ohio Pond	Columbus	757
1906	Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	334
1908	Ontario	Toronto	638
1911	Oregon	Portland. Reorganized 1916, 1922, 1925	231
1952	Palmetto	Columbia	131
1955	Peace Garden	Fargo	89
1906	Penn	Philadelphia. Reorganized 1930	298
1914	Quebec	Montreal	259
1916	St. Louis	St. Louis. Reorganized 1928	293
1954	San Diego	San Diego	62
1910	San Francisco	San Francisco. Reorganized 1920	704
1954	Saskatoon	Saskatoon	80
1922	Seattle	Seattle. Reorganized 1927	313
1921	South Texas	Houston	178
1952	Steel City	Pittsburgh	89
1915	Tennessee	Nashville	207
1907	Texas	Dallas	430
1914	Utah	Salt Lake City. Reorganized 1920 & 1950	109
1907	Virginia	Richmond. Reorganized 1924	154
1907	Washington	Spokane. Reorganized 1916 & 1922	138
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