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August 2008

Weekly Update

It's the fraternal thing to do -- the Ohio State Moose Association's program!

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Updates Editor is Jim Grandy.

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Ohio Lodge families attend in numbers to meet Supreme Governor Jim Gallagher!



CONTENTS

PAGE 1, 2 & 3

Ohio's oldest living Moose member by Steve Ward

PAGE 3

Special Events Coverage insurance plan available

PAGE 4, 5 & 6

Jarrett Payton visits Mooseheart

PAGE 6

Commentary: Why Lodge newsletters are always the first to go!

A fraternal BOND



Submitted and written by Assistant Publications
Chairman Steve Ward, Zanesville Lodge 867

In this issue we are pleased to feature a long time member of Lafferty Moose Lodge 1462, Earl "Hun" Alexander. Mr. Alexander was introduced to the Loyal Order of Moose by his parents and an uncle, all members of the Fraternity. Sponsored by his father, Earl was enrolled in the Lafferty Lodge on August 19, 1937.

Mr. Alexander and his lovely wife Rose Marie were married October 30, 1948. Through their nearly sixty years of marriage, they have been blessed with two children, Dennis and Marsha. Also, they are the proud grandparents of five grandchildren, four step grandchildren and four great grandchildren. After a short stint working in the coal-mines, Earl and his brother operated a service station and general store in Lafferty, known as Alexander Brothers. Earl later retired in 1975.

Sitting in the living room of their home and chatting with Mr. and Mrs. Alexander was truly a delight. Earl began by telling a little about his background. He said he quit school when he was sixteen and went to work at the Big 5 Coal Mine. He recalls he had to work the first two days for free, and then they paid him \$1.00 for the third day. Later, he worked fifteen consecutive days for \$15.00. "You had to drill by hand, and you blasted by yourself.

You could work at the No. 6 Mine and earn \$4.00 a day, but if you could not load ten tons of coal a day, you were let go". He said, "There were no Unions back then." After working seven years in the mine, Earl and his brother opened their service station and general store.

The Alexander Brothers General Store offered the residents of Lafferty anything they could want, from groceries to shoes. Over the years while operating the business, Earl became familiar with each and every family in Lafferty. And he said, "I knew the name of each member of these families." At times, hard times would fall on some of these families, and they would ask to charge their purchases at the store. Mr. Alexander proudly said, "I gave them the credit, and never charged anyone even a penny in interest, even though it took some up to two years to pay off their debt."

Earl then began speaking of his early days as a member of the Moose. He recalls the night he was enrolled, he went with his father to an old cement building in Lafferty. Once inside he was taken to a room in the rear of the building, and that was where the Ritual Staff, dressed in full robed regalia, told Earl and a few others the "Story of the Moose." It cost Earl \$5 for the application

. . . continued on next page



August 06 Update

Page 1

fee, \$2.00 for a year's dues, and \$1.00 for the ABCD fee. He remembers several men were joining the Moose Lodge at that time. They had a benefit that would pay a member if he lost his job. "The Moose would pay you \$2.00 a week until you found work, and that was quite a bit of money back then."

Once the Lafferty Moose Lodge became established in their own building, the Moose was the place to go. It was like a community center. Back then they had radios, but there was no television and only a few families had telephones. So everyone would meet at the Moose Lodge for dinners and dances. They would meet nightly to visit and just enjoy each other's company. Earl said, when he and Rose Marie were married, they held the wedding reception at the lodge, as did many other couples. The Moose Lodge was the site of many anniversary, birthday and all sorts of other celebrations.

Although Earl Alexander never held an elected office, nor did he join the Moose Legion, he always enjoyed his time at the lodge. He was asked to share some of his most memorable experiences as a member and he replied, "I remember going to the big dinners, and then going to the ball diamond to play baseball and other games. I remember we would have a lot of visitors from out of town, and that was nice. Everyone was poor, but everyone enjoyed being together at the Moose. The women were always planning dinners and dances. And they would all dress up in their regalia gowns during their meetings."

Mr. Alexander was then asked what memories he might have of his lodge's activities during WWII, or if he recalls any

specific support by the Moose Fraternity for the war effort. He said he didn't recall any specific support effort by the fraternity, but he was sure many thousands of members were either drafted or enlisted in the armed services. He said he chose to go to the Wright-Patterson base near Dayton and enlist in the Air Corps. Many of our members left their homes and families to serve our Country during a time of war.

When asked to compare his lodge today, as to when he first joined, Earl replied it is far more advanced today. But



Rose Marie and Earl Alexander enjoy the company of Lafferty Lodge 1462 Administrator Harry Smolira and the interview by Steve Ward.

the activity level may be down. "People are busier now with other activities than they used to be. We didn't have all these other activities back then, so more time was spent at the Lodge". And to encourage a non-member to join with us Earl said, "I would tell them it is a good organization, we are family oriented and have helped many, including the children at Mooseheart and the members at Moosehaven. I would tell them the Moose would help you too, if you are ever in the need. The Moose provides a



A fraternal **BOND** concludes . . .

great service to all humanity".

His advice to a new member is to "attend meetings and be active. You may need to be rescued someday when you need help. The Moose will be there to help you". And to his lodge he advises "Keep up the good work, and keep good leadership at the top". And although his eyes are starting to fail, Earl still enjoys getting his lodge's newsletter and the Moose International magazine. When Earl was asked, if you were 50 years old today, would you retain your membership at the Moose? He answered, "yes absolutely, this is a good organization that is very helpful to many."

In conclusion, both Earl and Rose Marie say they have lived during the "best

of times." Although most of their friends and neighbors were poor, they all enjoyed each other and being together. "People did not get into trouble back then, because they were too busy with chores, shoveling coal in the furnace or working the garden. And if they were not doing chores, they were playing baseball." Earl said he dearly loved his time working in the coal-mine, even if it was hard and dangerous work. And later, he said he really liked playing golf too.

Mr. Earl "Hun" Alexander will have completed seventy-one years of membership in the Moose Fraternity August 19, 2008. He may very well be the longest active member in Ohio, and possibly the fraternity today. He is a real gentleman, and an absolute pleasure to be around. And at the age of 93, he is still a proud and loyal member of the Loyal Order of Moose.

Moose International Announces The Availability of Special Event Coverage

Effective August 1, 2008, a Special Events Insurance Coverage is available to all Fraternal Units through AON.

A dedicated website has been created for the Special Event insurance required of Fraternal Units renting their premises to third-parties (including members) or hosting fund-raisers and other events where alcohol will be sold or served.

Check the Ohio Moose website for complete information, including instructions about how to access the AON website.

Cost is a flat \$156.00 (premium plus premium tax) per event for events with up to 1,000 guests expected. Limits of liability are \$1,000,000 general liability, including liquor liability/dram shop.

If you have questions about the insurance itself, call 1-800-966-2708 to reach the Moose Lodge Service Desk at Aon in Chicago.



Jarrett Payton Passes Solid Advice As He Becomes Acquainted with Mooseheart

Son of NFL Great Walter Payton tours Child City Campus for the first time, meets students and enjoys a very comprehensive tour of campus

by Kurt Wehrmeister, Director/Communications & Public Affairs,
Moose International

MOOSEHEART, IL -- Everywhere he went on the Mooseheart campus on Friday, Jarrett Payton had the same things to say: work hard, study, do your best, take school seriously. And while some just say those things because they sound good, Payton spoke from personal experience and family legacy when he uttered those admonishments.

Jarrett Payton is the 27-year old son of Chicago Bears great, the late Walter Payton, the Hall of Fame running back who retired from pro football in 1987 as the greatest rusher in league history. Walter Payton's sporting legacy, beyond those numbers, is of a player who worked harder than the rest. And that is a characteristic he passed to his son.

"That's what my dad was all about," Payton said. "I had a chance to learn from one of the best at it. My dad was such a hard worker. He wasn't the fastest. He wasn't the strongest and he wasn't the biggest. But he worked the hardest. People say that his workout regimen in the summer was similar to what the Navy Seals do. The hills that he ran and the stuff that he did -- he was serious about his craft."

Off the field, Walter Payton was known as someone who gave generously in love and money to the community and his family. In continuing that legacy, Jarrett Payton is also more than just a blood relative of his father.

"He taught me life lessons that I take



Jarrett Payton takes time to sign autographs at every stop along his Mooseheart campus tour on Friday, such as this stop to the school's Recreation building.

now," Payton said. "My dad passed away in 1999. I believe that the things that he was teaching me at a young age were getting me to a point where I was ready to be a man. I think, in his heart, maybe knew he wasn't going to be around for a long time. So he felt he had to teach me things at a

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young age because he wasn't going to be there. I think he did a good job."

In coming to Mooseheart for the first time, Jarrett Payton came into contact with a group of children for whom life has dealt some difficult circumstances. At some point, each of the 240 residents of the Child City has suffered some family hardship.

Jarrett Payton walked and talked with many of the Mooseheart students who are on-campus this summer. And he told them at each of the many stops he made on a comprehensive campus tour that he understood what they were going through.

"Everyone who talked to me about their situation and why they're here is different," Payton said. "But they are so aware of the opportunity that is in front of them. That is what I think is awesome. They understand where they're at and the possibilities of being successful and achieving goals." And his smile showed Payton loved every minute of his time at Mooseheart.

"This is unbelievable," he said. "It's something that's brought so much joy to me. I love talking to kids who I feel can learn from my experiences, the hardships I've gone through. And they can learn that anything is possible if you put your mind to it. It doesn't matter who you are or what your last name is, we all go through hard times. It's how we persevere through those hard times and how hard we work through those hard times that make us who we are."



Jarrett Payton, son of NFL great Walter Payton, visits the Mooseheart campus for the first time on Friday. Payton got to meet Mooseheart students and staff and spoke to them about the lessons he learned from his father, who died in 1999, and further lessons he learned in his own football career.

Payton started his tour at the Mooseheart Fieldhouse, where he talked to the football players who are on-campus and got to meet Red Ramblers football coach and Superintendent of Education Gary Urwiler. Payton toured the fieldhouse and football field and then took a van tour of the campus.

He stopped to visit a pair of residence homes, met with two more groups of children and left over three hours later with a very full understanding what Mooseheart is and also about the Moose fraternity which supports the children who live there.

"They know that this place is the place that's putting them on-track," Payton said. "That's wonderful. You can tell that they're passionate about being here. It shows when we are driving around and they're tell me the history of the campus

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and everything they want to show me. You can tell that they're interested and that they love being here."

Payton's own football career is at a crossroads. A graduate of the University of Miami (FL), Payton played the 2005 NFL Europe season with Amsterdam, then played the 2005 NFL campaign with the Tennessee Titans. In 2007, Payton played for the Canadian Football League's Montreal Alouettes.

"I've gotten to see the world playing football," Payton said.

Montreal released Payton this spring and despite interest from a handful of NFL teams, he is unsure if he will

be playing this season. But as a new resident of Oswego, Payton is in the geographic neighborhood of the Child City. And he maintained that Friday's visit won't be his last. "I'm right down the street," Payton



When Jarrett Payton (left) speaks to Mooseheart's football players at the school's fieldhouse, the Red Ramblers decide to do something special for their guest. At the urging of Jonell Crump, the players treat Payton to a Mooseheart "Breakdown," the pregame huddle the team enters into every practice and game day. Payton loved the performance and said it got him wanting to go out and play.

said. "Hopefully I'll get picked up in the next couple of weeks to go play football. But if not, I'll be around here. And since Mooseheart is just down the street, I can still come by."

QUESTION: When times get tougher, why is it that a Lodge newsletter, the instrument most likely to sell the Lodge to members, is the first to go?

ANSWER: Recently a highly successful administrator commented whenever Lodges stop selling themselves to their members, they get into trouble! "In the public sector," he went on to say, "when times get tough, the powers that be often decide to cut the SALES DEPT. What a DUMB plan! When you need sales, you stop selling? Where is the logic?" He's got a point, eh?

