

HISTORY AND CULTURE
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF HOO-HOO

The Fraternal Order of the Forest Products Industry

Founded January 21 1892, Gurdon. Arkansas, U.S.A



“Health Happiness and Long Life”

***Compiled by Colin Mason, 88205, Club Historian, Auckland Timber Industry Club No 248
(with thanks to many sources)***

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*They sought it with thimbles, they sought it with care
They pursued it with forks and hope
They threatened its life with a railway-share
They charmed it with smiles and soap*

*“Just the place for a Snark” the Bellman cried
As he landed his crew with care
Supporting each man on the top of the tide
With a finger entwined in his hair*

(extract from the book "The Hunting of the Snark" by Lewis Carroll)

The concept of the Hoo-Hoo Fraternal Order of Lumbermen was dreamed up by Bolling Arthur Johnson, an American trade journalist, when he, with a number of others were stranded by a delayed train at Gurdon, Arkansas, U.S.A., returning home from a Lumbermen's conference.

Mr Johnson took the opportunity of a captive audience due to the train delay to outline his grand dream of a nationwide Lumberman's association.

They met in the lobby of the Hotel Hall, Gurdon, Arkansas, 6 men :-
Bolling Arthur Johnson, a lumber trade journalist -
George Kimball Smith, Secretary of the Southern Pine Association
William Eddy Barnes, a lumber trade journalist
George Washington Schwartz, a railroader
William Starr Mitchell, a daily newspaperman
Ludolph O E Adalbert Strauss, a Gurdon lumberman

Note that there was only one lumberman in the group, and he appeared to have played only a minor part in the formation of the Club. Johnson and Barnes appear to be the most active and became the first and second Snarks.

Bolling Johnson, and George Smith had both been to a meeting of the Yellow Pine Manufacturers Association, in Camden, and were on their way home when the train delay occurred.

Frustrated by the endless, boring meetings, spread all over the country they discussed the possibility of a single giant annual convention.

They adjourned to the Hotel Hall lobby where they were joined by the four others, and Mr Johnson explained his grand idea of a nationwide Lumberman's association.

He wanted high ideals, a code of ethics, and as he was a character of a jolly and mirthful nature he wanted fun and fellowship to be one of the benefits of membership.

He did not want the Hoo-Hoo Fraternal Order of Lumbermen to resemble the other fraternal orders of the day. He wanted a war on conventionality, with no lodge rooms, no compulsory attendance, no "bothering" anyone, no uniforms or flashy regalia. There would be one single aim : to foster the health, happiness and long life of it's members.

He also wanted a secret means of communication so that any member could correspond with any other member on matters of interest without revealing their name to persons outside the fraternity. They settled on a numbering system. Every member upon joining Hoo-Hoo is allocated a number and that is their number for life. The number is never reallocated, and if a member leaves the Club and later rejoins the number is still his. It is his identification, and even if he forgets his name he must never forget his number, as many members have found out to their cost at roll calls, where the Gurdon has extracted his due.

At 9 minutes after three, the enthusiastic group formed the Hoo-Hoo order of the Forest industry. The rules of the club were simple – Annual meeting commencing at 9 minutes after 9 on the 9th day of the 9th month. Joining fee \$9.99 and annual subscription .99 cents, membership would be limited to 9,999

members, (If they were alive today I wonder what they would think of membership over 99,999 ?), and the purpose of the organization was the Health, Happiness and Long Life of it's members, and the promotion of the Timber and Forest industry.

Although Mr Johnson wanted a code of ethics for the club they were not finally adopted until 1921, and were written by C D LeMaster our 29th Snark. Not surprisingly it consists of 9 sentences.

The name Hoo-Hoo came from a nickname Bolling Arthur Johnson, a month earlier had given to a tuft of hair on the otherwise bald head of lumberman, Charles H McCarer, a well known local character.

The coined word Hoo-Hoo had become a catch phrase among the local lumbermen to describe anything unusual or out of the ordinary, so it was natural that this unusual club should be called the Hoo-Hoo Club.

As an indication of intention of the founders to wage war on conventionality, the first female member joined the Order on 20 February 1895, an unusual occurrence in those days.

Mary Anna Smith No 2877 was sponsored by William Eddy Barnes, one of the founders.

Subsequently females were barred from membership, then allowed to join without a number, and it is only in recent years that female members were once again admitted and allocated numbers.

Mr William Eddy Barnes was a well read gentleman and the writings of the English author Lewis Carroll (1832-1898) specifically the nonsense poem " The Hunting of the Snark" formed the basis of the unusual names associated with the Hoo-Hoo order, as Mr Barnes suggested that the Directors be given names of an "eerie and peculiar" nature like those used in the book.

Cat is the second syllable of Concatenation, so is linked to our symbol, the cat. I believe our founders decided on a word for our joining ceremony, Concatenation, then selected the second syllable Cat to use for the Club's symbol. Three of our founders were wordsmiths, so the use of words would be second nature to them, and clearly they were familiar with Lewis Carroll's works – full of acrostics. Lewis Carroll would have been proud of them. He was a mathematician, and a teacher, and loved creating word puzzles.

As the cat was the revered animal of ancient Egyptians, and having no history or culture of it's own the founders decided to adopt ancient Egyptian culture. So we have the embalming ceremony, and the reason past Snarks are called Rameses, a reference to past kings of Egypt, particularly Rameses the Great (1300 – 1224 BC). He was best known for his prodigious building projects, so perhaps he was chosen as lumber was the main component used in building construction.

You might say an unusual combination – the nonsensical writings of an Englishman – the history and culture of ancient Egypt, and put together by Americans – but maybe the Hoo-Hoo organization *is* unusual.

The meaning of Snark has intrigued people ever since the book was published, particularly intellectuals, and debate has raged over whether it was a children's book or it had a much deeper meaning and should be studied by "sages, grey headed philosophers and psychologists". To support that theory there were Snark Clubs at both Cambridge and Oxford Universities. Like Hoo-Hoo the Snark Clubs were based on the book.

Now we know the background of the Club we can begin to understand the structure of the organization, and the unusual names and titles associated with our Club.

*"Just the place for a Snark" the Bellman cried
As he landed his crew with care
Supporting each man on the top of the tide
With a finger entwined in his hair*

I think the Founders picked up on the last line "*With a finger entwined in his hair*" and they could visualise Charles H McCarer being lifted ashore by the tuft of hair on the top of his head. The term Hoo-Hoo must have been an endearing term, as it did not stop Charles H McCarer becoming a member

Similarly the Snark is only identified as a mythical creature that Lewis Carroll's odd collection of characters were hunting. Needless to say they never found the Snark.

*They sought it with thimbles, they sought it with care
They pursued it with forks and hope*

*They threatened it's life with a railway-share
They charmed it with smiles and soap*

*That's exactly the method the Bellman bold
In hasty parenthesis cried
That's exactly the way I have always been told
That the capture of Snarks should be tried !*

The Hunting of the Snark was written in 1874. In 1897, a year before his death. Lewis Carroll was asked "What did you mean the Snark was?" He answered "I meant that the Snark was a Boojum. To the best of my recollection, I had no other meaning in mind, but people still try to find the meaning in it. The one I like best, which I think is partly my own, is that it may be taken as an allegory for *the pursuit of happiness*".

So when the founders of Hoo-Hoo decided that the head of the Club would be called a Snark, perhaps they envisaged that *the Snark would lead us in the pursuit of happiness*. Personally I like that interpretation.

I don't think it is a coincidence that Happiness is part of the Hoo-Hoo greeting, as Lewis Carroll was very fond of acrostics (a series of words or letters either first or last that associate with other words or letters), so you if take the two H's, the first letters of Hoo-Hoo, they are also the first letters of the words Health Happiness. I have no doubt that "and Long Life" were also acrostic, but I can't find a link in my research, but the greeting was coined over 110 years ago, so may have been lost in the mists of time.

At International level we do not have a President – we have a ***Snark of the Universe*** – note he is not just a Snark, he is not just of the world, but he is *of the whole Universe* !

Local areas or Jurisdictions – the territory over which authority is exercised - (e.g. Jurisdiction 1V covers Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Islands, Singapore, Malaysia, and recently, South Africa) have a President and a board of 9 members called Vice Gerent Snarks representing the areas in the J1V Jurisdiction. Vice Gerent means assistant or deputy Manager.

The frequent use of 9 is more readily understood, as it represents the 9 lives of the cat, hence we have a Supreme 9 (International Council), 9 members on our committees, and following the Founders lead, the International Convention is held every year on the 9th day of the 9th month, starting at 9 minutes after 9, and there are 9 sentences in our Code of ethics.

The Club symbol is the black cat with his tail curled in a figure 9

It is a black because black cats were thought to bring bad luck, and the Hoo-Hoo order, among other things was to fight superstition, and conventionalism.

The founders of the Club intended that it be a fun Club, and with the basis being the whimsical writings of Lewis Carroll we should strive to keep the fun in our Club.

The Concatenation of new members (Concatenate means to join or link together in a series), is a ceremony that allows frivolity to reign alongside the serious side of welcoming new members, affectionately called kittens – and seeing our symbol is a cat, shouldn't cats have kittens? Over the years there have been some hilarious concatenations, and why not? There is an oft-quoted couplet, the truth of which has never been disputed, to the effect that "A little nonsense now and then is relished by the best of men"

A ceremony at the International Convention is called the "Embalming of the Snark".

In conventional clubs on the election of the new President, the outgoing President is ignored, and all the attention goes to the incoming President.

Hoo Hoo is *not* a conventional club so the attention in Hoo Hoo is on the outgoing Snark.

What do you do with a discarded or "dead" Snark ? If you follow Egyptian custom you embalm or mummify him ! He then becomes a Rameses.

Weird and wonderful are the ways a Snark can be embalmed, with each host association trying to outdo the previous year's embalming.

Glossary : Remember Mr Barnes suggested that Directors be given names of an “eerie and peculiar” nature like those used in the book *The Hunting of the Snark*.

Snark of the Universe:	International President
Rameses:	Past International Presidents
Supreme Nine:	International Committee of 9 members
House of Ancients:	Committee of Past Snarks
Seer of the House of Ancients:	Head of committee of past Snarks
Scrivenoter:	Coined word - sounds like Scribe – Secretary
Custocation:	Coined word - Custodian of funds – Treasurer
Holy Bojum:	Abbreviation or misspelling of Boojum - a mythical creature from “Hunting of the Snark” became the Chaplain.
Jabberwock:	Coined word - incoherent or meaningless speech. The original title chosen was “Bandersnatch” (another coined word), this was later changed to Jabberwock, but it is unclear what the duties of the Jabberwock were.
Arcanoper:	Coined word – sounds like opener - Appointed to stand within the garden and be the “opener” of the gates to those requesting admittance into the realm of Hoo-Hoo land.
Gurdon:	It was appropriate that the name of the birthplace of the Club be remembered, so Gurdon is the title given to the equivalent of Sergeant-at-Arms, and is the member charged with keeping law and order. He is entitled to fine members for misdemeanours (real or Imagined). All fines go to charity

The *Hunting of the Snark* was given further prominence in 1986 with the staging of Mike Batt’s musical “The Hunting of the Snark”, with such prominent actors as Art Garfunkel, Julian Lennon, and Cliff Richard taking leading roles, Sir John Gielgud, and John Hurt as narrators, and music by the London Symphony Orchestra.

Hoo Hoo is reputed to be the oldest industry club in the world, and over the years has had over 100,000 members.

The club hasn’t survived since 1892 without having some good reason for people to continue supporting it.

I believe the ideals and aims of the club set out below are mainly the reasons for survival :-

1. To fill with credit the sphere in which we are placed without interfering with the rights of others.
2. To promote human advancement and higher standards of civic, social and economic relations by developing in business the spirit of the Golden Rule, which we accept as the basic principle of peace and prosperity for the world.
3. To establish the spoken word on the basis of the written bond.
4. To cultivate true friendship and therefore confidence among persons engaged in the lumber business.
5. To conduct ourselves and our business so that we may render service to society.
6. To consider our vocation worthy and to be worthy of our vocation as the Nation’s homebuilders.
7. To assist liberally and sympathetically all that seeks to elevate humanity, by charity of action and thought.
8. To keep in view the world bonds of human interest and trade, seeking to promote friendly understanding among all nations and races.
9. To recognize the abiding power of cooperation and organization and so to act as individuals that the International Order of Hoo-Hoo shall ever be regarded with honour as a source of community benefit and goodwill.

I have researched as much available material as I could in the compilation of this background to the formation of the Club, but readily acknowledge there are other versions, which may or may not be more accurate, but as the purpose of this history is to give members, particularly in Jurisdiction J1V some understanding of the culture of the Hoo-Hoo movement, I hope I have succeeded in some small way of giving a better understanding of our background and history.

I close with the greeting or salutation of the Hoo-Hoo Club, and remind you of the Founders wishes that the Club be based on fun and fellowship, and also the pursuit of happiness.

Health Happiness and Long Life

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The Men who started Hoo-Hoo

Back Row (L to R) William Eddy Barnes : George Kimball Smith : Ludolph O.E. Adalbert Strauss
Seated (L to R) Bolling Arthur Johnson : George Washington Schwartz " William Starr Mitchell



Hoo-Hoo Museum and Headquarters situated on Main Street, Gurdon, Arkansas, U.S.A.

PAST SNARKS OF THE UNIVERSE

* indicates from J1V Jurisdiction

Bolling Arthur Johnson	Rameses	1	H.W.Koll	Rameses	54
W.E.Barnes	Rameses	2	E.F. Wade	Rameses	55
J.E. DefeBaugh	Rameses	3	John G. Hickey	Rameses	56
H.H. Hemenway	Rameses	4	G.W. Ross	Rameses	57
A.A. White	Rameses	5	B.T. Dempsey	Rameses	58
N.A.Gladding	Rameses	6	V.H. Justus	Rameses	59
G.W.Locke	Rameses	7	R.L. Johnson	Rameses	60
W.B.Stillwell	Rameses	8	E.W. Roche	Rameses	61
A.H.Weir	Rameses	9	W.P. Cory	Rameses	62
W.H.Norris	Rameses	10	L.J. Owen	Rameses	63
E.M.Vietmeier	Rameses	11	Jack A. Cheshire	Rameses	64
C.D.Rourke	Rameses	12	L.R. Putnam	Rameses	65
R.D.Inman	Rameses	13	P.H. Dawson	Rameses	66
A.C.Ramsey	Rameses	14	D.B. Marteney	Rameses	67
J.S.Bonner	Rameses	15	T.M. Partridge	Rameses	68
P.B. Walker	Rameses	16	W.A. Badar	Rameses	69
W.A. Hadley	Rameses	17	Laurin R. Champ	Rameses	70
H.J.Miller	Rameses	18	Eugene D. Zanck	Rameses	71
E. Stringer Boggess	Rameses	19	James A. "Jimmy" Jones	Rameses	72
F.W. Trower	Rameses	20	Robert C. VanEvery	Rameses	73
K.H. Kirby	Rameses	21	Daniel G. Brown	Rameses	74
E.D. Tennant	Rameses	22	* Kevin Kelly *	Rameses	75
J. Seidel	Rameses	23	Richard W. "Dick" Wilson	Rameses	76
W.A.Priddle	Rameses	24	Carle H.C. Hall	Rameses	77
H.A. Hiscox	Rameses	25	Al Meier	Rameses	78
L.M. Tully	Rameses	26	Jack Jacobson	Rameses	79
E.G. Griggs	Rameses	27	* Dick Campbell *	Rameses	80
W.S. Dickason	Rameses	28	Phil Cocks	Rameses	81
L.M. Tully	Rameses	29	Lyle Hoeck	Rameses	82
J.H. Allen	Rameses	30	Brent Crosby	Rameses	83
AJ. Hager	Rameses	31	Jeff Loth	Rameses	84
A.A. Hood	Rameses	32	Dave Blasen	Rameses	85
J.M. Brown	Rameses	33	Manny Litvin	Rameses	86
M.M. Riner	Rameses	34	Eddie Hunt	Rameses	87
G.D. Witsitt	Rameses	35	Jan-Evert Hermans	Rameses	88
F.A. Hofheins	Rameses	36	* Andy Blackwell *	Rameses	89
Ben F. Springer	Rameses	37	George Reneaud	Rameses	90
G.W. Dulany Jr.	Rameses	38	Ron Garka	Rameses	91
D.S. Montgomery	Rameses	39	Tenny Johnston	Rameses	92
R.E. Saberson	Rameses	40	Archie Brown	Rameses	93
Leroy Stanton	Rameses	41	Anthony J. Vecchiolla	Rameses	94
M.T. Wiegand	Rameses	42	Gary M Gamble	Rameses	95
Lynn Boyd	Rameses	43	David Jones	Rameses	96
R.J. Stalker	Rameses	44	* Ray Lamari *	Rameses	97
A.H. Greiger	Rameses	45	David Kahle	Rameses	98
J.H. Geiger	Rameses	46	John Yeakel	Rameses	99
J.H. Dolcater	Rameses	47	Jim Spiers		
Dave Davis	Rameses	48			
C.H. Shorling	Rameses	49			
Ernie L. Wales	Rameses	50			
R.E. Gallagher	Rameses	51			
R.W. "Dick" Smith	Rameses	52			
E.W. Hammerschmidt	Rameses	53			