

# ☐☐☐ DAUGHTERS OF ELKS..... (Continued from Page 14)



"Top Cats" Phyllis Wheatley Temple #51, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (Front right) Dgt. Mary Stout, District Deputy.



A group of children who received shoe gift certificates.



A group of daughters of White Temple #19, oldest temple in St. Louis, Missouri.



Mattie Caldwell Easter Egg Hunt, Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Elks help to get youth off the streets who claim they have nothing else to do and those who are borderline delinquents, etc. They do this by focusing their attention on everything that restores to youth a sense of belonging, of having responsibilities and of being wanted.

While the program of the National Youth Council is a new one for Elksdom, the principles upon which such a program is based are very much in keeping with Mother Kelley's definition of charity as the "complete willingness to help others who may be in difficulties of any kind."

On the local level youth programs have included a variety of projects such as teen dances; Trick-or-Treat (to children in hospitals on Halloween); distribution of Holiday Baskets to needy families; volunteers for community drives; sponsorship of community talent shows; aid in Voter Registration Drives; quarterly Church Visitation Day; Drill Teams; career guidance; youth choirs, athletic

team/clubs; Reading Clubs; Clean-Up Campaigns, Marching Units and Marching Bands.

"Now that the AOIP networking concept, along with all of the sorely-needed ego-strengthening materials like *The ADVANCER* and the *Who Am I Guide to Learning*, are available to us," says Grand Daughter Ruler Smith, "we plan to take the lead in insisting that all of the AOIP-affiliated organizations and the public schools also use these materials."

## The Legacy

**T**he contribution of Emma V. Kelley can be measured only by an examination of the Daughters of Elks today and what the Order means to each individual member in particular and to the Black community in general. According to Grand Daughter Secretary Buena Vista Kelley,

...The answer can be found in the composition of the organization of thousands of women of many professions and many skills; by the expansion of its programs; by the increasing benefits it has dispensed to those in need. It must be found in the benefits which thousands of women have derived from the opportunities given them for leadership; the vast expenditures for charity, scholarships, community projects, child welfare and other activities. It must be measured by the confidence it has built in Black women—confidence in their ability to surmount obstacles, and in their ability to make a worthwhile contribution to their communities.

The Daughters of Elks is a monument to their stalwart and crusading Founder, Emma V. Kelley. It is also a monument to the leadership and to the compassion of women who joined her in their quest to relieve the suffering of our impoverished humanity. It is a monument to all of the women in Elksdom whose love was, and

is, broad and deep enough to encompass all Black women, drawing them together in the circle of their dreams.

Like their illustrious Founder, the Daughters of Elks believe in "working, not weeping; in boosting, not knocking; and in the pleasure of work." They believe "men and women are just what they make themselves; that they are not down and out until they have lost all confidence in themselves."

Under the continuing leadership of capable and determined women like Grand Daughter ruler Jean Smith and her entire cabinet of extraordinary officers and directors of every department in the temples of Elksdom, that legacy will continue. They invite all equally committed Black women to join in furthering this precious legacy.

