

### MEMORIAL FOR ELLIOTT PRATHER PALMER

It is with great regret that we record the death of Elliott Prather Palmer of Rookwood Drive, a member of The Literary Club since 1962. He died suddenly on May 27, 1985.

Elliott was a trustee from 1978 to 1980 and president of the Club from 1981 to 1982.

Elliott was the son of a former member, Dr. Dudley White Palmer, and Florence Prather Palmer. Dr. Palmer joined the Club in 1918.

Elliott's grandfather was Dr. Chauncey White Palmer, a physician and a professor at UC.

*Elliott had his early schooling at the Lotspeich School and attended Walnut Hills High School and transferred to the Choate School at Wallingford, Connecticut, where he graduated in 1932. He then went on to Dartmouth College at Hanover, New Hampshire, where he graduated with an A.B. degree in 1936. He was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity and the Dragon Society.*

Upon returning to Cincinnati, Elliott was employed by the Keelor and Stites Advertising Agency for several years and then joined the W. S. Merrill Company and was assigned to their Canadian offices. He spent nearly twenty years with that firm, traveling all over Canada.

He returned to Cincinnati to become associated with the John Blemker Company, a manufacturer of gaskets and packaging materials.

Upon John Blemker's death in 1960, Elliott bought the company from Mrs. V. Page (McBurney) Blemker, now Mrs. Hilman Smith, and he became its president and chief executive officer and continued with that company until his retirement in 1973.

The Palmer family originally lived at Reading Road and Forrest Avenue in Avondale, and moved to Green Hills Drive -- off Edwards Road in Hyde Park -- about 1929. This home is the beautiful white colonial, more recently owned by another Club

member, Oliver M. Gale. This lovely home has been a show place for a great many years.

Elliott is survived by his lovely wife, Betty Helzer Palmer, and a sister, Mrs. Margaret Palmer Keeler, and three fine and successful sons.

Elliott's wife was a graduate of Doherty School, later known as C.P.S., and is now a part of the Seven Hills Schools. Betty is also a graduate of Wellesley College and has been very active in local volunteer circles. She was recently a board member of the Travel Club and is a member of the Junior League.

Their son, Dr. Elliott Prather Palmer, Jr., is a graduate of Dartmouth and the Washington University Medical School of St. Louis, Missouri, and is presently head of the Department of Neurology at the Lahey Clinic in Boston. He earlier spent three years as a medical officer with our armed forces in Germany.

Another son, Thomas White Palmer -- also a graduate of Washington University with an M.A. in psychology -- is now executive director of Mental Health Services East (a community mental health center in East Hyde Park). Tom spent two years earlier with the United States Peace Corps in the Philippines.

David Barton Palmer, the third son, has a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Vanderbilt University and now is a member of the Computer Center at Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Palmers have traveled extensively in the Orient and in Europe.

Over the years, Elliott contributed a paper for The Literary Club about every two years, covering a number of subjects -- always in an interesting and stimulating fashion. One of his papers, that in 1981, was about the Centennial Exposition here in 1888. Members of the current Bicentennial Commission might find that paper quite helpful.

Elliott's 1976 paper was about the Fenian Brotherhood and its attempt in 1865 to 1866 to raise money to help establish an Irish Republic. This group even considered invading Canada as a start toward defeating England in order to assure an Irish Republic. The

threat even caused a run on banks in Montreal. But in March of 1866, thirty-six thousand Canadians were ready, if necessary, to defend eastern Canada, so the proposed invasion was called off.

Between Choate and Dartmouth, Elliott spent a summer at the Grenfell Mission in Labrador. While he did carpentry and painting there, the experience at that mission made a lasting impression on him. Many New England students have volunteered for work and service at that mission over the years, and I suppose they still do.

During Elliott's years in Cincinnati, he became an active member of the University Club -- was on its board and was its president in 1967.

He also has been an active member of the Travel Club and of the Society of Colonial Wars, of which he was a past governor and had been honored by appointment as a deputy governor general of the United States for that society, representing Ohio.

He was also a member of the Sugar Hill Gun Club and of the Cincinnati Country Club, where he has been an avid golfer. Elliott was also a volunteer worker of the Historical Society for some years.

Elliott was a long-time member of Christ Church and, more recently, of the Church of the Redeemer in Hyde Park.

Many summers were spent at their island cottage at Point au Baril, Ontario, where many Cincinnatians have cottages. Those were fun times for the whole family, with fishing, boating, sailing and water skiing and group picnics at the outer islands on Georgian Bay. In recent years, Elliott and Betty have vacationed at Boca Grande, on Gasparilla Island off the west coast of Florida.

Elliott will long be fondly remembered by a host of friends.

John A. Reid  
J. Roger Newstedt

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