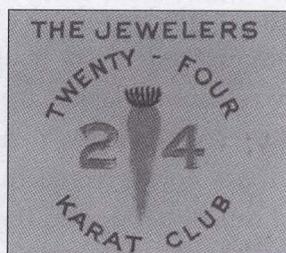


CHAPTER ONE: GENESIS / 1900-1909



*V*ictory Dinner: November 24, 1900

The glittering lights of the New York Athletic Club on Sixth Avenue at 59th St. heralded the arrival of members of The Jewelers' McKinley & Roosevelt Club, gathering for a Saturday evening Victory Dinner to celebrate the vanquishing of William Jennings Bryan. Considering the fact that the jewelry trade still based itself largely around Maiden Lane, along the lowest reaches of Broadway near Wall St., it was a bold move to hold the dinner so far uptown.

Maiden Lane, a tiny narrow street that still leads down to the East River, had once held the residence of Thomas Jefferson, during his time as George Washington's first secretary of state when the federal government briefly made New York its home. The Lane, as many called it, would remain the jewelry trade's main base for many years before the industry relocated farther uptown. Many of its social events, however, moved up sooner. New York's most prominent were building homes in these northern reaches and swanky hotels, apartment buildings and museums dotted the skyline around the beautiful Central Park, nearby the Athletic Club.

Presiding over the dinner were Augustus Sloan, vice president of the Jewelers' McKinley & Roosevelt Club, and Col. John L. Shepherd, chairman of the executive committee. Col. Shepherd read aloud personal greetings sent to the dinner by the newly re-elected President McKinley and his new Vice President Roosevelt, both of whom thanked the Club for its vociferous support.

Also sending good wishes was Tiffany founder Charles L. Tiffany, then 88 years old and too infirm to attend. Said the elderly Tiffany: "Hoping that each one of you may live to vote for as many Republican presidents as has been my privilege, and never fail to vote for the party that is always on the side of Protection, Sound Money and Prosperity."

Many speeches followed these greetings, along with copious food and drink, according to *The Jewelers' Circular-Weekly*, which

recorded the event in detail in its Nov. 28, 1900 issue. The hall was decorated with the banners of the Club and those of individual jewelers. All had been recently hoisted aloft during the parade. A mass of flags and streamers filled in the gaps.

A string orchestra had been hired for the evening's festivities as well. The menu was a preview of Twenty-Four Karat Club banquets menus to come, embossed in gold and taken away as a valuable souvenir. Only instead of the symbol we know today, there was an American flag, with a golden rooster atop it and the words "Victory Dinner, 1900" below.

Songs rang through the hall, such as "The Star Spangled Banner" and "The Red, White and Blue," often sung two or three bars behind the orchestra, a fact dryly noted by T. Edgar Willson, *The Jewelers' Circular-Weekly's* young reporter in attendance. Willson also observed that so much wine was consumed at the head table that one reveler had to be tied to his chair to prevent him from falling under the table. Nevertheless, the young reporter said, "the utmost decorum prevailed throughout the entire dinner."

The Formation of the Club and the First Banquet

The jewelers' Victory Dinner was laughed over and celebrated in stories all through that holiday season of 1900. When the dinner committee met for a reunion in January 1901, it realized it was out of a job after the safe election of McKinley and Roosevelt. But its members decided they'd had so much fun at the Victory Dinner that they would form a new club which would bring the jewelry trade together annually for a pleasant social event in the form of a banquet.

The Victory Dinner committee spent the rest of 1901 planning the festivities and the first annual banquet of what was then called "The 18-Karat Club" took place on Saturday, January 18, 1902. The setting was once again the New York Athletic Club.

Twelve original founding members attended that event, including Charles F. Brinck of the Crescent Watch Case Co., the Club's first president in 1902; Col. John L. Shepherd of the Keystone Watch Case

Co., who would be the second president in 1903; James R. Gleason of Robbins & Appleton (selling agent for Waltham Watches), who would become the third president in 1904; Edwin R. Crippen of the Philadelphia Watch Case Co., who would become the fourth president in 1905; and William I. Rosenfeld, a diamond importer, who would become president in 1917 and make the decision to cancel the 1918 banquet due to America entering World War I.

Also attending the 1902 banquet were H.A. Flynn and Augustus Beucke, colleagues of Brinck at the Crescent Watch Case Co.; P.D. Clapp of Smith & North, William F. Chambers of P.J. Cummings & Co.; Percy H. Savory of the Wadsworth Watch Case Co.; C.E. Stevens; and James K. Duffy, neither of whom was listed with a company name.

The Club Incorporates

After the dinner festivities of the 1902 banquet had concluded, the group held a business meeting and formally elected President Charles F. Brinck as its first leader. It also decided to extend the membership to 24 persons. Sometime between that January and August of 1902, although exactly when is not recorded, the group changed its name to the "24 Karat Club."

We know this because the newly renamed club announced plans during August for its first "shore dinner" to be held Sept. 5, 1902, at Supper's Hotel, Bath Beach, L.I. About 40 members and guests attended the event, leaving from the foot of Whitehall St. in Manhattan on the ferry to Brooklyn, where a special car waited to take the group to the beach. The "first four" presidents, Brinck, Shepherd, Gleason and Crippen, formed the committee that planned the event.

It was later that year when the Club filed its certificate of incorporation as "The 24 Karat Club of New York City" in the office of the Secretary of State at Albany on November 15, 1902. Directors named were Brinck, Crippen and Gleason, as well as Albert Stearns and J. Warren Alford.

The charter 24 members were: J. Warren Alford, Stephen Avery, Frank C. Beckwith, J. Louis Bennett, Hiram A. Bliss, Charles F. Brinck, Augustus F. Beucke, William F. Chambers, Edwin R. Crippen, Charles L. Depolier, Harry A. Flinn, James R. Gleason, A.V. Huyler, William I. Rosenfeld, A. Rosenthal, Percy H. Savory, John L. Shepherd, Frank T. Sloan, Albert L. Stearns, W.T. Thompson, Willard H. Wheeler, George B. Whitehead, John B. Wood and Leo Wormser.

Second Banquet in 1903: The Real Legend Begins

It's hard to know whether T. Edgar Willson was creating his own propaganda, or if the Club actually warranted his breathless prose, but by January of 1903, he was reporting: "The most important dinner of the year in the jewelry trade of New York will take place Tuesday evening January 20, at Delmonico's, 44th St. and Fifth Ave., when the Twenty-Four Karat Club will give its mid-year banquet." There's no record of why the dinner was held on a Tuesday evening or why it was called a mid-year affair, though this perhaps referred to the old fiscal year, which would have ended in July.

The group still had only 24 members, but unlike the humble gathering of the year before, the banquet committee was besieged by enough frantic requests that it was forced to raise the number of covers from 100 to 120. Even then, guests came in from all parts of the country, including Philadelphia, Chicago and Boston.

The group had certainly moved up in stylishness with its choice of Delmonico's, the legendary New York restaurant, and it was reported that the then-famous baritone soloist Paul Petry would perform, along with the Lyric Male Quartet and a full orchestra. Several prominent speakers, including two governors, were also slated to speak.

Just a week prior to the dinner, the Club held a meeting at 21 Maiden Lane in the offices of the Keystone Watch Case Co. and elected officers, with Col. Shepherd taking the reins of the presidency and others named to the posts of vice president, secretary, treasurer and three to the board of directors. It also admitted 14 honorary members,

a practice that continued for some years. "The names of its members, both honorary and otherwise enrolled, showed that the Club was composed of some of the most prominent and influential men in the jewelry business," reported Willson.

Third Banquet in 1904: A Tradition Firmly Established; Dinner Souvenirs Begin

By the 1904 dinner, the whole trade seemed to be talking about the Twenty-Four Karat Club. Whereas the earlier two dinners merited only brief items in *The Jewelers' Circular-Weekly*, the magazine gave top billing to the third banquet, with a multiple-page headliner story accompanied by photos of the Club's president, dinner chairman, directors and banquet committee members. The description of the Club and its banquet could easily describe the group today:

"In spite of its tender age, the Twenty-Four Karat Club has managed to build up a feeling of loyalty and good fellowship among its members unsurpassed in any like organization among the jewelers of the east and west. This feeling has overleaped the bounds of the Club and has spread among the trade at large...

"Its banquet Thursday night...freed those present from the strain of business cares and worries and filled them with cheerfulness and mellowness that will do much in banishing what trade jealousy may exist...

"It places business, with all its aggressiveness and sharpness, in a much more elevated position; it has a tendency to uplift and to create in the trade something more than a spirit of mere gain."

The banquet featured round tables in 1904, after several years of long, rectangular ones. There were now 165 attendees, though the membership was still limited to 24 (plus "honorary" members). The souvenirs for which the banquet has become so well-known were mentioned for the first time: "The identity of the souvenirs were themselves of sufficient merit to cause speculation about them in the public press of the country," said one article. Strangely, the author never revealed what the souvenir was!

Among the airs that the "delightful" Delmonico's orchestra played during the affair included "Annie Rooney" and "In the Good Old Summertime" and, as usual, the banquetgoers joined in. Lyrics were provided in the banquet program, which was now purple, with the insignia of the Club in gold on the front. The insignia itself had been established: When it appeared in color it was a very orange carrot with a 2 on its left and a 4 on its right and the Club's name in a circle around it.



*The original insignia of the Twenty-Four Karat Club.
Courtesy of: Twenty-Four Karat Club Archives*

A sensation occurred that year when the banquet welcomed a young lady soloist, Miss Lou Pratt, for the first time. She was not allowed on the floor, but stood in a balcony to sing "Just a Gleam of Sunshine to My Heart," written by Robert Francis Nattan, an industry journalist! The young singer was toasted from the floor. The key speaker of the evening was Congressman Reuben O. Moon of Philadelphia, whose speech was filled with all the pride of a country embarking on a century it sensed would be its own. From new possessions in the Philippines (gained during the Spanish-American War) to a more active role in Europe and the Far East, to the construction of the Panama Canal, America was feeling its international power growing and Moon was there to point out that such strength would translate into good business, too.

1906-1908: More Members and a Beefsteak Dinner

By 1906, the Club was holding its annual meetings in December at the swanky Hotel Astor, where it would hold its banquets from 1910-1912. The property was managed by John Jacob Astor, the great grandson of the first John Jacob Astor, who had built the original Astor House Hotel in the 1830's. Astor the Fourth also built the Astoria section of the first Waldorf Astoria, where the Club had its

banquets from 1913 until it was demolished in 1929 to make way for the Empire State Building. The Club's connection to the Astors and their multiple New York hotel properties would continue throughout the twentieth century.

In 1907, the Club voted to change its constitution allowing for expansion to 100 active members and 50 associate members,

with honorary members falling within the associate category. Active and associate members paid \$10 after they were elected as an entrance fee, plus dues of \$10 per year for active members and \$5 for associates.

One other change in the constitution was worth noting: the Club voted to create a mechanism to act on complaints "regarding the conduct of a Club member, or the guest of a Club member, at any social function, dinner, outing, etc." Clearly, rowdy behavior had not disappeared from the Club's social events!

In April of 1908, the Club came up with the idea of holding a special event to entice members to its meetings with a combination of a business meeting and dinner. The location was Reisenwebers, at

Do you want a supper, luncheon, dinner, banquet for a club of any kind?

SOCIAL, THEATRICAL, FRATERNAL, LITERARY, ATHLETIC, ARTISTIC, MASONIC, COLLEGIATE, ALUMNI, STAG or OTHERWISE

Go to Reisenwebers for satisfaction. If you can not go to them they will come to you.

PERFECT PRIVATE CATERING
EVERY KIND OF FUNCTION

Beefsteak Garret
Right Under the Rafters
"Its Unique"

Ample and artistic halls, quick and efficient service. The phone will fix it.

38th St. & 5th Ave. 1030 COLUMBUS

Reisenwebers
COLUMBUS CIRCLE
NEW YORK

April 28th, 1908.

BRANCHES:
HOFFMAN GATE
7 BEAVER STREET
REISENWEBERS BUFFET & RESTAURANT
57 MAIDEN LANE

Mr. H. S. Carter,
Trans. 24 Karat Club,
22 Maiden Lane, City

Dear Sir:

In reference to the conversation the writer had with you, we herewith propose the following:

To give the 24 Karat Club the exclusive use of the third floor of our building at No. 57 Maiden Lane from May 1st, 1908 to Jan. 1st, 1909 for the sum of \$300.00. -

We propose to furnish the club with all the dining room furniture that may be necessary, but any other furniture to be supplied by the Club.

We would be prepared to serve breakfast, lunch as well as Dinner.

Our proposition includes light and elevator service.

Trusting that this will meet with the approval of your Committee, we beg to remain,

Yours very truly,
REISENWEBERS
H. S. Carter

Courtesy of: Twenty-Four Karat Club Archives

Columbus Circle. The establishment had two other branches in 1908, one on Maiden Lane. Its stationery, a piece of which still exists in the Club's records, stated the following: "Do you want a supper, luncheon, dinner, banquet for a Club of any kind... Social, theatrical, fraternal, literary, athletic, artistic, masonic, collegiate, alumni, stag or otherwise? Go to Reisenwebers for satisfaction...Beefsteak Garret Right Under the Rafters... 'It's Unique'...Ample and artistic halls...the 'phone will fix it."

The restaurant's special Beefsteak Garret was probably responsible for the naming of the Twenty-Four Karat Club's now traditional spring gathering, still called the Beefsteak Dinner.

The lure seemed to work, as the Club reported an attendance of nearly 100 of its members at the April 3 gathering. It decided to make the Beefsteak Dinner an annual event. At the dinner, the enterprising Reisenwebers made a suggestion that the members consider renting the third floor of its 57 Maiden Lane location for the Club's exclusive use. The restaurant would charge \$300 for rental from May through the end of the year and would be prepared to serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. It felt compelled to add to its letter of intention that it would provide dining room furniture plus "light and elevator service included," which means such amenities were not yet taken for granted!

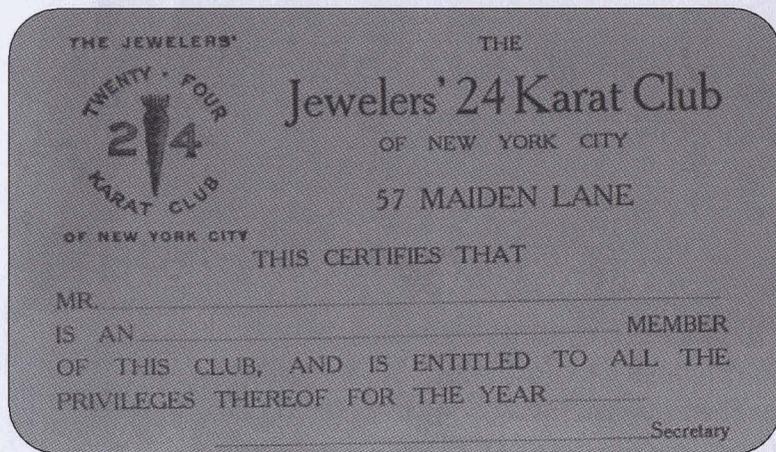
A special meeting was held on April 29 and the Club voted to approve the Reisenwebers proposal with a small stipend to buy

additional furniture.

Soon after a letter went to all members enclosing bright yellow membership cards that would admit members to Reisenwebers

with the following letter from then-

president Harry C. Larter: "The Jewelers 24 Karat Club of New York City have at last secured a home, where the Club members and their friends may congregate, also where meals and supplies will be furnished only on a cash basis, as the Club will assume



The card that granted entrance to the Club's short-lived eating rooms at Reisenwebers on Maiden Lane. Courtesy of: Twenty-Four Karat Club Archives

no charge accounts." Clearly, the idea of credit was still anathema to these careful businessmen!

The letter continued: "This will afford a splendid opportunity for our Club members and their friends to meet daily and extend good fellowship and maintain and advance our social aim for which our Club was organized and incorporated."

Nevertheless, within the month, the members would begin to complain about Reisenwebers. At its May 28th meeting, a representative of the restaurant attended to assure attendees that "all defects would be remedied." Apparently members were dissatisfied with the food and service, because by June 15, founding member and first president Charlie Brinck was begging members to go and assuring them that problems in the Reisenwebers kitchen had been resolved. The Club's board also instituted rules of the house, which including provisions that gambling wasn't allowed, books, periodicals and newspapers must not be mutilated, marked or defaced, and that ladies were definitely allowed in for restaurant service!

1908 Summer Outing

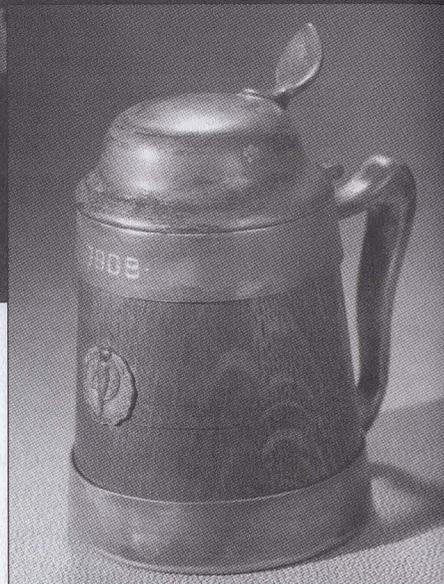
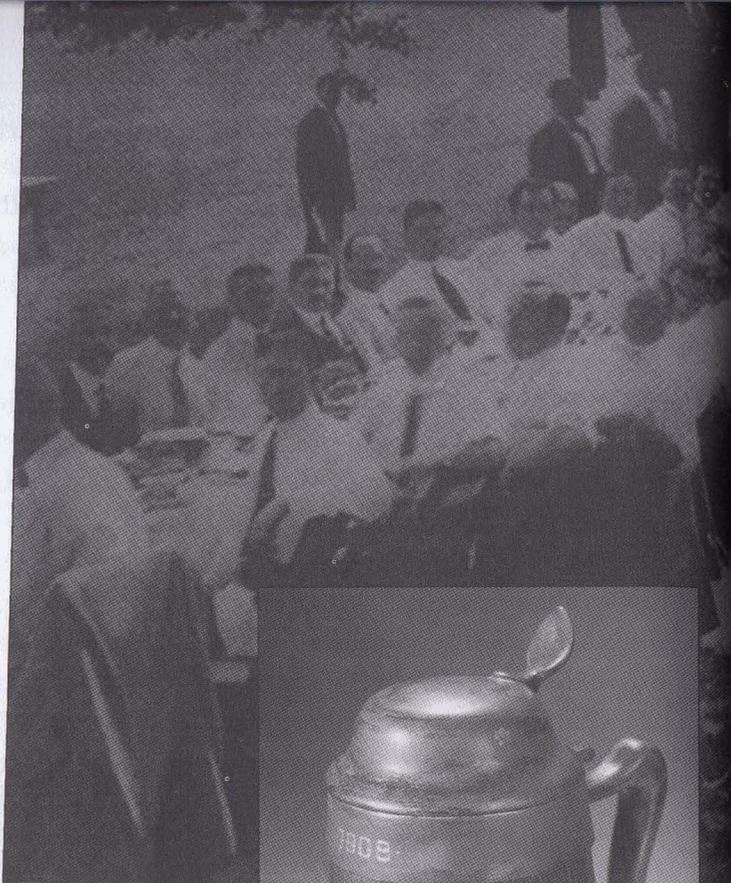
The setting for the seventh annual summer outing "and clam-bake" was the Port-au-Peck Hotel in Long Branch, NJ, where the group had congregated the year before. Over 200 members and guests attended the August 1 event, leaving on a boat from New York City's Pier 10. A steamer was the transport to the Atlantic Highlands and onboard was The First Regiment Band of Newark, NJ, under the leadership of "Pop" Voss. Coin gambling soon commenced on the boat, despite moderately rough seas for the one hour journey, reported *The Jewelers' Circular Weekly's* T. Edgar Willson, who had been wisely voted into the associate membership in May to presumably ensure good coverage of the Club's events!

When the group arrived, it boarded private cars attached to an express train of the Central Railroad of New Jersey and sped to Long Branch, with the band in tow. Four special trolley cars then took them to Pleasure Bay, where the Port-au-Peck Hotel was located. As

they left the cars, the group formed lines of four and followed the band in a parade to the hotel's entrance, where they cheered to see the Club's flag flying crisply in the breezy sun. It was ritual they would repeat many times in the years to come.

The smell of baking clams wafted towards them, reported Willson, but games were afoot and members were ordered to work up an appetite first. The first event was pitching the quoits. For the uninitiated, it involves circles of metal or rope called quoits which are thrown at an upright peg, with the object being to encircle it. After that, a lemonade race was started in which members raced to tables on which knives, glasses, sugar, lemons and water were collected. The winner was the first to get a completed glass of lemonade over to the judges' table.

But the Twenty Four Karat Game was the one everyone loved the



This mug may have been the prize given to the winner of the 1908 Summer Outing's Twenty-Four Karat Game, or it may have been the souvenir given to each member at the end of the Outing. Its original owner is unknown.

*Mug courtesy of: Maurice Shire
Photo: Robert Weldon*



*Summer Outing: it's time to eat!
Courtesy of: Twenty-Four Karat Club Archives*

most. It was reserved only for members of the Club, not their guests. Try to picture, if you will, 24 stakes driven into the ground in six rows of four. In each of these stakes were six nails. The six contestants each had a bowl of 24 carrots and the race was to see who could most quickly drive the carrots into the nails on the stakes. So many clamored to play this game, invented by President Harry C. Larter, that three heats were held before a championship, in which almost-winner William Rosenfeld was narrowly defeated after one of his carrots fell off a nail. As crowds cheered, the winner, J.T. Beechum, was given a cup by President Larter.

Finally, the dinner was served, at long white tables set under spacious shade trees. The menu consisted of celery, hard and soft clams,

bluefish, Irish potatoes, cucumbers, lobster, chicken, sweet potatoes, green corn, tomatoes, watermelon and coffee.

A storytelling contest was held, in which a young fellow named Matt Stratton won first place for his story of catching the "Whiffletit," a rare variety of fish, by using limburger cheese as bait. Stratton would later become an important member of the Club. The final event of the day was a baseball game played by the Club against members of the Philadelphia Jewelers' Club who were guests at the outing. Only three innings were played before it was time to leave, at which time the New York team was ahead 5-0. The two clubs decided to meet later to complete the nine innings, so neither received the newly minted silver cup that the Twenty-Four Karat Club had made, with three baseball bats and a ball as decorations. A circlet of gold medallions bearing the emblem of the Club surrounded the body of the cup (the game was never completed, thus New York got to keep the cup anyway).

The tired revelers retraced their steps back to New York City, with band still in tow, playing all the way until the boat docked again at Pier 10 around 8 p.m.

Reisenwebers Saga Resumes in September

Meanwhile, things hadn't improved at the Club's Maiden Lane dining rooms by September, because President Larter sent out a letter desperately promoting Reisenwebers' new "table de hote" [sic] 45 cent lunch! A menu was included to whet appetites with items such as Scotch mutton broth and shirred eggs, kidneys and mashed potatoes.

Apparently, Reisenwebers was complaining as loudly about a lack of patrons as the Club members were complaining about why they didn't go. So on September 14, the Club sent a letter to other jewelers' organizations of the time, asking if they would like to use the rooms. Letters went to the Jewelers Bowling League, Brotherhood of Traveling Jewelers, The Traveling Jewelers Association and the Jewelers Taft & Sherman Club. (The

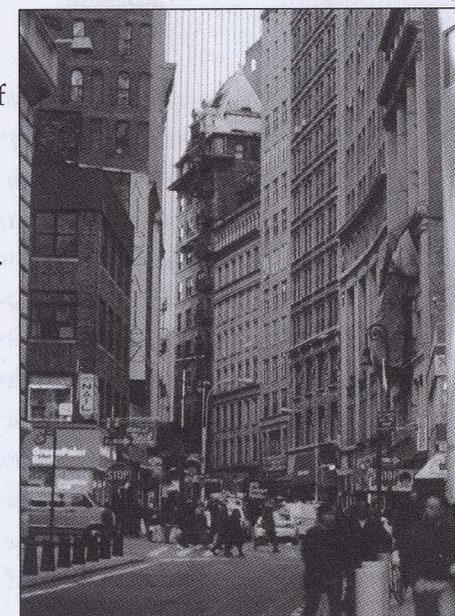
Taft & Sherman Club was a descendent of the McKinley & Roosevelt Club. William Jennings Bryan had once again been nominated by the Democrats and jewelers had started a new political Club to beat the drum for President's Roosevelt's hand-picked successor, William Taft, who won the election in November 1908.)

When the Club's invitations to other organizations still didn't produce enough business from among the picky jewelers, the cheeky Reisenwebers began allowing other patrons (outside the Club and its invitees) onto the third floor. The Club voted to have President Larter send a letter "to the effect that as our contract stipulates that the rooms shall be for the use of members only, we would prefer, during the life of our contract, that we should be left undisturbed in the premises."

By November, the ill-fated arrangement was over and the Club "decided to discontinue the Dining feature of the Club on account of the lack of support by the members," its November 24 meeting minutes recorded. As with many jewelry industry traditions, complaints about food served to the community at its gatherings have deep roots among this trade!

The Club Grows to 200 Members

At the same meeting, Charlie Brinck proposed that the Club extend its number of active members to 150 (with associates staying at 50), probably as pressure for seats began to grow for 1909 dinner, which would be held for the last time at Delmonico's. On Dec. 28 at the annual meeting, held in the Club's new headquarters in the Silversmiths' Building at 15 Maiden Lane, the Club once again changed its bylaws to this effect. It also voted to hold regular meetings on the third Wednesday of each month, except during July and August.



Maiden Lane today, with the Silversmiths Building still visible (triangular roof in upper middle of photo). The Silversmiths' Building was home to the Twenty-four Karat Club from 1908 to 1933. Photo: Robert Weldon

One interesting footnote as Harry C. Larter's Club presidency ends: Larter had also recently led the fight to pass the National Gold and Silver Stamping Act to fight fraudulent stamping of gold and silver and he would go on in 1912 to found the group that later turned into the Jewelers Vigilance Committee. As first chairman of the JVC from 1917-1933, he would continue to work throughout his career to foster fair competition and high standards of conduct in the jewelry

industry. When he died, the JVC leadership passed on to Gus Niemeyer, another Twenty Four Karat Club legend, who held that post until 1967. Such industry service would become a hallmark of the Club's membership.

Eighth Annual Banquet of 1909

If you read between the lines of published reports and the Club's own records, it's clear that the eighth annual banquet hit new highs of revelry, punctuated by long speeches which lasted well after midnight. In one letter sent after-

ward to Congressman Francis W. Cushman thanking him for his edifying remarks, Club Secretary George T. Stebbins felt compelled to make the following statement, in one of the longest run-on sentences recorded until William Faulkner took up his pen:

"On behalf of the Twenty-Four Karat Club, I want to return thanks to you for your eloquent and instructive response to the toast of the Panama Canal at our dinner which you yourself must have seen was greatly appreciated by the audience, yet realize what a dry subject this is at a promiscuous gathering especially where a great many people have imbibed too much spirit which often times results in befogging their appreciation of an intellectual discourse and I am sure that if you were to hear the many remarks that were made about your explanation of the Panama Canal, you would appreciate

them very much, and many men understand this subject better than they did before your coming."

Along with the congressman, the banqueters heard from a senator from the "new" state of Oklahoma, the Japanese Consul general, the president of the board of aldermen of New York, the Rev. Nehemiah Boynton, the Hon. John J. Delaney and Judge M. Linn Bruce of New York State!

Before the dinner and all of these speeches began, however, the guests had attended a pre-banquet reception, a custom continued to this day. One reporter wrote: "One of the most enjoyable parts of the banquets of the 24 Karat Club has always been the informal gathering before the dinner takes place, because the occasion serves to bring members of the trade from all parts of the country together."

The dinner that night included *bisque d'homard*, the fish course was accompanied by Barton & Guestier sauterne, and the meat courses included beef filet, duck, and various vegetables. All was served with *Veuve Clicquot Brut champagne*. A special between-courses sorbet featured an ice in the shape of the Club's logo, with a red carrot shape, green top, and gold "24K" atop the carrot.

Delmonico's orchestra was at its usual best, playing the jewelers' now favorite "Annie Rooney" along with tunes such as "The Red, White and Blue," "It's a Long Way From Tipperary," and, later in the evening, a typical bawdy song of the time called "All She Could Get From the Ice Man Was Ice, Ice, Ice." Years later, Barbra Streisand, portraying Ziegfeld Follies star Fannie Brice, would sing a similar song in the musical "Funny Girl." The musical was set during the same time period, when electric refrigeration was just being introduced, but many homeowners still had an iceman deliver a block of ice each day for their non-electrical refrigerators. Streisand's song, in which a wife pines for her absent husband, sheds some light on the meaning of other song title: "While you're away/ I'm here to say/ They'll be no ice man here/ Singing the blues/ I'm gonna use/ nothing but *Frigidaire!*"

The souvenir that year was a bronze bust of Enid.



Harry C. Larter

Courtesy of: Twenty-Four Karat Club Archives



The 1909 Banquet
 Courtesy of: Twenty-Four Karat Club Archives

The Beefsteak Dinner of 1909: Remember the Ladies

Charlie Brinck, who organized the early banquets and was known for never having the time to eat his dinner at those occasions, proposed that the Club allow members to bring "their ladies" to the second annual Beefsteak Dinner, held at Reisenwebers on March 20. (One has to assume that the food uptown was better than on Maiden Lane for the members to once again choose this venue!) Though there is no record of what transpired at that social event, at the next month's meeting, one of the founding members and second president of the Club, John L. Shepherd, proposed a motion "that Ladies be not admitted to any social function of the Jewelers 24 Karat Club of N.Y., except such as may be provided for them." Whether the female element provided too much distraction to conduct a business meeting, or Shepherd was simply offended by their presence will never be known. When the next meeting was scheduled in 1910, however, it was made clear it was for members ONLY!

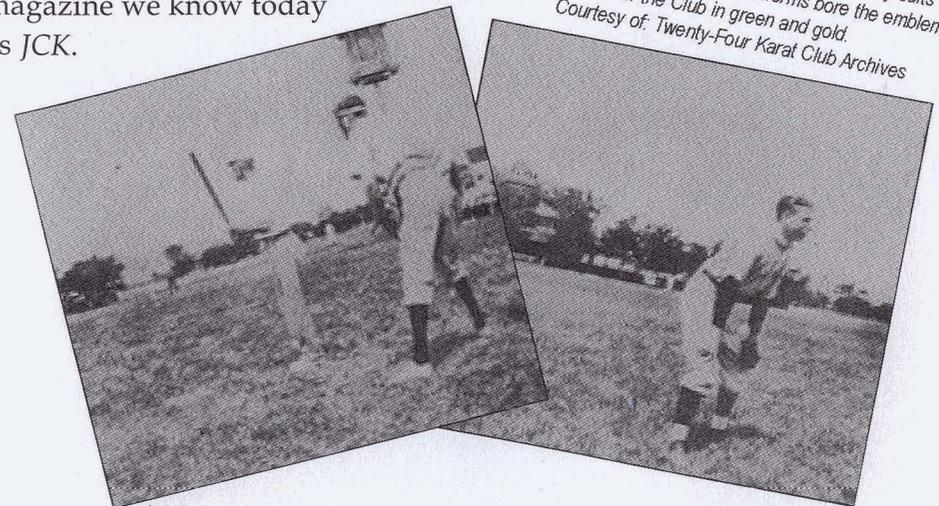
The Rematch of New York vs. Philadelphia

Most of the rest of Spring 1909's excitement was due to the Club's invitation from the Philadelphia Jewelers Club to put up a baseball

team and finally settle the score after the unfinished game the two teams had started at the Twenty-Four Karat Club's Summer Outing the year previous. The game was scheduled for June 29 in Philadelphia. Strangely, though notice that the event had taken place appeared in the Club's minutes for July, the score was never recorded. But the Club did order the captain of the ball team to order "baseball suits, caps, shirts, trousers, stockings, belts and shoes for use of the team in match games."

At the Club's official Summer Outing held July 31 again in Long Branch at the Port-au-Peck Hotel, the Philadelphians were invited back and this time, their match against the Club was scheduled first, before food and all other games! The team wore its "nobby new grey suits, with green stockings and caps. Each suit bore the emblem of the 24 Karat Club in green and gold," reported one journalist on the scene. This time, the score was recorded: a whopping victory for New York of 19-12. Club members also played an updated version of the Twenty Four Karat Game, in which 24 carrots had to be strung together using needle and thread and tied to stakes, with the first one finished the winner.

The group also played a game in which *The Jewelers Circular Weekly* was given to each contestant, who had to find his name in the publication first to win the game. Arival trade magazine, *The Keystone*, was also covering the event. But it was careful in its coverage to only say that "a trade paper" was used and never named the competing publication! During the lean years of the Depression, *The Jewelers Circular* and *The Keystone* would merge to form the magazine we know today as JCK.



Two players at the Twenty-Four Karat Club summer outing, 1909, wearing their "nobby new grey suits with green stockings." The uniforms bore the emblem of the Club in green and gold.
 Courtesy of: Twenty-Four Karat Club Archives