

Nine O'Clock Ceremony Artwork



The fraternity's Nine O'Clock Ceremony was first depicted in oil for distribution to Lodges in the early 1930s, with a Mooseheart child saying a bedtime prayer with the Campanile tower shown outside the window; the painting was updated in the early 1960s, now the House of God is depicted at dusk outside the window.

(Ironically, the positioning of both artworks is more idealized than realistic: The tyke at top looks to be about four, hence would have lived at Baby Village, nowhere near the Campanile; in the later art the view is very close to what one might see out a bedroom window in Baby Village's Schuylkill building—but the boy looks to be perhaps seven—too old to live there!)



Additional information from [James Upton](#)

The boy in the nine o'clock ceremony chronological history:

There are two representation pictures of the 9 O'clock ceremony. The original done in the 1930's, a little boy kneeling beside his bed, with the clock tower of the Campanile at 9:00 in the background. The second, done in 1959, is a painting of a photograph, of a little boy saying his prayers, with the House of God in the background and a small alarm clock on the dresser behind him set at 9:00.

In 1950 Al Melgard, an organist at the Chicago Stadium, joined the Moose and visited Mooseheart. While touring baby village he came across a little boy in a corner crying. He picked the little boy up and asked why he was crying. That boy was Doug Fordyce. Doug said he missed his mommy and daddy. Mel told him he had a million Moose mommies and daddies and dried Doug's tears. Mel went home and wrote a song about that experience (The Little Curly Head) and presented it to the Moose.

The Moose wasn't really sure what to do with the song. Hal Young, music and voice teacher at Mooseheart, took it and drew up a routine to perform at Chicago Moose lodge #3 and found it to be a successful enrollment promotion. The routine involved a young boy from Mooseheart known as "The little

Curly Head". The routine was always done 15 minutes before the 9 O'clock ceremony.

Hal Young would be on the stage singing the Little Curly Head song and on queue the Little Curly Head would come running down the aisle and would jump into Hal's arms. He would pretend to dry the boy's tears and say, "You miss your mommy and daddy? Don't you know you have a million Moose mommies and daddies now?" The Little Curly Head would put on a big smile. Mr. Young would finish the song. As he stepped off the stage he would walk down the aisle with the Little Curly Head in his arms waving to the crowd of applauding men.

Doug Fordyce was the first Little Curly Head from 1950 - 1953.

Mike Maxson became the second Little Curly Head from 1954 - 1956.

Ed Walters became the third Little Curly Head from 1957 - 1959.

Frank Pavlek became the fourth Little Curly Head from 1960 - 1962.

Pat Pierce became the fifth Little Curly Head in 1963.

Percy Fowler was the sixth and final Little Curly Head in 1964 - 1965.

In 1969 Herb Heilman declared the one Ed Walters posed for as the official picture for all lodges. Today some lodges have both pictures displayed (1930's and 1959).