



THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

Serving in Illinois Since 1838

Our 182nd Year

VOL. 67, NO. 3

USPS 258240

March 2019

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Subscription \$5.00 per year

CELEBRATING 75th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



LYNDALL AND NORMA JEAN PIGG WILL
CELEBRATE THEIR 75TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
ON MARCH 10, 2019

Hosted by Steve Pigg and Barbara Turner

Sunday, March 10, 2019 from 2-4:30 p.m.

at Wesley Village, 1200 E Grant St, Macomb, IL 61455

If you can't make it to the open house please feel free to send a congratulatory card to Lyndall and Norma Jean at 1200 E. Grant Street, Apt 301, Macomb, IL 61455. Lyndall Pigg is a 69 year member of the Odd Fellows and a Past Grand Master in 2003-2004 and Norma Jean was President of the Rebekah Assembly in 1994-1995 and joined the Odd Fellows when they allowed women to join in 2001 so she has been an Odd Fellow for 18 years joining at the age of 75. Please join us in celebrating the love of two people for 75 years and celebrate the love they both have dedicated to our Order. What an accomplishment. A proud heritage to leave for their family and to our order.

If you plan to attend please RSVP to Steve Pigg at pigg@bushnell.net.

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pertaining to the welfare of the Independent
Order of Odd Fellows fraternity solicited.

This publication is mailed by the first of the
month, publication and contributions must reach
the editor by the 10th of the preceding month.

WE DO NOT HOLD OURSELVES RESPONSIBLE
for any news or opinions expressed by
the communications of our correspondents, and
RESERVE the RIGHT to publish NEWS that WE
feel constructive to our Order.



Member of
I.O.O.F. International
Press Association

*"Promoting Odd Fellowship
Through Positive Communication"*

ODD FELLOW - REBEKAH HOME

201 Lafayette Ave., Mattoon, Illinois 61938



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Christine Weaver	04/01/28
Warren Moody	04/03/28
Mary Dobbs	04/04/31
Richard Kirk	04/08/28
Kenneth Huckstep	04/09/35
Norma Neese	04/26/33
David Edwards	04/30/40

IN MEMORIUM

JUDITH A "JUDY" EDWARDS

Oct. 31, 1942 - Nov. 1, 2018
Hopedale Rebekah Lodge 74

JOHN MRIZEK, PGM

1935-2019
Palacky Lodge #630

ATTENTION:

P.C.P. Ernest Higginson, Sr. has
announced his retirement as District
Deputy Grand Master of District 91.
Effective March 2, 2019.

Grand Master, Jim Bott, has appointed
Ernest (Chip) Higginson Jr. of Dupo
to fulfill the remainder of this term.

District 91 covers the Lodges of
Neilson #25 of Troy; Waterloo #27;
Six Mile Lodge of Granite City; and
Mississippi Lodge #1009 in Dupo.

Congratulations to Chip with his new
duties and responsibilities.

P.G.M. Clyde Litton of Flora Lodge
#151 has announced his intention to
retire as Regional Director of Region #5
as of February 15, 2019. Grand Master,
Jim Bott, has accepted his resignation
and has appointed Brother Matt
Diefenbach of Flora to complete the
remainder of the term.

Region #5 consists of Districts #88
and 102. Many thanks to Clyde for his
many years of dedicated service and
experience to our Order.

Thanks goes to Matt for stepping up
and your willingness to serve the Odd
Fellows of Illinois.

BROTHER IN NEED

I have just received news that P.G.M.
CLYDE LITTON'S house burned down.
He and his family escaped unharmed.
The home was a complete and tragic
loss. In the spirit of Brotherhood, I am
asking that all members and Lodges
donate towards a fund to assist Brother
Litton while he is recovering from this
loss.

Please mail what you can addressed
to the Grand Lodge and put LITTON
FUND in the memo line of your checks.
We will collect all funds and present
that to Clyde at a later date.

*Thank you
In F.L. & T.
Jim Bott, Grand Master*

NOTICE ON THE BUS TRIP

We still need a minimum of 11 more
people to sign up for our bus trip to the
Tomb Ceremony in May.

We can fit 28 more people on the
bus. But 11 more will get that bus on
the road.

If you have checked your schedule
and would like to be a part of this his-
toric trip, please contact Linda Jones at
618-920-5134 for more information.

The cost of the trip is still \$600.00
per person. This includes the bus, sev-
eral sightseeing stops and 4 nights in
hotels. You will need to make your
own hotel reservations in Washington
D.C. You can find that information in
the January International Odd Fellow
Magazine.

Sightseeing stops include:

- J.H. Rathbone Museum in Lafayette, IN
- Hershey Candy Factory, Hershey, PA
- Gettysburg Battlefield and Museum, Gettysburg, PA
- Mosser Glass Museum & Factory.

While in the D.C. area you will have
the option of attending the banquet on
Saturday evening or take a free night-
time tour of the Monuments around the
city.

We will vote on our daytime after-
noon sites to visit while in the D.C.
area.

If we do not receive enough bus res-
ervations by April 15th, we will cancel
the trip and refund your deposits.

NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the home,

We are so excited that March has
arrived. We are sure looking for-
ward to the weather giving us a break.
February was a fantastic month here
at the home, but we are glad it's behind
us. We welcome daylight savings time
and it being just a little closer to Spring.

The month of March brings many
opportunities to celebrate with our resi-
dence. We will be having a Mardi Gras
Party, to kick off the Month, which all
the residents will enjoy. They love it
when we have festivities. We will also
celebrate St. Patrick's Day with wearing
our green and acknowledging our Irish!

The remodeling continues with new
and beautiful changes every week. We
are so blessed with such a beautiful
facility.

Until next month- take care and be
well.

*Danita Starwalt,
Community Relations Coordinator*

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



February reminded us all that we should never be surprised about Winter in Illinois!!

When it was well below 0 on a Wednesday, by Sunday it was 60 degrees. We have learned to take each day as it comes.

Here we are in February and starting off with our Regional Meetings. We were in Jacksonville on the 2nd where we had a very good meeting and installed 4 new members. We added a new member from 4 of the 5 Lodges from District 78. Region #4 is such a long drive from one end to the other, Jacksonville to Waterloo (Over 100 miles). Several years ago, we added an additional Regional Meeting to cover Region 4 North and Region 4 South. This has worked out very well.

As you will see in this edition of the Illinois Odd Fellow, we are selling a 200th anniversary License Plate.

This is a very limited edition. Since we had to pay for these in advance, we could only order 100 car plates and 50 motorcycle plates.

Charlene Smith from Arthur Lodge is taking care of the business end of this project. Ainsley Heilich took care of the art work for the plate. Jim Turner had a big part in getting this up and running.

I am always reminded that it takes many hands to do every project. This gives me a great segue into my next subject.

And back to the Regional meetings. Rich Herring does an amazing job at organizing all our Degree work at the meetings. Every member owes him a big THANK YOU!!! But for several years I have noticed that it is harder and harder for him to get people to take the parts that are needed. So here is my challenge to each of you: Step up and learn a new part.

You will be glad that you did, and

you will strengthen your Lodge as well as our entire Order!

In F.L. & T.

Jim Bott, Grand Master

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



Winter has arrived in all its fury. Even though the temperatures have been frigid, it has not kept me from attending lodge functions. Most of the Rebekah lodges in my area cancelled due to the cold and with having older members, I do understand why. So I attended several Odd Fellow Functions, including installation of officers at Jerseyville, Brighton, and Troy, also installation at Encampment and Patriarch Militant at Jerseyville.

I was installed as Chaplain at Brighton and Jerseyville IOOF and Patriarchs Militant at Jerseyville, Chief Patriarch at Jerseyville Encampment, and President of IOOF.

District #78. These positions along with being Assembly President will keep me busy and out of trouble for the year.

I attended the IOOF Region #4 held at Jacksonville where four new members were initiated. Welcome to the new members, please become involved. Remember, the more you put into something, the more you will receive from it.

Rebekah District Meetings will begin in March. Fill your cars and come enjoy a day of friendship and fellowship. Each District does things a little different which makes them unique and interesting. Much benefit is derived from the district meetings in the work and creating a stronger fraternal spirit among the lodges of this state. District Meetings are as follows:

District #12 - March 9 - Bushnell.

District #16 - March 23 - Fairbury

District #6 - April 13 - Carpentersville

District #19 - April 27 - Arthur

District #11 - May 18 - Lewistown

District #26 - June 1 - Troy

District #20 - June 20 - Havana

March has been proclaimed by SGM Douglas Pittman as Arthritis Month. There are many people suffering from this crippling disease. If you are able as a lodge or an individual please send your donations to the Assembly Secretary or Grand Secretary.

We need to remember and pay homage to Schuyler Colfax, founder of the Rebekah Degree on March 23. Please observe this day with a tribute to him.

In closing, remember Friendship isn't whom you've known the longest. It is about who came and never left your side.

In F.L.T.

Donna F Grable

Assembly President

ODD FELLOWSHIP

In the year 1819—

Was the beginning of Odd Fellowship.

From the beginning,

We have become Brothers and Sisters.

We are linked closely together

With Friendship, Love and Truth.

First we have Friendship—

Everyone needs a friend.

A friend in time of sorrow,

A friend to share our joys,

A friend for Friendships sake.

If we have Friendship —

We will have Love.

Love for God, for our parents

Love for our brothers and sisters—

For our friends and neighbors

And Love, for all mankind.

If we have Friendship and Love

We then too will have Truth.

Lets us see the Truth in ourselves.

Truth is loyalty to our Order.

Truth gives us Friendship and Love.

With these three links of Odd Fellowship

Friendship, Love and Truth

We as Brothers and Sisters

Can do much for all mankind.

Let us expand our links

Of Friendship, Love and Truth

Not alone, for our own members

But for all of our fellow men.

By Lucile Trask Vaughn

White City Rebekah Lodge #587

Published February 1969

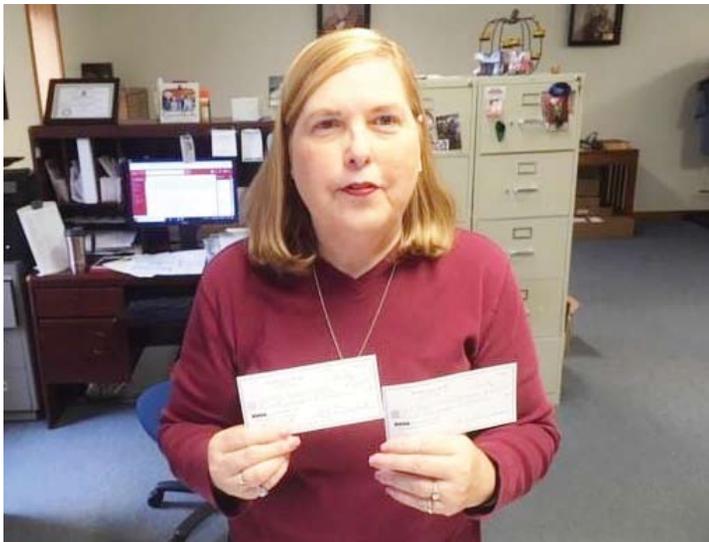
MT. ZION ODD FELLOWS LODGE #300



The Mt Zion Odd Fellows Lodge #300 is proud to recognize the Macon County Honor Guard for their years of service and support to our Veterans. The Lodge welcomed the Macon County Honor Guard Commander Charles Loury, Sr. Vice Commander Ron Sloan, Jr. Vice Commander Les Elam and Member Maria Karmatzis to our meeting on February 4th, 2019. The Lodge wanted to recognize and honor the important and honorable work done by the Macon County Honor Guard. The Macon County Honor Guard provides services to military families and over 130 funerals annually, as well as various community engagement events such as speaking to students and working special events. The Macon County Honor Guard is comprised of volunteer members and they are able to do what they do based on donations made to them. Those donations assist them with transportation, uniforms, equipment and other expenses. Lodge members individually thanked the Honor Guard for their service to our country and to our veterans. In recognition of their dedication and long and honorable service, the lodge presented a donation of \$1,000 from our lodge to the Macon County Honor Guard.



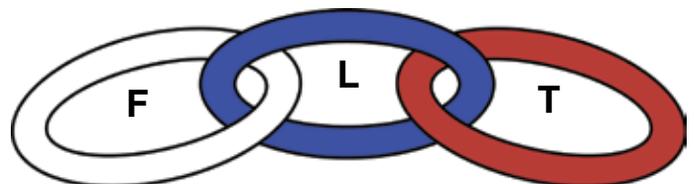
The Mt Zion Odd Fellows Lodge #300 has reached out to the Mt Zion Community throughout the year in many ways. The Lodge members enjoy interacting with our youth and investing in activities that help to develop our youth in a positive direction. One organization that embodies that development is the Scouts. The Mt Zion Lodge has members that are active with the local scout troops/packs and supporting them is very important to the lodge and its members. The Mt Zion Odd Fellows Lodge is proud to continue that support with a \$1,000 donation to Mt Zion Troop 43.



The Mt Zion Lodge presented Janis Klockenga, Grand Lodge, two \$500 donations, one to the Autism Fund, which is a Grand Encampment Fund and the other for the Visual Research Fund. The Mt Zion Lodge is proud to continue supporting both worthwhile causes. The funds for these donations were raised by raffles the lodge held during the holidays.



The Mt Zion Odd Fellows has long worked with the Mt Zion Community on various efforts. The Lodge recognizes the valuable role that local leaders and businesses play in supporting the community and community efforts. The Lodge began identifying and awarding local businesses that step up to support those efforts. This past year the lodge recognized KRAVE as the Mt Zion Odd Fellows Lodge #300 Sponsor of the Year. Brett and Kathy Ahlin, owners of KRAVE, sponsored and supported events to include Mud Volleyball, Steak Dinner and others. Businesses like KRAVE contribute to the community and help make the Mt Zion Community a great place to live.



MT. ZION ODD FELLOWS LODGE #300



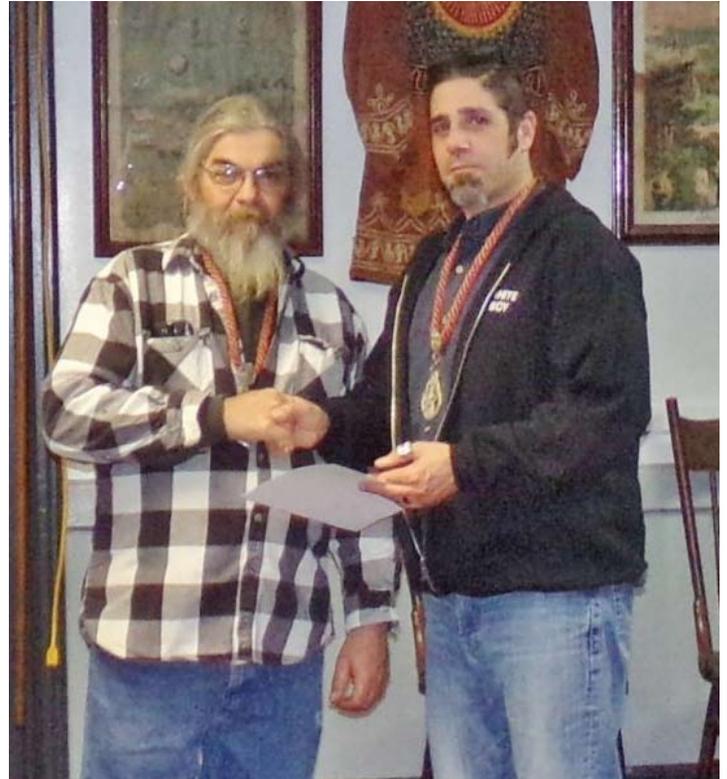
The Mt Zion Odd Fellows Lodge #300 held a Twelve Days of Christmas Raffle from December 25th thru January 5th, 2019, in an effort to help support various local organizations. Funds raised were used to help the Lodge support Macon County Honor Guard, youth sports, Autism Research Fund, Visual Research Fund, Troop 43, Bowl for Kids Sake, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, Project Grad, Fire Awareness Education, FFA and others. The members of the Mt Zion Odd Fellows would like to thank the community for supporting their efforts and the various organizations for all of the great work they do in and around our community.

DAVID SCHEFFEL RECEIVES PAST GRAND JEWEL



PGM Allen Jones of Brighton presenting Past Noble Grand David Scheffel, with his Past Grand Jewel. Dave has served as Noble Grand for several terms of Brighton Lodge #366 as well as terms in Western Star #1 and Jerseyville Lodge #53. Dave recently took the Grand Lodge Degree at the Regional Meeting in Jacksonville.

BROTHER RECEIVES PAST GRAND JEWEL



During the Thursday, January 10th meeting of Century Lodge #492 Carpentersville Noble Grand Grant Dudar (left) presented Brother Nicholas V. Caruso Jr. with a Past Grand Jewel and Certificate.

ANDREW BOTT VISITS ODD FELLOW LODGE IN STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN



Grand Master Jim Bott's son Andrew Bott who is a member of Western Star #1 in Alton, IL was in Stockholm, Sweden in February and he went looking for the Local Odd Fellow Lodge. Here he is standing at their front door. Look up Stockholm's Lodge on the internet and you will see some great photos of their interior.

200th ANNIVERSARY PLATES

The Grand Lodge will be offering a special 200th anniversary plate. We have ordered 100 sets of car plates and 50 set of motorcycle plates. These special plates are good for 60 days. You can put your plates on your car or bike on AUGUST 21st and remove them on OCTOBER 19th.

This means that you can advertise your Lodge and the Illinois Odd Fellows wherever you go for 60 days. After October 19th you must put your plates back on your vehicle. Ainsley Heilich created the design for these plates & they are truly a work of art! Bring your plate to the Grand Lodge and maybe he will sign them for you.

The expiration date for these plates will be October 19th. This is also the date of the Tuscola ODD MARKET. Drive on over there and make a big showing of Odd Fellow Pride. Since we ordered such a limited amount of plates, these will certainly become a collector's item for your Lodge. Therefore, your orders (and the numbers that you choose) will be posted on a first come, first serve basis.

The cost of the plates has been set at \$35.00. This program was not designed to be a fundraiser for the Grand Lodge. We are intentionally keeping the cost as low as possible. Our intention is to Promote our Order.

Please mail your orders to:

Charlene Smith, 301 West Adams, Atwood, Il. 61913

Feel free to call Charlene at (217)552-2842 if you have any questions.

200th Anniversary Plates

When you order your plates, here is what you will need:

A check for \$35.00 made out to the **GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS**

Please write in the memo line G.L. PROMOTIONAL FUND; LICENSE

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING YOUR PLATE REQUESTS IS APRIL 15TH, 2019

A current copy of your vehicle registration

A current copy of your Driver's License

Select your numbers as shown by the example below you will only have 3 spaces for numbers or letters.

First Choice _____
C/U/B/A/ / /1/1/

Second Choice _____
B/O/B/ /1/1/

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

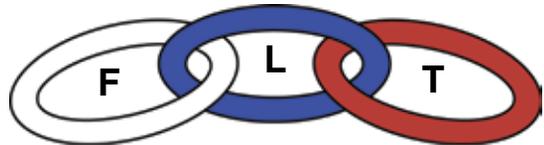
PHONE#: _____



EVENTS THIS MONTH

MARCH, 2019

- 1 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE, LINCOLN
- 2 IOOF REGION #4 (SOUTH), DUPO
- 9 IOOF REGION #3, MT. ZION
- 9 REBEKAH DISTRICT #12, GOOD HOPE
- 12 MUSEUM BOARD, LINCOLN
- 16 IOOF REGION #1, PLANO
- 19 MANAGEMENT CORP/HOUSING, LINCOLN
- 22 IOOF/REBEKAH HOME BOARD, MATTOON
- 23 REBEKAH DISTRICT #16, FAIRBURY
- 26 EXECUTIVE BOARD, LINCOLN
- 30 GE/LEA ROUND UP, LINCOLN



Save the Date
June 23, 2019

From:

Noon to 3 P.M.

Where:

**Odd Fellow's Children's Home
721 Wyatt Ave, Lincoln Illinois**

Invited:

**All Odd Fellow's & Rebekah's
Come help us Celebrate
Odd Fellow's 200th Anniversary
1819-2019**

**Prize for the most members from one lodge.
Lunch will be served.**

SESQUICENTENNIAL DAY APRIL 26, 1969

The program for the celebration of the founding of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows on the North American Continent on April 26, 1819 in the Decatur, Illinois Masonic Temple Building:

ODD FELLOWS

At 1 p.m. sharp, Decatur Lodge #65 will open their lodge in form. The first order of business will be conferring the Second Degree by the crack staff of Bushnell Lodge #322 Bushnell, Illinois.

After a short interval, the outstanding degree staff of St. Louis Lodge #5 St. Louis, Missouri, will confer the Third Degree.

At no later than 5 p.m. the lodge will be officially closed.

REBEKAHS

At 1 p.m. sharp, a Rebekah Lodge meeting will be called to order and officially opened by Franklin Rebekah Lodge #103. The Rebekah Degree as written by Brother Schuyler Colfax in 1851 will be exemplified. All members of the Degree Staff will be Brothers of the Rebekah Degree. They will wear clothes as worn in 1851.

At 5 p.m. Franklin Rebekah Lodge #103 will officially close the lodge in form. At 5:30 p.m. a delicious meal will be served to all who have made reservations. Contact Sister Mabel Quale, 880 West Waggoner Street, Decatur, Illinois 62576. Hurry though, as only 600 can be accommodated. Send check or money order along with request. Tickets are priced at \$4.00 each. At 7 p.m. the evening program will begin. Entertainment by outstanding TV and theater personalities is on the agenda. Sister Myrtle Russell President of the Association of Rebekah Assemblies will be introduced and allotted to speak.

Past Grand Sire D. D. Monroe of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of the world and a speaker of renown throughout the Order will be the speaker of the evening. You cannot afford to miss his inspiring talk on Odd Fellowship as it exist throughout the world. If you wish overnight reservations contact direct the hotel or Motel of your choice:

The Colonial Motel, The Holiday Inn, Imperial 400, Orland Hotel and Motel, and the Voyager Inn- All in Decatur, IL 62526.

The First Illinois Lodges

Western Star Lodge #1
Alton, Illinois
Instituted: August 8, 1836

Alton Lodge #2
Alton, Illinois
Instituted: June 20, 1838

Clark Lodge #3
Greenville, Illinois
Instituted: July 10, 1838

Illini #4
Jacksonville, IL
Instituted: July 21, 1838

Willey Lodge #5
Galena, Illinois
Instituted: July 28, 1838

Sangamon Lodge #6
Springfield, Illinois
Instituted: May 19, 1840

Jefferson Lodge #7
Belleville, Illinois
Instituted: April 15, 1842

Washington Lodge #8
Springfield, Illinois
Instituted: May 4, 1842.

Because of consolidations, closing, etc, some of these eight lodges have been reassigned to other lodges as follows:

The records of the Grand Secretary's Office indicate that both Alton Lodges were closed and then reinstated as one lodge under the name of Western Star Lodge #1.

A consolidation of the two lodges in Blue Island, on March 16, 1916 was assigned the name of Harmonize Lodge #2.

A new lodge instituted in Skokie, Illinois on February 18, 1967 was assigned the Skokie Valley Lodge #7.

A consolidation of three lodges in Chicago on June 12, 1959 was assigned the name: Northwest Lodge #8.

A big Thank You to Grand Secretary Chester Patton for furnishing this information. Reprinted from the Illinois Odd Fellow March 1969.

MY REBEKAH CREED

By Myrtle Russell, President of LARA

Today as I think of my Rebekah Lodge, I make my faith in it an article of my Creed. This lodge of mine was garnered in the long ago by the hard labor and courage of far sighted men and women. They wrote our Ritual... they lived Friendship... they exemplified Truth... they taught Love... they wrote our laws... they founded our Homes for children and the aged... they relieved the Distressed... they buried the dead... they welded us into one great Fraternity.

So because of them, I believe in Odd Fellowship.

In the years since, a host of other men and women have labored to pass Rebekah Odd Fellowship on to us, greater than they received it.

For their sake, I believe in Odd Fellowship.

Today I hold in honor those who seek unselfishly to hand Rebekah Odd Fellowship on to the future, better than they received it.

Because of them, I believe in Odd Fellowship.

Through the Gates of Opportunity we will find a road all of us must travel if we are to build our Order and do our part in orbiting Odd Fellowship around the world in this space age. Courage we must have, and a boundless faith in our ability as Rebekah's to carry our objectives to a successful conclusion.

Let us face this year, then, with faith, hope, and courage. Let us be thankful for the opportunities it presents for the development of character, for broadening of vision, for deepening our humanity. Let us meet this challenge as a generation of Rebekahs possessed of a rich heritage, and facing as golden a future as we shall evolve for ourselves as a Fraternal Order.

The responsibility is ours. Now is the time to express in no uncertain terms our belief in the Fratherhood of God... the Brotherhood of Man... the essential Sisterhood of Woman... to pay our debt to the past by intelligent planning and service we can give to this, and future, generations.

March 10th



Time to
Spring Ahead

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

As the mailing list for the ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW is published and corrected by the Grand Lodge Office, please send all changes of address and names of deceased members to the Grand Lodge Office.

Write to: GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS, IOOF, P.O. Box 248, LINCOLN, IL 62656-0248.

Send "In Memoriam" to P.O. Box 248, Lincoln, IL 62656-0248.

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THE JOHN GLENN RIDE OF THE 1860's

By Robert Norberg

Following Paul Revere and anticipating our astronauts, He founded the first Rebekah Lodge!

It was another era and altogether different type of victory, to be sure, but the John Glenn of Bloomfield, Iowa, who made a dramatic midnight ride over 100 years ago to establish the first Rebekah Lodge in his hometown, is as representative of his time as astronaut John Glenn is of ours. The post Civil War period was marked by a high tide of interest in fraternal organizations whose influence provided nearly every sphere of life. The attention of John Glenn of the 1860's was oriented to ultra-earthly interest as opposed to the other world's thinking symbolized by the 1960's John Glenn. Yet they have in common a striving for accomplishments by their society and a willingness to pioneer progress.

For the Bloomfield Daughters of Rebekah, then, John Black Glenn is a hero in the modern sense and in the traditional sense—for his claim to fame was in the very best Paul Revere fashion. An Odd Fellow from the age of 21 and treasurer of the state I.O.O.F for 18 years, Glenn was present at a Grand Lodge meeting in Burlington in late October, 1868, when the decision was reached to found a set of lodges for both men and women of the Degree of Rebekah. The procedure as outlined that day provided that: "Whenever any lodge desires to organize a degree lodge of the Daughter of Rebekah," the resolution had said, "ten members of the degree in good standing (five males and five females) may petition the Most Worthy Grand Master for a dispensation to organize said lodge."

John Black Glenn rushed from the meeting with only one thought in mind. "Bloomfield will be the first," he said to himself, "first in Iowa -maybe first in the world." He managed to make the evening train for Ottumwa on the first leg of his hurried mission.

The sunset was flashing over 40-acre parcels claimed not too long before from Iowa's treeland and prairie. In the distance, a white band could be seen curling up from a log cabin's chimney.

But Glenn was not attentive to the scene outside his train window; he had formulated a daring plan; he was already, compiling the list of those he would rouse from their beds to sign the petition for the new lodge.

At Ottumwa, he bounded from the train and quickly claimed his team at the livery. It was getting late now and frost seemed possible. Bloomfield was 18 miles away and he pushed the team more than he really thought proper.

It was just a few hours from dawn when Glenn reached Bloomfield, but he didn't hesitate to arouse his lodge members and wives from their comfortable beds. Hastily making the rounds of the town's dirt streets, he aroused not nine, but fifteen friends

to brave the cold dark early morning. When they were finally assembled in the third floor lodge hall on a corner of the town's square Glenn was quickly able to bring his mission to fruition—and to place his name at the head of the list of founders.

On November 23, 1868, the Bloomfield Lodge #23 I.O.O.F., received a Grand Lodge communication authorizing formation of the Rebekahs. Degrees were conferred and Rebekah officers selected on December 2, of the same year.

The chapter was proud then of being "#1" and in successive years took pains to tighten its grip on the title. There was some concern at the 20 year mark that an Illinois Lodge might have had the jump on the Iowans—but letters from the lodge in question, as well as from the Illinois Grand lodge, showed Bloomfield #1 to be a good year ahead.

Through the Odd Fellow and Rebekah rituals in the original chapter rooms have passed eyewitnesses to major chapters in Iowa's history including the Iowa-Missouri border dispute (The Honey War) that stopped an eyelash shy of fighting....

Most famous of the ghosts of the past is General James Baird Weaver, an Odd Fellow, who was three times a congressman and twice a candidate for the Presidency.

Also a part of lodge history in this town of 2700 southern Iowans is the Odd Fellows Cemetery, started in 1868, the year of the formation of the Rebekah order. Open to all, the cemetery now claims 5,000 of those who have lived the lives of rural Iowans—the farmer, shoe merchant, soldier.

From the original 10 acre plot, the cemetery has outgrown a gentle, treeladen slope, adding a new area by 5 and 10 acre lots, stretching now across a main road to the newest addition, which is level and without shade.

Since 1960 an earnest movement has been afoot in Bloomfield to attract major recognition for the birthplace of the Rebekah Lodge #1 the first of some 17,000 with representation in thirteen foreign countries. It is a three point plan carrying the blessings of every civic and social organization in Bloomfield, involving

1. Creation of a significant living memorial to the #1 Chapter—with a home for the retired mentioned most prominently.

2. Acquisition and restoration of the old General Weaver home, as a museum to house historical items of Odd Fellow and Rebekah significance. This in conjunction with establishment of a facility for local and international lodge functions. The present lodge rooms contain much of the original furnishings, including ornate and stately chairs, the first ballot box, and interesting, primitive murals. Many significant articles have been offered to the lodge, in the event they can be properly housed and cared for.

3. Complete refurbishment of the I.O.O.F. cemetery, with major landscaping and entrance improvements.