



THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

*Serving in Illinois Since 1838
Our 183rd Year*

VOL. 69, NO. 5 USPS 258240

May 2021

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**TO THE
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF
EXCELSIOR LODGE, NO 22,
I.O.O.F, OF CHICAGO,
ILLINOIS,
THESE LINES
ARE FRATERNALLY
INSCRIBED BY THEIR FRIEND
AND BROTHER,
ISAAC A. POOL JANUARY,
1869**

Brothers! Heartfelt is your welcome,
May no more my footsteps roam, –
Like a prodigal returning,
Take me to your loving home.

Let no covenant be broken
While the light of earth we see,
But like Jonathan and David,
Nought but death part you and me.

For a joy beyond expression
Fills my thankful heart to-night,
At the privilege of joining
You in battling for the right.

'Tis no greed of curious fancy
Brings me back again to you:
Well I know a brother's greeting
Only comes from brothers true.

Well I know what e'er betide us,
Here shall never enter strife;
Here no golden link be severed;
No embitterment of life.

Only bear with me a moment
While my former steps I trace,
Through the ancient, pleasant path-
way
Leading to this joyful place.

Vestments white proclaim the nov-
ice;
Ranked around his seniors stand;
For his purity they greet him,

Welcome to this brothers' band.

God's all-seeing eye is on him;
Let him work with heart and hand;
For the tree that brings forth no
fruit,
Cannot be allowed to stand.

You must sacrifice to Fides
Selfishness and human greed;
Proving to the world that friendship
Is from sordid motives freed.

Love with arrows fills his quiver,
Not to wound the human heart;
Shows you that united many
Greater hope and strength impart.

Like the mighty rod of Moses,
Emblems we of living truth, –
Wise as serpents dove-like harm-
less,
Keep the purity of youth.

Let the record of your dealings
Ever keep your memory green, –
Be the sword and scales of Justice,
'Mid eternal plenty seen.

Death puts moon and stars beneath
you;
Journeying with the budded rod;
Wearing Aaron's scarlet mantle,
Seek the glory of your God.

So, within the mystic temple,
Came the lesson long ago;
Marked for me the path of duty,
I should never more forego.

You have made your girdle stronger,
-- While I wandered wide alone,
--Fed the hungry; clothed and naked;
With the giver all unknown.

You are famed for deeds of mercy;
Charity with you has dwelt;
While, your noble ranks deserting,
I to weaker God's have knelt.

Self abased, I, backward turning,
Sought again the outer world;
Found at each perplexing corner,
Selfishness her flag unfurled.

There, no brotherhood uniting,
Makes them feel for others woe;
There no golden rule prevailing, –
Justice lays her balance low.

Fashion, with her wayward fancies,
Goads anew the silly throng, –
Praises only those who follow,
Heedless whether right or wrong.

Is the giddy whirl of folly,
"Mistress Grundy" holds her rule, –
She proclaims the greatest hero,
Him who proves the greatest fool.

Speculation, trade and commerce,
Meet in "rings" and buy no "time";
Water stocks, until the bubble
Burst in some tremendous crime.

"Bulls and boars" o' ev'ry "corner",
Growing rich by others pain;
While the poor, oppressed with
labor,
Hardly daily bread obtain.

Women doctors, priests, and, law-
yers,
What a set of pretty witches!
Let them only have the franchise,
Then be sure we lose our breeches!

Homes are cursed with modern
"progress";
Madness rages through the land –
Houses 'gainst themselves divided,
Foolishly expect to stand!

All the ancient, loving landmarks,
Treasurers of the passing years,
Swept by fell divorce to ruin,
Leaving only bitter tears!

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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.



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*"Promoting Odd Fellowship
Through Positive Communication"*

ODD FELLOW - REBEKAH HOME

201 Lafayette Ave., Mattoon, Illinois 61938



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Marie Bryant	06/05/1925
Gordon Smith	06/14/1939
Barbara Prather	06/17/1959
Darlene Riney	06/19/1943
Verna Wilkey	06/21/1929
Timothy Miller	06/30/1963

Dollars measure out Religion,
With a costly pump and pride;
Heedless of the truth and beauty
God hat strewn on every side.

Heedless of the mystic sermons,
In the stones, or mountain springs;
In the lovely buds and blossoms,
Or the insects' painted wings.

Only, in this wild confusion,
Science fair, the child of Truth,
Holds aloft the truth of knowledge;
Blessing age and lighting youth.

Hearts oppressed with care and sor-
row,
Gladly greet her beckoning nod; -
Find through her a ready pathway,
Out of nature up to God!

Truant like, my feet have led me
Far from this fraternal few;
Till the pathway hard and thorny,
Bid me turn again to you.

Health and wealth are fireside bless-
ings,
All its kindred ties are dear, -
But the weary heart of labor,
Stronger beats for friendships cheer.

Blest with home and friends and
kindred,
With all highest honors graced;
These, alas! will only give us,
Without love, a desert waste.

Love and friendship, precious trea-
sure,
Where no other card divides,
Prove a triple bond of gladness
When unswerving truth presides.

Friendship, love and truth united,
These three make our lives com-
plete,
While on earth with kindly feeling,
Brothers "tried and true" we meet.

Earth is but an under school-room,
-
Training here for home above;
There shall truth and holy friend-
ship,
Ever be, where "God is love."

With excelsior for our motto,
Ever higher may we rise;
'Till we take our heavenly station,
In the Lodge beyond the skies!



Isaac A. Pool
339 W. MADISON ST.,
MATTOON, ILL.

NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the home,

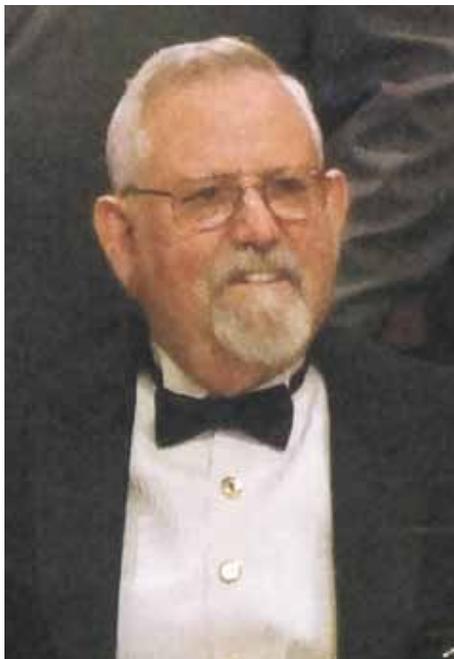
Hello May!!!! We are so thankful spring is here! The trees are bloom-
ing on the grounds, and it is absolutely beautiful. It's been such a breath
of fresh air for our residents to see, along with being open to visits, we are
starting to see joy in their hearts once again.

May is always an extremely busy month with numerous activities. We
will be celebrating National Skilled Nursing Care week, Mother's Day, and
Memorial Day. It's always a treat to celebrate these events with residents,
co-workers, family, and friends.

Until next month- take care and be well.

Danita Starwalt
Community Relations Coordinator

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

With Covid-19, I hope everyone is getting shots to keep you safe.

My wife and I have had our shots.

This is the second year that we will not be able to have a Regional Meeting. Everyone in Odd Fellows and Rebekah's are missing these meetings to get together. Also, this the second year we will not be going to Washington DC to lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

May is the month to pay tribute to your Mother on May 9th.

Memorial Day will be May 25th to honor our Soldiers that have died for our country. My wife and I will be putting Rebekah and IOOF Flags on Rebekah and IOOF graves.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS

When God created mortals, neither perfect nor divine.

He smiled upon our frailties with countenance benign:

For though He knew our problems might grow very great indeed

He had the perfect answers. He knew our every need.

Someone should teach us what is right to say and do.

Someone should guide us to what is false and true.

Someone should listen when our hearts burst into song.

Someone should understand when things go wrong.

Someone should love us, in spite of our mistakes.

Someone should comfort us and soothe away our aches.

Someone should cherish us, all this God understand.

So God created 'Mother', and He saw that it was good."

Friendship Love and Truth

Niles Reamer

Grand Master

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone is doing well! Spring is in full swing and I so enjoy watching all the flowers coming to bloom.

I want to thank Janet and Archie Bruce for all their hard work and help getting the cottage all organized and stored. I would also like to thank Grand Master Niles and the Odd Fellow Executive Board for all their help with the cottage. Thank you!!

We are still hoping to get some more donations for the Rebekah Assembly General Fund. If your lodge has not donated, please consider us.

I'm hoping we will be able to have a session in October. More information to follow on this. I know that if we are able to meet, masks will be required at all times. This is a guideline from the Crowne Plaza, plus it is for the health and safety of everyone! As soon as we know what is going to happen, we will let members know.

I'm happy that lodges are meeting

again. It's been great to see everyone!

I am working on a fund raiser for the Rebekah Assembly, making outdoor lawn ornaments, that will be sold at a Craft Market on Saturday, May 15 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. in Maryville, Illinois. This is an outdoor craft market and all the money I raise will go the General Fund of the Rebekah Assembly. I know it's a long way for some of you to travel, but if you want to come support this fund raiser that would be great! The address is 2929 N. Center St., Maryville, IL.

Remember to check in with family, friends and other members, especially if it has been a long time since you have been meeting.

Remember to Respect each other – Believe in the good work we do – Love each other.

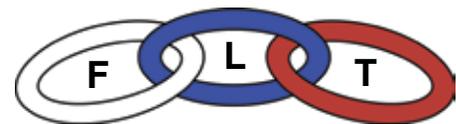
*In F.L. & T.
Nann Johnson,
Assembly President*

ELGIN #12



At Elgin Lodge #12 meeting of April 7th, 2021 Noble Grand Ken Palikij (Right) presented an excited Ralph Stauch Jr. with his well earned 25 year Jewel. Ralph's enthusiasm and involvement in our lodge has endeared him to all of our members. Thank you Ralph for your many years of Oddfellowship.

Jim Turner, PGM



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.

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FORMER DISTRICT 50 DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER PAUL GOSSETT PASSES AWAY

Paul Garrett Gossett, 83, of Bushnell, Illinois passed away at 10:35 AM Monday April 12, 2021 at Heartland Health Care Center of Macomb. He was born June 1, 1937 to Alvie and Hattie (Doyle) Gossett. He married Marcia Logsdon on November 15, 1959 in Middletown, IL. She survives.

Also surviving are three daughters, Sheena (Daryl) Boden of Bushnell, IL; Carol (Brian) Jones of Avon, IL; Paula (Jerry Minor) Gossett of Virginia, IL; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; four siblings, Douglas (Frankie) Gossett, Betty Poynter, Hazel Smith and Junior Gossett; and special friends Wendy and Jamie.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers James Gossett and Willie Joe Gossett, four sisters, Helen Minor, Berthie Adwell, Francis Minor and Margaret Gossett.

Paul was a 50+ year member of the T.J. Pickett Masonic Lodge #307, a member of the Bushnell Odd Fellows Lodge #332 and International Independent Showmen's Association. He enjoyed working with antiques, especially pocket watches and watch fobs, and collecting advertisement. Paul always carried a pocket knife and made sure all his family, especially his grandchildren were gifted one. He also loved his lottery scratch offs. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and attending their extra-curricular activities. Paul "Red" was an avid supporter in the 1970s of the New Holland-Middletown High School Basketball program.

Graveside services will be held at 11:00 AM Thursday April 15, 2021 at the Good Hope Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to the Bushnell Oddfellow's Scholarship Fund. Martin-Hollis Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Please sign the guestbook and leave condolences at www.martinhollisfh.com

PGM LLOYD JENKEL

Lloyd Braden Jenkel
November 3, 1929 – April 15, 2021

They will hold a memorial service in about a month,
watch the website and Facebook for announcements.

2021 SGL SESSIONS

The 2021 Sessions to be held in Cincinnati Ohio in August 2021 **HAVE NOT BEEN CANCELLED** regardless of any rumors you may have heard.

As of now it all still a go!

Fraternally,

2021 Committee SGL Sessions