



PENNSYLVANIA ODD FELLOW AND REBEKAH MAGAZINE

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NEW You can also follow us on Instagram at @paoddfellows

HISTORIC ITEM RETURNS TO ODD FELLOWS

Recently, members of Thistle Lodge No. 512, of Pittston, PA, received a call from the Wyoming Commemorative Association that a frame was found when someone was cleaning out their house. The frame is shown here from Wyoming Monument Lodge #887 of Wyoming, Luzerne County. Grand Lodge has no real record of this Lodge, other than the fact they consolidated in 1956 with Kingston Lodge #709. Members of the Lodge picked it up and were now able to find their date of institution (August 12, 1890) as well as their Past Grands. This is an amazing find! It is thought that this frame actually contained the charter.

Upon doing some research on the borough of Wyoming, it is only populated by around 3,000 (2010 census) and it's "claim to fame" is the Wyoming Massacre, which you can look up online. The borough was incorporated in 1885 and the Lodge just five years after. This holds special meaning to Noble Grand David McHugh, as a ancestor of his fought and was killed during the American Revolution in the Battle of Wyoming, aka the Wyoming Massacre. The bodies of those who perished were gathered and buried under where the monument now stands.



Places to Go... People to See

2021

JANUARY

10 / Unified Session Committee Meeting,
Harrisburg 1:00PM

17 / Unified Session Committee meeting snow
date 1:00PM

31 / DDGM Assoc mtg, virtual 6:30PM

MARCH

13 / Grand Lodge board meeting, Middletown
1:00PM

JUNE

11 / Mt. Hor #736 150th Anniversary+ - rescheduled!

+ denotes details to follow

** On the second Sunday of each month, at 1:00PM, year round, Centre Lodge #153 of Bellefonte is still conducting their Music Jams! Please check their facebook first because there may be a scheduling conflict! - Due to COVID-19, these are on hold. Contact their Facebook page for more information

All Lodges are reminded when planning an activity, if you would like your state officer's support please contact the Grand Lodge at ioofpaglsecy@verizon.net or 717-944-7419

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accordingly.



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THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

LEWISBURG LODGE NO. 96, NEW COLUMBIA

Tamsyn J. Long - initiated November 12th
Miguel Portillo

MT. HOR LODGE NO. 736, CASSVILLE

Kevin P. Pawuk - initiated September 25th
Jordon Gipe - initiated November 13th
Katelyn Treece

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

WOW - Where have the Holidays gone! They are but a pleasant memory. I hope that all my brothers and sisters had a good Christmas Season and were able to keep as many traditions as possible under the virus restrictions.

As the virus continues to grow more and more, Odd Fellow events have been cancelled. I cannot wait until we get on the other side of this and our lives can return to normal.

As we move into 2021, I have hope that we continue to support the charities and

many projects that were started in the past few months. I have been both amazed and proud of the community work I have seen our lodges do. I have spoken to many lodges and they have told me of the many charitable events that were done over the last several months and their plans for 2021. This is what Odd Fellowship is all about.

I want to congratulate all the lodge officers who were recently sworn in. Thistle Lodge #512 keeps a family tradition alive with the installation of David McHugh. Triune Lodge #307 breaks new ground with the

installation of Stacy Anthony, its first lady Noble Grand in 152 years. Best wishes to both lodges and their Noble Grands.

I got a new shipment of the three link car magnets. Anyone needing them, just contact me, and I will make the necessary arrangements to get them to you.

Happy New Year and may God continue to bless us.

Your Grand Master,

David O. Whitlinger

DESK OF THE DGM

May the LIGHTHOUSE, and its beam of light

Always be your guiding light in 2021!!

Can you believe it, 2020 is behind us and we are beginning a new year, 2021!! I must say, it is with mixed feelings, as I sit this snowy December morning, preparing to write this January message. It saddens me that our visits in 2020 were stopped. The GM and I always enjoyed our travels being with our brothers and sisters at their lodge meeting, but it is a new year and new opportunities to spread Odd Fellowship!

We found ourselves in 2020 dealing with COVID-19 which changed so much for us. We found ourselves, staying at home, canceling meetings and social events, changing the way we handle our everyday chores. But we made it through, with everyone staying safe and well. With each monthly message, I hoped the worst was behind us, only to find a COVID spike throughout Pennsylvania and the nation. If anything, I learned that together, we can make it through anything. We need each other, to lean on and to support each other (and our communities).

The priority which I, along with the GM, for the year 2021 is to spread Odd Fellowship throughout Pennsylvania. Did you see the article in the December magazine, "Where

We Are" and the map of the state? Twenty-four counties without an Odd Fellow Lodge!! Its time to get busy and with your help we can do it!! The GM and I are working with our D.D.G.M.s. We have divided our state into regions, five in total, hoping to strengthen our lodges. I am in the process of finding the towns that have either a community library, website, or a historical society that I can contact. I want to tell about our Order, and the good work that we do in the community. I want to tell the history between Odd Fellows and their community and if it is an area that has no lodge then hopefully spark an interest. This is where I need help, a lot of help, from every brother and sister, experienced and not. Do you know towns or communities that I can reach out to; do you have history which you can share with me?

Let us get busy and make 2021 a year that we tell our history to all Pennsylvanians. Let us spark that interest because this pandemic is not yet through and there is many in our communities in Pennsylvania that need the helping hand of Odd Fellowship!

Always with God's guiding hand,

Shirley J. Whitlinger, DGM



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

The Board of Grand Lodge Officers congratulates the following on achieving milestone years in Odd Fellowship this month.

30 YEARS

Robert J. Dell, #541

35 YEARS

Stephen E. Solomon, #96
James E. Chamberlin, #562
Curtis L. Cramer, #562

40 YEARS

Robert J. Feaser, #307

45 YEARS

George F. Cooper, #447
Kenneth G. Knapp, #658

55 YEARS

Charles R. Grimm, #88

60 YEARS

Terry L. Snyder, #551

65 YEARS

James M. Hiles, Jr., #278

110 YEARS

Shillington Lodge No. 1175

135 YEARS

Edinboro Lodge No. 510

165 YEARS

Alma Lodge No. 523, Johnstown

175 YEARS

Pine Grove Lodge No. 148
Metropolitan Lodge No. 150, Philadelphia

FROM THE DESK OF THE REBEKAH ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope each of you had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. With the beginning of 2021 so many of us are looking forward to the new year being better than 2020. So much has happened in the past year that we are not use too and we hope to get back to our normal way of doing things. We hope the vaccines that have been developed will help to deal with the virus.

I look forward to traveling to some of the lodges in the new year and meeting with many of the members. I know some of the lodges have not had their regular meeting, some have done phone meeting or zoom meeting. I am thankful for each lodge that has continued to try to meet and for all the help you have given to many in your communities who are in need. It doesn't matter if you have given a little or a lot it is the giving that matters.

May God bless each of you and your lodges in the new year.

Nadine Hager, President
Rebekah Assembly of PA.

– ATTENTION –

The flags flying at the Grand Lodge Office need sponsors! If you are interested, send a check of \$50.00 made payable to the Grand Lodge of PA and let me know who you are flying it in memory/honor of, or if you're just sponsoring it outright. This is on a first come - first serve basis. We need for the Odd Fellow Flag, Rebekah Flag and American Flag.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT NORTHUMBERLAND AND UNION COUNTIES

The Rebekah Lodges numbered around 1,000. Some of the numbers, you'll also see more than once, as some of these Lodges only lasted a few years.

How many Rebekah Lodges were in YOUR County??

Did you ever wonder if your town had a Rebekah Lodge?

Do you know where it was or do you even remember some of these Lodges?

If you can take a picture of the Lodge Hall that was once in your town and mail it in, we'd be glad to have it for our archives and it could perhaps end up in the magazine!

Next Month - Erie County. Get your pictures and articles in now!

UNION COUNTY:

Lewisburg - Faith, Hope & Charity Rebekah Lodge #15 - instituted 1992

Lewisburg - Lady Nicolson Rebekah Lodge #93 - defunct 1880

Lewisburg - Crimson Rebekah Lodge #312 - consolidated 1996

Mifflinburg - Scarlet Rebekah Lodge #449 - consolidated 1971

4 Rebekah Lodges with 1 still active

1st Rebekah Lodge - Lady Nicolson Rebekah Lodge #93 in 1874

4 Odd Fellow Lodges

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY:

Augustaville - Lady Eden Rebekah Lodge #56 - consolidated 2005

Dornsife - Idella Rebekah Lodge #58 - instituted 1958

Elysburg - Lucy Jane Rebekah Lodge #80 - defunct prior 1896

Elysburg - Mary Lincoln/ Lady Desna Rebekah Lodge #501 - defunct 1981

Gowen City - Rose of the Valley Rebekah Lodge #75 - defunct 1916

Milton - Cosmos Rebekah Lodge #233 - defunct 1932

Mount Carmel - Lady Vivian Rebekah Lodge #132 - defunct 1917

Mount Carmel - Minerva Rebekah Lodge #245 - defunct 1958

Northumberland - Lady Barton Rebekah Lodge #172 - defunct 1979

Red Cross - Oline Rebekah Lodge #532 - defunct 1938

Shamokin - Lucy Webb Rebekah Lodge #41 - defunct 1961

Shamokin - Regina Rebekah Lodge #230 - instituted 1891

Snydertown - Lady Mabel Rebekah Lodge #94 - consolidated 1987

Snydertown - Consemeta Rebekah Lodge #433 - defunct 1920

Sunbury - Anna Rebekah Lodge #56 - consolidated 1962

Sunbury - Lady Krohn Rebekah Lodge #67 - consolidated 1912

Trevorton - Diana Rebekah Lodge #423 - defunct 1980

Turbotville - Paradise Rebekah Lodge #371 - defunct 1974

Watsonstown - Civilla Rebekah Lodge #50 - defunct 1880

19 Rebekah Lodges with 2 still active

1st Rebekah Lodge - Civilla Rebekah Lodge #50 in 1871

25 Odd Fellow Lodges

SUBMIT YOUR LODGE EIN NUMBERS

Has COVID kept you in the house unable to meet? Attention all Noble Grands, Vice Grands, Secretaries and Treasurers – Over the past several years, Lodges have been moving money around, purchasing CD's, opening money market accounts, etc. As you are probably aware, it has become harder and harder to open up accounts. I have been contacted many many times concerning that banks and other financial institutions are looking for an official letter verifying your Lodge's EIN (Entity Identification Number). Grand Lodge does not have these on file! These are something that each Lodge/

organization received at one point in time, but since Grand Lodge never asked for them, they were never sent up here. It would have been a great idea to have these at one time, so when you're trying to do something with your bank, I can just open up my file cabinet and scan you a copy. With the pandemic, some people are confined to their home. This is a perfect time to get this paper! What you need to do is call the IRS and request "a letter of certification," also called 147c. The hardest part is waiting on the phone 45 minutes to an hour for someone to help you, but that's primarily it. Phone number is

1-800-829-4933. I know there are other ways to request this, but this is the way I have done it, and it seems to be pretty easy. Once you receive this paper, you can make a copy of it and keep it with your banking records. I would also strongly encourage you to send me a copy of the letter so I can file it with your Lodge. This way, if it is needed in the future, you're helping an upcoming officer out. Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the GL Office, but I assure you this will come in handy in the future.

~ Justin C. Bailey, Grand Secretary

FREEDOM LODGE NO. 88 COLLECTS SOFT PLASTIC

Freedom Lodge No. 88, of Honesdale, is now collecting soft plastics such as Zip Lock bags, grocery bags, dry cleaning bags, plastic over wrap (think cases of water), and similar items. These items are being collected as part of a program sponsored by TREX whereby a group collecting 500 pounds of plastics in a 6-month period can earn a free

TREX bench for their community. Our goal is to earn a bench in the spring of 2021 and place it somewhere in the Honesdale area.

Bags can be dropped off with any member of Freedom Lodge #88, or Harmony Lodge #86, or at the Grand Lodge Office.

SANDY LAKE LODGE INSTALLS OFFICERS

Sandy Lake Lodge #573 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Pennsylvania installed their officers with the help of Grand Master Officers on October 19, 2020. In picture: First Row. Grand Musician Shawn Miller, Marie Harnett, Deputy Grand Master Shirley Whitlinger. Second Row. Grand Warden J. Carl George, Past Grand Joe Alessio, District Deputy Grand Master Raymond Rodgers. Third Row. Vice Grand Susan Rodgers, Treasury Clinton Kassi. Fourth Row. Vice Grand Right Supporter Dewey Rearick, Financial Secretary Beth Slater. Officers not in picture were installed doing Nov. meetings Noble Grand Jessica Brown-Bence, Secretary Faye Pleso, Right Supporter to Noble Grand Raymond Rodgers and Chaplin Joe Alessio

~ Ray Rodgers

ALMA LODGE CONTINUES TO EDUCATE



Alma Lodge No. 523, of Johnstown, is proud to announce the winners of our 2020 scholarships. The winners of the Jacob Campbell Scholarships are Brooke Litzinger (Richland) and Sydney Richards (Conemaugh Valley). The winner of the inaugural David Brown Memorial Scholarship is Kayla Ringler (Penn Cambria). The winners were honored at a ceremony earlier this year. Thank you to all those who submitted applications and congratulations to all those in the Class of 2020. (L to R): Mary Jo Grumling, Shawn Miller, Sydney Richards, Kayla Ringler, Brooke Litzinger, Glenn Campbell, Ed Sheets.



VETERANS DAY 2020

Happy Veterans Day from the Middletown Home! Typically, on Veterans Day, we will have a grand "Veterans Dinner" with a spread of food, speakers, special music, and gifts for each of our Vets. Unfortunately, due to COVID, we could not celebrate in our usual fashion. But our staff were still determined to show our respect and appreciation to each and every one of our veterans. With the help of a very generous donation, this year each of our veterans received a wonderful gift – a blanket with the branch of the military that they served in. They also received a certificate and a pin! Several of our staff members went door to door while wearing red, white, and blue, waving flags, and singing patriotic songs! The veterans really appreciated all of the gifts and the music. We want to thank and honor all veterans far and wide for your service and dedication to our country!



Fred with some of the employees



Our very own Ken Krumbine of Lititz Lodge #1050. Lookin good Ken!



Air Force Veteran Harry

ASKAM LODGE MEMBERS RESTORE INHERITED FLAG POLE



When Lodge 899 purchased their lodge hall in January 2020 from a fire dept, the flag pole remained and has been in place since 1960 on the property. The once 50ft pole was shortened years ago to the now 35ft, but the pole was in need of paint and hardware. Brothers William Warke & Pete Lamont, dropped the pole, while bro Charles Chase sanded, Bro Edward Slusarik & Mark Wasickanin re-painted. The group then added a new lanyard, light & rose the pole again with assistance from Bro John Pechulis. Old Glory is flying once again. A three link marker and memoriam flag was added at the base paying respect for deceased brothers of the lodge.

~ William Warke



FREEDOM LODGE NO. 88 HELPS COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The first Saturday of every month, members of the lodge assist with the food distribution program at Grace Episcopal Church in Honesdale. Normally the church would host a luncheon that is open to the public, but with the restrictions and concerns of COVID-19, the program has become a food distribution. Together with food items, the church distributes personal care items, socks, gloves, and hats. Freedom Lodge is pleased to be a part of the vital community outreach program of Grace Episcopal Church. Those assisting on December 5, 2020 were lodge members Dennis Hiller (NG), Mike Kinzinger (PNG), Todd Kinzinger (PNG), Doug Buchinski, Charlie Knapp, and Sue Shadle Erb, program coordinator for Grace Episcopal Church and wife of Fr. Edward Erb.



PITTSTON HONORS POLICE OFFICERS

Thistle Lodge No. 512, Pittston, recently held a "Police Officer Appreciation Event" at the Avenue Restaurant in Wyoming Pa. "The Independent Order of Odd Fellows," in conjunction with "The Avenue Restaurant" held the breakfast for our local police officers in celebration of the great job they do in serving our communities. Due to a visit by Presidential candidate Joe Biden, many of the municipalities were on call and therefore unable to attend. However, each officer of the nine invited municipalities all received a gift card as a small token of our appreciation. Pictured above from left to right are: Jim Falzone secretary I.O.O.F., Arthur Walton member of the I.O.O.F., Robert Smith Vice Grand I.O.O.F., Officer Scott Lamereux Hughestown PD, Officer Domenic Oliveri Pittston PD, Arnulfo Rivera Pittston Twp. PD, Peter Hockenberry Pittston Twp. PD, David McHugh Noble Grand I.O.O.F., And David Krappa owner operator of "The Avenue Restaurant". We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for the men and women who wear the badge.



UNIFIED LODGE HELPS NURSING HOME



Because of COVID-19, Unified Lodge No. 2, of Pittsburgh, PA, cancelled their Christmas Party. NG Earlene and her husband, PG Jim McMahon took half of the gifts to Orchard Manor, Grove City, for the residents.

FREEDOM LODGE NO. 88 INSTALLS OFFICERS

On October 21, 2020, D.D.G.M. Paul Lautenschlager installed the officers of the lodge for the new term. Elected and installed were Dennis Hiller, Noble Grand; Andrew Kilmer, Vice Grand; Kevin Burke, Secretary; Steve Martin, Financial Secretary; and Tom Burke, Treasurer.

JANUARY OBITUARIES

Due to publication time, we regret we cannot accept Obituaries older than three months.



RICHARD W. FROEBE
Nucleus Lodge No. 377
September 2, 2020

Brother Richard W. Froebe, 66, of Venetia, PA, was initiated into Nucleus Lodge #377, Finleyville, PA, on April 11, 1992, where he became a Past Grand April 14, 1994 and received his Grand Lodge Degree on November 2, 2006.

He was a member of the former Monongahela Degree Lodge #88.

Surviving are two sons and one stepson.

Burial was held in Brush Run Cemetery, Venetia.



DAVID H. CLEMENS
Canawacta Lodge No. 207
September 19, 2020

Brother David H. Clemens, 88, of Hallstead, PA, was initiated into Canawacta Lodge #207, New Milford, PA, on May 18, 1992, where he became a Past Grand and received his Grand Lodge Degree October 16, 1995. At the time of his

death, he was the Lodge's oldest living member.

He was a member of Franklin Hill Presbyterian Church, Hallstead.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Carol Jennings.

Surviving are three daughters, six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Burial was held in Franklin Hill Cemetery.

GARY T. BEUKE
Alma Lodge No. 523
October 21, 2020

Brother Gary T. Beuke, 74, of Davidsville, PA, was initiated into Alma Lodge #523, Johnstown, PA, on February 6, 1987.

Entombment was held in Grandview Mausoleum, Johnstown, PA.



LEILA J. MCDOWELL
Lady Worth Rebekah
Lodge No. 328
November 18, 2020

Sister Leila J. (Miller) McDowell, 79, of Fellowship Manor, Grove City, PA, was initiated into Queen Elizabeth Rebekah Lodge #463, Butler, PA, on August 25, 1977, where she

became a Past Noble Grand. She became a member of West Sunbury Rebekah Lodge #19, Butler, through consolidation on July 23, 1998. At the time of the consolidation, she was Queen Elizabeth Rebekah Lodge's current Noble Grand. When West Sunbury Rebekah Lodge #19 went defunct in 2012, she transferred her membership to Lady Worth Rebekah Lodge #328, Sandy Lake. She was currently the Representative to Orchard Manor from the Rebekah Assembly.

She was a member of the Christ Community United Methodist Church, Butler.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Wayne.

Burial was held at Butler County Memorial Park.



CARLTON C. BAILEY
Canawacta Lodge No. 207
November 22, 2020

Brother Carlton C. "Pat" Bailey, 83, of New Milford, PA, was initiated into Canawacta Lodge No. 207, New Milford, PA, on February 10, 1969, where he became a Past Grand.

He was preceded in death by two sons. Surviving is his wife, Roberta, two sons, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Inurnment was held in New Milford Cemetery.



LEROY G. MOSS, SR.
Unified Lodge No. 2
November 28, 2020

Brother Leroy G. Moss, Sr., 88, of Pittsburgh, PA, was initiated into Gomer Lodge #64, Pittsburgh, on September 22, 1951. He became a member of Unified Lodge #2, Pittsburgh, through consolidation on November 15, 1979. At the time of his death, he was the last surviving member of Gomer Lodge #64 still affiliated with the Order.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth and one son. Surviving are four children, eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

ARLENE J. MUSCHLITZ
Lady Hall Rebekah Lodge No. 202
November 29, 2020

Sister Arlene J. (Kocher) Muschlitz, 96, of Pinellas Park, FL, was initiated into Lady Hall Rebekah Lodge #202, Bushkill Township, PA, on May 20, 1948, where she became a Past Noble Grand on October 6, 1966 and received her Rebekah Assembly Degree September 5, 1968. At the time of her death, she was the Lodge's oldest living member.

She was a member of Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, Moorestown, PA.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lovine. Surviving are one daughter, two sons, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Fairview Cemetery, Moorestown, PA.

ODD FELLOWS AND REBEKAHS OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA 2020 GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Western Pennsylvania has announced the recipients of the "Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Western Pennsylvania 2020 Graduate Scholarship Awards."

The Association's Award Committee (Chairman Robert Grant, George Hogan, John Rebar, and John Dzyak) presented their candidate recommendations to the Association's Board during their Christmas meeting/luncheon on Saturday, December 5, 2020. The two recipients, each having fulfilled the necessary requirements of the Award, were unanimously approved by the Board. Each received a \$3,000 monetary award which was sent to their respective college/university. In addition, the recipients, along with their family members, were invited to attend the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Western Pennsylvania Annual Meeting which usually takes place at Orchard Manor, Grove City, PA in late April.

Jamie R. Glenn – daughter of Jennifer and John Dzyak (Connellsville, PA). Jamie's father is a member of Nucleus Lodge #377 (Finleyville, PA), Mon Valley Rebekah Lodge #82, General Worth Encampment #188, Pittsburgh Canton #5 and has held numerous statewide positions over the years. Jamie resides in Clarksville, TN along with her husband Kelly and daughter Shirley. Jamie completed her undergraduate studies at Austin Peay State University (Clarksville, TN) where she majored in English/Distributive Education and earned a B.S. Degree in English in December of 2011. She is presently enrolled at Arkansas State University (State University, AR) pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Education (M Ed). Jamie has already completed 21 of the 36 required Curriculum and Instruction Graduate Credits.

Kelsey E. Warner – daughter of Barbara and Matthew Warner (Erie, PA). Kelsey's grandfather, Merle Wood, is a member of Edinboro Lodge #510 (Edinboro, PA). Kelsey completed her undergraduate studies at Edinboro University of PA where she majored in Biology/



Jamie Glenn



Kelsey Warner

Pre-Veterinary Medicine and minored in Chemistry & Psychology. She earned a B.S. Degree in Biology in May of 2020. Kelsey started her graduate studies during the Fall 2020 term. Presently attending Cornell University-College of Veterinary Medicine (Ithaca, NY), Kelsey hopes to be awarded a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree (DVM) in four (4) years.

On behalf of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Western Pennsylvania, the Award Committee wishes Jamie and Kelsey continued success toward the completion of their educational goals and in all of their future endeavors.

1ST BATTALION OF THE 1ST REGIMENT, PATRIARCHS MILITANT, ENDS THE YEAR ON A HIGH NOTE

On December 10th, a joint cantonment between Canton's Philadelphia #1 and Allentown #39 was held. A quorum was present from both cantons; including both Commandants, both Battalion Commanders, the Regimental Commander and Department Commander were in attendance. Representing Canton Philadelphia was Commandant Maj William Hanby; clerk GC® Joseph Strausser; ESN Charles Danihel; Accountant Michael Serverson and Chevalier Thomas Kutchner. Representing Canton Allentown was Commandant Rory King, LT Ralph Very, ESN Maj Patricia Faustner, clerk BG® Justin Bailey and Dept Commander BG Bruce Torrence. Canton Philadelphia also was fortunate to be able to muster in Chevalier Joseph Miczak. What was very nice to see was that all the Chevaliers were fully uniformed. Welcome to the new Chevalier and it was so nice to have everyone out.



THE TREASURER'S TALES

JANUARY 2020

Winter is cold and snowy, the days are short and the night is long. In January 1926, winter in New Jersey followed this ancient pattern. There were no anomalies in the weather for New Jersey in 1926, see <https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/4546> to review the NASA map for the period, this is an interesting site to trace historical weather patterns. Here is a classic version of a traditional song to start the new year: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eG3afAIi6IQ>.

On January 1, 1926, Alabama defeated Washington in the Rose Bowl. On January 26, John Logie Baird gave the first public demonstration of television in his laboratory in London, on January 27, Physicist Erwin Schrödinger publishes his theory of wave mechanics and presents what becomes known as the Schrödinger equation in quantum mechanics, and on January 6, Miklós "Mickey" Hargitay, Hungarian American actor, bodybuilder and the 1955 Mr. Universe, born in Budapest, Hungary (d. 2006) {he is the father of actress Mariska Hargitay of Law and Order fame, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mariska_Hargitay} On January 20, Patricia Neal was born and on January 26, Italian physician and Nobel Prize winner Camillo Golgi died. Golgi is famous for discovering the Golgi apparatus, an organelle important in protein packaging, see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golgi_apparatus.

I have written this column for several years with a distinct view from the eyes of Barney Wells, a famous Odd Fellow, high school English teacher and farmer. For this month's column, I will deviate slightly. I am going to frame this column from the eyes of Melchizedek, famous raccoon and both pet and nemesis to the Odd Fellows of Grover's Mill, New Jersey. We have read books and watched movies and television shows about dogs, cats and horses, but raccoons have been under-reported. Melchizedek was a leader in the New Jersey raccoon community. He had taught the other raccoons how to be fraternal and had done much to bring a modified version of Odd Fellowship to the animals in the wild.

Melchizedek had two primary concerns in January 1926, keeping warm and finding a meal. During most of the year, he could find food in the woods and farms. There was also his association with humans. His most common food source was the garbage can. He always liked to attend picnics, visit cornfields and watch for humans to leave their lunches unattended while engaged in some employment or other diversion. As a moral creature, named for a famous biblical monarch, he ruminated over the propriety of stealing lunches and picnic baskets. This moral dilemma was usually resolved in less than thirty seconds, depending on how good the food smelled.

Garbage cans were available everywhere, and only had a couple drawbacks. He had learned that he need to jump up and position his hind legs on the handle and push the lid with his front legs to pop the can open. This procedure worked over eighty percent of the time. New Jersey had a small, but hungry, bear population. Melchizedek learned that when a bear approached, any dispute over ownership of the garbage can and its contents always was resolved in favor of the bear. He had several small scars on his left rump to remind him of this.

January saw a number of different things placed in the garbage. Bears were in hibernation, so there was no contest. Just pop the lid, swing on the rim till the can fell over and pull out the brown paper sacks with garbage (no plastic in 1926). The holidays had prompted an increase in

the purchase and consumption of fruit. Sometimes fruit salad would be discarded because it was starting to ferment. Fermented fruit salad made Melchizedek feel romantic and caused a loss of some inhibition. He always searched for the fruit salad first.

Left over turkey, turkey skin and turkey carcass made him feel like he was a part of the holiday feast. Why didn't the children finish their sweet potatoes? Melchizedek loved candied sweet potatoes (not yams, New Jersey grows real sweet potatoes). The rarest, but most desirable treat was egg nog. Sometimes a bottle of egg nog would start to go bad, never to be wasted by a raccoon. It was still prohibition, and there was no liquor. Fermented fruit salad replaced liquor. On New Year's Eve, the German community had soft pretzels to celebrate the New Year. Remnants of pretzels were highly prized, especially if they were covered with cinnamon sugar. Holiday season was good to the raccoon.

Barney had taken the sleigh from the barn and pushed the hay wagon back into the rear of the barn. Some hay was on the floor behind the hay wagon. Melchizedek knew the holes in the barn where he could sneak in. The hay behind the wagon made a perfect nesting place for a raccoon. The basement of the barn, under the hay wagon, was the location of the dairy cattle when the weather got cold outside. The body heat of the cattle provided a source of heat to warm the hay area above.

Raccoons are more active at night and sleep more in the winter, although they do not hibernate. Most wildlife biologists will tell you that raccoons are introverts, preferring to stay to themselves. This was not true for Melchizedek. He was the most social raccoon in New Jersey and he loved to be around people, when he could beg or pilfer. Early in life, he had learned to recognize one word, cute. When he heard a human use this word, he knew it was time to beg. Anyone who thought he was cute, was going to give him a handout. Teenagers, especially girls, thought he was in need of cookies, fruit and other things. He learned to put on a show.

The last factor we need to explore is travel. Melchizedek did not like to travel in the snow and ice. He looked upon Barney's trash can as his restaurant. Barney did not always have trash on the same day. Melchizedek would range as far as the center of town, but he wouldn't cross the main road. He knew there was traffic. There was one diner in Grover's Mill. It did not have a large amount of refuse, since it was a small establishment. On those rare occasions when Barney, his father and the other neighbors did not have trash out, Melchizedek hit the diner. The garbage can there was always full, but it was a hike of over half a mile. He preferred to eat local, but a trip every couple of weeks gave him a bit of variety (sometimes the diner threw out stale pies).

There you have it. Melchizedek survived winter by living off people. We all need to look after ourselves in this time of disease and adverse weather. Be cautious if you are going to feed wildlife, they may start to think you owe them a living.

Comments and questions are always welcomed by the Grand Treasurer. You can contact him by email at jcupp275@gmail.com or conventional mail at P.O. Box 275, Hopwood, PA 15445.

DAYS GONE BY

25 YEARS AGO – 1996

A MESSAGE OF HOPE – On Saturday, December 2, 1995, I had the pleasure of attending the Inter-County Deputies Association Christmas Meeting at East Freedom. There were fifty or more Sisters in attendance, who brought as their guests, perspective members who had shown an interest in Rebekah Oddfellowship.

After a very delightful Luncheon, served by laughter and good cheer that abounds at every Rebekah gathering, we all settled back in our chairs to listen to the Membership Program that was to be presented by Sister Mae Summers. Sister Mae had been appointed to the Rebekah Assembly Membership committee for Central District, Mary Leitzel, Eastern District, and Phyllis Shakely to the Western District with the committee to be chaired by Sister Bonnie Morningstar, P.P.

Basing her program on the Pamphlet “A FAMILY FRATERNITY,” Sister Mae proceeded to give her audience one of the best presentations I have ever heard. It was clear and precise telling those present what Rebekah Oddfellowship is all about. Sister Mae had everyone’s attention throughout the whole presentation.

At the close of her program, she gave membership packets to those present who were not members of the Order. Those receiving the packets were asked to study the information and in a couple weeks a Rebekah would visit them to answer any questions they might have.

At the conclusion Sister Mae further stated that she would be willing to go any where in the Jurisdiction to present her program, one had only to ask. Her program is planned to interest your friends, neighbors and relatives. I’m sure that those hearing her message today will consider becoming a member of our Order.

Sister Mae Summers keep up the good work, we are very proud of what you are doing. It is positive Action being practiced and give to us a message of hope for the future.

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING.

Edna DePew Assembly Secretary

- Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine January 1996

75 Years Ago – 1946

SELLERSVILLE LODGE CHANGES ITS NAME – Sellersville Lodge, No. 658, of Sellersville, Pa., with which Perkasio Lodge, No. 671, recently merged, has changed its name to Victory Lodge, No. 658, and a charter in accordance therewith has been authorized. The Lodge is in possession of a fine Lodge Hall and

business property and the Lodge is enjoying a revival of interest and added membership.

FROM A SOLDIER BROTHER – Since I have been in the Service but a short time I have travelled little outside of Texas where I am stationed.

Dad, being Secretary of the Lodge, was quite anxious to have me become a member before I left home, which I did, and before leaving was advised to look for the Three Links in my travels and rest assured of meeting friends. Here in Texas I have surely found friends in the neighboring towns. Within a fifteen mile radius I have visited three lodges, the one visited most frequently being Wichita Falls Lodge. Here I have seen the Initiatory Degree conferred twice and six members taken in in three weeks. They have shown true brotherhood and I have enjoyed every one of their meetings immensely.

The second Lodge visited was Iowa Park Lodge. I accompanied a Judge and a Lawyer to this Lodge for the purpose of presenting them the “Traveling Gavel.” This is a gavel cared from ivory bearing the name of the Lodge initiating the greatest number of members under the age of thirty years. As in Wichita Falls Lodge, I was welcomed royally.

The third Lodge visited was Burkburnett Lodge. There I had the finest social evening of all. The room was not elaborately furnished and certainly flourished in Love and Fellowship. I have been invited to two home-cooked dinners and I am looking forward to them with pleasant anticipation. A fellow gets bored with Army Chow all the time.

I, for one, am glad to know that I can enjoy a friendly social evening any night in the week. When we are a little low on cash we sometimes feel as though we are bound to the barracks but there have been few nights when I have spent an evening there. It is indeed a pleasure to know that I have Brothers wherever I go and I know I can find friendship close by.

The Lodges in the South are no different in hospitality and procedure than in the North. The only difference that I can see is in the accent of the Brothers. Their hearts are in the same spot – the Grand Fraternity of which I am proud to be a member. Offering my best wishes for a year of prosperity and increased membership, I am, fraternally yours,

CPL. John C. Turner, Manayunk Lodge, No. 31.

(editor’s note – Manayunk was chartered in 1830 and consolidated in 1958 with Roxborough #66, which eventually ended up forming Variety Lodge #37)

- Pennsylvania Odd Fellow Magazine January 1946

Periodicals

NOVEMBER DONATIONS

VISUAL RESEARCH

708	Boyertown	100.00
2	Unified	25.00
R328	Lady Worth	25.00
285	Mineral	<u>15.00</u>
		165.00

PA SPECIAL VISUAL

471	Rush	50.00
2	Unified	<u>25.00</u>
		75.00

ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION

2	Unified	50.00
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PA EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND

285	Mineral	50.00
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PA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

2	Unified	50.00
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