



PENNSYLVANIA ODD FELLOW AND REBEKAH MAGAZINE



Vol. 96

February 2021

No. 2

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PENNSYLVANIA STEPS UP AGAINST COVID FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

FREEPORT LODGE #379 HELPS THEIR COMMUNITY

During this year, learning to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been difficult not only for lodges, but also for communities finding ways to continue helping those in need. Freeport, Pa., and Freeport Lodge of Armstrong County is no different.

Freeport Lodge #379, this Christmas Season has teamed up with the Freeport Senior High School to help provide families in Freeport this Christmas. The High School Key Club sponsors an annual toy drive where the students have different activities to collect toys which are then given to the Freeport Food Bank to

distribute to their families. With COVID-19, their activities had to be limited, even though the need in the community is greater than ever before.

With help from local groups like the Odd Fellows and private individuals, the Key Club was able to collect over 478 toys and approximately 2,200 food items for the Freeport Food Bank.

Hats off to the students of Freeport Sr. High and to Freeport Lodge #379 for your great efforts in helping families through this Holiday Season.



Places to Go...People to See

MARCH

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

JUNE

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

PLEASE NOTE: The Annual Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns and the Mid-Atlantic States Conclave have been cancelled!!

+ 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 ioofpaglsecty@verizon.net or 717-944-7419

The Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine

(USPS 426-500)

Published in the City of Middletown, PA monthly by
THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS
 1001 West Harrisburg Pike
 Middletown, PA 17057
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<http://www.grandlodgeofpennsylvaniaioof.org>

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Publication Number 426500
 Periodical Postage paid at Middletown, Pennsylvania and additional offices.

** Postmaster **
 Send change of address to:
 Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine
 1001 W. Harrisburg Pike
 Middletown, PA 17057

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

Subscription price \$10.00 per year
 10 or more to one address \$9.00 each

Subscribers should be careful to give their correct post office address and when a change is necessary be sure to mention the former address.

Articles for publication must reach the office of the Grand Lodge in Middletown not later than the 5th of each month to insure their insertion in next month's issue.

In an effort to save money for the magazine, if you would like to receive this magazine via email instead of hard copy, please email the Grand Lodge at ioofpaglsecty@verizon.net with your name and Lodge and this will be done accordingly.



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

NUCLEUS LODGE NO. 377, FINLEYVILLE

Jesse Duvuvei - initiated December 8th
 Austin Caldwell

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

30 YEARS

Danny A. Crawford, #307
Paul E. Beatty, #1030
Marc T. Lokesak, #523
Mark R. Mathews, #523

35 YEARS

Daniel G. Veith, Jr., #278
Paul L. Corbin, #957

40 YEARS

Larry T. Kuhns, #192
Steve S. Slavic, #254

45 YEARS

Wayne S. Fulmer, #306
Evan R. Burr, #523

55 YEARS

John N. Walker, #201

60 YEARS

Arden G. McConnell, #1128

65 YEARS

Harold W. Ankeny, #438

75 YEARS

Leonard V. Siegfried, #488



DESK OF THE DGM

May the LIGHTHOUSE, and its beam of light

Do you make resolutions each New Year Day, things which you would like to accomplish in the new year?? Only to break or forget them somewhere in the middle of January! I decided that this year, 2021, instead of resolutions, I was going to make a Vision Board in my 2021 Planner. My Vision Board would have my goals on all that I would like to accomplish this new year and it can be found on the first page of my planner, hopefully to keep focus throughout the year. (I will let you all know at the end of 2021, if I was successful!!)

With Odd Fellowship being a huge part of my 2021, I decided it also must be included on my board. What would I love to accomplish this year or better yet, how can I, personally reach out to all those in need especially during this crazy time with COVID still lingering on and on and on.....?

One item I wanted to do in 2021 is to reach out to lodges and members with letters or hand-written notes. (yes, snail-mail!!) In December 2020, I sent a letter to members of a lodge in a region of our state soon to be without any lodges. I received back personal notes from members, telling me of their experiences as Odd Fellows and the love they each had for the order. Men, in their 90's who loved to be an Odd Fellow and so proud of the work their lodges did. Dave and I received a telephone call from the widow of a long-time Odd Fellow who passed just recently. She told us again how loved the Odd fellows were by her husband and how they both read the magazine from front to back, and then again!!

Another thing I want to do is to find ways to donate items needed for the comfort of others. To use my limited talent to lend a helping hand. I believe that we all have a talent, a special gift. We, as Odd Fellows or Rebekahs, or just a friend of one, we could together to make a difference in someone's life.

Can you or someone you know, knit, or crochet, let me know, there are scarfs to make for the homeless; sew or quilt, let me know, there are lap quilts which can be made for those in nursing home; bake or cook, let me know, I am sure there are shut-in who would enjoy a home-cooked meal. Know anyone who likes to send cards or notes of encouragements, let me know, I am sure that there are those who need your good thoughts. And I know if we, as Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, start really brain-storming, we would so find many more ways to reach out the hand of friendship!

While we still have COVID-19 keeping us all home-bound, I know it will not be long until our world turns around and we will be together again meeting and working for the good of all. Until then, join me in my 2021 vision, using our individual talents to make a difference in our community!!

Remember, I would love to hear from you. Tell me your vision for 2021. Tell me how your lodge is working in the community. Tell me your thoughts as to how we can tell all of Pennsylvania, what our order is all about and how we are helping in the communities. Just think what we could accomplish by all working together!!

Always with God's guiding hand,
Shirley J. Whitlinger, DGM

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

I TRUST THAT EVERYONE HAD A SAFE AND JOYOUS Christmas and New Year's. Ground Hog's Day is now upon us, though it will be quite different this year, without throngs of visitors. The meaning remains the same, the anticipation that winter is in its waning weeks.

My hope is that the New Year brings us relief from this terrible virus that has afflicted us

for almost a year. We need to get our country and Odd Fellowship back on course.

As I talk to Lodges and read our monthly magazine, I take great pride in the work that I see being done by Odd Fellows in their communities. Our Lodges have been able to continue the charitable works that they were doing prior to the virus shutdown. This speaks volumes of the dedication and

spirit that our brothers and sisters' display.

Let us greet this new year with hope and enthusiasm. As I begin my last six months as your Grand Master, that is how I will approach the remainder of my term.

God Bless our Order,

Your Grand Master,
David O. Whitlinger

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ERIE COUNTY

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
Lehigh County.**
Get your pictures and
articles in now!

ERIE COUNTY:

Albion - Marilla Rebekah Lodge #162 - consolidated 1968
Corry - Lady Franklin Rebekah Lodge #140 - defunct 1999
Cranesville - Clover Leaf Rebekah Lodge #396 - consolidated 1968
East Springfield - Edris Dale Rebekah Lodge #69 - consolidated 1994
East Springfield - Edris Dale Rebekah Lodge #269 - consolidated 1932
Edinboro - Conneauttee Rebekah Lodge #324 - defunct 2003
Erie - Luella Rebekah Lodge #90 - consolidated 1990
Erie - Laura Rebekah Lodge #101 - defunct 2003
Erie - Sylvia Rebekah Lodge #122 - consolidated 1973
Fairview - Priscilla Rebekah Lodge #266 - consolidated 1985
Girard - Rosalind Rebekah Lodge #207 - defunct 1999
Girard - Ocene Rebekah Lodge #265 - defunct 1920
Hornsby - Thora Rebekah Lodge #457 - consolidated 1926
McKean - Roma Rebekah Lodge #69 - defunct 1939
Miles Grove - Fern Rebekah Lodge #235 - defunct 1919
Mill Village - Iva Rebekah Lodge #178 - consolidated 1937
North Girard - Fern Rebekah Lodge #234 - defunct 2002
Northeast - Eva Rebekah Lodge #55 - defunct 1981
Phillipsville - Lady Moon Rebekah Lodge #221 - defunct 1927
Platea - Zabina Rebekah Lodge #333 - defunct 1919
Union City - Vera Rebekah Lodge #165 - consolidated 1980
Waterford - Calla Rebekah Lodge #286 - consolidated 1974
Wattsburg - Lady Cornell Rebekah Lodge #86 - defunct prior 1900s

23 Rebekah Lodges with 0 still active

1st Rebekah Lodge - Luella Rebekah Lodge #90 in 1874

28 Odd Fellow Lodges



CALLA REBEKAH LODGE #286



Home of Calla Rebekah Lodge #286, Waterford. Instituted 1905; the same year the building was built

MALVERN CELEBRATES THE SEASON

Members of Malvern-Pocahontas Lodge #201 and Chosen Friends Encampment #88, of Malvern, PA, celebrated the Holiday Season by holding a dinner at Gramm's Kitchen in West Chester, PA. There were seven members and family present and a great time was had by all. At their January meeting, both groups made donations to the Malvern Fire Company.

PAST GRAND'S ASSOCIATION CLOSES DOORS

This past winter, the Tri-County Past Grand's Association held its final meeting virtually, where it decided to disband. The Tri-County Past Grand's Association, is comprised of the four Lodges in District 11, Lewisburg Lodge #96 (Union Co.), Brady Lodge #116 (Lycoming Co.) Mt. Tabor Lodge #125 and Mahanoy Lodge #551 (Northumberland Co.). In the early days of Odd Fellowship, most Lodges,

Districts, Counties, and regions had Past Grand's Associations. The Tri-County Past Grand's Association met quarterly between the Lodges and held picnics or banquets, however, they have not convened for several years. This is possibly the last Past Grand's Association left within the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania. If there is still any Association of this kind out there, contact the Grand Lodge. As many things

go, this is just another "thing of the past" that falls by the wayside. Perhaps we can start another one though in the wake of this?



BRUCE TORRENCE HONORED FOR SERVICE

Brother Bruce N. Torrence was recently presented with a 50 year jewel for his tenure as an Odd Fellow. Bruce joined Coopersburg Lodge #390 on April 4th, 1970, and soon after, transferred membership into Victory Lodge #658 of Sellersville, where he remains an active member. He is a Patriarch of Bushkill Encampment #55, where he holds the position of Treasurer, a Rebekah of Lady Sellers Rebekah Lodge #558 and a Chevalier of Canton Allentown #39, P.M., where he is Chaplain. He is a Past District Deputy Grand Patriarch and Master, and is serving his third consecutive Grand Lodge Office,

this year as Chaplain. In September, he was installed as Department Commander for the Department Council, Patriarchs Militant of Pennsylvania. He is a recipient of the Decoration of Chivalry. He also serves the Ladies Auxiliary Patriarchs Militant as Chief of Staff and is a Past President of the Home for Orphans of Odd Fellows.

He has had a busy past 50 years and he is not close to finished! Congratulations Bruce on your achievement! Pictured here is DDGM Frank Hilt presenting Bruce with his jewel.



WYSOX CONTINUES TO EDUCATE

Wysox Lodge No. 1152, I.O.O.F., have chosen Malissa Tice, a practical nursing student, to receive an Odd Fellows Scholarship for her first semester. The Odd Fellows are very supportive of the Practical Nursing Program and continue to give financial assistance to deserving students.

Nelson Silverstrim, Noble Grand of Wysox Lodge No. 1152, presented the Odd Fellow Scholarship to Malissa Tice.

The Practical Nursing Program located at Northern Tier Career Center, Towanda, PA, is in its 38th year. It is a one-year program that qualifies graduates to apply for licensure in Practical Nursing. Practical nurses work in nursing homes, doctors' offices, hospitals, and home health care as well as in other areas of health care.

For further information on the Practical Nursing Program, contact 570-265-8113.



Pictured left to right: Margaret Johnson, PN Coordinator; Malissa Tice, PN Student; Nelson Silverstrim, NG#1152

SANDY LAKE LODGE ACTIVITIES

This year was a hard year for fundraisers for Sandy Lake Lodge #573 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of PA. We were not able to participate in at least six events in Mercer County, our raffle tickets, funds for Stray Haven animal rescue in Greenville, Pa., and the back pack program.

On Nov.16, 2020, at the conclusion of our meeting, District Deputy Grand Master, Raymond Rodgers, pulled two tickets out of our raffle wheel. The first place went to Carol Williams-\$200.00 cash, second place went to Polly Lyndey-\$25.00 gift card from Pizza Joe's in Grove City.

Our first fundraiser for 2021 will be a Soup Sale on Saturday, Jan. 16th from Noon to 3 P.M. Carry out only at Sandy Lake Lodge #573 on Rt 358 going out of Sandy Lake, Pa. Selections will be CHILLI - VEG. - CHICKEN RICE SOUPS. Price is \$8.00 a Qt, Pre-order can be made. Also we will have Pull-Tabs tickets and Daffin \$1.00 candy bars for sale. For more information please contact us at 1-724-376-2562.

~ Ray Rodgers

HARMONY LODGE HONORS MEMBERS

Earlier in December, Harmony Lodge #86, Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge #86 and Scott Encampment #132, all of Tamaqua, honored those members who have achieved milestones in our Order. Recipients were: for Lady Harmony - Ashley Guscott 5 year, Patricia Rarick 10 year, Nicole Inama 5 year Odd Fellow and 10 year Rebekah. Odd Fellow Pins presented - Justin Bailey 20 year, Gerald

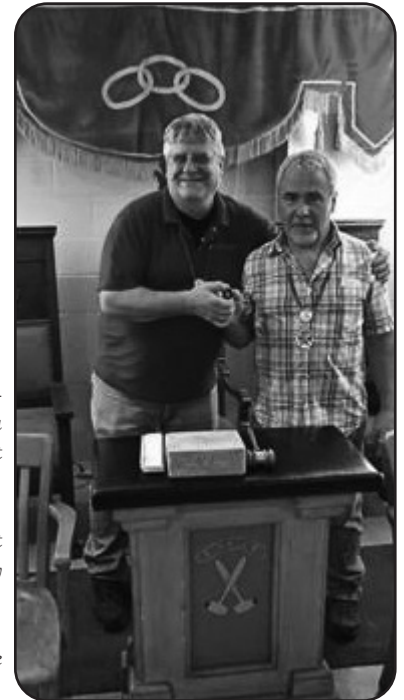
Guscott Sr 45 year and Josh Guscott Past Grand. Jerry was able to present Josh with his Past Grand Jewel. Also doing the presentations was Noble Grand, PG Robert Leibensperger. A great time was had by all. NG Robert presented Arthur Valentine and Randy Gormley with their 20 year pins at later meetings.



Top Left: From left to right – Nicole Inama, Justin Bailey, Patricia Rarick, Josh Guscott, Jerry Guscott Sr. and Ashley Guscott.

Bottom Left: Left to right – Robert Leibensperger, Josh Guscott, Jerry Guscott Sr and Ashley Guscott

Right: Robert presents Art Valentine with his 20 year pin



VINCENT LODGE BRINGS CHEER



Vincent Lodge No. 762, of Spring City, recently brought Christmas cheer to the Whitehall Apartments in Spring City. The Whitehall is a complex for veterans. Santa (Brother Michael Weiss) and Sister Susan Grumblatt presented each resident with a gift bag of necessities.

Attached are some photos of their visit. Pictured is Santa, Susan and the resident service coordinator for Whitehall, Kimberly Wilkinson.
~ Sue Grumblatt



Above Left: Vincent Lodge's very own Santa, Michael Weiss

Above Right: Kimberly Wilkinson & Susan Grumblatt

Right: Kimberly Wilkinson & Michael Weiss

THISTLE LODGE HELPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Thistle Lodge #512 in Pittston joined in partnership once again with the local "Santa Squad" to help provide toys to the children of the region. This year has been tough on everyone, due to COVID Pandemic, especially if you were laid off and have a family. Purchasing Christmas gifts may be a bit harder for many families and the toy donations for 2020 were more critical than ever. The Santa Squad, which began its work in 2017, accepts donations of new toys to be handed out to Greater Pittston children for Christmas. Thistle Lodge Donated \$500 to the cause to ensure that boys and girls of all age groups would have something under the tree. The Squad was able to deliver more than 4000 toys this year and it took five trucks to make the delivery.



Shown at the check presentation are (left to right) Pat Tracy, Tony Marranta, founder of the Santa Squad, Jim Falzone, Secretary of Thistle Lodge #512, & Chris Sheperis. Picture taken by: Linda Falzone



Thistle lodge members Art Walton, Bob Smith & Jim Falzone presented a \$500.00 check to Ruth's Place a woman's shelter, located in Wilkes Barre Pa.

Pictured above from left to right: Art Walton, Malinda Gray, Ebony Sewell, Rainy Boyle & Bob Smith Picture taken by Jim Falzone



Thistle lodge members Art Walton, Bob Smith & Jim Falzone presented two \$100.00 checks to Saint Vincent de Paul kitchen, located in Wilkes Barre Pa.

Pictured above from left to right: Bob Smith, Mike Cianciotta & Art Walton Picture taken by Jim Falzone

KINGWOOD LODGE'S HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE

Kingwood Lodge #1010, IOOF, has been doing bell ringing for the Salvation Army for 10 years at Confluence Foodmart. All proceeds are kept in the Confluence area. Kingwood Lodge #1010 also presented gift cards to families in need. Kingwood donated \$250 to a family that loss their house to a fire & \$250 to a family that is going through medical treatments. Below is Vice Grand Doug Close presenting a donation.



Left: Left to right - Secretary Josh Sechler, Treasurer Everett Sechler & Vice Grand Doug Close.

Middle: NG Gary Compton
Not pictured is PG Neil Bender, RSNB.

FEBRUARY OBITUARIES

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

DOROTHY L. HEASTER
Lady Evelyn Rebekah Lodge No. 22
November 18, 2020

Sister Dorothy L. (McClain) Heaster, 96, of Mapleton Depot, PA, was initiated into Maple Glen Rebekah Lodge #392, Mapleton Depot, on September 21, 1973, where she became a Past Noble Grand October 18, 1985. When Maple Glen Rebekah Lodge #392 went defunct in 2008, she transferred membership on November 28, 2008 to Lady Evelyn Rebekah Lodge #22, Cassville.

She was a member of the Grace United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Leroy, one son and one grandson. Surviving are five children, twelve grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Mapleton Depot.



WAYNE A. LEWIS
Edinboro Lodge No. 510
December 12, 2020

Brother Wayne A. Lewis, 91, of Edinboro, PA, was initiated into Edinboro Lodge #510 on September 18, 1991, where he became a Past Grand on October 12, 1995 and received his Grand Lodge Degree June 24, 1996. In the past,

he was also an Associate member to the former Cussewago Lodge #108, Meadville.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley. Surviving are three sons, one daughter, four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and two step great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Sterrettania Cemetery.



EDWARD K. BROGAN
Askam Lodge No. 899
December 14, 2020

Brother Edward K. Brogan, 77, of Sugar Notch, PA, was initiated into Askam Lodge #899, Sugar Notch, on November 22, 2004, where he became a Past Grand on October 1, 2007 and received his Grand Lodge Degree

April 7, 2018. He held active membership in his Lodge and at the time of his death, he was Askam Lodge's Color Bearer.

He was a U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran.

Surviving are two sisters and one brother, Jerry, who is also a member of Askam Lodge.

Burial was held in St. Mary's Cemetery, Hanover Township.



QUINCE A. HUNT, JR.
Walker Lodge No. 306
December 22, 2020

Brother Quince A. Hunt, Jr., 73, of Horsham, PA, was initiated into Walker Lodge #306, Philadelphia, on September 13, 1993, where he became a Past Grand April 1, 1999

and received his Grand Lodge Degree October 7, 2006. He was active in the Walker Lodge Installation and Degree Teams.

He was a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran.

Surviving is his wife, the former Kathleen Campbell, of Walker Lodge, one son, Quince III, also of Walker Lodge, two daughters and five grandchildren.

Burial will be held at Washington Crossing National Cemetery.

GERALD R. BEACH
Past District Deputy Grand Master
Alma Lodge No. 523
December 22, 2020

Brother Gerald R. Beach, 95, of Roaring Spring, PA, was initiated into Cove Lodge #368, Woodbury, PA, on March 2, 1963, where he became a Past Grand and received his Grand Lodge Degree. He went on to serve as District Deputy Grand Master from 1971 to 1974, 1981 - 82 and 1986 - 87. He became a member of Alma Lodge #523, Johnstown, through consolidation on May 12, 2006. At the time of the consolidation, he was Cove Lodge's Treasurer.

He was a member of the St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Martinsburg.

Surviving is his wife, the former Vivian Ritchey, one son, one daughter, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Bedford County Memorial Park, Bedford, PA.



RICHARD N. PASSMORE
Fred R. Korman Lodge No. 55
December 23, 2020

Brother Richard N. "Dick" Passmore, 93, of Ansonville, PA, was initiated into Ansonville Lodge #1005 on March 2, 1959. He became a member of Coalport Lodge #781 through consolidation on April 12, 1969, Clearfield Lodge #198 through consolidation on January 16, 1986, and finally became a Charter member of Fred R. Korman Lodge #55, Glasgow, through consolidation on August 23, 1997. At the time of his death, he was the last surviving member of Ansonville Lodge #1005 and Coalport Lodge #781 still affiliated with the Order.

He was a U.S. Army WWII Veteran and a member of the Newburg Baptist Church, LaJose, PA.

He was preceded in death by an infant son and daughter.

Surviving is his wife, the former Evelyn Jacobson, three children, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in the Fruit Hill Cemetery, New Millport, PA.



EDWARD J. O'HANLON, SR.
Walker Lodge No. 306
December 25, 2020

Brother Edward J. O'Hanlon, Sr., 75, of Blue Bell, PA, was initiated into Walker Lodge #306, Philadelphia, on February 3, 1975.

He was a U.S. Air Force Vietnam Veteran and a member of St. Helena's RC Church, Blue Bell.

FEBRUARY OBITUARIES

He was preceded in death by his grandson, John Shapiro. He is survived by his wife, the former Rebecca Dallett, two sons, two daughters and 10 grandchildren.

Burial was held in Calvary Cemetery, West Conshohocken, PA.



IRVEN L. RODERICK
Nathan Lewis-Fort Necessity Lodge No. 254
December 25, 2020

Brother Irven L. Roderick, 82, of Smithfield, PA, was initiated into Gallatin Lodge #517, Smithfield, on March 5, 1970, where he became a Past Grand. He became a member of Nathan Lewis-Fort Necessity Lodge #254, Waltersburg, through consolidation on April 20, 1981. At the time of Gallatin Lodge's consolidation, he was their Noble Grand, and at the time of his death, he was the last member of Gallatin Lodge #517 still affiliated with the Order.

He was a member of Oak Grove Church of Christ, Lake Lynn, PA.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Beatrice Leichter, and one daughter. Surviving are two sons, one daughter, 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Burial was held at Pleasant View I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Smithfield, PA.

GEORGE R. SCHOCH, JR.
Edinboro Lodge No. 510
December 26, 2020

Brother George R. "Ray" Schoch, Jr., 92, of Fairfield, CA, was initiated into Oil City Lodge #589 on March 23, 1948. He then became a member of Queen City Lodge #304, Titusville, PA, through consolidation on August 7, 1996. He then became a member of Edinboro Lodge #510 through consolidation on September 9, 2010.

He was a US Air Force Veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars and was of the Methodist Faith.

He was preceded in death by his first wife. Surviving is his second wife, the former Audrey Luxemburger, one son, one daughter, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

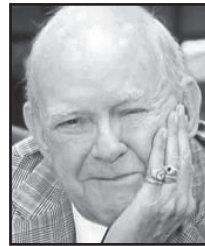
Burial was held in Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, Dixon, CA.

DRUSILLA WINK
Gladys Rebekah Lodge No. 103
December 29, 2020

Sister Drusilla "Gail" (Sharp) Wingrove Wink, 74, of Uniontown, PA, was initiated into Gladys Rebekah Lodge #103, Brownfield, PA, on August 11, 1972, where she became a Past Noble Grand October 28, 1977 and received her Rebekah Assembly Degree April 24, 1979. She later left the Lodge and reinstated December 8, 2019.

She was a member of the Brownfield Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by three husbands, Roger Skelton, Daniel Wingrove and Derick Wink, two brothers and two sisters. Surviving are two sons, three daughters, numerous grandchildren and three siblings, two being PPRAs Lee Etta Mansberry and Irene Taylor, both of Gladys Rebekah Lodge.



ROBERT R. HEATON
Connoquenessing Lodge No. 278
January 2, 2021

Brother Robert R. Heaton, 91, of Lyndora, PA, was initiated into Connoquenessing Lodge #278, Butler, PA, on November 22, 1954.

He was a member of Trinity & Covenant Presbyterian Church, Butler.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Marion McGinnis. Surviving is one daughter.

Entombment was held at Butler County Memorial Park.



JAMES S. MELCHER, SR.
Shillington Lodge No. 1175
January 7, 2021

Brother James S. Melcher, Sr., 76, of Spring Township, PA, was initiated into Oley Lodge #218, Reading, PA, on February 16, 1965, where he became a Past Grand and received his Grand Lodge Degree on March 13, 1976. He became a member of Shillington Lodge #1175 through consolidation on May 8, 1988.

He was a U.S. Navy Vietnam War Veteran.

Surviving is his wife, the former Nancy Rohm, three children and four grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted later in the spring.

CLOVER LODGE #348

This past year, most have experienced some type of adversity, unemployment, financial hardship, isolation and virus. Clover Lodge #348 and Ambridge Encampment #259 have teamed up to uphold our values of Friendship, Love and Truth and Faith, Hope and Charity. Combined donations have been made as follows:

\$1000 Salvation Army

\$1000 Support to 5 needy families

\$ 450 Support 3 soup kitchens monthly for the next 6 months.

This is not much, but hopefully this can help in the interim until our economy can improve.

Faternally

Tom Stachura, Recording Secretary

THE TREASURER'S TALES

FEBRUARY 2021

We have been following Barney's exploits on a month by month basis and we are now at February 1926. The big thing in February is St. Valentine's Day on the 14th, followed closely by Groundhog Day on the second. February is a cold month, with snow. As much as people stay in groups to keep warm and repel the ill effects of snow and cold, so do animals.

February 1926 marked a number of interesting events, on February 6, St Louis Browns acquire catcher Wally Schang from NY Yankees, on February 8, Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio becomes Walt Disney Studios, and on February 25, Francisco Franco becomes Spain's youngest general at 33. Born on February 1, Stuart Whitman, American actor (Capt Apache, Ransom, Cimarron Strip), in San Francisco, California; on February 3, Shelley Berman, comedian (Son of Blob, Love American Style), in Chicago, Illinois; on February 11, Leslie Nielsen, Canadian actor (Spy Hard, Forbidden Planet, Naked Gun), in Regina, Saskatchewan (d. 2010); and Svetlana Alliluyeva, Russian-born daughter of Joseph Stalin who later defected to the West and author (*My Life*), in Moscow (d. 2011). Death of note on February 24 was Eddie Plank, pitcher (won 327 games in 17 years), died at 51.

If you wanted to see a movie in 1926, you would be entertained by *Ben-Hur*, *What Price Glory* and *Beau Geste*. T. E. Lawrence published his *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* in 1926. *Bye, Bye Blackbird* was a popular record, check here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfANFQOLGKA>.

The Odd Fellows thought there were enough members interested in a Valentine's Day celebration that they should hold one. Barney had been involved with several high school dances as a tenth grade English teacher. The lodge declared him instantly qualified to plan the lodge celebration. Since he was in charge of the high school plays as a part of his duties as an English teacher, he thought he could run a preview of the school play as entertainment for the celebration. A popular musical was *Alice Blue Gown* with the title song being inspired by Alice Roosevelt, daughter of the President. You can hear Judy Garland sing the title song here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLt7Ll3qck0>. The costumes and performance rights were too high, so that was rejected. Barney didn't think a Shakespearean play would draw a crowd.

A popular play was *The Dancer*, but royalties and costume costs again stumped Barney. You can watch the trailer of the 21st century remake of *The Dancer* here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBzjS69AR4o>. After reviewing all his options, Barney remained undecided. He thought for a couple days and decided to write his own Vaudeville review, see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaudeville>. Barney spent days writing skits and assembling songs that were popular in the World War I era, such as *It's a Long Way to Tipperary*, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LarvPBLi3X0>. *Pack up Your Troubles* was another popular song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SqabF3TAV0Y>,

There were several spots in the play where a comic told jokes. Theater is improvisational and scripts are strong suggestions but not hard and fast rules. Tenth graders would sometimes invent their own jokes, which Barney had to control. After several practices containing jokes that were a bit off-color, Barney promised to give anyone who told a bad joke at the Odd Fellows dress rehearsal or the stage presentation

an opportunity to repeat tenth grade. This threat seemed quite real, since Odd Fellows Vic and Clancey were members of the school board.

One of the students wanted to do a trained animal skit. Barney thought this might be amusing, until the student led Melchizedek into the auditorium. Barney became agitated, but Melchizedek came over to him, like he was an old friend. Barney wanted to know what tricks the feisty raccoon would perform. The student, named Jim, clapped his hands and Melchizedek picked up a top hat and put it on. Another clap and he picked up a small cane. A third clap and he moved back and forth across the stage while Jim played a flute. After a short rendition, Jim gave Melchizedek a slice of apple and he bowed toward Barney. To say that Barney was shocked would be an understatement. Barney was sold and incorporated the animal act, thinking he had hit a home run, until the last performance of the run in early March, when the cast took numerous bows and all the lockers were opened and ransacked during the curtain calls.

It was suggested that it might be simpler to go to a banquet hall rather than use the lodge hall. Barney looked for a place to hold the affair and had used the Junior Order of United American Mechanics Hall several years ago. It was in Elizabeth, New Jersey, which was a bit of a drive, and some of the members complained. He found the social hall of the Methodist Church was almost as large, much closer and had a ladies circle that would do the catering.

Some had suggested that the main course be Groundhog, in keeping with February. This was voted down by a large margin. Barney had raised more steers than he was able to market, so they settled on roast beef. The price was set at \$1.20, which was a good price because Barney donated the beef carcass.

The play followed the meal and was fairly long. Barney had invited the Grand Master of New Jersey to offer remarks, after the play. He was an acquaintance of Vic and a former state legislator. Barney drank three glasses of water during the speech and did not think it would ever end. This was so boring that the audience was making paper airplanes with their napkins. After the speeches were over there was a drawing for a door prize, a large wreath shaped like a heart. The winner was Alice, Vic's wife and Barney's mother-in-law. A few cried foul, but the ticket had been drawn by the Grand Master, so the allegations of a fixed drawing weren't serious.

The benediction was given by the Grand High Priest of the Grand Encampment. On his way to his car, Barney noticed that one of the acts was rooting around the garbage cans. Barney told Jim he would have to do a better job watching his "trained" raccoon. The variety show had proven better than other shows and the lodge would use this as an excuse to saddle Barney with the job of planning the Valentine's Day festivities for another ten years.

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.

MIDDLETOWN CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS

Merry Christmas from the Middletown Home! This year's Christmas has certainly very different, but we still did our best to carry out our Christmas Traditions. The Giving Tree is something we do every year for all of our residents. Staff, families, and community members can take a list of Christmas wishes for one of our residents. This year all of the lists we taken in record time! And some individuals even asked for 10 or more lists! The generosity was incredible! In addition to that, we got numerous donations of cards and handmade blankets. Then, the week before Christmas, Santa came to give out the gifts to all of the residents. Several of our musically talented staff members sang carols down the hallways. Thanks to our new "in house television channel," we were able to air on the television a Christmas Eve Service by Pastor Dan and some special music by some of our staff members. We want to thank all of the staff and community members who were a part of making this Christmas special. We look forward to brighter days in 2021 and creating new memories together.




Dawn wishes her family a Merry Christmas!



Santa giving Connie her Christmas gift





Nan gets a special visit from Santa!




THE ODD FELLOW,
REBEKAH AND
AMERICAN FLAGS
ARE PRESENTED BY
BOYERTOWN LODGE NO. 708,
I.O.O.F.
INSTITUTED
19 DECEMBER 1903
2020

SCHOLARS
RECEIVED
AWARDS
DEC., 2020
FROM....

UNIFIED
LODGE
NO. 2
PGH., PA



Each of these young men is a grandson of a member or of more than one member of Unified Lodge No. 2.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED AMOUNTED TO \$1,000 PER EACH.

JARED PFISTER is the grandson of the late William and Marlyn Pfister, she having achieved Past Grand status. Jared's Mom and Dad are Brian and Michelle Pfister. Jared graduated from North Allegheny High School in June of 2020. He is now enrolled a Freshman at the Youngstown State University, Youngtown, Ohio, with a major in the field of Business. Jared is

GRANT GREGORY is the grandson of Sister Gail Gregory, Vice Grand of Unified Lodge for Year 2020-2021. Grant is a student at the University of Pittsburgh, majoring in Computer Science. Grant's parents are Steven and Stacey Gregory. Grant's dog, Cody, is shown in the picture above, left side, under a rock overhang. Grant and Cody both enjoy rock climbing.

Periodicals

DECEMBER DONATIONS

VISUAL RESEARCH		
74	Mount Zion	1,000.00
2	Unified	<u>25.00</u>
		1,025.00
PA SPECIAL VISUAL		
2	Unified	25.00
ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION		
2	Unified	50.00
1004	Hampton	<u>50.00</u>
		100.00
PA SCHOLARSHIP FUND		
2	Unified	50.00

I.O.O.F. EDUCATION PROCLAMATION

To All Members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs

Fraternal Greetings:

Whereas, the Educational Foundation, the oldest project of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, established in 1927, has made it possible for thousands of people from all walks of life to further their education with low interest loans amounting to more than 7 million dollars, and

Whereas, the Pennsylvania Odd Fellow – Rebekah Education Fund, established in 1993, has made it possible for 750 students to receive \$390,000.00 in scholarships, and

Whereas, the need for loans and scholarships is ever increasing to meet higher costs of helping men and women find their place in life, and

Whereas, one of our commands of to “educate”.

Now therefore, I, David O. Whitlinger, by virtue of the authority duly vested in me as Grand

Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, do hereby proclaim,

The month of February as **EDUCATIONAL MONTH** throughout the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania.

Further, request all Lodges to support this project by holding a money-raising event or a treasury donation and send to the Grand Lodge Office.

Done in Middletown, Pennsylvania, this seventh day of January, 2021, and in the 197th year of this Grand Body.

Please fill out form and return with your donation payable to “Grand Lodge of PA, IOOF”

_____ Lodge No. _____ is pleased to contribute _____ to this program.

Please credit our donation to: (Check one of the following)

_____ PA Scholarship Fund – This is applied directly toward a scholarship

_____ PA Education Endowment Fund – This is placed in a fund, interest derived from this is applied toward scholarships

_____ Sovereign Grand Lodge Education Fund – This is to furnish loans.

MAIL ALL CHECKS TO GRAND LODGE!!! NOT THE GRAND MASTER