



Vol. 99

October 2024

No. 10

**CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT <http://www.glpaiiof.org>  
 Follow us on Facebook at The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
 \*NEW\* You can also follow us on Instagram at @paoddfellows**

# Pittston Parade

Thistle Lodge #512 of Pittston recently participated in the Annual Pittston Tomato Festival Parade. The Tomato Festival is a yearly event that spans 4 days in late August and features music, carnival rides, vendors of various types and a wide selection of great foods.

The event is held in a large space on Main Street in Pittston City, directly across from the lodge hall. It's a perfect opportunity to introduce our order to the thousands who attend this event. This year the lodge held an open house immediately after the parade where lodge members helped to unravel the "secret mystery" of Off Fellowship to the visitors in an effort to recruit new members.



@100FPA



**Places to  
Go...People  
to See**

**OCTOBER**  
 24 - 26 / SGM Workman Testimonial, WV

**NOVEMBER**  
 2 / PM Rally, York (pg. 4)

+ 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!

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](mailto:ioofpaglsecty@verizon.net) or 717-944-7419

# The Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine

(USPS 426-500)

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**THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS**  
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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](mailto: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 MEMBERS:**

FREEDOM LODGE NO. 88, HONESDALE  
 Connor E. Buchinski – initiated August 21st

BRADY LODGE NO. 116, MUNCY  
 Caleb A. Hipple – initiated August 21st

LADY HARMONY REBEKAH LODGE NO. 86, TAMAQUA  
 Rayne Shellhamer – initiated August 7th  
 David M. McHugh

## GRAND MASTER'S CORNER

Fraternal greetings to all Brothers and Sisters,

September 22, 2024 at 8:44 A.M. EDT brought in the fall Equinox. This usually starts the time of year that we get to enjoy the Autumn leaves and all of their beautiful colors. This also brings the "Harvest Moon" which brightly lights up the night sky. During this time, our lodges will be selecting a new slate of officers. I am encouraging all the lodges to carefully select the best members to serve as Noble Grand and all elective officers. Election of these officers should be on their ability to be a good leader, work with their Secretary and Treasurer and each member of the lodge. This is not a popularity contest, nor should it be someone who has his own agenda. They should be the best leader for Odd Fellowship, friendship, love and truth. The leadership that we elect should take their oath of office by not only reciting their oath, but also to read, to understand, and to take deeply into their heart and mind the obligation they have taken. It is not just an individual oath, but an oath to each member of the lodge and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Now that September has past, we move on to our next step: Installation of Officers. This should be done in the month of October, either at the first or second meeting. There may be some extenuating circumstances that arise where officers will need to

be installed the first meeting night of November. Grand Lodge encourages each District Deputy Grand Master to install their lodges in October, but if needed, a dispensation may be granted to install in November.

I often compare our order to the changes in our seasons because our calendar seems to follow the seasons. In the spring, we start to reach out to our communities, friends and families for new members. We plant the seed of Friendship by seeking people who have an interest to help their community. During the summer months, we nurture through Love of mankind, the seed that we planted. Fall brings us to harvest. This is the time when we rake in our benefits of membership and have brought those seeds, (new members), into our lodge through Truth, which is the treasure for which the candid mind ever seeks. It is the sanction of every appeal that is made for the good and right. October is the month of new officers, new members and a new commitment of ourselves to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. I wish all our new officers a year of peace, harmony and prosperity.

May our Supreme Being, the Creator and Preserver of the Universe lead and guide us through this new year.  
Fraternally,  
Paul E. Lautenschlager,  
Grand Master

## COME VISIT THE GRAND MASTER

Grand Master Lautenschlager has scheduled the following visits for October.

I am sure he would appreciate seeing you there.

- 1 - Jordan #192 & Vienna #847 OV & Installation @ #192 - 7:30PM
- Malvern- Pocahontas #201 OV & Initiation - 7:30PM
- 10 - Alma #523 OV & Installation - 7:30PM
- 13 - Fall Fest, Tamaqua - 9:00AM
- 16 - Freedom #88 OV & Installation - 7:00PM
- 17 - York Springs #211 OV & Installation 7:00PM
- 19 - Odd Fellows Home of PA meeting, Middletown
- 24 - Mackinaw #380 OV & Installation - 7:00PM
- 28 - Somerset #438 OV & Installation - 7:30PM

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

### 25 YEARS

Fred D. DaLauro, Jr., #361  
Robert C. Snyder, II, #773

### 35 YEARS

Chad E. Richmond, #2  
Keith S. Richmond, #2  
George F. Reitnour, #762

### 50 YEARS

Craig R. Reinhart, PGP #802  
Robert L. Derr, Jr., #1050

### 55 YEARS

Michael R. Shaffer, #562

### 70 YEARS

Raymond F. Brown, #290  
William J. McAlpine, Jr., #290  
William W. Ehmann, #1004

### 115 YEARS

Ambridge Encampment No. 259, Baden

### 175 YEARS

Freeport Lodge No. 379  
Mackinaw Lodge No. 380,  
Landisburg



# PATRIARCHS MILITANT RALLY NOVEMBER 2, 2024

The PM Rally will be held on Saturday, November 2nd, 2024 at the hall of Mount Zion Lodge, 525 Greenwood Road, York. All Chevaliers are most cordially invited and encouraged to attend. Some years it will be a longer drive; some years it will be at your back door. If you want Chevaliers to show up to your area, show up to everyone else's! The schedule will be as follows:

- 10:00AM – Dept Council Board meeting
- 11:00 AM – Lunch at a cost of \$5.00 per person
- 12:00 PM – PM Memorial Service
- 12:30 PM – PM Rally & School of Instruction

Bring your candidates! Our Department Commander, Brig Gen William F. Hanby, III, will be pleased to muster new members.

We are moving the schedule of events around, so please take note of this. For the school of instruction, we will have an in depth showing of the opening and closing of a Canton with a Q&A time. We want all the cantons to become proficient in this. It is important and BG Hanby hopes we can get a full house for this! Please do what you can to attend and have a day of Chivalrous Odd Fellowship. After all, it is YOUR Rally.

I would appreciate each canton reaching out to me and letting me know if you have any candidates and how many from your canton are attending. Feel free to contact me at inamanicole@gmail.com or by phone at 570-778-6211.

We look forward to seeing YOU in York on November 2nd and having Patriarchs become Chevaliers.

## NEW MEMBERS IN THE ORDER



On August 7th, Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge #86 initiated two new members Rayne Shellhamer (sitting left) and Dave McHugh (sitting middle). Rayne just came back the from IOOF Educational Pilgrimage for youth. Her mom, Noble Grand Julie Stokes (standing Middle) and grandfather Gene Blaukowitz (standing left) make her a third generation Rebekah! We're pretty sure she's the youngest Rebekah in the State! Dave McHugh is a multi-generation Odd Fellow and Rebekah. He is from Thistle Lodge No. 512 of Pittston and currently the Grand Guardian.

On September 4th, PGM Tom McHugh transferred from Lois Elmore Jurisdictional Rebekah Lodge to Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge. Welcome to our new Rebekahs!!

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\* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

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Justin C. Bailey, Editor Date: 09/30/2024

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and correct. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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**CONNOQUENESSING LODGE #278**

On Saturday, August 24th, Connoquenessing Lodge hosted their annual picnic at the pavilion in Alameda Park. Joining Connoquenessing Lodge #278 were Unified Lodge #2, Hampton Lodge #1004 and Sandy Lake Lodge #573. A perfect summer day as Odd Fellows welcomed Paul E Lautenschager, GM and Monique to Butler, PA. The lodge also honored the members of Connoquenessing with membership certificates.



Pictured to the left is member James Hiles receiving his certificate for his 68 years of Odd Fellowship and Edward Wehr for his 66 years. Congratulations brothers!! What a fun day, great picnic, with good food, great fellowship and friendship for all. Submitted by Shirley Whitlinger, PGM



**A BIG "THANK YOU" TO ALL WHO ATTENDED THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE SOVEREIGN GRAND LODGE IN PITTSBURGH. IT COULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT YOU.**

JOHN S. CUPP, JR., PSGM

**FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND SECRETARY**

Fraternal Greetings! It seems awhile since I have written an article. The last one was when my son, Jackson, was born on December 31, 2022. I told my wife, Kate, this past New Year's Eve that I hope it is less exciting then the prior, which fortunately it was.

So, fast forward now to September 2nd, 2024. I was a little late getting out the annual report, and dues notices. I was very pleased when I did the March reports that our numbers only showed a loss of 10. That isn't bad for us, and what we have gone through over the past fifty years or so. We are still losing members, but maybe the bleeding is slowing down. This past fall report though, I'm showing a loss of 42. It's speeding up again. Many more of our Lodges are under 20 members, and some are being shoestrung by associates.

I have always been a proponent of Associate membership, as long as it's being used right. Associate membership is a bandaid. However, bandaids help heal. We should be associates in order to help those associate Lodges grow!

Not just so they have a quorum at installation and if the Grand Master visits. I am not talking specifically about one Lodge, because there are several in this situation. We need to work together! READ YOUR RITUAL! The first degree, the degree of Friendship - the bundle of sticks. The answer to growth is there! We can only grow and thrive if we work together. There are too many "splinter factions" and too many that don't want to abide by our laws and the oaths they took. Please please remember what Odd Fellowship stands for and come back into the fold. Friendship, love and truth is what we stand for, let's live it!

This month is installation month. REMEMBER, ALL Lodges must get installed in October. By the time you get this magazine, if you have not heard from your DDGM, call me immediately! There is only one District with out a deputy. All Lodges except them have a District Deputy. I know membership is always an underlying issue, but it's time this year that we move membership from the back burner. Please every Lodge hold a recruitment drive.

Help your weak Lodge neighbors; let's grow Odd Fellowship again! Too many Lodges are meeting irregularly; meeting illegally, meeting only once a month if that, with the thoughts, "We'll just keep doing what we're doing until we get caught." In that time, members are getting older, members are becoming disenchanted and leaving, and the Lodge slowly falls apart.

I'm looking forward to a great rally in Warren on September 28th and by the time this publishes, it will be over. Warren Lodge will show you what happens when we open our doors and let the community in. They are a strong, thriving Lodge. It took some time and efforts to build them up, but now they should be showing all our Lodges what Odd Fellowship can do. Thank you for setting the standard, Warren Lodge! Let's follow in their footsteps!

See you on the Road to Odd Fellowship.

Fraternally, Justin C. Bailey, PGM Grand Secretary

 **ON THE ROAD WITH THE GRAND MASTER**



Nucleus Lodge No. 377



Sandy Lake Lodge No. 573

**LODGES PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY DAYS**



See the photos with Bruce Torrence & me at Richland Township Community Day on Saturday, August 24, 2024. It was a Good Day.

FLT Brother Frank Hilt, Victory Lodge No. 658, Sellersville

Vincent Lodge #762 of Spring City recently participated in Royersford's Community Day. We gave out 300 soft pretzels and informed a lot of people about who we are and what we do.

~Sue Grumblatt, Secy



# ON THE ROAD WITH THE GRAND MASTER



Sandy Lake Lodge No. 573



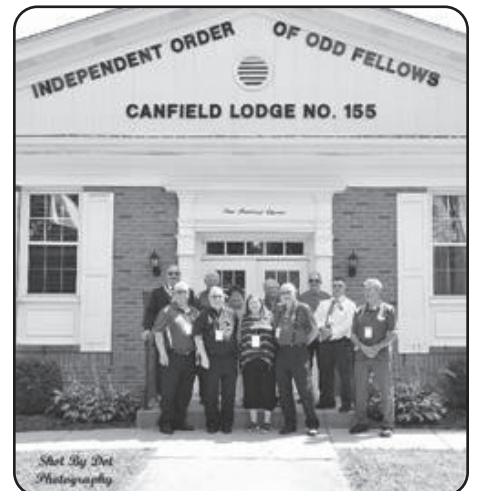
Clover Lodge No. 348, Baden

## TRISTATE RALLY - CANFIELD, OH



Two Grand Masters - Pennsylvania and Ohio  
Paul E. Lautenschlager and  
C. Paul Robinson, Jr.

Please see for our Penna Candidates in Canfield. The middle three, left to right, Clarence "Butch" & Dawn Singleton, Clover Lodge #348 & John Mignacca, Unified Lodge #2.



The Pennsylvania members who were present

## OCTOBER OBITUARIES

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

**Vaughn T. Spotts**  
Mount Tabor Lodge No. 125  
August 5, 2024

Brother Vaughn T. "Buddy" Spotts, 90, of Coal Township, PA, was initiated into Mount Tabor Lodge #125, Shamokin, on February 20, 1967.

He was a U.S. Army Veteran and a member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Tharpstown.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Valeria Arbogast. Surviving is one son.



**Howard C. Forsythe**  
Unified Lodge No. 2  
August 24, 2024

Brother Howard C. Forsythe, 93, of Belle Vernon, PA, was initiated into Smithton Lodge #978 on March 8, 1966, where he became a Past Grand in 1971 and received his Grand Lodge Degree April 26, 1975.

He became a member of Nathan Lewis-Fort Necessity Lodge #254, Waltersburg, through consolidation on December 15, 1980. At the time of the consolidation, he was Smithton Lodge's Noble Grand. He then left the Lodge in 1985 and reinstated into Old Monongahela Lodge #209, Elizabeth, PA, on January 26, 1993. He became a member of Unified Lodge #2, Pittsburgh, through consolidation on June 30, 2011. At the time of his death, he was the last surviving member of Smithton Lodge #978 still affiliated with the Order.

He was a U.S. Army Veteran of the Korean War.

He was preceded by his wife, the former Sally Marciniak, and a daughter. Surviving is one daughter, three granddaughters and six great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Olive Branch Cemetery, Rostraver Township, PA.



**William H. Watson, Jr.**  
Connoquenessing Lodge No. 278  
August 28, 2024

Brother William H. Watson, Jr., 95, of Butler, PA, was initiated into Connoquenessing Lodge #278, Butler, PA, on March 8, 1948, where he became a Past Grand in 1956 and received his Grand Lodge Degree June 24, 1996. He served as Treasurer for many years, and at the time of his death, he was the

Lodge's Chaplain and the oldest tenured member. He also served on the Orchard Manor Board in Grove City.

He was a U.S. Army Veteran.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Dorothy Black, and one son. Surviving is his partner, Ida Cooper, two granddaughters and one great-granddaughter.

Burial was private.



**Richard J. Tecco**  
Walker Lodge No. 306  
August 28, 2024

Brother Richard Tecco passed away on August 28, 2024. Brother Tecco joined Walker Lodge #306 on June 7, 1993, and traveled with Walker Lodge's Degree Staff to receive his initiatory degree at Warren Ohio where Walker performed the degree work. Rich was a member of the Lodge for over 31 years. In November 2003 Rick Tecco entertained Brothers from Sweden and Sovereign Grand Master 'Hank' Dupray at his restaurant called "Cheers to You" located at 4th and South Street in Philadelphia. The three-day Swedish visit in the United States was hosted by Walker Brothers: Shorten, Gruber and Smedley. The Swedish entourage visited the United States in appreciation for the Walker Lodge staff having gone to Stockholm Sweden in 2001 and performed all four degrees with other European Members in attendance. And lastly, Rich's son was selected and took part in the Pilgrimage for Youth.

Surviving is his wife, Theresa, four children, twelve grandchildren and four great-grandsons.

Burial was held at SS Peter & Paul Cemetery, Springfield, PA.



**Stephen J. Bradley, Sr.**  
Montgomery-Curtis-Norris Lodge No. 57  
Norrilstown Encampment No. 37  
August 29, 2024

Brother Stephen J. Bradley, Sr., 74, of Philadelphia, PA, was initiated into Montgomery-Curtis-Norris Lodge #57, Norristown, on September 1, 2007, where he became a Past Grand on November 11, 2019. He became a Patriarch of Norristown Encampment #37 on November 11, 2019.

Surviving is his wife, Ada, three children, 7 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services were conducted by the members of his Lodge and burial was private.



**Connie A. Otto**  
York Springs Lodge No. 211  
Mt. Zion Lodge No. 74 Assoc  
September 11, 2024

Sister Connie A. (March) Otto, 78, of Mt. Holly Springs, PA, was initiated into York Springs Lodge #211, with her husband, Bob, on August 19, 2021, where she held active membership. She became an associate member of Mt. Zion Lodge #74, York, on January 29, 2024. At the time of her death, she was York Springs Lodge's Left Supporter to the Noble Grand.

Surviving is her husband Robert, four children, Brett Otto and Cayle Swindler, both also members of Yorks Springs Lodge, nine grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

Services were conducted by the members of her Lodge and burial will be at the convenience of the family.



## THREE LINKS ODD CAST

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### Three Links Odd Cast Celebrates 30,000 Downloads Podcast becoming vital part of Odd Fellows Community

Lakewood, WA: The reach and importance of the Three Links Odd Cast has only grown since its launch in July 2020, having recently surpassed 30,000 downloads. Hosted by Past Sovereign Grand Musician Toby Hanson, SGL Webmaster Ainslie Heilich, and Grand Secretary of West Virginia, Mike Duminiak, the Three Links Odd Cast has continued to expand its role as a major voice in modern Odd Fellowship. Now starting its fifth season, the podcast has featured discussions of various topics of interest to Odd Fellows including news about the chartering of new units, sharing information useful to building membership, discussions of our history, origins, traditions, and current events, and interviews with various leaders. Some of the highlights of the recently-completed Season Four have included an interview with then-Sovereign Grand Master John Cupp, stories from new and re-invigorated lodges, discussions of important contemporary issues such as including the Lord's Prayer in our ritual, a Christmas Carol-themed holiday episode, and various episodes talking to new members about their experiences. Season Five began with a special live recording at the Sovereign Grand Lodge Session in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania that attracted more than thirty participants.

With over 30,000 downloads, the Three Links Odd Cast has several accomplishments. Those downloads reflect our global membership,

with 20% coming from outside North America. There are listeners in all North American jurisdictions. Perhaps the most meaningful accomplishment is that as many as fifteen listeners reported having joined lodges as a result of finding the podcast. It has emerged as a primary way for the general public to discover and learn about Odd Fellowship. It's also a valuable way for current members to engage with Odd Fellowship beyond their own lodges.

The Three Links Odd Cast is available for free on all major podcast distribution platforms including Apple Podcasts, YouTube Music, Amazon, iHeartRadio, Spotify, TuneIn, Pandora, Podchaser, Deezer, and Podcast Addict. To find the podcast, visit one of the those podcast sites and search "three links odd cast" to find a link to download and subscribe. The podcast is also available for download from Buzzsprout at <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1179644>. More information is available on the Three Links Odd Cast website at <http://www.threelinksoddcast.com>.

The Three Links Odd Cast - Toby, Ainslie, Mike

<http://www.threelinksoddcast.com>

Telling the stories of Odd Fellowship

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT CUMBERLAND & PERRY COUNTIES

### Interesting Facts:

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 – Forest & Fulton  
Counties. Get your pictures and  
articles in now!**

### CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Carlisle - Edith Rebekah Lodge #113 - consolidated 1967  
New Cumberland - Minnie L. Kelly Rebekah Lodge #100 - defunct 1960  
Newburg - Dessie Priscilla Rebekah Lodge #100 - defunct 2003  
Newville - Mary Ployer Rebekah Lodge #598 - defunct 1973  
Shippensburg - Hazel Rebekah Lodge #82 - consolidated 1970  
West Fairview - Naomi Rebekah Lodge #5 - defunct 1877

6 Rebekah Lodges with 0 active

1st Rebekah Lodge - Naomi Rebekah Lodge #5 in 1869  
Last Rebekah Lodge - Dessie Priscilla Rebekah Lodge #100 in 2003  
12 Odd Fellow Lodges

### PERRY COUNTY

Blain - Lady Sherman Rebekah Lodge #574 - defunct 1937  
Duncannon - Clara Rebekah Lodge #65 - defunct 1876  
Landisburg - Lady Landis Rebekah Lodge #303 - defunct 2022  
Marysville - Beulah Rebekah Lodge #8 - defunct 1880  
New Bloomfield - Mahoney Rebekah Lodge #428 - defunct 2018

5 Rebekah Lodges with 0 active

1st Rebekah Lodge - Beulah Rebekah Lodge #8 in 1869  
Last Rebekah Lodge - Lady Landis Rebekah Lodge #303 in 2022  
10 Odd Fellow Lodges

## THE TREASURER'S TALES • OCTOBER 2024

October 1929 is one of the most memorable months in history. The only two months that are probably more memorable are July 1776 and December 1941. I am going to pick out a few other memorable events for this month and go from there. Don Rogers wrote an excellent book that gives you a folksy feel for the events on that fateful day the market crashed. Please go to the library and look at *The Day the Market Crashed*. Rogers wrote this book in 1971, and had some perspective on Thursday, October 24, 1929, by the time he wrote this book. Each day in October 1929, from the 24<sup>th</sup> on, was called a "black day" in the market.

Every month has its share of activities and events, we delve into the events of October 1929 and find many other important happenings. On October 8, Philadelphia A's pitcher Howard Ehmke (7-2) sets World Series record by striking out 13 Chicago Cubs. On October 11, JC Penney opens store #1252 in Milford, Delaware, making it a nationwide company with stores in all 48 U.S. states. On October 12, Chicago Cubs blow 8-0 lead in game 4; Philadelphia A's score a World Series record of 10 runs in 1 inning in 10-8 win. On October 14, Baseball World Series: Philadelphia A's beat Chicago Cubs, 3-2 at Shibe Park to clinch 4 games to 1 series victory; A's first title in 16 years.

On October 4, 1929, Leroy Van Dyke, American country and honky-tonk singer and guitarist ("Walk on By"; "The Auctioneer"), was born in Mora, Missouri. On October 15, Hubert Dreyfus, American philosopher (What Computers Can't Do), was born in Terre Haute, Indiana. As an aside, if any of you readers would like me to digress into philosophy or economics or any other subject, email me and I will do an article for you.

Barney did not play the stock market. He made a modest living and invested any spare cash he had into farm equipment. His teaching salary just barely paid his bills and his living was really earned by farming. He couldn't always sell his hogs, but he raised the feed and he could always eat them. He only raised a few steers and milked one or two cows for family use. As a small businessman, Vic would find that a barter economy emerged in 1930 and continued almost up to World War II. The Wells family lost a bit of their economic status as the depression deepened, but they always had food.

Since we are in October 1929, we are at the very beginning of the great depression. The effects were still months to years away. The people who were hit hardest at the beginning were those who speculated in the stock market on margins. I don't want to go into the economics of the depression or any heavy subject in this column. We will find that the great crash of 1929 was really a series of crashes in late October. This did not affect Barney or his lodge for some time. Instead of the crash, we will explore a social event that may prove amusing.

Grovers Mill had a large number of people whose ancestors came from Germany. The lodge membership reflected this ethnic heritage. At the first meeting in October, brother Heisenberg suggested the lodge raise money with an Oktoberfest. There was to be a dinner and a band for dancing. Since this was basically a banquet and all Odd Fellows love banquets, the project was adopted and set for Friday, October 25, 1929.

Barney, who was the natural leader of his lodge (some would say the major workhorse), was put in charge of the banquet. He approached the Rebekahs with the idea. Putting on a dinner with three week's notice and the Rebekahs doing all the work, was not a popular suggestion. The Rebekahs insisted that they get half the profits, or they wouldn't do anything. Elizabeth and her mother Alice were two of the Rebekahs that made this demand. Barney was unable to come up with an argument why this should not happen.

The menu was to be sauerkraut and pork, spaetzle, pork schnitzel, hot potato salad, red cabbage, roasted chicken, sausages, pretzels and potato pancakes. Dessert was pumpkin pie and apple strudel. There was a punch bowl that had been tampered with and tea and coffee. If you want to go into this yourself, you can find recipes at <https://www.foodandwine.com/cooking-techniques/11-foods-you-need-oktoberfest-feast>. The Rebekahs wanted a controlled buffet, after all the required cooking, they weren't about to be waitresses too. Many expected their husbands to buy them tickets so they could eat and dance with them. The Rebekahs also insisted the Odd Fellows do the dishes after the party was over. Women always win these arguments. Tickets were expensive, \$1.60 per person. This seems low today, but was the equivalent of \$28.60 today and fairly close to the average daily wage. You must keep in mind that there was a lot of food with little limitation and they had to hire the Odd Fellows' Band from Philadelphia in order to get quality German music.

Surprisingly, ticket sales went too well and the lodge hall that accommodated 400 for dining, was sold out. By hiring the band from

Philadelphia, many tickets were sold there, as well as Trenton and Newark. Barney provided the pork and chicken at reasonable prices and everyone was busy as could be. Barney went straight from school to the lodge hall for the entire week, beginning on Monday, October 21. Elizabeth and Alice worked in the kitchen while Mary watched the younger children of Elizabeth as well as Alice's younger children. The event would be the biggest thing in New Jersey in the fall of 1929 (except for the market crash).

I know you have me figured out by now. You probably guessed that it was still warm in October and all the cooking was done with the kitchen windows open. You already know that the smells of pork and sauerkraut and apple strudel mix to make a wonderful smell that blew out the window, into the surrounding woods and to the very tree where a scoundrel of the lowest degree was loafing. Melchizedek was excited and he quickly moved to the edge of the woods to watch. The windows were being watched by the Rebekahs inside and the doors were kept shut. He was cautious and patient. He was becoming an old raccoon and did not plan on getting into trouble he couldn't run away from.

The night before the Oktoberfest, the garbage had acquired a culinary flavor. After the Rebekahs went home, Melchizedek summoned his entire family to taste the treats from the garbage. When Barney arrived at 3:00 p.m. on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup>, he had to clean up the garbage cans and make sure there was a clear path from the parking lot to the field behind the lodge so that automobiles and horse-drawn carriages would be accommodated. The band arrived at 4:30 pm and was to start playing at 5:00 pm with dinner to be put out at 5:30 pm. Unloading instruments and other paraphernalia required the door to be propped open for some time. Small animals with big eyes, experience sneaking around and know-how to run in an open door and hide until it is safe.

Sometime after the band began and very shortly after the buffet line was set up, a small animal emerged from behind the tuba case in the corner, it was Melchizedek. He saw that the people were all in the large room so he decided to examine the reserves left in the kitchen. He was particularly drawn to one of the platters of roast chicken. He was able to work over half way through the platter when Sister Rose entered the kitchen and made a horrible scream. Barney and Vic came running and chased the bandit out the open window.

A quandary overcame Barney and Vic. They didn't want to serve the remainder of the roast chicken platter to the guests (there were other platters so it didn't matter), but putting the remainder of the chicken in the garbage would really be rewarding the very person(?) who spoiled the platter of chicken. Barney decided to take the platter home and feed the chicken to Warden and Conductor. As he carried out the chicken and other things, a pair of eyes from the edge of the woods reflected the moon light. At least he got his fill before being chased off.

Next month will be November and we may have a Thanksgiving theme.

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

### FROM THE DESK OF DOROTHEA OERTEL, PGP

Greetings! To all my Brothers & Sisters in all Branches of our Order; We are PA Proud. We have met the challenge and shown our love for the Children of St. Jude Children Research Hospital. In reading the I.O.O.F. News, I discovered that Gen(R) (Dr.) Howard G. "Doc" Malin, General Military Commanding, had an anonymous philanthropist, who would match dollar-for-dollar donation, Doc raised the unmatched total of **\$6,625.00** and the matched total is **\$13,250.00**. Of this total, PA raised the unmatched total of **\$4,187.00**, which is the mated total of **\$8,374.00**.

At Sovereign Sessions, Dr. Malin had a second Humanitarian Project. With all the States attending including PA; he was able to raise **\$3,000.00** for the purchases of A.E.D.s.

In F.L.T., Dorothea Oertel, PGP

## FROM THE DESK OF DEPARTMENT COMMANDER... HONORING MAJOR GENERAL JOHN EDWARD NACE, PDC

I recently visited the beautiful colonial chapel and cemetery of Unity Presbyterian Church in Westmoreland County, final resting place of Past Department Commander Sir John Edward Nace. Major General Nace, of Ligonier, served as our 12th Department Commander (1972-1974). Born in 1912 in Latrobe, John worked for Latrobe Steel for forty-four years, retiring in 1977. He was a man of faith, being a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church of Latrobe and the Calvary United Methodist Church of Ligonier.



Brother Nace's contributions to Odd Fellowship are numerous. He joined Latrobe Lodge #541 in 1944 at the age of 32. He was a member of Westmoreland Encampment #199, Anne Rebekah Lodge #134 and Canton Robert E. Wright #20. He received his Grand Lodge Degree in 1948. He served as Grand Patriarch and was awarded the Grand Decoration of Chivalry. Major General Nace became Department Commander in 1972, serving in this capacity for two years and successfully leading our Department at a time when it held Division status (meaning 16 or more Cantons). He is still well remembered by members of Latrobe Lodge as a friendly Brother and an excellent Odd Fellow.

A few words should be said about his involvement with the fire department. When visiting Major General Nace's grave I immediately noticed it was decorated with the flag of Latrobe Fire Co. #5. They continue to honor him for the important role he played as a firefighter in his community. I spoke with Mr. Nace's granddaughter, Jodi Nace Lewis of Ohio, on this topic. She vividly recalls her visits to the firehouse with her grandfather. She says his role as a firefighter is something the family was and continues to be very proud of. In fact she told me that faith, family and community were always her grandfather John's priorities in life. These are things that we stand for in Odd Fellowship and John Nace lived those principles.



In 1995, after 51 years as a dedicated Odd Fellow, Major General John E. Nace was laid to rest in Unity Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Unity Township, Westmoreland County, PA, at which time an Odd Fellows ceremony was held. There he joined his first wife Viola, herself a Rebekah, who died at a relatively young age. Frank and Viola have no surviving children, as their only child John Jr., also a member of Latrobe Lodge #541, died shortly after his father. Granddaughter Jodi was heartbroken that she could

not attend our service, but expressed her gratitude that her grandfather is remembered by his Odd Fellows fraternal family.

Joining me for a solemn graveside service and representing John Nace's Lodge were Brothers Barry and Brad Shirey from Latrobe Lodge #541. During the ceremony an Odd Fellows memorial flag was reverently placed for Major General Nace by Brother Brad Shirey. A prayer from our Department Council Memorial service was offered.

Of note is information from Brother Brad Shirey, who knew Major General Nace personally. Brother Brad reports that Major General Nace, who suffered from stroke later in his life, made extraordinary efforts to continue to attend Latrobe Lodge, making his way slowly up the long stairs of their old Lodge building to spend fraternal evenings with his beloved Brothers. I especially noted the Three Links engraved on his gravestone - one final statement of his eternal dedication to our Order. May the memory of Past Department Commander Sir John E. Nace live on among his I.O.O.F. Brothers and Sisters.

### Uniform Facts:

The sword is an important part of the Patriarchs Militant uniform. Upon taking the Chevalier Degree, one is immediately entitled, but not required, to wear our Patriarchs Militant sword with black handle. When reaching the rank of Major one may begin to wear our more ornate white handled sword. Note that our newest rules state that except for certain positions in the Patriarchs Militant one need not wear a sword. An additional newer development is that a Chevalier may continue to wear the black handled sword right up through the ranks, negating the old requirement of switching to the rarer and more expensive white handled sword at the rank of Major. Gloves must be worn when with sword. We hang our swords in a specific manner, suspended from a Sam Browne belt (in class A uniform) or from a clip on our belt (in class B uniform). When in formal (dinner) dress uniform no sword is worn.

Our sword plays an important role in our meetings, ceremonies and rituals. A Chevalier is encouraged to study and practice our Manual Of The Sword and may, when ready, take our swordsmanship test. Level of performance will determine which swordsmanship badge may be worn on the uniform - 1st, 2nd or 3rd class. Chevaliers wearing the 1st class swordsmanship badge can rightly feel proud of this achievement.

Most of our swords have been handed down through the Patriarchs Militant Cantons over many years. Some are handed down in families. A Chevalier may buy their own or borrow one from their Canton. Many of these ancient swords have the name of the original owner engraved on the blade. You may also find obscure and unusual swords hidden in your Canton's equipment closet. Our Encampments used to carry their own uniquely styled swords and at times old swords from other fraternal groups are used for practice. Our Chevalier Degree also uses some swords of a more costume nature. All of the above are floating around the Cantons and are interesting relics that we still use.

Our swords set us apart. They fascinate the public and are a source of pride for our members. They represent our symbolic defense of the great principles of our Order and our belief in *Justicia Universalis* (Universal Justice).

BG William F. Hanby  
Department Commander

Periodicals

**AUGUST DONATIONS**

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND		
2	Unified	50.00
VISUAL RESEARCH		
2	Unified	25.00
VISUAL ASSISTANCE		
2	Unified	25.00
ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION		
2	Unified	50.00
1004	Hampton	<u>50.00</u>
		100.00

**ODD FELLOWS AND REBEKAHS ASSOC. OF W. PA 2024 GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Western Pennsylvania is presently offering three - \$4,000 Graduate Scholarship Awards during the Fall of 2024. A copy of the "Rules" and an "Application" for the 2024 Graduate Scholarship Awards can be obtained by 1) contacting Robert Grant, 40 Cypress Way; Charleroi, Pa 15022, or 2) emailing a request to ".robag@comcast.net." The "Rules" and "Application" may also be downloaded from our website: "www.glpaoof.org" during the September to late November time period. The deadline for submitting applications will be November 30, 2024.

Regarding the Graduate Scholarship Award, the applicant or a living relative must be a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) or Rebekahs of Western Pennsylvania and enrolled in the graduate program of an accredited college or university with all areas of concentration being eligible. Also, the applicant must be:

- A) a college graduate continuing his/her education toward an advanced degree (e.g. Masters in Education (M.Ed), Masters in Music (MM), etc.) or
- B) enrolled in a degree program requiring more than the usual four (4) years of undergraduate studies to complete (e.g. Physician Assistant (PA), Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) etc.).

Note: Previous applicants/recipients of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of W. PA Scholarship Award (undergraduate) may apply for this scholarship award.