




HAPPY NEW YEAR to all Odd Fellows and Rebekaahs everywhere. As we observe the start of a new year and a new century, we have a great opportunity of reviewing the past, and accepting the challenges of the future. Odd Fellowship was not built in one day or one year, and a concerted effort by our members today will insure a sound future for our Fraternity. Are you going to do your part?

A NEW APPEARANCE for your fraternal publication should be very evident to all our readers. The California Grand Lodge Board of Directors, desiring to improve the image of Odd Fellowship in California, is upgrading the bi-monthly issues of the *California Odd Fellow & Rebekah*. It is our hope and desire that the publication will be used as a tool in building Odd Fellowship. Share your copy with your family and friends to enable them to learn about the "Three Link Fraternity" in California. This issue is the first attempt in accomplishing this goal, and we will appreciate your comments on this issue and receiving any other suggestions for improving Odd Fellowship in California.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
of the *California Odd Fellow & Rebekah*
February 1, 2000

<p>CALIFORNIA ODD FELLOW & REBEKAH Phone and FAX (209) 887-3829</p> <p>MAIL NEWS/PICTURES TO: DON R. SMITH <i>Editor & Publisher</i> P. O. Box 129 Linden, CA 95236</p> <p align="center"><small>Member</small></p>  <p>MAIL ADDRESS CHANGES & SUBSCRIPTIONS TO: GRAND LODGE, IOOF P. O. Box 2669 Saratoga, CA 95070</p>	<p>The California Odd Fellow & Rebekah is the official publication of the Grand Lodge of California, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and all units of the Order in California. It is published by the authority of the Grand Lodge of California, I.O.O.F.</p> <p>The California Odd Fellow & Rebekah is published bimonthly during the months of January, March, May, July, September and November, at 19033 E. Main Street, Linden, CA 95236.</p> <p>Postage Paid at Saratoga, California 95070</p> <p>News and Advertising Deadline is the first of the month prior to the month of publication.</p> <p>Pictures are desired of all fraternal activities about Odd Fellow and Rebekah Lodges and other units of the Order. In most cases it is not possible to return pictures. We cannot reproduce pictures from a newspaper clipping or from Faxes.</p> <p>Subscription Rates. Single subscriptions are \$4.00 per year, and Club Rates are \$3.00 each per year when ten (10) or more subscriptions are ordered at the same time. Long term Subscription Rates are \$7.00 for two years and \$15.00 for five years. Foreign Rates are \$6.00 per year. MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO: GRAND LODGE, IOOF, Saratoga, CA 95070</p> <p>Advertising Rates are available for Order related activities. Classified Ads may be inserted, 25 words or less, for \$3.00 per insertion.</p> <p>Single Copies and sample copies of the <i>California Odd Fellow & Rebekah</i> are 75 cents each. Ten or more copies of back issues are available at 50 cents each.</p>
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JANUARY MARKS THE ANNIVERSARY of the birth of Thomas Wildey, the founder of American Odd Fellowship. From that small beginning in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1819, Odd Fellowship expanded throughout North America and throughout the world. Our Rituals and ceremonies have been translated into several languages in addition to English; including Czech, Danish, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Icelandic (Islenska), Italian, Norwegian, Polish, Spanish, Swedish, and no doubt other languages. January is an ideal time to pay respect to the founder of our fraternity by inviting your friends, neighbors, and relatives to share with you the principles of Friendship, Love and Truth. Lodges are encouraged to plan a "Guest Night" program or dinner to which prospective members may be invited. Obtain a speaker on Odd Fellowship, and explain the benefits of holding membership in the Three Link Fraternity.

YOU ARE SOMEONE'S IMPRESSION of Odd Fellowship. Live and talk Odd Fellowship! Live like an Odd Fellow; act like an Odd Fellow; talk like an Odd Fellow; wear you Odd Fellow emblems (especially your three links pin or ring); and talk about the benefits Odd Fellowship provides for individuals personally and to the community in general. Let your friends and colleagues know that you are an Odd Fellow, let them know why, and let them know what Odd Fellows do to serve and assist their communities and their country. Seek new members, coach and encourage them to be active members, and get the members you already have to attend lodge meetings and functions. Work on ways to make your meetings more interesting and fun. Have open meetings, roll call dinners, a program for prospective members, holiday parties, events for families and other functions to keep your members active and interested.

OUR COVER

California Odd Fellow-Rebekaah Children's Home

The building replacing the first building at the Odd Fellow-Rebekaah Children's Home of California is shown on the cover. It currently houses the administration, related agencies offices, class rooms and the main kitchen for the Gilroy home. The Children's Home was founded as an orphanage for children related to Odd Fellows and Rebekaahs. The organization dates back to 1896, when the Grand Lodge of California granted a charter to the Rebekah Assembly for the purpose of establishing an orphanage. The first building was dedicated in 1897, and the second home was dedicated in 1921, but the building has been well maintained and improved over the years. During the more than 100 years of its existence many changes have occurred, and the Odd Fellow-Rebekaah Children's Home of California is now doing business as Rebekah Children's Services.