

RETIREMENT HOUSING FACILITY OWNED & OPERATED BY THE
ODD FELLOWS  & REBEKAHS

The Meadows of Napa Valley

Alyssa A. Packdell, New Executive Administrator at The Meadows

NAPA – Alyssa A. Packdell is the new executive administrator at The Meadows of Napa Valley. She is employed by Pacific Retirement Services, based in Oregon. This firm is responsible for the management of both The Meadows and the Saratoga Retirement Center.

Ms. Packdell's areas of specialization include strategic planning, organizations development, management assessment and training, financial management, negotiation and mediation, and policy and program development. Her focus includes program development and evaluation to enhance the health and well-being of seniors. She joined the Pacific Retirement Services management team in October of 1999.

She served as the administrator of Dallas Retirement Village in Dallas, Oregon. From 1992 to 1997, she served as the director of the State of Oregon's Salem Rehabilitation Facility. She completed her Ombudsman training, which is offered by the State of Oregon, in 1996. She also worked as an administrator-in-training at the Mennonite Home of Albany, in Albany, Oregon. In addition, she has worked on a variety of special assignment projects in this capacity she was the regional coordinator of the Oregon COPE Project and the administrator of the Suislaw Care Center. She holds a Federal and State Administrator's License and an Oregon Administrator's Assisted Living Certificate. She received her Master of Science degree in rehabilitation administration from the University of San Francisco, and is currently working towards a Ph.D. at Oregon State University. Her thesis examines family resources management and business administration.

Ms. Packdell has been a member of several community and service groups including the National Rehabilitation Association, Oregon Association of Family and Consumer Science and the Women's Foundation. She is currently involved with the Community Mediation Program and the Oregon State University's Family Community Leadership group.

She migrated to the United States 22 years ago and continued her studies at Gadsden, Alabama. She considers herself to be Armenian Persian American. She has a 16 year old son still living in Oregon with his grandparents. Her plans are to purchase a home in the Napa Valley, then bringing her son here to live with her. She loves classical music, crocheting and crafts. She also loves to cook, but most of all, she loves people, especially Senior Citizens.

As for her work at The Meadows, she wants an 'open door policy' where she is visible and available to all. Her mission here is to serve all the Residents and enhance the quality of service, and to improve the environment wherever possible.

Introducing

Residents At The Meadows

There are approximately 350 residents at The Meadows of Napa Valley, owned and operated by the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of California. Nearly 20% of the residents are members of Odd Fellow and Rebekah Lodges, including some that hold membership in other Jurisdictions.

Jerry White, MMR*

Brother Jerry White is one of the very active residents at The Meadows, being editor of "The Breeze" the newsletter at The Meadows, and one of the organizers of The Meadows Railroad Club.

Born in Keene, New Hampshire, in 1914, Brother White grew up there. He joined Beaver Brook Odd Fellows Lodge #36 in 1939. A short time later he was offered a job in San Francisco, building model trains. He had been building them for a number of years, having sold his first one while a junior in high school in 1931.

He accepted the job and arrived in California early in 1940. In 1941 he married his wife, Lois, and then he entered the service in 1942 during World War II. He ended up as a Crew Chief on a P-51 with the rank of Staff Sergeant. Receiving his discharge from the service in 1946, Brother White resumed the model train job in San Francisco. All the while, he hoped to hang up his own shingle again and he did so in 1947. He built a shop in Redwood City where he was in business until 1957 when he had major surgery.

He had designed and built their home in Menlo Park. He was paying taxes and insurance on two pieces of property, so he built an addition on the garage and moved the business to Menlo Park where he continued to build model trains until 1993. Brother White always had a huge backlog of work and never had a model returned as defective. He decided it was time to slow down so he sold the business when he was 79 years of age, and he spent the next two years training the man who bought it.

He transferred his membership to San Mateo Odd Fellows Lodge # 265 where he went through the chairs. He then joined Hope Encampment # 60 and Canton Peninsula #17. One of his jobs while in uniform was to carry the American Flag in the 4th of July parades in Redwood City.

The Whites' sold their home and moved to The Meadows on May 15, 1995, after learning the Odd Fellows had purchased the facilities. Shortly after his arrival he met a couple of other model railroaders and they formed The Meadows Railroad Club. The club meets on the second Thursday of each month, in the Atrium Theater where they have a short business meeting, discuss models and show railroad videos. They obtained a small space near the Chapel and have built an operating HO model railroad. Much work remains to be done on the layout, but they are able to run two trains at the same time. During the Wine and Cheese Gala they ran both trains all afternoon without a single derailment. Dorothy Bagley, another resident, is painting the scenic backdrop on the walls of the railroad room, and she is nearly finished with the project. Brother White and his fellow "railroaders" get much enjoyment from their railroad and model activities.

*Master Model Railroader