



## California Big "C"

*Odd Fellows - Rebekahs*

*By Carol A. Fraher, Editor*

**Getting the Word Out...** A special word of thanks for all of the kind words on my first published California Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine. I have enjoyed receiving all the material you have sent and feel that with each article I begin to know all of you a bit better. Each of you and your Lodges are out there making a difference – and that is what Odd Fellows and Rebekahs are all about. Please continue to keep me informed as to what your lodge is up to, but also do not forget to let your local newspapers and your communities know all the wonderful things you are doing. Most local newspapers are more than happy to include a write up of your event and in so doing, we will continue to let the world know of the great works of the Odd Fellow and Rebekah organization.

**Remember that the next deadline for submitting articles for the Jan, Feb, March COF&R will be November 1, 2003.**

**Time Capsule Found** A time capsule buried for 92 years was recently unearthed at the Odd Fellows Building in Saratoga. The time capsule contained many historic documents and artifacts from 1911. Now, you have the opportunity to suggest items to be placed in the new time capsule. Please send all suggestions or a list of items that your Lodge is willing donate to the Grand Lodge before January 1, 2004. At their January meeting, the Grand Lodge Board of Directors will decide which items will be place in the time capsule. If your items are chosen, they will notify you.

**MeetUp.com** The world is changing with the internet, and we have become an information highway. For those of you looking for another way to explore Odd Fellowship, try this site as [www.MeetUp.com](http://www.MeetUp.com). MeetUp allows people with similar interests to meet together to share ideas and fellowship. This site has really taken off, and has allowed grass root organizations to get their message out there. What could be better for Odd Fellows and Rebekahs!

**Festival of Trees** Mark your calendar now for the "Festival of Trees" scheduled to be held December 5, 6, & 7 at the Morgan Hill Community Center This winter wonderland put together by the Rebekah Children Services will offer a magical array of decorated Christmas trees, entertainment and children's activities. Go to [www.rcskids.org](http://www.rcskids.org) for more information.

## Views From The Past... Old Glory



For several decades after our nation's birth, the American Flag was seen infrequently. Other national symbols - eagles, shields, the female personifications of Liberty, Columbia, and Freedom - were often chosen to evoke the grandeur and spirit of the United States. The male figure of Brother Jonathan occasionally appeared, later followed by Yankee Doodle and Uncle Sam. Only during the Civil War did display of the Stars and Stripes become commonplace. The American flag has been prominently waved during every United States war period since.

*Current stamp booklet issued by the United States Post Office and sent in by Laurie Prescott, PPR, Director RA, Palo Alto Rebekah # 291.*

## Holiday Blessings

The Holiday Season is fast upon us now. Who can believe another year has passed! Amid the hustle bustle of the season, let us not forget to give thanks for the wonderful gifts we have - freedom, family, good friends and our health.

As we sit down to share the blessing of the Season, we wish to remember those who have given so much for our freedom. Our flag represents this hard won freedom and Sister Carol A. Goodin of El Capitan Rebekah Lodge #352 and Oceanside Odd Fellows Lodge #346, wrote this fitting tribute. She has written poetry for many years. Starting with "Poems for Christmas" to let family and friends know what was happening. This evolved into writing poems for other Holidays as well. Sister Carol's ancestors boarded the Mayflower and landed in New England in 1620 and recently she was pleased to learn that "Welcome Home from the Persian Gulf" will be published by Noble House of London-Paris-New York in the publication *Theatre of the Mind*.

### *'Welcome Home from the Persian Gulf'*

*by: Carol A. Goodin*

The flying of our nation's flag, reminds all mankind.  
Of those killed in war, and the families they leave behind.

How proud we are of our troops, who went to fight the war.  
Some were on land, others in their airplanes they did soar.

Let's not forget those sailors both aboard their ships or  
airplanes up in the air.  
Which they did with skill and flare.

President George W. Bush aboard the USS Abraham  
Lincoln went that day to welcome back our troops.  
Also there were many news and TV people aboard looking  
for a scoop.

Our military people are often greeted with a big THANK  
YOU, and a pat upon the back.  
Their families I believe, are the first ones to do that.

America is known as the land of the free.  
Our troops are glad to be Americans, how about thee?