

Grand Master's Letter



Theodore (Ted) Parker
Grand Master
Grand Lodge of California
1061 N. Stichman Avenue
La Puente, CA 91746

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

First of all I want to say THANK YOU to all that attended my reception on June 7, 2003 and I hope you all had as good of a time as I did. I have not sent out thank you cards yet, and the reason for this is that I didn't have addresses for everyone, so I felt that I would thank everyone in this way.

To all that gave monetary gifts "Thank You." This will help a great deal with all the traveling I have to do the next few months. I am sure that most of you know the cost of travel is going up and with gas, motels and food every trip, it costs a little more each time I get on the road. To the brothers and sisters that gave me other

gifts, all of these have found a place in our home. Both my wife Bertha, and I want to thank everyone for making that night one that we will remember for the rest of our lives. To the committee that did all the work to get the reception off the ground, I again have to thank you for all your hard work. To the members of Crown City Lodge #395, you I owe the most to for allowing us the use of your Lodge Building and for the great food. All of it was great.

Over the last couple of months I have been attending official visits and other functions of this great Order. Starting a few days after my reception I had an official visit at Mojave Lodge # 457, then orientations at the Children's Home and the Home at Saratoga. On Sunday June 15th I traveled to Nevada for the sessions there. If you have never attended the sessions at Nevada, (you should, as they are nothing like ours.) I would like to thank Richard Hartlage Grand Master of Nevada, for one of his projects is the Rose Float. Hope to see you soon Richard and I plan to attend you sessions in Ely, Nevada next year. After the sessions at Nevada we headed home for a few days of rest. We attended the reception for Rowena Whitney, President of Rebekah Assembly of California on June 21st and had a good time.

The next trip was the Youth Camp Festival. The Officers of Grand Lodge and I sold nachos and I want to thank all that stopped by for some as we made \$90.00 for the Youth Camp. I also had some of my Grand Master Pins for sale along with Float Pins and Sovereign Grand Master Pins which we sold a few of each.

This past week I had three official visits and I feel that they all went well. They were Crown City in Pasadena, Fontana at Fontana, and Golden Rule LA #35 at Los Angeles. I want to thank all that attended one or more of these visits as it always makes the meetings better to have more than just the members of the lodge you are visiting. Coming up next is the Garlic Festival. I have been

attending the Garlic Festival for six year now and want you to know that this is a great time for Fellowship. We have the time to sit around and talk about anything and everything. As most of you know, I work in the hospitably area, and slice up melons all day. For me, this is a great area to be at as I get to meet a lot of the people that work in the Gourmet Alley, both members and non-members. It is a great three days of fun and fellowship, so please consider joining us this year!

Remember, we all have a job to do this year...try get a replacement for yourself into your lodge. Get involved with your community and get your lodge involved with the community, this is the only way we as Odd Fellows and Rebekahs will be able to carry on as an Order. If we don't do what has to be done now, we as an Order will become extinct, just like the Grizzly Bear.

Don't forget that in December, work will be starting on the Float for the Rose Parade on January 1, 2004. This is the biggest advertisement that we as an Order have and your support is imperative to its success. The committee for the float will soon be sending out tickets for the drawing of Parade and Game and a weeks stay at the hotel where we will be, please be sure that your lodge buys these tickets as your lodge could be the big winner. In turn you can sell these ticket not only to the membership, but to your friends and family members. Anyone can buy these tickets, if your lodge wants more tickets just contact one of the committee members and I am sure they will have more tickets sent to your lodge. For only \$1.00 each it is a great price for a weeks stay in southern California to be part of the float that will travel down Colorado Blvd.

August, will be an easy month for me, with not too much traveling. We do have the Alaska Trip at the end of the month and look forward to having a great time with all who are able to make the trip. Hope to see you on my travels and wish you all good health.



Fraternally,
Theodore G. Parker Sr.
Grand Master of California

Membership Numbers Due by December 31, 2003

CALIFORNIA - With less that two months remaining in the current Membership Program, all California units of the Order are encouraged to report new members obtained by initiation or reinstatement, between January 1 and December 31, 2003, to the Sovereign Grand Lodge.

Let's not let California down by not reporting our new members. All units of the Order in California are encouraged to report their new members to the Membership Program, 422 Trade Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101 before the December 31, 2003 deadline. The new member can be in any unit of the Order admitted during 2003 to count in the membership totals, so brothers and sisters, get busy and report your new members today!. Let us strive to have this be the year that California takes it's place as the No. 1 Jurisdiction under the Sovereign Grand Lodge!