

## A Generous Gesture

WEAVERVILLE - This past summer, Redding Lodge #271 donated funds for the construction and installation of a marker identifying the Odd Fellows section of the Weaverville Cemetery. In 1856 the cemetery was divided into three separate sections, including a public section and two others for the Odd Fellows and Masonic Orders. In 1992 North Star Lodge #16 granted the cemetery to the county, and the three cemeteries now operate as one.



## Practicing Odd Fellowship



submitted by *Richard Brouse*

Odd Fellowship is not just an organization, but a way of life. When we join this Order, we are instructed to help one another, and opportunities to do so are all around us, if we are open to them.

As a practical example, not long ago, Keith Fitzpatrick, incoming VG of California Lodge No. 1 of San Francisco was visiting his brother-in-law in the small community of Orland, off I-5 about 100 miles north of Sacramento. Being a building contractor and noticing the vacant house next door, he wondered if he might be able to buy it and put it back into shape. The brother-in-law put him in contact with Richard Brouse, the executor of the deceased owner's estate, telling each other that they were both Odd Fellows. When they met to let Keith see the interior of the house, Brother Brouse found that he was talking to a skilled carpenter and identified himself as one of the Trustees of Stony Creek Lodge No. 218 of Orland. It happened that the Lodge had an immediate need for a carpenter to repair a section of broken flooring in the rental space downstairs from the Lodge Hall. Keith agreed to look at the problem, since he had his tools with him and he had some time available on the way to a fishing trip. Within half an hour, using materials on hand or on his truck, he had expertly completed the repair. When asked to submit a bill, he refused, asking the Lodge to use the money some other way, which they have done.

This example of practical Odd Fellowship came about because two persons learned that each other was an Odd Fellow, and that one had a need and the other had the skill to address it. The same thing may happen every moment somewhere in the world of Odd Fellowship, and we should always be open, as Brother Keith Fitzpatrick was in this case, to the possibility of helping one another.

## Happy 110th Birthday to Whittier Lodge #315...

WHITTIER - Whittier Lodge, home Lodge of Grand Master Ted Parker, celebrated its 110<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was originally instituted in the City of Westminster on August 30, 1884 and was known as Oro #315. They met in Westminster until 1984 when they moved to Whittier.

Mayor Dave Butler presented a Proclamation to the Lodge from the City of Whittier. Ted Parker, Grand Master read a history of our lodge and also took the opportunity to present longtime member Frank Secoy with his 50 year membership jewel!

## CAVE DEGREE CONFERRED ON 15 NEW MEMBERS

The 57th Annual Second Degree Cave Ceremonial was held on Saturday, September 6, 2003, with 51 Odd Fellows from California and Oregon in attendance. A total of 15 members received the Degree, which was conferred in good form by a team from around the Northern California area led by Department Commander Dick Brouse. Fred Olson, Grand Herald of the Grand Lodge of Oregon, served as Noble Grand. Grand Master Ted Parker and most of his staff participated in the Degree, which was conferred by the light of a moon that was not quite full and already high above Mt. Shasta at the start of the Degree. Some clouds threatened, but they did not obscure the moon.

The evening program began with a catered dinner at the Yreka Lodge Hall. Dick Brouse, Vice-chairman of the Grand Lodge Cave Degree Committee, introduced the dignitaries present, including Grand Master Theodore (Ted) Parker, Rebekah Assembly President Rowena Whitney, Grand Patriarch Ralph Stevens, Grand Matriarch Betty Stevens,

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