

Lodges Urged to Support Restoration of Historic Bell

SARATOGA - With the renovation of the main building at Saratoga Retirement Community (Odd Fellows Home of California) the dual towers at the facility are being refurbished, and funds are being sought to restore the historic bell.



This bell was donated from the ship Pensacola by the U.S. Navy Department, though the efforts of then Grand Secretary H. D. Richardson; U.S. Congressman John Raker, a past grand master of California; and Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy. Dedication of the bell occurred on Christmas Day in 1914. In the early days, the bell rang three times daily to call the residents in from the fields and other areas for their meals. In very recent times, the bell was still used to let residents know it was mealtime.

When restoration of the building is complete, the bell will again be housed in one of the towers, but it is in desperate need of restoration. Therefore, Grand Master Ted Parker is seeking donations from all lodges and individuals interested in supporting the restoration of the historic bell. Progressive Odd

Fellows Lodge #134 of Lockeford made an initial donation of \$500.00, but donations of any amount will be appreciated. Donations may be sent to Grand Lodge of California, P.O. Box 2669, Saratoga, CA 95070, and marked "Bell Restoration Fund".

The Work Continues...

SARATOGA - These photos show the progress that has been made recently at the Saratoga Retirement Community (Odd Fellows Home of California). The complete renovation of the main building is extensive and will include the replacement of all doors and windows, an expansion of the first floor kitchen wing, and the installation of structural steel systems throughout the building.

