

Message from the Department Commander SGM & IARA PRESIDENT'S and Lady President, DALAPM

VISIT CALIFORNIA

To all members of the Order:

By the time you read this, we should have just completed an important milestone for the Department of California, the Mustering of Mother Lode Canton No. 4 in Sonora. All branches of our Order need to work at forming new units. As the population of our state changes, some of the units of all our branches are finding it necessary to consolidate with nearby units or give up their charters entirely. Even when we are not directly involved with one of these units, their loss diminishes our Order. Remember the line from the familiar poem: "Send not to know for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee!" We are continuing to look for opportunities to add new Canton and/or DALAPM units, and we are doing anything we can to help the other Grand Officers to add new units to their branches.

We also have just completed the DALAPM President's reception for Lady Dorothy in Sacramento. She sincerely thanks all of the members of our Order who attended, brought the Welcomes, the Greetings from the other branches, or participated in any other way. It is always great to see so many people at one of these events. Both of us always enjoy attending receptions for the officers of the other branches all over the state.

In February we attended the session of Grand Junior Lodge and Theta Rho Assembly in San Mateo. We thank Past Grand Ruler David Henderson and Past President Liz Barnes for the courtesy of inviting us to bring greetings at the opening of their sessions. We have enjoyed being with them around the state during their year, and we look forward to working with Grand Ruler Justin Reed and TRA President Heather Seibel during their term.

We are now preparing for our trip to Washington DC for the Annual Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns for the laying of wreaths. As usual, we will be participating in uniform in the parade from the mast of the Maine to the amphitheater prior to the wreath-laying ceremony. We need all of the Chevaliers and Ladies of our branch that can be there. If the number of uniformed participants ever becomes too low, the Secretary of the Army could end some of the special privileges we have enjoyed since 1934, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt, an Odd Fellow, granted them uniquely to our Order.

We are also looking forward to Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly in Modesto this May. We wish good sessions to Grand Master Ted Parker and President Rowena Whitney, and we look forward to working with (the soon to be) Grand Master Nathaniel Hoagland and President Lorraine North and their officers.

We will be seeing you all up and down the Great State of California.

Chivalrously,

*Brij. Gen. Richard Brouse, Department Commander
Lady Dorothy Brouse, President, DALAPM*

PASADENA -
Grand Master, Theodore G. Parker and President of Rebekah Assembly, Rowena Whitney, were host and hostess for the visit of the

Sovereign Grand Master, Henry (Hank) Dupray of North Carolina and International Association of Rebekah

Assemblies President, Sharon Magden of Oregon.



Photo (Left to Right): Sharon Magden, President IARA; Gen. Robert Graf, International Dept. Council; Rowena Whitney, President RA California; Michael Griffey, President Tournament of Roses; Henry (Hank) Dupray, SGM; Lady Mary Jo Snowden, President IALAPM and Theodore Parker, GM of California.

The guests were escorted to the Rose Parade Float Barn everyday where they joined with Odd Fellows and Rebekahs from many jurisdictions as well as California, to decorate the float for the Rose Parade on January 1, 2004. Odd Fellows and Rebekahs from Maine, Massachusetts, Illinois, Idaho, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Northern California, Oregon united in this effort to make our float one of the most beautiful ever. We had lots of animation on this year's float, as well as five riders from California and music, too. The riders on the float included Grand Junior Ruler, David Henderson, Jr.; President of Theta Rho Assembly, Liz Barnes; Past Junior Grand Ruler, J. R. Prosk; Elizabeth Greenwood; and Kathleen Smith. The leaders all attended the USC vs Washington State Rose Bowl game after the parade, where USC won.

The SGM, Grand Master, President of IARA, and President of RA of California were the guests of the Tournament House on Monday night, December 29, 2003 at the Twin Palms Restaurant in Pasadena for a cocktail party. The International Leaders also enjoyed a social evening with dinner prepared by Crown City Odd Fellow Lodge #395 in Pasadena; a visit to Gilroy, Saratoga, and Napa to view the facilities available to members, and then on to the Sacramento area Odd Fellow and Rebekah Lodges. Gene Rasor, DDGM and DDP Mary Jane Paxton, hosted a second social evening for the SGM and IARA President at the Sacramento Odd Fellow Hall. Judette Rippetoe PP of the IARA was the Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening and Leon Soto PGG entertained us with some garter music. Your next opportunity to meet Hank and Sharon will be at the Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly Sessions in May. Hope to see you all there!