



THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

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Our 183rd Year*

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FORMER VICE PRESIDENT COLFAX VISITED VERMONT IN 1877

submitted by John Bybee

Friday, April 27, 1877, 10 weeks to the day after suffragette Susan B. Anthony had delivered her women's equality address to a packed audience in Vermont's Mershon's Hall, the Honorable Schuyler Colfax, former Vice President of the United States (President Grant's first term, 1869-1873) stepped off the afternoon passenger train from Beardstown to Vermont. A delegation of Vermont's leading Republicans included Colonel Thomas R. Hamer, Hiram Starr Thomas, and Ellen Wilkinson Chaddock escorted the former Vice Preside to the Kirkbride Hotel.



Vice President Colfax's speaking fee was \$2500 whereas Susan B. Anthony's had been only \$25.00. Susan B. Anthony and former Vice President Colfax were peers only in the sense that they remained steadfast in their convictions of Abolitionism and Temperance. They remained antagonists in the arena of equal rights for women. On November 5, 1867, Susan B. Anthony had written a personal letter to the then-Republican Speaker of the House Colfax requesting an opportunity to address the U. S. Congress on the subject of women's enfranchisement. Speaker Colfax rebuffed and ignored Anthony's letter.

Hours before his assassination on April 14, 1865, President Lincoln had met with Speaker Colfax to discuss Lincoln's Reconstruction Plan. Three years later, President Andrew Johnson was impeached and Speaker Colfax while chairman of the Post Office and Postal Roads Committee was threatened with impeachment over his alleged acceptance of \$1,200 in stock dividends from Federal Government envelope contractor George F. Nesbitt.

In 1872, Vice President Colfax was linked to the most explosive political scandal of the 19th Century. The Credit Mobilier Scandal involving the construction and operation of the Union Pacific Railroad. Vice President Colfax was accused of taking large bribes from railroad developers. He was neither formally charged nor cleared - his political career was dead. President Grant dropped Colfax from his 1872 Republican reelection ticket.

The discredited former Vice President then engaged himself in an annual January thru August nation-wide speaking tour. Colfax's engagement in Vermont was the 70th of the current season and on the subject of the then Speaker of the House's interactions as an intimate friend and adviser of President Lincoln during the Civil War years.

The former Vice President's reception at Mershon's Hall was polite and subdued compared to his appearance at the University of Chicago in Evanston on January 17, 1876. In 1854, although Colfax had neither attended Indiana's DePaul University or any university, Beta Theta Pi bestowed honorary membership on Colfax in their fraternity. At Evanston in protest, rival Beta Chapter students went amok and barricaded the front door of the speaking hall Colfax was rerouted out a back door and on an open-air platform gave his extemporaneous lecture to a study mob. College authorities soon restored order and forced a public apology from the dissent students under threat of their immediate expulsion.

In Vermont's Mershon's Hall the former Vice President delivered a talk centered on the life and character of President Lincoln. At the conclusion members of the audience lingered to meet with their noted visitor. It was reported that former Vice President Colfax cordially received all who had waited to greet him.

On January 13, 1885, former Vice President Schuyler Colfax walked three quarters of a mile in -30 F temperatures from Mankato's Front Street to the railroad depot. Colfax intended to board a train for Rock Rapids, Iowa where he had a speaking engagement.. Five minutes after taking a seat in the waiting room, Colfax keeled over and died of a heart attack. The IOOF conducted his funeral services in South Bend, In. Schuyler Colfax and John Nance Garner are the only two Americans so far who claim to have held the office of both the Speaker of the House and Vice President of the United States.

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Contributions of current news and articles pertaining to the welfare of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows fraternity solicited.

This publication is mailed by the first of the month, publication and contributions must reach the editor by the 10th of the preceding month.

WE DO NOT HOLD OURSELVES RESPONSIBLE for any news or opinions expressed by the communications of our correspondents, and RESERVE the RIGHT to publish NEWS that WE feel constructive to our Order.



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Through Positive Communication"*

ODD FELLOW - REBEKAH HOME

201 Lafayette Ave., Mattoon, Illinois 61938



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Donna Peterson	7/2/36
Rosemary Hogge	7/5/36
Katheryn Hayes	7/6/30
Martha Crowder	7/6/32
Delores Cobb	7/10/31
Billie Brant	7/11/42
Wilmina Murphy	7/14/36
William Hildreth	7/14/49
Sarah Brubaker	7/25/28
Terry Caudill	7/26/40

NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the Home,

Hoping this finds you all well! We are doing well with no cases of COVID-19 at this time. We have been adjusting to the new restrictions and following the guidelines given to us. This has been challenging for everyone, including Staff wearing masks continuously and having residents wear masks anytime they leave their room has been a unique experience. It's definitely a different atmosphere right now. We continue to do everything we can to protect our residents and staff.

Our maintenance crew has built a

protection barrier out of plexi glass for social distancing so that families may have visiting times with their loved ones. Activities offers this Monday through Friday from 10 am to 3pm, families can contact Activities to make an appointment. This has worked great and many families have utilized this for a chance to spend time together.

We are all ready for things to return to normal, whatever, that normal may be.

Until next month take care- stay safe - and be well.

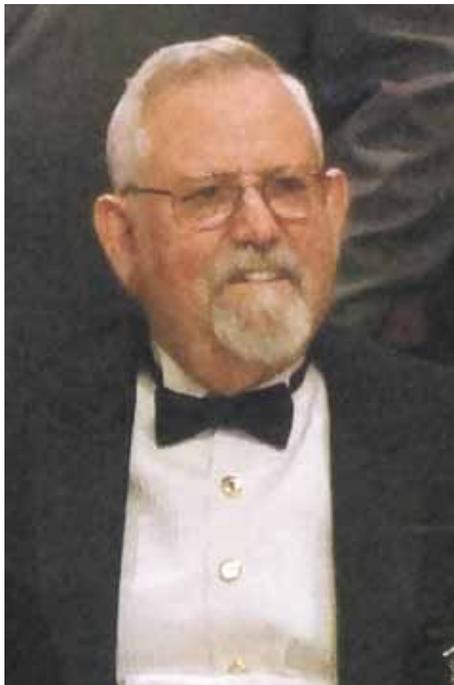
*Danita Starwalt
Community Relations Coordinator*

LEGEND LODGE 212



Due to the new times that we have been pushed into, we at Legend Lodge 212 came to a decision to put together what we call the "Wall of Hearts". What that means is its a side of the building that we used to dedicate drawings of something to bring us together in these difficult times. We have had local children come to draw and write what they choose on the wall such as stick together, stay brave, and we love our doctors. This is something that we as a lodge have chosen to do to promote positivity and well being into the community of Plano.

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



Brothers and Sisters,

In my 76 years this is a very trying year. My lodge meetings have been canceled, Church services and all other meetings. One of the most regret is not going to Washington DC to lay the wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington, Va. The only good was I was able to D.C. on May 2015, when I was Grand Patriarch.

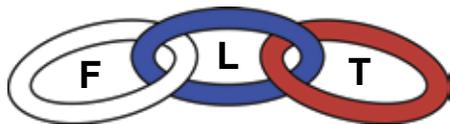
In writing this letter we do not know if Sovereign Grand Lodge will be held this Year and even our own Grand Lodge.

Friends

Friends are forever.
They laugh, they love, they share
Each other's thoughts and words.
And most of all, they care,
Friends can come and go
And never be apart,
Because they keep
Each other's smiles
Deep within their hearts.
Friends can laugh and talk and cry
And think of lovely times gone by,
But most of all-
They love until they die.

By Dona M. Maroney

Grand Master Niles Reamer



ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope everyone had a happy Mother's Day. I hope you all found a creative way to celebrate Mother's. I know we are still in uncertain times and it is very difficult to be away from family, friends and our Lodge families as well. I have tried hard to send cards and make phone calls to people. If I did not have my dog, Baxter I would be really lonely!

I have been hearing of some lodges doing their meetings using Zoom and phone calls - keep up the good work!

My Rebekah Lodge, Juanita #477 was able to donate to a local food pantry in Granite City. I know all the food banks around the state appreciate all that we can do.

At this time, I am still uncertain about our District Meetings. We are still waiting to hear from the Sovereign Grand Master. As soon as I know something, I will pass on information. I know the Governor of Illinois has talked about reopening the state in phases, so we will also be watching for direction from him. I do believe that when our state does open back up things will be a little different than before this virus.

I hope if you must go out you wear your mask, to protect all that you come into contact. I know it's a pain, but it will help make this go away a little faster.

Please stay safe and remember to

Respect each other - Believe in the good work we do - Love each other.

*In F.L. & T.,
Nann Johnson
Assembly President*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It is with a very heavy heart that I have made the decision to cancel all the Rebekah Spring District Meetings due to the COVID 19 virus. I have thought long and hard and prayed about this and feel it is the right decision for all of us at this time. Please know that I was looking forward to all these meetings and miss seeing everyone. Please stay safe and in doors as much as possible.

*In F.L. & T.,
Nann Johnson
Assembly President*

OUR BASIC CREED

Genuine Friendship, which hears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, is the first step toward progress and personal enrichment, and the teachings of Temperance, Prudence and Justice.

Love, is the basis for all life's ambitions, service to humanity, and more family oriented.

Truth, the imperial virtue, promotes economic stability, equality under law, freedom of enterprise, the highest of ethical standards, and lasting peace, the ultimate goal of fraternity.

Universal Brotherhood of Man under the **Fatherhood of God** is imperative to the survival of the world, and can be accomplished only through the practice of fellowship and understanding among all peoples and nations.

ED MULLARD REACHES MILESTONE BIRTHDAY

Brother Ed Mullard will be turning 95 on July 15, 2020. He is living in a retirement community and has been unable to see even his family. He misses his lodge Brothers & Sisters. If any of you would feel so inclined to send him birthday greetings his address is: Unit C350 W. Schaumburg Road, Schaumburg, IL 60194.

Thank you,
Dawn Witek, Ed's daughter

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

As the mailing list for the ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW is published and corrected by the Grand Lodge Office, please send all changes of address and names of deceased members to the Grand Lodge Office.

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1 May 2020

Greetings to all Odd Fellows and Rebekahs,

I hope everyone can mark themselves safe during this time of global unrest. This pandemic has caused a lot of uncertainty in our world and has affected our daily routines as well. We have no idea how long this pandemic will last or how it will impact our immediate future. On May 15, 2020 the Pilgrimage for Youth Board will meet by Zoom conference to discuss whether we can safely continue with our tour or cancel it.

The safety and well-being of our delegates, tour bus leaders and staff is our first and most important concern. On May 15, I will email all jurisdictions of the Board's decision with instructions on how we will proceed from there.

Today is the day that the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!!

s/ Leonard Bolton
Executive Director

The IOOF Pilgrimage for Youth Board met today via Zoom conference and have decided to cancel this years tour. We did not make this decision lightly and waited as long as we possibly could to see if the Covid-19 virus would be under control. The safety of our youth is our top priority and there was no way we could make that happen. We know a lot of you have put in a tremendous amount of work and effort to make this happen and we would like to thank you for all you do.

The Board discussed several plans of action to move forward which will be detailed in a letter to come in a week or so.

Leonard Bolton, Executive Director

The Great Lakes Conference has been cancelled. Wisconsin, and Minnesota have cancelled their sessions for 2020. Indiana is not sure if they will cancel. Illinois is waiting to see what SGL does as far as its session. We should know more the first of June what will be happening.