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# GRAND LODGE HOME NEWS

## I. O. O. F.

A Publication by the Board of Trustees of the Grand Lodge Home assisted by the Residents for the benefit of the Subordinate and Rebekah Lodges affiliated therewith

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 1

ITHACA, NEW YORK

JANUARY, 1947

### Beautiful Things in Life

By Presley F. Horne Grand Secretary of Idaho  
OKLAHOMA LAND RUSH

Recently it was asked why it is that all the Beautiful Things occur in Idaho. Of course that is not true, for beautiful things may be found almost anywhere by anyone who is looking for the beautiful and not the sordid. If we are looking for the rocks in the road, we will probably find them but there is beauty all about for those who seek it. My stories have not been all confined to Idaho, and I have told of incidents occurring in both Iowa and Missouri. This month I have decided to go to Oklahoma for my story.

In Oklahoma, they have an organization known as the Oklahoma Eighty-Niners' Association, composed of early settlers participating in the "land rush" of that year. Going back to that early period of the state's history, it was in June, 1889, that a man filed on a claim six miles southeast of Guthrie, and a month later he was murdered, presumably by a rival claimant who was never apprehended. Nothing was known of the slain man except that his name was Martin Cheney, that he had been a physician, and that he seemed distracted by the recent death of his wife, and that he had some children somewhere in Texas.

His body was brought to Guthrie and turned over to an undertaker who buried paupers at the expense of the Provisional city government. An Odd Fellow pin was found upon his breast. There was no lodge in Guthrie at that time, but there were Odd Fellows in the community and many of them congregated to view the body, but the three links were the only evidence of membership to be found. These Odd Fellows dug down in their own pockets, sent to Arkansas City for a casket and



The Odd Fellows of New York State, honor the memory of Brother Franklin D. Roosevelt, when the Metropolitan Welfare Guild, present to his widow, engrossed Resolutions of Respect.

—Photo by Alfred Cohen of Colfax Lodge

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His body was brought to Guthrie and turned over to an undertaker who buried paupers at the expense of the Provisional city government. An Odd Fellow pin was found upon his breast. There was no lodge in Guthrie at that time, but there were Odd Fellows in the community and many of them congregated to view the body, but the three links were the only evidence of membership to be found. These Odd Fellows dug down in their own pockets, sent to Arkansas City for a casket and Martin Cheney was given an Odd Fellows burial, which again demonstrates that it is even more important to have the spirit of Odd Fellowship prevalent in a community than it is to just have a lodge.

Returning home from the funeral these brothers realized that their work was not done; it had just commenced. So they pledged themselves to protect the rights of the unknown orphan children. They took charge of the land and rented it to a neighboring settler to guard against intrusion. There were several contestants to the claim, but all except one quit when they learned from some determined Odd Fellow that the land was being held for the orphans. Next began the search for the children, and Brother J. W. Miller, an attorney, successfully defended the claim against the remaining contestants.

It was six years before the children were finally located in Waco, Texas, a son and a daughter. The following year, in 1896, these children came to Guthrie and took possession of the farm, but it was not until 1899 that the Odd Fellows were able to deliver to them the deed to the land from the government.

The family still live on the homestead which was saved for the two orphan children through the untiring efforts of men who took seriously their obligation to care for the orphan children of a departed brother. Any man may glow with pride as he reads this story of early days in Oklahoma, and realize how thoroughly they understood and carried out the principles of Odd Fellowship, back there in that frontier community more than fifty years ago.

I realize that this is a story of something which transpired a long time ago, and yet I firmly believe that even today men like to go out about doing good, and that Odd Fellows of the present would still band themselves together to give decent burial to a departed brother and hasten to the assistance of his orphan children.

(Thanks to Grand Secretary Bruce of Oklahoma for the facts contained in this story).  
(Your Editor knows him well).

Once again, we give our thanks to Grand Secretary Horne for this beautiful story of true events which have happened and which will happen again.

—OOO—

Irate Parent: I'll teach you to make love to my daughter!

Inept Suitor: I wish you would, sir. I'm not making much headway.



The Odd Fellows of New York State, honor the memory of Brother Franklin D. Roosevelt, when the Metropolitan Welfare Guild, present to his widow, engrossed Resolutions of Respect.

—Photo by Alfred Cohen of Colfax Lodge

### ENDOWMENT FUND

In this issue, a news item appears with reference to the fine bequest made to the Endowment Fund by Edna I. Baker of Auburn. We wonder if this article will mean anything to your Lodge? Does it awaken in you the thought that possibly in your Lodge, there may be a prospective donor to the Endowment Fund? If it does not, it should.

How many of our brothers and sisters in Auburn ever gave the question a thought that Edna I. Baker might make the Grand Lodge Home the legatee of a large part of the residue of her estate? Probably no one. Yet, in your community, no matter where you may live, there are those who are charitably inclined, who are anxious, after they have completed their span of years, to so place their money that a part of it at least, will help to make others happy.

\$2,000 at 4% will bring to the Endowment Fund eighty dollars a year and eighty dollars will do much toward helping with the expenses of maintaining our brothers and sisters. Yes, it may be used to help you and I, for who knows what the future may bring forth.

Why not each lodge in the State hold an Endowment Fund night every year. This will work exactly with the Grand Master's program. Make the donation of 2c a week per capita an annual event. Do not wait for the next Grand Master to establish that as his project. Do it anyway. Then, at your annual Thanksgiving party when you collect together your pennies, why not ask one of your best speakers, a lawyer if you have one, to come to your meeting and explain about Wills and Bequests.

It will be an interesting subject even if you find no one that particular year who wishes to make the Grand Lodge Home a bequest. But, if this method is continued, year after year, not only will the membership be benefited by the legal advice which they will receive gratuitously, but the seed will be sown for the benefit of the Endowment of your Home, which sooner or later will spring up and grow.

Put a dozen flower seeds in every bushel of wheat which you sow, and some flowers are bound to sprout and grow. Think this over, brothers and sisters, and let's make 1947 and subsequent years—  
ENDOWMENT FUND YEARS.

### ODD FELLOWS HELP THE LAME TO WALK

About eleven years ago there was born in a little town in Iowa a boy whose knee action was so deformed until the knee bent to the side instead of forward as a normal knee should. When the little boy learned to walk, it was with difficulty and he was compelled to walk on the side of his foot because of this deformed knee. He could not run and play like the other children and presented a rather pathetic spectacle. The little boy's parents were unable and probably also unwilling to have the knee operated on and so nothing was done until the summer of 1946 when, after the mother's death, the little boy was left an orphan and a fine old Odd Fellow of the little town asked the boy if he would like to have a knee like other children. The little boy said he would rather have that than anything else in life. The Odd Fellow went back to his lodge and reported it and soon money was raised, about \$300.00, to pay a surgeon in a nearby city for an operation. In a few weeks the little boy was back home with a knee which had normal action and he could run and play with other children. One of the first things he said on returning home was: "Nobody will laugh at me now for my knee is just like other children have."

Oddfellowship immediately became the most prominent organization in the little town and recently when the lodge needed money for some other charitable and benevolent purpose a horse which was worth probably \$100.00 and which was donated to the lodge, was sold to the citizens of the town for \$1,200.00. The citizenship of that town is happy to support Oddfellowship because Oddfellowship is a most prominent factor in the civic life of that town and today the little lodge in that little town has approximately 20% of the population enrolled as members of the lodge.

One of the practical examples of Christianity, we are taught, is to help the blind to see and the lame to walk.

C. A. Wheeler

Sovereign Grand Master

The "News" welcomes this fine, true story by our Sovereign Grand Master, and will continue to publish them from time to time.

—OOO—

Jim: My baby is the living image of me.

Bill: What do you care so long as he's healthy?

## GRAND LODGE HOME NEWS

Published by the Board of Trustees

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For the benefit and information of Odd Fellows affiliated with the Grand Lodge Home, and mailed from the Home at Ithaca, N. Y., under the supervision of Arthur G. Adams, President.

JANUARY, 1947

## VOLUME VI

Five years have passed by since the Board of Trustees commenced the publication of the Grand Lodge Home News, in January 1942.

With this issue, we commence Volume VI. Much water has gone over the dam since our first publication, and we hope the paper has improved somewhat in news and composition since we made our first appearance.

During that five years, we have endeavored to

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

Another Christmas Season has come and gone and the Board of Trustees take this occasion to thank all those, both locally and throughout the State, who have helped to make the Christmas of 1946, so happy and pleasant.

The past year has been a hectic one with a shortage in food, a shortage in equipment, shortage in help. At times it has seemed almost useless to continue. Yet, as the worries of each day were overcome, a new day brought new hope and new courage and gradually the darkness began to disappear.

The year 1946 witnessed many problems in our personnel which we have been obliged to meet and solve.

Due to illness, our Matron for many years, Nellie J. Meech, felt it necessary to sever her connection with the Home. Our Secretary, Brother Lynton G. Kelley, also gave up his duties, due to ill health, and our Treasurer, Brother Isidor Isaacs, was called to his final reward.

But, as it is always darkest just before dawn, so we were able to solve our perplexing problems with the coming of a new day.

Brother and Sister Charles A. Long have fitted into the niche made vacant by the resignation of our former matron and the previous death of superintendent, Henry A. Meech, and the administration affairs at the Home are running smoothly and efficiently.

Brothers Past Grand Master Shirland H. Bouton and Past Grand Master Cecil S. McConnell have taken over the positions of Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Brother Fred M. Parker was appointed to fill the vacant position on our Board of Trustees due to the resignation of Brother Kelley. Thus, the business affairs of the Home are rolling along in high gear, each new incumbent being particularly fitted for their new assignment.

So, as the New Year appears over the horizon, the present Board of Trustees and Management extend their greetings and felicitations to the Brothers and Sisters of the State, and the fervent hope for a Happy New Year to all.

—OOO—

## THE PROJECTS OF THE GRAND MASTER AND THE PRESIDENT

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

A world at peace, at this beginning of the New Year, should reflect Victory, not only in deeds, but in thoughts as well, for right thoughts bring good deeds; so let us highly resolve that this year shall be truly one of victory.

In selecting my slogan for the year, "Security for our Homes through Co-operation," I did so with the thought in mind, that all good work grows only through united efforts of all who are engaged therein, so, I am asking each Rebekah in our State to become more Home Conscious this year and work heartily for the projects of the year. Remembering that any good we may do, should be done now, for we pass this way but once. We, as individual Odd Fellows and Rebekahs come and go, but our Homes must go on forever. Let us show our interest by working for and giving all we can this year for the projects.

Collections will be taken at all Installations for the Hospitals of our Homes. To do something, however small, to make others happier is the highest ambition, the most elevating hope, which can inspire our Rebekahs. If we are happy, we must hold the lamp of our happiness so that its beams will fall upon the Homes of our Order.

This Order was founded on the principles of helpfulness. With this in mind, may I urge you all to work for the Endowment Funds of our Homes, giving your contributions that the future of the Residents there, will be made secure and safe.

I was privileged to attend the Association of Rebekah Assemblies, held at Columbus, Ohio, and we, the Rebekahs present, were invited to attend the opening Sovereign Grand Lodge, and also the banquet given in honor of our Sovereign Grand Master, D. D. Monroe, and the open installation of the new officers of that body. We so enjoyed these and the many splendid addresses which we were privileged to enjoy throughout our stay in Columbus.

The delegates and visitors from New York State, numbering thirty-two enjoyed a banquet together and we also honored Brother and Sister Edward Keith who were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary and Sister Minnie Adams, her birthday.

The Rebekahs of this State were grieved to hear of the death of Brother Isidor Isaacs, Treasurer of the Grand Lodge Home at Ithaca. Brother Isaacs will be missed by both Odd Fellows and Rebekahs and

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During that five years, we have endeavored to make the lodges affiliated with the Grand Lodge Home, more Home conscious. We have mailed copies of each issue to each affiliated lodge, as well as to the Deputies and each Grand Lodge officer. Many of those on the mailing list have occasionally sent in a word of approval. This has led us to believe that the publication filled a much-needed niche in our Home activities.

Among the articles appearing in the first issue were:

- "Message" from Grand Master Saget.
- "Our Busy Rebekahs" by Assembly President Knapp.
- "Adjustment of Arrearages" by P. G. M. McConnell.
- "New Illuminated Road Signs."
- "Old Age Assistance."
- "New Electric Cables."
- "Movies."
- "Thomas W. McKnight Memorial."
- "Christmas at the Home."
- "Our Home Family" by Nellie J. Meech.

Thus was the beginning of the official publication of the Grand Lodge Home News. Today, we are commencing our sixth year and it is our wish and desire that the paper will increase in interest each year, and that its publication now, so firmly established in the Home activities, will cause future Presidents to feel that it is a necessary and important part of the Grand Lodge Home.

OOO

NEW HEATING UNITS

As we shut down the furnaces in the summer, it became evident that new heating units would be required before the heating season of the Fall.

Bids were obtained from several firms for oil installation in the Infirmary and Orphanage and the contract was let to Hull & Whetson of Ithaca, as the lowest bidder.

But in the year 1946, it is one thing to order new heating units, and another thing to get them from the factory. Through various manipulations, the heating units in the Infirmary are nearly installed, so we are assured of adequate heat for our sick and infirm. However, the units for the Children's Home may be delayed until Christmas, but with the Infirmary cut off from the present system, it will be possible to get along fairly well until the new units can be obtained and installed in the Children's Home.

The home is now twenty-five years old and replacements are bound to be needed from time to time, in order to keep the plant in working condition.

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THE PROJECTS OF THE GRAND MASTER AND THE PRESIDENT

How many of you have given the projects of our Grand Lodge Officers any serious thought?

FIRST: The Grand Master asks for a growth of 20,000 members during his term. That is no personal ambition on his part aside from his desire to do his duty and be an active Grand Master. But principally, his project is for the good of your lodge.

How is that so? Well your lodge may have 100 members and the dues may be \$10 per year. \$1,000 income from dues may be enough to survive on. But suppose you had only 10 new members this year, you would have \$100 additional income, not only this year, but every year. You would have 10 new members to take an active part in your lodge; you would have 10 new members to support your entertainments and help with your floral collections; the Home would have \$12.50 more for its support.

So, the Grand Master's project is for the benefit of your lodge; for the benefit of every lodge in the State. Have you personally tried to get a new member? You say you cannot get out enough for a meeting. Why not get a few NEW members and you will begin to see the OLD ones come back. Try it.

SECOND: The President of the Assembly asks (a) Installation collections for improving the hospitals of the Homes of the State. A dime, a quarter, or what have you and each Home of the State will benefit by \$500 to \$1,000. Does your hospital at your Home need new mattresses for the brother or sister who spends 365 days a year in bed? Does the hospital need new bed-side tables. Then help, and do not search around for the penny because a dime will do ten times as much good.

(b) The President asks fifty cents per member for the Endowment Fund of the Home to which you are affiliated. For the last few years, \$10,000 a year has been raised by the Presidents of our Assembly for this purpose. At 4% the interest on that sum would be \$400. Not \$400 during the year of the Assembly President who carries out that project but \$400 a year long after you and I have passed on to our reward. If President Munger raised \$10,000 in 1947 for the Homes of the State, in 25 years that \$10,000 will have earned another \$10,000.

Brothers and Sisters, think what these projects mean and give liberally.

OOO

Bill: What makes you think you're a diplomat?  
 Eddie: "Well, I've been married twenty years and my wife still thinks I have a sick friend."

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Again, may I urge you to support the projects of the year. Let us keep the good work growing:

"Do all the good you can,  
 By all the means you can,  
 In all the ways you can,  
 In all the places you can,  
 At all the times you can,  
 To all the people you can,  
 As long as ever you can."

Fraternally and sincerely,  
 Lucy B. Munger,  
 Assembly President

OOO

ESTATE OF EDNA I. BAKER

President Adams, as Attorney for the Grand Lodge Home, has just forwarded to the Treasurer of the Home, for payment to the Endowment Fund, \$2,021.11, as the Home share of a contested action in the Surrogate's Court of Cayuga County, which has been before the courts for nearly three years.

The question involved was the construction of the Will of Edna I. Baker of Auburn, New York, and the particular construction of the thirteenth paragraph concerning a bequest to one Western C. Ireland. The residue of the Estate was to be divided, two-thirds to the Grand Lodge Home and one-third to the Cayuga Home for Children. In the construction proceedings, Judge Richard C. S. Drummond was attorney for the Cayuga Home for Children and assisted the President of the Grand Lodge Home in the Surrogate construction proceedings during 1944, 1945 and 1946, in behalf of the Residuary Legatees.

This substantial legacy to the Grand Lodge Home, will be listed in the annals of the Endowment Fund of the Home, as a memorial to EDNA ISABELLE BAKER, our good friend of Auburn, New York, who not only had a good word for us during her life time, but who also gave of her earthly possessions, that the Grand Lodge Home might survive. This substantial legacy of Edna I. Baker will go on and on, working for the Home and the welfare of the Residents, long after the remains of us of the present, has turned to dust.

May she rest in peace, is the prayer of the entire Board of Trustees.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

The holiday season at the Home was one of the happiest in many years. Being relieved from the strain of war, the Trustee felt that we might well extend our Christmas festivities over previous years, and apparently the lodges affiliated with the Grand Lodge Home felt the same. Donations were somewhat larger than usual and it is well that was so because of the increase of prices upon everything purchased.

For several days prior to Christmas, the Superintendent, Matron and Staff had been working upon decorations and when the time for the party arrived, the main floor of the Administration building was ablaze with lights and tinsel. The nurses and housekeeper had planned the same for the Infirmary and the children looked after the Orphanage, so all the buildings were prepared for the annual visit from St. Nicholas.

Since early December, committees from Hawthorn Rebekah Lodge No. 163 and Ladies Auxillary No. 10, both of Ithaca, had been combing the Ithaca stores for suitable and useful presents for all the residents, children and staff. The most difficult problem of all seemed to be men's shirts. The President, however, overcame that difficulty by being able to purchase two dozen from South Carolina at only twice the actual value, whereas the local price (only they were not available) was 300%.

The program was arranged by Ithaca Lodge No. 71, Iroquois Encampment No. 16 and Canton Ithaca, No. 58, and it consisted of the following entertainment:

Welcome by the Matron—Alice M. Long  
Trombone Solo—Miss Taber  
Acts of Magic—Gordon Wilson  
Several Solos—Ethel Mae Barker of Binghamton  
Fourteen numbers by the Dean School of Dance, including taps, soft sole, ballet, waltz and clog by youngsters from the age of 5 to teen agers.

VibraHarp—Mrs. Oliver  
Ithaca High School Alumni Quartet, Messrs. Oliver, Thayer, Avery and Compton.

Besides useful presents for all, the residents and children were provided with candy, nuts, fruit and new one dollar bills. Turkey with all the fixings graced the several tables on Christmas Day.

Addresses were made by Treasurer of the Board of Trustees, Shirland H. Bouton, Grand Marshall, Harry Winch of Lakewood, and Grand Master, Harvey M. Parker of Jamestown; who also rendered,

enjoyed every day of my stay at the Grand Lodge Home since I came in August.

Charles Lassen

The Grand Lodge Home has now been my home for 12 years and especially at this season of the year, we enjoy our Home and the fine entertainment and presents, as well as the visits which we receive from our many friends in the several lodges.

Many thanks are due to the management and the kindness and love of our great Fraternity.

Estelle Loomis

I wish to thank all of our many friends for making this the most pleasant Christmas I have had in years.

Frank Pitkin

As a former resident of the Home at Stuyvesant, I feel that it is only fair that we Stuyvesant Residents recall the many administrations of our stay there and we remember how the Brothers and Sisters of the Valatia and Kinderhook helped to give us a pleasant holiday season. I also want to say that the Christmas party at the Grand Lodge Home in 1946, which was my first at the Home, was the most elaborate that I have ever seen.

The young lady from Binghamton who entertained us with her beautiful voice, will before long be a widely known professional singer, and the dancing class, both the little children and the larger ones, were all charming.

We received useful presents, as well as cash and we are thankful to the many givers, whom we did not see, as well as those who were here.

Alex Carlson  
George Patchin  
Ernest Heitman

To the Rebekahs and Brother Odd Fellows who made it possible for us to enjoy such a wonderful and happy Christmas, we wish them to know how we appreciated our lovely gifts and the grand turkey dinner. Words fail to express our appreciation for their loving kindness to us.

We have been residents of the Grand Lodge Home for two years and be assured that they have been two very happy years for us. We were made very comfortable by the new heating system and we appreciate and love our wonderful superintendent and matron, who do everything in their power to keep us happy and contented and we thank our lovely good nurses, who are never too tired to help make us comfortable. All of which we have every reason for our heartfelt gratitude in all this kindness we receive, reflects the great credit on the Grand Order of Odd Fellows. It was God's blessing when we entered the Grand Lodge Home.

We wish all the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs

## COMMITTEE ON HOMES

At the annual session of the Grand Lodge held in Troy in August, Past Grand Master, Emanuel Saget proposed, and it was adopted, that a Special Committee of seven be appointed for the purpose of making a complete and exhaustive study, research and analysis of the questions of the wisdom of maintaining five Homes in the State; of the need of a Convalescent Home and the method of its establishment; the study of the advantages or disadvantages of boarding out Residents and Children rather than maintenance through Homes; the study of a uniform per capita tax, uniform rules and regulations and a method of co-operative buying for all the Homes.

In October Grand Master Harvey M. Parker appointed the following committee, pursuant to such resolution: Arthur G. Adams, P. G. M., Chairman; Albert I. Zvoristin, George G. Allen, Elmer M. Rasmussen, P. G. M., William Klumpen, G. T., Edward W. Techmeyer, Irving Handschu.

The committee immediately began to function and each member thereof has been assigned a special subject for study for presentation at the first committee meeting which will be held at the Hotel McAlpin on Saturday, February 22, at 10 A. M., at a room to be assigned and posted upon the bulletin board of the hotel.

The chairman plans to, and does extend an invitation to all brothers and sisters of the State, to write him at 306 Savings Bank Bldg., Ithaca, New York, of any constructive criticism of the present management of any of the five Homes of the State, together with your constructive suggestions as to how you would better such management.

The management of the Homes themselves are also asked to call special meetings of their Executive Boards, with a view of recommending any constructive changes in Home management in the light of the present set-up of the Homes of New York.

Grand Lodge Officers, past and present, of all branches, are asked to write the Chairman, with their constructive criticism or commendation of the present set-up, and what we can do to improve it.

The ideal Home arrangement would, of course, be one central Home, with Hospital, Children's Home, Convalescent Home and buildings for Grand Lodge offices, Central heating plant, all gathered together in one central place, with ample accommodations for at least 500 Residents, 100 hospital beds,

The holiday season at the Home was one of the happiest in many years. Being relieved from the strain of war, the Trustee felt that we might well extend our Christmas festivities over previous years, and apparently the lodges affiliated with the Grand Lodge Home felt the same. Donations were somewhat larger than usual and it is well that was so because of the increase of prices upon everything purchased.

For several days prior to Christmas, the Superintendent, Matron and Staff had been working upon decorations and when the time for the party arrived, the main floor of the Administration building was ablaze with lights and tinsel. The nurses and housekeeper had planned the same for the Infirmary and the children looked after the Orphanage, so all the buildings were prepared for the annual visit from St. Nicholas.

Since early December, committees from Hawthorn Rebekah Lodge No. 163 and Ladies Auxiliary No. 10, both of Ithaca, had been combing the Ithaca stores for suitable and useful presents for all the residents, children and staff. The most difficult problem of all seemed to be men's shirts. The President, however, overcame that difficulty by being able to purchase two dozen from South Carolina at only twice the actual value, whereas the local price (only they were not available) was 300%.

The program was arranged by Ithaca Lodge No. 71, Iroquois Encampment No. 16 and Canton Ithaca, No. 58, and it consisted of the following entertainment:

Welcome by the Matron—Alice M. Long  
Trombone Solo—Miss Taber  
Acts of Magic—Gordon Wilson  
Several Solos—Ethel Mae Barker of Binghamton  
Fourteen numbers by the Dean School of Dance, including taps, soft sole, ballet, waltz and clog by youngsters from the age of 5 to teen agers.

Vibratone—Mrs. Oliver  
Ithaca High School Alumni Quartet, Messrs. Oliver, Thayer, Avery and Compton

Besides useful presents for all, the residents and children were provided with candy, nuts, fruit and new one dollar bills. Turkey with all the fixings graced the several tables on Christmas Day.

Addresses were made by Treasurer of the Board of Trustees, Shirland H. Bouton, Grand Marshall, Harry Winch of Lakewood, and Grand Master, Harvey M. Parker of Jamestown; who also rendered, very beautifully, the Lord's Prayer, in song.

It is needless to say, the Christmas Party of 1946 was much enjoyed, not only by the residents and children, but also by a capacity audience, many of whom came from more than 50 miles away.

To the lodges and friends who contributed the funds necessary for the success of the party, the Trustees extend their sincere thanks. A full report of the receipts and disbursements will be found in the 1947 annual Year Book.

—OOO—

### "A CONTENTED FAMILY SPEAKS"

Just a few words for your paper to let you know how we enjoy our new Home. On December 28, 1945, Mr. Kilmer and myself were transferred from Stuyvesant Home to the Grand Lodge Home. We had been residents at Stuyvesant Home for 11 years and we were welcomed by your Home by Mr. and Mrs. Plummer, Acting Superintendent and Matron, so this Christmas was our first Christmas with you.

First let me say that we have a very fine superintendent and matron, Mr. and Mrs. Long, both of whom we love and respect and our Christmas entertainment was so lovely and we received so many nice gifts and the rooms looked like a picture and our guests gave such lovely talks. We enjoyed the message of the Grand Master and particularly his closing song, "The Lord's Prayer." Then on Christmas, we had a marvelous turkey dinner with all the fixings and best of all, we could have as much as we could eat.

Mr. Kilmer and myself both enjoy our new Home very much, although we miss our old friends but our new friends are fine and all we can say is: "God bless the Grand Lodge Home."

Anna Getman  
Charles Kilmer

I have now enjoyed seven Christmas parties but the entertainment in 1946 was probably the best one which I have ever attended as everything was so beautiful and the program so fine. We also enjoyed the Grand Master's song and it was a beautiful finish to a fine program.

We are all pleased with our presents and our entertainment. Thanks to all of the lodges for their kindness to us.

Alice J. Darling

I certainly enjoyed the Christmas party. It was a grand affair and everything was done to make the Christmas Season a happy one. In fact, I have

The Grand Lodge Home has now been my home for 12 years and especially at this season of the year, we enjoy our Home and the fine entertainment and presents, as well as the visits which we receive from our many friends in the several lodges.

Many thanks are due to the management and the kindness and love of our great Fraternity.

Estelle Loomis

I wish to thank all of our many friends for making this the most pleasant Christmas I have had in years.

Frank Pitkin

As a former resident of the Home at Stuyvesant, I feel that it is only fair that we Stuyvesant Residents recall the many administrations of our stay there and we remember how the Brothers and Sisters of the Valatia and Kinderhook helped to give us a pleasant holiday season. I also want to say that the Christmas party at the Grand Lodge Home in 1946, which was my first at the Home, was the most elaborate that I have ever seen.

The young lady from Binghamton who entertained us with her beautiful voice, will before long be a widely known professional singer, and the dancing class, both the little children and the larger ones, were all charming.

We received useful presents, as well as cash and we are thankful to the many givers, whom we did not see, as well as those who were here.

Alex Carlson  
George Patchin  
Ernest Heitman

To the Rebekahs and Brother Odd Fellows who made it possible for us to enjoy such a wonderful and happy Christmas, we wish them to know how we appreciated our lovely gifts and the grand turkey dinner. Words fail to express our appreciation for their loving kindness to us.

We have been residents of the Grand Lodge Home for two years and be assured that they have been two very happy years for us. We were made very comfortable by the new heating system and we appreciate and love our wonderful superintendent and matron, who do everything in their power to keep us happy and contented and we thank our lovely good nurses, who are never too tired to help make us comfortable. All of which we have every reason for our heartfelt gratitude in all this kindness we receive, reflects the great credit on the Grand Order of Odd Fellows. It was God's blessing when we entered the Grand Lodge Home.

We wish all the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs everywhere, every wish for the New Year for health, happiness and prosperity and the best they have ever known. With grateful hearts, we are your happy Brother and Sister

P.D.D.G.M. Albert G. Robbins  
Sister Agatha Robbins

A Prayer for our Home

God bless our Home and help us

To love each other true,

To make our Home the kind of place

Where everything we do

Is filled with love and kindness.

A place you like to be,

And help us, God, each moment

To live most helpfully.

—OOO—

### ANSWERING TO AN ACT OF BROTHERLY AND SISTERLY LOVE

The Residents, Staff and Management of the Grand Lodge Home and Orphanage, wish to express, through the GRAND LODGE HOME, their appreciations and many, many thanks to the Sisters and Brothers throughout the State, for the generous support in making this Christmas Season, a very Merry and Happy one for all, at the Home, Infirmary and Orphanage.

Not only was the season made joyful, but for many years to come the Residents will appreciate and be comforted by the two beautiful new rugs for the public parlor, contributed by the Sister Rebekahs of Dutchess District No. 2, a project of D.D.P. Elizabeth Lane, which has made the Home a brighter place to live. The magazines will be a comfort throughout the year and the boxes of surprise packages are still making our social evenings happy after the bingo parties. Grateful are we for the jelly, candy, fruits, etc.

There was turkey on the menu this year, made possible by the many contributions. The entertainment of dancing and music at the Christmas Party, made possible by our beloved lodges of Ithaca, were very much enjoyed and we falter in finding words to express the gratitude due the Sister's P. N. G. Club and Hawthorne Rebekah Lodge and Ithaca Lodge No. 71 for their loyal devotion to the Grand Lodge Home, and to our President, P.G.M. and G. Rep. Arthur G. Adams.

Fraternally yours,  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Long  
Superintendent and Matron

At the annual session of the Grand Lodge held in Troy in August, Past Grand Master, Emanuel Saget proposed, and it was adopted, that a Special Committee of seven be appointed for the purpose of making a complete and exhaustive study, research and analysis of the questions of the wisdom of maintaining five Homes in the State; of the need of a Convalescent Home and the method of its establishment; the study of the advantages or disadvantages of boarding out Residents and Children rather than maintenance through Homes; the study of a uniform per capita tax, uniform rules and regulations and a method of co-operative buying for all the Homes.

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Grand Lodge Officers, past and present, of all branches, are asked to write the Chairman, with their constructive criticism or commendation of the present set-up, and what we can do to improve it.

The ideal Home arrangement would, of course, be one central Home, with Hospital, Children's Home, Convalescent Home and buildings for Grand Lodge offices. Central heating plant, all gathered together in one central place, with ample accommodations for at least 500 Residents, 100 hospital beds, rooms for 50 to 75 children and for 125 to 150 convalescents.

However, this ideal arrangement is almost impossible in New York because we now have four Corporation Homes with property valued at more than \$1,000,000 who each have their individual Home and their own set-up of management. The Grand Lodge was asleep at the switch while all the Home activities were taking place. 25 years ago it was awakened, after repeated drumming by many Odd Fellows of the State and it was realized that one-half of the lodges of the State did not belong to any Home.

The Grand Lodge Home was then established but only a one-half job was completed. We now have this Home owned and operated by the Grand Lodge, and yet the ownership is actually in the Subordinate and Rebekah Lodges, who have contributed their per capita tax for the construction of the buildings and the building up of the Endowment Fund.

At the outset, it is evident that the problem in New York is difficult and it will need the concerted endeavors of all five Homes, in order to work out a satisfactory solution. But, it can be done, if all will give and take; if we will forget that our per capita tax was placed in a certain Home, and therefore that Home has a legal Entity. But, if we will study the problem upon the broad ground that the several Homes of the State belong to the Lodges of the State affiliated with it, because they contributed their money for the construction, then, as a Jury of Odd Fellows, can we not render a verdict that the five Homes of New York belong to the Odd Fellows of New York.

Then, if all the Odd Fellows of New York should join together, three Homes might be maintained, all under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, with one Home set aside for Convalescents, and one Home perhaps discontinued. However, such a consolidation is going to require the brains of not a small committee, but the united efforts of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of the State.

The Special Committee, therefore, will welcome suggestions from all parts of the State. If you have constructive thoughts which you wish to present in person, you will be welcome at the first committee meeting at the McAlpin Hotel, Saturday, February 22, at any time between 10 A. M. and 3 P. M. Your committee, who are representatives of all of the Homes of the State, will give the matter an honest-to-God study from now until the next session of the Grand Lodge. We desire Rebekah suggestions, particularly about Children and Convalescents.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Many New York lodges have now reached the Century mark in their existence and each year more and more are annually arriving at that destination.

On December 28, 1846, Corning Lodge No. 94 was instituted as the earliest Odd Fellow organization in Steuben County. It was therefore most fitting that the present members should pause in the onward march of the fraternity in Steuben County and review its early beginning.

Accordingly on December 28, 1946, the present membership of Corning Lodge gathered at the Masonic Cathedral on Walnut Street (the Odd Fellows Temple being too small), and with dozens of sister lodges from the surrounding territory who braved the icy roads, they celebrated their nineteenth century birth by feast, by song and mirth.

About 100 present members answered the Roll Call including five wearers of the 50-year veteran jewel.

Brief remarks were made by Past Grand Master Adams, who was born in Steuben County and by Grand Marshal Winch, both of whom congratulated the lodge upon their long history, after which the address of the evening was delivered by Grand Master, Harvey M. Parker, of Jamestown, who pointed out to those present that the golden opportunity for Odd Fellowship was in the grasp of the fraternity of today; that all we need do was to reach out and seize the opportunity of the present—the golden opportunity of today. He urged extra-fraternal activity, outside the membership in the Order in order that the fraternity might become a potent factor in the life of each community.

It was a happy and enthusiastic group of brothers, who finally set out from the Crystal City for their several homes throughout the entire southern tier. 400 members had benefited by the one hundredth anniversary of Corning Lodge.

—OOO—

NOTES IN GENERAL

Sisters Jennie Stein and Florence Van Cott are not too well.

Estella Loomis and Etta Winton were away for a short time during the Fall.

We regret to report that Sister Martha Schwenker was removed to Willard State Hospital.

On September 20th, Hawthorn Rebekah Lodge

DONATIONS

We have been rather behind in our report of Donations recently due to lack of space.

A check of \$8 was received from the P. N. G. Association of Schoharie District to buy linens for use at the Home.

A check of \$5 was received from Temple Rebekah Lodge No. 609 of Richmondville for jams and jellies. Clippings for quilt work received from Vashti Rebekah Lodge No. 613 of Union Springs.

Received from Grand Representative Watson of Yonkers, nine pairs of used shoes and underwear. They will come in very useful.

A donation of \$15 was received from Past Grand Conductor, Joseph Bowman for the Thanksgiving Turkey Fund.

P. P. Katherine A. Tinken sent \$1 for candy for the children.

Christmas package received from Mt. Tabor's Booster's Club of Jamestown.

A box of canned fruits, vegetables, jellies, soap and flour received from Nanahagen Rebekah Lodge No. 568, Pleasantville.

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D. D. P. Sheffel and Sister K. Smith of Beulah Rebekah Lodge No. 115 of Binghamton visited the Home and presented an Afgan to the residents in behalf of 10 members of the Past Noble Grands Club.

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Violet Rebekah No. 198—Mrs. M. E. Sickler—Illion—jams and jellies.

OUR NEW TRUSTEES

Just as we were going to press with our last issue in October, your Trustees were very much down in the "dumps" because we had just lost our Treasurer by death and our Secretary by resignation, two marvelous Brothers and Odd Fellows. But, fortunately, through the thoughtful consideration of the Grand Master, excellent successors have been provided in the personages of two brothers who have long been interested in the Home, Shirland H. Bouton of Binghamton, and Fred M. Parker of Watertown.

In the choice of Secretary and Treasurer we have been equally fortunate. Past Grand Master McConnell as Secretary and Past Grand Master Bouton as Treasurer, were the unanimous choice of the Board of Trustees and both of these brothers are now deeply engrossed in the work of their respective offices. Fortunate, indeed, are we as a Board to have secured men of this class, who are willing to devote so much of their time to this grand work, in filling the shoes of their predecessors who each devoted 25 years "toward helping the other fellow."

If any of our lodges are in need of a speaker at any of your gatherings at which you need information concerning the Home, I am sure you can always find one upon an appeal to the Trustee nearest your lodge. They are always available.

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A PROGRESSIVE GRAND LODGE

Besides the Special Committee on Homes, the work of which has been discussed elsewhere, Grand Master Parker has appointed four other Special Committees, as follows, who are all working earnestly for the up-building of Odd Fellowship in New York:

Committee of Unity: Chairman, P. G. M., Joseph W. Fischer; P. G. M. Jacob Levi, P. G. C. Charles Gustavson, Morris S. Gorman, Jacob P. Obenauer, P. G. M. John W. Barnell, P. G. M. Henry C. Fagal, Isidor I. Pollock and Frank T. Relner.

Committee on Consolidation of Small and Weak Lodges: Chairman, Emanuel Saget, P. G. M.; Axel G. Dawson, A. Alf. Johnson, Paul R. Pekaraky, John P. Stierly, Jr., P. G. G.; John C. Sable, Grand Conductor and Carl C. Chaffee.

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Past District Deputy Storms and nine members of Unahanna Rebekah Lodge No. 213 of Sidney, paid a visit to the Home in September and brought with them clothing and jams. They left many friends who appreciated their visit.

Mr. and Mrs. David Julian visited their mother in late September.

Brothers Frank Traver, George Cottirell, Robert Kilgore and Thomas McIntyre all had a turn at Infirmary care in October.

Sisters Hattie Atherly, Assembly Treasurer, Past President Anna Barber of Auburn and Irene Harshberger and Nina Betea of Union Springs, all visited the Home on October 6th.

Past District Deputy Palmer and several Rebekahs from Horseheads visited Brother Franklin Keefe at the Infirmary.

Hawthorne Rebekah Lodge No. 163 gave a Hal-lowe'en party at the Home in October.

Matie Schuttie was ill during November but is improved.

Mary Fessor, Charles Custeron and Nellie Johnson who have been ailing, are now somewhat improved.

Our cook, Mabel Harrison, slipped on the kitchen floor on November 4th and broke her wrist.

Donald Bishop and a student group visited the Home on November 16th bringing their own lunch, and entertained the family with songs and dancing.

Trustee Edgar Blackwell has paid us several visits on business in connection with the farm.

Trustee Fred Seely brought our new resident, George Wansor to the Home.

During the time when meat was \$1.00 a pound, our freezer unit continued to provide us with \$30 steak. Several porkers are now resting at minus five degrees awaiting our future eating pleasure.

New rugs are being provided for our parlor and a new electric stove for our kitchen. 25 years use is about all much used furniture will stand.

OOO

## DAILY PER CAPITA COST

The September food cost for meat, vegetables, milk and bread amounted to \$561.22 which made a per capita cost of \$31 plus. In October the same cost was \$533.88 making the daily per capita cost of \$.29 and in November it was substantially the same. Total cost \$533.69, Per Capita Cost \$.29.

We remember only a few years ago when these costs were running from \$.18 to \$.21 per day per capita. It is nothing we can help. It's the trend of the times.

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Holly Rebekah No. 7—Foughkeepsie—canned fruits, vegetables and jellies.

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## CHILDREN'S HOME NOTES

Judy Dixon is taking lessons on the saxophone and Billie Dixon on the slide trombone, both in preparation for the Junior High School Band.

Past President Murray visited the Orphanage in the Fall to prepare the children's wardrobe for school.

All of the children have received their check-ups for health and dentistry.

Jean Long and Judy Dixon were both confined with the mumps.

All the children are receiving religious instruction, some at school, some at the Chapel and some in non-denominational mission work.

Ruth Joslin is taking piano lessons.

Assembly President, Lucy B. Munger, Assembly Warden, Nellie Mason, and Sister Coral Evans were welcome visitors in October.

Judy Dixon's mother, aunt and uncle, visited her on her birthday, October 24th. Judy received a check from the Past Noble Grands Club of Foughkeepsie.

OOO

## ADMISSIONS AND DEATHS

On September 11, Earl Rickerson joined our Grand Lodge Home family from Gouverneur Lodge No. 325.

On October 5, Sister Rose DeLong came to us from Auoda Rebekah Lodge No. 431 of Cobleskill.

On October 21st, Brother George Fenner and wife were admitted from Monoca Lodge No. 219 of Waverly.

On November 26, Brother George Wansor was admitted from Seawanhaka Lodge No. 670 of Port Washington.

We regret to report the death on September 11 of Brother Raymond Hall of Philadelphia, N. Y., and on September 15th of Brother Frank DeReamer of Newfield.

On October 28th, Brother John Johnson who had been a resident for many years was laid to rest in our own cemetery at Hayta.

For the past few months the admissions have exceeded the deaths so that we are now filled practically to capacity.

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School of Instructions: Chairman, Samuel Carman; P. G. P. John H. Wood and P. G. Mar. William E. England.

Committee on Publicity: Chairman, Grand Warden Carl W. Boltz; Jerry Judin, George Devenau, Al Cohen, Fred W. Whitehouse, Alton D. Piersons and David Ross.

Look over the personnel of these committees and you will see signs of progress in 1946-1947.

It is expected that every committee mentioned above will not only study the problem assigned to them, but that their suggestions and reports will be so clear and progressive that the Grand Lodge of 1947 will unanimously approve their action.

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## FORM OF BEQUEST

Attorneys and friends frequently inquire as to the correct Corporate name of the Home for use in the preparation of Wills and Bequests and how legacies may be left for Home purposes. Either of the following may be used.

I give, devise and bequeath unto "The Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Home and Orphanage of the State of New York, Inc."

the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars to have and to hold the same absolutely and forever, to be used for such purposes as the Board of Trustees may deem best. The receipt of the President or Treasurer of the Board of Trustees shall be sufficient voucher for my Executor.

Or,—I give, devise and bequeath unto the "Grand Lodge I.O.O.F. of the State of New York for Grand Lodge Home Purposes"

the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars, to have and to hold the same absolutely and forever, to be used for the purpose of the Grand Lodge Home. The receipt of the Grand Master or Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge shall be sufficient voucher for my Executor.