



Helping Hospice

Mt. Baker IOOF Lodge #9 of Port Townsend presented a check for \$900 to the Jefferson Healthcare Home Health/Hospice in November. Members raised money through rummage sales and by selling hot dogs at the Rhody Parade each May. Home Health and Hospice has been one of their projects for years. From left (back) are Ruth Short and Judy Inman of Mizpah Rebekah Lodge; Carson Inman, Deputy Grand Master; Karen Loving, Home Health/Hospice business manager; George Eagleson; Secretary Ray Johnson; Richard Murray; and (front) Keri Johns, director of Home Health/Hospice, Leroy Inman; and NG Ron Inman.

Membership questionnaires needed by the end of February

To all IOOF Lodges which have not returned my membership questionnaire, please do so by the end of February. I will be using the information from these questionnaires for a membership meeting in March.

In F., L. & T., Ron Hanson, Grand Warden

PNG's Association

Team installs 7 Lodges, it's back to initiations!!

Happy Valentine's Day, PNG's!

The Past Noble Grands will meet in the Collins Grange Hall, 3404 - 120th St. E. in Tacoma on Thursday, February 17 at noon. The meeting will follow at 1 p.m. Hostess Lodge, Warren #308, will serve lunch at noon.

The F.,L.&T. Installation Team has completed installing officers for seven Lodges this past month. Well done, team!

Now it is back to initiating new candidates. To Lodges which have candidates, please call Drill Captain Guyida White so dates can be set for initiations. Her telephone number is (253) 845-6903.

In F., L. & T., Dorothy Nelson, Reporter

Visual Aid to meet March 5

The Washington Visual Aid Committee will meet on Saturday, March 5 at the Red Lion Hotel in Kelso at 3 p.m. All members who wish to attend are encouraged to do so.

*— Loletta McCormick, Secretary
Washington Visual Aid Committee*

Encampments grew by leaps and bounds in the early days

Harry Coulter, Grand Scribe for the Grand Encampment of Washington, has compiled the following history of the Encampment. He will be doing additional research and submitting more historical articles about the Encampment. This is Harry's second installment.

Tacoma # 8 was the first Encampment instituted and chartered by the Grand Encampment of Washington on September 19, 1884.

In the Grand Session of 1892, it was discovered that the Grand Encampment had exceeded 1,000 members, and a second Grand Representative was elected.

In the 1890s, the Encampments of British Columbia and northern Idaho were members of the Grand Encampment of Washington until their jurisdictions organized their own Grand Encampments.

The Grand Encampment of Washington became the Grand Encampment of Washington and Alaska with the admittance by petition of Aurora #A-1 of Douglas Island, Alaska in 1906.

I was unable to find any information after that until the 24th Annual Grand Encampment Session which was held in Spokane commencing June 1, 1907. R.W. Starr was Grand Patriarch for 1906-07. There were 48 Encampments at that time Centralia Encampment #60 was instituted on December 19, 1906. H.P. Downs #61 of Mt. Vernon was instituted on February 23, 1907 and Goodwill Encampment #62 of White Salmon was instituted on April 1, 1907

W.H. Coffin of Orting Encampment #22 was elected as Grand Patriarch for 1907-08. Frank Killien of Everett Encampment #27 of Lowell was Grand Patriarch for 1908-09. The 26th Annual Grand Encampment Session was held at Bellingham commencing May 31, 1909.

Granger Encampment No. 69 was instituted on April 3, 1909. Now we had 57 Encampments with a total membership of 4,161.

C.E. Lum of Yakima Encampment #7 of North Yakima was elected Grand Patriarch for 1910-11.

JJYC to meet in Kelso

Members of the Joint Jurisdictional Youth Committee (JJYC) are reminded that their next meeting will be on Saturday, March 5 at 2 p.m. in the Red Lion Inn in Kelso, WA. We hope to see all members in Kelso.



Pillow cases for McChord

Members of Buckley IOOF Lodge #75 are shown with pillow cases being donated by the members to the 447th Reserve at McChord Air Force Base in Tacoma. These pillow cases are used to transfer the picture of the mom or dad going overseas to Iraq and then presented to the child of that parent. Some 40 pillow cases have been donated and more will follow. From left are Jeremy Edwards, Jim Devlet, Tim VanDusen, Tony Ostlund and Ed Cassidy.

From the desk of the Grand Secretary



EDMUND L. REITAN, JR.

CONGRATULATIONS, NEW OFFICERS

I congratulate the new officers who have assumed their duties following installation of officers. I commend the officers who are returning to the same position for your loyalty and dedication to the work of our Order.

A reminder to all Lodges that the combination of Secretary and Financial Secretary as one office is authorized. The combination of Financial Secretary with the office of Treasurer is not approved. It is very important that a Lodge have two financial officers and you balance your accounts at the close of each regular meeting.

SUPPLIES AND PUBLICATIONS

As a reminder to those who maintain their own copy of the *Washington Digest*, the most recent changes are still available for \$8 plus postage. Another item that may be of interest is the *Charge Book* or sometimes called the *Pocket Ritual*. They are available for \$10 each, plus shipping. Some Lodges have purchased these to use at meetings to supplement the four large Lodge Rituals or to issue to members upon obtaining the Third Degree.

GENERAL INTEREST

Thank you to those Lodges that have already sent the Annual report. A reminder to those still holding theirs, reports must be filed by February 15 or a \$5 per day penalty will accrue.

All Lodges have recently received Representative Certificates and it is important that you return these on a timely basis to allow for the selection of Grand Lodge 2005 Session committee members.

My apologies to brother Craig Schultz who was elected and installed as Vice-President of the Department Council, PM of Washington. He was not listed as such on the inside back cover of the 2004 *Journal of Proceedings*. Captain Carson Inman was elected Representative to GMC. Under **Patriarch Militant Department of Washington**, those wishing to make a correction use: Lt. Col. Craig N. Schultz, Vice, President, 157 Boyer Drive, Walla Walla, WA 99362.

— In F, L. & T,
"Butch" Edmond L. Reitan, Jr.,
PGM and Grand Secretary

In Walla Walla

Narcissa Rebekah Lodge #2

We had a wonderful Christmas party on December 21 with about 37 members in attendance. Officers provided a variety of tasty finger foods and Noble Grand Elsie Wells served coffee and a delicious green sherbet punch. Members enjoyed games and entertainment using homemade items that most of us remember playing with while growing up. It was a great evening.

Our first meeting in January was

cancelled because of icy road conditions. Since then, things have been quiet with no activity.

We have been looking forward to January 15 when we had a Joint Installation of Officers with Enterprise IOOF Lodge #2 and Bee Hive Rebekah Lodge #70.

It is our hope that you are having a good New Year.

In F, L. & T,
Nancy Klicker, Reporter

From your 2004-2005 Grand Master



ERNEST HOUSE

GIVE YOUR NEW OFFICERS A CHANCE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

By now your new officers should have been installed. Work with your officers. You elected them, so give them a chance. You know, we all had to learn and most of us are still in the learning stage.

To those Lodges which asked me to be the Installing Officer, I again thank you. It was fun and it was so nice to again meet some of my old friends and make new ones.

February is the month of *Love* with Valentine's Day, etc. We should be giving our Lodges — both IOOF and Rebekah — love and support by being at our meetings, helping new members learn and not telling everyone they are doing it wrong!

You know, it is not too early to be thinking about Grand Sessions week in June. Make your motel reservations and be there to support your officers.

Another question — who do you want to be our new Grand Warden? If you have someone you would like to nominate, write a letter to the Grand Lodge giving the name and a brief outline of their qualifications. This letter should come from a Lodge and have the Lodge seal. The choice of the new Grand Warden is yours, so think about who you would like to see in that office.

Be good and if not, be good at it. See you down the road some place and time.

In F, L. & T., Ernest L. House, Grand Master

~ In Memoriam ~

- **John Largent**, Enterprise IOOF Lodge #2, Walla Walla.
- **Earl Clark**, Ellensburg IOOF Lodge #20, Ellensburg.
- **Kenneth Boyd**, Yakima IOOF Lodge #22.
- **Richard VanderLinden**, PGP, Yakima IOOF Lodge #22.
- **Robert M. Boggess**, 47 year member, VG, Pasco IOOF Lodge #257, Pasco.
- **Ernest B. Middleton**, Sequim IOOF Lodge #299, Sequim.
- **Connie Sexton**, PP DALAPM, PNG, Progress Rebekah Lodge, Oregon.
- **Elsie Collard**, Narcissa Rebekah Lodge #2, Walla Walla.
- **Aileen Bertholl**, Juneau, Ak, Charity Rebekah Lodge #3.
- **May Loeffelbein**, 64 year member, Faith Rebekah Lodge #16, Pomeroy.
- **Dorothy Imrie**, 40 year member, Leah Rebekah Lodge #22, Goldendale.
- **Adelaide Clark**, Miriam Rebekah Lodge #24, Ellensburg.
- **Elizabeth Nerland**, Bee Hive Rebekah Lodge #70, Walla Walla.
- **Ella Mae Miller**, 58 year member, Bee Hive Rebekah Lodge #70, Walla Walla.
- **Wanda Goll**, PNG, Tempest Rebekah Lodge #114, Wenatchee.
- **Agnes Houdyshell**, Grandview Rebekah Lodge #246, Grandview.
- **Kathleen Gidley**, Oak Leaf Rebekah Lodge #254, Oak Harbor.
- **Lois Meyers**, Oak Leaf Rebekah Lodge #254, Oak Harbor.
- **Thelma Sachs**, Oak Leaf Rebekah Lodge #254, Oak Harbor.
- **Mae Blevins**, Oak Leaf Rebekah Lodge #254, Oak Harbor.
- **Bessie Forte**, All State Rebekah Lodge #319, Richland.

South Tacoma Rebekahs #160

We've started the New Year right. We have initiated two new Rebekah Sisters — Amy Fors, who brings along some young and wonderful ideas, and Elyse Balmert, many of whom some of you might remember was a Past President of the Theta Rho Assembly of Washington. Welcome Sisters! It is nice to have some new faces.

Our Lodge had it's installation on Sunday January 23. Thank you to the

PNG Drill Team for installing South Tacoma's new officers.

Congratulations to our new Noble Grand Sharon Harris and her officers. She has planned us a busy year and we look forward to it.

The Lodge would like to thank our PNG Barb Nelson for all her hard work this last year. Barb did a wonderful job even though she had a rough personal year. Thank you, Barb!
Laurel Delony, Reporter

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From your 2004-05 Assembly President

FEBRUARY - THE MONTH OF LOVE

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

This is Valentine's month and remember the *love* that comes with it and that is part of our Friendship, *Love* and Truth. Do something special for the Love of your life — be it for your spouse, family and/or Lodge brother or sister. We all need to know we are loved and are special.

I am very sorry that I haven't been able to attend the installations that I had planned on, but the doctors said "no," so I had to stay home. Not only did I get bronchitis, but Jack and now Freddie (my Basset) have got it.



My feelings are that it is better to stay home away from all of you so that you don't get these bugs that love to travel.

Hopefully I will be traveling again in February with a trip to Bremerton on February 8. Later on as the weather improves, the Assembly elected officers will be attending your District Meetings. Please let us know when and where they will be held so that each meeting will have at least one of the officers there. We will try to attend different meetings.

Assembly officers will be receiving information on the dresses for Assembly Sessions.

All Lodges will be receiving a letter from me to ask for permission to attend your Lodge meetings on the east side of the state. There are some of the Lodges on the west side that have asked me to come and see them and I am going to try. Thank you for asking me. I look forward to seeing all of you.

Spring is hopefully coming soon. We are starting to see ground. The snow and the ice around us is slowly going away. Then I think of the other people and the weather they are getting and say we could have more trouble by looking around our country and the world.

*In F., L. & T., Sandi Moon, President
Rebekah Assembly of Washington*

In Pe Ell

Sylvan Glen Rebekah Lodge #184

If weather permitted, we held our dinner installation on January 26 with Lou Ann Hoffman officiating. Installed were: NG Leona Treznoski, VG Louise Lusk, Sec. Jerry Bierdeman, Fin. Sec. Marian Moon, Treas. Corky Walker and Trustee Joyce Crafton.

Our sick list is longer than usual. We wish them all speedy recoveries.

Louise Lusk is finally home after breaking her leg and spending hospital and recovery time.

Ray Purcell is back in the hospital for surgery. He will recuperate at his mother's, Warren and Corky Walker.

Funeral Services for NG Leona's nephew, Doug Rector, were held in Granite Falls.

A memorial service was held at the VFW Hall for John Treznoski's cousin, Stanley King.

Jerry Bierdeman has her book store

open and will be very busy for a while. We wish her well.

We received a dispensation to meet at the VFW Hall and we've been waiting for months for an answer to our change in by-laws. Reading about the correct way in the Secretary's letter, we hope that we were not being referred to. We hope that is straightened out very soon.

"Do other look at you and me and see the kinds of person they would like to be?"

— William Arthur Ward

"Kindness is the oil that takes the friction out of life."

— From "Smile"

I joined the Rebekahs in May of 1954 and have been a constant member for more than 50 years.

*In F., L. & T.,
Luellen Ainsworth,
PNG & Reporter*

In Castle Rock

Cowlitz Rebekah Lodge #337

Now that we are rested up from the holidays, it is back to Lodge again. Our first meeting of the new year was on January 11 in Castle Rock. We discussed plans for our installation.

A big thank you goes to our special DDP Rosalie Davis. During the first week in December, her extended help with our coffee stop at the rest area was much appreciated. A successful profit was made with her help.

Our Chaplain, Cookie Music, has an addition to her household — a little puppy named Snoopy. What an adjustment! He is into everything and growing like a weed.

As the year 2005 unfolds, we, like everyone else, are open to new and interesting members. In the meantime, happy New Year to all.

*In F., L. & T.,
Cookie Music, Reporter*

From the desk of the Assembly Secretary



BETTY WELDON

A FEW REMINDERS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Well, winter is here in full force and I know some of you are unable to meet due to snow and road conditions. I hope you are keeping in touch by telephone and cheering those members who are shut-ins. This is a bleak time of the year for them, too. Our winter birds are here in full force and enjoying George's hand-outs. They seem to increase every day.

If the time ever comes when you are no longer able to be a Rebekah, please let your Lodge Secretary know that you want a withdrawal. If you are carried on the books after December 31 and have not paid your dues (including those due on January 1) then the Lodge will have to pay your dues for you for the following year. This creates a hardship on the other Lodge members which I am sure no one wishes to do. It is perfectly fine to ask for a Withdrawal Card. I see this happening a great deal in members who transfer to State Lodge because of Consolidation or Surrender of Charter. At the present time State Lodge has 40 transferred members whose dues end January 1, 2005. If these dues are not paid then the Assembly will have to pay Per Capita and SGL Dues for these members for the coming year, which can cost \$1,000 or more. Sisters, we just do not have extra funds to do this except by raising the Per Capita Dues, which no one wants to do. If you decide to join another Lodge then that Lodge secretary must inform the previous Lodge that you have transferred and a Transfer Certificate will be issued. Otherwise two Lodges are paying your dues at the same time.

There has been a problem in the Lodges which is increasing and which needs to be addressed. You cannot use your trust funds to pay Per Capita dues, buy lunches or give away to various projects. We have been instructed to not allow this to happen in the Lodges and we need to remind the officers that they are legally responsible if funds of this kind are deleted. The spendable monies of the Lodge are derived from dues, donations or fund-raisers, which are to be used for the good of the Order, to promote membership and to assist in community and projects of the Order. Trust funds are derived from the sale of a hall no matter how long ago. If another Lodge consolidates with you and brings a large amount of funds, that is the same as a trust fund. You cannot give it away or use it for Lodge expenses. The exception to this is buying another hall or improving an Odd Fellow Hall (if a promissory note is received). The President has the power to come in and freeze your funds if she sees that this is happening and that is the last thing anyone would want to happen. However, that is a possibility if it is obvious that abuses are being taken. The Washington Digest and the SGL Code Book clearly spell this out.

Secretaries, it is imperative that you inform Grand Lodge when a member passes away, is dropped for NPD or withdraws. Bill Ostlund, on the newspaper, has an e-mail address or will take the information by telephone. It might be a good idea to send him a list of those on your membership list who are no longer in your Lodge. The Odd Fellow newspaper is very expensive to publish and mail and I know the Rebekahs do not want to see the cost rise on the Per Capita dues.

Now, go take a rest, sit back, enjoy the news of other Lodges and think about how lucky you are to belong to an organization that really cares about you and others. May you receive and give lots of love on Valentine's Day.

With Rebekah Love,

Betty Weldon, Secretary, Rebekah Assembly of Washington

E-Mail: bweldon@crpud.net

Alder Rebekahs #80 - Bickleton

We had our Christmas Party on December 14. Everyone brought finger food and something for the gift exchange. Everyone ate too much, but had a good time.

We remembered three of our long-time members by voting to send them flowers for the holidays.

At our second meeting, we made plans for the installation of officers in

January and we reviewed names for recruiting new members in 2005.

As we turn the page of the New Year, we hold in our hearts all of our members with injuries, surgeries or bereavement.

We wish all a prosperous, healthy and happy New Year.

*In F., L. & T.,
Pam Rapach, Reporter*



Happy Valentine's Day!

From your 2004-2005 Theta Rho President



CHRISTINA BOND

I NEED YOUR DATES

Hello again. I hope everyone was able to enjoy our wonderful snow! This month I am starting to pick up important dates. To all the clubs, I need your dates so I can schedule my visits. It is important for me to know in advance as I need to give my job the dates that I will need off. Please contact me ASAP at (360) 675-3580 or email me at magicflute_872@hotmail.com.



By the time you read this article, you should have received your letter with your club assignments for Assembly so that you can start working on them.

On February 5, Acorn is having an open house in hopes to strengthen our club with new members. After our open house, we will make Valentine cards for the elderly.

I am glad to see the other clubs are getting new members. Keep up the good work.

Happy Valentine's Day!

*In Happiness Through Service,
Christina Bond, President, Theta Rho Assembly of Washington
Love, Peace and Cookies*

In Richland

All States Rebekah Lodge #319 and Richland IOOF Lodge #338

Our special thanks to the Grand Master, the Rebekah Assembly Past President, Grand Marshals and Grand Staff for our installation of 2005 officers.

Best wishes to Sister Myrtle Hall as she is having serious eye problems.

We are saddened by the loss of Sister Bessie Forte at the age of 92 last June in Fresno, CA. Bessie was very active in our Lodge for 40 plus years. Our love and sympathies are extended to her son James Forte and family.

Also best wishes to our long list of sick and shut-ins.

All States #319 contributed "pay as you go" Christmas gifts to our shut-in members. The Brothers took large baskets of food to the food bank for holiday distribution.

Our NG Virginia Woolforth has chosen the lighthouse as her emblem. Virginia was born in a lighthouse on the Oregon coast as her grandfather was a lighthouse keeper.

*Lighting the Way with Friendship
Juanita McElveny, Reporter*

Columbian Rebekah Lodge #220 and Washougal IOOF Lodge #194

Happy Valentine's Day to all you lovely people!!

As I write this, the weather man calls for snow in the upper levels and maybe a little on the valley floor. It is nice to see, but it is so hard to get around in. I would like the snow to stay in the upper levels.

February is a good month to think about your loved ones and send cards to say you love them. You can even send some to your special friends just to say you are thinking about them. Lift their spirits!!

Remember to celebrate the Birthdays of our presidents. They all had a great impact on our country. We must remember our troops who also are a great asset to our country. Without them our country would be a mess.

Our Lodge has a "Penny Box" to collect funds for the Arthritis Fund. We are hoping to help that project this year. We would like to start some kind of project to collect money for the "S.O.S. Project." We feel this is a

great project to help the children of the world.

A LASTING FRIENDSHIP

Some people are fortunate enough to meet someone special in their lives who, even though each may follow their separate ways, continue to share a lasting friendship. . .

The special times spent together, the people and places shared, are memories both will always have.

They are the people remembered always, who live in the heart no matter what. . . always just a thought or phone call away, even if the years have come between.

This is for you, my special friend, given with a special kind of love.

Thank you for all the times in my life you were such a vital part of and for being the unique essence of our lasting friendship.

— By Cammie Charles

Once again I say happy Valentine's Day! May God bless all of you. Until next time. . .

Joyce Miller, PNG, Sec. & Reporter.

In Oak Harbor

Acorn Theta Rho #79

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone.

We have put all of our efforts this past month into planning an open house for February 5. We will be inviting friends and their parents to come and learn about Theta Rho. We plan on presenting some background on the club, our activities and personal experiences as members. This is part of our membership drive. We will let you know how it turns out. We also plan on serving refreshments to those who attend after the presentation.



Acorn's Assistant Advisor Cindy McCloskey presents the winning turkey to Les Hassler of Oak IOOF Lodge #291. Les won the turkey in Acorn's raffle.

Following the open house, we will make Valentines for the nursing home. We plan on inviting any who care to stay to do so and help us with this project.

Our community service project for January was a donation to Mercy Corps to aid the victims of the tsunami.

We are not announcing a date for our installation at this time because we are waiting to see if we can get some new members and get them initiated before we hold an installation. We do have our elective officers and they are: President Stacey McCloskey, Vice President Bethany Bond, Secretary Christina Bond and Treasurer Kristyna McCloskey.

We attended some of the adult installations in our area and plan on attending the installation of Spunky Bluebirds in Tacoma. Congratulations to all the new officers, both adult and Theta Rho.

Until next month. . .

— The members of Acorn #79

In South Tacoma

Spunky Bluebirds Theta Rho #93

We have elected our new officers for the year. They are: President Lea Daniels, Vice-President Jenny Vargo, Secretary Kaitlin Yates, and Treasurer, Amber Bailey. We will be having a joint installation with Grays Harbor Theta Rho Club on February 19 at 1 p.m. at the Odd Fellows Hall in South Tacoma, 5424 S. Puget Sound. We hope a lot of you will come and see us and wish our new officers a good year.

Our incoming President Lea has picked turtles and ducks as her symbols and pink and purple for her colors.

We attended the installations of South Tacoma Rebekah Lodge and Eola Rebekah Lodge. We presented the flag at both installations and were very honored to be asked to do so.

We hope to see everyone on the 19th. Safe journeys through life wherever the road takes you.

In Happiness Through Service, Kendra Frogge', Advisor

Eola Rebekah Lodge #63 - Buckley

A very nice holiday dinner was held at a local restaurant for our members, the Odd Fellows and our families and friends. After enjoying the food, the adults visited and the children colored. It was a relaxing evening.

On January 23, we gathered for dinner followed by installation of officers. Deputy Grand Master Carson Inman and Rebekah Assembly Vice President Linda Dodge and their teams performed the ceremony. Gifts were given to the Rebekah installing officers which had been made by our

out-going Noble Grand, Kathy Pierce.

Installed as Noble Grand for our Lodge was Doris Wigglesworth. This is her second time she has served as Noble Grand in our Lodge. Robert Harding is our new Vice Grand for the first time. The Secretary and Treasurer remain the same. This seems to be a lifetime position. We were assisted during the evening by the Spunky Bluebirds Theta Rho Girls' Club of which we are co-sponsors. We were happy to have them with us.

*In F, L. & T.,
Karen Hoylman, Secretary*

Unity IOOF Lodge #18 - Puyallup

Unity Lodge members met at our regular meeting place on January 5. The main item for the evening was the induction of new officers for 2005. PG Byron Rake was the installing officer. Our new officers are: NG Dean Baumgartner, VG Jim Hermanson, Sec. Bill LeBlanc, Treas. Kerry Yanasak, and Fin. Sec. Bill LeBlanc.

Don Thiem provided cookies and Kerry Yanasak provided Christmas candy and coffee. Kerry reported that

all but two have paid their dues and their checks are apparently in the mail.

In other business, we approved sending a candidate on the United Nations Pilgrimage and we passed the hat among those in attendance and collected \$650 to be sent to the victims of the tsunami disaster.

Happy New Year to all.

*In F, L. & T.,
Bill LeBlanc,
Secretary*

Bothell Odd Fellow Lodge #124 Clover Leaf Rebekah Lodge #54

Hi, everyone.

The holidays are over and all the decorations are put away. It is time to start the new year, so here is a short update for our Lodge.

At our Christmas party, we had a cookie exchange and lots of coffee and tea. We brought enough cookies to make some baskets for delivery to our shut-ins.

Thank you all who have helped us with the large amount of food that we were able to donate to Hopelink and for the warm clothing for the homeless (very much needed this time of the year).

In January, our new officers for 2005, along with the Lone Star #141 and Gilman #69 officers, were installed in Fall City.

Officers for IOOF Lodge #124 are: NG Daryl Martin, VG Nancy Graesser, Sec. Zoe Witman and, Treas. Paul Bergren.

Officers for Clover Leaf Rebekah

Lodge #54 are: NG Jackie Hallstrom, VG Theo Bergren, Sec. Linda Lindgren, Treas. Lillian Lathrum, and Fin. Sec. Mary Durbin. Appointed officers are: Ward. Zoe Whitman, Cond. Opal Sipes, Chap. Betty Hugg, IG Sharon Wilson, OG Marlene Sullivan, RSNG Nancy Graesser, RSVG Jean Oja, LSVG Maggie Parker, Sec. Asst. Betty O'Donnell, RS Chap. Betty Huntley, LS Chap. Sharon Vitolo, PNG Dorothy Sly, RSPNG Elizabeth Jacobus, and LSPNG Ross Jacobus.

At the November breakfast, we served a crowd of 63 — our largest crowd! It seemed like a party! It was nice to see (or so I hear since I happened to be on vacation in Texas at that time). Remember, our pancake breakfast is the fourth Saturday of each month. We hope to see many of you here.

*Jean Oja & Nancy Graesser,
Reporters*

Trinity Rebekahs #179 - Napavine

Trinity members have been busy with all of their fun activities. This year the new (old) crew are as follows. PNG Delia McNelly, NG Alberta Luurs, VG Rosalie Fojt, Sec. Pat Harader, Fin. Sec. Sandy Beane, and Treas. Candy Koons.

I hope we can be as productive as Delia was. She put all her earned money from her Noble Grand fund in the kitchen and boy does it look good. Thank you Delia for a job well done. She was Noble Grand 40 years ago.

This has been a rough year. We lost four longtime members. It seems that

they come in groups for knowledge, but I say thanks for their teaching to keep us going strong.

We gained a new member, Marilyn Williams. The Olympia ladies initiated her for us. We are hoping to gain more new members this coming year.

I'm really hoping that this is a very productive year for all the existing Lodges. We are getting so few in numbers.

I am hoping to get more news sent to the newspaper this year and apologize to all my Sisters.

Alberta Luurs, NG & Reporter

Miriam Rebekahs #25 and Ellensburg IOOF Lodge #20

Greetings to all of our Brothers and Sisters. It has been a while since I have sent in a report due to the fact that my husband was quite ill. He passed away in November.

We also lost three of our Lodge Members recently. They are Brother Ralph Riegel, Brother Earl Clark and Sister Adelaide Clark. Brother Ralph died in November and Brother Earl and Sister Adelaide died in December. Our sympathies go out to their families. They were faithful members and really worked hard when they were in our Lodge.

We had elections of our officers for next year. The new Rebekah officers are: NG Diane Bullock-Gauron, VG

Gladys Crosier, Sec. Lorene Swedberg, Treas. Willie Rentz and Trustee Ernest Hadley.

At our last meeting, we had our Christmas party and gift exchange. Sisters Winifred Johnson and Lorene Swedberg took gifts to our Sisters.

We sent money to the Home in memory of Brothers Ralph Riegel, Earl Clark and Sister Adelaide Clark. We also made a donation to the Rose Parade Float.

I hope all Lodges have a good year and will be able to get new members.

Take care and may God bless.

*In F., L. & T.,
Grace Wilson,
PNG and Reporter*

Sunshine Rebekah Lodge #56 - Dixie

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I've had so many potluck dinners. Thank goodness I've lost another five pounds. I can't tell you how long that will last as there are more to come.

It was reported that Sister Vivian Linklater of Prescott was in the hospital for a while, but she is back home again. We hope all is well with you, Sister Vivian.

Installation was in Dixie with Schuyler joining in, along with a few Brothers from Faith #16 in Pomeroy. NG Gail Frankie's appointed officers are: RSP Mary Lou Bostrup, LSP Elsie Patterson, Chap. Kathy Coon, Ward. Frances Randolph, Cond. Neva Cook, IG Nancy Schirman, and OG Ilene Townsend. VG Freida Church's supporters are: RSVG Ellen Want,

and LSVG Patricia Townsend.

The PNG Double D's Club will meet on the second Monday of this month, February 14 at 2 p.m., in Dixie. Cora Davis and Elsie Patterson will be the hostesses. The next meeting will be on March 14 in Dayton at 2 p.m. Hostesses are Dorothy McGuire and Frances Randolph.

The fourteenth of February is a day sacred to St. Valentine! It was a very odd notion, alluded to by Shakespeare, that on this day birds begin to couple; hence, perhaps, arose the custom of sending on this day letters containing professions of love and affection.

— Noah Webster

*In F., L. & T.,
Mary Lou Bostrup, Reporter*

Spring 2005 Northwest ODD FELLOW/REBEKAH ASSOCIATION MEETING

~ April 1, 2 & 3, 2005 ~

Coeur d'Alene Inn
And Conference Center

414 West Appleway, Coeur d'Alene, ID. Exit 12
1-800-251-7829 • 1-208-765-3200

Make room reservations directly with the hotel. Specify that it is for the Northwest Odd Fellow/Rebekah Association.

Room Rates Are \$72 Plus Tax

Cut off time for room block is March 1, 2005.

After March 1, reservations will be provided on available basis only.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Title(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov. _____ Zip _____

PRE-REGISTRATION:

The Following Prices Are Quoted In U.S. Funds

Number of Pre-Registrations _____ @ \$8 each \$ _____

Saturday Night Luau # _____ @ \$30.00 \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED (U.S. Funds) \$ _____

Friday being APRIL FOOLS DAY, Sheryl wants us to come and join the evening of fun in costume of your choice. She said something about prizes!!!

The Saturday night banquet will be an HAWAIIAN LUAU! Come dressed for the occasion. We promise a great dinner and entertainment.

Please Make Checks In U.S. Funds Payable To:
N.W. Convention Committee

Send To:

Janette Weatherly, 1102 North 11th St., Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Red Apple IOOF Lodge #276 and Grandview Rebekah Lodge #246

Our Rebekah Lodge gave enough food for two families for Christmas. A special thank you goes to Becky Robbins of All States Rebekah Lodge for donating a Christmas dinner plus an extra turkey for our project. In lieu of paying her, she asked us to donate the refund to the Salvation Army for toys. Becky was a Theta Rho member and joined our Rebekah Lodge when she was 16. We also gave candy canes to Orchard House and will give them Valentines and maybe some special treats this month.

The Odd Fellows have changed the hours of their monthly breakfast to 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. We hope this works out better for them and they get more

customers.

CHUCKLE OF THE MONTH

"I climbed the door and shut the stairs. I said my shoes and took off my prayers. I shut off my bed and climbed into the light, all because you kissed me good night."

— Author unknown

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"The greatest reward for doing good is the opportunity to do more."

Maybe we can't always give a monetary donation, but our prayers can always go on the wing of a dove and reach those we pray for.

In F., L. & T.,

Val DeVall,

Reporter

Mystic Rebekah Lodge #168 and Bremerton Friendship Lodge #145

We wish to congratulate all new officers and thank our installing teams. We cherish the friendships with all we have met.

On Tuesday, February 8 at 1 p.m., Mystic Rebekah Lodge #168 will hold a special meeting to welcome Aurilla Rebekah Lodge members during the Consolidation Ceremony which will be conducted by President Sandra Moon and her staff.

Mystic Rebekah Lodge dues, as of January 1, 2005, is \$24 to reflect per

capita increases at SGL and Assembly in 2004.

Get well wishes to Elsie Burgett, Shirley Gosselin, Dorothy McGee, Harold Colson, Gordon Cooper and Francis Macpherson. The good news is Ina Mathews' leg is better and Dorothy McGee has very hopeful therapy.

For all near and far, happy Valentine's Day.

Don & Florence Cowdery,

Reporters

Leah Rebekah Lodge #22 - Goldendale

The New Year brought about five inches of snow and it has been extremely cold this week.

Since installation wasn't until January 11, our 2004 officers presided at our January 4 meeting. Our Noble Grand-elect Belinda Sweetin presented her program and her prizes for her raffles and stated she will have a door prize at each meeting. January birthdays were honored and a beautiful necklace was given to the honorees. I was one of the lucky ones. Thank you, Sister Belinda.

On January 17, we had practice for initiation. On Tuesday night, January 18 we initiated two candidates, Heather McGaughy and Faye Taught. We also initiated a candidate from Isabella Rebekah Lodge #23 in Yakima. Sister Mavis didn't give us her name because I'm sure she hadn't been informed. Brother Dale Bowdish and Sister Glenda Bowdish had the program and refreshments for that evening.

Brother Art and Sister Elnora

Winterstein are back in Goldendale and getting along pretty well. No other illness was reported at Lodge, so I guess everyone is on the mend.

On February 1, Brother Lloyd Sweetin has the program and Sister Kathleen Berg has the refreshments. On February 15, Sister Beverley Zaremba has the program and Sister Agnes Ritzschke has the refreshments.

Let's consult our Year Books and try to follow the Noble Grand's program if possible.

Shall we or shall we not do coffee stops this year — that is the question? Think it over and we will decide at another meeting. It is a wonderful fund raiser, but members have to participate because it takes time and effort.

We hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and may the New Year bring peace and happiness.

*In F, L. & T.,
Loleta Zumwalt,
PNG and Reporter*



A project for the President

This is a picture of the project President Sandi Moon mentioned in her article last month. NG Nancy Pelland had the idea to add some fun to the December Lodge meetings at Unity Rebekah Lodge #53 in Auburn and raise some money for Rebekah Assembly President Sandi Moon's project. Nancy provided the felt, ribbons and other supplies for the members to use to make socks or mittens to decorate our lodge Christmas tree. Each member made their decoration, added a monetary donation and brought them to the December 6 Lodge meeting. Sister Nancy gave out prizes for the best felt creations. Then they were packed up and mailed to Sister Sandi in time for her to enjoy them during her Christmas celebration. What a fun project! Standing are Nancy Vriezema, Nancy Pelland, Mary Curtiss and Gladys Hughes. In front is Kim Hogenson.

Tempest Rebekahs #114 - Wenatchee And Prosperity IOOF Lodge #301

In January we had installation with the Lodges joining for a dinner installation. Elected officers installed were: NGs Barbara Pitman and Bill Clark, VGs Marjorie Farrens and Lois Clark, Secretaries Wanda Goll and Marjorie Farrens, and Treasurers Sharin Brown and Charles Goll. Both Lodges are looking forward to a busy year as we move ahead with repairs to our hall.

For the Rebekahs, January also was a month which saw the initiation of two new members, Janna Ashly and Bill Clark. Sister Janna also is one of the newest members of prosperity IOOF Lodge.

Our "Secret Pals" have been a lot

of fun. We drew names for the new year. It's always great to be remembered on special days and it is even better when these special messages and gifts come for no occasion except, "I'm thinking of you."

As we move into the new year, let us do so with enthusiasm, vision and dedication. Here's a thought I would like to leave with you:

"Always remember to forget the troubles that passed away, but never forget to remember the blessings that come each day."

*In F, L. & T.,
Marjorie Farrens,
Reporter*

In Walla Walla

Bee Hive Rebekah Lodge #70

On Saturday, January 15, installation of officers for Bee Hive Rebekah Lodge #70, Narcissa Rebekah Lodge #2 and Enterprise IOOF Lodge #2 was held at the Washington Odd Fellows Home. Officers for Bee Hive Rebekah Lodge #70 are: NG Craig N. Schultz, VG Anna Martien, Sec. Jeanne L. Elder, Fin. Sec. Glenna Hendrix, Treas. Evelyn Carver, and Jr. PNG and three-year Trustee Karen L. Schultz.

Last month I told you that the installation would be at the Odd

Fellows Hall in Walla Walla, but the place for installation was changed after I sent in the article. I'm sorry for the misinformation, but that is the price when we have to send in articles so far in advance. I'm sure the next reporter will do better.

Brother Craig Schultz's first meeting was held January 25 at which we welcomed Sister Mildred Wimple as a member by transfer from Sun Lakes #329.

*Henrietta "Penny" Everson,
Secretary and Reporter*

Ramona Rebekah Lodge #238 & Wilford Odd Fellow Lodge #269

Ramona and Wilford Lodges were lucky to have their first meeting of the new year before the *big* snow hit.

Selma Lindor read Ramona's year-end report.

We are so happy that Sister Ethel Linsey of Beacon comes to Lodge so Ellen Nunn does not have to drive alone.

Wilford's Treasurer for so many years, John Cook, has resigned his position. As most of you know, Elinore's MS has steadily gotten worse and John still cares for her at home.

Wilford NG Elmer Lindor visited John Davis and Joe Gardner. Brother John is on oxygen and has good and bad days. Joe looks good, but his last

stroke took the vision from his right eye. Both Lillian Davis and Shirley Gardner were out grocery shopping when Elmer visited. Good thing he is not sensitive!

All officers will have been installed by the time you read this. Ramona's elective offices will remain the same as 2004. Elmer Lindor will remain as Wilford's NG. Sister Selma Lindor will be Secretary and Donna Flatt is the Treasurer.

Wilford's business lunch was planned to be held on South Hill so Shirley and Joe could attend, but the hill in January was a sheet of ice. We hope we can reschedule soon.

*In F, L. & T.,
Donna Flatt, Reporter*

Waterville Rebekah Lodge #77

Another day, another month and another year! Greetings to all for a happy and productive 2005 filled with lots of activities. We're off and running here in Waterville with our first meeting already behind us.

Plans for installation on January 17 were finalized and the upcoming District Association Meeting was discussed. It looks like the date will be changed to April 16 if we can get the church to meet in the Fellowship Hall. We will have more details next month.

2004 ended with our Christmas Dinner and Celebration. As always, the food was extra good and everyone shared readings and sang Christmas carols and songs before exchanging gifts. We had 12 Sisters, one Brother and three husbands in attendance.

We are thankful for another year to report no losses in our membership. We did increase by one with the transfer of membership by one Brother.

Several members are in assisted living care homes and are unable to be in attendance. They are remembered frequently with cards. Two 60-year plus members have been transferred to the non-contributing list. Healthwise, most all are enjoying good health.

This letter will appear in the February issue, so we all send Valentine greetings. Remember your members who are shut-in and especially all your loved ones. This is the time of the year that showing open affection can be exhibited. Personally, I think it should be everyday.

To all Sisters and Brothers who may be having sickness or distress in their lives, our prayers and thoughts are with you. Sister Yvonne, Assembly Treasurer, we hope you are on the mend

Until next month. . .

*Fraternal Love, Fay Bowers-Holland,
PP and Reporter*

Mansfield Rebekah Lodge #281

Hello from Mansfield to all Rebekah Sisters!

By the time you read this, the following will be things of the past:

- Amendment to our By-Laws read for the third time and send to the Vice President for acceptance.
- Our Lodge will have been audited.
- Annual Report completed, read and sent in.
- 2005 officers installed.

We are so few in numbers, but we try to do what is required of us.

Dorothy Murison and Cora Nordby have been ill with a virus. Darline

Hodges is doing well following her knee surgery.

The Christmas Bazaar was a success and we made a nice amount of money, which makes our treasury look much better.

There is not much going on in our snowy little town this time of the year. I send greeting to all our Sisters who are unable to attend our meetings. We think of you often.

I pray that 2005 will be a good year for everyone. 'Till next time. . .

*In F, L. & T.,
Helen Kemp,
Reporter*

Nisqually Rebekah Lodge #233

Nisqually #233 sends Valentine's greetings.

We had our joint installation with Kapowsin. Our new slate of officers are: NG Joanne Rhein, VG Clarabelle Nordstrom, Sec. Guyida White and Treas. Dorothy Ray. We wish these

Sisters best wishes as we support them during this new year.

Remember our 7 p.m. opening on the first and third Thursdays. Everyone is welcome.

*In F, L. & T.,
Norma Roberts, PNG and Reporter*

From your Deputy Grand Master

Let's work in harmony!

Dear Members;

Happy New Year! January is already passed us by. Most Lodges have installed their new officers or they will soon. "Old Man Winter" again bit us with his wrath of cold weather. Like last year, we had a couple of cancellations, but rescheduling proved to be no problem. Congratulations to all newly-elected officers and to those of you who have been there before. May we all work in harmony and have fun doing it. This will be an exciting year for us.

These past 12 months have been interesting and also sad with the passing of our beloved Art and the many other Brothers and Sisters in our Lodges. But time still goes forward and we shall also move forward. I hope our Brother Ed Reitan, continues the good work he has bestowed upon the desk as our Grand Secretary.

At the end of December, we should have had our candidates for the L.J. Jones Memorial scholarship program turned in, the money for our students attending the United Nations Pilgrimage sent in and the year-end Lodge Reports finished and sent in by this time. Hopefully we had many student resumes and applicant's letters for the pilgrimage turned in, presenting us with a challenge in the selection process.

Also, our new membership total for the year will have ended and we hope last year's total was beaten. In December's Sovereign Grand Lodge newsletter, we were in fourth place nationally, so I'm hoping we got a lot of new members names turned in before December 31.

February, March and April are the three months that I plan on visiting Lodges in Colfax, Pomeroy, Pasco, Kennewick, Bickleton, Grandview, Goldendale, White Salmon, Skookumchuck, Sylvia, Ellensburg and Moses Lake. This way I can see where I can be of help and get to know you members and speak about the projects I am working on. Your Lodge Secretaries will be receiving a letter at least a meeting prior to my visitation date. I will be in other Lodges, but these are the ones I was unable to attend last year.

Community involvement is one of the ingredients to attaining new membership. What we do and how we do it provides the spice of difference in how we reflect the importance in the meaning of our Three Links — Friendship, Love and Truth. Faith, Hope and Charity are the three big words for the units of Encampment. These are also great guides in making the inner workings of our Lodge more meaningful, and the involvement with other Lodges in our District so important.

Have fun and make sure all members attending a Lodge meeting should have something to say or are on a committee. It keeps members interested and wanting to return for more fraternal friendship.

Our sympathies go to the Hanson family as our Grand Warden Ron lost his mother in December. I know the holidays lost a lot of meaning to them.

In Friendship, Love And Truth, Carson Inman, Deputy Grand Master



Animals on parade

Members of Oak Leaf Rebekah Lodge #254 collected 130 stuffed animals which were presented to the local ambulance service during the holidays. From left are DGM Carson Inman, NG Alyce Lane, Paramedic Robert May, Rep. Nita Sherwood, Paramedic Chris Trembel, and TRA Pres. Christina Bond.

South Tacoma IOOF Lodge #211

Greetings! Our new officers are installed and we'd like to thank the Grand Lodge Officers for installing us. Our Lodge agreed to have a regular installation instead of a dinner installation. This was a first for many of our members.

Congratulations to the new officers and a big **thank you** to our PG Dan

Marek for a great year.

I goofed when I gave the list of officers the last time. I had Kevin Fisk and John Nelson switched. John is our new Treasurer and Kevin is our Financial Secretary. Okay Andy, I've got them straight now.

*In F, L. & T,
Laurel Delony, Reporter*

From your 2004-2005 Department Commander

GREETINGS FROM YOUR DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

I want to start my letter to you by saying I am sorry you haven't heard from me sooner. But as you all know when you saw me at the Theta Rho President's Reception, my back was hurting really bad. Well, I steadily went down hill. By October, I was hardly able to get out of bed to use the bathroom. My wife was doing all the chores and waiting on me.

They finally gave me a nerve block after Christmas and now, so far, I have no pain. Since so many of us are sick and hurting so much, I know you understand. Anyway, I hope you had a good Christmas and the New Year brings you all good luck and health. Keep trying to improve your membership. May God bless you all.

Chivalrously, Col. Lloyd Sweetin, Department Commander

From the Department Association President

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

Happy New Year everyone. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas.

I am sorry, but I wasn't able to visit your Auxiliary in January. I will try to make all the installations if I can. Do the best you can and forgive me if I can't make it. Remember, you may see me anytime.

Good Luck for 2005.

*Chivalrously,
Lady LeRose Coulter, President
Department Association LAPM of Washington*

From the 2004-05 Grand Matriarch



BRRRRR! IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!!

While I write this letter, Old Man Winter has definitely arrived.

It is time for elections this year and I hope that you are electing officers who will strive to increase our membership and inspire our members to work harder to provide a service to our communities. Have you thought of providing some blankets, sheets or pillows for our domestic abuse centers? Many leave our shelters with nothing to set up housekeeping with. All items of this nature are needed and welcomed. Put your heads together and see what else you can do for your community. Maybe your local or school library could use some new books or help.

Please let us know when your installation is scheduled and if you would like us to do your installation. We don't mind crossing over the Cascades as it gives us an opportunity to make a second visit to your Unit. We do enjoy visiting with you and becoming better acquainted. It also gives everyone a time to socialize more.

In Faith Hope and Charity, Doris Wigglesworth, Grand Matriarch

Buckley Unified Encampment #40

Plans are in place for the official visit of the Grand Patriarch and Grand Matriarch to our Encampment on Wednesday, February 9. We will gather for dinner at the 410 Cafe in Buckley at 6:30 p.m. and then go to the hall for our meeting which will commence at 8 p.m. We look forward to their visit. Following the meeting, we will have refreshments provided by our Chief Patriarch Woody Esterly.

In January, we had nominations of officers and will have the election this month, but since there is only one nominee for each office, it is safe to announce that our next Chief Matriarch will be Kathy Pierce for 2005-2006. High Priestess will be Jan Eddy, Senior Warden Don Eddy, Scribe Karen Hoylman, Treasurer Doris Wigglesworth, and Junior Warden Nancy Vriezema. Our installation will be on Wednesday, April 13.

For a fund-raiser this year, discussion was held at our January meeting and we have decided to have a "P.B. and J." sale. Usually this stands for "peanut butter and jelly," but in this case it is "Plants, Books and Jewelry." We will have it the last part of April in the Community room at Frontier Bank in Buckley. Craft items also will be included. We hope for success to help our treasury.

Membership is a concern for us. We lost three in 2004, so we will be concentrating on trying to recruit in 2005. All Rebekah and Odd Fellows in our area are welcome. If you would like to know about our unit, please call (253) 891-1329.

— Karen Hoylman, Scribe

Lodge Cards will return

Because of the large volume of material this month for *The Washington OddFellow*, the Lodge Cards usually printed on this page have been left out. They will return as soon as possible. Your Lodge Card will be extended for the time it was left out.

Faith Rebekah Lodge #16 - Pomeroy

Faith Rebekah members have been busy and we have had good attendance. We donated to the Odd Fellow and Rebekah Rose Parade Float. We were planning to send a student on the United Nations Pilgrimage, but no one at Pomeroy High School returned an application. We donated money to be used for food and lodging.

Rebekah Lodge robes were donated to the Walla Walla Odd Fellows Museum.

Several members have been ill, but are now much better. Lois Tippett is recovering from a broken hip.

We had yummy potlucks for Thanksgiving and Christmas. There will be no calorie counting until 2006.

May Loeffelbein, 99, of Clarkston, a 64-year member, passed away. She earned the Decoration of Chivalry, the highest honor the Lodge bestows. Mae is survived by a son, Robert of Clarkston; an adopted daughter, Carol Mae Heitschmidt; and her husband, Dan of Goldendale. She also leaves one grandson and five great-grandchildren.

Faith Rebekah Lodge #16 and Harmony IOOF Lodge #16 had a lovely potluck in January, followed by a public installation. Phil and Hazel Crawford led the installation team.

Faith's new officers are: NG Donna Miller, VG Wilma Bly, Sec. Hazel Crawford, Treas. Phil Crawford, Chap. Lois Tippett, Cond. Eula Hastings, Ward. Janet Scoggin, RSVG Margaret Tueth, LSVG Evelyn Watson, RSVG Marlane Schilling, LSVG Doris Perry, and Mus. Doris Perry.

Harmony's new officers are: NG Phil Crawford, VG Frieda Church, Sec. Hazel Crawford, Treas. Doris Perry, Chap. Evelyn Watson, Ward. Ayris Fulton, and Mus. Doris Perry.

We were happy to have NG Donna Miller's family with us. They were Donna's sister Belva Feidler of Pomeroy and brother Delbert Clauson of Clarkston.

Happy birthday to Delora Kimble. She celebrates her 92nd birthday on February 1. Have a great day, mom!

Until next time, Janet Scoggin



Getting the toys ready for Pine Forest's Christmas baskets are, from left, Marge Young, Milly Schock, Bernice Emrick, Pat Mendenhall and Gerry Rumerfield.

Pine Forest #271

68 families reap the benefits of Christmas basket project!

At Pine Forest Rebekah Lodge #271 in Ione, we had 68 Christmas boxes to fill with toys and food for distribution to needy families in the area. Pat Mendenhall put together the list and organized the program. Bernice

Emrick wrapped the boxes with colorful paper, helped by Lila Middleton. Marvel Smith did most of the buying and hauling of the food, though Lila and her husband John took care of the potatoes. Cheryl Eckhart's son John also helped with shuffling the large crates and sacks around, and her mother, Lodge member Milly Schock, was a big help on box-filling day.

On Wednesday, December 15, Cheryl picked up the toys the Selkirk High students had collected, wrapped and labeled. Pat Mendenhall and Wanda Koontz helped her unload them. Next, Marvel and Wanda bagged all the apples and oranges. Meanwhile, Pat, Anne Williams and Esther Breeden loaded the boxes with cans of corn, green beans and yams, and boxes of red and green Jell-O. Marge Young started off the re-bagging of the potatoes. They come in giant sacks. Gerry Rumerfield, Barbara Garza and Marcia Hirsch helped with this, too, along with Wanda and Marvel.

There was an ocean of bread to be added to the boxes. Margarine was also included. Gerry and Bernice handed out the cookies. Larger boxes hold more and go to larger families. The largest family had nine members. Marcia and Lila had bought and collected new hats and mittens all year.

Barbara Garza totes a huge sack of potatoes.

Selkirk third-graders decorated sacks for

them with glitter pens and fantastical names. Marcia placed them in boxes going to families with children the right age and gender. After lunch at Ken's Grill and Bar up Main Street, we parceled out the toys. The boxes and toys were each labeled with the age and sex of the children, but it's a tricky job to match everything up and make sure everyone is treated fairly.

Pat, Cheryl, Lila and Wanda took care of distributing the boxes two days later. Certificates for the purchase of meat were also handed out, and, a new thing this year: teenagers (who don't receive toys) were given a certificate for a movie ticket at the Clark Fork Theatre. Sixty-eight families in North Pend Oreille County had a better holiday season in 2005 because of this Rebekah project. A job worth doing!

See more photos at on the internet at <http://www.valia.gardenbuddie.com/gallery/Xmas-boxes>

— Anne Williams



All dolled up for Christmas

Dolls dressed by the F.,L.&T. Past Noble Grands' Association were given to Santa's Castle at Fort Lewis in Tacoma for distribution to needy families at Christmastime. A large box of Teddy bears also was donated by Dorothy Nelson, a Past President and the PNG's current reporter.

The 'Web' should be a powerful recruiting tool

I believe the Web and e-mail are an underutilized tool for recruiting new members to the IOOF.

I have placed photos of Pine Forest's Gingerbread Houses and Christmas Box project in my albums on the Web and posted a story linked to these photos on a garden forum I belong to. Then I e-mailed the addresses to relatives and friends worldwide.

All the responses have been positive, but two were from people who had never heard of the Rebekahs before. Here is one from a cousin who I e-mailed:

"Hi Anne.

I spent ages looking at your photos and reading your story. I hadn't heard of Rebekahs before, so... had to go and Google it to find out about the IOOF and Rebekahs. I am now much better informed!

No wonder you have been so busy — your project was huge and so wonderful. What a tremendous achievement for all of you and so many very happy families because of your efforts."

The other, very similar, was from a man on the garden forum who really sounded interested in the Odd Fellows. It was actually a

Continued on next column

The 'Web' as a recruiting tool

response to an earlier post of mine about Pine Forest's November activities. Unfortunately his post has aged into limbo and disappeared from the forum.

The Internet is a superb recruiting tool. We need to develop a plan to use it effectively.

*In F.,L.,&T, Anne Williams,
Pine Forest Rebekah Lodge #271, Ione*