



# THE IDAHO ODD FELLOW REBEKAH NEWS



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BOISE, ID 83706

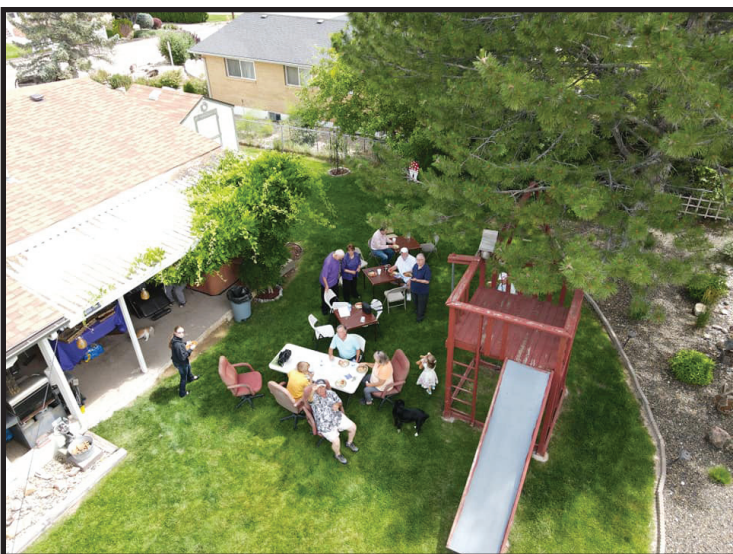
JULY-AUGUST 2020

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## Picnic For Then Encampments



Picture 1) Somewhere in this picture you will find Hannah Harlan, Joe and Diana DeChristefero, Dennis and Cori Niehoff, sweet little Alice Harlan, Bob Covert, Marge Harlan, Glen Schultz, Tom Ashley, Sharon McGaffick, and Bud (Marge's brother) all smiling at the drone being flown by Don Harlan. (Not pictured are Kathryn Harlan, James Weighall, Jay Eaton, and Sandie Chandler.)

Picture 2) Grand Patriarch Marge Harlan with her special cake and pictures with little Alice Harlan.

Nampa - Before the Executive Board met, a picnic was planned to honor Grand Patriarch Marge Harlan. This picnic was for all Encampments as it was Grand Patriarch Marge's official visit to the four Encampments in Idaho, along with the District meeting of the two different Districts. Thought was given to canceling the get-together at Patriarch Bob Covert's but Patriarch Bob did not want to cancel (Patriarch Bob loves a good party) and neither did our Grand Patriarch. Grand Patriarch Marge also asked for this to be an open meeting, therefore along with our Patriarch Sisters and Brothers and visitors there were 17 of us who met at Patriarch's Bob for friendship and pizza. Along with Grand Patriarch Marge, the Grand Senior Warden, Don Harlan, the Grand Junior Warden, Glen Schultz, and the Grand High Priest, Bob Covert, were present. We were honored to have the Deputy Grand Master of Idaho, Joe DeChristefero (also a Patriarch), attend the get-together. Grand Patriarch Marge had a great speech for us, and pointed out that Encampment was the "fun" group as we did not have to venture far to find new members, since a Patriarch has to be either/or an Odd Fellow or a Rebekah. With this in mind, Rebekah Sisters and Brothers you may join the Encampment without being an Odd Fellow! Roll called showed that all four Encampments were present and each District had representation.

Submitted by Sandie Chandler

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**Assist 2 Sell**  
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07/14/20


To: Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Mountain Home Lodge #19

Assist-2-Sell, Your Choice Realty is pleased to announce that you were selected as the charity of the month for May 2020. As the winner of a monthly sales contest, Bill Bamber personally selected you as our preferred charity. Our entire office of agents worked to close as many deals as possible in May to contribute to your organization!

We are enormously proud to announce that we earned \$200 for your organization! We are mailing the check to you now, with hopes that soon we will be able to get together for a real photo op with our two groups!

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact us any time.

Sincerely,



Floyd and Melissa Beck  
Broker/Owners  
Assist-2-Sell, Your Choice Realty  
208-587-9111  
TheBeckTeam@GMail.com

The members of Mountain Home Lodge #19 would like to thank Floyd and Melissa Beck as well as the Assist-2-Sell team for their generous donation to our lodge.

Hopefully we will be able to meet in September and decide how we can use this donation to do good in our community.

Marge Harlan, Noble Grand



**National Friendship Day  
August 2, 2020**

National Friendship Day occurs every year on the first Sunday of August and celebrates the importance of loving platonic relationships. Friendships are the purest type of human relationships.

For more than 2 centuries, the Odd Fellows have celebrated the strength of friendship, along with love and truth. Thanks to social media, we're able to continue celebrating with our friends no matter where they are in the world.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 1, 2020

Three Links Odd Cast  
[3linksoddcast@gmail.com](mailto:3linksoddcast@gmail.com)

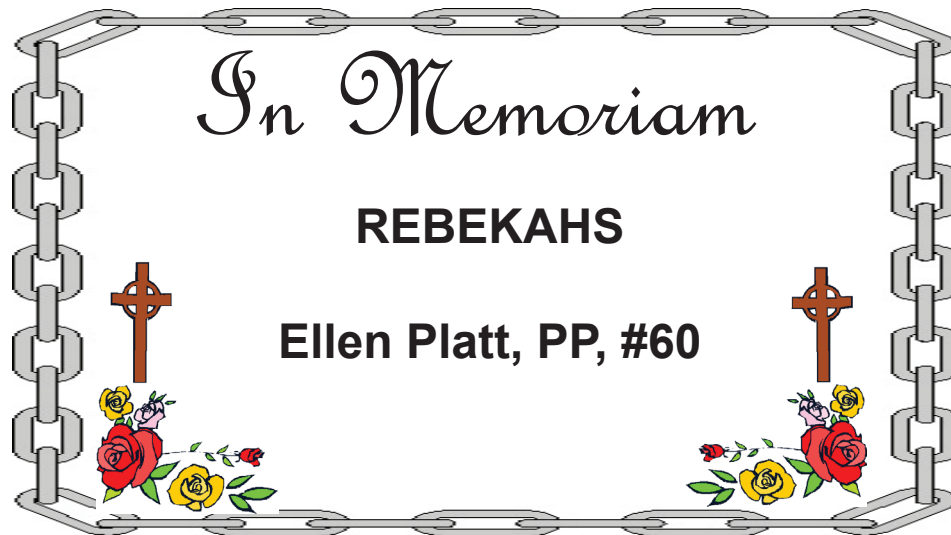
**New Podcast for Odd Fellows launches July 1, 2020**  
*Three Links Odd Cast brings Odd Fellowship to Podcasts*

Graham, WA: Odd Fellowship is about to make a major stride into the Twenty-first Century with the launch of The Three Links Odd Cast, the first major podcast focused on the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Hosted by Sovereign Grand Musician Toby Hanson, SGL Communications Committee member Ainslie Heilich, and Brother Sergio Paredes, the podcast will feature discussion of various topics of interest to Odd Fellows including history, origins, traditions, current situations, and others. The format of the podcast is a guided discussion with each episode having a particular focus. For the first episode, the hosts discussed their experiences in joining the Odd Fellows and shared observations on the process.

Each of the hosts brings a unique perspective and set of experiences to the show. Toby Hanson is the longest-serving member, with twenty years' membership in the jurisdiction of Washington, having served as both Grand Patriarch and Grand Master. Currently he is the Sovereign Grand Musician of the Sovereign Grand Lodge and Grand Musician of the Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. Ainslie Heilich revived the lodge in the town of Tuscola, Illinois and is currently serving as Grand Musician of Illinois and is a member of the Sovereign Grand Lodge Communications Committee. Brother Ainslie is also one of the founders of the Heart In Hand Blog, a modern Odd Fellows' guide, found at <http://www.oddfellowsguide.com>. His work as a graphic artist has become familiar throughout the world of Odd Fellowship as his designs are used for t-shirts, sweatshirts, tote bags, and coffee mugs. He supervised the recent redesign of the SGL website. Sergio Paredes brings the most fresh perspective on Odd Fellowship, being a member of just one year who has recently taken his Third Degree. Together the three members inspire a lively discussion of Odd Fellowship.

The Three Links Odd Cast is available on all major podcast distribution platforms including Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Stitcher, Spotify, TuneIn, Pandora, Podchaser, Deezer, and Podcast Addict. To find the podcast, visit one of the aforementioned podcast sites and search "three links odd cast" to find a link to download and subscribe. The podcast is also available for download from Buzzsprout at <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1179644>.

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**COMING EVENTS 2020**  
**Subject to Cancellation**

**AUGUST 2020**

|       |                    |          |
|-------|--------------------|----------|
| 07    | HISTORICAL SOCIETY | CALDWELL |
| 17-21 | SGL/IARA           | CANCELED |
| 22    | OWYHEE 2           | TBD      |

**SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER**  
All events - TBD



**Marge Harlan**  
Grand Patriarch



Dear Patriarchs,

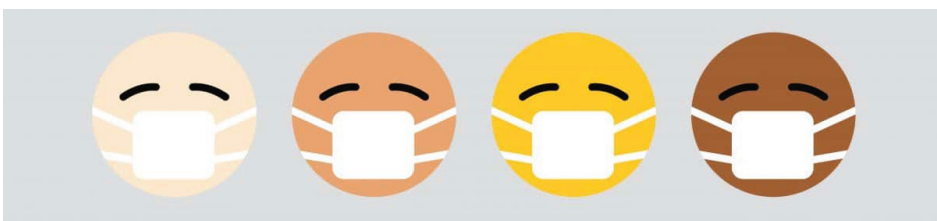
This has been a very unique year to say the least. But, despite all the mandates and executive orders regarding the Covid, our Encampments were able to safely meet and have a wonderful time at the Encampment Picnic.

The picnic served as a combination of my official visit to the Encampments as well as the encampment district meetings. Each encampment was represented and we all had a wonderful time.

I would like to thank brothers Bob Covert and Tom Ashley for opening their back yard and hosting the picnic. And especially for the wonderful gift of the pictures of our travels together when I was Grand Master. I would also like to thank the Grand Encampment for supplying the pizzas and refreshments that we all enjoyed.

I hope the encampments will be able to meet again in September. Until then I encourage each of you keep in contact with your members and to get together and have fun when you can. Remembering to wash your hands, keep social distancing and wear a mask when out in public.

In F.H. & C.  
Marge Harlan, Grand Patriarch



## White Bird Royal Gem Rebekah Lodge #13



White Bird - "Helped put the flags up at the local cemetery today with my Rebekah sisters. The sun even came out to help." Left to right: Margaret DeSantis, Beth Plagmann, Cheryl Cullin, DeeDee Hallquist and Linda Smith. Thank you, Sister Maggie Abbott, for the pictures.

Memorial Day Activity: IOOF and Rebekah flags were placed at the cemetery to honor our members who have passed on. This is a project that our sisters love to participate in. There are usually a lot more sisters helping, but these five braved the threat of Corona Virus to complete the job. You'll notice the larger American flags in the background. Darla Brumley was largely responsible for ordering these flags. Sisters then place the flags on behalf of the Rebekahs. Some husbands and other guys also come out to help with this. There are about 30 flags along the fence facing the highway. We receive many nice compliments about them. As well as for Memorial Day, the flags were out for Flag Day and Independence Day. Well Done!

Submitted by Mary Pedersen

## Melba Rebekahs



Back row Brother Tom Ashley, Sister Sharon McGaffick,  
Brother Bob Covert, Sister Cori Niehoff.  
Middle row Sisters Georgia Wickham and Jelene Baird.  
First row Sisters Connie Evans and Jean Reineke.  
Not picture are Sisters Ursula White and Sandie Chandler.

Nampa - Since March, Melba Rebekah Lodge 105 had not had any meetings. Our Noble Grand Bob Covert wanted us to hold our last meeting in June before going dark. This meeting has become one of our favorite meetings as we meet for lunch or brunch at Brothers Bob Covert and Tom Ashley. Brothers Bob and Tom have a wonderful shady backyard; therefore the sun doesn't bake us. This year we had brunch, had loads of good biscuits and gravy, along with sausage and eggs, and fruit. We held a short meeting to let the members know what has been going on since March. This was an open meeting and we were happy to have Janie Clark, Fred Burdick, Dennis Niehoff, and Bob Wickham. From this get together, Janie Clark has finally decided that she wants to become a Rebekah. We know that Janie will make a wonderful addition to our Order as she has demonstrated her abilities at Nampa 40's Christmas party. Sister Ursula White is Janie's sponsor. Hopefully we will be initiating Janie in September along with a candidate that Unity 8 has. Looking forward to seeing everyone in September!!!!

Submitted by Sister Sandie Chandler

## Ada Odd Fellows Lodge #3 Pays off Mortgage



Boise - Ada Odd Fellows lodge paid off its mortgage in February, but due to covid – 19, were unable to “Burn the mortgage” until June. We gathered at the lodge for our last meeting before summer and “Burned the mortgage”. As you can see, we also grilled up some steak and shrimp and had salad and cake. It was also a celebration for Margret Odle who had just turned 91 years young!

Submitted by Glen Schultz

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## International Day of Charity September 5, 2020

Originally a Hungarian civil society initiative to commemorate Mother Teresa's death, International Day of Charity on September 5 took off worldwide in 2012 when the UN declared it an international holiday. Besides honoring Mother Teresa's tireless work to help others overcome poverty and suffering, the holiday provides a platform for charitable opportunities to take place. Overall, this day reminds us that simple acts of charity can alleviate the worst effects of humanitarian crises and create more inclusive and resilient societies. <https://nationaltoday.com/international-day-charity/>

## Melba Rebekah Lodge 105



Left to Right: Principal Sherry Adams, Graysen Colunga, Gwyneth Conway and incoming Principal Ashley Nelson, the winners of the bikes

Nampa: Last June Brother Tom Ashley and Sister Sandie Chandler met with Sherry Adams the Principal of Melba Elementary to talk about a read-a-thon for the upcoming year. Melba 105 wanted to encourage the students of Melba Elementary to read and to help encourage the students to read, we would provide a bike for one boy and one girl. It was left up to Principal Adams and her staff on how they wanted to do this. Melba Elementary staff was all in favor of this and called it "I-ready." The plan was set in motion when school opened. The students would earn tickets to be put into a barrel for reading and math, participation in class, attitude

and being a good citizen. Even with the closure of the school in March, the students continued to participate and earn tickets. Principal Adams held the drawing May 20th. The first ticket drawn was 3rd grader Graysen Colunga. After four tries of drawing boys names, 5th grader Gwyneth Conway's name was drawn. On May 28th Sisters Jelene Baird and Sandie Chandler along with Brothers Tom Ashley and Bob Covert presented the two winners with their bikes. While presenting the bikes, we were introduced to the new Principal, Ashley Nelson, Principal Sherry Adams is moving to the District Office for Melba's schools. We are looking forward to working with upcoming Principal Nelson and have enjoyed working with Principal Adams and wish her the best in her new position. A special thanks to Brother Glen Schultz for coming into Nampa and helping us purchase these bikes!!!!

Submitted by Sandie Chandler



## In Honor of Memorial Day

Nampa - Once again, our dedicated members of Melba Rebekah Lodge 105 ventured out to the cemetery in Melba to fly our Odd Fellow and Rebekah flags in memory of our dear deceased sisters and brothers. Sister Jelene Baird and Brothers Bob Covert and Tom Ashley made sure our flags were posted, even though the skies were cloudy and the weather was on the cool side. Thanks to Brothers Tom Ashley and Bob Covert for bringing down our flags, so they can be flown again next year.



Brother Bob Covert and Sister Jelene Baird with our flags flying overhead.



Brother Bob Covert and Brother Tom Ashley after removing our flags (and under sunny skies).

Submitted by Sandie Chandler



# *In Loving Memory*

**Ellen Platt, Past President  
1920 ~ 2020**

*If ye have faith as a grain of  
mustard seed nothing shall be  
impossible unto you.*



Ellen Idaho Platt was born to Nellie Ellen Whittaker and Elmer Wesley Prescott on Aug. 3, 1920, in Twin Falls. She joined seven full siblings and four half-brothers.

When Ellen was 4 years old, her mother unexpectedly succumbed, leaving her to the care of her father. Given the economy, Elmer found it difficult to care for the children and reluctantly placed the youngest five in an Odd Fellows and Rebekah's orphanage in Mason City, Iowa, for five years until he was able to retrieve them.

After leaving the orphanage, the family returned to Idaho, where she met her future husband, John Howard Platt, at a Twin Falls dance. They were wedded in a double ceremony with her childhood friend, Pearl, July 14, 1937. In 1939, she and John moved to Weippe and, in 1941, moved to Judgetown, near Pierce, where she remained until 2007. Their three children, Nancy, Penny and Scott, were raised in Pierce, where John and Ellen led a healthy social life.

In 1952, they purchased the Chevron gas station and operated it for more than 20 years. Later, Ellen became a school bus driver, daily transporting children over the sometimes tricky route from Headquarters to Pierce, and later to Timberline High School. Additionally, she cooked in the Timberline High School cafeteria, where students enjoyed her kindness, sense of humor and cookies. She often mentioned her 32 years of driving a school bus and was proud to safely deliver children of multiple generations. Ellen stated she liked most every kid she hauled, but some were problems, "You know who you are ..."

In the mid-'50s, Ellen joined the Rebekah's Lodge in Pierce and remained a member for roughly 65 years. During that time, she served in every position including Noble Grand numerous times. She was also an adviser to the Theta Rho Girls Club, an organization designed to teach leadership and community service. In 1975, the Rebekah Assembly of Idaho voted Ellen as president for the year. She took a sabbatical from driving her school bus and traveled throughout the state, visiting every lodge in Idaho that year. This honor was a highlight of her life and she was very proud to have served the organization that served her as a child.

She is survived by her son, John Scott Platt, of Lewiston; son-in-law Tom Jared, of Weippe; and grandchildren Brad (Margaret) Finch, Jeff Finch, Mitch (Julie) Jared, Tom (Barbi) Jared, Greg (Caroline) Jared, Dave (Amy) Jared, Ryan (Julia) Platt and Michelle (Matt) Smith. She is also survived by 28 great-grandchildren and 17 great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews who remember her fondly.

She passed away, Sunday, July 19, 2020. Living two weeks shy of her 100th birthday. A graveside service was held for family and invited friends at 10 a.m. Friday at the Weippe Cemetery. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

**Sorry,  
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## THE IDAHO ODD FELLOW REBEKAH NEWS

### THE IDAHO ODD FELLOW REBEKAH NEWS PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

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June, August, September, November

#### **NOTICE:**

Articles and pictures must be received by the Editor no later than the 18th in order to be published in the next month's issue. The Editor and Editorial Board reserve the right to edit all articles submitted for publication and do not hold ourselves responsible for views or opinions expressed by our correspondents.

### **Just The Facts**

THE IDAHO ODD FELLOW REBEKAH NEWS

Promoting Odd Fellowship through Positive Communication

The Idaho Odd Fellow Rebekah News is published twelve times a year by the Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly of Idaho, I.O.O.F.

David Livingston ~ Grand Master

Cathy Toussaint ~ Assembly President

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