

# Independent Order of Odd Fellows



## Wildey News Flash



WILDEY LODGE #2

Issue 13—May 2018

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Since June 12, 1838

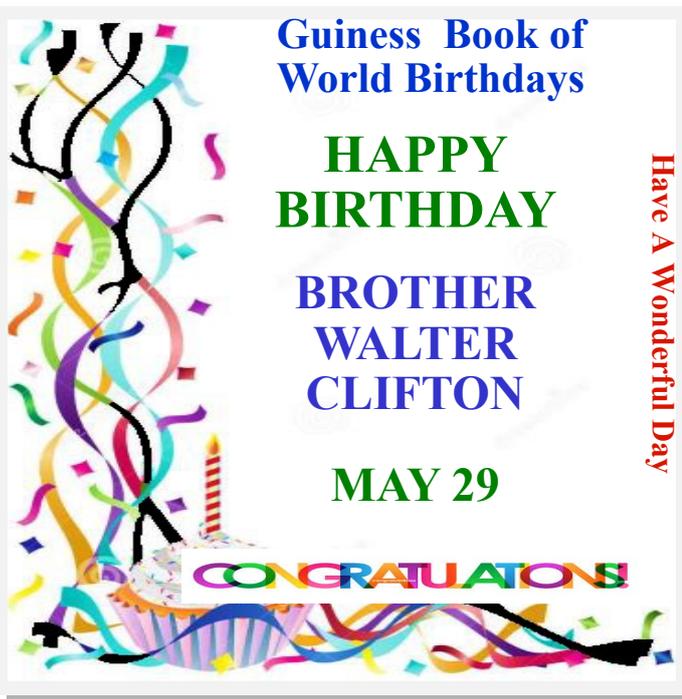


**BROTHER SAM WILK  
NOBLE GRAND  
IS BACK!!!**

Brothers and Sisters,

He's back...no not the Terminator. Our Noble Grand has returned to lead the Lodge to bigger and brighter projects. It is a real pleasure to welcome him and to know he is better. Nice to see his smile.

The Sisters and Brothers of Wildey #2.



### *Memorial Day Sunday, May 28, 2018*

The IOOF has a long tradition celebrating Memorial Day



**Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
and the Memorial Day Celebration**

Submitted by Brother Frank Buchholz

On May 30, 1849 IOOF Lodge #35 bought five acres of land and established Friendship Cemetery, located in Columbus, Mississippi. In 1957 Lodge #35 deeded the Cemetery to the City of Columbus, MS and the cemetery expanded to its present size of 55 acres. Columbus, MS is the largest town in Lowndes County.

Columbus, MS is the only town that during the Civil War never had a shot fired in anger or any destruction to its historical Antebellum Homes. In fact Columbus has the largest collection of antebellum homes per population. During the Civil War Columbus, MS, was noted for its hospitalization of soldiers from the South as well as the North. Both Armies brought their wounded to Columbus for medical service.

Friendship Cemetery in Columbus, has been called "Where Flowers Healed A Nation"? On April 25, 1866 the Ladies of Confederacy Columbus, Mississippi decided to decorate both Confederate and Union soldiers' graves with garlands and bouquets of beautiful flowers. As a direct result of this kind gesture, Americans celebrate what has come to be called MEMORIAL DAY each year. Friendship Cemetery in Columbus, has been called "Where Flowers Healed A Nation". On April 25, 1866 the ladies of Columbus, Mississippi decided to decorate both Confederate and Union soldiers' graves with garlands and bouquets of beautiful flowers. As a direct result of this kind gesture, Americans celebrate what has come to be called MEMORIAL DAY each year.

Confederate General John A Logan, Civil War Commander in Chief declared that May 30, 1868 be designated Decoration



Day. However, the Ladies of the Confederacy marked April 26, 1868 as the day to mark the graves in Friendship Cemetery since it was one day after the Civil War ended. Over the years the day has become known as Memorial Day and on 1971, Memorial Day was officially designated as a National Holiday, changing Memorial Day to the last Monday in May.

This monument, the Fallen Angel, is one of the unique head stones in Friendship Cemetery.

## What Makes May Special



*Sunday, May 13th is Mother's Day.*

*That is what makes May special.*



Willey #2 has its next Social Outing at  
**BR AVO! CUCINA**  
**ITALIANA RESTAURANT**  
15 West County Dr., Des Peres



**Tuesday**  
**MAY 22nd.**  
**6:30PM**

Reservations to  
Sister Pamela  
Whisenhunt by  
**Tuesday, May 15**  
**314-518-4885**

Have you ever planned to have a  
great lunch on a cruising  
Mississippi Paddle Wheeler?



Mark down the date of **Sunday, August 26th** for just such an occasion. If you are planning on attending please submit your deposit of \$25 per person to Sister Pamela Whisenhunt by the end of June to ensure your reservation. Reservation monies will be returned to you on the ship before departure.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
During my tenure as Grand Warden, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Master, I have visited dozens of Lodges. I've seen the good, the bad, and even the ugly. Some Lodges are thriving. Many Lodges are trying. Other Lodges are fading. In the spirit of giving Lodges the warning signs of a failing Lodge, here - based on my experience - are what I consider the "Top Ten Reasons" that Lodges fail (with apologies to David Letterman and his Top Ten Lists):

**Number 10.** Inadequate signage. Most of our Lodges have been around for over 100 years, and many are located in the heart of downtown. Yet too often I have seen Lodges that are invisible. Make sure that there is a large, distinct and easily visible sign that proclaims the building to be a Lodge of Odd Fellows.

**Number 9.** Decrepit halls. Nothing turns potential members off faster than a shabby Lodge Hall. A building with old paint, a clear need for repairs, speaks volumes to the public. Such a building says, "we are old and we don't care."

**Number 8.** Failure to let go. In some Lodges, the same one or two people run everything, and have done so for 10 years, 20 years, or even longer. It's time to let go. A new generation of leaders needs to be given their turn to be in charge of the Lodge. Don't hold a position beyond your time. Better to train the newer members so they can flourish and continue the Order into the next generation.

**Number 7.** No, no, no. I have experienced the dreaded "no" in too many Lodges. Newer members are stifled, disappointed, frustrated, and even angered when the "long-time" members always say "no" to every new idea. Don't always say "no"... Learn to say "yes". Let the newer members try.

**Number 6.** Constant comment. Nothing is more restricting and embarrassing for newer members than to always hear comments from the sidelines during a meeting such as: "You are standing in the wrong place" or "wait, it's not your turn." Everyone makes mistakes in the beginning, help the new members, but do it discretely, and perhaps following the meeting.

**Number 5.** Booooooring. Nothing says "this is a Lodge of grandfathers and grandmothers" louder than holding a boring meeting. Without committee reports, old business and new business, the message conveyed is that this is a moribund Lodge.

**Number 4.** Bicker, bicker, bicker. Many times I have heard from newer members who tell me that they attended a few meetings and then stopped because they couldn't stand the bickering and sniping amongst the members. We are supposed to practice friendship, love, and truth. Get over it, shake hands and move on.

**Number 3.** Failure to have fun. The surest way to send a Lodge into its death spiral is to forget that we are a fraternal order and it's OK to have fun. Lodges must plan social events that the members enjoy.

**Number 2.** Failure to reach out. It is important to the work of this Order and the image of IOOF for Lodges to reach out into their communities to do good works. And it's not just writing a check here and there. That's too easy. Members want to engage hands-on in good charitable and community works.

**Number 1.** Failure to bring in new members. The #1 reason the Lodges fail is self-evident. Without new members, a fraternal order ultimately perishes. Do you recognize any of these "Top Ten Reasons" in your own Lodge?

F - L - T Dave Rosenberg PGM California

(Thank you, Brother Jasper Mangiore for this article you read on the IOOF Facebook blog and sent to the FLASH for all of us to share.)