



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

July 21, 2012

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

The other day I passed by an Odd Fellows Hall that was called "Odd Fellows Temple." My own Hall is called "Odd Fellows Lodge." So, being naturally curious, I asked a few of my knowledgeable brothers and sisters why some of our Odd Fellows Halls are called "Temple" and some are called "Lodge." Here is one of the responses I received from PSGM and PGM Don Smith.

It's further food for thought.

F - L - T

Dave Rosenberg

Dave.

The term no doubt came from always being done that way many years ago, and more recently an expansion of the use of "Temple" has been the feeling that denotes a more prestigious name than "Hall". The same situation occurs with the Masons calling their buildings "Temple" rather than "Hall". It is interesting to note that both names and others have been used for many years for example the "Odd Fellows Temple Association" in San Francisco is the official name for them, while the official name is "Odd Fellows Hall Association" in Sacramento. The belief that a "Temple" is something more grander while "Hall" is something more ordinary. In many instances there is reference to "Odd Fellows Building".

It is interesting to note that in Europe their buildings are often referred to as "Odd Fellows House" or as in Denmark the major hall in Copenhagen is called "Odd Fellows Palace" or "Odd Fellows Paleis" because at one time it was the residence of someone in the royal family. It is sometimes referred to as the "Odd Fellows Mansion". "Buildings" and "Center" are also often used to describe IOOF facilities.

Nancy Johnson has developed an extensive list with pictures of Odd Fellow buildings, and I want to recognize her for her work in this respect. Due to hit counter on index page, to move through her website you need to use your back browser.



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

<<http://home.comcast.net/~sewkind/hughson461.html>>

Another interesting website listing many Odd Fellows buildings.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Odd_Fellows_buildings>

Several of those listed in California are Odd Fellow buildings that (sadly) no longer belong to the IOOF, i.e. Arroyo Grande, Clements, Fullerton, Mokelumne Hill, San Diego, Santa Ana, Woodbridge, Woodland. The lodges in most of these communities no longer exist except in San Diego and Woodland.

Another webswite showing IOOF and Odd Fellow Halls, Temples, Buildings, etc. is:

<<http://www.panoramio.com/photo/9587189>>

These websites point out that Odd Fellowship has lost or sold many substantial buildings in North America. Some were magnificent buildings in the very center of cities or towns, but they became too much for a lodge or lodges, with a declining membership, to maintain. Some were smaller dilapidated buildings that needed to be replaced, and were often replaced with a modern building or an updated building. The San Francisco Odd Fellows Temple is probably one of the last larger IOOF buildings still owned and operated by the Order. There are several other old Odd Fellow buildings in California that are a credit to Odd Fellowship and are still owned and successfully operated by present day members.

Don R. Smith