



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

August 24, 2013

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

It is my pleasure to send along to you the attached article written by our Grand Master Rick Boyles. Some of you may think that Rick is a mild-mannered fellow. But if you do, you underestimate him. Beneath his ever-present smile and easy manner is a metallic backbone and the strength to "tell it like it is." I think you will very much enjoy Rick's latest writing, attached herewith.

Also, I wish to remind all DMC members and friends that we are slowly publishing all substantive DMC articles going back to our inception in December of 2010. There are a remarkable number of them and they cover a remarkable range of topics - all focused on increasing our membership. We have started with the articles that were published in August of 2013, and are going back in time - we now have August, July, June and May of 2013, and more will come. This provides not only an important historical record for our Order, but also allows everyone in our Order access to the useful and practical information contained in those articles. Thank you to Davis Lodge Webmaster Stewart Savage for working on this project! Please see the link, below:

<http://davislodge.org/dedicated-members-for-change/>

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Dave Rosenberg, GW

Bell-Bottoms, Wide Ties & Paisley Shirts

A little while back, I attended an event at the Sycamore Lodge in Hayward, CA promoted as a "sixties" event. It was a great deal of fun. I actually dug out a pair of fur covered pants, and partied with a bunch of elderly hippies who also had dug out their groovy threads that they had worn in that wild time long ago. It's always fun to revisit our past and see what it was like, rather than just living by the diminishing light of our fading memories. Sometimes when we look back, we see that the reality of the time was both fun and full of turmoil just like today. The sixties were a tumultuous time, a musical explosion, certainly, but also full of riots, civil rights, women's liberation and many other events that gave that time its unique appeal. Many of us



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grew up in the sixties, and our views such as they are were influenced by all that happened around us. The thing that becomes apparent to me that although I can still wear the goofy clothing that I wore then, some of the feeling has been altered because in retrospect, I know that that time just like all time ends, or at least the inherent characteristics of it. The sixties were finite, just as we are finite, and in a way, this is what gives all time flavor, knowing that its finite essence can be revisited but not relived.

So, what have I learned that may have value to the Odd Fellows? Simply this, nothing is static. We can't stem the onslaught of time. Clearly, even our code emphasizes that our lodge halls represent a refuge from the outside world, but what changes are not the lodge halls themselves but the people who enter them. This can be the pride and glory of our order. If we attempt to revisit the world of the 1850s and bar women or minorities we are plain and simply only repeating the bad part of our past. It saddens me to see that some lodges still ban women and I have heard remarks based upon prejudice on many occasions. To think somehow that a lodge hall can be a haven complete with racial or sexual inequality to me seems abhorrent, but this seems to be some member's sad rationality for barring new members who may not share their same prejudices. Brothers and Sisters, this must stop. I frankly think that in order for us to grow, we have to realize that times have changed, and whether or not you are a Republican or a Democrat matters less than whether or not you are accepting of all those around you. What has made our country great is our ability to see each other for our hearts and minds and not for our outside appearance. We can't go back in time to a racist, sexist, illiterate era, and eventually we have to realize that we really would not want to.

Lastly, what made many of us love the sixties was its push towards love and brotherliness. Isn't that what we are about? Let's remember that all of us are brothers and sisters. Maybe we can't always wear those groovy threads we wore 45 years ago, but we can feel some of that affection for our fellow man that seemed so prevalent then. Clearly, if you look closer at the sixties you would see a time of great upheaval, of huge and lasting importance, but this time may be of similar importance if we make it such. It's up to us all. We need to realize that change is endemic to the human species and clearly unstoppable and we need to stop fighting change or change itself will cause us to cease to exist. The sixties are over, my fur pants are getting moldy, and it's time to realize that a flat screen may indeed be better than a black-and-white tv with rabbit ears, and realize that with change almost always comes progress. But of course, I await someone to announce that change should be denied, that we should bar the door against progress and yet somehow ludicrously hope we will grow without encouraging growth of ourselves. Somehow, we need to smell the coffee and see "the times they are a-changing".

In Friendship, Love, and Truth, Rick Boyles