

Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

February-2021

It Finally Happened!

It took a pandemic, but after 52-years the World Ag Expo has been replaced, like so many other things, with an online format for the 2021 show. It is difficult to enjoy an Italian sausage sandwich online, so the Roma Lodge food booth will not happen this year. Our second leading fundraiser will have to wait until next year to resume its operation. At the suggestion of Roma Lodge member *Anna Lisa McLafferty*, I have decided to dedicate this issue of the *LeNotizie* to those who have worked for the past 52 years as a chair or volunteer at the Roma Lodge booth at the now famous *World Ag Expo*!

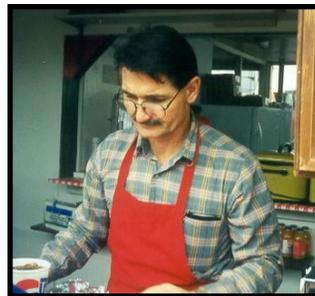
What started as *The California Field and Row Crop Show* in 1968 at the Tulare Fair Grounds the now World Ag Expo has grown to the largest show in the world.



While still at the Tulare Fair Grounds site a makeshift booth was erected to serve hungry show attendees. Past-President *Laurence Dutto* served sausage sandwiches for \$3, Pepsi or beans for \$1.



Roma Lodge was there on what they say was "A Pallet & A Prayer" with chairs *Lupe Briano, Agnes Pelous and Ben Curti*. They had a small booth and Ben brought in pallets from the dairy to stand on while they cooked in the rain and the muck. Roma Lodge has been there every year since! Thanks to Lupe, Agnes and Ben for getting the lodge started on our major fundraiser each year.



When the show was moved to the Agri-Center there was no permanent electricity, sewage or running water. Pots and pans had to be washed in makeshift sinks, dirty water collected in buckets and dumped in drums to be disposed of by farm show volunteers. Through wind, rain, mud and muck Roma Lodge served up thousands of Italian sausage sandwiches and pasta.



In 1982 the show moved to the Agri-Center and Roma Lodge made the move as well with *Lilia Giacomazzi, Vera Ghigo and Olivia Lerda* on hand to present a plaque in recognition of financial support of the show!

Were you a food booth chairman? Don't see your picture or name. We are currently trying to discover that information and will present it at a later date. More farm show pictures on the Roma Lodge website www.romalodge.org



Once the WAE officials decided to allocate a permanent space for the lodge booth members decided to build a permanent booth along with COS which was next door. Rick Schuler of Schuler Construction in Porterville was contracted to build two 30X30' steel building with concrete floors. Lodge member Dan Freitas of Freitas Electric donated the electrical work and the lodge was off and running with a new building with all the amenities.

Over the years it has taken a lot of hard work by members who have taken on leadership roles by serving as booth chairs for the WAE food booth. Many of them for several years. We want to thank them and all the members who have assisted over the past 52 years!



Trudi Briano-Kathy Briano-Ken Curti



Josh Pitigliano



Ben Curti-Kathy Briano-Ken Curti



Wilbur and Joann Jones



Matt & Melissa Watkins, Maci Daramy & Michael DePaoli



Focus on Members!

Ben Curti turned 70 on January 24th! Wish him a Happy Birthday!



Jordyn Dutto received the Special Congressional Recognition Award from the Office of Kevin McCarthy. Jordyn is a 7th grader.

Austin Gentry received an award for Outstanding Academics.



Lorraine Cleek, Roma Lodge Queen in 1963-64 will be celebrating her 75th birthday on February 4th. Call and wish her a Happy Birthday!



Dennis Mederos was recently elected as the mayor of the City of Tulare! Dennis will turn 70 on March 9th. Wish him a Happy Birthday!

Ron Pedroncelli will turn 75 on February 27th. Call and wish him a Happy Birthday!



If you have news for the LeNotizie send it to larrydutto@yahoo.com or text to 559-901-4683 by the 20th of the month!

Roma Lodge Scholarships

As noted in the in the last edition of the LeNotizie we have established new protocols for Roma Scholarships. Applications for this years scholarships will be available on February 1, 2021 on the Roma Lodge website. You can also contact **Melissa Watkins** by email at mdepaoli-wat@gmail.com or calling 559-361-0811.

Roma Lodge scholarship applications will be due on March 1, 2021. This information is available on the website as well.

Anyone For A Drive-Thru

Although our drive through polenta dinner was a big success we had to cancel our ham and yam Christmas drive trough because of the increase in COVID-19 outbreaks in Tulare County. Other non-profit organizations have been successful in doing takeout dinners.

Should we consider a family size takeout dinner like St. Aloysius does with their enchilada dinners? Say a pan of ravioli or rigatoni to feed a family of four. If you have some ideas, let us know.

Sunshine News

Kate Watkins continues to recover after she broke her elbow on the trampoline.

Ron Pedroncelli continues to rehab from his broken leg on Christmas Eve.

Cedric Klienhans is recovering from a COVID infection.

Giovanna DePaoli is recovering from recent surgery.

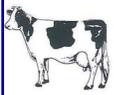
If you know someone who has had health issues contact **Joann Beecher (688-8380)** so she can send them a card.





Roma Lodge
PO Box 1337
Tulare, California 93275
www.romalodge1573.org

LeNotizie Sponsors

 <p>Vincet Sola Partnership Farming & Farm Management</p> <p>Office (559) 688-0606 Cell (559) 901-1780 Fax (559) 688-0266 Email farmers@aol.com P.O. Box 190 • Tipton, CA 93272</p>	<p>Karen C. Pedroncelli, CPA</p> <p>3924 W. Caldwell Avenue, Ste. B P.O. Box 5100 Visalia, CA 93278 Tel: 559-625-9800 Fax: 559-625-9812 625 N. Main Street Porterville, CA 93257 Tel: 559-784-9090 Fax: 559-784-9092 karen@pinecpas.com www.pinecpas.com</p> <p>Certified Public Accountants</p>
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<p>INGLEBY</p> <p>Nick Canata Agronomist</p> <p>INGLEBY UNITED STATES Mob: +1 559 690 1482 njc@inglbyfarms.com</p>	 <p>MSOR MEDEROS, SOARES, ORMONDE & RASCON ATTORNEYS AT LAW</p>
 <p>Benjamin (Ben) Curti Cell: (559)288-0587 Personal Email bacurti@aol.com</p> <p>16357 Road 24 Tulare, California 93274 Phone: (559)992-5866 Fax: (559)992-4842 Business Email: bencurtifarms@yahoo.com</p>	<p>BANK OF THE SIERRA</p> <p>ldutto@bankofthesierra.com</p> <p>LARRY DUTTO, PH.D. Director</p> <p>86 N. Main Street Porterville, CA 93257 559-791-4900 559-901-4683 e</p>

Your Roma Lodge Officers 2021-2022

President	Larry Dutto (901-4683)
Vice President	Louie Benedetti (827-1492)
Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591)
Recording Sec.	Kathryn Gomes (331-0025)
Financial Sec.	Pam Sola (901-1781)
Orator	Anthony Chiamonte (217-4055)
Historian	Melissa Watkins (361-0811)
Guard	Ken Bertorelli (788-8496)
Past President	David DePaoli (804-5443)
Chaplain	Nicole Taylor (804-7056)

Trustees

Danny Dutto	(686-1348)
Mike Saltzman	(686-4340)
Matt Watkins-Chair	(647-7161)
Dominic Pitigliano	(359-1907)
Rob Pinkerton	(331-3183)

Mistress of Ceremony

Frances Della	(784-7653)
Toni Pinkerton	(331-3183)

**Don't Forget To Pay Your
2021 Roma Lodge Dues
\$75-Adult Members
\$6.36-Junior Members
Who Want Insurance**



**Mail To:
Roma Lodge #1573
PO Box 1337
Tulare, CA 93274**