



Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

July-2024

Out of the Ashes!

On Monday, June 17th, **Ben Curti** received a call from his security company that a fire alarm was going off in the equipment room at the **Curtimade Dairy** in Waukena.



Ben and his wife Elisabeth arrived at the dairy to see the picture above with the equipment room and more importantly the upstairs office engulfed in flames resulting in a total loss. A loss of nearly 110 years of Curti Family history in the dairy business.

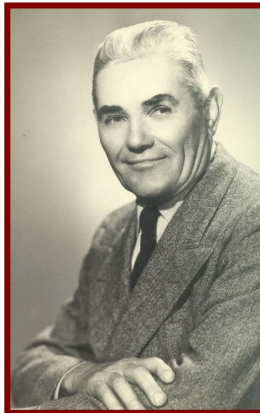
If anything good can come from the ashes it was the outpouring of support from the Waukena community. Support that included hauling over 3,000 milking cows to nearby dairies, organizing employees, arranging for emergency scheduling, getting a temporary office setup, the list goes on and on. **Tessa and Stuart Hall**, who run the day-to-day operation of the dairy, had to make dozens of decisions in response to such a devastating fire.

Family patriarch of the Ben Curti Family, **Miro Curti** was the Roma Lodge President in 1936-



Lorenzo Ravicioni

1939. He followed his dairy partner at the time **Lorenzo Ravicioni**



Miro Curti

who was president in 1934-35. The Curti and Ravicioni Families have been members of Roma Lodge since the 1930's.

When tragedy strikes Roma Lodge members are there to help. No one more ready than 45-year members of Roma Lodge, **Charlie and Nancy Pitigliano**.

Before the fire was even out, Charlie was on the phone organizing a luncheon for First Responders and all those

community members, employees and family members who stepped forward to give of their time and



Charlie Pitigliano, Al Ybarra, Nancy Pitigliano and David DePaoli organizing the luncheon.



Nick Milanesio, Dominic Pitigliano, Michael Pitigliano, Joseph Goni, Michael DePaoli and Josh Pitigliano prepare the sauce and cook the spaghetti.

resources to ensure the animals were being taken

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care of. This is what it means to carry on the Italian Culture in Tulare.

By Friday the Curti shop was transformed into a banquet hall, 20 gallons of homemade sauce was cooking and the spaghetti was boiling in hot water.



Dino Giacomazzi got the tables and chairs delivered. **Katrina Rainey** covered the tables and coordinated the center pieces and everything was in place by 11 a.m. when guests start-

ed to arrive. Some of the honored guests included the **Tulare County Fire Department** who helped put out the fire. Unfortunately, the **Kings County department** was unable to attend.



Carol Burner, Charlotte Hall, Jackie Giacomazzi along with others donated cookies enjoyed along with Rosa Bros. ice cream for dessert.

The Waukena community



came together to help with the event. Far left is **Jimmy Valov** who cooked and donated the delicious tri-tip served with the spaghetti and far right is **Brian Watte** who donated the drinks, ice and large fans for the event.

Jennifer Pitigliano, Katrina Rainey and Navin Curti worked together to do the cleanup after the event in which nearly 200 employees, community members and friends came together to enjoy a good meal in support of the **Ben Curti Family**.



On Tuesday, June 18th the sun came up and all the milking cows had been moved and taken care of. Now, comes the difficult part which will be to determine what comes next. Son-in-laws **Brian Rainey** and **Stuart Hall** will shoulder the major duties of deciding how to deal with the loss of the office, equipment room and all the other issues which have arisen from the fire. It will not be an easy task and Ben will rely on them and the rest of the family to decide their next steps.



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All of us look back at our Italian Heritage and remember things that happen when we were a child that shaped our lives. It will be no different

for the Curti grandchildren who will remember when grandpa's dairy burned down. Let's hope they live in a community and have a Roma Lodge to help if ever needed.

I know that Ben, Tessa and Stu-

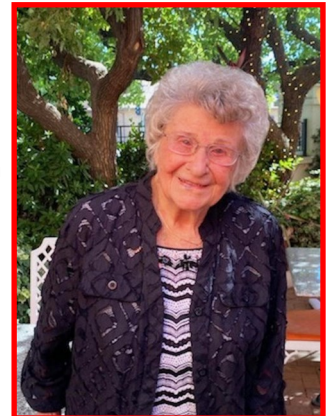


95th Birthdays!

Roma Lodge members **Angie Milanesio** and **Frances Della** celebrated their 95th birthdays at the June meeting. They are both doing great and it was a special night with everyone enjoying birthday cake.



Agnes Pelous will be celebrating her 102nd birthday on July 17th. She is our most senior member and has been in the lodge for 60 years. These members are role models and we need to remember their contributions to our lodge for so many years.



art are very appreciative of the Waukena community and dairy families who came together in this most difficult time. We have all been put on this earth to

serve our fellow man and it was a pleasure for members of the Roma Lodge who came together to support this family who have been such an integral part of the our 94 years as a lodge.

Like we did when the **Goni Dairy** was flooded the lodge and community members came together to help in their time of need. **Joseph Goni** was the first to call and ask how he could help. **Joanna Goni-Moffett** was there to help serve food. When I thanked Joseph he said, **"there was no place I would have preferred to be, than helping the lodge and the Curti Family, on my mother's birthday as I'm sure she was watching from heaven."**



Special thanks to **Vince and Pam Sola** who provided the delicious dinner for the June meeting. Pam also serves double duty as our junior member advisor and provides learning activities for our junior members during the meeting.



More great pictures on the Roma Lodge website: www.romalodge1573.org



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

LeNotizie Sponsors

<p>Vincent Sola Partnership / VSP Custom Inc Farming & Farm Management</p>  <p>Vincent Sola PO Box 190 Tipton, CA 93272 Cell 559-901-1780 Office / Fax 559-752-0234 Email farmers@aol.com</p>	<p>Pine P&A Pedroncelli & Aguilar Inc.</p> <p>Karen C. Pedroncelli, CPA 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>Bassett Farms, Inc. Pistachios & Almonds</p> <p>Jon Bassett</p> <p>P. O. Box 6069 Visalia, CA 93290 bfarmsinc@yahoo.com</p> <p>Cell: 559-972-5716 Office: 559-635-8776 Fax: 559-739-8402</p>	<p>CURTICO ENT.</p> <p>Ken Curti Owner</p> <p>Mobile 559-288-2144 Office 559-688-2444 Fax 559-688-0448 kcurti@sbglobal.net</p> <p>Mailing Address 5849 W. Elowan Visalia, California 93291</p> <p>Physical Address 6656 Avenue 192 Tulare, California 93274</p> <p>CURTI TERRA INC. DIVERSIFIED FARMING</p>
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<p>Benjamin (Ben) Curti Cell (559)288-0587 Personal Email bacurti@aol.com</p> <p>CURTI MADE DAIRY INC. BEN CURTI FARMS</p> <p>18357 Road 24 Tulare, California 93274 Business Email: bencurtifarms@yahoo.com</p> <p>Phone (559)992-5866 Fax (559)992-4842</p>	<p>BANK OF SIERRA</p> <p>LARRY DUTTO, PH.D. Director</p> <p>ldutto@bankofthesierra.com 86 N. Main Street Porterville, CA 93257 559-791-4900 559-901-4683 c</p>

Your Roma Lodge Officers 2023-2024

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| President | Larry Dutto (901-4683) |
| Vice President | Justin Curti (906-9109) |
| Treasurer | Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591) |
| Recording Sec. | Renee Marinelli (732-8258) |
| Financial Sec. | Tina Sparlin (741-3642) |
| Orator | Anthony Chiamonte (217-4055) |
| Historian | Melissa Watkins (361-0811) |
| Guard | Frank Marinelli (802-0611) |
| Past President | David DePaoli (804-5443) |
| Chaplain | Nicole Taylor (804-7056) |
| Junior Members | Pam Sola (901-1781) |

Trustees

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Matt Watkins-Chair | (647-7161) |
| Louis Benedetti | (827-1492) |
| Mike Saltzman | (686-4340) |
| Dominic Pitigliano | (359-1907) |
| Michael DePaoli | (730-1168) |

Mistress of Ceremony

Joann Beecher (260-4156)

Next Meeting
August 5th
6:00 PM
WAE-Social Hall

Junior Member Night!

Send me your pictures and information for junior members like dance recitals, communions, sports activities, school awards, weddings, etc., etc. for the August Le-Notizie.