

PROGRAM HELPS AND INFORMATION JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2009

Marge Bernhardt, State Lecturer
424 Cedar Lane, Cheshire, CT 06410

Phone: (203) 272-4620 e-mail: mbcb76@cox.net

(If you received this via US Mail and have an e-mail address, please e-mail me -- mbcb76@cox.net -- so I can add you to our list. With postage going up this is more important than ever. Plus, you will receive your copy earlier.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

It is never too late to make a New Year's Resolution. Let's all make one to make this the best year ever for our local granges. Without our Subordinates, the Grange as a whole has no future. We are all dedicated members. Let's work together to make the Grange strong. I am keeping my message short so I can share with you more numbers to help with programs. See you around the State.Marge

TO ALL POMONA LECTURERS... MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW... OUR ANNUAL POMONA LECTURERS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2009 AT 2:00 p.m. at CHESHIRE GRANGE HALL (LOWER LEVEL).

SHARED NUMBERS....

WHERE'S THE FIRE? From Coventry's Complete Program

VOICE ON TELEPHONE: Hello, hello, I want to report a fire!

FIREMAN: Yes, Can you give me the location?

VOICE: Yeah, it's three farms down from the place where Vince Rover used to live. You know!

FIREMEN: Well, no. How do I get there from here?

VOICE: Well, you just drive up this way five, six or maybe seven miles, then it's off by that swamp.

FIREMAN: Can you tell me what the place looks like?

VOICE: You can tell it for sure. It's on fire.

FIREMAN: I know, I know, but how do I get there?

VOICE: Well, you know where Bud Bell lives?

FIREMAN: Yes

VOICE: Well, it's a long way from there, but if you stop there he'll bring you here. He knows where it is. That's kind of out of the way, though.

FIREMAN: Please ma'am. Where is the fire?

VOICE: I've been trying to tell you that!

FIREMAN: *(Patiently)* Madam, will you please describe in detail how to get from here to the fire?

VOICE: You don't have to be sarcastic! If I can get from there to here, I guess you can.

FIREMAN: *(Sighing)* Madam, the fire. Where is it?

VOICE: You go west, like I said, a few miles, then you know that bunch of oak trees? That's right. Oak trees. Well, there's a road there with a sign on it.

FIREMAN: yes, what's the name on the sign?

VOICE: Golly, I don't know. You can check when you get there.

FIREMAN: That's a big help!

VOICE: Well, you go down that road for a ways 'til it jogs left.

FIREMAN: Okay. Is that the road that goes by Vince Rover's place?

VOICE: Who?

FIREMAN: Vince Rover! Vince Rover!

VOICE: Oh him. He's moved. Some city people bought his place.

FIREMAN: What is their name? Maybe I can locate it from here.

VOICE: Oh, it's Jones or Cohen or something like that. But that isn't where the fire is.

FIREMAN: Yeah. Well, what's the name of the farm where the fire is?

VOICE: I don't know if it's got a name. We call it "home".

FIREMAN: You mean the fire is right where you're calling from?

VOICE: That's right. And it's getting kind of warm here so I may have to hang up.

FIREMAN: Do you have a fire number?

VOICE: We just got one fire, and that's a plenty!

FIREMAN: What I mean is, is there a card on the wall beside the phone?

VOICE: Yeah.

FIREMAN: What does it say on it?

VOICE: It says: "ATTENTION FARMERS. We buy dead or disabled cows and horses."

FIREMAN: That's no help at all!

VOICE: If you'd quit asking stupid questions and get on out here we might get somewhere.

FIREMAN: I'm trying to! Where is your place? Where is the fire?

VOICE: I told you. It's three farms down from where Vince Rover used to live. What kind of a fireman are you anyway?

FIREMAN: Never mind. What's the color of your house?

VOICE: Golly, I never noticed. I'll run out and look.

FIREMAN: (*Frustrated*) Never mind! Just tell me where the fire is!

VOICE: It's mostly in the kitchen now but it is moving into the dining room.

FIREMAN: (*Through clenched teeth*) I didn't mean that! WHERE IS YOUR HOME?

VOICE: Just a minute. Here's my husband. He'll tell you.

HUSBAND ENTERS: You want to know where we are? We're way out past the lake.

FIREMAN: (*Wearily*) Never mind, never mind. I'll go look for it myself.

HUSBAND: Well, you can't miss it now.

FIREMAN: How's that?

HUSBAND: Well, the fire's shooting right out the window!

FIREMAN DROPS HEAD ON DESK IN DESPAIR!

NATURE'S BOUNTY with Thanks to Simsbury Grange

Oh, beautiful for distant hills, And trees that climb each slope,
For skies of azure overhead, And clouds that interlope.
Oh, beautiful for winds that move, The grasses and the leaves—
For changes that the season make, And the colors that they weave.

Oh, beautiful for roaring seas, For eagles soaring high,
For the sound when thunder cracks, And when the forests sigh.

Oh, beautiful for all the things, That Nature bestows free—
The sights, the sounds, the images – God's world in harmony.

....Joan Stephen

BRIDES (QUIZ) with thanks to Ekonk Community Grange

True or False...

1. World War II brides (marrying US soldiers/veterans) came from over 50 countries? Ans. True
2. Between 1940 and 1950, over 100,000 couples got married in the Far East? Ans. True
3. 48,000 European women, with 22,000 children immigrated to Canada during and after World War II? Ans. True
4. English Folklore says a spider found in a wedding dress is good Luck? Ans. True
5. The groom carries the bride over the threshold to show how manly he is? Ans. False (For Good Luck)
6. A Swedish Bride puts a silver coin from her Father and a gold coin from her Mother in each shoe to ensure that she will never do without? Ans. True
7. Seventeen tons of gold are made into wedding bands each year in the United States? Ans. True
8. The "something blue" in the bridal ensemble symbolizes that the bride will never be sad? Ans. False...It symbolizes purity, fidelity and love.
9. In Denmark, brides and grooms traditionally cross-dress to confuse any evil spirits? Ans. False
10. "Tie The Knot" comes from ancient Rome, when brides wore girdles tied in knots? Ans. True
11. Halloween is the busiest wedding day in Las Vegas? Ans. False...Valentines Day is.
12. The bride stands to the groom's left during a Christian Ceremony? Ans. False..To the Right Because in early days the groom was considered to be his wife's "right-hand man".
13. Ancient Greeks & Romans thought a veil would protect the bride from evil spirits? Ans. True
14. Peas are thrown at Czech weddings instead of rice? Ans. True
15. Ancient Romans studied pig entrails to determine the luckiest time to marry? Ans. True

FICTIONAL SWEETHEARTS with Thanks to Old Lyme

Give one name and let everyone guess their sweetheart.

Edith – Archie	Morticia – Gomez	Olive – Popeye
Clair – Cliff	Marge – Homer	Lucy – Ricky
Blondie – Dagwood	Mindy – Mork	Juliet – Romeo
Ethel – Fred	Nora – Nick	Scarlett – Rhett

BLACKOUT SKITS with Thanks to Richard Chapman

Joe: Do you believe in love at first sight?

Bill: I'll say one thing, it saves a lot of time.

Laura: Tom do you love me with all your heart?

Tom: Uh-huh

Laura: And do you think I'm the most beautiful woman in the world?

Tom: Uh-huh

Laura: Do you think my lips are as soft as rose petals?

Tom: Uh-huh

Laura: Oh, Tom, you say the most beautiful things.

Sue: Has anyone ever asked you to get married?

Sally: Sure, lots of times.

Sue: Oh, really? Who asked you?

Sally: My Mother and my Father.

Lucy: What happened when you showed your new engagement ring to the women in the office?

Did they admire it?

Lois: Better than that – four of them recognized it!

Esther: So Tony and you are getting married? Why I thought it was just a mere flirtation.

Edith: So did Tony.

Valentine's Trivia (make good cut-aparts)

15% of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day.

73% of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men, while only 27 percent are women.

About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.

About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.

Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, an "Improvement in Telegraphy", on Valentine's Day, 1876.

California produces 60 percent of American roses, but the vast number sold on Valentine's Day in the United States are imported, mostly from South America. Approximately 110 million roses, the majority red, will be sold and delivered within a three-day time period.

Cupid, another symbol of Valentines Day, became associated with it because he was the son of Venus, the Roman god of love and beauty. Cupid often appears on Valentine cards holding a bow and arrows because he is believed to use magical arrows to inspire feelings of love.

February 14, 270 A.D. : Roman Emperor Claudius II, dubbed "Claudius the Cruel," beheaded a priest named Valentine for performing marriage ceremonies. Claudius II had outlawed marriages when Roman men began refusing to go to war in order to stay with their wives.

Hallmark has over 1330 different cards specifically for Valentine's Day.

In Victorian times it was considered bad luck to sign a Valentine's Day card.

In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.

In the United States, 64 percent of men do not make plans in advance for a romantic Valentine's Day with their sweethearts.

One single perfect red rose framed with baby's breath is referred to by some florists as a "signature rose," and is the preferred choice for many for giving on Valentine's Day, anniversary, or birthday.

Only the U.S., Canada, Mexico, France, Australia and the U.K. celebrate Valentine's Day.

Some people used to believe that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire.

Teachers will receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by children, mothers, wives, and then, sweethearts. Children ages 6 to 10 exchange more than 650 million Valentine's cards with teachers, classmates, and family members.

In the 17th century a hopeful maiden ate a hard-boiled egg and pinned five bay leaves to her pillow before going to sleep on Valentine's eve. It was believed this would make her dream of her future husband.

The first American publisher of valentines was printer and artist Esther Howland. During the 1870s, her elaborate lace cards were purchased by the wealthy, as they cost a minimum of 5 dollars - some sold for as much as 35 dollars. Mass production eventually brought prices down, and the affordable "penny valentine" became popular with the lower classes.

The heart is the most common symbol of romantic love. Ancient cultures believed the human soul lived in the heart.

The red rose was the favorite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love. Red stands for strong feelings, which is why a red rose is a flower of love.

Wearing a wedding ring on the fourth finger of the left hand dates back to ancient Egypt, where it was believed that the vein of love ran from this finger directly to the heart.

In America, the pilgrims sent confections, such as sugar wafers, marzipan, sweetmeats and sugar plums, to their betrothed. Great value was placed on these gifts because they included what was then a rare commodity, sugar. After the late 1800's, beet sugar became widely used and more available, and sweet gifts continued to be valued and enjoyed.

FUN FACTS ABOUT OUR PRESIDENTS

(Barack Obama is not included..This is being written in Dec. 2008)

GEORGE W. BUSH is our 43rd president, but there actually have only been 42 presidents: Cleveland was elected for two nonconsecutive terms and is counted twice, as our 22nd and 24th president. EIGHT PRESIDENTS were born British subjects: Washington, J. Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, J. Q. Adams, Jackson, and W. Harrison.

NINE PRESIDENTS never attended college: Washington, Jackson, Van Buren, Taylor, Fillmore, Lincoln, A. Johnson, Cleveland, and Truman. The college that has the most presidents as alumni (seven in total) is Harvard: J. Adams, J. Q. Adams, T. Roosevelt, F. Roosevelt, Rutherford B. Hayes, J. F. Kennedy, and George W. Bush.

THE MOST COMMON religious affiliation among presidents has been Episcopalian, followed by Presbyterian.

THE ANCESTRY of all 43 presidents is limited to the following seven heritages, or some combination thereof: Dutch, English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh, Swiss, or German.

THE OLDEST president inaugurated was Reagan (age 69); the youngest was Kennedy (age 43). Theodore Roosevelt, however, was the youngest man to become president—he was 42 when he succeeded McKinley, who had been assassinated.

THE TALLEST president was Lincoln at 6'4"; at 5'4", Madison was the shortest.

VICE PRESIDENTS were originally the presidential candidates receiving the second-largest number of electoral votes. The Twelfth Amendment, passed in 1804, changed the system so that the electoral college voted separately for president and vice president. The presidential candidate, however, gradually gained power over the nominating convention to choose his own running mate.

FOR TWO YEARS the nation was run by a president and a vice president who were not elected by the people. After Vice President Spiro T. Agnew resigned in 1973, President Nixon appointed Gerald Ford as vice president. Nixon resigned the following year, which left Ford as president, and Ford's appointed vice president, Nelson Rockefeller, as second in line.

THE TERM "First Lady" was used first in 1849 when President Zachary Taylor called Dolley Madison "First Lady" at her state funeral. It gained popularity in 1877 when used in reference to Lucy Ware Webb Hayes. Most First Ladies, including Jackie Kennedy, are said to have hated the label.

JAMES BUCHANAN was the only president never to marry. Five presidents remarried after the death of their first wives—two of whom, Tyler and Wilson, remarried while in the White House. Reagan was the only divorced president. Six presidents had no children. Tyler—father of fifteen—had the most.

PRESIDENTS LINCOLN, Garfield, McKinley, and Kennedy were assassinated in office.

ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS were made on the lives of Jackson, T. Roosevelt, F. Roosevelt, Truman, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, G. H. W. Bush, Clinton, and G. W. Bush.

EIGHT PRESIDENTS died in office: W. Harrison (after having served only one month), Taylor, Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, Harding, F. Roosevelt, and Kennedy.

PRESIDENTS ADAMS, Jefferson, and Monroe all died on the 4th of July; Coolidge was born on that day.

KENNEDY AND TAFT are the only presidents buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

COUNTRY AUCTION by Gertrude Rudberg with Thanks to Colchester

Go to a country auction,
And there I'm sure you'll find
All types of people waiting
In one accorded mind.

Both city folk and farmer
Will sit there in the sun,
For hours and hours unended,
To bid and have some fun.

There'll be beds, chairs and blankets,
Oil lamps and bric-a-brac;
There'll be bureaus, chests and organs,
And patchwork quilts all tacked.

There'll be pots, pans and dishes,
Hayrakes and oxen yoke,
Baskets filled with odds and ends
To make them laugh and joke.

There'll be books, iron kettles,
And parlor stoves, a few,
Radios, chambers, cowbells,
And tables all askew.

Visit a country auction,
And you will get a thrill
If you just sit and watch them
And not your wagon fill!

There'll be candlesticks of silver,
Old saws and handmade nails;
Cut-glass vases, braided rugs
And even milking pails.

WINTER DRIVER SAFETY QUIZ

1. Should you over-inflate or under-inflate your tires, during cold winter months?

Ans. Neither. Tires should always be maintained at the level recommended by the manufacturer. Under-inflation and over inflation can actually increase the incidence of tire failure and skidding. Checking them at least twice a month will help you keep an eye on the loss of air pressure that occurs naturally. Always check them "cold" - that is, before you drive them.

2. If caught in snow storm and you have to walk in the street, do you walk in the same direction as the traffic or walk facing oncoming traffic?

Ans. Always walk facing the oncoming traffic. You will be better able to alert oncoming traffic to your whereabouts and be able to see and react if any cars veer into your path. It is also advisable to wear bright clothing or wrap a bright object, such as a red scarf or windbreaker, around you.

3. If your car is equipped with anti-lock brakes and you are skidding on snow or ice, do you pump the breaks repeatedly because it will keep you from going into a skid; pump the breaks repeatedly because that is how you engage the anti-lock feature, or apply firm and continuous pressure to the breaks.

Ans. If you have anti-lock brakes, apply firm and continuous pressure. Anti-lock brakes automatically pump the brake many times a second so any pumping you do will only impair their effectiveness. If your car does not have anti-lock brakes, you can mimic that effect by pumping the brakes.

4. True or False - - The usefulness of daytime running lights has never been established as reducing the number of traffic accidents.

Ans. It is as important to be seen as it is to see. According to every report and study published, the use of daytime lights reduces multiple-vehicle accidents by as much as 11 percent and left-turn crashes by as much as 37 percent. With daytime multiple-vehicle accidents representing nearly half the police-reported crashes in the U.S., their use could have a profound impact on traffic safety. If your car is not already equipped with daytime running lights, turning on your headlights during the day could help keep you from becoming a traffic accident statistic. In many states it is already the law to use your headlights any time you are also using your windshield wipers in inclement weather.

5. What percentage of adult pedestrians struck by cars have blood alcohol levels of 0.10 percent or higher?

Ans. 50 percent. Just as it does with accidents between two vehicles, alcohol impairment plays a large role among pedestrians who are hit by vehicles. As a result, it is important for drivers

to be on guard and not assume the movements of pedestrians will be rational. For pedestrians it means that when it is unsafe to drink and drive, it may also be unsafe to walk without assistance from a responsible friend.

6. Where are pedestrians more likely to be hit by a car -- at an intersection or at another point in the road?

Ans. More pedestrians are struck by cars at points in the road than intersections. The main reasons are the number of pedestrians who "dart out" from between parked cars and the limited amount of response time a driver may have to react. Additionally, although drivers should always be alert and aware, they are often not expecting a pedestrian to suddenly appear and are caught off guard.

7. What day of the week are you most likely to get into a traffic accident?

Ans. Saturday. By a wide margin Saturday has the most accidents. More frequent evening driving on weekends and the consumption of alcohol are major contributing factors, the lowest days for traffic accidents are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

8. When sliding into a skid, is it best to turn the steering wheel in the direction of the skid; turn the steering wheel in the opposite direction of the skid or turn the steering wheel straight ahead?

Ans. Turn in the direction of the skid. It may seem counterintuitive at first and even a little scary when doing it, but turning into the skid is your best chance to regain some traction. Turning in any other direction will only reduce the traction.

9) When approaching a snowy or icy hill, should you accelerate to reach to top as quickly as possible, come to a complete stop and then begin the ascent or slow up before reaching the hill and make the ascent slowly and steadily?

Ans. You'll have the best chance of safely making it up a hill by approaching at a slow speed and maintaining that slow speed at a steady rate.

10) When heading down a snowy or icy hill, should you come to a complete stop and then make your descent, shift into a lower gear and make a slow descent or make your descent using your brakes to slow you down.

Ans. Shifting into a lower gear before making your descent and maintaining a slow steady speed, rather than using your brakes, will improve traction.

GROUNDHOG DAY

Groundhog Day, February 2nd, is a popular tradition in the United States. It is also a legend that traverses centuries, its origins clouded in the mists of time with ethnic cultures and animals awakening on specific dates. Myths such as this tie our present to the distant past when nature did, indeed, influence our lives. It is the day that the Groundhog comes out of his hole after a long winter sleep to look for his shadow.

If he sees it, he regards it as an omen of six more weeks of bad weather and returns to his hole.

If the day is cloudy and, hence, shadowless, he takes it as a sign of spring and stays above ground.

The groundhog tradition stems from similar beliefs associated with Candlemas Day and the days of early Christians in Europe, and for centuries the custom was to have the clergy bless candles and distribute them to the people. Even then, it marked a milestone in the winter and the weather was important.