



THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER September - October 2016



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Greetings,

With the arrival of fall, we need to once again step up our Grange Activities. The more you get your members involved in your meetings, your Grange work and your programs, the more interest they will have. Reach out for new people. Get them to join and make them feel like they are one of the group. You, as Lecturer, play a big role in the success or failure of your Grange. Why not call someone who hasn't attended a meeting for a while and ask them to be in a program.

For those of you who either don't get the Connecticut Granger or for some reason haven't had a chance to read it yet, I am going to quote to you from our State Master's column. " 'It's harvest time on the farm and in our lives.' These words come from our degree work and has true meaning to all of us. Whether we live on a farm, have gardens in the backyard, or have this feeling in our daily encounters. This is why I love the Grange. Every phrase or script of our ritual can relate to every person in this country. It is a simple language that anyone can understand, interpret and follow. Yet many Grangers never heard this phrase, we have welcomed them into our order, but have not given them the needed lessons to really understand what the Grange really is about. **I challenge our Lecturers to include a Ritual Night to educate and remind members of what the Grange really means.** Make it fun, have a scavenger hunt, team competition, word search, debate, or anything that gets members up and out of their chairs and reflect on their past experience with the Grange."

I agree whole-heartedly with Noel. So, one of the requirements for Honor Lecturer next year will be... **You can either do a whole program on ritual (Minimum 30 minutes) or have six ritual numbers over the course of the year.** I have included three numbers in this newsletter and will now begin planning others to share with you. I understand different size Granges can do different types of numbers and will try to please all of you. If you have any suggestions or numbers from the past, I would love to receive them to share.

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find your **Honor Lecturer Report.** This report along with your Complete Program, Should Auld Acquaintance Report, and your Essays need to be in my hands by October 1st. I cannot accept anything late. If you can get them to me early that will be appreciated. I have been given a terrific opportunity to visit my Grandson in the French Alps and I have to get everything to the judges before I leave and then do certificates as soon as I get back.

Along with the November – December Newsletter you will all receive a copy of the information that will be in next years' Bluebook.

If you are leaving office this year I want to say "Thank You" for the work you have done. If you are new and I already have your information, "Welcome". And, everyone, don't forget I am here to help you. Don't be afraid to ask. I will do anything I can to help any Grange.

Marge

SHARED NUMBERS...

SOME GRANGE FACTS FROM CHARLES M. GARDINERS BOOK "The Grange – Friend of the Farmer".

It is a well-known fact the William Saunders was the first National Master. But, did you know that Dudley W. Adams was the second National Master. He was the first Master of the Iowa State Grange and the first Master of a State Grange to attend a National Grange Session. Adams also served as the 2nd National Grange Lecturer.

Francis McDowell, one of our founding fathers, was also the First High Priest of Demeter.

The first Graces of the National Grange were Caroline Hall, Ceres; Temperance Lane Kelley, Pomona; and, Mrs. J. C. Abbott, Flora.

Ever hear of Lucy Earle? She was Oliver Hudson Kelley's first wife. They were married in 1849. She died in 1851 leaving an infant daughter who died six months later. Kelley then married Temperance Lane in 1852. They had four daughters. Oliver Hudson Kelley, whose idea it was to organize the Grange never served as National Master. He was the first National Secretary. Kelley was recognized by our Government in 1944 when a Liberty Ship was christened "Oliver Kelley" at the Richmond Shipyards in CA. The program described him as Founder of the National Grange.

Minnesota had the first State Grange. It was organized when they had eleven Subordinate Granges. The first Subordinate Grange was Fredonia Grange #1 organized in New York in 1868.

RITUAL QUIZ

1. Who closes the outer gate? Ans. Gatekeeper
2. Who closes the inner gate? Ans. Steward
3. Who proclaims the Grange Open? Ans. Overseer
4. What officer's duties are called the most arduous of all? Ans. Secretary
5. What are the implements of the first degree? Ans. Ax, Plow, Harrow, Spade
6. What are the implements of the second degree? Ans. Hoe and Pruning Knife
7. What is the lesson of the second degree? Ans. Hope
8. What degree are we in when it is winter? Ans. 4th
9. Pomona is the Goddess of what? Ans. Fruit
10. When do we drape our charter? Ans. At the first meeting after the death of a member.
11. Who is that worst of enemies to progress – Ignorance? Ans. The Steward in the first degree
12. Who takes the word at the outer gate? Ans. Gatekeeper
13. How often must a Subordinate Grange hold a regular meeting? Ans. At least once a month
14. What is a quorum for a Subordinate Grange? Ans. Seven
15. May a member hold the same office in two Granges? Ans. No
16. Who carries the flag when it is presented in the Subordinate Grange? Ans. Ceres

THE IMPLEMENT BOX

*Do all your members realize what is in the box as the Master opens it every meeting?
If you have someone from your Grange or a neighboring Grange who can explain the implements
why not ask them to do it. I have included the wording here. If you can't find anyone, let me know
and I will either find someone near you or come myself to do it.*

The Ax is used to cut away obstructions in the fields and to prepare timber for use. Its use teaches us perseverance in overcoming obstacles; for, as by repeated blows it cleaves its way through the hardest wood, so should we by repeated trials surmount every difficulty.

The plow is used to break up the ground and prepare it for planting. This should teach us to drive the plowshare of thought diligently through the heavy soil of ignorance, and thus prepare the mind for the growth of knowledge and wisdom.

The Harrow is used to pulverize the soil as well as to cover the seed. Let this be emblematic of that course of study and observation necessary to enable you to fully understand your business.

The spade we use when we wish to penetrate deeper into the soil than we can with the Plow. It thus becomes the emblem of thoroughness. Whatsoever you attempt to do, strive to do it well.

The hoe, with which we cut up weeds and stir the soil, is emblematic of that cultivation of the mind which destroys error and keeps out thoughts quickened and ready to receive and apply new facts as they appear, thus promoting the growth of knowledge and wisdom.

The Pruning Knife, used to remove useless and injurious growths from our trees, plants and vines, should remind you to prune idle thoughts and sinful suggestions, and thus keep your passions within due bounds and prevent your fancy from leading you astray after the vanities and vices of the world.

I now exhibit to you the Sickle. Like all the tools we use, it is ancient and honorable; as an emblem of our Order, there is none more so. It speaks of peace and prosperity, and is the harbinger of joy. It is used not merely to reap the golden grain for the sheaf, but, in the field of mind and heart and soul, to gather every precious stalk, every opening flower, every desirable fruit.

Let the Agate be to you an emblem of Fidelity. May your principles of manhood and womanhood be as firmly impressed as the lasting colors in the stone, and may our friendship be as firm as the stone itself.

NOT ALL THIEVES ARE STUPID

These would make good safety numbers – perhaps one at a meeting.

LONG-TERM PARKING:

Some people left their car in the long-term parking garage while they were away. Someone broke into their car and using the information on the car's registration in the glove compartment, they drove the car to the people's home and robbed it. So I guess if we are going to leave the car in long-term parking, we should NOT leave the registration/insurance cards in it, nor your remote garage door opener. This gives us something to think about with all our new electronic technology.

GPS:

Someone had their car broken into while they were at a football game. Their car was parked on the green which was adjacent to the football stadium and specially allotted to football fans. Things stolen from the car included a garage door remote control, some money and a GPS which had been prominently mounted on the dashboard. When the victims got home, they found that their house had been ransacked and just about everything worth anything had been stolen. The thieves had used the GPS to guide them to the house. They then used the garage remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house. The thieves knew the owners were at the football game, they knew what time the game was scheduled to finish and so they knew how much time they had to clean out the house. It would appear that they had brought a truck to empty the house of its contents. Something to consider if you have a GPS - don't put your home address in it... Put a nearby address (like a store or gas station) so you can still find your way home if you need to, but no one else would know where you live if your GPS were stolen.

CELL PHONES:

While out shopping a ladies purse which contained her cell phone, credit card, wallet, etc., was stolen. Twenty minutes later when she called her hubby, from a pay phone telling him what had happened, hubby says, "I received your text asking about our Pin number and I've replied a little while ago." When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn. The thief had actually used the stolen cell phone to text "hubby" in the contact list and got hold of the pin number. Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account.

Moral of the lesson:

- a. Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid using names like Home, Honey, Hubby, Sweetheart, Dad, Mom, etc....
- b. And very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked through texts, CONFIRM by calling back.
- c. Also, when you're being texted by friends or family to meet them somewhere, be sure to call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet "family and friends" who text you.

PURSE IN THE GROCERY CART SCAM:

A lady went grocery-shopping at a local mall and left her purse sitting in the children's seat of the cart while she reached something off a shelf. Her wallet was stolen, and she reported it to the store personnel. After returning home, she received a phone call from the Mall Security to say that they had her wallet and that although there was no money in it, it did still hold her personal papers. She knew that by calling and saying they were Mall Security, they could lure her out of her house long enough for them to burglarize it.

SOME HALLOWEEN SONGS

IN THE GRAVEYARD

Sing to "Oh My Darling"

In the graveyard, in the graveyard, When the moon begins to shine
There's a doctor, crazy doctor, and his monster Frankenstein.

Oh my monster, oh my monster, Oh my monster Frankenstein
You are looking very scary, Sweet old monster Frankenstein.

HOORAY! IT'S HALLOWEEN

Over the graveyard and through the tombs, To the haunted house we go
The ghosts are a fright, This spooky night, So come and join the show.

Over the graveyard and through the tombs, Just hear the dreadful cries,
The banshees howl, The black cats yowl, Their shrieking fills the skies.

Over the graveyard and through the tombs, Where all the goblins meet,
Witches and ghouls, They are no fools, They all yell, Trick or Treat.

Over the graveyard and through the tombs, The jack-o-lanterns gleam
Bats fill the skies, With glowing eyes, Hooray! It's Halloween!

PUMPKIN BELLS

Sing to Jingle Bells

Dashing through the streets, In our costumes bright and gay
To each house we go, Laughing all the way.
Halloween is here, Making spirits bright,
Oh what fun to trick or treat, And sing pumpkin carols tonight.

Oh, Pumpkin Bells, Pumpkin Bells, Ringing loud and clear
Oh, what fun Great Pumpkin brings, When Halloween is here!

ONE LINERS

These would make good cut-aparts to get all your members involved. Just pick your favorites.

If I had a dollar for every girl who found me unattractive, they'd eventually find me attractive.

I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom – until they're flashing behind you.

Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool, so I gave him a glass of water.

I changed my password to "incorrect" so whenever I forget it the computer screen will say, "Your password is incorrect."

I'm great at multi-tasking - I can waste time, be unproductive, and procrastinate all at once.

If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.

Never tell your problems to anyone, because 20 percent don't care and the other 80 percent are glad you have them.

Doesn't expecting the unexpected mean that the unexpected is actually expected?

Take my advice - I'm not using it.

My wife and I were happy for twenty years; then we met.

Hospitality is the art of making guests feel like they're at home when you wish they were.

Television may insult your intelligence, but nothing rubs it in like a computer.

I bought a vacuum cleaner six months ago and so far all it's been doing is gathering dust.

Every time someone comes up with a foolproof solution, along comes a more-talented fool.

If you keep your feet firmly on the ground, you'll have trouble putting on your pants.

A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kick boxing.

When I married Ms. Right, I had no idea her first name was Always.

My wife got 8 out of 10 on her driver's test--the other two guys managed to jump out of her way.

There may be no excuse for laziness, but I'm still looking.

Women spend more time wondering what men are thinking than men spend thinking.

He who laughs last thinks slowest.

Is it wrong that only one company makes the game Monopoly?

Women sometimes make fools of men, but most guys are the do-it-yourself type.

The grass may be greener on the other side but at least you don't have to mow it.

I like long walks, especially when they're taken by people who annoy me.

I was going to wear my camouflage shirt today, but I couldn't find it.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

Sometimes I wake up grumpy; other times I let him sleep.

If tomatoes are technically a fruit, is ketchup a smoothie?

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MOTORING HISTORY?

In 1900 the steering wheel took the place of a steering tiller in new cars.

In 1901 Connecticut passed the first statewide traffic laws.

In 1906 Alabama set its' maximum speed limit at 8 miles per hour.

In 1910 New York had the first drunk driving laws.

In 1911 the electric self-starter replaced the hand-crank.

IN 1923 Hertz became the first National car rental agency.