



# THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER March – April 2017



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Hi Everyone,

Hopefully by the time you get this, Spring will be filling the air. As I start work on it everything is white and damp. Just knew we were going to pay for the warm January in February.

Our 2017 **Lecturers' Conference** will be at Castleton University in Castleton, Vermont. Castleton is about 20 minutes West of Rutland. I was just in Rutland for Leaders' Conference so I am estimating the driving time at four hours. I went 91 to Vermont and then went west to Route 7. I'm sure some of you will want to take Route 7 all the way up to Rutland.

The conference will begin on Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. After going over the comments made last year the scheduling has changed. The Grand Opening will take place at 3:30 p.m. As soon as I receive the finalized copy of the brochure and registration forms I will get them in the mail to everyone. By starting earlier we can end the conference right after breakfast on Wed., August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The theme of the conference is School Days and Connecticut's program is entitled Physical Education. If you have any suggestions, please send them to me. Do you know anyone who will be going to the conference that does a lot of dancing? I would love to be able to incorporate this into the program. I am also looking for a few old gym suits like we wore back in our high school days. I need your help. Remember this is Connecticut's Program and I want to include as many people as possible.

Workshops and rehearsals will be held back to back as will the State Programs meaning less moving from one place to another. A short break will be held in-between so everyone can stretch, etc.

Connecticut will rehearse Tuesday morning at 9:45 and the program will take place right after lunch.

Forms for the conference will be in the mail as soon as I receive the information, hopefully by the beginning of May.

National Grange incorporates the **Quilt Blocks** in the Lecturers Department. In Connecticut we have our CWA to handle this. Any information I receive will be forwarded to Irene Percoski. Both she and I now have to instructions and the entry blank. Please feel free to contact either of us for the information. All squares go directly to National.

A reminder – The **Talent and "A Number"** entries go directly to State for Judging this year. All Pomona Lecturers are reminded to encourage your Granges to enter. There is no limit to how many entries we receive from each Pomona. Your Blue Book should be on its' way to you. Everyone also received an advance copy of all the Lecturers projects. If you need another copy, please let me know.

**April is Grange Month.** Is there a store(s) in your Town that will let you put up a display or a poster? Spread the work – tell everyone what a wonderful organization the Grange is. Why not have an open meeting inviting the citizens of your Town and surrounding areas to attend. Tell them about the Grange. Have a friendly, sociable evening and then top it off with the kind of great refreshments the Grange is noted for. Most Granges have someone with a computer. How about preparing and printing a small booklet. You would be surprised how much you can fit on one 8½ by 11 inch sheet. Use your landscape setting and fold it in half and you will have four pages. Tell a little about your Grange and some of the Community Service work you do. Remember pictures tell a story too. You could also use some of the space to advertise a tag sale, dinner or fair that you are planning. This would be a good place to use the National Grange Mission Statement. It covers a lot of territory in a small amount of space and tells what a great organization we are. For those who don't have access to it I have included it here:

## **MISSION**

The Grange provides opportunities for individuals and families to develop to their highest potential in order to build stronger communities and states, as well as a stronger nation.

The Grange will accomplish this mission through:

### **FELLOWSHIP**

- We give our members the opportunity to meet with and get to know their neighbors in a safe, family-friendly atmosphere
- We provide a place where children, youth, and adults can grow, develop their talents and social skills, and learn leadership techniques

### **SERVICE**

- We provide our members with the opportunity to discover and solve community needs
- We give assistance to individuals in crisis
- We provide a great place for community networking

### **LEGISLATION**

- We have a grassroots approach to local, state and federal legislative change
- We give our members a voice in state and federal government forums

With spring on the horizon, our Grange activities will begin anew. I am still willing to send out information on your activities. Please try and remember to send the information ahead of time. These **Upcoming Event** e-mails will only be sent out twice a month. So, if you remember right after you get one, there won't be another one for another two weeks.

Remember I am here to help you. Please don't be afraid to contact me anytime you need information, help, or encouragement.

Marge

## **Shared Numbers...**

*Most of our Granges have a short Memorial Service each May or June. I received this last year and want to get it to you in time for you to plan ahead.*

### **MEMORIAL SERVICE With Thanks to Bethlehem Grange**

MASTER: It is fitting that we take this time to pay tribute to the memory of our fellow members who having finished their labors here, have laid down their implements on earth and entered that Paradise not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens. The close ties of fraternity that have long existed in our order make it perpetual. The loyalty that comes from working together, the fraternal hand-clasp and the personal sacrifice create ties of friendship which are lasting and are our assurance and the promise of the Master is our refuge "because I live, ye shall live also".

Worthy Assistants you will please conduct the Chaplain to the Altar.

*(When they get in position at altar Secretary continues)*

SECRETARY: Worthy Chaplain you will please light candles for those members who having served our order faithfully have left us and departed to the great Grange above during this past year.

*(Secretary reads the names one at a time as Chaplain lights candles)*

CHAPLAIN: Eternal Father, Master of us all, we thank thee for the loving memory of our Brothers and Sisters who have left our sacred circle to enter the Great Grange Above. We know that our Grange is richer, that the

world is richer because they lived and labored among us. Make us forever grateful for the heritage that is ours and let us be worthy to carry on the work of our Grange. ...Amen.

Let us all now join in the Lords Prayer.

*(Assistants escort Chaplain back to their station)*

LECTURER: One by one the links are severed  
From the golden chain of love;  
One by one our Grange is forming  
In the Master's house above.

Let our deeds be pure and noble  
May our lives be not in vain;  
So that when the links are welded  
Complete again will be our chain.

### **ROLL CALL SUGGESTIONS**

What should we do to get new members?

What my Grange means to me.

What I remember the most about my first day of school.

What is the best Grange program I have seen this year.

Suggest something we can do to raise money,

### **WHY WE SHOULD APPRECIATE THE LIFE THAT WE HAVE NOW With Thanks to Taghhannuck**

*(These would make good cut-aparts.)*

*\*Please Note – Some people claim these are all facts, others say we can't be sure. You decide for yourself.*

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot & then once a day it was taken & sold to the tannery.....if you had to do this to survive you were "Piss Poor". But worse than that were the really poor folk who couldn't even afford to buy a pot.....they "didn't have a pot to piss in" & were the lowest of the low.

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell .... Brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting Married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof... Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: a thresh hold.

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old. Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive... So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, saved by the bell or was considered a dead ringer.

### **BIBLE VERSES FROM THE SECOND DEGREE**

*Why not have the Chaplain read the full verse  
and then either you or the Master explain its' connection to our Degree Work*

"If thine enemy hunger," etc. ....Romans 12:20

"Do good, hoping for nothing, etc. ....Luke 6:35

"Love one another." .....1 Peter 1:22

Reference to Abel .....Genesis 4:4  
 "Glory to God in the highest," etc. .... Luke 2:13-14  
 "First the blade, then the ear," etc. ....Mark 4:28  
 "But be not deceived! Whatsoever," etc. ....Galatians 6:7  
 "Hope that maketh not ashamed." .....Romans 5:5

**THE LETTER "V" QUIZ with Thanks to Ekonk Grange**  
*Each description describes a word starting with the Letter "V"*

1. Unique style stage show ..... Vaudeville
2. Roman God of Fire and Metalwork ..... Vulcan
3. Little girl who wrote Santa ..... Virginia
4. Venomous snake ..... Viper
5. Either of two chambers of the heart ..... Ventricles
6. Open roofed porch ..... Veranda
7. Bridge consisting of a series of short spans supported on piers or towers ..... Viaduct
8. Musical Instrument ..... Violin
9. Endorsement on a Passport ..... Visa
10. Female Fox ..... Vixen

**AN EASTER QUIZ with Thanks To Glastonbury Grange**

1. What's a rabbits favorite dance? ...The Bunny Hop
2. How does Easter end? ...With the letter "R"
3. What kind of beans never grow in a garden? ...Jelly Beans
4. How do you know carrots are good for the eyes? ...Have you ever seen a rabbit with Glasses?
5. How does the Easter bunny stay in shape? ...Lots of Eggs-ercise
6. What happened when the Easter bunny met the rabbit of his dreams? ...They lived hoppily ever after.

**A TRUE FALSE RITUAL QUIZ With Thanks to No. Stonington Grange**

1. Whenever a special meeting is held for conferring degrees the Grange must be opened in full form in the degree being offered.  
 False – It must be opened in full form in the 4<sup>th</sup> degree, then closed in the fourth and opened in the degree being conferred.
2. The implements of the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree are the axe, the plow, the hoe, and the spade.  
 False – The axe, the plow, the harrow and the spade.
3. Wheat is the Grange symbol of Faith.  
 False - Corn
4. In the first degree you are referred to as Men and Maids.  
 False – Laborers and Maids
5. The Altar is not always between the Graces and the Overseer.  
 True – In the third degree, after instruction in the Unwritten work, when the candidates leave the hall it is moved to the position between Flora and the Secretary in preparation for the Harvest March.
6. The Declaration of Purposes clearly defines the basic principles upon which our Fraternity is founded.  
 True
7. During Altar circles, everyone in the hall not already in the inner circle must join in the second circle.  
 False – In the event of a crowded hall, it is wise to request that only those in the front row of seats join in as long as the circle will be large enough to enclose the inner circle.
8. Flora says "While in Faith and in Hope the world may disagree, all mankind is concerned in Fidelity".  
 False – all mankind is concerned in Charity

9. In the fourth degree, Ceres tells the candidates to "have Faith".  
True
10. The Annual Password is given by the High Priest of Demeter to the State Master and then to the Masters of the subordinate Granges.  
False – The annual password is given by the High Priest of Demeter to the Master of the National Grange who then dispenses it.

### **CONNECTICUT GRANGE HISTORY QUIZ...**

1. What was the 100<sup>th</sup> Grange organized in CT?   Ans. Taghannuck #100
2. What was the 200<sup>th</sup> Grange organized in CT?   Ans. Branford #200
3. Where was Spoonville Grange located?   Ans. East Granby
4. Where did Spoonville Grange get its' name?   Ans. Spoons were made in the Spoonville section of East Granby.
5. Where did Good Will Grange get its' name?   Ans. It was given the name to promote good will between its' members and those from Glastonbury Grange who opposed its' organization.
6. When was the first CT State Grange organized?   Ans. April 15, 1875.
7. How many Subordinate Granges were present at the organization of the First CT State Grange?  
Ans. 15
8. Where was the 1<sup>st</sup> CT State Grange organized?   Ans. Danbury
9. What two Granges met continuously between the organization of the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> State Granges.  
Ans. Hope & Tunxis
10. The 1<sup>st</sup> Juvenile Grange organized under the CT State Grange was organized where?   Ans. Amenia Union, NY
11. Before Hebron Avenue, Glastonbury, where was the State Grange office?   Ans. Naubuc Ave, Glastonbury. (That is where Patrons Mutual was before they built the new building on Hebron Ave.)
12. The King and Queen Contest began in 1950. Who were the first King & Queen?   Ans. Natalie Gedrim & Dave Seyle.
13. This Grange shares its' name with a disease.   Ans. Lyme Grange
14. The first Master of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CT State Grange was?   Ans. Sherman Kimberly
15. In what town is Senexet Grange?   Ans. Woodstock
16. What is the name of the Grange in New Hartford?   Ans. Eureka

### **SPECIAL DAYS IN MARCH AND APRIL**

HUG A GI DAY is celebrated on March 4. Give a great big hug to any Veteran you see today. The men and women in our armed forces deserve our thanks and appreciation. Veterans/GI's performed an invaluable service to our country. They risk their lives for our freedom, and to keep us safe. A simple hug is a small thanks for this vital service to our country. *You can ask all the Veterans to stand and the rest of the members can all give them a hug. Remember to say "Thank You For Your Service". You would be surprised how much this means to veterans who served – especially those whose service was in Vietnam.*

POPCORN LOVERS DAY is celebrated the second Thursday each March. Popcorn is good for you when eaten plain. But, most of us like to add butter and salt. On this day you should enjoy popcorn and share it with others. Bring some to work or to you Senior Center. You don't have to have it in the traditional way. Someways others like it are flavored with cheddar cheese, parmesan, garlic, and even hot pepper! There is no requirement as to what seasoning to use today, as long as you eat plenty of popcorn. *Tip off your refreshment committee. I'm sure they would be glad to add popcorn to the other goodies they serve.*

MIDDLE NAME PRIDE DAY is celebrated each year on March 10<sup>th</sup>. It honors that middle name that was specifically chosen by your parents for a special reason. Is it an uncles name? Or were you named after someone from your families past such as the person who first came to America or who fought in the Revolutionary or Civil War? Your middle name also makes you special. If your first name is something common like Tom, Dick or Harry but your middle name is Hiram, Odin or Oscar it makes you an individual. *Why not go around the hall asking everyone to give their middle name and then see if everyone can remember to call them that for the rest of the evening.*

NATIONAL PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY DAY is celebrated on April 2. It celebrates the "PB and J" sandwich. It's the favorite lunchtime sandwich of many American kids, and many adults, too. *Bet your refreshment committee would be willing to help out here too.*

NO HOUSEWORK DAY – We celebrate No Housework Day each April 7th. You can forget the housework and do anything else you want. Ladies do you have a spouse who spends his time playing games on his computer? This would be a good time for him to cook your meals, do the dishes, make the bed, etc. Or, hire someone to do the work. No one seems to know how this holiday started.

HUSBAND APPRECIATION DAY is celebrated the Third Saturday in April. This day is for husbands who do not have children. For those with children there is Father's Day. Wives should show their appreciation for their husbands. Let him do whatever he wants or give him a special gift.

### **SOME RECYCLED SHORT STORIES**

#### **DOCTORS VISIT**

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office.

'Is it true,' she wanted to know, that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?"

'Yes, I'm afraid so,' the doctor told her.

There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, 'I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked 'NO REFILLS.'

#### **IS YOUR PASSPORT READY**

Robert Whiting, an elderly gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by plane. At French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry on. 'You have been to France before, monsieur?' the customs officer asked sarcastically. Mr. Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously. Then you should know enough to have your passport ready.' The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it. 'Impossible. Americans always have to show your passports on arrival in France!' The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained, "Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find a single Frenchmen to show a passport to.'

#### **TRAFFIC CAMERAS**

A man was driving when he saw the flash of a traffic camera. He figured that his picture had been taken for exceeding the limit, even though he knew that he was not speeding...

Just to be sure, he went around the block and passed the same spot, driving even more slowly, but again the camera flashed.

Now he began to think that this was quite funny, so he drove even slower as he passed the area again, but the traffic camera again flashed. He tried a fourth time with the same result.

He did this a fifth time and was now laughing when the camera flashed as he rolled past, this time at a snail's pace...

Two weeks later, he got five tickets in the mail for driving without a seat belt...

## THE OPERATION

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation.

As he was about to get the anesthesia he asked to speak to his son.

'Yes, Dad, what is it?'

'Don't be nervous, son; do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife....'

## STRAWBERRIES ANYONE?

A farmer was hauling manure and his truck broke down in front of a mental institution. One of the patients, leaned over the fence and said, "what're you going to do with the manure"?

"Farmer said, I'm going to put it on my strawberries"

Patient said "we might be crazy, but we put whipped cream on ours!"

## EARNING HIS KEEP

On their way to church, the organist gave her grandson \$1.00 to keep her husband awake during the service.

Before she began playing the final hymn, she looked over to where her husband and grandson were sitting only to see her husband was sound asleep.

After the service concluded the grandmother said to her grandson "I paid you \$1.00 to keep your Grandpa awake. What happened?"

"I couldn't wake him up," replied the grandson.

"Why not," asked the grandmother.

"Because Grandpa paid me \$5.00 to let him sleep."

## LOAD OFF HIS MIND – A Blackout Skit

A farm boy accidentally overturned a wagonload of corn on the road. A farmer who lived nearby went over to look and found the boy trying to right the tipped wagon

FARMER: Hey Willie. Forget your troubles for a spell and come have dinner with us. I'll help you with the wagon after we eat.

WILLIE: That's mighty nice of you, but Pa wouldn't like that.

FARMER: Aw come on son, take a break.

WILLIE: Well, okay, But Pa won't like it!

(After a Hearty Meal)

WILLIE: Thanks a lot. That sure was good. I feel a lot better now but I know Pa will be upset.

FARMER: Nonsense, he won't care. By the way, where is your Pa anyway?

WILLIE: Under the wagon.

## WHICH ONES?

BRENT: "Which parts of the body are the most musical?"

JASON: "I don't know. Which ones?"

BRENT: "The organs."

## A LADY APPEARS BEFORE THE JUDGE

LADY: I have a complaint to file against the people who live next to me.

JUDGE: What's the trouble?

LADY: Every night this week they have been pounding on the wall and yelling at me until 2 in the morning!

JUDGE: That's terrible. I suppose that noise keeps you awake?

LADY: Oh, no. But I can't enjoy my piano playing with all that noise going on.