

PROGRAM HELPS AND INFORMATION MARCH – APRIL 2012

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(If you received this via US Mail and have an e-mail address,
Please e-mail me so I can add you to our list.)

Hi All,

I have a couple of topics I need to cover and I want to get this out of the way.

First, Please answer your Invitations. It isn't fair to a Grange to leave them hanging. If no one is going, fine, just let the other Grange know so they can plan accordingly.

Second, Please don't ask me to send out your invitations for a Neighbors Night. To the best of my knowledge that isn't one of the State Lecturer's jobs. When I use my list of Grange e-mail addresses they go to all seven northeast states plus Tennessee and South Carolina.

And, last and most important, please send in your Lecturer's Reports and be sure to include the attendance and the list of State Officers who attend your meetings. This information is forwarded quarterly to our State Master and it is important that it is accurate. Are you using the new report forms that were given out last spring? The new reports have lines to separate your regular members from your affiliated members. Your Deputy will be looking for a copy of your reports on Inspection Night.

Now that that is out of the way, **Happy St. Patrick's Day, Happy Easter, and enjoy your April Fools' Day.**

Do you have plans for April 9th? At that time I will be presenting the program at Redding Grange. Redding won our State Master's Ritual Challenge last year and their prize is the State Officers filling the chairs at a meeting. I get to do the program and our CWA Director and her committee get to do the refreshments. This may be the one and only time that you can and should boo your State Master, General Deputy, Pomona Deputy West and/or the Inspecting Subordinate Deputy. They will be in competition. You can cheer for your favorite or the underdog. You can also boo them and there is nothing they can do about it. It is all part of the game. You will learn about your Brother and Sister Grangers, you will hear some jokes, you will hear some very different songs and I'm sure you will have a laugh or two. That's Monday, April 9th beginning at 7:30 p.m. Mark your calendar now.

Redding is one of only a very few Granges that I have trouble finding. I think I go a different way every time I go there. For those of you with GPS their address is 399 Newtown Turnpike, Redding.

I hope all of your contests are progressing nicely. Please don't wait until the last minute. We all do better when we aren't pressed for time.

Please plan ahead to Let's Celebrate and Grange Sunday the weekend of June 9th and 10th. Our Photo Contest will be judged on Saturday the 9th. The categories include America The Beautiful, Animals, Grangers In Action, Family Celebrations, and, Historic Places or Events. You can enter one photo in each category. Complete rules are in the Blue Book. Again this year our "Best in Show" Photo will go on to National.

Now is also the time to get your Talent and "A Numbers" ready for Judging on Sunday afternoon June 10th. This is a great family day. It starts with our Grange Sunday Church Service, then Lunch with the Youth followed by our contests. Please mark your calendar now and invite your non-Grange friends to come with you.

April is Grange Month. Do you have any special programs planned? How about a poster in your local supermarket or other store? Use Grange Month as a tool to get new members. Look to the Future! Use the Grange Mission Statements to start some discussions on the Grange as a part of your program. If you attend Pomona regularly, you have helped to write a Mission Statement for your Pomona. The State Grange Mission Statement is on the back cover of our Blue Book. It reads...

"The mission of the Connecticut State Grange, a fraternal organization with roots in rural and agricultural history and the Grange Ritual, is to serve as a unifying and supportive organization of community and district Granges in programs of community service, family activities, legislation and other activities relevant to local communities."

The National Grange Mission Statement is as follows...

Grange Mission Statement

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

Hope to see you at Redding and around the State.
Marge

Shared Numbers.....

BLACKOUT SKITS with Thanks to Old Lyme

Joe & Bill

Joe: Do you believe in love at first sight?

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

Esther & Edith

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

Edith: So did Tony.

Lucy & Lois

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!

Sue & Sally

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!

Laura & Tom

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

Tom: Ug-huh

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

Tom: Ug-huh

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

Tom: Ug-huh

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

THE PERFECT WOMEN with Thanks to Glastonbury

A Man was dining alone in a fancy restaurant and there was a gorgeous redhead sitting at the next table. He had been checking her out since he sat down, but lacked the nerve to talk to her.

Suddenly, she sneezed and her glass eye came flying out of its socket towards the man. He reflexively reached out, grabbed it out of the air, and handed it back.

"Oh my, I am so sorry," the woman said as she popped her eye back in place. "Let me buy your dinner to make it up to you."

They enjoyed a wonderful dinner together, and afterwards they went to the theatre followed by drinks. They talked, they laughed, she shared her deepest dreams and he shared his. She listened to him with interest.

After paying for everything, she asked him if he would like to come to her place for a nightcap and stay for breakfast. They had a wonderful, wonderful time.

The next morning she cooked a gourmet meal with all the trimmings. The guy was amazed. Everything had been so incredible! "You know," he said, "you are the perfect woman. Are you this nice to every guy you meet?" "No," she said, "you just happened to catch my eye!"

SOME NEWSPAPER HEADLINES with Thanks to Senexet

Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over

Miners Refuse to Work after Death

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant

War Dims Hope for Peace

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures

Enfield (London) Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges

Man Struck By Lightning: Faces Battery Charge

New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors
Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

ST. PATRICK'S DAY FACTS

St. Patrick's Day is observed on March 17 because that is the feast day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. It is believed that he died on March 17 in the year 461 AD. It is also a worldwide celebration of Irish culture and history. St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday in Ireland, and a provincial holiday in the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

In Ireland on St. Patrick's Day, people traditionally wear a small bunch of shamrocks on their jackets or caps. Children wear orange, white and green badges, and women and girls wear green ribbons in their hair.

Many cities have a St. Patrick's Day parade. Dublin, the capital of Ireland, has a huge St. Patrick's Day festival from March 15-19. It features a parade, family carnivals, treasure hunt, dance, theatre and more. In North America, parades are often held on the Sunday before March 17. Some paint the yellow street lines green for the day! In Chicago, the Chicago River is dyed green with a special dye that only lasts a few hours. There has been a St. Patrick's Day parade in Boston, Massachusetts since 1737. Montreal is home to Canada's longest running St. Patrick's Day parade, which began in 1824.

St. Patrick was born in 385 AD somewhere along the west coast of Britain, possibly in the Welsh town of Banwen. At age 16, he was captured and sold into slavery to a sheep farmer. He escaped when he was 22 and spent the next 12 years in a monastery. In his 30s he returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary. He died at Saul in 461 AD and is buried at Downpatrick.

34 million Americans have Irish ancestry, according to the 2003 US Census. That's almost nine times the population of Ireland, which has 4.1 million people.

The harp is the symbol of Ireland. The color green is also commonly associated with Ireland, also known as "the Emerald Isle."

The Irish flag is green, white and orange. The green symbolizes the people of the south, and orange, the people of the north. White represents the peace that brings them together as a nation.

Short Skit – "TWO WOMEN IN HEAVEN" with Thanks to Irene Percoski

1st woman: Hi! Wanda.

2nd woman: Hi! Sylvia. How'd you die?

1st woman: I froze to death.

2nd woman: How horrible!

1st woman: It wasn't so bad. After I quit shaking from the cold, I began to get warm & sleepy, and finally died a peaceful death. What about you?

2nd woman: I died of a massive heart attack. I suspected that my husband was cheating, so I came home early to catch him in the act. But instead, I found him all by himself in the den watching TV.

1st woman: So, what happened?

2nd woman: I was so sure there was another woman there somewhere that I started running all over the house looking. I ran up into the attic and searched, and down into the basement. Then I went through every closet and checked under all the beds. I kept this up until I had looked everywhere, and finally I became so exhausted that I just keeled over with a heart attack and died.

1st woman: Too bad you didn't look in the freezer---we'd both still be alive.

"FAITHFUL" with Thanks to Ekonk

Holler out the answers, all questions are about man's best friend, the ever faithful DOG.

1. The name of the Jetson's dog.... Ans. Astro
2. The dog on married with children.... Ans. Buck
3. Sheriff Roscoe P. Coltraine's dog... Ans. Flash
4. Shaggy's friend.... Ans. Scooby Doo

5. Jack London wrote about... Ans. White fang
6. TV's Crime fighting dog... Ans. McGruff
7. Mr. Wilson's dog on Dennis the Menace... Ans. Fremont
8. Although loved, Old Yeller had to be killed because... Ans. He had rabies
9. The name of the Newfoundland in Peter Pan... Ans. Nana
10. Frasier's dog, Eddie was a... Ans. Jack Russell Terrier
11. the Chow Chow came from... Ans. China
12. In what country were dogs once worshipped? Ans. Egypt
13. What action do dogs do instead of sweat? Ans. Pant
14. How did Bull Dogs get their name? Ans. Because, they were used for bull-baiting.
15. Which breed of dog was originally meant for rat-catching? Ans. Yorkshire Terrier
16. What breed is the Taco Bell dog? Ans. Chihuahua
17. The #1 reason that socialization of a puppy is so important? Ans. Prevents fears in adult dogs.
18. According to a top dog behaviorist, how many people should a puppy meet between 8-12 weeks?
Ans. At least 100
19. The name of a cartoon dog who speaks with a southern accent... Ans. Hucklebert Hound
20. Lyndon Johnson had a famous pair of beagles. What were their names? Ans. Him & Her
21. What breed of dog had the most AKC Registrations in 1999... Ans. Labrador Retriever
(The rest of these are True or False questions)
22. The Doberman got its' name from a tax collector who needed this type of dog as a companion when doing his job? Ans. True
23. The dog was the first domesticated animal. Ans. True
24. The Poodle originated in France. Ans. False – Germany
25. In lab tests, Dogs really are smarter than cats. Ans. True
26. Standard Poodles can be good hunting dogs. Ans. True – originally bred for water retrievers
27. Dogs yawn because they are bored. Ans. False – because they are nervous
28. In the US most dogs turned in to shelters and pounds are adopted.
Ans. False – most must be put to sleep
29. The American Pit Bull was originally bred as a guard dog. Ans. False – bred for fighting with other dogs
30. Most adult dogs have dental disease. Ans. True

THE EASTER BUNNY

"Here comes Peter Cottontail hoppin' down the bunny trail Hippy hoppity Easters on its way!"

The Easter bunny has its origin in pre-Christian fertility lore. The Hare and the Rabbit were the most fertile animals known and they served as symbols of the new life during the Spring season.

The bunny as an Easter symbol seems to have its origins in Germany, where it was first mentioned in German writings in the 1500s. The first edible Easter bunnies were made in Germany during the early 1800s. They were made of pastry and sugar.

The Easter bunny was introduced to American folklore by the German settlers who arrived in the Pennsylvania Dutch country during the 1700s.

The arrival of the "Oschter Haws" was considered "childhood's greatest pleasure" next to a visit from Christ-Kindel on Christmas Eve. The children believed that if they were good the "Oschter Haws" would lay a nest of colored eggs.

The children would build their nest in a secluded place in the home, the barn or the garden. Boys would use their caps and girls their bonnets to make the nests. The use of elaborate Easter baskets would come later as the tradition of the Easter bunny spread throughout the country.

BABY BOOMER MEMORY TEST with Thanks to Ruel Miller

1. What builds strong bodies 12 ways? Ans. Wonder Bread
2. Before he was Muhammed Ali, he was...? Ans. Cassius Clay.
3. Pogo, the comic strip character said, 'We have met the enemy and....' Ans. He is us.

4. Good night, David. Ans. Good night, Chet
5. You'll wonder where the yellow went... Ans. When you brush your teeth with Pepsodent.
6. Before he was the Skipper's Little Buddy, Bob Denver was Dobie's Friend... Ans. Maynard G. Krebs.
7. Liar, liar... Ans. Pants on fire.
8. Meanwhile, back in Metropolis, Superman fights a never ending battle For truth, justice and...
Ans. The American way.
9. Hey kids! What time is it? Ans. It's Howdy Doody Time.
10. Lions and tigers and bears..! Ans. Oh my.
11. Bob Dylan advised us never to trust anyone.... Ans. Over 30.
12. NFL quarterback who appeared in a television commercial wearing women's Stockings...
Ans. Joe Namath
13. Brylcream... Ans. A little dab'll do ya.
14. I found my thrill... Ans. On Blueberry Hill.
15. Before Robin Williams, Peter Pan was played by... Ans. Mary Martin.
16. Name the Beatles... Ans. John, Paul, George, Ringo
17. I wonder, wonder, who. Ans. Who wrote the book of love?
18. I'm strong to the finish... Ans. Cause I eats me spinach.
19. When it's least expected, you're elected, you're the star today. Ans. Smile, you're on Candid Camera.
20. What do M & M's do? Ans. Melt in your mouth, not in your hand.

SOME FILL-INS with Thanks to Whigville

JOKE FOR THIS ECONOMY.

A young investor asked an old rich man how he made his money. The old man replied, "Well, son, it was 1932, during the Great Depression. I was down to my last nickel. So I invested that nickel in an apple. I spent the entire day polishing it and sold it at 5:00 p.m. for ten cents."

"The next morning, I invested the 10 cents in two apples. Again, I polished them well and sold them for 20 cents. I continued doing this for a month, until I had accumulated a fortune of \$1.37."

"And that's how you built an empire?" the young man asked, impressed.

"Heavens, no," the man replied. "Then my wife's father died and left us 2 million dollars."

HEALTH MESSAGE

If walking/cycling is good for your health, the postman would be immortal.

A whale swims all day, only eats fish, drinks water, and he is fat.

A rabbit runs and hops and only lives 15 years.

A tortoise doesn't run, does nothing, and yet lives for 450 years. **AND YOU TELL ME TO EXERCISE!**

???'s

What do you call a piece of wood with nothing to do? Ans. Board

Why does a chicken coop have two doors? Ans. Because if it had four doors it would be a chicken sedan.

ANOTHER ONE with Thanks to Litchfield

Steve ran into an older neighbor who was getting out of his car with a bag of groceries.

How are you doing these days, Harv? Steve asked

I'm a lot stronger than I was when I was younger, Harv replied. It used to take me several trips back and forth from the car to carry in \$100 worth of groceries. Now I can carry `em all in one trip.

This one is from Manchester

A wise old owl sat on an oak,
The more he saw the less he spoke;
The less he spoke the more he heard;
Why aren't we like that wise old bird?
(Edward H. Richards)

APPRECIATION with Thanks to Riverton

It's the little things in life that count, which make it worth the while,
The laughter of a little child, a loving mother's smile.

A welcome mat outside the door, a few friends in for tea,
Two chairs beside a fireplace that wait for you and me.

One can't appraise the value of things we see each day,
We have to know and live them as we travel on life's way.

The things we work the hardest for, we cherish all the more,
We search afar for happiness when it's just outside our door.

And your answer is....

What is the only bird that can fly backward? Ans. The Hummingbird

What is the difference between poultry and fowl? Ans. Poultry is domesticated fowl.

How long, in feet, is the average length of the trunk of a full-grown elephant? Ans. 8 feet

IQ TEST with Thanks to Enfield

1. How do you put a giraffe in the refrigerator?
 - a. You open the refrigerator door, put the giraffe in, and you close the door.
 - b. This question tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated manner.
2. How do you put an elephant in the refrigerator?
 - a. Did you say to open the refrigerator, put the elephant in, then close the door?
 - b. Wrong! You open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put the elephant in and then close the door.
 - c. This question tests your ability to think through the repercussions of your previous actions.
3. The lion king is hosting an animal conference. All the animals attend, except one. Which animal did not attend?
 - a. The elephant. He is in the refrigerator, don't you remember you just put him there?
 - b. This question tested your memory.
4. OK even if you didn't get the first three questions right, you still have one more chance. There is a river you must cross, but it is infested with crocodiles and you have no boat. How do you get across?
 - a. You jump in the river and swim across.
 - b. Haven't you been listening? All the crocs are attending the conference.
 - c. This question tests whether you learn quickly from your mistakes.

According to Anderson Consulting Worldwide, 90% of professionals gave the wrong answers. Many pre-schoolers got answers correct. This conclusively disproves the theory that most professionals have the brains of a four year old.

NON-LIVING OBJECTS – ARE THEY MALE OR FEMALE with Thanks to Glastonbury

Freezer Bags – They are male, because they hold everything in, but you can see right through them.

Photocopiers – They are female because once turned off, it takes a while to warm them up again. They are an effective reproductive device if the right buttons are pushed, but can also wreck havoc if you push the wrong buttons.

Tires – Tires are male because they go bald easily and are often over-inflated.

Hot Air Balloons – Also a male object because to get them to go anywhere you have to light a fire under their butt.

Sponges – They are female because they are soft, squeezable and retain water.

Web Pages – They are female because they're constantly getting looked at and frequently getting hit on.

Trains – Trains are definitely male. They always use the same old lines for picking up people.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE FOOD WE EAT...

Orange juice was once used to polish floors in the West Indies.

Sugar was once so rare and expensive that it was kept in locked bowls to keep servants from stealing it.

Pineapples first sold for \$20.00 each in London.

Lemons were once used by the Romans to keep moths away.

Did you know...

Berkshire, Cheshire, Victoria and Poland China are breeds of a pig.

Spiders have eight eyes.

A pelican can hold approximately 25 pounds of fish in its' pouch.

WHO SAID IT? With Thanks to East Central

(These would also make great closing thoughts)

Success is never found
Failure is never fatal
Courage is the only thing.
...Winston Churchill

You don't need anybody to tell you
Who you are or what you are.
You are what you are.
...John Lennon

My words fly up, My thoughts remain below;
Words without thoughts never to heaven go.
...William Shakespeare

There is no such thing as part freedom.
...Nelson Mandela

BE SAFE IN YOUR GARDEN

1. Don't leave sharp tools unattended. Lock the blades closed when not in use.
2. Read the label on chemical and organic products. Keep them away from children.
3. Wear safety equipment. Sturdy gloves, eye protection, and appropriate clothing are a must for safety.
4. Match the size of the gardening tool handle to the size of your hand and the job.
5. Keep tools sharp and clean.
6. Use kneepads or foam pads to kneel on.
7. When using electrical equipment, pay careful attention to the cord and connections at all times. Always wear goggles and keep children at a safe distance
8. When using gas-powered equipment, never leave it running while not in use. Always wear goggles. Keep children at a safe distance.
9. When lifting heavy items, lift properly. Use your legs, not your back. Ask for help if you need it.
10. Pace yourself. Don't attempt too much, too fast, especially in the heat.
11. And most important of all. *Have a Happy and Safe Spring & Summer Season!*