



LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER September - October 2019

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Welcome to Fall,

Attached or enclosed with this Newsletter is the Honor Lecturer Report Form for 2019. Please fill it out whether you qualify for the award or not. Also, if you have any suggestions for the future please include them on the report.

It was nice to see so many of you at Lecturers' Conference. The only State with more in attendance was the host State of Massachusetts. The new format for the conference was well received by those attending.

Our part of the program was a fantastic skit written by Nancy Weissmuller entitled "George and Harriet – The Farmer's Wife". Featured in the skit was Noel Miller as George and Cheri Robinson as Harriet. At one point people in the audience wished they had rotten tomatoes to throw at Noel and one person threatened him with a baseball bat. But, all ended with a smile as they hugged and made up.

No decision has been made on the conference for 2021 except that we will be meeting in New Hampshire. It will either be held as part of Leaders Conference or as a solo event like this year. I have a meeting to go to in January and after that I should have more information for you.

Please don't forget that entries for the Complete Program, Auld Acquaintance and Essay Contests are also due to me by October 1st. Honor Lecturer forms will be included with the next newsletter. Remember you don't have to be a Lecturer to enter any of these in the name of your Grange.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at State Session.

Marge

SHARED NUMBERS...

Ritualism has always been a big part of our Order. Many members today have never seen the degrees. Please use the following as a whole program or pick it apart and use as individual numbers.

LECTURER:

1. Opening Song #53 – Welcome Song

This program tonight is designed to give all our members, both old and new, a look at the lessons taught by the degrees.

MASTER: The Grange, like other fraternities, has levels or degrees of membership. This Community Grange is responsible for illustrating the lessons of the first four degrees of our Order. The degrees are based upon the seasons of the year, and contain references to farming, crops, seeds and soil in order to teach us lessons of brotherhood, duty to God, morality, and the importance of hard work. The teachings of our Order enable us to be political without being partisan, religious without being

denominational, and though it binds its members with a strong tie of fraternalism, it assures individuality.

CHAPLAIN: The lesson of the first degree is Faith. The symbols used to teach the lesson are springtime, childhood, and the seed. Faith is the guiding light of our lives. We must have faith in the little things before we can do great things. In the spring the farmer prepares his fields and plants the seed having faith in God's promise of seedtime and harvest. Having faith in our fellowmen inspires them to do greater good.

MASTER: The sign and salutation of the first degree illustrates that a good Grange member places faith in God. (Illustrates the salutation of the first degree.)

STEWARD: In childhood, the spring season of our lives, we begin our acquisition of knowledge, and lay the foundation for our lifetime values. Education is a companion which cannot be removed by misfortune, a friend no enemy can alienate, an ornament in prosperity, and a refuge in adversity. As supporters and promoters of education, we express our faith in a brighter tomorrow.

OVERSEER: The lesson of the Second Degree is Hope, symbolized by the summer season, and life as a youth. Hope is the expectation with confidence of fulfillment. The sprouting seed teaches us to increase in goodness, and the growing trees to aspire after higher and broader knowledge. From the little grain of corn buried in the earth we have first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn on the ear, and so with the mind when duly nourished with Faith and Hope.

MASTER: It is the hope of better things that causes a person to work for his home, his community, and his country. Wherever you go, whatever you do, aim to do good. The sign and salutation of the second degree illustrates that a good Grange member places faith in God, and nurtures hope. (Illustrates the salutation of the second degree.)

CHAPLAIN: In the third degree the lesson is charity. The symbols are the autumn season, manhood and womanhood in the season of life, and the ripened grain ready for harvest. As we approach the fall season the rustling corn hastens toward ripeness, the fruits of the orchard color in succession and bid busy hands to gather them. In our lives we must reap for the mind as well as for the body, and from the abundance of our harvest, in good deeds and in kind words, dispense charity. God loves the cheerful giver, and no less the cheerful worker, for work is prayer. We should labor with cheerfulness and cultivate the habit of looking for better and brighter days instead of mourning over the past. While we strive to make labor honorable we should exert ourselves to make it pleasant and cheerful for all around us.

MASTER: With the sickle we can gather the ripening crop, so in life we gather every bit of desirable knowledge in order to prepare ourselves to give unto others who might be in need, whether in body or spirit. May the salutation of the third degree remind us that a good Grange member places faith in God, nurtures hope, and dispenses charity. (Illustrates the salutation of the third degree.)

LECTURER: In the fourth degree, the winter season of the year, and old age in our lives, we learn the lesson of fidelity. It is in the home that we enjoy the fruits of our labors in the fields of the farm and the household, and in the fields of life. In winter we get to rest from active toil in the field, we can sit down with our families, our friends and neighbors, and enjoy together the good things that our labors have brought us. So in old age we enjoy the fruits of a well-spent life, in a happy home, noted for fidelity. In the Grange we pledge to each other a faithful friendship that can endure

through all stages of life. May the words to the "Patrons' Chain", number 52 in The Grange Songbook, remind us of our pledge of fidelity and friendship. Let us stand and join hands as we sing it together.

MASTER: Let the agate be a symbol of fidelity. May our principles be as firmly impressed as the lasting colors of the stone, and may our friendship be as firm as the stone itself. Please join in the salutation of the fourth degree as it reminds us that a good Grange member places faith in God, nurtures hope, dispenses charity, and is noted for fidelity. (*Seats the members.*)

LECTURER: When the Grange was organized in 1867 the Civil War had just ended. In many cases neighbors and sometimes even families had been divided in their loyalties. Thus, all the secret work. Some of it you hear on a regular basis when we do our degree work. Other parts have been eliminated over the years.

Have a long time member show code book and tell about it.

QUIZ

1. Oliver Hudson Kelley is credited with founding the Grange. Please spell his last name.
 2. When was the National Grange organized?
Dec. 4, 1867
 3. Who was the first Master of the National Grange?
William Saunders
 4. The first State Grange in Connecticut failed. Was our Grange a Member of this first State Grange.
Numbers 1 – 20 were.
 5. Where was the 2nd Connecticut State Grange organized?
South Glastonbury
 6. Who is Master of the Connecticut State Grange
George Russell
 7. Who is Overseer of the Connecticut State Grange?
Noel Miller
 8. Is the Chaplain on the right or left side of the hall?
Right
 9. The Grange use to ballot on new members using a ballot box filled with white balls and black balls or cubes.
How many black balls or cubes did it take to reject a member?
Three
 10. In the first degree we learn that what is the basis of all Agriculture?
Grass
 11. Name Grange #1 in Connecticut
Stafford
 15. Who in this hall has been a Grange member the longest?
 16. Who in this hall is our newest member?
 17. What Officer has a knife at the meeting?
Master – Pruning Knife
 18. Who is the first person to say "So Be It" at the close of the meeting?
Master
 19. Who proclaims the Grange opened and closed?
Overseer
 20. What three items must be present at all meetings?
Flag, Bible & Charter
- Closing Song #14 -- It's a good thing to be a Granger.

DIVORCE SKIT with Thanks to Taghannuck Grange

MODERATOR INTRODUCE SKIT: A judge was interviewing a woman regarding her pending divorce.

JUDGE: "What are the grounds for your divorce?"

WOMAN: "About four acres and a nice little home in the middle of the property with a stream running by."

JUDGE: "No," I mean what is the foundation of this case?"

WOMAN: "It is made of concrete, brick and mortar,"

JUDGE: "I mean," "What are your relations like?"

WOMAN: "I have an aunt and uncle living here in town, and so do my husband's parents."

JUDGE: "Do you have a real grudge?"

WOMAN: "No," "We have a two-car carport and have never really needed one."

JUDGE: "Please," is there any infidelity in your marriage?"

WOMAN: "Yes, both my son and daughter have stereo sets. We don't necessarily like the music, but the answer to your questions is yes."

JUDGE: "Ma'am, does your husband ever beat you up?"

WOMAN: "Yes," "about twice a week he gets up earlier than I do."

JUDGE: "Lady, why do you want a divorce?"

WOMAN: "Oh, I don't want a divorce. I've never wanted a divorce. My husband does. He said he can't communicate with me."

SOME QUOTES THAT MAKE GOOD CUT-APARTS With Thanks to Vernon Grange

(Please be sure and give credit to the person who said these)

1. "It is never too late to be what you might have been." -- George Eliot
2. "And suddenly you just know it's time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings." -
- Meister Eckhart

3. "It's a terrible thing, I think, in life to wait until you're ready. I have this feeling now that actually no one is ever ready to do anything. There is almost no such thing as ready. There is only now." -- Hugh Laurie
4. "The only impossible journey is the one you never begin." -- Tony Robbins
5. "I am learning to love the sound of my feet walking away from things not meant for me." -- A.G.
6. "If you can't fly, then run, if you can't walk run, then walk, if you can't walk, then crawl, but by all means keep moving." -- Martin Luther King Jr.
7. "This was when I learned that you have to give up your life as you know it to get a new one: that sometimes you need to let go of everything you're clinging to and start over, whether because you've outgrown it or because it's not working anymore, or because it was wrong for you in the first place." -- Kelly Cutrone
8. "New beginnings are often disguised as painful endings." -- Lao Tzu
9. "A fresh start - a new day - a new month - a new year. Do you see each day as a fresh start or are you carrying yesterday into this brand new day. See the possibilities of beginning anew." -- Theodore W. Higginsworth
10. "Change can be scary, but you know what's scarier? Allowing fear to stop you from growing, evolving, and progressing." -- Mandy Hale
11. "Never allow waiting to become a habit. Live your dreams and take risks. Life is happening now." -- Paulo Coelho
12. "There comes a day when you realize turning the page is the best feeling in the world, because you realize there's so much more to the book than the page you were stuck on." -- Zayn Malik
13. "Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could; some blunders and absurdities have crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; you shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense." -- Ralph Waldo Emerson
14. "The beginning is always today." -- Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley
15. "The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide you're not going to stay where you are." - John Pierpont "J.P." Morgan
16. "We must be willing to get rid of the life we've planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us. The old skin has to be shed before the new one can come." -- Joseph Campbell
17. "There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind." -- C.S. Lewis

Why, Why, Why, (More cut-aparts – these get all your members involved.)

1. Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are almost dead?
2. Why do banks charge a fee on 'insufficient funds' when they already know there is not enough money?
3. Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars; but have to check when you say the paint is still wet?
4. Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?
5. How do those dead bugs get into those enclosed light fixtures?
6. How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?
7. The statistics on sanity say that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends -- if they're okay, then it's you.

A HALLOWEEN STORY With Thanks to Joan Perry

A man is walking home alone late one foggy Halloween night, when behind him he hears:

BUMP... BUMP... BUMP...

Walking faster, he looks back and through the fog he makes out the image of an upright casket banging its way down the middle of the street toward him.

BUMP... BUMP... BUMP...

Terrified, the man begins to run toward his home, the casket bouncing quickly behind him.

FASTER... FASTER...

BUMP... BUMP... BUMP....

He runs up to his door, fumbles with his keys, opens the door, rushes in, slams and locks the door behind him. However, the casket crashes through his door, with the lid of the casket clapping. clappity-BUMP... clappity-BUMP... clappity-BUMP... on his heels, as the terrified man runs.

Rushing upstairs to the bathroom, he locks himself in. His heart is pounding; his head is reeling; his breath is coming in sobbing gasps.

With a loud CRASH the casket breaks down the door Bumping and clapping toward him.

The man screams and reaches for something, anything, but all he can find is a bottle of cough syrup!

Desperate, he throws the cough syrup at the casket...

and, (hopefully you're ready for this!!!)

The coffin stops.

SKIT – CAR TROUBLE with Thanks to Irene Percoski

WIFE: "There's trouble with the car."

HUSBAND: "What kind of trouble?"

WIFE: "There's water in the carburetor?"

HUSBAND: "Water in the carburetor? That's ridiculous".

WIFE: "I tell you the car has water in the carburetor".

HUSBAND: "You don't even know what a carburetor is, I'll check it out myself. Where's the car?"

WIFE: "In the pool".

