



THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2017



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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It doesn't seem possible that it is 2017. Where have all the years gone? I'm sure a lot of you can remember back to the 1950's. We use to study the early years of that century in school and laugh at how funny the people in the pictures looked. I wonder what those going to school in 2050 will think of our pictures.

Change will always come with progress and this year we will be seeing many changes in our Grange lives. The first one in the Lecturers' Department will be with the Talent and "A Number" contests. There will not be a Pomona Judging this year. If your Pomona is lucky enough to have two or more entries in either contest they can both come to Grange Sunday to be judged. I am still asking each Pomona Lecturer to make sure there is at least one entry in each contest coming from their Pomona. There is a lot of talent in our Granges. Let's urge these people to come to Cheshire Grange in June and show us all what they can do. Let's Celebrate will be held June 10th and 11th this year. The CWA will once again be a part of our celebration with their judging and our judging of the Photo Contest taking place on Sat. June 10. Sunday June 11 is a true Grange Family Day. The hall will be open at 10:00 a.m. so everyone can view the contests that were judged on Saturday. Our State Chaplain's Service will begin at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch. Judging of the Talent and "A Number" Contests will begin at 1:00 p.m. It's never too soon to start planning your entries. Full details were sent out with the last newsletter and will be in the Bluebook which should be out soon.

As Lecturer you play a large part in making your Grange a success. Please try and have a varied format for your programs. We have to keep our members interested and wanting to come back. Most people don't want one reading after another. That is not a balanced program. I know you can't please everyone all of the time, but we must try and please everyone most of the time. Remember if you need help all you have to do is contact me. I am more than willing to help any Grange in the State.

Hope to see you around the State... Let's hope the weatherman cooperates this winter.

...Marge

SHARED NUMBERS...

THE OLD YEAR PASSES

The old year passes softly, Unnoticed through the door –
Pausing on the threshold, To return no more.

The new year enters proudly, As welcomed as can be,
But what lies in the future, Is yet for us to see.

The past is gone forever, Except in memory,
And we must live the present, For the future's yet to be.

THE GARDEN OF THE GRANGE
By Betty Loomer, Former Vermont State Lecturer
and printed in Special Program Helps Published in October 1982 by National Grange

Lecturer: The Garden of the Grange was planted over a hundred years ago, by a group of wise and dedicated men who hoped by their efforts that the farm people of America would harvest a more elevated standard of living, a brighter and happier farm home, and a higher manhood and womanhood among themselves. These "gardeners" – The Founders of our Order – who sowed the seeds of the Grange Garden; let us think for a moment of them and of the portion of the Grange for which each was specifically responsible.

Reader #1: **Oliver Hudson Kelly** was the first man to perceive the need for an organization for farmers. Applying to others for help, they arrived at the magic number of seven, the perfect number. Thus the Order was founded in Washington, D. C. on December 4, 1867, with Brother Kelly as Secretary. He said thus, "I represent the Seven Founders of the Order. United by the strong and faithful tie of agriculture, we mutually resolve to labor for the good of the Order, our Country, and Mankind."

Reader #2: To **William Saunders** belongs the honor of planning the organization. He was the first to suggest the name "Grange" for the meeting place and the title, "Patrons of Husbandry" for the Order. To him belongs the credit for the many beautiful descriptive passages in the ritual. He was the first Master. He said, "Let this be our motto: 'In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity'."

Reader #3: To **John Thompson**, the first Lecturer, belongs the honor of establishing the ritual of our Order, also writing the Sixth and Seventh Degrees.

William M. Ireland was the first Treasurer, and to him belongs the credit for establishing the parliamentary law of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Order.

Aaron B. Grout was a man of God, and to him we give credit for furnishing all the prayers of the lower degrees, also the beautiful passages running through the ritual. He also recognized the value of song in the Grange meetings, and gathered the first group of Grange melodies.

Reader #4: **John Trimble** was a critic and advisor. He said that the Grange "is not a political or party organization. In our agricultural brotherhood, we recognize no North, no South, no East, no West."

Francis McDowell was a financier and made plans for the raising of money to carry on the organization; he also made plans to invest funds when surplus was accumulated. Government bonds were invested in with the first surplus funds.

Lecturer: These seven Founders of our Order sowed such seed as would meet with the approval of the Creator when the harvest was garnered in the Great Grange above. In memory of their labors, let us stand and sing together, "As We Go Forth To Labor".

TURKEY SANDWICHES

A young bride is calling her mother. The bride is crying.

Bride;" Robert doesn't appreciate anything that I do for him!"

Mother; "Now, now, I am sure it was all just a misunderstanding".

Bride; "No, Mother, I bought a frozen turkey loaf and he yelled at me about the price!"

Mother. "Well, that is mean, those turkey loaves are only a few dollars".

Bride "No, Mother, it wasn't the price of the loaf, it was the airplane ticket".

Mother: "Airplane ticket.....What did you need an airplane ticket for?"

Bride; Well, Mother, When I went to fix it, I looked at the directions on the back of the box and it said "Prepare From A Frozen State", so I flew to Alaska".

A RITUAL TRIVIA QUIZ with Thanks to North Stonington Grange

Who says? And When?

1. Worthy Gatekeeper, the worthy Master directs me to inform you that we are preparing for work.
Ans. Steward – Opening of Meeting
2. ...we return our heartfelt thanks that we are permitted again to meet each other here for work in this glorious cause.
Ans. Chaplain - Opening of Meeting
3. The first and highest object of our order is to develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood...
Ans. Lecturer – First Degree
4. By command of the Worthy Master I proclaim this Grange opened in ample form...
Ans. Overseer – Opening of meeting
5. Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
Ans. Master – 2nd Degree
6. Worthy brothers and sisters, Agriculture is the first and noblest of all occupations.
Ans. Chaplain – 1st Degree
7. I hereby renew and confirm the obligations I have heretofore taken in this order.
Ans. Candidates repeat in 4th Degree
8. In exhibiting to you these blossoms, let me remind you they are symbols of love and charity.
Ans. Flora – 2nd Degree
9. The harvest of fruits will soon claim our attention...
Ans. Pomona – 3rd Degree
10. Take of this corn, but save a portion of the best for seed.
Ans. Ceres – 1st Degree

BIBLE VERSES USED IN OUR GRANGE RITUAL

These are all from the first degree. More to come in the next newsletter.

Why not add one to each program reading directly from the Bible.

- "He that will not plow, etc.Proverbs 20:4
"He that tilleth," etc.Proverbs 12:11
"The hand of the diligent," etc.Proverbs 12:24
"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom," etc. ...Proverbs 3:13-14
"Light be,"Genesis 1:2-3
"weeping may endure for a night," etc.Psalm 30:5
"To the upright there ariseth," etc.Psalm 112:4
"The path of the righteous (just) shineth," etc. .Proverbs 4:18
"The crooked be made straight," etc.Isaiah 40:4
"God planted the Garden of Eden," etc.Refers to Genesis 2
"Not chosen by outward appearance," etc.Refers to I Samuel 16:7
"Seedtime and harvest hall never fail," etc.Genesis 8:22

Skit – DEER SIGNS – With Thanks to Enfield Grange

Takes Place on a radio call-in show.

Need Announcer and Caller

Sound of phone ringing...

Announcer: Good morning, welcome to WKNG, your answer station. Who do we have on the line today?

Caller: Hi, I'm a listener from Connecticut.

Announcer: What would you like to talk about today?

Caller: I have an issue with the signs the State puts up on the highway. I've tried to get their attention with letters but they never get any results, so I thought I could talk to you on the air and maybe get something done about them.

Announcer: What signs are you talking about?

Caller: Those deer crossing signs.

Announcer: Let's hear what you think the problem is.

Caller: OK, well they put those signs up on the main highways and really busy roads. Don't they realize that it's dangerous for the deer to cross at those places? They should put the signs, like, maybe at school crossings or intersections that have traffic lights. That way the deer could get across without getting killed. I've had 3 accidents with deer in the past 2 years. When you're going 65 miles an hour it's too hard to put the brakes on in time.

Announcer: Let me get this straight, you think that the Department of Transportation put the signs up there for the deer? Don't you think they were for the drivers? So you would slow down when you see the sign.

Caller: Why would I slow down on an interstate highway? This isn't only a problem in Connecticut; this is all over New England, I have seen signs in Vermont and New Hampshire and I'm sure they're in Maine as well. And not just for deer, I've even seen them for moose too. Don't the authorities care what happens to these poor animals? I think it's cruel.

Announcer: Ah, yes, well you said you've written letters?

Caller: Yes I did. I sent one to the D.O.T., one to the newspaper and even one to the Governor, but none of them ever wrote back. That's why I called your station to make the public aware of the problem and to get the signs moved to some out of the way places so they will be safe. I really like the idea of school crossings. They would be best.

Announcer: (*Trying hard not to laugh*) Well, we will do our best to get the word out for you. Thank you for your call. (*Announcer hangs up phone and says to the radio audience*) "Well folks, you heard it here first".

CURTAIN.

FEBRUARY LEGENDS with Thanks to Ekonk Grange

1. When the cat lies in the sun in February, she will creep behind the stove in March.
2. Curse a fair February because March will be worse.
3. If it thunders in February, there will be a frost in April.
4. If February gives much snow, a fine summer it doth foreshow!
5. The Snowdrop: Legend says that an angel transformed snowflakes into snowdrop flowers to show that winter will give way to spring. The snowdrop is a symbol of hope. "The snowdrop in purest white array first rears her head on Candlemas day".

IT WAS SO COLD with Thanks to Ekonk Grange

(These would make great cut-aparts.

1. It was so cold that hitchhikers were holding up pictures of their thumbs.
2. It was so cold that roosters were rushing into Kentucky Fried Chicken begging to get put into ovens.
3. It was so cold that I dialed 911 and a recorded message said to call back in the spring.
4. It was so cold that Opticians gave away ice scrapers with every pair of glasses.
5. It was so cold that when I milked the cows I got ice cream.

THE DOOR CUSTOM with Thanks to Old Lyme

In the old days, the New Year started with a custom called 'first footing', which was supposed to bring good luck to people for the coming year. As soon as midnight had passed and January 1st had started, people use to wait behind their doors for a dark-haired person to arrive. The visitor carried a piece of coal, some bread, some money and some greenery. These were all for good luck --- the coal to make sure the house would always be warm, the bread to make sure everyone in the house would have enough food to eat, money so that they would have enough money, and the greenery to make sure that they had a long life.

The visitor would then take a pan of dust or ashes out of the house, thus signifying the departure of the old year.

KNOW YOUR CAR from the Massachusetts State Lecturer's Bulletin

What do these automotive acronyms stand for?

ABS - anti-lock braking system
SUV – sport utility vehicle
VIN – vehicle identification number
GPS – global positioning system
MPG – miles per gallon
PSI – pounds per square inch
RPM - revolutions per minute
HUD – heads-up display
LED – light emitting diodes
SRS – supplemental restraint system
HVAC – heating ventilation air conditioning
FFV – flexible-fuel vehicle
MIL – malfunction indicator light
ECM – electronic control module
ACC – adaptive cruise control

SNOW FACTS from the Vermont State Lecturer's Quarterly Program Information

These would make great cup-aparts to get all your members involved.

1. World's largest snowflake was reported January 28, 1827 in Montana... 15" across & 8" thick
2. Snow is actually clear and colorless
3. Most snow in 24 hour period was 76" and occurred at Silver Lake, Colorado in 1921
4. Mt Baker Ski Area in Washington State holds the record for snowfall at 1,140" of snow in the 1998/1999 winter season.
5. 80% of all the freshwater on earth is frozen as ice or snow (12% of the earth's surface)
6. A blizzard occurs when you can't see for ¼ mile. Winds are 35 mph or higher. A storm has to last at least 3 hours to be classed as a blizzard.
7. The United States averages 105 snow producing storms per year. A typical storm will have a 2-5 day lifetime and drop snow in multiple states.
8. All snowflakes are 6 sided
9. Snow can be classified as a mineral (frozen ice)
10. Snow pellets tend to be soft and crumbly
11. The average snowflake is made up of 180 billion molecules of water
12. The average snowflake falls at a speed of 3.1 mph

A NEWFANGLED INVENTION with Thanks to Ekonk Grange

An Amish boy and his father were visiting a mall for the first time. They were amazed by everything, but especially by two shiny silver walls that moved apart and then slid back together. "What's that, Father?" the boy asked.

The father, never having seen an elevator before responded, "I've never seen anything like it. I have to admit I don't have any idea what it is." While they were standing there, an elderly woman in a wheelchair rolled up to the moving walls and pushed a button. The walls opened and she rolled into a small room. The walls closed and the father and son watched the numbers above the doors light up sequentially until they reached the highest number. Then, the numbers began to light up in reverse order. When the numbers once again reached 1, the doors opened and a beautiful young woman stepped out.

The father turned to his son and said quietly, "Go get your Mother".

KNOW YOUR VEGETABLES with Thanks to Whigville Grange

Some more cut-aparts to get our members involved in the program

Asparagus – An excellent source of Vitamin K which promotes healthy bones.

Broccoli – Thomas Jefferson brought broccoli to America from Italy in the early 1800's and grew it in his garden at Monticello. It wasn't until 1920 that a group of Italian farmers in California decided to test the marketability of the vegetable. They sent a trial shipment to Boston where it was an immediate hit.

Beets – Beets are rich in antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties thanks to their bright red pigment.

Cabbage – At the Alaska State Fair the winning cabbage tipped the scales at 92.15 pounds.

Carrots – Carrots are a vitamin A powerhouse that keeps your immune system strong. Just one carrots has two times your recommended daily dose.

Celery – Just $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of celery in your daily diet can increase your focus and memory in as little as four weeks. Celery is rich in luteolin, a healthful compound that nourishes the brain's key memory and learning center.

Eggplant – Eggplant may help lower overall cholesterol in the body and help improve blood flow. It may also promote healthy brain function. It contains many minerals needed to maintain strong, healthy bones.

Peppers – Both Red and green peppers are a rich source of Vitamin C. Red peppers have the highest levels. They also contain good levels of vitamin A.

Potatoes – Potatoes provide fiber to potassium to vitamin C. Sweet Potatoes are an even better source of beta carotene and fiber.

Spinach – Leafy green vegetables eaten daily will help keep your brain healthy and younger. Credit goes to the Vitamin K, folate and beta carotene they contain.

Zucchini and Yellow squash are low in calories and high in fiber. They are rich in anti-oxidants which helps fight disease and high in B-complex vitamins. Yellow squash has a higher beta carotene content than green squash.

Two dumb jokes to go with this information...

Where can a rabbit get a good nights' sleep? Ans. On a bed of lettuce.

Where did the vegetables go for drinks? Ans. The Salad Bar.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR PRESIDENTS?

1. Who appointed the first African-American Supreme Court Justice?
Ans. Lyndon Johnson appointed Thurgood Marshall in 1967. Before being named to the Court as a lawyer he argued cases before the Supreme Court including Brown vs. the Board of Education in which the Court ruled that public school segregation was illegal.
2. Who was the first poet to take part in a presidential inauguration?
Ans. Robert Frost at President John Kennedy's inauguration.
3. Which former president was elected to the House of Representatives after serving his presidential term?
Ans. John Quincy Adams
4. Who was the first President born an American Citizen?
Ans. Martin Van Buren
5. Name the four presidents that were assassinated.
Ans. Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, William McKinley and John Kennedy
6. Which four presidents have won the Nobel Prize?
Ans. Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Jimmy Carter, and Barack Obama.
7. Who was the first president to take the nation into a declared war?
Ans. James Madison – The War of 1812
8. Who was the first president to be elected after women won the right to vote nationwide?
Ans. Warren G. Harding
9. Name the first vice-president to become president upon the death of a president?
Ans. John Taylor upon the death of President William Henry Harrison.
10. Who was our 40th president?
Ans. Ronald Reagan
11. Who was the last President representing the Whig Party?
Ans. Millard Fillmore

BURMA SHAVE SIGNS

*I'm sure some of you remember the old Burma Shave Signs along the roads before the interstates came about. Each summer we drove to Florida to visit my Grandparents and my Mother wrote them down.
(More good cut-aparts to get members involved)*

Don't lose your head, to gain a minute. You need your head, your brains are in it. Burma Shave

Speed was high, weather was not. Tires were thin, X marks the spot. Burma Shave

Trains don't wander all over the map, 'cause nobody sits in the engineer's lap. Burma Shave

The midnight ride of Paul for beer, Led to a warmer hemisphere. Burma Shave

At intersections look each way. A harp sounds nice, but it's hard to play. Burma Shave

Through this world of toil and sin, your head grow bald, but not your chin. Burma Shave

Don't stick your elbow out so far, it may go home in another car. Burma Shave

Cautious rider to her reckless dear. Let's have less bull and a little more steer. Burma Shave

Brother speeder let's rehearse, all together, good morning, nurse. Burma Shave

She kissed the hairbrush by mistake, she thought it was her husband Jake. Burma Shave

Drove too long, driver snoozing. What happened next is not amusing. Burma Shave

Passing school zone, take it slow. Let our little shavers grow. Burma Shave

Around the curve, Lickety-split. Beautiful car wasn't it? Burma Shave

Both hands on the wheel, eyes on the road. That's the skillful driver's code. Burma Shave

No matter the price, no matter how new, the best safety device is you. Burma Shave

QUIZ – TAXPAYERS VS. THE IRS

From 1987-88 a Complete Program National Winners

1. The first Federal Income Tax law was enacted in 1892, but was repealed shortly afterwards. Why?
Ans. It was declared unconstitutional.
2. Which amendment to the Constitution empowered the Congress to legally levy an income tax?
Ans. The 16th Amendment.
3. In what year did the income tax allowed by the 16th Amendment take effect?
Ans. 1913
4. Who was president when the Federal Income Tax took effect in 1913?
Ans. William Howard Taft.
5. What was the tax rate on income in the first taxable year of 1913?
Ans. 1% on income over \$3,000 for singles or over \$4,000 for couples.
6. What is the most frequent mistake that taxpayers make on their Federal Tax Returns?
Ans. Forgetting to sign the completed return before sending it in.