

PROGRAM HELPS AND INFORMATION

MARCH - APRIL 2009

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*(If you received this via US Mail and have an e-mail address, please e-mail me -- mbcb76@cox.net -
- so I can add you to our list. With postage going up this is more important than ever.
Plus, you will receive your copy earlier.*

Hello Everyone,

Hopefully spring is just around the corner. The warm, fresh air should give us all more energy and the longer days will give us more time to get out and do things. In your rush to spruce up your lawn and gardens, please do not forget to spruce up your Grange. And by this I mean both the yard and building plus the meetings and programs. There is no time like the present to get a new start. As Lecturer you play an important part in your Granges work. You have to make people want to come to Grange. This means providing an interesting and educational program. Be creative. Try something new and different.

Our **Talent and "A Number" Contests** will be here before you know it. Every Grange in the state should have an entry in the "A Number" Contest. We put on numbers every meeting. Any of these are acceptable as long as they fit into our Theme, "In The Garden". There is also a six minute time limit. Do a couple of these at your Subordinate meetings and then ask your members which one they want to enter. These get judged at the Pomona Level before going to our State Judging on Sunday, June 14, at 1:00 p.m. at Good Will Grange Hall in Glastonbury. Why not mark your calendar with this date now. It is all a part of Grange Sunday. The day starts with our church service by State Chaplain Amy Whitcomb, followed by lunch with the Youth and then our contests. Plan ahead!!! This is also a good day to bring friends who are not Grangers to come and see what our organization is all about. And, while you're at it, why not ask someone who hasn't been to a meeting for a while to be in your number. People like to be asked to do things. Maybe you can get them back in the habit of attending on a regular basis.

Does someone in your Grange have Talent? It doesn't have to be an active member, just as long as they are a member in good standing. And Talent doesn't necessarily mean they play an instrument or sing. How about a monologue or a recitation. This also takes talent. Use your imagination. The Talent winner will have his or her expenses paid at Lecturers Conference. (If it is a group, we will divide the amount for 2 people between those participating.) And each group that performs is given a donation by the North East Lecturers Association.

Lecturers Conference will be held August 3 – 6 at Bridgewater State College, 200 East Campus Drive, Bridgewater, MA 02325. It is being hosted by the Rhode Island State Grange. The Theme for the Conference is "Let's Celebrate!" We will be celebrating Mardi Gras, Green Holidays, Thanksgiving, New Years, Halloween, Flags and Family Days. These are all so different -- there should be lots of ideas given that can be used throughout the year.

Connecticut is celebrating Halloween. If you have any ideas or material that you think I can use, please let me know. With conference being so close, I am hoping for a good turnout. Connecticut's Program will be presented on Wednesday Morning.

I have a meeting in New Hampshire the end of April. At that time I will get all the materials to mail out. You should have all the information the beginning of May. This year's schedule has been adjusted and there should be more time between things so we can get where we have to go on time.

I have not seen the college yet, but it looks good on paper. I plan to take a day trip and have a look in the near future.

In closing I just want to say **Thank You** for all the cards I have received. I still can't leave the house except for doctor's appointments etc. but hopefully that will change next week. When you can't do anything but watch TV or read time sure drags and the cards were a nice diversion. Thank you all.

Marge

SHARED NUMBERS....

CANDY QUIZ from Old Lyme's Complete Program

Name the Candy

1. A girl's Name.....Baby Ruth
2. A boy's Name....O Henry
3. A planet....Mars
4. Spot used by a pitcher....Mound
5. A nut and a feeling....Almond Joy
6. A spice and where money is made....Peppermint
7. A Safety Device....Life Saver
8. A street....Fifth Avenue
9. A "pet" name and a kind of bread....Tootsie Roll
10. Nickname for a plump person.....Chunky
11. Two female pronouns....Hershey
12. A wide smile....Snickers
13. A table spread and part of the hand....Butterfinger

LOTS OF ELBOW ROOM from Lyme Grange's Complete Program

(This would make a cute skit)

An Italian grandmother is giving directions to her grown grandson who is coming to visit with his wife.

You comma to de front door of the apartment. I am inna apartment 301. There issa bigga panel at the front door. With you elbow, pusha button 301. I will buzza you in. Come inside, the elevator is on the right. Get in, and with you elbow, pusha 3. When you get out, I'mma on the left. With you elbow, hit my doorbell.

Grandma, that sounds easy, but why am I hitting all these buttons with my elbow?
What, you coming empty-handed?

A FILLER with thanks to North Haven Grange

What lives in the winter, dies in the summer and grows with its roots pointing upward?

Ans. An Icicle

DID YOU KNOW? With thanks to Senexet Grange

1. 'Stewardesses' is the longest word typed with only the left hand...
2. The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid....
3. There are more chickens than people in the world...
4. Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance....
5. Women blink nearly twice as much as men....
6. Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors....
7. Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite....
8. Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
9. The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing....
10. The cruise liner, QE2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns....
11. The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.
12. A snail can sleep for three years.
13. Almonds are a member of the peach family.
14. An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
15. Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.
16. February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.
17. Typewriter is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.
18. A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
19. Lollipop is the longest word typed with your right hand.
20. 'The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog' uses every letter of the alphabet.

IT'S ALL RIGHT TO SAY, "I LOVE YOU!" by Clay Harrison With thanks to Simsbury Grange

It's all right to say, "I Love you!"

To someone every day,

To obey our Lord's commandment

In a real and vital way.

The world is filled with sorrows

That sometimes touch us all,

And to know that we are loved

Lifts us when we fall.

The heart can be a lonely place

When no one comes to call,

But when someone says, "I love you!"

We feel we're ten feet tall!

Love's the rainbow after the storm,

Roses on a Summer day,

A smile that lights a darkened room

And chases fears away.

Three little words can mean so much,

And they're not hard to say...

It's all right to say, "I love you!"

To someone every day!

FACTS ON THE 1920'S with thanks to Ekonk Grange

These would make good cut-aparts

Introduction – The Roaring 20's is a phrase that describes the 1920's in North America. It emphasizes the decade's social, musical and cultural phenomenon – This time in American History is also called, "The Jazz Age"!

Jazz Music Bloomed – The "Flapper" (a unique form of ladies dresses) redefined forever modern womanhood. It was also a time when "Mass Production" made automobiles available to the middle class.

Radio was the main tool for mass communication. Telephone lines were being strung all across America. Indoor plumbing was installed, in many regions, for the first time.

Cities built up – The first "sky scrapers" appeared. Industry grew in importance. Women entered the workforce in never before seen numbers. Women were granted the right to vote.

Young, middle class women, labeled "Flappers" by the older generation, threw away their corsets, put on never seen before knee-length dresses and exposed their legs and arms!!!

Charles Lindberg became the first pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927.

In 1920, prohibition went into effect. This led to a quick rise in organized crime, smuggling, gangster activity and of course led to the 1970's TV show, "The Dukes of Hazard" (Remember, Uncle Jesse used to make illegal booze)

"Black Tuesday" was Tuesday, October 29, 1929. That is when stock prices collapsed on Wall Street and the ripple effect is known in history as: "The Great Depression".

CHOOSE YOUR PARTNER with thanks to Enfield Grange

Two people stand back to back to back. One person asks the questions.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. What color are my eyes? | 6. Are my shoes slip-on or tied? |
| 2. What color is my hair? | 7. What is the color of my slacks/skirt? |
| 3. Am I wearing a ring? | 8. Am I wearing a watch? |
| 4. Am I wearing glasses? | 9. Am I wearing a necktie/necklace? |
| 5. Am I wearing a belt? | 10. How tall do you think I am? |

AND THEN THE FIGHT STARTED

with thanks to Bob Sendewicz (Great Cut-Aparts)

My wife sat down on the couch next to me as I was flipping channels. She asked, 'What's on TV?' I said, 'Dust.' And then the fight started...

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary. She said, 'I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 150 in about 3 seconds.' I bought her a scale. And then the fight started...

When I got home last night, my wife demanded that I take her someplace expensive... so, I took her to a gas station. And then the fight started...

My wife and I were sitting at a table at my high school reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table.

My wife asked, 'Do you know her?'

'Yes,' I sighed, 'She's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up

those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since.'

'My God!' says my wife, 'who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?' And then the fight started...

I took my wife to a restaurant. The waiter, for some reason, took my order first. "I'll have the strip steak, medium rare, please." He said, "Aren't you worried about the mad cow?" "Nah, she can order for herself." And then the fight started...

A woman is standing nude, looking in the bedroom mirror. She is not happy with what she sees and says to her husband, 'I feel horrible; I look old, fat and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment.' The husband replies, 'Your eyesight's damn near perfect.' And then the fight started.....

I tried to talk my wife into buying a case of Miller Light for \$14.95. Instead, she bought a jar of cold cream for \$7.95. I told her the beer would make her look better at night than the cold cream. And then the fight started....

My wife asked me if a certain dress made her butt look big. I told her not as much as the dress she wore yesterday. And then the fight started.

I asked my wife, "Where do you want to go for our anniversary?" It warmed my heart to see her face melt in sweet appreciation. "Somewhere I haven't been in a long time!" She said. So I suggested, "How about the kitchen?" And that's when the fight started....

WHAT'S TO EAT with Thanks to Joan Perry

Can't eat Beef ... Mad Cow Disease

Can't eat chicken....Bird flu

Can't eat eggs....Salmonella

Can't eat pork...Fears of trichinosis....

Can't eat fish....Heavy metals in the waters has poisoned their meat

Can't eat fruits and veggies....insecticides and herbicides

Hmmmmmmmmmm!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I believe that leaves Chocolate!!! Remember - 'STRESSED' spelled backwards is 'DESSERTS '

AUTOMOBILE FACTS

1900 – The Steering Wheel took the place of the Steering Tiller.

1901 – Connecticut creates the first statewide traffic laws.

1906 – Alabama sets the maximum speed limits at 8 miles per hour for the State.

1910 – New York introduces the first drunk driving laws.

1911 – The electric self-starter replaces the hand-crank.

1913 – Model T production goes from 7.5 to 146 cars per hour, due to the development of the moving assembly line.

1914 – The Dodge Brothers Company conducts what is known as the beginning of crash testing by driving a car into a brick wall going 20 miles per hours.

1919 – Oregon introduces the first gasoline tax.

1922 – Denver creates the first specially designed police car with a machine gun located on the hood of the car.

1923 – Hertz becomes the first national car rental agency.

1926 – Antifreeze is created to allow motorists to drive year round.

1933 – New Jersey introduces the first drive-in movie theater.

- 1937 – The automatic transmission is brought into the market.
- 1939 - Auto air conditioning is created.
- 1940 - The first four-wheel drive all-purpose Jeep is made for the American military.
- 1950 – The Rambler becomes the first mass-produced compact car.
- 1956 – The Interstate Highway Act creates a super highway network to connect all parts of the nation.
- 1960 – California creates the first auto emissions law.
- 1962 – Wisconsin comes up with the first law regarding the safety belt as a standard requirement.
- 1974 – Air bags are introduced.
- 1975 – The catalytic converter becomes a new standard feature in cars to reduce auto emissions.

EASTER RIDDLES with thanks to Quinebaug Pomona

1. Why did the Easter Bunny Hide? It was a little chicken.
2. What's the best way to send a letter to the Easter Bunny? Hare mail.
3. Which side of a chicken has the most feathers? The outside.
4. What did the rabbit say to the carrot? It's been nice gnawing you.
5. If a rooster laid an egg on top of a hill, which side of the hill would the egg roll down? Neither, roosters don't lay eggs.
6. Why did the bunny go to the dance? To do the Bunny Hop.
7. Why is a bunny the luckiest animal in the world? It has 4 rabbit's feet.
8. Why shouldn't you tell a joke to an Easter Egg? It might crack up.
9. Why did the Easter Bunny cross the road? To prove it wasn't a chicken.
10. What did the bunny want to do when it grew up? Join the hare force.
11. How do you make a rabbit stew? Make it wait for 3 hours.
12. What does the Easter Bunny say when he is hopping around? Hoppy Easter.
13. What do you call ten rabbits marching backwards? A receding hare line.
14. What do you get when you find a rabbit with no hare? Hairless Hare
15. What does the Easter Bunny call his exercise program? Hare robics.

LOVE NEST with thanks to Old Lyme Grange

My Husband & I, newlyweds & animal lovers, bought an Amazon parrot when we moved to our first apartment. Since pets were not allowed, we had to keep JuJu a secret. Soon our little friend became an accomplished talker and mimic. His favorite trick was returning parrot kisses after I commanded in a loud voice: "GIVE ME A KISS! GIVEME A BIG SMOOCH!" Within days JuJu was repeating those words incessantly, doing his parrot-perfect imitation of me: "GIVE ME A KISS! GIVEME A BIG SMOOCH!" I hadn't realized how thin the walls were until the day I found this note on my door: "Look, lady – I realize you're newlyweds, but give the poor guy a break!"

SPRING GARDEN TIPS

If you can't wait to get back to the garden, use this garden calendar guide to get started. Believe it or not, the key is to avoid getting too impatient and doing certain jobs too soon. So take time to enjoy the colorful early spring bulbs, the snowdrops and crocuses, followed by the daffodils and tulips

Start winter cleanup of the lawn when the grass is no longer sopping wet and planting beds stop being a sea of mud. Rake your lawn to get rid of dead growth, stray leaves, twigs and winter debris and let light and air to the soil level, encouraging the grass to grow.

Re-seed bare or damaged patches of lawn. Scratch up the soil with a rake first. Mix a shovel of soil with a couple of scoops of grass seed and spread in the patch you're fixing. Rake level and keep well-watered until seeds germinate and the new grass establishes.

Remove tree guards or burlap winter protection from any young trees or shrubs. Try not to leave tree guards in place over the summer. They keep rabbits and mice from nibbling on tender bark over the winter, but trees don't need them in summer. They don't allow enough air movement around the base of the trunk and that can promote rot of the bark.

Transplant any existing shrubs you want to move before they begin to leaf out.

Apply dormant oil spray to fruit trees, magnolias, crabapples and shrubs such as euonymus to control scale insects and other overwintering pests. Use this organic pest control method when the buds are swelling but the leaves haven't opened yet. Apply when temperatures are between 40 and 70 degrees F (4-21 degrees C).

Get your lawn mower checked and blades sharpened if you didn't get the job done in late winter. Sharp blades cut better and leave your lawn grass healthier.

THE EASTER BUNNY

The Easter Bunny as an Easter symbol seems to have its origins in Alsace and southwestern Germany, where it was first mentioned in German writings in the 1600s. The first edible Easter Bunnies were made in Germany during the early 1800s, and were made of pastry and sugar.

The Easter Bunny was introduced to America by the German settlers who arrived in the Pennsylvania Dutch country during the 1700s. The arrival of the "Oschter Haws" was considered one of "childhood's greatest pleasures," similar to the arrival of Kris Kringle on Christmas Eve.

According to the tradition, children would build brightly colored nests, often out of caps and bonnets, in secluded areas of their homes. The Oschter Haws would, if the children had been good, lay brightly colored eggs in the nest. As the tradition spread, the nest has become the manufactured, modern Easter basket, and the placing of the nest in a secluded area has become the tradition of hiding baskets.

APRIL FOOLS GAGS

The Taco Liberty Bell

In 1996 the Taco Bell Corporation announced that it had bought the Liberty Bell and was renaming it the Taco Liberty Bell. Hundreds of outraged citizens called the National Historic Park in Philadelphia where the bell was housed to express their anger. Their nerves were only calmed when Taco Bell revealed, a few hours later, that it was all a practical joke. The best line of the day came when White House press secretary Mike McCurry was asked about the sale. Thinking on his feet, he responded that the Lincoln Memorial had also been sold. It would now be known as the Ford Lincoln Mercury Memorial.

Nixon for President

In 1992 National Public Radio's *Talk of the Nation* program announced that Richard Nixon, in a surprise move, was running for President again. His new campaign slogan was, "I didn't do anything wrong, and I won't do it again." Accompanying this announcement were audio clips of Nixon delivering his candidacy speech. Listeners responded viscerally to the announcement, flooding the show with calls expressing shock and outrage. Only during the second half of the show did the host John Hockenberry reveal that the announcement was a practical joke. Nixon's voice was impersonated by comedian Rich Little.

The Left-Handed Whopper

In 1998 Burger King published a full page advertisement in *USA Today* announcing the introduction of a new item to their menu: a "Left-Handed Whopper" specially designed for the 32 million left-handed Americans. According to the advertisement, the new whopper included the same ingredients as the original Whopper (lettuce, tomato, hamburger patty, etc.), but all the condiments were rotated 180 degrees for the benefit of their left-handed customers. The following day Burger King issued a follow-up release revealing that although the Left-Handed Whopper was a hoax, thousands of customers had gone into restaurants to request the new sandwich. Simultaneously, according to the press release, "many others requested their own 'right handed' version."

SHORT STORIES with thanks to Richard Chapman

Two hikers were walking through the woods when they suddenly confronted a giant bear. Immediately, one of the men took off his boots, pulled out a pair of track shoes, and began putting them on. "What are you doing?" his companion cried. "We can't outrun that bear, even with jogging shoes." "Who cares about the bear?" the first hiker replied. "All I have to worry about is outrunning you."

A man dashed into a pharmacy and asked the druggist for something to stop hiccups. The druggist filled a glass with water and threw the water into the customer's face. "Why did you do that?" the man shouted, red-faced and drenched. "Well, you don't have the hiccups any more, do you?" the druggist asked. "no!" the man yelled. "But my wife out in the car still does!"

A man dressed as Napoleon went to see a psychiatrist at the urging of his wife. "What's your problem?" the doctor asked. "I have no Problem," the man replied. "I'm one of the most famous people in the world. I have a great army behind me. I have all the money I'll ever need, and I live in great luxury." "Then why are you here?" "It's because of my wife," the man said. "She thinks she's Mrs. Levine."

Smile and Tell Your Friends How Great the Grange Is!!

Plan Ahead – Grange Sunday is June 14th