



**THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE
LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER
January - February 2018**



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Happy New Year...

It's a new year and time to get a fresh start. Don't worry about the past. It is behind us. Let's look forward to the future where all our hopes are centered. I changed a couple of words, but this should sound familiar to you. If not, why not have a Ritual Night. There are not too many Granges doing degree work anymore, so maybe a little review about our history and how the degrees were done and how they changed over the years would make an excellent program. If you have a ritual number which was enjoyed in your Grange, why not send it to me so we can share it with others throughout the State. Working together we can make all our programs better and encourage more members to attend our meetings.

It's not too early to start thinking about your entries for the Talent and "A Number" contests. Talent Rules are as follows:

1. All performers being judged must be Grange members. But, groups performing may include Junior Grangers and/or children or grandchildren of members where there isn't a Junior Grange. However, at least half of the performers in the group must be Subordinate members.
2. Participants need not be from the same Subordinate Grange.
3. All entries go directly to the State for Judging. The judging this year will be at Cheshire Grange on June 10th, 2018. More details will be in this newsletter as the time gets closer.
4. Taped accompaniment for vocal acts must be instrumental only. No additional voices in the background.
5. Time Limit: There will be no minimum time. Maximum time is six minutes. Two points per minute, or portion thereof will be deducted from the total points for performances going over the maximum time limit.
6. Scoring: Acts will be judged on Stage Presence, Appropriateness of Dress or Costume, Preparation and skill of presentation, Suitability of number and Audience Appeal.

Changing the subject... Our congratulations to Charles Bierce of Riverton Grange for winning 2nd place in the National Grange Photo Contest. You can get some great pictures when snow covers the ground. If you haven't taken any pictures yet, now is the time to get started.

Take care this winter! Be safe and healthy!
See you around the State.

...Marge

SHARED NUMBERS... Please note I have included several cut-aparts in this newsletter. They are a great way to get all your members involved in the program. The same goes for quizzes where everyone can shout out the answers.

FAMOUS PAIRS from Judy Sherrod, Past National Grange Lecturer

Give the first name and let your members shout out the last name.

Abbott & ...Costello	Masters & ...Johnson
Adam & ... Eve	Mutt & ...Jeff
Amos & ...Andy	Napoleon & ...Josephine
Anthony & ...Cleopatra	Ozzie & ...Harriet
Astaire & ...Rogers	Popeye & ...Olive Oyl
Batman & ...Robin	Proctor & ...Gamble
Ben & ...Jerry	Punch & ...Judy
Bert & ...Ernie	Ren & ...Stimpy
Bugs & ...Daffy or Elmer	Rocky & ...Bullwinkle
Burns & ...Allen	Rogers & ...Evans or Hammerstein
Cain & ...Abel	Romeo & ...Juliet
David & ...Goliath	Samson & ...Delilah
Hansel & ...Gretal	Sears & ...Roebuck
Holmes & ...Watson	Siskel & ...Ebert
Hope & ...Crosby	Smith & ...Wesson or Jones
Jack & ...Jill	Stanley & ...Livingstone
Jacob & ...Esau	Superman & ...Lois Lane
Jekyll & ...Hyde	Sylvester & ...Tweety
Laurel & ...Hardy	Tom Sawyer & ...Huck Finn
Lucy & ...Ricky (Desi)	Tracy & ...Hepburn
Lone Ranger & ...Tonto	Tweedledum & ...Tweedledee
Martin & ...Lewis	William & ...Mary

WISH THIS REALLY HAPPENED!

I was in the six item express lane at the store quietly fuming. Completely ignoring the sign, the woman ahead of me had slipped into the check-out line pushing a cart piled high with groceries. Imagine my delight when the cashier beckoned the woman to come forward looked into the cart and asked sweetly, "So which six items would you like to buy?"

POLICE STOP AT 2 a.m. with thanks to Glastonbury Grange

An elderly man is stopped by the police around 2 a.m. and is asked where he is going at this time of night.

The man replies, "I am on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late."

The officer then asks, "Really? Who is giving the lecture at this time of night?"

The man replies, "My wife!"

WE ALL GET OLD IN THE END... With Thanks to Charles Dimmick

I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People get out of the way much faster now.

Gone are the days when girls used to cook like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers.

You know that tingly little feeling you get when you really like someone? That's common sense leaving your body.

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

I decided to stop calling the bathroom the "John" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

Old age is coming at a really bad time. When I was a child I thought "Nap Time" was a punishment. Now, as a grownup, it feels like a small vacation.

The biggest lie I tell myself is..."I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

I don't have gray hair; I have "wisdom highlights" I'm just very wise.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

Of course I talk to myself; sometimes I need expert advice.

At my age "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.

Actually I'm not complaining cuz I am a Senager. (Senior teenager) I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later.

I don't have to go to school or work.

I get an allowance every month.

I have my own pad.

I don't have a curfew.

I have a driver's license and my own car.

The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant.

And I don't have acne.

SIGNS SEEN AROUND TOWN (CUT-APARTS)...

In a Podiatrist's office: "Time wounds all heels."

On a Septic Tank Truck: Yesterday's Meals on Wheels

At an Optometrist's Office:

"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

On a Plumber's truck: "We repair what your husband fixed."

On a Plumber's truck: "Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

At a Tire Shop: "Invite us to your next blowout."

On an Electrician's truck: "Let us remove your shorts."

In a Non-smoking Area:

"If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action."

On a Maternity Room door: "Push. Push. Push."

At a Car Dealership:

"The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."

Outside a Muffler Shop: "No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

In a Veterinarian's waiting room: "Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

At the Electric Company

"We would be delighted if you send in your payment.
However, if you don't, you will be delighted."

In a Restaurant window:

"Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up."

In the front yard of a Funeral Home: "Drive carefully. We'll wait."

WEATHER STATISTICS with Thanks to Vernon Grange

February averages 3.2 inches of liquid precipitation, 11.3 inches of snowfall. Many of us can remember the blizzard of 1978, dropping 2 feet of snow on CT. The good news is that by Feb. 10th we are gaining about 2.5 minutes of sunlight per day. Just to help you feel warmer, the lowest temperature ever recorded in CT was -37 degrees in Norfolk on Feb. 16, 1943.

A COWBOY GOES TO CHURCH

*Dirty looking man dressed like a cowboy comes walking in.
Wife approaches him.*

LADY: Where have you been Tom?

MAN: I went to church. First time I've ever been there.

LADY: That's great! Did you enjoy it?

MAN: Well, first thing I did was tie my horse up to a tree in the corral.

LADY: At church that's called a parking lot.

MAN: Then I went up some steps and through the main gate.

LADY: That's called the front door in church.

MAN: Inside a man in a suit and tie gave me a piece of paper and pointed to a chute I should go down.

LADY: In a church, that's called an aisle.

MAN: Then I saw an empty stall and sat down.

LADY: That's called a pew.

MAN: Oh, that's exactly what the nice lady next to me said. "P.U." And she held her nose. (Hold nose)

GROUNDHOG DAY - February 2nd

The legend of Groundhog Day is based on an old Scottish couplet: "If Candlemas Day is bright and clear, there'll be two winters in the year."

Every February 2, people gather at Gobbler's Knob, a wooded knoll just outside of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Residents contend that the groundhog has never been wrong.

The ceremony in Punxsutawney was held in secret until 1966, and only Phil's prediction was revealed to the public. Since then, Phil's fearless forecast has been a national media event.

The groundhog comes out of his electrically heated burrow, looks for his shadow and utters his prediction to a Groundhog Club representative in "groundhogese." The representative then translates the prediction for the general public.

If Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, it means six more weeks of winter. If he does not see his shadow, it means spring is just around the corner.

Approximately 90% of the time, Phil sees his shadow.

Phil started making predictions in 1887 and has become an American institution.

Does anyone in your Grange hunt or fish. How about their children or grandchildren. This might be a good time for a meal of venison, bear, pheasant, or local fish. Could be a lot of fun cooking it and trying a variety of wild game. You could also decorate the area with either deer etc. or groundhog pictures etc.

VALENTINES DAY - February 14

Decorations for Valentine's Day should be simple. You can make them, cut them out of magazines, or print them from the Internet. How about having a Box Dessert or Box Dinner. Everyone who comes brings a box decorated for the occasion and then you draw numbers to see which one you get. Grange provides the coffee. Follow this by a short Valentine Program and a social hour. This can be lots of fun for people who haven't celebrated Valentines' Day in a while.

WATER FACTS (Cut-Aparts) with Thanks to North Stonington Grange

For each minute of the day, 1 billion tons of rain falls on the Earth.

An inch of rain water is equivalent to 15 inches of dry, powdery snow.

A cubic mile of ordinary fog contains less than a gallon of water.

A corn field of one acre gives off 4,000 gallons of water per day in evaporation.

The fastest speed a falling raindrop can hit you is 18 mph.

The typical lifetime of a small cumulus cloud is between 10 to 15 minutes.

At any given time, on average there are about 1800 thunderstorms occurring on earth with 100 lightning strikes per second.

The largest hailstone ever recorded in the United States was nearly the size of a soccer ball. It was a 7-inch wide chunk of ice.

SNOWMAN QUIZ with Thanks to Cheshire Grange

What do you call a snowman in the summer? A puddle

What do you call a snowman in the tropics? Lost

What happened when the shy snowgirl ditched her snowboy? She gave him the cold shoulder.

What do cool snowmen wear on their heads? Ice caps

What do snowmen eat for lunch? Ice-burgers

Where do snowmen go to dance? Snowballs

How do snowmen travel to the snow-field? By icicle

What did the snowman and his wife put over their baby's crib? A Snowmobile!

What do you call an old snowman? Water

When is a boat like a pile of snow? When it's adrift

What do you get when you cross a vampire and a snowman? Frostbite

What do snowmen eat for breakfast? Snowflakes

"HEART QUIZ" with Thanks to Ekonk Grange

February is National Heart Month.

Shout out the answers to these "Heart" related questions.

1. Intense Grief Ans. Heartbreak
2. Exuberant-since...sometimes used to describe a meal. Ans. Hearty
3. A vast section of America is called this. Ans. The Heartland
4. Performers and musicians are often this. Ans. Heartthrobs
5. Sad or downcast. Ans. Heartsick
6. A sincere apology is this. Ans. Heartfelt
7. The lion in the Wizard of Oz was this. Ans. Fainthearted
8. Term of endearment for one you love. Ans. Sweetheart
9. "Down in the Mouth" Ans. Downhearted
10. Unfeeling. Ans. Heartless

TRIVIA from Cross Country Grange Programs

There are more than 100 billion birds on earth – 25 for every human being.

Camels, who can go 17 days without water, can gulp down 25 gallons at a time.

The last year that read the same upside-down as it did rightside-up was 1961.

The world's population increases by approximately 2 people per second; or 120 people per minute; or 7200 people per hour; or 172,800 people per day.

The Hollywood star who played the most leading roles was John Wayne, who appeared in 153 movies. In all but 11 of these he played the lead.

Seven babies are born in the U.S. every minute.

You can eat 6,800 calories a day without gaining weight in the Antarctic. That's what it takes to keep warm without an outside source of heat.

The three foods people buy most before hurricanes, blizzards or big storms are cookies, cakes and candy.

The coldest day in history occurred on August 24, 19670 in Vostok, Antarctica, where the temperature was 126.9 degrees below zero.

Sixty-two percent of men are accompanied by a woman when they go shopping for clothes.

The great horned owl is the only animal that will eat a skunk.

The average office chair on wheels travels about six miles a year.

HOUSEWORK with Thanks to Edith Schoell

Housework was a woman's job, but one evening, Jenny arrived home from work to find the children bathed, one load of laundry in the washer and another in the dryer. Dinner was on the stove, and the table set. She was astonished! It turns out that Ralph had read an article that said, 'Wives who work full-time and had to do their own housework were too tired to have sex'.

The night went very well. The next day, she told her office friends all about it. 'We had a great dinner. Ralph even cleaned up the kitchen. He helped the kids do their homework, folded all the laundry and put it away. I really enjoyed the evening.'

'But what about afterward?' asked her friends.

'Oh, that ..., Ralph was too tired.'