



THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER

JULY – AUGUST 2013

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CONRATULATIONS....

If you are receiving this it means you have been either elected or re-elected as Lecturer for the coming year. As I type this, I'm not sure if we have any new lecturers among our numbers. If you are new – welcome aboard. If you ever have any questions don't hesitate to call me. I will do everything in my power to help you be the best Lecturer possible for your grange. There is a lot to learn and a lot to do. Remember, the more you put into the job, the more you will get out of it.

If this is your second year, or your fifty-second year as Lecturer, Welcome Back. The new year is an opportunity for a new start. If you have been slacking off on your programs or not making your reports this is your opportunity to start over again. A lot is riding on your shoulders. A Lecturer can make or break a Grange. Keep a positive attitude and give your members a reason to come to your meetings. Think outside the box and do something a little different this year.

To help you plan ahead here is a short preview of next years' programs.

The Photo Contest will remain the same.

The Talent Contest will also remain the same.

The Theme of **The "A Number" Contest** will be Gardening in Connecticut.

The Complete Program will also remain the same. The theme is "Three Cheers for the USA". This program must be presented at your own Grange during the year. I would also like to urge you to take it to another Grange. Trade programs with them. It would be new talent for both Granges. It is also important that we help one another. If you know of a Grange without a Lecturer or with one that is struggling why not offer to do your program for them. If you would like me to arrange for you to go somewhere, I will be glad to make the arrangements for you.

Should Auld Acquaintance has been going on for over 40 years now and is a great asset. This will continue unchanged. And, don't forget to include this in your Community Service Report as well.

A Word from Home is another popular project and will continue. This project is for letters from home, but many Granges choose to also send packages. Please remember that any packages you send must include a letter. We all have a lot of older member who cannot attend our meetings, but still want to help the Grange. Get them to write letters for you. This project can also be included on your Community Service report.

The title of the **Essays** next year will be "What I like about my Grange". Remember, this is about your Grange, not the Grange in general.

Complete information on all of these will be in the Bluebook and I will mail the information with the November – December newsletter.

All programs should be between 30 and 60 minutes long. While you do not have to have each of the following in every program, programs should consist of music, information, participation of members, inspiration and humor.

While we are looking ahead and planning ahead, don't forget to get everything in order for your reports regarding this years' activities. Forms for Should Auld Acquaintance are enclosed in this packet. The 2013 Honor Lecturers' Form will be included with the next newsletter.

Enjoy your summer. Have fun, but don't forget your Grange. The Grange has so much to offer. Make a point of telling a friend or neighbor about all the good times we have.

See you around the State!
Marge

SHARED NUMBERS

A FISH QUIZ with Thanks to Senexet Grange

Going fishing this summer? Can you catch any of these fish?

1. A fish that struggles.....Flounder
2. A fish that cheats at cards.....Shark
3. A fish made of a precious metal.....Goldfish
4. A fish that is man's best friend.....Dogfish
5. A royal fish.....Kingfish
6. A heavenly fish.....Angel Fish
7. A fish found in the band.....Drum Fish
8. A fish that is a household pet.....Catfish
9. A fish that is found in a bird cage.....Perch
10. A fish good on hot biscuits.....Butterfish
11. A fish found on some boats.....Sailfish
12. A fish used by a fencer.....Swordfish
13. A fish seen at night.....Starfish
14. A fish found on toast.....Jellyfish
15. A very evil fish.....Devilfish
16. A fish that floats through the air.....Balloon Fish
17. A fish found on a farm.....Cowfish
18. A sad fish.....Bluefish
19. A fish used in refining metal.....Smelt
20. A fish that warms the earth.....Sunfish

RIB TICKLERS with Thanks to North Haven Grange

What can't be used until it's broken? Ans. An egg

How did the eggs cross the road? Ans. They Scrambled

Why did the bacon laugh? Ans. Because the egg had a funny yolk.

What do ducks have for lunch? Ans. Soup and Quackers

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!"

PRICES 100 YEARS AGO with Thanks to Ashford Grange

An ad from Everybody's Market on Main St in Danielson

- *U.S. No. 1, Green Mountain Potatoes...Peck 16c – Limit 2 pecks
- *Florida Oranges...Peck 39cents - - Just received a carload of tree ripened Florida Oranges. The buy of a lifetime. Between 4 and 5 dozen to a peck.
- *Sugar 10 pounds 35c
- *Extra Fancy Fresh Roasted Every Hour Jumbo Peanuts...2 qts. 7c
- *Genuine Orange Pekoe Tea... lb. 19c
- *California Celery 8c Well Bleached Large Bunches
- *Fancy Alaska Pink Salmon, Tall Can,8c
- *Sugar to be sold Only with a \$1.00 purchase or over
- Onions, Cabbage, Turnips, Carrots lb. 1c
- Extra Fancy MacIntosh Apples..... lb. 5c
- Pea Beans.... 10 lbs. 25c
- Fancy Blue Rose Rice ... 3 lbs. 10c
- Cudahy's Creamery, "Country Roll" Butter 2 Pounds 39c
- Cudahy's Pure Red Lard... lb. 5c
- Large Size Eggs, Local Eggs, Strictly Fresh... 2 doz. 45c

OLD CEMETARIES with Thanks to Irene Percoski

A truly Happy Person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour. And, one who can enjoy browsing old cemeteries... Some fascinating things on old tombstones!

Harry Edsel Smith of Albany , New York :

Born 1903--Died 1942.

Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the car was on the way down. It was.

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In a Thurmont, Maryland , cemetery:

Here lies an Atheist, all dressed up and no place to go.

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On the grave of Ezekial Aikle in East Dalhousie Cemetery, Nova Scotia:

Here lies Ezekial Aikle, Age 102. Only the good die young.

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In a London , England cemetery:

Here lies Ann Mann, who lived an old maid but died an old Mann. Dec. 8, 1767

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In a Ribbesford, England , cemetery:

Anna Wallace

The children of Israel wanted bread, And the Lord sent them manna.

Clark Wallace wanted a wife, And the Devil sent him Anna.

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In a Ruidoso, New Mexico , cemetery:

Here lies Johnny Yeast. Pardon him for not rising.

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In a Uniontown, Pennsylvania , cemetery:

Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake, Stepped on the gas instead of the brake.

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In a Silver City, Nevada , cemetery:
Here lays The Kid, We planted him raw.
He was quick on the trigger, But slow on the draw.

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A lawyer's epitaph in England :
Sir John Strange. Here lies an honest lawyer, and that is Strange.

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John Penny's epitaph in the Wimborne, England , cemetery:
Reader, if cash thou art in want of any, Dig 6 feet deep and thou wilt find a Penny.

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In a cemetery in Hartscombe , England :
On the 22nd of June, Jonathan Fiddle went out of tune.

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Anna Hopewell's grave in Enosburg Falls, Vermont :
Here lies the body of our Anna, Done to death by a banana.
It wasn't the fruit that laid her low, But the skin of the thing that made her go.

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On a grave from the 1880's in Nantucket, Massachusetts :
Under the sod and under the trees, Lies the body of Jonathan Pease.
He is not here, there's only the pod, Pease shelled out and went to God.

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In a cemetery in England :
Remember man, as you walk by, As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now, so shall you be, Remember this and follow me.
To which someone replied by writing on the tombstone:
To follow you I'll not consent, Until I know which way you went.

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..'

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS with Thanks to Glastonbury Grange

These make good cut-aparts – Use as many as you want.

- A goldfish has a memory span of 3 seconds.
- A jiffy is an actual unit of time - - 1/100th of a second.
- A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
- A snail can sleep for 3 years.
- Almonds are a member of the peach family.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Babies are born without kneecaps – they don't appear until a child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.

February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.

In the last 4000 years no new animals have been domesticated.

Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.

The cruise line QE2 moves only 6 inches for each gallon of diesel fuel that it burns.

The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.

The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.

Winston Churchill was born in a ladies room during a dance.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

GRANGE

Let's all try and keep the name Grange before our members.

You can make a large letter G – R etc. on sheets of paper and put these readings on the back.

G ... G is for God, the beginning of all; creator of life. Our past and our present, our future to be; our guide 'til the dawn of eternity.

R ... R is for respect for religion and race, caring not how man worships, nor how fair his face. Our lives are not measured by fortune and fame, for God in His mercy loves each one the same.

A ... A is for America, sweet land of liberty. Lord, keep our precious heritage forever safe and free.

N ... N is for my neighbor, whoever he may be. The stranger passing on the street...the friend next door to me. Could we but love each other according to Gods plan, we'd reach the goal triumphant, the brotherhood of man.

G ... G is for gladness, so be of good cheer, and live every moment of life without fear. Make other folks happy, you'll find it is true that what you give others will come back to you.

E ... E is for earth and ecology, too. To safeguard the future, there's much we must do. We have full flowing rivers, forests so tall, if few don't protect them, there'll be none at all. Make the most of each moment that time sends your way and preserve for the future out good earth today.

SENIOR DRIVER with Thanks to Bob Sendewicz

My neighbor was working in his yard when he was startled by a late model car that came crashing through his hedge and ended up in his front lawn.

He rushed to help an elderly lady driver out of the car and sat her down on a lawn chair.

He said with excitement, "you appear quite elderly to be driving."

"Well, yes, I am," she replied proudly. "I'll be 97 next month, and I am now old enough that I don't even need a driver's license anymore.

"The last time I went to my doctor, he examined me and asked if I had a driver's license. I told him yes and handed it to him. He took scissors out of the drawer, cut the license into pieces, and threw them in the waste basket, saying,

'You won't need this anymore,' so I thanked him and left!"

AGRICULTURAL QUIZ with Thanks to Ekonk Grange

1. In 1940 there were more than 6,000 working dairy farms in Connecticut. How many were there in 2009? Ans. 157
2. A farmer today can feed how many people? Ans. 1130
3. Connecticut ranks 44th nationally in agricultural production. What is the top agricultural industry in Connecticut? Ans. Greenhouse/Nursery
4. Plant diseases cause which of the following: Spots on leaves or fruit or Root rot? Ans. Both
5. Is a tomato a vegetable or fruit? Ans. Fruit
6. Which country spends the least on food? Ans. United States
7. Trees produce enough oxygen on one acre of land for how many people every day? Ans. 20
8. In the ocean waters on CT shores, fisherman harvest scallops, flounder, lobster, squid and etc. In the statistics of 2006, how many millions of dollars was sold from the "harvests" of CT fishermen. Ans. 30 million.
9. Christmas tree growers plant 1 – 3 seedlings every spring for each tree harvested at Christtmastime. How many live Christmas trees were sold in the United States last Christmas? Ans. 30 million.
10. Which town has been designated the bedding plant capital of Connecticut? Ans. Cheshire

LABOR DAY

Labor Day is the first Monday in September. It is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

More than 100 years after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers.

Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, was the first to suggest a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

Others believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist founded the holiday. Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J., proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. What is clear is that the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and appointed a committee to plan a demonstration and picnic.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883.

In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

SOME CLOSING THOUGHTS

If you cannot mould yourself as you would wish, how can you expect other people to be entirely to your liking.
...Thomas Kempis

One good turn deserves another. Get someone else to join our Grange.

Love doesn't sit there like a stone, it has to be made, like bread; remade all the time, made new.

...Ursula K. Le Guin

Treasure the love you receive above all. It will survive long after your gold and good health have vanished.

...Og Mandino

IT HAPPENED IN AUGUST with Thanks to Whigville Grange

President Eisenhower gave Americans a 25% pay hike when he raised the minimum wage from 75 cents to \$1 an hour in 1955.

The first unsuspecting victims were "caught" on TV in 1948 when Allen Funt's Candid Microphone (later to be called Candid Camera) premiered. The show was started during World War II, when prankster Funt secretly taped fellow soldiers' gripes and aired them over Armed Forces Radio.

Construction began on a bell tower in Italy, now known as The Leaning Tower of Pisa in 1173. Between 1990 and 2001, it was closed so that it could be stabilized.

President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Medicare into law in 1965. The first beneficiary? Former president Harry Truman, who received his Medicare card at the bill-signing ceremony in Independence, Missouri.

America's first supermarket opened for business in 1930. It was King Kullen, and it was the first to offer self-service groceries, meat, dairy products and baked goods all under one roof.

KEEP SAFE AND HEALTHY THIS SUMMER

Summer is the time for fun in the sun, but please keep yourself safe this summer...

During periods of extreme heat....

1. Stay out of the direct sun. Seek shaded or air conditioned areas such as libraries or malls.
2. Whenever possible, schedule outdoor events (public gatherings, sporting events) early in the morning when it's cooler and the air quality is better.
3. Drink plenty of fluids. (Avoid alcohol and caffeine.)
4. Wear light-colored, light-weight clothing. Use hats with brims and sunscreen for more protection.
5. The elderly, small children, and people with chronic health conditions are more vulnerable to the heat. Call and check on friends, family, and neighbors.
6. Anyone showing signs of heat stroke (altered mental state, not sweating, nausea) should seek medical attention immediately.
7. Protect yourself from exposure to the sun's rays and reduce your risk of sunburn, skin cancer, and heat stress.
8. Apply sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher and both UVA and UVB protection before you go outside, even on cloudy days.
9. Reapply sunscreen after swimming or sweating or after staying outside for more than two hours.
10. Wear clothing, sunglasses, and a hat with a wide brim to protect exposed skin.
11. Seek shade, especially during midday hours.
12. Drink plenty of fluids.

STRAWBERRY FACTS with Thanks to Litchfield Grange

Berries on a straw?

There is a legend that strawberries were named in the 19th century by English children who picked the fruit, strung them on grass straws and sold them as "Straws of berries". But the most widely held view is that the name strawberry was derived from the berries that are "strewn" about on the plants and the name "strewn berry" eventually became strawberry.

Very Berry or not?

The strawberry is not classified by botanists as a true berry. True berries, such as blueberries and cranberries have seeds inside. The strawberry, however has its dry, yellow "seeds" on the outside (each of which is actually considered a separate fruit).

The strawberry is low in calories: one cup of unsweetened strawberries has only 55 calories.

When purchasing – select fresh berries that are bright, fresh, plump, well-shaped and solid in color. The caps should be attached.

Storage. Sort berries and refrigerate. Do not wash until ready to use. Fresh berries are very perishable and should be used as soon as possible.

Strawberries are an excellent source of vitamin C. they also contain iron and other minerals.

Before using berries wash them gently. Do not allow berries to soak in water and remove the hulls.

BATS - - HAVE YOU SEEN ANY LATELY

Connecticut's bats are primarily insect eaters. An exception is the hoary bat, which also eats other bats, namely the eastern pipistrelle. Bats are mostly nocturnal and almost always feed "on the wing." They use their wings, the skin around their tails and their mouths to catch insects in flight. Bats are the only major predators of night-flying insects, making them beneficial to man in several ways. They consume many agricultural pests such as cutworm and corn borer moths, potato beetles and grasshoppers. Mosquitoes and similar "people" pests are eliminated much more efficiently by bats than by birds or expensive bug zappers.

Some Interesting Bat Facts

In general, bats are not dangerous. Like any other mammal, they can carry rabies, although less than one percent of all bats are infected with the virus. More people die annually from dog attacks, bee stings, lightning and household accidents than from bat-transmitted rabies.

Bats do not get caught in people's hair. Bats that swoop near people are usually after insects such as mosquitoes.

A single little brown bat can eat 1200 mosquitoes in an hour.

There are almost 1,000 different species of bats in the world, but only 8 are found in Connecticut.

Only 3 species of bats feed on animal blood. These vampire bats prefer to drink cattle blood and are only found in Latin America.

The smallest bat is the size of a small mouse; the largest, a fruit eater, has a 6-foot wingspan.

Bats have varied diets: 70 percent eat insects; many tropical species eat fruit or drink flower nectar; some bats even catch frogs and fish.