



LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER

March - April 2019

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Greetings...

As I start typing this newsletter it is still February and the snow is starting to turn to sleet and freezing rain. Hopefully March and April will bring us sunny, warmer Spring weather.

Lecturers' Conference will be August 5, 6 & 7 at the Devens Common Center in Devens, Massachusetts. This will be a new and different type of conference aimed at helping Lecturers plan better programs. Each State will no longer put on a complete program. Instead, each State will put on one number in a Northeast Program. Our number will be a George and Harriet skit entitled "The Farmer's Wife" written by Nancy Weissmuller. There will be more workshops than there has been in the past and also ways for you to meet and greet Grangers from other States. Make your plans now.

I would like to review our projects and contests at this time. As our numbers get smaller, we need the cooperation and participation of all our Grangers and Granges to keep our organization active.

Let's Celebrate will be held at Cheshire Grange on June 8 & 9.

Saturday, June 8th we will have our Photo Contest. This contest is open to all Grangers. The Best in Show picture will go to National for Judging. There are six categories -- America The Beautiful; Animals; Grangers In Action; Family Celebrations; Historic Places or Events; and, Antique Vehicles. The rules are...

1. Only prints accepted. No slides in any category.
2. Participants may enter all categories but are limited to one entry in each category.
3. Entries must have been taken by the participant since the last judging.
4. A rigid backing is required for all photographs. No glass or frame is allowed.
5. Print may be processed commercially, but it must have been taken by the entrant.
Remember, this is a picture you took, not a picture of you.
6. Size of backing: No smaller than 4" x 6" or larger than 11" x 14".
7. Name, Category, Grange and Number must be placed on the back of picture.
8. Judging: Photos will be judged at Cheshire Grange Hall on Sat. June 8. Entries may be mailed or given to the State Lecturer ahead of time, or brought to Cheshire Grange Hall between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. the day of the judging.

Grange Sunday is June 9th. The hall will be open at 10:00 a.m. for viewing contest entries (I'm told the CWA will also have their items judged on Sat. and they will also be on display.) Our State Chaplain's Service will begin at 11:00. The Talent and "A

Number" competition will begin at 1:00 p.m. There will be no Pomona Judging in either contest. All entries will go directly to the State. Performance time for the **Talent Contest** is six minutes. The State winner will be eligible to perform at Lecturers' Conference and at National Session. The theme for the "A Number" Contest is "Holidays" This can be on any recognized holiday. Any number suitable for a Grange Meeting is eligible. Time Limit: 6 minutes (includes set-up and performance). Numbers will be judged on presentation, quality, audience appeal, appropriateness of theme, and originality.

Please don't forget your Complete Program, Our Should Acquaintance Projects, A Word From Home and the Essay Contest. All of these things help to build our Granges and to keep the Grange in the public's eye.

Hope to see you around the State...

Marge

SHARED NUMBERS...

FUN CUP-APARTS with Thanks to Vernon Grange

I've found that I've been gaining weight in the shower. Many of you may be making the same mistake. I've been using shampoo in the shower; shampooing, rinsing and the shampoo runs down my body. Read the label on the shampoo. It says "adds fullness and body". I'm changing to dish detergent in the shower. Why, you ask? See it says "removes grease and fat".

A woman noticed her husband standing on the bathroom scale, sucking in his stomach. She said, "ha, that's not going to help". He said, "sure it does, it's the only way I can see the numbers!"

I dialed a number and got the following recording: "I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes."

Little Tommy had been to a birthday party at a friend's house. Knowing his sweet tooth, Tommy's mother looked straight into his eyes and said, "I hope you didn't ask for a second piece of cake."

"No, but I asked Mrs. Smith for the recipe so you could make some like it, and she gave me two more pieces without asking."

THE MOON

People born in the late 1800's either walked to school or rode a horse. Lucky ones got a ride on someone's horse-drawn buggy. The moon was often called a big piece of cheese. These same people lived to see man walk on the moon.

Our moon has eight phases. It takes our Moon about 29 and one-half days to completely cycle through all eight phases.

The New Moon - The side of the moon facing the Earth is not illuminated. Additionally, the moon is up throughout the day, and down throughout the night. For these reasons we cannot see the moon during this phase.

The Waxing Crescent - During this phase, part of the Moon is beginning to show. This lunar sliver can be seen each evening for a few minutes just after sunset. We say that the Moon is "waxing" because each night a little bit more is visible for a little bit longer.

The First Quarter - During first quarter, 1/2 of the moon is visible for the first half of the evening, and then goes down, leaving the sky very dark.

The Waxing Gibbous - When most of the Moon is visible we say it is a Gibbous Moon. Observers can see all but a little sliver of the moon. During this phase, the Moon remains in the sky most of the night.

The Full Moon - When we can observe the entire face of the moon, we call it a Full Moon. A full moon will rise just as the evening begins, and will set about the time morning is ushered in.

The Waning Gibbous - Like the Waxing Gibbous Moon, during this phase, we can see all but a sliver of the Moon. The difference is that instead of seeing more of the Moon each night, we begin to see less and less of the Moon each night. This is why we call it "waning".

The Last Quarter - During a Last Quarter Moon we can see exactly 1/2 of the Moon's lighted surface.

The Waning Crescent - Finally, during a Waning Crescent Moon, observers on Earth can only see a small sliver of the Moon, and only just before morning. Each night less of the Moon is visible for less time.

(You may want to follow this with "SHINE ON HARVEST MOON")

SOME BLACKOUT SKITS

Teacher: How old is your Father?

Student: He is 6 years old.

Teacher: What? How is that possible?

Student: He became a father only when I was born.

Teacher: Mary, go to the map and find North America.

Mary: Here it is.

Teacher: Correct. Now, Class, who discovered America?

Class: Mary.

Teacher: Gerry, how do you spell 'crocodile'?

Gerry: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L

Teacher: No, that's wrong.

Gerry: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

Teacher: David, what is the chemical formula for water?

David: H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O

Teacher: What are you talking about?

David: Yesterday you said it was H to O.

Teacher: Charlie, your composition on "My Dog" is exactly like your brother's. Did you copy his?

Charlie: No, Sir; it's the same dog.

Teacher: Henry, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when no one is interested?

Henry: A Teacher.

Spring At Last

Robins are back, weather has warmed,
Days grow longer, buds have formed.
It's taken forever and a day,
For old man winter to go away.
It isn't the crisp, cold weather I abhor,
That part of winter I truly adore.
Snow was the problem right from the start,
That I say was the very worst part!
Farewell winter, Welcome Spring,
Old Man winter had quite a fling.

KNOW YOUR RELATIVES

1. My father's daughter is my _____? Ans. Sister
2. My grandparents' only son is my _____? Ans. Father
3. My father's brother's daughter is my _____? Ans. Cousin
4. My cousin's mother is my _____? Ans. Aunt
5. My sister's mother is my _____? Ans. Mother
6. My brother's son is my _____? Ans. Nephew
7. My grandmother's husband is my _____? Ans. Grandfather
8. My father's grandmother is my _____? Ans. Great-Grandmother
9. My father's son's daughter is my _____? Ans. Niece
10. My mother's son is my _____? Ans. Brother
11. My mother's sister's husband is my _____? Ans. Uncle
12. My parents' only child is _____? Ans. Me

LOAD OFF HIS MIND – A Blackout Skit

A farm boy accidentally overturned a wagonload of corn on the road. A farmer who lived nearby went over to look and found the boy trying to right the tipped wagon

FARMER: Hey Willie. Forget your troubles for a spell and come have dinner with us. I'll help you with the wagon after we eat.

WILLIE: That's mighty nice of you, but Pa wouldn't like that.

FARMER: Aw come on son, take a break.

WILLIE: Well, okay, But Pa won't like it!

(After a Hearty Meal)

WILLIE: Thanks a lot. That sure was good. I feel a lot better now but I know Pa will be upset.

FARMER: Nonsense, he won't care. By the way, where is your Pa anyway?

WILLIE: Under the wagon.

EARNING HIS KEEP – A Short Story

On their way to church, the organist gave her grandson \$1.00 to keep her husband awake during the service.

Before she began playing the final hymn, she looked over to where her husband and grandson were sitting only to see her husband was sound asleep.

After the service concluded the grandmother said to her grandson "I paid you \$1.00 to keep your Grandpa awake. What happened?"

"I couldn't wake him up," replied the grandson.

"Why not," asked the grandmother.

"Because Grandpa paid me \$5.00 to let him sleep."

WHO WAS THEIR BABY (all from the Bible)

Sarah and Abraham.....Isaac
Keturah and Abraham.....Zimran, Ishbak, Shush
Eve & Adam.....Cain, Abel, Seth
Rebecca & Issac.....Esau and Jacob
Elizabeth & Zacharias.....John the Baptist
Mary & Joseph.....Jesus
Jochebed & Amram.....Aaron & Moses
Bathsheba & David.....King Solomon
Zipporah and Moses.....Gershom
Hannah & Elkanah.....Samuel
Rachel & Jacob.....Joseph

HOUSEHOLD TIPS

(These make great cut-aparts)

Take your bananas apart when you get home from the store. If you leave them connected at the stem, they ripen faster.

Store your opened chunks of cheese in aluminum foil. It will stay fresh much longer and not mold!

Peppers with 3 bumps on the bottom are sweeter and better for eating.
Peppers with 4 bumps on the bottom are firmer and better for cooking.

Add a teaspoon of water when frying ground beef. It will help pull the grease away from the meat while cooking.

To really make scrambled eggs or omelets rich add a couple of spoonfuls of sour cream, cream cheese, or heavy cream in and then beat them up.

For a cool brownie treat, make brownies as directed. Melt Andes mints in double broiler and pour over warm brownies. Let set for a wonderful minty frosting.

Add garlic immediately to a recipe if you want a light taste of garlic and at the end of the recipe if you want a stronger taste of garlic.

Leftover snickers bars from Halloween make a delicious dessert. Simply chop them up with the food chopper. Peel, core and slice a few apples. Place them in a baking dish and sprinkle the chopped candy bars over the apples. Bake at 350 for 15 minutes!!! Serve alone or with vanilla ice cream.

Heat up leftover pizza in a nonstick skillet on top of the stove, set heat to med-low and heat till warm. This keeps the crust crispy. No soggy micro pizza. I saw this on the cooking channel and it really works.

When making deviled eggs, put cooked egg yolks in a zip lock bag. Seal, mash till they are all broken up. Add remainder of ingredients, reseal, keep mashing it up mixing thoroughly, cut the tip of the baggy, squeeze mixture into egg. Just throw bag away when done easy clean up.

When you buy a container of cake frosting from the store, whip it with your mixer for a few minutes. You can double it in size. You get to frost more cake/cupcakes with the same amount. You also eat less sugar and calories per serving.

To warm biscuits, pancakes, or muffins that were refrigerated, place them in a microwave with a cup of water. The increased moisture will keep the food moist and help it reheat faster.

Use a wet cotton ball or Q-tip to pick up the small shards of glass you can't see easily.

To keep squirrels from eating your plants, sprinkle your plants with cayenne pepper. The cayenne pepper doesn't hurt the plant and the squirrels won't come near it.

If you seal an envelope and then realize you forgot to include something inside, just place your sealed envelope in the freezer for an hour or two. Viola! It unseals easily.

DUMB DOG QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q. Why do dogs bury bones in the ground?
A. Because you can't bury them in trees!
- Q. What do you get if you cross a sheepdog with a rose?
A. A collie-flower!
- Q. Why do dogs wag their tails?
A. Because no one else will do it for them!
- Q. What did the cowboy say when the bear ate Lassie?
A. Well, doggone!
- Q. What happened when the dog went to the flea circus?
A. He stole the show!
- Q. How can you tell if you have a stupid dog?
A. It chases parked cars!
- Q. What do dogs have that no other animal has?
A. Puppy dogs!
- Q. Why did the dachshund bite the woman's ankle?
A. Because he was short and couldn't reach any higher!
- Q. When is the most likely time that a stray dog will walk into your house?
A. When the door is open!
- Q. Why don't dogs make good dancers?
A. Because they have two left feet!

USA Travel Quiz

1. What is the northernmost city in the United States?
Ans. Barrow, Alaska
2. What is the southernmost city in the United States?
Ans. Hilo, HI (Key West is the southernmost in the 48 contiguous states)
3. What is the oldest National Park?
Ans. Hot Springs Reservation – 1832 (National Park system 1921)
Yellowstone was in 1872
4. What is the only state that was ruled by a King?
Ans. Hawaii
5. In what state is the Cincinnati Airport located?
Ans. Kentucky
6. Who gave the US the Statue of Liberty
Ans. France
8. Mattapan Square is part of what city?
Ans. Boston
9. What is the capital of Illinois?
Ans. Springfield
10. What River runs through the Grand Canyon? Ans. Colorado