



THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER November – December 2015



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Greetings,

It was nice seeing so many of you at State Session. For those of you who were not at the banquet here is a list of all the Lecturer Awards which were given out...

Winners in the Essay Contest "My Favorite Spot in Connecticut" were...

- 1st Emily Alexander, North Haven Grange
- 2nd Sue Gray, Ekonk Grange
- 3rd Philip Rowland, Oxford Grange

Winners in the Complete Program Contest "What's Cooking" were...

- 1st Susan Pianka, No. Stonington Grange
- 2nd Clifford Gervais, Ekonk Grange
- 3rd D. Emily Alexander, No. Haven Grange

HONOR LECTURER AWARDS were earned by Marge Bernhardt, Cheshire Grange; D. Emily Alexander, North Haven Grange; and, Lois Evankow, Lyme Grange.

LECTURER'S APPRECIATION AWARDS went to Marge Bernhardt, Cheshire Grange; Ann Gilnack, Glastonbury Grange; D. Emily Alexander, North Haven Grange; Helene Schwalm, Whigville Grange; Ramona Fassio, Winchester Grange; P. Joan Toomey, Colchester Grange; Helene Forrest, Hillstown Grange; Clifford Gervais, Ekonk Grange; Eleanor Davis, Killingly Grange; Robert Buck, Bethlehem Grange; Susan Pianka, North Stonington Grange; Lois Evankow, Lyme Grange; Lila Cleveland, Stonington Grange; Nancy McBrien, Hemlock Grange; and, Robert Buck, Oxford Grange.

This award was also presented to the following Granges who did not have Lecturers, but worked together to provide and report their programs: Redding, Manchester, Vernon and Taghannuck.

The following Granges were recognized for their participation in our **"SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE"** program: Beacon Valley, Cheshire, Colchester, Glastonbury, Lyme, Killingly, North Haven, North Stonington, and Prospect.

Certificates were presented to Cheshire, Glastonbury, North Haven, Colchester, Hillstown, Ekonk, Killingly, Lyme, and Hemlock Granges for participating in **"A Word From Home"**.

Now it's time to start working for 2016. Included with this newsletter is the information which will appear in the Bluebook for 2016. Why not get a head start.

Hopefully I will see you around the State, but in case I don't please have a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.
...Marge

SHARED NUMBERS...

WEATHER RELATED JOKES with Thanks to No. Stonington

Why did the woman go outdoors with her purse open?

Because she expected some change in the weather.

What happens when it rains cats and dogs?

You have to be careful not to step in a poodle.

What's the difference between weather and climate?

You can't weather a tree, but you can climate.

What did the thermometer say to the other thermometer?

You make my temperature rise.

What happens when the fog lifts in California?

UCLA.

What did the one tornado say to the other?

Let's twist again like we did last summer.

Whatever happened to the cow that was lifted into the air by the tornado?

Udder disaster.

What does a cloud wear under his raincoat?

Thunderwear!

How do hurricanes see?

With one eye!

SHORT (BLACKOUT) SKITS & STORIES with Thanks to Vernon Grange

The First Day of School

Teacher: Since it's the first day of school we are going to hear what you did over the summer. Johnny what you do over the summer?

Johnny: We visited my grandmother in Minnesota.

Teacher: That sounds like an excellent vocabulary word, can you tell the class how you spell that?

Johnny (pause and think for a minute) Come to think of it, she lives in Ohio.

On A Cruise Ship

Cruise ships offer a lot to vacationers. From a passenger ship, everyone can see a bearded man on a small island who is shouting and desperately waving his hands.

The Passenger Asks: Who is it?

The Captain replies: I've no idea. Every year when we pass, he goes nuts."

A Vacation at Grandmas

First woman: My son came to visit for summer vacation.

Second woman: How nice! Did you meet him at the airport?

First woman: Oh, no. I've known him for years!

Summer Vacation

Summer vacation is popular time for family reunions, and also a time when friends go on an adventure together.

Three men got into a plane and took off on a trip. On the way they had engine trouble and their plane crashed in the snowy mountains. Being resourceful and determined to survive, they drained some gasoline out of the tank and started a fire to keep warm. When they got thirsty, they found a piece of metal from the wreckage, filled it with snow and melted it. Later they got hungry and ripped some strips from the leather seats, roasted them and gnawed on them like strips of jerky.

Vacationers in the nearby hotel thought it was the most amazing thing they'd ever seen.

Smugglers on Vacation?

While crossing the US-Mexican border on his bicycle, the man was stopped by a guard who pointed to two sacks the man had on his shoulders. "What's in the bags?" asked the guard.

"Sand," said the cyclist.

"Get them off - we'll take a look," said the guard.

The Cyclist did as he was told, emptied the bags, and proving they contained nothing but sand, reloaded the bags, put them on his shoulders and continued across the border.

The next week, the same thing happened. Again the guard demanded to see the two bags, which again contained nothing but sand. This went on every week for six months, until one day the cyclist with the sand bags failed to appear.

A few days later, the guard happened to meet the cyclist downtown. "Say friend, you sure had us crazy", said the guard. "We knew you were smuggling something across the border. I won't say a word - but what is it you were smuggling?"

The reply: "Bicycles!"

Reservations

A man wrote a letter to a small hotel in a Midwest town he planned to visit on his vacation. He wrote: "I would very much like to bring my dog with me. He is well-groomed and very well behaved. Would you be willing to permit me to keep him in my room with me at night?"

An immediate reply came from the hotel owner, who said, "I've been operating this hotel for many years. In all that time, I've never had a dog steal towels, bedclothes, silverware or pictures off the walls. I've never had to evict a dog in the middle of the night for being drunk and disorderly. And I've never had a dog run out on a hotel bill. Yes, indeed, your dog is welcome at my hotel. And, if your dog will vouch for you, you're welcome to stay here, too."

Natchitoches

Two tourists were driving through Louisiana. As they were approaching Natchitoches, they started arguing about the pronunciation of the name of the town. They argued back and forth until they stopped for lunch. As they stood at the counter, one tourist asked the employee, "Before we order, could you please settle an argument for us? Would you please pronounce where we are... very slowly?"

The girl leaned over the counter and said, "Burrrrrrrr, Gerrrrrrr, Kiiiiinnnnnnng."

SNOW SHOVELING TIPS with Thanks to Beacon Valley Grange

1. If you do not feel well or cannot shovel plan ahead to have someone else do it.
2. Lift with your legs. Using your legs and bending your knees will lessen the burden on your back.
3. Dress in warm clothes.

4. Stretch your arm before starting. Warmups are a key ingredient for safe shoveling.
5. Buy a good quality, light weight shovel.
6. Keep one hand close to the base of the shovel.
7. Push the snow whenever you can.
8. Don't twist your body to throw the snow. Walk it to the edge.
9. Work slowly taking frequent rests.
10. If you feel pain stop shoveling immediately. If the pain continues consult a doctor.

THINK TWICE BEFORE TAKING YOUR GIRLFRIEND TO THE SUPER BOWL

A guy took his blonde girlfriend to the Super Bowl game. They had great seats right behind their team's bench. After the game, he asked her how she liked it. "Oh, I really liked it," she replied, "especially the tight pants and all the big muscles, but I just couldn't understand why they were killing each other over 25 cents."

Dumbfounded, her boyfriend asked, "What do you mean?"

"Well, they flipped a coin, one team got it and then for the rest of the game, all they kept screaming was... 'Get the quarterback! Get the quarterback!' I'm like...Helloooooo? It's only 25 cents!"

ADVERTISING

Do you recognize these ads?

1. Sometimes you feel like a nut ...Almond Joy
2. When it rains, it pours ...Morton Salt
3. It's a honey of an O ...Honey Nut Cheerios
4. Good to the last drop ...Maxwell House Coffee
5. Don't squeeze the _____ ...Charmin
6. It's the real thing ...Coca Cola
7. Double your pleasure, double your fun ...Doublemint Gum
8. See the USA in your ...Chevrolet
9. Melts in your mouth, not in your hand ...M & M's
10. They're Great ...Frosted Flakes
11. The best part of waking up ...Folgers Coffee
12. The San Francisco Treat ...Rice a Roni
13. There's always room for _____ ...Jello
14. _____ have ridges ...Ruffles
15. You Deserve a break today ...McDonalds
16. Mmm Mmm Good ...Campbell's Soup
17. Be all you can be ...U. S. Army
18. Get a Piece of the rock ...Prudential
19. Fly the Friendly Skies ...United Air Lines
20. Don't leave home without it ...American Express
21. Everything's better with _____ on it. Bluebonnet Margarine
22. Have it your way ...Burger King
23. Ask any mermaid you happen to see ...Chicken of the Sea
24. This _____ for you. ...Bud's
25. There's a surprise in every box. ...Cracker Jacks
26. Put a tiger in your tank ...Exxon
27. Looking for a few good men – The few, the proud ...Marines
28. I wish I was an _____ Weiner ...Oscar Meyer

A DECEMBER QUIZ with Thanks to Ekonk Grange

1. What is the birthstone of December? Ans. Turquoise
 2. What are the two flowers for December? Ans. Narcissus (symbol of celebration, success and reassurance) and Poinsettia (symbol of celebration, success and reassurance).
 3. What event happened on December 7th? Ans. Pearl Harbor
 4. What day in December is National Chocolate Day? Ans. December 28th
 5. What day is considered to be the unluckiest day of the year since this was the day that King Herod ordered the massacre of innocent children in Bethlehem? Ans. December 28
 6. What medical procedure was successfully completed for the first time on Dec. 3rd, 1967? Ans. The First Human Heart Transplant.
 7. What famous event happened December 17th, 1903? Ans. Orville and Wilbur Wright made their first successful flight.
 8. Why does Santa like to work in his garden? Ans. Because he likes to "Hoe...Hoe...Hoe".
 9. What happened when the snow-woman got angry with the snowman? Ans. She gave him the cold shoulder.
 10. What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve.
- **PLEASE NOTE...** I decided to look up more information on Chocolate Day and do a number on it. What I found was several other dates to celebrate. October 28 is National Chocolate Day. July 7 is World Chocolate Day and September 13 is International Chocolate Day. One site also named October 26 as Chocolate Day. Guess whenever you want to eat too much chocolate, you can call it your own Chocolate Day.

A GREEN QUIZ from the Maine State Grange Lecturers' Newsletter

All questions are True or False

1. It's OK to keep a cell phone charger plugged in all the time.
Ans. False. If you leave any charger or electronic appliance in an outlet, it continues to use power – even if you turn off the appliance.
2. When it comes to living green, the 4 R's to follow are reduce, reuse, recycle and reread.
Ans. False. The best ways to conserve the Earth's resources are to reduce, reuse, recycle, and reject.
3. People in the United States use at least 100 billion plastic bags a year.
Ans. True. It takes about 12 million barrels of oil to make those bags.
4. Most paper can't break down in modern landfills.
Ans. True. Paper can break down and be absorbed by the environment. But it needs water, oxygen, and light to do so. Most paper in landfills is buried under layers of soil where air and sunlight (and often water) can't reach it.
5. It hurts the environment to toss fruit and vegetable scraps into a compost pile.
Ans. False. Composted fruit and vegetable scraps can be used to enrich the soil.
6. A few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank can show you how to save water.
Ans. True. If the food coloring seeps into the toilet bowl, you know you have a leak. Fix the leak, and you might save more than 600 gallons of water a month.
7. Burning coal and oil as fuel produces CO₂ which is always good, because plants need CO₂ to live.
Ans. Plants do use CO₂ (carbon dioxide), and we can't avoid burning some fuels that produce CO₂. But we are releasing too much of it into the air. This is causing global warming, which is harming wildlife and people. Besides, there are better ways for plants to get CO₂.
8. On a hot day on the highway, it's better to drive with the car windows open than with the air conditioner on.
Ans. False. When you're going fast and the windows are up, your car is more streamlined, which makes it easier on the engine and saves fuel.
9. It's more efficient to heat up a snack in a microwave oven than in a regular oven.
Ans. True. A microwave oven uses far less energy to heat food than a regular oven or a stovetop burner does.
10. Frogs can give scientists an idea about how "green" things are.
Ans. True. Frogs react quickly to changes in their environments.

THANKSGIVING FACTS

1. The first Thanksgiving was held in the fall of 1621 not in 1620. It is believed that there were 50 Pilgrims and 90 Wampanoag Indians in attendance. The celebration lasted three days when the Indians realized there wouldn't be enough food to last that long they went back to their villages and brought more.
2. Many historians believe that only five Pilgrim women were present at that first Thanksgiving, as many women settlers didn't survive that difficult first year in America.
3. Thanksgiving didn't become a national holiday until over 200 years later! President Lincoln Proclaimed it a holiday in 1863.
4. Historians say that there wasn't any turkey served at the first Thanksgiving celebration. They think that deer or venison, ducks, geese, oysters, lobster, eel and fish were most likely served. Pumpkins and cranberries were probably also served.
5. The first Thanksgiving was most likely eaten with spoons and knives — but no forks. Forks were introduced to the Pilgrims about 1630 and weren't popular until the 18th century.
6. Thanksgiving is the reason for TV dinners! In 1953, Swanson had so much extra turkey that a salesman told them they should place it in aluminum trays with potatoes and a vegetable and sell them frozen.
7. The early settlers gave thanks by praying and abstaining. They planned to do this to celebrate their first harvest. When they included the Wampanoag Indians in their celebration the Indians turned their fast into a three-day feast!
8. Each year, the president of the United States pardons a turkey and spares it from being eaten for Thanksgiving dinner. This was first done by President Harry S Truman in 1947.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF PARENTING

My face in the mirror isn't wrinkled or drawn,
My house isn't dirty, The cobwebs are gone.
My garden looks lovely and so does my lawn,
I think I might never put my glasses back on.

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

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."