



THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER

January – February 2016



Marge Bernhardt, State Lecturer/Program Director
424 Cedar Lane, Cheshire, CT 06410

Phone: (203) 272-4620 e-mail: lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Happy New Year,

My wish for all Grangers is to have a happy and healthy 2016. We need you all. Let's work together to make 2016 a great year for our Granges. We can do this if we all work together, helping each other, and keeping a positive attitude.

I know how hard it can be to be a good Lecturer. I was elected Lecturer for the first time in 1962 back when Evelyn Normand was State Lecturer. Guess I'm dating myself but I'm trying to make a point. Don't be afraid or ashamed to use numbers found in these newsletters or to ask another Lecturer for a copy of a number you saw or heard about that she or he did.

Just a reminder – Your program should be between 30 & 60 minutes long except on special occasions such as an Awards Night, Christmas Party or other open meeting. Try to make your programs interesting and keep your members guessing as to what you will do next. There is no special routine you must follow. Whatever topic or type of program you choose is great as long as it is of interest to your members. To give you some examples my next subordinate program is entitled "Conflict in the Middle East". We will also have programs on Trees, Springtime, Ballroom Dancing and etc. You can also ask other members or committee chairman to do a program on a topic they are familiar with. Hope this helps a little. If you ever need help or are looking for a specific number I will do my best to give you a hand. I may not always find what you are looking for, but I will try my best to be of help.

Hoping to see you around the State in the near future.

Marge

SHARED NUMBERS...

SHEEP QUIZ with Thanks to Ekonk

The Chaplain mentions sheep in our degree work.

1. This expression comes from an ancient fable concerning a hungry wolf, a flock of sheep and an attentive shepherd. Can you name it? Ans. A wolf in sheep's clothing.
2. This term means an odd or disreputable family member. Ans. The Black Sheep of the Family
3. This is supposedly an aid to falling asleep. Ans. Counting Sheep
4. Who introduced sheep to America? Ans. Christopher Columbus on his 2nd voyage to the New Land in 1493.
5. What part of the sheep is used in candle and soap making? Ans. Tallow
6. What products are made from sheep's milk? Ans. Specialty Cheeses and Yogurt
7. What that comes from sheep is used as a base for innumerable cosmetics? Ans. Lanolin, the fat taken from the sheep's wool.
8. The meat from a mature sheep is called what? Ans. Mutton
9. Sausage casings are made from what part of the sheep? Ans. The intestines

- The worldwide sheep population has decreased by 6% in the last ten years. Merino wool is the most prized wool in the world. What country leads the world today in the number of sheep? Ans. China. Number 2 is Australia is number two.
- Adult females are called ewes. Castrated males are called wethers. According to the encyclopedia, a group of sheep is called what? Ans. Herd. A small group is a flock, the entire farms sheep on pasture is referred to as a herd.

PRESIDENTIAL QUIZ & FACTS with Thanks to Riverton

- There were six presidents whose first names were James. Can you name them? Ans. Madison, Munroe, Polk, Buchanan, Garfield & Carter.
- What was Zachary Taylor's nickname? Ans. Old Rough and Ready
- What did Chester Arthur do before becoming President? Ans. He was a machine, or "gang" politician.
- Which president was mayor of Buffalo and then Governor of New York? Ans. Grover Cleveland
- How old was Chester Arthur when he graduated from college? Ans. 18

Zachary Taylor was a tough Indian fighter from Kentucky and was committed to his service in the army defending Fort Harrison in Indiana in the War of 1812, becoming a Major and by 1829 he was a Lt. Col. And led a successful war against the Sauk Indians in Wisconsin. He died after attending ceremonies on July 4, 1850, for the laying of the cornerstone for the Washington Monument. Exposure to the sun caused him to become ill and he died July 9 in the White House. He was 65 years old.

Chester Arthur. Following the Civil War, corrupt practices produced more and more powerful political bosses who grew rich by selling favors and influence. One of these was Senator Roscoe Conkling, boss of the New York Republican organization. Arthur was Conkling's aide for several years and used his position to advance himself and his party. However, he did not support the Machine when he became president much to the dismay of those he had worked with.

Grover Cleveland's real name was Stephen Grover Cleveland, born in Caldwell, New Jersey March 18, 1837. He was married at 49 in the blue room of the White House to 21 year old Frances Folsom in 1886. She was the youngest first lady in U. S. history and still is.

PRESIDENTIAL QUOTES AND HAPPENINGS with Thanks to No. Stonington

Who Said...

- Four Score and seven years ago... Ans. Abraham Lincoln
- Ask not what your country can do for you... Ans. John F. Kennedy
- Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall... Ans. Ronald Reagan
- The only thing we have to fear is fear itself... Ans. Franklin Delano Roosevelt
- The buck stops here. Ans. Harry S. Truman
- Speak softly and carry a big stick. Ans. Teddy Roosevelt
- My dear sir, if you are as happy on entering the White House as I on leaving, you are a happy man indeed. Ans. James Buchanan

Who was President when...

- He was President during the Invasion of Panama and the Persian Gulf War. Ans. George H. W. Bush
- This President had the longest term in office. Ans. Franklin Roosevelt

3. He was President when the White House burned. Ans. James Madison
4. This President had the shortest term in office. Ans. William Henry Harrison
5. The Mexican War was fought... Ans. James K. Polk
6. Electricity was installed in the White House... Ans. Benjamin Harrison
7. When trade with Japan was established.... Ans. Millard Fillmore
8. When we made the Louisiana Purchase. Thomas Jefferson
9. When the Camp David peace accord between Egypt and Israel occurred... Ans. Jimmy Carter
10. He established the US Navy. Ans. John Adams

THE RUSSIAN WAY OF BEATING THE COLD THIS WINTER

Just before heading outdoors, smear goose fat across your face. It prevents the skin from chapping and insulates it too. If you are short of goose grease, butter, margarine or more conventional skin creams will suffice.

For your child: Lift his coat collar up so that it covers his mouth, then tie it with his scarf. If you are walking a young child, arrange his scarf so that the loose ends hang down in the back. Then hold the ends like you would a dog's leash. If the scarf is properly tied, you can support him across icy patches, or keep him upright in the strong winds.

For the home: seal the windows shut. Use a knife or screwdriver to press cotton into cracks, then cover the cotton with heavy paper stuck to it with homemade flour paste.

For the car, bus or truck driver: Empty the radiator each night, then fill it with boiling water the next morning. They say that the engine starts quickly no matter what the temperature is.

In Russia, it is normal for old women to rush up to strangers and advise them to cover their heads or to school mothers for not dressing their children warmly enough.

At home, watch TV, listen to the radio, and read as many newspapers as possible to discover how bad the weather is elsewhere. This helps you forget about the miserable weather where you live.

Finally, try another Russian standby...vodka. That too helps.

GROUND HOG SKIT

The ground hog can be someone dressed in brown. The more details you add to him the better.

The ground hog's den can be a brown blanket thrown over a table or two chairs.

TV Reporter: Ladies and gentlemen, you are about to witness an historic occasion. We have obtained permission to tape and exclusive interview with Chuck Wood, the official (add your town here) ground hog on this his special day. We are now approaching Mr. Wood's den. Mr. Wood, are you home?
(A large brown woodchuck pops out of his den) Oh, There you are, Mr. Wood. I'm from WHOG-TV. Would you be willing to answer a few questions for our TV audience?

Woodchuck: Why. . . . shore. . . . What do you want to know?

TV Reporter: Well, first of all, is it proper to call you a woodchuck or a groundhog?

Woodchuck: Well. . . . neither, really. I am a marmot.

TV Reporter: Then, how come some people call you a woodchuck? Do you really chuck wood?

Woodchuck: No, not at all. I'm strictly vegetarian, of course, but I only eat softer food, not wood. Of course, I've chewed through a few boards in my day, but that was only to get at the. . . , Well. . . . maybe I shouldn't mention that.

TV Reporter: How did the name woodchuck come about then?

Woodchuck: It's an old Algonquin Indian name -- We JACK -- means some kind of weasel -- which I assure you I am not.

TV Reporter: How about the name groundhog?

Woodchuck: That's a bit of slang some early colonists used to describe my 20-times great grandfather. Thought he looked like a hedgehog which lived in the ground. The very idea! All of us marmots are very much more handsome than hedgehogs.

TV Reporter: Well, how about the tradition of Groundhog Day? Is that a mistake too?

Woodchuck: No, not at all, although I will admit that the tradition started with the hedgehog, and we marmots carry it on in this country because there are no hedgehogs here.

TV Reporter: Do you mean the tradition started in Europe? With hedgehogs?

Woodchuck: Precisely. . . . In Europe today is Candlemas Day. And, for over a thousand years people have been observing hedgehogs and badgers on Candlemas Day to predict the weather.

TV Reporter: And if you see your shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter?

Woodchuck: It's not that simple. There will be six more weeks of winter in any case, but if the sight of my shadow appears to frighten me so that I run back inside my den then there will be six more weeks of hard winter.

TV Reporter: How could you be frightened by your own shadow?

Woodchuck: Son. . . . you weren't listening. I said appears to frighten me. I told you earlier that we marmots were carrying on an old tradition. It's all an act, depending on what we think the weather will be.

TV Reporter: And how do you decide what the weather will be?

Woodchuck: Like every other son of the soil -- we read the Old Farmer's Almanac!!!

DO YOU KNOW YOUR VEGGIES with Thanks to Whigville

Have audience fill in the blanks

Salt and _____ (Pepper)
_____ Ears (Cauliflower)
Two _____ in a pod (Peas)
One of our Presidents didn't like me. (Broccoli)
Cinderella's coach. (Pumpkin)
I make you cry. (Onion)
Thin as a _____ . (String Bean)
I am a game. (Squash)
Bugs Bunny loves me. (Carrots)

I won and _____ you at this game. (beet)
Cool as a _____. (Cucumber)
_____ go out and play. (Lettuce)
Rabbits like the _____ patch. (Cabbage)
Hot _____. (Tomato)
I have eyes for you. I am a _____. (Potato)
My faucet has _____ and I have to call a plumber. (Leeks)

CITY NICKNAMES

1. Beantown – Boston
2. Big Apple – New York City
3. Birthplace of American Liberty-Lexington,MA
4. Chocolatetown, USA – Hershey, PA
5. City of Brotherly Love – Philadelphia
6. Golden Gate City – San Francisco
7. Crescent City – New Orleans
8. Twin Cities – Minneapolis/St. Paul
9. Glass Capital of the World – Toledo, OH
10. Insurance City – Hartford, CT
11. Magic City – Birmingham. AL
12. Mile-High City – Denver
13. Music City – Nashville
14. Peanut City – Suffolk, VA
15. Pretzel City – Reading, PA
16. Crossroads of America – Indianapolis
17. Rubber Capital of the World – Akron, OH
18. Silk City – Paterson, NJ
19. Steel City – Pittsburgh
20. Windy City – Chicago

NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY

National Freedom Day is always observed on February 1st. National Freedom Day celebrates freedom from slavery, and recognizes that America is a symbol of freedom.

National Freedom Day was established in 1948 to remind us that America stands for, and is a symbol of freedom for all people. The roots of this special day come directly from the end of slavery and the signing of the 13th amendment outlawing slavery.

We should celebrate this day by reflecting upon our own freedoms that we enjoy by being fortunate enough to live in America. Millions of people in the world are not free.

Major Richard Robert Wright Sr., a former slave, created National Freedom Day. He believed that there should be a day when freedom for all Americans is celebrated. President Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment outlawing slavery on February 1, 1865. So, February 1st was chosen to celebrate National Freedom Day. President Harry Truman signed the bill proclaiming February 1st as National Freedom Day on June 30, 1948.

UMBRELLA DAY

Umbrella Day is February 10th of each year. It is in honor of one of the world's most invaluable inventions. On a rainy, day, we are sure glad that someone was smart enough to invent the umbrella. It's also increasingly popular to use umbrellas to shade ourselves from harmful UV radiation, and the heat of the sun.

Umbrellas come in all sorts of sizes, colors, shapes, and, designs. Businesses and organizations use them for advertising. The smallest umbrellas fit inside a purse or glove compartment. Golf umbrellas are popular sizes. Then, there are lawn and beach umbrellas. There's one (or two) made just for you.

Celebrate Umbrella Day in a couple of ways. First, make sure your umbrella is handy. Second, use it, or walk around with it. If you don't have an umbrella, isn't it time to get one?

PROTECT YOUR HEARING

Taken from 1987-88 Complete Program Winners (National Grange)

1. Maintain good health – many general physical problems also cause hearing problems.
2. Earaches? Or ear infections? Go directly to your doctor or an ear clinic and follow the doctor's advice. Don't treat it yourself with old medicines. Remember: an untreated ear infection can lead to permanent hearing loss.
3. Don't put anything smaller than your elbow in your ear. Only a doctor can remove wax or debris from your ear. Q-tips, bobby pins, or pencils can only push things farther in, not remove them.
4. When you have a cold, check with your doctor. Flying with a cold may cause damage to your hearing.
5. Ask that your hearing be tested as part of your regular yearly physical examination.
6. Don't swim if you have a punctured eardrum.
7. Tell your doctor immediately if prescribed medication makes your ears ring. He or she will substitute another drug which will not affect your hearing.
8. Avoid exposure to loud noise. Loud noise causes hearing loss.

BLACKOUT SKITS

ASK THE BOSS

Sam: Sir, can...can...I see you?

Boss: Come on in.

Sam: I want to ask you...you...see...

Boss: Spit it out.

Sam: My wife...er...told me to ask you for an increase.

Boss: Oh? (Thinks) Well, I'll ask my wife if I can give you one.'

A NEW HIRE

President: Last week I asked you to hire a new cashier.

Manager: Yes, I did.

President: You hired that person?

Manager: Yes, I did.

President: He squints, has a crooked nose and has big ears.

Manager: True, but if he absconds with the money he will be easy to recognize.

EGGS ANY WAY

Customer: I'd like a dozen eggs.

Grocer: We have first grade eggs, second grade, third grade...

Customer: Don't go any further. Just let me have some that have graduated!

THE OUTHOUSE POEM

Thanks to Irene Percoski who sent me this and Edith Schoell who gave it to her.

The service station trade was slow
The owner sat around,
With sharpened knife and cedar stick
Piled shavings on the ground.

No modern facilities had they,
The log across the rill
Led to a shack, marked His and Hers
That sat against the hill.

"Where is the ladies restroom, sir?"
The owner leaning back,
Said not a word but whittled on,
And nodded toward the shack.
With quickened step she entered there
But only stayed a minute,
Until she screamed, just like a snake
Or spider might be in it.

With startled look and beet red face
She bounded through the door,
And headed quickly for the car
Just like three gals before.

She missed the foot log - jumped the stream
The owner gave a shout,

As her silk stockings, down at her knees
Caught on a sassafras sprout.

She tripped and fell - got up, and then
In obvious disgust,
Ran to the car, stepped on the gas,
And faded in the dust.

Of course we all desired to know
What made the gals all do
The things they did, and then we found
The whittling owner knew.

A speaking system he'd devised
To make the thing complete,
He tied a speaker on the wall
Beneath the toilet seat.
He'd wait until the gals got set
And then the devilish tike,
Would stop his whittling long enough,
To speak into the mike.

And as she sat, a voice below
Struck terror, fright and fear,
"Will you please use the other hole,
We're painting under here.

TIPS FOR DRIVING IN THE SNOW

1. Drive slower than usual. It's better to be a few minutes late than to be in an accident and never make it at all.
2. Leave a greater distance between vehicles. In good weather on dry pavement we should be leaving three to four seconds between vehicles. On snowy or icy roads you should leave between eight to ten seconds between them. To check to see if you are keeping a good distance make note of when the vehicle in front of you passes a telephone pole or other marker and count the seconds off until you reach it. Better yet have a passenger in your car time it on their watch.
3. Always accelerate slowly. Tires spin more easily on slippery roads.
4. Don't stop going up a hill. It will be hard to get traction to get going again.
5. Familiarize yourself with your brakes. If you have anti-lock brakes do not pump them. The noise they make is just them working.
6. The best advice of all – **DON'T GO OUT IF IT CAN BE AVOIDED!**

MARDI GRAS

Mardi Gras is also called Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday. During Mardi Gras people celebrate with carnivals and parades beginning on or after the Christian feasts of the Epiphany. Epiphany is also celebrated as Three King's Day. These celebrations end on the day before Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday", reflecting the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the fasting which begins with Lent.

Popular practices of Mardi Gras include wearing masks and costumes, overturning social conventions, dancing, sports competitions, and parades. In many areas, the term "Mardi Gras" has come to mean the whole period of activity related to the celebratory events, beyond just the single day. In some American cities, it is now called "Mardi Gras Day".

The festival season varies from city to city. In New Orleans Mardi Gras begins on the Twelfth Night and ends the night before Ash Wednesday. Others treat the final three-day period before Ash Wednesday as the Mardi Gras. In Mobile, Alabama, Mardi Gras associated events begin in November and end at midnight the day before Ash Wednesday.

SOME JOKES FROM GLASTONBURY

Can February March? No, but April May.

What season is it when you are on a trampoline? Springtime

What Flowers grow on Faces? Two Lips

Why is the letter "A" like a flower? A bee "B" comes after it.

DON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT THE WEATHER THIS YEAR

January averages 3.5 inches of liquid precipitation; 12.3 inches of snowfall.

By Jan. 14th Daylight is increasing by 1.5 minutes each day.

By the 24th it is increasing 2 minutes each day.

The record high on Jan. 16th is 62° in 1995. The record low was 8° in 1994.

January 20-25 is the traditional January thaw.

February averages 3.2 inches of liquid precipitation; 11.3 inches of snowfall

The Blizzard of 1978 brought 2 feet of snow. Most of us can remember the Governor closing the roads.

By the Feb. 10 we are gaining about 2.5 minutes of sunlight per day

The lowest temperature ever recorded in Connecticut was -37° in Norfolk on Feb. 16, 1943.

March averages 4.2 inches of liquid precipitation; 9.3 inches of snowfall

The Blizzard of 1888 saw over 40 inches of snow on March 11.

In Feb. 1994 we had 83.1 inches of snow. This was the most snowfall since record keeping began in 1905.

The March 19, 1956 Blizzard saw between 9 & 22 inches of snow, making March 1956 the snowiest March on record.

A CLOSING THOUGHT with Thanks to Ekonk

"He who throws a stone at the sky may have it fall on his head."