



LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER

January-February 2020

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HAPPY NEW YEAR...

Wow, I can't believe it is 2020. That sounds more like someones eyesight than the year.

Have you made any resolutions for the new year? Why not make one to get at least one new member for your Grange. As our members get older we are losing many dedicated Grangers. Now we all have to work a little harder to make our Granges succeed. How many of you joined the Grange as a teenager? To a lot of us the Grange is a way of life.

It's not too early to get started on your "A Number" entry. Take advantage of the bad weather we are sure to get and plan your program. The theme is "Holidays" – This can be on any recognized holiday. Any number suitable for a Grange Meeting is eligible. It only takes one member. You can do a monologue, or even a reading. Why not do a tableau. That would only take one person to read and others to remain motionless on stage. Or, how about a skit. Got some members with good voices? You could sing a song or songs relating to one of our holidays. The time limit is six minutes. This includes set-up and the performance. All entries will go directly to State for judging in June. Numbers will be judged on presentation, quality, audience appeal, appropriateness of theme, and originality.

Remember, 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 don't think you are the one to do this, I will be glad to help you. I will also make a point of including some information in the upcoming newsletters.

Back in 1953 Lida Ives wrote a book entitled "The Grange in Connecticut". It tells a little about all the Granges in Connecticut starting with Stafford #1 and going up to Spoonville Grange #211. It also covers a lot of other events and would make some good additions to your programs. If you want more information on your Grange or some other events in our history just let me know and I will get them to you.

Again, HAPPY NEW YEAR

Marge

SOME SHORT STORIES with Thanks to Vernon Grange

My husband and I went through the McDonald's driveway window and I gave the cashier a \$5 bill. Our total was \$4.25, so I also handed her 25 cents.

She said, 'you gave me too much money.'

I said, 'Yes I know, but this way you can just give me a dollar back.'

She sighed and went to get the manager who asked me to repeat my request. I did so, and he handed me back the 25 cents, and said 'We're sorry but we don't do that kind of thing.' The cashier then proceeded to give me back 75 cents in change.

We had to have the garage door repaired. The repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener. I thought for a minute, and said that we had the largest one made at that time, a 1/2 horsepower motor.

He shook his head and said, 'You need a 1/4 horsepower motor.'

I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4 and he said, 'NOOO, it's not. Four is larger than two.' We haven't used that repairman since...

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local city council office to request the removal of the DEER CROSSING sign on our road. The reason: 'Too many deers are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore.'

My daughter went to a Mexican fast food restaurant and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.' He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg lettuce.

The pedestrian light on the corner beeps when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an 'intellectually challenged' co-worker of mine. She asked if I knew what the beeper was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red. Appalled, she responded, 'what on earth are blind people doing driving?!' She is a government employee.....

When my wife and I arrived at a car dealership to pick up our car after a service, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. 'Hey,' I announced to the technician, 'it's open!' His reply, 'I know. I already did that side.'

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT with Thanks to Charles Dimmick
(These would make good cut-aparts)

To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.

When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.

Interviewer: "So, tell me about yourself."

Me: "I'd rather not. I kinda want this job"

Cop: "Please step out of the car."

Me: "I'm too drunk. You get in."

I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.

When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.

Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 is new midnight.

I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.

I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.

When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"

I don't remember much from last night, but the fact that I needed sunglasses to open the fridge this morning tells me it was awesome.

When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminum can stuffed with celery?

I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.

When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."

It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.

Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring.

Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.

That moment when you walk into a spider web suddenly turns you into a karate master.

Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life outta nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.

The older I get, the earlier it gets late.

My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.

THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

(Why not celebrate with Chinese food for your refreshments)

This year we will celebrate the Chinese New Year on January 25th. It will be the Year of the Rat. If you were born on a previous Rat Year this year is believed to be unlucky for you.

The Chinese New Year is also called the Lunar New Year. The Chinese consider this the most important holiday they have. It is a two week festival featuring family, friends and mouth-watering food. People wish for a new year filled with happiness, and prosperity. It is a new beginning for everyone.

The Chinese New Year has been celebrated for over four thousand years. In the beginning it marked the end of winter and the beginning of spring.

THINGS OUR PARENTS SAID (A quiz)

As busy as a?	Bee
As proud as a?	Peacock
As poor as a?	Church Mouse
As blind as a?	Bat
As hard as?	Nails
As thin as a?	Rail
As crazy as a?	Loon
As dead as a?	Door Nail
As sly as a?	Fox
As flat as a?	Pancake
As fit as a?	Fiddle
As strong as an?	Ox
As white as?	A Sheet

A FUN QUIZ

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score of the leader until the contest ends.
Ans. Boxing
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backwards?
Ans. Niagara Falls. (The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.)
3. Of all the vegetables we eat, only two can live to produce their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are these two perennial vegetables?
Ans. Asparagus and rhubarb
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
Ans. Strawberries
5. In many liquor stores you can buy pear brandy with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
Ans. It grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over the pear buds when they are small and wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.
6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them.
Ans. Dwarf, Dwell and Dwindle.
7. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed or cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
Ans. Lettuce
8. Name six or more things that you can wear on your feet that begin with the letter 'S'.
Ans. Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts.

WHERE WERE YOU?

(There are two ways you can use this information. Pick one and read it and then go around the hall having everyone tell where they were and what they were doing at that time or you can use them as cut-aparts.)

1960 – Elvis Presley was literally rocking the world, author Ernest Hemingway was in his prime and Dr. Seuss topped the charts with his "Green Eggs and Ham – Sam I Am". Marilyn Monroe won the Golden Globe Award as Best Actress and Arnold Palmer was

champion on the golf course. John Fitzgerald Kennedy was elected as our nations first Roman Catholic President.

1970 – Melania Trump was born. Richard Nixon was our President. The First Computer Mouse was patented. The Beatles Split up. The price of gas never exceeded \$1.00 in 1970 and at times was as low as 36 cents a gallon. The Nineteenth United States Census, conducted by the Census Bureau, determined the resident population of the United States to be 203,392,031, an increase of 13.4 percent over the 179,323,175 persons enumerated during the 1960 Census.

1980 – In New York John Lennon was shot and killed. Mount Saint Helens erupted in March. Dallas was a popular TV show as Americans wondered who shot JR Ewing. A war between Iraq and Iran broke out. The United State boycotted the Olympic Games which were held in Moscow. Post-It notes hit the market for the first time.

1990 - Louis Armstrong was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The Cincinnati Reds won the World Series. The average price of gas was \$1.15 per gallon. George Herbert Walker Bush was President of the United States. The Gulf War started in 1990 and ended in 1991.

"OUR HEALTHY GARDEN"

Daughter: What do you have in your garden this year, Mom? Everything looks so healthy and strong.

Mom: The tomatoes are one of my favorites. Do you know that tomatoes are full of antioxidants and lycopene? Eating tomatoes helps keep your bones strong and lowers your cholesterol at the same time.

Daughter: Darn...I like tomatoes in spaghetti sauce, chili and lasagna!

Mom: You should try them in a salad. Salad is much healthier than spaghetti!

Daughter: OK, OK. I like spinach, too. I make an awesome spinach avocado dip, Yummy!

Mom: You can eat spinach raw, or cooked by itself. Spinach can be used in a myriad of dishes. There is even spinach lasagna. Spinach helps digestion, constipation, lowers your blood sugar, helps your brain function and best of all, it curbs overeating. I have to tell you, though, spinach avocado dip is not the healthiest way to eat spinach.

Daughter: You even have asparagus in your garden. I love "asparagus bake". It's full of cheeses. Yummy!

Mom: Wow! You have a way of taking perhaps the healthiest vegetable and putting it in something full of calories! Asparagus has been eaten for centuries. The romans

even ate asparagus! Asparagus is a "fighter". Eating it fights off arthritis, asthma and cancer! Asparagus is full of antioxidants and a great aid in not only diet, but digestion!

Daughter: How about broccoli? I love broccoli dripping in melted cheese!

Mom: There you go with the cheese again! Broccoli is perhaps the worlds healthiest vegetable. That is by itself, not dripping with cheese. The best way to prepare broccoli is to steam it for five minutes. Any longer and it gets mushy and loses its antioxidant values. Broccoli is proven to aid in weight loss, cancer prevention and lowers cholesterol too. Many people enjoy raw broccoli, by itself, or in salads.

Daughter: Your cabbage looks good too. I like corned beef and cabbage, simply delicious, even better topped with melted – you guessed it – cheese.

Mom: Cabbage helps the body in many ways! Eating cabbage curbs obesity (when not eaten with cheese), helps prevent eczema, migraines, and constipation. Cabbage is full of potassium. You can make a healthy cabbage soup and enjoy healthy coleslaw. Did you notice that except for the tomatoes, all the vegetables are green. And, you can pick green tomatoes to fry in olive oil. Green tomatoes are by far the healthiest. If you look further you will also see swiss chard, kale, Brussel sprouts, cucumbers, string beans, artichokes, lettuce, kohlrabi and several varieties of both sweet and hot peppers.

Daughter: I guess I should rethink my eating habits and try to eat healthier. I'll have to think green. That will be easy because green is my favorite color.

WELCOME TO THE GOLDEN YEARS

After a meeting I couldn't find my keys. I quickly gave myself a personal "TSA Pat Down." They weren't in my pockets. Suddenly I realized I must have left them in the car. Frantically, I headed for the parking lot. My husband has scolded me many times for leaving my keys in the car's ignition. He's afraid that the car could be stolen. As I looked around the parking lot, I realized he was right. The parking lot was empty. I immediately called the police. I gave them my location, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen. Then I made the most difficult call of all to my husband: "I left my keys in the car and it's been stolen." There was a moment of silence. I thought the call had been disconnected, but then I heard his voice. "Are you kidding me?" he barked, "I dropped you off!" Now it was my turn to be silent. Embarrassed, I said, "Well, come and get me." He retorted, "I will, as soon as I convince this cop that I didn't steal your damn car!" Welcome to the golden years.....

A FEBRUARY QUIZ

1. This company was first formed February 14, 1919, and today is noted for its unique fleet of "brown". Ans. UPS

2. February 15th, 1804, New Jersey became the last Northern State to abolish what?
Ans. Slavery
3. This State, noted for dry, hot climate was admitted to the Union on Feb. 14th, 1912.
Ans. Arizona
4. This far western State, noted for tall trees and the Cascade Mountain Range, was admitted to the Union on Feb. 14th, 1859. Ans. Oregon
5. Feb. 1, 1978,...Harriett Tubman became the first black woman honored on what?
Ans. A United States Postage Stamp
6. On February 1, 1977...what claimed the lives of over 100 people in New England?
Ans. A Blizzard
7. On Feb. 1, 1974, this spinoff of another popular TV show debuted...This show starred a mostly black cast...A family with three children including elder son...JJ!!! Name this show. Ans. "Good Times"
8. Rhode Island and the world was rocked by a tragic fire that left over 100 dead on Feb. 10th, 2003. By what name is this remembered? Ans. The Station Club Fire
9. On Feb. 20th, 1962, this famous astronaut orbited the earth in Friendship 7.
Ans. John Glenn
10. February 1, 1964, this rock band "rocked" the world with their new hit song, "I Want To Hold Your Hand. Ans. The Beatles
11. What infamous English King died on Feb. 20th, 1547, having been married a multitude of times? Ans. King Henry VIII
12. On Feb. 29th, 1960, this still running cartoon strip debuted by artist/creator Bill Keane.
Ans. The Family Circus
13. This still remembered movie that took place in the civil war and featured "Scarlett" debuted in theaters Feb. 29th, 1940. Ans. Gone With The Wind.
14. Feb. 29th, 1692, Sarah Good and the Indian Servant, "Tituba" were accused of what crime in Massachusetts? Ans. Witchcraft (In Salem, MA)
15. In addition to Feb. 2nd being "Candlemas Day" it is also a fun day with what animal?
Ans. The Ground Hog
16. "Go West Young Man" said Horace Greeley. He was born Feb. 3rd, 1809. What was his profession? Ans. Writer & Publisher
17. Feb. 4th, 1902, was the birthdate for this famous American aviator, who tragically lost a son to kidnapers. Ans. Charles A. Lindbergh
18. Our 16th United States President was born Feb. 12th, 1809, in Kentucky.
Ans. Abraham Lincoln
19. This man took the oath as President of the Confederate States of America on Feb. 18, 1861. Ans. Jefferson Davis
20. Who was our nations 40th President...He was born in Illinois Feb. 6, 1911?
Ans. Ronald Reagan