



THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Let's hope we have a mild and safe winter. We were visiting family in Maine and got out just before the snow hit. What a difference a couple hundred miles can make in the weather.

SAVE THE DATE!

The following was written by Janet Segur, Lecturer of the Massachusetts State Grange. I agree with what she says and hope that you will seriously consider attending in August. She has put a lot of time and effort into making our conference a great event for everyone.

"Lecturers and all interested in programming are invited to participate in the 'new and improved' Northeast Lecturers Conference to be held August 5 – 7th in Massachusetts. As of this writing, a contract with a conference center in the central area is being finalized. Surveys from previous conferences have shown a desire to have more convenient accommodations and less walking than colleges can offer. At the last conference in 2017, the State Lecturers announced we were taking a year off to revamp the conference. In addition to the type of facility, the program for the 2½ day conference has undergone major revisions. To give you a hint of some of the changes, I can reveal the State Lecturers are preparing 10-minute segments which will combine into one program on the theme of "Down on the Farm", instead of seven state programs. With that change, it gives more time for workshops on areas pertinent to planning and presenting programs in your Grange as well as a few other 'surprise' activities that are in the process of being arranged. The program and registration materials will be mailed to each Grange in the spring. In the meantime, Lecturers can be raising funds to help your Grange send one or two to the conference. Budgeting \$300 is suggested to accommodate the higher rates of a conference center vs. a college. Since the State Lecturers voted last year to hold the conference every other year beginning with 2019, think of the cost of \$300/person every other year as a savings over the \$200 that we were paying each year. I am excited to host the conference in this new format and hope the usual attendees as well as many more will join me in August!"

If you need to call me in the next few weeks, please use my cell phone number. I will be staying with my son while more renovations are in the works following the fire last November. We chose to put some of them off until after Christmas so we could be at home for the Holiday. We put up our tree even though there was a hole in the living room ceiling where a worker fell through and there weren't any curtains on the windows because the cleaners tore some of them. This time they are removing ceilings to get at the asbestos they found in the attic. Guess everything will be an improvement when they finish but I wish it never happened.

Hope to see you around the State. I would like to suggest you call before visiting another Grange. The winter weather has been known to cause cancellations and date changes. Or, if you are stuck in your house why not write an essay or plan for one of the other contests we have.

Take Care, Marge

SHARED NUMBERS...

A DEAD RINGER with Thanks to Ekonk Grange *(A Fact or an Old Wives Tale?)*

England is old and small. Many, many years ago the local folks started running out of places to bury their dead. So, they would dig up coffins, take the bones to the bone house, and reuse the grave. When opening these coffins, one out of twenty-five were found to have scratch marks on the inside, and they realized they had been burying people alive. So, they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground, where the string would be tied to a bell. Someone who worked at the graveyard or lived close by, would listen for the bell. Thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered the "dead ringer". Also, this is where we got the term "graveyard shift".

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is an American federal holiday marking the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, which is around King's birthday, January 15.

Martin Luther King Jr. was an American Baptist minister and activist who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement from 1954 until his death in 1968. Born in Atlanta, King is best known for advancing civil rights through nonviolence and civil disobedience.

OUR PRESIDENTS QUIZ

1. Who appointed the first African-American Supreme Court Justice?
Ans. Lyndon Johnson appointed Thurgood Marshall in 1967. Before being named to the Court as a lawyer he argued cases before the Supreme Court including *Brown vs. the Board of Education* in which the Court ruled that public school segregation was illegal.
2. Who was the first poet to take part in a presidential inauguration?
Ans. Robert Frost at President John Kennedy's inauguration.
3. Which former president was elected to the House of Representatives after serving his presidential term?
Ans. John Quincy Adams
4. Who was the first President born an American Citizen?
Ans. Martin VanBuren
5. Name the four presidents that were assassinated.
Ans. Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, William McKinley and John Kennedy
6. Which four presidents have won the Nobel Prize?
Ans. Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Jimmy Carter, and Barack Obama.
7. Who was the first president to take the nation into a declared war?
Ans. James Madison – The War of 1812
8. Who was the first president to be elected after women won the right to vote nationwide?
Ans. Warren G. Harding
9. Name the first vice-president to become president upon the death of a president?
Ans. John Tyler upon the death of President William Henry Harrison.

THE MOON & NATIVE AMERICANS

(Good for cut-aparts)

January – The Full Wolf Moon

This full moon appeared when wolves howled in hunger outside the villages. It is also known as the “Old Moon.” To some native American tribes, this was the “Snow Moon”, but most applied that name to the next full moon.

February – The Snow Moon

The Moon we see in February is called the Snow Moon because usually the heaviest snows fall in February. This name dates back to the Native Americans during Colonial times when the Moons were a way of tracking the seasons. Hunting becomes very difficult, and so some Native American tribes called this the Hunger Moon. Some tribes called it the Bone Moon because there was so little food that people gnawed on bones and ate bone marrow soup.

March – Full Worm Month

At the time of this spring moon, the ground begins to soften and earthworm casts reappear, inviting the return of the robins. This is also known as the Sap Moon, as it marks the time when maple sap begins to flow and the annual tapping of maple trees begins.

April – Full Pink Moon

This full moon heralded the appearance of the pink moss, or wild ground phlox, one of the first spring flowers. It is also known as the Sprouting Grass Moon, the Egg Moon, and the Fish Moon.

May – Full Flower Moon

Flowers spring forth in abundance this month. Some Algonquin tribes knew this full Moon as the Corn Planting moon or the Milk Moon.

June – Full Strawberry Moon

The Algonquin tribes knew this moon as a time to gather ripening strawberries. It is also known as the Rose moon and the Hot moon.

July – Full Buck Moon

At this time, a buck’s antlers are in full growth mode. This full moon was also known as the Thunder Moon, because thunderstorms are so frequent during this month.

August – Full Sturgeon Moon

Some Native American tribes knew that the sturgeon of the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain were most readily caught during this full moon. Others called it the Green Corn Moon.

September – Full Corn Moon

This full moon corresponds with the time of harvesting corn. It is also called the Barley Moon, because it is the time to harvest and thresh the ripened barley. The Harvest Moon is the full Moon nearest the autumnal equinox, and is bright enough to allow finishing of all the harvest chores.

October – Full Hunters’ Moon

This is the month when the leaves are falling and the game is fattened. Now is the time for hunting and laying in a store of provisions for the long winter ahead. It is also known as the Travel Moon and the Dying Moon.

November – Full Beaver Moon

For both the colonists and the Algonquin tribes, this was the time to set beaver traps before the swamps froze, to ensure a supply of warm winter furs. This full moon was also called the Frost Moon.

December – Full Cold Moon

This is the month when the winter cold fastens its grip and the nights become long and dark. This full moon is also called the Long Nights Moon by some native American Tribes.

"V" QUIZ

(All answers begin with the letter V)

1. Unique style of stage show... Vaudeville
2. Roman God of Fire & Metal work... Vulcan
3. Little girl who wrote Santa a letter... Virginia
4. A Venomous snake... Viper
5. Either of two chambers of the heart... Ventricles
6. Open roofed porch... Veranda
7. Bridge consisting of a series of short spans supported on piers or towers... Viaduct
8. Musical Instrument... Violin
9. Female fox... Vixen
10. North on I-91... Vermont
11. South on I-91... Virginia

BLACK OUT SKITS

Farmer: I've got a nervous cow.

Man: How do you know she's nervous?

Farmer: She shakes so much at milking time she gives butter.

Waiter: I once dropped a Thanksgiving Day dinner and started an International conflict.

Customer: How did that happen?

Waiter: I caused the destruction of China, the fall of Turkey, and the overthrow of Greece.

Mother: How was school today?

Son: Awful!

Mother: But I thought the 20 day strike was settled and all your teachers were finally back.

Son: Yeah. That's what was so awful about it.

Fred: Wow! A run home!!

Ted: You mean a home run.

Fred: I mean a run home. You just hit the ball through old man Mertz's front window.

FILL-INS...

68% of Americans talk to their cars.

No State has a law that says it is a legal offense to drive barefoot. But, your passengers might disagree.

Wooden wheels were a factory option until 1939 in Mercedes.

Do you remember the Edsel? They were named after Henry Ford's son, Edsel.

RITUAL NUMBER

Lecturer: Worthy Master, do you remember when Granges conferred the four degrees, memorized the ritual and did it with expression, like telling a beautiful story?

Master: I do, but I know that most folks who joined in the past few years have not seen the four degrees; probably not any one of the degrees! How sad is that!

Newer Member: What are degrees anyway?

Lecturer: The first degree is a long degree. The lesson is faith and one of the symbols is seed. You cannot plant a field without first having seeds. The ritual of the Grange is like a farm, planted, cared for and harvested. It was written in 1867 by highly educated men, most of whom were "Masons".

Master: That's right. The implements of the degree were used by farmers who planted their fields: The Ax, the plow, the harrow and the spade. Ceres gave each candidate kernels of corn seed to plant as part of the first degree.

Lecturer: The lesson of the second degree is hope. The "plant" is one symbol. In this degree, the Master plants the corn seed and compares the change from a seed to a plant with life and death. Again, we have Grange ritual using farming as an important life lesson.

Newer Member: Wow, I'm impressed! Farming really is a life lesson! Those men who wrote Grange ritual sure knew a lot about farming and how it was like life!

Master: Wait just a minute, were only half way through the first four degrees! The third degree emblem is the sickle and the ripened grain is just one of five symbols! The first Degree, springtime, the fields were prepared. The second degree, summer, the fields were planted and cultivated. In the third degree, the field was harvested! The candidates, "Harvesters and gleaners" are told to "reap for the mind as well as the body". Six men and women performed a "Harvest March" with sheafs of wheat and sickles. This was very impressive.

Newer: I sure would like to see that someday. The grange ritual really brings farming to life in a special way!

Master: It sure does! The 4th Degree is the longest of the first four. At the end of this degree everyone joins in a celebration feast – A bountiful Harvest. This degree represents winter, when we gather together as families, friends and neighbors and enjoy together the good things in life. Grange degree work also contains a lot of biblical references since the seven founders were also men of faith.

Lecturer: Don't forget that circle around the altar in the fourth degree. The members pledge "friendship, enduring through life, to shield you from harm". A good Granger places faith in God, nurtures hope, dispenses charity and is noted for fidelity.

Master: I am so proud to be a Grange member! I think every Grange member should be exposed to the ritual so much more than they are. We have wonderful lessons to teach about how to plant, tend and harvest the gardens of life!

FROM ACTUAL LABELS/INSTRUCTIONS'

On a Sears hairdryer: Do not use while sleeping.

On a bag of Fritos: You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside.

On a Bread Pudding box: "Product will be hot after heating."

On packaging for a flat iron: "Do not iron clothes on body."

On Children Cough Medicine: "Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication"

On a peanut can: "Warning: contains nuts." (talk about a news flash!)

On a Swedish chainsaw: "Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands."

SPEEDING

Characters: A Judge; A Police Officer; A Speeder

Scene: Motor Vehicle Court. The Judge is standing behind the bench when the Officer enters.

Officer: Your Honor

Judge: What do you want?

Officer: I've just arrested a man I caught doing 65 miles an hour down Main Street.

Judge: Another One?

Officer: Yes, that makes 5 in the last 2 hours.

Judge: They must be in a hurry to get somewhere.

Officer: It seems that way.

Judge: These speeders are a menace to our town. They've got to learn to obey the speed limit.

Officer: Yes. Sir.

Judge: Bring in your prisoner. I think I'll make an example of him and give him ninety days. That ought to make him think twice before he speeds through our Town again.

Officer: Yes, Sir. (The officer goes off-stage and comes back with the speeder who is very upset.) Here he is Your Honor.

Judge: What's your name?

Speeder: (Use the name of one of your members who can take a joke)

Judge: All right, Mr. _____, this officer tells me you were speeding down Main Street. You were certainly in a hurry.

Speeder: I can explain.

Judge: No Excuses. There's nothing that will excuse a man for driving down Main St. at 65 miles per hour endangering the lives of our citizens.

Speeder: But your honor...

Judge: Don't ever speed. There's absolutely no reason for any man to drive faster than 25 miles per hour down Main Street. You'll get to your destination quick enough.

Speeder: Your Honor. I had to hurry.

Judge: In so doing you endangered the lives of others. Do you realize that I can sentence you to 90 days in jail.

Speeder: Yes, Your Honor, I know that but I had to hurry.

Judge: There's nothing more important than the innocent lives you endangered.

Speeder: Please, please, Your Honor, have mercy.

Judge: I'm going to give you ninety days.

Speeder: All right, give me ninety days, but let me go for just 5 minutes.

Judge: So, you're still in a hurry.

Speeder: Yes, Your Honor.

Judge: Didn't the sentence change your mind about speeding?

Speeder: No, Your Honor. My wife just gave me my best suit and who knows what else to the Grange for their Annual Tag Sale. I've got to get there before it is too late.

Judge: When is the sale?

Speeder: It's going on right now.

Judge: Say, do you think that car of yours will do ninety?

Speeder: If we step on it.

Judge: Well let's go and step on it. My wife belongs to the Grange too.

DID YOU EVER WONDER?

(Good Cut-aparts)

- ...why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?
- ...why you don't ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?
- ...why doctors call what they do "practice"?
- ...why lemon juice is made with artificial flavor, while dishwashing liquid is made with real lemons?
- ...why the man who invests all your money is called a broker?
- ...why there isn't mouse-flavored cat food?
- ...who tastes dog food when it has a "new & improved" flavor?
- ...why Noah didn't swat those two mosquitoes?
- ...why they are called apartments when they are all stuck together?
- ...why they call the airport "the terminal" if flying is so safe?

SUMMERTIME QUIZ

1. A tan is healthy.
False - A suntan is a skin injury. It is evidence that your skin has been damaged by the sun.
2. You can get 'hamburger disease', or barbecue syndrome, from eating undercooked chicken
True - You can get "barbecue syndrome" from eating undercooked meat or poultry or drinking unpasteurized milk or unchlorinated water
3. It is safe to swim in polluted water, as long as you don't swallow any water.
False - Polluted water contains disease-causing microorganisms which can enter the body through the ears, eyes, nose or through broken skin in addition to the mouth.
4. Over-exposure to the sun earlier in life is a more usual cause of skin cancer than the thinning of the ozone layer
True - The sun is the main cause of skin cancer and there is evidence that even a single sunburn in childhood may increase the risk of developing skin cancer later in life. All sunburns should be avoided, but particularly by children.
5. You can use sand to completely put out a campfire.
True - You can use sand or water to put out a campfire.
6. The darkest shade of sunglasses is always the best.
False - Choose sunglasses with lenses dark enough for the brightness in which you'll wear them, but not so dark as to interfere with vision. The brighter the environment, the darker the lens you will need.
7. Boiling water for 5 minutes will kill most harmful organisms.
True - However boiling water for one minute will kill most harmful organisms.

8. Ozone is found only high in the atmosphere, where it filters out harmful rays from the sun...
 False - Ground-level ozone - also known as smog - occurs when nitrous oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) combine in the presence of sunlight.
9. If you come in contact with poison ivy, wash carefully with hot water and baking soda to prevent the infection from spreading
 False - Washing the skin with cold water and soap is recommended to prevent a poison ivy infection from spreading.
10. You can't get a sunburn on a cloudy day.
 False - Up to 80% of the sun's rays can penetrate light cloud, mist and fog.

LET'S GET ACQUAINTED

Prepare Ahead of Time – First and Last names of Famous Americans. They are cut and mixed and everyone takes one. Now everyone has to find the other half of their name. This is the new friend they should sit with for the program.

Examples of Names

George	Washington
Mickey	Mantle
Marilyn	Monroe
Jackie	Robinson
Mark	Twain
Abraham	Lincoln
Grace	Kelly
Oliver	Kelley (make sure they get the right Kelley/Kelly)
Paul	Revere
Guy	Lombardo
Jackie	Gleason
Davy	Crocket

This would be a good place to add you State Master and State Lecturer

NO-COST TIPS TO SAVE MONEY THIS WINTER

Move furniture and draperies away from heating units, including radiators.

Close windows tightly near your thermostat. Otherwise, your furnace might continue to work even though the rest of your home is warm enough.

Draw curtains, shades and draperies at night to keep out cold air.

Dust can hamper heat flow, so be sure to vacuum radiator surfaces often.

If you have hot water radiators, bleed them often to improve circulation.

Cover through-the-wall air conditioners.

Close off unused rooms and shut closet doors and doors to unheated areas.

Shut the damper when the fireplace isn't being used.

Wear layers of clothing to trap air between layers and stay warmer.