



**THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE  
LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER  
May - June 2017**



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Greetings...

Hope this finds everyone in good health ready to participate in all the activities our Granges have planned. Next on the agenda for all of us Lecturers is Let's Celebrate.

We can celebrate by showing off the talent our Grangers have. Most of us take pictures. These will be judged on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> and will be on display for all to see on Sunday. Complete rules are in the Bluebook. You can mail or bring the photos to me ahead of time or bring them to the Grange Hall Sat. morning between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. If it is more convenient for you, you can also bring them to the State Grange office on Naubuc Avenue in Glastonbury at least a week in advance and I will go and pick them up. Be sure and call and make sure Todd will be there when you go.

Grange Sunday will be held June 11<sup>th</sup> at Cheshire Grange Hall, 44 Wallingford Road, Cheshire. The hall will be open at 10:00 so everyone can view the exhibits. (The CWA is joining us again this year.) Our State Chaplain, Charles Dimmick, will begin his service at 11:00 a.m.

Following his service the Youth and Junior Committees will be serving lunch. This year they will have a soup and sandwich bar. The youth will provide at least 4 different kinds of soup. The Juniors will provide sandwiches. Coffee, tea, iced tea and dessert will be provided. Cost \$8.00. Profits will be split between the Youth and the Juniors.

Then at 1:00 p.m. we will begin our "A Number" and Talent Contests. This is the first time everything is going right to the State Grange for judging. Hopefully this will make for a better afternoon program. Please be sure and let your Pomona Lecturer know what you have for entries. They have to let me know by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The July-August Newsletter along with your forms for next year will be passed out on Grange Sunday. Hopefully all Pomona Lecturers will be present to get them. If not I will find someone from each Pomona to get them to you. If you don't get yours by the end of June, call your Pomona Lecturer to get them.

If you plan to e-mail me, please use the address listed at the top of this newsletter. I have been told things have been sent to the Lecturer address only I haven't received them. Or, you may want to include both addresses and I can monitor it. I don't really

understand why I am not getting everything, I sure get enough junk mail at both addresses.

Information and forms for Lecturers' Conference will be out in a couple of days. I hope you can go. Our crowd has gotten smaller and smaller each year. Please make note of the earlier date when everything has to be in. This is due to requirements of the college and the fact that we are starting earlier. I'm still looking for numbers on your events in gym class. Castleton, Vermont is in a lovely area and it should be an enjoyable ride up there. May I suggest stopping at the Vermont Country Store either on your way up or back. It's fun to look around at all the vintage items they sell even if you don't plan on buying anything.

Enjoy Spring!

See you around the State.

Marge

## **SHARED NUMBERS...**

*My Thanks to Irene Percoski who recently gave me books and items that were Betty Jane Gardiner's. I plan to use a few tidbits each newsletter and will give the proper credit to Betty Jane.*

### **SOME HISTORICAL TIDBIDS from Betty Jane Gardiner's papers.**

**BLOOD DRIVES** - In 1945 State Master Harry Page urged Grange members to respond to the appeal of the American Red Cross to give a pint of blood. The following year there appeared in the National Grange Monthly a list of members who had gone beyond the request and had become "GALLON CLUBBERS". The Home Economics Committees took up the cause of promoting blood donations and through the years Grange Groups as well as individuals have worked with the blood banks. Yes, in Connecticut we are still "out for blood".

**CONNECTICUT GRANGER** – In 1959 in his first report to the delegate body, State Master Robert K. Mitchell recommended the formation of a news letter to be sent to each Grange family.

The following year he was able to report that a state paper named THE CONNECTICUT GRANGER has been organized. We have watched the paper grow and develop into the outstanding publication it is today. Our undying thanks and appreciation go to all who have given of themselves to make it successful. The GRANGER keeps us informed of all the activities within the state and far beyond...it is our own state paper...and we are proud of it.

## **THE HISTORY OF CHOCOLATE from Betty Jane's papers**

Columbus brought cocoa beans back to King Ferdinand of Spain. Nobody at that time realized how important this discovery was. It was not until 1519 that the explorer Cortez found out about a drink made of powder from the cocoa tree. The Aztec emperor Montezuma served it to him in a golden cup. However, the drink was very bitter. Cortez and his friends added sugar and the drink became very popular in Spain. It soon became a favorite for the rich and royal of much of Europe.

The invention of the steam engine made grinding the cocoa bean much quicker and cheaper. By the early 1730's more people could afford it.

For many years people mainly drank chocolate. In 1876, a man from Switzerland named Daniel Peter came up with a way to make chocolate something you could eat as well as drink and made the first chocolate bar. Chocolate became more popular than ever.

Today, the Swiss people eat more chocolate per person than any country on earth. Today, we Americans eat about 12 pounds of chocolate per person a year.

## **WHAT'S THIS with Thanks to Ekonk Grange**

A third grade teacher had taught her class the song "America The Beautiful". When she felt they had learned it pretty well, she asked the children to draw a picture about the song. So, one bright little youngster drew a picture of a jet airplane covered with peaches, apples, grapes, and etc. "What's this," asked the teacher. "This," proudly replied the little girl, "is the fruited plane."

## **HINTS FOR AGING GRACEFULLY With Thanks to Glastonbury Grange**

1. I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People move out of the way much faster!
2. My Grandchildren test me "plz" which is shorter than please. I text back "no". It is shorter than "yes".
3. I don't need anger management, I need others to stop irritating me.
4. I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes three years in a row.
5. My people skills are just fine. It's the actions of the idiots around me that need fixing.
6. My doctor said touch your toes. Doesn't he know that they are on your knees now.
7. I have stopped calling the bathroom "John". I call it the "Jim". Now I can say I go to the gym every day.
8. I've joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.
9. When I was small I thought nap time was a punishment. Now it's like a vacation.
10. Of course I talk to myself. I get expert advice that way.

## HISTORICAL TRIVIA

*This is an area where some members might disagree. None of us were there and there may be more than one theory regarding what actually happened.*

**\*\*These make good cut-aparts**

Did you know the saying "God willing and the Creek don't rise" was in reference to the Creek Indians and not a body of water? It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18th century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat. While in the south, Hawkins was requested by the President of the U.S. to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to write, "God willing and the Creek don't rise." Because he capitalized the word "Creek" it is deduced that he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.' (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint)

As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October) Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig... 'Today we often use the term 'here comes the Big Wig' because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal... To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' Today in business, we use the expression or title 'Chairman' or 'Chairman of the Board.'

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades...' To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't 'playing with a full deck..'

Personal hygiene left much room for improvement.. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, 'mind your own bee's wax.' Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term 'crack a smile'. In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt. Therefore, the expression 'losing face.'

Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in 'straight laced' wore a tightly tied lace.

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to 'go sip some Ale and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.' The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term 'gossip.'

At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in 'pints' and who was drinking in 'quarts,' hence the phrase 'minding your 'P's and Q's'.

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem....how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'Brass Monkeys.' Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled... Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey; Thus, it was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.' (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you?)

### **BIBLE VERSES FROM THE THIRD DEGREE**

*May I suggest picking a couple of your favorites and asking different members to read the whole verse and then explain what it means. This gets others involved in the program.*

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| "If thine enemy hunger," etc.                   | II Corinthians 9:7          |
| "A Merry Heart doeth good," etc.                | Proverbs 17:22              |
| "White unto harvest"... "He that reapeth," etc. | John 4:35-36                |
| "Take heed, therefore, and beware," etc         | Luke 12:15, etc.            |
| "Soul, thou hast much goods," etc.              | Luke 12:19                  |
| "Laborers together with Him."                   | Refers to I Corinthians 3:9 |
| "Mantle of charity."                            | Refers to I Peter 4:8       |

### **SHORT STORIES TO USE AS FILLERS**

A Minister was completing a temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said, If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.

With even greater emphasis he said, And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.

And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.

Sermon complete, he sat down ... The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, nearly laughing, For our closing song, let us sing Hymn #365, 'Shall We Gather at the River'.

Because they had no reservations at a busy restaurant, my elderly neighbor and his wife were told there would be a 45 minute wait for a table. Young man, we're both 90 years old," the husband said. "We may not have 45 minutes." They were seated immediately.

All eyes were on the radiant bride as her father escorted her down the aisle. They reached the altar and the waiting groom. The bride kissed her father and placed something in his hand. The guests in the front pews responded with ripples of laughter. Even the minister smiled broadly. As her father gave her away in marriage, the bride gave him back his credit card.

Three friends from a local congregation were asked, "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?"

Artie said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband and father."

Charlie said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher. Someone who made a huge difference in the lives of his students."

Harry said, "I'd like them to say, 'Look, he's moving!'"

## **CAT QUIZ from Easy Grange Programs**

*All answers start with the letters cat...*

1. A list of inventory ..... Catalogue
2. Favorite of felines ..... Catnip
3. To rush rapidly ..... Catapult
4. Ancestor of a butterfly ..... Caterpillar
5. A classification ..... Category
6. Found on farms ..... Cattle
7. Disease of the eye ..... Cataract
8. Vaults of an early period ..... Catacomb
9. Popular sauce for meats ..... Catsup
10. An unpleasant event ..... catastrophe

## **VACATION with Thanks to Glastonbury Grange**

Mom: Well kids, here we go on our vacation to Washington D.C.

Bobby: What are we going to see?

Mom: We're going to see the White House.

Annie: We live in a white house.

Mom: I mean The White House.

Dad: That's where the President lives.

Bobby: I know, President Obama.

Dad: No, No. President Trump.

Bobby: I play the trumpet.

Dad: Bobby, his name is President Trump. Not Trumpet!

Annie: Look at all those pretty flowering trees.

Dad: They're dogwood trees.

Annie: How do you know that?

Dad: Why, by their bark, of course.

Annie: What else are we going to see?

Mom: The Lincoln Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial.

Bobby: I thought that they were dead. They're memorial?

Mom: Bobby, they were past presidents and they are dead, but the memorials commemorate them.

Dad and I belong to the Grange we're going to tour the Home of the National Grange.

Bobby: Oh, I know that song. Home, Home on the Range.

Mom: Not range, grange. It's the nations' oldest national agricultural organization.

Bobby & Annie: I need to go to the bathroom.

Dad: OK, OK, we'll stop.

### **FLAG QUIZ from Cross Country Grange Programs**

1. When was our flag first authorized by Congress? ..... June 14, 1777
2. How many stars and stripes did it have? ..... 13
3. What did the stars and stripes stand for? ..... One for each state.
4. Each of the three colors stand for more than one thing. What were they?  
Red represents valor, zeal, and fervency.  
White represents hope, purity and cleanliness of life.  
Blue represents the color of heaven, for reverence to God, loyalty, sincerity, justice and truth.
5. Where did George Washington say the red came from? ..... Mother Country or England
6. Where did he say the stars were from? ..... Heaven
7. What is the reason for the white stripes? ..... To show separation
8. What does white represent? Liberty
9. In 1818 what did Congress decide to do about the number of stripes? ..... Keep only thirteen.
10. In 1831 what name was given to our flag? ..... Old Glory.