

PROGRAM HELPS AND INFORMATION

MAY – JUNE 2011

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(If you received this via US Mail and have an e-mail address,
please e-mail me so I can add you to our list.

TIME IS GETTING SHORT

Hi All,

Time is running out on our Photo, "A Number" and Talent Contests. The **Photo Contest** is being judged as part of Let's Celebrate on June 11 and 12. Entries have to be to me by June 11 at 10:00 a.m. You can bring them to Cheshire Grange hall that morning between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m., or mail them to me ahead of time. If it is easier for you, you can bring them to the State office in Glastonbury by June 8th and I will make a trip to Glastonbury to get them. **New this year, we will be sending a best in show entry to Oklahoma in November for a National Judging. Some of the National rules will be different than ours, so if you want your photo to be considered for the National contest please keep the following in mind: Minimum size 4x6 inches; Maximum size 11x14 inches. These sizes include a backing or matting. No frame is allowed, but all photos must have some type of ridged backing. First prize at National is \$100; 2nd is \$75; and, 3rd prize is \$50. "The National Grange Lecturer/Program Director retains the right to disqualify any photo that depicts a scene or image that is contrary to the Organizations core values with the approval of the National Master." It's not too late to get an entry ready. Good Luck to all!

Hopefully by now all Pomonas have had a judging for the **Talent and "A Number" contests**. If not, and you want to enter please call your Pomona Lecturer today. A reminder to all Pomona Lecturers – if there are no Granges in your Pomona with an entry in the "A Number" contest, you should be getting people from your subordinate granges and putting together a number. We should have all ten Pomonas represented in this contest. Complete rules on all these contests are in the Blue Book and were included with the last November-December newsletter.

Nine of ten Pomona Lecturers met in March to discuss and plan for next year. I know some of you want the information ahead of time so you can schedule things at your own Granges. The following were discussed....

Next year the "A Number" will be entitled A Hall-Mark Moment. Anything that took place in a Grange Hall or about a Grange Hall qualifies.

The Complete Program will again be on any President of the United States except Washington or Lincoln. In an effort to get Granges to visit more, it must again be presented at your own Grange as well as another Grange.

The Essay Contest has been changed to 150 words. The new title will be "How I Would Change Our Grange".

It was noted that the Community Citizen Award should be presented to non-Grangers who volunteer their time or talents for the betterment of the community.

Auld Acquaintance, A Word From Home, the Lecturer's Appreciation Award and the Honor Lecturer Award will remain the same.

I want to thank all who filled in for me at the Grange Rally. We planned a trip last fall, before the date was set, to take one of our Grandsons to Disney World. On this occasion, family came first. It was especially rewarding to have people who were willing to step in for me. Thank You.

Lecturer's Conference is fast approaching. Information on this should be our within a week. I am still looking for ideas. The topic of our program is "Spicy".

On September 17 Joanne Cipriano and the Social Connection Committee will be sponsoring a Competitive Program between the Pomonas. This will be held at the Prospect Senior Center which is behind the old Grange Hall next to the police station. Your Pomona Lecturer will be asked to put a team together to compete. This will be a fun night and I hope all you Lecturers are the first to volunteer.

Your next newsletter and report forms for next year will be distributed by your Pomona Lecturer right after Let's Celebrate in June. If you don't get yours in a timely manner please contact him or her.

As always if you ever need help or have questions, please contact me and I will do my best to help you.

See you around the State.

Marge

SHARED NUMBERS....

CHAPLAINS MEMORIAL SERVICE with Thanks to Killingly

Master...Patrons, let us take time now from our labors to pay a tribute to our Brothers and Sisters who have passed on to the Great Grange above. Worthy Chaplain, will you lead us in this Memorial Service?

Chaplain....As we pause these moments to pay tribute to the memory of those of our Grange who have crossed to the Great beyond, we would not however give thought to our grief or our loss however keen it may be, but rather remember that our lives were blessed and enriched, by their association through the years.

Master...Worthy Assistant Steward and Lady Assistant Steward please escort the Lecturer and the Chaplain to the Altar.

Lecturer...We cherish a living memory of these our Brothers and Sisters of our Order, whose chairs are now vacant. We know that our Grange is richer because they have lived and labored amongst us. Make us ever grateful for the heritage that is ours, and may we be worthy, that when the portals swing open for us, we shall find outstretched hands to welcome us to that fair land, where parting is no more. And so we light a candle for those who wait beyond the vale.

Master...Worthy Secretary, will you read the roll our departed ones?

Chaplain....Lights the Candles -- Let Us Rise and Say together the Lord's Prayer.

Master...We will all sing #104 – How Great Thou Art

Chaplain....Father we ask Thee to be with us as we close this service and return to our homes. Comfort them whose hour is here, and strengthen us to thy service. May we not mourn for those who have gone before, but remember all that they did to enrich our lives. Amen

THE WATCHER by Margaret Widdemer With thanks to Colchester

She always leaned to watch for us,
Anxious if we were late,
In winter by the windows,
In summer by the gate.

And though we mocked her tenderly,
Who had such foolish care?
The long way home would seem more safe,
Because she waited there.

Her thoughts were all so full of us,
She never could forget,
And so I think that where she is,
She must be watching yet.

Waiting till we come home to her,
Anxious is we are late,
Watching for Heaven's window,
Leaning from Heaven's gate.

GETTING THE LICENSE with Thanks to Quinebaug Pomona

CAST: A farmer who is the Groom-to-be

A Lady behind a desk at the license bureau

SETTING: The county courthouse in a small town

Farmer talking to himself as he walks into the courthouse and scans a building directory sign in the lobby that says Licenses:

I'm glad I told Sandy to stay home and do the chores. It seems like we are so far behind with farming again this year! Yea, it will sure help to have the chores done when I get back! There's no use in both of us spending our time here, answering a lot of foolish questions, when there is so much to be done on the farm...I think I know all the answers anyway....Really, if you just get thinking about this getting a Marriage License it is important, but I can handle it. Oh, uh, let's see now...License Bureau...that's where I want to go.

WALKS INTO LICENSE BUREAU OFFICE

Lady: Want something, young man?

Farmer: Good afternoon, ma'am. Yes, I want a license.

Lady: I'll have to ask several questions. The government wants to know so much these days. Now, let's see...

Farmer: That's all right. I think I know all the answers....

Lady: What's your name?

Farmer: Harry Farmer

Lady: Now, what's her make?

Farmer: Her make? Her make? Oh, I guess she makes \$100 a week.

Lady: No, I mean what's her model? You know what's her year?

Farmer: Oh, she's a 1985 model.

Lady: Pretty good shape then, I suppose?

Farmer: Why yes. I think so anyway.

Lady: Does she run all right?

Farmer: Oh yes, she runs like a deer. Why, she glides over those bumps when we are chasing cattle. Really smooth.

Lady: Now, I have to ask --- Have you ever been in trouble for going too fast?

Farmer: Me? I can tell you don't know me very well. No!! Never.

Lady: Now, we have to know some numbers...

Farmer: Numbers? I'm sorry, but I don't know what you mean. Where would I look for them?

Lady: Her numbers? You'll find them on her back... Guess you'll have to bring them in later. She been overhauled lately?

Farmer: No, not exactly. She does really help out with the hauling on the farm, though. But no, she really hasn't been overhauled.

Lady: Now for the appearance. Fresh paint job?

Farmer: Well, yes. Every time we're going out, anyway.

Lady: Yes, they do need sprucing up quite often. Now then, does she run economically?

Farmer: In the type of job I have, she has to run economically! I bet she saves me a third of my time in getting a job done!

Lady: Did you have a license for her last year?

Farmer: Why, No, I guess it was three months ago I decided I wanted her!

Lady: Mileage?

Farmer: Mileage? What do you mean?

Lady: I mean, how much travelling has she done?

Farmer: Into Norwich for parts or maybe even as far as Hartford. She's been to Boston now and then...but other than that, she stays pretty well close to minding the farm. I guess she's travelled about 35,000 miles, give or take a little.

Lady: Ever had a crack-up?

Farmer: (To himself, softly) Guess she means did we ever break up.

Farmer: Oh, well, uh, just a coup-le of times. Nothing serious. Anyway, we got things all patched up now.

Lady: Re-tired her lately?

Farmer: Tired? Tired? Yes, one day last week after I used her to help me clean out the calf barn.

Lady: Now for the brakes...Had them checked lately?

Farmer: No trouble with breaks since the accident last summer. Doing fine, just fine.

Lady: How about the rings?

Farmer: Rings, rings? Yes they're taken care of too...I bought new rings in Norwich when I went after tractor parts one day last week. I sure got a good deal, too.

Lady: Does she choke all right?

Farmer: Well, yes. Just about like everyone else, I guess. No oftener.

Lady: Guess that about covers everything. Just one more question. What's her weight?

Farmer: Her weight? Oh, around 110 or 120.

Lady: 110 or 120 what?

Farmer: Pounds...What else?

Lady: You mean to tell me, your pickup truck weighs only 110 or 120 pounds?

Farmer: Who's talking about a pickup truck? I came here to get a Marriage License.

Lady: (Exasperated) Step to the next desk, sir! This one handles Vehicle Licenses.

Farmer: Oh, boy, and I thought this would be a simple thing to handle. Hope Sandy never hears about this one.

THE IMAGES OF A MOTHER with Thanks to Lyme Grange

4 years of Age My Mommy can do anything!

8 years of age My Mom knows a lot! A whole lot!

12 years of age My Mother doesn't really know quite everything.

14 years of age Naturally, Mother doesn't know that either.

16 years of age Mother? She's hopelessly old-fashioned.

18 years of age That old women? She's hopelessly out of date.

25 years of age Well, she might know a little bit about it.

35 years of age Before we decide, let's get Mom's opinion.

45 years of age Wonder what Mom would have thought about it?

65 years of age Wish I could talk it over with Mom!

TIPS ON PUMPING GAS with Thanks to Joan Perry

Only buy or fill up your car or truck in the early morning when the ground temperature is still cold. Remember that all service stations have their storage tanks buried below ground. The colder the ground the more dense the gasoline, when it gets warmer gasoline expands, so buying in the afternoon or in the evening....your gallon is not exactly a gallon. A 1-degree rise in temperature is a big deal for this business. But the service stations do not have temperature compensation at the pumps.

When you're filling up do not squeeze the trigger of the nozzle to a fast mode If you look you will see that the trigger has three (3) stages: low, middle, and high. You should be pumping on low mode, thereby minimizing the vapors that are created while you are pumping. All hoses at the pump have a vapor return. If you are pumping on the fast rate, some of the liquid that goes to your tank becomes vapor. Those vapors are being sucked up and back into the underground storage tank so you're getting less worth for your money.

One of the most important tips is to fill up when your gas tank is HALF FULL. The reason for this is the more gas you have in your tank the less air occupying its empty space. Gasoline evaporates faster than you can imagine.

Another reminder, if there is a gasoline truck pumping into the storage tanks when you stop to buy gas, DO NOT fill up; most likely the gasoline is being stirred up as the gas is being delivered, and you might pick up some of the dirt that normally settles on the bottom.

ISN'T IT STRANGE

- *Isn't it strange how a 20 dollar bill seems like such a large amount when you donate it to church, but such a small amount when you go shopping?
- *Isn't it strange how 2 hours seem so long when you're at church, and how short they seem when you're watching a good movie?
- *Isn't it strange that you can't find a word to say when you're praying but you have no trouble thinking what to talk about with a friend?
- *Isn't it strange how difficult and boring it is to read one chapter of the Bible but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a popular novel?
- *Isn't it strange how everyone wants front-row-tickets to concerts or games but they do whatever is possible to sit at the last row in Church?
- *Isn't it strange how we need to know about an event for Church 2-3 weeks before the day so we can include it in our agenda, but we can adjust it for other events in the last minute?
- *Isn't it strange how difficult it is to learn a fact about God to share it with others; but how easy it is to learn, understand, extend and repeat gossip?
- *Isn't it strange how we believe everything that magazines and newspapers say but we question the words in the Bible?
- *Isn't it strange how everyone wants a place in heaven but they don't want to believe, do, or say anything to get there?

OLD? With Thanks to Richard Chapman

I'm older than dirt. Someone asked the other day, 'What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up?' 'We didn't have fast food when I was growing up,' I informed him. 'All the food was slow.'

'C'mon, seriously. Where did you eat?' 'It was a place called 'at home,' I explained. ! 'Mum cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.'

By this time, the kid was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table.

Here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I figured his system could have handled it :

Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore Levis, set foot on a golf course, traveled out of the country or had a credit card.

My parents never drove me to school. I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed, (slow).

We didn't have a television in our house until I was 19. It was, of course, black and white, and the station went off the air at midnight, after playing the national anthem and a poem about God. It came back on the air at about 6 a.m. and there was usually a locally produced news and farm show on, featuring local people...

I never had a telephone in my room. The only phone was on a party line. Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure some people you didn't know weren't already using the line.

Pizzas were not delivered to our home... But milk was.

All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers --my brother delivered a newspaper, six days a week. He had to get up at 6AM every morning.

Movie stars kissed with their mouths shut. At least, they did in the movies. There were no movie ratings because all movies were responsibly produced for everyone to enjoy viewing, without profanity or violence or most anything offensive.

If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Just don't blame me if they bust a gut laughing. Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?

MEMORIES

With Mothers and Fathers Day fast approaching, we often think back to our childhood days... My Dad was cleaning out my grandmother's house and he brought me an old Royal Crown Cola bottle. In the bottle top was a stopper with a bunch of holes in it... I knew immediately what it was, but my daughter had no idea. She thought they had tried to make it a salt shaker or something. I knew it as the bottle that sat on the end of the ironing board to 'sprinkle' clothes with because we didn't have steam irons. Man, I am old. Do you remember?

Head lights dimmer switches on the floor.

Ignition switches on the dashboard.

Pant leg clips for bicycles without chain guards.

Soldering irons you heat on a gas burner.

Using hand signals for cars without turn signals.

Older Than Dirt Quiz : Count all the ones that you remember -- not the ones you were told about

1. Candy cigarettes
2. Coffee shops with tableside juke boxes
3. Home milk delivery in glass bottles
4. Party lines on the telephone
5. Newsreels before the movie
6. TV test patterns that came on at night after the last show and were there until TV shows started again in the morning. (there were only 3 channels)
7. Peashooters
8. Howdy Doody
9. 45 RPM records
10. Hi-fi's
11. Metal ice trays with lever
12. Blue flashbulbs
13. Cork popguns
14. Studebakers
15. Wash tub wringers

If you remembered 0-3 = You're still young

If you remembered 4-6 = You are getting older

If you remembered 7-10 = Don't tell your age,

If you remembered 11-15 =You're older than dirt!

MEMORIAL DAY FACTS

Memorial Day is a patriotic holiday in the United States of America, celebrated on the last Monday in May.

It is a celebration of remembrance for the brave service of men and women who gave their lives for their country. Originally, Memorial Day honored those who had died in the Civil War. Now, it honors those who died in the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam and Desert Storm.

Memorial Day was declared a federal holiday in 1971. We now, designate this day to remember loved ones who have passed on, as well as remembering our service men and women. Flowers and flags are placed on graves in remembrance of them. Parades and dedications of memorials usually are part of the day's activities. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, local marching bands, members of the armed service, fire departments, police departments, and fraternal orders often march in parades and attend ceremonies to commemorate the day.

Waterloo, N.Y. is considered the birthplace of this holiday because the people of Waterloo were the first people to proclaim a day on May 5, 1866 to honor the soldiers who died in the Civil War. They closed their businesses and placed flowers and flags on the graves of their soldiers. Flags were flown at half-mast.

Major General John A. Logan declared May 30, 1868 as a special day for honoring Union soldiers killed in battle. He was Commander in Chief of an organization of Union Civil War Veterans called the Grand Army of the Republic. They took charge of Memorial Day celebrations in the Northern States. The American Legion took over these duties after World War I.

The Southern States of Alabama and Mississippi observe the last Monday in April as Confederate Memorial Day. Georgia observes April 26th, North and South Carolina observe May 10th, Virginia observes the last day of May. Louisiana and Tennessee observe June 3 and Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day, January 19th.

TEN RULES ON HOW TO PROPERLY FLY THE FLAG with Thanks to Colchester Grange

1. The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.
2. The flag is never allowed to touch the ground or the floor.
3. when hung over a sidewalk on a rope extending from a building to a pole, the union stars are always away from the building.
4. When vertically hung over the center of the street, the flag always has the union stars to the north in an east/west street, and to the east in a north/south street.
5. The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.
6. The flag should be displayed at the half-staff until noon on Memorial Day then raised to the top of the staff.
7. The flag should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds but always allowed to fall free.
8. Never fly the flag upside down except as a signal of distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
9. The flag is never flown in inclement weather except when using an all-weather flag.
10. The flag can be flown every day from sunrise to sunset and at night if illuminated properly.

HISTORY OF THE FLAG

The Flag of the United States of America is one of the oldest national standards in the world – older than Great Britain's Union Jack or France's Tricolor.

During America's War for Independence, the need for a single national emblem was realized. On June 14, 1777, Congress passed an act stating "that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, that the union be thirteen stars, with in a blue field, representing a new constellation." June 14 is now celebrated each year as Flag Day. This design, associated with Betsy Ross, was used until 1795.

In 1794, after Vermont and Kentucky became states, Congress established a flag with 15 stars and 15 stripes. This design, which remained for 23 years, was "The Star-Spangled Banner" Francis Scott Key wrote about in 1814.

Finally in 1818, Congress settled on our current design. They returned to 13 stripes, with the number of stars equal to the number of states – 20 at the time.

OUTDOOR SAFETY TIPS

(Make Good Cup-aparts)

According to a survey conducted by the Home Safety Council, falls are by far the leading cause of unintentional home injury/death. Falls account for an average of 5.1 million injuries and nearly 6,000 deaths each year. Walk through your home to identify and remedy potential fall hazards. What to look for:

Have handrails on both sides of stairs and steps. Make sure handrails go from the top to the bottom of stairs.

Have lots of lights at the top and bottom of the stairs.

It is easy to trip on small rugs. Tape them to the floor or do not use them at all.

Keep the stairs clear.

Have nightlights in the bedroom, hall and bathroom.

Have a mat or non-slip strips in the tub and shower.

Have a bath mat with a non-skid bottom on the bathroom floor.

Have grab bars in the tub and shower.

Wipe-up spills when they happen.

Put bright lights over all porches and walkways.

Put ladders away after using them. Store ladders on their sides, in a shed or garage.

Keep sidewalks and paths clear, so you don't trip.

Fix broken or chipped steps and walkways as soon as possible.

FILLERS...

1. Which of the Great Lakes does not form a border with Canada? Ans. Lake Michigan
2. In what sport do you hear the words "Lob" and "Love"? Ans. Tennis
3. America is named for what explorer? Ans. Amerigo Vespucci
4. Radius and diameter are associated with what geometric figure? Ans. A Circle
5. If you had a problem with your feet, what type of doctor would you visit? Ans. A Podiatrist
6. In what country does the Olympic flame begin its trip to the site of the Games? Ans. Greece
7. What is the only country ever to use the atomic bomb as a weapon? Ans. The United States
8. Name the Union ship that defeated the Merrimack in the Civil War. Ans. The Monitor
9. The English colony on Roanoke Island was off the coast of what state? Ans. North Carolina