

PROGRAM HELPS AND INFORMATION JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2011

Marge Bernhardt, State Lecturer
424 Cedar Lane, Cheshire, CT 06410
Phone: (203) 272-4620 e-mail: mbc76@cox.net
(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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! As I type this it is white everywhere I look. What a beautiful sight. One of the best things about the Northeast is the changing seasons. Let's enjoy each one as they come. And while doing this, don't forget the Photo Contest. Use your imagination, and use the beautiful seasonal changes as the backdrop. Sounds like a winner to me. Please stress in your Grange that a Best In Show photo will now go to National for Judging.

I had a chance to visit Stonington Grange this past year. Several non-members were present. Jeff Barnes had put together information from several sources to give all the non-members an insight to what the Grange is all about. It is included in this newsletter as the first article under shared numbers. While intended as an educational number for the public, both new and long-time members can and did learn from it – myself included.

I will be meeting with the six other Northeast State Lecturers in a few days and details will be firmed up for Lecturers Conference. Please watch the Granger for all the information. It will also be included in the next newsletter due out March 1st.

If you need a program, I have one I call "The Flip Side". It is about the two sides of Alaska -- the one you see in brochures and magazines and the one we found when we travelled north to the Arctic Ocean. I would be willing to come to your Grange and present it if you need a different type program sometime.

While speaking of sharing a program, please don't forget your complete program this year must be presented not only at your Grange, but at a neighboring Grange. If you don't know where to go, I will help you arrange a date with another Lecturer. It does not have to be an exchange, just a one way thing. The title this year is – "When He Was President". This can be done on the events occurring during the term of any President except George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. I've heard some comments that this was a hard title to work with, but, think about it. Most anything that has happened in the last 200 years is eligible. It should be between 30 and 45 minutes long.

The Bluebooks should be coming out soon. I have had questions in the past as to whether or not the Lecturer is entitled to one. YES you are. If you don't get yours, ask for it. And while you are at it, check out the new schedule for Let's Celebrate/Grange Sunday. Please keep reminding your members that the two have been combined into one event. The Photo Contest will be judged on Sat. June 11 and the Talent and "A Number" contests will be judged on Sunday afternoon. Both will be at Cheshire Grange Hall.

Don't forget – If you need help or have questions I am as close as your phone, computer or mail box. Please do not hesitate to contact me. See you around the State.

*****POMONA LECTURERS** – Just a quick reminder that our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday Afternoon, February 27th. I will send a reminder and more details out in a few weeks.

SHARED NUMBERS....

THE GRANGE as Presented by Jeff Barnes

The Grange, also known as the Patrons of Husbandry, was founded by seven dedicated men back in 1867 as a farmers' defense against the Railroad monopolies.

At this time about half of the population was involved in agriculture and they were the most cruelly oppressed class. They eked out an existence and there was really no chance of advancement.

The common way of shipping products was by river to the great shipping ports in the South. During the Civil War the major waterways were closed south of the Mason Dixon line. Railroads were the only practical replacement and they quickly took advantage of the farmers by inflating freight charges. Rates did not go down after the war. The grain speculators or middle men worked for the railroads, and they set the price paid to the farmer. It cost more to ship the product than it had cost to produce it. The local buyers had a monopoly of the shipping business. This also hurt agriculture in the East by inflating the cost of fertilizer, feed and equipment.

The Grange offered farmers the means of collective buying and selling. It introduced legislation and restrains to eventually break the monopoly system. This cooperative feature saves the middleman's profit. These early Grange meetings were held in secret for fear of infiltration by railroad agents or others who wanted the Grange movement to fail. Windows were covered, doors locked and guarded and secret passwords and signs were used.

But just as importantly, the local Grange meeting also provided a bright spot once or twice a month from the tedious life of the farmer. It was the first fraternal organization to give equal rights to women. It taught social relaxation and sought to elevate and improve the farmers' life.

This is the Grange today. Our ritual is 140 years old but our work is timeless. Your Grange is one of 60 local Granges in CT. We are a family organization with an interest in rural – urban problems and their solutions through community efforts, and working through our excellent State Grange Legislative Committee, we have a strong presence in State government legislation. The same is true at the National Grange level.

We are a community betterment organization, contributing through community service projects, conservation projects, and beautification projects. Our members are each involved in their own individual community service work.

The Grange is a general interest organization with a special interest on social recreation and educational areas of its members of all ages and levels, with an eye to personal improvement. In other words, everyone can find something to enjoy.

Here at _____ Grange we meet on the _____ of the month for our business meeting, followed by fun and entertaining programs that we create and perform ourselves. We also have great refreshments afterwards. The Grange is famous for that.

You received brochures and application forms. Think about it. We would love to have you join us.

SOME FILL-INS...

WHAT COUNTRY QUESTIONS

What country is easy to break? Ans. China

What country reminds you of a hat? Ans. Panama

What country is used to cook? Ans. Greece

What country is the gem of the ocean? Ans. Columbia

What country is at home in the freezer? Ans. Iceland

FEELING BETTER? With Thanks to Litchfield Grange

My wife was not feeling well, so I went with her to see the doctor.

"How tall are you?" asked his nurse.

"I'm 5 feet 8 inches" my wife replied.

The nurse measured her and said, "No you're 5 foot 5."

"How much do you weigh?" asked the nurse.

"I weigh 150 pounds", replied my wife.

The nurse weighed her and said, "No, you're 180."

Then the nurse took her blood pressure and remarked that it was quite high. "Of course it's high!" my wife screamed. "I came in here tall and thin, and you made me short and fat!"

PEANUTS TRIVIA QUIZ with Thanks to Enfield Grange

1. What composer does Schroeder idolize? Ans. Beethoven
2. How much is Lucy's psychiatric help? Ans. 5 cents – Her advice should be taken lightly, though.
3. How does Snoopy refer to Charlie Brown? Ans. That round headed kid – Peppermint Patti calls Charlie Brown Chuck.
4. Where was Snoopy born? Ans. The Daisy Hill Puppy Farm.
5. Who is Charlie Brown in love with? Ans. The little red haired girl who never notices him.
6. Who are Woodstock's flocking friends? Ans. Bill, Harriet, Oliver and Conrad.
7. Who believes in the Great Pumpkin? Ans. Linus – He waits in the most sincere pumpkin patch every year for the Great Pumpkin to come.
8. Who does Sally call her "Sweet Babboo? Ans. Linus
9. What is the name of Linus' little brother? Ans. Rerun – He always tries to borrow Snoopy, as his parents won't let him have a dog of his own.
10. Who is Peppermint Patti's best friend? Ans. Marcie
11. What does the World War I Flying Ace call his doghouse? Ans. Sopwith Camel

15 THINGS THAT IT TOOK ME OVER 50 YEARS TO LEARN:

1. Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.
2. There is a very fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."
3. People who want to share their religious views with you almost never want you to share yours with them.
4. You should not confuse your career with your life.
5. Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
6. Never lick a steak knife.
7. The most destructive force in the universe is gossip.
8. You will never find anybody who can give you a clear and compelling reason why we observe daylight savings time.
9. You should never say anything to a woman that even remotely suggests that you think she's pregnant unless you can see an actual baby emerging from her at that moment.
10. There comes a time when you should stop expecting other people to make a big deal about your birthday. That time is age eleven.
11. The one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status or ethnic background, is that, deep down inside, we ALL believe that we are above average drivers.

12. A person, who is nice to you, but rude to a waiter, is not a nice person. (This is very important. Pay attention. It never fails.)
13. Your friends love you anyway.
14. Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic.
15. Thought for the day: Men are like fine wine. They start out as grapes, and it's up to the women to stomp the crap out of them until they turn into something acceptable to have dinner with.

WHAT YOUR FAVORITE PIE SAYS ABOUT YOU with Thanks to Killingly Grange

No matter how flaky you are, your favorite pie broadcasts your personality. That's according to Gale Gand, executive pastry chef at Chicago's Tru Restaurant, host of the Food Network's dessert-centric show Sweet Dreams. (I tried this at Cheshire and it was unbelievable how accurate it was)

- *Apple, Wholesome and a bit middle-of-the-road, playing it safe.
- *Banana cream, An overachiever who just wants to relax and not be in charge.
- *Blueberry. Outdoorsy and determined.
- *Cherry. Oversweet, in need of tartness and passion.
- *Chocolate. Suave, seductive, strong, addictive.
- *Coconut cream. Probably a man seeking an exotic-like escape from reality.
- *Lemon. Bright, energetic and sharp-tongued.
- *Mincemeat. An anglophile who watches Masterpiece Theater, listens to NPR and fantasizes about being in England, sipping port with pie.
- *Peach. A sun-worshiper who's found sunshine on a pie plate.
- *Pecan. Simple in your tastes and seeking more sweetness in life.
- *Pumpkin. Attached to your past but comfy in your present.
- *Rhubarb. Old-fashioned (or a total Hipster).
- *Sweet potato. Family-oriented with a real sense of Southern hospitality.

GRANGE RITUAL QUIZ ~ USING FAITH AND FAITHFUL... With Thanks to Ekonk Grange

Webster defines "Faithful" as loyal, conscientious, exact, true. Jesus said, "Whosoever is faithful in little things shall be faithful in greater things as well."

We know a dog can be a faithful companion, friends can be faithful, and servants are known to be faithful.

Did you know that the Archdiocese in the Boston Catholic Church has a choir names, "The Voice of the Faithful"?

The Brothers Grimm wrote a tale of "Faithful John".

Yellowstone Park has a geyser named "Old Faithful"!

In the Grange, the word faithful appears numerous times. We recognize the fact that those seven men who wrote our ritual and founded our order were truly men of God. They were Faithful.

1. Which Officer says (In the opening) "Well done, good and faithful servants." Ans: Chaplain
2. Who says, "In faith, in hope and in charity, I close this inner gate and will guard it with fidelity." Ans. Steward
3. In the 1st Degree, which officer says, "Friends, your present condition is but an example of faith..." Ans. Master/President
4. Which officer says (in the 1st Degree: "...have faith in God's promise that seedtime and harvest shall never fail..." Ans. Lecturer/Program Director
5. What is the Grange symbol of faith? Ans. 1st degree – Ceres – Corn
6. Which Degree has faith as its lesson? Ans. The First Degree
7. In the 2nd Degree, which officer states, in response to a question of the Overseer "Brothers and sisters, who, having served faithfully as laborers and maids, seek promotion.? Ans. Assistant Steward
8. Who says "Be Faithful in gathering, that you may be liberal in dispensing" in the 3rd Degree? Ans. Chaplain
9. Which officer, at installation, is told, "I need not urge you to be faithful in your calling.?" Ans. Chaplain
10. Which officer is told at installation, "It is your duty to see that the orders of the Master are faithfully transmitted to the laborers...?" Ans. Overseer

A NEW YEAR with Thanks to Beacon Valley Grange

I've put my house in order..
 Yes, I've straightened every room
 I've spent my energy today
 With mop and pail and broom.

I brushed the dust of doubt away,
 I polished to a sheen
 The rooms wherein my spirit dwells...
 I swept each corner clean.

I brushed the dust from off the walls,
 I polished to a sheen
 Every mirror and each windowpane...
 They all are sparkling clean!

I probed into the sacred place
 And routed out each fear,
 I was amazed how large a heap
 I'd gathered the past year.

I probed into each dresser drawer
 And sorted out the gear,
 I was amazed at all the things
 I'd gathered through the year.

Yes, I've put my house in order
 Yes, my hearts in order too,
 And everything is clean and sweet,
 As fresh and bright as new.

I've put my heart in order too..
 Yes, I've taken extra care
 To straighten out the crooked paths
 That I discovered there.

And yet for long I must not rest
 But labor with all my might
 To keep the grime from heart and home
 So I start off the New Year right.

HOW TO TELL A RAW EGG FROM A RAW EGG FROM A HARD BOILED EGG **With Thanks to Riverton Grange**

If you hold up two eggs and one is hard-boiled and the other is raw, you might wonder how to know which is which.

A simple test will reveal the answer. (I saw this number at Riverton Grange and at this point without first informing the Lecturer, the brother doing the number proceeded to hold an egg in each hand and act like he was going to drop them on the floor. It added a lot to this educational number.) Spin them carefully on a countertop. The hard-boiled one spins and the raw one doesn't. This is because the hard-boiled egg is solid so everything spins in one direction, while the inside of the raw egg sloshes in different directions and, therefore, doesn't allow it to spin. Try it and see for yourself.

OUR FLAG with Thanks to Irene Percoski

A Fan on a table near the flag can add a lot to a number like this.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you the Flag that flew over Valley Forge and was torn in two by the Gray and Blue and bled through two World Wars.

I give you the Flag that burned in the street in protest, in anger and shame, the very same Flag that covered the men who died defending her name.

We now stand together, Americans all, either by choice or by birth to honor the Flag that's flown on the Moon and changed the face of the Earth.

History will show this Flag stood a friend to the hungry, the homeless and lost that a mixture of men as common as clay valued one thing beyond cost.

And they've signed in blood from Bunker Hill to Saigon, Kuwait, Bosnia, Kabul, Baghdad, Afghanistan and Toko Ri. I give you the Flag that says to the World each man has a right to be free.

IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT with Thanks to Joan Perry

Bob Hill and his new wife Betty were vacationing in Europe as it happens, near Transylvania. They were driving in a rental car along a rather deserted highway. It was late and raining very hard. Bob could barely see the road in front of the car. Suddenly, the car skids out of control! Bob attempts to control the car, but to no avail! The car swerves and smashes into a tree.

Moments later, Bob shakes his head to clear the fog. Dazed, he looks over at the passenger seat and sees his wife unconscious, with her head bleeding! Despite the rain and unfamiliar countryside, Bob knows he has to get her medical assistance. Bob carefully picks his wife up and begins trudging down the road. After a short while, he sees a light. He heads toward the light, which is coming from a large, old house. He approaches the door and knocks.

A minute passes. A small, hunched man opens the door. Bob immediately blurts, "Hello, my name is Bob Hill, and this is my wife Betty. We've been in a terrible accident, and my wife has been seriously hurt. Can I please use your phone?"

"I'm sorry", replied the hunchback, "but we don't have a phone. My master is a doctor; come in, and I will get him!" Bob brings his wife in.

An older man comes down the stairs. "I'm afraid my assistant may have misled you. I am not a medical doctor; I am a scientist...However, it is many miles to the nearest clinic, and I have had a basic medical training. I will see what I can do. Igor, bring them down to the laboratory."

With that, Igor picks up Betty and carries her downstairs, with Bob following closely... Igor places Betty on a table in the lab. Bob collapses from exhaustion and his own injuries, so Igor places Bob on an adjoining table.

After a brief examination, Igor's master looks worried. "Things are serious, Igor. Prepare a transfusion." Igor and his master work feverishly, but to no avail. Bob and Betty Hill are no more.

The Hills' deaths upset Igor's master greatly. Wearily he climbs the steps to his conservatory, which houses his grand piano. For it is here that he has always found solace. He begins to play, and a stirring, almost haunting melody fills the house.

Meanwhile, Igor is still in the lab tidying up. His eyes catch movement, and he notices the fingers on Betty's hand twitch, keeping time to the haunting piano music. Stunned, he watches as Bob's arm begins to rise marking the beat! He is further amazed as Betty and Bob both sit up straight!

Unable to contain himself, he dashes up the stairs to the conservatory. He bursts in and shouts to his master: "Master, Master! The Hills are alive with the sound of music!"

(I am sooooo sorry ... but, you really should have seen that one coming!!!!)

SHORT SKITS with Thanks to Colchester Grange

IT TAKES ALL KINDS

Psychiatrist: Why can't you sleep at night?

Patient: Because I'm trying to solve all the world's problems.

Psychiatrist: Ever get them solved?

Patient: Almost every time.

Psychiatrist: Then why can't you sleep?

Patient: The ticker-tape parades they hold for me keep me awake.

SLEEPLESS NIGHT

Wife: Your snoring has become unbearable.

Husband: How bad could it be?

Wife: Well, if you had been sawing real wood, you'd have wiped out half the tropical rain forest.

MARRIED LIFE (Husbands do all the talking)

1ST Couple: How have you stayed together for 45 years?

2nd Couple: I know her like a book.

1st Couple: You may know her like a book, but I bet you never know what page she's on.

SWIMMING LESSONS with Thanks to North Haven Grange

Freshman: "Look, Mike, you're a good swimmer. What's the best way to teach a gal how to swim?"

Senior: "Well, first you place your right arm around her waist, then you gently take her left arm and you.."

Freshman: "She is my Sister!"

Senior: "Oh, in that case, just push her into the water."

THE OLD YEAR PASSES

The old year passes softly
Unnoticed through the door –
Pausing on the threshold
To return no more.

The new year enters proudly
As welcomed as can be,
But what lies in the future
Is yet for us to see.

The past is gone forever
Except in memory,
And we must live the present
For the future's yet to be.

WACKY WANT-ADS

Wanted: Bald man wants to hear from horror writer..
Object: Hair-raising tales!

Wanted: fisherman wants to meet fisherwoman..
Object: A reel good time!
Wanted: Baker seeks wealthy investor..
Object: Dough to make dough.

Wanted: Electrician to fix short circuit..
Object: To take charge.

Wanted: Optician needed for freak show..
Object: To make spectacle of himself.

Wanted: Trapeze artists..
Object: To work swing shift.

Wanted: Hangmen trainees..
Object: To learn the ropes.

Wanted: Male deer needed for game of catch between football players..
Object: Passing the buck.

Wanted: Snowman seeking reliable employment agency..
Object: Snow jobs

Wanted: Lonely computer looking to meet adding machine..
Object: To multiply.

LOVE QUIZ

1. A Song made famous by Elvis Presley. Ans. Love Me tender
2. A commandment. Ans. Love thy neighbor
3. A sport where the term "love" is used. Ans. Tennis
4. Keeps the postman in business. Ans. Love letters
5. A famous movie. Ans. Love Story
6. A place to sit. Ans. Love seat
7. What love does to the world. Ans. Makes the world go round.
8. Makes baby comfortable. Ans. Luvs Diapers
9. A song with the work love in the title. Ans. Love is a Many Splendored Thing
10. Who are considered the world's best-known lovers of all times? Ans. Romeo and Juliet
11. Macrame' stitches. Ans. Love Knots
12. Love _____ all. Ans. Conquers.

A CLOSING THOUGHT

There's one sad truth in life I've found,
While journeying east and west,
The only folks we really wound
Are those we love the best.

We flatter those we scarcely know,
We please the fleeting guest.
And deal full many a thoughtless blow
To those who love us best.