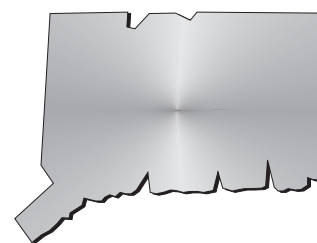




Connecticut Granger



Vol. 49, No. 6

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

March 2009

State President



Robert Sendewicz
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

At this time all the schools of instruction will be completed. The last one was March 1, 2009 for North and East Central Pomona. There was much useful information given out at the schools. If your Master was not at one of them ask one of your members who was there or your Deputy to fill you in.

One of the most important items was the National Grange V. Tyson Foods. Each Grange got a letter from National last year explaining this situation and at the

schools of instruction I gave each Master a follow up on what their Grange should and should not be doing in regards to this. It was a handout and if your Grange did not receive one let me know and I will send one.

The National Grange is soliciting financial help for this fight and I strongly urge any Grange that can, to contribute to this cause. I will bring back, from the Masters meeting in Arkansas, further information on this subject along with whatever National has set up for a media campaign.

In the coming months, the Deputies will be scheduling evaluations for your Grange. You will be getting a question sheet to answer prior to the evaluation. This will help me to better understand your Grange. The procedure will be the same as last year. I

strongly urge all Granges to continue their efforts to attract new members and use this opportunity to confer degrees on those members you have who may not have witnessed them yet.

When National Grange held its annual session in Connecticut last year it generated much interest in the Grange here. You should now take advantage of that interest to build your Grange. Seize the opportunity.

I want to continue to urge Pomona officers to visit and aid the Community Granges in their jurisdiction and it is especially important for State officers to do the same. You may not realize it but I know that Granges gladly welcome visitors. This may be the perfect time since there is not much else you can do in the cold of winter, so spread a little warmth and joy.

Economic situation forces adjustments



Gordon Gibson
Legislative Director
legislative@ctstategrange.org

There is an old saying that politics makes strange bedfellows. That will be very true this year as the various coalitions adjust to the economic problems that both the United States Congress and the Connecticut General Assembly have to deal with this year. The various special interest groups

will continue many of their long standing alliances and also form new alliances to protect the gains they have made in recent years as the legislators try to balance a budget that will provide for essential public services in the face of lower income from all sources.

Although our focus is not as narrow as some of the special interest groups, the Grange is very much a special interest group. The delegate body at our State Grange annual session each October passes resolutions to support certain programs and oppose others. Then the State Grange Legislative Committee works to carry forward those resolutions. At the same time there are many issues which come before the General Assembly where the Grange has never taken a position either way, so the Legislative Committee takes no action on them unless they will support or interfere with something we are taking a stand on. Often we work with other special interest groups that have similar, but not identical, interests to the Grange's interests because we can all accomplish more by working as a group. Some of the issues the Connecticut State Grange has taken a stand on are also issues in the other northeastern states and are also concerns to other organizations. Several years ago the northeastern Granges worked side by side with other groups to secure passage of the Northeast Dairy Compact. Now the Northeast Grange Agriculture and Legislative Group is trying to build a coalition with other agricultural organizations to work on our mutual concerns for the next decade. We are planning a meeting where representatives from the State Department of Agriculture, the Farm Bureau and the Northeast Organic Farmers Association (NOFA) will be invited to join with us to identify common concerns where we can work together to achieve our common goals.

The Farm Bureau is being invited to represent the larger scale farm operations and NOFA is being invited

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Lida Ives honored by UConn

Edith Schoell, State Historian

During the past few weeks hooked rugs made by Lida Ives have been on display at the Babbidge Library at the University of Connecticut at Storrs. The exhibit will end March 6th.

I, for one, was not aware of Lida Ives' talents and was so informed several months ago when Kathy Stephens, her granddaughter, called the Central Office regarding a possible display of the handiwork. Although Lida Ives was busy in Grange work she was able to hook rugs. There are over 180 pieces owned by family members as well as a small display at the Morris Historical Society.

Lida Ives was married to Sherman K. Ives, State Master, and raised five children. She was Chairman of the National Home Economics Committee for 1942-1944. She also held the office of Master in her Grange and was secretary of Mountain County Pomona Grange for 18 years.

From the Exhibition Brochure:

An Accidental Artist: The Hooked



One of Lida Ives many rugs on display at the University of Connecticut.

Rugs of Lida Skilton Ives

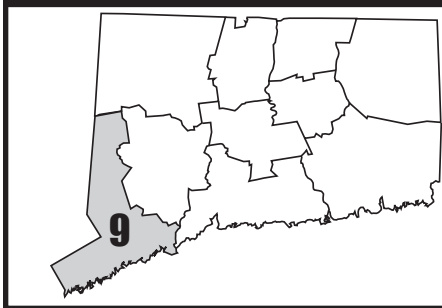
How does one define a life? What of our accomplishments will survive to tell future generations who we were? Lida Skilton Ives (1902-1988) was a prominent western Connecticut citizen of the mid-20th century; a mother, businesswoman, community historian, writer, Grange leader... and "ruggier."

Prompted by the thrift-minded WPA era and inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement, Lida eventually hooked a substantial, but never fully documented,

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Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



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- Harmony No. 92
- Greenfield Hill No. 133
- ✓ Trumbull No. 134
- ✓ Norfield No. 146
- Cannon No. 152

FAIRFIELD COUNTY POMONA #9

Corr: Karen Macdonald

April Showers ahead? Looking forward to every sign of green and growth. We will be having our Fifth Degree and Inspection on April 1, at 7:30, Redding Grange. The Grange is for Personal Growth: I learned how to write a motion through the Grange; I submitted one to my profession’s “congress” about an issue of interest to me, and it is creating lively discussion across the U.S. Thank you Grange for your skill building experiences!

REDDING GRANGE #15
Corr: Marge Sendewicz
March 9: St. Patrick Party
March 23: 4-H Club Night
April 13: Health Awareness

By our second meeting winter will be over and I do not think anyone will miss it. We will usher winter out with our St. Patrick’s party. That’s a fun way to send it on its way.

Spring will bring in more activity and fun and what a better way than to have the 4-H clubs of Fairfield County entertain us. The children always put on an informative and enjoyable display. If you plan to attend, our meeting that night will start at 7:30 P.M. You may also want to call me as sometimes there is scheduling conflicts.

At our first April meeting the program will be on health awareness. That’s an interesting topic that we all should be concerned with as we grow older.

Now that the weather will be getting better its time for all to go out and enjoy themselves. Visit a near-by Grange. You’re always welcome at Redding Grange.

TRUMBULL GRANGE #134
Corr: Susan Sullier

As the saying goes,

“No news is good news” and whereas I have heard nothing to the contrary, all is well with our members and their families. Trumbull Grange is always excited when March rolls along, because our Overseer Pat Gerckens and her crew delight us with their annual “Irish Night” filled with great Irish food, drinks, music, jokes and of course we all participate in “wearing of the green”

I am delighted to announce a new addition to the Trumbull Grange column. This section will feature information, which will be beneficial to our loved ones and us Grangers. Jennifer Millea, Associate State Director, Communications of the CT AARP will be authoring the articles. Our Overseer, Pat Gerckens, who is extremely active with the AARP Driver’s Safety Program, came up with this approach to spread valuable senior data throughout the Grange community and beyond. I applaud and thank them both for the countless hours they devote to senior issues, via the AARP.

Here goes column (1) - At the request of AARP, the State Senate has introduced legislation (S.B. 1) that has enormous potential to start thousands of Connecticut workers on the path to better financial health.

Known generally as State-Assisted-Savings, S.B. 1 would help strengthen the economic security of Connecticut families by creating a state-sponsored, non-mandatory, pre-tax retirement savings vehicle for workers in small businesses in Connecticut. There are approximately 500,000 employees of businesses with 100 or fewer employees that do not currently participate in a retirement plan in Connecticut. Personal savings is an important component of any

retirement plan and statistics show that people tend to save more when offered a pretax payroll deduction.

The legislation would reduce the prohibitive business costs associated with setting up such plans by pooling together employees of small businesses, including small not-for-profits, enabling the state to negotiate lower fees and administrative costs through economies of scale, standardization, and other measures. If you would like to learn more about this important legislation, or how you can voice your support, please contact the CT AARP at 1-866-295-7279, or send an email to: ctaarp@aarp.org.

In closing, I wish you all “Erin Go Braugh”

NORFIELD GRANGE #146
Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox
March 10: St. Patrick’s Day
Apr. 14: Neighbor’s Night, Dinner 6:30, Country Store

At our January meeting we draped the Charter for Charlotte Washburn. But on a happier note, we welcomed three members: Charlotte Blount and Lyn and Chris Kimberly. The Kimberly’s have developed a new kind of “rolling” camp called “American Wanderer RV Camp for Kids.” It takes children in well-furnished SUV’s to explore our national parks and historic places in the West. They will be renting our hall monthly to present “Middle School Night Out,” featuring pizza and movies and good fun. It will not only treat our local children to a great evening but will serve as a fundraiser for “American Wanderer Foundation, Inc.” a 501(c)3 public charity that will allow other children to connect with America’s wonders as well, and, eventually,

it is hoped that the physically handicapped will be included.

Dr. Paul Epstein, who also rents our hall, spoke at our January meeting of his classes in meditation. He is a holistic doctor whose specialty is mind/body medicine.

We voted that same evening to donate \$25 to Future Farmers of America, \$50 to Connecticut Farmland Trust, and \$25 to Working Lands Alliance. It was a busy night. And, for sure, the Norfield Grange Hall is a busy place in the day as well.



Bob Sendedwicz presents a gift to Liam Fanning at the Norfield Grange Christmas Party. Also pictured are Mrs. Santa, Sue Sulla, and Master Randy Miller.

Economic situation forces adjustments

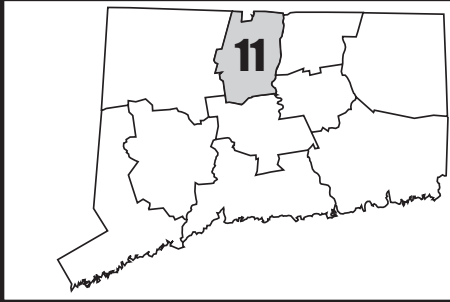
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to represent a cross-section of the smaller independent farmers. Depending on the results of our first meeting, scheduled for March 20, we may identify other groups that we will invite to join us. Our goal is to have a 20/20 vision of northeastern agriculture in 2020. At the national level, the National Grange Legislative Department is making plans for a legislative fly-in in Washington in May. The fly-in program operated for several years, but was dropped last year because the number of participants had become too large to effectively accomplish the program’s goals. The intensive 2009 program will be limited to 45 participants representing as many Grange states as possible. The first day of the program consists of workshops and speakers to update the participants on the National Grange’s position on many issues. The second day is spent on Capitol Hill with the participants meeting one-on-one or in very small groups with aides to their Senators and Representatives so they will realize the concerns of the Grange members in their home states and congressional districts. In some cases the participants will meet with their elected Senator or Representative, which is considered a significant achievement in the overall Grange legislative program. The National Grange Legislative Department is updating their “Blueprint for Rural America,” a paper which briefly presents the Grange’s position on various issues.

At the recent Northeast Leaders Conference the legislative and agriculture directors from the seven State Granges were asked to review and comment on the proposed changes to the “Blueprint” for 2009.

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Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11



- ✓ Granby No. 5
- Tunxis No. 13
- ✓ Cawasa No. 34
- ✓ Simsbury No. 197
- West Suffield No. 199
- Cherry Brook No. 210

FARMINGTON VALLEY
POMONA #11

Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner

Mar. 16: “Spring is Coming”- Granby Grange, Granby is in charge of the refreshments.

Our School of Instruction was held in Simsbury Grange Hall and was well received.

Chaplain Bob Brockett had a mishap with his car. We are happy to say he wasn’t badly hurt- mostly bumps and bruises- and he is back to meetings and activities.

We have had more than our share of ice and snow in the valley. Guess folks are trying to lift their spirits by featuring spring in their Grange programs. After all, this is New England and we know how to cope!

GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Vivian C. Shaw

Mar. 5: Spring

Mar. 19: Shamrocks

Mar. 28: Public Setback Card Party at 7:00 P.M.

We conducted a Welcome Ceremony for three new members on Jan. 22. Carol Innes, Janet Bumstead and Ron Bumstead became the newest members of Granby Grange. Welcome to all! We also had a talk on the New England Grange Building.

CAWASA GRANGE #34

Corr: Maggie Schofield

Welcome to a “White Winter.” It’s snowing again, and I will NOT go out until I see the ground. (At lest the walkway to my car.) Once I’m in the car, I GO! This month has been

quiet for us Grangers. March the same, we are getting ready for our May meeting with Sister Doris Shaw, our Deputy. Come to our meetings and stay to play SKIPBO with us. Helen is the Champ (or she thinks she is).

The first Thursday of the month at 12:30, bring a sandwich and enjoy our refreshments.

“Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been.” Mark Twain.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner

Mar. 11: Graces in Charge

Mar. 7, 14, 21 & 28: Card Parties

Is it too early to think spring? It probably is, but we are thinking about it never-the-less. I start looking for the first daffodil about January 2nd.

We are busy making plansforourannualspring food, plant, craft, and tag sale. It will be taking place in our downstairs hall on May 23rd.

Regular meetings and card parties have been held with the consent of the weatherman.

Community Service work is on-going with our active members carrying on projects fo their own in addition to those done by us as a Grange. With things as they are these days, it isn’t difficult to find good causes. There is great need everywhere- and service acts are one of the best things done in our Grange.

Lida Ives

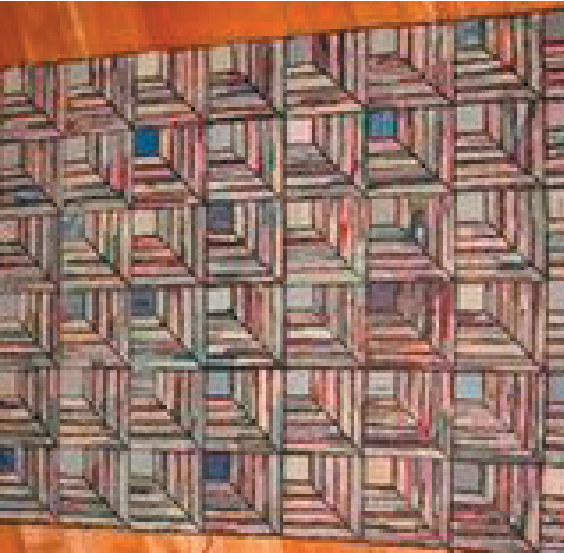
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number of rugs from the 1940s through the 1970s, using recycled woolens and simple burlap backing.

Unlike her other very public endeavors, of which she was unabashedly proud, Lida hooked constantly in the background, anonymously, never touting her now well recognized creative accomplishments. Unfortunately, and again indicative of how she viewed her artistic efforts, most of her pieces were never signed, adding to the mystery of this enigmatic woman.

Although Lida married a UConn alumnus and was the mother of four UConn graduates (and the grandmother or great grandmother of three others), she never earned a college degree- one of her life regrets. Ironically, she has finally made her UConn debut through her rugs.

The rugs on display are a sampling of more than 180 surviving pieces owned by family members from several states. A small collection is also housed at the Morris Connecticut Historical Society. The exhibit is dedicated to Lida’s daughter, Virginia, and to the memory of Lida’s son-in-law and Virginia’s husband, Dr. Jack E. Stephens, emeritus



More of Lida Ives' rugs in the exhibit.

professor of engineering, University of Connecticut.

When you see Lida’s work, you be the judge: utilitarian or artist, or perhaps to her surprise, both. – Kathy Stephens Borzeman, Montana

Granger in the Spotlight

By Molly Thompson, National Grange Program Assistant

Re-Printed from The New Grange

It wasn’t easy finding a few spare minutes to sit down with Jody Cameron during the Annual National Grange Convention in Cromwell, CT last November. It’s a known fact that Convention is a busy time of the year for any Granger, but especially so for the Northeast Region Convention Planner. Jody was gracious enough to spare the time to explain his role in the 142nd Annual Convention.

Like many Grangers, Jody’s Grange history can be traced back to his youth. His parents joined Brooklyn Grange #43 in Connecticut when he was in grade school. In 1985, his family moved and joined Ekonk Grange #89, which still serves as his community Grange. It was his affiliation with Ekonk Grange #89 that sparked his passion for Grange service. When asked about the extent of his Grange involvement he replies with a sly grin, “I have held all of the positions at my Grange except the lady positions.” When Jody was a teen, he met Jodi Ann at a Grange event and the two eventually married. The two of them were and continue to be very active in their Grange. They were elected Prince and Princess in 1988 and in 2000- 2001 were in the last class of Young Couples. Jody’s involvement with the Grange does not end with just him and his wife. His 17-year old son, J. Allen, is also a member of Ekonk Grange and



Jody Cameron

was a marching candidate in the 7th Degree at this year’s Convention. His daughter Jaimie, 12, is involved with her Junior Grange and was a marching candidate in the 6th Degree at this year’s Convention.

The planning of this convention came about in an unconventional way. Connecticut was originally slated to host the convention, however, a year into the planning, the regional hosting system was implemented and the planning fell to the Northeast Region. It was then that Jody Cameron was appointed Northeast Region Convention Planner. Never one to back down from a challenge, Jody embraced his role and for five years he worked tirelessly with both the National Grange staff and the Host Committee to make Convention the success it was.

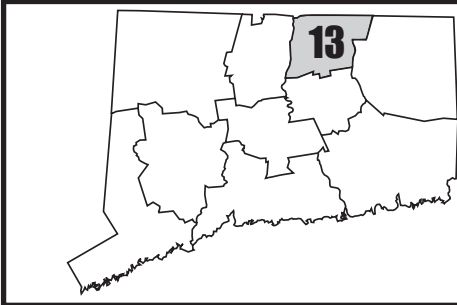
Jody credits his visit to the 141st Annual Convention in Reno with helping make his job of Regional Convention Planner a success. Reno was also faced with the challenge of converting to the Regional system in the middle of planning. His trip there allowed the Northeast Host ...continued on page 12

Connecticut Granger

WE STILL HAVE SEVERAL GRANGES WHO HAVE NOT SENT IN THEIR SUBSCRIPTION LISTS AND PAYMENT FOR THE 2008-2009 SUBSCRIPTION YEAR.

IF YOUR GRANGE HASN'T YET... PLEASE DO SO.
IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SENT IT IN...
THANK YOU!

North Central Pomona No. 13



- ✓ Stafford No. 1
- ✓ Tolland No. 51
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- Enfield No. 151

NORTH CENTRAL POMONA #13

Corr: J. Jordan

March 12: Maple Syrup is so good!!

The first meeting of North Central Pomona No. 13 since our winter break will be held as guests of Stafford Grange No. 1. Hopefully snow will not fall and make this an impossible task. Vernon is in charge of auction items for this month. However, any contributions will be greatly appreciated. The meeting begins at 7:30 P.M.

STAFFORD GRANGE #1

Corr: Maude Emhoff

March 17: Corned Beef & Cabbage Supper, 6:30 P.M., Irish Entertainment. All members wear green.

Thanks to Mark Glazier (our new Master), we are accepting three more new members. Our guest speaker showed

us beautiful slides of her trip to England. Shirley, our CWA chairman gave us the information for our CWA projects for this year.

Many years ago our Grange offered two free camperships to Camp Berger to any young girls who wrote a composition telling us why she would like to go to Camp Berger. One of the winners was a young girl- Jennifer DaDalt. We just learned that she recently died in an automobile accident. Life has its tragedies.

Edna Bidorini recently celebrated her 95th birthday. It looks as though we will be compelled to increase our annual dues again. I guess we got spoiled as our past two winters were fairly mild. So now we are having a typical New England winter. How happy we will be to see spring arrive with its many colors of

flowers again.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all.

TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan

March 3: Green is Cool

Tolland Grange will be discussing "green" things this month. Wouldn't it be nice if one of the topics was green grass? Not yet I fear. This winter has a definite hold on us. The only good thing I can think of about this winter is that all those ice fishermen are having a great time. Call Worthy Master Robert West if you are planning on joining us. We may not be in the hall because of the weather.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

March 6: Hobby Night - Show and Tell

Many thanks to Gordon Gibson doing a great program for our February meeting. Our next meeting will be on March 6th and it will be Hobby Night - Show and Tell for all members. We are also planning on having our banana cupcakes bake-off at this meeting.

local or in far and distant lands the farmer's occupation is still the most necessary and often least appreciated career in our modern world. Latin is not a common tongue in the world today, but agriculture exists everywhere providing a vitally important life-sustaining function all over the globe.

And finally, Brothers and Sisters, Spring is here so plant something! Also, a reminder about Ag Day at the Capitol. This is for the public as well as our legislators. It will be held on March 18 from 10am to 1pm where over 30 agricultural associations and their representatives will be on hand to showcase themselves and distribute information. Legislative leaders will visit these booths and it is our opportunity to inform these policy makers of the importance of agriculture, to voice our concerns, and discuss legislation important to agriculture.

State Lecturer

Why I Joined the Grange

by Helene Forrest,
Hillstown Grange #87

I joined the Grange out of curiosity.

When I met Walt we could never have a date on the 2nd or 4th Thursday of the Month. He had a Grange Meeting.

What is the Grange? What was he up too? Curiosity got the best of me. I joined.

Hopefully all of you have your Bluebooks by now. Please check out the Lecturers section and get started on your projects. Don't wait until the last minute. And, if you have any questions or suggestions regarding the Lecturers Department please get in touch with me.

LECTURERS CONFERENCE 2009 which will be hosted by the Rhode Island State Grange will be held at Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, Massachusetts. This should be good news for people from our State who want to attend on a part-time basis. And, more good news, the prices will be similar to last year – For the full conference the cost with a single room will be \$195 and for a double room, \$180. If you have any specific questions, please do not hesitate to call or write me. I have a meeting in New Hampshire the end of April and shortly after that I should have everything ready for mailing to our Lecturers and other regular attendees. If you do not receive yours by the middle of May, please contact me.

The title of the Conference this year is "Let's Celebrate". (Sound Familiar?? – I wasn't the one to suggest it.) Connecticut will be celebrating Halloween. If you have any program information on this subject I sure would appreciate receiving it.

Smile, and tell your friends and neighbors about the Grange. It's the best bargain around.

Get well wishes



Edith Schoell
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

Remember:

P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury 06033
is our new address!

There are many who have had unexpected difficulties over the past month or two and we know our thoughts and prayers are helping those in need.

I trust you have all filled out the 990N IRS form and have received your confirmation. It has been an education for all trying to complete this "easy" form. Many have said it took them several attempts before it went through.

I am still moving things in and around the office at Good Will Grange Hall. There are still a few members who have not made the change in their mailing. Please use the **NEW ADDRESS OF THE CT STATE GRANGE: P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033.** Thank you!

AgNews



Ernest Finch
Agriculture Director

agriculture@ctstategrange.org

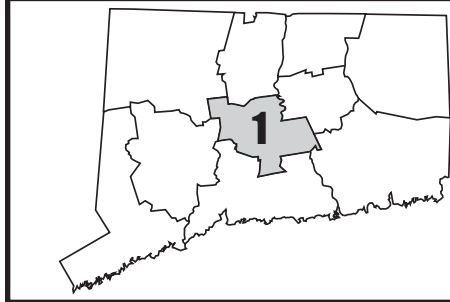
Daniel Mutchler, Agric. Committee Member

Like many of our English words agriculture has its roots in the ancient language of Latin. The Latin word *agricola* means "farmer" in English. The root *agri* means "field" and the second half of the word *culture*, comes from *cultura* stemming from *colere* which means "to cultivate." This concise lesson brings me to me my point, agriculture is ancient. Latin is an ancient language which

has passed into obscurity even though it is a major part of everyday speech. Farming and the various fields of agriculture unlike Latin have not passed into obscurity as it is necessary to sustain your life and mine.

In our modern society one farmer can grow enough crops to feed more than 100 people. This figure shows a dramatic improvement from over 7,000 years ago, when, in an area called the Fertile Crescent which is in Mesopotamia, the earliest farmers began the first sowing and harvesting of plants. How convenient in modern society to be able to go to the local supermarket and exchange some money for fruits and vegetables and meats and cheeses. But let us think where does all that bounty come from? Yes, a farm. Whether

Central Pomona No. 1



- ✓ Southington No. 25
- Meriden No. 29
- Westfield No. 50
- Higganum No. 124
- ✓ Hemlock No. 182

SOUTHINGTON GRANGE #25

Corr: Lisa Lamoureux

Mar. 9: Business Meeting - Chaplain

Mar. 23: Birds of Prey- 7:00 P.M. - Everyone

Well, we are almost out in the clear. Hopefully the next time that I write, everyone will be waking up out of hibernation and wandering outdoors. This is why you should come to our March 23 meeting. Southington Grange will present “The Recovery Wing.” Their mission is “dedicated to the rehabilitation of orphaned, sick or injured migratory songbirds, their return to the wild, and preservation of their habitat.” They will be doing a presentation at 7:00 on Monday, March 23. They are a non-profit organization. This program is open to the public and there is no cost to attend but donations will be accepted. We have been advised that this presentation is not geared towards young children under 10. Light refreshments will be served. Why not come out and hear this great

presentation. The next time you are out in the woods, you never know if this will come in handy.

The first meeting, to be held on March 9th, will be our usual business meeting.

I hope to see a lot of you on March 23rd for this exciting presentation.

As always, our doors are open for anyone and everyone who would like to join us for a meeting. Remember, we meet on the second and fourth Mondays at 7:30 P.M. (except for Monday, March 23- meeting starts at 7:00 P.M.) at the Southington Grange Hall located at the corners of Summit Avenue and Knowles Avenue in the Plantsville section of Southington.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Mar. 13: CWA

Mar. 27: New England Thaw

Emilie Newsom is in charge of the CWA program. Nancy McBrien is in charge of the New England Thaw program. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

Past Deputies Assoc.

The annual meeting of the Past Deputies Association will be held at Redding Grange on Sunday, April 5th. Social Hour is held from 2 to 3 with the meeting at 3 and a potluck supper to follow the meeting. A Country Store and program is held at each meeting.

Membership in the Association is open to all Past Deputies and their spouses. For further information or if you would like to join, contact President Phil Prelli or Secretary Joanne Cipriano.

As a fundraiser, the Association is selling Stanley Products. To place an order, contact Joanne Cipriano or Bob Sendewicz.

Send us your favorite recipes



Leader’s Conference (held in Massachusetts in January) was another chance to meet with our counterparts of the northeastern area. The exchange of ideas, plans and suggestions is always interesting and helpful.

The annual meeting of the Trustees of the New England Grange Building is part of the conference agenda. It was good to hear reports of another very successful year for the country store. Thanks to all of you!

We are going to try a new feature for 2009- and hope you will want to be a part of it. Following requests from several sources we are planning a cookbook project, which we hope to make into a series of small

publications. For the first effort we are asking you to submit recipes for consideration in the categories of appetizers, soups and salads.

Please submit your contributions to me (along with your name and Grange) before May 1. Be sure you send “tried and true” recipes with directions that are correct! Be sure the list of ingredients and the amounts are correct. We have many requests for recipes in the country store and hope everyone will enjoy this new endeavor.

Another “something new” for CWA! Following our National Grange Convention we learned that the host state is responsible for submitting the quilt to be given to the Foster Family group for the annual raffle. It will be given to them at the next National Grange Convention in Michigan. Our state is spear-heading the quilt project.

We have asked each of the states who worked on the National Convention in Cromwell to submit four quilt blocks to their State Director. Two of

our Connecticut machine quilters, Susan Addison and Lois Evankow, have kindly consented to help us. If anyone is interested in submitting a square for consideration, please call me for instructions.

Our good friend, Charles Martin, Director in Vermont, has agreed to assemble the quilt- and guide us through the project. I hope you have seen the beautiful quilts Charles has donated to the New England Grange Building Raffle each of the past few years.

Have you been taking advantage of the long winter nights to work on our contests and projects? Hope so! We look forward to entries for our baking, craft, and needlework contests. Things needed for our special projects and pajamas for children- and small toys for next Christmas! All information may be obtained from your CWA chairperson or anyone of us on the State Committee.

Keep warm, keep busy- and keep thinking CWA. We are heading toward another purr-fect year.

New England Grange needs

The New England Grange Building has openings for volunteers during the 2009 Big E. As many of you know, we operate a country store and craft sale during the Fair as well as hosting and welcoming many visitors and Grangers from throughout New England and beyond during the 17 day run of the Big E. Volunteering is fun and rewarding, a great opportunity to promote

our Order and tradition, and also support the entire Grange organization.

We need people to run the cash register, chat with customers and visitors, help with programming, keep the shelves of jams and jellies well stocked, sweep and dust, open and close mornings and evenings, and just do whatever tasks come along. Whether you can help out for a day, a week, or all 17 days we need you, and would like to hear from you. Perhaps someday you might like to be the building manager, plan next year’s jelly and jam order, or promote the Grange experience at the BigE!

The past few years have been very successful. Our treasury is up, the building looks great and is in excellent shape, craft sales have sky-rocketed, and many Grangers

have helped keep the momentum growing. This is a great time to get involved! And, while no one gets paid for any of this, we have been able to help with the expenses of volunteers who spend at least a few days helping out. Naturally, admission and parking fees are taken care of and time is scheduled so you can enjoy the rest of the Fair. In addition, for 2009 we are planning to reserve room in a nearby hotel to accommodate those away from home.

Please call your State Master to tell us that you want to be a part of the New England Grange Building at the BigE! Thank you.

Scott Davis
Chairman
NEGB Trustees

(508)886-6668
Daisyacre@verizon.net


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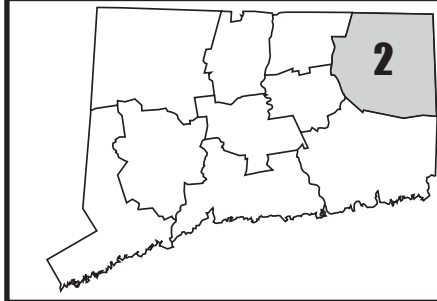
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Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- ✓ Senexet No. 40
- ✓ Brooklyn No. 43
- ✓ Wolf Den No. 61
- ✓ Ekonk No. 89
- Ashford No. 90
- Putnam No. 97
- Killingly No. 112
- Highland No. 113
- Echo No. 180

QUINEBAUG POMONA #2
Corr: Pat Palmer

Mar. 7: Dinner and a Movie- Killingly Grange Hall, 6 P.M.

Apr. 4: Meeting at Ashford Grange, 8 P.M.

Get your tickets to attend the Dinner and a Movie on Saturday, March 7th. Your ticket is a covered dish for the dinner. Meat, drinks, and refreshments for the movie will be provided.

April 4th will be a business meeting and program by the Worthy Lecturer.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas Party and donated to the auction. We raised \$185.00 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

SENEXET GRANGE #40
Corr: Diane Miller

Mar. 18: Spring is Coming

We have been meeting regularly and have been keeping the hall in good condition. Several members are on vacation in Florida.

We will become more active in the spring with special workshops for the community in conjunction with the local library.

Several members keep volunteering with the local community kitchen. This is always very rewarding.

BROOKLYN GRANGE #43
Corr: Louise Salmon

Mar. 10: Colors of Spring will be presented by Eleanor Davis, Master of Killingly Grange

Apr. 14: We look forward to being entertained by the Plainfield Senior Chorus

On Jan. 13 our program was all about the Oliver H. Kelley Farm. We enjoyed watching a DVD which featured a tour of the farm in Minnesota, the Kelley home, the fields, gardens and farmyard.

We are saddened to inform you that Frances Lasch, our dedicated Lecturer for many years, passed away on January 11, 2009.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61
Corr: Elsie M. Johnson

Mar. 11: What is it? Bring in items. Ref. Irish Cookies

Apr. 8: Name that Tune - Dick; Ref. Everyone

Apr. 22: Potluck- Apr. Fool Fun

Our Feb. 11 night was Valentine Night. The weather with a taste of spring, we think of planting seeds indoors and starting plants. But this weather is not good for tapping trees for maple syrup. Birds are chirping and chickens laying.

We are reminded to get busy on the CWA projects and we were told about the contest for dressing a doll.

Someone said milk prices are coming down a little. The Pomona Dinner and a Movie will be held on March 7 at Killingly Grange Hall.

Four bags of tabs were brought in and Ted brought in 6 bags of cans.

For our Lecturer's program, Joan Perry showed slides of greenhouses with beautiful orchids and other flowers and a zoo and on to Disneyland and Sea World and Epcot Center. It was great.

Beware of credit card scams on the telephone and E Coli in peanut butter.

Refreshments were pretty valentine desserts and cookies.

The latest word on the hall renovations is they will begin in May.

Happy birthday to all.

EKONK GRANGE #89
Corr: Sue Gray

March 2: "Years Ago!" girls program/guys ref.

March 14: Corned Beef Supper 5-7 pm

April 6: "Remember When", 7:30 pm

April 18: Roast Beef Supper 5-7 pm

April 26: 120th anniversary Subordinate; 30th anniversary Junior

Casino Night was a huge success: fun, full

hall, great evening!

We have been thoroughly enjoying the musical talents of the Sebestians: Colin on the piano and Katrina singing; adding much pleasure to our programs!

We will have the Olde Tyme Fiddlers at our hall on Sunday, April 19th

beginning at 1 p.m.

Our 120th anniversary committee consists of Russell Gray, Jody Cameron, Katrina Sebastian, Sue Gray, Betsy Molodich and Jodi Ann Cameron. A history has been written. The committee has met and planned a very special

program. The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. We are enthused. Members are working on a power point presentation; pictures have been taken throughout the year at Grange activities and meetings. Visit us anytime, but especially on our anniversary!

Quinebaug presents scholarship



Megan Elizabeth Berry receives the Quinebaug Pomona Scholarship from Scholarship Chairman Jody A. Cameron, while Grandpa Lyndall Berry looks on.

National Grange headquarters in Washington celebrates 50 years

By Jennifer Dugent, National Grange Communications Director from The New Grange

The year 2009 is one of great promise for our country and for our organization. It is also a year that we can celebrate the 50th anniversary of our National headquarters in Washington, D.C. The building stands as a crowning achievement for the Grange members who recognized the need for a permanent presence in the Capital and faced many trials on the road to achieving such.

Throughout the second half of the Nineteenth Century, the National Grange's presence in Washington, D.C., came in the form of the homes of national secretaries Oliver Hudson Kelly, John Thompson, and John Trimble. As Grangers in our nation's capital, they themselves were the Grange's presence and voice. As the Nineteenth Century began to come to a close, more and more Grangers began to recognize the need for a more permanent voice in Washington to solidify our presence there. Soon Grangers began advocating for such a headquarters at conventions. Thirty-five years later, the dream finally became a reality.

Thomas Atkeson, Former National Overseer and first Legislative Director for the National Grange, worked out of a location at 303 Seventh Street, now regarded as the first official headquarters of the National Grange. The organization was still growing at an unprecedented rate, proving the location on Seventh Street inadequate for the organization's needs.

Moving on from the Seventh Street location, the National Grange took



The groundbreaking for the H Street headquarters building.


occupancy of the second floor of a building owned by the National Bank of Washington in 1921. Within fifteen years, however, that space had also become too small to accommodate the growth of the National Grange, and so in 1936, the Order moved into what would be its last rented space at 1343 H Street, NW.

In 1943, the first headquarters owned by the National Grange was purchased. Located at 744 Jackson Place Northwest, the new Grange home stood eight stories tall and faced the White House from across Lafayette Square. Having the building gave the National Grange added credibility, and it was right where National Master Albert Goss and others felt it belonged.

Although the location of the new headquarters on prime real estate was good for the Order in some ways, it also made the building the envy of certain agencies within the Federal Government that had other plans for that block. Under a law known as the Public Buildings Purchase

Continued next page...

East Central Pomona No. 3



- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Marlborough No. 205

E. CENTRAL POMONA #3
Corr: John Waterhouse
Mar. 7: Regular Meeting, 7:30 P.M.
Apr. 4: Fifth Degree

Welcome back! The cold winter months are over and it is back to Pomona. Spring is just around the corner and East Central Pomona No. 3 will hold its first meeting of 2009 on March 7 at Good Will Grange Hall at 7:30 P.M. The title of the Lecturer’s Program is “Six More Weeks”- Let’s hope it is not winter.

Remember in April we confer the Fifth Degree. Now is the time to get all those candidates ready.
Happy St. Pat’s Day!

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26
Corr: Kathryn Ruff
Mar. 5: Evaluation Meeting, 7:30 P.M., March Winds, Potluck Supper at 6:00 P.M.
Mar. 14: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7:00 P.M.
Apr. 2: Easter Baskets, 7:30 P.M., CWA Bake-Off

I hope by the time you are reading this news the winter is leaving. The ice that formed overnight is absolutely terrible. The party that plows me out will have to come and put down sand and salt before I attempt to drive up my driveway.

At our February meeting we will be voting on a couple of ways to raise some funds to send to National Grange. First, we will be selling chances on a drawing for 3 items, a throw 60”x72”, a \$20 gift certificate to a local business and a throw 48”x60”. The second thing we will be doing is selling Fuller Brush products. Should you wish chances on the Drawing or wish to order something from Fuller Brush give me a call (860) 974-0603.

March 5th, the Deputy, Walter Forrest, will be with us for our Evaluation. The meeting will be preceded by a potluck supper at 6 P.M. Just make a dish

to share and join us for a great meal and pleasant evening.

March 14th is our Card Party evening. I sure hope the weather will be improving greatly by then and we won’t have to worry about a snow storm. Join us for a pleasant evening of Food, Fellowship, and Fun.

At our next meeting, we will be voting on a date to hold another Power Point Program. It will probably be held in May. I am looking forward to hearing from all our members for names and addresses for prospective members.

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31
Corr: Diane Small
March 4: Buds and Blooms
March 18: Luck of the Irish

As this is being written, winter is going to make another run at us. Snow is in the prediction yet again. There sure has been cold, snow, with rain mixed in too. Such is the weather in New England. The skiers are thrilled, the kids too, as this makes for great sledding. Those that have to shovel don’t think it’s so marvelous.

By the time this is read, our school of instruction should have been held. The weather created a delay for the original date. I guess fewer things should be planned in the winter months. We want to keep everyone as safe as possible.

March has buds and blooms and the luck of the Irish. It seems almost surreal for the buds and blooms. There are catalogs in the mail for planting. Such great choses are available. Spring is truly in the offing. I believe March 20th is the first day of Spring. You see there is light at the end of the tunnel. For everyone that is Irish and those who are for a day, get out your green duds. NYC has a huge St Patrick’s Day parade.

April 1st reflects ???.

Do you have someone you would fool that day? Enjoy what’s left of winter. Start to get ready for spring. Get out those rakes, hoes, shovels and better check on the lawn mower.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75
Corr: Ethel Harris
Mar. 5: March Wind Doth Blow, Ref. N. Miller
Mar. 19: Agriculture & Conservation in Charge, Ref. W. Miller

Enough of winter... we want spring, the time of new life and new beginnings. It will be good to get back on schedule after two months off, and meet our Grange family again. We expect to hand out the dictionaries to our third graders soon after the spring vacation. Hope everyone is staying healthy. So come and visit whenever.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87
Corr: Rita Schaefer
Mar. 12: “Green is the Color” (Stewards in Charge)
Mar. 14: Our Annual Corned Beef Dinner
Mar. 26: Think Spring (Agriculture in Charge)
Apr. 9: “Dressing Up for Easter”

As I sit down to write our report and think that spring is around the corner. Do you think we will be still sliding on ICE and SNOW?

With this bad weather we hate to do anything although we should be working on our projects but no one wants to go out in the cold or bad weather. at this time of the year my winter crocus are showing their heads but I guess I’ll have to wait for warmer weather to melt all the snow on top of them.

We are collecting socks for the adults and children at the local shelter. One of our members spends much of her Sundays at the Soup Kitchen here in town for the homeless and needy. We will be preparing to help the Food Bank for Easter Dinner. I wonder if we will hit the 100 dinner mark.

Although we didn’t meet in December and January, we still make calls to the shut-ins to see if they need anything.

Maybe we’ll have better weather so we can squeeze in a meeting and get back on track.

To the Golden Sheaf members - please contact one of our members to let us all know that all is well. We’d like to hear from you.

I guess this is all the news I have for now. Maybe more when “Spring” arrives.

MARLBOROUGH GRANGE #205
Corr: Laura Combs
Regular Meeting: 11 A.M., Marlborough Congregational Church

Youth Room. Program: Cookbook Swap- Ref. Pauline Collette.
It is hoped that everyone in Marlborough Grange is working on the State Contests for our July deadline for entries. This year’s CWA theme: You Are the Cat’s Meow. The doll contest sounds like fun! This is just in Connecticut. Dress a doll, any size and you get the doll back. Any questions, call CWA Chairperson, Ruth at (860) 295-9196.

Headquarters turns 50

Continued from previous page...



Contract Act of 1954, the GSA acted on their perceived power to condemn and seize any private property needed for the conclusion of a project. The GSA went ahead and attempted to seize the property at Jackson Place, but the National Grange was not going to give up easily.

On July 24, 1958, the National Grange and the Federal Government finally reached an agreement. The GSA and the National Grange would switch land sites, and a new Grange headquarters would be built. The Federal Government gave the property to the National Grange on August 11, 1958, as well as an additional \$360,000 in compensation.

The new and current headquarters had a planned completion of early 1960. The Groundbreaking Ceremony was on January 8, 1959. Master Herschel Newsom and members of the Building Committee turned the first spade of earth. National Officers and representatives of 17 State Granges were present for the ceremony, and by April, work had begun on what was supposed to become a narrow brick structure 110 feet tall in the 1600 block of H Street, NW.

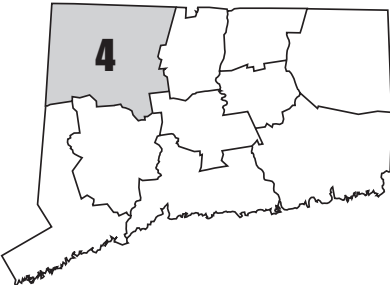
On June 29, 1960, with President Dwight D. Eisenhower on hand to commemorate the achievement, the building was officially dedicated. Thirty-five tour guides escorted about 1,500 people on special tours through the building on “Dedication Days” June 28th and 29th. Around 200 buses were chartered to transport Grange members to Washington, D.C., for the dedication ceremony.

On March 25, 1977, after finally raising the necessary funds, the National Grange held a mortgage burning ceremony to celebrate the building’s new debt free status. More than 200 Grangers were present, including Past National President Kermit Richardson. “The mortgage burning was an exciting time for the organization. Owning that building brought us great pride.” he said.

Today, due to its prime location, the building rarely has vacant office space. Approximately 45% of the organization’s operating budget comes from the building’s tenants. In addition, the building provides the organization with an important presence in Washington, D.C.

Throughout this new year, the National Grange will be arranging events in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Grange Headquarters. A new video is also available entitled “The National Grange Building: 50 Years of Service”. Members can contact Samantha Johnson at 1-888-4-GRANGE, etc 109, or at sjohnson@nationalgrange.org for your free DVD or more information on anniversary events.

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



Hope No. 20

Whigville No. 48

Eureka No. 62

✓ Winchester No. 74

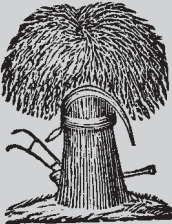
✓ Taghannuck No. 100

Litchfield No. 107

Beacon No. 118

✓ Riverton No. 169

Mountain County Pomona Day Meeting



Mark your calendars for the annual Day Meeting of Mt. County Pomona on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, 10:30 A.M. at Riverton Grange Hall. Lunch served at noon. Program in the afternoon. Visitors are always welcome!

MOUNTAIN CTY. POMONA #4
Corr: T. Gelineau
March 25: DAY MEETING @ RIVERON GRANGE HALL, 10:30 A.M.

Due to a misprint in the 2009 Mountain County Handbook, the date of the March Day Meeting of the Pomona was omitted. WE WILL HAVE OUR ANNUALDAYMEETING on Wednesday, March 25 at 10:30 A.M. Lunch will be served by the members of Riverton Grange around noontime for \$5 followed by the Lecturer’s program in the afternoon. It’s always a more relaxed atmosphere at the Day Meeting as members are not in as much of a hurry to get home due to a late hour or darkness. It is also an opportunity for members of other Pomonas to visit. For those who are able, it is a chance for officers and members to play “hooky” from work for the day. Please join us, we would love to have you with us!

The last meeting of Mountain County Pomona was held on Feb. 9 at Litchfield Grange Hall. The date fell during an especially cold stretch of weather so our numbers were not as large as they usually are, but there was still a good attendance and a great program was provided by the Lecturer. Two donations were made at this meeting. A \$300 campership will be provided by the Pomona to Camp Berger and a \$100 donation will be sent to the National Grange, with an earmark for the Tyson Foods legal fund. This money will not go to Tyson, but will be used to fend off Tyson’s claim for the

use of the name “Grange” in their new product line “Grange and Grasslands.” This legal battle will be very costly for National, but an important one for the future of the organization.

Looking ahead, the annual Spring Gift Drawing will be held this spring. Tickets should be out in the Granges beginning in April with the drawing held at the June 22 meeting at Whigville Grange Hall. Prizes are provided by the officers of the Pomona. Tickets are \$1 each and all of the money raised goes towards the treasury of the Pomona. This is the only fundraiser Mountain County Pomona has held in recent years. It has been tremendously successful and we hope you will continue to support it.

Our get well wishes go out to Sister Amy Whitcomb, who has been in and out of the hospital recently. We hope this issue finds you back home and on the road to better health!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74
Corr: T. Gelineau
March 10: Working on the Railroad, Ref. Linda Senkus
March 24: 76 Trombones, Musical Country Store, Ref. Sue Addison
Apr. 14: Join Us! First & Second Degrees, Ref. Joan & Dom Campi
Apr. 28: Welcome-Third & Fourth Degrees, Harvest Supper @ 6:30, Potluck, CWA Chair

All is quiet on the hill in Winchester Center. The snow and ice are piled high and we can’t wait for the arrival of the first

signs of spring. When it does come, Winchester Grange is planning to hold a Super Prize Party. This is a reprisal of an event held many years ago with prizes of small and large value being raffled off (teacup auction style) at a special event that will include refreshments, socializing and a good time for all. The date and specifics about the Party will be announced in the near future.

Despite the wintry weather, Winchester has managed to hold all meetings... unusual any year, but especially this year with the amount of cold and inclement weather we have had.

Please consider joining us for any of the meetings listed above. We enjoy having visitors.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100
Corr: Myrtle Hayden
March 12: CWA Program
March 26: Spring B(Rake) All
Apr. 9: 1st & 2nd Degrees
Apr. 23: 3rd & 4th Degrees

Our biggest news. We are remodeling our kitchen with new cabinets and appliances. The floor will also be refinished.

On our sick list--- Amy Whitcomb is back in Sharon Hospital. Cards are always appreciated. Address is Sharon Hospital, Hospital Hill, Sharon, CT 06069.

LITCHFIELD GRANGE #107
Corr: Sara Lee Fischer
March 12: Day Meeting-Lunch at the Painted Pony

Our first meeting of the year was a day meeting with members bringing their lunch with leftover Pumpkin Pies from our Thanksgiving pie sale for dessert. Members joined in playing Bingo.

Our Jan. 22 meeting started with an excellent potluck including hot cocoa with marshmallows. The charter was draped in memory of Sisters Jean DaRoss, Catherine Fabbri and Hazel Perret. Our deepest sympathy to their families and friends.

Members will be working on CWA activities

shared by sisters Barbara and Joanne. We also are in the process of selecting our Community Service person of the year. Plans are still in the works for our Spring Flea Market and Tag Sale.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169
Corr: Gail Prelli

Riverton Grange has held both February meetings. Our back door is fixed and the weather cooperated with meeting nights.

On March 6th we have a regular meeting starting at 7:30. The program will

be “When Irish Eyes are Smiling”.

Friday, March 20th, Jerry Alonzy will perform Broadway tunes. This is an open meeting following a potluck dinner at 6:30. All are welcome.

Two other special programs are planned for our open meetings. Please save the dates!

May 15th Rev. Dr. Randall Neuhoﬀ - Photographs and information about Israel.


June 19th Fred Newman-Railroads Degrees will be conferred in April.

National Grange appoints new Minnesota Master

The National Grange is pleased to announce the appointment of Donna Champion as the new Minnesota State Grange Master.

Sister Champion grew up on a dairy farm in central MN and joined the Grange at the age of 14. After graduating from high school, she went to the St. Cloud Vocational College where she received a Junior Accountant Certificate. She has worked at General Mills Inc. Headquarters in Golden Valley, MN for over 36 years, and her current position is Bid Representative for the Foodservice Division. This position is responsible for winning the k-12 School breakfast and lunch food business at the schools.



Sister Champion’s Grange opportunities have been many. She is currently the Secretary of Sunbeam Grange, which meets at the Kelley Farm, and is also on the Board of Directors for the “Friends of the Kelley Farm”. She is optimistic about her move from Minnesota State Grange Overseer to State Master. “I look forward to this new challenge as the Master of the Minnesota State Grange.”



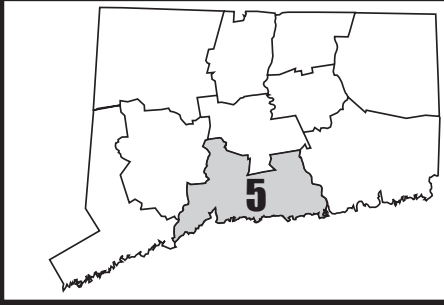
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New Haven County Pomona No. 5



✓ Cheshire No. 23

Wallingford No. 33

✓ North Haven No. 35

✓ Totoket No. 83

✓ Old Lyme No. 162

NEW HAVEN COUNTY
POMONA #5

Corr: Charleen Dimmick
May 11: 5th Degree At Wallingford

June 8: Regular meeting at Cheshire. Gift Card Drawing. Program: It's Almost Summer

Congratulations to Dot Haller on her 95th birthday and receiving her 75-year seal and to George Bolt upon receiving his 60-year seal. These two members have given many selfless years of service to the Grange.

We were sorry to hear that Henry Kulisch is ill.

Our January program was presented by the Youth Chairman, Don Lanoue.

Be thinking about new members for the degree in May.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Charleen Dimmick
April 1: Ballroom Fever
April 15: CWA night. Open meeting. Tea Cup Auction.

May 6: Competitive Night. Men's Bake-Off

May 20: Awards Night. Open meeting. Tea Cup Auction

Correction from previous report: At the Christmas Party, Duane Wetmore, not the State Master, presented Don Lanoue with his 25-year certificate; it was good to see Brother Wetmore since he doesn't get to as many meetings as he would like. The State Master played Santa Claus.

Our first meeting in January was cancelled because of bad weather. The second January meeting was our Agricultural program. Charles Dimmick presented a program on farm buildings. He said that there are few references in the Bible to farm buildings; there are three words in the Bible for 'barn,' but none of them are what we would call a barn.

Sadly, we had to drape the Charter for Brother Ken Hale. He was a Past Master of both Cheshire Grange and New Haven

County Pomona, and President of both the CT Agricultural Fair and The Association of CT Fairs.. He will be much missed by his family and friends.

Marge Bernhardt is still collecting items for the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The dates for the Fair were set: September 19 and 20. It's not too soon the begin thinking about exhibiting at the Fair.

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE
#35

Corr: A. Tolette

March 3: Seeds

Apr. 7: Evaluation

Not much going on here except for winter weather. It seems that Tuesdays are the target for the storms. We have postponed the February meeting to a later date in February and are going to try an afternoon. The groundhog saw his shadow in some towns but we know we will be having more winter.

Hopefully we will be able to do something with the seeds we are looking for in March.

We are still waiting to find out what's cooking with John.

See you in the spring.

OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barbara Kulisch

March 13: "In The Garden"-- Agriculture

March 27: The Colors of Spring!

In January, we draped our charter in loving memory of Sister Margaret McKenzie, formally of Groton Grange. We have been able to hold our one meeting a month as "Old Man Winter" has been good to us, so far, that is! Let's hope that February we were able to do the same. We are in the process of getting approval to add a handicap ramp to our hall. As I write this article, Henry has just started his Radiation treatments & hopes to one day soon, come back to the Grange meetings.

Remember, our door is always open, so come on down!

National Grange meets with Obama transition team

*By Leroy Watson,
National Grange Legislative Director
from The New Grange*

On December 11, four National Grange leaders met with members of President-Elect Barack Obama's transition team in the offices of the United States Trade Representative in Washington, D.C. to discuss agriculture and international trade issues facing the incoming Administration. The Grange delegation included, Ms Betsy Huber, Chair of the National Grange Board of Directors, and President of the Pennsylvania State Grange; Mr. Jimmy Gentry, Vice President of the National Grange and President of the North Carolina State Grange; Mr. Joseph Fryman, a corn and soybean farmer from Blair, NE who is also Treasurer of the National Grange, and President of the Nebraska State Grange and Leroy Watson, National Grange Director of Legislative Affairs.

Grange leaders meet with members of Obama's transition team in December

The Grange delegation informed the transition team representatives that the National Grange has provided counsel and support to every U.S. President since World War II on every periodic reauthorization of general farm legislation as well as every international discussion leading to multi-lateral agreements, bilateral trade agreements and international food aid programs. The Grange delegation encouraged the new Obama Administration to seek a fair and level playing field when entering into new trade agreements to protect the critical role that U.S. agriculture plays in international markets for both commercial sales and food aid assistance. "The movement of agricultural products across our country as well as exports to foreign countries is vital to the economy of our nation and necessary to assure greater international food security that will increasingly lead to global peace and prosperity," the Grange members explained.

The Grange delegation brought several specific recommendations related to agriculture and trade policies that they hope the new Obama Administration will implement early in its first term:

- The National Grange urges the new Obama Administration to quickly appoint a permanent chief agricultural negotiator in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, to assure a strong representation of U.S. agricultural interests in all trade negotiations. However, the Grange representatives also insisted that that representatives of U.S.DA and the Department of Homeland Security should also be fully involved in all trade negotiations.

- The National Grange urges the Obama Administration to make passage of "fast track" trade legislation by Congress an early legislative priority in order to provide President Obama with sufficient legal authority to negotiate effectively for a reduction in agriculture trade barriers, both tariff and non-tariff that will, in turn provide additional and much needed economic stimulus to farming and rural communities. The Grange members expressed their support for the current negotiating principles set forth by the United States' for the World Trade Organization (WTO) "Doha Round" and



called on the new Obama Administration to support amendments to future WTO trade agreements that will result in swifter, more predictable and better targeted remedies to international trade disputes.

- The National Grange urges the Obama Administration to adopt coordinated policies to combat trade distorting practices instituted by foreign governments as part of their "sovereign authority", such as currency manipulation and unilateral repudiation of sovereign debt, especially in those cases where it becomes more difficult for U.S. farmers and manufacturers to sell their products in overseas markets.


- The National Grange encourages the Obama Administration to promote trade policies that are aimed at increasing local food production in developing countries, especially in areas where access to transportation and other local infrastructure make the distribution of imported food expensive, dangerous or both. "All future trade agreements should recognize the need for more international support for research, education and development of programs designed to improve the capability of farmers in food deficient areas to meet more of the food needs of their people," the Grange leaders stated.

- The National Grange calls on the new Obama Administration to develop and publicly articulate a consistent policy on the use of agricultural trade sanctions by the U.S. government. The Grange will support all efforts to maintain the legal sanctity of agricultural export contracts. "The National Grange strongly believes that food and food producers should never be used as political pawns," the Grange leaders emphatically stated.

- Finally, The National Grange urges the Obama Administration to quickly remove trade, financial, and travel restrictions to Cuba. The Grange urges the new Administration to seek means whereby Cuba might be extended loans and/or credit to purchase U.S. agricultural products. The Grange further urges the new Administration to quickly seek passage of the pending bilateral trade agreements that have already been negotiated with the nations of Columbia and South Korea.

Afterwards, National Grange Vice President Jimmy Gentry commented "We had a productive meeting and a valuable exchange of ideas." "I had a clear impression that the Obama transition officials were genuinely seeking sound advice and strong policy ideas in the areas of agriculture and trade policy that can make an immediate difference in the economic situation faced by farming and rural communities across the nation." the Grange leader concluded.

New London County Pomona No. 6



Lebanon No. 21
✓ Colchester No. 78
Pachaug No. 96
Preston City No. 110
✓ N. Stonington No. 138
✓ Lyme No. 147
✓ Stonington No. 168
Norwich No. 172

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6
Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
March 14: “In the Garden” “A Number” and Talent Contest Run-Off, 7:30 North Stonington Grange

Calling all talent. It’s time for the Talent and A Number Contests. Talent limit is 6 minutes. It is judged on stage appearance, talent and audience appeal. Winner will represent the Pomona at Good Will Grange Hall on Sunday, June 14th at 1:00. If the Pomona winner cannot attend, the second place winner will represent the Pomona.

“A Number” theme is “In the Garden.” Any number suitable for a Grange meeting is eligible. Time limit is 6 minutes (includes set-up and performance). Subordinate Granges within any Pomona may combine forces to enter. Numbers will be judged on presentation, quality, audience appeal and originality. Winner will represent Pomona at Grange Sunday, June 14th at Good Will Grange Hall at 1:00.

Come on, think up A Number. There’s really nothing to it. Just put your heads together. I know you all can do it.

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78
Corr: Joan Toomey
Mar. 9: “Soup’s On” at 6:00 P.M., Meeting at 7:00 P.M. St. Andrew’s Hall, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Program: Yesterday’s Games Ladies from most of Colchester’s churches and Colchester Grangers have been making bed rolls for the homeless for the last 14-15 years. They meet weekly at the Federated Church on Main Street to make heavy sleeping bags made of old useful fabric, blankets, puffs and canvas

stuffed with personal toiletries, sweatshirts, socks and other warm clothing, distributed by outreach workers in Willimantic, Norwich, Middletown, Hartford and towns where they may be needed.

Our own late, Kay Muir, was a faithful weekly worker and Mae Chemerynski and Charlotte Locke to name a few help cut out, sew and tie knots. Other faithful Grangers collect old useful blankets, sweatshirts, men’s dress ties (to tie the bedrolls together) gloves, scarves, wash cloths, towels and toiletries, quietly and drop off their donations at the Federated Church all year long. There is also a Tag Sale group who volunteer their time to charity under the direction of Wanda Glemboski who constantly watches out for items to be given for these most urgently needed sleeping bags.

Just another example of people helping others in community service and the spirit of giving. God bless these wonderful ladies!

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138
Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
March 13: “Eve Knew Her Apples- 1945” Program for Lecturer’s Competition
March 27: “Casanova’s Big Night- 1954” Men have the program.

We would like to extend a big thank you to Royden Wilkenson and Kenny Huebner for tuning and refurbishing our upstairs piano. It sounded wonderful when Kenny gave his concert on Jan. 9. Kenny is a marvelous musician and composer. Most of the numbers he played he also composed. We know this young man will go far.

On Jan. 23 we enjoyed an interesting program by Marty Podskoch, author and lecturer on the CCC and area fire towers.

Marty presented a power point program with pictures of Connecticut CCC camps of the 30’s and 40’s, including our own local one in Voluntown. Members of our Grange had ties with the CCC and enjoyed talking with Marty about them after the meeting.

The March 14 program will be the program for the Lecturer’s competition. Sue has taken top honors at State Grange in recent years and we know this will be another excellent program. Please try to be there.

Calling all men! You are in charge of the program on March 27. If you haven’t been to a meeting lately, now is the time to come and join in the fun. And if the little deer that hangs out under my bird feeder will just leave my rhododendron bush alone, next time I’ll tell you about fabulous February.

LYME GRANGE #147
Corr: Dick Chapman
March 5: Pennsylvania’s Amish, Youth & Junior Program
April 2: As American as Apple Pie

On March 3, 1898, Lyme’s new two year young Grange, wanting a place of their own, purchased a former village store for \$700. They renovated it, and called it home. This is also the location of their very popular Hamburg Fair, held in mid-August. This fair began in 1897.

Our new community service project will be to support “Warm the Children,” a local, seasonal charity. Our Grange project will be to regularly support the new Hillstown Junior Grange, earmarking one-third of all meeting collections.

Cat Trivia: White House Cats: The first “First Cat” was Tabby, a handsome feline that President Abraham Lincoln brought to the White House with him in 1861.

Two Irish proverbs: Beware of people who dislike cats and it is often that a person’s mouth broke his nose.

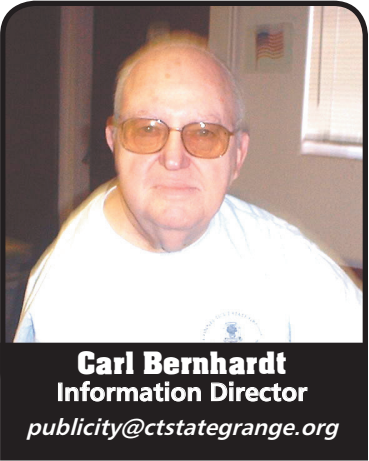
STONINGTON GRANGE #168
Corr: Jeffrey Barnes
We welcomed Carl and Joyce Mitchell back from

their annual vacation in Aruba. Now we settle in for the rest of the winter that the woodchuck has promised us.

Our Special Events Committee is hard at work putting the finishing touches on our major Community Service project for this spring. If you are looking to do something to do on March 21, stop by the Stonington Community Center and see our “Green Fair”. It is free admission and there will be a wide variety of energy saving ideas. In addition, there is a farmers’ market on the premises the same day. The Stonington Community Center has been very gracious to

partner with us in this endeavor. We have a deserving recipient for our citizen of the year which will be presented at our April meeting. Stonington Grange was represented at the New London County School of Instruction, and the helpful information we learned has been shared with our fellow Grange members. Our February program was a surprise by Andy Perry and March Madness will be in charge of Carl Mitchell. We will also have runoffs for the “A Number” and Talent entries that evening. This has not been the winter of our Discontent!

Why did you join the Grange?




Why do you belong? Is it because of the Community Service Work the Grange does? Or, could it be the good and faithful friendships we make? Or, be honest now, do you come for the food? I know a Granger who said if he had known what good cooks Grangers were, he would have joined the Grange years ago. Your

answer to the above question should guide you when speaking to your friends and neighbors about joining.

Let’s plan more open meetings and invite non-members so they can get to know us better and learn what the Grange stands for. We need to put Grange signs where people will see them. Publicize the Grange and let them know that there is an active Grange in town, where it is and when it meets. The cost of this is very reasonable and the rewards of getting just one new member will justify it. Publicize the Grange, Show how proud you are to be a member and soon people will be asking “Why didn’t we look into the Grange Family sooner?” Let people know the Grange is the best deal in town for friendship and a good time together without a big expense. Grange people are positive people. That attitude will rub off. We will all be rewarded.



Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 107
- ✓ Watertown No. 122
- ✓ Prospect No. 144
- Bridgewater No. 153
- Wolcott No. 173
- ✓ Oxford No. 194

EXCELSIOR POMONA #7
Corr: Mary Dubay
March 18: Talent Run-Offs

Excelsior Pomona No. 7 will meet on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at Oxford Grange Hall at 7:30 P.M. The program “Let’s Dig Up Something” will be the Talent and A Number Run-Offs.”

Lecturer Jean is hoping for a large turn out and participation from each Grange.

Visiting Pomona members are always welcome.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103
Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our Program for March 13 is “The Colors of Spring.” Carole Mancini serves refreshments.

We have been working with the other organizations in Naugatuck on our project to repair the World War I Monument. Everything seems to be on target and donations continue to be received.

Plans for our 120th Anniversary to be celebrated on May 29th are progressing. Save the date for an enjoyable evening.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Linda Coad
Mar. 23: Springtime- It’s About Time!, 7:30 P.M., Ref. Faith Korpalski
Apr. 4: Annual Indoor Flea Market at Memorial Hall, 9 A.M. to 2 P.M., Contact Linda Coad 203-264-8151, buzzandlinda@aol.com
Apr. 27: Evaluation - Country Store, 7:30 P.M., Ref. Ellen & John Samoska

Spring is here! Or maybe almost here. We know this because it’s our Annual Flea Market time. We always have a great time working together. If you would like to rent a table or donate items for the Grange table, call me.

WATERTOWN GRANGE #122

Corr: Mary Dubay
In March we have St. Patrick’s Day, so we wish a happy day to all of Irish descent. Also, spring arrives, sounds good after all the snow and ice we had and it was really cold. Daylight saving time begins.

The program for our first meeting in March is called Green Hat Night. Must be a St. Patty’s program. Gives us a chance to sing Irish songs.

Our second meeting is Ritual Program-Baseball Game in charge of Barbara Robert. Three strikes, you’re out.

As part of our Community Service we sent a monetary donation to St. Vincent De Paul which helps the homeless. Many of our members donate clothing to the cause.

Our CWA Chairman Malinda is hoping that members are working on the projects that she has announced at the meetings. All of our committees report at each meeting, which is a good thing. We meet on the first and third Fridays of each month. Come and join us when you can, we love company.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Chris Shook
The holidays have come and gone and 2009 has sneaked in, escorted by Father Time. But, did he have to present this horrible weather we all have been experiencing?

Oh well, let it be cold when it is supposed to be cold, then maybe we will get a nice spring out of the deal.

We give credit to our Fred Camp who made it to both the State and National Grange conventions. He received his Seventh Degree in Hartford.

We hold our January

and February meetings at Dorothy Gustafson’s home, as we have no water connected during the winter months at our Grange Hall. We had to cancel the meeting scheduled for today, the day I write this report. We hope the weatherman cooperates next Sunday when we try to hold the meeting again.

We are planning our Spring Program.

We will again host the AARP 55 Alive Senior Driver refresher course at Bridgewater Grange Hall on Monday, April 6 and 13. We do this every other year and have done so for 30 years. We always furnish the coffee break with coffee and donuts. Lecturer Chris Shook is coordinator.

On April 18th, Master Bill has scheduled a roadside clean-up with 8:00 A.M. coffee and donuts. 9 A.M. to 12 Noon we will hit the roads with plastic garbage bags and pick-up by the

town crew on Monday morning. Our Master will sign slips for any teenagers needing hours of community service for their school records.

Our Spring Roast Beef Dinners (money makers) are scheduled for the Second Saturday in May and June.

We are sorry to report the loss of three of our members in the past month and a half.

Ruth Carlson, Patrice Percy and Lloyd Green.

Good news is we have two new members entering our fold.

I can’t close without reporting that our annual Grange Christmas Tree Lighting on the green was again a huge success. The cocoa was hot, cookies good and plentiful and Santa Claus folly. The crowd huge.

OXFORD GRANGE #194
Corr: Phil Rowland
March 6: Looking Forward to Spring

March 20: Pizza Party and Inspection Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.

We do look forward to Spring, rather anxiously, so the March 6 program will be an uplifting one. The March 20 Inspection Rehearsal is hardly necessary anymore, but we’ve become accustomed to the accompanying pizza party, so here goes. All the tempting food served at Grange functions is tough on waistlines though!

Speaking of food, after two postponements we finally held our Christmas party- and potluck supper- on January 16. Gift exchange and a short program followed to make it a pleasant evening.

We thank Audrey Wellner for making a beautiful pair of curtains for our kitchen entrance. Complete with Grange Logo and tiebacks, they look great and they greatly reduce heat loss in wintertime.

Mystery Meeting Place



For our March Mystery Picture, we would like to know what Grange meets in this building? If you know or have any idea, please let your Information Director know by telephone, postcard or e-mail. Just mail your answers to: Carl H. Bernhardt; 424 Cedar Lane; Cheshire, CT 06410, or call (203) 272-4620. Our e-mail address is: mbcb76@cox.net. We would like your answers by April 1st. The names of everyone who gives us the correct answer will be printed in the March issue of the *Connecticut Granger*.

The Mystery Picture shown in the January issue of the *Granger* is Hemlock Grange Hall. We received correct answers from: Kenneth Smith of Hillstown Grange, Cindy Charbonneau of Meriden Grange, Emily Newsom of Hemlock Grange, Shirley (Dill) Brown of Old Lyme Grange, George & Betty Creamer of North Haven Grange, Janet Prout of Hemlock Grange and Ruth Freeburg of Hemlock Grange.



Hemlock Grange Hall

Youth News



Donald Lanoue
Youth Director

youth@ctstategrange.org

Hi everyone! Right off the bat I need to apologize, the Bowl-A-Thon is Saturday March 28, 2009 at the Super Lanes Bowl in Plantsville. The Blue Book and the last month's *Granger* article are wrong... my fault. Sorry about the inconvenience. The Bowl-A-Thon pledge sheets are mailed out and should be at your halls by

now.

The Bowl-A-Thon will start at 1:00 P.M. at a cost of \$15.00. If you do not have a pledge sheet just use a piece of paper and write the pledges down.

Other events coming up include lunch on Grange Sunday, New England Youth Conference which includes the Public Speaking Contest, Sign-A-Song contest (among others) and finally, Grange Camping Weekend. I need feedback if this weekend is really going to happen.

Scavenger hunts are ready, feel free to contact me for a copy. This program is open to all Grangers not just the youth.

Jody Cameron - Granger in the Spotlight

Continued from page three...

Committee to "come back with an aggressive look at how to proceed." Additionally he credits all the "hundreds and hundreds of folk who gave even a moment of their time" with helping in the planning of this Convention. Having had time to reflect on Convention, Jody is a huge advocate of the regional hosting system and believes "there is a lot of opportunity with the hosting being on a regional basis [because] small states would have never had an opportunity to host without the regional system." Because he is such a huge advocate of the regional hosting system, he is naturally looking towards next year's Convention in Michigan. He enthusiastically replies "I am looking forward to what the Midwest can do since they are the first region to completely plan a convention."

Now that Convention is over, it seems only natural that Jody would take some time off for some much-needed relaxation, however, that is not the case for the Connecticut State Overseer. "If tradition prevails, I will be elected Connecticut State Master in 2010." Not one to sit by idle, he is already working with Bob Sendewicz, Connecticut State Master, and Rusty Hunt, National Grange Leadership/Membership Director to "lay the groundwork for great things to come."

When talking to Jody about his future plans, his passion for the Grange is undeniable. He believes strongly in "an aggressive growth plan that everyone can buy into. I think the National Grange has done an excellent job in revitalizing the Grange and promoting its purpose and meaning and now I want the Grange to grow in both a local and national scale. The Grange is a social club, but we must not lose focus. The key is service, the key is community."

When asked to reflect on his experience as a Northeast Region Convention Planner he smiles and eagerly replies "without a doubt it was the greatest journey of my life and one of the highlights of my Grange journey."

His advice to future Regional Convention planners, "just enjoy the ride."

In Memoriam

Rosemarie Marfyak
Frances Lasch
John Goodale
Lois McCarthy, G.S.
Ruth MacRobbie
Catherine Fabbri, G.S.
Hazel Perret, G.S.
Jean DaRoss, G.S.
Ruth Carlson
Lloyd Green
Patricia Percy
Margaret McKenzie

Cawasa Grange #34
Brooklyn Grange #43
Westfield Grange #50
Wolf Den Grange #61
Coventry Grange #75
Litchfield Grange #107
Litchfield Grange #107
Litchfield Grange #107
Bridgewater Grange #153
Bridgewater Grange #153
Bridgewater Grange #153
Old Lyme Grange #162

G.S. denotes Golden Sheaf (50 Year) Members

*Please keep us notified of deceased members.
Use the email or the regular mailing address listed on
page 2 of this issue. Thank you.*

Chaplain's Message



Amy Whitcomb
State Chaplain

chaplain@ctstategrange.org

As we continue our journey into 2009, we need to consider some spiritual resolutions for the year. We need to take a look at

our life and see what needs attention. Where could improvement take place? Practice the attitude of gratitude daily. There is always something to be thankful for. Find it. You should let your light shine. Offset darkness by being light. Remember what Jesus said "You are the light of the world. Let your light shine."

Stretch yourself. Do something to expand your comfort zone. Push yourself to make a

difficult call, reach out for a new friend, and sign up for the marathon of life. Get rid of meanness and pettiness. The best way to do this is by constantly being a person who is courteous, respectful, kind, grateful and who exhibits generosity of spirit.

Keep fine tuning your life and you will be the happy person you always were. Remember Spring will be coming soon and all of us will find a renewal of our life.

Junior Grange Corner



Joan Perry
Junior Director

juniors@ctstategrange.org

Just a note to remind you about June 14th. That is when we will be having our Talent Runoff at Goodwill Grange Hall in Glastonbury. Also that day we will be having our "Big E" Contest. Remember the winners for "Big E" will receive tickets to go to the Fair. Hope you are having a good Spring. Hope all the snow is over. Have a good day.

HILLSTOWN JR. GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita Schaefer

We finally were able to have our belated Christmas Party. They will be working on Valentines and the project they picked for

the Homeless Shelter in town.

They had planned to go to Coventry Lake to learn about ice fishing but the weather didn't make that possible. Maybe another time.

They are busy trying to get more members to join. When the weather gets better they should have more new members lined up.

EKONK JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Mike & Betsy Molodich

We have our second annual spaghetti dinner on March 7th to benefit the juvenile diabetes. There will be a reptile presentation following the dinner for anyone wishing to stay. Many of our juniors will be working hard to make this years dinner another success. We have our annual fruit and nut sale coming up in March, one of our major fundraisers. Anyone wishing to visit us, we meet on the first Friday of the month at 6pm.



A banner which reads, "Welcome to Washington, D.C. President & Mrs. Obama" hangs on the side of the National Grange Headquarters on Inauguration Day. The banner was in complete view of the White House and the parade reviewing stand.