



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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June 2022

Happy Father's Day



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Let's celebrate June as dairy month in our Granges, on the farm and in our lives. As farmers are finishing up planting corn and harvesting their first cuttings of hay, let's take a moment to celebrate dairy month with a tall milkshake or a big bowl of ice cream! I remember back at my former Laurel Grange in East Canaan, we would celebrate dairy month. Laurel Grange would have a roast beef dinner and then serve milk, ice cream and other dairy products to promote dairy month. At that time, we had several farm families who would put this on and get promotional materials from the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board. We always had a good turn-out for this event. So let's celebrate by having an ice cream social and promote dairy products and support our Connecticut dairy farmers.

It is nice to see our Grangers getting active again by putting on suppers, tag sales, plant sales and even their community service work by honoring a member in their community. It looks like we're getting somewhat back to normal. Most of our Granges are back meeting in-person with an option to join the meeting by Zoom in some cases. I know of at least three

that are doing this... Winchester Grange, Hemlock Grange, and Riverton Grange. This gives the option to members who are not able to attend in person to be a part of the meeting.

The New England Grange Building Directors are busy planning for the upcoming fair in September. The building will be updated by putting on a new metal roof. The Directors decided to put on a metal roof which has a lifetime guarantee instead of using asphalt shingles that have a limited warranty. There

Influential Connecticut Grangers:

Alma Brooks

by Todd A. Gelineau, Editor

In her last decades, Alma Brooks was well-known to Connecticut Grangers as the Student Loan and Scholarship Committee Chairperson for over 50 years. She loved presenting Scholarship awards to young students. This was just one of the closing chapters of a long and distinguished Grange career.

Back in 1933, Alma and Frederick Brooks were living in Winsted and had been asked by a neighbor to join Winchester Grange. They had heard of the many activities and projects the Grange was pursuing but Alma and Fred put off joining until one day when Fred said, "Oh, go ahead and sign that application and let's join." Little did either one know how much their lives (and the Grange) would be changed by that decision!

will be a clean-up day at the New England Grange Building on June 25 at 9 A.M. with a meeting to follow.

Dawn Percoski is planning to have a workday on July 17 to go through the knitting items that will be on sale during the fair. We will also be looking for volunteers to work during the fair. If you can, contact Noel Miller or myself if you would like to volunteer.

As I close my article this month, let's each toast a tall glass of milk to all the fathers to celebrate Father's Day. Have a safe and healthy summer for our Grangers and Grange families.



Alma & Fred Brooks at a Sixth Degree Conferral in Meriden.

Alma and Fred joined Winchester Grange in September 1933 and in just a few short weeks Winchester Grange was hosting a Halloween

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Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



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NEXT ISSUE . . . Articles Due June 15

Adaptability: Evolving as the world around us changes



Faith Quinlan
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For a small part of my career, I was a recruiter for a large factory. Their number one need was for entry-level positions. Those positions had the most repetitive and physically demanding work in the building. They were the hardest positions to

keep filled, and I was constantly hiring. The reason it was always in need is because as soon as something opened at the next levels in the company, the new hires applied and advanced.

One month an upper-level position opened and there were 4 of my hires who had worked enough time to qualify and apply. I asked that hiring manager how he would make his decision. He said, "I'll speak to their co-workers and choose the one that is most adaptable. Who is flexible when things change and who can embrace it with a positive attitude, they are truly what our company needs to grow." This simple answer changed my own recruiting and hiring process to look for those people as well.

Adaptable people possess a willingness to bend and break habits and to challenge themselves when their circumstances change. They tend to face problems, pivot among distractions, and politely proceed forward. Adaptable people are prone to think ahead and consistently focus on improvement.

Change is constant. Technology

and automation are on the rise, the job market is fluctuating, and societal norms that were once considered secure are now disrupted daily. The things we may perceive as threats could be opportunities for something new if we adjust our outlook.

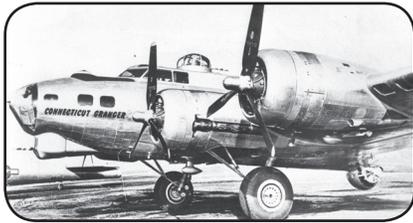
Flexibility to adjust as things change, what can that look like?

When confronted with an obstacle, look for an opportunity above that obstacle with a variety of ideas and then resources that can be pulled from to create new solutions. True team players criticize less and seek to understand. They can be versatile visionaries who are proactive to find alternate routes to make things happen. They keep things positive and focus on what is working.

My time as a recruiter gave me a few lessons on life that I still think about and use today. Flexible, adaptive, and optimistic people make life and work a lot easier to manage. May we bring this part of ourselves into the work we do at the Grange. With a sense of humor and friends we may find more people like ourselves out in the world.

the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

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Talk About Adaptability

"To survive the winter, up to 60 percent of Alaskan Wood Frogs' bodies freeze solid. They also stop breathing and their heart stops beating. This allows them to survive temperatures as low as -80 degrees Fahrenheit. And in spring, they thaw out and "come back to life."

To achieve this semi-frozen state, the creatures build up high concentrations of glucose (up to 10 times the normal amount) in their organs and tissues. The sugar solutes act as "cryoprotectants," preventing their cells from shrinking or dying."

Sources: National Park Service, The Society for Integrative & Comparative Biology. Photo Credit: <https://skills-focus.org/blog/the-psychology-of-lockdown-3-adaptability-managing-your-state-of-mind/>

Alma Brooks

Continued from page one...

Costume Dance “which was lavishly and appropriately decorated for the occasion. The thoroughly successful and well-attended affair had been engineered by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brooks.” – *Hartford Courant*

By November, Alma and Fred had been elected Assistant and Lady Assistant Stewards of Winchester Grange and within a few years Fred was Master and Alma had become Lecturer.

The *Hartford Courant* also quoted Alma as saying “If you are stuck for a program, just take your dictionary, open it, close your eyes and point to a word. If it is a noun, you can build a program around it!”

If you ever wondered why it’s so common for Lecturer’s programs, even today, to be dedicated to one or two word subjects, you can thank Alma Brooks. This simple practice has made the daunting task of planning Lecturer’s programs so much easier for generations of Lecturers over the years.

Alma would serve as Flora and then Lecturer of Mountain County



Pomona No. 4 until her election as Lecturer of the Connecticut State Grange. It was during her second term that Alma and Fred suffered a tremendous blow just prior to Connecticut hosting the New England Lecturer’s Conference. Their son, Frederick Jr. had taken a summer job working for a utility company. He stepped back into a live wire and was electrocuted and died at the tender age of 18.

As a tribute to their son, Alma started the 1950 King and Queen Youth Achievement Contest (later re-named Prince & Princess Contest). This was a contest unlike anything ever held in Connecticut.

It was “limited to entrants between the ages of 14 and 21 which gave recognition to the achievements of Grange youngsters in the joint fields of home, church, school, Grange, and community. Culminating in a gala affair at the State Grange Session in Meriden, where all Pomona Granges had arranged suitably decorated thrones and settings for their locally chosen Kings and Queens, over 400 witnessed the final contest - the choosing of the State Grange King and Queen.” While we don’t know who crowned the Queen, the special guest who crowned the King was none other than Allen Ludden. Ludden was a radio host at WTIC in Hartford and would later marry actress Betty White and go on to host “Password” on television.

Betty Jane Gardiner described Alma’s style with the following quote... “If Alma had any faults at all it was her way of changing things (especially small details) at the last minute in order to make it ‘better’. She was usually right and the end result of a program or drill was almost always perfection.”

There are many stories of Alma waking up the morning of a program at State Grange or New England Lecturer’s Conference deciding what had been planned needed to be scrapped in favor of something that would be better. These “changes” often resulted in Fred scrambling to make sure the new plan would happen without a hitch.

If you’ve seen the large map in the Connecticut Room in the New England Grange Building at the Big E, Alma is responsible for that. This project was conceived as a way to promote the most prominent industry in each of the 169 cities and towns of Connecticut.

With the help of State Steward Ira Wilcox (later State Master), a four foot by six foot “Connecticut” map was cut out of plywood and cut into jigsaw puzzle pieces in the shapes of the various Connecticut Pomona Granges. Each was painted

...Continued next page



The Map located in the Connecticut Room of the New England Grange Building at the Eastern States Exposition (Big E) in West Springfield, MA.

a different color and the borders for each town were added. These pieces traveled around the state with the Lecturers of the various Granges affixing symbols representing the most important industry of their town. For example, Litchfield is represented by a miniature of the first law school in America and Goshen is represented by a pineapple cheese mold.

The map was displayed that first year in the Connecticut Room at the Big E and became so popular that it has remained in the building ever since.

Alma also created the Quartet

Contest, Youth Contest, the traveling "Home, Church, and Grange" program, the Connecticut State Grange Hobby Show and the promotion of Grange cooperation in the Civilian Defense program.

After retiring from office as State Lecturer, Alma took on the task of directing the Sixth Degree Rose Drill for many, many years. She meticulously choreographed each drill, recruited members to serve on the team and arranged the many rehearsals needed to produce each year's drill.

Even though Fred and Alma moved from Winsted to Manchester

early in their Grange careers, they always considered Winchester Grange home visiting whenever possible and by sending money to the Grange to sponsor Grange refreshments when they were not able to visit.

Alma Brooks passed away on Feb. 7, 2005 at the age of 99. Her legacy lives on in the Grange in so many ways throughout the Connecticut State Grange. Again, in the words of Betty Jane Gardiner, "We think of Alma as a friend, a real lady and a true Granger."

Allen Ludden crowned Grange royalty

WTIC AM 1080 (which stood for Travelers Insurance Company) was founded in 1925 as one of the first affiliates of the NBC Red Radio Network broadcasting at 50,000 watts (the maximum permitted for AM stations). Its signal is so strong it can be picked up throughout New England, New York, much of the Eastern United States and Eastern Canada. For 66 years Bob Steele was the man Southern New England woke up to every morning. At one point, one-third of all radios in the greater Hartford area were tuned in to the Bob Steele Show and WTIC.

While Steele was the marquee personality at WTIC, a young Allen Ludden was getting his broadcast career off the ground at the Hartford station. Ludden is most well-known now for being the beloved husband of actress Betty White who passed away on New Year's Eve 2021 at the age of 99. Long before meeting White and becoming host of the game show *Password*, Ludden was a host and continuity director at WTIC 1080 in Hartford during the late 1940s and early 1950s.

In 1948 he conceived the idea of a quiz show for teens called "Mind Your Manners." The show was groundbreaking as it was the first show of its kind. The show received a Best Children's Program Award recognizing it "for a lively showmanship-like presentation of youth's everyday problems handled in a practical manner by a panel of teenagers who succeed in making the program appear fresh, spontaneous and entirely their own."

An early episode of the show focused on teen drug abuse which caused considerable changes in drug laws in Connecticut. The show received a Peabody Award (among many others) and was eventually broadcast nationwide and turned into a Saturday morning

program on NBC television.

When Connecticut State Grange Lecturer Alma Brooks was looking for a host for the 1950 CT State Grange King and Queen contest, Allen Ludden was an obvious choice because of his work with the youth of the state.



Allen Ludden and Betty White.

People.com



Allen Ludden's "Mind Your Manners" on WTIC AM.

Keep records for how long?



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary

Winchester Grange #74
Secretary@ctstategrange.org

Hopefully many of you joined me on Zoom for the Secretary's School of Instruction on June 5. It's important to have everyone "on the same page" when it comes to procedures and practices.

As I have said before, the more questions I ask the more problems I find. I have been asked many times recently what records need to be saved. Ideally, all records (within reason) should be kept. However, financial records should be kept for at least six years. Membership records should be kept for the life of the Grange. Even if a member demits out of your Grange, it is still a good idea to keep some record of their membership in your Grange as information may be needed in the future.

For example, we recently received an inquiry from the Master of the New York State Grange regarding members who had previously belonged to Wethersfield Grange #114. At the time Wethersfield Grange had closed, very few records were turned over to the State Grange.

The State Grange does not keep individual member records until a 25 year Silver Star is issued and searching 25 to 30 years (or more) of quarterly reports is a tedious process.

The New York State Grange was able to find out these members never officially joined Wethersfield despite being welcomed to that Grange when they moved from NY. They ended up moving back to NY and that entire part of their Grange experience was "off record."

You might say that this really isn't a case of records helping all that much and you would be right to a certain degree. But this story does

illustrate an additional problem we are experiencing across the state.

Poor record keeping is resulting in substantial losses of members. The fault cannot be laid entirely on the shoulders of the secretaries. Every new member is asked to keep their Granges informed of address changes and some do but more often than not Secretaries have to rely on returned mail, updated mailing lists from the Connecticut Granger and family members to find out where some of our people are. In too many cases members end up being suspended for non-payment because they cannot be found.

This problem is especially evident with Golden Sheaf exempt members. Because they have not been required to pay dues in over 22 years, it has been very easy to lose track of them.

Family Memberships

A mailing recently went out to Granges who claim family memberships on their quarterly reports. I would like to thank all the Secretaries who have worked hard to get their lists in to me. As expected, there were quite a few adjustments required after reviewing these lists. If your Grange has not yet sent in its list, please do so as soon as possible.

Golden Sheafs

An additional mailing went out to all Granges asking for lists of Golden Sheaf members and the years they joined the Grange. This is an effort to clean up our Grange numbers as a good number of members have been incorrectly reported as exempt. I have received a number of these lists but nearly not as many as I should have as of this writing. The deadline was June 1st. If your Grange has not submitted the list, please do so right away. Acceptance of the June 30 quarterly report will depend on whether or not these lists have been received from each of the Granges. Verification of the numbers reported is an important part of the process, especially when passing these numbers on to the

National Grange. We want our numbers as accurate as possible.

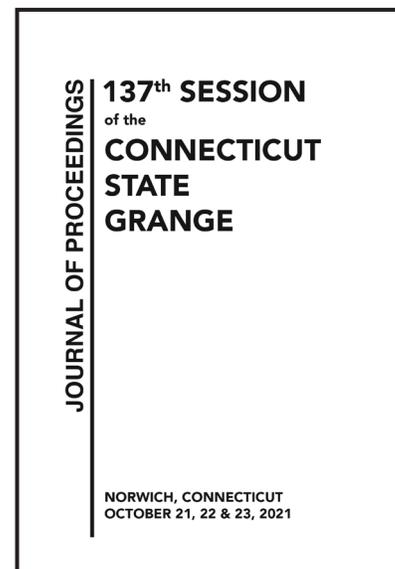
There also is confusion regarding the distinction between Golden Sheaf and Golden Sheaf Exempt and why we still have it on the Quarterly Report if the program ended in 2001.

The program only partially ended in 2001. Any members who became Golden Sheaf prior to January 1, 2001 remained exempt from paying dues for life. Any members who became Golden Sheaf after that date are still considered Golden Sheaf members, however they are not exempt from paying dues. Changing this policy became a necessity because large numbers of members were becoming dues exempt and even greater numbers of baby boomers were reaching the age when they too would become exempt from paying dues. Seeing a financial disaster on the horizon, the National Delegates voted to end the program.

Journal of Proceedings

Hopefully by the time you are reading this the Journal of the 137th Annual Session of the Conn. State Grange will be in each Grange. We will be sending one copy to each Grange to be share with any and all members who may be interested in reading it. Additional copies will be available from the office while supplies last.

Until next time, enjoy this beautiful late spring weather. We all earned it!





One picture is worth a thousand words



By Robert Charbonneau, CT State Public Relations Co-Director

Trying to capture the essence of a PR event at your local Grange doesn't require: expensive equipment, the ability to capture that one great shot and putting out a snappy article combining picture and words. That might have been true in the 1970's if you had: a professional film camera along with your own dark room and an IBM Selectric II typewriter. But yes, it also helps having an "in" with a local newspaper who are equipped to come to your event and cover it. Back then, access to a "One Hour Photo" and a note pad was sufficient to put together your own press release for a local newspaper about your special Grange event or Lecturer's program. Submitting your own press release allows for full control of your message and photos. Although, it may take several days waiting for photos to get developed.

Fifty years later, most folks have at their fingertip computer devices such as an electronic assistant, a smart phone or any computer device which allows for: digital photo taking, photo editing, note taking and Wi-Fi access to the internet. This last item opens the ability to send combined text and pictures to a media outlet or to a Social media application, such as "Facebook" or "Twitter." The media outlets have the ability to accept press releases by email or on a page in their website. In fifty years, the time needed to put out a press release has been greatly reduced. It has come down from days to minutes.

With the advent of technology, it all comes down to what you, or your members have available to capture

photos of an important Grange event. According to a PEW Research Center September 29, 2016 survey households contain on average: 84% have two smartphones, 80% have one computer and 68% have one tablet device. This means most people have available a digital camera and the means to prepare a press release. Chances are, you have a budding photojournalist in your Grange who can help out taking photos of an event.

In closing here are some suggestions:

- Keep a notepad available to jot down information about each photo set – don't be afraid to ask for details (who, what, where, when, why and how)

- Taking multiple photos or possibly having the camera in "burst" mode gives one a greater chance to capture an important moment (example: Grange President presenting a certificate and shaking the recipient's hand) – chances are greater down-selecting to the best representative photo is possible.

- Be respectful of those around you – you may be one of many there taking photos – be discrete.

- After the event or meeting is over, select your photo(s) and prepare an article from your notes – keep it brief – even The Connecticut Granger may have space limitations.

- Most importantly – have fun!

The Big E will be here soon!



Dawn Percoski
Family Activities Dir.

Vernon Grange No. 52
CWA@ctstategrange.org

We will be having a Grange Clean-up and marking day up at the New England Grange Building on July 16th, which is a Saturday, starting around 10:00 am. We are hoping for a good turnout as many hands make light the work. We will start by cleaning up the stage area so that when we bring out all the inventory from the end of last year it will remain clean. Once that is completed, we will begin to sort everything and be sure that all items are marked, in good shape and repair anything we come across that needs a little TLC. We may have a second day in August depending on how much we can accomplish the first day and how many articles we are having donated to be marked.

Please email me at cwa@ctstategrange.org so I have an idea on

how many will be coming. We will be taking a break and have some lunch (which I will provide) and lots of fun and good conversations! I'd also like to mention that they are looking for judges for the Needlework contest. It is usually the Wednesday before the fair starts and held during the day so that we can get everything in order and displayed. Please email or call me and we can talk about the details. Three judges are needed. I will post more information later for those of you who can volunteer for the fair itself. Please think about working at the fair as it's a fun experience. They need everything from cashiers to those who can do sorting and rearranging the tables to having the floors kept clean. In general, we want to have the building kept neat for all the visitors. Tickets will be provided so that you do not have to pay to gain entrance and passes for the parking so you can get on a bus and just walk in. I look forward to working with you and having some fun.



EASTERN CONNECTICUT POMONA #14

Corr: Noel Miller

June 18: Meeting at Vernon Grange #52, 7:00 P.M.

Pomona Meeting PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE. We had our inspection in May so sad we didn't have candidates. Next meeting will be the election of one Executive Committee member. Hope to see you there.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

June 2: "Strawberry Time", Election of Officers 7:30 p.m. Ref. Kay Ruff
July 7: "Fireworks", 7:30 p.m. Ref. by all.

April 26th Glastonbury Master, Dan Posuniak and wife, Ann , and Kay Ruff traveled over to Hebron, CT where Dan presented Doris Links, (former secretary of Good Will Grange #127), with her 75 yr Membership Certificate from the National Grange. It was a pleasure to be able to do this and we had a very nice visit with Doris.

On May 5th (prior to our meeting) Overseer, Tom Breen and Dan Posuniak and Kay Ruff drove over to the home of Henry Killam where Tom Breen presented Henry with his 75 yr. Membership Certificate. We had a short visit with Henry as we then returned to the Masonic Hall for our monthly meeting.

It certainly was a pleasure and an honor to be able to make this presentation to two of our long time members.

Glastonbury honors 75 year members



(Above left): Glastonbury Grange Master Dan Posuniak presents a 75 Year Membership Certificate to Doris Links. Prior to joining Glastonbury Grange, Doris was Secretary of Good Will Grange #127. (Above right): Glastonbury Grange Overseer Tom Breen (right) presents Henry Killam with a 75 Year Membership Certificate. Congratulations to both of these dedicated members.

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

June 22: Summer Programming Sign up

The spring has been busy for us. We have held regular meetings. We have been having work sessions on the second Sat. of the month and have invited the community to join us. We also have been doing some community service in the area.

We went to the local elementary school and refreshed their garden. We had a local company donate a load of mulch. This made quite an improvement to the area and was much appreciated by the school personnel.

Our teen nights continue on the second and fourth Friday evenings. They do some cooking and craft projects. A very successful art show was held in March, and we collected non-perishable food items for the local food bank.

A public poetry reading evening was held with several local poets presenting their poetry. We continue to be grateful to the local groups who use our hall including the home school group and the yoga sessions

held several times a week. Our recycled bags are still being sold.

The Cosmic Cat, a psychic group held a fair on Mother's Day. We are deciding what we can make to be sold at the Big E.

We are accepting applications for the 2 scholarships we have available for students who reside in Woodstock. We established a by-law revision committee.

Our program in April was a discussion of water testing and treatment for homeowners. This testing needs to be done on a regular basis. We will have representative of the local lab to speak to us about his need.

We are planning to have float in the Woodstock Memorial Day Parade. This will be a decorated truck. We are planning a taco dinner. We also discussed the spring planting workshop that is being planned and we have many gardening books for reference. We welcome the community to visit us for our meetings in order to get some new members to help with our projects. We always welcome members and visitors.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Irene Percoski

June 3: Election of Officers, and Saunter

July 1: Long May She Wave

May certainly blew in well, we had 13 members and 3 guests in attendance and 3 on Zoom. The program started with a great quiz on flowers, a word game with the letters in the word MOTHER, and ended with the game "The Price is Right." This was followed by a memorial tribute to all who have gone before us. Our new Community Service projects were discussed and we are still encouraged to collect used stamps and plastic bags. A motion was made to raise our dues to \$30.00, which will be voted on next month. This action was made in order to cover the expense of quarterly dues. Next month will be election of officers so put your thinking caps on and be prepared to accept an office with the phrase, "I would be delighted."

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Last meeting we draped our charter for Stephen Williams, a 30 year member of Coventry Grange #75. He just moved to Florida, enjoying his family RV and Harley Davidson. He will be missed.

We will be having a tag sale in June.

N. STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

June 10: Mysteries

June 24: Share A Sunset

It is with deep sadness that I report the passing of our dear Flora. There are not enough words allowed me in this article to list all Flo Mullane has done for our Grange. In her nearly 50 years of membership she has made every curtain and furniture cover in our hall as well as the beautiful bunting for our float. She has been diligent in keeping the hall clean and has been indispensable in the running of our food booth for every event. Many years ago several of us made well over 100 stuffed animals at her home

and were treated to her legendary pizza. Her talents were many and she shared them unconditionally. To say she will be missed is an understatement.

On a happier note, our hall rang with laughter on April 23 as Cheree and Robert Miner portrayed our Community Citizen, Kasher Deshify (and her husband), in a hilarious skit (written by Sue Pianka) presented to an audience of 67 appreciative people. Kasher is the town's hardworking animal control officer and is well-loved by residents who

A Grateful Nation

*By Thomas R. Sulier,
Harmony Grange #92*

On the thirteenth day of November in 2021 on a 32 acre Booth Memorial Park in the Town of Stratford, CT a community assembled to dedicate the Stratford Veterans Museum (S.V.M.). Its mission is to honor the selfless service and sacrifice of the men and women of the Town of Stratford who served in the United States Armed Forces.

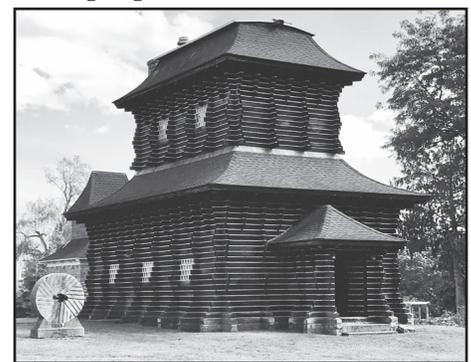
During the ceremony, Old Glory was respectfully raised up, while through pure happenstance a nearby church bell rang out and richly resonated through the museum grounds at that very moment. It seemed as if time stood still during that glorious and beautiful fall morning. The Honor Guard of the VFW Post 9460, Stratford, Conn. Saluted the American Flag, while a resounding rendition of the National Anthem was led by 99-year-old Jim Morgia, Captain, U.S. Army, Retired. Afterward S.V.M. Vice President George Grom served as Master of Ceremonies. The blessings of deity were invoked by Father Nick Pavia, Our Lady of Peace Church. Thereafter comments followed by Stratford Mayor Laura Hoydick, Councilman Jim Connor of Stratford's 8th District, plus S.V.M. treasurer Bill O'Brien, Councilman of Stratford's 9th district. This was followed by comments of thanks by

attested to the fact that she will answer every call, night or day.

Our June 10 program will be election of officers with a short program. June 24 is our annual picnic (starting at 6:30), with hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks provided by the Grange and potluck provided by all who attend. Food will be followed by games, so bring the kiddies and enjoy an evening with friends. And if this wild wind will just stop knocking trees over in our yard, next time I'll tell you all about merry May.

S.V.M. President Bob Mastroni and a resounding rendition of "God Bless America," sung by Jeanine Morgia Sansone who led the attending crowd. Thus, the Stratford Veterans Museum was officially opened.

The purpose of the museum is to remind the visitors who walk through it, of the great gift of freedom we enjoy every day. As members of a grateful nation, we ought not forget or lose sight of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. Also, of the personal sacrifices they have made on our behalf, and of the loved ones they left behind if they were called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice. We should never forget or discount the pain that these individuals and their families experience and cannot heal. One of the greatest things that a human being can do is to serve others. This museum testifies to the reality of the cost of doing so, while reminding us that the cost of liberty is a never-ending vigilance!



Technocratic Cathedral at Booth.

The information contained in each issue of The Connecticut Granger is for informational purposes only. The Connecticut Granger assumes no liability or responsibility for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon. The information contained about each individual, event or organization has been provided by such individual, event organizers or organization without verification by us. The opinion expressed in each article is the opinion of its author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Connecticut Granger. Therefore, The Connecticut Granger carries no responsibility for the opinion expressed herein.



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd Gelineau

By the time you are reading this Mountain Laurel Pomona will have (hopefully) held it's Degree Conferral and Inspection at Winchester Grange. The meeting was originally scheduled for May but due to illness and absences, the meeting had to be rescheduled for June 5. Prior to that day we were not aware of candidates but were still required to hold the conferral for the purposes of inspection.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 27.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

June 14: June is Bustin' Out All Over, Ref. by Pam Wright

June 26: Election of Officers-Country Store. Ref. Ramona Fassio

July 12: Down by the Old Mill Stream. Ref. by Debbie Vail.

July 26: Summer Fun. Ref. To Be Announced

In some ways May has been a great month and in others, very difficult. Both regular meetings were held as scheduled. Our first May meeting was a Neighbor's Night and we thank the many guests who came out either in-person or on Zoom to be with us. It was great to see guests from other Granges in our hall again. However, the second meeting saw a recent all-time low with about 10 members in attendance due to a large number of members out due to COVID-19. From what we have heard, members

Winchester celebrates 250 years (finally!)



The Town of Winchester (which includes the City of Winsted) concluded its years-long celebration of 240 years with a dance held at Winchester Grange Hall on June 21. The event was originally scheduled to kick-off just as the Pandemic set in around the world. The dance, which was originally planned to be held at the beginning of the celebration was moved to the end along with parades and a community picnic. As Winchester was born in Winchester Center, it was only appropriate to conclude the festivities "on the hill."



have had cold symptoms but we hope this issue arrives to find everyone back on their feet with COVID in their rear view mirrors!

Back in 2020, the Town of Winchester planned to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the town. The aforementioned virus put these plans on hold until 2021/2022. Originally the plan was to have a dance at Winchester Grange to help kick-off the festivities. Instead, the dance was moved to the closing weekend on June 21. The day

featured music and a picnic on the Winchester Center Green followed by the dance at the hall. The Laurel Festival Parade and Pet Parade had to be canceled that day due to high temperatures. Attendance at the dance was great and we were thrilled to do our part in helping the town to put on this wonderful event.

Unfortunately the prevalence of the virus in our area has caused our Grange to reconsider hosting the Strawberry Festival. In 2019 it would have been unthinkable to

consider NOT hosting the festival for three years. We hope to be back on track next year with the 2023 Strawberry Festival.

In the meantime, we are still planning to hold our annual Grange Fair and Community Tag Sale on Saturday, Aug. 13 at the Grange Hall and on the Green.

As I close this article, I would like to send get well wishes to Sisters Sara Bement and Fran Cooper who have been healing from recent falls. We hope you both are well on the mend and we'll see you at Grange soon!

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

June 9: Painting by Diane Palmer. Election of Officers. Ref. at 7 P.M. with meeting at 7:30 P.M.

July 14: Bastille Day by Debra Tyler

By the time you are reading this, our Plant and Rummage Sale will have taken place on June 4th. We are hoping for good weather.

At our May meeting we found more

donations on the entry bench that the Family Activities Committee is sponsoring and taking to the animal shelters. People are very generous.

The Foodless Food Sale went viral on our Facebook page (reached 920 people, 106 engaged) and raised the most money we have ever gotten from the poem written by Jean Lundeen many years ago.

Our contractor Whetstone Builders, who is repairing the tree damage to our Grange Hall, told us that we will have the roof shingled by the end of May. With the end in sight we are thinking of a "party" with an open house to celebrate come autumn. All of you will be invited with thanks for the help.

Bridgewater sells homemade cookies



On May 21, Bridgewater Grange participated in Roxbury/Bridgewater Garden Club Plant Sale by setting up a Grange informational table with home-baked cookies for sale at the Bridgewater Firehouse.

SIMSBURY GRANGE

CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL FAIR

1st PLACE

**Saturday, June 11
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

- **Contest Entries - Win Prizes and Cash**
- **Displays by Local Farmers, Non-Profits**
- **Live Entertainment by Out the Boxx**

LOCATION:
Simsbury Grange Hall
236 Farms Village Road
West Simsbury, CT 06092

**ENTRIES AND FAIR:
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

www.SimsburyGrange.org

Wanting to sell or even buy?

**Hillstown Grange
Outdoor Flea Market**

Sundays in June
8am-12pm

Want to sell?
For only \$10, Arrive for 7am for an vendor spot in a first come first serve basis. Tables, chairs and tents are NOT provided.

Want to buy?
Arrive at 8am to support small. businesses and other sellers while seeing handmade jewelry, art, home items and more!

ard.dedominicis@gmail.com
617 Hills St., East Hartford, CT 06118
860-840-4794

Deano is Back!



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Not much to report for Nutmeg Pomona this month but check the next Granger to see who will be leading the Pomona for the next two years as we will be having elections in June.

A heads-up to all Granges- We are planning to print a Pomona handbook this year. We would like to have all Granges included. Please sent it to: Joannecipriano@ymail.com

We wish all our members a happy and healthy summer.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

June 1: Election of Officers and Memorial Service.

June 15: Flags

We held an open meeting on May 4th with a Dean Martin impersonator that was very well received. We had 42 attendees, 25 of which were non-members from nearby towns. We are receiving inquires from one of the hiking clubs that we have done dinners for in the past. This is a good sign that hopefully we will returning to some sort of normalcy post-COVID. On the subject of dinners, we are planning to return to our Sunday fair dinner when we return to our two-day fair on August 27 and 28. Four of us visited with Winchester Grange on May 4th, two of us via zoom. We wish everyone a happy spring with warmer weather than we have been having at this point.



At Cheshire Grange's Open Meeting on May 4th, Dean Martin impersonator, Jack Lynn performed, entertaining everyone who attended with Dean Martin jokes, stories and his music.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Attendance at our May meeting was not the best but those attending are involved and ready to do whatever is needed. It was a good meeting with many positives. We were happy to welcome Marie Sousa as a new member.

Election of Officers found few changes. Joanne continues as our Master, Overseer is Ron Gunther, Chaplain Marie Sousa, Secretary Marilyn Ventura and Ceres Carol Brooks.

And the following meeting, Bob Sendewicz served delicious refreshments. We also enjoyed a sauerkraut cake baked by John Taylor's sister.

On the downside, Treasurer Ron Fischer reported this month's oil bill was \$1,304.00. Last month's bill was \$891.00. It is not easy to pay bills like this. Any suggestions from our members or anyone else on fundraisers would be appreciated.

Our June meeting is June 10th and we will be celebrating our 133rd anniversary. This will be an open meeting. July meeting is on July 8th and will be our officers planning meeting. Supper to be served at 6 o'clock. Please come with suggestions.

NORFIELD GRANGE #146 (Weston)

Corr: Kareen Kanaga

June 14: Flag Day Celebration + Election of Officers + BBQ

July 12: Stars & Stripes Celebration & Monthly Meeting

Aug. 9: Fair Planning & Monthly Meeting

Sept. 11: Grange Fair & Market - Starts at Noon

Sept. 13: Monthly Meeting & Induction of Officers

On Sat., May 7th the Grange held its 7th Annual Barn Dance & Dinner postponed from January due to the up-tick in cases of the Omicron variant across Connecticut. A good time was had by all who attended. The infamous & renowned caller Billy Fischer was accompanied by live music played by Bill Walach on mandolin and Gary Wikfors playing the guitar. Due to the rainy weather the bonfire was canceled so sadly no marshmallows for the kids. We added a new twist for the event and entertained the guests by airing the Kentucky Derby Race during the yummy chili dinner. This event will be moved back to its traditional time-frame in January 2023 due to spring being such a busy time of year. At our Grange meeting on May 10th the Norfield members and officers

Continued next page...

interviewed the two finalists for the high school scholarship we award to one graduating senior to use towards furthering their educational goals & pursuits. Due to the depth of their resumes, volunteerism beginning as young as elementary school and the enthusiastic personalities it was decided to award one full scholarship of \$500 to J. E. Gladstone and an "honorable mention" partial scholarship of \$200 to L. C. Pinals both from Weston. By the time

this article is in print on May 21st (hopefully it doesn't rain and need to be postponed to the 22nd) we will have hosted our 10th Annual Pop-Up Sale for Artisans, Estate & Tag Sale items and anything in between. And the President of the local high school music honor society K. Schulz will have volunteers playing music during the entire Pop Up event At our June meeting we will host a BBQ and honor our two scholarship recipients.

Hillstown Garden Mart



On May 5th, Hillstown Grange in East Hartford held a Garden Mart at their hall parking lot with a variety of handcrafted items and garden items for sale.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

June 10: Memorial

June 24: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

July 8: Picnic and Meeting

July 22: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

156th Annual National Grange Convention
Sparks, Nevada

Registration Open!
Earlybird Savings through September 1

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO SEPT 1ST!

LECTURER
NATIONAL GRANGE

2022 National Grange Quilt Block Contest
Sponsored by the National Lecturer

ADULT, JUNIOR AND MEN'S DIVISIONS

Wonky Star

Visit bit.ly/22QuiltBlock for all details and entry sheet

Star may be in any color family (solid or print) on white or light gray background.
Final size - 12.5" unfinished.

STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST GRANGE NEWS!

Sign up to receive our free weekly **Patrons Chain** e-newsletter and monthly **View from the Hill** legislative update.

Visit www.nationalgrange.org/subscribe

WINDOW TO THE PAST

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a history to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us uncover the mystery of faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing: submissions@ctstategrange.org.

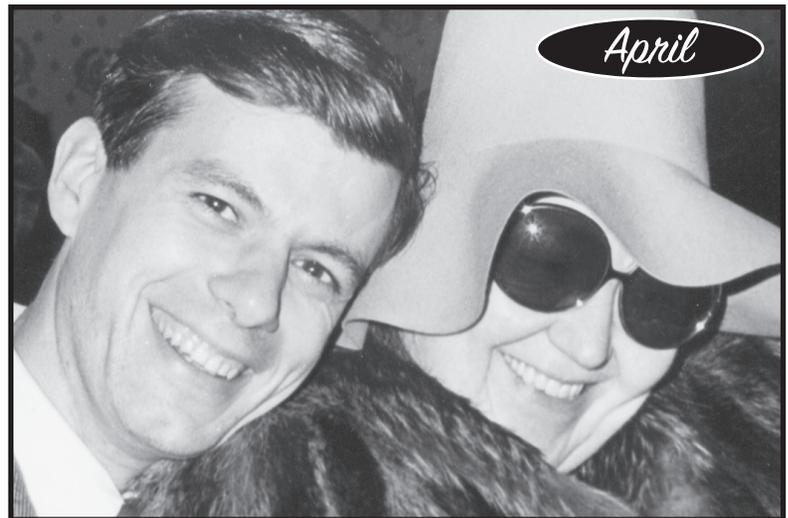
April Pic -- We heard from Past National Master Bill Steel -- "A page from the *Connecticut Granger* arrived in the mail today from Sandi Harris in Iowa. My reply to her will be: a gentleman never tells the identity of the lady!. Besides, at this point, I don't remember. I can see why some third grade students to whom I was giving dictionaries asked if I were "Mr. Rogers" -- Bill Steel (in his National Youth Director days!)"

We heard from Janet Haller who stated that the man in the photo is Bill Steel who was National Grange Youth Director at the time, believing it is from 1972 when the National Grange Convention was in Connecticut.

May Pic -- We heard from Nancy Weissmuller -- "That is Thurlow Coats on the left. He was probably our Master (North Stonington Grange #138) when the picture was taken. Marcia White is next to him, probably our Lecturer at the time. She is holding the, Traveling Dolls, along with State Lecturer Mervin Whipple. I do not recognize the gentlemen on the right."

We heard from Marsha White, who was Master of North Stonington Grange from 1962-1963, when she felt the photo was taken, stating that it was of the Traveling Dolls program. She said the man on the left is Thurlow Coats, but she did not remember the names of the men on the right.

We also received an anonymous email stating that the two men on the right are Mervin Whipple and Ellsworth Covell.





Garlic Butter Sautéed Zucchini

YIELD: 4 servings

INGREDIENTS:

- 1-1/4 pounds chopped zucchini (2 medium)
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic (3 cloves)
- 1 scallion, thinly sliced
- 1 to 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice or red wine vinegar, optional
- 1/4 cup fresh grated parmesan

or pecorino cheese, optional
Salt and fresh ground black pepper

INSTRUCTIONS:

It's up to you as to how you cut the zucchini. You can slice the zucchini into rounds, cut into half moons or chop into bitesize pieces.

Melt the butter in a wide skillet over medium-high heat. Add the zucchini and garlic and cook, stirring occasionally until the zucchini

is browned in places and tender, 3 to 5 minutes.

Turn off the heat, and then stir in the scallions, a squeeze of lemon juice, and cheese (if using). Taste, and then season with a pinch of salt and black pepper. Serve.

TIPS:

Alternatives to parmesan cheese include feta cheese, goat cheese, or a sharp cheddar.

Add in some extra crunch with toasted sliced almonds or buttery pine nuts.

Throw in chopped tomatoes with the zucchini and cook until the zucchini is crisp-tender and the tomatoes collapse a little and release some of their juices.

SOURCE: <https://www.inspired-taste.net/38045/sauteed-zucchini-recipe/>

New roof installed at New England Grange Building



The old asphalt shingle roof on the New England Grange Building at the Big E in West Springfield was replaced in late May. The new roof is metal and will eliminate the need to replace the roof for many years to come. The project was supported financially, in part, by the Connecticut State Grange.

EKONK AWARDS



Ekonk Community Grange recently held an Awards Luncheon on May 9 to recognize many members for continuous membership. Among the honorees was Verna Cole (right) who received the Granger of the Year Award which was presented by Ekonk President Jaimie Cameron.

And the winners are...



Dave Roberts
State Lecturer

Riverton Grange No. 169
Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

Oh wait; we haven't had the 2022 State Grange contests yet, so there is still plenty of time for your Community Grange and your Members to win many State Grange Lecturer Contests. I have tried to summarize the details of all our 2022 contests here in one place for you:

TALENT CONTEST

The first contest is a Talent Contest and Connecticut State Grange will host the State Grange run-offs. Here are the details for this contest:

Each Subordinate/Community Grange may host their own Talent Contest and select one winner for the State Run-offs.

There will be no Pomona-level judging. All entries will go directly from the Subordinate/Community Grange to the State Grange for judging.

The Connecticut State Grange run-offs will be held at Hillstown Grange Hall (first floor) starting at 1:00 PM on Sunday, August 14.

Performance time allowed for each entrant is six minutes (includes set-up and performance).

No piano will be provided at the State run-offs, so if a Grange needs to bring an electric keyboard, please coordinate this with the State Grange Lecturer prior to the event.

Any Grange wishing to compete in the Talent Contest at the State Run-offs MUST notify the State Grange Lecturer, Dave Roberts, at 858-775-9241 or dave@daveroberts.org not later than 8/1/22.

A panel of three judges will select the first, second and third place Talent Contest winners. The decision of the judges is final. Appropriate prizes will be awarded and a Certificate will be presented to each Grange

that participates.

The first place winner of the Talent Contest will be invited to perform at the Friday, October 21st banquet at the Connecticut State Grange 2022 State Convention in Norwich. If the first place winner cannot perform for any reason, the second place winner and/or the third place winner may be invited to perform at State Convention.

COMMUNITY GRANGE SKIT

The second contest is called the "A Number" contest and Connecticut State Grange will host the State Grange run-offs. Here are the details for this contest:

Any number (skit) suitable for a Grange meeting is eligible.

Time Limit: 6 minutes (includes set-up and performance).

All entries will go directly from the Subordinate Grange to State for judging.

The Connecticut State Grange run-offs will be held at Hillstown Grange Hall (first floor) on Sunday, August 14, immediately following the Talent Contest run-off which starts at 1:00 PM.

A panel of three judges will select the first, second and third place winners. The decision of the judges is final.

Numbers will be judged on presentation, quality, audience appeal, appropriateness of theme, and originality.

No piano will be provided at the State run-offs, so if a Grange needs to bring an electric keyboard, please coordinate with the State Grange Lecturer.

Any Grange wishing to compete in the "A Number" (skit) Contest at the State Run-offs MUST notify the State Grange Lecturer, Dave Roberts, at 858-775-9241 or dave@daveroberts.org not later than 8/1/22.

The first place winner of the "A Number" Contest may be invited to perform at Friday, October 21 banquet at the Connecticut State Grange 2022 State Convention in

Norwich. If the first place winner cannot perform for any reason, the second place winner and/or the third place winner may be invited to perform.

The "Complete Program" for your Grange with the 2022 subject being "The Grange of the Future". The best "Complete Program" submitted to the CT State Lecturer will receive a \$50 gift card and qualified runners up will receive \$25 gift cards.

The State Grange Photo Contest with the following categories: My America, Animals, Flowers, Grange Activities and Family Activities. We will again partner with Connecticut Grange Family Activities on this effort. This means that your Grange's photo entries can be dropped off at Hillstown Grange Hall on either Friday, August 12, or Saturday, August 13, before 10:30 a.m. Judging will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday. On Sunday, August 14, Family Activities will hold an auction at the end of breakfast that Hillstown Grange will be hosting with a specialty pumpkin pancake. Encourage your members to take a photo on their iPhone, print it out and mount on a piece of cardboard and win a prize. Prizes for each of the five categories will be as follows: First Place, \$10; Second Place, \$7; Third Place, \$3.

The State Grange Essay Contest will be held with the 2022 essay title being "My Grange Family". Deadline for entries to me is October 1st. To make it easier for all our budding authors, I am removing the word limit, but I will reserve the right to edit winning essays for possible publication in other forums. Prizes will be as follows: First Place, \$25; Second Place, \$15; and Third Place, \$10.

The purpose of all these contests is to first and foremost to HAVE FUN and secondly to encourage your Grange members to get involve in a friendly spirited manner. Please let me know if you have any questions, and may the best MAN, WOMAN, YOUTH MEMBER or COMMUNITY GRANGE win! Now, on to victory!

100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3
Winchester Center, CT 06094

Address Service Requested



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

Tend My Sheep

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament are full of references to sheep and shepherds.

In the first letter of St. Peter to the young churches in his care we read:

“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them, not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be”. These instructions from St. Peter are a direct echo of the charge Jesus gave to Peter after his resurrection, when he told him “Take care of my sheep” (John 21:15-17). Whether we are pastors of a church [keeping in mind that pastor is another word for shepherd] or are put in charge of a group of people in some other capacity, such as a Grange Master or a Scout Master, we should heed this direction.

A closer look at Jesus’ conversation with Peter shows that Jesus gave three slightly different instructions. Jesus asked Peter three times “Do you love me?” and when Peter said that he did, the first time Jesus said “Feed my Lambs”, the second time he said “Take care of my sheep” and the third time he

said “Feed my sheep”. Why the different wording? The Lambs are the new members of the flock, and they need special care and more attention than the older members. They do not yet know the ways, have not yet learned what to trust and what to be wary of, are not yet sure which foods are most nutritious and to be sought out, and which foods are to be avoided because they may be harmful in the long run.

“Take care of my sheep” or “tend my sheep” refers to the entire flock, the entire congregation or membership entrusted to the shepherd. The good shepherd has many duties and responsibilities, which are spelled out in the 23rd Psalm.

Getting back to Jesus’ instructions to Peter, the third command was to “feed my sheep”. How does this differ from “feed my lambs” and

“tend my sheep”? I view the three instructions as progressive: first tend to the newest members, bringing them fully into the fold; then care for all those who are members of the fold; and finally provide spiritual nourishment so that all can advance from being merely part of the flock to leaders of the flock.

In Memoriam

Stephen Williams
Coventry Grange #75

Florence Mullane
N. Stonington Comm. #138

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange Friends!

Now is the time to start thinking about Grange Fairs, picnics, and fun summertime events. Think outside of the box and host an event that gets the entire community involved. Send me and George an invite, and we may attend! Now is also a good time to be working on contests as well as items for the Big E.

Please visit my Facebook page, and then click the “Like” button to keep in touch and follow my adventures across the state. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>