



## LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER

November - December 2020

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Greetings...

What a year 2020 has been and it looks like 2021 will be more of the same. We must all THINK POSITIVE and do all we can to make our Granges strong.

Please, if you are no longer Lecturer give this to your Granges new Lecturer and let me know who is in office at the present time.

**Lecturers' Report Forms...** As most of you realize report forms are usually given to Pomona Lecturers at Let's Celebrate in the Spring and they then give them out to the Subordinate Lecturers in their Pomona. Since Let's Celebrate was cancelled this didn't happen. So, this year's forms will be sent as follows...

**If you have been sending them in on the forms,** enough for 2021 are included with this newsletter.

**If you have been e-mailing them,** please continue to do so.

**If you have not been sending them in,** I assume you still have last years and hope that you will send them either monthly or quarterly. I really would like to hear from all the Granges.

**Anyone needing forms that does not have them please let me know and I will see that you get them.**

The following awards were announced at State Session...

The Lecturers' Appreciation Awards were given to: Kim Jones, Stafford; Kevin Parker, Redding; Emily Alexander, Cheshire; Ann Gilnack, Glastonbury; Linea Erickson, Cawasa; Cherie Robinson, Vernon; Carol Knutson, Taghhannuck; Cindy Legg, Beacon Valley; Robert Buck, Bethlehem; Susan Pianka, No. Stonington; Lois Evankow, Lyme; Lila Cleveland, Stonington; Raine Pederson, Riverton; Nancy Swanson, Hemlock; and, Robert Buck, Oxford.

Honor Lecturer Awards were given to: Emily Alexander, Cheshire; Cherie Robinson, Vernon; and, Lois Evankow, Lyme.

"Should Auld Acquaintance" Certificates were given to: Cheshire, Glastonbury, Vernon, Colchester, Taghhannuck, No. Stonington, and, Lyme Granges.

A Word From Home Certificates were awarded to: Cheshire; Glastonbury; Vernon; Colchester; and Lyme Granges.

Both the Complete Program and the Essay Contest had more entries than we have had in recent years and the quality of the work was outstanding. If you were not among the winners please don't get discouraged and please enter again next year. Complete Programs winners were: 1st Susan Pianka, No. Stonington; 2nd Cherie Robinson, Vernon; and 3rd Emily Alexander, Cheshire.

Essay Contest Winners were: 1st Joanne Cipriano, Beacon Valley; 2nd Susan Masino, Simsbury; and, 3rd Karen Macdonald, Redding.

Certificates and prize money have been sent. Hopefully you have received yours by now.

### **It's a new year, let's get a new start...**

I realize that some Granges are meeting on ZOOM while others are having in-person meetings. I keep getting questions about the proper length of programs. For now I think 10 – 15 minutes on ZOOM is long enough but for those holding regular meetings let's go back to 30 minutes. In both cases please limit the number and length of readings. They may contain a lot of information but members need to get involved. If you participate in a program you usually think it was a good program. Cut-aparts get people involved as do quizzes.

### **Contests and projects for 2021...**

Everything is tentative. I haven't finalized anything yet but you should be getting a bluebook the beginning of 2021 and the information will be in there plus I will include a complete copy with the next newsletter. For now...

Ritual items or a whole Ritual Program will be included. The number of items you need will be determined on how long Covid-19 continues. Since we aren't doing degrees like we use to, these are more important than ever. I will do my best to include numbers in the newsletters and if you write one, please send it to me so I can share it.

One way or another we will hold our own Photo Contest in Connecticut. Tentative plans call for this to be held at State Session next October.

The theme of the Complete Program is "America, 100 Years Ago".

Should Acquaintance and A Word From Home will continue as they have been.

Essays will be entitled "A Grange Memory".

Hopefully I haven't forgotten anything. Don't forget I am here to answer your questions. Please do not hesitate to call me anytime.

Take Care,  
Marge

## **SHARED NUMBERS...**

### **A CLOSING THOUGHT with Thanks to Ekonk Community Grange**

As we leave here tonight after Grange and go our separate ways, let us remember that saying one kind word to another can warm you for three winter months! Do not protect yourself with a fence, but rather by a circle of friends.

### **CLOSING THOUGHTS with Thanks to Enfield Grange**

The reason a lot of people do not recognize opportunity is because it usually goes around wearing overalls looking like hard work.

An optimist is a fellow who takes the cold water that was thrown on his ideas, heats it up with enthusiasm, makes steam, and pushes ahead.

### **SPELLING "BEE" QUIZ with Thanks to No. Stonington**

These words all have "bee" within their spelling:

1. A type of tomato, or a cut of meat. Ans. Beefsteak
2. A tree. Ans. Beech
3. An African type of antelope. Ans. Wildebeest
4. A red vegetable. Ans. Beet
5. An alcoholic beverage. Ans. Beer
6. A disk-shaped toy for throwing. Ans. Frisbee
7. A type of bug. Ans. Beetle
8. A substance used in fine candles. Ans. Beeswax
9. The shortest distance between two points. Ans. Beeline
10. Before cell phones, the item that told you you were being paged. Ans. Beeper
11. Someone who wishes he/she were "just like" someone else. Ans. Wannabee

### **A QUICK CHRISTMAS QUIZ**

1. Who told Frosty to stop? Ans. The Traffic Cop
2. How many Wise Men were there according to the Bible? Ans. It doesn't say.
3. Who recorded the first version of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"?  
Ans. Gene Autry
4. Which reindeer is often used for cleaning? Ans. Comet
5. Where did there arise such a clatter? Ans. On the Lawn
6. "A Miracle on 34th Street" takes place where? Ans. New York City
7. What country gave us eggnog? Ans. England

## **SOME THANKSGIVING CUT-APARTS**

The Wampanoag Indians were the people who taught the Pilgrims how to cultivate the land.

The Pilgrim leader, Governor William Bradford, had organized the first Thanksgiving feast in 1621. He invited the neighboring Wampanoag Indians to the feast.

The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted three days.

Mashed potatoes, pumpkin pies, popcorn, milk, corn on the cob, and cranberries were not foods present on the first Thanksgiving's feast table.

Lobster, rabbit, chicken, fish, squashes, beans, chestnuts, hickory nuts, onions, leeks, dried fruits, maple syrup and honey, radishes, cabbage, carrots, eggs, and goat cheese are thought to have made up the first Thanksgiving feast.

The pilgrims didn't use forks; they ate with spoons, knives, and their fingers.

Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national bird of the United States.

Sarah Josepha Hale, an American magazine editor, persuaded Abraham Lincoln to declare Thanksgiving a national holiday. She is also the author of the popular nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

Abraham Lincoln issued a 'Thanksgiving Proclamation' on October 3, 1863 and officially set aside the last Thursday of November as the national day for Thanksgiving.

The annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade tradition began in the 1920's.

In 1939, President Roosevelt proclaimed that Thanksgiving would take place on November 23rd, not November 30th, as a way to spur economic growth and extend the Christmas shopping season.

Since 1947, the National Turkey Federation has presented a live turkey and two dressed turkeys to the President. The President does not eat the live turkey. He "pardons" it and allows it to live out its days on a historical farm.

## **TURKEY QUIZ**

1. What part of a turkey is a story? Ans. Tail (tale)
2. What part of a turkey is used in a band? Ans. Drum Sticks.
3. Why is a man who eats too fast like a turkey? Ans. Both are gobblers.
4. What part of a turkey might you find in a woman's purse? Ans. Comb

5. What part of a turkey is a measure? Ans. Foot
6. What part of a turkey is apt to come in the mail? Ans. A Bill
7. In what country is the turkey when he is cooked? Ans. Greece (grease)

### **CHRISTMAS CANDLES**

Candles have been around for centuries and archaeological evidence indicates that they were common in Ancient Egypt. Over time candles have been used for light, for ceremonies, for their scents and for decoration.

The first Christmas candle use can be traced to Germany. Along with originating the tradition of the Christmas tree, Germany is believed to have been the first country to place Christmas candles on the boughs of the tree.

One use of the Christmas candle is the celebration of Advent. Advent is a season for celebrating the birth of Christ. It begins four Sundays before Christmas. An advent wreath consists of an evergreen wreath and four candles. The candles in the wreath are lit during a family moment of prayer or before a meal. The first week of Advent only one Christmas candle is lit. The second week, two are lit. The third week, three and the fourth week all four candles are lit.

In Ireland, a Christmas candle is lit as a symbol relating to hospitality relating to the welcoming of Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus.

In Finland, it is a tradition of some families to place a candle on the grave of their loved ones during Christmas celebrations.

In Germany and France a Christmas candle (wax or electric) is usually placed in a window, or several Christmas candles may adorn the Christmas tree.

### **NEW YEAR CUSTOMS**

New Years Day is the first day of the calendar year. It is celebrated as a holiday in almost every country in the world. It is a time of gaiety, sharing with friends, remembering the past, and hoping for good things in the future. In the United States, thousands of people jam Times Square in New York City to welcome the New Year at midnight.

Not all countries or cultures celebrate New Year on January 1st. The Chinese, Egyptian, Jewish, Roman, and Mohammedan years all have different start dates. Chinese New Year starts on a different day each year. Thousands of years ago, the Egyptians celebrated their New Year about the middle of June. That was the time when the Nile River usually overflowed. January 1 was recognized as New Year Day in the 1500's with the introduction of the Gregorian Calendar. The Julian Calendar places the New Year on January 14. The Jewish New Year, a feast day, is celebrated about the time of the fall equinox, in late September.

## **NO-COST TIPS TO SAVE MONEY THIS WINTER**

1. Move furniture and draperies away from heating units, including radiators.
2. Close windows tightly near your thermostat. Otherwise, your furnace might continue to work even though the rest of your home is warm enough.
3. Draw curtains, shades and draperies at night to keep out cold air. During the day, open them to let in the sun's warming energy.
4. Dust can hamper heat flow, so be sure to vacuum radiator surfaces often.
5. If you have hot water radiators, bleed them often to improve circulation.
6. Cover through-the-wall air conditioners.
7. Close vents for central air conditioners.
8. Close off unused rooms and shut closet doors and doors to unheated areas.
9. Shut the damper when the fireplace isn't being used.
10. Wear layers of clothing to trap air between layers and stay warmer.

## **CONNECTICUT GRANGE HISTORY FACTS**

1. Taghannuck was the 100<sup>th</sup> Grange organized in CT.
2. The 200<sup>th</sup> Grange in CT was Branford.
3. Spoonville Grange was located in East Granby and got its' name because Spoons were made in the Spoonville section of East Granby.
4. Good Will Grange was given its' name to promote good will between its' members and those from Glastonbury Grange who opposed its' organization.
5. The first CT State Grange was organized in 1875 in Danbury. There were 15 Subordinate Granges present.
6. The 1st Juvenile Grange organized under the CT State Grange was organized in Amenia Union, NY
7. The first New England Lecturers' Conference was held in CT in 1918.

## **SOME BLACKOUT SKITS**

Jerry: Do you know the difference between a garage and a swimming pool?

Terry: No. What is it?

Jerry: Heck! I'm not letting you park my car.

Sal: I'll have you know when I was growing up, thirty boys asked me for my hand.

Hal: No kidding! How much money were you holding in it at the time?

Pat: I found a great way to look young.

Nat: What's that?

Pat: Hang out with old people.

Ted: My car tells me automatically whenever I'm low on gas.

Ned: Really. How?

Ted: It stops running.

Terry: My father can hold up a car with one hand.

Jerry: Is he a circus strong man?

Terry: No, a cop.

Sam: I'm going to the tavern downtown, honey.

Pam: Then lend me your car and I'll take you.

Sam: Why do you want to take me?

Pam: So I can drive my husband to drink like every other wife.

### **DID YOU KNOW**

Alabama was the first place to have 9-1-1, started in 1968.

The Frisbee was invented at Yale University.

In Georgia, in 1886, pharmacist John Pemberton made the first vat of Coca-Cola.

TV was invented in Rigby, Idaho, in 1922.

The Chicago River is dyed green every St. Patrick's Day

Iowa is the only state that begins with two vowels.

Maine is so big it covers as many square miles as the other five New England states combined.

The Ouija board was created in Baltimore in 1892.

The Fig Newton is named after Newton, Massachusetts.

Missouri is the birthplace of the ice cream cone.

Tupperware was invented by Earl Tupper in 1938.

Rigby, North Dakota, is the exact geographic center of North America.

The hot dog was invented in Ohio in 1900.

The nation's oldest bar, the White Horse Tavern, opened in Rhode Island in 1673.

Dr. Pepper was invented in Waco, Texas in 1885.

The first Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant opened in Utah in 1952.

### **HOW TO TELL A RAW EGG FROM A HARD BOILED EGG**

#### **With Thanks to Riverton Grange**

If you hold up two eggs and one is hard-boiled and the other is raw, you might wonder how to know which is which. A simple test will reveal the answer. Spin them carefully on a flat surface. The hard-boiled one spins and the raw one doesn't. This is because the hard-boiled egg is solid so everything spins in one direction, while the inside of the raw egg sloshes in different directions and, therefore, doesn't allow it to spin. Try it and see for yourself. Then demonstrate it at Grange and show how smart you are.

## **PEANUTS TRIVIA QUIZ with Thanks to Irene Percoski**

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

## **GRANGE RITUAL QUIZ**

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