



THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2013

Marge Bernhardt, State Lecturer/Program Director
424 Cedar Lane, Cheshire, CT 06410

Phone: 203.272.4620 e-mail: lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Happy New Year...

It's a new year and time to get a fresh start. Don't worry about the past. It is behind us. Let's look forward to the future where all our hopes are centered. I changed a couple of words, but this should sound familiar to you. If not, why not have a Ritual Night. There are not too many Granges doing degree work anymore, so maybe a little review about our history and how the degrees were done and how they changed over the years would make an excellent program. If you don't think you are the one to do this, I can point you in the right direction to find a local Granger who would be an excellent source of information.

Please note ** We are planning on changing our internet server in the very near future. To avoid confusion, please start using lecturer@ctstategrange.org when you want to contact me.

As many of you know, **Lecturers' Conference** will be in Connecticut in 2013. It will be held at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven on August 5, 6 & 7. There are going to be several changes this year all of which were voted on by the seven State Lecturers last summer. I think you will like what is being done. Our goal is to keep the price down for you and still break even on finances. I will have more details when I get back from Leaders Conference which will be held in Maine the second weekend in January. Watch the Granger for more details. The theme of the conference will be Our Communities. Connecticut will explore health care which can include hospitals, convalescent homes, daycare, insurance, and etc. If you have any ideas, skits or numbers please get in touch with me. I am also looking for a few volunteers to sing or play instruments for a group of residents at a nursing home. In the meantime if you would like to check out the college you can go to www.albertus.edu and take a look at their campus.

It's not too early to start thinking about your entries for the Talent and "A Number" contests. Talent Rules are as follows:

1. All performers being judged must be Grange members. Groups performing may include Junior Granges and/or children too young to hold Junior Grange membership. However, at least half of the performers in the group must be Subordinate members.
2. Participants need not be from the same Subordinate Grange but must be from Granges within the same Pomona.
3. The act judged at State must be the same act as judged at Pomona.
4. Taped accompaniment for vocal acts must be instrumental only. No additional voices in the background.
5. When the accompanist is only the accompanist and not a performer in his/her own right, it is no longer required that the accompanist be a Grange member.
6. Time Limit: There will be no minimum time. Maximum time is six minutes. Two points per minute, or portion thereof will be deducted from the total points for performances going over the maximum time limit.
7. Scoring: Acts will be judged on Stage Presence, Appropriateness of Dress or Costume, Preparation and skill of presentation, Suitability of number and Audience Appeal.

I hope you all took some pictures of the recent snow storm to enter in the Photo Contest. If not, I'm sure it will snow again this winter.

Take care this winter - - See you around the State.

...Marge

SHARED NUMBERS.....

SOME MORE THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU DIDN'T KNOW with Thanks to Old Lyme

Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later.

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase...'Goodnight , sleep tight'

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts... So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them 'Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down.' . . . It's where we get the phrase 'mind your P's and Q's'

Many years ago in England , pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. 'Wet your whistle' is the phrase inspired by this practice.

Also from Old Lyme a quiz along the same lines....

Q. Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of what?

A. Their birthplace

Q. Most boat owners name their boats. What is the most popular boat name requested?

A. Obsession

Q. If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter 'A'?

A. One thousand

Q. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers have in common?

A. All were invented by women.

Q. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?

A. Honey

Q. Which day are there more collect calls than any other day of the year?

A. Father's Day

YOU KNOW YOU ARE LIVING IN 2013 when...

1. You accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.

5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
6. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.
7. Every commercial on television has a web site at the bottom of the screen.
8. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't even have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
10. You get up in the morning and go on line before getting your coffee.
11. You didn't even notice that there was no #9 on this list.

MEMORY LANE with Thanks to Irene Percoski

A little house with three bedrooms,
 One bathroom and one car on the street.
 A mower that you had to push
 To make the grass look neat.

Weekends were for family trips
 Or staying home to play.
 We all did things together --
 Even go to church to pray.

In the kitchen on the wall
 We only had one phone,
 And no need for recording things,
 Someone was always home.

When we did our weekend trips
 Depending on the weather,
 No one stayed at home because
 We liked to be together.

We only had a living room
 Where we would congregate,
 Unless it was at mealtime
 In the kitchen where we ate.

Sometimes we would separate
 To do things on our own,
 But we knew where the others were
 Without our own cell phone.

We had no need for family rooms
 Or extra rooms to dine.
 When meeting as a family
 Those two rooms would work out fine.

Then there were the movies
 With your favorite movie star,
 And nothing can compare
 To watching movies in your car.

We only had one TV set
 And channel's maybe two,
 But always there was one of them
 With something worth the view.

Then there were the picnics
 At the peak of summer season,
 Pack a lunch and find some trees
 And never need a reason.

For snacks, we had potato chips
 That tasted like a chip.
 And if you wanted flavor
 There was Lipton's onion dip.

Get a baseball game together
 With all the friends you know.
 Have real action playing ball,
 And no game video.

Store-bought snacks were rare
 'Cause mother liked to cook.
 And nothing can compare to snacks
 In Betty Crocker's book.

Remember when the doctor
 Used to be the family friend,
 And didn't need insurance
 Or a lawyer to defend

The way that he took care of you
Or what he had to do,
Because he took an oath and strived
To do the best for you.

Remember going to the store
And shopping casually,
And when you went to pay for it,
You used your own money?

Nothing that you had to swipe
Or punch in some amount,
And remember when the cashier person
Had to really count?

The milkman used to go
From door to door
For just a few cents more
Than going to the store.

There was a time when mailed letters
Came right to your door
Without a lot of junk mail ads
Sent out by every store.

The mailman knew each house by name
And knew where it was sent.
There were not loads of mail addressed
To "present occupant."

There was a time when just one glance
Was all that it would take,
And you would know the kind of car,
The model and the make.

They didn't look like turtles
Trying to squeeze out every mile;
They were streamlined, white walls, fins
And really had some style.

One time the music that you played
Whenever you would jive
Was from a vinyl, big-holed record
Called a forty-five.

The record player had a post
To keep them all in line
And then the records would drop down
And play one at a time.

Oh sure, we had our problems then,
Just like we do today,
And always we were striving,
Trying for a better way.

Oh, the simple life we lived
Still seems like so much fun,
How can you explain a game,
Just kick the can and run?

And why would boys put baseball cards
Between bicycle spokes?
And for a nickel, red machines
Had little bottled Cokes?

This life seemed so much easier
And slower in some ways.
I love the new technology
But I sure do miss those days.

So time moves on and so do we
And nothing stays the same.
But I sure love to reminisce
And walk down memory lane.

THE LAUGHS ON ME with Thanks to Colchester Grange

I was driving when I saw the flash of a traffic camera. I figured that my picture had been taken for speeding, even though I knew I wasn't. Just to be sure, I went around the block and passed the same spot, driving even more slowly. But, again the camera flashed.

Thinking this was pretty funny, I drove past even slower three more times laughing as the camera snapped away each time while I drove by it at a snail's pace.

Two weeks later, I got five tickets in the mail for driving without a seat belt.

APRONS With Thanks to Barbara Kulisch

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath because she only had a few and because it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and aprons required less material. But along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the autumn, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

REMEMBER: Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw. The Government would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron. I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron- but love...

A FUN GAME With Thanks to Lois Zezima, Dirigo Grange #98, Maine

This little game is easy to do -- Just add figures like 2 and 2

Multiply, subtract, divide, or more, -- there a prize for the highest score.

I wonder who came here from afar - give yourself 5 points, if you came by car,

Were you on time? Not a minute late? - Punctuality pays, so give yourself 8.

Glasses are 9 more if they're on you - 10 more points if your eyes are blue.

Score yourself 5 if you show any pink - But take away 10 if you left dishes in the sink.

Count all your buttons, each gives you 1 - except if they're white, then you get none.

Open shoes are quite fine, - so give yourself 10 if you're wearing that kind.

Now here's a chance to score even better, give yourself 15, if you have on a sweater.

2 points for each year you've been wed, - But take away 5 if your hair is red.

Now daughters are sweet, on that we agree, - So for each one you have you may add 3.

But when adding up points, boys are worth more - So, for each of your sons, go ahead and add 4.

If you kissed your boyfriend or husband (girlfriend or wife) today add 12

But if you kissed them both subtract 20, because you're in trouble and trouble aplenty..

SECRETS TO A HAPPY MARRIAGE

An old woman was sipping on a glass of wine, while sitting on the patio with her husband. She says, "I love you so much, I don't know how I could ever live without you."

Overhearing her, her husband asks, "Is that you or the wine talking?"

Smiling contentedly, she answers, "It's me...talking to the wine".

Presidential Quiz with thanks to Enfield Grange

1. Who appointed the first African-American Supreme Court Justice?
Ans. Lyndon Johnson appointed Thurgood Marshall in 1967. Before being named to the Court as a lawyer he argued cases before the Supreme Court including Brown vs. the Board of Education in which the Court ruled that public school segregation was illegal.
2. Who was the first poet to take part in a presidential inauguration?
Ans. Robert Frost at President John Kennedy's inauguration.
3. Which former president was elected to the House of Representatives after serving his presidential term?
Ans. John Quincy Adams
4. Who was the first President born an American Citizen?
Ans. Martin VanBuren
5. Name the four presidents that were assassinated.
Ans. Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, William McKinley and John Kennedy
6. Which four presidents have won the Nobel Prize?
Ans. Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Jimmy Carter, and Barack Obama.
7. Who was the first president to take the nation into a declared war?
Ans. James Madison – The War of 1812
8. Who was the first president to be elected after women won the right to vote nationwide?
Ans. Warren G. Harding
9. Name the first vice-president to become president upon the death of a president?
Ans. John Taylor upon the death of President William Henry Harrison.

RIB TICKLERS with Thanks to North Haven

What do haunted chickens lay? Ans. Deviled Eggs

Why did the spider go to computer class? Ans. It was searching for a new web site.

What would you get if you crossed Count Dracula with a fish? Ans. A Cape Cod

Why did Dracula climb upon the barn roof? Ans. To get to the Weather Vain.

SPEEDING

Characters: A Judge; A Police Officer; A Speeder

Scene: Motor Vehicle Court. The Judge is standing behind the bench when the Officer enters.

Officer: Your Honor

Judge: What do you want?

Officer: I've just arrested a man I caught doing 65 miles an hour down Main Street.

Judge: Another One?

Officer: Yes, that makes 5 in the last 2 hours.

Judge: They must be in a hurry to get somewhere.

Officer: It seems that way.

Judge: These speeders are a menace to our town. They've got to learn to obey the speed limit.

Officer: Yes. Sir.

Judge: Bring in your prisoner. I think I'll make an example of him and give him ninety days. That ought to make him think twice before he speeds through our Town again.

Officer: Yes, Sir. (The officer goes off-stage and comes back with the speeder who is very upset.) Here he is Your Honor.

Judge: What's your name?

Speeder: (Use the name of one of your members who can take a joke)

Judge: All right, Mr. _____, this officer tells me you were speeding down Main Street. You were certainly in a hurry.

Speeder: I can explain.

Judge: No Excuses. There's nothing that will excuse a man for driving down Main St. at 65 miles per hour endangering the lives of our citizens.

Speeder: But your honor...

Judge: Don't ever speed. There's absolutely no reason for any man to drive faster than 25 miles per hour down Main Street. You'll get to your destination quick enough.

Speeder: Your Honor. I had to hurry.

Judge: In so doing you endangered the lives of others. Do you realize that I can sentence you to 90 days in jail.

Speeder: Yes, Your Honor, I know that but I had to hurry.

Judge: There's nothing more important than the innocent lives you endangered.

Speeder: Please, please, Your Honor, have mercy.

Judge: I'm going to give you ninety days.

Speeder: All right, give me ninety days, but let me go for just 5 minutes.

Judge: So, you're still in a hurry.

Speeder: Yes, Your Honor.

Judge: Didn't the sentence change your mind about speeding?

Speeder: No, Your Honor. My wife just gave my best suit and who knows what else to the Grange for their Annual Tag Sale. I've got to get there before it is too late.

Judge: When is the sale?

Speeder: It's going on right now.

Judge: Say, do you think that car of yours will do ninety?

Speeder: If we step on it.

Judge: Well let's go and step on it. My wife belongs to the Grange too.

BLACK OUT SKITS

Farmer: I've got a nervous cow.

Man: How do you know she's nervous?

Farmer: She shakes so much at milking time she gives butter.

Waiter: I once dropped a thanksgiving Day dinner and started an International conflict.

Customer: How did that happen?

Waiter: I caused the destruction of China, the fall of Turkey, and the overthrow of Greece.

Mother: How was school today?

Son: Awful!

Mother: But I thought the 20 day strike was settled and all your teachers were finally back.

Son: Yeah. That's what was so awful about it.

Fred: Whooh! A run home!!

Ted: You mean a home run.

Fred: I mean a run home. You just hit the ball through old man Mertz's front window.

ICE FISHING with Thanks to Bethlehem Grange

Two Scouts are Ice Fishermen. Off-stage is someone for God's Voice.

Ole: Sven, dis looks like a goot spot.

Sven: Ya, Ole, let's start here, den.

(Sven starts using a manual ice drill to cut through the ice.)

God's Voice: There are no fish there.

(Sven and Ole jump and look around)

Ole: Sven, let's try over der.

Sven: Ya, Ole, you drill the hole dis time.

(Ole takes the drill and they move to a new location and start to drill through the ice)

God's Voice: There are no fish there!

(Sven and Ole jump and look around)

Ole: My gosh, Sven, We'd best try a different spot I'm thinkin'.

(Ole takes the drill and they move to a new location and start to drill through the ice)

God's Voice: Listen, you guys, I'm the ice rink manager and THERE ARE NO FISH THERE!

SOME LOVE POEMS FOR VALENTINES DAY

(Make good cut-aparts)

How do I love thee? I can't count the ways;
Your love will sustain me for all of my days.

Your love gives me happiness, joy and delight;
You're the sun in my morning, the moon in my night,
You're the one that I cherish, the love of my life;
And I truly was blessed when you made me your wife

I can't imagine what I'd do
Without the love you give.
I'll treasure every moment shared,
As long as I shall live.

You brighten my day with the sound of your voice,
You bring so much laughter and love;
You're everything to me, and I was so blessed
When God sent you here from above.

You've been a very special friend,
So caring and so kind;
You always have an ear to lend,
And good advice to mind.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves, for they shall never cease to be amused!" (Unknown Author)

The most wasted of all days is one without laughter.

Failure doesn't kill you. It increases your desire to make something happen.