



**THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE
LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER
January – February 2015**



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

Phone: (203) 272-4620 e-mail: lecturer@ctstategrange.org

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hope this finds all of you in good health and ready to make our Granges better and stronger in the new year. There is one big change that will affect Lecturers across the State. On Sunday afternoon February 22 we will hold our annual Lecturers' Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at Cheshire Grange Hall. Traditionally this has been only for Pomona Lecturers, but due to popular demand, it will now be for all Lecturers. We want your input. We want to know what you want and need to be a successful Lecturer. If you cannot make this meeting, please let me know in advance what questions or concerns you have. The outcome of all our discussions will be included in my next newsletter.

In the meantime, please remember that I am here to help you. Call me, email me, or send a letter and let me know what you need. I will do my best to help you.

See you around the State... ..Marge

SHARED NUMBERS...

VALENTINE'S DAY With Thanks to North Haven

*(If you have enough people you can make big letters for them to hold up
and put the meaning on the back for them to read.)*

V is for the Value of our Friendships.

A is for our appreciation of Life.

L is our love for each other.

E is for entertainment

N is for all the nice things we do for other people and each other.

T is for the time we have spent together.

I is for the interests we have in the same things.

N is for the nights in front of the television watching the UCONN Girls Basketball

E is for the food that we eat and are thankful for.

S is for the Smile we put on each other's face.

D is for the daytime travel and enjoyment over the years.

A is for Affordable things in life that we enjoy.

Y is because I LOVE YOU!

VALENTINE FOOD FOR THOUGHT with Thanks to Quinebaug Pomona

Cabbage always has a heart, Green Beans string along,
You're such a cute tomato, Will you peas to me belong,
You've been the apple of my eye, You know how much I care,
So lettuce get together, We'd make a perfect pear,
Now some things sure to turnip, To prove you can't be beet
So if you carrot all for me, Let's let our tulips meet,
Don't Squash my hopes and dreams now, Bee my honey dear,
Or tears will fill potatoes eyes, while sweet corn lends an ear,
I'll cauliflower shop and say, Your dreams are parsley mine,
I'll work and share my celery, so be my Valentine.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY (January 19th)

Martin Luther King, Jr. was an American pastor, activist, humanitarian, and leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement. He is best known for his role in the advancement of civil rights using nonviolent civil disobedience based on his Christian beliefs.

He was born Michael King, but his father changed his name in honor of the German reformer Martin Luther. A Baptist minister, King became a civil rights activist early in his career. He led the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott and helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1957, serving as its first president. With the SCLC, King led an unsuccessful struggle against segregation in Albany, Georgia, in 1962, and organized nonviolent protests in Birmingham, Alabama, that attracted national attention following television news coverage of the brutal police response. King also helped to organize the 1963 March on Washington, where he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. There, he established his reputation as one of the greatest orators in American history.

On October 14, 1964, King received the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through nonviolence. In 1965, he and the SCLC helped to organize the Selma to Montgomery marches and the following year, he took the movement north to Chicago to work on segregated housing. In the final years of his life, King expanded his focus to include poverty and speak against the Vietnam War, alienating many of his liberal allies with a 1967 speech titled "Beyond Vietnam".

In 1968, King was planning a national occupation of Washington, D.C., to be called the Poor People's Campaign, when he was assassinated on April 4 in Memphis, Tennessee. His death was followed by riots in many U.S. cities. Allegations that James Earl Ray, the man convicted of killing King, had been framed or acted in concert with government agents persisted for decades after the shooting. The jury of a 1999 civil trial found Loyd Jowers to be complicit in a conspiracy against King. The ruling has since been discredited and a sister of Jowers admitted that he had fabricated the story so he could make \$300,000 from selling the story, and she in turn corroborated his story in order to get some money to pay her income tax.

King was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was established as a holiday in numerous cities and states beginning in 1971, and as a U.S. federal holiday in 1986. Hundreds of streets in the U.S. have been renamed in his honor. In addition, a county was rededicated in his honor. A memorial statue on the National Mall was opened to the public in 2011.

PRESIDENTS' DAY

Presidents' Day is an American holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February. Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, it is still officially called "Washington's Birthday" by the federal government. Traditionally celebrated on February 22—Washington's actual day of birth—the holiday became popularly known as Presidents' Day after it was moved as part of 1971's Uniform Monday Holiday Act, an attempt to create more three-day weekends for the nation's workers. While several states still have individual holidays honoring the birthdays of Washington, Abraham Lincoln and other figures, Presidents' Day is now popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents past and present.

George Washington was the first President of the United States (1789–1797), the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War, and one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. He presided over the convention that drafted the United States Constitution, which replaced the Articles of Confederation and remains the supreme law of the land. Washington was unanimously elected President by the electors in both the 1788–1789 and 1792 elections. Washington established many forms in government still used today, such as the cabinet system and inaugural address. His retirement after two terms and the peaceful transition from his presidency to that of John Adams established a tradition that continued up until Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to a third term.

Washington was born into the provincial gentry of Colonial Virginia; his wealthy planter family owned tobacco plantations and slaves that he inherited. Although Washington owned hundreds of slaves throughout his lifetime, his views on slavery evolved, and he desired to free them and abolish slavery. After both his father and older brother died when he was young, Washington became personally and professionally attached to the powerful William Fairfax, who promoted his career as a surveyor and soldier. Washington quickly became a senior officer in the colonial forces during the first stages of the French and Indian War. Chosen by the Second Continental Congress in 1775 to be commander-in-chief of the Continental Army in the American Revolution, Washington managed to force the British out of Boston in 1776, but was defeated and almost captured later that year when he lost New York City. After crossing the Delaware River in the dead of winter, he defeated the British in two battles, retook New Jersey and restored momentum to the Patriot cause.

Thomas Jefferson was the third president of the United States. That's the most boring thing you'll hear about him. For most of the people who have been president of the United States that title would be the highlight of a lifetime, the accomplishment to be most proud of, the first thing to appear on your gravestone. Not so with Jefferson. He chose three accomplishments to be recorded on his tombstone, and being president didn't even make the list. The following is inscribed at his grave: "Here was buried Thomas Jefferson, Author of the Declaration of Independence, of the Statute of Virginia for religious freedom and Father of the University of Virginia."

Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt, Jr. was an American politician, author, naturalist, soldier, explorer, and historian who served as the 26th President of the United States. He was a leader of the Republican Party and founder of the Progressive Party insurgency of 1912. He is known for his exuberant personality, range of interests and achievements, and his leadership of the Progressive Movement, as well as his "cowboy" persona and robust masculinity. Born into a wealthy family in New York City, Roosevelt was a sickly child who suffered from asthma. To overcome his physical weakness, he embraced a strenuous life. He was home-schooled and became an eager student of nature. He attended Harvard College, where he studied biology, boxed, and developed an interest in naval affairs. He quickly entered politics, determined to become a member of the ruling class. In 1881, he was elected to the New York State Assembly, where he became a leader of the reform faction of the GOP. His book, *The Naval War of 1812* (1882), established him as a learned historian and writer.

Jimmy Carter aspired to make Government "competent and compassionate," responsive to the American people and their expectations. His achievements were notable, but in an era of rising energy costs, mounting inflation, and continuing tensions, it was impossible for his administration to meet these high expectations.

Carter, who has rarely used his full name--James Earl Carter, Jr.--was born October 1, 1924, in Plains, Georgia. Peanut farming, talk of politics, and devotion to the Baptist faith were mainstays of his upbringing. He graduated in 1946 from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. After seven years' service as a naval officer, Carter returned to Plains. In 1962 he entered state politics, and eight years later he was elected Governor of Georgia. Among the new young southern governors, he attracted attention by emphasizing ecology, efficiency in government, and the removal of racial barriers. He announced his candidacy for President in December 1974 and began a two-year campaign that gradually gained momentum. At the Democratic Convention, he was nominated on the first ballot. He chose Senator Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota as his running mate. Carter campaigned hard against President Gerald R. Ford, debating with him three times. Carter won by 297 electoral votes to 241 for Ford.

DID YOU KNOW – LITTLE KNOW FACTS ABOUT OUR PRESIDENTS with Thanks to North Haven

(These would make great cut-aparts)

Our tallest President was Abraham Lincoln at 6'4".

The first President to ride on a steamboat was James Monroe.

The first President to appear on television was Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The only President elected unanimously was George Washington.

Millard Fillmore had the first bathtub installed in the White House.

Jimmy Carter's nickname was "Hot". (Short for hotshot)

Our first divorced President was Ronald Reagan.

Ulysses Grant was arrested for driving his horses to fast.

Bill Clinton played the saxophone.

THIS AND THAT – A QUIZ ABOUT THIS AND THAT

1. When you start your car, you're ABS light comes on. What does this mean?
Ans. Your Anti-lock brake system is working properly.
2. What baseball legend hit Yankee Stadium's first two World Series home runs?
Ans. Casey Stengel – in the 1923 World Series when he was playing for the New York Giants.
3. After retiring as a player, with what team did baseball great Babe Ruth spend one year as a coach?
Ans. Brooklyn Dodgers in 1938
4. How many dots are there on a pair of dice?
Ans. 42

5. Mistletoe is the state flower of what state?
Ans. Rhode Island
6. What was the powder used by America's Founding Fathers to keep their wigs white?
Ans. Ground Rice
7. What bird has been spotted flying at 27,000 feet – higher than any other bird?
Ans. The Whooper Swan. A flock of 30 was spotted by a pilot and picked up on radar.
8. In what state is West Point?
Ans. New York
9. What is known as The Big Apple?
Ans. New York City
10. Previously known as Mt McKinley, what did the natives rename this mountain.
Ans. Denali

THE 57 CENT CHURCH with Thanks to Debbie Barnes

A little girl stood near a small church from which she had been turned away because it was 'too crowded'. "I can't go to Sunday School", she sobbed to the pastor as he walked by.

Seeing her shabby, unkempt appearance, the pastor guessed the reason and, taking her by the hand, took her inside and found a place for her in the Sunday school class. The child was so happy that they found room for her, she went to bed that night thinking of the children who have no place to worship Jesus.

Some two years later, this child lay dead in one of the poor tenement buildings. Her parents called for the kindhearted pastor who had befriended their daughter to handle the final arrangements. As her poor little body was being moved, a worn and crumpled red purse was found which seemed to have been rummaged from some trash dump. Inside was found 57 cents and a note, scribbled in childish handwriting, which read: "This is to help build the little church bigger so more children can go to Sunday School." For two years she had saved for this offering of love.

When the pastor tearfully read that note, he knew instantly what he would do. Carrying this note and the cracked, red pocketbook to the pulpit, he told the story of her unselfish love and devotion. He challenged his deacons to get busy and raise enough money for the larger building.

But the story does not end there.... A newspaper learned of the story and published it. It was read by a wealthy realtor who offered them a parcel of land worth many thousands. When told that the church could not pay so much, he offered to sell it to the little church for 57 cents.

Church members made large donations. Checks came from far and wide. Within five years the little girl's gift had increased to \$250,000.00--a huge sum for that time (near the turn of the century). Her unselfish love had paid large dividends.

When you are in the city of Philadelphia, look up Temple Baptist Church, with a seating capacity of 3,300. And be sure to visit Temple University, where thousands of students are educated. Have a look, too, at the Good Samaritan Hospital and at a Sunday School building which houses hundreds of beautiful children, built so that no child in the area will ever need to be left outside during Sunday school time.

In one of the rooms of this building may be seen the picture of the sweet face of the little girl whose 57 cents, so sacrificially saved, made such remarkable history. Alongside of it is a portrait of her kind pastor, Dr. Russell H. Conwell, author of the book, 'Acres of Diamonds'.

DO YOU REMEMBER with Thanks to Ekonk Grange

1. In the 1940's, where were automobile headlight dimmer switches located?
Ans. On the floor board, to the left of the clutch.
2. The bottle top of a royal crown cola bottle had holes in it. For what was it used?
Ans. To sprinkle clothes before ironing. (Note: This was before steam irons.)
3. Why was having milk delivered a problem in northern winters?
Ans. The milk froze, and expansion forced the caps off!
4. What was the popular chewing gum that was named for a game of chance?
Ans. Blackjack Chewing Gum
5. What did women do to look as if they were wearing stockings when none were available due to the rationing during WWII?
Ans. They drew lines down the center of the back of their legs. Back then stockings had lines down the center backs.
6. In the 40's and 50's what method was popular for kids to reach a decision?
Ans. Go "eeny-meeny-miney-mo".
7. What disease was most dreaded in the 1940's?
Ans. Polio. August 1st public swimming pools were closed, movie theaters closed and public gatherings were virtually eliminated.
8. What was the name of the Indian Princess on the Howdy Doody Show?
Ans. Princess Summerfallwinterspring.
9. What did mother's save and use to "purchase" items?
Ans. Green stamps. They were put into books and the books were redeemed for household items. (They also came in other colors.)
10. During WWII, This expression became popular: "Praise the Lord and pass the _____"
Ans. "Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition and we'll be free!"

THE ARROGANCE OF AUTHORITY

(This can be counted as an Agricultural Number)

A DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) officer stopped at a ranch in Texas, and talked with an old rancher. He told the rancher, "I need to inspect your ranch for illegally grown drugs." The rancher said, "Okay, but don't go in that field over there.....", as he pointed out the location.

The DEA officer verbally exploded saying, "Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government of the United States of America with me!" Reaching into his rear pants pocket, the arrogant officer removed his badge and proudly displayed it to the rancher.

"See this badge? This badge means I am allowed to go wherever I wish.... on any land! No questions asked or answers given! Have I made myself clear? Do you understand?"

The rancher then nodded politely, apologized and went about his chores. A short time later, the old rancher heard loud screams, looked up, and saw the DEA officer running for his life, being chased by the rancher's big Santa Gertrudis bull.

With every step the bull was gaining ground on the officer, and it seemed likely that he'd sure enough get gored before he reached safety. The officer was clearly terrified. The rancher threw down his tools, ran to the fence and yelled at the top of his lungs. "Your badge! Show him your BADGE..... !"

A HISTORY LESSON FROM A \$1 BILL with Thanks to Irene Percoski

On the rear of the One Dollar bill, you will see two circles. Together, they comprise the Great Seal of the United States. The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin and a group of men come up with a Seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task and another two years to get it approved.

If you look at the left-hand circle, you will see a Pyramid. Notice the face is lighted, and the western side is dark. This country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the west or decided what we could do for Western Civilization. The Pyramid is uncapped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the Capstone you have the all-seeing eye, an ancient symbol for divinity. It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything. 'IN GOD WE TRUST' is on this currency.

The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means, 'God has favored our undertaking.' The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means, 'a new order has begun.' At the base of the pyramid is the Roman numeral for 1776. (MDCCLXXVI)

If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery, and is the centerpiece of most heroes' monuments. Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States, and it is always visible whenever he speaks, yet very few people know what the symbols mean... The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons: First, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong, and he is smart enough to soar above it. Secondly, he wears no material crown. We had just broken from the King of England. Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of that shield you have a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor. We were coming together as one nation. In the Eagle's beak you will read, 'E PLURIBUS UNUM' meaning, 'from many - one.' Above the Eagle, you have the thirteen stars, representing the thirteen original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away. Again, we were coming together as one. Notice what the Eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and Arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

They say that the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a worldwide belief. You will usually never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor. But think about this: 13 original colonies, 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 13 stripes on our flag, 13 steps on the Pyramid, 13 letters in 'Annuit Coeptis,' 13 letters in 'E Pluribus Unum,' 13 stars above the Eagle, 13 bars on that shield, 13 leaves on the olive branch, 13 fruits, and if you look closely, 13 arrows. And finally, if you notice the arrangement of the 13 stars in the right-hand circle you will see that they are arranged as a Star of David. This was ordered by George Washington who, when he asked Haym Solomon, a wealthy Philadelphia Jew, what he would like as a personal reward for his services to the Continental Army, Solomon said he wanted nothing for himself but that he would like something for his people. The Star of David was the result. Few people know that it was Solomon who saved the Army through his financial contributions but died a pauper. Haym Solomon gave \$25 million to the Continental Army, money that was extremely important to our independence from England...

FILL-INS

I don't recommend using more than two or three at a time.

Why did the Pilgrims pants always fall down?

Ans. Because they wore their belt buckle on their hat.

What's the difference between roast beef and pea soup? Ans. Anyone can roast beef.

How do you get Holy Water?

Ans. You boil the hell out of it.

What do fish say when they hit a concrete wall?

Ans. Dam!

What do you get from a pampered cow?

Ans. Spoiled milk.

How do crazy people get through the forest?

Ans. They take the Psycho Path

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

Ans. Frostbite

What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches?

Ans. A nervous wreck.

A SIMPLE HISTORY QUIZ

1. When was the Grange founded?

Ans. Dec. 4, 1867

2. Who was the first Master of the National Grange?

Ans. William Saunders

3. Who was the first US president born west of the Mississippi?

Ans. Herbert Hoover (West Branch Iowa)

4. What plant's leaves did American colonists use to brew a tea substitute following their Boston Tea Party tax protest? Ans. Goldenrod Leaves – The drink it yielded was known as "Liberty Tea"

5. What was the name of the first permanent settlement in Kentucky, established in 1775 by frontiersman Daniel Boone? Ans. Boonesborough

6. How many states were there in the US in 1900?

Ans. 45 (OK, NM, AZ, AK and HI were not yet states)

7. What is the oldest town in CT?

Ans. Windsor

SOME CLOSING THOUGHTS

I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.

...Mother Teresa

The test of progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have little. ...Franklin D. Roosevelt

What you do makes a difference. And you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

...Jane Goodall

From Irene Percoski...

History shows it is want of perseverance rather than of ability that inevitably causes failure. –unknown author

From Bob Sendewicz...

You don't stop laughing because you grow old, You grow old because you stop laughing.