



**THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE
LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2016**



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Hi All,

It was nice to see so many of you at State Session. Hopefully you enjoyed yourself and made a new Grange friend or two.

The information that will appear in the next Bluebook is included with this newsletter. In case you haven't heard, the Bluebook will include information for the next two years. Because of this more current information will appear in both this newsletter and in the Connecticut Granger. Our contests will still be done yearly, but will remain the same for the next two years.

For those of you that missed the Session the following awards were given out in the Lecturers' Department...

HONOR LECTURER AWARDS – Cheshire, No. Stonington and Lyme.

LECTURER'S APPRECIATION AWARD – Redding, Cheshire, Glastonbury, Manchester, Cawasa, Whiggville, Vernon, Winchester, Colchester, Ekonk, Killingly, Bethlehem, No. Stonington, Lyme, Enfield, Cannon, Stonington, Oxford and Taghannuck.

"SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE" -- Cheshire, Glastonbury, Colchester, Beacon Valley, Killingly, No. Stonington, Prospect, Lyme and Norwich.

"A WORD FROM HOME" -- Cheshire, Glastonbury, Hillstown, Killingly, Lyme and Hemlock.

ESSAY CONTEST – 1st Lois Evankow, Lyme Grange
2nd Eleanor Davis, Killingly Grange
3rd Jean Meehan, Prospect Grange

COMPLETE PROGRAM – 1ST Susan Pianka, No. Stonington Grange
2nd Denise Barbieri, Prospect Grange

I would love to see more Honor Lecturer and Lecturer Appreciation Awards next year. Check out the requirements now on the colored sheet enclosed and get a head start.

See You Around The State,
Marge

SHARED NUMBERS...

THE PUZZLE with Thanks to Enfield Grange

Sally excitedly walks into a restaurant and rushes to a friend's table

Sally: Ninety-five days!! Ninety-five days!!

Donna: What are you shouting about? What is ninety-five days?

Sally: We finished the puzzle in ninety-five days.

Donna: What is so special about that?

Sally: The box says two to four years!

RITUAL GAME with Thanks to Taghannuck Grange

Before the meeting I switch 2 or 3 scarves on the stations, switch the staves of the Steward and AS, put the mat in the wrong place, switch flowers & fruit, etc. (There are usually one or two "eagle eyes" that I have to say wait for the program when they try to tell me there is something wrong with the Hall.) During the Lecturer's program I have everyone list what is wrong with the Hall set up. This gets everyone talking about the how and why of placement.

A RITUAL QUIZ

1. What Officer says "Hold" with upraised hand and when? Ans. Lecturer in the First Degree
2. When is this said "I place in your hand the Constitution and Bylaws"? Ans. Installation of Master
3. What song does this line come from "Come Patrons let us join our hands" Ans. Patrons Chain
4. When do the Graces hold hands with the candidates? Ans. The Altar Circle in the Fourth Degree
5. Which hand should the Assistants always carry the staves in? Ans. Right Hand
6. Who closes the outer gate? Ans. Gatekeeper
7. Who proclaims the Grange opened? Ans. Overseer
8. Candidates in the First Degree are? Ans. Laborers and Maids
9. What Season is it in the Fourth Degree? Ans. Winter
10. Who is told to remember the parable of the mustard seed? Ans. Chaplain during Installation

SEVEN KINDS OF MEMBERS

1. Some are like wheelbarrows – no good unless pushed.
2. Some are like canoes – they need to be paddled.
3. Some are like kites – if you don't keep a string on them they will fly away.
4. Some are like footballs – you can't tell which way they will bounce.
5. Some are like trailers – no good unless pulled.
6. Some are like balloons – full of wind and likely to blow up unless handled carefully.
7. Some are dedicated, interested and willing to work to support our organization.

WHAT KIND OF MEMBER ARE YOU?

SOME GRANGE HISTORY with Thanks to Ekonk Grange

In 1866, Oliver Hudson Kelly received the commission from President Andrew Johnson, who was the successor to Abraham Lincoln, to survey agriculture conditions in the southern states because there was little or no reliable information following the American Civil War.

When Kelly saw the conditions in the South and the advantage being taken by northern carpetbaggers of beleaguered farmers, his work as a Minnesota farmer, his study and writing on agriculture and his association with the Masonic Order combined in the conception of a notion to extend a fraternal hand of friendship to farms and rural people of the north, south and west. He later wrote, we need to restore kindly feelings among the people. Of the seven founders of the National Grange none were active farmers. Unlike many other organizations of the time, the Grange opened its doors to women furthering the concept of family and community. The Masonic Order was the general model for much of the ritual portion of the Grange.

HARVESTING NUTS with Thanks to Vernon Grange

Narrator: On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big, old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two boys filled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts.

Boy 1: "One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me,"

Narrator: Several dropped and rolled down toward the fence. Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard,

Boy 1: "One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me"

Narrator: He just knew what it was. He jumped back on his bike and rode off. Just around the bend he met an old man with a cane, hobbling along.

Boy on Bike: "Come here quick, you won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls!"

Old Man: "Beat it kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk."

Narrator: When the boy insisted though, the man hobbled slowly to the cemetery. Standing by the fence they heard,

Boy 2: "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me."

The old man whispered: "Boy, you've been tellin' me the truth. Let's see if we can see the Lord...?"

Narrator: Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence, yet were still unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord. At last they heard,

Boy 1: "One for you, one for me. That's all. Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done...."

Narrator: They say the old man had the lead for a good half-mile before the kid on the bike passed him.

THE CHRISTMAS ALPHABET

A is for the Angels of Christmas. It is said that the Angels leave heaven each Christmas Eve to enter the homes of all newly-born babies. Gently awakened, they are borne back to Paradise and caroled by the Heavenly Hosts in honor of the child that was Christ.

B is for boxes. The wonderful goodies wrapped in brightly-hued paper and tied with pretty ribbons...they lie in colorful profusion under the tree until the magic moment of opening.

C is for the Carols. Silent Night remains the most popular of all the carols. It was written on Christmas Eve by the pastor and the organist of a small church in Ansdorf, Austria. Christmas morn they gave Silent Night to the ages with an old guitar for accompaniment ... the pipe organ had broken down.

D is for Dolls. A little girl without one is almost unthinkable. Watch her as she holds and protects this precious bundle ... giving to her doll all the love and warmth that one day may go to a child of her own.

E is for Christmas Eve. A time to pause and pray before the day begins.

F is for Feasting. The kitchen comes alive early in the morning as the women prepare for the Christmas Feast. Soon the exciting aroma will seep through the house, bringing with it visions of mince pies, candied yams and tender turkey.

G is for the Giving. The gifts of the Magi were gold, frankincense and myrrh. Today, we buy each other gifts and in the giving and receiving, we attempt to rekindle the spirit behind the first Christmas gift.

H is for the Holly and **I** is for the Ivy. All Christmas greenery has meaning. Holly was originally believed to be magic and would keep witches away. Ivy, a symbol of Bacchus, the wine god, was never allowed into the house until wine became part of the Christmas feast.

J is for Jingle Bells. An American song, now over 100 years old. Oh what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh.

K is for Kissing. All relatives want to kiss the children... and somehow or another they get their kiss on Christmas. Perhaps it is the gifts they bring?

L is for the Lights of Christmas. The Christmas Candle was the symbol of enlightenment, for in the New Testament Jesus is called the Light of the World. In many homes the Christmas tree is kept alight all through the night.

M is for the Mistletoe. A stubby, spongy little plant said to possess evil, magical powers to some and a symbol of brotherly love to others ... and today it is a wonderful excuse for a stolen kiss.

N is for the Nativity. ...and she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

O is for the Ornaments – The flickering tree bulbs, the Santa Clauses, the colorful wrappings, and all the other ornaments are as much a part of Christmas to us as all the presents, the caroling, the feasting and the wassailing.

P is for Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.

Q is for the Questions children ask. Why so many Santa Clauses? How can he be all over at the same time? How can he fit down the chimney?

R is for Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.

S is for Santa. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, who became St. Nicholas, patron saint of children (and in Holland, of Christmas) has many names ... Petit Noel, Christkindl, Yuel Testen, Pelznickel, Father Christmas and Santa Claus.

T is for the Tree. The custom of using Christmas trees is believed to have spread from Germany to the rest of Europe. When Queen Victoria was married to Prince Albert, he introduced the Christmas tree into England. English and German settlers brought it to America.

U is for the Unhappy Few. Charles Dickens' Scrooge, for example, who did not believe in Christmas. But we compare him to Tiny Tim ... and our choice is all too clear.

V is for Visiting. A time-honored custom that, like gift-giving, dates back to the Journey of the Wise Men.

W is for Wassailing. Wassail is a warm draught for a cold Christmas Eve ... Wassailing is the method of obtaining it. The key ingredient, however, is the singing and the greeting as the merry band goes "Wassailing" door to door.

X is for Xmas. An abbreviation to be sure, and frowned upon by many ... but based on the ancient Christian symbol X, for Christ, it is valid and proper for those who use it to wish their friends a Merry Xmas.

Y is for the Yule Log. In Merrie Olde England, the massive log was brought into the baronial hall and hailed with song and music. It was lighted with an unburned portion of the Yule log saved from the preceding Christmas.

Z is for Zenith. The high point of the heavens and the high point of the year. "And the angel said unto them, Fear Not; for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

SOME FILL-IN JOKES

How do Snowman get around? Ans. On their icicles

When is a boat like a pile of snow? Ans. When it's adrift

What do you get when you cross a vampire and a snowman? Ans. Frostbite

What are people who are afraid of Santa Claus called? Ans. Claustrophobic

Why does Santa have three gardens? Ans. So he can Hoe-Hoe-Hoe

What do snowmen eat for breakfast? Ans. Snowflakes

What do you call Frosty the Snowman in May? Ans. A Puddle

WINTER FACTS

The December Moon is called the Cold Moon

Known as "The Storm of the Century," a blizzard swept destruction from Cuba to Canada on March 12, 1993. The storm was responsible for 310 deaths and \$6.6 billion in damage.

The largest snowman ever built was built 113-feet, 7-inches high. It was built in Bethel, Maine.

The first Winter Olympics were held in Chamonix, France, in 1924.

Cold winter weather kills more than twice as many Americans as summer heat does.

The Guinness Book of Records states that on January 28, 1887, a snowflake 15 inches wide and 8 inches thick fell in Fort Keogh, Montana, making it the largest snowflake ever observed.

Ten inches of snow will melt down to only 1 inch of water.

We've all heard stories about The Great Blizzard of 1888 in the Northeast. From March 11 through the 14th, the blizzard dropped between 40–50 inches of snow in parts of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. It blocked roads and wiped out telephone, telegraph, and rail service for days. It was responsible for over 400 deaths and sank 200 ships.

Winters' freezing and thawing account for numerous pot holes in our roads. Add to this the sanding and plowing that occurs with storms and it is not surprising that each year over \$2.4 billion is spent maintaining our roads in the winter months.

The most snow to ever fall in one winter was at Mount Baker in Washington State where 95 feet of snow fell during the winter of 1998-99.

In 1921 76 inches of snow fell in one 24 hour period at Silver Lake Colorado.

INCOME TAX QUIZ

1. The first Federal Income Tax law was enacted in 1892, but was repealed shortly afterwards. Why?
Ans. It was declared unconstitutional
2. Which amendment to the Constitution empowered the Congress to legally levy an income tax?
Ans. The 16th Amendment
3. Who was President when the Federal Income Tax took effect in 1913? Ans. William Howard Taft
4. What was the tax rate on income in the first taxable year of 1913?
Ans. 1% on income over \$3,000 for singles and \$4,000 for couples.
5. In 1940 what was the average amount of tax paid by Americans. Ans. \$40.56
6. What was it ten years later in 1950? \$257.44