



## THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER

May – June 2018

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Hi All,

It's that time of year when we have to think about Let's Celebrate and our Photo, Talent and "A Number" contests. **If you get this Newsletter by e-mail you will find an extra attachment. If you get it in the U. S. Mail you will find a colored piece of paper enclosed.** Either way, please fill it out and return it to me by June 1<sup>st</sup>. I need time to make programs for Sunday's judging of the Talent and "A Number" contests.

To review ... The Talent & "A Number" Contests will be judged on Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00 p.m. sharp.

The Talent Contest can be any kind of Talent. It can be musical or it can be as simple as a monologue or tableau. All are considered talent. You have six minutes to perform. Your set-up time is not included in the timing. The State winner, or runner-up if the winner is not available, will perform at State Session and will receive a check toward their cost of attending National to participate in The Evening of Excellence.

The "A Number" can be any number suitable for a Grange meeting. The theme this year is Vacations. It can be serious or comical. One thing to keep in mind is that your set-up and take-down time is included in the six minutes you have to perform.

Photos get judged on Sat. June 9<sup>th</sup>. You can send your entries to me ahead of time or bring them to Cheshire Grange Hall Sat. between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. They will be on display on Sunday for all to see. The Best in Show entry goes on to National for judging. **\*\*Please note, we will not be judging Junior Entries this year. The Junior Department will be having their own competition with their winners going on to National.**

Election is coming. Every Grange needs a reliable Lecturer. Hopefully we will all be able to fill this spot with a qualified person. Please pass the word. I am willing to work with any new or seasoned Lecturer to help you plan a year's worth of programs. If your Grange elects a new Lecturer, please let me know as soon as possible. I will send them a packet of old newsletters to help them get started.

Your July – August Newsletter will be distributed at Grange Sunday along with report forms for next year.

Your Honor Lecturer report will accompany your September – October Newsletter.

See you around the State.

Marge

## SHARED NUMBERS...

### LABOR DAY

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

More than 100 years after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers.

Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, was first in suggesting a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

But, Peter McGuire's place in Labor Day history has not gone unchallenged. Many believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, not Peter McGuire, founded the holiday. Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J., proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. What is clear is that the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and appointed a committee to plan a demonstration and picnic.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883.

In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

### IT HAPPENED IN MAY, A QUIZ with Thanks to Ekonk Grange

1. On May 10, 1775, "this" was captured by Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys, assisted by Benedict Arnold. Was this Charlotte, S.C. or Fort Ticonderoga? Ans. Fort Ticonderoga
2. This was the 13<sup>th</sup> State to ratify the constitution on May 29, 1790. It has the longest official name of any State. It contains five counties and is home to the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Name the State. Ans. The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.
3. On May 29, 1848 this became our 30<sup>th</sup> State. Pianist Liberace and Magician Harry Houdini are among the many famous people from this State. The 200 acre estate of Frank Lloyd Wright is also in the Badger State. Name this State. Ans. Wisconsin
4. The "Land of 10,000 Lakes" became our 32<sup>nd</sup> State on May 2, 1858. This State boasts the first ever Children's Library and college students here invented roller blades in 1980. Its capital has a "Saintly" name. Name the State. Ans. Minnesota (Capital is St. Paul)
5. This man was captured and killed in a battle on May 2, 2011. He was the head of an Al-Qaeda Terrorist Group. Name the man. Ans. Osama Bin Laden
6. On May 14, 1607 this settlement was founded by John Smith. Name the settlement. Ans. Jamestown Settlement

## **A GRANGE MEMORIAL SERVICE with Thanks to Lyme Grange**

LECTURER - Worthy Master, it seems fitting that at this time, we should pay tribute to our Brothers and Sisters who have departed this earthly Grange, to reap their reward in the Great Grange above. Will you please ask our Worthy Chaplain to lead us in our Memorial Service?

MASTER - Worthy Chaplain, it is the desire of this Grange, that a fitting tribute be payed to our departed Brothers and Sisters. Will you lead us in this service?

CHAPLAIN - Please stand as we sing Amazing Grace

Song by all

CHAPLAIN - At this time on life's way let us pause in reverend memory and pay a loving tribute to our departed friend (s) \_\_\_\_\_ who has (have) laid down his (her/their) implements on earth and passed on to a higher Grange Above. Please join as we say the Lord's Prayer.

Prayer by all

CHAPLAIN - We are constantly passing blindly along the pathway of life, events occurring that we do not understand, and often encountering difficulties and obstructions in our way. But, we should still press forward, having faith that God will ultimately bring us into the broad and pleasant fields of Paradise.

Beyond the sunset gates of life these friends have gone before, but their twilight glow remains forever more.

If we but search we'll find a step each life built in its time that we who follow after might a little higher climb.

They learned through trial and error.

They have sowed good seeds in fertile soil. We have lived to see it grow. Now we are the sowers of the seed as on life's way we go.

Let us choose with care these seeds we sow along life's fertile field that those who follow, may too find fruitful yields when sunset's gate for us shall close. May our deeds done on earth, like those of our departed friends, sow hues of priceless worth and may our twilight afterglow reflect such brilliant ray that those who follow in our stead may find the choicest way.

Please join in singing God Be With You.

Song by All

TRIBUTE - Have people with roses say something about each departed member and then place rose on open Bible.

CHAPLAIN - Now as a tribute to our friend (s) has (have) been made, Let us bow our heads in prayer.

Father all wise, we bow to thee, we know thy way is best. We thank thee that through these great lives our own lives have been blessed. We thank thee for their charted course we use with confidence, and now with earthly tribute we pay homage once more to those whose lives now shine beyond life's sunset gate. AMEN

**FUN THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY**  
*(Make Great Cup-Aparts)*

A penny saved is a government oversight.

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

He who hesitates is probably right.

Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.

If you think there is good in everybody, you haven't met everybody.

If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so she can tell when she's really in trouble.

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example, I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

Did you ever notice: When you put the 2 words 'The' and 'IRS' together it spells 'Theirs...'

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth, think of Algebra.

You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young. Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called golf.

## MOTHER'S DAY QUIZ

Name the Mother...

1. Guardian of the fields, streams and mountains.      Ans. Mother Nature
2. Guardian of all the Slavs in the former Soviet Union.      Ans. Mother Russia
3. Famous Irish Mom.      Ans. Mother McCrea
4. The language you speak in your own country.      Ans. Mother Tongue
5. What you call the amount of silver discovered at the Comstock mine.      Ans. Mother Load
6. Pearly iridescent interior of a mollusk shell.      Ans. Mother of Pearl
7. Land of one's birth.      Ans. Mother Country
8. Your wife's (or husband's) mother.      Ans. Mother-in-law.
9. Of Nursery rhyme fame.      Ans. Mother Goose

### **OUR GRACES from Special Program Helps Published in October 1982 by National Grange**

LECTURER...

Let me introduce to you \_\_\_\_\_ our Ceres. Ceres symbolizes our Faith.

CERES...

I represent Ceres, the Earth Mother, Goddess of all which grows from the earth. My symbol is the corn, and this is the Grange symbol of Faith. Even as we plant the corn and bury the seed in the earth, we have faith that it will spring to life anew. Let us not forget that agriculture is the only occupation in which man works hand in hand with God.

LECTURER...

The second of our Worthy Patronesses is Pomona, who personifies the spirit of Hope.

POMONA...

I represent the Goddess of the fruit trees. After we plant with faith, we must prune and cultivate with care and perseverance that the fruit of our labor be good and abundant. The words of the Good Book tell us that "By their fruits ye shall know them".

FLORA...

I represent the Goddess of flowers and spring. Flowers are a symbol of love and charity. Their beauty reminds us of blessings of the Creator, and that He intends us to share our abundance with others. Must as the earth would be cheerless and sober without the beautiful flowers, so is the soil barren indeed without the development of kindness and love.

LECTURER...

The care and cultivation of our Grange is an ongoing task. What must we do to cultivate and improve it? *(This would be a good place to have a discussion regarding our own Grange.)*

## **AGRICULTURE with Thanks to Riverton Grange**

Farm Bills were first created during the Great Depression to give financial assistance to farmers who were struggling due to an excess crop supply creating low prices and also to control and ensure an adequate food supply. The first farm bill known as the Agriculture Adjustment Act (AAA) was passed by Congress in 1933 as part of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. In the United States, the farm bill is the primary agricultural and food policy tool of the federal government. The farm bill is passed every 5 years or so by the United States Congress. The current farm bill, the Agricultural Act of 2014, funds farm programs through 2018. We should be hearing about the new farm bill over the next few months.

## **GOOD LUCK CHARMS**

**The Four-Leaf Clover ...** It is said that Eve took a four-leaf clover with her when she left the Garden of Eden. Therefore it is lucky to find one in your lawn.

**The Wishbone ...** In the 4<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. it was believed that the wishbone of a fowl helped you find answers to personal problems. Two people would hold the ends and make a wish. The one who ended up with the bigger piece was destined to have good luck.

**Birthstones ...** In the Middle Ages, wise men selected a gem-stone for each month. Their followers were encouraged to wear them to ward off harm. Today they are worn in rings and other jewelry.

**The Rabbits Foot ...** In Ancient lore, feet and footprints were mystic symbols. It is a good luck charm because the rabbit is a fleet-footed animal. While all their feet bring good luck, the left hind foot of a rabbit that has just run through a graveyard is said to bring extra good luck.

**A Wedding Ring ...** Ancient Egyptians believed that we all had a love vein that ran from the heart through the left arm to what we now call our ring finger. Years later a Roman Scholar said a ring should be placed on a brides' ring finger to keep her love from escaping. It is said that the ring should never be removed or she will lose her husbands' affections.

**Horseshoes ...** The horseshoe is considered good luck because the iron from which it is made, repels witches. If you find a horseshoe you must return to your house at once and hang it over a door. It must be hung with the prongs up so the luck can't run out. When you hang it you should use three nails, each driven in with three blows of a hammer.

**Mistletoe ...** In ancient Scandinavian mythology we learn that Frigga, the Goddess of the sky, love and marriage persuaded all living things not to hurt her Baldur, her son, and God of the sun. She forgot about mistletoe and Loki the God of evil. Loki made an arrow from mistletoe and got Hodur, Baldur's blind brother, to shoot it. The arrow killed Baldur. Some of Frigga's tears fell on a mistletoe plant and turned to pearls. Baldur came back to life and Frigga declared the mistletoe under her protection. It was later believed that loving couples should kiss under the mistletoe to make their love last forever.

## TOURING AMERICA – WHERE ARE WE

1. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were both signed in this City.  
Ans. Philadelphia, PA
2. Where is the Baseball Hall of Fame located?  
Ans. Cooperstown, New York
3. The first baseball game ever played in America was played here in 1846.  
Ans. Hoboken, NJ
4. This state held the very first beauty contest in 1880 and Thomas Edison was a judge.  
Ans. Delaware
5. The country's first railroad was in this state.  
Ans. Maryland – the railroad was the B & O (Baltimore & Ohio)
6. The first permanent English settlement in North America was located here.  
Ans. Jamestown, VA
7. The Mammoth-Flint Ridge Cave System is the longest in the world (340 miles). Where is it?  
Ans. Kentucky
8. The first shots of the Civil War were fired by the Confederate Army here.  
Ans. Charleston, SC
9. This state is called the Mountain State.  
Ans. West Virginia
10. This state has the world's largest freshwater aquarium and is bordered by 8 other states.  
Ans. Tennessee
11. A druggist, John Pemberton, first concocted Coca-Cola in 1886 here as a tonic for headaches.  
Ans. Atlanta, Georgia
12. The highest point in this state is 345 feet.  
Ans. Florida
13. The nation's first 911 call was made in Haleyville in 1968. What state are we in?  
Ans. Alabama
14. This state is where the first Wal-Mart was opened in 1962.  
Ans. Arkansas
15. Tabasco Sauce was first made here.  
Ans. Louisiana
16. This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> largest state.  
Ans. California
17. This state was the 1st to encourage recycling by offering beverage container refunds in 1971.  
Ans. Oregon
18. This state is considered the wettest. It averages 460 inches of rain annually.  
Ans. Hawaii
19. This is our most sparsely populated state.  
Ans. Alaska
20. The first McDonald's was built here in 1955.  
Ans. Illinois
21. The geographic center of North America is located here.  
Ans. No. Dakota
22. The nation's first electric traffic lights were installed here in 1914.  
Ans. Cleveland, Ohio
23. This state has 5 times as many hogs as it has people.  
Ans. Iowa

24. Where is the cereal capital of the world?  
Ans. Battle Creek, Michigan
25. This state was the first to give women the right to vote (1869).  
Ans. Wyoming

## **SHORT STORIES**

### **Strawberries Anyone?**

A farmer was hauling manure and his truck broke down in front of a mental institution. One of the patients leaned over the fence and said, "what're you going to do with the manure?"

The Farmer said, "I'm going to put it on my strawberries"

The Patient said "we might be crazy, but we put whipped cream on ours!"

### **THE DOCTOR**

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office.

Is it true, she wanted to know, that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?

'Yes, I'm afraid so,' the doctor told her.

There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, 'I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked 'NO REFILLS.'

### **THE OPERATION**

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation.

As he was about to get the anesthesia he asked to speak to his son.

'Yes, Dad, what is it?'

'Don't be nervous, son; do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife....'

### **IS YOUR PASSPORT READY**

Robert Whiting, an elderly gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by plane.

At French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry on. 'You have been to France before, monsieur?' the customs officer asked sarcastically.

Mr. Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously. Then you should know enough to have your passport ready.'

The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it.

'Impossible. Americans always have to show your passports on arrival in France!'

The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained, "Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find a single Frenchmen to show a passport to.'