

# PROGRAM HELPS AND INFORMATION

## MAY – JUNE 2009

Marge Bernhardt, State Lecturer  
424 Cedar Lane, Cheshire, CT 06410

Phone: (203) 272-4620 e-mail: [mbcb76@cox.net](mailto:mbcb76@cox.net)

*(If you received this via US Mail and have an e-mail address, please e-mail me -- [mbcb76@cox.net](mailto:mbcb76@cox.net) -- so I can add you to our list. With postage going up this is more important than ever. Plus, you will receive your copy earlier.*

Hi Everyone,

Hopefully by the time you receive this warmer, dryer weather will be with us. It has been a long winter with a lot of meetings having to be cancelled. With better weather, let's get out and neighbor. Every Grange enjoys having visitors and many times you can help by filling an office or taking a part in the program. We all need to work together.

**ESSAY CONTEST** It has been pointed out to me that there is a mistake in the Bluebook. This year the limit is 100 words. The correct information was furnished you last fall, but I know that most people go by the book. Thank you to those who have pointed this out to me. I have been working only from my original copy and did not check the book. If anyone does limit it to 50 words, it won't be a problem because that is definitely less than the 100, however, you can say a lot more in 100 words. This was the reason for the change.

**GRANGE SUNDAY** is June 14 at Good Will Grange Hall, 43 Naubuc Ave., Glastonbury. Amy will present her service at 11:00 a.m. followed by a lasagna dinner put on by the Youth. At 1:00 we will have our Talent & "A Number" Contest. The Talent winner will represent us at the North East Talent Run-off to be held at Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, Massachusetts on Tuesday Evening August 4<sup>th</sup>.

**LET'S CELEBRATE** will be held at Good Will Grange Hall on Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup>. At that time our photo contest will be judged. Categories for this are America The Beautiful, Animals, Grangers in Action, Family Celebrations and Historic Places or Events. Remember this contest is open to Grangers, their children and grandchildren. Juniors (under 14) will be judged separately. Complete details appear in the Bluebook.

**THE 94<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NORTH EAST LECTURERS' CONFERENCE** will be held August 3-6 at Bridgewater State College, 200 East Campus Drive, Bridgewater, Massachusetts. If you receive this newsletter by e-mail, all the information will be mailed shortly. If you are still on the mailing list, it is included in this envelope. Please observe the deadline for registering. It will be strictly enforced. Our State has always been good about this, but there have been problems in the past area wide. We will be making a dry run to check the college out and a full report will be sent to those who register. I am still looking for help with the program. Our theme is "Halloween". If you have any costumes or numbers pertaining to Halloween we would sure appreciate having them. Better yet, why not offer to come to the conference and present a number.

**JULY – AUGUST NEWSLETTER AND FORMS** Your Pomona Lecturer or his or her representative will receive packets at Grange Sunday containing your monthly report forms for next year and the next newsletter. If you don't receive yours in a timely manner, please contact him or her. For those who get the newsletter by e-mail I will send a complimentary copy ahead of time.

Have a nice summer. See you around the State.

Marge

## **TAPS With Thanks to Jean Meehan**

We in the United States have all heard the haunting song, 'Taps'. It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song?

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia . The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted.

The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as Taps' used at military funerals was born.

The words are...

Day is done. Gone the sun. From the lakes, From the hills. From the sky. All is well. Safely rest. God is nigh.

Fading light. Dims the sight. And a star. Gems the sky. Gleaming bright. From afar. Drawing nigh. Falls the night.

Thanks and praise. For our days. Neath the sun, Neath the stars. Neath the sky. As we go. This we know. God is nigh

### **ON TOP OF MY SUNDAE with Thanks to Beacon Valley Grange**

Tune: On Top of Old Smokey

On top of my sundae  
All covered with sauce  
I lost my poor cherry  
It really got lost.

It rolled to the garden  
And under a bush  
And then my poor cherry  
It turned into mush.

It rolled off the table  
And onto the floor  
And then my poor cherry  
It rolled out the door.

If you like your sundae  
All covered with sauce  
Hold onto your cherry  
Or it will get lost.

### **TAKE ME OUT FOR SOME ICE CREAM**

Tune: Take me out to the Ballgame

Take me out for some ice cream,  
Take me out to the store  
Buy me a triple scoop jumbo cone,  
I won't share, I'll eat it alone!

For it's scoop, scoop, scoop up the ice cream –  
Give me three kinds I adore!  
For it's one, two, three, scoops to go  
At the ice cream store!

**IDIOT SIGHTINGS** with Thanks to Joan Perry  
(These make great cut-aparts or can be used individually as fill-ins.)

We had to have the garage door repaired. The Sears repairman told us one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener. I thought for a minute, and said that we had the largest one Sears made at that time, a 1/2 horsepower. He shook his head and said, 'Lady, you need a 1/4 horsepower.' I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4. He said, 'NO, it's not.' Four is larger than two..'

My daughter and I went through the McDonald 's take-out window, and I gave the clerk a \$5 bill. Our total was \$4.25, so I also handed her a quarter. She said, 'You gave me too much money.' I said, 'Yes I know, but this way you can just give me a dollar bill back.' She sighed and went to get the manager who asked me to repeat my request. I did so, and he handed me back the quarter, and said 'We're sorry but we can not do that kind of thing.' The clerk then proceeded to give me back \$1 and 75 cents in change..

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the DEER CROSSING sign on our road. The reason: 'Too many deer are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore.'

My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.' He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg lettuce.

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate, when an airport employee asked, 'Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?' To which I replied, 'If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?' He smiled knowingly and nodded, 'That's why we ask.'

The stoplight on the corner buzzes when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an "intellectually challenged" co-worker of mine. She asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red. Appalled, she responded, 'What on earth are blind people doing driving?!'

We had a "good-bye luncheon" for an old and dear coworker. She was leaving the company due to 'downsizing'. Our manager commented, cheerfully, 'This is fun. We should do this more often.' Not another word was spoken. We all just looked at each other with that deer-in-the-headlights stare.

I work with an individual who plugged her power strip back into itself, and for the sake of her life, couldn't understand why her system would not turn on.

When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in our car. We went to the service department, and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver-side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. 'Hey,' I announced to the technician, 'it's open!' His reply, 'I know. I already got that side.'

## **THE POWER OF A BADGE** with Thanks to Senexet Grange

A DEA officer stops at a ranch in Montana, and talks with an old rancher. He tells the rancher, 'I need to inspect your ranch for illegally grown drugs.'

The old rancher says, 'Okay, but do not go in that field over there' as he points out the location.

The DEA officer verbally explodes saying, 'Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government with me.' Reaching into his rear pants pocket, he removes his badge and proudly displays it to the farmer. '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 old rancher nods politely, apologizes, and goes about his chores.

A short time later, the old rancher hears loud screams and sees the DEA officer running for his life chased close behind by the rancher's prize bull. With every step the bull is gaining ground on the officer, and it seems likely that he'll get "horned" before he reaches safety. The officer is clearly terrified.

The old rancher throws down his tools, runs to the fence and yells at the top of his lungs.....  
'Your badge! Show him your badge!'

## **DUI - MAINE STYLE** with Thanks to Richard Chapman

From a county where drunk driving is considered a sport, comes this story .

Recently a routine police patrol parked outside a bar in Farmington , Maine . After last call, the officer noticed a man leaving the bar so apparently intoxicated that he could barely walk. The man stumbled around the parking lot for a few minutes, with the officer quietly observing. After what seemed an eternity in which he tried his keys on five different vehicles, the man managed to find his car and fall into it. He sat there for a few minutes as a number of other patrons left the bar and drove off.

Finally he started the car, switched the wipers on and off--they worked fine, dry summer night--, flicked the blinkers on and off a couple of times, honked the horn and then switched on the lights. He moved the vehicle forward a few inches, reversed a little and then remained still for a few more minutes as some more of the other patrons' vehicles left. At last, when he was the only car left in the parking lot, he pulled out and drove slowly down the road.

The police officer, having waited patiently all this time, now started up his patrol car, put on the flashing lights, pulled the man over and administered a breathalyzer test. To his amazement, the breathalyzer indicated no evidence that the man had consumed any alcohol at all! Dumbfounded, the officer said, I'll have to ask you to accompany me to the police station. This breathalyzer equipment must be broken.

'I doubt it,' said the truly proud Redneck. 'Tonight I'm the designated decoy.'

**A POEM FOR MOMS AND DADS** with Thanks to Ekonk Community Grange  
...Author Unknown

Now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray for my sanity to keep,  
'Cause if some peace I do not find,  
I'm pretty sure I'll lose my mind.  
I pray I find a little quiet  
Far from the daily family riot.

May I lie back, not have to think  
About what they're stuffing down the sink,  
Or who they're with, or where they're at,  
And what they're doing to the cat.  
I pray that some silence I find,  
Not to hear, that's mine, no it's mine!

No fighting, no tears, no whining,  
No messes, screaming or biting,  
No begging or hollering, "that's not fair",  
Just to have a nap, without a care,  
Sleep all night, yes, all night long,  
To sleep in late, could that be wrong?

Yes, now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray my wits about me keep,  
But as I look around I know  
I must have lost them long ago.

**MOTHER'S DAY QUIZ** with Thanks to Beacon Valley Grange  
(All the answers can be made from the letters in the word Mother.)

1. A friendless insect (Moth)
2. A definite article (the)
3. Possessive, feminine pronoun (her)
4. Excessively warm (hot)
5. A garden tool (hoe)
6. Greater in number (more)
7. A digit of the foot (toe)
8. A city in Italy (Rome)
9. Found at the edge of a garment (hem)
10. Boy's name, male of feline (Tom)

**YOUR NAME**

You got it from your father,  
It was all he had to give  
So it's ours to use and cherish  
For as long as you may live.

If you lose the watch he gave you,  
It can always be replaced  
But a black mark on your name, son  
Can never be erased.

It was clean the day you took it  
And a worthy name to bear  
When you got it from your father,  
There was no dishonor there.

So make sure you guard it wisely,  
After all that's said and done,  
You be glad the name is spotless  
When you give it to your son.

**SOME BLACKOUT SKITS** from Farmington Valley Pomona

Sarah trying on white hat...  
Janet: Excuse Me: You look just like Helen White...  
Sarah: You should see me in Green...yuck!!!!

Mother: Doctor my son swallowed a role of film!!!  
Doctor: Well, let's just wait and see what develops!

Old Lady walks into a bar and says to the Bartender: I would like a whiskey in a glass with just 2 drops of water please.

Bartender gives her drink.

Old Lady: I would like another whiskey with just 2 drops of water please.

Bartender gives her 2<sup>nd</sup> drink.

Old Lady: I would like another whiskey with just 2 drops of water please.

Bartender: Why are you only ordering two drops of water with each drink?

Old Lady: Well, Sonny, at my age I can hold my liquor but NOT my water.....

Lady: Hello, I'm bringing my cat in to have him fixed.

Vet: Well, I'm 90% certain he's been fixed!

Lady: How can I be 100% sure?

Vet: Watch to see if he does any male things!

Lady: Well, he already spends all day on the couch, but if he starts hugging the remote, I'll bring him in...

### **WHY MEN STAY HOME** with Thanks to Colchester Grange

*Characters – Mary, Doris and Nora – sit sewing and talking*

Mary: Well, it's just become a habit with Phil. About every evening, soon as we're through supper, he puts on his hat and goes to town.

Doris: Bob does the same thing – every night. I don't think he's bored at home! He's just got the habit. I wish to goodness I knew how to break him of it.

Nora (who is somewhat older): Well, I'll tell you how I broke John of the habit.

Mary: Don't tell me John ever left you in the evenings!

Nora: Yes, he certainly did. Like Bob and Phil he'd go down for "a few minutes" and stay for hours. Every evening I'd be at home alone here until 10 or 11 o'clock. Then one evening John forgot something and came back for it, a few minutes after he left. I was sitting like this and he came up behind me and put his hands over my eyes. I said, "Is that you, Henry?" (pause) John's been good about staying home ever since.

### **SEARS CATALOG ORDER** with Thanks to Simsbury Grange

Two rednecks were looking at a Sears catalog and admiring the models. One says to the other, "Have you seen the beautiful girls in this catalog?"

The second one replies, "Yes, they are very beautiful. And look at the price!"

The first one says with wide eyes, "Wow, they aren't very expensive. At this price, I'm buying one."

The second one smiles and pats him on the back. "Good Idea! Order one and if she's as beautiful as she is in the catalog, I will get one too."

Three weeks later, the youngest redneck asks his friend, "Did you ever receive the girl you ordered from the Sears Catalog?"

The second redneck replies, "No, but it shouldn't be long now. I got her clothes yesterday!"

## **FOURTH OF JULY** by Peggy Brady with Thanks to Colchester Grange

We gather to join in sweet freedom's song,  
Free still to express our view;  
It's another Fourth of July,  
Our country's birthday, yet so new.

This country that we call home  
Is the best beyond compare;  
On this, its birthday,  
We join hands and hearts and share.

The marching band is warming up;  
There's very little shade;  
The street is lined with people  
Awaiting the big parade.

In past battles that love has fought,  
We remember the many brave we've lost.  
Though sad, we vow to keep home safe,  
No matter what the cost.

See there, in our American sky,  
Majesty that taught us to pray  
Old Glory still proudly waves on high—  
Happy Birthday, USA!

### **CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE TYPES OF HATS**

On the next page are pictures of different types of hats. This can be copied and passed out to your members to identify. The correct answers are:

1. Baseball Cap—A type of soft cap with a long, stiffened and curved peak.
2. Bearskin—The tall, full dress uniform hat of the Brigade of Guards designed to protect the footguards against sword-cuts, commonly seen at Buckingham Palace.
3. Beaver Hat—Hats made from felted beaver fur.
4. Beret—Soft round cap usually of wool felt, with a flat crown, worn by both men and women and traditionally associated with France. Also used in the military.
5. Bicorné—Military hat with upturned corners, also known as a cocked hat.
6. Bowler/Derby—A hard felt hat with a rounded crown created in 1850 by Lock's of St. James's, the hatters to Thomas Coke, 2nd Earl of Leicester, for his servants. Sometimes known as a Derby Hat.
7. Cowboy Hat—Rugged hats made of felt or straw featuring wide brims (four inches or more) to protect against rain and sun. Common styles include a safari style brim (with the brim turned down in the front and back) or a brim sharply curved up on either side.
8. Dunce Cap—A hat that was used as a punishment- humiliation hat in school during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is shaped like a cone and often has a big capital "D" inscribed on the front.
9. Fedora—A soft felt hat with a lengthwise crease.
10. Fez—Red felt hat in the shape of a truncated cone.
11. Gatsby—A soft brimmed hat popular in New York after the turn of the century made from eight quarter panels. Also Known as a newsboy cap.
12. Mortarboard—Flat, square hat with a tassel worn as part of academic dress.
13. Porkpie—Circular, flat topped hat.
14. Santa Hat—A floppy pointed red hat trimmed in white fur traditionally associated with Christmas.
15. Sombrero—A Mexican hat with an unusually wide brim and conical crown.
16. Top Hat—A tall, flat-crowned, cylindrical hat worn by men in the 19th and early 20th centuries, now worn only with morning dress or evening dress. Also known as a stovepipe hat.
17. Turban—A headdress consisting of a long scarf wound around the head usually worn by people in the middle east.

#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6



#7



#8



#9



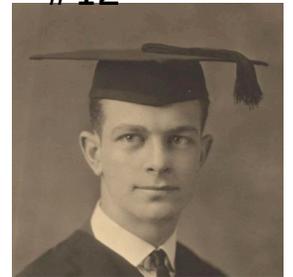
#10



#11



#12



#13



#14



#15



#16



#17

