

PROGRAM HELPS AND INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2009

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Hi Everyone,

As your final task of the 08-09 Grange year, I hope that you will all fill out the enclosed (or attached – if you get this via e-mail) Honor Lecturer Report. I would appreciate everyone filling one out even if you do not qualify. It helps us judge how our programs are working and where we should make changes.

This year we welcome several new Lecturers to our fold. If I have your address I have sent this to you and to the retiring Lecturer for your Grange. To those of you leaving this office, thanks for your many years of service to our Granges. Being Lecturer is a time-consuming job which requires creativity.

To everyone – please don't forget that I am here to help you in any way that I can.

Included with the next newsletter will be a copy of all our contests and projects for the upcoming year.

Our photo contest was held on July 25 at "Let's Celebrate". We had a large display of both Adult and Youth Entries. The winners in the adult contest were:

America The Beautiful

1. Doug Bradley, Cheshire; 2. Lois Evankow, Lyme; 3. Barbara Foskett, Cheshire

Animals

1. Steven Evankow, Lyme; 2. Russell Gray, Ekonk; 3. Lois Evankow, Lyme

Grangers in Action

1. Michelle DeDominicis, Hillstown; 2. Nancy Strong, Vernon; 3. Russell Gray, Ekonk

Family Celebrations

1. Gordon Gibson, Vernon; 2. Russell Gray, Ekonk; 3. Irene Perkoski, Enfield

Historic Places or Events

1. Dawn Perkoski, Enfield; 2. Russell Gray, Ekonk; 3. Irene Perkoski, Enfield

Winners in the Youth Categories were:

America The Beautiful

1. Tommy Osip, Hillstown; 2. Jacob Benito, Hillstown; 3. Angelina DeDominicis, Hillstown

Animals

1. Jacob Gervais, Ekonk; 2. Angelina DeDominicis, Hillstown; 3. Colleen Matthews, Hillstown

Granger in Action

1. Noella Bierlette, Hillstown; 2. Angelina DeDominicis, Hillstown; 3. Mary Burlette, Hillstown

Family Celebrations

1. Bella Marino, Cheshire; 2. Tommy Osip, Hillstown;

Historic Places or Events

1. Joshua Benito, Hillstown; 2. Jacob Benito, Hillstown; 3. Shannon Mathews, Hillstown

Thanks to everyone who participated.

Lecturers Conference was a great success. As I have said before, Connecticut Grangers are the best. Everyone worked together and everyone was a good sport. Our program went off without a hitch, thanks to all who participated. We had 37 in our delegation, the most of any State. I would also like to thank you all for the gift I was given at the banquet. Next year the conference will be held in Vermont. Connecticut's program will be on the State of Texas. Please start looking for numbers we can use as time has a way of slipping by faster and faster. Hopefully I can talk Carl into going to Texas to get some ideas and maybe buy some props.

See you around the State... Marge

A HALLOWEEN STORY With Thanks to Joan Perry

A man is walking home alone late one foggy Halloween night, when behind him he hears:

BUMP... BUMP... BUMP...

Walking faster, he looks back and through the fog he makes out the image of an upright casket banging its way down the middle of the street toward him.

BUMP... BUMP... BUMP...

Terrified, the man begins to run toward his home, the casket bouncing quickly behind him.

FASTER... FASTER...

BUMP... BUMP... BUMP....

He runs up to his door, fumbles with his keys, opens the door, rushes in, slams and locks the door behind him. However, the casket crashes through his door, with the lid of the casket clapping.

clappity-BUMP... clappity-BUMP... clappity-BUMP... on his heels, as the terrified man runs.

Rushing upstairs to the bathroom, he locks himself in. His heart is pounding; his head is reeling; his breath is coming in sobbing gasps.

With a loud CRASH the casket breaks down the door Bumping and clapping toward him.

The man screams and reaches for something, anything, but all he can find is a bottle of cough syrup!

Desperate, he throws the cough syrup at the casket...

and, (hopefully you're ready for this!!!)

The coffin stops.

BLACKOUT SKIT – THE DENTIST with Thanks to Enfield Grange

Characters – Mr. & Mrs. Jones and the Dentist

Mrs. Jones: (In a loud and demanding voice) "I want a tooth pulled. I don't want any gas or Novocain because I'm in a terrible hurry. Just pull the tooth."

Dentist: "You certainly are a brave woman. Now show me which tooth it is."

Mrs. Jones: (turns to her husband) "Open your mouth and show the dentist which tooth it is, dear."

MUSICAL FILL-IN with Thanks to Tunxis

You give the first word or two and members either give the rest of the Title

OVER.....There
ANCHORS.....Away
AMERICA.....The Beautiful
YANKEE.....Doodle
WHEN JOHNNY.....comes marching home
STARS.....and Stripes Forever
MY COUNTRY.....tis of Thee
WHEN CAISSONS.....Go Rolling along
STAR.....Spangled Banner
THIS LAND.....Is My Land
YELLOW.....Rose of Texas
BATTLE.....Hymn of the Republic
OFF WE GO.....Into The Wild Blue Yonder
THE MEN.....Behind The Gun
SEMPERFidelis
I'LL BESeeing You
THE BUGLE.....Boy of Company B
DON'T SIT UNDER.....The Apple Tree with Anyone Else But Me
I'LL SEE.....You In My Dreams
HAPPY DAYS.....Are Here Again

SIX REASONS NOT TO MESS WITH CHILDREN with Thanks to Senexet

(These would make good fill-ins or could be used as cut-aparts.)

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales.

The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal, its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah".

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him."

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. "Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer; she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael; he's a doctor.'"

A small voice at the back of the room rang out, "And there's the teacher; she's dead."

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, "Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face."

"Yes," the class said.

"Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position, the blood doesn't run into my feet?"

A little fellow shouted, "Cause your feet ain't empty."

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted it on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

HALLOWEEN QUIZ with Thanks to Coventry Grange

1. What did the mother ghost say to her son? Ans. Put on your boo's and shocks
2. Who invented spaghetti? Ans. Someone who used their noodle
3. What three things escaped when the house caught fire? Ans. The chimney flew, the door bolted and the faucet ran.
4. What is a frog with a broken leg? Ans. A crippled croaker
5. Where can you find sea without water, town without houses and Earth without people?
Ans. On a map
6. What did the blender say to the electric mixer? Ans. Beat It.
7. Who is the strongest man in the world? Ans. A policeman, because he can hold up traffic with one hand
8. What keeps the moon in place? Ans. Its beams

WHY PARENTS DRINK

A father passing by his son's bedroom was astonished to see that his bed was nicely made and everything was picked up. Then he saw an envelope propped up prominently on the pillow that was addressed to 'Dad'. With the worst premonition he opened the envelope with trembling hands and read the letter.

Dear Dad:

It is with great regret and sorrow that I'm writing you. I had to elope with my new girlfriend because I wanted to avoid a scene with Mom and you. I have been finding real passion with Stacy and she is so nice.

But I knew you would not approve of her because of all her piercing, tattoos, tight motorcycle clothes and the fact that she is much older than I am. But it's not only the passion. Dad, she's pregnant.

Stacy said that we will be very happy. She owns a trailer in the woods and has a stack of firewood for the whole winter. We share a dream of having many more children.

Stacy has opened my eyes to the fact that marijuana doesn't really hurt anyone. We'll be growing it for ourselves and trading it with the other people that live nearby for cocaine and ecstasy.

In the meantime we will pray that science will find a cure for AIDS so Stacy can get better. She deserves it. Don't worry Dad. I'm 15 and I know how to take care of myself.

Someday I'm sure that we will be back to visit so that you can get to know your grandchildren...
Love, Your Son John

PS. Dad, none of the above is true. I'm over at Tommy's house.

I Just wanted to remind you that there are worse things in life than a Report card, That's in my center desk drawer. I love you DAD. Call me when it's safe to come home.

THREE WIVES

Three men married wives from different parts of the country. The first man married a woman from the Ozarks. He told her that she was to do the dishes and house cleaning. It took a couple of days, but on the third day, he came home to see a clean house and dishes washed and put away.

The second man married a woman from the back woods of Maine. He gave his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes and the cooking. The first day he didn't see any results, but the next day he saw it was better. By the third day, he saw his house was clean, the dishes were done and there was a huge dinner on the table.

The third man married a girl from Connecticut. He ordered her to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry washed, and hot meals on the table for every meal. He said the first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything but by the third day, some of the swelling had gone down and he could see a little out of his left eye, and his arm was healed enough that he could fix himself a sandwich and load the dishwasher.

TRIVIA QUIZ – AMERICA PAST & PRESENT

1. What room in the average American home is the scene of the greatest number of arguments?
Ans. Kitchen
2. In 1960, the citizens of Hot Springs, New Mexico, voted to rename their town in honor of a popular radio show. What is it called now? Ans. Truth or Consequences
3. What are the names of the two landmark stone lions sitting in front of the New York Public Library at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street in New York City? Ans. Patience and Fortitude, names given them by Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia.
4. How many windows are there on the 102-story Empire State Building? Ans. 6,000
5. In 1954 the Pennsylvania coalmining communities of Maunch Chunk and East Maunch Chunk merged and adopted a new name in honor of a famous athlete. What was it? Ans. Jim Thorpe, after the great Oklahoma Indian athlete. The renaming was part of a plan to establish the town as a shrine to Thorpe, who was buried there.
6. What employee-grooming regulation at Disney World would prevent the hiring of Walt Disney – if he were alive and job hunting today? Ans. Facial Hair – He had a moustache.
7. In what state can you find the towns of Romance, Sweet Home and Success? Ans. Arkansas
8. Where did Samuel McPherson Hunt, gangster Al Capone's feared hitman, carry his submachine gun when he went out on a job? Ans. In a golf bag, rather than in the traditional violin case. His nickname was Golf Bag.
9. What U.S. city is at almost the same latitude as Mexico City? Ans. Hilo, on the Big Island of Hawaii.
10. What state is most dependent on tourism, with almost 30 percent of its jobs tourist related?
Ans. Nevada

11. Who gave his red hand-knitted cardigan sweater, size 38, to the Smithsonian Institution in 1984?
Ans. Fred Rogers of public television's "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood"
12. What's on the flip side of the Susan B. Anthony \$1 coin? Ans. An eagle landing on the moon, commemorating the Apollo II moon landing on July 20, 1969
13. How many Ringling Brothers were there? Seven
14. What unique distinction does Maine's 5,268 foot Mt. Katahdin enjoy? Ans. It is the first spot in the U.S. to be touched by the rays of the rising sun.
15. What inland state has the longest shoreline? Ans. Michigan. Its more than 3,100 miles of freshwater shoreline includes four of the five Great Lakes – Michigan, Superior, Huron and Erie.
16. What are the only four states to share a common boundary? Ans. Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah.

AN AIRPLANE RIDE with Thanks to Irene Perkoski

His request approved, the Fox News photographer quickly used a cell phone to call the local airport to charter a flight.

He was told a twin engine plane would be waiting for him at the airport. Arriving at the airfield, he spotted a plane warming up outside a hanger. He jumped in with his bag, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go".

The pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off. Once in the air, the photographer instructed the pilot, 'Fly over the valley and make low passes so I can take pictures of the fires on the hillsides.'

'Why?' asked the pilot.

'Because I'm a photographer for Fox Cable News,' he responded. 'And I need to get some close up shots.'

The pilot was strangely silent for a moment. Finally he stammered, 'So, what you're telling me is You're NOT my flight instructor??'

THE HISTORY OF 'APRONS'

with thanks and apologies to whomever sent this. I didn't write it down.

I don't think our kids know what an apron is. The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, because she only had a few. It was easier to wash aprons than dresses and they used 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 bog 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 fall, 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 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.