



THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER

MARCH – APRIL 2014

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Hi All,

Hope this finds everyone healthy and in good spirits. The weather this winter has been something else and I have heard of a lot of Granges that have cancelled meetings. Hopefully you were all able to get at least one meeting in each month. Even if you didn't, please send in your Lecturer's Report. If you don't, I won't know whether you forgot to send it or you didn't meet.

Speaking of reports, don't forget to keep a copy for your Deputy on the night of Inspection.

My thanks to everyone who attended the Pomona Lecturers meeting last Sunday. All but two Pomonas were represented. We talked about all the projects and contests and made plans for next year. We also discussed the upcoming events scheduled for Let's Celebrate. All Pomonas should be having their judging for the Talent and "A Number" contests in the near future. Pomona Lecturers are responsible for providing an "A Number" if your Pomona doesn't have an entry. I always find it easier to get others to present a number than to have to do one myself. So, let's all get busy and insure that we have a good showing on June 8th at Cheshire Grange. Mountain County, New London County and Excelsior Pomona Lecturers are each responsible for getting a judge for these two contests.

I still need suggestions for our program at Lecturers' Conference this summer. Connecticut's theme this year is "Simpler Times". Any and all suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Weather permitting, I hope to see you around the State. Let's all do more visiting this spring.

SHARED NUMBERS...

April is Grange month. Please be sure and include information about our Subordinate, Pomona, State and National Granges in your program. Information can be found on line or go to your local library. Over the years several good books have been done on Grange history. How about a program on Rural Delivery of our mail, Get Connecticut out of the Mud or various state and national projects. If you want to dig a little harder we had a program called The Missing Spoke in Connecticut.

For those of you not quite so ambitious, the following information came right from the National Grange web site.

The Founders

On December 4, 1867 in a small Washington, D.C., building that housed the office of William Saunders, Superintendent of Propagating Gardens in the Department of Agriculture, the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, more commonly known as the Grange, was born. Here, sitting around a plain wooden table, a group of seven earnest men, planned what was destined to become a vital force in preserving and expanding American democracy. They were all men of vision-they had faith in God, in their fellow man and the future. The Seven Founders of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry were:

Oliver H. Kelley	•	William Saunders
Aaron B. Grosh	•	William M. Ireland
John R. Thompson	•	Francis McDowell

John Trimble, assisted by Caroline Hall, who was later named an honorary 8th founder of the Grange

Their names are inscribed on a Birthplace Marker located near the site of the original building on the south side of 4th Street SW, near Madison Street on the mall in Washington, DC. The marker was officially dedicated on Sept. 9, 1951, and is the only private monument on the mall.

Our Building

The 11-story landmark National Grange headquarters building in Washington, D.C. was dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on June 29, 1960, and is the only private edifice in a federal block across from the White House. It serves as a non-governmental headquarters for agricultural and rural families. A professional staff administers policies established annually by democratic Grange processes at local, county, and state levels.

National Grange Headquarters Building

1616 H Street NW

Washington, DC 20006

Built in 1957, the original headquarters was located on Lafayette Park.

FIVE THINGS YOU CAN'T RECOVER IN LIFE with Thanks to Glastonbury Grange

1. The stone – after it's thrown.
2. The word – after it's said
3. The occasion – after it's missed
4. The time – after it's gone
5. A person – after they die.

EASTER CUT-APARTS with Thanks to Whigville Grange

Before candy, hot cross buns and pretzels were the traditional Easter treats.

The average woman burns about 116 calories hiding Easter eggs, and another 154 calories egg-hunting.

Easter ties with Halloween as the biggest candy eating event of the year.

President Reagan asked the jelly bean maker Jelly Belly to create a blueberry flavor – so he could serve red, white and blue jelly beans at White House parties.

We eat a whopping 60 million chocolate eggs each Easter – If you lined them all up, they'd reach a quarter of the way to the moon.

The largest chocolate Easter egg ever made was 25 feet high and weighed nearly 9,000 pounds.

Do you know the real reason M & M's melt in your mouth, not in your hands? The mess-free candy was created as a field snack for U. S. soldiers in World War II.

Believe it or not, in 1953 it took 27 hours to make one Peep. Even the eyes were hand-painted. Now, it takes just six minutes.

K-CUPS FOR STARTING SEEDS with Thanks to Maggie Schofield

With a knife peel off the top paper, empty the coffee, rinse the k cup and let it dry. It has a built in filter so soil will not come out but water will drain out because of the pin hole in the bottom. I started a few seeds last spring and they did great. Just an idea for grangers.

OUR PERSPECTIVE CHANGES WITH TIME with Thanks to Nancy Strong

A group of 15 year old boys discussed where they should meet for a burger. It was agreed they would meet at the McDonald's next to Captain Jack's Seafood Grille because they only had six dollars among them, they could ride their bikes and that cute girl in Social Studies, lives on the same street and they might see her.

Ten years later, the group of now 25 year old guys discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they would meet at Captain Jack's Seafood Grille because the beer was cheap, the bar had free snacks, the house band was good, there was no cover charge and there were lot of cute girls.

Ten years later, at 35 years of age, the group discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was decided they would meet at Captain Jack's Seafood Grille because the booze was good, it was near their gym and, if they went late enough, there wouldn't be too many whiny little kids.

Ten years later, at 45, the group discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they would meet at Captain Jack's Seafood Grille because the martinis were big and the waitresses wore tight pants.

Ten years later, now 55, the group discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they would meet at Captain Jack's Seafood Grille because the prices were reasonable, they have a nice wine list and fish is good for your cholesterol.

Ten years later, at 65 years of age, the group discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they would meet at Captain Jack's Seafood Grille because the lighting was good and they have an early bird special.

Ten years later, at 75 years of age, the group discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they would meet at Captain Jack's Seafood Grille because the food was not too spicy and the restaurant was handicapped accessible.

Ten years later, at 85 years of age, the group discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they would meet at Captain Jack's Seafood Grille because they had never been there before.

WHERE DID IT COME FROM? With Thanks to Irene Percoski

Ever wonder where something was made or grown. Most labels only show where something was distributed from in the U. S. All you have to do is check the bar code. Look for the first two or three numbers...

690-692 ... then it is MADE IN CHINA

471 ... Taiwan

00 - 09 ... USA & CANADA

49 JAPAN

30 – 37... FRANCE

50 ... UK

40 – 44... GERMANY

BEING GREEN with Thanks to North Stonington Grange

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the much older woman, that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized and explained, "We didn't have this 'green thing' back in my earlier days."

The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right -- our generation didn't have the 'green thing' in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags, that we reused for numerous things, most memorable besides household garbage bags, was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our schoolbooks. This was to ensure that public property, (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbling's. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags. But too bad we didn't do the "green thing" back then.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We didn't have the "green thing" in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throwaway kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts -- wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that young lady is right; we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right; we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service in the family's \$45,000 SUV or van, which cost what a whole house did before the "green thing." We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the "green thing" back then?

GIRL AT THE BEACH with Thanks to Senexet Grange

A couple lived near the ocean and used to walk the beach a lot. One summer they noticed a girl who was at the beach almost every day.. She wasn't unusual, nor was the travel bag she carried, except for one thing; she would approach people who were sitting on the beach, glance around and then speak to them.

Generally, the people would respond negatively and she would wander off.. But occasionally someone would nod and there would be a quick exchange of money and something that she carried in her bag.

The couple assumed that she was selling drugs and debated calling the cops, but since they didn't know for sure, they decided to just continue watching her.

After a couple of weeks the wife said, 'Honey, have you ever noticed that she only goes up to people with boom boxes and other electronic devices?' He hadn't and said so.

Then she said, 'Tomorrow I want you to get a towel and our big radio and go lie out on the beach. Then we can find out what she's really doing.'

Well, the plan went off without a hitch and the wife was almost hopping up and down with anticipation when she saw the girl talk to her husband and then leave... The man then walked up the beach and met his wife at the road.

'Well, is she selling drugs?' she asked excitedly. 'No, she's not,' he said, enjoying this probably more than he should have.

'Well, what is it then? What does she do?' his wife fairly shrieked.

The man grinned and said, 'She's a battery salesperson.'

'Batteries?' cried the wife.

'Yes!' he replied. 'She Sells C Cells down by the Seashore!'

FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW with Thanks to Old Lyme Grange

(Make Great Cup-aparts)

It takes glass one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can be recycled an infinite amount of times!

Gold is the only metal that doesn't rust, even if it's buried in the ground for thousands of years .

Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end.

If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water. When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.

Each year 2,000,000 smokers either quit smoking or die of tobacco-related diseases.

Zero is the only number that cannot be represented by Roman numerals.

Kites were used in the American Civil War to deliver letters and newspapers.

The song, Auld Lang Syne, is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year.

Drinking water after eating reduces the acid in your mouth by 61 percent.

Peanut oil is used for cooking in submarines because it doesn't smoke unless it's heated above 450F.

The roar that we hear when we place a seashell next to our ear is not the ocean, but rather the sound of blood surging through the veins in the ear.

Nine out of every 10 living things live in the ocean

The banana cannot reproduce itself. It can be propagated only by the hand of man.

Airports at higher altitudes require a longer airstrip due to lower air density.

The University of Alaska spans four time zones.

The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself.

In ancient Greece, tossing an apple to a girl was a traditional proposal of marriage. Catching it meant she accepted.

Warner Communications paid \$28 million for the copyright to the song Happy Birthday.

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.

A comet's tail always points away from the sun.

The Swine Flu vaccine in 1976 caused more death and illness than the disease it was intended to prevent.

Caffeine increases the power of aspirin and other painkillers, That is why it is found in some medicines.

The military salute is a motion that evolved from medieval times, when knights in armor raised their visors to reveal their identity.

If you get into the bottom of a well or a tall chimney and look up, you can see stars, even in the middle of the day.

When a person dies, hearing is the last sense to go. The first sense lost is sight.

In ancient times strangers shook hands to show that they were unarmed.

Strawberries are the only fruits whose seeds grow on the outside.

Avocados have the highest calories of any fruit at 167 calories per hundred grams.

The moon moves about two inches away from the Earth each year.

The Earth gets 100 tons heavier every day due to falling space dust.

Due to earth's gravity it is impossible for mountains to be higher than 15,000 meters.

Mickey Mouse is known as "Topolino" in Italy.

Soldiers do not march in step when going across bridges because they could set up a vibration which could be sufficient to knock the bridge down.

Everything weighs one percent less at the equator.

For every extra kilogram carried on a space flight, 530 kg of excess fuel are needed at lift-off.

The letter J does not appear anywhere on the periodic table of the elements.

IN PRAISE OF WOMEN WHO READ!

Introduction: One morning a husband returns after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap. Although not familiar with the lake, the wife decides to take the boat out. She motors out a short distance, anchors, and reads her book. Along comes a Game Warden in his boat. He pulls up alongside the woman.

Warden: "Good morning, Ma'am, what are you doing?"

Woman: "Reading a book."

Warden: "You're in a Restricted Fishing Area."

Woman: "I'm sorry, officer, but I'm not fishing, I'm reading."

Warden: "Yes, but you have all the equipment, for all I know you could start at any moment, I'll have to take you in and write you up."

Woman: "For reading a book?"

Warden: "You're in a Restricted Fishing Area."

Woman: "I'm sorry, officer, but I'm not fishing, I'm reading,"

Warden: "Yes, but you have all the equipment, for all I know you could start at any moment, I'll have to take you in and write you up.?"

Woman: "If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault."

Warden: "But I haven't even touched you."

Woman: "That's true, but you have all the equipment, for all I know you could start at any moment."

Warden: "Have a nice day ma'am," *(He Leaves In a Hurry)*

What's Old Is Still Good

The following are taken from some old newsletters and are well worth repeating.

If you have sent in numbers to share and haven't seen them in the newsletters it is probably because they are copyrighted and I can't print them here.

THE DUEL

A duel was fought between Alexander Shott and John Nott. Nott was shot and Shott was not. In this case it is better to be Shott than Nott. Some said that Nott was not shot. But Shott says that he shot Nott. It may be that the shot Shott shot, shot Nott, or it may be possible that the shot Shott shot, shot Shott himself. We think however, that the shot Shott shot, shot not Shott, but Nott. Anyway it is hard to tell which was shot and which was not.

NAME THAT CITY

Paris, the capital of France, is called the City of Light. Rome's other name is the Eternal City.

How many American cities can you identify by their nicknames?

1. The City of Lakes ... Minneapolis, Minnesota
2. The Richest Hill on Earth ... Butte, Montana
3. City of Roses ... Portland, Oregon
4. The Golden Heart of Alaska ... Fairbanks, Alaska
5. The World's Image Center ... Rochester, New York
6. Cradle of the Confederacy ... Montgomery, Alabama
7. Crossroads of the Pacific ... Honolulu, Hawaii
8. City of Trees ... Boise, Idaho
9. Salt City ... Syracuse, New York
10. Cow Town ... Fort Worth, Texas
11. The Insurance City ... Hartford, Connecticut
12. Bean Town ... Boston, Massachusetts

DO YOU REMEMBER OUR STORYBOOK FRIENDS?

1. Who met the wolf on the way to her Grandmother's house? Ans. Little Red Riding Hood
2. Who slept in Baby Bear's bed? Ans. Goldilocks
3. This horse had a sad life. Ans. Black Beauty
4. Who lived in Sherwood Forest with his Merry Men? Ans. Robin Hood
5. She ate a poisoned apple. Ans. Snow White
6. She sat in a tower and let down her hair. Ans. Rapunzel
7. He spun straw into gold. Ans. Rumpelstiltskin
8. A Prince found her glass slipper. Ans. Cinderella
9. She went through the looking glass. Ans. Alice
10. He woke the sleeping beauty with a kiss. Ans. Prince Charming
11. He won the silver skates. Ans. Hans Brinker
12. They were lost in the forest and found the witch's house. Ans. Hansel & Gretel

LIFE'S TREASURES

This was written by Doris Perfetto of Southington Grange in the 90's. It still holds true today.

Don't wait until tomorrow, to do the things you long to do,
Because you never know what God has planned or what is in store for you.

Be happy with your family and enjoy life with them too,
Because if you give them lots of love they'll give it back to you.

Take time to smell the flowers and make friends along the way.
Take time to hug your children before they're grown and gone away.

Hold hands with your loved one as you walk along the shore,
And watch the fading sunset when the day is done, once more.

So enjoy life to the fullest. Make the most of every day.
Hang on to all life's treasures before they fade away.