



## THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER

November - December 2018

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Greetings,

First, I want to thank everyone for their support and for participating in our projects and contests. Our Connecticut Lecturers did a great job this past year. We had more entries in both the Essay Contest and the Complete Program Contest than we have had recently. We also had more Honor Lecturers and more Lecturer's Appreciation Awards to give out. If your Grange didn't receive any of these this past year, now is the time to get a fresh start.

Included with this letter are next years' contests. Plan ahead. You can do it. And remember, anyone in your Grange can do these. It doesn't have to be you doing everything.

Here is a list of those who were honored at our banquet...

### **COMPLETE PROGRAMS...**

1<sup>st</sup> Susan Pianka, No. Stonington

2<sup>nd</sup> Cherie Robinson, Vernon

3<sup>rd</sup> Emily Alexander, Cheshire

### **ESSAY CONTEST...**

1<sup>st</sup> Lois Evankow, Lyme

2<sup>nd</sup> Nancy Weissmuller, No. Stonington

3<sup>rd</sup> Susan Pianka, No. Stonington

HM Cherie Robinson, Vernon

### **HONOR LECTURERS...**

Barbara Kulisch, Cheshire

Cherie Robinson, Vernon

Susan Pianka, No. Stonington

Lois Evankow, Lyme

### **LECTURER APPRECIATION AWARDS**

Kevin Parker, Redding

Barbara Kulisch, Cheshire

Ann Gilnack, Glastonbury

Linea Erickson, Cawasa  
Helena Schwalm, Whigville  
Cherie Robinson, Vernon  
Jon Hykes, Hillstown  
Robert Buck, Bethlehem  
Geno Piacentini, Greenfield Hill  
Susan Pianka, No. Stonington  
Tina Meehan, Prospect  
Lois Evankow, Lyme  
Lila Cleveland, Stonington  
Raine Pederson, Riverton  
Nancy Swanson, Hemlock  
Manchester Grange  
Taghhannuck Grange  
Enfield Grange  
Oxford Grange

### **SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE**

Cheshire  
Glastonbury  
Vernon  
Killingly  
No. Stonington  
Lyme

### **A WORD FROM HOME**

Cheshire  
Glastonbury  
Vernon  
No. Stonington  
Lyme  
Hemlock

If your Grange is having a special program or event, just let me know and I will do my best to get the word out around the State to all who have email. Just remember I need the info ahead of time as I send out these monthly.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year. I hope to see you as I travel around the State.

...Marge

## **SHARED NUMBERS...**

### **SOME THANKSGIVING CUT-APARTS**

The Wampanoag Indians were the people who taught the Pilgrims how to cultivate the land.

The Pilgrim leader, Governor William Bradford, had organized the first Thanksgiving feast in 1621. He invited the neighboring Wampanoag Indians to the feast.

The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted three days.

Mashed potatoes, pumpkin pies, popcorn, milk, corn on the cob, and cranberries were not foods present on the first Thanksgiving's feast table.

Lobster, rabbit, chicken, fish, squashes, beans, chestnuts, hickory nuts, onions, leeks, dried fruits, maple syrup and honey, radishes, cabbage, carrots, eggs, and goat cheese are thought to have made up the first Thanksgiving feast.

The pilgrims didn't use forks; they ate with spoons, knives, and their fingers.

Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national bird of the United States.

Abraham Lincoln issued a 'Thanksgiving Proclamation on October 3, 1863 and officially set aside the last Thursday of November as the national day for Thanksgiving.

The annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade tradition began in the 1920's.

Since 1947, the National Turkey Federation has presented a live turkey and two dressed turkeys to the President. The President does not eat the live turkey. He "pardons" it and allows it to live out its days on a historical farm.

### **TURKEY QUIZ**

1. What part of a turkey is a story? Ans. Tail (tale)
2. What part of a turkey is used in a band? Ans. Drum Sticks.
3. Why is a man who eats too fast like a turkey? Ans. Both are gobblers.
4. What part of a turkey might you find in a woman's purse? Ans. Comb
5. What part of a turkey is a measure? Ans. Foot
6. What part of a turkey is apt to come in the mail? Ans. A Bill
7. In what country is the turkey when he is cooked? Ans. Greece (grease)

## **A CHRISTMAS QUIZ**

1. In the song "Jingle Bell Rock" where is everyone dancing and prancing?  
Ans. Jingle Bell Square
2. Where did Yogi Bear spend his first Christmas?  
Ans. Jelly Stone Park
3. In what song do we sing "to see if reindeer really know how to fly"?  
Ans. The Christmas Song
4. What were Frosty The Snowman's last words?  
Ans. "I'll be back again someday"
5. If you were born on Christmas Day, what would be your sign?  
Ans. Capricorn
6. What are round candies filled with fruit preserves and covered with chocolate called?  
Ans. Sugarplums
7. Who first sang "Leaving on a Jet Plane"?  
Ans. Peter, Paul & Mary
8. Where did eggnog originate?  
Ans. England
9. In Jingle Bells, who sits by my side?  
Ans. Miss Fannie Bright
10. When did the post office issue its' first Christmas Stamp?  
Ans. 1962
11. What does Advent mean?  
Ans. Coming
12. We know Frosty the Snowman has a hat, but does he wear a scarf?  
Ans. Yes

## **A FUN CHRISTMAS QUIZ with Thanks to Ekonk Grange**

1. What are people who are afraid of Santa Claus called?  
Ans. Claustrophobic
2. Why does Santa have three gardens?  
Ans. So he can Ho, Ho, Ho.
3. Why is Santa's little elf depressed?  
Ans. Because he has low elf esteem
4. What does the snowman eat for breakfast?  
Ans. Snowflakes
5. What do you get when you cross an archer and a gift wrapper?  
Ans. Ribbon Hood
6. What do you call Frosty the Snowman in May?  
Ans. A puddle

## **A SHORT STORY with Thanks to Ekonk Grange**

There was a great Czar in Russia. His name was Rudolph the Red. One day, Rudolph stood looking out the palace windows while his wife, Katherine, sat knitting. He turned to her and said, "Look my Dear, it has begun to Rain". Without looking up, Katherine said, "You are wrong, Dear, It's too cold to rain, it must be sleet". The Czar said, "Katherine, I am the Czar over all of the Russians, and I, Rudolph the Red, knows rain, Dear!"

## **CHRISTMAS IN OTHER COUNTRIES with Thanks to Riverton Grange**

*(These would make good cut-aparts)*

IRELAND – The Irish leave a candle in the window as a welcoming to family and friends. Caroling is very important in an Irish Christmas. Small gifts are received on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> and then again on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>. Goose is the dinner menu along with potatoes, turnip and a Christmas cheer.

PERU – In Peru they celebrate on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> with a big Turkey Dinner. The Nativity is very important. Caroling is another part of the celebration. The adults attend midnight mass. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> is the beginning of summer in Peru so they all go to the beach.

AUSTRIA – Christmas is celebrated on Dec. 24, 25 and 26. The tree is put up on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Going to church is a very important part of their holiday. Spending time with family is also very important. Lots of fish is served along with Fondue. A children's mass is held in the afternoon on the 24<sup>th</sup> with the adults going to church at 10:00 p.m.

GREECE – There are no Christmas trees in Greece. Christmas is a very religious holiday where people spend time with family and friends. Christmas is celebrated from December 25<sup>th</sup> thru January 7<sup>th</sup>. They do not have Santa Claus but they have Saint Vasilis.

KENYA – In Kenya you will find the manufacturing industry shut down after the 12<sup>th</sup> of December until the end of the year. Most workers go home to their families to spend time as they do not see their family for long periods of time. They work in the cities and go home only when they have a long leave to spend time with their families. There is no Santa Claus or trees. Most people attend church during this time. Roast Goat, Polenta and Collard Greens is a typical dinner.

MOLDOVA – People here do not celebrate Christmas. They have a Father Frost instead of Santa Claus. Father Frost comes as a New Year's Celebration. A tree is set up around December 29 for the coming of Father Frost on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **NEW YEARS CUSTOMS**

New Years Day is the first day of the calendar year. It is celebrated as a holiday in almost every country in the world. It is a time of gaiety, sharing with friends, remembering the past, and hoping for good things in the future. In the United States, thousands of people jam Times Square in New York City to welcome the New Year at midnight.

Not all countries or cultures celebrate the New Year on January 1st. The Chinese, Egyptian, Jewish, Roman, and Mohammedan years all have different start dates. The Chinese New Year starts on a different day each year. Thousands of years ago, the Egyptians celebrated their New Year about the middle of June. That was the time when the Nile River usually overflowed. January 1 was recognized as New Years Day in the 1500's with the introduction of the Gregorian Calendar. The Julian Calendar places the New Year on January 14. The Jewish New Year, a feast day, is celebrated about the time of the fall equinox, in late September.

## **DRIVING SAFELY IN WINTER WEATHER**

Snow, ice, and extreme cold can make driving treacherous. These safety tips from CDC, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the National Safety Council can help make winter car travel safer.

1. Before winter arrives, have your car tuned up, check the level of antifreeze, make sure the battery is good, and check your tire tread.
2. Keep emergency gear in your car for everyday trips: cell phone, flashlight, jumper cables, sand or kitty litter (for traction), ice scraper, snow brush, a small shovel, blankets, and warning devices (e.g., flares, reflectors).
3. For long car trips, keep food, water, extra blankets, and required medication on hand.
4. Avoid driving in snow or ice storms. If you must travel in bad weather, drive slowly. Let someone know what route you're taking and when you plan to arrive so they can alert authorities if you don't get there.
5. If your car is parked outside, make sure the exhaust pipe and the area around it are free of snow before you start the car. Snow packed in or around the exhaust pipe can cause high levels of carbon monoxide in the car.
6. Don't sit in a parked car with the engine running unless a window is open. Do not let your car run while parked in a garage.
7. If your car stalls or gets stuck in snow, light two flares and place one at each end of the car, a safe distance away. Make sure snow has not blocked the exhaust pipe. Then stay in your vehicle and open a window slightly to let in fresh air. Wrap yourself in blankets and run your vehicle's heater for a few minutes every hour to keep warm.