



LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER November - December 2019

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Greetings,

I enjoyed visiting with so many of you at State Session. Now that the session is over, it is time to get started on our activities for the 2020 Grange year. All the programs remain the same. If you do not have your copy of them, please let me know and I will happily send you a new copy.

Our Complete Program Contest is entitled "It Happened in the USA"

Our 1st Place winner was Susan Pianka of No. Stonington Community Grange. Her program was on early transportation.

2nd Place was Beacon Valley Grange. Remember anyone can enter these contests, you don't have to be the Lecturer. Beacon Valley's program featured the Pony Express.

The 3rd Place winner was Cheri Robinson, of Vernon Grange. This program featured the Statue of Liberty.

Now is the time to start thinking about your program for next year.

The Essay Contest is entitled "My Grange". All it takes is 150 or less words to tell us about your Grange. Why not ask some of your members who can no longer get out to meetings to write essays. I would love to get several from each Grange.

The 2019 winners in this contest were...

1st Lois Evankow, Lyme

2nd Joanne Cipriano, Beacon Valley

3rd Cheri Robinson, Vernon

Honor Lecturer Awards were earned by...

Barbara Kulisch, Cheshire

Cherie Robinson, Vernon

Lois Evankow, Lyme

Lecturer Appreciation Awards were earned by Barbara Kulisch, Cheshire; Linea Erickson, Cawasa; Helena Schwalm, Whigville; Cherie Robinson, Vernon; Marcia Garland-Miller, Coventry; Jaimie Cameron, Ekonk; Carol Knutson, Taghannuck; Robert Buck,

Bethlehem; Susan Pianka, No. Stonington; Lois Evankow, Lyme; Enfield Grange; Lila Cleveland, Stonington; Raine Pederson, Riverton; Nancy Swanson, Hemlock; and Robert Buck, Oxford.

Should Auld Acquaintance certificates were presented to Cheshire, Glastonbury, Vernon, Coventry, No. Stonington, Prospect and Lyme Granges.

"A Word From Home" certificates were presented to Cheshire, Glastonbury, Vernon, Coventry and Lyme Granges.

My thanks to all who participated. Hope to see you around the State.

Marge

SHARED NUMBERS...

THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL with Thanks to Enfield Grange

These would make great cut-aparts

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, MA listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps LCpl Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were just 19 years old.

The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.

12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam.

1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam.

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.

Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

8 Women are on the Wall, Nursing the wounded.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 when casualties were incurred.

IRENE'S TRAVELS

I've been in a lot of places but I've never been in "Cahoots". Apparently you can't go alone, you have to be in Cahoots with someone. I've also never been in "Cognito" either. I hear no one recognizes you there. I have however been in "Sane". They don't have an airport, you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there.

FUN CAR FACTS

The General Lee of TV fame was based on a 1969 Dodge Charger.

The Honda Accord was the first Japanese car to be produced in the United States

The Ford Mustang was named after a World War II fighter plane.

The last car cassette player was offered in 2011.

In 1965 more than one million Chevy Impalas were sold setting a record that still stands today.

The Model T Ford was the first car to be mass produced.

Automobile Insurance first become available in 1897.

A top speed limit of 55 miles per hour was put into effect in 1974 because of the gas shortage.

The first Ford Mustang sold for \$2,368.00.

A RITUAL QUIZ

1. How many officers does the grange have? Ans. 16
2. What emblem does the steward carry? Ans. Spud
3. Who presides when the Master is absent? Ans. Overseer
4. How many are necessary for a quorum in the Subordinate Grange? Ans. Seven
5. Which Officer opens the Bible? Assistant Steward
6. Which Officer prepared the ballot box? Steward
7. What implements does the case at the Masters station hold? Ans. Ax, plow, harrow, spade, hoe pruning knife, cycle and agate.
8. Whom does Ceres represent? Ans. Goddess of Grain
9. Is a motion to adjourn ever in order in the Grange? Ans. No
10. How many degrees are there? Ans. Seven

THEY'RE ALL WHITE

1. Song made famous by Bing Crosby? ... White Christmas
2. Famous residence? ... White House
3. Baseball team? ... White Sox
4. Used by Tom Sawyer? ... White Wash
5. Part of the Body? ... White of the Eye
6. An untruth? ... White Lie
7. A Beverage? ... White Rose Tea
8. A wave crest-breaking? ... White Cap
9. Relating to a class of salaried employees? ... White Collar
10. Held by department stores in January ... White Sales
11. Used in cooking ... Egg Whites
12. A vegetable ... White potato
13. An affair requiring the wearing of formal wear by men? ... White Tie
14. Part of an Automobile? ... White Wall tires

CHRISTMAS AND FRUITCAKES

Ever wonder why we see fruitcakes advertised for Christmas. This is a food custom that comes from England. For centuries, fruitcake has been an integral part of the Christmas season in England. In the United States fruit cake is also quite popular as a Christmas gift. Fruitcake usually consists of a combination of dried fruit, honey, and sometimes nuts. In the 1700s and 1800s making fruit cake was very labor intensive. Nowadays, they are readily available through many specialty food retailers.

CHRISTMAS CANDLES

Candles have been around for centuries and archaeological evidence indicates that they were common in Ancient Egypt. Over time candles have been used for light, for ceremonies, for their scents and for decoration.

The first Christmas candle use can be traced to Germany. Along with originating the tradition of the Christmas tree, Germany is believed to have been the first country to place Christmas candles on the boughs of the tree.

One use of the Christmas candle is the celebration of Advent. Advent is a season for celebrating the birth of Christ. It begins four Sundays before Christmas. An advent wreath consists of an evergreen wreath and four candles. The candles in the wreath are lit during a family moment of prayer or before a meal. The first week of Advent only one Christmas candle is lit. The second week, two are lit. The third week, three and the fourth week all four candles are lit.

In Ireland, a Christmas candle is lit as a symbol relating to hospitality relating to the welcoming of Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus.

In Finland, it is a tradition of some families to place a candle on the grave of their loved ones during Christmas celebrations.

In Germany and France a Christmas candle (wax or electric) is usually placed in a window, or several Christmas candles may adorn the Christmas tree.

NEW YEAR 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 New Year on January 1st. The Chinese, Egyptian, Jewish, Roman, and Mohammedan years all have different start dates. 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 Year 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

AN ANONYMOUS POEM

There's more, much more to the Holidays, Than candle-light and cheer;
It's the spirit of sweet friendship, That brightens all the year;
It's the thoughtfulness and kindness, It's hope reborn again
For peace, for understanding, And for goodwill toward all men.

DRIVING PRIVILEGES with Thanks to Senexet

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

(You're going to love the Dad's reply!) "Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"

THANKSGIVING

Why not cut out pictures and let 12 people hold them as they each read one line?

T is for Turkey, so great and renowned
H is for the Hearth, the we gather around
A is for the Apples, so rosy and sweet;
N is for the Nuts that are always a treat;
K is for the Kindling we burn in the grate;
S for the Stories our elders relate.
G is for the Games, when the feasting is o'er,
I for the Icicles outside the door;
V is for the Vigilant Fathers of old,
I for Ideals, they taught us to hold.
N for the Needy we meet here and there;
G for the Gifts and Goodies we share.

A QUICK QUIZ TO USE AS A FILL-IN

1. Who told Frosty to stop? Ans. The Traffic Cop
2. How many Wise Men were there according to the Bible? Ans. It doesn't say.
3. Who recorded the first version of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"? Ans. Gene Autry
4. Which reindeer is often used for cleaning? Ans. Comet
5. Where did there arise such a clatter? Ans. On the Lawn
6. "A Miracle on 34th Street" takes place where? Ans. New York City

ROSA PARKS DAY

Rosa Parks Day is December 1st. It was on December 1st, 1955 that Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. This began the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Rosa Parks was an extraordinary person because she stood up against racism and stood up for herself. It was even harder for her because she was a woman, and in those days, things were much harder for women.

Rosa Parks hated the ways of her life. She had always dreamed of having freedom in her life. As she grew up, she went through different experiences that gave her courage and strength.

She is known as "The Mother of The Civil Rights Movement"

MONTHS OF THE YEAR

Ever wonder where the months got their names??

January - Named for the Roman god of beginnings and endings - Janus.

February - Name comes from the god Februus. Romans celebrated this month with purification festivals called "februa".

March - Named for the Roman god of war - Mars, son of Jupiter. This was the first month of the Roman calendar.

April - The name comes from the word "aperire" which means "to open" - this is the month when the trees and flower buds open.

May - Named after the Roman goddess of honor and reverence - Maiesta (Maia).

June - Named for the Roman Queen of the gods - Juno, who was married to Jupiter.

July - Named after Julius Caesar, who was born in this month.

August - Named for Augustus, the Roman emperor. Originally it was called Sextilis for the 6th month of the Roman calendar.

September - Comes from the word septem - meaning seven.

October - Comes from the word octo - meaning eight.

November - Comes from the word novem - meaning nine.

December - Comes from the word decem - meaning ten.

DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR STORYBOOK FRIENDS?

1. Who met the wolf on the way to her Grandmother's house? Ans. Little Red Riding Hood
2. She slept in Baby Bear's bed. Ans. Goldilocks
3. She ate the poisoned apple. Ans. Snow white
4. She lost her glass slipper at the ball. Ans. Cinderella
5. He woke the Sleeping Beauty with a kiss. Ans. Prince Charming

6. She sat in a tower and let down her hair. Ans. Repunzel
7. He spun straw into gold. Ans. Rumpelstiltskin
8. They were lost in a forest and found the witch's house. Ans. Hansel and Gretel
9. She went through the Looking Glass. Ans. Alice
10. He won the Silver Skates. Ans. Hans Brinker
11. He lived in Sherwood Forest with his Merry Men. Ans. Robin Hood
12. He was a horse who had a sad life. Ans. Black Beauty

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.

Sarah Josepha Hale, an American magazine editor, persuaded Abraham Lincoln to declare Thanksgiving a national holiday. She is also the author of the popular nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

Abraham Lincoln issued a 'Thanksgiving Proclamation' on third October 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.