

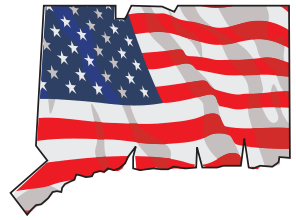
# Camp Berger's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, May 15 - Open House • Roast Beef Dinner  
Camp Berger, Wahnee Road, Winchester Center

Address Service Requested, Periodicals Postage Paid in Winsted, CT 06098



# Connecticut Granger



Vol. 45, No. 8

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

May 2005

## State President's Report...



F. Philip Prelli  
President

*Connecticut State Grange*  
"Our associations in life are the fields in which we reap. Use judgment, and while you glean let your example be such that others may profit by it."

Working together and being part of a team makes any task easier and more enjoyable to do. Do you think about that when working on a project for your Grange? What is the attitude of the members? Is it the same people always doing the same job the same way? Do we listen to new ideas or try something different? Is the attitude of the members positive?

This month's National membership tip talks about creating a positive attitude for your members. National Grange recommends the following procedures to help your Grange. First take time and evaluate what your members enjoy about the Grange. Don't get bogged down and

waste time talking about negatives, only look for those activities or actions that generate positive emotions. Talk about what your Grange has done in the past that they looked forward to. You could do this as a Lecturer's Program or an open meeting with a pot luck supper and then use this as a start to an informational process to move your Grange forward. A way to do this would be to have someone write down suggestions on a big piece of paper and then see what the top 5 positive actions are. Make sure you keep the conversation light and have fun with it. After doing this you need to build on these items. Find the things that create those positive feelings and encourage your Grange to have similar activities. When you focus on doing these good things, you will start to build a positive attitude.

Evaluate what is good about your Grange and find ways to build on that good; growth will follow. The quote above used this month comes from the Master's charge in the third degree, relates to the above tip but also reminds us that our examples and associations set the direction that our Granges will take. It is each of our responsibilities to project the best image for our Grange.

As I am sure is reported in others areas of the pa-

per a good friend to the Connecticut Granger and many of us Grangers in the State, Sister Dorothy Kasperit passed away in April. Sister Kasperit was a hard worker and truly loved the Connecticut Granger and she will be missed by many. We extend our sympathy to her family.

I hope I will be seeing many of you at Camp Berger on May 15th. Not only will there be a great Roast Beef Dinner but tours of the Camp will be provided.

This is in celebration of the camp's 50th year and is the kickoff of the camping season. See any of the members of the Past Deputies Association for tickets to the Dinner.

Speaking of the Camp, I hope that you are all handing out brochures and putting up posters. If you know any children looking for a fun camping experience at a reasonable price give them a brochure or contact the State Office for one. Our camp needs your support.

I hope that all your inspections are going well and that you all have been working to have a good class of candidates for your Deputy. I also would like to wish you all a happy Memorial Day as we remember and thank all those that made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

## It's not "if" but "how" Social Security should change



Gordon Gibson  
State Legislative Dir.

Social Security needs to change to keep up with the times. When Social Security was created in 1936 the basic plan was to have workers pay into the fund and then return that money to them in the form of benefits when they retired. 65 was chosen as the retirement age because that was the age when most people became too feeble to work any longer. In the 1930s the average person lived to about age 70. The original plan envisioned that a person would pay into Social Security for about 45 years and then collect benefits for about five years. Most people would pay enough into the fund during their working years to cover the benefits they would receive when they retired.

Times have changed over the years. People are receiving Social Security benefits today who were not born when the original Social Security law was passed. People still pay into Social Security throughout their working lives, but it is now common for retirees to collect benefits for 25 years or more. Changes have also been made over the years to provide benefits to people who have not reached normal retirement age but are unable to work due to injuries, extended sickness and other disabilities. Social Security needs to be revised to account for these changes. The big question is not IF but HOW Social Security should be changed.

Many people now claim that Social Security was never intended to provide a complete retirement package. Prior to Social Security, the concept of retirement as we know it today simply did not exist. People saved what they could during their working years and hoped that would be enough to see them through the years when they were too elderly to work. Most employers did not have any retirement plan for their workers. Social Security was the first program to guarantee a person some income when they could no longer work. Whether or not it was intended to provide for all of a retiree's needs is open to debate. But whatever was intended in 1936, today most people's retirement income comes from a combination of Social Security, a pension from their employer and their own savings and investments.

Workers still pay more into Social Security each year than is paid out in benefits to retirees. The surplus funds are invested in very secure programs, almost exclusively United State government obligations similar to savings bonds. The proposal that is receiving the most attention right now is to allow workers to put part of their Social Security contributions in private accounts rather than letting the Social Security Administration handle everything. The proponents claim this will al

...continued on page 5

## Have your messages gone out?

I hope that over the past few months you have saturated the news media in your area with your Grange's Coming Events. Have these "seeds" you have sown in the Springtime nurtured and grown? We hope that your publicity efforts have produced candidates for your degrees. We must continue using publicity to cultivate the minds of our friends and neighbors in the hope of increasing our Grange membership.

During the months of May and June,

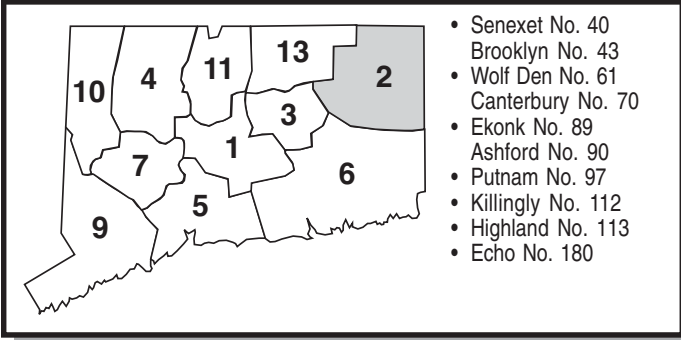
many of the Granges will be presenting Community Service awards. Now is the time to publicize these events. We recommend that these meetings be open to the general public. Have your local newspapers print an article about the recipient before the presentation is made. Send out special invitations to the friends and colleagues of the recipient. We hope that in so doing, your Grange will be recognized by those present as a civic-minded, community service organization.

### Inside this issue ...

|                      |         |                       |    |
|----------------------|---------|-----------------------|----|
| Central #1           | Page 12 | Excelsior #7          | 7  |
| Quinebaug #2         | 2       | Fairfield County #9   | 8  |
| East Central #3      | 3       | Housatonic Valley #10 | 9  |
| Mountain County #4   | 4       | Farmington Valley #11 | 10 |
| New Haven County #5  | 5       | North Central #13     | 11 |
| New London County #6 | 6       |                       |    |

Deadline for the JUNE 2005 Issue: MAY 5.

## Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



### SENEKET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

**May 18:** Business Meeting

In April we had a big yard and tag sale to benefit the Woodstock 8th grade class trip to Washington, D.C. A great community service project.

We continue to work on the kitchen update and the local Support Agriculture group has been meeting at our hall. They are planning to hold weekly Farmer's Markets in our parking area starting in July. The Grange will probably serve luncheon and sell baked goods at the same time. CT Grown will be featured with Woodstock Farmers having prime spots.

We are now meeting downstairs and welcome visitors anytime.

### BROOKLYN GRANGE #43

Corr: Frances Lasch

**May 10:** Open House, 7:30, Paid Musicians to entertain

Brooklyn Grange finally got to meet after being "snowed out" twice. What a winter we have had! Wonder what kind of summer is coming up.

At our meeting we voted in a new member. He will be taking the degrees at Killingly.

We welcomed Jim Palmer for Inspection. Our faithful Secretary and Treasurer were ready for him as always.

We exemplified the required Secret Work. The Lecturer's program was in the charge of the CWA Committee. Food and window cleaning were the topics and recipes were handed out.

Come visit us at our Open House.

### WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie M. Johnson

Ahh- Spring at last - at least the birds say so-snow drops, crows and daffodils do too. Time to get rakes out and fertilizer on.

We had a nice Irish Night program last month. The hall was nicely decorated and stories told and

songs sung.

CWA reports the children's blankets being made.

The telling of maple sap into syrup and locations of sugar houses to visit and see syrup being made and their product on display to purchase.

By now seeds must be started and growing and gardens thought of.

On March 23- we had a potluck supper and was well attended and good. We have inspection night coming up at the end of the month and reports. Happy birthday and best wishes to all.

### EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

**May 1:** Membership Application Luncheon

**May 6:** It's all grist to the mill! (7:30 P.M. meeting)

**May 7:** 2nd Annual C.H.I.P. Event (Child Identification Program)

**May 7:** Annual Plant Sale

**May 13:** Annual Youth Night Program!

**May 20:** Inspection

**May 22:** We march in the 2005 Sterling Memorial Day Parade. Juniors will have a float!

Several of our members participated in the 2005 Ag Day at the Capitol in Hartford this year. The Sterling Girl Scouts continue to use our hall and we enjoy the interaction with this wonderful group of girls. They spruced up the Grange grounds and assist with special projects, including the C.H.I.P. Program. Last year 181 children participated in the identification process, we hope to have even more participate this year! As you read from the above "Coming Events" list, we are combining two major events that day; the Junior Grange will be holding their annual plant sale that day too!

Cheryl Thevent again did a super job distributing dictionaries to Voluntown & Sterling 3rd grades; she does a special program on "words" that just inspires the children!

2nd graders at Sterling School participated in an

Ekonk Community Grange "Ag Awareness Contest." At this writing the children are diligently working on their entries - next month I'll report on how the contest went over.

3rd graders in Voluntown and Sterling both will be participating in our Granges' Earth Day contest. Again, a future column will tell more of the story.

We tweaked the Grange Sterling School Junior High "Community Service Challenge;" changing it from "Random Acts of Kindness" to "Make a Difference Day."

As we look forward to June, mark your calendars for our 111th annual Strawberry Supper on June 18th from 5-7 P.M. - See you there!

### PUTNAM GRANGE #97

Corr: Shannen Solomon

Putnam Grange will meet on Monday, April 11, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. We will have a program by Elaine Turner on Healthy Aging & Safety at Home. Please join us for this wonderful program. Last month we had a very good program put on by the Putnam Dance Center. There were 8 girls from ages 8-12. They did tap, jazz and ballet. It was a wonderful performance. Our meeting in May on the 9th will be citizen and Granger of the year.

### KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

**May 2:** It Must Be Spring

**May 16:** Memorial Service

At our March 7 regular meeting we draped our charter for one of our former members- Ann Gunn. She had moved away some years ago and was a good Granger and worker. Denise Aubin (Lut) gave a report on the word "Ohanah" which means family- it was interesting. The carrot cookie, or honey bee carrot cookie contest winners were: 1- Anne Duval, 2- Denise Aubin, 3- Tie between Wanda Mach and Gert Blain. We are going to try a new way to raise money and have fun also putting on children's birthday parties. Worth a try.

Bee Crafts keep coming in- also crochet blankets for foster children. The white elephant sale was quite a success.

April 10- Killingly Grange held a 115th birthday party. Come help us celebrate. It's Sunday at 2:30 P.M. at Killingly

Grange Hall.

Apr. 17th Degree Day at Killingly Grange at 2 P.M. Howard Shippee is recuperating from hip surgery at Village Manor but send cards to his home at Box 52, Dayville, CT 06241.

### HIGHLAND GRANGE #113

Corr: Muriel Brundrett

**May 13:** Appreciations

**June 10:** Summer Fun

Due to bad weather (is there any other?) our March meeting was cancelled. However, our Patrons did get together to discuss business and worldly goings on. We planned to have a special raffle at our April and May meetings to make a donation to Killingly for the use of their hall.

The Master and Secretary spent several hours with the real estate agent discussing possible futures for the Highland Grange Hall off route 6. They discussed renting besides selling the hall. The hall can hold over 200 people. Due to illness, stress, and weather conditions, we decided not to meet. In small groups, by email, and over the phone we discussed the new social security measure presented to our lawmakers, and the suggestion was made that Congressmen collect social security rather than their life long lucrative pension provided by taxpayers. Planting to avoid critter invasion was discussed. Shut-in patrons (and this seems to be most of us) were called and hopefully cheered. Louise Oatley, Barbara and Russell Neal, Doris Baker, Bill and Joan Perry, Bonnie, David, and Muriel, and Ted and Fernanda Magao were remembered. They thanked the Grange for their cards, prayers and calls.

The Master decided not to have a pie sale for Easter. We donated to Killingly Grange's white elephant sale.

Patrons reported many hours of community service. Bonnie's school collected many pounds (David will weigh them) of pull tabs for the Shriners and wrote an article for the school paper. Wolf Den Grange and Ted Magao will deliver the tabs. Allyson, Lecturer, who will graduate as a teacher in May, has a fine remembrance program planned.

Bonnie, secretary, and class visited the Rhode Island School of Design museum.

The children enjoyed the ancient artifacts (mummy included), oil painting (Monet and others), modern art, gift shop, cafeteria, and (best of all) a day out of school. The walk around Brown University (next door to RISD) was slushy. Hopefully next year, Bonnie will be able to take the children in the good weather and be able to see Brown rather than watching her feet on the slippery walk. Muriel, Chaplain, and Bonnie attended the Junior Grange Cabin Fever. The parents of the Juniors offered a (free) tasty supper and Bonnie Deojay involved the children in a myriad of games with fantastic prizes. It was a good time.

### ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Pat Maines

**May 10:** Crazy Women's Association

**May 24:** Memorial Program - Chaplain

It seemed good to have a Grange meeting in March after so many cancellations due to stormy weather. Hopefully that is all behind us now and by the time you read this, spring will be in full bloom. Now, at the beginning of April, there are a few crocus blooming and we are looking forward to hearing the peep frogs at our next meeting. They sing very loudly in the swamp across from the Grange Hall.

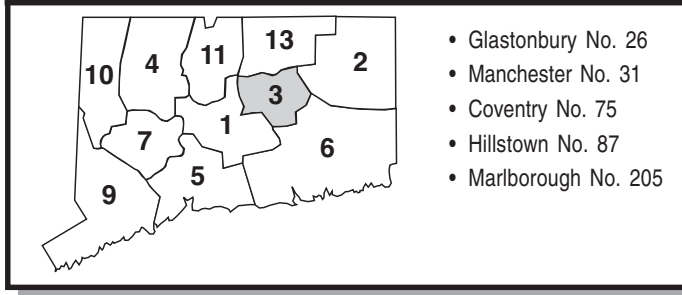
Our April meetings included our Agricultural Program and our annual inspection. As usual, this was preceded by a delicious potluck supper with our great cooks preparing their signature dishes.

Even though we have had to cancel some meetings, our members have kept busy attending other Grange functions and visiting our fellow Grangers who are homebound, hospitalized or residing in nursing homes. They always appreciate a visit. We have also collected items to be sent to our servicemen in Iraq and Betty Crocker coupons, cancelled stamps and can pop tops for various charitable projects.

Gardening time is right around the corner and hopefully you have your gardens planned, seeds purchased and perhaps some early crops even planted. I don't believe anyone had their peas in by St. Patrick's Day. I know that we didn't.

Enjoy the springtime!

### East Central Pomona No. 3



- Glastonbury No. 26
- Manchester No. 31
- Coventry No. 75
- Hillstown No. 87
- Marlborough No. 205

**EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3**

*Corr: John Waterhouse*

**May 7:** Regular Meeting (Saturday)

**May 19:** Antique Appraisal Night (Thursday)

We welcomed three new members to East Central Pomona No. 3 at our April meeting - two by initiation and one by reinstatement. Welcome and we hope to see you at our meetings.

May 7 will be our regular meeting date- with the meeting starting at 8 P.M. Hillstown Grange will act as their host. The program is entitled "The Winner is..."

By popular demand, our third annual Antique Appraisal night will be held on May 19 at Good Will Grange Hall from 6:30-8:30 P.M. We ask a \$6.00 donation for one item and a \$10 donation for two. This is a real fun evening. Our expert appraiser talks about each item and you learn a great deal about the value of antiques and collectibles. Hope to see you in May.

**GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26**

*Corr: Jean Accornero*

**May 5:** Inspection, Potluck Supper at 6 P.M., Meeting 7:30 P.M.

**May 14:** Bake Sale (9 A.M. to 12 Noon), Card Party, 7 P.M.

Spring has arrived (officially), the daffodils have started to bloom and the crocuses are already in blossom. Let's hope the weather warms up and the snow days are over.

We will be having a busy day on May 14. A bake sale is being planned and at the same time the Masons are having a big tag sale. At night we are having our monthly card party. Let's hope all events

are a success.

On inspection night, twenty-five year and fifty year certificates will be awarded to Grange members who have attained this honor. A potluck supper will be served before the meeting with many delicious casseroles.

Our collection of socks and underwear for underprivileged children keeps growing. It will be given to Social Services during the month of May.

Keep in mind that elections take place in June.

**MANCHESTER GRANGE #31**

*Corr: Diane K. Small*

**May 18:** In Memoriam

**June 14:** Flea Market - 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.

It seems that winter has left us for another year. We certainly do not need any more snow. We will now be getting wet with rain, ah spring. This is the time of year when our hopes and dreams spring eternal. Looked over those seed catalogs? Just think of all those yards that need to be raked. I noticed some crocuses in bloom the other day. They made me feel like spring is knocking on the door.

Our May 4 meeting is music, music, music. What's your favorite? I'm partial to country, but many of the other venues are doable. Do you have a favorite song, do you often sing or hum to yourself? Music is universal in language. As they say, it soothes the 'savage beast' or can aggravate it.

May 18 s "In Memoriam." This is time to reflect on those who have gone on before us. Also remember those who have given their lives for us in the present conflict in

which we are involved.

We've been fortunate to initiate a new member. We've also had several members come to us by demit from other Granges. All are welcome and look forward to them as part of our Grange family.

Remember we are getting closer to needing those CWA projects completed. I believe all of us need more sunshine in our lives and just being outside is good for recharging the soul and spirit.

**COVENTRY GRANGE #75**

*Corr: Bill Miller*

**May 5:** May Day- Where is our talent?

Finally, the weather seems more like spring than it was in March. Our direction is being oriented toward a national effort by decree of the National Master. Therefore, our orientation is directed to the Good of the Order, as suggested by the desires of the National Grange to recognize citizens active participation in local activities for the betterment of our community. Coventry Grange accepts the challenge. We will also be recognizing accomplishments of our members.

Today the temperature could reach 60 degrees and no snow. The weather problem still haunts us at the moment, for there are forecasts of more of the same in the next few days. Never-the-less we will look to the future and procede with our chores.

We are looking to the future for growth of our membership by presenting a genuine community spirit of giving and service to our town. Therefore, we invite all who desire to join us in our effort to achieve our goals.

On April 23, we will find Coventry Grange sponsoring a public dinner at the second Congregational Church, and we have scheduled a dinner on late fourth Saturday of May as a fundraiser for our Scholarship program. We look forward to an eventful spring and summer.

"Let us all persevere and build the new Grange."

**HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87**

*Corr: Rita J. Schaefer*

**May 4:** Card Party at 1:00 P.M.

**May 12:** It's a good thing to be a Granger

**May 26:** How Great Thou Art (Memorial Service)

**June 11:** Baked Chicken & Strawberry Shortcake Dinner

Maybe Mother Nature will be settling down now that spring is here and flowers and trees are starting to bud. What a beautiful time of the year.

We've been busy this past month. We made 18 Easter Baskets for the homeless shelter children who were going to enjoy them. We also made boxes of goodies for six soldiers that will be going to Iraq in the near future. They were very surprised that someone thought of them. As usual, some of our members helped deliver Easter dinners to the needy almost 50 dinners were delivered.

By the time you get your Granger we would have already held our Western. It's a very enjoyable evening. We will be having our inspection and Ritual Night coming up and our Memorial Service for our deceased members. We send cards to our shut-ins during the Easter holidays. We try to keep in

touch with our elderly members to let them know they are not forgotten. We have added two young members to our list, so you see we are progressing.

Our Craft people are discussing what to do to catch the eye of everyone at the Fairs. It's getting harder and harder to get many hands to do these things. But as the saying goes "it will all come out in the wash."

I guess this is the news this month, maybe more next time.

**MARLBOROUGH GRANGE #205**

*Corr: Ruth K. Posuniak*

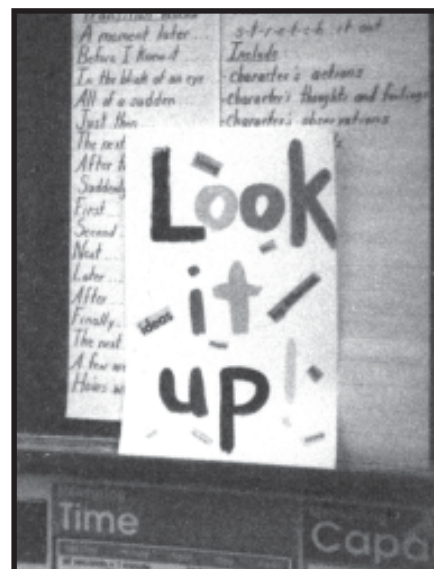
**May 5:** Baking Contest, Memorial Service by Chaplain, Ref. Baking Contest Treats

**May 13:** \*Please note that the Awards night has been changed from the Program Book listing. Awards Night - Public Invited, 7:30 P.M.-Marlborough Congregational Church, Ref. Marlborough Grange.

Marlborough Grange is happy that we received Scholarship Applications, campership letters and Citizen of the Year letters. The Marlborough Elementary School Band is providing entertainment. Hope to see many of you on the 13th.

Ladies of the Grange are still working on the walker totes for the Veterans Home. The totes should be ready soon to be given to our veterans.

## Ekonk's Dictionary Project

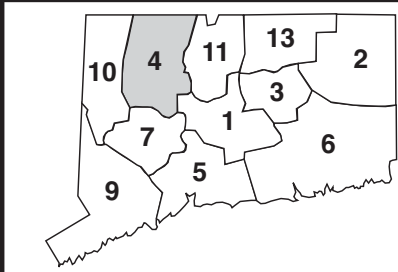


Ekonk Community Grange No. 89 member, Cheryl Thevenet, poses with several students from Sterling & Voluntown third grades. Ekonk again distributed dictionaries to each of the third grade students in the community. Cheryl's presentation also includes a program on "Words" which always inspires the students. (Left) A poster created by Cheryl for the program.



|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>(USPS 563-220)</p> <p>"Connecticut Granger" is published monthly except combined July-August issue for \$3.00/yr. by:</p> <p>Connecticut Granger, Inc..<br/>170 Scoville St., Unit 14, Torrington, CT 06790</p> <p>Second Class postage paid at Winsted, CT 06098</p> <p>POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:<br/>Connecticut Granger,<br/>P.O. Box 127, Winsted, CT 06098-0127</p> | <p><b>DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS</b></p> <p>News is due on the 5th Day of each month except July and should be sent to:<br/>Connecticut State Grange<br/>769 Hebron Ave., P.O. Box 6517,<br/>Glastonbury 06033.</p> <p>Address corrections should be sent to the Winsted Post Office address listed at left.</p> <p><b>Connecticut Granger Staff</b></p> <p>President/Editor . . . . . Todd Gelineau<br/>Vice President . . . . . Brian Carptenter<br/>Secretary Treasurer . . . . . Edith Schoell<br/>Material Coordinator . . . . . Marion Beecher<br/>Subscriptions . . . . . Peggy Prelli</p> |
|--|---|

## Mountain County Pomona No. 4



- Hope No. 20
- Whigville No. 48
- Eureka No. 62
- Winchester No. 74
- Litchfield No. 107
- Beacon No. 118
- Goshen No. 143
- Riverton No. 169

### MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

**May 9:** 7:30 Meeting at Winchester Grange for annual inspection and degree work. Supper at 6:30 P.M.

Winchester Grange will host Mountain County Pomona on May 9 for the annual conferral of the Fifth Degree with the inspection of the evening by Sister Amy Whitcomb, Pomona Deputy West. Supper will be served at 6:30 P.M. at a cost of \$2.00.

Arrangements will be made for entries in the Lecturer's contests if there are any this year.

A reminder that the spring drawing will be held at the June meeting of the Pomona - the fourth Monday in June. A number of fine prizes have been donated by the Pomona officers and others.

### WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

*Corr: Joyce A. Relihan & Walter Murray*

**May 10:** Inspection - All reports are to be in to the Secretary. Refreshments by all members.

**June 8:** Summer Celebration

After a long hard winter it finally looks like spring. On May 7 the Burlington Land Trust will be having a concert at our hall, and June 8 will be our cookie contest so all you

bakers get busy. And for those ladies get those knitting and crochet needles going for the needle contest. We are getting ready for our Fair on August 27 so plan on coming out for a get together with your friends.

Our Master Walter Krawiec has been out of commission and would love to hear from his friends so send him a card, just in case you don't have his address here it is, 38 Prospect St., Burlington, CT 06013. Walter we are all wishing you well, and miss you.

Just a reminder to all you need to pay YOUR DUES.

Here are a couple of sayings for you. You are sowing the flowers of tomorrow in the seeds of today. The best remedy for a short temper is a long walk.

### EUREKA GRANGE #62

*Corr: Alice Riley*

**May 3:** Spring Plant Swap  
**May 17:** A Picnic, and Memorial Day Program

A welcome to all new members and a special welcome to Ed Petit, and Victor Salazar, new members of Eureka. We wish you the best.

Hoping the snow, and the rain, puddles, ice and mud will be long gone by the time you read this, but

we would like some spring-time before the hot summer sets in. It's great to celebrate the return of the birds and nice weather.

We have a craft and flea market planned for April 23 at Eureka. Hope some of you hear about it and had a chance to check it out. Maybe we will do it again next spring.

In closing, I want to thank all of our officers and members who attend so faithfully. Come rain (freezing), snow, or freezing temperatures, they make the extra effort to be present. Thanks again.

### WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

*Corr: Barbara English*

**May 10:** "It's a Good Thing to be a Granger"

**May 24:** "Beyond the Sunset" - Memorial Program

**June 14:** Election - "Yea or Nay?"

**June 19:** Strawberry Festival (Father's Day) 2:30-5:00 P.M.

**June 24:** Public "Bear" Program, 7:00 P.M.

**June 28:** This Old Grange (CWA Program)

Winchester's Cabin Fever series of programs continued in April with the presentation on April 16 of the "Just Friends" Bluegrass Band. The concert was very well attended with donations and ticket revenue going towards Winchester's projects along with canned food donations going to Friendly Hands of Torrington. The third and final program in the series will be presented on June 24 with a representative from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection talking about Bears. Sightings of bears in Conn. and especially the northwest corner of CT have been increasingly common and the program should be very interesting and informative. This program is free to all and donations will be accepted.

Father's Day will feature our annual Strawberry Festival with the heaping servings of Strawberry Shortcake served from 2:30 - 5:00 P.M. at the Grange Hall in Winchester Center.

We would like to welcome our new members and the members from other Granges who took the degrees with us in April. We are fortunate to be able to confer all four degrees on new members and to have candidates in the first place to confer the degrees on. Welcome!

### LITCHFIELD GRANGE #107

*Corr: One Eyed Owl*

### May: Visiting Another Grange

A corned beef supper by the Merry Chefs, led by Brothers Healy, Weik, Magyar and Bunnell, preceded a meeting dedicated to a revisit of the written and unwritten Ritual of the Grange. Brother Bunnell and the officers of the Grange gave meaning to some things we take for granted. Brother Earl Philips, Deputy for Mt.

County Pomona #4 schooled us in the various methods of balloting during his inspection evening.

Saturday, March 12, was a successful Penny Auction with many visiting Grangers present. A full hall raised sufficient funds to offer our 4 camperships to Camp Berger again this year. Members brought in a wonderful assortment of cookies and cakes as a free half time break.

## "Just Friends"



(Above) Members of the bluegrass group "Just Friends" perform during the second installment of Winchester Grange's "Cabin Fever" program series on April 16. (Below) Band members Zoe and Jeff Greenwood pass through the refreshment line during the intermission.

## Mark your calendars!



Margaret Bernhardt  
State Program Director

It's May. I didn't think we would ever get any nice weather this year. But, while we are outside tending to our yards, let's not forget our Grange duties. Promoting the Grange and what it stands for is a year-round job.

Grange Sunday is almost upon us. Please mark June 12<sup>th</sup> in your date book and plan on spending a day with all your Grange Friends. Good Will Grange Hall, which is now owned and maintained by East Central Pomona, is a central spot for everyone in the State. At 11:00 a.m. our State Chaplain Marvin Wilbur will conduct his Service. This will be followed by a Lasagna Dinner sponsored by our Grange Youth. Then at 1:00 the Talent and "A Number" Contests will be held. This is always an enjoyable experience. Ideas taken from the "A Numbers" can be used to plan a program in your own Grange. Hopefully every Pomona will be represented that day. If your Pomona Lecturer hasn't held a contest yet, please ask her about it.

Information on Lecturer's Conference will be in the mail in about a week. Hopefully your Grange will send your Lecturer to the Conference this year. Connecticut is always well represented when we go to Dudley.

Enjoy the warmer weather. This also means better weather for getting out and visiting. See you around the State!

## HOW TO CONTACT US . . .

Some subscribers have asked us to list contact information for the Connecticut Granger and State Grange Departments. These are just the departments that most frequently report in this publication. Additional contact information may be obtained by contacting the editor.

*Articles & PHOTOS may now be emailed directly to the editor at the address below:*

**Editor- Todd Gelineau** ..... (860) 626-0326  
170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington 06790

email: [bluelinegraphic@optonline.net](mailto:bluelinegraphic@optonline.net)

**CT State Grange Central Office (Marion Beecher, Secretary)** . . . (860) 633-7550  
769 Hebron Ave., P.O. Box 6517, Glastonbury 06033

**CWA- Betty Jane Gardiner, Director** ..... (860) 658-2855  
15 Meadowlark Rd., W. Simsbury 06092

**Information- Carl Bernhardt, Director** ..... (203) 272-4620  
424 Cedar Lane, Cheshire 06410; email: [mcb76@cox.net](mailto:mcb76@cox.net)

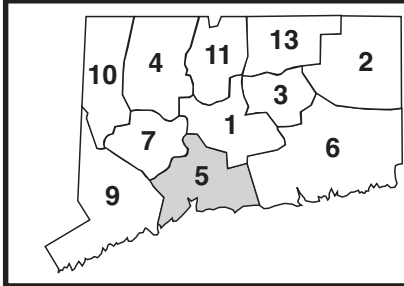
**Junior- Joanne Cipriano, Director** ..... (203) 754-5863  
393 Piedmont St., Waterbury 06706

**Legislative- Gordon Gibson, Director** ..... (860) 871-7757  
836 Hartford Tpk., Vernon 06066; email: [gfgibson@aol.com](mailto:gfgibson@aol.com)

**Membership- Robert Brockett, Director** ..... (860) 653-6740  
235 N. Granby Rd., Granby 06035; email: [ribrockett@compuserve.com](mailto:ribrockett@compuserve.com)

**Youth- Patricia Palmer, Director** ..... (860) 423-8993  
622 Jerusalem Rd., Windham 06280; email: [pwpalmer817@msn.com](mailto:pwpalmer817@msn.com)

## New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- Cheshire No. 23
- Wallingford No. 33
- North Haven No. 35
- Indian River No. 73
- Totoket No. 83

### NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: Charleen Dimmick

**May 9:** Fifth Degree at Wallingford

**June 13:** Regular Meeting at Cheshire, 6:30, Dinner, Gift Card Drawing, Program: Aloha Oahu

The Pomona Talent Contest was held at the March meeting. Indian River won the "A Number" contest with a skit about the clutter we have in your homes and Cheshire won the "Talent" Contest with a violin solo. Thanks to the judges for giving their time and talent to judge the contests, never an easy task.

Donations for the gift card can be brought to the May meeting.

Future Dates: Camp Berger Clean-Up on April 30, Past Deputies roast Beef Dinner on May 15 at Camp Berger, and Grange Sunday on June 12.

### CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Charleen Dimmick

**May 4:** Community Citizen Award. Tea Cup Auction.

**May 18:** When Things Were Simple.

**June 1:** Election of Officers. 6-Dinner. Memorial Program.

**June 15:** Movie Night

At our first meeting in March, we welcomed Rosin the Bow, professional musicians Martha and Grant Day. They played a combination of Celtic and American folk music.

The second meeting in March was our Competitive Night. The contest was in the form of Monopoly. Several Granges competed; Southington Grange was the winner.

For dates of some upcoming Grange events, see the Pomona report.

### WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Daniel Lauttenbach

**May 12:** Committee on Women's Activities Program. Janet B. Haller, Chair.

**May 26:** 120th Anniversary Celebration. Open House, Neighbor's Night, Potluck Supper.

On March 10 we held our Competitive Program:

Men vs. Ladies, Neighbor's Night. Early in the program it appeared that the men all but conceded it to the ladies. Marie Rosipoli put in a strong performance singing. But Alan Eddy pulled through a displaying his unique story telling talent by getting input from his audience and weaving a unique yarn from it. The final blow was DML's reading of "Dear Diary," a slightly off-color story of someone dealing with winter in Connecticut and in the end moves to Florida. The judges declared the men the victors!

On March 24 we held the first and second degrees. Many thanks to Marge Bernhardt for helping out as first and second degree master. New Haven County Pomona Deputy Kevin Annis inspected this night. We brought in one new member and her name is Margaret Peterson. Welcome to the Grange, Margaret.

### NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

Corr: A. Tolette

**May 3:** Chaplain & Graces - Memorial, Music, Etc.

**June 7:** Election of Officers

Spring has sprung, the grass has risen. I wonder where the flowers are? They are peeking through around here. We had a bountiful harvest supper in April which was followed by our meeting and inspection.

We have made our annual donations to the Lyman Hall High, North Haven High and State Grange scholarship funds.

We have lost another brother to the Grange above, Bob Bartlett, a past Deputy, and a member for 74 years.

### INDIAN RIVER GRANGE #73

Corr: Henry D. Rotman

In March we had one meeting, as printed in our schedule book, and again it was another wintry evening. The ground was still snow covered and there was enough ice and cold to keep several devoted members at home. In another few years I may be at home as well, as I

find that I am enjoying the warmth of the wood stove on my backside for longer periods of time as I get older!

We want to report that Stewart Sears is scheduled for surgery next week. Please keep him in your prayers.

It was a small, but loyal band of brothers and sisters that gathered to at-

tend our meeting and program for the March meeting. Our program was listed as "Mountain Music" and consisted of taped music performed by my old college pal, Carl Solterer from Appalachia, and his friend Bob Cummings. The tape consisted of short airs and songs performed on "Mouth Organ" and

"Gitfiddle." We also sang a few rounds of "She'll be Coming 'Round the Mountain" to get us warmed up.

On a bright side, we have crocuses and snowdrops in blossom on the south side of our house by the entrance door, where they can be seen upon entering and leaving. Can spring be far behind?

## Changes in Social Security

...continued from page 1

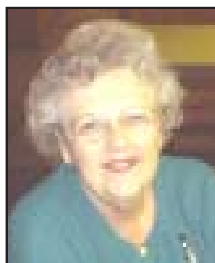
low workers to get a better return on their contributions than the present plan. The opponents claim this is riskier than the government obligations where the money is now invested. To a certain extent, both are right.

A basic principle of the financial world is that investors demand a higher return on riskier investments. How much risk one is willing to take in hopes of a greater return varies from person to person. Allowing people to direct their Social Security contributions into various investments means that some people will put everything into very safe investments that will provide a low rate of return that may not keep up with inflation while others will direct their contributions to investments that they believe will provide greater

returns in exchange for the risk that their investments will actually decrease in value.

One proposal that is being discussed would allow workers to direct part of their Social Security contributions into various investments while the remainder would be invested as it is now. When a person retired, their guaranteed Social Security benefits would be reduced according to the portion of their contributions they directed into the other investments. The retiree would then withdraw from their other Social Security investments as they saw fit. Other proposals are being discussed, including mandatory private savings or investment accounts, increases in Social Security taxes, reductions in retirees benefits and increasing the age to collect full benefits.

The ultimate question is how much responsibility each individual should take to provide for themselves. Some people believe Social Security should provide a very minimal guaranteed benefit and let workers provide for their own retirement while others believe the government should provide everything for everyone. A major problem is that some people are very capable of providing for their own retirement while others lack the basic ability to manage money. This is a case where one program does not fit all situations. How can one government program be made flexible enough to cover all these situations? If you know the answer, there are a lot of government officials in Washington who would love to hear from you.



Betty Jane Gardiner  
State W.A. Director



## A Stitch in Time

We're "BUSY BEES"!



How fast the time flies!!! It seems as if we just finished our regional meetings, and now the year is about

half gone. We very much appreciated the use of Norwich, Redding, Cheshire and Good Will Grange eHalls in which to "launch" the year of activities. We were also most fortunate to have the Pomona WA Chairmen take care of refreshments for each session. We got off to a good start, and the year is going very well.

The members of our State Committee have given you the information about our various projects via this "Stitch in Time" column. Subordinate and Pomona leaders have all the details and will be happy to share them with you.

There have been many questions asked of us and much interest has been shown in what we are doing.

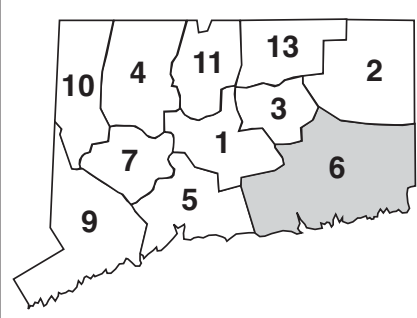
Comfort Covers are being made all across the state and we are glad that many foster children will receive the gift of their very own afghan, quilt or blanket in the fall.

We are looking for a good response to the needlework, baking and craft contests. Remember - first place winners in each of the ten classes of the needlework contest will go on to the New England finals at Eastern States in September.

Thinking of the Big E, we are delighted to learn that so many of you are busy making hand made items for us to sell in the Country Store of the New England Grange Building during the Expo. We had such success last year that now we must face the challenge of doing even better in 2005!!! Thank you all for what you have done and what you are doing to help the cause.

It is always a pleasure to arrange our department at the Connecticut Agricultural Fair so that the wonderful work done in our state can be showcased in Goshen. Do hurry and complete the entries you are working on... time is getting short and July will be here before we know it. BUT there is always time to whip up one more entry... to help us and to show off your work. Enjoy this lovely time of year... and KEEP BUSY ... just like the BEES!!!

## New London County Pomona No. 6



Lebanon No. 21  
Colchester No. 78  
Pachaug No. 96  
Preston City No. 110  
• N. Stonington No. 138  
• Lyme No. 147  
• Old Lyme No. 162  
Stonington No. 168  
• Norwich No. 172  
Franklin No. 184

### NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

**May 21:** Fifth Degree at N. Stonington

If you have candidates for the Third and Fourth Degrees, a team comprised of members from various Granges in New London County Pomona will confer them at Norwich Grange on May 11 at 7:30 P.M. The conferral of the Fifth Degree will be at North Stonington on May 21st. (Note the date has been changed from the fourth Friday to the third Saturday).

Please encourage your fourth degree members to come and take this beautiful degree. Pomona Grange is a chance for members to get together and share ideas. We need more of this.

Don't forget about our "daylight" meeting coming up in June at Norwich. Meeting starts at 5:30 with a potluck, and dress is casual.

The program is entitled "Mystery Night" and everyone loves a good mystery, so let's get out and support our Pomona Grange.

So come out to Norwich that Wednesday

For an evening of mystery when,

In a circle of friendship and pleasure,

We'll all get together again.

### N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

**May 13:** "This Train is Bound for Glory" Grange Heritage Night

**May 27:** "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" Memorial Program

Our Subordinate in the Great Grange Above is getting crowded. Ruth Myers, a faithful member who, thanks to her husband Clyde, rarely missed a meeting even though in failing health in recent years, went to meet the Great Master on March 22. I am sure she has already joined the CWA there. The

hundreds of hats, mittens, lap robes, and other knitted and crocheted items she made over the years have kept many people warm. She will be sadly missed by all.

March 27 was collections night. Cheree, Robert and Jason Miner shared cows, tractors, and Bob the Builder respectively (not full sized ones, of course). Marge Anderson, cats (one had Andy and Jason wondering if it was real), Charlie Pianka, rocks, Nancy Weissmuller, glitter, and Cindy Anderson her family in dolls. She had crocheted costumes for them starting in the 1860's. Sue Pianka displayed a collection of birds carved by her mom. You could almost hear them singing.

Don't miss our float in the Memorial Day Parade. The North Stonington Agricultural Fair (July 7-10) Queen and Princesses will be waving from it, and look for a surprise on the back. And if those piles of snow beside my driveway will just melt, next time I'll tell you about awesome April.

### LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Marita Rand

**May 19:** "3 Musketeers" Memorial, Graces and Stewards will assist.

By the time you read this we would have had first and second degrees with much help from several Granges.

The Spearmint program done by Assistant Stewards was fantastic, we learned a lot and also had some information about Easter. Our May 19 meeting should be interesting—the Asst. Stewards are assisting and are planning a program on a decade. Which will they choose? We heard a lot of speculating and laughter.

### OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Regina Stands

**May 13:** CWA Night, Baking Contest

**May 27:** Omit- Memorial Day

It has been a rough winter for everyone, we had to

cancel some meetings, and change the date for a couple of others.

At our last meeting, a special comm. was appointed to plan our 100th Anniversary in December. Reading over some of the old minutes has been interesting. Back in the thirties the membership numbered over 200 members and while the population of Old Lyme has more than tripled, our membership now is down to 62 members, and some of those members have moved down to Florida or just aren't able to attend meetings for one reason or another. And we are all getting older.

Barbara Kulisch still presents a great program every meeting and now that the weather is finally settled down we hope to see some of our neighbors visit, and we hope to get out to visit.

### NORWICH GRANGE #172

Corr: Dick Chapman

**May 11:** Third & Fourth Degrees

**May 25:** CWA Night

Our Nifty Night #11 happens to fall on the 11th which happens to be New Member Night when volunteers from the Granges within the Pomona exemplify the degrees - thanks to the dedication and perseverance of our Deputy, Cindy Anderson. Part of the fun on CWA Night will be the yellow raffle table and all are asked to bring yellow items.

We are supporting the Junior Department by co-sponsoring a "Christmas in July" event at Pomona's "Gathering Day" on July 16 at our hall. We're asking everyone to bring shoe boxes and items for children to go in them for the Operation Christmas Child project. We hope to have a "wrap" session if folks can find Christmas wrapping paper.

We've provided a campership for Camp

Berger, donated to Friends of the Kelley Farm, State Youth Fund, and to the "Wigs for Kids" project through the National Grange Foundation's Youth Department. We sincerely congratulate

Elsie L. Roberts for reaching her 75 year Grange milestone; 50 years for Herman R. Weingart; and 40 for Helen P. Tarryk.

Idea for May: Don't postpone Joy.



## Marion's Memos

Marion W. Beecher, State Secretary

I HAVE HEARD THE PEEPER! Now I know that Spring is just about here! I realize they usually get frozen in two or three times before they are "official" but that first faint little peep is a joy to hear!

I wonder how many times the following has been written over the years, but it's going to be written once again! The Student Loan is available to any student at any college in the world, as long as the individual is a Grange member in good standing. Any college — The Scholarship is available to any student at any college in the world, as long as the individual is a Grange member in good standing. Any college — the Scholarship is available only to students at UConn... this was the contract set up in 1936 when the scholarship was established. Other plans may be made in the coming years, but at present the scholarship is only for students at UConn... who are Grange members and whose average for the year has been 2.7.

We talk so often about helping other Granges who are teetering on the brink of failure. I am happy to say we have a perfect example of that— one of our members has assumed the responsibility of helping a neighboring Grange that really needed help. She has taken over as secretary — she is working with the CWA and she is doing many things that have needed doing for some time. It does look good and is going to make a difference to the Grange in trouble! Perhaps you could try it with a neighboring Grange! The main thing to remember is... you are there to help, not to "take over." It could boomerang, and nobody wants that. Good luck.

Just a warning... I thought the little verse below might be valuable.

*Sometimes when you're feeling important,  
Sometimes when your ego's in bloom,  
Sometimes when you think you're  
The most important one in the room,  
Sometimes when you feel that your  
Going would leave an unfilled hole,  
Just try this simple example. . .  
And see how it humbles your soul.*

*Take a bucket and fill it with water.  
Put your hand in it up to your wrist.  
Take it out and the hole that's remaining  
Is a measure of how much you'll be missed.  
You can splash all you want when you enter  
You can store up the water galore  
But leave, and you'll find in a second  
That it's quite the same as before.*

*The moral of this simple story  
Is do the best that you can.  
Be proud of yourself, but remember,  
There is no indispensable man.*

## WE OFFER A LIFETIME OF MEMBERSHIP

No one knows better than you that the benefits of belonging to Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union are unlimited. *Share the gift.*

From savings accounts, low rate loans and retirement planning, to FREE checking, 24 hour banking, direct deposit, e-Pay, and FREE ATM/Debit transactions, we have something for everyone.

Call 860-513-5000 (local) ; 1-800-526-6933 (nationwide);  
or visit us online at [www.nutmegstatefcu.org](http://www.nutmegstatefcu.org)  
for more membership benefits.

**NUTMEG STATE**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

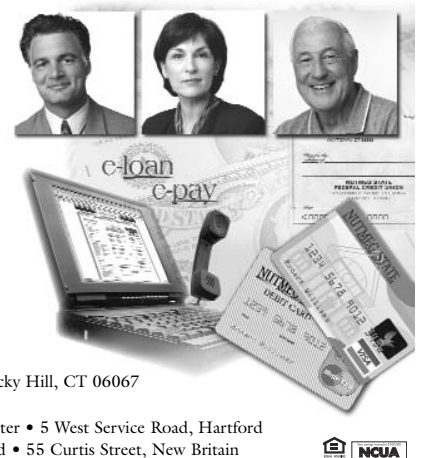
MAIN OFFICE:

521 Cromwell Avenue, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

BRANCH OFFICES:

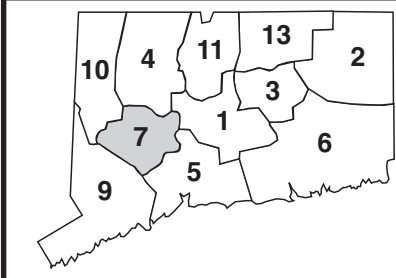
270 Broad Street, Manchester • 5 West Service Road, Hartford

40 Brainard Road, Hartford • 55 Curtis Street, New Britain



NCUA

## Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- Washington No. 11
- Beacon Valley No. 103
- Bethlehem No. 121
- Watertown No. 122
- Prospect No. 144
- Wolcott No. 173
- Oxford No. 194

### EXCELSIOR POMONA #7

Corr: Mary Dubay

**May 10:** Rehearsal

**May 18:** Fifth Degree

On May 10, 2005 there will be rehearsal for the Fifth Degree at Beacon Valley Grange Hall. All officers and members of the Court are urged to attend.

On May 18, 2005 conferral of the Fifth Degree with inspection will also be held at Beacon Valley Grange at 7:30 P.M.

### WASHINGTON GRANGE #11

Corr: Linda Coad

At the April 4th meeting it was a unanimous vote to pursue merging with Bethlehem Grange No. 121.

The May 2 meeting will be for discussion of how to attain a successful merge.

### BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our programs for the month of May are- May 13th CWA Night. We will be judging the contest in this department. Check with chairman Olive Rathburn if you need the recipe for the baking contest. Then come to the meeting and enjoy the program being presented by this committee- Olive, Pearl Godin, Jessie DiBeneditto and Carole Mancini.

On May 20th we will be celebrating our 116th anniversary. We have many certificates to be presented and we will also be honoring our "Citizen of the Year." This will be an open meeting and all are welcome to attend.

Our new theme song is "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" as we voted to sponsor a team in the Union City Little League as a new community service project.

### BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: J.R. Osuch

**May 28:** Memorial Service and CWA Bake Off - Country Store

Neither rain or hail-sorry, wrong department, but it did rain and it was cold but our flea market on April 2 was a success none the less. Our sympathy goes to the family of Roz Butler. By the time you read this we will have taken in one new member by initiation, one by reinstatement and one by affiliation.

### WATERTOWN GRANGE #122

Corr: Mary Dubay

**May 6:** Mother's Day

**May 20:** In Loving Memory

Two celebrations in the merry month of May. First, we have Mother's

Day, and we wish a happy day to all the mothers. Second, we have Memorial Day, with parades galore and family picnics to be sure. Also the start of the summer season, what a nice thought.

Our first meeting in May will be our Mother's Day program by the Lecturer. Our second meeting is our Memorial Service for our deceased members called In Loving Memory and is in the charge of the Chaplain and Graces.

Our CWA chairman is asking members to bring in personal items for the Covenant to Care project, or give a cash donation and she will purchase whatever is needed. More on this later.

Master Sharon would like to thank all who helped in selling the Easter flowers.

Now that the weather is nicer, come and join us when you can. We meet on the first and third Fridays of the month at 8:00 P.M.

### PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Corr: Fran Maxwell

**May 13:** First & Second Degrees with Inspection

**May 27:** No Meeting

We have changed our programs a little. Our First Aid Program was held on April 15. Our Community Citizen Award Night is going to be combined with our picnic on June 24 at 6:30 P.M. As of now we will be going back to the Grange Hall for the degrees with inspection.

Now the weather is getting nicer, we are able to get out in the gardens to start your flowers and vegetables. It is time to start on the contest items for judging on June 10 in our Grange.

### WOLCOTT GRANGE #173

Corr: Cindy Legg

Our April 4th meeting was devoted to Agriculture. Hopefully, we all learned something new. On April 18 we held the first and second degrees for inspection.

All of us at Wolcott Grange are looking forward to the upcoming Spring season. We are planning a May Day Celebration on Sunday, May 1, giving out our Community Citizen Award out on May 16, and another Card Party in June. Also a tag sale sometime in the fall. We are keeping busy.

We all hope that you will be able to get out and enjoy the spring season.

Remember, we meet on the first and third Mondays of each month at our Grange Hall in the center of Wolcott.

### OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Phil Rowland

**May 6:** Inspection. Potluck Dinner at 6:00 P.M.

**May 20:** To be announced. 7:30 P.M. Meeting Time.

These days our meeting schedule is as predictable as the weather. April meetings bore no resemblance to last month's calendar listings and for that we apologize.

Surprises abound in Oxford, but it seems safe

to predict we will have dinner and Inspection on May 6, and a 7:30 P.M. meeting on the 20th. Please come!

Many people have inquired about our Spring Tag Sale- it will be held as soon as a committee member regains his use of a broken arm. Falls on ice can be nasty.

Sadly we must report the loss of longtime member Albert Kissel. He has not attended meetings for some time but is remembered for his generous donations of pies for our public suppers in years past. Our condolences to his family.

## miscellaneous

Marion Beecher, State Secretary

We have a mystery, and perhaps there might be an ornithologist among our readers who can solve our problem. Sounds crazy, but ...

For about a week there has been a bird running around in our yard, almost attacking whoever comes into the yard, walking up the ramp after Bud, making little cooing sounds while she is streaking across the ground! She looks as though she is standing guard over our property - - I've told her we don't need guard duty, but she pays no attention to me! She looks like a pheasant although smaller than a pheasant but the same coloring, with the little ruff on her head. I'm saying "her" because she acts like a "her." We thought maybe she had a nest somewhere, but there is no sign of it. You should have seen her take off after Sue Addison's dog, Lucy!

That really is Miscellaneous— anybody got an idea?

We drove down into Camp the other day, with no difficulty! There was still some snow but not much. Seems good to see the ground and we sure hope it stays that way - only turning green!

We sorrow over the loss of Brother Harry Welles, and our sympathy is extended to Sister Edie. Harry has not been well for the past several years, but he persevered with a strength that was amazing. I always remember, one of the first times I ever met Harry, he asked me, "Do you like horse radish?" and I said, "Yes" ... and the next time he had a big bottle of really strong horse-radish for me! I enjoyed it thoroughly, even if it made tears come to your eyes! Harry was a dedicated Granger and a good friend. He will be missed by many, as well as by Wapping Grange.

Don't forget May 15 — Roast Beef Dinner from 12:30 to 2:00 P.M. with tours, talks, souvenirs, recognition of all the things that make Camp Berger so important to all of us.

## Readers Respond

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In a recent issue, we published a story about National Grange's opposition to the sugar substitute "Splenda" and its marketing practices. The following Letter to the Editor was received regarding that article...

I read your article about Splenda with great interest. I remember years ago about a similar discussion about butter and margarine - "The Real Thing." "Oleo" is not fake, but a vegetable product. It is the real thing too.

There are more important things to fix besides complaining about Splenda, which is a sugar by-product. Sugar is an agricultural product. Milk is an agricultural product and many products including cheese, butter, and powdered milk are by-products of milk. Follow your logic. Do you mean by-products of an agricultural product are not agricultural products?

There are more important things to fix. One is the price of gas. As a senior citizen, the price of gas affects every part of our lives. The rise in the price of gas not only affects the heating of my house, but the cost to go to the store to shop for agricultural products. The rise in the cost of gas is added to the cost of transporting fresh produce to the store.

It is time the Grange got its priorities in order. Our Order has an aging membership. It is time the Grange started fighting for the broader issues for agriculture, and started fighting for issues that effect its membership.

Submitted by Muriel Brundrett



## THE PATRONS GROUP

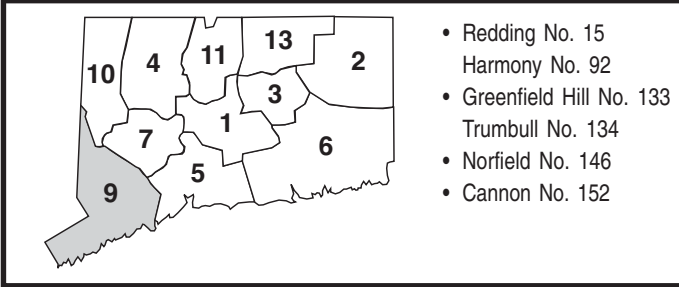
769 Hebron Avenue, Glastonbury, CT 06033

(860) 633-3942 • 1-800-800-0863

Protecting our Connecticut policyholders'  
financial security since 1833



## Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



- Redding No. 15
- Harmony No. 92
- Greenfield Hill No. 133
- Trumbull No. 134
- Norfield No. 146
- Cannon No. 152

### FAIRFIELD COUNTY POMONA #9

Corr: Don Offinger

**June 1:** Potluck Supper at 6:30 P.M. (Cannon Grange Hall), Business & Master's Reports at 7:30 P.M., Election of Officers plus contest judging and country store.

**Sept. 7:** Installation of Officers (Greenfield Hill Grange Hall). Festivities begin at 7:30 P.M. followed by refreshments.

We were pleased to confer the Fifth Degree as part of our inspection process on April 6th, and enjoyed our visit by Amy Whitcomb, Deputy West.

Looking ahead, our meeting on June 1, to be held at the Cannon Grange Hall, will provide excitement as we elect new officers for the next two years. On the same evening, we will hold our state contests in needlework, sewing and talent. We anticipate that each Grange will provide contestants for each category: we know there are some very talented Grangers in our Pomona.

Please note our meeting schedule with location. Visiting Pomona members are always welcome—won't you join us?

### REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Marge Bernhardt

**May 7:** Spring Fair

**May 9:** Mother's Day

**May 23:** Memorial Night and CWA

Well spring is finally here at last. The clocks are turned ahead and the rain has ceased. It's time for work around the house and in the Grange. Our 4H night was a success even for a rainy night. The children gave outstanding presentations and they had a unique assortment of animals. They seem to have different animals each year. If you missed it you missed a great night out but there is always next year.

We are starting the month off with our Spring Fair. Lots of good buys await those who attend from our White Elephant Table as well as from our baked goods, plants, books and needlework

tables. The fair runs from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Hopefully you can make it.

Our programs for the month are listed above. Our lecturer will make them fun and enjoyable. They will also be educational. On the 13th we will have a special program honoring our dearly departed members. There were quite a few this past year. This will be followed by our CWA program which should also be special. So come and join us and we'll have fun together.

Since we have returned from Florida, you should look forward to seeing Bob and me as we plan on getting out on the visitation trail soon!

### GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

**April 17:** "April Showers", 2 P.M., Potluck 3 P.M.

Once again winter eased enough for us to meet. Our February program focused on our nation's presidents. Reports to the State Grange were brought up to date by the secretary and treasurer.

Planning for spring and summer activities will be on the agenda for April. Our Grange is scheduled for inspection. Committee chairmen should have their reports ready for the deputy. All of our Grange friends are welcome to visit.

### NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

**May 10:** Agriculture Night

**May 24:** Memorial Night

Mother Nature doesn't always smile on agricultural organizations like ours. The first meeting in March was totally wiped out by snow and ice. A tree is attacking the foundation of our hall, and since it gives no shade it is coming down. And our septic system, which depends on dirt and drainage, has been giving us some problems. So- thanks to an outfit with an elegant name of Pump and Flush-the tank has been emptied. (Take that, Mother

Nature).

On a more toothsome note, we had our Baking Contest on March 22. The first prize went to Gladys Pennoyer, the second to Peg McCullough, and the third to Sue Sulla. Congratulations all!

We also enjoyed Hobby Night that evening, and it never ceases to amaze this correspondent how Grangers can come forth with new collections and hobbies year after year! This time around we had everything from hanging Snoopy cut-outs to garden bunny figurines, with antique hand-held vices, silver spoons, crocheted collars, stamps, commemorative covers, an African pocketbook and blankets for foster children in between.

Come join us now that the weather is better. We like to collect new friends as well as garden bunnies.

### CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

**May 19:** Neighbor's Night Supper at 6:30 P.M.; Menu- New Orleans Theme

**June 2:** Business Meeting, 8 P.M.

**June 16:** Election of Officers, 8 P.M.

**July 7:** Picnic Supper at Ambler Farm Park- 6:30 P.M. (Bring a dish to pass, and bring a chair)

**July 21:** Picnic Supper at Ambler Farm Park - 6:30 P.M. (Bring a dish to pass, and bring a chair) - short business meeting at 8 P.M.

The members of our Grange held a weekend retreat in March to discuss our participation in the Action Grange program since we are now half way through the experimental period. A number of good ideas came out of our retreat. The idea of a retreat is a good one, as it serves as a 'reality check.' We suggest every Grange consider holding one to do a self-assessment.

Recently we've had some very good programs. Our Silent Movie Night was very well attended with nearly 60 people, that this will become an annual event for us. Our Irish Night welcomed 15 youth from the Gray School of Irish Dance. The dancers did a superb job presenting authentic Irish dance in their most exquisite costumes (no two costumes are alike!).

Do you like Gumbo, or Jambalaya, Chicken Bog, or Crawdaddys in piquant sauce? If you do, then you

should plan to make your way to "Cafe duCannon" on May 19th in the heart of Cajun-Cannondale for a New Orleans-style supper. It will be fun, and there will be background music fea-

turing the likes of Satchmo, and other jazz greats.

Please note our meeting schedule. Visiting Patrons are always welcome.

## Funding Services Available

Dear Friends,

I am writing to inform you about new federal funding information services provided by my office. We have increased the content of federal funding information on my Senate web site to include recently published Notifications of Funding Availability (NOFAs) from the federal government. We have also posted links to helpful funding research resources.

NOFAs are now posted online on my website at <http://lieberman.senate.gov>. To find the grant information, select the Connecticut constituent services page by clicking on the **Connecticut** banner at the top of the home page. From this page, select the **CT Services** box on the top left of the page. One of the choices on this page is for information about Federal Funding. Select the **Federal Funding** box on the bottom right of the page to learn more about funding options.

On the "Federal Funding" page, you can choose in the third paragraph to view helpful reference materials to assist you in researching and applying for funding opportunities. And, in that same paragraph, the latest list of NOFA funding opportunities especially relevant to Connecticut and its constituents are categorized and updated regularly. This page will provide you with funding opportunity titles, eligibility requirements, deadlines, and a link to the grant announcement and application materials. Finally, in the fourth paragraph you may sign up to receive current announcements of funding through <http://grants.gov>. This government website emails interested parties all new requests for proposals from federal agencies as they are issued. The [grants.gov](http://grants.gov) notices will include some NOFAs that are only applicable to states or localities outside of Connecticut, therefore, you may find it more useful to check the NOFA postings relevant to Connecticut provided on my website to secure the most helpful information.

I hope that you find this new service timely and useful. Should you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Katy McNulty, the Grants Coordinator in my Hartford office at (860) 549-8463.

Sincerely,

Joseph I. Lieberman

United States Senator (CT)

## Got Posters? ... and Brochures?

# Camp Berger



DISCOVERY, ADVENTURE, FRIENDSHIP, FUN

Located on scenic Park Pond in Winchester Center, Connecticut

A Co-Educational Camp for  
Ages 7-14 (7 by July 1st)

Six Weekly Sessions Beginning  
July 10, 2005

Owned and operated by the  
Connecticut State Grange



Our 50th Season!  
Established in 1956

Open to ALL - Grange Membership Not Required!

[www.campberger.org](http://www.campberger.org)

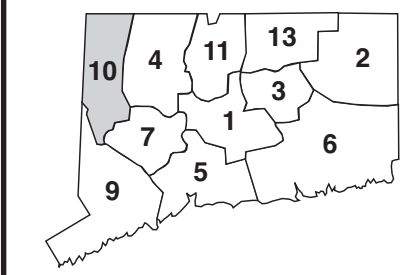
Member of the Connecticut Camping Association

The brochures and posters should be statewide by now. Please distribute them to area businesses.

Post the posters where young families and camp-aged children might see them. The re-vitalization of Camp Berger depends on all of our efforts to get the word out and add new campers to the numbers of returning campers this summer.

If you would like to receive more posters or brochures, please contact Ellsworth Beecher at (860) 379-2527 or P.O. Box 63, Winchester Center, CT 06094 or email: [ebeecher2527@charter.net](mailto:ebeecher2527@charter.net).

## Housatonic Valley Pomona No. 10



- Taghannuck No. 100
- Bridgewater No. 153
- Metichewan No. 190

### HOUSATONIC VALLEY POMONA #10

Corr: Jean Lundeen

#### May 10: Meeting

Housatonic Valley Pomona will meet on May 10 at 7:45 at Taghannuck Grange Hall. It will be inspection without the degree work. Program will be memories.

Campership to Camp Berger will be awarded. Be sure to get names from your Grange to the Lecturer.

### TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Myrtle Hayden

#### May 12: Fun Night

#### May 26: Citizen of the Year, Cornwall's Turn

Many of our winter meetings were canceled due to bad weather. On April 28th we were inspected on the third and fourth degrees.

On April 14 we draped our charter in memory of Helen Hain, G.S.

### BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Chris Shook

#### May 11: 7:30 P.M., "What's Growing?"

#### May 14: Roast Beef Dinner 5:30 and 6:30 sittings.

I hate myself for being such a procrastinator on this deadline. It's not remembering the 5th but was it last month, this month or next month? Poor Marion, I hope for her sake I'm the only one. (Editor: Sadly, you're not!)

January meeting was at the hall on a Sunday afternoon. Three names suggested for award this spring.

February we met at the home of Dorothy Gustafson on another rescheduled night. We voted on application for Sarah Case, 14 yrs. old to join us in April with the First and Second Degrees, making it four new members (yeah).

We voted on names and Bob Brown will be our recipient for our Community Service Award this year. All invited to join us Friday, April 29th at 6:30 P.M. just bring a dish.

The members all signed the Agricultural Fair book slip. We made plans for ordering the Easter plants to be delivered to the shut-ins and elderly at home and away. Thirty was the count, to be delivered Eas-

ter week by the members.

Master did the CWA program and voted monetary donations to the committee's request. We also voted donations to the FFA foundation and to the Shepaug Valley Senior Student Project Inc. Dee and Wally Domroe delivered the dictionaries to the Burnham School for third grade in early February. Plans for our hosting the AARP "55 Alive Program" was set for April 18th and 25th from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Master in charge of registrations.

Our first Roast Beef Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 14th.

A number on the Lecturer's program was on "Keeping Your Yard Free of Mosquitoes in the Summer." It's coming!

This writer has been hosting a flock of 58 wild turkeys from December 1st until April 1st- the change purse is getting mighty low on feeding the wildlife, so sorry April 1st will be it! The turkeys will have to fend for themselves. God bless until next time.

### METICHEWAN GRANGE #190

Corr: Alice Smith

#### May 17: (Tuesday) 85th Anniversary Music & Awards Night

We will be celebrating our 85th anniversary of our Grange at the Fellowship Hall, United Methodist Church, Route 7. We are hoping that many Grangers will join us that night. Date is Tuesday, May 17, 7:30 P.M.

Anne Potter, Director at the Senior Center and Clark J. Chapin, State Representative will be present.

During our program will be entertained by three musical groups. We are saddened that Leonard Taylor, Banjo player and Lenneth Law with his trumpet have passed on. They played for many years at our Music Nights. Also don't forget Oscar White, no one can replace him.

On Saturday, May 14 from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. we will be on the Village Green with the Rotary Club and come and visit our table.

## Mystery Meeting Place



For our May Mystery Picture, we would like to know what Grange meets in this building? If you know or have any idea, please let your Information Director know by telephone, postcard or e-mail. Just mail your answers to: Carl H. Bernhardt; 424 Cedar Lane; Cheshire, CT 06410, or call (203) 272-4620. Our e-mail address is: [mbcb76@cox.net](mailto:mbcb76@cox.net). We would like your answers by June 1st. The names of everyone who gives us the correct answer will be printed in the July-August issue of the **CONNECTICUT GRANGER**.

The Mystery Picture shown in the

March issue of the **Granger** is Goshen Grange Hall. We received no correct answers as of the deadline.



Goshen Grange Hall



## Granby Set-Back continues tradition

by Fred Wilhelm

### The Granby Drummer

In the musical Fiddler on the Roof much is said about tradition. Tevye, the hero, finds himself in the midst of a changing world as events bring changes to the shetl where he lives. Much like Tevye this writer also finds himself in a rapidly changing world where traditions fade away and are gone. For the writer to share knowledge about a local tradition with readers of the *Drummer* is a great opportunity to pass on a little history. Such an opportunity came when Lyall Shaw, an officer in the Granby Grange, asked him to write something about the Grange Set Back Tournament.

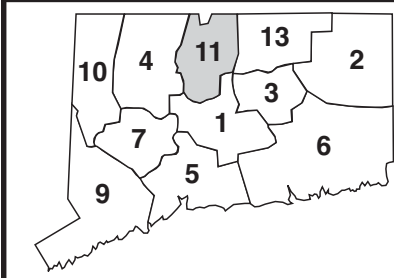
Still going strong, the Set Back Tournament started in 1932. Set Back is a relatively uncomplicated card game. In Hoyle's *The Official Rules of Card Games* it is also called Auction Pitch. The towns playing in the tournament are Blandford, Granby, Granville, Huntington, Southwick and Westfield. They players do not have to be members of a Grange. Sherman Decker from the Westfield Grange started the tournament and also started keeping records. There are eight members on each team. The Granby team members for the current season are Herman Cyr, Roger Hayes, Robert Longley, Michael Lynch, Newton Lyons, Lyall Shaw (captain), Simeon Pero and George Tuffin. Ray Evnson, Jr. fills in for anyone unable to play. The teams play on the second and fourth Thursday nights of a month for a total of 12 nights at the American Legion Post 338, Pow-

der Hill Rd. in Southwick. At the end of the season there is a dinner for all of the players. Each player pays \$3.00 at each session, which pays for the dinner and any other expenses. The current season started October 14, 2004, and will end on March 24, 2005 with April 7 reserved as a make-up date.

The picture taken in the early 1940's at the former Granby Town Hall, now the Grange Hall, should be of interest to all readers old and young. Included are the members from the towns who played at that time. How many can any of you older readers identify? The writer with the help of Lyall Shaw identified 8, but not with certainty. Take special note of the large wood burning stove. There exists a rumor that when the building was the Town Hall an effort was made to seat residents who might have opposing views as close to the stove as possible so that the heat might put them to sleep and the opposition would be silenced. Politics, then as now, has many strategies.

Anyone seeking more information about the Set Back Tournament should contact Lyall Shaw. For background he loaned the writer a suitcase full of records and pictures and showed him the trophy on which the winners from each year are noted. Granby has won nine times since 1932. Lyall, through his family's saving habits and long involvement in the everyday life of Granby, has a treasure of photos, artifacts, tools and records that the writer hopes will be preserved for future generations. Tradition!

## Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11



- Granby No. 5
- Tunxis No. 13
- Cawasa No. 34
- Simsbury No. 197
- West Suffield No. 199
- Cherry Brook No. 210

### FARMINGTON VALLEY POMONA #11

Corr: *Betty Jane Gardiner*  
**May 16:** The FBI Story, Inspection, Cherry Brook Grange, Potluck Supper-6:30 P.M.

We look forward to having Pomona Deputy West, Amy Whitcomb, with us for our inspection.

Potluck Supper will be served at 6:30. We hope we will have some candidates to receive the beautiful 5th degree. Reports of the various committees have been prepared. Pomona will have her lovely court ready for all to admire.

Our April meeting was given over to the Granges who had entries in the contests of the Lecturer's Department.

Several of our people are directly involved in the Connecticut Agricultural Fair and urge participation of all in order to make this year's the best ever.

### GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: *Frances Brockett*

**May 5:** Meeting

**May 14 & 21:** Tag Sales at Granby Grange Hall from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.

**May 19:** Memorial Program, Election of Officers, 7:30 P.M.

**May 28:** Public Setback Card Party, 7:30 P.M.

Contributions and help for the Saturday tag sales will be welcomed as this is a necessary fundraiser. (Your dues cover only our obligations to the State Grange and for the Grange newspaper, not the upkeep of the building).

### CAWASA GRANGE #34

Corr: *Maggie & Lin*

I'd say summer was here but . . . yesterday was in the 80s and today high 56 and this evening 28-30 degrees! My goodness, if you don't like the weather, well wait just a minute.

Visited Ruth Case and she looks very well, she walks with the walker and loves visitors, so if anyone wants to visit her she is at Cherry Brook Healthcare, Rm. 201.

Thad Wendell is recovering from his bronchitis and we hope he feels well soon. Jeanette Ryan would like all our prayers, she is undergoing treatment for cancer. Our prayers are with you, "Lucy."

Farmington Valley Pomona had 5 Cawasa members at their meeting at Simsbury Grange Hall. Sister Doris presented her "angels" with some beautiful magnet Angels for giving her rides, etc. Great refreshments were had after.

Enjoy the great weather, come visit us anytime!

### SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: *Alma Necker*

**May 12:** May Days (Chaplain in Charge)

Our good member, Winnie Carter, enjoyed a late spring trip to Bermuda. At that point in time we all wished we could have gone along with her.

The inspection meeting went well with our deputy with us to check on our activities. Committee reports were turned in and a nice program was enjoyed. Potluck suppers are a favorite with the group so the evening got off to a good and tasty start.

We are sprucing up our hall for the spring and summer seasons.

In May the program will include a memorial service and thoughts of the merry month of May.

### WEST SUFFIELD GRANGE #199

Corr: *Beatrice Phelps*

**May 10:** Memorial- Chaplain in Charge, Meeting at Academy Hall

**June 14:** Ritual Night and Honey Bee Carrot Cookie Contest

Pam Covington put on a very good and interesting program of the decade from 1940 to 1949. A lot of events took place during that period.

We lost another member, Douglas Morway died recently in Florida where he and Frances have lived

for several years. he was a 55 year member.

Marge Phelon has been confined to her home recovering from a fall that broke some ribs. She continues her knitting just the same.

Bob and Peggy Sheldon have had some surgery while in Florida. We hope they will be back soon.

While we are having

April showers, let's look forward to May flowers and summer picnics, and ice cream socials, after our winter snow.

We had a meeting in February and our new members attended. We caught up on the programs we had to cancel because of the storms. We had legislative, CWA, President Night and Jun-

ior and Youth all in one evening, followed by excellent refreshments and social hour. Also eight of us attended the Pancake Supper put on by the young people of the West Suffield Congregational Church before the meeting.

We hope spring comes and the snow goes. Happy springtime.



## Junior Grange Corner JG



Joanne Cipriano  
State Junior Director

In communication received from Sherry Harriman, Junior Development Director for the National Grange, she reported that they are working on implementing some changes to help our Junior Granges and Junior Members. Positive changes need to be made as we are losing Junior Granges and members.

I am checking into the formation of a State Junior Grange. We have many children of Grange members who do not have access to a Junior Grange. This will give them the opportunity to join and enjoy membership and to take part in the activities. More on this later.

Our next activity will be the Junior Grange Talent Contest being held at Good Will Grange in Glastonbury on Sunday, June 12th. We can't have a contest if we don't have entries. So I hope

we will have at least one from each Grange. We will also be judging the Mardi Gras Mask on this day.

The Connecticut Agricultural Fair will be here before we know it. I hope all our Juniors are collecting children's books for their book sale. We did a good job last year. Let's hope for even more.

### BEACON VALLEY JR. GRANGE #5

Just came back from the Junior Grange meeting and the news is not good. Our attendance was the lowest. If we could count the honorary members it would be good.

Thanks to our Junior Deputy Olive Rathburn, Fairfield County Junior Deputy Karen MacDonald and husband Geno and State Lecturer Marge Bernhardt for attending and giving their support.

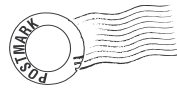
On the good news side- two of our members- Garrett Brush and Sara Behlman- will be joining the Subordinate Grange when they hold their degrees on April 29th.

## National Grange opposes the Death Tax

H.R. 8, the Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act of 2005 is currently on the House Floor. Rep. Kenny Hulshof (R-MO) has introduced the bill in February this year and said, "Death should not be a taxable event. Small businesses and family farms face the threat of a punitive death tax that could undo a lifetime of hard work and thrift. The time to end this job-killing tax is right now." In fact, a bi-partisan poll found that 69% of

Americans support elimination of the death tax. As supporting family farmers and small rural business the National Grange's position on the death tax is:

*The National Grange supports legislation that would abolish the federal estate tax, especially for small business and agriculture. Until the inheritance tax is gone we want the tax basis for inherited property to be at the current use value and not the prospective development value.*



### ADDRESS CORRECTION FORM

Grange Name \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### OLD Address:

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

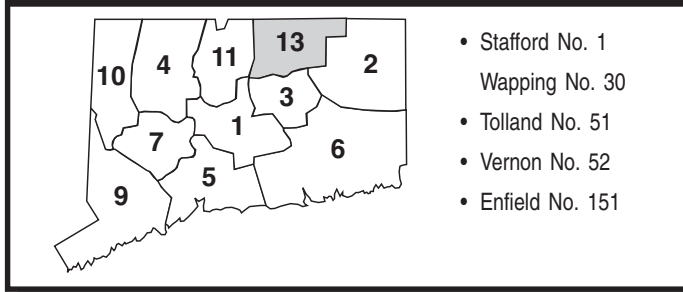
#### NEW Address:

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:**  
 Connecticut Granger  
 P.O. Box 127  
 Winsted, CT 06098-0127

## North Central Pomona No. 13



### NORTH CENTRAL POMONA #13

Corr: Maude Emhoff

**May 12:** Fifth Degree? Inspection of Officers, 7:30 P.M., Vernon Grange

We miss Edie and Harry Wells and consequently are unable to plan our meetings at Wapping. They are certainly an integral part of the Grange. Without new blood and new members our older members health is taking its toll on the Grange. We are so fortunate to have Gordon Gibson to keep us posted on the goings on in the Legislature. Nancy Strong's programs are always so entertaining and we would all like to bring her skits back to our Subordinate Granges for all to enjoy. Dawn's refreshments at Vernon was like attending a party. Each member brings something of their talents for all to enjoy. Slowly but surely our finances are growing with the efforts of Joyce Jordan and her cake sales. So quite evidently all organizations are dependent on every member's participation. The early flowers are starting to making their appearances and are so welcome after what seemed like a very long winter. What has happened to global warming?

### STAFFORD GRANGE #1

Corr: Maude Emhoff

**May 3:** Potluck and Inspection, 7:30 P.M.

**May 17:** Memorial Day Program, 7:30 P.M.

Barbara Bragdon brought in one of her many crafts in the form of a ceramic bird house. She poured the form which was the size of a large pumpkin and after firing it she painted it with chickadees and flowers. It impressed all of us so much that we all want to give her orders so she can make many more for all of us. Her talents are so many and varied we all envy her abilities. By the time this goes to press we should have held our Citizen of the Year celebration in the form of a Sunday dinner with state dignitaries. Because of the high cost of maintenance we have decided to try to

get more rent from our tenants... Who could have foreseen how much the cost of oil and plowing would have increased. Our proposed calendar has had to be changed periodically because of illness among the members, canceling the meetings because of the weather and life in general. We are all looking forward to spring and being able to get together again.

### TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: Joyce Jordan

**May 3:** Gardening Tips on Safety

**May 17:** We Remember, Inspection

As I write this column it's April Fool's Day today; the snow is finally going away!! I am sure that many of you can't wait to get outside and start working on your gardens. The ground is so soft and we are in store for more rain. Keep reading your catalogs and making your plans.

We will be discussing gardening tips at our first meeting this month and will also be getting ready for inspection. If you can join us, please call Master Robert West so we can plan accordingly.

### VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

**May 6:** Memorial Service  
Our good Chaplain, Ted Hirth and Master, Nancy Strong will do a nice memorial service in honor of Anne Misaiko, our dear member who passed away this year, we all are so happy it's spring and life blossoms anew.

We had a great time at inspection with our honored guests, Marsha and Noel Miller. Overseer Gordon Gibson did an excellent Ritual Program. They were good enough to be our cookie judges and Helen Reed deserves a medal of honor for the best cookie maker.

### ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

**May 14:** Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice - CWA Bake Off and Needlework Judging- Refreshments - Florence and Millie.

March certainly came in like a Lion causing another meeting to be postponed. Those of us able to attend the following week enjoyed a small potluck lunch and business meeting, that resulted in a vote to have "That Darn Tree" removed by a professional.

Two days later it was gone! At last we can start a clean-up fix-up cam-

paign on the side yard. A special thank you to those who helped with monetary donations toward this project.

In May we will have our cookie bake-off and needlework judging. Offers have been made by Dawn and me to share honey so please don't hesitate to call. With the coming of spring and better weather

we hope to see some who have not been able to attend. Thought for the day: When you are wrong, change. When you are right, try to be easy to live with. In closing we would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Edith Wells on the loss of her husband Harry. His quiet chuckle and gentle manner will be greatly missed.

## Some selected Master's reports from the past...

*Edith Schoell, State Historian*

If you look over the Journal of Proceedings of the National Grange you find that State Masters report on activities during the year.

In 1982 Connecticut reported that 271 took the Sixth Degree and fifty resolutions were processed; Camp Berger increased its season from 5 to 6 weeks and had a waiting list. The CWA made their quota for the sewing contest and had 2,071 entries in the stuffed toy contest.

*Joseph Bell*

Massachusetts encouraged the planting of small gardens and had contests for all ages. They had 142 for the sixth Degree. Their slogan was "Serve With A Smile."

*Robert Barrows*

Maine State CWA published their first State Grange cookbook and sold 3,000 in three months! They reported the import of Canadian potatoes was a prob-

## What does "digital" television mean to you?

Jonathan Blake and Aaron Cooper, representing CBS and NBC local affiliate television stations, spoke to Grange Fly-In participants about what the digital TV transition means to rural Americans.

While a deadline for the digital TV transition is being pushed to Dec. 31, 2006, less than 1% of Americans have the digital TV sets and 15-18% of Americans still rely solely on the over-the-air television. The hasty transition would harm rural Americans particularly because they depend heavily on over-the-air television service for news, weather and reports on local commodity markets.

The over-the-air dependents will have to buy a "set top" box that will convert digital signals to display on their current analog TVs or buy an expensive new digital TV set. Even if all rural areas should transition to digital, the multicasting service - allowing a

lem for their farmers.

*James Shores*

Rhode Island reported that as a newly elected master there were 3 major problems within 3 months. 1. He was newly elected State Master. 2. He attended the National Conventions, and 3. The New England Leader's Conference was in Rhode Island the first weekend in December.

*Felix Wendelschaefer*

"Nebraska finished one of its toughest elections and the Grange was on the winning side. The issue was "Who will own Nebraska Farm Land." Thousands of dollars were used to try to convince voters that non-farm corporations should be allowed to buy more farm land, thus eroding the family farm system. It pointed out the responsibility that our organization has as actions are scrutinized and followed by far more than our own membership."

*Robert E. Smith*

broadcaster anywhere in America to take the digital signal and create multiple streams of local programming - should be assured for local channels opportunities for local news and weather. U.S. House Commerce Committee Chairman Joe Barton (R-TX) plans in the coming weeks to introduce legislation to complete the transition to digital television by the end of 2006.

The speakers emphasized that it is important to educate lawmakers that the digital TV transition should be delayed until all analog customers are taken care of and when the transition is made, the multicasting carriage requirement should be imposed on cable and satellite broadcasters, similar to existing "must carry" requirements for existing analog channels, in order for rural over-the-air television viewers to be able to take advantage of the full benefits of digital TV technology.

## VISIT US ONLINE!

The Connecticut State Grange website,  
with more news, information and much more!

[www.ctstategrange.org](http://www.ctstategrange.org)

and don't forget to visit:

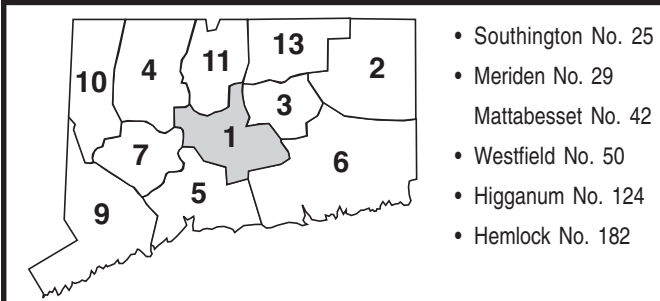
[www.ctagriculturalfair.org](http://www.ctagriculturalfair.org)

and Camp Berger's new site:

[www.campberger.org](http://www.campberger.org)



## Central Pomona No. 1



- Southington No. 25
- Meriden No. 29
- Mattabesset No. 42
- Westfield No. 50
- Higganum No. 124
- Hemlock No. 182

### CENTRAL POMONA #1

Corr: M. Vecchitto

**May 11:** Fifth Degree Rehearsal, 7:30 P.M. Meriden Grange Hall, 5:30 P.M. to get hall set-up before rehearsal all officers are to be there. Co-Host Hemlock Grange.

**May 12:** Fifth Degree and Inspection

CWA Needlework Contest to be judged. All needlework to be at the hall by 7 P.M. This will be at the June meeting. Deputy George Russell will do the inspection and all committees are to turn in written reports.

Camp Berger will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in May.

There will be a Roast Beef Dinner at Camp Berger on Sunday, May 15. Bill Sanborn of Hemlock Grange has tickets for the dinner, call him at 860-342-0290.

### SOUTHINGTON GRANGE #25

Corr: Cindy Legg

Our first April meeting was the First and Second Degrees. Our friends at Meriden Grange helped us. Then on the 22nd we went over to Meriden Grange to help them with the Third and Fourth Degrees. (This is a change from what was printed in our Pomona Handbook). On April 15th our program will be devoted to the "Ins and Outs" of preparing taxes.

On Saturday, April 30, we planned to hold our annual Scholarship Pasta Dinner in conjunction with the Southington Redmen. The cost was \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12.

Our Grange was saddened by the passing of Charles Atwater, a long-time member of the Southington Grange. Even though he hadn't attended many meetings lately, he still supported us in any way that he could. We will miss him.

We meet on the first and third Fridays of the month, so come join us anytime.

### MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Corr: Cindy Charbonneau

**May 9:** Military Whist Card Party, 1:30 P.M.

**May 13:** Youth Night - Neighbor's Night

**May 21:** Family Style Roast Beef Dinner

We are having a Military Whist Card Party on May 9th at 1:30 P.M. Admission will be \$3.00. Door prizes, raffle and light refreshments will be served. To reserve a table call Phyllis at 203-634-6470.

On May 13th we will be having our Youth Night Program which is also a Neighbor's Night. Hope to see you there.

May 21st will be a Family Style Roast Beef Dinner from 5 to 6:30 P.M. Take-outs will be available. Adults - \$8.00 and children (under 10) \$4.00. Reservations can be made by calling Cindy at 203-237-4617.

Meriden Grange meets on the second and fourth Fridays (unless otherwise listed in our Pomona book) at 7:30 P.M. Visitors are always welcome at our Grange.

### WESTFIELD GRANGE #50

Corr: Mickie Vecchitto

**May 5:** Honor Mother, 1:30 P.M.

**May 19:** Guess!! Don't Know.

We meet in the Fellowship Hall on Miner St. in the Westfield section of Middletown.

Everyone is asked to bring a number for each meeting.

Needlework Contest May 19th meeting 1 P.M.

We will have a Dairy Lunch on June 2 and the Baking Contest. Dairy Lunch 12:30 P.M., everyone to bring a hot or cold dish.

### HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Richard Prescott

**May 6:** Spring Inspection

Richard Prescott has been installed as Chaplain. The potluck supper preceding our April meeting was a success.

Also at the April meeting the Charter was draped in memory of Sisters Judy Manning and Sophie Heger, G.S. Judy was the wife of Master Carl Manning. She will be deeply missed by all.

We're preparing for our spring inspection in May.

Hopefully, all this rain will mean we'll have good crops and spring greenery.

### HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

**May 13:** Mystery Ride

**May 27:** Inspection

Nancy and Connie McBrien are in charge of coffee.



## In Memoriam

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Charles Atwater       | Southington   |
| Harry Welles          | Wapping       |
| Robert Bartlett, G.S. | N. Haven      |
| Anna Campi            | Winchester    |
| Marion Pantera        | Winchester    |
| Helene Hain, G.S.     | Taghannuck    |
| Dorothy Kasperait     | Litchfield    |
| Ann Gunn              | Killingly     |
| Roslyn Butler         | Bethlehem     |
| Judy Manning          | Higganum      |
| Sophie Heger, G.S.    | Higganum      |
| Ruth Myers            | N. Stonington |
| Izola M. Wunderlich   | Norwich       |
| Evelyn Durn           | Wolcott       |
| Sharon Higgins        | Echo          |
| Ernest Brown          | Echo          |
| Leandre Pasqual       | Metichewan    |
| Albert Kissel         | Oxford        |

G.S. denotes Golden Sheaf (50 Year) Members

## Chaplain's Message

Marvin Wilbur, State Chaplain

Many things have happened since I last sat here to do this column. Daylight Savings Time has arrived. It is great to have more time in the evening

to do things outside. We still have much to finish with the lawn and gardens, but at least we have started.

Yesterday we heard on television that Pope John Paul II passed away. It is a sad time for all Christians when a leader such as he leaves this world to enter that "Paradise not made with hands eternal in the heavens." He instituted many changes yet stood firm when necessary. I don't believe he ever let public opinion influence him on important issues. I believe that is a sign of a great leader.

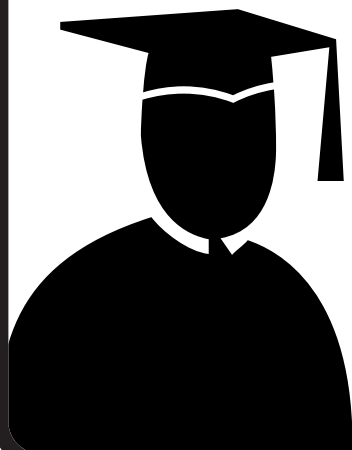
How can a person determine when a person is great? What kind of legacy will a great person leave? Two questions that have been asked over and over, but have no easy answer. In our time it is asked mostly of presidents. We hear it a lot when a president is in their last term of office. This is something that is not determined by politics or popularity or the media. It is determined later in time. Presidents are not always remembered for things they thought were good. Nor are we.

Many important religious leaders are remembered for other things. Some many include how they practice what they say they believe; how they follow the teachings of their God; how they treat others; how they handle adversity. There are others, but I am sure you follow my train of thought. In all of these I believe Pope John Paul II will be remembered as a great person of faith and God. A person who held to his beliefs as he understood them and a person that was loved by the world.

In my area I now have flowers blooming. Some of the spring birds have arrived, but not all. The grass has not turned green yet. We still have raking and fertilizing to do. Yet, this past week we planted some strawberries. The plants we set in last year have been eaten by some animal. The leaves were gone. I am not sure what will happen to them now. They may not produce anything. I still have to prune the raspberries, but the ground is mud now and before this it was covered with snow so I could not do it.

All these things—the rituals of spring preach to me of the resurrection. New life appears from what appeared to be lifeless. Flowers appear, leaves spring forth and "the tiny spear of grass as it shoots from the ground" are preaching their messages. Are we listening?

**Interested in a Scholarship?**  
**Do you go to UConn?**  
**Is your Average 2.7 or better?**  
**Are You a Grange member?**  
**Can you fill out an application?**  
**Do this before June 1 . . .**



**Give your  
 application to  
 Roberta AmEnde  
 at UConn.  
 Good luck!!**