



**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY!**

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



Connecticut Granger



Vol. 52, No. 5

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

FEBRUARY 2012

Did you feel that?



Jody A. Cameron
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

Did you feel that? I think I just got bit by something. There it is again. Strange, no itch, no sting, and no pain, what is biting me? Wait, I know what that is. It is excitement!

As I visit our Granges and talk to our members there is a renewed excitement all over Connecticut. We are currently in the process of re-organizing Wolcott Grange and revitalizing Simsbury. The excitement shown by these to be new members is intoxicating.

These members see what we sometimes forget, **OPPORTUNITY** and **POSSIBILITY**. We are only limited by our imagination. No one tells us no or we can't, accept us. Our opportunities are boundless. All we need to do is see the possibilities those opportunities offer and go after them.

I can clearly see a Grange in almost every community in Connecticut including the inner cities. I can see all Granges "spreading" the word of their activities and our membership **GROWING**. I can see all of our Granges doubling, if not tripling their memberships within two to three years. I can see our community service efforts receiving media attention not only within Connecticut, but nationwide. Can you see this too? I hope so, for together we can chart a

course of greater service to all citizens, in every community, meeting the needs of our members, building better leaders for today and tomorrow.

This is not a dream, this is reality. A true tangible reality that is obtainable in every Grange, in every community, in every state. All we have to do is want it, want it with excitement of a child waiting for Santa on Christmas Eve.

I challenge every member to look at your Grange, really LOOK at your Grange and see those possibilities and turn them into opportunities that grow your Grange. When you do this you too will have that excitement we see in new members, you had it at one time so it IS in you. When you do you will feel something biting you too and it is GOOD.

Town budget preparations



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

*Russell M. Gray,
State Legislative Comm.*

Preparing the annual budget and more importantly, having the budget pass by the taxpayers in the town, is, by far, the most crucial part of town politics.

Towns cannot plan their budgets properly until the state budget has passed. Too often, towns must prepare and pass their

annual budgets without knowing exactly what will be coming to them from the state.

In Sterling, as I am sure in other towns across the state, we are already working on preliminary budget plans for the coming year and by May, if possible, we like to be ready for the first town budget hearing.

Each town depends on "Town Aid Road" monies. This is allocated by the state for the towns to use for highway and bridge improvements. For example, towns can repave roads, repair drainage systems and improve bridges. The town of Sterling last year received nearly \$90,000.00. We have 47 miles of town

roads to maintain and, for Sterling, like all towns across our state, this money does help.

Towns also receive "Manufacturing" funds. This is dollars in lieu of exempted manufacturing equipment. By state statute, some manufacturing equipment is exempted from property taxes. Last year, for example, Sterling received \$49,000.00 in tax relief through its small "manufacturing" equipment exemptions.

Local capital
Continued on page 2

Wolcott Grange to be Reorganized



On Monday, February 13th at 7:30 PM, the CT State Grange will be reinstating the Charter of Wolcott Grange as part of the Grange's reorganization process. The Officers of the Connecticut State Grange will open the meeting, reinstate the Charter, obligate the members, and then hold an election for Wolcott's officers. Wolcott Grange Hall is located at 313 Bound Line Road, Wolcott. Guests are urged to attend to show their support.

Lecturer's Conference July 30 - Aug. 2



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

97th Annual Northeast Lecturer's Conference - July 30-August 2

Please take note - Lecturer's Conference will be 1 week earlier this year because of scheduling with the college. Please mark these new dates on your calendar. The conference will be held at Rivier College, Nashua, NH.

Those of you that attended six years ago will remember the warm welcome we received at Rivier. It was our first experience with the pod setup of colleges today and was appreciated by all who attended.

The theme for the conference will be "Beyond The Earth." Connecticut will be exploring The Moon. If you have any suggestions or ideas for this program, I would love to get them. It also helps if I know in advance who will be attending and if you have any special talents.

The Northeast Talent Competition will be replaced this year by a Variety Show. Our Talent winner will have the first shot at representing Connecticut. The show will also be open to anyone else who wants to participate, but the number of spots will be limited. I will go into more detail on this as the time gets closer.

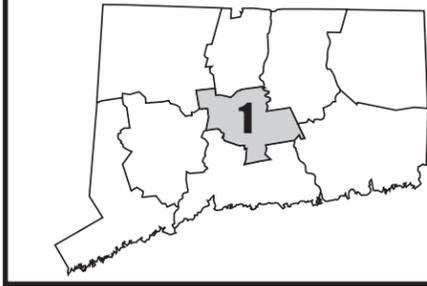
Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE...

Connecticut's Pomona Granges	Mountain County No. 4 5	Fairfield County No. 9 9
Central No. 1 2	New Haven County No. 5 . . . 6	Farmington Valley No. 11 . . . 10
Quinebaug No. 2 3	New London County No. 6 . . 7	Junior Granges 11
East Central No. 3 4	Excelsior No. 7 8	

Deadline for the MARCH 2012 issue of the Connecticut Granger: FEBRUARY 5.

Central Pomona No. 1



Southington No. 25
Meriden No. 29
✓ Higganum No. 124
✓ Hemlock No. 182

CENTRAL POMONA #1 and Valentine Program,
Corr: Dianne Clark Higganum, 7:30 P.M.,
Feb. 9: Youth, CWA Thurs.

On Feb. 9th Murray Newton is putting on a Valentine Program at 7:30 on Thursday in Higganum and Martha Trask is putting on the CWA program.

The meeting is co-hosted by Southington and the CWA table is Sweets for Valentine.

We welcome our new CWA Chairman Martha Trask to our Central

Pomona No. 1. She is doing a great job.

HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Barbara R. Smith

Higganum Grange #124 will have a program on the Presidents for the February meeting. Our meetings are held on the first Friday of

every month starting at 7:30 P.M. We wish everyone a healthy, happy new year.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Feb. 10: Hearts and Flowers

Feb. 24: Omit (Unless first meeting of the month is canceled)

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

State Lecturer

Continued from page one...

And, speaking of the Lecturer's Conference, Connecticut will host it in 2013. If you know of a college that would meet our needs, please let me know. Hosting is a big job and I hope everyone will get on board and show the other States a great time "down south".

It doesn't seem possible that it is February already. Happy Valentine's Day! It also means it is time to plan for your Talent and "A Number" entries. June and the State Judging will be here before you know it. As I type this, we haven't had any measurable snow since October. However, I think we are going to pay for this mild weather we have been having. So when that snow does come, why not get out your camera and get some shots for the photo contest. The sparkling snow would sure qualify for the America The Beautiful category. Stuck inside with your family? Why not enter the Family Celebrations Category. Or you could write an essay or a letter to a soldier. A list of the Photo categories and complete rules for all our contests are in the Bluebook. Your Lecturer also has a complete copy which was mailed the beginning of November.

See you around the State...

Town budgets

Continued from page one...

improvements monies (also from the state) is money that the state holds and towns can use for one time, non-recurring, capital expenditures. In the town of Sterling, we are typically annually allotted about \$40,000.00. This money can be left, to accumulate, for larger projects. We, in Sterling, have used this money, in the past, to build our existing town garage, dog pound, sand and salt shed and to build bridges. This summer, Sterling has another bridge mandated for replacement by the state bridge inspection team. We will use our local capital improvement monies to fund this necessary construction project.

The mill rate in each town is calculated using a formula that includes both state revenues and monies raised by taxes. Last year, for example, Sterling received from the state \$185,849.00 for the budget of the Selectmen and \$3,406,460.00 for the education portion.

We had to raise, through taxes, \$1,426,829.00 for the Selectmen's budget and \$7,653,643.00 for education. Our mill rate was set last year at 21.11; without state aid, it would have been 39.85! In Sterling, the budget of the Selectmen includes the school buses. Our school also applies for grant monies to the state board of education and in the last fiscal year, Sterling received \$877,812.00 in grant dollars.

Towns would certainly have a difficult time without assistance from the state; still, all monies do come, ultimately, from each of us.

I hope that every voter makes a special effort to attend the budget meetings in his/her town; and then, please, go vote on the budget. It is important to know how your dollars are being spent!

In addition to being a member of the CSG Legislative Committee, Russell Gray is First Selectman for the Town of Sterling, CT.

NE Legislative Facebook Page

The new Facebook page has been set up for the North East Region State Legislative and Agricultural Committees.

The full link is the following:

www.facebook.com/pages/North-East-Regional-State-Granges-Legislative-Agriculture-Committees/360982320595591?sk=wall

You can also find the page by typing in the search window the title of the page (or a few words of it and it will come up): North East Regional State Granges Legislative Agriculture Committees.

If you do not have a personal facebook account set up you may have to create

one to participate on our page. Our Publicity Co-Chairman, Terri, set it up for us. I am an administrator on it and I



can add the directors as administrators once they join.

This came about from the latest NE

Region Leaders Conference. We were talking about a way to exchange ideas and comment on agricultural or legislative issues. We decided to not meet at the Big E this year. We hope that this will allow us to communicate on a regular basis. Feel free to post links and photos of activities and events. Pass the site along so that others can become aware of issues we are concerned about.

Simsbury Grange meeting



Simsbury Grange is looking to enhance its community service offerings in 2012, and is inviting the public to connect and become a part of the planning process.

Simsbury Grange is having a meeting on Wednesday, February 8th at 6:00 PM in Program Room 2 at the Simsbury Public Library, 725 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury Center. A light dinner will be served. New members and ideas are welcome.

For more than 80 years, Simsbury Grange has been a strong presence in the local community. The organization has become an invaluable asset to Simsbury and the surrounding towns by being a place where community members can gather, discuss ideas, and make a difference.

The Grange is the nation's oldest general farm and community public interest organization. Honor the farming legacy of this region and find out how you and your family can be a part of the community service and educational benefits of the Grange.

For more information please contact Barbara Friedland at (860) 413-9567 or via e-mail at bkfriedland@cox.net.

PLEASE! Do not send correspondence or any other mail to the Newfield Rd. address listed below. This is the address for Winchester Grange #74 and is only listed to satisfy USPS requirements. Please mail to the Editor's address listed below, right. Thank You!

(USPS 563-220)
"Connecticut Granger"
 is published monthly except
 combined July-August issue for \$3.00/yr. by:

 Connecticut Granger, Inc..
 100 Newfield Road, Winchester Center, CT 06094
(Do not send mail to this address)

 Second Class postage paid at Winsted, CT 06098

 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
 Connecticut Granger,
 P.O. Box 127, Winsted, CT 06098-0127

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS
 News is due on the **5th Day** of each month except July and should be sent to:
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Connecticut Granger Staff
 President/Editor Todd Gelineau
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Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- Senexet No. 40
- Brooklyn No. 43
- ✓ Wolf Den No. 61
- ✓ Ekonk No. 89
- Ashford No. 90
- Putnam No. 97
- ✓ Killingly No. 112
- ✓ Echo No. 180

QUINEBAUG POMONA #2

Corr: Carol Hnath

The Quinebaug Pomona Drill Team will begin rehearsals for this year's drill in March. Last year the team placed first in the Northeast region. Anyone who is interested in participating or helping with the Drill Team in any way is asked to contact Jody Cameron at 860-564-7614 or via email at president@ctstategrange.org.

Quinebaug Pomona will be 125 years old in June. To celebrate this milestone we are planning a celebration on May 20, 2012 at Echo Grange Hall, Mansfield Center at 2 p.m. More information will be forthcoming as the date approaches but we are starting to gather material and photos now. Anyone who has any photos of Pomona activities or events is asked to get them to Jodi Ann Cameron, 115 Prospect Street, Moosup, CT 06354, 860-564-7614, as soon as possible. The photos will be scanned into a computer and returned to you. If you have any materials that you think might be of interest for a display, etc., please contact any member of the Anniversary Committee: Jody Cameron, Carol Hnath, Debby Perry, Denise Aubin, and Pat and Jim Palmer. We hope everyone will save the date and plan to attend.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie M. Johnson

Feb. 8: Hearts Contest; Ref. Valentine Cookies

Weather is getting colder- snow on the wind!

Christmas rush is over- new years resolutions made.

Master John and with Sybil delivered

the dictionaries to the third graders of Pomfret Community School and was well received. CWA has a lot of handcraft projects planned for this year- needlework, baking, scrapbook basket- that fly.

Christmas cards were sent out to the shut-ins.

Tags and labels still coming in.

Take vitamins and stay healthy.

Happy New Year to all!

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Feb. 3: Junior Grange 6pm

Feb. 6: "Love Story" Meeting/program 7:30pm

Mar. 2: Junior Grange 6pm

Mar.5: "Blowin' In The Wind" Meeting/Program 7:30pm

Mar.17: CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE public supper!

We were very pleased to welcome Karolyn Card into membership at our Jan. 2nd meeting: a great way to ring in the New Year! She joins our growing number of youth members!

Katie Molodich has chosen the music for the Drill Team and our young people are anxious to "get drilling"!

47 Subordinate and Junior adults and children welcomed Michael Martin, newly appointed National Grange Leadership/Membership Director to our hall in early January. Katrina Sebastian (and her brother Colin) were on break from College and she and her parents and entire family joined us for the evening of great food and fellowship. We were once again fortunate to hear Katrina sing (National Anthem)! We enjoyed the company of Shelley St.

Jean that evening too; she is also on College break and she helped prepare the meal.

We are selling our homemade frozen apple pies and apple crisps. Call 860-564-2131 to order yours; complete baking directions accompany each purchase.

The Junior Grange is holding a Bowl-A-Thon in February and all monies will be donated to Subordinate: Thank You!

Our Grange activity really picks up in March, with our series of Chowder N' Clamcakes, Corned Beef Supper and we take a program to our friends in Richmond, RI March 16th too!

We would be pleased to welcome visitors on the hill anytime!

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

On Nov. 21 we held our Thanksgiving meeting. Members present, except Flora, Sue Dupre, who is still recovering from an operation on her hand and Phil Greenleaf, our Treasurer.

Master Denise Aubin and mother Gert Blain attended the Association of CT Fairs meeting in October.

At our Nov. meeting Lecturer Eleanor Davis read a poem "Fruits of Summer"- Cranny Briggs-read "Mom's Pumpkin Pie" poem. Eleanor had a Thanksgiving quiz and we ended with "Bringing in the Sheaves" while marching around the hall in our harvest march.

CWA - we're making Baby Blankets, scarves and bed robes. They were meeting one day a week for two weeks.

An agriculture report was read and our Lady Asst. collected 132 hours for community service from our members.

We had visitors from Hope Valley Grange and other R.I. Granges and at least 2 of our new members.

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

Feb. 14: Youth

Feb 28: Omit

We donated \$50.00 to the St. Paul's Soup Kitchen. They told us it was very much appreciated. We are hoping that we will have another craft entry this year.

We certainly have been lucky with the weather, but it is really cold out here this morning. We are still meeting downstairs to conserve on the heat.

Just a reminder, that we will be having our spring Ham and Bean Supper on May 19, 2012.

Junior Granger donates her hair



Lillian Sharpe, A.S. of Ekonk Community Jr. Grange #101, chose to donate her hair to "Beautiful Lengths," a partnership between Panteen and The American Cancer Society. Beautiful Lengths takes only strong, beautiful hair and transforms it into wigs for cancer victims. They are currently the largest donor of real hair wigs to the American Cancer Society. Lillian said she chose to sacrifice her hair so that a child who lost theirs to cancer can have "real" hair once again. Lillian is the granddaughter of Russell and Sue Gray and is six years old.

Ekonk presents holiday play



Top Photo: Ekonk Jr. Grange's "Three Christmas Cats", Lillian Sharpe, Allyson DiNola, and Jenna Wesa. **Bottom Photo:** The complete cast of Ekonk Jr's Holiday production.



East Central Pomona No. 3



- ✓ Stafford No. 1
- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Tolland No. 51
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Enfield No. 151

STAFFORD GRANGE #1

Corr: Gail Fisher

A most enjoyable night was had with our friends and fellow Grange members.

Our meeting was conducted by our Master Myron Avery. When all business was finished we were then entertained by Studio 85 signers and players. This was arranged by Juanita Scism, our Lecturer. The group played and sang Christmas carols, we were all asked to join in, it was a very "merry" time for all.

After the performance the Grange treated the group to a pizza party.

All Grange #1 members wish everyone a happy, healthy new year.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Feb. 2: Meeting 7:30 p.m. Valentine Memories; Ref: Mario and Jean Accornero and Jeannine Carini

Feb. 11: Monti-Carlo Whist Card Party 7:00 p.m.

March 1: Meeting 7:30 p.m. Program is a surprise (Scheduled as School of Instruction - but it was Jan. 29th at Hillstown); Potluck supper 6:00 p.m. Bake your favorite cookies - bake-off

March 10: Monti-Carlo Whist Card Party 7:00 p.m.

December was a busy month for some of us in Glastonbury Grange. We collected 70 childrens books at our Christmas party. They were delivered to the Glastonbury Social Service Department. We also purchased Christmas mugs that were delivered to all of the residents at Gilmore Manor. Christmas cards were also mailed to each of the residents. This year birthday cards will also be sent to each of the residents.

Our February 2nd meeting is Valentine Memories. We welcome members and visitors to all our meetings. February 11th is our next Monti-Carlo Whist card party. This is one of our fund raisers and

we need more support. Do try to attend and bring a friend or two with you. It is a fun evening with plenty of refreshments and door prizes.

I am sorry to have to report the death of two members in December. Daniel Korngiebel from Cuttingsville, Vermont and John Galli from South Glastonbury. This month shows the need to secure some new members. In order to have a gain in membership we need to secure 3 new members. We would then have a gain of one. I am still asking members to send me a name or two of a prospective member. I do believe most of us were asked to join. I know I was.

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Diane Small

Just imagine, we are celebrating another new year. Welcome to the year 2012. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous adventure into a year that hopefully will be kind and generous to all of us. Did you make any resolutions that you have probably tossed aside already!?

A reminder that we are now meeting on the first and third tuesdays of each month. Any questions on this, give Edith a call.

February 7th is Cabin Fever-CWA. Cabin fever could be an issue iwinter is anything like las year. Let's think positive, there won't that much snow this year. The CWA committee will have something interesting for us, I'm sure. February 21st is Presidents. As this is an election year, the title of president is fitting. Just think we have at least ten months of listening to the pluses and minuses from the candidates.

March 6th the program is Around the Corner. Many things are around the corner-- spring, surprises, possibly something new and adventuresome.

February puts us closer to Spring. It also can give us some difficult weather.

February has Valentine's Day. Don't forget to send your special someone a card.

The calendar has Daylight Savings Time beginning on March 11th. This means that we will be having more sunlght each day. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour.

TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan

Feb. 7: Angel Falls

Come learn a bit more about another wonder of the world. Our meeting begins at 7:30 P.M. and this month will be held at St. Matthew's Church, on the Green in Tolland. May this month bring you lots of love and fellowship.

Happy Valentine's Day from our Grange to yours.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Feb. 3: Surprise Meeting

Vernon Grangers had it's fun holiday meeting by playing Christmas Trivial Pursuit - some questions were easy and some were hard. It was a close race, but Gordon Gibson's team won by a point. It was nice having the members grandchildren there participating in the fun. Our January meeting was put off a week due to the President and Secretary being in Florida and the Vice President at the Leadership Conference. We shared holiday travel experiences. Our February meeting will be a surprise to all!

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Frank Forrest & Rita Shaefer

Feb. 9: Meeting - Hearts & Flowers 7:30pm at Grange Hall

Feb. 23: Open Meeting - Guest Speaker 7:30 pm at Grange Hall.

I guess the the farmers do not know what to do this coming spring. The winter is pretty much under way as this is being written and still no snow except for the Halloween Surprise. We are worried that we will have a roller coaster of a late winter and spring. Still with the seed catalogs coming in the mail, one has to dream of gardening soon.

Our Grange is still active with plans in the works for a tag sale.

We've lost another member, Ruth Hunter, who

passed away this week, she was a long-time Grange member.

Ken Smith aka "Chief" suffered a broken neck recently. He is on the mend at Hartford Hospital. Ken is known for his volunteerism and musical talent and he is a real Indian Chief.

Upcoming Events: Call Helen to check for weather cancellations at 860-568-6268.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Feb. 11: When? was President.

Mar. 10: Write a Resolution

The holidays have come and gone and it's now time to catch up on all those projects you started in the

fall and never got back to. My project is deciding on which President will be the focus of our Feb. program. Come visit and find out. Since the mail isn't really all that speedy, I am including the date of our March program. Think about something that you would like to see changed and let's get a resolution worked out.

We were saddened by the loss of our Golden Sheaf Member, Josephine Loftus. During her active years she held several offices and served on many committees. Our deepest sympathy goes to her family.

Reminder if a meeting is canceled because of weather, it will be held the following week.

Got Cabin Fever?

Attention artisans and crafters! Set your sights on warmer weather as Winchester Grange is hosting its first annual Cabin Fever Craft and Bake Sale on Saturday, March 24 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and is seeking vendors to participate.

An eight foot table is available at the price of \$20.00 for Grange members, and \$30.00 for non-members. A discount of \$5.00 off will be applied to those who reserve their space prior to February 29th. Don't miss a great opportunity to display your creative work at this fun-filled family-oriented event.

Featuring over 20 vendors selling a variety of items such as homemade crafts, jewelry, pottery, and home decorations, the Cabin Fever Craft and Bake Sale also features a Soup and Sandwich Luncheon presented by the Grange.

The Cabin Fever Craft and Bake Sale is one of the major fundraisers sponsored by Winchester Grange. The proceeds from the event will go towards the many community projects and donations sponsored by the organization.

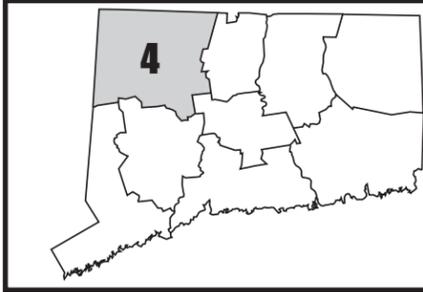
Space is limited and filling quickly, so interested parties are asked to reserve early. For more information or to make table reservations, visit www.WinchesterGrange.org or contact Winchester Grange Secretary Sue Addison at 860-379-0210; via e-mail at info@WinchesterGrange.org.

Fire Safety Program



Winchester Center Deputy Fire Chief Peter Marchand (standing right) and Winchester Fire Marshal Steven Williams (standing left) presented a special program on Fire Safety at the Jan. 23 meeting of Winchester Grange #74.

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



- Whigville No. 48
- Eureka No. 62
- ✓ Winchester No. 74
- ✓ Taghannuck No. 100
- Litchfield No. 107
- Beacon No. 118
- ✓ Riverton No. 169

MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Feb. 13: New Loves, Eureka Grange, 7:30 P.M.

The next meeting of Mountain County Pomona No. 4 will be held on Monday, Feb. 13, 2012 at 7:30 P.M. at Eureka Grange Hall. The meeting notices sent out by the Worthy Secretary show the program to be School of Instruction by the State Master and General Deputy. Unfortunately, due to a scheduling conflict, this School of Instruction will be postponed to a later date. Instead, Lecturer Sue Addison will present a program on "New Loves."

Watch the Granger for the new date of the School of Instruction. Instead of two separate dates the schools will be combined into one meeting. We encourage ALL members to attend the school when it is announced. The opening and closing of the Grange (in the Fourth Degree) will be covered in detail and will give members the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about Grange work. As the next two meetings of Pomona will be the Day Meeting in March and the Degree Meeting in May, the new date will likely be either on a Friday evening or on a Saturday. We'll keep you posted!

Mountain County Pomona welcomes the members of Cawasa Grange No. 34 BACK to Mountain County. Prior to the formation of Farmington Valley Pomona, Cawasa was part of this Pomona and for many, many years afterwards there were members of Cawasa who retained membership in Mt. County. Welcome home!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Feb. 14: Hearts & Flowers, Ref. Rae Fassio

Feb. 28: Happy Birthday,

Presidents, Country Store (Red, White & Blue), Ref. Linda Senkus

March 13: Daylight Savings/St. Pats, Ref. Kim, Vinnie & James Mele

No news sometimes is good news! The new boiler has had no new issues since L&L Mechanical repaired a slight leak in late December. It's been running very efficiently, already saving the Grange over \$100 per month in oil. We thank from the bottom of our hearts all of the members and the Winchester Center Volunteer Fire Department for the generous donations towards this very costly project. Unlike most Grange Halls, Winchester's boiler is required to heat an extremely large structure that houses the Grange, the former Fire Department (now storage and extra meeting space) and the Post Office. Work is moving forward on the renovations to our kitchen with our plumber working with the Torrington Area Health District to get the plumbing issues corrected to TAHD specifications.

Winchester Grange is extremely proud of Robert Kitch, who was featured on evening newscasts and newspapers throughout the state in January when he helped to save a man from a burning car near the UConn campus where he is a freshman. Please read the story included in this issue. His parents and grandparents (also Winchester Grange members) couldn't be prouder!

As October snow played a factor in canceling our November Holiday Bazaar, we are hoping we have paid our "dues" and will have a Cabin Fever Craft and Bake Sale untouched by weather issues on Saturday, March 24 from 9 to 2 P.M. Vendor spaces are available to anyone who has a craft or service to promote/sell. Spaces are

\$20 for Grange members and \$30 for non-members. Please call Sue Addison at 860-379-0210 or email: info@WinchesterGrange.org for more information.

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Myrtle Hayden

Feb. 9: Our Presidents

On Sept. 9th we had our Cookie Exchange and grab bag. We made up many plates of cookies for Ella's Pantry for shut-ins.

We draped our charter in memory of our Sister Marie Peterson and our Brother William Newton.

A report was given on the State Session along with awards received.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Shirley Moore

Feb. 3: Meeting 7:30 – short program; Ref.: Akke & Dennis Jasmine

Feb. 17: 6:30 Pot-luck Supper – Laura Marek & Arba Roberts; Program: THE PRESIDENTS

On Dec. 2, we held our regular meeting with a short program entitled CHRISTMAS IS COMING. However, the program began with a remembrance of Pearl Harbor in honor of all the servicemen and women who gave their lives or were terribly injured on Dec. 7, 1941.

During the business meeting, Brother Phil Prelli installed the officers who were not present at the installation in September. These were Secretary Maureen Prelli, Flora Virginia King and Ceres Akke Jasmine. We also accepted applications from Megan Keefe and Lisa Morecki who wished to become members of our grange family and we look forward to conferring degrees on them.

Our Dec. 16 meeting began with a pot-luck supper. Afterward a Christmas Program for members' children and grandchildren was presented by the Youth Committee: Faith Prelli (Mrs. Claus) and Kat Prelli (Santa's Elf). The children sang Christmas songs accompanied by Elf on the guitar and also Mary Lou Keefe at the piano. Children taking part in the readings were Alexis LaMere who read "A Christmas Poem for

Children" and Gavin Hester who read "Dear Mom and Dad". Sue Belle-Isle read the poem "Every Day is Christmas" and Phil Prelli did his annual reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas". The children were great listeners.

After singing "Jingle Bells", Mrs. Claus and Elf presented gifts to the children.

We would like to congratulate both Peter

Keefe and Jason Keefe who have been respectively installed as Worshipful Master and Senior Warden of the Masons in Winsted. It is not often that a father and son have such responsibilities at the same time, as they are also Master and Overseer at our grange. We know that they are going to have a busy year and we wish them much success in both organizations.

UConn freshman helps save life



Winchester Grange member Robert Kitch, at the scene of the three-car crash near the UConn Storrs campus. Below, the remains of two of the cars involved.



-From Connecticut News 30 (WVIT- New Britain)

Robert Kitch has only been in uniform for a few months, but he's already acting like a hero.

The UConn freshman, who enrolled in the ARMY ROTC program, stepped up on Tuesday night. When a three-car chain-reaction crash quickly turned into a car fire, he and another good samaritan pulled an unconscious man to safety.

"The wheel ended up catching fire and the man was passed out from smoke inhalation in the driver seat, so I went onto the other side and started bashing it with my elbow," Kitch said.

But the glass was too thick. Another good samaritan saw Rob struggling and stepped in to help. "He actually had a hammer in his car and he broke the window. That's how we got it started," Kitch said. Even when the two men got into the car, it was still a struggle. There was so much smoke, Kitch couldn't see or breathe.

"I needed to get fresh air because the smoke was very thick. When I came out, the other man went in and helped pull (the victim) out, and then we both just grabbed onto him and yanked him right out," Kitch said.

A few minutes later, the fire department put out the flames and paramedics got to the scene.

"He wasn't breathing. His eyes were rolled back in the back of his head, he was definitely unconscious when they sat him up over there. They put oxygen on him; I did notice he was coming back to life," Kitch said.

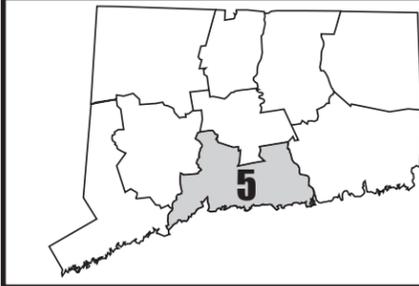
Rob bruised his bone trying to break the window. He and the driver were taken to Windham Hospital and Rob has to wear a sling for a week.

A nurse told him the driver is going to be OK, and Rob hopes to meet the man he saved.

"I never got his name. I'd like to talk to him if I could. Hopefully this will get my name out there for him to contact me, but I would definitely like to speak to him," Kitch said.

The future soldier doesn't call himself a hero, He said he is just happy to help.

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- ✓ Cheshire No. 23
- ✓ Wallingford No. 33
- ✓ North Haven No. 35
- ✓ Old Lyme No. 162

NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: Don Lanoue

March 12: Regular Meeting Talent and "A Number" Night

At our January 9 meeting we had State Master Jody Cameron and General Deputy Todd Gelineau give us our Pomona School of Instruction. We also discussed the Pomona-wide tag sale on April 28. Our next meeting will be our talent night. We normally have a good showing for this evening with plenty of numbers please come and join us.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Feb. 1: Open Meeting-Box Supper 6PM

Feb. 15: Voos Cutlery and Homestead

We are back in the groove with the new year upon us and we look forward to a successful Grange year. A 55 year membership seal was given to Roger Chapman, Jr. and 60 year seals to Thelma Northrop, John Brennan, and Patricia Rogers

Our "Words for Thirds" dictionary project, as was mentioned earlier, has now brought us numerous personally written thank you letters from many of our third grade students. They are a delight to read. This is a great project for us.

Many of you visited in December when we put on a program of old degree work complete with all the props that were used in those early days. We would encourage any of our Granges to look into putting on a similar program which we know would be of interest to all.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Dan Lauttenbach

Feb 9: An Old Fashioned Valentine's Day, Ref: Jane Maxwell

Feb 23: President's Day, Re: Dan

Hopefully by the time we read this we will already be seeing signs that winter will be nearly over!

Dec 8, Christmas Program: We conducted the Grange's regular business as usual. Natalia Yassenky contributed much to the night's program. First she brought to the meeting ornaments that were made from last year's Christmas cards. The Christmas card ornaments were made by her and the veterans that she works with and were quite interesting.

I read a spoof on the Twelve Days of Christmas that Natalia supplied. It was a series of letters by a woman named Irene that she sent to her suitor in response to the gifts she received after each day. The gifts become more elaborate and unmanageable by the day and Irene becomes more exasperated as the twelfth day approaches. On the twelfth day she has her lawyer issue a restraining order that he never ever contact her again.

Our grab bag gift exchange began by having everyone sit at the table with the gift they bought in front of them. As I read the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" and every time the word "AND" was spoken, everyone had to move the gift in front of them to the left. The end result was just hilarious!

John LaTourneau was instrumental in getting our Grange building on the official Christmas Ornament for the town of Wallingford. John is part of the The Historical Preservation Thrust and they have an annual ornament tradition for the town that features historical buildings. John promoted the idea to have the Grange Hall on this year's ornament and he also sold them at his store:

Wallingford Lamp and Shade. There was also an article in the Record-Journal newspaper on December 15th about the ornament and the Grange in Wallingford.

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

Corr: A. Tolette

Feb. 7: Can Spring be far away?

Mar. 6: Hobby Night

Here's to the new year.

We ended 2011 on a good note. An 80 year certificate and pin were presented to Cynthia Barnes, our oldest member. She is over a century in age, sharp in mind. She is a whiz with a walker too. She spoke about the ladies who traveled near and far putting on degrees. She knew everyone by maiden names and I knew their married name.

Also we gave a gift through Heifer International of an Ark. The animals and birds will help several families in different countries to make a difference in their lives.

OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barbara Kulisch

Feb. 10: Complete Program-"When He Was President"

Feb. 24: Snow Date for the 10th of February

March 9: "A Hall-Mark Moment"

We once again completed another "Wish List" request from the Waterford Country School that arrived just in time for Christmas! Thank you to all our members for bringing several items! Thank you to Bro & Sis Stitham for getting them to the school! February will find us collecting items to send overseas to our service men & women. These items will be sent through the efforts of the Clinton Library!

We had a very fun evening at our December 9th meeting, program entitled "Christmas Is...", which found most of us enjoying a pot luck supper; grab bag gift exchange during the Lecturer's program.

Remember, our doors are always open, so come on down & visit!

80 Years of Membership



Cynthia Barnes, of North Haven Grange No. 35, receives a letter from the National Master in recognition of her 80 years of continuous service and membership in the Grange.

Connecticut State Grange LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

for

- All Elected Officers
- Committee Directors/Committee Members
- Deputies
- Pomona Masters

Feb. 11 ~ 2 PM

**Cheshire Grange Hall
44 Wallingford Rd., Cheshire**

The focus of this high-energy meeting is "One Message" and will concentrate on team building.

- Those attending are asked to bring three things:
1.) An Open Mind 2.) Excitement 3.) A Positive Attitude

If you are unable to attend, or have any questions, please send an e-mail to President@CTStateGrange.org

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Stafford Grange #1



Studio 85 of Stafford performs at a recent meeting of Stafford Grange No. 1. Pictured are Jeff Giglio, leader and teacher of these talented kids; Marcie Luby, Paul Luby, C.J. Whaley, Tyler Whaley and Bruce Ridzon.

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
- Stonington No. 168
- Norwich No. 172

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Feb. 11: Movie Night preceded by Potluck at 6:30 P.M.

Feb. 12: Snow Date, 1:30 P.M.

Start getting out the cookbooks and planning your favorite meal. We will hold our annual potluck and movie night on Saturday, Feb. 11 with a snow date on Sunday, Feb. 12.

Our movie this year will be "Leap Year", a movie starring Amy Adams, Matthew Goode and Adam Scott. Anna Brady plans to travel to Dublin, Ireland on Feb. 29, leap day, because, according to Irish tradition, a man who receives a marriage proposal on leap day must accept it. However, bad

weather threatens to derail her plan.

Please remember to bring your own dishes and utensils. Popcorn and candy will be provided.

It's not too early to prepare your A Number and Talent presentations. The Pomona competition will be held on March 10th at North Stonington Grange. Let's try to have a number from every Grange.

The winter months now are upon us,

Let's hope we don't get any snow.

We'll all get together in Norwich

For some food and a movie, you know.

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Feb. 10: "I'd like to visit...

Farm Country"
Feb. 24: "I'd like to visit... Avalonia"

Thirty-five happy people enjoyed our annual Christmas party. The program opened with a living Nativity. We then visited other Bethlehems around the world and learned about Christmas customs in other lands. Our wonderful Santa arrived with gifts for the youngsters (and a few oldsters); and the Grange presented apples, candy canes and small ornaments to all. The refreshments were as festive as they were delicious.

On the third Friday, we gathered at the hall and boarded a school bus to carol around town and deliver fruit baskets to some members we don't get to see often enough. Then we enjoyed pizza at a local

restaurant.
The Agriculture and Conservation Committee is in charge of our February 10 meeting and they are always lots of fun. We will welcome Duncan Schweitzer of the Avalonia Land Conservancy on Feb. 24. He will discuss the Rutan dam project in Stonington. They are attempting to restore fish passage in Anguilla Brook. Both of these programs should be both interesting and entertaining. Hope to see a big crowd there. And if those cute little flying squirrels who have decided to move inside for the winter will just find another home outside, next time I'll tell you all about joyous January.

LYME GRANGE #147

Feb. 2: Will he see his shadow? Hobbies

Mar. 1: A Number & Talent

Apr. 5: Omit- Maundy Thursday

Apr. 12: (2nd Thurs.) April Showers

Music Night come and went with no musicians- However we had a drummer (pot & wooden spoon) and combs and waxed paper- it tickled our lips.

CWa program and contests were discussed with great interest and the baking contest sounds yummy. The weather behaved itself.

We voted to continue to adopt Hillstown Jr. Grange and donate to "Warm the Children". Only 11 members came to the meeting as many are on the sick list.

Hopefully our Hobby Night will be better attended.



Eye on Communications
GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

The Power of Visuals

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

"As far as the eye can see." "I get the picture." "A picture is worth a thousand words." "My view on the subject is..."

Visual communication is a part of our everyday lives. Without even realizing it we are affected by what we see - not just from photos, television and videos but also from signage, posters and flyers, brochures, websites and the like. The average person doesn't give it much thought. Visual communications are present in everything we do and are taken for granted.

PR Professional Guy Downes reports that studies show 65% of people are visual learners. This means that nearly 2/3rds of us use pictures and visuals to help us solve problems, think about subjects before us, process information quicker, and most importantly, communicate effectively and efficiently. 3M Research states that people process visuals 66,000 times faster than they process text. Add color to the visuals and learning accelerates to 78%.*

When combining words and images, visual communications tell a story to the audience. That story might be a Grange member receiving their 65-year membership seal or the Grange presenting dictionaries to local third-graders. The story could even be conveying the benefits of being a Grange member to prospective members. Photos and graphics not only inform and engage the public, but they also entertain.

According to Guy Downes, "Stories bind us, build understanding, assign meaning, forge relationships and share our heritage

as well as offer insight into our future. Great stories ignite the imagination - a deluge of facts and data do not. And pictures can play a powerful role within this narrative and by bringing words to life."

Armed with this information, how can my Grange take advantage of visual communications?

Take photos. Lots of photos. Bring a digital camera to every Grange meeting and event, then share the photos with your members. Hang the photos on a bulletin board in your hall. Make a Grange Scrapbook and bring it to your meetings to share with your members and visitors. Post the photos on your Grange's Facebook Page and website, and send them to the CT State Grange website to be added into the Virtual Scrapbook. Send the photos to the CT Granger for publication. E-mail the best of the photos and a well-written caption to your local newspapers. Create a poster using the photos to promote upcoming Grange events. Integrate the photos into a presentation. Print out the photos for a Grange display that can be used in the local library, at a local Agricultural Fair, or even at a trade show or Chamber of Commerce meeting. Enter the photos in the Lecturer's Photo Contest or exhibit them at your local Ag Fair.

Tell your Grange story with visuals, capture and retain the public's attention, and reap the benefits.

* Embry, David, "The Persuasive Properties of Color", Marketing Communications, October 1984.



Connecticut State Grange

Online Chat

Wed., Feb. 22 • 7:00 PM

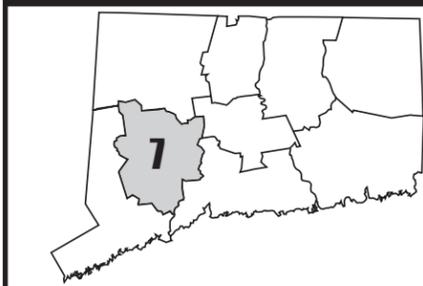
All aspects of the Grange will be discussed including: membership, agricultural and legislative initiatives, Grange events, community interaction and more.

State President Jody Cameron, Gen. Deputy Todd Gelineau and committee representatives will be there to answer all of your questions.

www.CTStateGrange.org/GrangeChat
Guests can sign-in using their real names or anonymously.



Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 107
- Watertown No. 122
- Prospect No. 144
- ✓ Bridgewater No. 153
- Wolcott No. 173
- ✓ Oxford No. 194

EXCELSIOR POMONA #7

Corr: *Eloise Osuch for Mary Dubay*

Excelsior Pomona does not meet in the month of February but would like to wish everyone a Happy Valentine's and President's Day. Our regular correspondent, Mary Dubay, is recuperating at Apple Rehab., 35 Bunker Hill Rd., Watertown, CT 06795, Room 51W. Mary would love to receive get well wishes. The members of Excelsior Pomona wish her a speedy recovery.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: *Joanne Cipriano*

Our meeting in February is on the 10th. Program "Love is in the Air" to be presented by Lecturer Cindy Legg. Refreshments will be served following the meeting by Pat and Ron Fischer. In case of bad weather the meeting date is February 24th. Same time- same station.

Members are reminded that dues are now payable. For a receipt please send a self-addressed envelope.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: *Linda Coad*

Feb. 26: Sunday Meeting, 2 P.M., Look to the Skies, White Elephant Country Store, Ref. Cindy & Ernie Finch

Mar. 26: Resolution Brain Storming, Legislative Comm., Ref. Faith Korpalski

Mar. 31: Annual Indoor Flea Market, Contact for information, Linda Coad, 203-264-8151. 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Do you know any former members of the Grange that no longer attend meetings? Would you be interested in contacting them for an open house to reconnect? Several people that I have spoken to this year need a little encouragement to come. They feel they have been away too long. I feel

like it's never too late to reconnect.

Call me if you have any ideas for programs, contests or projects. Also if you have any money making ideas for our projects.

Our Annual Flea Market will be a week early this year due to Easter. As of right now, this is our only fundraiser for the year.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: *Dean Perry*

Feb. 12: Home Meeting - Sunday, 2 P.M.

Mar. 11: Home Meeting - Sunday, 2 P.M.

On Friday, December 2 there was a Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on the Bridgewater Green right across from the Grange Hall. We served hot chocolate and cookies to the public after the ceremony.

Our regular meeting on the 2nd Wednesday was postponed to Sunday, December 11 at our Master's house, Nancy Mascio. We had a nice potluck dinner just before the meeting.

The Bridgewater Grange hall will be closed for the winter but we will continue to meet in members' homes. We will continue to have our regular meetings at 2 P.M. on the second Sunday for January, February, and March.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: *Phil Rowland*

Feb. 3: Games and Skit Night (Choose entries for Lecturer's Run-off). Snow date Feb. 20.

It's pleasant looking back at our Christmas party (which lacked Santa's presence but gifts arrived nevertheless) for its marvelous meal and good fellowship. Desserts were especially nice, the most popular being Audrey Wellner's homemade chocolate pie.

It is good seeing Jill Zitnay again after her recent

health issues; also Evelyn Hill, who hasn't attended recently because of night driving difficulties.

The February meeting should be enjoyable with skit tryouts- we hope that some brave souls will utilize

their imagination to provide a winning presentation.

We're roasting Phil Prelli!

Mark your calendars for May 19th

Have only received one reply from my K.O.- K.O. relative to the Statewide Tag Sale. That was from Excelsior Pomona. I expect after the January meeting we will receive more replies.

Tickets will be available shortly for our roast of Phil Prelli. The Roast will be held at Cheshire Grange on May 19th. A definite menu will be formalized soon. Get your tickets early as there will be limited space.



Joanne Cipriano
Social Connection Director
social@ctstategrange.org

Riverton Grange No. 169



Mrs. Claus (Faith Prelli) and Elf (Cat Prelli) leading children in singing Christmas songs at their Riverton Grange party on December 16.

Attention all quilters!



Pat Palmer
Family Activities/CWA Director
CWA@ctstategrange.org

A belated Happy New Year to all. Jim and I had the pleasure of attending the New England Leader's Conference which was held in Connecticut this year. It was an opportunity to meet with the other Family Activities Directors to see what they are doing in their states and to swap ideas. We also discussed the contests for the BIG E and if anything changes I will let you know.

Also, for the past 7 years, Charles Martin of Vermont has made the quilt that is raffled off in the New England Grange Building at the BIG E with the proceeds going to the various New England states to be donated to the charity of their choice - usually a children's or Veteran's charity. He will be unable to continue to do this and since it is an important part of the fund raising for the states as well as the enthusiasm of the visitors to be able to look at these quilts and to take a chance on winning it, it was decided by the state Family Activities Directors to continue this practice and this is where you all come in. We are looking for a quilting club, a Grange quilting club, or some other group that would be willing to make a quilt (queen size) to be raffled off at the BIG E. The name of the group would be prominently displayed for the thousands of visitors that would see the quilt. I have already spoken to someone who might have a lead, but just in case that doesn't work out or if we had two to donate that would be better still. We would need one for this year (unless one of the other states can get a group to do it for this year) and one for subsequent years. Please let me know if you might have someone in mind that you could contact or have them get in contact with me.

Many thanks for all the get well wishes, the telephone calls, and surprises which were sent or brought my way! It was overwhelming to receive such attention while I was on the sick list. I've always said that Grangers are the greatest people ever- and I continue to be convinced of that! May everything be the best for you all in 2012!

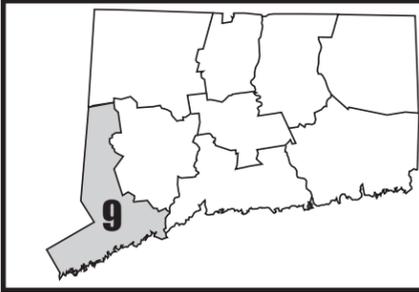
Fraternally, Betty Jane Gardiner

Thank you for the notes and visits from Grange friends to me while permanently in residence at Kimberly Hall South, 1 Emerson Drive, Windsor, CT 06095. Happy New Year!

Love from Vivian Crane Shaw (64 Year member of Granby Grange No. 5)

THANK YOU

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



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

FAIRFIELD COUNTY POMONA #9

Corr: Bob Sendewicz

Mar. 7: Meeting

The meeting will be held at Harmony Grange Hall. A 6 P.M. potluck supper and a country store will be held. The program will be New York, New York.

REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Marge Sendewicz

Feb. 13: Valentines, 6:30 P.M., Supper

Feb. 27: Membership Ideas

Mar. 12: Saint Patrick's Day

Our Valentine's Day meeting will start with a 6:30 P.M. Supper. We will welcome guests that wish to attend but should the weather be uncooperative please call ahead of time to be sure we are meeting. We will also have a country store that night so join us for a fun evening. The weather may be cold but our hall his warm.

Our other meetings are listed but are subject to change due to inclement weather.

HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: Susan Carol Sulier

Hi fellow Grangers and welcome to February, the month associated with love.

Harmony Grange is delighted to report 4 new members will soon go through our "Welcoming Ceremony"! As a credit to us all; our goal of strengthening our beloved fraternity is obviously materializing.

We are proud to announce, our dear Gertrude (Wells) Wilson has achieved the status of being a 75 year member of the Patrons of Husbandry. She previously held membership in the former Housatonic and Far Mill Granges and she is currently an active member and past Secretary of Harmony Grange.

More good news; our

Master, George Ward, is recuperating nicely from his recent heart surgery. Keep up the good work George, we love you and Gloria and appreciate everything you both do for the betterment of the Grange.

Wishing you "A Very Happy and Healthy Valentine's Day", filled with love and "harmony".

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

Feb. 20: Presidents' Days, Meeting 7 P.M.

After a short meeting, we had a Christmas party, which allowed for continued informal discussions. The December Lecturer's program featured questions and answers on Christmas season traditions. We observed a moment of silence in memory of Roderick MacKenzie, who over the years was helpful to our Grange on a number of projects, including archiving our Grange's and Pomona's older records at the Fairfield Historical Society, where he was employed for a good number of years.

In February we will continue our planning. The program is slated to include facts on American Presidents, many of whom had an impact on agriculture and environmental concerns. All are welcome to our meetings and activities.

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Feb. 14: Sweets, Treats and Valentines

Mar. 13: Going Green, St. Patrick's Day (Reuse, Renew, Recycle)

Apr. 10: Spring Fling Open House, 6:30 P.M., Neighbor's Night

Our Winter Farmers' Market is doing so well that we've run out of space! The solution was brilliant! We build a cold frame off our kitchen door onto the side

porch, with plastic wrap to make it toasty warm. There are now 25 vendors, selling everything from parsnips to Pemaquid seafood. Much to her amazement ("I never win anything"), Sue Sulla won eight 1-1/4 pound Maine lobsters in a drawing in December, and at last report she's still wondering what to do with them. The Market is open every Saturday from 10:00 to 2:00 until April.

Sixty Grangers and friends sat down to a huge Christmas feast on December 13, which offered everything from cider to ham to cupcakes and whipped cream. Then it was outside to the cold and a roaring fire and Christmas carols from A to Z. Back in the warmth of the Grange Hall, Santa and Mrs. Claus appeared-looking suspiciously familiar. You'll have to ask Bob Sendewicz and Sue Sulla about the details.

With all the joy, the month of December closed with some sad news. We learned that Mary Youngling, who was living at Masonicare in Wallingford, died on December 29. She was 102! A friend who sent us the news said that "there wasn't much left of Mary's body in recent days, but she still had that wonderful mind." We will remember her as a devoted Granger and a dear friend, who seldom lost her patience or her loving smile. She was truly one of a kind.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

Feb 2: Business Meeting

Feb 16: Business Meeting

Mar. 1: Business Meeting

Mar. 15: Program to be Announced

Mar 24: Silent Movie Night at 7:30 PM

Our Christmas party on December 18th was enjoyed by members and friends with a tableful of delicious desserts and appetizers. Entertainment for the evening was the Brilliant Brass Ensemble, from the Wilton Congregational Church, with a list of Christmas songs and carols. It was delightful. The Hall was decorated with a beautiful lighted tree.

An initiative we're

interested in is helping to curb childhood obesity. We've recently signed on as a partner with USDA's program called "MyPlate". Very nifty learning and communication tools can be found at their website, www.ChooseMyPlate.gov where the mottos is "Enjoy Your Food, But Eat Less". Now there's food for thought.

We are on to our programs for the new year, and will also empower our fair committee to begin planning for our 80th

annual Agricultural Fair to be held in August.

Coming on March 24th will be our Silent Movie Night with Grange member, John Mucci providing the piano accompaniment to what is anticipated to be a hilarious evening. Plan to come!

We hope everyone enjoyed the recent holiday season, and is in good health to start the new year. Our meeting schedule is noted above. Visiting Patrons are always welcome--won't you join us?

State Secretary



Will it be an early spring or a late winter? Mr. Groundhog will let us know.

It is the time of year to remind you to file the 990N E-Postcard with the IRS. I will file those that have asked me to do so in the past. You should keep a copy of the filing that has your EIN number.

The quarterly report due March 30th will be at the new rate of \$5.75 per member. Please make sure that it is correct in your computer, if you have the information there. Others will have to sharpen their pencils.

Hope everyone is staying warm and well.

DEPUTY TEAM

INSPECTIONS RITUAL CODE READING SUPPORT INSTRUCTION

Todd Gelineau, General Deputy

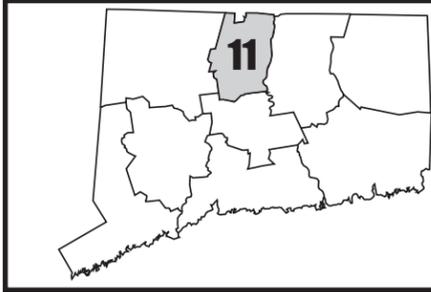
Executive Committee Reports are coming in fairly steady but there are still quite a few yet to be received. Please be sure to send in your report to me as soon as possible. A copy is also required for the Deputy on the night of Inspection.

Several reports have been submitted using VERY old forms. Unfortunately, if you are using the old forms, you are leaving vital information out of your report. For 2011 we, of course, will accept the form that was printed in the 2011 Blue Book. The newly updated form is available in the 2012 Blue Book that you should have already received (or will receive shortly). If you would like a 2011 form with the changes made for 2012, please contact me and I will be happy to provide that for you... (860) 626-0326 or GeneralDeputy@CTStateGrange.org.

I am excited to hear that Wolcott Grange is very close to being re-organized. This is the perfect illustration of the State Master's mantra about the "Power of One." The Grange Growth Team held an informational meeting last year to give the community the opportunity to learn more about the Grange. One person (besides the State Grange officers and members present) attended. That one person turned out to be the "sparkplug" that provided the forward momentum that brought us to where we are today with the possibility of a "new" Wolcott Grange. As the State Master says in this month's column, "Did you feel that?" I sure did!

I hope the coming months will find the Deputy Team busier than ever before working with new Grange members and Granges to spread the excitement and growth of the Grange across the state!... and as always, the Deputy Team is ever-ready to help Granges. All you have to do is ask.

Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11



Granby No. 5
Tunxis No. 13
✓ Cawasa No. 34
Simsbury No. 197
Cherry Brook No. 210

FAREWELL FARMINGTON VALLEY POMONA

by Linea Erickson

Last night we said goodbye to a special, old friend.

Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11 turned in its identity to our Worthy State Master/President. Our Pomona no longer exists.

If the crushing blow had come a few years ago, there would have been a great many more sad tears shed. With only eight members present, we could not even hold a regular meeting for our last hurrah.

Every paper we came across brought a memory or two of things that used to be. Farmington Valley was once a very strong group. Each spring and fall special efforts were put into rehearsals, stage decorations and lights and switches that provided just the right effects for our storm. On the night of the exemplification of our Fifth Degree, we could count on a large class of candidates. With the ladies all dressed in long gowns and the men in dark suits and bow ties, the officers lined up followed by the candidates and then everyone else as we descended the stairs to enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by the committee known as home economics and later as committee on women's activities.

Back upstairs, there was excitement in the air. It seemed everyone was anxious. You could see some mouthing the words of one last chance to know the lines that had been memorized. With everyone in place, the degree went on without a hitch and all the new members were greeted and welcomed.

There were turkey suppers that brought us together for preparing and serving. It was those suppers that made it a personal, firm conviction to never become a waitress as my life's work.

We all enjoyed the ride to Winchester for our annual potluck picnics at Camp Berger. After lunch, AltaDon Hall was a busy place with setback and other games being played. Many ate at the picnic tables outside and just enjoyed the view of the pond. Others made use of the docks, boats and canoes making it a very wonderful time together.

There were gimmicks, banners and games that got people out to visit other Pomonas. Farmington Valley usually had many loaded cars heading to wherever we were invited. One Pomona actually brought a busload to one of our meetings.

These and many others make for so many wonderful memories, but now it's time to look forward.

Some of our community Granges are still deciding on a Pomona to join. Some have already made the decision. Perhaps, the hardest part is to see us divided.

For our Grange, Cawasa, it seems logical travel-wise and otherwise to return to Mountain County Pomona No. 4. For most of my years in Grange, a few of our members retained membership there and our Masters reported to both Pomonas.

The close relationship between Farmington Valley and Mountain County is legendary. This time, however, we will not be going as Kissin' Cousins, but as full-fledged members. We look forward to a long, fun and rewarding experience.

It is our hope that each of the community Granges in Farmington Valley will continue active membership in whatever Pomona they choose.

Spotlight on... Sharon Moroch



Jonathan Russell
Agriculture Director
Agriculture@ctstategrange.org

Sharon Moroch is a member of Colchester Grange #78 and Animal Superintendent and recording secretary for Hamburg Fair. Sharon raises pigs, goats, sheep, cattle, rabbits, ducks, chickens, geese for meat and eggs. She uses the meat and eggs for her family, but also sells them. In additions she has a pair of oxen which she likes to pull. She works a full time job and is steward at Colchester Grange.

After last year's success with the seed contest we decided to continue the program this year with a new variety of squash. This year, members will grow Hart Seed's 'spaghetti squash' and keep track of how much lbs. of produce they donate to their local food bank. Each Grange will have Squash Seeds sent to them in the next month. The decoration contest will require members to grow any variety of Hart Seed's Pumpkins. Members can carve them into Jack-O-Lanterns, Paint them or anything they want. To learn more about Hart Seeds go to www.hartseed.com.

Ekonk places third in Nation

Connecticut's Ekonk Community Grange recently received third place honors in the National Grange 2011 Community Service contest. Ekonk Community Grange is located on the Sterling/Voluntown line.

They previously placed Best of Show in Connecticut's state-wide 2011 Community Service contest sponsored by the Connecticut State Grange, where they then proceeded on to compete at the National Grange level in Oklahoma in November.

Over 60 of Ekonk Community Grange's 144 members participated in their 2011 Community Service program, by contributing over 18,000 hours of service. In addition, over 100 area residents supported the Grange's local efforts by contributing over 600 additional community service hours.

Ekonk Community Grange sponsored several community projects in 2011. These projects included supporting the Home at Last housing

project for veterans in Jewett City and working with the Tree of Life, instituted in Sterling for the first year. Other on-going projects and programs include fundraising for and participating in Sterling Family Day, donating dictionaries to third graders through the Words for Thirds project, Relay for Life sponsorship and participation, hosting the annual Earth Day poster/essay contests in area schools, donations for the local FFA chapters, adopting needy families for Christmas, and more.

More information can be found on Ekonk Community Grange and their activities by visiting their website at www.EkonkGrange.org or by visiting their page on the Connecticut State Grangewebsiteat www.CTStateGrange.org. Ekonk Community Grange meets on the first Monday of each month at the Grange Hall, Rte. 49, Ekonk Hill, Sterling at 7:30 PM.

Northeast Region News

The Northeast Region (CT, RI, NH, MA, VT, ME, NY) will be hosting the 147th National Grange Convention at the Radisson Hotel, in Manchester, New Hampshire on November 12-16, 2013. The theme of the convention will be "How Sweet It Is". We have a supply of tee shirts and sweatshirts that we are selling to help defray the costs associated with hosting the convention. The colors, types and prices are: burgundy polo shirts with the Grange logo on the upper

right front, \$25; sandstone crewneck sweatshirts with the convention logo on the front, \$22; forest green zip front sweatshirts with the convention logo on the back, \$28; and brick tee shirts with the convention logo on the front, \$14. If you are interested in purchasing one of them, please contact Carol Hnath, CT Convention Coordinator by email: flora@ctstategrange.org. They will be available at various activities around the state while they last.

Youth & Junior

Promote Your Grange



Lisa Lamoureux
State Youth & Junior Director
youth@ctstategrange.org
juniors@ctstategrange.org

HILLSTOWN JR. GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita Shaefer
Feb. 18: Snow Daze

They have been meeting at the hall. They all enjoyed their Christmas party. Now they are looking to get started for this winter and spring's meetings.

EKONK COMM. JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Rebecca Gervais

Ekonk Junior had a BUSY Holiday season. We had a table at our subordinate's Bazaar. Emily, Maria, and Victoria taught any interested peoples how to make a 3-D snowflake! We also sold

baked goods.

We had MANY rehearsals for our Christmas play which was held on the 9th. The play was a musical and titled, "A Place in the Christmas Choir". Almost 100 people, total, came for this event! How cool is that? We had a young cast. Our ages ranged from 3 to 12, most were 6-8. Pretty impressive that kids that young can memorize a part and say it in front of such a huge audience!

We, along with the subordinates, "adopted" a family from Sterling for Christmas. Jeans, shirts, socks, a toy, candy, items for Mom, gloves, hats, a \$50.00 Wal-Mart card, and a \$50.00 Big Y card were donated. We also helped fill 2 baskets for local seniors who could use the extra food.

On Feb. 3rd, the GIRLS are in charge of the program. It is sure to be an interesting night! Why not come and visit us? We'd like to see you.

The National Grange Communications Department has announced that for a limited time, the Grange Store is having a sale on Grange Pop-Up Banners. The banners are similar to the one pictured with this article and is like the one displayed during the last State Session next to the Master's Station.

The banners, which normally sell for \$325, are being offered at the affordable price of \$225 to Community and Pomona Granges across Connecticut until March 2. The price does not include shipping costs, but the shipping cost can be saved if the banner is picked up at a local FedEx Office Print & Ship Center (10 locations throughout the state).

The fully-customizable banner is 31 inches wide and 80 inches tall and comes with its own carrying case and stand.

According to the National Grange press release, "this banner is easy to transport and is a perfect product to promote your Grange at events, such as fairs, festivals, open houses for upcoming Grange Month, and more."

For more information, or to purchase a pop-up banner for your Grange, contact Amanda Brozana, National Grange Communications Director, via email at abrozana@nationalgrange.org or via phone at 1-888-4GRANGE, ext. 102. Please note that email contact is preferred.

Join the Grange!

Sign up for Online Membership

Online Members enjoy the following benefits:

- Membership in an organization with family and rural values and a history of achievement
- A national legislative team that advocates for you
- Publications to keep you informed of the Grange, your community, and your nation
- Discounts on car rentals, hotels, prescription drug coverage, and so much more!

Join your Community Grange

In addition to the benefits above, Community Grange Members also enjoy the following:

- Opportunities to make a difference in your community
- Leadership opportunities at the community, state, and national levels
- Voting rights at Grange meetings
- Access to service projects, social activities, and leadership development opportunities

Build your own Community Grange

Don't have a Community Grange? We can help you build one! Contact publicrelations@pagrange.org

Visit www.pagrange.org or call 1-800-552-3865



Do You Remember?

Hannah Williams

by Betty Jane Gardiner



For many years Wapping Grange and East Central Pomona were privileged to have a hard working member- a Grange sister of many talents! Her name was Hannah Williams and she was mother of a lady you know as Edith Schoell, Secretary of the Connecticut State Grange. Hannah excelled in all kinds of things. She knew Grange work inside and out and did not have appreciation for anyone who didn't know and perform the work properly. She was Master and Secretary of her Grange but gave most of her time to the Subordinate and Pomona as Lecturer or Women's Activities chairman.

Her programs were enjoyed by her people. Her needles were very active. She crocheted and did beautiful embroidery- talents she passed on to her daughter. Among her hobbies were crafts of all kinds. Hannah had very large hands and fingers, yet she turned out the most beautiful, delicate beadwork you could ever imagine!

There was a time when she made so many complicated necklaces and earrings you'd think she was in the jewelry business and everyone marveled at it all.

Hannah served as Chaplain on Edith's Installation Team and kept the ladies outfitted with beads to match the gowns they sewed under the direction of Hannah and Edie.

No one will ever forget Cupie Dolls Hannah made by the dozens. They always made a hit.

Needle-to-say she was a good cook at home and in the Grange kitchen as well. She always made good coffee. One night it was a little different!!! Do you suppose that was the time when they went to wash out the coffee pot and found a potholder in the bottom????

Do remember Hannah.

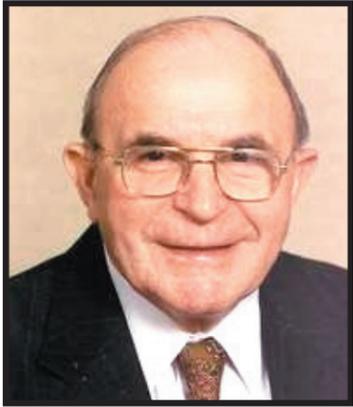


First Schoell Installing Team, 1976 - Left to Right: Ernest & Stelia Graham, Wanda, Hannah, Edith & John Schoell, Lois Kean, Marion Carlson, Ray Carlson



Kermit Richardson

Past Master of the National Grange ~ 1929 - 2012



ORANGE, VT - Kermit Welch Richardson, 82, of Richardson Road, died Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012, at Central Vermont Medical Center in Berlin. His family had been at his bedside.

Born Oct. 20, 1929, in East Orange, he was the son

of Harold and Ada (Welch) Richardson. He attended elementary school in East Orange and graduated from Bradford Academy in 1947, as class valedictorian and was an outstanding high school orator.

From 1951 to 1953, he served in the U.S. Army as a medic and had been stationed in Germany.

He was an avid gardener, rose grower, reader and enjoyed attending his grandchildren's sporting activities.

At the age of 14, he joined the Riverside Grange 455 in West Topsham and had served several terms as master. He

had been a member for 69 years. He was master of the Vermont State Grange from 1970 to 1974, and is currently chairman of its executive committee. As a member of the National Grange, he had served as chaplain, lecturer, overseer and had been National Grange master.

Other memberships included the Orange Alliance Church and the Bradford Masonic Temple.

Kermit was a devoted citizen of the town of Orange, having served as town moderator, school board member, justice of the peace, town representative and was a past president of the Orange East Supervisory School District.

His business affiliations included the Orange and

Grafton area Board of Realtors, the National Bank of Newbury, the Farmers and Traders Life Insurance Co. of Syracuse, NY., the Connecticut Valley Development Corp. and the Independent Mutual

Agents of New England.

Margaret and Kermit had been co-chairmen of the Orange Bicentennial Celebration Committee and Heritage Festival for several years.

In Memoriam

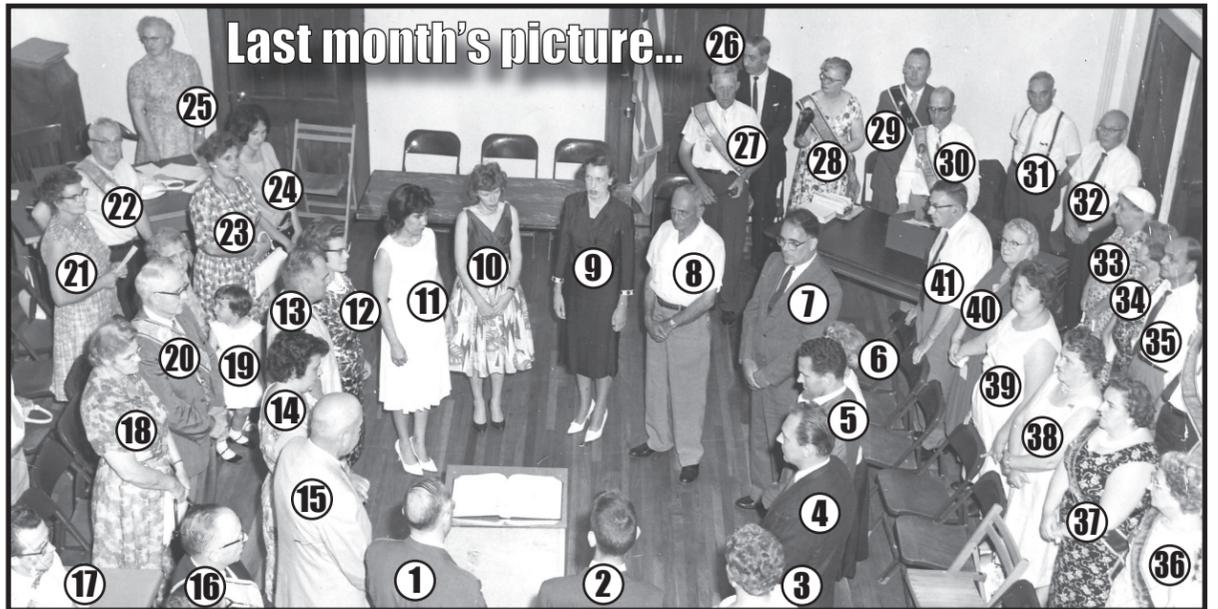
- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Daniel Korngiebel | Glastonbury Grange #26 |
| John Galli | Glastonbury Grange #26 |
| George W. Bolt | Wallingford Grange #33 |
| Ruth Hunter | Hillstown Grange #87 |
| William Newton, G.S. | Taghannuck #100 |
| Mary Youngling, G.S. | Norfield Grange #146 |
| Josephine Loftus, G.S. | Enfield Grange #151 |
| Robert Iverson, G.S. | Hemlock Grange #182 |

Please keep us notified of deceased members. Use the email or the regular mailing address listed in the Granger Staff list in this issue.

WINDOW TO THE PAST

- 1 Kenny Dinsmore (A.S.)
- 2 Peter Sepowitz (Steward)
- 3 Dora Holmes (Lecturer)
- 4 Michael Konochik (Overseer)
- 5 Irving Holmes (Master or Chap.)
- 6 Mary LeVangie Pearl - Lect. of New London County Pomona (Marshall on Install. Team) or Gretchen Beckwith- Marshall on Inst. Team
- 7 Don McCulley (Treas.) or John Rogers (EC)
- 8 Kenneth Dinsmore (A.S.) or James Jacobson (EC)
- 9 Elizabeth "Betty" Dinsmore (LAS)
- 10 Marjorie Fisher (Flora)
- 11 Jayne Fawcett (Pomona)
- 12 Ernestine Leitao (Ceres)
- 13 John Sepowitz (GK)
- 14 Cecile Kreiger (Sec.)
- 15 Leland Holmes (Chap. or Master?)
- 16 Jerome Keech (Oveseer C.S.G.)
- 17 Duane Wetmore
- 18-20 ?
- 21 Mrs. Covell?
- 22 Ellsworth Covell (Sec. of the C.S.G.)
- 23-25 ?
- 26 Charles Normand
- 27 Al Beckwith (Master of the C.S.G.)
- 28 Evelyn Normand (CSG Lecturer)
- 29 Richard Hermann (Master, New London Cty.)
- 30 John LeVangie (Special Deputy, C.S.G.)
- 31-41 ?

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a story to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of the faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing submissions@ctstategrange.org.



Montville Grange #178 originally met at the Town Hall, then at the Congregational Church, then moved their meetings to the Uncasville Elementary School. They met on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. Montville Grange became dormant in 1994.

Our picture has two conflicting dates-- June 25, 1963 and June 25, 1964. The photo is of the Installation of Officers at the Montville Town Hall.

We heard from Peter Sepowitz who was installed as Steward of Montville Grange in the photo (and later became Treasurer of Montville Grange), Suzanne Schmitdt who is the daughter of John LeVangie, and Frances Mortimer. We also heard from one person who wished to be anonymous.

Our Previous Photo of the CT Delegation received several answers for the name of the National Master's wife, including John Scott himself-- her name is Dorothy Scott.



Suzanne Schmitdt gave us this photo from her collection- which is also from the evening of the reorganization of Montville Grange. From left: Irving Holmes, John LeVangie, Dora Holmes and Mike Konochik.



Also provided by Suzanne Schmitdt- from left: John LeVangie, Special Deputy; Alfred Beckwith, State Grange Master; Irving Holmes, Montville Master; Richard Hermann, Master of New London County Pomona No. 6.



This month's picture...