



Holiday Greetings!

Special Section on page 12...

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Connecticut Granger



Vol. 54, No. 3

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

DECEMBER 2013

Turning the page on 2013



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

What follows is my report to National Grange made last month in NH. I wanted to share it with everyone here. Please read the following with the intention in which it is written, to have a stronger, more visible, united Grange throughout Connecticut and the United States.

Worthy Master and Delegates,

On behalf of all the members of the Connecticut State Grange, Jodi Ann and I welcome all of you to Manchester NH for the 147th Annual National Grange Convention and hope you all enjoy your stay in the Northeast Region.

The Connecticut State Grange held its 129th Annual Session in Norwich, CT October 17-19, 2013. We were honored to have National Pomona Chris Hamp and Brother Duane as our National Reps. They both added to our session and I know our membership reaped a great deal from their being with us.

When I was elected Master in 2010 I set a goal for the Connecticut State Grange to double our membership in 4 years. We have not made great strides toward this goal; as a matter of fact we have posted a net loss for the year ending 6/30/13 of 141 members. Our total membership is 2,634. We have seen continual losses for over 20 years. We can no longer tolerate losses of this magnitude. We can no longer

tolerate our Granges not bringing in new members. We can no longer tolerate our Granges, at all levels, not developing new leaders to ensure a clear succession plan for our Grange.

Even though I have stated the above, all hope is NOT lost. With 2,634 members, 8 Pomona Granges, 54 Community Granges and 2 Junior Granges we have the time, the talent and the ability to turn things around. There is a bright tomorrow, there is an incredible opportunity for us to grow our existing membership and grow our number of Granges. All we have to do is want to do it.

On May 20, 2013 something that hasn't happened in nearly 60 years took place. The Charter application was signed for Groton Community Grange # 213. I want to congratulate Jeff Barnes, Organizing Deputy and Sisters Knockenhauer and Matthewson on their tireless effort to seeing this new Grange to fruition. This is a great beginning to what we see as continual and sustainable growth in Granges.

This year we also witnessed the closing of three Granges in Connecticut, Tunxis, Cherry Brook and Watertown. When I meet with these Granges every member is concerned with how they will be remembered. Attending these last meeting is very much like attending the calling hours for a loved one. Our members put their blood, sweat and tears into building their Grange. We are working with one other Grange that is in the process of selling their Grange hall and surrendering their Charter.

Many Granges have expressed their concerns regarding maintaining their halls, and in some cases their halls have fallen into disrepair. Your Grange hall

is your home. It is the first impression the community has of you as an organization. If you don't take the time to have the pride in your own home who will? I realize the age of many of our members inhibits your ability to do what you once did for your Grange, but the answer isn't to sell the Grange hall; selling your hall is the easy way out. Every Grange must be continually seeking new members. Our message has not and will not changed; one new member per Grange per month. You are not doing this for the State Grange; you are doing this for your own Grange. I urge every member to pledge to their Grange to bring in one new member this year. Without you, there is no Grange.

Clifford and Trevor Gervais represented the Connecticut State Grange and the Northeast Region as a Marching Candidate and Gatekeeper respectively, in the First Degree in the original Degrees written in 1873 at the Kelley Farm in Minnesota in July. All reports I have heard state they did a great job and had fun. Clifford has also been named to the Executive Committee of the National Grange Youth Officer Corp which will open the National Grange Friday morning. Jaimie Cameron has been selected as a Marching Candidate in the Seventh Degree. Congratulations to you each of you, I know you will do an excellent job.

...Continued on page 2

Esty Award



Connecticut State Grange Executive Committee Chairman Phil Prelli presented Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty with the "Summer of 2013 Champion of Seniors Award" on behalf of the Connecticut State Grange October 21 at the new Waterbury Senior Center. The award, presented by State Granges across the country and the National Grange, recognizes "those members of Congress who exhibited outstanding leadership to protect it (Medicare) and the benefits it provides to millions of seniors and their families," said Grace Boatright, National Grange Legislative Director at a presentation in Michigan. Rep. Esty has also been committed to defending Social Security.

Community Service

Jeff & Debbie Barnes, Community Service Co-Chairs

Coming together is a beginning.

Keeping together is progress.

Working together is success.

Community service is a way of life for most Grangers. We want to make life a little better for others and we are proud of our efforts. And it is important that we show our neighbors what the Grange can do to help them build their communities.

We want to thank those dedicated chairmen who not only saw their Grange's Community Service Reports were submitted, but in many cases prepared well organized notebooks on their activities. Including photographs and newspaper clippings especially helps the judges in making final decisions, and they were truly impressed. We thank our judges for their hard work.

We received reports from 28 Granges. From these

...Continued on page 6

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Central No. 1 4
- Quinebaug No. 2 4
- East Central No. 3 5
- Mountain County No. 4 6
- New Haven County No. 5 . . . 7
- New London County No. 6 . . 8
- Excelsior No. 7 2
- Fairfield County No. 9 3
- Do You Remember 9
- Meet "Hank" the Mascot . . 10

Meet  Pg. 10

"Hank"
Our new mascot
& part of the
National Grange
"Herd"

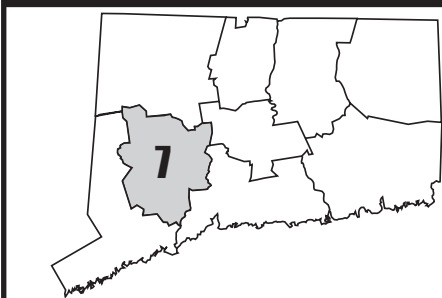
Now on the air... 

GRANGE
Radio Pg. 3

A part of the National Grange
**American Values,
Hometown Roots**

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web! 

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 121
- ✓ Prospect No. 144
- ✓ Bridgewater No. 153
- Wolcott No. 173
- Oxford No. 194

MISSION STATEMENT

Excelsior Pomona's collective voice is used as an effective tool to further the Grange's good works locally and throughout the state.

EXCELSIOR POMONA #7

Corr: Jean Meehan

We would like to thank everyone who helped and supported our Bazaar and Roast Beef Dinner. Without everyone's help, it would not have been a success. Joanne Cipriano and her crew always does a great job.

As we do not have a meeting in December, we at Excelsior Pomona would like to wish all a Happy Holiday Season.

Our November meeting at Oxford Grange was an informative meeting of our states what foods they are famous for.

Our January 15, 2014 meeting will be "Go for the Gold" to be held at Bethlehem Grange. I guarantee it will be a fun night.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

The December meeting of Beacon Valley Grange will be held on the 13th and will be combined with our Christmas Party. Our program title is "Deck the Halls." A catered dinner will be served at 6 o'clock. We won't have to worry about decking the hall as on November 22nd that should have been done. Dinner reservations are a must.

We wish all our shut-in members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year's. We think of you often.

We will be hosting the meeting and Christmas Party of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters on Saturday – December 14th.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

Dec. 9: Monday- Canned food collection. Bring a favorite Christmas cookie for refreshments.

Dec. 15: Sunday – Dinner at the Painted Pony, 5:30 P.M.

We are saddened by the death of Lillian Krantz on Nov. 1.

PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Corr: Jean Meehan

We were happy to furnish favors to the Senior Halloween Party of 150. We are currently working on tray favors for the

local convalescent home for Thanksgiving.

We collected more than 23 items to be sent to the Veterans for the Holidays at our November meeting with a salute to the Veterans. Our December 12 meeting will be our Christmas Party with a card exchange and a \$2.00 grab bag. They program is Christmas Grange Style.

We would like to thank Carol Brooks and Mary Lou Raymond for all their help with our Tea Cup Auction at the Pomona bazaar. Also I would like to thank Diane and Denise for all their help in getting our Mexican theme basket together for the raffle.

Our new project was suggested by sister Stevens of giving "Blessing bags" to those receiving meals on wheels. We will be discussion this project at our next meeting and what we are going to do.

We would like to wish all our friends and members a very Happy Holiday Season.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Charles Perry

We had our regular meeting at the Grange Hall on October 9 2013. Thanks to all our volunteers who prepared for our roast beef dinner on Friday Oct 11 and Sat Oct 12. The dinner went well on Sat from 5:30 to 7:30. A Hootenanny with Jeff Case and Friends followed.

Fred Camp and Dean Perry attended the Connecticut State Grange Session on October 17 and 18 in Norwich Connecticut. It was very interesting and I was glad to have Fred guide me along.

We opened the Bridgewater Grange Hall for Halloween night from 6:00 to 8:30. There was a "Trunk or Treat" in the Bridgewater Post Office parking lot. There was a haunted bus and a lot of neat costumes. The night started slow but we did get well over 100 kids.

We will have a pot luck dinner on Nov 13th at 6:30 followed by a regular meeting. On November 26th we will pass out fruit baskets and visit shut-ins.

Our last regular meeting of the year will be a week earlier in the month of December. The meeting will be on Wednesday December 4th. On Friday December 6th we will open the Grange Hall for the Bridgewater Christmas

Tree lighting ceremony. We will give out cookies and hot chocolate and maybe have a visit from Santa (or Mrs Santa Clause)?

The Bridgewater Grange Hall is closed for the winter after that. Our meetings will

be held in nearby St Marks church until we reopen it in April 2014. The meetings will be on the second Sunday at 2 PM in January, February and March.

Turning the page on 2013

Continued from page one...

Connecticut has two Junior Granges, Hillstown Junior Grange # 87 and Ekonk Community Junior Grange #101. Both of these Junior Granges are extremely active and making an impact in their communities. I urge and encourage all members to support the Junior Grange program; after all they are our leaders of tomorrow. We are extremely excited to be working with Winchester, Wolcott and Simsbury Granges on organizing new Junior Granges.

The reason I focused on these topics above for this annual report to the National Grange is because it represents our future forecast. Some can be seen as the gradual and continual decline, but most are of growth and prosperity. In order to continue the "Grange Movement" we must all band together and fight for this organization we all claim to love so dearly. Our Ritual states "having gained wisdom from experience in your progress from initiation up to your present dignified and responsible positions as the legislators of our Order, I rely upon your calmness in deliberation, your forbearance toward those who may differ from you, and your charity toward their motives. Influenced and guided by the spirit of fraternity, let us ever practice the motto, "In essentials, unity; in non essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

I urge and encourage every member at every level in every Community Grange to take a hard look at who they are as a member and ascertain as to if you are truly acting in the

best interest of the Grange and abiding by our various obligations. One is "I will support the Constitution of the National Grange, the By-Laws of this Grange, and I will inculcate a strict obedience to all laws and edicts emanating from the proper authority. I will not take advantage of the position to bias in any way, either directly or indirectly, the political or religious opinion of any member of the Order." Even though this is part of the Installation Obligation I feel it is one of the most powerful Obligations we have in the Grange and applies to all members regardless of stature or rank. It says a lot, I will support, by virtue of my position, the LAWS and RULES of the Grange, and will not allow our differences of opinion or beliefs to prevent us from reaching a civil and amicable resolution that is in the BEST interest of the Grange and all of its members.

I firmly believe if we truly want to see sustainable growth in all Granges in all states we must put our selfish pettinesses aside and work for the better interests of the Grange and all of its members. In Connecticut I am and want to continue to be part of a progressive team that seeks ways to continually develop better programs, members and leaders. As a National Grange I believe we can and will see a time in the very near future where our differences are behind us and we are able to "Grow Our History for a Stronger Tomorrow."

Respectfully Submitted,
Jody A. Cameron
CSG President



Norfield Grange #146 was packed on November 20 for their "Farm to Fork" dinner event. One of the chefs poses for a photo with the elaborate hall display.

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)

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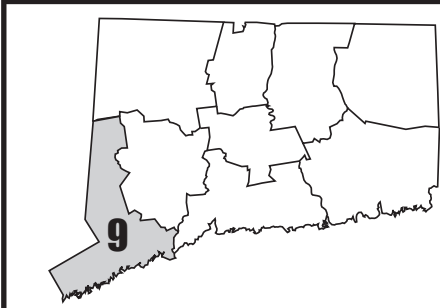
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Vice President Brian Carpenter
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Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



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

MISSION STATEMENT

Fairfield County Pomona is made up of Community Granges with a special interest in leadership development, who come together to share information and fellowship and through legislative action addresses the needs of all its members and communities.

HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: George Ward

Our Master and Spouse represented Harmony Grange as Delegates at the Connecticut State Grange Annual Session in Norwich. An award for our Community Service Report was received.

On December 7, Harmony Grange will hold its annual Xmas Boutique at the Grange Hall, beginning at 9:00 AM. The all day event will include Venders, a Chinese Auction, a Game Table (lucky number a in straw) for prizes, a raffle for food basket, our famous jewelry table, and others if feasible. Lunch will be available for those who have money. All events will be inside the hall.

During our October meeting our officers for the next two years were installed by Past State Master Bob Sendewicz and Past First Lady Marge Sendewicz. Our Chaplain, Treasurer, and Flora were absent and they will be installed at a later date.

Harmony Grange wishes all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Happy New Year.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

Dec. 16: Christmas Party & Grab Bag, 6 P.M. Potluck/Finger Foods; 7 P.M. Meeting

In October, we had our Installation of Officers, which was officiated by Bob and Marge Sendewicz. Furthermore, Roberta Coan and Jared Keil were admitted to membership via the Welcoming Ceremony.

The month of November began a Winter Farmers Market, which will continue on Saturdays from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. in our Hall. This will run from then until April 12th of next year. From time to time, there will be demos accompanying or immediately following the market.

On December 7th, we will be having a Hungarian cookie

making class from 10 A.M. to 12 Noon. The class, which is limited to 20 participants will be conducted by Steve Golias our Lecturer. Suggested donation is \$20. This is a "make and take." R.S.V.P. for the class (203) 367-4373.

Our regular meeting will be a Christmas Party with finger food and small sandwiches and desserts, etc. R.S.V.P. please! There will be a grab bag with a \$10 limit. All are welcome!

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Dec. 10: Deck the Hall & Holiday Cheer

Jan. 14: Fair Kick-Off and Planning Meeting (Bring at least one can or non-perishable item for the Weston Food Pantry)

Feb. 11: Valentine's Day Celebration: Sweets and Cheers! Wear red and pink.

Do go to www.facebook.com/media_set to see pictures of Norfield's Water Station taken during the Reservoir Run on October 27. We had a smaller crew than last time but twice as much fun! There were 423 runners, and three cheers for the Grange volunteers who rehydrated participants by handing out water and Gatorade.

At our regular meeting in November we discussed the upcoming Farmers' Market which was to begin on November 23. We need Grangers to staff each Market, and the Markets will run until May 3. January will arrive with a Fair kick-off and planning meeting, and donations to fill the Weston Food Pantry.

Finally, after a whole year's hard work (and many thanks to Lyn Kimberly), we have a list of 51 Granger subscriptions, including four for the Grange Hall, and copies also for the Weston Senior Center and the Weston Public Library. (Note from the Editor: Thank you so much for your hard work in obtaining new subscribers!)

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

Dec. 5: Business Meeting & Program

Dec. 7: Holiday Market, 10-4

Dec. 19: Holiday Party, please bring your favorite dessert or appetizer

Jan. 16: Business Meeting & Program

Our building committee is gearing up to begin upgrade of our kitchen equipment with new cabinets, floor and

refrigerator along with a fresh coat of paint. When it's done it will be ready for a commercial kitchen license application.

Hall rentals have been frequent this fall which helps us with the oil bill payments this winter.

We're hosting a Holiday Market on Saturday, December 7th where you'll be able to get a head start on Christmas shopping. We have a nice group of selected

vendors coming to sell their handmade wares. There will be a snackbar where you can purchase a light lunch and refreshment.

Our Christmas Party is set for Dec. 19th. All should bring a favorite dessert or appetizer.

Our meeting and program schedule is listed above. Visiting Patrons are always welcome- won't you join us?

Where do we draw the line?



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

In early November the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proposed a new rule which would eliminate artificial trans fats from our foods. The FDA declared that partially hydrogenated oils, which is the source of artificial trans fats, are no longer generally recognized as safe. This is a follow up as a result of the Food Safety bill that was passed in 2013. The FDA proposal is now under a 60 day comment period but it is expected to be adopted.

Artificial trans fats are vegetable oils that have been mixed with hydrogen to harden it and to increase shelf life. Partially hydrogenated oil is cheaper to use than saturated fats and for many years was

thought to be healthier. Crisco was one of the first in the market but they have already removed artificial trans fats from their product. Trans fats also occur naturally in foods such as beef and lamb along with some dairy products. Surprising lean pork is not listed as one of the items containing trans fat.

For years the FDA has required the labeling of products with trans fats. Studies had shown that artificial trans fats increase levels of bad cholesterol and reduce good cholesterol. The food industry has already been removing artificial trans fats from their products. Restaurants such as McDonald's, Burger King and Pizza Hut have already removed artificial trans fats from their foods and Americans are eating less trans fats than in previous years. There are still some foods with artificial trans fats lurking in the industry. Check your package labels.

The elimination of artificial trans fats would affect many of our foods such as fried, battered foods, frozen desserts,

ready to use frostings, pie crusts, cookies, margarine, and coffee creamers to name a few. Companies would be forced to switch to healthier alternatives in their products. Companies will need to respond quickly to the FDA on this ruling. Some cities such as New York had already banned the use of artificial trans fats in restaurants. The Connecticut legislature considered a bill in 2007 to ban artificial trans fats in foods. The bill died in the legislature. Stamford has already banned artificial trans fats and Hartford considered doing the same in 2011.

Of course this brings up the question of should it be the government's responsibility to prohibit trans fats in our restaurants and foods. According to a study done by the Pew Research Center, 52 percent of those questioned opposed rules prohibiting artificial trans fats. There are some consumer groups that accuse the FDA of meddling with the food supply. Where do we draw the line between healthy and unsafe? I personally agree with this ban.

Grange radio is on the air!

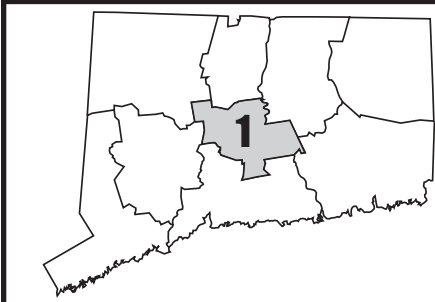


On Sunday, Nov. 10 at the 147th National Grange Convention welcome reception we premiered the new and exciting project known as Grange Radio. Grange Radio is an online radio station that celebrates and invests in the community through innovative and compelling radio programming by targeting a changing dynamic Grange population. At the same time Grange Radio will cater to the values of the National Grange community and appeal to non-member interest while growing Grange membership through loyal listenership.

The programming for the radio will include music from all different genres, though right now it is primarily playing classic rock and country music 24 hours a day. Mixed in with the music will be segments about interesting Grange and Agriculture related topics that are not only important to know but entertaining as well. The aim is to present a product that is entertaining to Grangers and to build a product that accurately portrays the grange as an organization. People who aren't Grange members will also find Grange Radio entertaining and hopefully informational as well.

All throughout the Convention we will be interviewing individuals for podcasts that we will be able to stream online at our website www.grangeradio.org. We want to make the radio station our own, and it is important for us to include real voices of real grangers on the station and to involve as many people as possible. Check out Grange Radio today!

Central Pomona No. 1



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

MISSION STATEMENT

Central Pomona No. 1 will support its Subordinate/Community Granges through programs and activities by actively contributing its talents and resources. Central Pomona supports local, State and National charities; educational and youth programs.

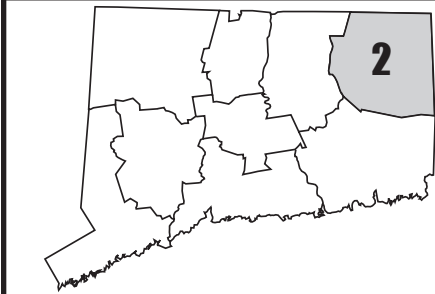
HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Dec. 13: Chorus. Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Dec. 27: Omit (for Christmas)

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



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

MISSION STATEMENT

Quinebaug Pomona supports and assists the communities within its jurisdiction through a financial and physical presence. We offer the Community Granges assistance and support for their programs and activities.

SENEXT GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Dec. 18: Christmas Party, 6 P.M.

We kept busy this fall with various meetings. We hosted the annual meeting of the Windham County Farm Bureau.

The local AARP meets at our hall as well as a chapter of AA.

We learned about the American Indian from our guest Blue Skull Fire Walker.

We had a program put on by the Agriculture Committee on nuts.

The American Farmland Trust held an informational meeting at our hall.

The Christmas Party on Wed., Dec. 18 at 6 P.M. is open to all.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie Johnson

Dec. 11: Sleigh Bells; Ref. Christmas Cookies

Jan. 8: Broken?; Ref. Cocoa Cookies

What a nice fall we are having.

Well the dictionaries are in and are going to third graders in Pomfret Community School. Tabs are still coming in. 4 little bags full.

We received a seed catalog already. I haven't gotten through the holidays yet!! Hey, that's planning ahead!

Some places got white-others just a mere dusting in that snow "storm." Master John gave a report on State Session Resolutions. Two received the Sixth Degree. A new Manual for Subordinate Granges. Our last meeting for Lecturer's Program-Master showed a video of the Carter Farm. Haunted driveway that had 990 carved real pumpkins, lit up. We had some guests that came to watch it. We also made a \$250 donation to the Pomfret Food Pantry with the holidays coming up.

Stay well- Happy birthday to all!

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Dec. 2: Meeting/Program, 7:30 P.M.

Dec. 7: Christmas Bazaar 10-2

Dec. 7: Corn or Clam chowder & clam cakes 12-2

Dec. 13: Annual Junior Musical

Jan. 6: "Should work be assigned you, labor with diligence."

We were blessed to have Haven Nelson and Jack Cottrell visit us and gratefully accepted Richmond's \$500.00 donation to our treasury in appreciation for the help that our Grangers gave them (Richmond) throughout Washington County Fair. It was presented during a

discussion on our finances and discussion about our refrigerators. One (old) refrigerator died and the commercial one that we have, while in excellent condition, is 25 years old. It was voted to create a "Refrigerator account" in order to have money set aside "when" the commercial unit does expire.

We enjoyed the Power Point Presentation on Clifford and Trevor Gervais' trip to the Kelley Farm in Minnesota and numerous questions were answered throughout. Link Cooper presented Bill Czmyr (head of the Jewett City Home for Homeless Veterans) with a check for \$879.00 (profit from our Oct. fundraising Roast Beef Supper. We had a fun Halloween party with games, crafts, haunted trail hayride and lots of good food. The next afternoon, many of our Grangers volunteered at the first annual Sterling Halloween Fun Night. Rebecca Gervais was on the Committee; Mike Molodich gave SEVEN hayrides; Russell Gray and Link Cooper were one of 38 "trunk a treat" participants (assisted by Carrie Molodich). Over 300 kids participated!

Our Grange youth will begin playing Volleyball every Sunday evening in the gym of the Municipal Building. By the time that you read this, the NEW Pavilion will be completed on Grange property. It is highly improved and completed by all volunteer labor and donated materials; this was Chris Sebastians' Eagle Scout Project! We can easily fit FOUR picnic tables in this area and look forward to years of busy usage!

We had a delightful visit

(while eating spaghetti & meatballs++) with National Grange Representative, Chris Hamp and her husband, Duane. Nice, nice folks!

Call Verna Cole at 860-564-2388 to reserve a table at our December 7th Christmas Bazaar: only \$10.00! We will serve corn or clam chowder and clam cakes that day from 12-2. Take outs preferable since seating will be an issue. We will be celebrating 125 years of serving our community--a committee is working on plans--look for further information to come forth.

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

Dec. 2: Safety for Winter

As all will know by now--we at Killingly Grange #112 will have our new Master in place. Also, despite pending storms, we held a meeting, with a quorum for the initiation of a new member, Steve Berthiem so he could attend State Session with new Master Bernadette Schuster. PM Glenna Bruno presided.

On October 14 Edith Schoell and her installing team did a lovely job of installing our members. We had to elect a new Pomona, Mildred Biggs replacing deceased Genevieve Shippee and Josephine Stenback as Flora replacing deceased Sue Dupre. Sue and Genevieve were two of our oldest members not only in membership but in age. We do miss them.

As of this writing, Nov. 8, we will be electing a new Ceres, Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Steward as they have taken demits.

Five (5) members attended State Session in Norwich. This was a great experience for our new Master Bernadette. She learned much and had a good time meeting other officers of the State and National Granges.

We held a chicken pot pie and soup dinner and a bluegrass concert. It was a busy month. Bernadette has lots of new ideas and energy so hopefully we will be gaining many new members.

State Secretary



Edith Schoell
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

The sun is shining and the north wind is blowing. Let's look forward to going to our meetings without ice or snow. Our meetings offer fun, hospitality and fraternity.

If you are housebound it is a good time to check on members that may need 25 year or 50 year certificates, or seals that may be needed. Time has a way of slipping by and recognition of years

service is overlooked. If you do not have a form for requesting the information please contact me and it will be sent. There are placemats with the Grange emblem available from the Central Office. If your Grange is having a dinner you may like to do a little advertising, or you can use them for refreshment time.

Granger Shout Out



- All messages should be NO MORE than 140 characters (roughly 20 words)... the max. length of a Twitter Tweet.
- The editor reserves the right to edit all messages
- The editor also reserves the right not to publish any message deemed to be inappropriate.

HOW TO SUBMIT:

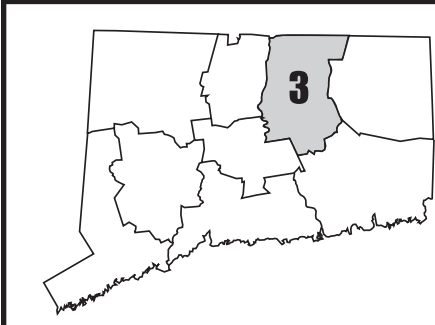
Email your "Shout Out" to Granger@CTStateGrange.org (use "Granger Shout Out" in the subject line). They can also be mailed to 170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790.

A big thank you to everyone who helped at the Excelsior Pomona Bazaar and Roast Beef Dinner. You were awesome.

Thanks to Roseanna and Charle Smith who furnished refreshments of ice cream for Granby Grange's Oct. 4th Setback Card Party.

Submit your Shout-Outs today!

East Central Pomona No. 3



- Stafford No. 1
- ✓ Granby No. 5
- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Tolland No. 51
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Enfield No. 151
- Simsbury No. 197

MISSION STATEMENT

East Central Pomona supports the Community Granges by helping one another; through legislative advocacy and by supporting community service efforts.

GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Vivian Shaw

Dec. 10: Tuesday Noon meeting

Dec. 13: Friday Night meeting

On Nov. 12 member fourteen members and guests traveled to the Windsor Locks Diner for lunch and a short meeting. Master Roseanna Smith and husband Charle were selected as our Convention Delegates to the State Session in October. Eight members headed to Manchester, NH to receive the Sixth and Seventh Degrees at National Grange.

A \$5.00 gift exchange is planned for our December meeting.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Dec. 5: Holiday Celebration - Local restaurant

Dec. 6: Host East Central Pomona

Jan. 2: Meeting 7:30 - Celebrate the New Year

Jan. 11: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7:00 P.M.

December 5th is our December meeting. We are going to a local restaurant following a short business meeting. We will meet at 6:00 P.M. at the Masonic Hall prior to going to the restaurant. I am not sure, at this time, which restaurant we will gather at for our holiday party. But do come at 6:00 P.M. and then join us for the party. Let the Master know if you are coming so we can let the restaurant know.

December 6th is the next meeting of East Central Pomona 7:30 P.M. and Glastonbury Grange is host. Pomona meets at Good Will Hall, on Naubuc Ave. and your attendance and assistance would be most welcome.

Welcome to 2014. Where does the time go. Here we are January 2014. Glastonbury will meet Jan. 2nd at 7:30 P.M. The Lecturers program is "Celebrate the New Year." It is a POTLUCK DESSERT at 6:00 P.M.

and the meeting at 7:30 P.M. Come and join us.

The Monte Carlo Card Parties have started again. January 11th is the date and the time is 7:00 P.M. Hope you can attend and bring a friend or two or three with you. The more the merrier. Door prizes and refreshments are plentiful. Come and enjoy a fun evening.

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Leona Wilson

Dec. 3: Sleigh Bells

Dec. 17: Who's Coming? Or Going.

Jan. 7: Youth Program

We held our open house on Nov. 19th at the Grange Hall. We are hoping to get some new members to join us with new ideas. We are continuing our community service project to help the animal shelters. We are also thinking about other projects that we can undertake to assist our community. "Sleigh Bells" is our Dec. 3 program. Come join us for a fun night. Also on Jan. 7 we will have a Youth program. We hope to see some young people at this meeting.

TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan

Dec. 3: Potluck

Tolland Grange will meet for a holiday potluck dinner on the 3rd of December. This is always a fund time for all. The program for the night will be, "Who are we?" To date, two Grangers have spoken as part of the Lecturer's program. Happy holidays to all Grangers from Tolland Grange.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Dec. 6: All About Christmas Cookies

Vernon Grange is looking forward to a program all about Christmas cookies with the grandest being the Christmas cookies made by our own Patty Conger. We wish all a happy holiday and health new year!

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Frank Forrest

Fall is here and can't make up its mind to act like summer or winter.

Hillstown Grange #87 is officially 125 years old, we had our celebration on November 10th, pictures next month. For a present to the old Grange Hall we borrowed money from the State Grange and had a new roof put on. All the roofs since the hall was built were still on starting with the wood shakes.

November and December we will only be having our first meetings of the month with the Holidays filling in for the second meeting so Happy Holidays to All.

January 23 meeting is going to be a Garden Dreaming and planning night starting with a free soup dinner from 6 pm to 7:30 pm followed by work groups and planning help for new gardeners. Several garden experts and teachers will be on hand to discuss seed starting and how to prepare garden beds. Our contest seeds will be handed out at this meeting.

February 27 we will have experts from the first Hydroponics farm in our area discussing how to set up hydroponics garden on small scale back yards.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Dec. 14: Jingle Bells

Jan. 11: Three Cheers for the U.S.A.

The fall colors are really spectacular this year, and the back roads and side streets around town are just as pretty as the Mohawk Trail. The only problem of course is that those pretty leaves will fall and need to be raked up. Have to take the bad with the good.

Our mystery ride was postponed in order to finish up the Grange business year. Remember to bring in items for the day care this month. They look forward to our donations every December. Let's not disappoint them.

On a sad note we lost another granger to the Great Grange in the sky with the passing of Mildred MacKinnon. Millie was one of the most gentle and happy ladies it was my privilege to know. She was our treasurer for many years and later served as one of the Graces. Millie was the one to welcome everyone and make them feel at home. She will be missed very much. She was 101.

Family Activities



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

Congratulations to Eva O'Connell from Colchester Grange who won the National Grange sponsored Quilt Square contest. Her square was forwarded to National for judging and will become part of one of the commemorative quilts.

Thank you to the Pomonas that stepped up to help with refreshments for the hospitality room at State Session. Again, thank you to Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm for their delicious breakfast pastries that they donated for State Session. The pastries will also be traveling to New Hampshire for our contributions to the hospitality room on Saturday at National Session.

I hope that everyone has had a chance to look at the new CWA/Family Activities packets and are already "Following the Yellow Brick Road". Please use your imagination and be creative. If you have any questions, please don't be afraid to ask. Just one clarification, so far: The Decorate a Shoe contest is just that - Decorate A Shoe (one shoe - not a pair).

Happy Holidays to all.

Ekonk is Distinguished



Joined by the Cameron family, Ekonk Comm. Grange immediate Past Master Katie Molodich receives the 2013 Distinguished Grange award from National Master Ed Luttrell (the only Comm. Grange in CT to receive the honor). Ekonk also received fourth place nationally for its Community Service program. Congratulations!



Link Cooper, newly installed President of Ekonk Community Grange, presents Bill Czmyr, with a check for \$879.00 towards Czmyr's brainchild, the first of its kind in the NATION, a home for homeless veterans in Jewett City, CT. This is the 3rd annual Ekonk fundraiser for this wonderful facility. 18 veterans have filled this facility to capacity and now not only have a nice place to live, but professional services, rides to doctors, etc. Like any home, repairs are necessary and our donations continue to be needed.

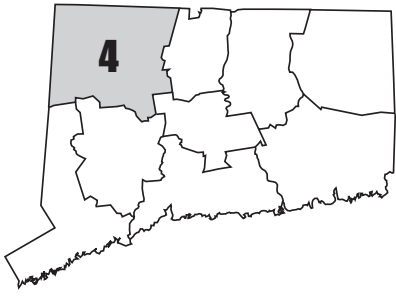
So. CT Past Masters

The December meeting and Christmas Party of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters will be held at Beacon Valley Grange Hall on Saturday, Dec. 14th. The evening will start at 5:30 P.M. with a social hour followed by a potluck supper at 6:30 P.M. Fill your pot and come and enjoy the evening with us.

We will have a \$3.00 grab bag.

We are always looking for new members. Past Masters and their spouses as voting members and all other Grangers and Associates.

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



- Cawasa No. 34
- ✓ Whigville No. 48
- Eureka No. 62
- ✓ Winchester No. 74
- ✓ Taghhannuck No. 100
- Litchfield No. 107
- Beacon No. 118
- Riverton No. 169
- Cherry Brook No. 210

MISSION STATEMENT

Mountain County Pomona No. 4 has strong leadership, a keen sense of community and many skills and talents which we use to promote and support our local Community Granges through citizenship, legislative and agricultural policies within our Pomona.

MOUNTAIN CTY. POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Dec. 9: Jingle Bells, Winchester Grange (\$5 Grab Bag)

Jan: No Meeting

Feb. 11: Wear Your Heart, Eureka Grange

The next meeting of Mountain County Pomona will be on December 9 when the Lecturer of Winchester Grange presents a program entitled "Jingle Bells." As always, we will have a \$5 grab bag gift exchange as part of the festivities. Please join us.

It was decided at the last meeting not to continue revitalization efforts in Litchfield. While all regret having to make this decision, the members felt that taking time away from efforts in their own Community Granges would be counterproductive.

Please remember Mountain County takes the month of January off and will gather again at Eureka Grange for a regular meeting on Feb. 11.

Happy holidays to all!

WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

Corr: Debbie Brown

Can you recite the colors of a rainbow in order? Whigville Grange can now, thanks to Lecturer Helena! A wonderful program at our Nov. meeting started out with this colorful information. Thank you Brother James Mele for updating us on the State Convention. Our Dec. meeting will be held on the 4th. We are meeting at Burlington Town Hall, on Rte. 4. This is a change from the book. On Dec. 7th we will hold the fantastic, delicious cookie and chocolates walk! This year our location will be Terryville Congregational Church, Main St. (Rte. 6) Terryville. Hours are 10-1, but the early bird gets the best selection. We will also have a teacup auction and more. (hot tip: luck at a teacup auction can help your holiday shopping!!!) Come

visit!!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Dec. 6: Officer & Member Planning Meeting, 7 P.M.

Dec. 10: Christmas is Here; \$5 Grab Bag Exchange

Dec. 24: No Meeting – Christmas Eve

Jan. 14: A New Year (Potluck Supper @ 6:00)

A big thank you to all of the members who helped make this year's Holiday Bazaar and Cookie Walk such a great success. Sisters Ramona and Terri Fassio deserve special thanks and appreciation for their long hours of work attending to every detail to make sure cookies were being baked, vendors were lined up, the hall was decorated, publicity was distributed, and on and on. Thank you, both! Sister Shirley Lemieux's homemade Beef Barley Soup was the hit of the day selling out early in the afternoon along with the dozens of cookies on the cookie walk!

Looking ahead, we will have an Officer & Members Planning Meeting on Friday, Dec. 6 beginning at 7:00 P.M. While we have been working very hard on fundraising and community activities throughout the year, our hall continues to have lots of needs (especially heat) so fundraising is the highest priority as we enter the part of the year when we traditionally have fewer activities due to weather uncertainty.

One fundraiser that has done very well throughout the year has been our 125th Anniversary Recipe Book with has now entered its second printing! Our initial printing of 100 books sold out in September and a new limited supply of 50 more books is now on sale. As with any publication, there were a few errors that needed correction and the new edition has all of the known errors corrected. We

wouldn't want cooks looking for a "Crack Pot" to cook their Corn Chowder in, would we? Anyone who has a first edition and would like to have a copy of the corrections to put in their books can contact me at 170 Scoville St. #14, Torrington, CT 06790; (860) 626-0326 or by email at Granger@CTStateGrange.org. This is also where you can contact me to buy a copy of your own or to purchase copies to give as gifts to family and friends. The cost

is \$12 per book and shipping (if necessary) is \$4 per book. Checks can be made out to Winchester Grange #74.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

In the winter months our Grange only has one meeting and members of Taghhannuck Grange are looking forward to our Cookie Exchange on December 12th at 7:30PM. Please come and join us. We ask that you

bring 4 dozen of one kind of cookie. We will then make up the plates of cookies for Ella's Food Pantry and for our members who are unable to travel. Each member who brought cookies gets a sample plate of cookies to take home with them. We also will be exchanging "grab bag" gifts. Myrtle Hayden will be sorely missed as she always did a musical program in December.



Taghhannuck Grange, in Sharon, recently held a well-attended Harvest Dinner which also featured live musical entertainment.

Colchester plans trip to the Cape

Colchester Grange is again offering a trip to raise funds for our annual Scholarship Fund. If you have questions regarding the following information, please contact Cathy Russi.

Boston Pops on Old Cape Cod

Colchester Grange #78 is offering a trip to enjoy a wonderful performance by the famous Boston Pops featuring Keith Lockhart and Celebrity

Guest Conductor Blythe Danner. Musical magic will fill the air on the Hyannis Green. Departing from Colchester, CT to Hyannis, MA you will enjoy the Pops by the Sea – Visit JFK Museum and Cape Cod Baseball League Hall of Fame and Cruise Hyannis Harbor. The trip will also include 1 night hotel lodging, 1 breakfast, 1 dinner and reserved seats for

the Boston Pops.

Seating is limited, contact Cathy Russi (crussi45@sbcglobal.net) for more information regarding this great trip.

Cost: \$307 pp twin/triple
\$397 pp single

(The Pops By the Sea Concert is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014)

Community Service

Continued from page one...

reports we find that 540 Grange members performed 74,678 hours of community service work. Down just a little bit from last year. However, the number of non-Grange members involved nearly doubled to 1,056 and their hours total 5,304. Apparently, more and more community citizens are willing to help the Grange in what they see as quality projects. Friends, here likes our biggest source of new members! They're already half way there!

Popular ongoing projects this year were Words for Thirds, blood drives, donations to food banks and shelters, baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas and support for veterans. New projects included New Eyes for the Needy, Operation Cold Weather, support for animal shelters and hospitals, help at nature centers and one Grange helped teach children to fish.

This is our second year including the Junior Grange in the program. We received an excellent report from Ekonk Community Junior Grange. They report over 1,200 hours by 22 Junior Grange members assisted by 50 community citizens who gave over 1,400

hours. Their projects include Words for Thirds, adopting a needy family at Christmas, a float in the Memorial Day Parade, donations to local schools, help at the library, and many more. They raised needed funds through a plant and bake sale. Congratulations to them!

The winners for Granges with 50 members and under:

1- Prospect; 2- Colchester; 3- Stonington
And for the Grange with membership of 51 and over:

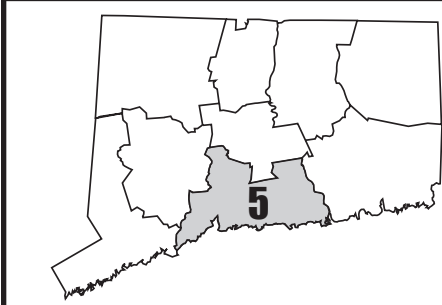
1- Ekonk (Named 4th Nationally); 2- Cheshire; 3- N. Stonington.

The Best of Show this year, and the one sent to National to represent our state is Ekonk Community Grange.

Their many projects, the number of members and citizens involved and the tremendous number of hours donated convinced the judges that this report was the best example of community service work in Connecticut. Congratulations to them!

Once again, thank you to all for your participation in the Community Service project this year and we look forward to reading your reports next year.

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



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

MISSION STATEMENT

New Haven County Pomona through the strength of its Community Granges offers collective wisdom and experience to enhance the individual leadership skills, pride in Grange ritual and camaraderie to all citizens in the communities in which we serve!

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Dec. 18: Christmas Party- \$3.00 Grab Bag

Several Cheshire members attended the State Session in October at the Norwich Holiday Inn. Cheshire Grange received numerous awards including first place in the Deputies Ritual Challenge. We placed second in the Community Service Contest for Granges with over 50 members. Our thanks to Marge Bernhardt for putting our book together documenting our accomplishments.

Once again, we held our annual Thanksgiving Dinner at our November 20th meeting to include "all the trimmings". Cheshire members put on the Welcoming Ceremony at Wallingford Grange in late October for their three new members. We will be distributing Christmas packages to our shut-in members which we do each year. We are looking forward to our second annual Craft Sale this month.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year to all.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Daniel M. Lauttenbach

Dec. 12: Our Annual Christmas Program, Open Meeting, Card Exchange. \$3 Grab Bag. Ref. All Members

Dec. 26: No Meeting

Sept. 12 was a fair setup night for our fair on Sept 14, 2013.

Sept. 14 was our Fair day. It was bright, sunny and cool with a good turn out of people attending the fair and dinner. We served about 160 dinners which was up about 30 from last year.

Sept 26 was a Business meeting with reports about our fair.

Oct. 10 - Original program was Hockey on Thanksgiving in Canada but was cancelled at the last minute after Jim Lamoureux had gotten ill. We had a business meeting instead and had a discussion

about the upcoming tag sale on Nov 16.

In Oct. Janet Haller and I represented Wallingford Grange at State Session.

Oct 24th's program was Harvest Time in the Fall - We had a pot luck supper at 6:15pm with members of Wallingford and Cheshire Grange. There was plenty of food to go around and people enjoyed seeing new and old friends.

The Cheshire Welcoming team welcomed into the Wallingford Grange three new members: Anne Cella, her sister Robin McCoy and their cousin Henry Cadett. We also presented a 75th membership certificate to Evelyn Bolt. It was good to see her and to see that she is doing so well.

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

Corr: A. Tolette

Dec. 2: Holly Daze (Bring food for food closet)

Jan. 7: Wheel of Fortune? CWA & Youth

The gots and goblins have come and gone. Now it's time to find a nice turkey and cranberry sauce. Let's hope we won't need snow shovels and blowers for a long time.

We are still plodding along hoping for an open winter so we won't have to change any meeting dates.

Happy healthy holidays to all and keep warm.

OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barbara Kulisch

Dec. 13: Potluck Supper at 6:30 P.M.- We are 108 years old today!

As you are reading this article, we are continuing to wind down our activities, as we continue to get everything in order to surrender our charter.

We wish to say many thanks for visiting our Grange over the years. We have shared such good times together both in the Spring CWA programs as well as the Fall Neighbor's Nights.

A few of us will be continuing on with "our"

Grange journey and hope to see you around the state in the years to come!

The officers and members of Old Lyme Grange #162 wish everyone's Season's

Greetings and have a very healthy and happy new year.

Do you have that Good Grange Spirit?



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Do you have that Grange Spirit? I've been asked about my selection of songs for State Session and how they tie together. We only got to sing the first one - the "Good Grange Spirit Song". Everyone needs to have the Grange Spirit and emphasize the positive when we talk about the Grange. If you are asked what you are doing some night, don't say "I have to go to Grange". Say "I'm going to Grange. We always

have a good time there. Why not come with me and see for yourself."

The next song was "White Christmas". This was in honor of all our Social Connection Committee does for us. You do remember celebrating Christmas last September, don't you?

The third song was "When Johnny Comes Marching Home". One of my favorite projects is "A Word from Home". Knowing that we support them as they fight for us is important. Many of our Granges have sent boxes of food or toiletries along with their letters. Why not take a few minutes and write a letter to a soldier now.

The final song was to be "The Quilting Party". Our CWA is always busy and this would have been dedicated to

everyone who has supported the CWA this past year.

Want to get more people out to one of your meetings? We don't see too many neighbors nights like we had in days gone by. Plan a fun night and invite others to join you. But remember, a lot of Granges are only meeting once a month now, so you have to get those invitations out early. If you are planning a big night the beginning of March, you need to get your invitations out in late January. If you start visiting other granges, they are more likely to visit you. Let's all get that Grange Spirit and help not only our own Grange, but every other Grange we can.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!

Better late than, well....



Todd Gelineau, President & Editor

While receiving the November issue of the Connecticut Granger is not really unusual for most of us, it certainly was for Phyllis Maynes of Meriden Grange. Sister Phyllis FINALLY received the November 2008 issue of the Granger with the special pull-out section for the National Convention held in Cromwell, Connecticut. Hopefully she didn't head over to the Bushnell for the Seventh Degree on Nov. 16! It is ironic that this copy of the Granger reached its destination 5 years to the day of the last time National Grange met in the Northeast Region! Don't you wish you could hear the stories that copy of the Granger could tell?

Past Deputies Meeting

The December meeting and Christmas Party of the CSG Past Deputies Association will be held on Sunday, Dec. 1 at Eureka Grange Hall, 777 Litchfield Tpke. in Nepaug (section of New Hartford), CT.

Activities will begin at 2:00 P.M. with a social hour followed by the 3:00 meeting and potluck supper. A \$5.00 grab bag will also be held along with a country store with the theme "Red".

Planning for 2014 has begun



Joanne Cipriano
Social Connection Director
Social@ctstategrange.org

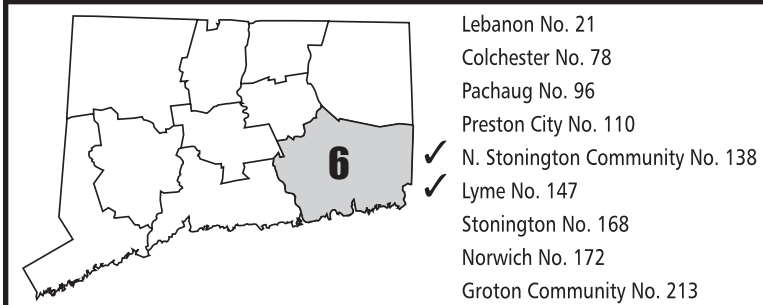
We were pleased to announce at State Session that Elizabeth Ryducha of Cheshire Grange was chosen to receive the "Granger of the Year" Award. Liz is the Secretary of Cheshire Grange and New Haven County Pomona and can always be seen in the kitchen at Cheshire's Dinners. Her bio made her well deserving of this award.

Our plans for 2014 include an Appreciation Dinner in the Fall and still in the planning stages for our Spring Activity. Any ideas?? Our ears are always open for your suggestions.



Growing our History for a Stronger Tomorrow

New London County Pomona No. 6



MISSION STATEMENT

To cultivate and nurture the flock while encouraging their advancement to the degree of Pomona.

NEW LONDON CTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Dec. 14: Holiday Cheers – Lyme Grange

We are looking forward to neighboring with our brothers and sisters at Lyme Grange for our annual holiday party. There are some great cooks at Lyme and their refreshments are always delicious. So put on your holiday best and bring a car full. Meeting is at 7:30. Don't be late!

The partying season is here!

Let's hope that it won't start to snow.

Just bring all your holiday cheer.

We're heading for Lyme, don't you know.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Dec. 13: "The Alpha and Omega"

It saddens us to report that yet another of our Golden Sheaf members has gone to the Great Grange Above. Frank Limpert passed away on October 9.

On Oct. 11 Nick Mullane, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, filled us in on the candidates in the upcoming election. On October 25 over 70 (mostly) strangely dressed members and guests trooped up the stairs to enjoy our annual Halloween Party. Prizes were awarded to the prettiest, funniest, scariest and most original costumes in four age groups. Then the youngsters played such varied games as Pin the Tail on the Cat, Bowling for Witches, Sweep the Creeps and Pass the Pumpkin, with prizes for all. After a Mad Lib was formulated and giggled over, all adjourned downstairs for refreshments and our

annual cup social. Proceeds of the cup social will help purchase Christmas fruit baskets.

Our December meeting will be short because it will be immediately followed by our annual Christmas Party with Santa as our special guest. If you would like to carol around town delivering fruit baskets, come to the hall at 6:30 on December 20. And if all those leaves in our gutters will just magically fly away, next time I'll tell you all about neat November.

LYME GRANGE #146

Dec. 14: We host New London County Pomona, 7:30 P.M.

Jan. 2: Show & Tell. What interesting things do you have?

Feb. 6: Love is in the Air

Mar. 6: In Like a Lamb-CWA in charge of the program

As usual, Lyme supported contests at State level although nothing appears to be done about them. The Juniors had a wonderful display but the adults had almost nothing. It's disappointing not to see a display of our work. Many people miss seeing and enjoying the efforts of many people.

Our Property Committee will be busy fixing our old building. There are many things that need tender loving care.

Our next meeting will be preceded by a potluck supper, a nice change for the holidays.

Rain- we need rain. Old wives tales tell us "winter will not set in until the wells are full."

Happy new year from Lyme Grange.



EKONK COMMUNITY JUNIOR GRANGE #101

Corr: Rebecca Gervais

We held our Installation mid-September, congratulations to all of our new officers! 22 enjoyed the apple orchard, almost 500 dwarf trees on less than 2 acres! He also grows them along wires, espalier style. Very neat! We learned a lot about apples! After picking apples to take home, we went back to the Grange and made apple crisp, apple sauce and apple cider! We ate our bagged lunch while the crisp baked, and decorated the hall for Halloween. It was a GREAT time! Did you know

it takes about 16 pounds of apples to make one gallon of cider? That's a lot of apples!

We joined our subordinate in welcoming the National Representative to Connecticut. We had a great supper of spaghetti, meatballs, and salad. Thanks to the hard workers in the kitchen, 44 people were served, not too bad for a weeknight gathering! We are very happy that my Grandma, sister Marion R. Emmons, represented us at State session, THANK YOU!

Our Halloween party was tons of fun! Thanks to the youth for the spooky hayride! Lots of work goes into something like that, too often we forget to be appreciative. Many Juniors and Honoraries helped to set up our "spooky-scavenger hunt" rooms. Lots of spiders, bugs, pumpkins, eyeballs and goodies to be found. It is so much fun to see the kids dressed up and having fun together!

At our November meeting, we had an eyeball catapult contest. We got to eat the

eyeballs after. Who would have thought eyeballs could be so much fun?! We also made cards for the Veterans who live in the home in Jewett City. We also all chipped in and bought cards, checkers/chess, and dominoes, as well as chocolates for their "community room". We are so blessed that others will step up to keep us safe. We should always be thankful for the sacrifices that others make for us. Too many think of entitlement instead of serving.

Our Christmas play is coming up, rehearsals have started. It's going to be Bear-y exciting! We have grizzly bears, brown, black and polar bears, and pandas come too! December 13th, at 6pm is our annual play. Feel free to join us! Santa will be joining us, too!

On Black Friday, we will be walking for St. Jude. Always a good way to walk off the Thanksgiving meal.

Happy Fall!



Members and friends of Ekonk Jr. Grange #101 traveled to Barbuto's Orchard in Plainfield, making apple crisp.



Many of our costumes from our Junior Grange Halloween Party.



Meet Hephzibah- Lyme Grange's entry in the Decorate a Pumpkin Contest at State Grange.



Clifford Gervais served on the National Youth Officer Corps at National Session in N.H.



2014 Public Relations Contests

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

The Public Relations committee has revamped our offering of contests and has created five new contests for 2014, all with a deadline of October 1st. It's easy to participate. Let's take a quick peek at each one.

1) Promote Your Grange Creative Video Contest: Create a video promoting your Grange. The video can be any length, and of any theme.

2) Grange Micro-Promotion Contest: The 140-character message format calls for concise, engaging writing. Promote the message of the Grange by writing a compelling promotion in less than 140 characters.

3) Show off your Grange Marketing Materials Contest: This contest is designed to honor innovative and effective marketing initiatives. Granges are asked to submit one method that they use to publicize and promote their Grange. This could be a poster, brochure, booth at a community event, community service project, special event, etc. The sky is the limit! Write a description of 250 words or less, and include a photo or sample piece to accompany the description if appropriate.

4) Best Cooperative Partnership Contest: An integral part of Grange public relations is partnering with other local groups and organizations. This could be a co-hosted event, a co-sponsorship of a project or initiative, a project to benefit or honor a group/organization, and so much more! Write a description of how your Grange has integrated/utilized a Cooperative Partnership, and include a photo to accompany the description if appropriate.

5) Social Media Participation Contest: Create a Buzz about your Grange, its projects, activities and events by managing a proper Facebook or Twitter Page. This contest is open to all Community Granges, Pomona Granges and Junior Granges. Pages must be active at any point within the period of November 1, 2013 - October 1, 2014.

All of the details, rules, and information for the contests can be found on the Connecticut State Grange website at www.CTStateGrange.org, and will also be available in the Blue Book. Entries should be mailed to Robert Charbonneau, 102 Spring Street, Meriden CT 06451, or sent via e-mail to publicrelations@ctstategrange.org.

We hope that the new variety of contests will appeal to Granges of all sizes - as the saying goes, there's something for everyone.



Todd Gelineau, General Deputy

Now that State and National Sessions are over, the new year has begun and with it a new season of Inspections. A change has already been made to the process outlined in the last issue. The new inspection reports call for Secretaries to provide copies of the Grange By-Laws for the Deputy on the night of inspection. The Chairman of the State Executive Committee would like the Central Office to handle this so please wait for instructions from the State Secretary and ignore that requirement on the already printed inspection reports. We will, however, still require copies of the Executive Committee Report and Steward's Inventory Report (new for 2014) as listed on the form.

Some Executive Committee reports have been sent to the Central Office. Please send them to me at 170 Scoville St. #14, Torrington, CT 06790 and be sure to fill out all sections of the form and the information requested on the back of the form.

The start of the new year is also a good time to gather your officers and members together for a Planning Meeting to set goals and priorities for the Grange year. This is a requirement in the Honor Grange program and will also aid you in setting your Grange apart from the rest when it comes time for your Deputy to nominate a Grange for the annual Deputy Challenge award.

Until next time, Happy Holidays from the Deputy Team!

Do You Remember?



Bud MacLaurin

By Betty Jane Gardiner

There is no doubt that Carl P. (Bud) MacLaurin became known to everyone from the time he and Geraldine and son, Jimmy, came to Connecticut from Maine and settled in Canton. They became an active family in the community.

Bud joined the Canton Volunteer Fire Company which he served for many years. He played a big part in the Masonic Order. The family joined the Grange and became officers in Cawasa Grange No. 34 and Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11. Bud was especially good with the ritual, doing a great job for his Grange and Pomona- and helping with the degrees at other Granges as well.

One year when he was Master of the Pomona, the Grange earned the highest score at inspection they had ever had. Bud was so pleased and proud-but he always gave full credit to his "team."

He had a twinkle in his eye, was known as a bit of a flirt, and possessed a rare sense of humor.

He enjoyed Lecturer's work often writing skits or building props and scenery with his handyman skills. He cut down trees and put them into place for degree conferrals.

When the Pomona Granges were asked to compete by putting up displays at the Connecticut Agricultural Fair Bud was always in the middle of activity - which accounted in a big way for the many successes the Pomona enjoyed.

He was great at fixing things and was often seen heading for his truck with toolbox in hand going to a place where someone needed help with something. He'd never take any pay for the good he did - unless the payment offered happened to be a gag of black jelly beans - his favorites.

He had many hobbies and interests- antique cars, bowling, playing cards or board games, fishing and gardening. He maintained a huge garden and shared its bounty with friends and neighbors at harvest time.

Many a picnic was enjoyed at the MacLaurin's - with the highlights being Gerry's good cooking and Bud presiding over the yard and pool making everyone feel at home.

The family had pets. Everyone knew their furry friends by name- and knew they were spoiled rotten!! I remember a night when I had to call Bud on Pomona business. Gerry answered the phone and told me he could not come to the phone just then, but would call me back. The returned call came about an hour later and Bud apologized for not calling sooner - but the cat was sleeping on his lap - so he had to wait until the nap was over. He was a real softy!

There was a strong friendship between the MacLaurins and the Frank Prellis. Bud served as General Deputy for Frank and then started his journey toward the Master's Station. Gerry was so proud of her Bud and stood smiling beside him each step along the road. She looked forward to the day when he would take the highest position. But it wasn't to be. The love of Bud's life was called to the Great Grange Above just before he was elected Master. It wasn't easy for him to go on but he knew she would have anted it that way.

With the support of his family and friends and with the help of our State Secretary (Marion Beecher) whom he called "Maid Marion", he began his term and went on to become a fine leader for our state organization showing the same quiet strength he possessed when the family years before lost their beloved little granddaughter Bonnie.

Through his love of golf, Bud met a charming lady - Jeannette Ryan who joined the Grange, was liked by everyone and became a good companion to Bud until the day when he stood with her family saying "Good bye."

Bud never lost the twinkle in his eye or stopped being a flirt - he was just made that way. Do remember Bud!



Bud & Gerry MacLaurin



Bud & Jeannette Ryan



At a meeting of Cawasa Grange #34



Bud & Jeannette



Presenting a 75 year membership award



Hi everyone-I'm Hank the Burro, and I am the new mascot of the Connecticut State Grange. I am part of the Grange Herd. Each Grange State, along with each National Grange department, now have mascots. This project was introduced at the 147th National Grange Convention held in November in New Hampshire. Together, all of the mascots form the Grange Herd.

For the next year, I will be touring the State of Connecticut, visiting Granges, working on Grange projects, going to Grange events, and maybe even visiting places outside of Connecticut too! I am an ambassador for the Connecticut Granges, spreading Grange cheer, working to promote the benefits and programs of the Grange, making a difference through community service, and having some fun along the way.

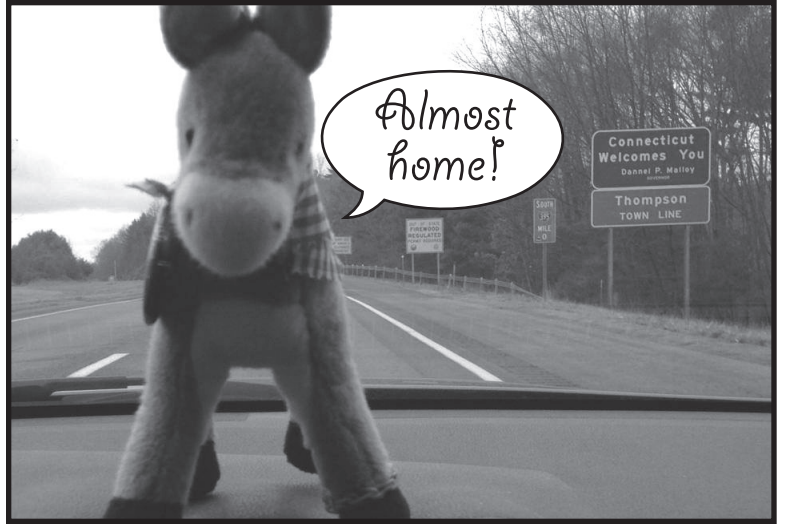
More information will be announced soon on my Community Service project, including the charity I will be helping. We are in the process of developing my itinerary and some fun programs too. If you would like me to attend one of your meetings or events, please send me an e-mail at hanktheburro@ctstategrange.org with the details, and I will be in touch.

I have my own Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro. Please stop by my Page, and click the "like" button so that you can follow all of my adventures. The other members of the Grange Herd have Facebook Pages as well. Search them by name on FB.

I can't wait to see each and every one of my friends!

The rest of my "Herd"

Grange Herd	Grange Herd FB Page
Kimber the Coyote	National Master
Clark the Eagle	National Headquarters
Willy the Sheep	Communications Dept.
June the Hog	Legislative Dept.
Lucy the Cattle dog	Membership Dept.
Freeda the Mouse	Youth Dept.
Abe the Hare	Alabama
Murray the Seal	Alaska
Lily the Barn Owl	Arkansas
Tucker the Yorkie	California
Claudia the Skunk	Colorado
Hank the Burro	Connecticut
Eve the Fox	Delaware
Otis the Armadillo	Florida
Becca the Border Collie	Georgia
Ernie the Mountain Goat	Idaho
Ace the Deer	Illinois
Faye the Ferret	Indiana
April the Pig	Iowa
Dusty the Bull	Kansas
Dalia the Alligator	Louisiana
Jefferson the Moose	Maine
Skip the Horse	Maryland
Isaac the Owl	Massachusetts
Chuck the Badger	Michigan
Wendy the Wolf	Minnesota
Bruce the Buffalo	Montana
Bert the Baby Goat	Nebraska
Moe the Tortoise	Nevada
Noel the Hamster	New Hampshire
Grant the Beaver	New York
Macy the Raccoon	North Carolina
Wade the Mallard	Ohio
Penelope the Prairie Dog	Oklahoma
Hannah the Black Bear	Oregon
Ralph the Groundhog	Pennsylvania
Allie the Llama	Rhode Island
Liz the Groundhog	South Carolina
Jolene the Possum	Tennessee
Lou the Longhorn	Texas
Gabriella the Lamb	Vermont
Scarlett the Cat	Virginia
Pierce the Elk	Washington State
Sid the Squirrel	West Virginia
Beatrice the Cow	Wisconsin
Frederick the Brown Horse	Wyoming



Distinguished Grange award given to the Connecticut State Grange



State Master Jody Cameron receives the Distinguished State Grange award from National Master Ed Luttrell at the recent session of the National Grange in Manchester, New Hampshire. Has your Grange looked at the requirements to become a Distinguished Community Grange?

National unveils new Youth Dept. logo



GRANGE **GY** YOUTH

National Youth Director Charlene Espenshade unveiled the new logo that will replace the long-used "key logo" of the Youth Department at the National Grange Convention in Manchester, New Hampshire on Nov. 15.

The National Grange Youth Dept. unveiled its new logo on Nov. 15 at the 147th Annual Session in Manchester, New Hampshire. The new logo still carries the traditional green and gold colors featured in the previous "key" logo, but the new logo sports a streamlined design. The letters "G" and "Y" (for Grange Youth) are shown over the seven sided shield of the Grange logo with vertical stripes that are reminiscent of corn rows.

Merchandise featuring the new logo was unveiled at the convention and should be available through the Grange Store very soon.

In other Youth news, the schedule of regional Youth Conferences has been announced by the National Grange.

Eastern Region: April 4-5, 2014 – Hosted by Potomac Grange #1

Great Plains Region: June 13-15, 2014 – Hosted by Texas

Midwest Region: June 27-29, 2014 – Hosted by Indiana

NE Region (includes CT.): July 11-13, 2014 – Hosted by New Hampshire

Southeastern Region: July 18-20, 2014 – Hosted by N. Carolina

Western Region: August 1-3, 2014 – Hosted by Montana

It's never too early to mark your calendars—details on the conferences will be announced later in the year.

In Memoriam

Kenneth Herbele	Manchester Grange #31
Phil Greenleaf	Killingly Grange #112
Lillian Krantz	Bethlehem Grange #121
Frank Limpert, G.S.	N. Stonington Grange #138
Mildred MacKinnon	Vernon Grange #151

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

Chaplain's Message



Barbara C. Kulisch
State Chaplain
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

God of all seasons, thank you for the blessing of a time to wait for your Son, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**CHRISTMAS:
SAVORING GOD'S
GREAT GIFT**

You know those quaint images of Christmas morning, of children rising before dawn to peek at what's under the tree and then waking their parents to get the festivities started? Well, it was never like that at our house.

Our children Ross and Maria liked to sleep, so even when they were at the most excitable age, Paul and I had to wake them up because we couldn't wait any longer. And then instead of indulging in the typical unwrapping frenzy that takes only a few minutes, Ross and Maria liked to play with each gift. He'd want to try out the computer game, and she had to read the picture book. We didn't hurry them because we always enjoyed seeing how much they appreciated each gift.

Those days provide a gentle reminder to consider my own appreciation, especially concerning God's gifts. God loved the world and everyone in it so much that he gave us HIS Son, a gift we are reminded of every Christmas.

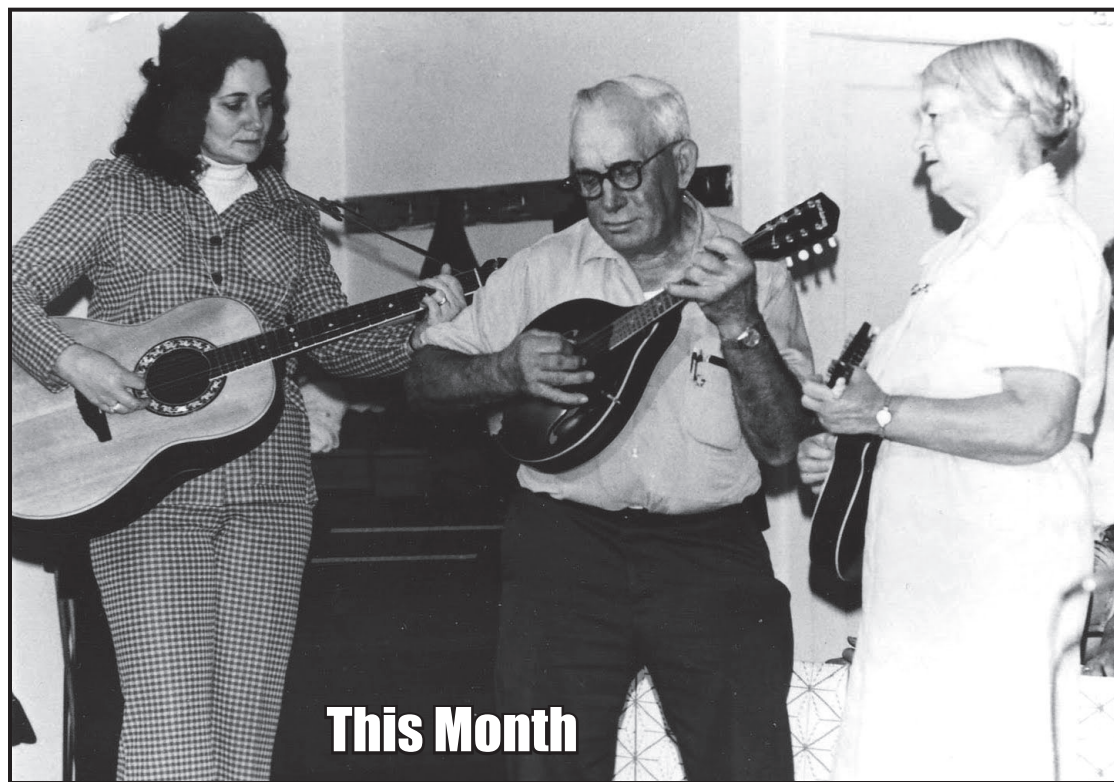
My children aren't little anymore, but the lesson they taught me lives on. Today, I plan to take my time savoring God's great gift of Jesus and showing my appreciation for Him~as I worship in church this morning and later take a few extra moments for my daily prayer, I can't think of a better way to spend Christmas.

An article taken from the Daily Guidepost, of those special memories as a child, or those spent with your own children on Christmas morning!

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen...Luke 2:20

WINDOW TO THE PAST

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.



This Month

Hopefully this month's Window Picture is not as difficult as November's as we received no answers. Even if answers or clues come to you a month or more down the line, please feel free to send them along. We would love to know who these members are!



NOVEMBER

The 148th National Grange Convention

MIDWEST SAFARI

Sandusky, OH • November 11-15, 2014
Hosted by the Midwest Region



"It came without ribbons.

It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags.

And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore.

Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before.

What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store.

What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more."

Dr. Seuss from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

Have a Happy, Healthy
2014 from the
**Evankow &
Freudenthal Family**

Happy Holidays and a
bright New Year to all
**Betty Jane
Gardiner**

Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!
from the
Cameron Family

Ho Ho Ho
Merry Christmas!
**Central
Pomona #1**

May you all have a
Blessed Christmas
**Meriden Grange
No. 29**

A sparkling holiday
season to all from
Enfield Grange #151

Happy Holidays to all
from the
Groton Comm. Grange #213

... and He taught us
to "Love One Another"
**Geno Piacentini &
Karen Macdonald**

Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year from
**Mele Family, Melanie
& Hunter Thompson**

Season's Greetings
from
Meehan Family

Best wishes
to All
Ernie & Cindy Finch

Happy Holidays
from
Todd Gelineau

Wishing all a very
Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year
Kay

Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year
to the rest of the Herd!
Hank the Burro

Have a colorful and
joyous holiday season!
Terri Fassio

Blessings of the
Season
**Russell & Sue
Gray**

Merry Christmas
May 2014 be wonderful
Marion R. Emmons

Christmas Blessings
**Phil & Kathy
Bergquist**

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year
Bethlehem Grange #121

Happy Holidays
from
**Eloise Osuch and
Malcolm MacDonald**

"Happy Holidays"
**Marge & Bob Sendewicz
Redding Grange**

Merry Christmas
**Bob & Marge Sendewicz
Fairfield County**

Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year!
**Carl & Marge
Bernhardt**

Merry Christmas to
our Brothers & Sisters
**Rob & Maggie
Buck**

Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year to all
**Jane & Ruel
Miller**

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year
**George & Sharon
Russell**

Seasons Greetings
From
**Stonington Grange
#168**

Blessings of the
Season to All
Gordon Gibson

Happy Holidays!
The Hnaths

Season's Greetings
Ruth & Scott Bill Hirst

Happy Holidays from
Hillstown Grange #87

To everyone a very Merry
Christmas & a healthy
New Year
Mary Lou Raymond (Prospect)

Have a Holly Jolly
Christmas
Jeff & Debbie Barnes

Season's Greetings
from
**Excelsior Pomona
#7**

May your Christmas
be Merry & Bright-
Joanne Cipriano

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to
our Fellow Grangers
**Beacon Valley
Grange No. 103**

Holiday Greetings
from
**N. Stonington Comm.
Grange #138**

A Merry Christmas &
Thank You for your
Support
**Joanne - Barbara
- Betty Jane**