

PROGRAM HELPS AND INFORMATION

MARCH – APRIL 2010

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(If you received this via US Mail and have an e-mail address, please e-mail me -- mbcb76@cox.net -- so I can add you to our list. With postage going up this is more important than ever. Plus, you will receive your copy earlier.)

Attention Pomona Lecturers...This is a reminder that we are meeting on Sunday, March 7th at 2:00 p.m. at Cheshire Grange Hall.

Greetings,

As I start this newsletter it is snowing out. They said it wouldn't amount to much, but we already have about 10 inches and it is still snowing. Hope by the time I finish and you get this spring is on its way.

In the last newsletter I mentioned changes in the Talent Contest. At the Northeast Lecturers meeting in Vermont in January the changes were clarified. The only change is that those who compete at the Northeast Level at Lecturers' Conference must skip a year before entering again.

The Pomona Lecturers are meeting on March 7th and will be given complete copies of the rules for their respective Pomonas as well as judges sheets for both the Talent & "A Number" Contests.

The 95th Annual North East Grange Lecturer's Conference will be held August 2 – 5, 2010, at Vermont Tech, Randolph Center, Vermont. The directions are easy – right up I91 to I89. You take exit 4 and go right and are less than a mile from the school. I will be making a trip to the school in May for a Lecturers meeting and can get answers to any questions you have. Both our new National Lecturer, Pete Pompper, and National Leadership Membership Director, Rusty Hunt, have been invited to attend. Each will be doing two workshops with the schedule arranged so that everyone will be able to attend at least one of their workshops and get to know them.

The theme of the Conference is "A Vacation to...." We will visit The Golden Gate, Nevada, Alaska, The Thousand Islands, North Dakota, Florida and Connecticut's program will be on Texas. As always I need your help. Remember this is your program. Connecticut always works so well together that I know I can count on you.

I should have all the material to mail out by early May and will get it in the mail as soon as possible. Let's have a good turn out.

It is time to push the Photo Contest which is held as part of Let's Celebrate in July. Spring brings a lot of chances to take pictures and get them ready in time for the contest. Remember, you don't need to invest in regular photo mounts. You can back your picture with construction paper or poster board. However you mount it, though, it should be neat. Remember this is a picture you take, not a picture of you.

See you around the State, and don't forget to call, email or use a phone if you need help or have questions.

....Marge

SHARED NUMBERS...

A CLOSING THOUGHT with Thanks to Vernon Grange

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is knowing not to put it in a fruit salad.

THE DOCTOR'S ADVICE (a black-out skit) with Thanks to Joan Perry

A woman goes to the doctor, beaten black and blue.

Doctor: "What happened?"

Woman: "Doctor, I don't know what to do. Every time my husband comes home drunk he beats me to a pulp."

Doctor: "I have a real good medicine for that. When your husband comes home drunk, just take a glass of sweet tea and start gargling with it. Just gargle and gargle."

(Two weeks later the woman comes back to the doctor looking fresh and reborn.)

Woman: "Doctor, that was a brilliant idea! Every time my husband came home drunk, I gargled with sweet tea. I gargled and gargled, and nothing happened!"

Doctor: "You see how keeping your mouth shut helps?"

PLANS GONE ASTRAY with Thanks to East Central Pomona

I had planned to do so many things on these cold winter days,
But now that Spring is nearly here, I doubt that planning pays,
I had planned to piece a quilt, all made of pink and white,
I had hoped to make a rug of old rags, dull and bright.
I had planned to sort my recipes and file them, oh! So neat,
I had thought I'd fix a rocker and recover the back and seat.
I had planned to do some fancywork to put away in a drawer,
And use them the whole year through for birthdays and showers galore.
I had planned to paste my snapshots in a large black photo book,
But it seems that all I've gotten done is wash dishes, bake and cook.
And was and iron and patch and mend and clean and scrub and dust,
It seems I can't find time to do the things I WANT, for all the things I MUST>.
I had planned to make new draperies to hang at my windows this spring,
I had planned to sew new dresses in colors that fairly sing!
I had planned to tie a comforter made of Pieces, bright and warm,
I had thought I'd read some books, these cold days here on the farm.
But now Spring's just around the corner and Winter is nearly through,
I think back on all my hopeful plans and wonder – WHAT DID I DO?

EARLY NATIONAL SESSIONS HELD IN CONNECTICUT

The National Grange saw fit to honor the State of Connecticut by holding its Annual Session here in November of 1907 and again in 1934. The 41st Annual Session was in 1907 when a class of 2,490 took the seventh degree. When the 68th session was here in November of 1934 Grangers literally stopped the traffic in the Capitol City on the day of the 7th Degree. At that time a record-breaking class of 12,679 thrilled to the wonders of the Degree of Ceres. What a sight that must have been and what great publicity for the Grange.

HURRY SPRING by Charles Clevenger with Thanks to Whigville

March comes roaring o'er the hill,
Like a lion on the prowl
To give chase to winter's icy grip,
With a threatening, scornful howl.

Old Man Winter stands his ground
To face the raging lion
But the winds of March are resolute
And soon the snows are dyin'.

March brings rain and fickle winds
That promise to hurry spring,
Eager hearts rejoice and await
The new life springtime will bring.

The lions of March give way to lambs
And warmer breezes blow.
The snow and cold are in retreat,
And soon new life will grow.

AN APRIL TRIVIA QUIZ with Thanks to Quinebaug Pomona

1. Which came first, the chicken or the egg?
Ans. Who knows, that was just to see if you were paying attention.
2. The most expensive jeweled eggs in the world today were made by whom?
Ans. Carl Faberge
3. What color of eggs doesn't "Sam I am" like in the Dr. Seuss Book?
Ans. Green eggs
4. In the song, "Here Comes Peter Cottontail" he's got colored eggs for who?
Ans. Sue
5. If you do what to an egg, it is said to protect you against lightning, hail and beehives?
Ans. Bury it in your garden or yard.
6. How long will a boiled egg keep in the refrigerator?
Ans. 1 week
7. A female rabbit is called a....
Ans. Doe
8. What is the name of the dance that is commonly done at Easter time?
Ans. The Bunny Hop
9. To light a candle on Easter is to symbolize what?
Ans. Easter Sunrise
10. Who co-starred with Judy Garland in "Easter Parade"?
Ans. Fred Astaire
11. Rabbits with long floppy ears can't hear as well as those with ears upright. True or False?
Ans. True
12. If you don't wear at least one new article of clothing on Easter it is considered bad luck? True or False? Ans. True
13. Highly intricate decorated Easter eggs done with wax and dye are known as what?
Ans. Ukrainian Easter Eggs
14. The ringing of bells on Easter was for...
Ans. To let you know the fast was over
A celebration of the holiday
To frighten evil spirit away

15. Eggs contain nearly every nutrient known to be essential to humans. True or False?
Ans. True
16. Purple is a common color for Easter. In the ancient world the purple dye came from where?
Ans. Shellfish (Crushed shellfish from the Mediterranean Sea)
17. Pretzels were made by Monks at the Vatican to give to the poor as a representation of Lent because?
Ans. Using your imagination, they look like Christ lying with arms folded and praying.
18. The word "Lent" means:
Ans. Lengthening days
19. Oster Haas is another name for what in German?
Ans. Easter Bunny
20. Rabbits with big long ears going UP are called?
Ans. Jack Rabbits
21. The Easter Lamb represents...
Ans. *The blood that Hebrews had to put on their doors so the angel would pass over their home,
*Jesus is called "The Lamb of God" in the bible, and,
*Superstition said the devil could not take the shape of a lamb or dove, so a lamb was good luck.
22. The Easter Lilly symbolizes the resurrection of Jesus because?
Ans. It comes from a shell buried in the earth and emerges
23. In some European cities, it is the custom to squirt this on people and exchanges good wishes...
Ans. Perfume
24. What kind of tail is the Easter bunny assumed to have?
Ans. Cottontail
25. True or False. The white of the egg is mostly mucus and Fat.
Ans. False – It is really protein
26. In the Song, "Here Comes Peter Cottontail" he's got jelly beans for whom?
Ans. Tommy
27. Marshmallow candies that look like baby chickens are called what?
Ans. Peeps
28. When a female rabbit gives birth to her babies they are called...
Ans. Kits
29. In the song "Easter Parade" what street do they walk down?
Ans. 5th Avenue
30. You should always wash your egg(s) before using. True or False Ans. False

HOT DOG TRIVIA from Stonington's Complete Program

- *Jane Mansfield (1933-1967), a famous movie actress, was Miss Hot Dog Ambassador in 1950.
- *Movie actress Marlene Dietrich (1902-1992) once said that hot dogs and champagne were her favorite meal.
- *Humphrey Bogard quote: "A hot dog at the ball park is better than steak at The Ritz.
- *"Only in America do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight"

SOME CUT-APARTS TO THINK ABOUT with Thanks to Richard Chapman

A smile is a curved line that sets things straight.

A good example can overcome a lot of bad advice.

He who stoops to help a child stands tall.

For excellence, ask an expert...for wisdom, ask a sage...for honesty ask a child.

The important thing about your lot in life is whether you use it for parking or building.

Personality has the power to open doors, but it takes character to keep them open.

Getting back on the right track usually involves getting out of a rut.

Don't count the days – make the days count.

The best preparation for tomorrow is the proper use of today.

When someone says "That's the way the ball bounces," he's usually the one who dropped it.

Minds are like parachutes...they function only when open.

The time to make friends is before you need them.

Success is a marathon, not a sprint.

A person lost in his work has probably found his future.

If you're too busy to laugh, you're too busy, period.

When there's work to be done, turn up your sleeves, not your nose.

It doesn't do any good to sit up and take notice if you just keep on sitting.

SHORT COWBOY STORIES from Lyme's Complete Program

When to Be Hungry

Three cowboys had been riding the western range since early in the morning. One of them was a member of the Comanche Nation. Being busy with herding stray cattle all day, there had been no time for the three of them to eat. Toward the end of the day, two of the cowboys started talking about how hungry they were and about the huge meals they were going to eat when they reached town. When one of the cowboys asked the Comanche if he was also hungry, he just shrugged his shoulders and said, "No".

Later that evening, after they had arrived in town, all three ordered large steak dinners. As the Comanche proceeded to eat everything in sight with great gusto, one of his friends reminded him that less than an hour earlier he had told them that he was not hungry. "Not wise to be hungry then," he replied. "No food."

The Cowboy and the Saloon

A cowboy rides up to a saloon on his horse. He goes in, orders a drink, then leaves. His horse is missing. He goes back to the saloon, and asks, "Where's my horse?"

No one replies. So he says, "I'll order one more drink, and then if my horse isn't outside, I'll have to do what I did in Texas and I don't like doing that".

So the locals hurry around, and when he leaves, his horse is outside. As the stranger gets on his horse, the bartender asks, "What did you do in Texas?" to which the cowboy replies, "I had to walk home."

A STORY FROM AN OLD TIME MEMBER

'Someone asked the other day, 'What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up?'

'We didn't have fast food when I was growing up,' I informed him. 'All the food was slow.'

'C'mon, seriously. Where did you eat?'

'It was a place called 'at home,'" I explained. "Mom cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.'

By this time, the kid was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table. But here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I figured his system could have handled it :

Some parents NEVER owned their own house, never wore Levis, never set foot on a golf course, never traveled out of the country or had a credit card.

In their later years they had something called a revolving charge card. The card was good only at Sears Roebuck. Or maybe it was Sears & Roebuck. Either way, there is no Roebuck anymore.

My parents never drove me to soccer practice. This was mostly because we never had heard of soccer. I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed, (slow)

We didn't have a television in our house until I was 16. It was, of course, black and white, and the station went off the air at midnight, after playing the national anthem and a poem about God; it came back on the air at about 6 a.m. and there was usually a locally produced news and farm show on, featuring local people.

I was 21 before I tasted my first pizza, it was called 'pizza pie.' When I bit into it, I burned the roof of my mouth and the cheese slid off, swung down, plastered itself against my chin and burned that, too. It's still the best pizza I ever had.

I never had a telephone in my room. The only phone in the house was in the living room and it was on a party line. Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure some people you didn't know weren't already using the line.

Pizzas were not delivered to our home. but, milk was. All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers --my brother delivered a newspaper, six days a week. It cost 7 cents a paper, of which he got to keep 2 cents. He had to get up at 6AM every morning. On Saturday, he had to collect the 42 cents from his customers. His favorite customers were the ones who gave him 50 cents and told him to keep the change. His least favorite customers were the ones who seemed to never be home on collection day.

Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?

MARCH from Coventry's Complete Program

Some folks think the chap called March
Is just a windy bluffer,
A noisy boy who takes delight
In making people suffer.

Indeed I know he puffs and blows
And flaps one's clothes about,
I guess he even laughs a bit
When hearing someone shout.

"There goes your hat." But just the same
He must be fair, and say
He can't do otherwise if
He should blow the cold away.

OLDER THAN DIRT QUIZ

Keep count of all the ones that you remember not the ones you were told about.
(I shouldn't admit it, but I can remember them all)

1. Blackjack chewing gum
2. Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water
3. Candy cigarettes
4. Soda pop machines that dispensed glass bottles
5. Coffee shops or diners with tableside juke boxes
6. Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers
7. Party lines on the telephone
8. Newsreels before the movie
9. P.F. Flyers
10. Butch wax
11. TV test patterns that came on at night after the last show and were there until TV shows started again in the morning. (There were only 3 channels... [if you were fortunate])
12. Peashooters
13. Howdy Doody
14. 45 RPM records
15. S & H greenstamps

- 16. Hi-fi's
- 17. Metal ice trays with lever
- 18. Mimeograph paper
- 19. Blue flashbulb
- 20. Packards
- 21. Roller skate keys
- 22. Cork popguns If you remembered 0-5 = You're still young
- 23. Drive-ins If you remembered 6-10 = You are getting older
- 24. Studebakers If you remembered 11-15 = Don't tell your age
- 25. Wash tub wringers If you remembered 16-25 = You're older than dirt!

LOUISIANA FISHING with Thanks to Senexet

A Louisiana Cajun was stopped by a game warden because he had two ice chests full of fish. He was leavin' a bayou, well-known for its fishing.

The game warden asked the man, 'Do you have a license to catch those fish?'

'Naw, sir', replied the cajun. 'I ain't got none of dem there licenses. You gotta unnerstan', dese here are my pet fish.'

'Pet fish?'

'Yeah. Evry night, I take dese here fish down to de lake and let 'em swim 'round for 'while. Den, when I whistle, dey jump right back into dis here ice chests and I take 'em home.'

'That's a bunch of hooey! Fish can't do that.'

The cajun looked at the warden for a moment and then said, 'It's de truth Mr. Government Man. I'll show ya. It really works.'

'O. K.', said the warden. 'I've got to see this!'

The cajun poured the fish into the lake and stood and waited.

After several minutes, the warden says, 'Well?'

'Well, what?', says the cajun.

The warden says, 'When are you going to call them back?'

'Call who back?'

'The FISH', replied the warden!

'What fish?', replied the cajun.

Moral of the story: We may not be as smart as some city slickers, but we ain't as dumb as some government employees. You can say what you want about the South, but you never hear of anyone retiring and moving north.

SOME SIGNS TO THINK ABOUT...

On a Septic Tank Truck: Yesterday's Meals on Wheels

On a Plumber's truck: "We repair what your husband fixed."

On a Church's Bill board: "7 days without God makes one weak."

In the front yard of a Funeral Home: "Drive carefully. We'll wait."

On an Electrician's truck: "Let us remove your shorts."

In a Non-smoking Area: "If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire & take appropriate action."