



# THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER September – October 2015



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Greetings to All!

Think Fall! I hope everyone has had a great summer and that you are now refreshed and ready to go. The weather is cooling off which should mean that our energy levels have increased. It is a new Grange year. We, as Lecturers, have a lot to accomplish. It is our responsibility to provide good programs that will bring members to our meetings. A program is not just a song or a reading. If you look in the Bluebook it states "All programs should be between 30 and 60 minutes and include music, information, participation, inspiration and humor. While all programs do not have to include all of these, they are an essential part of your Lecturer's Programs".

It is never too late to revitalize your Grange. Plan a special program and take the time to personally invite some of your members who no longer attend to come and see what is happening now. If you know of members who have a special talent, invite them to be a part of the program. Treat them like you would like to be treated if you went into a strange hall and they will want to come back and be a part of the meeting.

Please put your talents as Lecturer to work this year to improve your Grange.

**Enclosed with this newsletter is your Honor Lecturers Report. It is due October 1<sup>st</sup>. Why not take a moment to fill it out today.** Please take the time to fill it out even if you don't think you qualify. This report determines both the Lecturer's Appreciation Award and the Honor Lecturer Award.

Hoping to see you at State Session...

## SHARED NUMBERS...

### A SIMPLE EXERCISE THAT ALL CAN DO with Thanks to Glastonbury Grange

- \*Begin by standing on a comfortable surface with plenty of room at each side.
- \*Now, with a five-pound potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.
- \*Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10 pound potato bags.
- \*Then try 50-pound bags and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-pound bag in each hand, and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (Do not get discouraged. This may take some time.)
- \*After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

## **GETTING OLD with Thanks to Charles Dimmick**

These Make Great Cut-aparts – You don't have to use them all, just your favorites.

Today I was in a store that sells sunglasses, and only sunglasses. A young lady walks over to me and asks, "what brings you in today?" I looked at her, and said, I'm interested in buying a refrigerator. She didn't quite know how to respond. Am I getting to be that age?

You know, I spent a fortune on deodorant before I realized that people didn't like me anyway.

I was thinking that women should put pictures of missing husbands on beer cans!

I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is when you still have something on the ball but you are just too tired to bounce it.

I thought about making a fitness movie for folks my age and call it 'Pumping Rust'.

When people see a cat's litter box they always say, 'Oh, have you got a cat? Just once I want to say, 'No, it's for company!'

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be called in case of an emergency. I think you should write, 'An ambulance.'

I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then it dawned on me. They were cramming for their finals.

Birds of a feather flock together and then potty on your car.

The older you get the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

Did you ever notice: When you put the 2 words 'The' and 'IRS' together it spells 'Theirs...'

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Some people try to turn back their "odometers." Not me. I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

Ah! Being young is beautiful but being old is comfortable.

## WHAT BEGINS WITH AN F? with Thanks to Sue Pianka

Narrator: A first-grade teacher, Ms. Brooks, is having trouble with one of her more precocious students:

Teacher: 'Harry, what exactly is your problem?'

Harry: 'I'm too smart for the 1st grade. My sister is in the 3rd grade and I'm smarter than she is! I think I should be in the 3rd grade too!'

Narrator: Ms. Brooks finally had enough. She took Harry to the principal's office. While Harry waited in the outer office, the teacher explained the situation to the principal. The principal told Ms. Brooks he would give the boy a test. If he failed to answer any of his questions he was to go back to the 1st grade and behave. She agreed. Harry was brought in and the conditions were explained to him and he happily agreed to take the test.

Principal: 'What is  $3 \times 3$ ?'

Harry: '9.'

Principal: 'What is  $6 \times 6$ ?'

Harry: '36.'

Narrator: And so it went with every question the principal thought a bright 3rd grader should know. The principal looks at Ms. Brooks and tells her, you know, I reckon Harry can go to the 3rd grade. But Ms. Brooks is still skeptical of the youngster.

Teacher: 'Not so fast, let me ask him a few questions..'

Narrator: The principal and Harry both agree.

Teacher: 'What does a cow have four of that I have only two of?'

Harry: 'Legs..'

Teacher: 'What is in your pants that you have but I do not have?'

Harry: 'Pockets'

Teacher: 'What does a dog do that a man steps into?'

Harry: 'Pants.'

Narrator: By now, the principal is sitting forward with his mouth hanging open..

Teacher: 'What goes in hard and pink then comes out soft and sticky?'

Narrator: Now the principal's eyes open really wide and before he could intervene...

Harry: 'Bubble gum.'

Teacher: 'What does a man do standing up, a woman does sitting down and a dog does on three legs?'

Harry: 'Shake hands.'

Narrator: The principal is now trembling with apprehension as Ms. Brooks asks the last question.....

Teacher: 'What word starts with an 'F' and ends in 'K' and indicates a great deal of heat and excitement?'

Harry: 'Firetruck.'

Narrator: The principal breaths a huge sigh of relief,

Principal: 'Put the little guy in 5th-Grade, I got the last seven questions wrong myself...'

### **DID YOU KNOW – SOME CHICKEN FACTS with Thanks to Enfield Grange**

1. What do chickens and chalk have in common? The shell of a chicken's egg is mostly calcite, the primary constituent of chalk, not to mention limestone, marble and Portland cement.
2. The official flying record for a chicken is 542 feet 9 inches (not quite 2 football fields in length).
3. The louder and longer a chicken squawks, the more likely it is to end up on the dinner table.
4. In the 1930's the average chicken laid about 120 eggs a year. Today that amount is doubled.
5. According to the Chinese zodiac, people born in the year of the Rooster are neat, observant, generous, brave, witty and loyal. Recent rooster years are 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, and 2005. (Ask if anyone was born in those years. Then continue.) They are also vain, bossy, self-absorbed, materialistic and resistant to advice.
6. 4,000 years ago the Egyptians built incubators of clay brick that could hold up to 10,000 eggs.
7. In 1868 Charles Darwin identified 13 breeds of chickens. Today more than 150 varieties of domestic chicken are recognized.
8. In 1902 a small mining town in Alaska was looking for a name. The miner's first choice was Ptarmigan because of the abundance of those birds in the area, but they couldn't agree on the correct spelling. So they settled on a name they all could spell, chicken. Chicken, Alaska, still has no electricity (except for a few generators) and no central plumbing. It does have a post office for its' official population of 17 year around residents.
9. In colonial America, dirty chimneys were cleaned by dropping a chicken down them.
10. The common chicken is the closest living relative to the Tyrannosaurus rex. Its DNA contains a dormant sequences that theoretically could be reactivated to create a T-Rex like creature with teeth, a tail and little arms.
11. A white Sully chicken bred in Australia, holds the record for the heaviest chicken. Big Snow tipped the scales at 23 lbs. 3 oz.
12. The practice of using chicken wishbones as predictive charms began 2,400 years ago with the Etruscans who rubbed them for good luck. The ritual of breaking the v-shaped bones came later and is thought to be the source of the phrase "Get A Lucky Break".

### **GOING, GOING, GONE With Thanks to Glastonbury Grange**

Ask your members to list all the businesses that they can remember that no longer exist in your Town.

This includes all Mom & Pop family businesses to nationwide chains.

Then have them read the lists to bring back a lot of memories.

## **MADE IN CONNECTICUT (Past & Present) with Thanks to Meriden Grange**

Wiffle Balls made in Shelton – est. 1958

Ice Cream made at UCONN

Submarines – Groton (Electric Boat)

Witch Hazel – East Hampton

Fire Alarms – Northford

Hats – Danbury – Closed 1980's

Legos – Enfield – Produced in Mexico since 2006

Seth Thomas Clocks – Thomaston

Grote & Weigel hot dogs – Hartford

Pewter – Woodbury

Bigelow Tea – Fairfield

Seahawk Helicopters – Sikorski Stratford

Munson Candy – Bolton

Stanley Tools & Black & Decker – New Britain

Steakums – Pomfret

Peter Paul Candy – Naugatuck

Jet Engines–East Hartford – 1925 (Pratt & Whitney)

PEZ candy – Orange -1979

Nail Clippers - Shelton

Typewriters – Hartford (Royal & Underwood)

Colt Firearms – Hartford

Jingle Bells – Ball & Socket Co. – Cheshire

Waterbury Button Company

J.B. Williams Toiletries - Glastonbury

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY with Thanks to Taghannuck Grange**

People who wonder whether the glass is half full or half empty miss the point. The glass is refillable.

### **"LEARN TO SMILE" From Easy Grange Programs by Ruby L. Moeller**

When you smile, the sun shines brighter,

And the sky seems twice as blue;

As you mete it out to others

It is measured back to you.

When you smile, the load grows lighter,

And it shortens many a mile,

Why not try it? You will like it,

If you only learn to smile.

## **MY TRIP TO THE STORE**

There was a bit of confusion at the store this morning. When I was ready to pay for my groceries, the cashier said, "Strip down, facing me." Making a mental note to complain to my congressman about Homeland Security running amok, I did just as she had instructed. When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out that she was referring to my credit card. I have been asked to shop elsewhere in the future. They need to make their instructions to seniors a little clearer!

## **FOR A VETERANS DAY PROGRAM**

During the 3-1/2 years of World War 2 that started with the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and ended with the Surrender of Germany and Japan in 1945, the U.S. produced 22 aircraft carriers, 8 battleships, 48 cruisers, 349 destroyers, 420 destroyer escorts, 203 submarines, 34 million tons of merchant ships, 100,000 fighter aircraft, 98,000 bombers, 24,000 transport aircraft, 58,000 training aircraft, 93,000 tanks, 257,000 artillery pieces, 105,000 mortars, 3,000,000 machine guns, and 2,500,000 military trucks. We put 16.1 million men in uniform in the various armed services, invaded Africa, invaded Sicily and Italy, won the battle for the Atlantic, planned and executed D-Day, marched across the Pacific and Europe, developed the atomic bomb, and ultimately conquered Japan and Germany.

## **RIB TICKLERS With Thanks to North Haven Grange**

What happened when the feet had a fight?  
They became arch enemies!

Why did the tree get lost in the woods?  
It took the wrong root!

Where do catchers eat their dinner?  
At home plate!

Why can't the leopard hide?  
Because he's always spotted!

What did the Banana do best in gymnastics?  
Splits!

Why did the spider move his home from the window?  
He wanted to change web sites!

## **TEA TIPS with Thanks to Whigville Grange**

Soothe razor burn. Place a wet tea bag over razor nicks and cuts. The tannic acid in the tea alleviates inflammation.

Guarantee healthy plants. Before potting a plant, place tea bags on the drainage hole of the planter. They'll help retain water and keep your plant full of life.

Shine your mirrors. Brew a pot of strong tea and let it cool. Then dip a clean cloth into the brew and use it to clean your mirrors. Finish by buffing the area with a dry cloth for a perfect shine.

Clean pots with ease. Cooked-on food can be hard to remove. Instead of scouring, fill the pot or pan with warm water and drop in a tea bag. The acids in the tea help break up the food.

Keep your skin soft. Place a few green tea bags under the running faucet next time you take a bath. The antioxidants in the green tea rehydrate your skin as you soak.

Absorb fridge odors. Put used tea bags in a shallow bowl and place in the back of your fridge. They will absorb odors just like baking soda.

When brewing tea start cold. For the freshest flavor, start with cool, crisp tap water and then bring it to a rolling boil.

Heat your mug... Swirl hot water in your mug before adding tea. It'll gently warm it so your tea stays hot as you sip it.