



LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER

March - April 2020

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Greetings,

I hope all is well with everyone (both you and your Grange). This has been a strange year weather-wise. Just a reminder – if you cancelled your meetings please let me know. Otherwise it looks like you didn't send in your report.

APRIL IS GRANGE MONTH - This is a great time to present your Community Citizen Award. It brings outsiders into our halls and lets them see what we are doing. What a great way to get new members. I have enclosed information on both the founding of the National Grange and our own State Granges. I hope this will be of help to you.

LET'S CELEBRATE Let's Celebrate weekend will be held this year on June 13th and 14th at Cheshire Grange Hall 44 Wallingford Road, Cheshire.

The Photo Contest will be judged on Saturday. Photos can be sent to me ahead of time or brought to the grange hall on Saturday between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Remember the winning entry goes on to National for judging.

The Talent and "A Number" contests will be judged on Sunday as part of Grange Sunday. The hall will be open at 10:00 a.m. so everyone can view the Photo and CWA contests in the lower hall. Our State Chaplain's service will begin at 11:00 a.m. followed by a luncheon in the lower hall. We will start our contests at 1:00 p.m. sharp. If you need more information on any of these contests please let me know.

It's time to start planning to attend these events. Mark your calendar now. That's June 13th & 14th.

Our National Lecturer, Chris Hamp, has started a quarterly newsletter. This newsletter is e-mailed to me and then I send it out here in Connecticut. If for some reason you didn't get it, please let me know.

I am asking for your help. I need more original items I can share with other Lecturers around the State. They cannot be copyrighted items. You can use copyrighted items in your own Grange but I cannot put them in print to share.

Take care.

Hope to see you around the State.

Marge

SHARED NUMBERS...

FOUNDERS OF THE GRANGE

On December 4, 1867 in a small Washington, D.C. building that housed the office of William Saunders, Superintendent of Propagating Gardens in the Department of Agriculture, the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, more commonly known as the Grange, was born. Here, sitting around a plain wooden table, a group of seven earnest men, planned what was destined to become a vital force in preserving and expanding American democracy. They were all men of vision - they had faith in God, in their fellow man and the future. The Seven Founders of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry were:

Oliver H. Kelley, William Saunders, Aaron B. Grosh, William M. Ireland, John R. Thompson, Francis McDowell and John Trimble. Trimble was assisted by Caroline Hall, who was later named an honorary 8th founder of the Grange.

Their names are inscribed on a Birthplace Marker located near the site of the original building on the south side of 4th Street SW, near Madison Street on the mall in Washington D. C. The marker was officially dedicated on Sept. 9, 1951, and is the only private monument on the mall.

OUR NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

The 11-story landmark National Grange headquarters building in Washington, D.C. was dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on June 29, 1960, and is the only private edifice in a federal block across from the White House. It serves as a non-governmental headquarters for agricultural and rural families. A professional staff administers policies established annually by democratic Grange processes at local, county, and state levels.

THE FIRST CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

National Deputy Levi Hubbell of Iowa came to Connecticut and organized the existing Subordinate Granges here into a State Grange. It was the 33rd State Grange to be organized. Granges number 1 through 20 were active at the time. In looking at the list only Stafford #1, Granby #5, and Redding #15 are still active today.

Misunderstanding and poorly defined rules and regulations led to disputes between different sections of the State. The ritual was not understood and dues were so low that Granges did not have enough money to operate properly. The State Master, Harvey Godard, resigned in 1878 and this led to the end of the First Connecticut State Grange.

THE SECOND CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

Sherman Kimberly of West Torrington, who was elected State Master after Brother Godard resigned, was appointed as a National Deputy. June 24, 1885, he was able to assemble delegates from sixteen Subordinate Granges in Glastonbury and the Second Connecticut State Grange was organized. The Fifth Degree was used as the State Degree for the First State Grange and in 1885 and 1886. After that the National Grange allowed the State Grange the honor of conferring the Sixth Degree on its' candidates.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE FROM THE FORMER TOTOKET GRANGE

Master: Patrons, let us take time now from our labors to pay tribute to our Brothers and Sisters who have passed on to the great Grange above. Worthy Chaplain, will you lead us in the memorial service?

Chaplain: As we pause these moments to pay tribute to the memory of those of our Grange who have crossed to the great beyond, we would not however give thought to our grief and our loss however keen it may be, rather remember that our lives were blessed and enriched by their association through the years.

Master: Worthy Assistant Steward and Worthy Lady Assistant Steward, please escort the Lecturer and Chaplain to the altar.

Lecturer: We cherish a living memory of these, our Brothers and Sisters of our order, whose chairs are now vacant. We know that our Grange is richer because they have lived and labored amongst us. Make us ever grateful for the heritage that is ours, and may we be worthy, that when the portals swing open for us, we find outstretched hands to welcome us to that fair land, where parting is no more. And so we light a candle for those who wait beyond the vale.

Master: Worthy Secretary will you read the role of our departed ones?
(Secretary reads the names while Chaplain lights candles.)

Chaplain: Afterglow. I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one. I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when day is done. I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the waves of happy times and laughing times in bright and sunny days. I'd like the tears of those who grieve to dry before the sun of happy memories that I leave behind when day is done. Do not stand at my grave and cry, I did not die. My memory lingers on. Let us pray together The Lord's Prayer.

Song of choice sung by all

Chaplain: Father we ask Thee to be with us as we close this service and return to our homes, comfort those whose hour is here and strengthen us to Thy service.

(Assistant Stewards escort Lecturer and Chaplain back to their stations.)

THE STORY BEHIND "TAPS" **With Thanks to Irene Percoski**

Taps ... It's the song that gives us the lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Elli was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Elli heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral.

The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as 'Taps' used at military funerals was born.

The words are: Day is done. Gone the sun. From the lakes. From the hills. From the sky. All is well. Safely rest. God is nigh. Fading light. Dims the sight. And a star. Gems the sky. Gleaming bright. From afar. Drawing nigh. Falls the night. Thanks and praise. For our days. Neath the sun. Neath the stars. Neath the sky. As we go. This we know. God is nigh.

A CANDY QUIZ & JOKES
with Thanks to Cherie Robinson

CLUE

ANSWER

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Unco-ordinated person | 1. Butterfinger |
| 2. Famous Baseball Player | 2. Babe Ruth |
| 3. Galaxy Earth is located in | 3. Milky Way |
| 4. Neighboring planet to Earth | 4. Mars |
| 5. A bumpy path | 5. Rocky Road |
| 6. Group of swordsmen | 6. 3 Musketeers |
| 7. Series of giggles | 7. Snickers or Chuckles |
| 8. Rapper | 8. M&M |
| 9. Name of soft drink | 9. 7UP |
| 10. Lots of money | 10. \$100,000 Bar or Payday |
| 11. Piles of dirt | 11. Mounds |
| 12. A town in Pennsylvania | 12. Hershey |
| 13. In between | 13. Twix |
| 14. Something poolside | 14. Lifesaver |
| 15. Getting something started | 15. Conversation Hearts |

Jokes

Q. What do you call a dog standing on a Mars bar?

A. Rover

Q. What do cows give after an earthquake?

A. Milkshakes

Q. What do you call a cow that can't moo?

A. Milk Dud

Q. Where did the alien go to get a drink?

A. A Mars bar

Q. What do you call candy that was stolen?

A. Hot chocolate

Q. Did you hear about the love affair between Mr. Goodbar and Peppermint Patty?

A. They had a baby, Ruth.

Q. Did Adam and Eve ever have a date?

A. No, they had an Apple.

Q. What did the flame say to his buddies after he fell in love?

A. I found the perfect match.

Q. Did you hear about the bedbugs who fell in love?

A. They're getting married in the spring.

Q. What's the perfect thing to say to a coffee lover on Valentine's Day?

A. Words cannot expresso what you mean to me

Q. Why do skunks love Valentine's Day?

A. Because they're scent-imental creatures

SOME LAWS YOU PROBABLY NEVER HEARD OF With Thanks to Charles Dimmick

Law of Mechanical Repair - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.

Law of Gravity - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.

Law of Probability - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

Law of Random Numbers - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal; someone always answers.

Variation Law - If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now.

Law of the Bath - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone will ring.

Law of Close Encounters - The probability of meeting someone you know INCREASES dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

Law of the Result - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, IT WILL!!!

Law of Biomechanics - The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

Law of the Theaters & Sports Arenas - At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle, always arrive last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the performance or the game is over. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs or big bellies and stay to the bitter end of the performance. The aisle people also are very surly folk.

The Coffee Law - As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

Murphy's Law of Lockers - If there are only 2 people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

Law of Physical Surfaces - The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

Law of Logical Argument - Anything is possible IF you don't know what you are talking about.

Law of Physical Appearance - If the clothes fit, they're ugly.

Law of Public Speaking - A CLOSED MOUTH GATHERS NO FEET!

Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it OR the store will stop selling it!

Doctors' Law - If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there, you'll feel better. But don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.

SOME SHORT SKITS AND FILL-INS

THREE FOR LUNCH

Three businessmen were having lunch - waitress brings the check

1st Man: I'll pay – it's a business expense.

2nd Man: I'll pay – I'm on cost plus.

3rd Man: Let me pay. I'm filing bankruptcy next week.

SLEEPLESS NIGHT

Wife: Your snoring has become unbearable.

Husband: How bad could it be?

Wife: Well, if you had been sawing real wood, you'd have wiped out half the tropical rain forest.

IT TAKES ALL KINDS

Psychiatrist: Why can't you sleep at night?

Patient: Because I'm trying to solve all the world's problems.

Psychiatrist: Ever get them solved?

Patient: Almost every time.

Psychiatrist: Then why can't you sleep?

Patient: The ticker-tape parades they hold for me keep me awake.

MARRIED LIFE

One couple asked how the other managed to stay together for 45 years. I know her like a book, the husband replied. The friend replied: You may know her like a book, but I bet you never know what page she's on.

GET A GRIP

No wonder golf is a sport in which tempers grow very thin. It's the only game in which players are teed off when they begin.

A Short Skit – "TWO WOMEN IN HEAVEN"

1st woman: Hi! Wanda.

2nd woman: Hi! Sylvia. How'd you die?

1st woman: I froze to death.

2nd woman: How horrible!

1st woman: It wasn't so bad. After I quit shaking from the cold, I began to get warm & sleepy, and finally died a peaceful death. What about you?

2nd woman: I died of a massive heart attack. I suspected that my husband was cheating, so I came home early to catch him in the act. But instead, I found him all by himself in the den watching TV.

1st woman: So, what happened?

2nd woman: I was so sure there was another woman there somewhere that I started running all over the house looking. I ran up into the attic and searched, and down into the basement. Then I went through every closet and checked under all the beds. I kept this up until I had looked everywhere, and finally I became so exhausted that I just keeled over with a heart attack and died.

1st woman: Too bad you didn't look in the freezer---we'd both still be alive.