



# THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2014



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It was nice to see so many of you at State Session. My Congratulations to all who went home with awards. For those who couldn't make the session, here is a list of the winners in the Lecturer's Department...

## Lecturer's Appreciation Award

Redding Grange #15  
Marge Bernhardt, Cheshire Grange #23  
Ann Gilnack, Glastonbury Grange #26  
D. Emily Alexander, North Haven Grange #35  
Helena Schwalm, Whigville Grange #48  
Vernon Grange #52  
Ramona Fassio, Winchester Grange #74  
P. Joan Toomey, Colchester Grange #78  
Helene Forrest, Hillstown Grange #87  
Clifford M. Gervais, Ekonk Grange #89  
Evelyn Urda, Ashford Grange #90  
Bill Kroeger, Taghannuck Grange #100  
Cindy Legg, Beacon Valley Grange #103  
Eleanor Davis, Killingly Grange #112  
Robert A. Buck, Bethlehem Grange #121  
Susan Pianka, North Stonington Grange #138  
Frances Maxwell, Prospect Grange #144  
Lois Evankow, Lyme Grange #147  
Irene Percoski, Enfield Grange #151  
Lila M. Cleveland, Stonington Grange #168  
Nancy McBrien, Hemlock Grange #182  
Robert A. Buck, Oxford Grange #194  
Donna Victoria, Groton Grange #213

## Honor Lecturer

Marge Bernhardt, Cheshire Grange #23  
D. Emily Alexander, North Haven Grange #35  
Clifford M. Gervais, Ekonk Grange #89  
Susan Pianka, North Stonington Grange #138  
Frances Maxwell, Prospect Grange #144  
Lois Evankow, Lyme Grange #147

## "A Word From Home"

Cheshire Grange #23  
North Haven Grange #35  
Colchester Grange #78  
Ekonk Grange #89  
Beacon Valley Grange #103  
North Stonington Grange #138  
Prospect Grange #144  
Lyme Grange #147  
Hemlock Grange #182

## "Should Auld Acquaintance"

Cheshire Grange #23  
Glastonbury Grange #26  
North Haven Grange #35  
Colchester Grange #78  
Beacon Valley Grange #103  
Killingly Grange #112  
North Stonington Grange #138  
Prospect Grange #144  
Lyme Grange #147  
Hemlock Grange #182

## Complete Programs

1<sup>st</sup>...Clifford M. Gervais, Ekonk Grange #89  
2<sup>nd</sup>...D. Emily Alexander, North Haven Grange #35  
3<sup>rd</sup>...Susan Pianka, North Stonington Grange #138

## Essay Contest

1<sup>st</sup>...Cindy Legg, Beacon Valley Grange  
2<sup>nd</sup>...Don Offinger, Cannon Grange  
3<sup>rd</sup>...Sue Gray, Ekonk Grange  
Honorable Mention...John Alexander, North Haven Grange

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of what will appear in the Bluebook for next year. This way you can get started early on all your programs and projects.

## SHARED NUMBERS...

### Veterans Day – November 11 with Thanks to Riverton Grange

The signing of the Versailles Treaty in France ended World War I. However, the war really ended with a temporary cessation of hostilities between the Allies & Germany on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in 1918. In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11<sup>th</sup> the first commemoration of Armistice Day. On June 4, 1926, the U.S. Congress officially recognized the end of WWI by passing a resolution. On May 13, 1938, an Act was approved making November 11<sup>th</sup> each year a holiday. In 1954, after World War II, Congress, after being urged by Veterans' service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting "Veterans". On June 1, 1954, November 11 became a day to honor all veterans from all wars. On June 28, 1968, the Uniform Holiday Bill was signed for 3-day weekends. The first Veterans Day under this new law, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1971, was full of confusion. On Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1975, President Ford returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> which preserves the historical significance of the date. It is a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. May they always be remembered.

### POW/MIA TABLE

*(Why not set one of these up in your hall and explain it during your program)*

As you entered the hall this evening you may have noticed a small table in a place of honor. It is set for one. The military caste is filled with symbolism. This table is our way of symbolizing the terrible reality that they have members missing from their midst. They are commonly called **POW/MIAs**, but they call them "**Comrades**". The table is **ROUND** representing the never ending search for those missing and who never returned.

#### REMEMBER!

The **TABLECLOTH** is white – symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms.

#### REMEMBER!

The single **ROSE** in the vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of their comrade-in-arms who kept the faith awaiting their return.

#### REMEMBER!

The **RED RIBBON** tied so prominently on the vase is reminiscent of the red ribbon worn upon the lapels and breast of thousands who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing.

#### REMEMBER!

A **SLICE OF LEMON** is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate.

#### REMEMBER!

There is **SALT** upon the bread plate - symbolic of the family's tears as they wait.

#### REMEMBER!

The **GLASS** is inverted – they cannot toast with us this night.

#### REMEMBER!

The **CHAIR** is empty – They are not here. It faces away from the rest representing their loneliness and isolation.

#### REMEMBER!

Remember all ye who served with them and called them comrades, who depended upon their might and aid and relied upon them; for surely they have not forsaken YOU!

#### REMEMBER!

## **CHRISTMAS TREE FACTS with Thanks to Enfield Grange**

1. The first written record of a decorated Christmas tree is from Latvia in 1510. It says the tree was decorated with artificial roses. In the 1800's, German settlers brought the Christmas tradition to the U.S.
2. Each year, about 30,000,000 American families enjoy a fresh, real Christmas tree during the holiday season.
3. Don't feel guilty about buying a fresh tree – you're not ruining a pristine forest. About 98 percent of all Christmas trees are grown on farms as sustainable crops.
4. There are about 17,000 farms producing conifers for the holiday market. Some even offer the opportunity to choose and cut your own, which can be a fun family outing.
5. It takes Christmas trees an average of 7 years to reach their standard retail height of 6 or 7 feet, perfect for most homes.
6. For every tree they harvest, Christmas tree growers plant one to three new seedlings the following spring to ensure a constant supply. Close to 350 million trees planted by farmers are growing now and will end up in homes across the country.
7. The top six States for Christmas tree production are; Oregon, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Washington.

Facts: Courtesy of the National Christmas Tree Association.

Website: [realchristmastrees.org](http://realchristmastrees.org).

## **A CHRISTMAS QUIZ**

1. What does Alvin the Chipmunk want for a Christmas present? Ans. A Hoola Hoop
2. What war ended on December 24, 1814? Ans. The War of 1812
3. What is the biggest selling Christmas single of all time? Ans. White Christmas
4. Who stole Christmas? Ans. The Grinch
5. Including Rudolph, how many reindeer hooves are there? Ans. 36
6. After Joseph, Mary and Jesus left Bethlehem, they went to what country? Ans. Egypt
7. In "A Charlie Brown Christmas" how much does Lucy charge for her psychiatric services. Ans. 5 cents
8. What does the American Lung Association sell during the Christmas season? Ans. Christmas Seals
9. Is Frosty a boy or a girl? Ans. Boy
10. Does Rudolph have antlers? Ans. Yes

## **A WINTER TOKEN with Thanks to Beacon Valley Grange**

From the depths of the still black heavens  
Comes the crystal white of the snow,  
The night holds many mysteries  
No man shall ever know.

The earth is quiet and still,  
Peace lies o'er the land,  
The marvels of this world  
Were made by God's own hand.

The snowflakes gently falling  
Without the slightest sound,  
Will form a soft white blanket  
To lie upon the ground.

He makes the earth so peaceful  
On this cold and wintry night,  
And in the darkest corner  
He sends a beam of light.

From the echo of the hills  
You can hear a church bell ringing.  
And far off in the distance  
A group of children singing.

God gives us strength and courage  
And blessings from above,  
He sends each tiny snowflake  
As a token of His love.

## **THANKSGIVING BLESSING MIX with Thanks to Whigville Grange**

*(Why not make up some small cups of this and pass it out to your members)*

Mix Together -- Bugles corn chips, Dried fruit (raisins or cranberries), Small heart shaped pretzels, Peanuts and Candy Corn.

Bugles are a symbol of the cornucopia, the horn of plenty.

Pretzels represent arms folded in thanksgiving and prayer.

Candy corn reminds us that during the first winter, the Pilgrims were allowed only five kernels of corn per day, because food was so scarce.

Fruit is a reminder that Thanksgiving is a celebration of the harvest. Peanuts represent seeds, the potential of the bounteous harvest for the next season.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow.

## **CHRISTMAS QUESTIONS with Thanks to Ekonk Grange**

1. Where would you go to hear silver bells? Ans. On Every street corner
2. Who danced wearing a silk hat? Ans. Frosty the Snowman
3. Where would you find reindeer paws? Ans. Upon the housetop.
4. What did the cattle do to wake the poor babe? Ans. The cattle were lowing. (Mooing)
5. When did I see those three ships? Ans. I saw 3 ships come sailing in on Christmas Day in the morning.
6. What size were those "Kings of the Orient"? Ans. They were tiny little kings; they were wee.
7. What is it that helps make the season bright? Ans. Some turkey and some mistletoe.
8. Who wants a pair of hop-a-long boots and a pistol that shoots? Ans. That's the hope of Barney and Ben cause it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.
9. Who still wants a hula hoop? Ans. Alvin the Chipmunk
10. Who kept time to the drum? Ans. Along with the drummer boy, the Ox and the Lamb kept time.
11. Where do all the hopes and fears of all the years meet? Ans. In the Little Town of Bethlehem.
12. What does Susie want? Ans. A dolly (from Jolly Old St. Nicholas)

## **THE PERKS OF BEING OVER 60 – with Thanks to Bob Sendewicz**

(More Great cup-aparts)

- 1) Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
- 2) In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
- 3) No one expects you to run -- anywhere.
- 4) People call at 9 PM and ask, "Did I wake you?"
- 5) People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
- 6) There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
- 7) Things you buy now won't wear out.
- 8) You can eat dinner at 4 P.M.
- 9) You can live without sex but not without your glasses.
- 10) You enjoy hearing about other peoples' operations.
- 11) You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
- 12) You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
- 13) You quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into the room.
- 14) You sing along with elevator music.

- 15) Your eyes won't get much worse.
- 16) Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
- 17) Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.
- 18) Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
- 19) Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.

### **FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW with Thanks to Old Lyme Grange**

*(These would make great cut-aparts. Just pick and choose the ones you want to use.)*

It takes glass one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can be recycled an infinite amount of times!

Gold is the only metal that doesn't rust, even if it's buried in the ground for thousands of years.

Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end.

If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water. When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.

Each year 2,000,000 smokers either quit smoking or die of tobacco-related diseases.

Zero is the only number that cannot be represented by Roman numerals.

Kites were used in the American Civil War to deliver letters and newspapers.

The song, Auld Lang Syne, is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year.

Drinking water after eating reduces the acid in your mouth by 61 percent.

Peanut oil is used for cooking in submarines because it doesn't smoke unless it's heated above 450F. The roar that we hear when we place a seashell next to our ear is not the ocean, but rather the sound of blood surging through the veins in the ear.

The banana cannot reproduce itself. It can be propagated only by the hand of man.

Airports at higher altitudes require a longer airstrip due to lower air density.

The University of Alaska spans four time zones.

The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself.

In ancient Greece, tossing an apple to a girl was a traditional proposal of marriage. Catching it meant she accepted.

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.

A comet's tail always points away from the sun.

The Swine Flu vaccine in 1976 caused more death and illness than the disease it was intended to prevent.

If you get into the bottom of a well or a tall chimney and look up, you can see stars, even in the middle of the day.

When a person dies, hearing is the last sense to go. The first sense lost is sight.

In ancient times strangers shook hands to show that they were unarmed.

Strawberries are the only fruits whose seeds grow on the outside.

Avocados have the highest calories of any fruit at 167 calories per hundred grams.

The moon moves about two inches away from the Earth each year.

The Earth gets 100 tons heavier every day due to falling space dust.

Due to earth's gravity it is impossible for mountains to be higher than 15,000 meters

Mickey Mouse is known as "Topolino" in Italy

Everything weighs one percent less at the equator.

Soldiers do not march in step when going across bridges because they could set up a vibration which could be sufficient to knock the bridge down.

Didn't attend Lecturers' Conference? Here is some of what you missed....



Pat & Joan



Bill & Harriett



Ruel & Jane



Jeff & Debbie



Lila & Debbie



The Whole Gang