

PROGRAM HELPS AND INFORMATION

MARCH - APRIL 2011

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(If you received this via US Mail and have an e-mail address,
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Hi Everyone...

I just took a peek at the last newsletter I wrote. Seems like I thought the snow was a beautiful sight. Can't take that back, but, now not only is it the same snow we had on the ground two months ago, but it is dirty. I realize a lot of people have had their meetings and other activities postponed or cancelled so now we have to make up for it and really get going on our Grange projects.

Please review your contests and projects in the bluebook. With less and less Granges every year, the rest of us have to do a super job and really get involved. The Grange is a wonderful organization and now we have to show everyone else what we can do. Enter all the contests and programs, get some good, positive publicity about your projects and show the average citizen just how great we are.

I have had a couple of questions on the Complete Program. Yes, it has to be a President of the United States. Hope to see those programs coming in soon.

Please don't forget that April is Grange month! Is your hall used by others? Why not make posters or put up a display for everyone to see. No hall? – Plan a special event and invite the public.

The 96th annual North East Grange Lecturers' Conference will be held August 1 – 4 at Bridgewater State University in Bridgewater, Massachusetts. This is the same college we were at two years ago. The only complaint then was that the stage was not high enough. It will be a foot higher this year. Hopefully this will solve the problem. When we were there before everyone loved the rooms, arranged in pods, which were very clean with a very helpful staff. We will be using different rooms for eating and the meetings, etc. which should cut down on the already minor amount of walking. All the buildings are air conditioned. Unfortunately the price went up. It will be \$230 per person for a single room and \$210 for a double. Actually it is a real good deal when you consider that the price includes your meals, banquet, entertainment and lots of good Grange friendships. I have another meeting with the Northeast Lecturers on March 6 in Rutland, MA. Final details will be ironed out at that time. You will have all your information in the mail around the 1st of May. The title of the conference is Season It. Our program is entitled Spicy. I would really appreciate any suggestions you have.

Just a reminder that "Let's Celebrate" is being combined with Grange Sunday this year. Our photo contest will be judged on Saturday, June 11th and then our Talent and "A Number" contests will be on Sunday afternoon following our State Chaplain's service and a lasagna dinner put on by the Youth. This is a great day to bring your family and friends and show them just how great the Grange is.

If you have any questions about the conference or any other topic, please do not hesitate to phone, e-mail or write. I am here to help you.

See you around the State.

Marge

SHARED NUMBERS....

RECIPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL GRANGE

**I found this in some papers given me after Margaret Warner died.
It is old, but is as appropriate now as it was years ago.**

This is a recipe new and strange;
It's "How to make a successful Grange."
If you want a product fine and rare
Measure and sift with greatest care.
Use only the best if you wish success;
Perfection is never reached with less.
First take some members who like to work,
Who do their duty and never shirk;
Who put their hearts in the things they do,
And first of all comes the Grange, it's true.
Of faith you will need a large amount
If you want a grange that will really count.
Of tolerance add a good full cup;
Another of charity, heaped way up.
Sociability plays an important part,
Throw in a big lump at the very start.
Then a measure of youth to make it rise,
Some age to keep it balanced and wise.
Leave out all jealousy, doubt and spite,
If you want the things to turn out right.
A well-balanced program is just the trick
To bind the mixture and make it stick.
Then next just add a noble project
With common welfare as its object.
Sprinkle a little nonsense, too,
Over serious things you do.
Pour in a pan that is not too small –
The very best is a nice Grange Hall.
Bake with energy turned up high,
You'll find this fine, if you really try.

THOUGHTS OF SPRING with Thanks to Ekonk

Springtime can be magical or so some people say.
Trees bud, flowers bloom – green where there was gray.
Farmers spread on their fields that magic mix we smell;
That makes their crops grow so very, very well!
Daffodils and crocus bloom, making spirits bright!
Asparagus rises from the soil much to Mom's delight!
Springtime can be magical or so some people say.
May the magic continue throughout the coming days!

SPRING'S ARRIVAL
By Louise Pinkerton Fritz
with Thanks to Irene Percoski

I didn't hear a bugle blow
When spring arrived today.
Nor did I hear the whole world shout
Along the springtide way
Instead I heard the trilling sound
Of song birds everywhere,
The gentle breezes, humming bees,
The wild geese in the air.
I didn't see a big fanfare

When spring came by our way,
Nor did I see a festive feast
To mark this gladsome day.
Instead I saw rebirth of life,
A world of blossoming;
Oh, yes, I saw the power of God
In this first day of spring.

THE ATTORNEY with Thanks to All Who Sent This To Me

These are from a book called Disorder in the American Courts, and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and now published by court reporters who had the torment of staying calm while these exchanges were actually taking place. Great to use as fill-ins or short skits.

ATTORNEY: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

WITNESS: I forget.

ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

ATTORNEY: Do you know if your daughter has ever been involved in voodoo?

WITNESS: We both do.

ATTORNEY: Voodoo?

WITNESS: We do.

ATTORNEY: You do?

WITNESS: Yes, voodoo.

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the twenty-year-old, how old is he?

WITNESS: He's twenty, much like your IQ.

ATTORNEY: She had three children, right?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were there any girls?

WITNESS: Your Honor, I think I need a different attorney. Can I get a new attorney?

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated?

WITNESS: By death.

ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated?

WITNESS: Take a guess.

ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual?

WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard.

ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female?

WITNESS: Unless the Circus was in town I'm going with male.

ATTORNEY: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

WITNESS: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

ATTORNEY: ALL your responses MUST be oral, OK? What school did you go to?

WITNESS: Oral.

ATTORNEY: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

WITNESS: The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m.

ATTORNEY: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time?

WITNESS: If not, he was by the time I finished.

ATTORNEY: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?

WITNESS: Are you qualified to ask that question?

ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for blood pressure?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

ATTORNEY: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.

A LITTLE-KNOWN STORY FROM THE PENTAGON ON 9-11 with Thanks to Don Lanoue

During a visit with a fellow chaplain, who happened to be assigned to the Pentagon, I had a chance to hear a first-hand account of an incident that happened right after Flight 77 hit the Pentagon.

The chaplain told me what happened at a daycare center near where the impact occurred. This daycare had many children, including infants who were in heavy cribs. The daycare supervisor, looking at all the children they needed to evacuate, was in a panic over what they could do. There were many children, mostly toddlers, as well as the infants that would need to be taken out with the cribs. There was no time to try to bundle them into carriers and strollers. Just then a young Marine came running into the center and asked what they needed. After hearing what the center director was trying to do, he ran back out into the hallway and disappeared. The director thought, 'Well, here we are—on our own.'

About 2 minutes later, that Marine returned with 40 other Marines in tow. Each of them grabbed a crib with a child, and the rest started gathering up toddlers. The director and her staff then helped them take all the children out of the center and down toward the park near the Potomac and the Pentagon. Once they got about 3/4 of a mile outside the building, the Marines stopped in the park, and then did a fabulous thing - they formed a circle with the cribs, which were quite sturdy and heavy, like the covered wagons in the Old West. Inside this circle of cribs, they put the toddlers, to keep them from wandering off. Outside this circle were the 40 Marines, forming a perimeter around the children and waiting for instructions. There they remained until the parents could be notified and come get their children.

The chaplain then said, "I don't think any of us saw nor heard of this on any of the news stories of the day. It was an incredible story of our men there. There wasn't a dry eye in the room. The thought of those Marines and what they did and how fast they reacted; could we expect any less from them? It was one of the most touching stories from the Pentagon."

Remember Ronald Reagan's great compliment: "Most of us wonder if our lives made any difference. Marines don't have that problem."

SOME SHORT SKITS AND FILL-INS With Thanks to Colchester

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.

SHIP QUIZ

The answer to all of these includes the letters "SHIP"

1. What ship do you find in the country? Ans. Township
2. What ship is the most romantic? Ans. Courtship
3. What ship applies to your guests? Ans. Friendship
4. What ship belongs on a bench? Ans. Judgeship
5. What ship belongs in church? Ans. Worship
6. What ship is most hated in this country? Ans. Dictatorship
7. What ship is needed by political parties in the country? Ans. Leadership
8. What ship is shared with somebody else? Ans. Partnership
9. What ship is bought and paid for? Ans. Ownership
10. What ship does Einstein travel? Ans. Scholarship

PERSON, PLACE OR THING? With Thanks to Whigville

How many clue's do you need to guess the answer?

1. I originated in China.
2. I've been around for thousands of years.
3. Some believe using me improves your memory...
4. ...but some just find me hard to handle.
5. Mulan used me in the Disney-animated film.
6. Like shoes, I come in pairs.
7. A piece of music with my name is popular with beginning pianists.
8. I am usually made of wood or plastic.
9. You see me in Chinese restaurants.
10. I am an eating utensil. Ans. I am chopsticks.

FILL-IN – HAS TO BE USED IN 2011

Take the last two digits of the year you were born.....

Add the age you will be THIS year (2011)

Everyone will get 111 if they add correctly.

A VEGETABLE QUIZ with Thanks to Beacon Valley

1. When you're embarrassed you turn red as a _____. Ans. Beet
2. Something that's worthless isn't worth a hell of _____. Ans. Beans
3. If you're smart you know your _____. Ans. Onions
4. A person not easily aroused is as cool as a _____. Ans. Cucumber
5. An old-fashioned joke usually is pure _____. Ans. Corn
6. Something too hot to handle is a hot _____. Ans. Potato
7. Folding money is called _____. Ans. Lettuce

8. An attractive girl can be considered a real _____. Ans. Tomato
9. Something that's worthless isn't worth a hell of _____. Ans. Beans
10. If you're smart you know your _____. Ans. Onions
11. A person not easily aroused is as cool as a _____. Ans. Cucumber
12. An old-fashioned joke usually is pure _____. Ans. Corn
13. Something too hot to handle is a hot _____. Ans. Potato
14. Folding money is called _____. Ans. Lettuce
15. An attractive girl can be considered a real _____. Ans. Tomato

COURT RULES IT IS AN AMERICAN'S RIGHT TO SING BADLY IN CHURCH

America's court system protects the rights of all citizens. In fact, in one historic decision the Supreme Court of North Carolina ruled that an American has the right to sing very badly in church – if he wants to. This decision was made back in 1878.

It all started when a man by the name of William Linklaw was convicted of singing very badly in the Ribeson County Methodist Church. Witnesses testified that Linklaw had such a bad voice that he disrupted the Sunday services. So bad was his singing, they said, that the rest of the congregation refused to sing along with him, and the church minister resigned because he couldn't stand the noise.

Linklaw was convicted in county court and ordered to stop singing. He appealed the decision to the North Carolina Supreme Court. He argued it was his right as an American citizen to sing in his own church, good voice or bad. The State Supreme Court upheld this argument ... ruling that all Americans have the right to sing in their churches... regardless of the quality of their voices.

This is just one sample of how the court system in the United States protects the rights of all citizens – in large matters and small...

SOME FILL-INS WITH THANKS TO SENEXET

PALM SUNDAY

It was Palm Sunday and because of a sore throat, five year old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm branches. The boy asked what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by" the father replied. "Wouldn't you know it," the boy fumed, "The one Sunday I don't go, he shows up!"

SUPPORT YOUR FAMILY

The prospective father-in-law asked, "young man, can you support a family?" The surprised groom-to-be replied, "well, no. I was just planning to support your daughter. The rest of you will have to fend for yourselves."

GRANDMA'S AGE

Little Johnny asked his Grandma how old she was. Grandma answered, "39 and holding." Johnny thought for a moment, and then said, "and how old would you be if you let go?"

PRAYERS

The Sunday School teacher asked, "Now, Johnny, tell me, do you say prayers before eating?" "No Sir", he replied, "We don't have to, my Mom is a good cook!"

HUSBAND DOWN with Thanks to Richard Chapman

A husband and wife are shopping in their local Wal-Mart.
The husband picks up a case of Budweiser and puts it in their cart.
"What do you think you're doing?" asks the wife.
"They're on sale, only \$10 for 24 cans" he replies.
"Put them back, we can't afford them" demands the wife, and so they carry on shopping.
A few aisles further on along the woman picks up a \$20 jar of face cream and puts it in the basket.
"What do you think you're doing?" asks the husband.
"It's my face cream. It makes me look beautiful," replies the wife.
Her husband retorts: "So does 24 cans of Budweiser and it's half the price."
He never knew what hit him!

HISTORY OF THE EASTER BUNNY

The Easter bunny has its origin in pre-Christian fertility lore. The Hare and the Rabbit were the most fertile animals known and they served as symbols of the new life during the Spring season.

The bunny as an Easter symbol seems to have its origins in Germany, where it was first mentioned in German writings in the 1500s. The first edible Easter bunnies were made in Germany during the early 1800s. These were made of pastry and sugar.

The Easter bunny was introduced to American folklore by the German settlers who arrived in the Pennsylvania Dutch country during the 1700s. The arrival of the "Oschter Haws" was considered "childhood's greatest pleasure" next to a visit from Christ-Kindel on Christmas Eve. The children believed that if they were good the "Oschter Haws" would lay a nest of colored eggs.

The children would build their nest in a secluded place in the home, the barn or the garden. Boys would use their caps and girls their bonnets to make the nests. The use of elaborate Easter baskets would come later as the tradition of the Easter bunny spread throughout the country.

EASTER BIBLE VERSES

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Romans 1:4-5

And Jesus Christ our Lord was shown to be the Son of God when God powerfully raised him from the dead by means of the Holy Spirit. Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.

Romans 6:8-11

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:10-12

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

1 Peter 1:3

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

Matthew 27:50-53

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING

If you were standing on the equator during either the vernal or autumnal equinox, you would see the sun pass directly overhead, the only two times in the year when that is true.

The two equinoxes are also the only times during the year when the sun rises due east and sets due west.

In spring, the Earth's axis is tilted toward the sun, increasing the number of daylight hours and bringing warmer weather that causes plants to bring forth new growth.

There is a persistent myth that at the vernal equinox, you can stand a raw egg on its end. There is an equally persistent rebuttal that says it's not possible at any time to balance a raw egg on its end. Neither is true. With a little patience, you can balance a raw egg on its end at any time of year.