



THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER May – June 2016



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Happy Spring to all...

At least the calendar says it's spring. Now if the weatherman would cooperate we would be all set. With the warmer weather we have increased Grange activities.

I hope you have saved the second Sunday in June, June 12th, for Grange Sunday. Our State Chaplain, Charles Dimmick, will have his Grange Service at 11:00 a.m. at Cheshire Grange Hall. This will be followed by lunch served by our State Youth Committee. Then, beginning promptly at 1:00 p.m. we will hold our "A Number" and Talent competition. Our Talent winner will have their expenses paid at Lecturers Conference where they can perform on Tuesday night. I hope that every Pomona has an entry in both contests. This is a great day for all our members and a way to show people that we are still going strong.

The photo contest will be judged on Sat. June 11th. The categories are: America the Beautiful, Animals, Grangers In Action, Family Celebrations and Historic Places or Events. You can enter one photo in each of the categories. Complete rules are in the Bluebook and were included with your November-December newsletter. Photos may be mailed to me so they arrive by Friday, June 10th or may be brought to Cheshire Grange Hall between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 11th. If you are in the Glastonbury area, you can leave them with Todd at the State Office a few days in advance and I will go and pick them up. Our Best in Show entry will go on to National for Judging.

I should have all the information on the Lecturers' Conference shortly. As soon as I receive it I will be mailing it out to all our Granges. For now, please mark the dates – August 1, 2 & 3 at Bridgewater State University in Bridgewater, Massachusetts. The conference is being hosted by Rhode Island. Connecticut needs to put on a program that will advertise what Connecticut has to offer for tourists. I'm getting a late start on my program this year and would really appreciate any ideas or suggestions you may have.

Hope to see you in Cheshire on June 11-12.

Marge

SHARED NUMBERS...

DONNA'S NEW CAR with Thanks to Glastonbury Grange

Donna buys a fancy new automatic BMWX8 Sports Car. She drives the car perfectly well during the day, but at night the car won't move at all. For one whole week she patiently tries to drive at night and still no luck.

Donna furiously calls the BMW dealer and they send out a technician. The technician asks, "Ma'am, are you sure you are using the right gears?"

Full of anger, Donna replies, "You old fool, idiot man, how could you ask such a question? I'm not stupid! I use "D" for day and "N" for night!"

A PARTING THOUGHT with Thanks to Ekonk Grange

Everyone seems to be in such a hurry to scream prejudice these days....

A customer in a store asked, "In what aisle would I find the Polish sausage?"

The clerk asked, "Are you Polish?"

The customer, clearly offended, said, "Yes, I am. Let me ask you something. If I had asked for Italian sausage would you have asked me if I was Italian? Or, if I had asked for a kosher hot dog, would you have asked if I was Jewish? Or, if I had asked for bratwurst, would you have asked me if I was German? Or, if I had asked for a Taco, would you have asked if I was Mexican?"

The clerk replies, "No sir, I probably wouldn't have asked."

The man was really frustrated now, "Well then, because I asked for Polish sausage, why did you ask if I was Polish?"

The clerk replied, "Because this is Home Depot."

SPECIAL DAYS IN JUNE

National Doughnut Day – National Doughnut Day is always celebrated the First Friday in June. It honors the Salvation Army "Lassies" of World War I fame. These ladies first served doughnuts on the front lines in 1917. Many times the doughnuts were cooked in oil inside the metal helmets of American soldiers. These American Infantrymen were called doughboys, thus the name doughnuts.

National Doughnut Day was established by the Chicago Salvation Army in 1938 to raise money for their work during the Great Depression.

Today the Salvation Army and many other organizations use Doughnut Day as a way to raise money for needy causes. Some doughnut shops offer free doughnuts in exchange for a donation to their favorite cause.

Best Friend Day – June 8th is Best Friend Day. It is a time to appreciate, honor and cherish your best friend. With your best friend you can share secrets, hopes and disappointments or just hang out and let the silence do the speaking for you.

Celebrate Best Friend Day by spending time with him or her. Or, how about calling an old friend you've lost touch with over the years.

Hug Holiday – June 29 is The Hug Holiday. It was founded by the Hugs for Health Foundation. We are supposed to give hugs to those who need them. We should give hugs to senior citizens, the sick, invalids, lonely people and anyone who needs some love.

JOKES TO USE AS FILL-INS

Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil.

One said to the other, 'What do you think about all this Satan stuff?'

The other boy replied, 'Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your Dad.'

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, 'Why is the bride dressed in white?' The mother replied, 'Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life.' The child thought about this for a moment then said, 'So why is the groom wearing black?'

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers.

The first boy says, 'My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50.'

The second boy says, 'That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100.'

The third boy says, 'I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!'

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, 'They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead.'

A police recruit was asked during the exam, 'What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?' He answered, 'Call for backup.'

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem.. A small child replied, 'They couldn't get a baby-sitter.'

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'Honor thy father and thy mother,' she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?' Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, 'Thou shall not kill..'

HOW THE INTERNET STARTED, ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE...

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a healthy young wife by the name of Dorothy, who went by the name of Dot. And Dot Com was a comely woman, large of breast, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called, slangly, Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a full camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighboring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew to The People (HTTP).

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS. And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known. He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are."

And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "YAHOO," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside.

It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

That is how it all began. And that's the truth.

I would not make up this stuff.

DO YOU THINK LIKE AN ENGINEER

1. Two engineering students were biking across a university campus when one said, "Where did you get such a great bike?"

The second engineer replied, "Well, I was walking along yesterday, minding my own business, when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike, threw it to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, "Take what you want."

The first engineer nodded approvingly and said, "Good choice: The clothes probably wouldn't have fit you anyway."

2. To the optimist, the glass is half-full. To the pessimist, the glass is half-empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

3. What is the difference between mechanical engineers and civil engineers?

Ans. Mechanical engineers build weapons. Civil engineers build targets.

4. Three engineering students were gathered together discussing who must have designed the human body.

One said, "It was a mechanical engineer. Just look at all the joints."

Another said, "No, it was an electrical engineer. The nervous system has many thousands of electrical connections."

The last one said, "No, actually it had to have been a civil engineer. Who else would run a toxic waste pipeline through a recreational area?"

5. Normal people believe that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it doesn't have enough features yet.

6. An engineer was crossing a road one day, when a frog called out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess." He bent over, picked up the frog, and put it in his pocket. The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn back into a beautiful princess and stay with you for one week." The engineer took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to the pocket.

The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I'll stay with you for one week and do anything you want." Again, the engineer took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket. Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess and that I'll stay with you for one week and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?"

The engineer said, "Look, I'm an engineer. I don't have time for a girlfriend, but a talking frog - now that's cool."

7. Two engineers were standing at the base of a flagpole, looking at its top. A woman walked by and asked what they were doing.

"We're supposed to find the height of this flagpole," said Sven, "but we don't have a ladder."

The woman took a wrench from her purse, loosened a couple of bolts, and laid the pole down on the ground. Then she took a tape measure from her pocketbook, took a measurement, announced, "Twenty one feet, six inches," and walked away.

One engineer shook his head and laughed, "A lot of good that does us. We ask for the height and she gives us the length!"

Both engineers have since quit their engineering jobs.

Remember When... (Make Great Cut Aparts)

All the girls had ugly gym uniforms,

It took 3 minutes for the TV to warm up,

Nobody owned a purebred dog,

When a quarter was a decent allowance,

You'd reach into a muddy gutter for a penny.

Your Mom wore nylons that came in 2 pieces.

You got your windshield cleaned, oil checked, and gas pumped, without asking, all for free, every time. And you didn't pay for air. And, you got trading stamps to boot, Regular was 15 cents and Hi-test was 18 cents a Gallon.

Laundry detergent had free glasses, dishes or towels hidden inside the box.

It was considered a great privilege to be taken out to dinner at a real restaurant with your parents.

They threatened to keep kids back a grade if they failed...and they did it!

When a 57 Chevy was everyone's dream car...to cruise, peel out, lay rubber or watch submarine races, and people went steady.

No one ever asked where the car keys were because they were always in the car, in the ignition, and the doors were never locked.

Lying on your back in the grass with your friends and saying things like, 'That cloud looks like a...'

Playing baseball with no adults to help kids with the rules of the game.

Stuff from the store came without safety caps and hermetic seals because no one had yet tried to poison a perfect stranger.

When being sent to the principal's office was nothing compared to the fate that awaited the student at home.

Basically we were in fear for our lives, but it wasn't because of drive-by shootings, drugs, gangs, etc. Our parents and grandparents were a much bigger threat! But we survived because their love was greater than the threat.

Summers were filled with bike rides, Hula Hoops, and visits to the pool, and eating Kool-Aid powder with sugar.

Milk was delivered to your house in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers.

There were Newsreels before the movie.

Telephone numbers with a word prefix...(Yukon 2-601). Party lines.

Do you remember Peashooters & 78 RPM records!

What did you get with your Green Stamps?

Did you have The Fort Apache Play Set?

Do You Remember a Time When: Decisions were made by going 'eeny-meeny-miney-moe,'

Mistakes were corrected by simply exclaiming, 'Do Over!' and 'Race issue' meant arguing about who ran the fastest.

Did you Catch Fireflies and put them in a bottle?

Having a Weapon in School meant being caught with a Slingshot.

Spinning around, getting dizzy, and falling down was cause for giggles.

The Worst Embarrassment was being picked last for a team.

War was a card game.

Baseball cards in the spokes transformed any bike into a motorcycle.

THE ALPHABET OF "AGING" with Thanks to Ekonk Grange

A – Arthritis	N – Nerves
B - Bad Backs	O – Osteoporosis
C - Chest Pains	P – Prescriptions
D - Declining health	Q – Queasiness
E - Eyesight's failing	R – acid Reflux
F - Fluid retention	S – Sleepless nights
G – Gastro-Intestinal glitches	T – Tinnitus (ringing in the ears)
H – High blood pressure	U – Urinary problems
I – Itches	V – Vertigo
J – Joints that ache	W – Worry
K – Knees that crack	X – X-rays
L – Lapses in memory	Y – Years gone by
M – Memory problems	Z – Zest is gone

And this poem to go along with the above...

I get up each morning and dust off my wits.
I pick up the paper and read the "Obits"
If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed.

MOTHER'S DAY QUIZ with Thanks to North Haven Grange

Give each person a slip of paper with MOTHER printed at the top.

Have them write down the answers to the following questions. All are from the letters in Mother.

1. A friendless insect.....moth
2. Boys Name.....Tom
3. Not a house but a.....Home
4. A city in Italy.....Rome
5. Feminine pronoun.....Her
6. Used in the garden.....Hoe
7. Part of your foot.....Toe
8. Very warm.....Hot
9. Not less but.....More
10. What the baby did to the paper....Tore
11. At the bottom of a skirt.....Hem

DID YOU KNOW with Thanks to Whigville Grange

The LA Times reports that about 40% of the food produced in the U.S. isn't consumed, and that Americans waste enough food every day to fill the Rose Bowl. So don't buy more than you can eat.

Kissing, surprisingly, won't likely spread a cold. Why? Cold germs (a.k.a. rhinoviruses) don't live in saliva. They're transmitted when you touch contaminated surfaces and then your nose or eyes.

THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.

Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; They were men of means and well educated, but they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished.

So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid. Remember: freedom is never free!

4th OF JULY QUIZ from information provided by Past National Lecturer Judy Sherrod

True or False

1. The Fourth of July has been a legal holiday since the American Revolution.
False. The U.S. Congress made July 4 an unpaid holiday for federal employees in 1870. Congress didn't declare it a legal federal holiday until 1941.
2. Traditionally, the American flag is folded 13 times because each fold bears a special meaning.
False. Flag etiquette requires that before a flag is stored or formally presented, it must be folded into a triangular shape with only the white stars on the blue background showing. This ceremonial process requires a series of 13 folds to achieve, but there is no official meaning associated with that number.
3. Benjamin Franklin proposed the turkey as the national bird of the United States.
True. When the newly independent United States was choosing a national symbol, the country was still at war with England and the bald eagle was deemed appropriately fierce and intimidating. However, Ben Franklin thought the bald eagle was "A bird of bad moral character", whereas the wild turkey, while "a little vain and silly", was still a "bird of courage" that "would not hesitate to attack a grenadier of the British guards who should presume to invade his farmyard with a red coat on".
4. All 56 members of the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.
False. The Declaration of Independence was adopted by 12 or 13 colonies (New York did not vote) on July 4, 1776, but it was not actually signed by all of the delegates until Aug. 2, 1776.
5. Presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on the Fourth of July.
True. On July 4, 1825 – 50 years to the day after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died within hours of each other.
6. The Liberty Bell cracked when it was rung to celebrate America Independence on July 4, 1776.
False. While there are dozens of stories that purport to explain when and how the Liberty Bell developed its famous crack, there is no documentation that definitively dates when this actually occurred. According to the Liberty Bell Museum, the crack developed sometime between 1817 & 1846. However, it is generally agreed that when the bell was rung in celebration of Washington's birthday in 1846, the crack expanded to the point that the bell should no longer be rung.
7. The preferred method for disposing of a torn, damaged or soiled U.S. flag is to burn it.
True. According to Title 4 of the U.S. Code, "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."
8. The state flag of Texas is the only one that is allowed to fly at the same height as the U.S. flag.
False. Actually, U.S. flag code states that any state flag may be flown at the same height as the U.S. flag as long as it is to the left of the U.S. flag. Contrary to rumors circulating on the Internet, no special exceptions are made for the state of Texas.
9. John Hancock purposely signed his name in large script on the Declaration of Independence to show his defiance of the British.
False. Hancock did not purposely sign his name in large script on the Declaration of Independence to show his defiance of the British. Nor did he exclaim, "There, I guess King George will be able to read that!" while he was signing his name. While it's true that there was a price on his head back in England, and that by signing the Declaration, Hancock was sealing his fate as a traitor against the British crown, these circumstances did not affect the way he signed his name. In addition to naturally having a rather large and flamboyant signature, Hancock was the first person to sign the document, so he had plenty of space. Furthermore, the Declaration was not addressed to the King of England, but to the people of the American colonies.
10. An American flag should be burned if it has touched the ground.
False. U.S. flag code does state "the flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise". But, these are just guidelines for showing proper respect for the flag, not enforceable laws, and there is nothing stating that the flag should be destroyed if this happens. If a flag does touch the ground, the proper course of action is simply to lift the flag up, and if it's dirty, clean it. It should only be burned if it is damaged or soiled beyond repair.