



Address Service Requested, Periodicals Postage Paid in Winsted, CT 06098



Connecticut Granger



Vol. 50, No. 6

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

MARCH 2010

State President



Robert Sendewicz
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

The schools of instruction have all been completed and I am pleased that there was an increase in attendance in a majority of the meetings. I wanted to make these programs informational and educational and from the responses I received I think that I have accomplished that.

One message that I wanted to get across was the State Grange is going to continue its program of revitalizing Granges. We want to train more leaders so there will be several teams throughout the state to accomplish this.

To this end we are looking for dedicated persons who want to see our Grange grow. At first we will train you with the teams we have established and if you progress we will then send you to one of the Grange Growth Summits put on by the National Grange.

So if anyone is interested they can contact me or Jody Cameron, State Overseer. We are particularly in need of members from the western half of the state but will interview everyone that applies.

During the next few months the Pomona Granges will be inspected and the Community Granges will be evaluated. There is no great change from last year's procedures but it is important that each Grange have the required material and reports ready for the deputy to examine. Particularly the questionnaire you receive and the Executive

Committee Report.

Now it's time to talk about membership and speaking of time there was a great article in last month's Granger. It was the membership tip of the month by Rusty Hunt, National Grange Membership/Leadership Director. I hope everyone read it and will read it at their Grange meeting. It's a very simple way of asking someone to join your Grange. I have always said "if you want new members in your Grange you have to talk to people". How you talk to potential members depends on your relations with them but the more you talk about the Grange the easier it will become and eventually you will be talking to strangers about your Grange. One way to gain experience at this is to be a Grange Ambassador at the New England Grange Building this year during the Big E. Remember that everyone is a part of our Granges' membership Committee.

The "Future" of American food



Ernest Finch
Agriculture Director
agriculture@ctstategrange.org

Jonathan Hermonot, State Agriculture Comm.

What is the future of the American food supply? Consumers are becoming more educated about what they eat! They are more willing to pay for higher quality local products. This is causing the market to evolve. Whole Foods, a chain grocery store, is an example of this. Even in a sluggish

economy, Whole Foods is expanding. Also, there has been more and more farmer markets started in response to consumer demand. The factors that increase the demand for locally grown food include increased support for small, sustainable and local farms, increased demand for freshness and quality, increased concern about food safety, and an increased focus that eating less processed food is healthier. Common sense regulatory oversight is needed to allow for the safe delivery of locally grown food.

Large commercial farms have come under criticism as being "factory farms".

Recently a member of an animal rights organization went "undercover" as an employee on a large dairy farm in New York State with the intent to film animal abuse on the farm. The report made network news. They suggested that efficiency and profit is put ahead of animal husbandry. In reality, good animal husbandry is critical to making a profit. Even large farms that do not treat their animals well will achieve poor efficiency and will not be economically viable. But even so, consumers witnessing animals housed in these large confinement systems may search for alternative food sources.

... continued on page 2

Gordon Gibson named Pathfinder



Gordon Gibson, member of the State Grange Executive Committee and Legislative Director, receives the Pathfinder Award at the State Capitol in Hartford.

Each fall, the Working Lands Alliance and the Connecticut Trustees of the Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) recognize individuals and groups that have significantly advanced farmland preservation through leadership, advocacy, planning, and education. The 2009 Farmland Preservation Pathfinder winners were Gordon Gibson, for Outstanding Individual, and Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area for Outstanding Group. Representing the Connecticut State Grange, Gordon Gibson has been a tireless advocate for farmland preservation since the 1970's. He joined the Working Lands Alliance in 1999 and has served more than 7 years on its steering committee. he also helped launch the Connecticut Farmland Trust which is dedicated to working with landowners to protect farms.

Since 2002 the Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council has dedicated itself to promote and improve the viability of Connecticut farms. Recent activities of the RC&D Council include the popular Connecticut Tour des Farms bike ride, the AgVocate circuit rider project in nine communities to encourage farm-friendly town policies and bylaws, and research in four communities to determine the public's willingness to pay for farmland preservation.

-from American Farmland Trust Newsletter

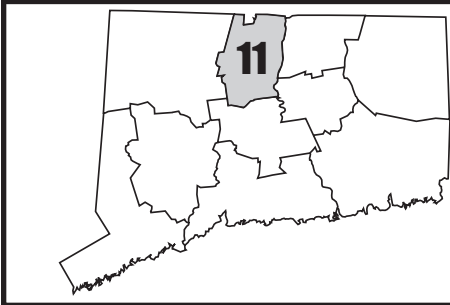
INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Central Pomona No. 1	4
Quinebaug Pomona No. 2	5
East Central Pomona No. 3	6
Mountain County Pomona No. 4	7
New Haven County Pomona No. 5	8
New London County Pomona No. 6	9
Excelsior Pomona No. 7	10
Fairfield County Pomona No. 9	11
Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11	2
North Central Pomona No. 13	3



DEADLINE
for the April Issue:
March 5

Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11



- ✓ Granby No. 5
- ✓ Tunxis No. 13
- ✓ Cawasa No. 34
- ✓ Simsbury No. 197
- West Suffield No. 199
- Cherry Brook No. 210

FARMINGTON VALLEY POMONA #11

Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner

March 15: "St. Patty's Month"- Granby Grange

Our Lecturer, Wanda Kansas, has been on the "shut-in" list. We miss her.

The CWA put on the recent program and it was for the most part about our feline friends.

Master Doris Shaw, was in charge of refreshments and provided a belated Christmas party of special treats.

The March meeting is scheduled for Granby Grange and they will also be in charge of refreshments.

GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Vivian C. Shaw

March 12: CWA Program

March 27: Public Setback Card Party at 7 P.M.

Our program on Jan. 22 was "Show and Tell" with Carol making balloon animals; Bob talking about the computer. Shirley showed the Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.

Vivian had a cat dish sign "Everything tastes better... with Cat Hair in it."

Lyall has Christmas ornaments with musical carousel. Lyn and Maggie made a beautiful Christmas tree with apples, wheat, cows, pigs, goats, sheep, horses, chickens, tiny white lights with a straw star and Grange top for Viv & Lyall.

CAWASA GRANGE #34

Corr: Maggie Schofield

Happy St Patrick's Day to All! We had to cancel our February Meeting due to schedules, appointments, etc. We had 4 from Cawasa

for School of Instruction at Tunxis Grange.

We had a guest at our November meeting, Shirley Sutton who is an expert on the "Leatherman". She also gave a lecture in January for the Canton Historical Museum on him. I'm sure everyone has heard of the Leatherman.

Prayers for Jane and Thad Wendell. Thad's health and he just lost his brother. Jane has a bad foot and back!! We have to get her on the mend FAST. More next month.

"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened." - Anatole France

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner

March 10: Graces in Charge

Last month we held a meeting at the Simsbury Library. We use a tiny room but do our best to keep things as formal and proper as possible. The CWA put on the program.

The cold weather has kept several of our members from being with us. We hope Wanda Kansas, Thaddeus and Jane Wendell and Winnie Carter will be back with us soon. Jane injured her foot. We hope it won't keep her down for long. Lecturer Wanda has used her time at home to make more of her lovely crocheted lap robes for the convalescent home and has received nice letters of appreciation from them.

Work for our community service program goes on.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Thaddeus Wendell who recently lost his brother.

Future of American Food

Continued from page one...

Even though large commercial farms are critical to supplying an affordable and plentiful food supply for our population, a growing niche market is expanding to offer an alternative to those that are willing to pay a premium.

Will the country see an expansion of small farms or will large production just change their business model? Small, local farms serve a niche by offering an all-natural, fresher product that is less processed. Their production costs are higher and therefore must charge a higher price. Large commercial farms are trying hard to capture some of this growing niche. For example, a large poultry producer recently began marketing all-natural, anti-biotic free chicken but were injecting the egg with antibiotics instead of feeding it to the growing bird as they typically do. They were criticized and had to stop labeling their chicken as all-natural. Large commercial farms may find it difficult to reproduce what the small farm can offer.

Large commercial agriculture is going to continue to play a vital role in our economy. Most consumers will want

the choice of the \$.59 per pound chicken at Walmart. But a growing number of consumers will demand higher quality foods that they can feel good about a having been raised humanely and will be willing to buy a locally grown pasture-raised chicken for \$3.59 per pound. Small local farms selling their products at farm stands, CSA's, Farmer's Markets, and in other direct marketing venues will become more prevalent. In Connecticut, with a large population base, farmers have an ideal opportunity to do this.

As demand continues to grow, we need a regulatory environment that supports the direct marketing of locally grown foods. Complex processing regulations often favor large commercial enterprises that have lobbyists fighting for their interests. Small farm exemptions can help to make direct marketing viable for local farms. Connecticut Grange can help this process by promoting responsible legislation in Connecticut that supports the safe delivery of locally grown foods from Connecticut's small farms to Connecticut's many consumers.

You're never too old!



Edith Schoell
State Secretary
secretary@ctstategrange.org

I was hoping that with the winter weather, snowstorms, that all the secretaries would be able to get caught up on some paperwork. There are a few stragglers that have not sent in their quarterly reports, or bonding money. Please do so now.

After you have filed your 990N with the IRS please let me know the number you used. You are filing under one number and the IRS is telling me you have another. I would like to get the matter squared away

as soon as possible.

You should have the Blue Books in hand and that you have members award of the various contests and projects. One or two have made the comment that "we're too old" to do projects. Believe me, there are plenty of things for all ages to do. I know the Lecturer would like to hear of more participating in

the "Letters from Home," Community Service would like to hear of you helping out with the local food pantry... perhaps a needy family could use a helping hand.

Big or small projects can help in getting the name of the Grange out in your community. Let people know you are doing your part.

Remembering the Grahams



Stella Graham of Vernon Grange recently passed away and is pictured with her husband Ernie who passed away many years ago. Please see Vernon's article at right.

Thank You!

The family of Henry O. Kulisch, Jr. wish to thank everyone who kept us in their thoughts and prayers, sent cards & emails, made phone calls, & to those who visited Henry at his home. Henry lost his courageous 15 month battle against Prostate Cancer on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at his home with his wife, Barb, by his side. Thank you to all who attended his Memorial Service & who sent donations in his memory. He will be missed, not only by his family, but by those who traveled along with him through his 57 years of Grange life.

(USPS 563-220)

"Connecticut Granger"

is published monthly except combined July-August issue for \$3.00/yr. by:

Connecticut Granger, Inc.
100 Newfield Road, Winchester Center, CT 06094
(Do not send mail to this address)

Second Class postage paid at Winsted, CT 06098

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Connecticut Granger,
P.O. Box 127, Winsted, CT 06098-0127

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the **5th Day** of each month except July and should be sent to:

Connecticut State Grange
P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033

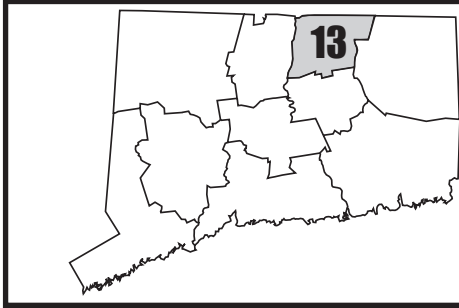
or

Todd Gelineau, Editor
170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790

Connecticut Granger Staff

President/Editor Todd Gelineau
Vice President Brian Carptenter
Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell

North Central Pomona No. 13



- ✓ Stafford No. 1
- ✓ Tolland No. 51
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- ✓ Enfield No. 151

NORTH CENTRAL POMONA #13

Corr: J. Jordan

March 11: Hosted by Tolland Grange

Please note the change in location for the first meeting of 2010. Pomona was scheduled for Enfield but will now be in Tolland for March. The Legislative Committee is in charge of the program. See you in Tolland on the 11th of March.

STAFFORD GRANGE #1

Corr: Edward J. Festi

March 16: Irish Poetry

Apr. 20: Gardening

Our January 19th meeting was subdued. We did not have a quorum. We mourned the loss of our Worthy Master Mark Glazier who passed away suddenly on January 17th. The State Secretary and the Junior Director came to give us moral support. On February 16th we celebrated President's Month. Members spoke on their favorite president.

March 16 finds us with a program on Irish poetry. Refreshments are corned beef and cabbage.

With warm weather and April coming we will have a gardening program at our April 20th meeting.

TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan

March 2: There's a Spring in My Step

After finishing the typing of the program title for March, I shivered. It is exceptionally cold today and the last thing I have is a spring in my step. This has certainly been a "chilly" winter. Hope everyone has managed to stay warm.

Our program for March will deal with spring. The catalogs are arriving so it is fun to think about working outside with planting though it is so cold now. I am sorry to report that one of our Golden Sheaf members, Raymond LaBonte, has

passed away.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: N. Strong

March 5: Maple Syrup Time

Our next program will be all about maple syrup, even refreshments!

We were saddened to learn about the passing of Stella Graham who, with her husband, Ernie, did so much for Vernon Grange. She passed away suddenly in January in her home in Maine. Ernie passed away many years ago. Many might remember Stella from her many years in the Rose Drill and also the many dinners that they catered for the Grange.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

March 13: Rome Beauty – Meeting at Hometown Buffet; in Manchester 12 Noon

January, What a way to start a new year. We celebrated Joseph P. Smith's 100th birthday with a wonderful lunch at Applebee's. He has been a member of Enfield Grange for 84 years and continues to attend meetings on a regular basis. He inspires all of us to stay the course and persevere.

Things are finally coming together with the Town of Enfield as to the disposition of the Hall, so please if you plan to visit, call to find out where the meeting is being held. This is also true for our Pomona meetings as Vernon Hall is also undergoing construction work. We are all busy with our CWA work and hope to fill several boxes for the various projects.

Our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Mark Glazier who was the Master of Stafford #1. His sudden death was a shock to all.

Fairs threatened by bill



Gordon Gibson
Legislative Director
legislative@ctstategrange.org

About forty years ago a large rock music festival was held in Woodstock, NY. This was followed by similar rock music festivals in several states including Connecticut. At most of these festivals the promoters provided bands for entertainment, but nothing more. The festivals were often held on a temporary stage constructed in an open field with no provision for food, water or sanitary facilities. Connecticut, along with other states, responded by enacting "mass gathering" laws to control these music festivals and ensure that they met basic sanitary and safety requirements. The Connecticut mass gathering law applied only to events that lasted for more than 18 hours in any one day and attracted more than 3,000 people. Those laws were revised last year to remove provisions that are now obsolete, such as requiring pay phones based on the number of people expected to attend the event, but they have also been revised so that they now impact many of our agricultural fairs.

The Mass Gathering law now applies to any event that will attract 2,000 or more people and will last for more than 12 hours in any one day. Most of our larger fairs are open for more than 12 hours on one or two days, so they will have to comply with all the requirements of the law. This could cost the fairs enough that they may have to reduce their hours to continue being exempt from the law. The

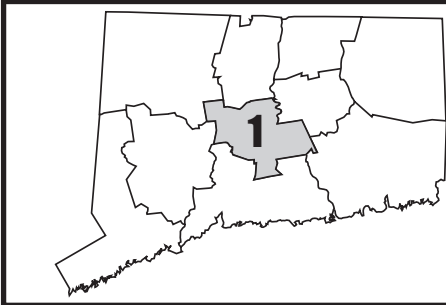
towns where the fairs are held will be required to provide the required inspection services, which could require them to hire additional town employees for the weekend of the fair. The towns could pass this costs along to the fair in the form of inspection and permit fees, but where would the towns find enough people with the required qualifications to perform the inspections?

The Association of Connecticut Fairs is working to have the Connecticut Mass Gathering Law revised to exempt the agricultural fairs. A letter has been sent to all the fairs, including the smaller Grange fairs, asking them to contact their senators and representatives to seek their support in revising the mass gathering law, even though it does not affect the smallest fairs. As word of this situation is spreading, other groups are becoming concerned about further changes in the law so that it would impact not only the smaller Grange fairs but also other local events such as strawberry festivals, heritage festivals and even Independence Day celebrations that run all day and conclude with fireworks after dark. At present, 17 Subordinate Granges sponsor fairs that are members of the Association of Connecticut Fairs and a few other Granges sponsor fairs that have not joined the Association of Connecticut Fairs. This is about one third of our Granges in Connecticut. Now the fairs need help from all the Granges and their members. Please call, write or send an electronic message to your local State Representative and State Senator asking them to support changes in the Mass Gatherings Law, Public Act 09-232, that

will make the agricultural fairs exempt from this law. If you prefer, ask them to support total repeal of this law. A formal bill has yet to be drafted, but this is a year when the General Assembly is meeting in a short session. Everything happens very fast, so we cannot wait to contact our legislators. Please contact me if you need any talking points as I am also Legislative Chair for the Association of Connecticut Fairs.

A bill has been filed to require seat belts on all school buses by January 1, 2011. This bill was filed primarily in response to the recent accident in Hartford where a school bus was involved in an accident and went down an embankment off I-84, killing one student and seriously injuring others. There are equally strong proponents and opponents for and against this bill, but the bill needs a lot of work if it is to become an effective law. The major problem is who will insure the children wear their seat belts and help the younger ones get their belts fastened and unfastened. If the bus driver has to leave his seat to do this, many other safety problems arise. If every bus has to have another person to look after the seat belts there will be significant additional costs to the towns. If each stop takes longer while the children are fastening or unfastening their seat belts, each trip will take more time. The only solutions to this problem are to stagger the school opening and closing times more than they are now or add more buses. The Grange has never taken a position on seat belts on school buses, so I will not be testifying either way on this bill.

Central Pomona No. 1



- ✓ Southington No. 25
- ✓ Meriden No. 29
- ✓ Westfield No. 50
- Higganum No. 124
- ✓ Hemlock No. 182

CENTRAL POMONA #1

Corr: Dianna Clark

March 28: Fifth Degree Rehearsal, Meriden, 2:00 P.M.

Apr. 9: Fifth Degree-Inspection

On March 28th the Fifth Degree rehearsal will be held at Meriden Grange Hall at 2:00 P.M.

On April 9th- the Fifth Degree with Inspection will be held at Meriden at 7:30 P.M. Co-host - Exec. Committee. We are having no CWA table.

SOUTHINGTON GRANGE #25

Corr: Lisa Lamoureux

March 8: Business Meeting

March 22: Ritual Program

Greetings from Southington Grange!!! Southington Grange will start again with its two (2) meetings a month which can only tell you that Spring is right around the corner. Pretty soon we will say good-bye to the snow shovels and bring out our gardening tools. We will have our first March meeting on March 8th which will be a business meeting and then on March 22nd, we will have our Ritual Program. Hope everyone is doing well and gearing up for Spring.

As always, our doors are open for anyone and everyone who would like to join us for a meeting. Remember we meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7:30 p.m. (EXCEPT JANUARY AND FEBRUARY - 2ND MONDAY ONLY UNLESS IT IS SNOWING. THEN MEETING IS CANCELLED AND RESCHEDULED FOR THE 4TH MONDAY OF THAT MONTH) at the Southington Grange Hall located at the corners of Summit Street and Knowles Avenue in the Plantsville Section of Southington.

MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Corr: Dianna Clark

March 12: St. Patrick's Day

March 26: Youth, CWA-Neighbor's Night

Feb. 12 we had skit and baby picture exchange. On Feb. 13 we held a breakfast for the Meriden Humane Society.

We have a new member-Sheila Mansolf.

On March 12 we are having a St. Patrick's Day program and the 26th Youth will put on a program. Cindy will put on the CWA program. Cindy Hupper had an operation recently and is recovering from cancer. Thanks to everyone for the cards and prayers.

On April 12th the third and fourth degrees will be conferred for inspection.

On April 23rd we are having music with John Royce and are inviting all neighbors so be sure to come to listen to the music. It is a great band and invite your friends!

WESTFIELD GRANGE #50

Corr: Phyllis Redford

March 4: Plant an Indoor Garden

The April program was in two parts. "Molly" the groundhog and her relatives predicted six more weeks of wintery days and frigid nights, at least around central Connecticut. But we shall see.

George Washington (D.O.B. Feb. 22, 1732) was a frequent visitor to the state, as a military leader and as the first President of the new United States. He was a special friend of Governor Jonathan Trumbull who provided so generously everything needed during the long rebellion, that the Nutmeg State became known as the "Provision State." As General, Washington spent some time at the Webb House in Wethersfield. Here, in the company of French Commander Rochambeau, the Battle of Yorktown was planned in 1781. Much more is known about Washington's

visits including his first, as President in 1789 when he described Middletown "... I took a walk around town from the heights of which

Leadership Tip of the Month

Rusty Hunt, National Membership/Leadership Director

Sometimes wouldn't you just like to have a fresh start? As leaders in the Grange, we sometimes find our ideas and ourselves in a rut. We deal with the same problems and frustrations or we just seem to do the same old thing over and over. It would just be great if every once and a while we could get that chance at a fresh start at something. But how do we do that when it often seems as nothing in the Grange has changed? We have the same activities and programs, which are still working to encourage us or raise the funds needed to keep us going. We have the same officers, the same members, and meet on the same first Monday of the month; and it seems like we get the same 14 -16 members attending these meetings each month. So how can we go about getting a fresh start?

You could become the National Grange Leadership/Membership Development Director and go around the country and work with great Grangers from every state, who have the drive to get new members, start new Granges, and build the Grange into the best fraternal organization in the land (which is a great job, by the way). Or you could try any and all of these tips:

1. Go out into you Grange's community and talk to mayor, assemblyman, commissioner, sheriff, and police chief to find out what is going on in the community and ask them how the Grange could help with those things. With this information, you can

the prospect is beautiful."

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

March 12: Gardening Tips

then begin a new project or activity. 2. Ask somebody to join the Grange and then when they do, find out what is important to them and encourage your Grange to start a fresh program or activity to help that member accomplish their goals. 3. Work with one of your State Grange membership teams to organize, reorganize, or revitalize a Grange. I have found no better feeling in the Grange than seeing a group of people get together to get a fresh start as a new Grange!

All three of the things that I have listed above can be done by a Grange member of any age. They are easy to do and can be done, in most cases, with little or no money. There are no special skills needed, just a desire and some initiative.

As Leaders, the fresh start comes by trying something new. The fresh start comes for us when we get to see one of these things through the eyes of a new member or someone that has never seen them happen before. The fresh

March 26: CWA (Emilie Newsom is in charge)

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

start comes as we see there is a new and better way to accomplish our goals and we appreciate that learning and adventure comes from trying something new.

Leaders need to experience a fresh start every now and then to help us avoid burn out or fatigue. We need to listen to the new members so we can remember when the Grange was fresh to us back when we started. Remember how we were just itching to start those first projects and activities? We need to get a chance to recharge our passions for the Grange and keep our energy up for those that look to us for leadership.

So, where are you today? Have you experienced a fresh start in the Grange lately or do you need one now? Do you know someone that could use a fresh start - either a brand new member or a long time Granger? Spring is just around the corner and with that brings fresh growth and new beginnings. Now, too, is the time for out fresh start!

*Serving our
Connecticut policyholders
since 1833.*

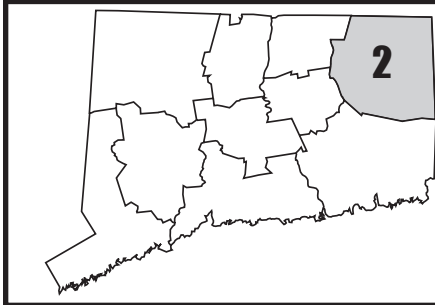
**The Patrons Group
is now part of the
State Auto Insurance Group**

STATE AUTO[®]
Insurance Companies

769 Hebron Ave.
Glastonbury, CT 06033
(860) 633-3942
1-800-800-0863

WWW.STATEAUTO.COM

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- Senexet No. 40
- Brooklyn No. 43
- ✓ Wolf Den No. 61
- ✓ Ekonk No. 89
- Ashford No. 90
- Putnam No. 97
- ✓ Killingly No. 112
- ✓ Echo No. 180

QUINEBAUG POMONA #2

Corr: Carol Hnath

Everyone is invited to join us for Dinner and a Movie on Saturday, March 6, 2010 at Killingly Grange Hall, at 6:00 p.m. Potluck Supper - each family is asked to bring a dish (main dish, side dish, or salad). No desserts, please! Meat, beverages, and movie-style desserts will be provided. A movie will follow dinner. Anyone is invited to join us so please invite your friends. Reservations are due by February 28th to Jody Cameron at 860-564-7614 or Pat Palmer at 860-423-8993.

Also, please make the following change in the Officers listing of the Quinebaug Pomona Grange #2 handbook:

Executive Committee:
3 Years: John Carter, 80 Stoddard Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06250; 860-963-0292.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie M. Johnson

March 10: Men vs. Women-Judging- Ref. Green Goodies

Nice to be back in our Grange Hall. Most all the renovations and additions are done upstairs. Downstairs not. Seed catalogs are in and orders sent to them. Time to tap trees for maple syrup. Some are out there cutting wood for stoves for heat. It's been and is cold and windy! Food pantries out there are in need.

Projects are in the planning stages.

Don't forget to feed the birds. Send a card to the shut-ins. Happy birthday to all.

In the late 40s and early 50s a company called Mathers from 1209 W. Kings Hwy., Mt. Ephraim, NJ had fundraising projects for organizations called Advertising Card Table plan. The organizations sold spaces on the card tables, then the company made the

tables for the organizations with the names on the spaces. Several Granges in our area did this. I'm looking for more tables to add to my collection. If any Granges have a table and would like to sell it, please contact me. John Carter @ 860-963-0292.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Mar. 1: "We are now to teach you how to plant the seed" meeting/program 7:30 pm

Mar. 13: Corned Beef and Cabbage Supper 5-7 pm

Apr. 5: "The germ has life!" meeting/program 7:30 pm

Apr. 17: Roast Beef Supper 5-7 pm

Apr. 22: FFA Appreciation Supper/Program 6:30 pm

Apr. 25: 52th annual Olde Tyme Fiddlers concert 1:30-4:30 pm

Easter will come early this year: April 4th to be exact, so Rebecca Gervais & Betsy Molodich have nearly completed taking in orders for the Fruit & Nut sale.. hope YOU got your order to them: quality products and reasonable prices!

Five of our officers attended the School of Instruction for Pomona at Killingly Grange.

We will have State FFA Vice President, Victor Salazar (also on the State Grange Youth Committee) as guest speaker at our FFA Appreciation Supper/Program on Thursday, April 22nd. President, J. Allen Cameron, in selecting the date, noted how appropriate to honor those involved in the future of agriculture on Earth Day!

We have had the RI/CT Olde Tyme Fiddlers at our hall every April since 1958; April 25th will be our 52nd annual concert from 1:30 TO 4:30 pm. We have raised the admission to \$7.00. We have have our usual bountiful feast at the break plus doorprizes!

For community development, we were

delighted to learn that one of the families that we adopted at Christmastime shared their food and welcomed 4 additional needy families to join them for Christmas dinner: sharing is caring! A teacher at Sterling Community School asked our Grange to assist a Sterling family (with 2 children in the school system) that was in dire straits. A quick telephone grid system resulted in Elena Hermonot delivering her truck filled with food and grocery items which were gifted to this family; no money again taken from our treasury to fill the need.

JodiAnn Cameron is doing a fine job as Family Activities Director. She has a non-Grange group of knitters in Sterling working their magic needles for our Grange. Our Grange is supplying them with yarn. It is a win-win situation!

Rebecca Gervais ordered seeds again from Washington in the "Plant the seeds that grow hope" project for 2010.

By the time you read this, Jaimie Cameron will be a Subordinate Granger. Her grandmother, Barbara, has a special bond with Jaimie. Barbara, at this writing, continues using her skills with "needles" to create items for gifting to babies through adults: all in the name of our Grange. Bless you, Barbara!

We have many members who need our thoughts and prayers. Jody Cameron is doing a wonderful job as Chaplain. If YOU know anyone who needs a card, contact Jody!

Thanks to Betsy Molodich for her generous donation of apples! Betsy and her mother, Verna Cole; mother in-law, Helen Molodich; Robin Cousens, Janet Hawkins and Sue Gray have met at the Grange a few times and made apple pies and apple crisps. They are frozen and come with directions for baking. Call Betsy at 564-1117 or Sue at 564-2131 if you wish to order a pie or crisp. They have been selling well and reports are that they are delicious! Each one sells for \$9.00.

In closing if you find your

way to scenic Route 49, stop and visit the friendly Grange on the hill!

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

We have a busy schedule coming up. Some will be over by the time this is printed. If things keep going as it has this day, I may not get it printed at all. More interruptions for information.

Our Blue Grass Night was a success. We then prepared for our February activities. Reservations were coming in well for our Valentine's Tea. It was a great success last year. Our Lecturer, Denise Aubin, who is in charge of the Tea, had a misfortune and has her arm in a cast at this writing. Hopefully she will feel better by then.

We entertained the School of Instruction recently and had a good turnout of at least eleven Granges and I was glad our newest members were able to attend. We older members also need "Brushing Up" on the ritual. Years ago the School of Instruction officers put us through the whole Grange meeting and stopped us if we were not performing our duties properly. Sometimes we just have too many

other things on our minds and forget what we have learned.

If it does snow this late hopefully it won't stay long! Hope to see some of you Grangers at a meeting somewhere and at our "Fabulous Dinners."

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

Mar. 9: Going Green

Mar. 22: Committee Works Abound CWA

We are working to enter the contests for the coming year.

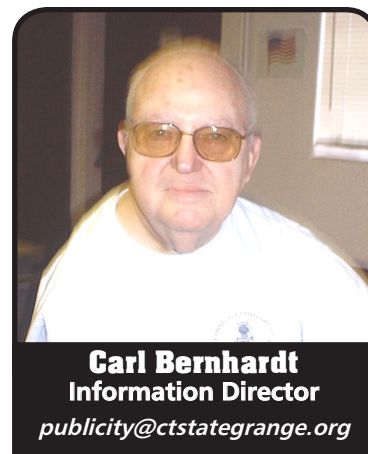
Florence Palmer, our pianist, decorates our dinner table every meeting with the theme of the day. They are beautifully done.

We will not have our Grange Fair anymore, but will have a Ham and Bean Supper on Sept 5 18, 2010 from 5 to 7pm.

Two of our members, Annie Hall and her son David are both in the Mansfield Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation in Storrs.

We hope we will be able to have our meeting this winter, because last year we had to postpone a lot of them because of the weather.

Spring Thaw



Carl Bernhardt
Information Director
publicity@ctstategrange.org

Just the title sounds positive to me. With the weather channel forecasting temperatures in the single digits tonight, it doesn't seem possible that by the time this article makes it into Grange homes across our State and Country, it will be time for Spring.

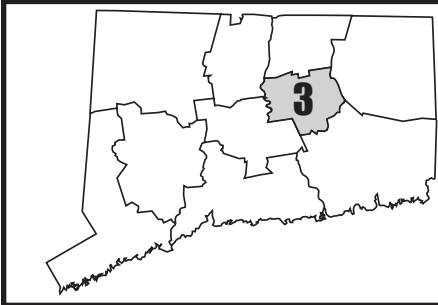
After being cooped up during our recent storms,

spring means it is time to set out with renewed energy to promote the Grange in a positive way. Have an extra half hour? Why not stop at your hall and pull a few weeds. Or, if your dahlia bulbs have multiplied like ours have, why not plant some at your Grange Hall. The way the town sees our halls is a kind of advertising. It can say, See. We are still here and were still active! If every member could donate just a half hour, what a difference we could make in the Grange image.

Has your Grange had a project lately that involves non-members. Take a picture. Send it to your local newspaper. When was the last time someone came up to you and said Did your Grange make the jewelry my Mom got for Christmas at the Convalescent Home? You people are wonderful. This is the best kind of advertising of all Word of Mouth. It comes from the heart, and, it is FREE.

As spring comes to our State, THINK POSITIVE. And, help create a positive image for our beloved Grange.

East Central Pomona No. 3



- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Marlborough No. 205

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: John Waterhouse

March 6: 7:30 P.M., Regular Meeting

Apr. 10: (Second Saturday), 5 P.M. Meeting, 6 P.M. Potluck Supper, 7 P.M. Fifth Degree

On March 6 at 7:30 P.M. East Central Pomona #3 will hold its first meeting of 2010. Our Lecturer Edith Schoell has invited the officers and members of Glastonbury High School Chapter of the FFA to visit us. She has also invited Brother Victor Salazar of the State Youth Committee (and Vice President of the State FFA). An interesting program is planned. Please join us.

Remember April is 5th degree month- so start to look for those fourth degree members. Who should take the Degree of Pomona. Happy St. Patrick's Day to all.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

March 4: Evaluation Night at 7:30 P.M.

March 13: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7:00 P.M.

Apr. 1: April Showers

Thank goodness it is March and the worst of the winter should be behind us. Robins will be returning soon if they haven't already.

A reminder to the following committee chairmen the inspecting deputy will be looking for a written report from you: Agriculture/Conservation, Legislative, CWA, Youth/Junior, and Information/Publicity.

The CWA has taken on a new project for the local social service department. We will be collecting all types of school supplies and backpacks. This project will run until the April meeting.

March 13 is our monthly Monte Carlo Whist Card Party. Bring a friend or two with you. Remember the public is welcome.

Our April meeting is a busy one. The members are asked to make an Easter basket. They will be judged and then delivered to some local shut-ins. They are really appreciated by the shut-ins. It is also the CWA Bake-Off evening. The recipe is called "Calico Muffins". Jean Accornero has the recipe and she would be very happy to see that you have one. I will have to try the recipe. Perhaps make it for the next card party.

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Diane Small

March 3: MARCHing On

March 17: Follow the Rainbow

Apr. 7: Seedlings and Garden Plans (Agriculture)

Apr. 21: On the Wild Side

Winter has been rolling along complete with snow, wind and cold, cold temperatures. Those gloves, mittens, scarves, hats and new jacket that you got for Christmas sure have come in handy. As I am writing this, it appears that we may be spared a weekend storm. Our nation's capitol isn't going to be as lucky. New England always has something to offer that can be unusual.

March offers us St Patrick's Day. It is the one day of the year when all of us have a touch of Irish in our veins. There are numerous corned beef and cabbage dinners being offered for the palate.

It appears March is Marching on and we will be following the rainbow. I'm not quite sure where will be marching to or what will be at the end of the rainbow. A pot-of-gold would be nice. Rainbows only appear in the earlier morning or late afternoons.

Daylight savings begins on March 14th. Remember to set those clocks ahead. The first day of Spring is March 20. Hopefully, our

weather will be taking a turn toward the warm. Of course Mother Nature could throw some more snow our way. Time to look at those gardening catalogs to see what may be new and different.

As Easter is April 4th this year, I would like to wish all a happy holiday. Did you get an Easter basket filled with goodies?? The Easter bunny was busy this year as usual, making sure that everyone got their goodies.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita J. Schaefer

March 11: "The Green"

March 13: Corned Beef Dinner

March 25: "Spring is Here"

April 8: "Best of Friends"

April 22: "Western Night"

Well, I hope that all this bad weather we have been having is far beyond us. This is the kind of weather farmers don't like to see as they start their farming chores. Preparing the seeds for planting and will be starting in their greenhouses.

We really haven't done much since Christmas and are anxious to get started on our meetings.

We are all hoping that our shut-ins are still progressing with their problems. This is just a short note as there are not many activities for the winter months. Just waiting to see the Blue Book for our projects.

MARLBOROUGH GRANGE #205

Corr: L. Combs

March 4: Time 11:00 AM, Meeting Place: Marlborough Congregational Church Youth Room, Program: Irish Skit, Ref: Ines Schreindorfer

The Grange is looking for nominations for a worthy citizen to be named Marlborough Grange #205 Citizen of the Year 2009. If you know of someone eligible to receive this award you must write a letter naming such person and what service rendered, length of time in applicable town, offices or positions held, organizations belonging to, and why you think this person should so be honored. This award

must be given to a Non-Granger, letters must be submitted before April 1, 2010. The recipient must be

a resident of Marlborough, Andover, Hebron or Columbia.

Glastonbury Grange in the Community



Taffy Hyyppa and Master Mario Accornero of Glastonbury Grange No. 26 present dictionaries to the third grade class at Nayaug School.



(from left) Norma DePietro and Kay Ruff of Glastonbury Grange present Christmas table favors to the residents of Gilmore Manor.



In early December, Glastonbury Grange members collected children's books. They were delivered to the Glastonbury Social Service Department. Left to right is Kay Ruff, social service representative, Mario and Jean Accornero.

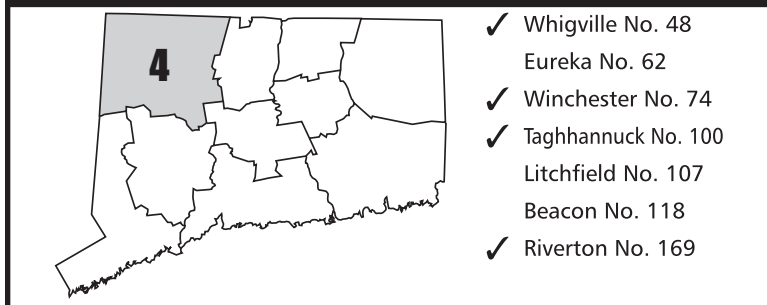
Marlborough seeks nominations

Marlborough Grange #205 is seeking an area resident as Citizen of the Year for 2009. To be eligible, a person must be a resident of Marlborough, Andover, Hebron, Columbia, and must have contributed time and service in some way to that town and/or its people over the past year. In addition, this award is to be made to a non-Granger.

Anyone can submit a nominations to the Grange. Send a letter stating the person's name, service rendered, length of time in the applicable town, offices or positions held, organizations belonging to, and a brief explanation as to why the person should be honored as the Citizen of the Year 2009. The award will be given on Awards Night to be held in May 2010. Call Laura Combs at (860) 228-3668 for information on submitting nominations.

Nominations can be sent to Grange President, Laura Combs, 7 Thompson Hill Road, Columbia CT 06237. Nominations must be received no later than April 1, 2010 to be considered.

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

March 24: Day Meeting at Riverton Grange, 11 AM (NEW TIME)

Mountain County Pomona was very saddened in February to lose Past Master Phyllis Bierce. Phyllis' dedication to Riverton Grange, Mountain County Pomona and the Connecticut State Grange was evident in everything she did for the Grange. She will be greatly missed.

The Pomona will hold its annual Day Meeting on Wednesday, March 24 at Riverton Grange Hall. All Grange members from across the state are welcome to join us for the meeting. We will begin at our new time, 11:00 A.M. and will break at noon for a lunch provided by the members of Riverton Grange. Cost is \$5 and is always delicious. A program will be presented after lunch by Lecturer Sue Addison. The program is entitled, "Celebrate Spring!" Hopefully we will all be doing that long before this meeting!

WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

Corr: Walter Murray

You may recall from last October's meeting (or you may be like me & not remember it) that we have an event planned for our March meeting. As you all know, Whigville Grange is an official sponsor of Girl Scouts in Burlington. As a way to say "thank you" to the Grange for our support, the Girl Scouts have planned a "dinner theater" event for us. The Girls will prepare food & entertainment. The meeting will start at 6 PM (rather than 7) to allow time for all of the festivities, and for the Girls to still be in bed early enough for school the next day.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

March 9: Right or Wrong, Ref. Potluck Supper, 6:30

March 23: Rainbows and Ribbons, Ref. Blanche & Malcolm Sewell

It has been quite a while since Winchester has had to cancel a meeting due to weather. For an entire winter a couple of years ago it seemed that it only snowed on Tuesday nights! Our second meeting of February had to be canceled due to heavy snow and rain. That meeting was to be a program on Ritual preceded by a potluck supper. Always greatly anticipated by the members. Rather than miss out, we have decided to hold that program and potluck at the March 9 meeting. Additional adjustments in the program schedule might need to be made by the Lecturer. Stay tuned!

We remind all members that dues are now payable and are important to the financial support of Winchester Grange. If you haven't already done so, please do!

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Myrtle Hayden

March 11: CWA in Charge

March 25: Who Knows?

Apr. 8: Faith & Hope

Apr. 22: Charity & Fidelity

On February 11 we draped our charter in memory of Connie Verbowens.

We had an informative program on the history of the Grange.

In addition to our members we had two guest Grangers.

As of March we are back to two meetings a month on the second and fourth Thursdays and back to our time of 8 P.M.

You're invited to Riverton



On March 19th, after a potluck supper at 6:30 pm, Riverton Grange members will push back the tables to create a dance floor so that Jim Todd a dance expert can present a contra dance. Jim and his wife Kathy live in Collinsville and over the years have had the opportunity to participate in many different styles of folk dancing including New England contra dance, English, French, Scottish, and Italian country dance, as well as Irish, Russian, Scandinavian, and various Eastern European/Balkan, Renaissance, Medieval dances. In addition to dancing, Jim is an accomplished singer. He and his wife are long time members of the Canton Center Church Choir, sing in the Winsted Boar's Head Festival, are members of the Laurel City Singers, also of Winsted, and Jim is the choral director/choreographer for the Riverton Production of A Christmas Carol. The dances that Jim will present include English/contra dances including Dancing at the Riverton Grange which Jim wrote just for this occasion. He

asks that participants wear comfortable shoes and be over age 13.

Space will be limited. Please call for reservation at 860-379-8871

"The Grange in Our Community"

WHAT THE GRANGE MEANS TO ME

by Ronald Fischer, Beacon Valley Grange

The Grange is a place where one can get a feeling of family, community and patriotism. Where a member in need can be helped and where you can feel the satisfaction of helping those in need. It is a place where you can enjoy interesting conversation and camaraderie.

*Please note – there is a error in the Bluebook. This years' essay can be up to 100 words. The title this year is "The Grange in Our Community". Why not get a head start before the weather turns nice. Write your essay today.



I hope everyone is getting ready for the "A Number" and Talent Contests. The only change from past years is that those who competed on the Northeast level have to skip a year before entering the contest again. The State contests will be judged at Grange Sunday at Good Will Grange Hall in Glastonbury on June 13th. More to come on this later, but please mark your calendar.

Also, please mark Saturday, July 24th on your calendar. "Let's Celebrate will have a new format and will be held at Cheshire Grange where there will be more room for our displays. We will have lots to celebrate on that date. The Mardi Gras will be coming to Connecticut that day with fun for everyone. Add to this the display of CWA articles, the Lecturers Photo and other committee contests along with a delicious dinner served by the Junior Department and you have a great event. Plan ahead. Invite your family and friends to come with you and show them what the Grange is all about.

See you around the State.

National Deaf Awareness Grant Program

For many years the National Grange conducted an active Deaf Awareness Program which led to many valuable projects that enabled our members to learn more about deaf people and their challenges. In many cases, great relationships were also built with the deaf community. A fund was developed within the National Grange Foundation for the purpose of supporting deaf activities within the Grange. Because funds are still available, this grant program is being offered to assist states with funding various deaf awareness activities.

Eligibility

Any State Grange is eligible to apply for a grant to assist with a worthwhile project that may be planned within the state, using the attached application form as a guide.

Timeline

Grant applications will be due on June 30, 2010.

Guidelines

Grants up to a maximum of \$500.00 will be awarded to each approved

application, and will be awarded to the State Grange. The State Grange will have the option of transferring those funds to the Community or Pomona Grange conducting the deaf activity included in the grant application.

A maximum of three grants will be awarded in 2010.

Grants may be awarded for any project that enhances deaf education. Preference will be given to high quality activities that involve significant numbers of individuals. Creativity and uniqueness of the projects will also be factored into the selection process.

Applications

The application should be in document form and include the following information:

Name of State Grange

Date of Application

Name of the Project

Description of the Project

Anticipated number of people involved

Anticipated impact on the Grange

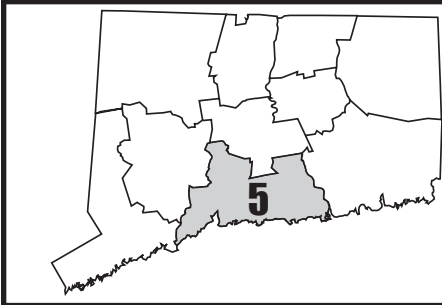
(State and/or Local)

Anticipated impact on the Community

or State

Other anticipated results of the project

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- ✓ Cheshire No. 23
- Wallingford No. 33
- North Haven No. 35
- Totoket No. 83
- ✓ Old Lyme No. 162

NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: Charleen Dimmick

May 10: 5th Degree at Wallingford

June 8: Regular meeting at Cheshire, Election of Officers. Gift Card Drawing

The program for the January meeting was on the National Grange. New members are needed for the Degree in May.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Charleen Dimmick

Apr. 7: Ballroom Fever

Apr. 21: CWA Program. Open Meeting. Teacup Auction

May 5: Competitive Night. Men's Bake-Off

May 19: Awards Night. Open Meeting. Teacup Auction

At our meeting in January, Charles Dimmick

described a variety of garden pests. He and other members offered suggestions on how to cope with them.

Our first meeting in February was a box supper. The program was about Valentine's Day.

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

Corr: A. Tolette

March 2: Antiques Roadshow

Apr. 5: Surprise? Deputy Visit

Winter was here and then it wasn't. Now it's back again.

January was too icy and cold so we chickened out. If we hang in there spring will be here again soon. We already have March winds.

Martha's Heart program was great. It got us thinking, now to act.

The March program

sounds good to me. I know who the antiques are. Now to get the road to show. No snow or ice on it.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Barb Kulisch, Corr.

March 12: Agriculture Night

March 26: Easter is around the corner

We hope that the weather was good in February for our Guest Speaker from the Waterford Country School would speak with us about this year's projects that we have undertaken.

Our January 22nd meeting found us observing "National Hobby Month" with Photography; Needlework; Scrapbooking; Crocheting; Stain Glass Suncatchers and Quilting which were all enjoyed by the members in attendance that evening! We sure are a talented group and have entries in many contests this year!

We draped our charter in loving memory of Bro. Keith Davy who would have received his 60 year seal in April of 2010!

We have passed the Historic District rules for our handicapped ramp and as soon as the Building and Zoning boards meet, we should be underway! The handicapped bathroom just needs some more it's dotted and t's crossed and it should be ready soon!

We continue to be busy within the community with various projects and are working towards the State Grange Projects for 2010.

Sis Lois Evankow, from Lyme Grange #147, has been filling in the chair of Assistant Steward for Bro Henry Kulisch who is no longer able to attend our meetings. As of this writing, January 22nd, Henry is slipping away from his family & his friends. He surely has had a very determined attitude and has surely accomplished a lot over the past 14 months plus!

Need a night out, then come on down to Old Lyme on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.

Old Lyme Grange's Ted Powell receives Heritage Award



Ted Powell (right) receives the Heritage Award from the President of the International Association of Fairs & Expositions (IAFE).

Ted Powell III, of Colchester was recently awarded the Heritage Award for Volunteer work in fairs at the International Association of Fairs & Expositions (IAFE) Convention in Las Vegas, NV.

Powell is the first person in the State of Connecticut to receive this award and only the second in New England. He has been a member of the Hamburg Fair in Lyme for 16 years; during that time he served as livestock superintendent, vice president and currently serves as president. While serving in those positions, he had other responsibilities including providing security at night and serving as concessions manager.

In addition to his work with the Hamburg Fair, Powell also has served Chester Fair for 12 years, Haddam Neck for 5 years and Terryville Fair for 4 years. He was with the Hebron Fair for 12 years and was in charge of the grounds in 2005, when the fairgrounds had to be rebuilt. Powell was also vice president of the fair for 4 years.

Powell is also a member of Brooklyn Fair where he is swine superintendent and has been a member of Durham Fair for 20 years where he also runs the swine and goat shows. Powell serves as a member of the Association of Connecticut Fairs on the board of directors, and is also on the IAFE Zone 1 Planning Committee. He is also a member of Lyme Grange No. 147.

Powell stated, "Fairs are good for communities. Fairs present a chance for communities to come together for fun and good times."

Do you remember?

Edith Schoell, State Historian

For all you "youngsters", do you remember our State Session in 1965? It was held at Footguard Hall in Hartford with Alfred C. Beckwith serving as State Master.

After the formal opening the Grange was at ease and Governor John Dempsey was presented at the Master's station. Governor Dempsey extended his personal congratulations to our organization for the fine work it has done and was doing in the state, mentioning the good work at the various fairs in the state. He encouraged continuing the work done with young people, and mentioned the fine principles of the Grange which uphold and strengthen belief in country, God and fellow man.

Overseer, Jerome Keech, thanked the Governor for his remarks and presented him with an application for membership.

That year it was reported that we held our own on membership. The Youth held the second annual Coronation Ball at the Meriden Town Hall with good attendance.



**Deadline
for the
Next Issue:
March 5!**



**Connecticut State Grange
Support us on the Internet!**



**Visit our Website at
www.CTStateGrange.org**

Sign-up for MyGrange, visit the Scrapbook, rate the Articles, view the Calendar, and so much more!

Find us on Facebook

twitter

**Join our Official
Social Media Sites**

YouTube

myspace.com



www.Facebook.com/CTStateGrange



www.Twitter.com/CTStateGrange

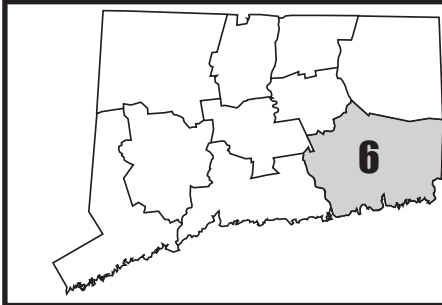


www.YouTube.com/CTStateGrange



www.MySpace.com/CTStateGrange

New London County Pomona No. 6



- Lebanon No. 21
- ✓ Colchester No. 78
- Pachaug No. 96
- Preston City No. 110
- ✓ N. Stonington No. 138
- ✓ Lyme No. 147
- ✓ Stonington No. 168
- Norwich No. 172

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
 March 13: Talent and "A Number" Run-Off- N. Stonington

At this writing we are hoping for good weather and good attendance for our movie and potluck in

February. More about this next issue.

Wouldn't it be great if we had an entry from each Subordinate Grange at the talent and A Number run-off at North Stonington on the 13th? The subject for the A Number is "The Great Outdoors" and can

be any number that would be suitable for a Grange meeting. Pomona meeting starts at 7:30. North Stonington always has great refreshments. Hope to see a big crowd there.

It's time for A Number and talent.

So come on and strut your stuff!

We know that you all can do something,

Let's show 'em it isn't so tough!

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
 March 12: Program change,

Come and See!

March 26: "There's a Great Big, Beautiful Tomorrow"

On January 8 we heard from David Jones from Bio Tec Pest Controls, who told us all about controlling pests without the use of dangerous chemicals. January 22 was an evening of sharing. Miriam Shabunia had the most interesting entry. She shared her beautiful doll, handmade by ladies from the Babcock-Smith House in Westerly. This doll and 99 others were made as a fundraiser several years ago. She was made in the image of Julia Abby Smith who once lived in the house. "Julia" was dressed in period dress, complete with bloomers, petticoats and bonnet. Her intricate hairdo was braided in a style popularized by Mary Todd Lincoln.

The program for March 12 has been changed and will be a "surprise" according to Sue. We look forward to Renee Dickey's program on March 26. Renee will speak on bio fuel from recycled vegetable oil. And if those bulbs that are foolishly poking their leaves through the soil way too early will just survive the nor'easter that is bearing down on us, next time I'll tell you all about fabulous February.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Dick Chapman
 March 4: Color Us Asparagus- Agriculture Program

April 8: (Date Change) Color Us Blue & Gold

Nick notes: As we are collecting nickles for the needy this year, it is interesting to note that the nickel made its debut in society in 1866. The date of our March meeting back in 1913, the first of the Buffalo Nickels were presented to President Taft. Those much prized coins- often called a work of art- were only minted until 1938.

We'd appreciate it if all members would remember to bring to Grange- or send to a meeting- nickles, boxtops for education, aluminum tabs for Foster Care, and handmade items for the Grange sales table in the New England Grange Building at the Big E.

Our April program will feature the 80th birthday

of Cub Scouting and we'll welcome our sponsored Pack to be with us.

March's marvelous message comes from a magnificent Swedish proverb: fearless, hope more, eat less, chew jore, whine less, breathe more, talk less, say more, hate less, love more, and all good things are yours. A mighty marvelous message, indeed!!

STONINGTON GRANGE #168

Corr: Jeff Barnes

We thank our members, Jim & Sandra Wright, for inviting us into their home for our January meeting. The Wrights own and operate Another Second Penny Inn, Bed & Breakfast in Stonington. This is a wonderful old house built in 1710 and filled with the history of nearly 300 years of use as tavern, dancing hall and private residence.

Our hosts greeted us with hot mulled cider which was heated on the open hearth where a fire was slowly burning. After our business meeting we were treated by our hosts to a lecture on open hearth cooking while spider cornbread and apple pudding cooked over the coals. The Wrights are experts on historic open hearth cooking and offer classes on this on weekends November thru April. Classes are limited to 6 people and last about four hours. Presently, all classes are sold out. As you can guess, we all enjoyed spider cornbread and apple pudding as part of the program. We also got to try our hand at making our own cheese and toast versions of s'mores over the fire, using long handled forks. Later, we were treated to a tour of the house.

As you know that woodchuck saw his shadow and promised us more winter until at least March 21st. Until then Andy and Carl will each present a program of their choice. We hope to have entries in the Talent and "A Number" contests and send them to be judged at Pomona in March. We are working on our Community Citizen of the Year award and look forward to that event in April. We're having a good time and hope you are too!

Mystery Meeting Place



Carl Bernhardt, State Publicity Dir.

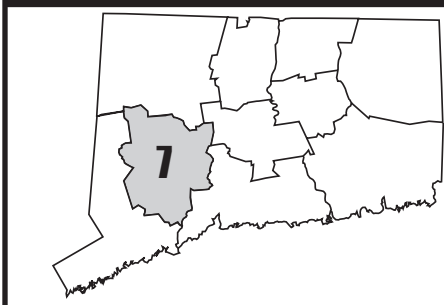
For our March Mystery Picture, we would like to know what Grange meets in this building? If you know or have any idea, please let your Information Director know by telephone, postcard or e-mail. Just mail your answers to: Carl H. Bernhardt; 424 Cedar Lane; Cheshire, CT 06410, or call (203) 272-4620. Our e-mail address is: mbc76@cox.net. We would like your answers by April 1st. The names of everyone who gives us the correct answer will be printed in the May issue of the Connecticut Granger.

The Mystery Picture shown in the February issue of the Granger will be identified in the April issue as well as those who identified this Hall.

February Mystery Picture



Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 107
- ✓ Watertown No. 122
- Prospect No. 144
- Bridgewater No. 153
- ✓ Wolcott No. 173
- ✓ Oxford No. 194

EXCELSIOR POMONA #7

Corr: Mary Dubay

March 17: "On Stage"

Excelsior Pomona #7 will meet on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at Wolcott Grange Hall at 7:30 P.M.

The program "On Stage" will be the Talent and A Number Run-Offs. Lecturer Jean is hoping for a large turnout and participation from each Grange.

Visiting Pomona members are always welcome.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

March programs are March 12 "Pigs". Carole Mancini will be hostess for the evening. March 26th will be our annual Fun Night. A dairy supper is planned - the program is still up-in-the-air. Reservations for the supper are a must.

A new community service project is our involvement with the "No Vets Left Behind" group in Derby. Handmade quilts made by our Grange quilters, clothes and household items have been donated. Diane and Victor Godin are our contact with this group.

We continue to do bingo once a month on a Sunday at Paradigm Healthcare Center in Prospect. Volunteers are always welcome.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Linda Coad

March 22: 7:30 P.M., Daffodils and Tulips, Ref. Faith Korpalski

Apr. 10: Annual Indoor Flea

Market, 9am-1pm, Memorial Hall, Bethlehem

Apr. 26: 7:30 P.M., Inspection, Country Store, Ref. Ellen and John Samoska

Coming up is our Annual Flea Market. If you would be interested in renting a table, or donating items to the Bethlehem Tag Sale table contact me or Master Al Maddox. Or you could stop by to say "Hello."

WATERTOWN GRANGE #122

Corr: Mary Dubay

March 5: Ides of March

March 19: Blarney and Irish Stew

In March we have St. Patrick's Day, so we wish a happy day to all of Irish descent. Also spring arrives and daylight saving time begins.

The program for the first meeting in March is called "Ides of March" by Lecturer Diane. Our second meeting is a few days after St. Pats Day and is called Blarney & Irish Stew. This is definitely an Irish program. We get to sing Irish songs and talk about the Blarney Stone and what goes into Irish Stew.

Our CWA Chairman Malinda is hoping members are working on the projects that she has announced at the meetings. Our community service work is still in action with active members working on projects on their own in addition to those done by Grange, such as volunteering at the Firehouse in town, donating clothes to Good Will, food donations at their churches. All good

causes!

Visiting Patrons are always welcome. Think spring!

WOLCOTT GRANGE #173

Corr: Cindy Legg

March 1: "Hobby Night" (Refreshments Chaplain)

March 15: "Spring Has Sprung" Neighbors Night (Refreshments Everyone) Country Store

March 17: Excelsior Pomona #7 at Wolcott (Talent and A Number run-offs)

Our first meeting in March will be our "Hobby Night" everyone brings some of their hobbies to share. Our second meeting will be Neighbors Night, After the long cold winter, it will be good to share the coming of Spring. We will be holding Excelsior Pomona's Talent and A Number run-offs on March

Reform necessary for survival

By Emily Groves (Norwich Bulletin - 2/13/10)

Eastern Connecticut farmers said reform, including rewriting state and federal laws governing agriculture, is necessary for them to survive and thrive.

Stakeholders in the region's AGvocate program met with U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, D-2nd District, and a few state representatives Saturday at Killingly Town Hall to share their concerns and a wish list for government action toward local agriculture.

The AGvocate program was formed in June in six Eastern Connecticut towns through a state Department of Agriculture grant. Its goal is to strengthen farm friendliness in towns by forming agricultural commissions, implementing tax reduction programs, planning farmland protection and establishing right-to-farm ordinances.

A second grant has extended the program for another year and increased the number of participating towns to 10.

Local farmers and residents involved with the AGvocate program spoke about the need to reform the farming industry and

17th.

We at Wolcott Grange have decided to to the National Dictionary Project. We handed out over 200 dictionaries to the 3rd graders in our 3 elementary schools. We think it was a great success.

We would like to send condolences to Southington Grange on the death of one of their longtime members Florence O'Hare. Florence was a good friend of mine, and I miss her dearly.

Remember that Wolcott Grange meets the first and third Mondays of most months. We meet at our hall near the center of Wolcott. Visitors are always welcome.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Phil Rowland

March 5: Great Gardens Seminar

March 19: Pizza Party

Our Gardening Seminars have attracted many visitors who I'm sure will better their gardens' productivity via the expertise of program leader Maggie Buck. Perhaps- I'm dreaming- some seminar attendees might eventually be persuaded to join the Grange.

We thank Maggie for her fine work conducting this worthwhile series.

Pizza Parties have become an enjoyable springtime tradition since being introduced years ago on Inspection Preparation Night. Recently, since our Grange meeting, ritual work has slipped a bit, some ritual practice might be appropriate again.

Come and join us. Just call ahead, and bring your bib.

the state and federal laws regulating it. But they said not all types of reform would be helpful.

Austin Tanner, a former dairy farmer, owner of Creamery Brook Bison and Brooklyn's first selectman, said farmers would rather make their money through the market than from subsidies. "We're producing a good product and we'd like to get paid for it," Tanner said.

Putting up roadblocks Rick Hermonot, owner of Sterling's Ekonk Hill Turkey farm and a member of Ekonk Community Grange #89 and the AGvocate steering committee, and his son, John, said they would love to expand their business and sell to local businesses

and restaurants, but state regulations tie their hands.

"The roadblocks that get put into place are a liability to small farmers," Hermonot said. "We're being held back from being able to grow by those rules."

State Rep. Kevin Ryan, D-Montville, said the state may form a rural caucus this year to examine the agricultural issues the farmers raised Saturday.

Courtney said the economic crisis has created a lot of interest in reform, even from big farms. "There are some people who are trying to accomplish some of the goals you've set out," he said. "You just have to stay on it."

New Members

We welcome

Sheila Mansolf	Meriden #29
Denise Martingale-Lamb	Norfield #146
Jim Maggio	Norfield #146
Steve Porter	Norfield #146
John Ojarouska	Norfield #146
Roland Poirier	Norfield #146
Judy Kane	Cannon #152

We encourage all Granges to send in the names of new members to be printed here in the Connecticut Granger.

Grange membership benefit with

T-Mobile

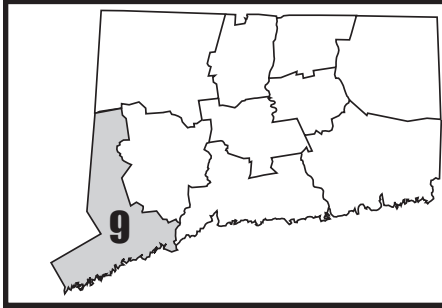
Any Grange member who activates a NEW voice and data service with T-Mobile on an Even More 2 year agreement will receive a \$50 credit for each new line.

Any device is eligible as long as it has voice/data.

ACT NOW.. ACT FAST! This promotion is only available through December 31, 2010

Crediting will be done within 90 days

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



- ✓ Redding No. 15
- ✓ Harmony No. 92
- ✓ Greenfield Hill No. 133
- ✓ Trumbull No. 134
- ✓ Norfield No. 146
- ✓ Cannon No. 152

FAIRFIELD COUNTY POMONA #9

Corr: Karen Macdonald

On March 3, our meeting will feature a special program on The Great Danbury Fair, please call lecturer Geno Piacentini to confirm time. Later in the month, we will be having a rehearsal for the Fifth Degree at 7:30 on March 24 at Redding, with the Conferring of the Fifth Degree on the following week on April 7. Save the date of May 8 for our Pomona Tag Sale at Harmony Grange in Monroe, we'll be accepting donations of items until that date. Hoping that you are all enjoying the fresh, crisp winter air, and the clear starry nights.

REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Marge Sendewicz

March 8: Honor Grange Night

March 22: Spring Has Sprung

Apr. 12: Health Awareness

As I sit here writing this we are in the middle of a blizzard, so I hope when you read this that spring has really sprung.

Well we have no dinners this month so what are we doing to celebrate spring? Actually spring will arrive in two weeks but our first meeting of the month will focus on our Honor Grange Report. We will go over what we have accomplished so far and what we can do to achieve the highest score we can get. There will probably be some March ditty's to liven up the meeting and the usual amount of fun thrown in.

Our second meeting of the month will celebrate spring which we have waited way to long for this year. So we will probably do something appropriate and silly for the occasion. The Lecturer will come up with something and the members will expound on

it. That sounds like fun so come and join us and shake off those cabin fever blues.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

March 28: "March Maple Madness", 2 P.M. Meeting

We have been using our meetings for planning future activities including theme programs and community-centered activities. Our January meeting featured ice harvesting and a reading of "Follow the Drinking Gourd."

Meanwhile the Penny Lane Players have been rehearsing "Twelfth Night", which will be presented the weekend of the 19th to the 21st, with evening performances on Friday and Saturday and a matinee on Sunday. Call 203-375-1093 for more information.

Our March meeting will include a program on Maple Sugaring. All of our Grange friends are welcome at our meetings and activities!

TRUMBULL GRANGE #134

Corr: Sue Sulier

Hi, fellow Grangers and welcome to March, when almost everyone claims to be at least a little bit Irish, including me.

Now onto the Grange stuff – In January we celebrated the New Year with a delicious hotdog dinner. Thanks go to Gil Standley, from Harmony Grange and his sister Barbara for preparing the extra tasty hotdogs.

Henry Barrachina, who was recovering nicely from a fall and painful arthritis, sadly had another arthritic flare-up, but thankfully, he is improving. Henry – get well soon - we love you!

Connie Biros is again attending our meetings, thanks to Mary Mazur's willingness to bring her.

On Wednesday, March 17, come to Bridgeport and see Pat Gerckens as she accompanies Mr. and Miss Shamrock in the Gaelic-

American Club's - St. Patrick's Day Parade which begins in Harbor Yard at Noon. Prior to the parade, St. Augustine Cathedral will hold an 8 AM Mass, followed at 9:15 AM by a Flag Raising Ceremony at City Hall, with Mayor Bill Finch. For further event information, contact Katrina Shea at 203-268-3621.

Featured CT AARP Column #8 -The April 15 tax deadline is fast approaching! If you or someone you know could use assistance filing your taxes this year, the AARP Tax-Aide program can help. The program is free and run by IRS-certified volunteers. The program is open to anyone but special attention is given to persons age 60 and over. To find a Connecticut AARP Tax-Aide free income tax preparation facility near you, call 2-1-1 or visit www.211ct.org/taxaide.asp. Make sure to bring all documentation with you when you go, including all income and wage statements, last year's tax return, etc.

I wish you all a very "Happy St. Patty's Day" & hope you all find a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow.

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

March 9: Neighbor's Night, Dinner 6:30, Country Store; Agricultural Program: Seed Project

Apr. 13: Easter; Memorial Service

Membership Chairman Lyn Kimberly is on a tear! Because of her drive, five new friends became members through the Welcoming Ceremony led by State Master Bob Sendewicz on Jan. 9. They are: Denise Martingale-Lamb, Jim Maggio, Steve Porter, John Ojarouska and Roland Poirier. We welcome them all. And word has it that Lyn isn't finished yet!

At our January meeting we also draped the Charter for Ollie Phillips. Chris Kimberly escorted Tom Studwell to the altar, where he received his 50 year certificate. Master Randy Miller announced that he had called on Bud and Phoebe Holly, to whom

he also presented 50 year certificates. Randy reported that the Holly's were doing well.

At the same meeting Sue Sulla surprised us all by introducing Nina, her little Westie terrier and favorite companion, who served as a lead-in to the evening's program on pets. Nina is Sue's second Westie, and by the time the meeting was over Nina had made a thorough check of every chair and leg in the hall.

Thanks to the John Twarda Memorial Scholarship Fund, we have been able to award a \$500 scholarship to the very able Laurie Bock, who thrilled us at the November 2009 Neighbor's Night with her beautiful hand-made quilt. She was one of several seniors from Fairfield's Andrew Warde High School who had worked on teacher Jim Acosta's "Colonial Times" project. John would have been proud.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

Mar. 4: Business Meeting and Program, "Away We Go"

Mar. 18: Business Meeting and Program, "Preparing Your Garden"

Apr. 1: Business Meeting and Program, "Wilton EMS"

Apr. 15: Business Meeting and Program, "National Grange Meth-A-Menace" video

May 6: Business Meeting with State Baking contest - our 111th anniversary week

Activities at the Hall have been many and varied during the winter months. The Fair Committee has been hard at work with brainstorming sessions to plan out the annual event. The Committee is made up of Doug Shepherd, Billie Sue Hollingsworth, Judy Kane, Julie Wanamaker, Shelley Dempsey, Michelle McDonald and Don Offinger. The local Scrabble Club has been meeting once a month, and we've been able to hold our meetings as scheduled.

We're pleased to welcome Judy Kane as a new member, but not a stranger to our Hall. Judy has participated in our annual Agricultural Fair for many years and is now a welcome addition to our membership.

Plans are being made for our Grange to participate in our town's Energy Commission event, Go-Green, in early May. We're planning to host a booth whereby we provide citizens with the tools and ideas to help reduce their carbon-footprint. Excitement is also building for a float to be included in the annual Memorial Day Parade.

There's lots of excitement, fun and "happenings" taking place at our Hall. Please note our meeting schedule. We meet at 6 PM for a light supper followed by our meeting and program.

Visiting Patrons are always welcome---won't you join us?

Youth Report



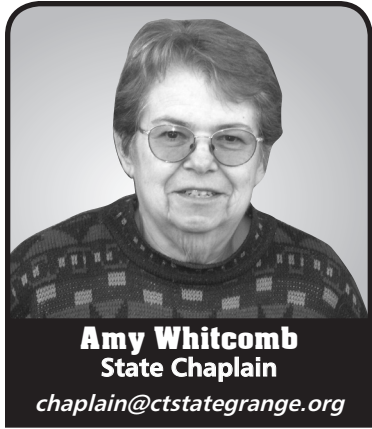
Donald Lanoue
Youth Director

youth@ctstategrange.org

Hi Everyone, I hope that we are all enjoying this limited snowy winter I know that I am. Though we can be out and traveling with snow free roads I hope that some of you are working on youth contests. There are many that can be done from the local to national contests and if anyone needs help please call. Speaking of contests the annual Bowl-A-Thon will be March 27, 2010 in Plantsville at the Super Bowl Lanes. Please come and participate I would really enjoy more of the youth to participate.

Also coming this June is the 50th anniversary celebration of the National Grange Building in Washington, D.C. Please look at the National website and think about joining the youth at this celebration. Special arrangements have been made for the youth and juniors to stay at the 4-H Center but, this is on a first come first serve basis. Look it up and think about it.

Chaplain's Message



Amy Whitcomb
State Chaplain

chaplain@ctstategrange.org

In the days leading from the season of Epiphany to the season of Lent, we walk with Jesus in His ministry. We also shine God's light in dark and difficult situations, bringing God's hope and grace to places of despair and grief.

During this season we

are encouraged to take the time to discern our own gifts for ministry and to have the courage to put those gifts into practice. According to the Gospel of Luke, Jesus inaugurated his own ministry by pointing to Isaiah's words of justice and liberation in Chapter 61. He declared that God's desire for justice, mercy and grace were not for some future realm but were now present in Jesus' work.

We take Jesus as our model for our work as individuals. I give thanks for your gifts of ministry and your generosity in

sharing them with each other and the world.

With the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, we are called to a season of reflection and introspection. It is a time of reconnecting with God in new ways and sharing God in new ways with others. It is an opportunity for healing... an opportunity for growth, and an opportunity for new depth of faith as we approach Easter and the season of new life.

Find your opportunity in many ways to share your gifts of ministry. Distribute your gifts in the world. Allow yourself to grow and expand during this season of new life.

Junior Grange

Made

We will try to learn some knitting and crocheting stitches.

Since the holidays, we did have some meetings. We have held monthly crafts as the weather wasn't the greatest. They do have some educational trips in mind as well.



Joan Perry
Junior Director

juniors@ctstategrange.org

HILLSTOWN JR. GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita Schaefer

March 19: How Yarn is

Clifford Gervais



Clifford Gervais, 11, Program Director of Ekonk Community Jr. Grange No. 101, proudly displays his National Grange 1st prize winning entry in the National Grange Creative Writing Contest. The ribbon, prize money and his entry were presented to him by State Junior Director Joan Perry, at the Feb. 5th meeting of Ekonk Comm. Jr. Grange.

EKONK COMM. JR. GRANGE #101

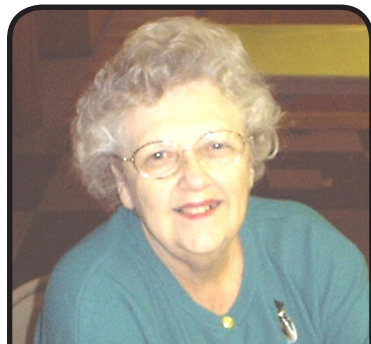
Corr: Sue Gray

State Junior Director Joan Perry, was our special guest in February. She brought and presented the following awards:

Clifford Gervais- 1st Creative Writing

Jacob Gervais- 2nd

Soups, Salads & Appetizers



Betty Jane Gardiner
Women's Activities Director

cwa@ctstategrange.org

Joan Ziegler, State W.A. Committee

I'm sure that many of you have heard about the cookbooks that are going to be sold in the Grange Building at the Big E. This year's book will be "Soups, Salads, and Appetizers" but more recipes are needed so that the book can be published for sale at this year's fair. If you have some good recipes for any or all of these categories and would like to share them please send them to Betty-Jane as soon as possible.

Speaking about the Grange Building reminds me of our needlework

In Memoriam

Mark L. Glazier

Richard Ayer, G.S.

Pearl Gunther, G.S.

Leonard V. Bergquist, G.S.

Nelson A. Secor, G.S.

Carolyn L. Magnuson

Harry Ferry

Edna Diehl

Raymond LaBonte

Connie Verbowens

Ruth Senior, G.S.

Ollie Phillips

Joseph S. Firgelewski

Henry O. Kulisch, Jr., G.S.

Keith Davy, G.S.

Phyllis Bierce, G.S.

Stafford Grange

Granby Grange

Redding Grange

Redding Grange

Redding Grange

Southington Grange

Glastonbury Grange

Manchester Grange

Tolland Grange

Taghannuck Grange

N. Stonington Grange

Norfield Grange

Lyme Grange

Old Lyme Grange

Old Lyme Grange

Riverton Grange

Please keep us notified of deceased members. Use the email or the regular mailing address listed on page 2 of this issue. Thank you.

Creative Writing

Trevor

Gervais-

Certificates of Participation

Jacob is 13 and Clifford and Trevor are 11.

Congratulations to these three brothers and active Junior Grangers.

The Juniors voted a \$25 donation to autism. They also voted a \$25 donation to the Grange kitchen for the purchase of kitchen towels and supplies.

By this reading the Fruit & Nut sale will be complete. Thanks to Rebecca Gervais and Betsy Molodich for their leadership in this fundraiser!

The kids have been enjoying fun programs. At the February meeting among other things, they had played animal/action games!

contest because that's where the New England Contest takes place. I hope you're all working on your entries. We have such a variety of classes that there's bound to be something for everyone. Don't forget you can ask your non-Grange friends and relatives to enter too. This contest is open to the public. Look over the brochure to see what project you can do.

Even if you don't want to make something for yourself, handmade needlework items make great gifts and are very much appreciated by the recipient. You could also make something to give to charity; for instance, a 3 piece baby set for Covenant to Care, an afghan or adult garment for a battered women's shelter, or a stuffed toy for a child in foster care. Enter your item in the contest and then give it away. You'll

make someone happy and your grange will have more entries.

Remember, this year the State Contest will be at Cheshire Grange Hall. The judging will be on Friday July 23 with the displays, luncheon and "Let's Celebrate" program on Saturday July 24. All entries must be at the hall between 9 and 11a.m on Friday to be judged. If your Pomona Chairman can't get to Cheshire on Friday have her get them to one of us on the state committee.

Hope to see lots of you on "Let's Celebrate" day. You don't have to be a contestant to be there. Bring along some friends. I know you'll all enjoy the day.

