



The Granite State Granger

Volume 38

Number 1

2008

March

Hillsborough County Pomona

#1



Hillsborough County
Pomona Grange #1
Cordially invite you and
your Grange to join us
as we celebrate our 125th
Anniversary
This is an historic event,
as Hillsborough County
Pomona #1
is the first Pomona in the
Nation to reach this
milestone.
Our celebration will be
held on
Saturday, April 19, 2008
At Granite Grange Hall
Milford, NH

To the many Grangers from whom
I've received cards, telephone calls,
visits, plants, and flowers
following my recent hospital stay,
THANK YOU!
A special thanks to the members of
my "Jones Family," who cared
for me so well.
Marion T. Jones

Spring Fling '08 Grange Month Kickoff Event

What better way for us to celebrate Grange Month than to have an event that honors the founding principles of the Grange, creating a better manhood and womanhood! Make plans to attend the Spring Fling '08 Grange Month Kickoff Event on Saturday, March 29th. This will be held at the Fire Academy on Sheep Davis Road in Concord. The purpose of this event is simple - to educate and elevate our membership to be the premier leaders of their communities. Each Grange Master should have received a schedule and registration info. in February, and it is also posted on the State Grange website. Registrations are due no later than March 20th, and seating is limited so do not hesitate!

9:00 a.m. Registration starts

9:30 a.m.

#1 - Exploring the Grange's Grassroots Heritage: A review of the New England Blueprint and the importance of advocacy (letter writing and email). Presented by the Legislative Department.

10:30 a.m.

#2) - Field of Dreams Therapeutic Riding: Learn about the amazing results this type of therapy can provide to developmentally and physically challenged patients, how it relates to our Grange programs, and how your Grange can get involved in supporting a similar program in your area. Presented by Theresa Brown of Chichester, sponsored by the Family & Community Department.

11:30 a.m.

#3A) Where Do I Go From Here?: Tips on finding and utilizing resources for assembling unique, important, and interesting Grange programs. Presented by Marie Hall, State Lecturer.

**Support the Granite State Granger
with your donation.**



#3B) Secretary and Treasurer's Training and Updates: Here is your chance to ask your burning questions and find out what you're really supposed to be doing as Secretary and Treasurer of your Grange! Presented by State Secretary Carolyn Ross and State Treasurer Gail Turcotte.

12:15 p.m. LUNCH

– \$5 per person - soup, sandwiches,
beverage & dessert

1:00 p.m.

#4A) How to Successfully Prepare & Present a Sign-A-Song : It's not as difficult as you might think! Presented by the Youth Department.

#4B) How to Crochet Scrubbies: These quick projects are fast sellers at fairs and sales. Bring a size J crochet hook and do it yourself! Presented by Jane Heath of the Family & Community Committee.

2:00 p.m.

#5) Hemp and the Rule of Law – Documentary film and discussion – Learn how and why the Grange can revisit its powerful grassroots legacy by supporting legislation that will allow NH farmers to reintroduce this important crop into rotation. Your State Master requests your presence!!!

3:30 p.m. Adjourn

(This schedule is subject to change. Refer to www.nhgrange.org for up to the minute changes, additions, and registration information.)

Deadline

Send copy for the June issue of the **Granite State Granger** to Hannah West by May 7, 2008. Report on events of February, March, and April. Look ahead to June, July, and August.



If you weren't there, YOU MISSED OUT!!! I'm talking about the National Grange Primary Fly-In, the Northeast Leaders' Conference, and the Leadership Team meeting with National Grange Master, Ed Luttrell and National Grange Leadership/Membership Development Director, Rusty Hunt. All three events were amazing experiences.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find an article written by Sandra Bokousky, a first-time participant and voter, who tells about her experience during the Fly-In. For myself, a repeat attendee (I participated in the first Primary Fly-In in 2004.), I found this event to be one of the most interesting and worthwhile ever in my Grange "career." I thoroughly enjoyed my day of volunteerism at my presidential candidate's campaign office and learned that there are countless ways that anyone can participate and support a cause. If making phone calls, knocking on doors, or computer data entry are not your cup of tea, these offices are filled with young people who are hungry, in need of places to sleep and do laundry. More often than not, they come from all over the country, so having a local resource in the office can be a valuable asset when planning events and doing errands.

I'm extending a special thank you to all NH Grangers who attended the Northeast Leaders' Conference in Portsmouth. Workshops were presented by four representatives of the National Grange: Master, Ed Luttrell; Leadership/Membership Development Director, Rusty Hunt; Youth Development Director, Cindy Greer; and Junior Director, Anne Kurburski. A delegation from Connecticut made a presentation on plans and needs for the upcoming National Convention, and a field trip to the former Hiram R. Roberts Grange Hall in Rollinsford included a terrific workshop on techniques for memorizing parts by Michael Tobin, a member of the Garrison Players, which now owns the

building. Various departments held meetings throughout the conference, and the New England Grange Building Trustees also held their annual meeting. Saturday evening, under the direction of State Lecturer, Marie Hall, we were involved in a rowdy game of horse racing with the winning team earning over \$300,000 in play money. Sunday morning's worship service was conducted by Vermont State Chaplain, Jim Ballard. A report from participants at the Fly-In was made, and the various committees and departments reported on the results of their weekend deliberations. My deepest appreciation goes to conference secretary, Gail Turcotte for all the details she handled prior, during, and since.

At an invitation-only session held at the State Grange Building on Sunday afternoon of the same weekend, the National Master addressed our group of State Leaders and helped us set these four priorities for the NH State Grange:

1. Work in partnership with National Grange to assist Community Granges.
2. Increase participation at meetings and activities.
3. Improve and increase communication in the Grange.
4. Develop new leaders and give them opportunities at each Community Grange.

Master Luttrell stressed the fact that National Grange will work closely with the State Grange to support us as we work to achieve these goals. Next, the Leadership/Membership Director presented "Harvesting Team Leaders", which explained the process used in successfully training new leaders with membership building skills in the Washington State Grange when he was Co-Membership Director there. It's an exciting program, and with Rusty's help, plans are in the works

for a similar program here in New Hampshire.

Along that line, it gives me great pleasure to announce that Stephen Tracey has been appointed as Membership Development Coordinator of the NH State Grange. Steve and I were the Outstanding Young Man and Woman (formerly Prince and Princess) together in 1979, and we represented the NH State Grange at the National Convention in Lancaster, PA. His enthusiasm and positive attitude are as solid as ever, and I am looking forward to working with him in this capacity. You can contact Stephen at oleoacresvt@yahoo.com.

I am sad to report that Purlingbeck Grange in East Washington has closed and consolidated with Antrim Grange. Two other Granges are currently in the process of closing, one of which will also close a Pomona Grange because of the two Grange minimum requirement. There have been several instances in recent months where it is apparent that the proper procedures are not being followed when a Grange starts considering giving up its Charter. I would strongly urge all Masters and Secretaries to read their by-laws, Article XIV, Section 11, Div. 1 and Article XVI, Section 1. Every Grange was mailed an updated copy of the by-laws in January, and it is also available on the State Grange website. Your Master was mailed instructions on how to access the hidden page on the website in a recent letter from me. This page also houses the State Grange Roster, You may contact the webmaster, Mark Collins or me if you need additional assistance logging onto the site.

Remember last issue when I challenged you to seek a higher and better manhood and womanhood? What better way than by educating yourself in a variety of topics related to our Grange work? You won't see a collection of presentations like this anywhere else! The Spring Fling Grange month kickoff event is set for March 29th and will be held at the Fire Academy in Concord. It is suggested that you register for this event, the deadline being March 20th. Look for details elsewhere in this issue, on the website, and check with your Grange Secretary for a complete list of the day's activities and a registration form. I'll see you there!

THE GRANITE STATE GRANGER
 This is a free* publication to keep Grange members informed of past and up-coming events.
 *(However, donations are accepted.)
 This paper is printed quarterly.
 Postmaster or anyone else:
 Please send all related correspondence to
 Hannah West
 3 Depot Road
 Chichester, NH 03258



At the Northeast Leadership Conference we found out that New Hampshire's part for the National Grange Convention, November 11-15, 2008, was to supply 5 tables with centerpieces for the banquet and 75 gift bags holding 4 or 5 items as table favors - about 375 items. It was suggested that the bags be 8 inches across by 11 inches tall with a ribbon tying the top.

Suggestions for the gifts were plastic canvas made into eye glass case, pen holder case, tissue holder, sewing book, etc., scrubbies, goat soap, and the like. Something that is made by hand if possible or is made in the state. Each gift bag does not need to hold the same items. There can be a variety, not necessarily 75 of the same thing. Remember, most of the attendees will be coming by plane and are limited in baggage space so the items should not be too big. Also the gift bag is rather small.

Your Family and Community Services committee members will collect your items by September 1, 2008.

One concern the state directors voiced was that this project should not interfere with the items we send to the Big E or our needlework contests. Let us get on with our projects and get those gingerbreads made, too!

Here is the suggested recipe for the 2008 baking contest. You may use any recipe. If you do not use this suggested recipe, please write out the recipe you used.

Gingerbread

½ c. boiling water 1 ½ c. flour
½ c. shortening ½ tsp. salt
½ c. brown sugar ½ tsp. baking powder
½ c. light molasses ¾ tsp. baking soda
1 well-beaten egg ¾ tsp. ginger
¾ tsp. cinnamon

Pour water over shortening; add sugar, molasses, and egg. Beat well. Add sifted dry ingredients and beat until smooth. Bake in a waxed paper lined 8-inch square pan in a 350 degree oven for 35 minutes. Cool in pan.

Home Economics Nights

Home Economics Nights are listed below for your visiting pleasure. Use your roster and call ahead to give the Grange a heads up for their lunch count.

March 15 - Rochester - 7:30 p.m.

March 19 - Chichester - 7 p.m.

April 3 - Centennial (Barrington) - 7 p.m.

April 11 - Cochecho (Dover) - 12:30 p.m.

April 15 - Crown Point (Strafford) - 7 p.m.

**April 15 - Mt. Livermore (Holderness) - 10 a.m.
at Firehouse**

**April 19 - Pleasant Valley (Milton Mills) -
6:30 p.m.**

May 1 - Lower Intervale (Plymouth) - 7 p.m.

May 1 - New Hampton - 7:30 p.m.

May 6 - Pembroke - 1:30 p.m.

May 8 - Mont Calm (Enfield) - 6:30 p.m.

May 14 - Henry Wilson (Farmington) - 7 p.m.

**May 14 - East Rockingham Pomona - 7:30 p.m.
at Hampton Falls**

**May 14 - Suncook Valley Pomona - 7 p.m.
at Hooksett**

**May 15 - Eastern NH Pomona - 7 p.m.
at Pleasant Valley**

May 21 - Somerworth - 7 p.m.

May 23 - Baker's River (Rumney) - 7:30 p.m.

June 2 - Merrimack Valley Pomona - 7 p.m.

**June 6 - Pemi Valley Pomona at Lower Intervale
June 19 - Reunion (Union) - 2 p.m.**

June 24 - Jeremiah Smith (Lee) - 7:30 p.m.

June 27 - Mascoma Valley Pomona

Mountain of Mittens Project

The mittens and other warm "woolies" that Grangers around the state turned in at State Session in October were distributed to schools in New Hampshire. Here are some thank-you notes:

To: Jane Heath, Mountain of Mittens,

Thank you so much for the generous donation of hats and mittens. They are being put to good use at this very moment on this cold day. We greatly appreciate these wonderful gifts. Thanks again. Stacey Burns, RN, Carpenter School, Wolfeboro, NH

Dear NH State Grange,

Thank you for including Tuftonboro Central School in the Mountain of Mittens Projects. Our students are most appreciative of your donation. Sincerely, Tutftonboro Central School Nurse, Tuftonboro, NH

**Visit the State Grange Website at
www.nhgrange.org**

Dear Mrs. Bean,

Thank you so much for your donation of mittens to the Kensington Elementary School! I often get children in my office looking for a pair of mittens or gloves to wear outside when they have forgotten to bring a pair in, so I know they will be put to good use. I do appreciate you thinking of us! Sincerely, Stephanie Klemarczyk, RN, School Nurse, Kensington Elementary School, Kensington, NH

Dear Mrs. Bean,

Thank you very much for your generosity in making and giving the gift of those beautiful mittens, hats, and scarves to the children of our school. Some of the items went directly home to some of our families in need. And others were kept in the Health Office to loan out to children who have forgotten to bring their own from home. It was very nice of you to think of us this year. Thank you for your kindness and Happy New Year! Blessings, Laura Conant, School Nurse, East Kingston Elementary School, East Kingston, NH

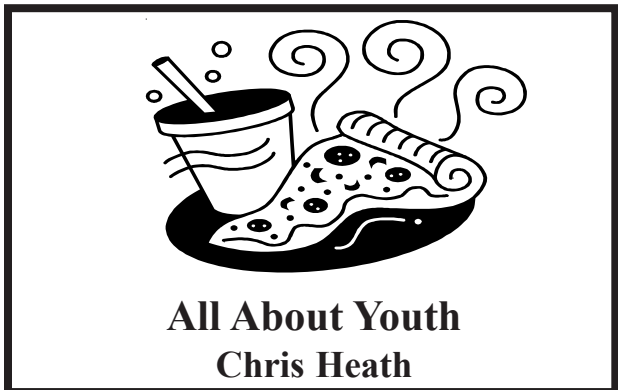
Dear Mrs. Bean,

On behalf of the students at Moultonborough Central School thank you for your generous gift of mittens. As you can imagine we use many extra hats and mittens while the students are at outdoor play. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated. Sincerely, Linda L. Isabelle, RN, School Nurse



Handmade Christmas Ornaments Needed

For the 2008 National Grange Convention in Cromwell, Connecticut, in November the NH State Grange will be providing a prelit Christmas tree that will be decorated with handmade ornaments contributed by members from across the nation. Additionally, we are asked to provide 20 ornaments from our state for our tree. The NH tree will be decorated with a gold theme, so please plan accordingly. After the convention, the trees will be given to charities for their use and enjoyment. Please submit your handmade ornaments to State Master Beth Merrill.



The Youth Team has been very busy since the first of the year. Members of the team attended the Northeast Leaders Conference that was held in New Hampshire this year and participated in organizing the Northeast Regional Youth Conference, and Youth Activities at National Grange session in Connecticut. They also shared ideas on how to increase youth participation in the Northeast region. The conference was very helpful and the Team looks forward to working closely with other Youth Leaders around the Northeast.

Later in January the Youth Team had the pleasure of attending the Western New York Youth Conference, "2008: Marching to a New Beat." Five members of the Youth Team presented a two-day workshop titled "How to Have a Successful Drill Team". Twenty-four Youth from New York State attended the weekend and learned team building skills, some history of drills in the Northeast region, how to design a drill, and some new marching drill moves. The workshops were well received and the youth from New York have some of the skills needed to become Drill Team Champions.

On February 9th, the Youth Team participated in the 4-H portion of Farm and Forest, which was held at the Center of New Hampshire in Manchester. In conjunction with the Juniors, the Team provided an activity for all young people in attendance, doing Create-a- Button, which is always a crowd favorite. The Team also worked on making so new contacts and invited many of the people who stopped at the table to the Winter Youth Rally.

The Team would like to thank everyone who attended the Winter Youth Rally and helped make it a success. We were pleased that ten youth from the New York State Grange were able to visit with us for the weekend. The workshops were well received, and the team would like to thank Sherrill Bokousky and Rachel Bailey for

putting on wonderful meals. All in attendance had a good time, and the Youth from New York really enjoyed the hospitality.

The 2008 Photo Scavenger Hunt was released to all who wanted it at the Youth Rally, and there is a copy of it printed in this issue of the GSG on **page 12**. This has been a well-received contest in past years, and the Team would like to have twice as many entries this year as we had last year.

On March 8th, the Youth will hold their annual Moon Stomp event at the home of State Master Beth Merrill. The night will start around 5 p.m. and will include some food and fellowship. There will also be an opportunity to take a moon-lit walk on the Merrill property. Sledding and a scavenger hunt will conclude the outdoor activities. The evening usually wraps up around 11 pm and anyone interested in attending this event needs to contact a member of the team so that we have a count of people. If you would like to spend the night, please contact the State Master to ask if there is room.

On March 29th, the Youth Team will be presenting a workshop at the State Master's Spring Fling at the Fire Academy in Concord. The team will give an educational workshop on sign language. All interested are encouraged to attend.

April 19th will be a very busy day for the Youth Team. During the day they will be running an activity table at the Family Fun Fair in Milford, NH. This is an opportunity for the Youth in the Grange to be on display to the public. The Team is still looking for volunteers to help the young people in attendance make potted plants to give to their mothers. This event typically runs from 9 in the morning to 3 in the afternoon. Later that same day, the youth will hold the Annual Caroline Hall Grangers Care fundraiser. The Youth will gather at the New Hampshire State Grange Building around 5 pm and enjoy some fun activities and food. Then around 10:30 pm they will move the event to the Stadium Ten Pin bowling center in Manchester to participate in Glow Bowling. The cost of the event is 15 dollars and this will cover the cost of food, drinks, and bowling. Any youth that raises 25 dollars in donations will pay half price (\$7.50).

Some other events that are coming up are the June Youth Rally, which will tentatively be held June 6th through the 8th, Spotlight NH on June 7th and the Northeast Regional Youth Conference from July 11th through the 13th in Rhode Island. Please watch for a future mailing with details. Young people are reminded that applications for the Jodi Bailey Fund are due by May 20th. Also, applications for Public Speaking, Sign-a-Song and Presentation of Interest/Hobby/Talent are due by April 29th. All these entry forms can be found at www.nhgrange.org/youth. Please remember to get these in by the deadline dates.

There are many Youth nights coming up quickly and they are being posted on the website, www.nhgrange.org/youth. If you would like to have your date posted, please contact the Youth Team leader so it can be added. The youth team will be putting on a Youth Night program at Antrim Grange on Wednesday, May 3rd. Please plan on coming to this event. A great time is to be had, and everyone who attends is sure to have a memorable evening. Please remember to be on the look out for the future mailing with information on upcoming events. The Youth are the Grange of today and tomorrow. Let's get out there and support them in their endeavors..



Rachel Bailey prepares chicken pot pie for the oven at the Winter Youth Rally.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.

[Inspired by the Master's Address at the 2007 State Grange Conference, Matthew Haefner, a teen-aged member of Hudson Grange, submitted an article to the December GSG. There was not enough room for it then, so we print it now.]

Keeping Youth Involved in Grange

by Matthew Haefner

As stated in Beth Merrill's Master's address, the Youth of NH aren't nearly as active as they were in the past. NH Youth used to be very active all around the state, attending Youth nights, getting together on a regular basis, and just having fun while doing it. Unfortunately, this is no longer how it is. Youth are now staying home instead, so they can watch TV or go on the computer. Now I must admit, I enjoy watching TV and going on the computer, but I agree with Beth by saying that "we" the Youth of NH aren't "nearly" as active as before. I think that our goal should be to get the Youth of NH involved, by introducing new things and activities to make them "want" to get involved. We can't force someone to have fun; we can only help them along the way.

In Beth's address, she posed a challenge to the Youth of NH. Her challenge was to get NH Youth more involved with the Grange, and to simply get out more. We, as a team of Youth, should carry on the tradition and continue attending Youth nights, and continue having fun as a team, and as a family. Within the challenge that Beth posed to the Youth, she gave us a goal. She asked "us," the Youth officers, to assemble a team, and to audition for and possibly perform the installation next year, for the NH State Grange Officers elect. I personally think that this is a great idea, and I would love to take part in installing the officers of the NH State Grange. I will begin memorizing parts of the installing officer lines immediately.

I have listed a few suggestions below to help the Youth of NH get involved into the Grange, as well as to keep current Youth stay involved:

To keep Youth involved on a local basis, a good idea may be to hold a meeting in your Grange Hall [if you don't have a Grange Hall, you could rent out a hall for the night] and allow the Youth of your

Grange a chance to run the meeting. If you don't have any Youth in your Grange to run the meeting, call some of us Youth officers up, and we would be happy to help your Grange run the meeting.

Simply open up your doors. Let the Youth in. The only reason that Youth are opposed to joining an organization such as the Grange is because they don't know what it is. They see all of these [no offense] older people walking into the Grange hall and are probably thinking to themselves that they will be bored. But we can't let them think that anymore. We need to do more youth-friendly activities.

For the actual Youth, why don't we simply just get together more? Why is it that we have to get together just on special occasions? Why can't we get together just to have fun, on a regular basis? We can, and we should. We should have more fun nights on a regular basis; maybe go out to dinner once in a while. In the winter time, we should get together and go skiing or tubing. That would be fun, and it would keep Youth involved.

One last suggestion I have for the Youth is for traveling. Beth was right when she said that "we," the Youth, don't travel anymore. We should start to travel places together. If we don't have the money to go, we could fund-raise. That way, we as a team, could go to events such as ... National Grange. That is an opportunity you would not forget. We should begin meeting more frequently, and planning stuff to do. We should fund-raise more, to be able to afford these long and often expensive trips. And all along the way, have fun doing it.

Granges should try to do more to attract younger families, specifically those with young children. If we get these young couples involved in Grange now, then they can bring their children up in the Junior Grange. As they get older, they can become members of the Youth Grange, and so on. These children are the future of the Grange. We need to brainstorm how best to attract families. Adding youth to our ranks is essential.

We are the Youth of NH, and this is the beginning of our generation. We are the successors of your generation. We will soon be the ones responsible for the Grange, and

keeping it a living, breathing organization. From the way things are looking at the moment, that is going to be a challenge for us, and will require a lot of hard work and a lot of devotion... but we can do it. By starting now, we can get Youth involved and staying involved. Hopefully, we will be able to enjoy the Grange in the future just as much as all past Grangers before us.

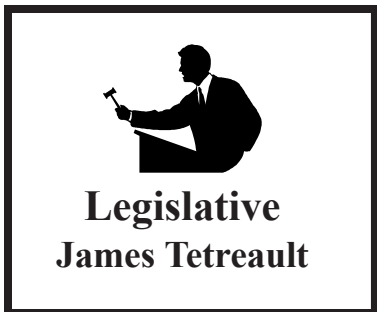
Throughout these past few years, the Directors and Officers of the NH State Grange have worked very hard to continue the youth program which is vital to the future of the Grange, as well as a program which is loved by all Grangers, young and old. Their hard work helped to model the successful Youth program we now have today. But the time has come for the Youth to take the next step, and to take the initiative by working harder and getting other Youth to do things over and above the program, on their own initiatives. Thank-you!



Pine Grove Grange Plans Blood Drive, Easter Egg Hunt, and Falconry Program

Pine Grove Grange #298 in Bath is busy planning for the upcoming months. On March 8, the group will sponsor a blood drive in conjunction with the American Red Cross. The event will be held at Bath Village School. Two weeks later, the Grange members will hold the annual Easter Egg Hunt for the children of Bath. Last year, over 60 children enjoyed games, prizes, and treats, courtesy of the hard-working Grangers.

On May 17, Pine Grove Grange will sponsor a falconry program at the Bath Village School. The event will feature a discussion of the art and science of the ancient craft of hunting with a trained bird of prey as well as a demonstration of falconry with a female red-tailed hawk. The experience of learning about the conservation of our raptors, learning their hunting methods and instincts (basically the same whether they are in the wild or working in partnership with a falconer), and experiencing the unsurpassed beauty of the sport should make for a thrilling day for everyone. There will be photo opportunities after the discussion.



The Legislative Department has had a busy few months. We had the opportunity to host the 2007 NH Primary Fly In at the Highlander Inn in Manchester. This was a 3 day event. Friday was our educational day at the State House. Bob Haefner of the Legislative Committee arranged a tour of the State House for our participants.

Speakers that day included Secretary of State William Gardner, who gave a history of the New Hampshire Primary. An interesting fact that the secretary brought to light was that the author of the original primary bill in the NH Legislature was a Grange member, Rep Stephen Bullock, who I can proudly say belonged to Arlington Grange #139 which is my own Grange. We were pleased also to hear from Sybil Dupuis, the great-granddaughter of Stephen Bullock, who attended this event to bring documents and chat about her great-grandfather. Other speakers included Fergus Cullen, Chair of the NH Republican Party, as well as Dan Eaton, who is the Assistant Democratic Leader for the NH House. He gave us an interesting workshop on the Role of the Legislature in the Primary Process. The evening hours found many people socializing and "Talking Politics." We ended our evening with a beautiful dinner served by the Highlander.

Saturday found everyone up early dressed casually, ready to hit the road after a good breakfast. The participants were dropped off at the different Presidential candidate offices to spend a volunteer day. Some of our participants did phone calls, some did canvassing door to door. Our delicious dinner that night served by Dot Haskins and gang, found everyone very pleased with their experiences. I think a common feeling was that after being on the other end of the phone call not one of the participants would hang up on a political call again. Our State Master summed it up when she stated that this "Was the best

Grange event she had attended in a long time" I want to thank everyone who supported this event and made it the great success that it was.

NH hosted the Northeast Leaders Conference in Portsmouth this year . Representatives of all the Legislative Departments here in the Northeast were represented as we met to discuss upcoming events, and plans. Something that the Legislative Directors have been discussing but were never able to come to agreement on was having a key set of regional legislative priorities. At this conference we were able to come to agreement. Those priorities will be as follows: Agricultural Trade, Dairy Policy, Environmental Pollution, Food Security, Land Use, Transportation, and Voter Registration.

Take a look at our website which is still a work in progress at <http://northeast.mygrange.org>. Again, please note that this a work in progress, so we are still in the development stage.

Another Project we will be sponsoring with the regional Youth Departments is a contest to try and get young people involved in Legislative Advocacy, getting them so they care about the important issues that face our country. We will be encouraging them to write to members of Congress about those issues they are concerned about.

At this conference we also planned our Northeast Washington DC Fly In, which will happen during the month of May.



Thank You

I wish to express my gratitude to the members of Hillsborough County Pomona and Antrim Grange for the lovely reception held on my behalf on January 27th at the State Grange Building. It was a great honor for me when I was elected Lady Assistant Steward of the National Grange, and I was happy to share that honor with all the Brothers and Sisters who attended the reception that day. Your cards and well wishes are gratefully received.

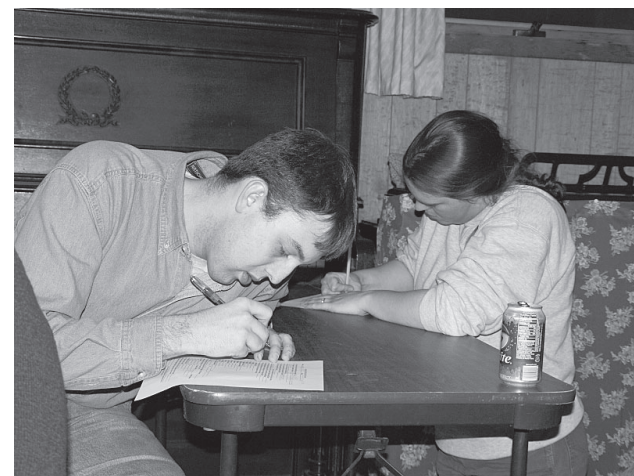
Sincerely, Beth Merrill



National Master Ed Lutrell

National Master's Conference

NH Grange leaders joined others from across the nation this past weekend at a conference in Irving, Texas, to map an exciting plan to expand Grange membership in the days ahead and reinforce its position as America's foremost rural family fraternity. Beth Merrill, NH State Master and National Lady Assistant Steward; Dan Bascom, Priest Archon; and John West, National Chaplain; as well as spouses Kimber Bascom and Hannah West braved the long plane ride to attend. Inspired by the enthusiasm of new National Grange President Ed Lutrell from Oregon and National Grange Membership Director Rusty Hunt from Washington State, National Grange officers and State Grange presidents shared in planning efforts to organize new Granges in each state and strengthen the thousands of chapters already out there. Between now and the 2008 Annual National Grange Convention held in Cromwell, CT, in November, great things are going to happen!



Grange Knowledge Test

Matthew Clark and Anne Boisvert, pictured above, were among many who took the Grange Knowledge Test at the Winter Youth Rally. This year's test was written by Deputy Rhoda Davis, who received the highest score on last year's test.

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A Political Journey

by Sandra Bokousky

Sister Beth Merrill, Master of NH State Grange, talks often about stepping outside our comfort zone and trying new things. So that's just what I did. Somehow I made it to age 27 without a basic understanding of politics. Not proud of this I made a personal goal to educate myself about the process and to vote in the 2008 presidential election. That election begins first with the NH Primary Election.

How better to learn about our first in the nation primary than a National Grange sponsored weekend of learning and fun! The National Grange Legislative Fly-In hosted by the NH State Grange was quite the experience.

Brother Leroy Watson, Director of the National Grange Legislative department, offered Fly-In participants a full weekend of events to help expand our minds and deepen our understanding of the great privilege it is to have such direct access to the presidential candidates during the NH Primary. Many states don't get the chance that NH does to meet candidates face to face and ask them the tough questions before they have prepared their perfectly rehearsed answers. NH residents can really put presidential hopefuls through their paces and help them grow as candidates before they take their campaigns elsewhere. We are very lucky, and so many of us don't even know it.

Saturday was spent at the State House in Concord with a guided tour in the morning and speaker discussion sessions in the afternoon. Did you know the NH State Law that prescribes we should have a primary election was written many years ago by a NH Grange Member? This and other interesting topics were discussed by a variety of speakers who found time in their busy day to chat with us about what they do as political leaders.

It was truly a unique opportunity to talk with NH's Secretary of State William Gardner, representatives from both the Republican and Democratic parties, and House Majority Leader Dan Eaton, just to name a few. Brother Richard Patten, a "Supervisor of the Checklist," explained his role, described how the list is created, and

how he helps ensure voters are authorized to vote in his assigned ward. Brother Bob Hafner, who serves as a representative in NH's House, shared with us how politics govern his position and described some of the effective change he can help encourage as a Representative of the House. Brother James Teatrault, Legislative Director of the NH State Grange, shared with us how politics affects his position as a Town Clerk for Winchester, NH.

From these speaker discussion sessions I learned about how I would register to vote at the polls on Election Day, how to declare or undeclare my party affiliation, and how to reregister if I were to pick up and move to another town. There was so much more, but I don't need to list it here.

Saturday night, before we were dismissed for the evening, Brother Leroy handed out our campaign assignments for the following day. Part of the Fly-In Experience included a full day of hands-on campaign volunteer work. All were assigned to candidates of their choice to learn what happens behind the scenes. On Sunday morning participants were bused to their respective locations and encouraged to assist in whatever ways we were asked. Some Grangers were given call sheets to make phone call after phone call, and some literally went knocking on doors in the town of Manchester. Some of my strengths include organization and forms of office work so my day began with the creation of promotional packets that other volunteers would use when walking door to door. Once I ran out of materials more would need to be purchased. Since I knew the area well I was asked to assist an out-of-town volunteer with running some errands. This was a great opportunity to learn about my candidate from someone who felt passionate about the campaign and its outcome.

Sunday evening had tired and hungry participants gathered at the NH State Grange Building in Hooksett to share a very tasty meal provided by Sister Dot Haskins and her amazing crew of helpers. I highly recommend the mashed potatoes if you ever get the chance. Yum! All were encouraged to take a moment and speak to the group gathered about the how the weekend's experiences affected each of

them personally. Everyone had something positive to share, and new thing or two to take away from the event.

My journey didn't end there like it did for most. A few days later that out-of-town volunteer I had spent the day with gave me a call and invited me to a town hall meeting. I had said to her that I wanted to hear my candidate speak if an opportunity presented itself, and one did, so I went. I was so glad I did. Until that evening I was still undecided about whom I was going to support in the election. The things I heard that night and an online survey I took helped me realize that my priorities matched well with my candidate's priorities. I had finally made my decision and knew who I would be voting for in the NH Primary Election that, at the time, was only days away.

Voting day came a few days later, and I was actually excited to be awake at 6am. The whole thing took no time at all, since my line as an unregistered voter was the shortest. I collected my ballot, went into my little voting booth, and cast my vote. It was a little disappointing that all I had to do was color in one little dot. I guess I thought there was going to be more to it, though I can't imagine what. After feeding my ballot into the nifty machine that collects them, I was done and out the door. Walking out I was proud to be an American who was involved, for the first time, in the future of our nation, even if it's only one little dot at a time.

The learning still has not stopped now that my candidate has dropped out of the race, and I have to decide all over again who to support in the 2008 presidential election. I watch the debates and continue to research each candidate's priorities. I still don't know who that will be just yet.

The National Grange Fly-In was a great way to begin my journey of endless learning. It's too bad more NH Grangers didn't take part in this amazing event. I know this much; if we have the chance to do this again here in NH, I will definitely sign up a second time. Thank you to all the folks who answered my endless questions throughout the weekend while I listened and learned. The Grange has and always will be my safe place to learn, grow, and try new things. Is it yours?

**A positive attitude is a magnet
for positive results.**

Grange Bulletin Board



At the February meeting of Winthrop Grange in Shelburne, Marc and Rosemarie Van Sant (Master and Secretary) were crowned King and Queen for Valentine's Day.

Winthrop Grange Offers First Aid

Winthrop Grange will be sponsoring a certification/recertification class in CPR, First Aid, and AED. This workshop will be held at the Winthrop Grange (Shelburne Town Hall) on March 12th at 7:00 pm. Invite your friends and family to come and join us. Refreshments will be served. If you plan on attending, please call either Tillie Meyers at 466-2490 or Rosemarie Van Sant at 466-2563 and let us know how many will be attending. This class is free of charge. Hope to see you there.

Flea Market
May 3
 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Halloween Grange Hall
32 Hobart Street
Penacook, NH

Granite Grange Open Mike
 23 Webster Street.
 Milford, NH

We will be hosting an OPEN MIKE after our public supper every other month: April 12, June 14, August 9, October 11, and December 13.

Our first open mike in November was a success and enjoyable to all who attended.

Tickets at the door are \$5.00. However, you may purchase a combo ticket for \$10.00 (\$8.00 for the meal and \$2.00 for the open mike).

Any questions?
 Call John at 603-487-3116.

The Agate
 will meet at
Squam Lake Grange
Ashland, NH
 on April 5, 2008
 Supper at 6 p.m.
 "Comfort Food" Casseroles
 Proceeds to benefit Lower Intervale Grange Building Improvements.

You Are Invited!
Daniel Webster Grange
Annual Penny Sale, Home Ec and
Youth Night
May 10
BBQ at 4:30 p. m.
Penny Sale at 6:30 p. m.

Home Economics Night
Eastern NH Pomona #2
Thursday May 15
Pleasant Valley Grange, Milton Mills
Program with Pomona level
baking contest at 7:00 PM.
Meeting and Memorial Service
at 7:30 PM.
Lunch will be served after the meeting
at \$3.00 per person.
Visitors are always welcome.

Turkey Supper
April 5, 2008
5-7 p.m.
New Boston Central School
Adults \$8.00
Seniors \$6.00
Ages 6-12 \$5.00
Children under 6 free
Family Rate \$25.00
(2 adults & 2 or more children 6-12)
Sponsored by Joe English Grange
for their scholarship fund
which makes a \$600 scholarship available
to a graduating senior each year.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Pineconia Grange
30th Annual Awards Night
Monday, April 21
7 p.m.
Dame School
Canterbury Road
Concord Heights

Save the Date!
Grange Family Weekend
June 27-29
Cornish Fairgrounds



List your Grange event
 On the NH Grange website.
 Contact Mark Collins at
mark-dianecollins@comcast.net

Youth Night
Eastern NH Pomona #2
Saturday March 22
at Jeremiah Smith Grange Hall
in Lee, NH
Supper at 5:00 PM,
cost \$5.00 per person.
Youth Night Program at 7:00 PM
Fifth Degree Meeting at 7:30 PM.

A Hearty Grange Welcome to
the Following New Members

Ovida Young	Antrim Grange
Roy Arbuckle	Arlington Grange
Christina Arbuckle	Arlington Grange
David Holmes	Halestown Grange
Lois Welty	Halestown Grange
Willard Welty	Halestown Grange
Dorinda Louise	Henry Wilson Grange
Yvette Robarge	Mt. Pistareen Grange
Armand Laroche	Pleasant Valley Grange
Fred Morrill, III	Pleasant Valley Grange
Matthew Morrill	Pleasant Valley Grange
Clarence Wyatt	Pleasant Valley Grange
Abbie McPhee	Rockingham Grange



This winter has brought record snowfall amounts to New Hampshire, causing concern for low pitched roofs. Many thanks to the Youth members from New York pictured above and others who helped clear the roof of the State Grange Building.

**Rochester Grange
Youth Night**
Saturday, April 5.
Potluck supper at 6:30 p.m.
Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Youth Night will be held during the meeting.



A Trip to the Big E.

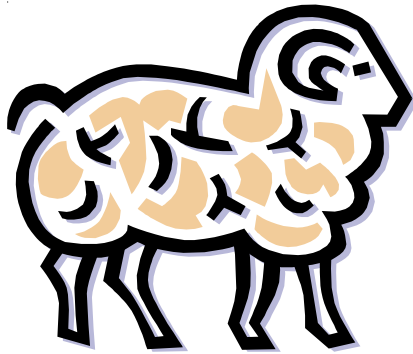
The State Grange is planning a day to the Eastern States Exposition on Grange Day, Sunday, September 21, 2008. The cost is \$50.00, which includes transportation, admission ticket and the tip for the bus driver. Meals are on your own.

There is only one pick-up at Concord Bus Depot at 7:30 a. m. promptly. The bus will depart from the Big E at 6 p. m. at the end of the parade.

Reservations are needed by May 1 and your payment by July 1.

Reservations may be made with Rodney Huntoon by e-mail to huntoon7@netzero.net (on the subject line please enter **Big E Trip**) or by phone to 224-4320. Checks should be payable to "New Hampshire State Grange" with a memo line entry of **Big E Trip**. Mail your check to Rodney Huntoon, 8 Pine Acres Road, Suite 808, Concord, NH. 03301-1843.

Come, let us have a great day at the Big E.



Second Degree

Rochester Grange and Henry Wilson Grange will exemplify the Second Degree on Saturday April 19 at Rochester Grange Hall. The Degree will begin at 7:30 PM and all members are welcome. We especially encourage any member who has not had the opportunity to see the Second Degree in full form to plan now to attend. Eastern NH Pomona #2 will be assisting with the Degree.

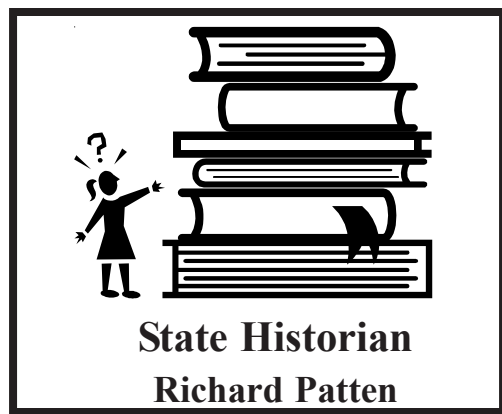
Granite Grange Suppers
23 Webster Street
Milford, NH
5 to 6:30 p.m.
Adults - \$8.00
Children under 6 - \$4.00
March 8
Corned Beef & Cabbage
Potatoes, Turnips, Carrots & Onions
Assorted Cookies
April 12
Turkey Dinner & Trimmings
Apple Pie & Ice Cream
May 10
Roast Pork Dinner
Potatoes, Peas & Applesauce
Tapioca Pudding & Fruit
June 14
Macaroni & Cheese
Hot Dogs, Cole Slaw
Ice Cream & Strawberries

**Rochester Grange
Home Economics Night**
Saturday March 15.
Refreshments at 6:30 p.m.
Program at 7:30 p.m.
Captain Tom Bonneau of the Rochester Fire Department will speak on Home Fire Safety.
Penny Sale and Baking Contest
Visitors are welcome.

Do you have precious memories?
Join us at Granite Grange on the second Friday of each month and preserve them in a scrapbook. Don't know how to scrapbook? No problem - We have a Creative Memories consultant available to show you how.
We begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 9:00. The price is \$10.00 per person.
See you there!
23 Webster Street
Milford, NH.

- Calendar of Events**
- March 8 - Youth Moon Stomp - Merrill Farm, Antrim
 - March 12 - Defibulator Workshop - Winthrop Grange, Shelburne
 - March 22 - Eastern NH Pomona Youth Night at Jeremiah Smith, Lee
 - March 29 - Spring Fling - Concord Fire Academy - 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 - April 1 - Youth Donations due for extra points
 - April 5 - Agate 6 p.m. Squam Lake Grange, Ashland
 - April 5 - Turkey Supper- New Boston Central School- benefit Joe English Scholarship Fund
 - April 5 - Rochester Grange Youth Night
 - April 11-12 - NH Preservation Alliance "Preserving Community Character" Conference. Plymouth
 - April 13 - State Grange Bowling, Lakeside Lanes, Manchester 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - April 13 - NE Grange Building Trustees 1 p.m. West Springfield, MA
 - April 19 - Family Fun Fair, Hampshire Hill Racquet Club, Milford
 - April 19 - Youth Glow Bowling - Stadium Ten Pin, Manchester
 - April 19 - 2nd Deree, Rochester Grange Hall, 7:30 p.m.
 - April 19 - Hillsborough Country Pomona 125th Anniversary Celebration, Granite Grange, Milford
 - May 1 - Big E Bus Trip reservations due to Rodney Huntoon
 - May 1 - Lecturer's Song Writing Contest entries due
 - May 3 - Flea Market - Halloween Grange, Penacook - 9a.m. to 2 p.m.
 - May 10 - Daniel Webster Penny Sale, Webster
 - May 10 - VT/NH Night
 - May 31 - ME/NH Night

Four things come not back—the spoken word, the sped arrow, time past, and the neglected opportunity.
Abbas Ibn al-Ahnaf (c. 750-c. 803) Poet



I was recently asked about Grange Week: when did it begin, how it began, why is it so important, and so on. I read in "The Grange First Century of Service and Evolution" that in 1966 thirty-five governors in proclamations containing tributes to the ideals and program of the Grange asked public observance of Grange Week, April 17-23. They decided in 1967, that Grange Week would be celebrated April 16-22. In New Hampshire, Granges have held Open House type meetings for over 100 years, inviting the public to come and enjoy a Grange meeting. The Lecturer might plan a special program followed by membership awards and public service awards. Refreshments would be served to close the evening activities.

I know in my Grange we had been honoring a Community Citizen since the early 1970's with the Pomona Grange honoring a Public Service Award recipient. The difference is the Subordinate or Community Award has to be presented to a non-Grange member while the Pomona Grange award can be awarded to a Grange member or non-Grange member. In the mid 1970's, I was a member of the Jaycees, who also held an Awards Night with many different type of awards. Unfortunately, the Jaycee chapter had to close due to lack of members. I had been chairman of the Jaycee awards and I knew how much these awards meant to people. Pineconia Grange was very willing to add these additional awards to the Citizen award. I am very pleased after all these years to see Granges presenting the various community awards. It is a great evening to showcase the Grange to the Community.

For many years, Granges were asked to have a display in the Library or Town Hall window or on a table so the public could see what the Grange was all about. Many times the Governor and Mayor or Town Manager was asked to present a

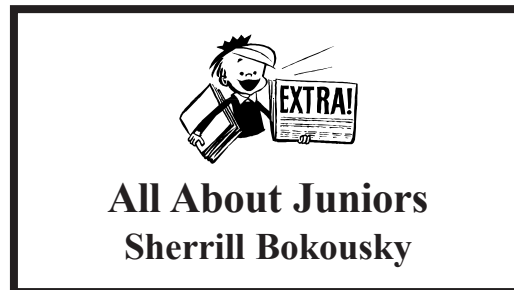
Proclamation proclaiming Grange Week being celebrated during a certain period. In the Granite State, we have proclaimed the month of April as Grange month. In some cases Grange membership awards were presented the same evening as the community awards. The public took a special interest in seeing the floor work being done by the Grange Officers. They enjoyed seeing the Bible being opened as well as the Flag being presented and the Pledge of Allegiance being recited. All of a sudden the Grange was no longer that deep dark mystery. Pineconia Grange now holds its annual Awards Night at Dame School on Concord Heights and other Granges also use public buildings for their special events.

In other Historian news, I have been reading articles in the newspapers about former Grange Halls being renovated or finding new ways to be used again. Highland Lake Grange in East Andover, Progressive Grange in Deerfield, Junior Grange in Grasmere, and Warner Grange are some that have had stories being written. I received two calls about the Highland Lake Grange Hall. I also have read with sadness the passing of Clarabel Brockstedt, Edna Clark, and Marjorie Knowlton who have gone to the Great Grange above. They, along with others have written many pages in our Grange history.

I have started to write a new up-dated version of the New Hampshire State Grange History. I am looking at the Grange from a babyboomer point of view. Some of the topics you will read include "Penny Collection, Riding the Goat, the changing of Juvenile Grange to Junior Grange and Patron/Matron to Leader, Dutch Auctions, and more. How many remember those special events in the Grange? What happened to them?

In closing, I would like to thank those who have reached out. It has been a very difficult time, and I mean difficult. I have not shared much about what is happening, but I do appreciate the kind emails, telephone calls, and letters. My mother has had another setback, so we can only hope and pray. I am at the hospital at least 3 times a day to try and help. I am also looking for a job as well, talk about stress.

One kind word can warm three winter months.—Japanese Proverb

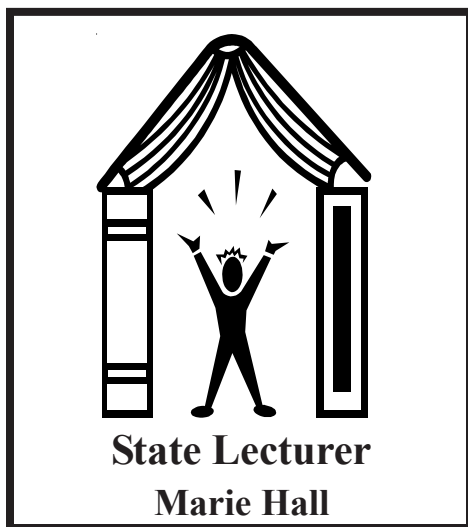


Junior Grange is off to a great start for 2008! Activities planned for this year are being part of Kid's Day at Farm/Forest on February and kids bowling at the State Contest. We will also be participating in Family Fun Fair in April. This is a great chance to meet people and share what Grange is all about.

We have some great contests for the older Juniors to participate in. The first one is the Junior Public Speaking contest which will be held at the Regional Youth Conference in July. The age requirements are 8-10, 11-12, and 13-14 years old. Time limit is a 2 minute speech. The topic is your choice. Another great contest that the Juniors can participate in is the Junior Grange Signing Contest also to be held at the Regional Youth Conference in July. There are two categories: Sign a Song and Sign the Alphabet. The ages for this contest are 8-14 years old. This is also a focus on how we mentor our Juniors as they prepare to join the Youth activities and program. The other contests planned are Valentine's Craft for display at the Big E, Decorate a Bag, Decorate a T-Shirt, Christmas Ornament, and Recycled Craft.

During the year Juniors will be learning about this year's Host State which is Connecticut where our National Session will be in 2008. For Small World Study the country is Ireland. The program for 2008 is Reading Across America. Creative Writing contests, Reading contests and activities are available.

These are some of the Highlights of the 2008 program. We do have a small membership in NH Junior Grange. The year 2007 was the year we had graduations from Junior to Youth so our numbers became a little smaller. My hope is that we begin to grow in 2008. I now ask that if you know of kids that would like to be members, please pass this information on to them. We need to grow our current Junior Granges, possibly open new ones. With your help we will get there.



With the winter months starting to be behind us, I hope that all will find an increase in attendance at your meetings. People will start to be anxious to get out after being cooped up. Let's have some good programs planned so they will want to come to the meetings.

Here is a list of functions planned through the Lecturer's Program:

April 13, 2008

Bowling Tournament

Lakeside Lanes Manchester

Registration – 11:00 AM

Bowling – 12:00 Noon – 3:00 PM

May 1, 2008

Song Writing Contest Due

May 10, 2008

Vermont/NH Night – Hosted by NH

May 31, 2008

Maine/NH Night – Hosted by Maine

May 31, 2008

Talent Contest Registration
due to Lecturer

June 7, 2008

Spot Light NH combined with
June Youth Rally

2:00 PM – come and enjoy both

August 4 - 7, 2008

New England Lecturer's Conference,
Farmington, Maine

October 1, 2008

Art, Photography, Create-A-Card, &
Creative Writing due to State Lecturer

All of the registration forms, times, meeting places, and directions will be mailed to your Lecturers by the end of February.

At this time, as I have in the past, I would like to request that all Grange members put their thinking caps on and help provide me with some skits, poems, program ideas, etc. I have some, but would

like more input from all so that I can put a booklet together of programs that have worked out and have it available for Lecturers and/or anyone that would like to have one. I did have a few copies of the New England's Lecturer's Booklet available at State Session, but I would like to have a good sized one available this year.

I would like to thank those who have sent me a copy of their program. Last year they came in like a storm, but this year I have not received very many yet. This gives me a good idea of what is being used, and I hope that if you have any questions or need any help that you will get in contact with me. I wish you all a successful year.



In Memoriam

Robert Y. Gray	GS, PM	Aurora
Claris Constant	GS	Chichester
Frances Weeks	GS	Chichester
Harold Hilliard, Jr.	GS	Chichester
Roland Belheumer		Cocheco
Madeline Buttrick	GS	Contoocook
Frances Merrill	GS	Dorchester
Alfred deGozzaldi		Gilman
E. Duncan Wright		Granite
Sylvia Cleveland	GS	Halestown
Richard Bohm		Hampton Falls
Jeannette Poulin		Jeremiah Smith
Nancy Heath Rollins		Jeremiah Smith
Pauline Eaton	GS, PM	Mount Hope
Chet Spring		Mt. Pistareen
Merle Chickering	GS	Mt. Pistareen
Pauline Coleman		Mt. Pistareen
Cora Munsey	GS	Ocean Side
Margaret Ring	GS	Ocean Side
Florice Hancock	GS	Pembroke
Marjorie Knowlton	GS, PM	Pembroke
Evelyn Osborne	GS	Pineconia
George Mee	GS	Pleasant Valley
Ora Clark		Prentice Hill
Enid DiPrizio		Reunion
Fred Downs		Reunion
Ruth Knapp	PM	Squam Lake
Beverly Smith		Squam Lake
Willis Lowe	GS	Wattannick
Edward Radulski	GS	Wingold
InaMae Dickey	GS	Wingold
Robert Dickey	GS	Wingold

Perks of Being Over 50

[We haven't had one of these Internet funnies in a while.]

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run—anywhere.
4. People call at 9 pm and ask, "Did I wake you?"
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now won't wear out.
8. You can eat supper at 4 pm.
9. You can live without sex but not your glasses or chocolate.
10. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
11. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
12. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
13. You sing along with elevator music.
14. Your eyes won't get much worse.
15. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
16. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the National Weather Service.
17. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
18. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.



**National Grange Hires
Two New Staff Members**

Margaret Maxwell is a native Washingtonian and a graduate of the University of Maryland. Her decades of meeting planning experience have allowed her to work high profile catering events attended by some of the world's most fascinating people, including Queen Noor, Pavarotti, Margaret Thatcher, President Ronald Reagan, and the 1984 United States Olympic medal winners.

The satisfaction of organizing and executing an event that is important to others is very rewarding to Margaret. She is glad to have the chance to share her expertise and skills with the National Grange as our Administrative Assistant/Meeting Planner.

Rusty Hunt is a third generation Grange member and a graduate of Whitworth College in Spokane, WA. He was a District Youth Director and became a State Officer in 1995. He eventually worked his way up through the ranks and now serves on the Washington State Grange Executive Committee. He was appointed Co-Membership/Leadership Development Director in 2000 and has gained lots of experience through the years working with the Granges around Washington State.

Rusty is excited about the new challenges that are before him in his new position with the National Grange as Membership/Leadership Director and is looking forward to meeting and working with Grangers all around the country.



Sherrill Bokousky and Cam Twiss of Hillsborough County at the National Lady Assistant Steward's reception in January.

**Charlene M. Shupp Espenshade
National Grange Youth Director.**

Charlene lives with her husband Matt and son Evan in Bainbridge, Pa. where they operate a dairy farm with Matt's parents. A fourth generation Granger, she belongs to Elizabethtown Grange #2076 in Lancaster County where she serves as the Youth Director and the Assistant Steward. She also has an associate membership with Oriental Grange #165 in Wyoming County. Matt and Charlene served two terms as the Pennsylvania State Grange Young Couple, 2005-2006, 2006-2007.

Charlene received a B.S. in Dairy Science from Virginia Tech and a minor in Communication Studies. She is employed as Special Sections Editor for Lancaster Farming newspaper. In her spare time, Charlene enjoys breeding and showing Guernsey and Holstein cattle at the local and regional dairy shows.

Regarding her recent appointment as National Grange Youth Director, Charlene said, "We must work together to capitalize on our strengths in order to prepare the youth and young adults to become advocates for our communities and rural America."

You may contact Charlene at youth@nationalgrange.org. Her appointment is effective as of March 1st.

**Presidential Primary Legislative Fly-In
Held in NH**

The National Grange's New Hampshire Presidential Primary Legislative Fly-In was held December 27th through December 30th, 2007 in Manchester, Concord and Hooksett, New Hampshire. Fifteen full time attendees (as well as another 15 part time attendees) braved the winter weather of New Hampshire on the weekend between Christmas and New Years Day in order to learn about, and participate in, the first-in-the-nation New Hampshire Presidential Primary. This event was co-hosted by the National Grange and the New Hampshire State Grange.

**Visit the National Grange website at
www.nationalgrange.org.**

**Rusty Hunt, National Leadership/
Membership Director, with NH State
Master Beth Merrill at New England
Leaders' Conference =>**

National Grange Convention 2008

The National Grange Convention will be held in Cromwell, CT in November, and the NH State Grange will assist with the hosting duties. The Connecticut State Grange has set up a convention website at www.nationalgrange2008.org. You can log onto the site and sign up to receive notices whenever something new is added to the site.

Currently, you can learn about the seven host states, Connecticut attractions, download a convention brochure and poster, and sign up online as a volunteer for the convention. Each of the states has been assigned one day of the convention to provide volunteers to assist with the tasks at hand. New Hampshire's day is Monday, November 10th, which is prior to the official opening of the convention. While we won't need to provide deputies, registration workers, or hospitality helpers, there will be lots of errands and setting up to do. Please consider joining the team that will be responsible for providing the best ever convention to all our brothers and sisters who come to our region for the convention.

The Youth, Junior, and Family and Community Departments have all been asked to provide specific supplies, decorations, favors, and gifts that they will no doubt be soliciting from us later in the year.

More details will be forthcoming as the convention approaches. The convention won't be back in our region again until 2013, so mark your calendars for November 11-15, 2008 and make plans to attend either as a volunteer, participant, or observer.





It's that time of the year to remind everyone that Grange Services has many opportunities to help you. You can apply to the educational loan fund. We also have scholarship grants, high school equivalency assistance, and the State Grange Trust Fund for financial assistance. All applications are kept confidential and may be received from any member of the Grange Services Committee. We also have hospital equipment to loan out: commodes, walkers, canes, and wheelchairs. Contact any Grange member or a member of the Grange Services Committee.

Members of the Grange Services Committee are: Director Constance Carr, Diane Collins, Lois Enman, Frances Everard, Larrissa Grant, Rodney Huntoon, Debra Patten, Camilie Twiss, and Beverly Woods.

Farm & Forest 2008

Anne and Marty Boisvert of Chichester Grange with assistance from State Master Beth Merrill and Mark Collins designed the State Grange Booth for the NH Farm & Forest Expo held at the Verizon Center in Manchester on February 8 and 9. This year marked the 25th anniversary of Farm & Forest. The Grange Booth, decorated with a silver-anniversary theme, won second place in the Educational Division. (Exhibits are designated as "educational" or "commercial." The prize was two tickets to the Saturday morning breakfast where the awards are presented.

The weather was more cooperative than it has been in the past, and volunteer Grangers manning the booth were able to distribute Grange literature, pencils, and star-shaped notebooks to a large group of visitors. We thank Beth and Arthur Merrill, Fran and George Everard, Mark Collins, Stephen Tracy, John and Hannah West, Nancy Bean, Gloria Davis, Alice Tuck, Marion Woodworth, and Annette Lemieux for all they did to make the Grange booth a success.

Educational Loan Fund Rules Governing Loans

1. Applicant must be a member of the Grange or a member of a Grange family in good standing.
2. Signature of two (2) signers on the note: one signer a parent preferred; co-signers of the note must have financial security.
3. Applicant may borrow up to \$1,000.00 in one school year as needed to complete his/her education.
4. Co-signers will be notified if and when a borrower becomes delinquent on interest or principal payments after one year of date of Note.
5. The loans shall bear interest at the rate of 4% while the applicant is receiving his/her advanced education. The interest on loans is to be paid as soon as the notice of interest is received by the borrower. Also, the borrower can not have additional loans until the interest on previous loans is paid.
6. Loans are to bear an interest rate of 6% after completion of education. The borrower must notify the Director of the Grange Services Department of the date of graduation or termination of his/her advanced education.
7. Repayment and interest on loans must be paid within 26 months following graduation or the termination of education.
8. The Grange Services Department requests that applications for loans, when filled out, be mailed to: Rodney Huntoon, Education Loan Fund, NH State Grange, 8 Pine Acres Road, Suite 808, Concord, NH 03301.
9. No monies will be sent to the applicant until the applicant has completed, signed and returned Note Form 103 to the above address.
10. The borrower shall notify the Director of the Grange Services Department of any change of address.

Scholarship Grants Criteria Used in Judging Applications

Whereas the Grange has always promoted education, citizenship and cooperation, the Grange Services Department will use the following criteria for judging each application:

1. Applicant must be a Grange member (minimum 1 year membership).
2. Application reflects the importance of education to the applicant.
3. Financial need – the input of the applicant.
4. Part the applicant has played in Grange work and how they have fulfilled their obligations
5. Application is complete with all of the requested information:
 - a.) The application form must be completed in full and signed by the applicant.
 - b.) A letter from an academic staff or member of the community stating the applicant's educational performance.
 - c.) A letter of intent by the applicant stating his/her educational aims.
 - d.) Transcripts of grades from the high school or from the college last attended (this is not required if applicant has been out of school for more than 5 years).

**Application Deadline: July 1, 2008
Completed and Signed Applications
should be sent to:**

**Lois L. Enman
NH Grange Services Department
9 Blake St.
Rochester, NH 03867-3405**



**Pine Grove Grange #298:
Preserving NH History**

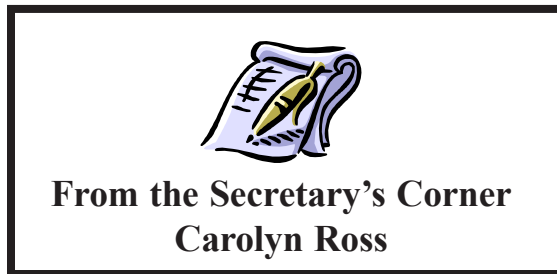
In 1766, nine-year-old Mercy Harriman planted the first garden in Bath, NH atop a 12-foot-high rock. For over 40 years, Pine Grove Grange members have maintained Mercy's Garden and helped to keep the story surrounding that garden alive.

The story starts in 1766, when Jaasiel Harriman, his wife, and their five children moved from Concord to a meadow near the Ammonoosuc River in what is now Bath, NH. The spot that he chose for the family's home was near a 12-foot rock formation known as Great Rock, which had become a landmark for passersby. Mercy, at 9 years old and the oldest of the Harriman children, chose the top of the Great Rock as the site for the first garden in Bath. Legend has it that she carefully carried dirt in her apron to the top of the boulder. She then planted corn, pumpkins, and cucumbers from seeds that she had saved from their settlement in Concord. After carefully tending the small plot all summer, she was able to harvest food for her family and, more importantly, secure the family's land title by fulfilling a charter requirement to cultivate part of the grant. All in all, it was an impressive feat for a young girl.

The Daughters of the American Revolution first officially recognized Mercy's efforts and erected a plaque on Great Rock in 1928. The ceremony was attended by many of Mercy Harriman's descendants, several of whom still live in the Bath area.

Pine Grove Grange #298 in Bath has maintained Mercy's Garden, which includes a path, several foot bridges, the Great Rock, and a picnic area, since the 1950's. The Grange members have been faithful to the story of Mercy's Garden, and each year plant and tend corn, cucumbers, and pumpkins atop the Great Rock. The vegetables that are harvested from the garden are always a favorite at the annual Grange Booster Night auction.

A small notebook near the Great Rock is available for notes from visitors to the site. In 2007, visitors came from as far away as Oregon, Nova Scotia, Florida, Ireland, Germany, and Australia to visit this little piece of New Hampshire's history.



At our Annual State Grange Session last October the last thing on my mind was moving from State Treasurer to State Secretary. With the resignation of Richard Patten and after much consideration I decided that this was God's way of telling me I needed a new challenge in my life. The start of my new journey in the Grange had somewhat of a rough start, as transitioning to a new job can have its up and downs. Of course, I also had to pass on the office of State Treasurer to our newly elected State Treasurer, Gail Turcotte.

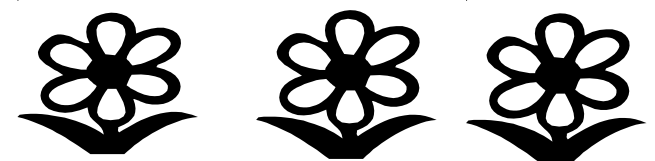
I am really looking forward to being able to work with the dedicated Secretaries of the NH State Grange. As the Installation charge for the Secretary says – "the duties of your office are the most arduous of all, requiring judgment, promptness and efficiency. You become the organ of the Grange." I would like to be able to work with Secretaries so that you will have the most up-dated information in order to do your work. I also want to be able to get the information I need as your State Secretary so that I will be able to report to the National Grange with the most complete up-dated records. With all of your help I'm sure we will be able to succeed.

Along the way in our new journey from time to time some changes will have to be made. One of the most important updates that I have for you deals with ordering Membership Certificates and/or seals. All 50, 75, 80 and 85-year awards I will need to order from The National Grange. There is a \$10.00 charge for a 50-year Golden Sheaf certificate and a \$5.00 charge for the 75-year Diamond Certificate. All checks for the 50 or 75 year certificates should be made payable to The National Grange. You will need to order 55-60-65-70 year seals from my office, however there will now be a charge for the seals, as I have to pay to get them from The National Grange. The cost of these seals will per \$1.25 per seal plus a Shipping and Handling fee for each order you send me. As always the 25-year Silver

Certificates will need to be ordered from me, but I now have to pay \$1.25 per certificate to get them from The National Grange. Since I will have to pay for the 25-year certificates, I will have to pass on the cost to you, so you will be paying \$1.25 per certificate plus Shipping and Handling. I almost forgot the 30, 35, 40 and 45-year certificates. Again you will need to order these from my office, and there will be a charge of \$1.00 per certificate plus Shipping and Handling. I really hate to have to charge you for the certificates, but in order for me to run a Supply Account I have to be able to pay for what I order from The National Grange.

On Saturday, March 29, 2008, our State Master is putting together a Spring Fling Day to kick off our April Grange Month. At this event the State Treasurer and myself are hosting a Training and Up-date session for all Secretaries and Treasurers. I encourage as many as possible to attend, as this will be your chance to ask your questions or resolve any problems that you might have. It would also be a great time for us to get to know each other. At this learning day I will be selling any Secretary/Treasurer supplies and forms that you might be in need of, so here is a opportunity for you to save on having to pay for Shipping and Handling charges. I will also have some 25 and 50-year pins for sale. You will not need to have money with you in order to pick up what you need, as I will make out an invoice for you to take back to your Grange for payment.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any supplies or forms, and I will get them out within a few days from the time of your request. Also, do not hesitate to call me with any questions or concerns that I can handle over the phone. I would be happy to assist you in any way that I can.



**For we must share, if we would keep,
that blessing from above;
Ceasing to give, we cease to have;
such is the law of love.
Richard C. Trench (1807-1886)
Cleric and philologist**



**Membership Development
Coordinator: Stephen Tracy**

One of my biggest hopes for Grange Month is that each Subordinate and Pomona will do something to advertise themselves. We seem to be ashamed of the Grange by not letting people know we are still around. In my travels I always stop at the local store of a Grange town and ask, "Do you know where the Grange meets in town?" Generally the response is a lost look and a comment like, "We have a Grange?" or words to that effect.

In response to the meeting with Rusty Hunt, the National Membership Development Director, I am working with some people on reactivating Cornish Grange. I have spoken to some interested members and some prospective members. We hope to have our first meeting in April. What a great way to celebrate National Grange Month!

National Grange Leadership Tip Focus on the Big Picture

Ever hear the saying, "Can't see the forest because of the trees?" Great leaders understand that their duty is to stay focused on the big picture or "the forest." Team leaders are only successful when the team stays on track and moves toward achieving the goal. If you want to lead your Grange to success, do you know where you are going?

One of the hardest tasks a leader faces is to step back from the daily tasks they must do and look at the entire forest. Take the time to evaluate yours and the team's activities. Are you moving in the right direction? Can you anticipate possible obstructions? Are all the teams moving in the same direction?

It is your job to keep reminding the teams of the big goals. You do this verbally by stating the goals regularly. You also do it by example. When members see you take time to ask questions, offer help or even just listen to them, they are reminded that the Grange is moving toward an important goal.

Become the leader that keeps the focus on the big picture in your Grange and watch the incredible happen!

Preserving Community Character Conference

Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12, 2008

Sponsors: New Hampshire Preservation Alliance with the College of Graduate Studies, Plymouth State University

Location: Heritage Commons, Plymouth State University, Plymouth, N.H.

To request conference registration

materials: 603-224-2281,
www.nhpreservation.org or
admin@nhpreservation.org

The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance's spring networking and educational conference, *Preserving Community Character*, will focus on community engagement and preservation planning. Attendees will learn about the links between sustainability, economy and historic preservation; saving community landmarks; best practices for managing growth and change; partnerships for protecting natural and historic resources; organizing public history projects; communication and fundraising strategies; and much more.

The N.H. Preservation Alliance is the statewide membership organization committed to preserving historic buildings, communities and landscapes through leadership, education and advocacy. Go to www.nhpreservation.org for more information.

The NH Preservation Alliance has expressed an interest to work with Granges in exploring ways to collaborate in preserving Grange Halls. Sarah Dangelas Hofe was a guest speaker at the State Convention in October and left materials that members could take back to their Grange. If your Grange was not represented at the convention, you can get a copy of the printed materials by contacting State Master, Beth Merrill.

Members of Granges that still own their own halls may want to consider attending the Preservation Alliance Event listed above. It will be two days filled with practical information, networking opportunities and useful take-home resources for public history and preservation projects.

Rochester Grange Valentines Project

On the evening of February 2nd, members of Rochester Grange #86 were busily cleaning and filling coffee mugs for Valentine's Day. In the kitchen of their hall at 21 Charles Street the members gathered to wash and dry over 200 donated mugs. Other members then filled each mug with "snowman soup" ingredients and hot chocolate, tea, and individual servings of crackers, cookies, and candy treats. The filled mugs were wrapped and Valentine's Day cards attached.

Members distributed the 221 filled mugs to residents at the Rochester Manor, Sunbridge Center, and the Studley and Gafney Nursing Homes in Rochester in time for Valentine's Day.

**Washing mugs for Valentine's Day.
Left to right: Alice Tuck (back view),
Judy Bailey, Annette Lemieux, Lois
Enman, and Grace Leone.**



The finished product

**Tomorrow is often the busiest
day of the year.**

Photo Scavenger Hunt 2008

Directions: You must first figure out what the clue wants you to take a picture of. Then you must have a camera and within your town, county, state, you should take a picture of the places you have come up with for the answers. Then you will develop the pictures and put them into a photo album. Two of the pictures must include you or someone else from your Grange. Send the photo album and the list of answers to the Youth Team Director by September 10th.

- 1) _____ What was once called a cement pond, now has diving boards, slides and water toys.
- 2) _____ Where you might go to see a good volley, hear the words foul and strike three.
- 3) _____ Some of the following players got their start at one of these Field of Dreams: Jackie Robinson, Jesse Litsch, Josh Fields, and Martin Baker
- 4) _____ Birdie, bogie and fore are heard on this green.
- 5) _____ Usually you can take in 2 showings and never leave your car.
- 6) _____ In the wintertime you can be a beginner, expert or intermediate, shuss down a slope or take off like Eddie the Eagle at this place.
- 7) _____ Find out all kinds of information on to make the best better.
- 8) _____ Young lovers sometimes kiss under one of these, made out of wood, NH is famous for them.
- 9) _____ At a present or former one of these you might hear Dinah blow her horn.
- 10) _____ Your long distance trip might start here or where you might go to see a piper cub.
- 11) _____ Blades, skates, pads, ice, can be found indoors or out.
- 12) _____ People dance, do laps, under glittering light and on these wheeled shoes.
- 13) _____ Ten-pin, candle-pin and an arcade can sometimes be found here.
- 14) _____ You might go here to get a marriage license, to pay a fine or have your say.
- 15) _____ Registrations, photo ids, renewals, eye tests all can be done here.
- 16) _____ A New Hampshire lyceum of higher learning
- 17) _____ Passing, kicking, punting, handoffs and shotgun formations happen on this field.
- 18) _____ News, sports, music, talk along with a big antenna are sometimes at this place.
- 19) _____ The smells of food over an open fire, hiking, picnicing, getting back to nature, sleeping in a tent or RV, and a pond or lake can be found at this place.
- 20) _____ You go here to find out historical information, items from the past, see artwork, old photos and souvenirs.

Bonus Questions

- 1.) _____ Ancient stone that was at one time in a Concord Museum and had been found in 1872 near Lake Winnepesaukee in Meredith, NH.
- 2.) _____ Where is America's Stonehenge?

THE GRANITE STATE GRANGER

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