



The Granite State Granger

Volume 50

Number 2

2020

June



**GRANGE
YOUTH
NEWS**

Rachel Scanzani

The Youth Department, like nearly everything else, has had to change our direction and plans for the spring. As of the writing of this, summer events are still going to be held, but as with everything, watch your email for updates!

Throughout this time I have wondered how others are using their time. Are you learning a new skill or hobby? Taking the time to work on projects that have been forgotten since the last snow storm that gave you extra time at home? Or perhaps, you finally have the time to read the book that has been sitting on the shelf for far too long.

The Youth Department has several programs to help you fill your time. This is a great time to learn sign language. Check out www.signlanguage101.com for some free lessons. If this doesn't interest you, perhaps spending some time working on one of the contests. The papercraft and t-shirt entries are due in October at State Session. This is a great time to get creative.

We are hopeful that our August BBQ and mini-golf event at Chucksters will still be taking place. As we get closer, additional information will be sent out. Everyone had a great time last year, so we hope that we will be able to continue this tradition.

As Grangers we thrive on being able to come together to share friendship and fellowship. Find opportunities to continue your Grange work. There are many opportunities for you to do good work for your community despite our limited ability to work together.

2020 Grange Family Weekend! July 24-26

Bring your family, bring your friends and join us at the Davidsons Countryside Campground in Bristol, NH for a weekend of camping, fellowship and fun. Bring something to share for our potluck supper on Saturday evening.

Sites will fill up fast, so make your reservations soon. Don't forget to mention that you are part of the Grange group.

**Davidson's Countryside Campground
100 Schofield Road
Bristol, NH 03222**

ph:603-744-2403 (Mention that you are with the Grange group)

**<http://www.davidsonscamp.com/home>
FACILITIES:**

***Office/Store *Recreation Hall *
Trash Drop-Off Area *Full Restrooms
*Dog Walk Area**

*** Boat Launch *Coin-operated
showers * Trailer Dumping Station
* Swimming Pool**

•RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

*** Playground * Boating
* Fishing(NH license Req.)
* Horseshoes * Row Boat Rentals
*Kids' Activities * Beach Area on
Pemi River * Canoe Rentals
* Tetherball * Swimming Pool
* Kayak Rentals * Funnel Ball
Life Jacket Rentals * River Access**

REC. HALL:

*** Board Games * Lending Library
* Puzzles * Foosball (\$1 per game) *
Ping Pong * Air Hockey(\$1 per game)
* Indoor Basketball Game
* Pool Tables (\$1 per game)
* Reading Area * WiFi Hotspot**

Wear your masks and Stay Safe!

Attention Grangers!

**Youth & Junior Contests Go Virtual!
Sign up to participate in Regional
Public Speaking
or Sign-a-Song Contests at the link
below:**

**HTTPS://FORM.JOTFORM.
COM/201387762355056**

**For more information please contact:
youth@nationalgrange.org
OR junior@nationalgrange.org
Contestants must register by June 15.**

What about my Dictionaries?

by Hannah West

Some Granges had not ordered dictionaries before the schools closed in March. Other Granges had not had a chance to present their dictionaries and are storing boxes of books. What do you do now? There are two options.

Option 1 is to pass over the third graders of 2019-2020 and move ahead to the third graders of 2020-2021. Option 2 is to present the fourth graders with the dictionaries they should have received as third graders and order more books for the current third grade class. Option 1 is less expensive but somewhat unfair to the children. Option 2 is kinder but considerably more expensive. Your Grange and your sponsors, if you have them, will have to make this decision, when the schools and the Granges are open again.



**Junior Grange Bowlers
March 15, 2020**



*From my pad
to your pad*

**Christopher Heath
NH State Grange Master**

My Fellow Patrons, all I can say is what an interesting year this has been so far! Who would have thought that the year 2020 would bring the world to a halt? Never in my 50 years of living on the earth would I have thought that our lives would change so dramatically.

I am going to assume that everyone has been paying attention to what our government officials are telling us and that we, for the most part, have been following their instructions. With the possibility of things starting to go back to normal, I hope that we will soon be able to start holding Grange meetings again in our halls and also start enjoying the events and activities that we all like to do. Hopefully the COVID-19 virus will be somewhat contained and the medical professionals will develop a vaccination to help keep us all safe in the future.

As most of you know already, many events scheduled for our region have been cancelled due to the orders from the government. The 2020 Northeast Regional Leaders conference was cancelled, and the leaders are going to try again in March of 2021.

In preparation for gatherings to be allowed and the ability for us to start our in-person meetings in our halls, I strongly suggest that Grangers consider opening their halls and perform a deep cleaning and disinfection of our spaces. This way when we get the green light from the Governor that we have gatherings of people in groups of over 10, we can get back to normalcy. We want to make sure that our meeting spaces are clean and welcoming to everyone. We need to make them feel like a safe place for each and every one of us. Make sure that when you do plan a cleaning day, you keep social distancing and safety as your main requirements. Wear your masks and gloves when working in confined spaces. If someone doesn't feel well, they should stay home and not participate, no matter how much

they want to help.

I have made a very hard decision to eliminate Instruction and Inspection visits for deputies this year. I know that some Granges may have already had an instruction meeting prior to the lockdown and that is great, but many Granges were not able to hold this meeting. In fairness to everyone I made this tough choice but I feel it is the best thing for everyone. Once the Grange meetings are back in full swing, I will be making sure that each Grange does receive a visit from a deputy or state officers so that you know that we are here and available to support all Granges across the state.

When you receive the fall report from the State Secretary, please make sure you fill this out the best you can and send it to the General Deputy. He will need this information to share with the State Secretary and prepare his report for the Journal of Proceedings of the State Grange.

If your Grange traditionally donates to the State Lecturer's gift during your spring visit, you can send those donations to me directly. Please make sure that they are made out to me so I can cash them. I will collect the money as normal and then present this gift to the Lecturer at a future date. She is a very hard worker and even though the programming events haven't taken place, she is still busy working for you all.

I and the Executive Committee have made an executive decision to postpone the closing of the Pomona Granges in our state until December 31, 2021. The reason behind the extension is because of the whole COVID-19 pandemic. The deputies and officers involved have not been able to attend meetings of the Pomona's because they are not meeting so there has been no opportunity to instruct,

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Hannah West
3 Depot Road
Chichester, NH 03258

advise and facilitate the many things that need to be done in order to move this motion, made by the delegates at the 2019 State Convention, forward to completion. I hope that with this extended date, we will be better prepared to make this big change to our Pomona Granges and their districts.

Now for a subject that I really don't want to discuss but we need to prepare a contingency plan for the State Session this year in case we are unable to meet with groups of more than 50 people. As you all know we have scheduled State Grange to take place in October in Portsmouth NH. If the Governor does not allow gatherings of more than 50 people in one place, we might not be able to hold it as planned. At the next executive committee meeting, I will be initiating a discussion concerning a possible alternate plan to complete the work that we perform at State Session. This will include but not be limited to election of officers, resolutions and installation of officers. These items, as well as a few others, need to be completed somehow. We need to keep some structure and do things that we normally do even if it has to be done differently. I hope and pray every day that we won't have to change how we hold this important meeting for our organization, but I do not know what the future holds.

In closing I want to let you all know that I pray every day that God keeps his watchful hand over all of you and keeps you safe during these uncertain times. **I wish the best of health and luck for all of you during this pandemic. I look forward to a day when we will all be able to gather again without fear from the COVID-19 virus. I truly miss all of you and seeing your smiling faces. I look forward to attending Grange meetings across the state and seeing all my Grange family.**

Deadline
The next issue of the Granite State Granger will be mailed in September, 2020. Please send items for the paper to Hannah West on or before August 10, 2020. Report on events of June and July.
Look ahead to events of October, November, and December.



**Agriculture
Department
Norman Brandt, Director**

Hi Brothers and Sisters, It seems like as we move from winter to summer, agriculturally we are hurting as a nation. The Fairs are quickly closing. With all the animals that have been put down over the past several months it is sad that there is such as shortfall of meat available for our communities. I understand at least here in NH those that know how to process meat have been working very hard to do so for those farmers here in the north east that are producing.

For once, it seems like local meat may be equal if not cheaper than "factory meat," and I hope you find the time to locate a local farm and build a relationship with your local farmer. Because of how the North East is, we do not have large factory farms that produce thousands and thousands of animals a month to feed the masses, but the food we produce can feed the community if the community is willing to embrace us.

I understand that there has been a very large influx of sales of poultry over the last several months here in NH, and around the USA, and many people are getting nailed with anti-farming, anti-Agriculture zoning ordinances, that have been made in times of good, over the years, and when being enforced are going to make it more difficult for people to feed themselves or their families if they wish to try. I have received emails from hatcheries that I have used in the past giving me the heads up that their meat birds, turkeys and chickens, are quickly becoming sold out for the season. My brother in law in RI had mentioned, when I purchased my turkeys, that he was going to get his in July, and I had told him to be sure to order early this year with everything going on with the Virus. When I asked my sister if he had done so yet, he said it isn't time to order them yet. I had my sister look at the prices and availability to find that their price had almost doubled since last year. We were able to find one hatchery that had 40 available during mid-July but

was sold out the rest of the season, so she quickly purchased those.

Hopefully, before this article comes out, the major meat packers will have their factories running again, and the waste of our agricultural resources will stop. I just don't understand why it is that dairy farms are dumping milk down the drain when pig farmers, poultry farmers, etc. could buy some of the milk to supply needed nutrients for their animals. Even if it is purchased at face value it will keep the waste down. The pigs that are not able to be butchered at the large factory butchering facilities could be sold and butchered at the smaller ones or by those people that may buy them, home process, and store for hard times. I just find it all a waste, and if times get worse, do you not see how this waste is like drinking all of your water when you get lost in a desert so that you don't need to carry your water bottle when trying to find your way out?

On a brighter note, the week that the Governor had put out his orders I had started two flower boxes with salad mix seeds. The other day my mom and I made a Taco Salad with the greens, Every morning I move them out on my porch and every night I put them on top of my Fridge. A little fertilizer goes a long way and it helps.

Other than the turkeys I had picked up from a local Tractor Supply, I have lots of peas sprouted, onions planted, turnips growing, tomatoes started. I have radishes with greens that are reaching 5 inches now. Oats and wheat are sprouting throughout the fields, and today I tossed field peas, barley, radishes, rape (canola) and beets into one of last year's pig's pen of about 1/2 an acre. The sow is due June 1st with a bunch of bacon seeds and maybe a bit of pulled pork pieces...

I used the fruit trimming knowledge that I obtained two years ago from the program that the NH State Grange Ag department had put on and trimmed my peach, and apple trees (now blooming) and my neighbor's grape vines and peach trees. Last year we had produced so many grapes from his his grape vines that we were able to fill three concrete mixing bins (the large ones from Home Depot or Lowes), and we found lots of grapes we missed after all the leaves fell off.

My neighbor still calls me quite often to come and work with him on growing new and interesting things. The week before Mother's Day, When we had the 78 degree day, he stopped in and said, "I think I'm going to plant the rest of the beds, and can I plant the corn also?"

I looked up at the oak trees and said, "Don't plant anything not cold tolerant and not the corn yet.

He came over the other day and said, "I almost lost it all, how did you know?"

I reminded him that oaks tend to be one of the last trees to grow their leaves and last to drop them. The oaks around our place haven't started growing their leaves. The ground isn't warm enough to get us a good growth. The seeds would get chilled and the tomatoes and beans and everything would get lost in the ground. Always listen to nature before you move forward, otherwise you'll be moving backwards in no time.

Remember to stay safe and think about what is going on before you move forward. I would hate for us to be doing all this work to walk backward and lose everything we've been working for.

**A Grange Memory from
Ginger Jannenga, Steward of
Mohawk Grange #217 in Colebrook**

My son turned 14 in 1980 and he was involved with the Future Farmers group in high school. He came home one day and said, "Ma, we ought to join the Grange," so we did in 1981.

I've been involved with Mohawk Grange #217 ever since, and he was for as long as he lived in this area. Now he lives out in the Seattle area, and there are two or three Grange halls within a short distance of his home.

Grange is definitely a "family" and I'm going to be VERY glad when we can start having our regular meetings again!

A Grange Greeting
My mother Joyce and I are both staying well and doing our part to stay safe during this Coronavirus Pandemic. Hope everyone is staying well and safe at this point in time.
Brian McGuire,
Past Master of Hillsborough County
Pomona Grange



Junior Grange
Joann Brandt, Director
Jbrandt774@aol.com

It seems like a long time since we were together. It was fun to have Juniors bowling in March, and that was the last activity we were able to attend until they think we can be safe.

Here we are trying to keep children and adults safe and working together to get schoolwork done along with housework, yard work, and having fun. This is a good time to plant some vegetable seeds for the children to watch, water, and weed as needed.

I have picked up seeds for 4/\$1.00 in the dollar store, pots, and even potting soil if they haven't run out. This is a time that we can all learn and end up having food once they grow. Remember not to put things in the ground until the end of frost for many seeds. Norman may be adding Agricultural items too. There are some seeds we can plant now, Peas like cool weather and so do beets, kale, swiss chard (they come in green and rainbow colors). They say peas should be ready around the 4th of July. If you can't find flowerpots, save your egg shells from things you have made with the eggs, and when the weather is good, you can plant shell and all in the ground.

I was looking at the websites from Pinterest and found craft ideas and rock paintings. I also saw how you make dandelion globes using clear Christmas ornaments with the flower puff placed inside the bulb. Check it out. I didn't read the whole instructions.

Did you know Joann's Fabric Stores (Joann.com) has craft sessions online (YouTube) to watch for ideas? I saw toilet paper tube Gnomes, clay heart, rainbow thumbprint earrings, how to make face masks in many styles, and Pony Bead flower canvas artwork. Watch on you tube "Craft at Home" videos for kids and adults every weekday.

Support the Granite State Granger with your donation.

I hope everyone can find fun things to do, and working together we will soon be able to gather again even if it means wearing a mask. Do you all have one to wear and stay safe? There are many kinds of masks that can be used.

I have been receiving letters from my grandchildren and I write back. This gives them a new way to communicate together.

Hoping to see you all soon. I know many fairs have already decided not to open this year, so we will see you when the going is good for us.

Modeling Clay Recipe with Two Ingredients

- 2 Cups Baking soda
- 1 Cup Cornstarch
- 1 ½ Cups cold water

Mix in a pan and cook over medium heat stirring almost constantly. It will bubble then clump together. Stir until it is similar to mashed potatoes.

Transfer the clay to a bowl and cover with a damp cloth until cool.

Once cool, knead until smooth. If clay is damp, you can add a little cornstarch.

Give the kids play dough tools, cookie cutters and other gadgets.

Leave out to dry once they finish.

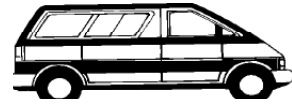
Once dry, give the children paint and let them paint their clay creations.

You can use food coloring to color clay before making items (you can divide into small amounts) with a few drops to give them colors to make clay necklaces or mosaics. Also, can make clay jewelry holders, clay handprints, or pinch pots.

Famous Oatmeal Cookies

- ¾ C. vegetable shortening
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 C. firmly packed brown sugar
- 3 C. oatmeal
- ½ C. granulated sugar
- 1 C. flour
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. salt
- ¼ C. water
- ½ tsp. soda

Beat together until creamy: shortening, sugars, egg, water and vanilla extract. Add combined remaining ingredients, mix well. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls onto greased cookie sheet. Bake in preheated moderate oven (350 degrees F) for 12 to 15 minutes. Makes about 5 dozen cookies.



Family & Community Department

Kathy Yardley - Joyce Martin

Whether you are quarantining at home, venturing carefully out into public places or continuing to work at your job, we hope you are doing so with caution and thoughtfulness. If you are fortunate enough to be meeting with your Grange, this is a great opportunity to talk about health, wellness and safety during the Family and Community report. Contact your town's health officer, selectpersons, police and/or fire departments and ask if there are things that are needed or ways that your Grange could help. Your local food shelf or community kitchen can always use donations of food, money and volunteers. Thank you to all of you who have been making masks for hospitals and safety organizations, your efforts have been greatly appreciated.

While you have been sheltering in place we hope you have been using this time to work on your needlework entries and practice baking some oatmeal cookies! We have included a recipe here for you to try. Feel free to add any inclusions that you like – raisins, cranberries, chocolate chips, ginger chips, butterscotch chips, nuts..... we would love to hear how your cookies turned out!

We know that a lot of Granges have been unable to have a community awards night due to the corona virus pandemic. We hope that you can still find a way to make these very important presentations to the very deserving people in your community, maybe by postponing your event a month or two or by making the presentations to each honoree individually at their home or workplace (while still maintaining proper social distances, of course). Think outside the box. Just because you usually present them at your meetings doesn't mean you HAVE to.... Whatever you do, bring someone along who can take pictures for the newspaper and to include in your year-end report or - even better – a video that you can show at your meeting at a later date.

**Home Grown Politics
 Across New Hampshire Farmland
 to Concord and Washington
 Bob Haefner
 Legislative Director**

COVID-19 has certainly impacted our lives, and changes happen to the way we interact almost daily. Things I have to say today in May, are probably going to be a little different when you read this in June.

As of this writing, the state legislatures in the northeast are operating differently. Pennsylvania and Vermont legislatures are meeting in House and Senate sessions remotely. They are voting using one of the virtual meeting software programs. A few of our northeast states are meeting as committees but not in full session. New Hampshire has taken the tack that committees may meet in executive session to make recommendations to the full house and do it virtually, but can only do that if the bill had a public hearing. If the bill has had no hearing, there can be no further action. Hearings are not being done online. Some states have not met at all to date. States are still struggling a little with technology. Some legislators do not have a computer or even a cell phone. It makes it tough to meet, if some elected members are not able to participate because they have chosen not to avail themselves of technology.

The impact of COVID-19 on the economy cannot be overstated. We are experiencing the highest unemployment rate since the Great Depression of the 1930's. Thirty million people lost their jobs in just five weeks. Our NH employment is not an exception. We have much of our workforce collecting unemployment. That has put a huge demand on state government resources and on NH Food Pantries. I expect that the gross domestic product will be a negative for the current quarter, and it is likely to extend to the next quarter, which would mean a recession is in process, caused by a virus.

Not only are expenses up at the state and local level, but revenues are significantly down. In speaking with our own Senator D'Allesandro, he believed that we would be OK, barely, in NH through

the end of the fiscal year ending June 30. We have enough in the rainy-day fund to keeps the state afloat. Starting in July though, we will not have anything left in the rainy-day fund, state revenues will still be down, and the state and municipalities will need to cut expenses. Commissioner Jasper at the NH Department of Agriculture Markets and Food commented that after a decade, we finally got the department to full staff and now he is expecting to have to reduce the workforce to reduce expenses.

Our grocery store shelves have been different. Hannaford in Hudson still has no toilet paper. Canned and packaged goods have been very spotty. Cleaning supplies are sometimes hard to find, and meat has really changed. Meat packaged for restaurants are in the retail stores. Tonight, we are cooking a 2-pound package of chicken tenders for just two of us. We will have a lot of leftovers. COVID-19 has hot spots in meat packing facilities and is reducing the supply of meat. It is going to affect both availability and price. Some of the food, cleaning, and paper product shortages are because of panic buying. I encourage Grangers not to buy more than you need for a week or two. That way all of us will have enough.

Our local farmers are being impacted. Milk prices are incredibly low. There is no way to even break even at \$13 milk prices. On top of that, dumping milk because of over supply further hurts our dairy farms. With Maple weekend cancelled and fairs cancelled, sales of syrup have been hurt. I have talked to maple producers who say sales year-to-date are down as much as 90%. Local produce does seem to be selling well. I am hearing the farm stand sales are robust, but expenses are also up. Farms are also worried about the availability of labor for this growing season. Please buy local.

The Big E, as of this writing, is still scheduled to open on time in September. The annual meeting of the Trustees of the Big E will be held virtually though. The NH FFA convention was cancelled, but I am still judging events, albeit virtually. At CSG several of our capitol visits were cancelled this year as was our annual meeting scheduled for August in Manchester. Tara and I are putting on a series

of three webinars for our Agricultural and Rural Affairs appointees.

States are opening, or not, in different ways. Some of that depends on where they are with the active spread of the virus. I think the White House Corona Virus Task Force has published an important set of guidelines for states to begin to open their economies. States that follow it and adapt it for their own situation should be OK, as long as they monitor the outbreak and adjust if needed.

I think some states have moved too fast and others are doing it right. Governor Sununu has been criticized from both sides. I think he has taken a slow and measured approach and has my support for his handling of the pandemic and the re-opening of the state economy. I think we have seen three types of people when it comes to how they think about re-opening. 1-Safe: The priority is on people and their health and safety. Everything else can wait a little while. 2-Economy is important: Those who believe that we must start to get the economy back on track, or we will suffer economically for months after the virus is gone. Most of that group wants a measured approach that keeps a new flare-up at bay. 3-Those that are concerned about their freedoms.

I suggest that our Governments, state and federal, have an obligation to protect freedom, and all governments must worry about the economic well-being of the country. A working economy is needed. State and federal revenue must be maintained, and we all want to keep our constituents working and the economy growing. But, government must prioritize the safety and health of its people. Finding a balance between the health of our constituents and their economic well-being will ensure our success in overcoming this pandemic, and our freedom will still be there.

We would be remiss if we did not thank the people that have put their own health at risk for the rest of us: First responders, medical personnel, and those that ensure we have both the food and supplies we need to continue life. Little things that count need also to be recognized from teacher parades for their kids to ordinary people making masks for town employees. My hat is off to you.

Lecturer's Lines
State Lecturer
Jane Trombi



This has to be the hardest article I've ever had to write for the GSG in my almost 6 years as your State Lecturer! With the Covid 19 pandemic, we have missed out on so much in our Grange life. We are used to being busy with Grange events, but have had to stay at home finding ourselves playing more board games, watching more TV and missing all our family and friends.

One saving grace for Bob and me has been the National Grange with the Cultivating Connections programs they have been having. From informative sessions with the National Grange Legislative Director to playing Trivia with Grangers from across the country and enjoying the Date Night In listening to all the talent in the Grange.

I have also had a chance to work on some unfinished projects and start some new ones. One new project I started was to make cloth masks. I made and donated over 80 masks to local friends, the hospital and other service organizations. I even sent them to Texas, Pennsylvania and North Carolina! It felt great to be able to help in some way.

Maybe you have had a chance to work on some old projects or start some new ones. Maybe you have even made some items for the Lecturer's contests. Have you written your diamante poem? Done your coloring page? Made a card? Or a 3-D object? Remember that all the information is on the State Grange Website and also with your Subordinate Lecturer. Please reach out to me if you don't have the contest rules.

It was very difficult to have to cancel our Grange month event. I was excited for our workshops with our friends from National Grange, the ability to present the Granger of the Year Award and to find out what talent people were ready to share.

Talent Contest

With all the unknowns, a new date has not been set for the talent contest. I am hoping for sometime in September. A mailing will go out ahead of time to let

you know when it will be. Let's have a great showing of the talent here in NH so we can send our Best of Show to National Grange in Pennsylvania in November.

Of course this is all dependent on how things go with the virus, and if it will be safe for everyone to venture out and travel. However, donations are always accepted for the talent fund.

Granger of the Year Award

Hopefully this award can be presented at the same time we have our talent contest.

Bowling

Yes! This event did happen, just under the wire. It was just at the beginning of all the concerns over the Covid 19. The bowling alley made sure to clean everything before we arrived and I came prepared with hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes.

We did have a smaller turnout, as there were several who felt they should not attend due to the concerns of Covid, and I'm glad people did not feel they had to attend just because they had registered. The bowling alley is great that they only charge for the number of people that bowl and not the number that I give them in advance. We ended up with 13 Juniors, 2 Grange teams and 23 adults. Our small group enjoyed the time to socialize without getting too close! Here are the results:

First place Grange Team

Centennial Grange with a score of 907. Members included: Wilber Heath, Chris Heath, Tony Skibiki and Pam Warden.

Top Junior Bowler

Ellie Mooney, age 9, with Centennial Grange. She had a combined score for two games of 173.

High Triple Men

Kevin Belval of Chichester Grange with a score of 270.

High Triple Women

Mary West of Chichester Grange with a score of 233.



Calendar of Events

These are events that have not yet been cancelled. Please check to be sure they are happening before you make plans.

July 24-26 - Grange Camping Weekend
Davisons Countryside Campground
Bristol, NH

Aug. 21-23 - Cornish Fair

Sept. 4-7 - Hopkinton State Fair

Sept. 11-13 - Hillsborough County Fair
New Boston, NH

Sept. 18 - Oct. 4 - Eastern States Exposition
West Springfield, MA

Oct. 1-4 - Deerfield Fair

Oct. 23-25 - NH State Grange Session
Portsmouth, NH

Nov. 17-21 - National Grange Convention
King of Prussia, PA

Grange Memories

by **Roberta Sliva, Hampton Falls Grange**

While "Staying Safe", I've thought about the Grange when I first joined. I became Treasurer right off, and when we had the 100th anniversary soon after, we filled the Town Hall, standing room only. My job was to read the treasurer's report for that first year ending in 1892. I was thrilled to meet John West that night. He was so well liked by everyone.

Another memory was Rochester Grange doing the first degree, the old-fashioned way.

We went to Stratham Grange for Pomona, and I was called on to be Lady Assistant Steward. I had never done it before, but I grinned the whole time, because everyone was adding crazy comments, as well. They gave a loud applause when Helen Verge as LS, was teaching me to put the left foot first, and I finally got it right.

My mum (my best buddy) and I would visit Granges everywhere, usually with the car full. At that time we had 27 people at a meeting, and we all enjoyed seeing all the other members so much.

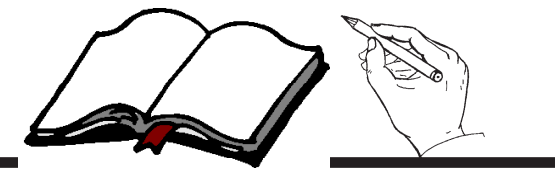
Mom had the meetings while the Town Hall was being renovated, all 27 came. At the first one, we could not find my flags, so we all faced the direction of the flag on the Common. That was the time we all had grins when we saluted the Flag that we couldn't see.

T'was a happy time.

Visit the State Grange website at
www.nhgrange.org

State Grange Historian

Richard Patten



I have been keeping busy during this Corona virus scare staying indoors and doing a lot of reading along with writing items in my Facebook State Historian Page. This virus pandemic has forced many organizations to curtail their activities for a while.

I had read in a newspaper about a past major epidemic, so I researched our State Journals and found it in the 1918 State Grange Journal. In 1918, the State Master mentioned in his address how the influenza, called the Spanish Flu, caused a major health crisis in October and November. The State Board of Health of NH joined all the other states in closing down, while people were told to stay home. We also had World War 1 going on at the same time. The NH State Grange held its session in December at that time, so we were able to meet. But, for those two months, Granges did not meet. You have to remember they didn't have the medicines or treatments that we have today. So please listen to the doctors and wear your masks when you are in public.

I was looking back in some of the older issues of the GSG to see what was happening. I was reading the State Master's comments in the first issue of the Granite State Granger in May of 1952. He mentioned that it had been many years since the last State Grange Journal publication. State Master Charles Eastman stressed "this magazine will be a contributing factor toward developing interest and enthusiasm among members, which will ultimately reflect its purpose, that of having the membership realize the significance of the organization of which they are a part, and which continuously renders service for the betterment of Agriculture and Community environment, thus realizing the need of improving our State, Pomona, Subordinate and Juvenile endeavors."

He spoke about the need for attendance of officers and members at a series

of fourteen Deputy District meetings to be held in April and May. At these meetings, the Third Degree would be exemplified, and a vocal and instrumental contest take place. "An added feature will be a Pomona Drill Team Competition., which should create considerable interest. The scores kept of three features will be announced at the completion of the fourteen meetings. Later, the two highest in each classification of the talent contest (popular, classical, and miscellaneous), plus the two highest in the drill team competition will compete for final honors in June in Concord."

What were some of the Granges doing in this issue? I always enjoy reading of what Granges were doing in the past.

Candia Grange started the year off right, working the four degrees on four candidates and one reinstatement. They have more to join in April. Candia Reported their slate of officers had 100 percent of attendance through March. Plans are underway the paint the outside of the hall this spring and put on a new piazza.

Kearsarge Grange of Wilmot reported Deputy George Gilbert with State Flora Marjorie Emery were honored guests. The Home and Community Welfare Committee put on a sale and realized enough money to pay one half on the Liability Insurance on the hall for one year.

Cheshire Juvenile Grange No. 115 of Keene was organized by Juvenile Deputy Madeline Radcliffe with 28 charter members.

Batchelder Grange of Manchester with sixty officers, members and friends went on a mystery ride to Reading, Massachusetts. Batchelder Grange furnished the program and the host Grange furnished a bountiful lunch and a dance orchestra. Five non-members applied for membership to Batchelder Grange after the mystery ride.

Mystery rides were very common for Granges. especially in the spring and summer. I remember when Pineconia Grange went on a mystery ride to Sandown Grange. The only person who knew the destination was our Master. We had about 24 members who traveled in carloads to Sandown. We had a great

time. I remember when Lake Grange of Sunapee came to Pineconia Grange for a mystery ride in August. It was nice to see a large group coming to visit. Pineconia Grange also went on a mystery ride to Prospect Grange in Mont Vernon. We had a great time there as well.

Back in 1952, Arlington Grange of Winchester took part in a one-act play contest at the Community Center. These one-act plays are put on monthly by various groups or organizations. There are three plays presented each week. The best plays are selected for a competition night. The funds received from the plays will go towards a new furnace for the Community Center. A Cup will be presented to the winning act.

Winnepesaukee Grange of Tilton observed Neighbor's Night recently. The Ladies Degree Team has conferred the degrees several times this year.

Madbury Grange is enjoying a busy year with many events scheduled for the year. Madbury Grange meets on the first and third Mondays of each month. The Madbury Grange Fair Association is planning another Agricultural Fair in the first week of September.

Merrimack River Grange of Canterbury held an Installation of Officers by State Secretary Scott Eastman. Deputy John Lyford visited the Grange in February for Instruction. Merrimack River Juvenile Grange will become active again. The Grange voted to enter the Community Service Contest and plans are underway for a minstrel show.

State Juvenile Grange Superintendent Dorothy McLain announced that Vincent Siche, Jr. of Penacook won first place in the 1951 Forest, Farm, and Garden Contest for Juvenile members. His award was a \$25.00 US Savings Bond. Vincent was a member of Halloween Juvenile Grange of Penacook.

The State Master congratulated Deputy John MacEachran for organizing Rumford Subordinate Grange of East Concord with 37 charter members. Rumford Grange #109 thus making 280 Subordinate Granges in the state.

Happy Father's Day to every one, also don't forget Flag Day, and most of all keep healthy, wear the masks and be careful.



**Grange
Members
Services**

Dick Patten, Director

I am sorry that I have not been able to get a letter to all Granges, but with the Covid-19 virus I felt it was a waste because Granges are not meeting. When everyone starts to resume meetings, I will be sending out a letter to be read to the members.

In the meantime, I have developed a Facebook page for the NH State Grange Members Services. You can go to Facebook, type New Hampshire State Grange Member Services, and it should come up. I am not any kind of computer smart person, believe me. I am very illiterate when it comes to computers. I have more likes than I could ever imagine.

I would like to thank Granges despite not meeting for sending in their donations to the Educational Loan Fund to Patrice Lawlor. She has forms for students to apply for Scholarships and Educational Loans to help further their education. Please contact Patrice as soon as possible.

With this virus not many people will not be traveling as much this summer. However, regardless of where you are going the Grange Member Services

and Benefits offered by the National Grange can be of help. These are available to a Grange member who is 18 years of age and older. If you need a rental car or hotel room, it would be wise to check the member pages and see what you can get with this discount. The same applies to shopping at many stores online. There is a code you need to get through the National Grange Member page by filling out the account information and you will receive it immediately. This code needs to be used when shopping online at many businesses.

The other place where you can use the code is for discounts that are offered at CVS Pharmacy/Care Mark discount. This is not an insurance, but with the code you will get when you join the program, you can save or get \$10.00 each month discount. CVS Pharmacy has many items that you can get at discount. Whether it is personal health items, greeting cards, or food, it pays to inquire about that. Please contact me or any committee member if you have questions.

As I stated before, if you need a hospital bed, wheelchair, commode, electric chair, walker, or other repairs, please remember the Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Services in Concord. We are partnering with them. Please call them beforehand in case with the virus they are not open. Their number is 226-2903. Ask to speak to Jonathan.

The National Grange has announced a partnership with Met Life Insurance. Met Life is offering discounts to all National Grange members. They are asking you to call Met Life at 1-855-251-8934 and speak with an agent. The group insurance program is special for Grange members. This program offers money saving offers not available to the general public. Get savings and benefits like a group discount up to 15%, automatic payment discount, good driver rewards, and multi-vehicle savings. Earn a Cash reward on your next new vehicle.

I am happy to report that Grange Member Services Committee member Doris Minton has made over 100 masks for people. Great job, Doris! If you know of someone who is making them let me know. People are looking for them.

Please check with your elderly members in your Grange or neighborhood to see if there is anything they need assistance with.

In closing, please review the page on Facebook and let me know if you found it.

Support the ELF!

**Please send your
Educational Loan Fund**

donations to:

Patrice Lawlor

PO Box 386

Pelham NH 03076



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