



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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Everything old is new again

Todd A. Gelineau, Editor

In early January, we received notice from our printer that they are “winding down” their printing operations. Furthermore, the January issue would be the last they would be able to produce for us. We were blind-sided by this news as zero notice was provided to find an alternative.

As you know, we have had great difficulty in recent months getting the Granger into your hands by the beginning of each month. Delays by the printer and even greater delays by the US Postal Service have compounded the problem. So ending our relationship with this particular printer is not as painful as it otherwise might be.

Until now, the Connecticut Granger has been printed on what is known as a web press used by newspapers worldwide. Unfortunately, the newspaper industry is shrinking and fighting to stay alive with the proliferation of online news sources and related content available in so many different forms outside of the printed newspaper.

The shrinking readership of weekly and daily newspapers has caused large numbers of publications to print off-site rather than in-house. In fact, most of the newspapers (other than the largest dailies) have closed their print shops. In Southern New England there are a precious few web printers left who will even consider printing short-run newspapers. They are located in the Springfield, MA area

and Fairfield County, CT (not ideal for us).

With few options the decision was made to go in a different direction. Instead of sub-contracting out the printing to a far flung print company we have opted to have PrintMaster in Torrington print the Granger. This will allow much greater flexibility as they are able to print each issue with a two day turn-around. You are familiar with their products as they have been the “official” printer of the State Grange for nearly 30 years printing everything from Blue Books, State Directories, brochures, and more.

While it is sad to see the Granger move away from newsprint and the tabloid format that has served us so well, we are returning to the original format of the Connecticut Granger (pictured right). It remained in this format for many years until it was determined to be too costly (at the time). Printing in the tabloid format (at the time) was much more cost effective and the Granger evolved into the paper we have known for decades.

We know it will take a while for our readers to get used to the new format and style of the Granger. We will make every attempt to keep it familiar and to provide as much content as we have in the past. Please let us know how we are doing. Contact information is provided on the back page of this issue. You can also email us at: Granger@CTStateGrange.org.

The old saying holds true - - “Everything old is new again”!



The second issue of the Connecticut Granger from January of 1960



The May 1965 issue of the Connecticut Granger in the early format.

The Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange

*American Values,
Hometown Roots*

NEXT ISSUE ...
Articles Due February 15

Join us at Leaders Conference



George Russell
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169
president@ctstategrange.org

January has been a busy month. We have been putting on the final touches for the Northeast Leaders Conference which will be held March 29 and 30. The schedule and registration forms were sent out in mid-January. Hopefully by the time you read this article you have sent back the registration form and are planning to attend. If you haven't sent it in yet, there is still time. So please get it in as soon as possible as we're looking forward to seeing our fellow Grangers. This should be a good conference to learn leadership, membership and fellowship by meeting Grangers from throughout the Northeast. This is the first time it is open to all Grangers throughout the Northeast, not just State Officers, Committee Members and Chairpersons. So please try to attend for good food and fellowship.

The Connecticut State Grange is also hosting the Youth Conference which is scheduled for the second weekend in July. Our Youth Director, Dawn Anstett is working on a place to hold this three day event. You'll be hearing more about this event in upcoming issues of the Granger.

The Connecticut State Grange has a loan program to help Grangers make improvements to their Grange halls. The State Grange has issued two loans to help Granges improve their halls to better serve their members and communities. If you need help to keep your Grange Halls up and running, please contact me. We are here to help.

In the middle of January, we

lost two Granges. This is the part of my job as Master that is sad. You hate to see a Grange close because you know the chance of them to re-organize will not be possible. Manchester Grange #31 chose to turn in their charter because of the lack of members to hold official meetings. On January 15, I met with five of their members to receive the

charter. Southington Grange #25 had their charter revoked for non-payment of dues. The General Deputy and I are working with another Grange where the Master and Secretary have both passed away. They are willing to work with us to get their Grange back on track.

In closing, I would like to point out that if your Grange needs help; please let me know and we can see what we can do.

WINDOW TO THE PAST

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a history to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing: submissions@ctstategrange.org.



George Kotowicz from Vernon Grange called regarding the January 2019 Window photo. He believes that the person holding the certificate is State Master Joe Bell, and that the man on the right is Bob Woods from Suffield Grange. He does not know the identity of the woman in the middle. He told how Bob Woods was the leader of Connecticut's competitive drill team in the 1970s, and that through his hard work and dedication, the team often won.

If you like it, they will too!



Faith Quinlan
Membership Dir.

Winchester Grange #74
membership@ctstategrange.org

To continue last month's idea on how to reach potential new members I want to go in depth on ideas for "Membership Drive" events. We want to encourage people who are a good fit for our Grange to become members. The best membership drive varies from community to community. Does your Grange have members who work in farming? Do you live near a town or city with citizens in need of clothes, food or free entertainment? Are you near a college or have community members who like to learn? Arts? Pets/Animal care? Gardening?

A Membership Drive can really just be a layer of preparation that goes over an existing event. Usually we have a dinner or festival and we all socialize with friends but maybe we can still do that but work together to get contact information and learn more about our potential new members and friends.

To plan for a Membership Drive you will want to plan not only the event but also by what means will you promote the event and collect information of the attendees so that you can follow up and invite them to attend a meeting. The best way to collect information on attendees can happen in a few ways. You can have a raffle. Do you quilt, bake, crochet or needlework and could

there be an item like that raffled? In the description of the item and the raffle rules you could include who the artist is and whether you are willing to offer a class on that skill. Things to collect in the raffle would be name, email, phone and address. After the raffle, write and mail/email something short and sweet thanking those that did not win for their attendance and tell about upcoming events and meetings. People could ask about learning one of your skills (as demonstrated by the raffle item) and you can have a sign up for those interested in learning. A small version of the craft is a good starting point to teach from and everyone in the Grange who likes that skill can come along. This second visit of a potential member to the Grange is more intimate and they can see they can fit in quite easily.

Do your Grangers like to read? Partner with the local library and offer your space for meetings of the book club. The potential members will get a chance to see what it looks where you meet and ask questions. You can give them materials and an explanation of what the Grange means to you.

The key to success with any event is to advertise. You can follow the regular plan with flyers and posters but also start exercising the reach you may have by advertising online and sharing and asking more people to share the message. I spoke about

Facebook previously. You can create an event using Facebook and people have the opportunity to check whether they may attend. There are other social media tricks but Facebook seems to be what most are comfortable with.

I will be reaching out to a few Granges who have interest in working with me to create an event. If you would like to brainstorm some ideas and give them a try I am available by email or cell phone.

Southern Conn. Past Masters

The February meeting of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters will be held on Saturday, Feb. 9th at a meeting place to be determined.

The program is in the charge of Vice President Cindy Legg and is entitled "George to Donald." We will have a country store.

Robert Buck, President will preside over the meeting which starts as soon as the dishes are done.

Visitors are always welcome.



GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Feb. 7: Meeting 7:30 p.m. Be My Valentine Refreshments: Pot Luck Desserts

Feb. 16: Monte Carlo Whist 7:00 p.m.

We had a very nice “catered” Christmas Dinner for our Dec. 6th meeting. We collected children’s books for the Glastonbury Social Service Department and also non-perishable food items.

The Town of Glastonbury is also raising funds for a K9 program.. At our meeting we voted to send a check of \$100.00 in to the town for that program. We also voted to send a contribution to the Ct. State Grange Foundation for the Love for Lillian program. In late November we presented Dictionaries to the 3rd grade class at the Nayaug Elementary School.

We have received some nice “thank you” notes from the students. The following is one of them.

“Dear Glastonbury Grange”, I loved that you got us those dictionaries. I can not thank you enough for them. I would have never ever known about the longest word in the english language, or what the big words mean. I’ve never owned a dictionary until you came. Thanks again, sincerely Hunter!!

Another one - Dear Glastonbury Grange Thank you for the dictionary. I learned a lot of new words. I’m am completely addicted to the dictionary. I love my dictionary because they have the word supercalifragilisticex pialidocious.

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Feb. 20: President’s Day Program

We were busy this past few months with two successful pie sales. Thanks to our dedicated kitchen workers including college student members Dani Duquette and Ciri Miller home on winter break.

Our Christmas party was held with a buffet dinner and gift exchange.

We are keeping the hall warm and continue to have extra food from the local grocery store available.

We elected Carol Smith and Paul Horanzy to the Executive Committee.

EKONK COMMUNITY GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Thanks to Verna Cole and her team, our annual Christmas bazaar was another success and added over \$450.00 to our treasury. That, with the Thanksgiving fruit and nut sale (again thanks to Verna + crew), another over \$1,000.00 to our growing treasury! At this writing, we still have a few items left for sale (refrigerated). Contact Verna if interested. February 9th, Weidele’s Pizza and Pub, Rt. 14 in Sterling, is sponsoring a fundraiser for our Lillian Sharpe and family. A pasta special will be served from noon until 4:00 p.m. with all profits going to the family. \$15.00 per person. They are also having basket drawings at 3:00 p.m. Then on Sunday, March 24th, Kate Fantoli is sponsoring a Chili Cook Off at our Grange; more details next issue! This is also benefiting the Sharpe family as well as that of Kaycee Chester. Kaycee is a classmate of Lilly who is battling bone cancer for the third time! Have fun trying out different chili recipes, pick your favorite or make up your very own and bring it to Ekonk Community Grange on Sunday, March 24th!

We are now delivering food to a total of nine families in Sterling regularly. God Bless Barbara Bonin and her son, Greg, who goes with her as deliveries are made. Barbara makes extra deliveries to some of these families in between the regularly scheduled delivery dates. Congratulations to first time home owners J. Allen

and Shelley Cameron, who recently bought a home in Plainfield and to newlyweds Tom and Katie (Molodich) Sweet who have moved into their first home in Voluntown! Visit Ekonk any first Monday at 7:30 p.m. Our Juniors recently had a great time in Moosup at “Locked Escape Adventures Escape Room”

Abbey Dexter has stepped up to the plate in admirable fashion taking the helm for Lillian Sharpe until such time as Lillian’s health allows her to return as President. The Juniors are looking forward to their annual Fun Night Feb. 15th at 6:00 p.m.

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

The words to the old song, “the weather outside is frightful” are so true. Weather-wise it was a mysterious year, not the usual old fashioned weather.

Most of our meetings were held in a timely manner. We had our picnic in July, a craft fair in Oct. and several second Weds. suppers. Pretty good attendance. A new rug was added to the hall, we acquired a new to us cook stove and a few chairs were acquired from other Granges. Pat Valys had someone make a new moveable chair rack to transport our hall chairs in and out whenever we have bluegrass or some other activity in the hall. Bluegrass was scheduled for Jan. 26 with things getting back to normal.

We had a day of decorating our nice artificial Christmas tree for our Yankee Swap Christmas Party on Dec. 17. It was well attended with a potluck dinner preceding the party and a fun time with the Box of Chocolates. Santa appeared thanks to Pat Valys. Thanks to Pat and Linda Harkins who brought a very talented gal who entertained us with singing, tapping and playing a guitar all at one time. Talk about multi-tasking. She was it. It was a fun night.

Dave Griffith, Master, has been composing an agenda of activities for the coming year. So come join us and I will be sitting by enjoying it all, putting by 2¢ worth when needed.

At our last Bean Supper, while getting it ready, I fell in front of the

Continued next page ...

Grange that afternoon and got the biggest bump the size of a grapefruit on my thigh. No bones broken, thank goodness.

Also during this time we lost one of our older members, Dr. Cranston Briggs. He was always ready with a joke or story. Happy trails Cranny!

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Feb. 8: "Up and Down"

Feb. 22: Snow Date

Our Christmas Party was enjoyed by 46 people, with lots of little ones in attendance whose eyes grew large when Santa arrived with gifts. There were apples and glittery ornaments for the older set, too; and the refreshments were delicious, as usual, thanks to our great cooks. Thanks, also, to all who helped decorate the hall. It was beautiful. Thanks to Cheree for the lovely wreaths on our doors.

A small but enthusiastic group went out to carol to members and neighbors, bearing fruit baskets and wishes for a merry Christmas. We visited the real Santa Clause and his strong tenor voice, much missed, was a welcome addition. We sang Happy Birthday to Paul; and Surprise! a good Samaritan treated us all to pizza at the end of the evening. Thank you, good Samaritan.

Our February program is in the charge of the Ag. and Conserv. Committee- always lots of fun. Snow date is the 22nd; but we are sincerely hoping for no snow. And if that pesky bear who has been local raiding bird feeders will just sleep until about June, next time I'll tell you about Jolly January.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Cherie Robinson

Feb. 1: Happy Chinese New Year, Surprise Guest Speaker, Refreshments-Jenn

Mar. 1: Are You Hungry?, Grocery Bingo

Happy New Year to all from Vernon Grange. At our January meeting we

welcomed in 2019 by singing and signing Auld Lang Syne. We learned a few new things to make us healthier, wealthier and wiser in the new year. Courtesy of our local fire department, we got red magnetic pouches with bright yellow forms to fill out and place on our refrigerators in the event that emergency personnel need our current medical information. We encourage you to contact your local fire department for the information pouches.

Vernon Grange is conducting a collection of new, unused towels for benefit of Chrysalis Center in Vernon and Stafford. Chrysalis Center

provides housing and support services for previously homeless veterans. If you wish to contribute to our towel drive please contact us for donation and pickup details. Thanks so much!

At our February meeting we will be treated to a presentation by a surprise guest speaker. March will be our grocery bingo night with food collection for the bingo winners and also for our local food pantry.

Our meetings welcome visitors, but are subject to weather related changes at this time of year. Please check to be sure our meeting is on before heading over. We do hope to see you!



Grab your cape and start planning your Grange Month activities

*Terri Fassio,
Public Relations Co-Director*

April 2019 has been declared Grange Month by National Grange President Betsy Huber. Community Granges throughout Connecticut are encouraged to participate in the month-long celebration by opening their doors to the public for family-oriented events focused on the contributions of the Grange in their communities.

National Grange has announced that the 2019 Theme is "Grange Heroes for our Hometowns." Amanda Brozana Rios, National Grange Communications Director, explains:

"Our theme allows our members to tell our story as heroes and include a cape - sold through Monroe Classic and designed with our own "Super G" logo - so that the media and generations who tend to be visually oriented are more likely to take photos or videos of Grange heroics in action and share with others. Viewers immediately associate Grange members and their actions with heroism and that can only be good for Grange."

Community Granges are encouraged to celebrate Grange Month with open houses, lectures and programs, citizens' awards, service projects, community displays, traditional pot-luck suppers and more, and to incorporate the 2019 theme into their celebrations. Don't wait for the last minute to put an event together. The time to start planning is now.

National Grange will soon be posting information on their website and on Facebook to help Granges with promoting Grange Month. The Connecticut State Grange Public Relations Committee will also be posting information on the CT State Grange website and Facebook to help Connecticut Granges in their Grange month promotions. If you need help promoting your Grange's Grange Month events - such as writing press releases and articles, designing posters and more - the PR Committee is just a an e-mail away!

E-mail: publicrelations@ctstategrange.org or information@ctstategrange.org



WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

The Whigville Grange has planned events for 2019. The earliest one is : May 10, a Mom's and brides fair. Booths will include wedding planning, a J.P., a cake baker, jewelry, skin care, cosmetics, candles, and things to pamper the ladies! A nice way to find a Mothers' Day gift, or get wedding ideas. Light refreshments will be available, so join us at the Grange from 10am until 2 pm. Some spaces are available, contact Debbie at b_gary@sbcglobal.net.

As you are spring cleaning, set aside some things to sell at our upcoming flea market on July13. Inside and outside spots, rain or shine. Details to follow.

We have made it half way through winter, so lets all stay warm and hope for an early spring. If you are looking for Whigville Grange meetings, we are at Burlington town hall for at least Feb. and March. We meet the 2nd weds.at 7pm.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Feb. 12: Hearts & Flowers, Ref. Potluck, 6 P.M.

Feb. 26: USA, Ref. Kim & Randy Carlson

Mar. 12: Shamrocks, Ref. Sue Addison

Mar. 26: CWA Program, Ref. Craig Leifert & Todd Gelineau

The Jan. 22 meeting of Winchester Grange was ironically entitled "BRR!" It turned out to be one of the coldest days in a long time and was also on the heels of a weekend snow and ice storm. Rather than ask members to go out in these conditions, the meeting was canceled with the hope that February will treat us better.

The Feb. 12 meeting will be "Hearts & Flowers." It will be preceded by a Potluck supper at 6 P.M. Our two newest members will be obligated into membership at this meeting (also delayed by the weather on the last meeting night).

Our meetings are always warm and friendly so feel free to join us!

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

At our February 14th meeting at 7:30 in our Grange Hall (4 Dunbar Road in the Ellsworth section of Sharon), there will be a talk and slide show by Carol Ascher, A Chance for Land and Fresh Air: Russian Jewish Immigrants in Ellsworth and Amenia, 1907-1940. This will be an open meeting with refreshments afterwards.

AChanceforLandandFreshAirtells the story of some 30 Jewish families who beginning in 1907 became dairy farmers in the Ellsworth Hills above Sharon. Twenty years later, most had moved to Amenia, New York, where they ran boarding houses and hotels, turning Amenia into a Jewish resort. Her presentation highlights several families who continue to have farms in the area.

Carol Ascher, whose exhibit at the Sharon Historical Society was expanded into a book, lives in the Ellsworth Hills. She came upon this hidden history when she heard stories of Jewish farmers who had lived in her area. She examined the town's land records, which, in turn, led her to census data and the archives of the Center for Jewish History in Manhattan, and back to Sharon and Amenia, to conduct interviews and collect family photographs, and other documents. Thanks to Brent Prindle,

her presentation includes a map of where the farms were located.

Copies of A Chance for Land and Fresh Air will be available for purchase.

For more information and RSVP as seating is limited, please call Barbara Prindle at: 860-364-5373.

At our December meeting we had our cookie exchange. We made up 12 plates of cookies to go to Ella's Closet (food pantry) and to two of our members who are not able to get around. We then made up plates of cookies to take home.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Feb. 9: Who were The Shakers?

Mar. 9: 120 years For Us.

Our Town had one of the last communities of Shakers, a religious sect that has almost completely died out. How did they influence our history? This will be the focus of our Feb. program. Winter weather has been very kind so far but we cannot take it for granted. Should we have to postpone a meeting we will meet on the following Saturday. Happy Valentine's Day to all.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Raine Pedersen

The Riverton Grange has been busy planning events for our community. Besides our monthly meetings on February 1st which will be conducted by our Agriculture Committee and March 1st which will be in charge of our Legislative Committee.

We will have two classes February 10th Rug Hooking and the other Pearl Stringing March 24th.

We are also going to have two nights of Game and Card night. January 26th and February 23rd.

RIVERTON GRANGE PRESENTS

FEB. 10: RUG HOOKING CLASS
Cost \$15.00, RSVP 860-309-3160
or RainePedersen@hotmail.com by Feb. 2

FEB. 23: GAME & CARD NIGHT
6:00 - 9:00 P.M. - No Cost
Bring a Game or Cards
Coffee, Tea & Desserts Provided

MAR. 24: PEARL STRINGING CLASS
Cost \$15.00, RSVP 860-309-3160
RainePedersen@hotmail.com by Mar. 16



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Nutmeg Pomona will meet at Cheshire Grange on Sunday March 24th at 2:00. The program for this meeting is entitled “Has Spring Sprung Yet?” Come and see what Lecturer Lois Evankow has planned. Refreshments are in charge of Redding and Harmony Granges. I’m sure they could use some help.

Attendance has been good at our meetings. If you haven’t attended a meeting, come and it will be that much better.

The Nutmeggers hope you are having a great New Year.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Feb. 6: Box Supper 6:30pm Open Meeting Program, Young at Heart.

Feb. 20: Presidents Day

We will be having a St Patrick’s Day dinner with all the trimmings at our hall on March 9th. Tickets are \$12.00. Packages to our troops are being sent and their response is very rewarding. We have been involved with this project for some time. We will begin planning for our 2019 Cheshire Grange Community Fair in March.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

A new year and we hope some new ideas. We celebrated the coming of the new year on Friday, December 28th with a party. Members enjoyed playing cards and enjoying a nice variety of snacks. Our schedule for February starts on the 8th, our regular meeting. Program “Ground

Hog and St. Valentine’s Day” is in the charge of Lecturer Judi Reynolds. On the 9th some of us will be attending the meeting of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters and on the 16th we will have our monthly open mic. We always have a full schedule of entertainment but can always add more. Good music and snacks. All we need is a larger audience.

We have started planning our 130th Anniversary to be held on Friday, May 31st.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim & Lori Golias

Joy Health, Peace & Blessings to all in 2019.

As 2018 comes to an end -- our 125th year -- Greenfield Hill Grange reaches a historical milestone. 2018 was a successful year with many functions including flea markets, boutiques, holiday dinners, and our 1st Lobster Bake. Thanks to all who attended our 125th celebration on April 30 and a special thank you to our fantastic four ---Stephanie, Karen, Lori & Geno, who planned the event. SAVE the Dates: Our Annual Valentine’s Day Dinner will be held on February 9th, 2019 (weather permitting) and the famed Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner in honor of St. Patrick’s Day to be held on March 16th, 2019. For info call Steve 203.367.4373

PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Prospect Grange was saddened by the loss of Lecturer Tina Meehan. Tina, who has been very active until her illness, was a former member of the Rose Drill and very active in our community service projects.

Our meetings are on the third Thursday of each month weather permitting in the Winter months.

We voted on our community service projects for the year and are serving our community. For the 19th year, dictionaries have been handed out to the third graders at the Prospect Elementary School. As soon as they received them., the teachers had them looking up words. This was one of our favorite community service projects.

We hope everyone had a great holiday season. We look forward to a new year.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Feb. 8: Groundhog Valentine

Feb. 22: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Mar. 8: Spring

Mar. 22: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meetings.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Rob Buck

Feb. 1: Meteorology, 7:30 PM

Feb. 15: Make up date, in case of snow

Feb. 22: GOMAD, 7:00 PM

The Christmas potluck had to be postponed to the first January meeting on the fourth due to water in the basement from heavy rains in mid December. With some landscaping, we hope to rectify this situation which has plagued us for years. It has been worse since the area around the hall was paved. Repairs to the downspouts and digging of ditches has begun to help except in cases of extreme downpours. As of the begin of 2019, the railings on the handicapped ramp had begun to be built, so the end of that project is in sight! Instead of a lecture/discussion series on sustainable growing this winter and spring, we plan one on climate change. Stay posted to Facebook and the Granger for dates. Also save the date of April 13th for our Annual Chili Cook-Off to be held at 6:00 PM. Tickets will be available for advance purchase soon.



Two easy steps toward bridging the broadband gap

The following opinion piece appeared in the January 18, 2019 Washington Examiner.

by Betsy Huber,
National Grange Master

In the 1920s, the United States was being transformed by a new innovation: electricity. Constant access to power was fundamentally changing the way Americans lived and the economy operated. It was not long before electricity was a complete necessity. However, while most of urban America was on the power grid by the late 1920s, much of rural America remained in the dark. By 1930, only 10 percent of our nation's farms had electricity.

Nearly 100 years later, rural America is living through another technological divide - the rural broadband gap. In today's modern economy, the ability to get online is as essential as electricity. And while access to broadband-quality internet is nearly ubiquitous in urban centers, rural Americans have once again been left in the dark.

We truly are living through a rural/urban divide that is as consequential as the electricity gap once was. Thankfully, public and private partners alike are stepping up to the plate to bridge it. One government agency working in this area is the Federal Communications Commission.

I applaud the FCC for its leadership on this issue. However, there are several long-overdue, uncontroversial changes the



Bridging the Rural Broadband Gap

commission could make to advance its mission in an expeditious manner.

First among them is the FCC's data collection methods. The FCC collects rural broadband data by census block. A survey is sent to local internet service providers asking if they do or could serve one home or business in a given census block. If the answer is yes, everyone in that census block is counted as covered. In rural areas, census blocks often cover large geographical spaces. Just a few miles can mean the difference between having access and being unconnected, and this data collection method results in a much rosier picture than what is actually happening in rural America.

Last week, Microsoft released its own data that showed just how out of sync current FCC figures are with reality. In Ferry County, Washington, for example, the commission's broadband deployment report says 100 percent of people have access to a broadband service.

However, Microsoft's data shows that only 22 percent of the population actually accesses the internet at broadband speeds. If

every resident had access, it's hard to believe 97.8 percent of them would choose not to use it.

The FCC needs to overhaul its data collection methods so local providers have reliable information to tell them where coverage gaps exist and where deployment efforts are needed. Ferry County clearly needs help, but you'd never know it by only looking at the FCC's map.

Second, there is a simple regulatory fix the commission could make to bring broadband to more rural Americans.

When we look at the broadband and electricity gaps, both had a common element: Wired technologies are slow to reach rural areas. Just like power lines, fiber cables are expensive to deploy, and reaching small populations in remote areas is not always economically feasible.

However, wireless technologies cost far less to deploy, and that is why adoption rates of technologies such as radio and cell phone service have historically reached rural America faster than wired technologies such as electricity and cable television.

Right now, a new technology called TV white spaces is allowing providers to wirelessly deliver broadband to rural communities through unused spectrum between broadcast television stations - lowering deployment costs and creating a business case to build rural networks.

Unfortunately, the FCC has left the rules regulating TVWS in draft

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Bridging the Gap

Continued from page 3...

form for years, creating regulatory uncertainty for innovators who are eager to use the technology to connect rural America.

An overhaul of its data collection method and a removal of the regulatory barriers holding TVWS back would create an immediate opportunity for the FCC to make progress on its goal of bridging the digital divide.

Best of all, these solutions are not controversial. Lawmakers from both sides of the aisle- Sens. Steve Daines, R-Mont., and Ron Johnson, R-Wisc., as well as Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio, have written letters to the commission on these issues. Furthermore, organizations across the political spectrum such as the National “Grange and the National Parent Teacher Association have joined a coalition called Connect Americans Now to advocate in favor of these regulatory fixes.



Super Simple Scalloped Potatoes



One way to beat the cold is to enjoy warm comfort food. One versatile dish is Scalloped Potatoes. This recipe from Taste of Home is just like grandma used to make - and is a perfect for the next potluck!

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 cups heavy whipping cream
- 1-1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh thyme, optional
- 3 pounds russet potatoes, thinly sliced (about 10 cups)

DIRECTIONS:

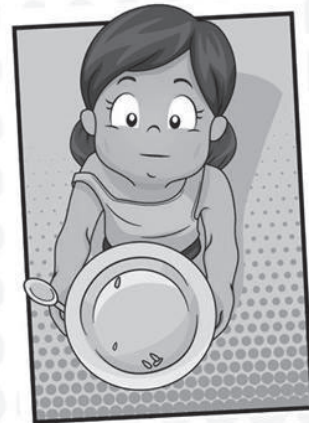
Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, combine cream, salt, pepper and, if desired, thyme. Arrange potatoes in a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Pour cream mixture over top. Bake, uncovered, 45-55 minutes or until potatoes are tender and top is lightly browned. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

SOURCE: www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/super-simple-scalloped-potatoes/

1 in 6 American children face hunger...



but with every low-cost meal or potluck Granges hold and invite their community to...



they're heroes taking on one of the worst villains - HUNGER - and winning!



This ad was produced by the National Grange as part of our public service announcement series and may be replicated so long as the Grange Values logo appears.





Dawn Anstett
State Youth Director

Riverton Grange #169
Youth@ctstategrange.org

Youth Connections

Just to update everyone on what our Youth Committee has been working on, we are currently planning the New England Youth Conference, to be held in July. The pieces are coming together and I hope to update everyone with more specifics in next month's *Granger*. I have to thank Jaimie Cameron, CT St. Gatekeeper, Michelle DeDominicis, Flora/co-Junior Director and especially her daughter Angelina, who reminded me that it is important to reach out to the youth, for whom this program benefits. That is the what I am writing to you about this month.

For those of you who have youth in

your grange or know members who would be interested in public speaking or our sign-a-song competition, please let me know. Only 2 of the youth competitions have age restrictions. There are all types of contests for youth to participate in and grow in their knowledge of the Grange. Some of the workshops, I am working on for this summer's New England Youth Conference focuses on agriculture, community service and membership.

Before we can offer ways to engage youth in leadership, community service and other programs that teach life skills and give them opportunities to compete in contests, we need to get them in the door. We have to think about creating programs that will interest our youth and how we promote them. Providing activities

that are fun and interactive and give them the opportunity to participate in the planning and implementing the event/program will help us achieve this goal. This year we have added a challenge/contest open to everyone. That is our Building Youth Membership Challenge. We want to recognize all Community Grange members that bring in 3 or more youth/year into the Grange and present that member with a paid 1 year Community Grange Membership. We can help you do this by promoting your events. I would like to make it to events in your area as well. Please either email me at youth@ctstategrange.org or message me through Facebook.

State Secretary



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary

Winchester Grange #74
Secretary@ctstategrange.org

Members have asked what Leaders Conference is all about. Letters have gone out to all Granges promoting the conference and expressing the State Grange's desire to have at least one representative present at the Conference.

Leaders Conference is an opportunity for Grange members throughout New England and New York to gather, get to know one another. This year's Conference will feature workshops that will touch on themes like membership development, leadership and other topics that will help us to grow our Granges for the future. A complete schedule of events including the workshop topics will be sent out to all Granges and states within the region when those workshops are finalized.

As I mentioned in the letter, early reservation of rooms and registration for the conference is extremely

important as we expect high attendance and the demand for hotel rooms in the Norwich area is always strong.

The annual Bonding letter went out to Granges in December. The deadline was January 15. Unfortunately, as of this writing, there are many Granges still outstanding. The State Grange pays the bonding in one check even if there are outstanding Grange payments. Please get your bonding in to me as soon as possible.

Questions have been asked about the Pomona Incorporations. Unfortunately, this is a long drawn out process, especially with the involvement of lawyers. We are still sorting through the requirements and the paperwork required both by the State of Connecticut and the Internal Revenue Service.

One unintended result of this process is the revelation that the fiscal years of some of our Granges are not in line with the State Grange. All Granges in the State of Connecticut must be on the Oct. 1 through September 30 fiscal year to be covered under the State Grange Group Exemption. Letters to this effect will be going

out to all Subordinate and Pomona Granges explaining the requirement and how it can be resolved. Most Granges begin their fiscal years on October 1 so for them it will not be a problem. For others this may require a vote of the Grange to change or it may require a by-law change. In all cases, we will ask Granges to tell us (the State Grange) how your fiscal year falls. If it is a January 1 to December 31 year, we will ask you to tell us the steps you are taking to make the change.

Maintaining your status as exempt under the State Grange group exemption is highly important. You are shielded by the State Grange from filing long form tax returns with the IRS and are able to satisfy filing requirements by filing 990N e-postcards. We thank you in advance for working with us on this task.

We hope to have Blue Books and State Directories out to all Granges as soon as possible. Unfortunately, it's been difficult compiling the information for these books. We apologize for the delay.

We remind all Granges of the plethora of regalia and other equipment and supplies available at the Central Office. Give me a call or send an e-mail to learn more!



2019 Northeast Leaders Conference "Leading Leaders" 2.0



The Connecticut State Grange will host the 2019 Northeast Leaders' Conference **March 29 & 30, 2019** at the Holiday Inn, 10 Laura Boulevard, Norwich, CT 06360. This year's theme is "Leading Leaders 2.0" and ALL Grange members are encouraged to attend. Enjoy workshops, speakers and an opportunity to connect with Grange members throughout New England and New York. Rooms should go quickly, so please make your reservations with the hotel as soon as possible. The room rate is the same as State Session at \$105.00 per night (plus taxes/fees) for a King or 2 Queen bed room. Please call the Holiday Inn Norwich directly. Please **DO NOT** call the Holiday Inn corporate reservation line as they may not handle your reservations properly. **CALL (860) 889-5201** and ask for the Connecticut State Grange room block.

REGISTRATION FORM

Member #1:

Name _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 Grange Name _____ No. _____ State _____
 State Office (if applicable) _____
I would like: _____ Breakfast _____ Lunch _____ Banquet (___ Vegetarian Banquet Required)

Member #2:

Name _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 Grange Name _____ No. _____ State _____
 State Office (if applicable) _____
I would like: _____ Breakfast _____ Lunch _____ Banquet (___ Vegetarian Banquet Required)

Continental Breakfast (Saturday, March 30, 2019):

Assorted danishes, croissants, muffins, bagels, breakfast breads, sliced fruits & yogurt, fruit preserves, butter & cream cheese, assorted fruit juices, freshly brewed regular and decaffeinated coffee, assorted teas and hot cocoa.

of Members _____ x \$12.00 = _____

Southern BBQ Lunch Buffet (Saturday, March 30, 2019):

Buttermilk battered fried chicken breast, BBQ ribs, mashed potatoes, creamy cole slaw, buttered corn on the cob, freshly baked corn bread, freshly tossed garden greens with assorted dressings, warm apple crisp, assorted sodas, water, coffee and teas.

of Members _____ x \$25.00 = _____

Bella Roma Buffet Banquet (Saturday, March 30, 2019):

Freshly tossed Caesar salad, roasted vegetables & tortellini, roasted garlic bread sticks, chicken marsala, chicken parmesan, assorted sodas, water, coffee and tea, assorted cannolis & tiramisu.

of Members _____ x \$30.00 = _____

**Registrations Due:
MARCH 1, 2019**

Registration Fee: # of Members _____ x \$10.00 = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED WITH THIS FORM = _____

Please make checks payable to the Connecticut State Grange

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

Questions: Please call the Central Office at 860-633-7550 or State Secretary Todd Gelineau on his cell at 860-307-1522 or email: Secretary@CTStateGrange.org

Plan to attend Lecturer's Conference



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

Cheshire Grange #23
Lecturer@ctstategrange.org

As I write this the Northeast Lecturers Association is close to signing a contract for the 2019 Northeast Grange Lecturers' Conference. As soon as final details are available I will get them out to all who have email. In the meantime, please save Aug. 5-7 for the conference.

The following was written by Janet Segur, Lecturer of the Massachusetts State Grange. I agree with what she says and hope that you will seriously consider attending in August. She has put a lot of time and effort into making our conference a great event for everyone.

"Lecturers and all interested in programming are invited to participate in the 'new and improved' Northeast Lecturers Conference to be held August 5 - 7th in Massachusetts. As of this writing, a contract with a conference center in the central area is being finalized. Surveys from previous conferences have shown a desire

to have more convenient accommodations and less walking than colleges can offer. At the last conference in 2017, the State Lecturers announced we were taking a year off to revamp the conference. In addition to the type of facility, the program for the 2-day conference has undergone major revisions. To give you a hint of some of the changes, I can reveal the State Lecturers are preparing 10-minute segments which will combine into one program on the theme of "Down on the Farm", instead of seven state programs. With that change, it gives more time for workshops on areas pertinent to planning and presenting programs in your Grange as well as a few other 'surprise' activities that are in the process of being arranged. The program and registration materials will be mailed to each Grange in the spring. In the meantime, Lecturers can be raising funds to help your Grange send one or two to the conference. Budgeting \$300 is suggested to accommodate the higher rates of a conference center vs. a college. Since the State Lecturers voted last year to hold the conference every other year beginning with 2019, think of the cost of \$300/person every other year as a

savings over the \$200 that we were paying each year. I am excited to host the conference in this new format and hope the usual attendees as well as many more will join me in August!"

The following is the 3rd place winner in our 2018 Essay Contest...

MY FAVORITE FOOD - THE EGG

My favorite food - is the simple egg. It is so versatile! For breakfast scrambled, hardboiled, or fried over-medium, or my favorite, as a "house" omelet (add cheese and whatever is left over in the refrigerator!) For lunch as the basis for any number of quiches. And let's not forget an egg salad sandwich. 'Egg and potato' salad and devilled eggs to accompany dinner. And then there's dessert: Egg custard with a hint of nutmeg, vanilla egg custard in a yummy cream puff; divided, the yolks used in the bases and the whites whipped up into mile-high meringue pies. Even when you're sick, a simple egg-drop soup or poached or soft-boiled egg can perk you up. Very necessary at Easter, or in eggnog at Christmas - but let's face it, in its most basic form, all it needs is a little salt! Yum.

Oxford Grange installs handicap ramp



Thanks to the hard work of Hank Rotzal, the new handicap ramp at Oxford Grange is progressing well. These photos were taken on January 13.

Riverton Anniversaries

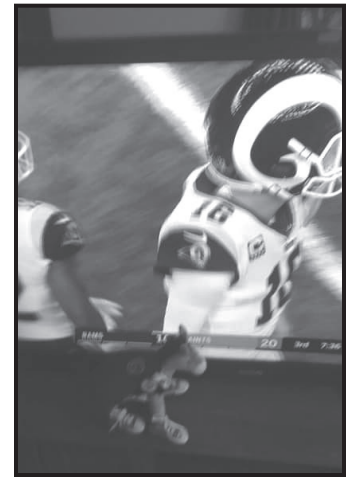
At their annual Anniversary Dinner, Riverton Grange presented Dennis Jasmine and Daniel LeGeyt their 50 year certificates, and recognized Bob O'Connor 65 years, and Phil and Maureen Prelli for 55 years in our community Grange. We also have two other members; Timothy LeGeyt and Muriel LeGeyt who could not be with us but also have been in the Grange 50 years.



Hello Grange friends!

I hope that all of my readers are staying warm. It sure has been cold out there. I have been spending most of my time inside the Russell home where it is warm, and enjoying watching the exciting football games on television. Once the weather warms up, I'm sure we will be out visiting more around the state.

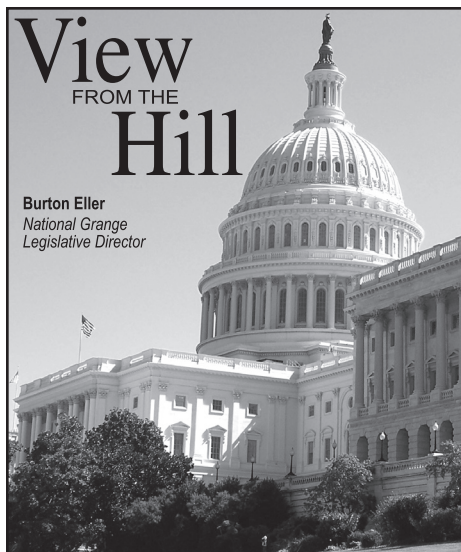
Please take a minute to follow the link to my Facebook page, and click the "Like" button while you are too, then you can follow us on all of our Grange adventures. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>



Seeds & Quiche



Hillstown Grange has the most seeds ever for our Quiche Dinner & Seed Event held on Jan. 24. Six to eight different kinds of quich with both veggie and meat lover to Mac 'n Cheese were served.



FARM BILL

Legislation Becomes Law

In December, the new farm bill passed with huge bipartisan majorities in the Senate (87-13) and House (369-47). Following its passage, National Grange President Betsy Huber issued the following statement:

“America’s farmers, ranchers and landowners have a reasonable, balanced, common-sense \$867 billion farm bill headed to the President’s desk today. The bipartisan legislation passed overwhelmingly in the Senate by a vote of 87-13 and in the House by 369-47. The package now gives much needed multi-year certainty to commodity programs, crop insurance, conservation, farm loans, beginning farmers and ranchers, SNAP assistance, nutrition programs, foreign markets promotion and more. It also establishes a new Foot and Mouth Disease vaccine bank.

“I want to thank Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts and Ranking Minority member Debbie Stabenow for their bipartisan leadership to get this done. Both have proven themselves worthy to have named National Grange Champions of Rural America (Stabenow in 2017 and Roberts in 2018)”.

Trade

USDA’s four trade promotion programs were funded at \$251.5 million per year.

Commodity Programs

Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price

Loss Coverage are similar to the 2014 farm bill with several enhancements on reference prices and yield data. Loan rates are increased substantially.

The new Dairy Margin Coverage Program builds on the recent Margin Protection Program passed in February by reducing premiums on the first 5 million pounds of production (about 240 cows) and raises the top margin coverage from \$8 per hundredweight to \$9.50.

Does not set payment limits on eligibility for commodity program payments.

Conservation

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program has increased funding; the Conservation Stewardship Program has reduced funding but is preserved as a standalone program. Conservation Reserve Program enrollment is increased from 24 million acres to 27 million acres.

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program is now a standalone with its own rules separate from other conservation programs from which it was previously funded.

Nutrition

Additional work requirements and tightened eligibility requirements were omitted from the final Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provision; governors will be required to approve state agency applications to USDA for waivers from the existing work requirements.

The Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program is given permanent funding and is renamed the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program for the former USDA Undersecretary and Grange member from Massachusetts.

Credit

Farm loan limits on operating and ownership loans are increased (\$1.75 million on guaranteed operating and ownership loans; \$600,000 on direct ownership loans; direct operating loans are raised to \$400,000).

Rural Development

Provides permanent authority and rules for the \$600 million rural broadband grant and loan program created by the fiscal 2018 spending bill.

Prioritizes funding for projects to combat opioid addiction and authorizes a 33 percent increase in grants under the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program.

Research

Funding is increased for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative and the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.

Forestry

Renews the categorical exclusion that allows diseased and insect infested trees to be removed from government forests.

Energy

Renews the authorization but reduces the funding for bioenergy programs.

Horticulture

Legalizes the production of industrial hemp.

Creates a new Local Agriculture Market Program.

Creates a new Urban, Indoor and Other Emerging Agricultural Production Research, Education and Extension Initiative.

Maintains funding for Specialty Crop Block Grants.

Authorizes USDA to require additional documentation for shipments from abroad under the National Organic Program.

Crop Insurance

Hemp is made eligible for crop insurance.

Discounts for beginning farmers and ranchers are extended to 10 years from the current 5 years under Whole

Farm Revenue Protection

New policies will be researched by USDA to cover crops affected by hurricanes and tropical storms.

Miscellaneous

Creates and funds a new Animal

Disease Preparedness and Response Program that includes a new Foot and Mouth Disease vaccine bank

Creates a new Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach Program

Requires the President to nominate an undersecretary for rural development

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

In early December, the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers released their highly anticipated proposal to replace the definition of “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) which determines the scope of waters and wetlands that fall under the federal Clean Water Act. The proposal would eliminate ephemeral streams (those created by rainfall and snowmelt) from federal jurisdiction, tighten guidelines for when other streams and wetlands are considered for federal protection, exclude ditches unless they contribute flow to a “waters of the U.S”, exclude farm ponds, log cleaning ponds and cooling ponds, and require wetlands to be physically connected to other jurisdictional waters to fall within the scope of WOTUS. Farmers, ranchers, landowners, builders, and other businesses welcomed the new definition while several conservation and environmental groups were critical. The proposed rule is subject to a 60-day comment period. If the rule becomes final, it is almost certain to face legal challenges.

DISCLOSURE OF BIOENGINEERED FOOD

USDA has announced the Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard to require food manufacturers, importers, and certain retailers to identify foods that are or may be bioengineered. The standard defines bioengineered foods as those that contain detectable genetic material that has been modified through lab techniques and cannot be created through conventional breeding or found in nature.

SNAP CHANGES PROPOSED

Late in December, USDA issued a proposed rule to significantly amend the Supplemental Nutrition

Assistance Program (SNAP) for the first time in 22 years. The proposed change would prevent states from getting waivers from work and job training requirements unless their unemployment rate is at least 7 percent. The proposed rule is subject to a 60-day public comment period and will likely face legal challenges if enacted.

ANTIBIOTIC USE IN LIVESTOCK FALLS BY A THIRD

Usage of medically important antibiotics in food production has fallen sharply according to the Food and Drug Administration. Antimicrobials important to human health are no longer allowed to be used for growth promotion purposes in livestock and may only be obtained through a veterinarian’s order to treat sick animals.

HEALTH CARE

Medical Device Tax

The National Grange joined a large group of patient advocates to call for permanent repeal of the medical device tax in a letter to Senate and House leadership. New medical technology discoveries are critical to diagnosing and treating disease and conditions that significantly impact patients’ lives. Since the tax is levied on revenues, not profits, it is particularly challenging for smaller companies which make up 80 percent of the industry and are the source of much innovation.

Protect Medicare Part D

Because Part D is so important to Grange members, the National Grange joined other patient groups in a letter to Congress opposing any proposal that would repeal the program’s non-interference clause. The clause states that manufacturers, pharmacy benefit managers, and insurance companies must negotiate directly to reach the lowest possible prices for prescription medications.

Medicare Part B Demonstration Questioned

The National Grange has urged Senate and House leaders to question a potentially harmful Medicare Part

B demonstration by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The proposed CMS International Pricing Index demonstration would import foreign-based price controls regardless of value or innovation and interjects new middlemen between physicians and patients with complex life-threatening conditions.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Rural Veterans Need the Lifeline Program

The National Grange filed comments with the Federal Communications Commission to support access to affordable rural broadband for the 24 percent of America’s veterans who live in rural America. The filing urged the FCC to preserve no-cost Lifeline offerings, implement the National Verifier in a common sense, straight-forward way, and reexamine the minimum standard regulations that could lead to the elimination of no-cost Lifeline services.

Binding Arbitration for Comcast/NBCUniversal

The National Grange wrote the chairmen and ranking minority members of the House Judiciary Committee and the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law regarding the expiring terms of the Comcast/NBCU merger. The Grange suggested that binding arbitration be required to settle program access disputes, that sensible safeguards are necessary to protect consumer prices and assess to programming, and that protections for independent programmers be established.

Raising the Bar for Rural Broadband

The USDA will now require its rural broadband projects to provide access speeds of at least 25 megabits per second upload and 3 megabits per second download as mandated in the new farm bill. Funded projects must serve communities of less than 20,000 people with no broadband service or where service is slower than 10/I Mbps. Projects will compete for \$600 million provided by Congress earlier this year.

43 Naubuc Avenue, P.O. Box 1393
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Address Service Requested

What does the Lord require?



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain
Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

The prophet Micah was active during the reigns of King Ahaz and Hezekiah of Judah. The above-quoted passage comes at the end of a denunciation of those who outwardly perform all kinds of rituals and sacrifices in hopes of gaining God's favor, but in their daily lives continue to lie and cheat, rob the poor, and accept bribes rather than dispense justice. Micah points out that all these religious ceremonies and actions count for nothing if one does not have a change of heart and have true repentance, which is shown outwardly by showing kindness and mercy and dispensing true justice.

Micah was not the first prophet to point out this discrepancy between outward acts of devotion and inward thoughts and behavior towards others, nor was he the last. In the first chapter of Isaiah we read:

"The multitude of your sacrifices—what are they to me?" says the LORD. "I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to appear before me,

who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations— I cannot bear your worthless assemblies."

And this thought also shows up in the Psalms. In Psalm 51 we find:

Help me to speak, Lord, and I will praise you. You do not want sacrifices, or I would offer them; you are not pleased with burnt offerings. My sacrifice is a humble spirit, O God; you will not reject a humble and repentant heart.

The message from all this is clear: it is not important what house of worship you attend, or what day or hour of the week you worship, or whether you repeat the proper creeds or say the approved prayers or burn the right candles. What is important is that you have a loving relationship with God and reflect it in your heart by your love and charity towards those around you.

In Memoriam

Gloria Ward, G.S.
Harmony Grange #92

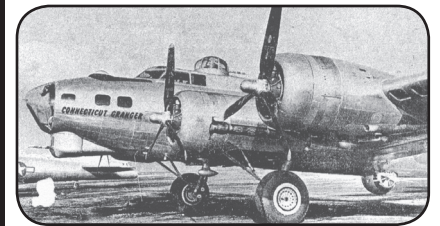
Janet Winter
Beacon Grange #118

Arthur P. Crofts, G.S.
N. Stonington Comm. Grange #138

Marguerite Moran
Prospect Grange #144

Tina Meehan
Prospect Grange #144

"Well done, good and faithful servants."



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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