



THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2013

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Greetings...

Welcome to Fall. It sure is refreshing when you step outside. With the change of seasons we also finish one Grange year and start another.

First, let's complete our job for 2013. Included in this newsletter is your Honor Lecturer Report for the year just ending. Please complete this and send it in even if you are not eligible for any rewards. It gives me a good idea of what is happening around the State and tells me if any changes need to be made in our programs. Also due at this time are the Essays, Complete Programs and Should Auld Acquaintance reports. Please be sure and have everything to me by **October 1st** as I already have judges ready to judge them.

If you are going back into office, now is the time to get a new start. It's a new Grange year. It doesn't matter what happened last year. Now you can focus on making our Grange a better place for everyone and encouraging new members to join. The Lecturers' Program is a vital part of our meetings. It is an order of business and cannot be omitted. Programs should be a minimum of thirty minutes long and should cover a variety of topics. Don't forget, if you need any help I am here ready and willing to help you.

The next newsletter will include an advance copy of what will be in the Bluebook next year. Use that and your newsletters to help you with your programs. Try and get all your members involved in the program. Why not call someone who hasn't attended a meeting in a while to do something on the program?

I want to send a sincere **THANK YOU** to all forty-nine people from Connecticut who came to the 98th Annual North East Grange Lecturers' Conference. Every one present on Monday night was a part of our program. What a bunch of good sports we have in CT. CT was also in charge of refreshments and we received many favorable comments. Thanks to Joan for taking charge and to everyone who donated food/beverage for over a hundred people each night. And a special **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated toward my wonderful gift on Tuesday night. Connecticut people are the best. **THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR EVERYTHING YOU DID.**

Now that the conference and the Cheshire Fair are over, Carl and I are taking a much-needed two week break. See you around the State when we return.

Marge

SHARED NUMBERS...

(There is a lot of reading material here. Please remember that a program is not just a lot of readings. You need variety. I like the cut-aparts as they get everyone involved in the programs.)

MY LIVING WILL

Last night, my kids and I were sitting in the living room and I said to them, "I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug."

"They got up, unplugged the computer and threw out my wine bottle!!"

MEN'S RULES with Thanks to Kay Ruff

1. Learn to work the toilet seat. You're a big girl. If it's up, put it down. We need it up, you need it down. You don't hear us complaining about you leaving it down.
2. Sunday sports. It's like the full moon or the changing of the tides. Let it be.
3. Crying is blackmail.
4. Ask for what you want. Let us be clear on this one: Subtle hints do not work! Strong hints do not work! Obvious hints do not work! Just say it!
5. Yes and No are perfectly acceptable answers to almost every question.
6. Come to us with a problem ONLY if you want help solving it. That's what we do. Sympathy is what your girlfriends are for.
7. Anything we said 6 months ago is inadmissible in an argument. In fact, all comments become null and void after 7 Days.
8. If you think you're fat, you probably are. Don't ask us.
9. If something we said can be interpreted two ways and one of the ways makes you sad or angry, we meant the OTHER ONE.
10. You can either ask us to do something Or tell us how you want it done. Not both. If you already know best how to do it, just do it yourself.
11. Whenever possible, Please say whatever you have to say during commercials.
12. Christopher Columbus did NOT Need directions and neither do we.
13. ALL men see in only 16 colors, like Windows default settings. Peach, for example, is a fruit, not A COLOR. PUMPKIN IS ALSO A FRUIT. WE HAVE NO idea what mauve is.
14. If we ask what is wrong and you say 'nothing,' We will act like nothing's wrong. We know you are lying, but it is just not worth the hassle.
15. If you ask a question you don't want an answer to, Expect an answer you don't want to hear.

PARAPROSDOKIANS with Thanks To Vernon Grange

Great Cut-aparts

"A paraprozdokian sentence consists of two parts where the first is a figure of speech and the second an intriguing variation of the first; figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected, frequently used for humorous effect." e.g., "Where there's a will, I want to be in it."

1. Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.
3. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, then we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right - only who is left..
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. Evening news is where they begin with 'Good Evening,' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
9. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
10. A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.
11. I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted paychecks.
12. Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says, 'In case of emergency, notify: I put 'DOCTOR.'
13. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
14. A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.
15. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
16. Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

COLONOSCOPY JOURNAL with Thanks to Maggie Schofield

(Those who attended Lecturers Conference should enjoy this. Maggie got it the day after the Conference.)

I called my friend Andy Sable, a gastroenterologist, to make an appointment for a colonoscopy.

A few days later, in his office, Andy showed me a color diagram of the colon, a lengthy organ that appears to go all over the place, at one point passing briefly through Minneapolis.

Then Andy explained the colonoscopy procedure to me in a thorough, reassuring and patient manner.

I nodded thoughtfully, but I didn't really hear anything he said, because my brain was shrieking, 'HE'S GOING TO STICK A TUBE 17,000 FEET UP YOUR BEHIND!'

I left Andy's office with some written instructions, and a prescription for a product called 'MoviPrep,' which comes in a box large enough to hold a microwave oven. I will discuss MoviPrep in detail later; for now suffice it to say that we must never allow it to fall into the hands of America's enemies..

I spent the next several days productively sitting around being nervous.

Then, on the day before my colonoscopy, I began my preparation. In accordance with my instructions, I didn't eat any solid food that day; all I had was chicken broth, which is basically water, only with less flavor.

Then, in the evening, I took the MoviPrep. You mix two packets of powder together in a one-litre plastic jug, then you fill it with lukewarm water. (For those unfamiliar with the metric system, a litre is about 32 gallons). Then you have to drink the whole jug. This takes about an hour, because MoviPrep tastes - and here I am being kind - like a mixture of goat spit and urinal cleanser, with just a hint of lemon.

The instructions for MoviPrep, clearly written by somebody with a great sense of humor, state that after you drink it, 'a loose, watery bowel movement may result.'

This is kind of like saying that after you jump off your roof, you may experience contact with the ground.

MoviPrep is a nuclear laxative. I don't want to be too graphic, here, but, have you ever seen a space-shuttle launch? This is pretty much the MoviPrep experience, with you as the shuttle. There are times when you wish the commode had a seat belt. You spend several hours pretty much confined to the bathroom, spurting violently. You eliminate everything. And then, when you figure you must be totally empty, you have to drink another liter of MoviPrep, at which point, as far as I can tell, your bowels travel into the future and start eliminating food that you have not even eaten yet.

After an action-packed evening, I finally got to sleep.

The next morning my wife drove me to the clinic. I was very nervous.. Not only was I worried about the procedure, but I had been experiencing occasional return bouts of MoviPrep spurtage. I was thinking, 'What if I spurt on Andy?' How do you apologize to a friend for something like that? Flowers would not be enough.

At the clinic I had to sign many forms acknowledging that I understood and totally agreed with whatever the heck the forms said. Then they led me to a room full of other colonoscopy people, where I went inside a little curtained space and took off my clothes and put on one of those hospital garments designed by sadist perverts, the kind that, when you put it on, makes you feel even more naked than when you are actually naked..

Then a nurse named Eddie put a little needle in a vein in my left hand. Ordinarily I would have fainted, but Eddie was very good, and I was already lying down. Eddie also told me that some people put vodka in their MoviPrep..

At first I was ticked off that I hadn't thought of this, but then I pondered what would happen if you got yourself too tipsy to make it to the bathroom, so you were staggering around in full Fire Hose Mode. You would have no choice but to burn your house.

When everything was ready, Eddie wheeled me into the procedure room, where Andy was waiting with

a nurse and an anesthesiologist. I did not see the 17,000-foot tube, but I knew Andy had it hidden around there somewhere. I was seriously nervous at this point..

Andy had me roll over on my left side, and the anesthesiologist began hooking something up to the needle in my hand.

There was music playing in the room, and I realized that the song was 'Dancing Queen' by ABBA. I remarked to Andy that, of all the songs that could be playing during this particular procedure, 'Dancing Queen' had to be the least appropriate.

'You want me to turn it up?' said Andy, from somewhere behind me...

'Ha ha,' I said. And then it was time, the moment I had been dreading for more than a decade. If you are squeamish, prepare yourself, because I am going to tell you, in explicit detail, exactly what it was like.

I have no idea. Really. I slept through it. One moment, ABBA was yelling 'Dancing Queen, feel the beat of the tambourine,' and the next moment, I was back in the other room, waking up in a very mellow mood.

Andy was looking down at me and asking me how I felt. I felt excellent. I felt even more excellent when Andy told me that It was all over, and that my colon had passed with flying colors. I have never been prouder of an internal organ.

THE CHILDREN'S BIBLE with thanks to Ellen Ross, Grange 132 Hollis, Maine

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord thy God is one," but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, "Give me a light!" and someone did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden...Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, who real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff.

Oh yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore.

There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of the New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, "Close the door! Were you born in a barn?" It would be nice to say, "As a matter of fact, I was.")

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

BE CAREFUL HOW YOU LOCK YOUR CAR

I locked my car. As I walked away I heard my car door unlock. I went back and locked my car again three times. Each time, as soon as I started to walk away, I would hear it unlock again!! Naturally alarmed, I looked around and there were two guys sitting in a car in the fire lane next to the store.

They were obviously watching me intently, and there was no doubt they were somehow involved in this very weird situation. I quickly chucked the errand I was on, jumped in my car and sped away. I went straight to the police station, told them what had happened, and found out I was part of a new, and very successful, scheme being used to gain entry into cars. Two weeks later, my friend's son had a similar happening.... While traveling, my friend's son stopped at a roadside rest to use the bathroom. When he came out to his car less than 4-5 minutes later, someone had gotten into his car and stolen his cell phone, laptop computer, GPS navigator, briefcase.....you name it. He called the police and since there were no signs of his car being broken into, the police told him he had been a victim of the latest robbery tactic -- there is a device that robbers are using now to clone your security code when you lock your doors on your car using your key-chain locking device.. They sit a distance away and watch for their next victim. They know you are going inside of the store, restaurant, or bathroom and that they now have a few minutes to steal and run. The police officer said to manually lock your car door-by hitting the lock button inside the car -- that way if there is someone sitting in a parking lot watching for their next victim, it will not be you. When you hit the lock button on your car upon exiting, it does not send the security code, but if you walk away and use the door lock on your key chain, it sends the code through the airwaves where it can be instantly stolen.

UNEMPLOYABLES with Thanks to Barbara Kulisch

Would Make Good Cup-aparts

I WANTED TO BE A CIRCUS TALL MAN, BUT I DIDN'T MEASURE UP.

I WANTED TO BE A MAGICIAN, BUT I BECAME DISILLUSIONED.

I WANTED TO BE A BARBER, BUT I WAS TOO SNIPPY.

I WANTED TO BE A PROFESSOR, BUT THEY SAID I HAD NO CLASS.

I WANTED TO BE A WATCHMAKER, BUT I GOT TICKED OFF.

I WANTED TO BE A CHEF, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE THE THYME.
I WANTED TO BE A FISHERMAN, BUT I FORGOT MY LINES.
I WANTED TO BE A SAUSAGE MAKER, BUT I COULDN'T STAND THE GRIND.
I WANTED TO BE A SCUBA DIVER, BUT I JUST COULDN'T FATHOM IT.
I WANTED TO BE AN ARTIST, BUT MY BACKGROUND WAS TOO SKETCHY.
I WANTED TO BE A CALENDAR MAKER, BUT I WAS TOO YOUNG TO DATE.
I WANTED TO BE A CHURCH BELLRINGER, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE THE PULL.
I WANTED TO BE A TAILOR, BUT THE PAY WAS ONLY SEW-SEW.
I WANTED TO BE A BAKER, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE THE DOUGH.
I WANTED TO BE A GEOLOGIST, BUT I TOOK IT FOR GRANITE.
I WANTED TO BE A MOUNTAIN CLIMBER, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THE ROPES.
I WANTED TO BE A PHOTOGRAPHER, BUT THEY SAID I WAS TOO NEGATIVE.
I WANTED TO RAISE DUCKS, BUT I COULDN'T GET DOWN TO WORK.
I WANTED TO BE A BANKER, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE THE CENTS.
I WANTED TO BE A DETROIT TIGER, BUT I COULDN'T GET TO 1ST BASE.

HALLOWEEN

Mystery and magic have always been associated with Halloween. Halloween began as a Celtic festival at the end of summer. During this time people felt especially close to relatives and friends who had died. During this celebration people left treats for the deceased and even set extra places at the dinner tables for them. These were friendly ghosts who came to visit their families.

Today Halloween has taken on a different theme and meaning. Our customs and superstitions have changed. They are scarier as the ghosts are no longer friendly.

Many believe that if a black cat crosses in front of you, you will have bad luck. A broken mirror means seven years of bad luck. How many times have you seen a ladder up against a building with everyone making a circle around it? You certainly don't want to walk under it.

Have you ever been to Salem, Massachusetts and studied the witch trials. I can't even imagine what these women went through being burned at the stake. The Salem witch trials occurred in 1692 and 1693. More than 200 people were accused of witchcraft. Twenty were convicted and executed.

Today Halloween is a time for fun and games. In recent years local parties have taken over as the number one event. In this day and age parents are often skeptical of letting their children walk the street and go to strangers' houses. Thus, the party at the local "Y", school or other sponsoring organization has gained in popularity. Many witches will attend these parties. They will be laughing and joking around having fun along with all the current costumes that can be bought in local stores.