

LECTURER'S BULLETIN

December 2009, January & February 2010

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"Happy Holidays, Happy Holidays!" It seems that time just goes by faster each year for here we are at the Christmas and holiday season once more.

I hope that you and your grange have planned your grange work for this coming year. There is so much that we, as grangers, can do to help our communities. Take time to decide how and what your grange can do to help out. Keep in mind that the nine separate topics under the **"Growing Our Children's World"** program are just suggestions and not, by any means, the only topics which grangers and granges can become involved in to help out.

"Learning and Getting Along With Others" is a good topic to address at this time of year when many people celebrate festivals that are important to them. Many of us are aware only of our own celebrations and little about those which other people follow. Taking some time to understand other people will pay off greatly. Don't forget that just a little bit of our time is a priceless gift to others.

As far as contests go, I will continue the **Grange Family Photo** category for the Photography contest this year. And, **please**, do not forget that the **"Massachusetts"** program is a contest for lecturers- Subordinate and Pomona- once again this year. You will be competing with those who send in a complete program including information, skit(s), music, history, current attractions, quizzes, and whatever else you wish to include. The program should be about 25-35 minutes long and contain the

principles of **RIME** (Recreation, Inspiration, Music, and Education). This past year's winner was Marion Taylor of Connecticut Valley Pomona.

Also, be aware that there may be a few changes coming to the **Talent Contest** this year. There have been some changes to the Regional Talent Show and we need to keep our contest rules in agreement in order for our contestants to qualify for this contest. More information will be forthcoming.

Please remember that I have all the books for the **Pen-in-Hand Book Reviews** available for loan, as well as the **Meth Lab, Kelley Farm**, and the **National Grange Building** in Washington, DC., DVD's.

Rules for all the contests for all departments, as well as all book titles, are in the **Program Handbook**. If you are in need of an additional or new copy of this, please let me know, and I will forward one to you.

On another note, this bulletin contains material for Christmas and the holiday season, New Year's Day, events in January, Valentine's Day and events in February, and some games and trivia for each month.

Whether you are a returning or a first time lecturer, I hope this year will be a good year for you. **Please try to remember to send in your reports to me.** The report forms- both monthly/quarterly and the final report forms- are available by downloading from the Massachusetts State Grange Web Site.

Finally, I hope that you will all have a safe, healthy, and happy Christmas season!

December, January, and February

These are the coldest months of the year in our hemisphere and are called winter. They are also a time to regroup and refresh our bodies with good food and good friends gathering together. It is also a time of hope and rebirth at Christmas time.

December is Hi Neighbor Month, National Stress Free Family Holiday Month, Read a New Book Month, Write to a Friend Month, Universal Human Rights Month, and Safe Toy and Gift Month. December 1-5: National Pie Day (1); World's Aid Day (1); International Day of Disabled Persons (3); Wear Brown Shoes Day (4); National Cookie Day (4). **December 6-12:** St. Nicholas Day (6); Mitten Tree Day (6); National Cotton Candy Day (7); Pearl Harbor Day (7); National Brownie Day (8); First Christmas Seals issued (9,1907); Human Rights Day (10); Hanukkah begins (11); National Noodle Ring Day (11); Poinsettia Day (12).

December 13-19: National Cocoa Day (13); Boston Tea Party (16,1773); National Maple Syrup Day (17).

December 20-26: Games Day (20); Winter begins (21); Humbug Day (21); Look on the Bright Side Day (21); Thermometer invented (22); Roots Day (23); National Egg Nog Day (24); Christmas Eve (24); Christmas Day (25); National Pumpkin Pie Day (25); Boxing Day (26); Kwanzaa begins (26). **December 27-31:** National Chocolate Day (28); Bowling Ball invented (29, 1862); New Year's Eve (31).

January is National Blood Donor Month, National Hobby Month, National Soup Month, National Staying Healthy, National Thank You Month, National Braille Literacy Month, Oatmeal Month, Eye Care Month, and Hot Tea Month.

January 1-9: New Year's Day (1); J. R. R. Tolkien's birthday (3,1892); Jakob Grimm birthday (4,1785); National Bird Day (5);

Sherlock Holmes birthday (6); Bubble Bath Day (8); National Static Electricity Day (9); National Apricot Day (9). **January 10-16:** *Common Sense* published (10,1776); Coming of Age Day in Japan (11); Milk first delivered in bottles (11,1878); National Pharmacist's Day (12); Rubber Duckie's Birthday (13); National Dress up your Pet Day (14); Hat Day (15). **January 17-23:** B. Franklin born (17,1706); Winnie the Pooh Day (A. A. Milne birthday 18, 1882); Popcorn Day (19); National Hugging Day (21); Squirrel Appreciation Day (21). **January 24-31:** Eskimo Pie Patented (24, 1922); Australia Day (26, 1778); National Kazoo Day (28); National Puzzle Day (29); Backwards Day (31).

February is American Heart Month, American History Month, Black History Month, National Cherry Month, National Embroidery Month, National Grapefruit Month, National Snack Food Month, Responsible Pet Owners' Month, Children's Dental Health Month, and International Friendship Month. February 1-6: National Freedom Day (1); Groundhog Day (2); "Day the Music Died" Day (3,1959); Rosa Parks Birthday (4); Disaster Day (5); National Weatherperson's Day (5); Monopoly first sold (6, 1935). **February 7-13:** Boy Scouts founded (8,1910) Hershey Chocolate founded (9, 1894); Toothache Day (9); Umbrella Day (10); National inventor's Day- Thomas Edison's birthday (11); Abraham Lincoln born (12, 1809).

February 14-20: Chinese New Year (14); Valentine's Day (14); Presidents' Day (15); National Gumdrop Day (15); Nylon patented (16, 1937); Mardi Gras (16); Ash Wednesday (17); Hoodie Hoo Day (20). **February 21-29:** Love Your Pet Day (21); G. Washington born (22, 1732); World Thinking Day (22); First paper currency in USA (25, 1862); Purim begins (27); Chinese Lantern Festival (28); Leap Day (29).

Another Version of "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" by Anonymous

'Twas the night before Christmas and out on
the ranch The pond was froze over and
so was the
branch.

The snow was piled up belly-deep to a mule.
The kids was all home on vacation from school,
And happier young folk you never did see--
Just all sprawled around a-watchin' TV.

Then suddenly, some time around 8 o'clock,
There came a surprise that gave them a shock!
The power went off, the TV went dead! When
Grandpa came in from out in the shed With an
armload of wood, the house was all
dark.

"Just what I expected," they heard him remark.
"Them power line wires must be down from
the snow. Seems sorter like times on the
ranch long ago."

"I'll hunt up some candles," said Mom. "With
their light, And the fireplace, I reckon
we'll make out all
right." The teen-agers all seemed
enveloped in
gloom. Then Grandpa came back from a
trip to his
room,

Uncased his old fiddle and started to play That
old Christmas song about bells on a
sleigh.

Mom started to sing, and first thing they knew
Both Pop and the kids were all singing it, too.
They sang Christmas carols, they sang "Holy
Night,"

Their eyes all a-shine in the ruddy firelight. They
played some charades Mom recalled
from her youth, And Pop read a
passage from God's Book
of Truth. They stayed up till midnight-
and, would you
believe,

The youngsters agreed 'twas a fine Christmas
Eve.

Grandpa rose early, some time before dawn;
And when the kids wakened, the power was
on. 'The power company sure got
the line
repaired quick,"
Said Grandpa- and no one suspected his trick.
Last night, for the sake of some old-fashioned
fun, He had pulled the main
switch- the old
Son-of-a-Gun!

The Queens Came Late by Norma Farber
We're all aware of the three King's arrival for
the first Epiphany. Here is a poem about the
Queens.

The Queens came late, but the Queens were
there
With gifts in their hands and crowns in their hair.
They'd come, these three, like Kings, from far,
Following, yes, that guiding star. They'd left
their ladles, linens, looms Their children playing
in nursery rooms, And told their sitters: 'Take
charge! For this Is a marvelous sight we must
not miss!"

The Queens came late, but not too late To see
the animals small and great, Feathered and
furred, domestic and wild, Gathered to gaze at
a mother and child. And rather than frankincense
and myrrh And gold for the babe, they brought
for her Who held him, a homespun gown of
blue, And chicken soup- with noodles, too~
And a lingering, lasting, cradle-song.

The Queens came late and stayed not long,
For their thought already were straining far-Past
manger and mother and guiding star And a
child aglow as a morning sun-Toward home
and children and chores undone.

Christmas Legends

Here are a few not well known to all.

Legend of the Cat:

An old legend tells of how a cat came with other wild animals to pay homage to the baby Jesus. Overcome by the glory of the Lord, a trembling sound came from the cat's throat. One by one the other creatures fled back to the wild, but the cat could not bring itself to leave. Since then the cat has been a household companion, never forgetting its wild nature, but content in the comforts of a warm house. **Legend of the Robin:**

The night that Christ was born a little brown bird shared the stable with the Holy Family. During the night, Joseph built a fire to keep the family warm, but as they slept, the fire burned out. From its nest the bird flew down and fanned the embers with its wings, the bird was very close to the fire and the heat turned the bird's feathers red. The breast of the robin has been red ever since to remind us of its love and compassion for the baby Jesus.

Legend of the Rooster:

Legend states that the only time the rooster crowed at midnight was the night that Jesus was born. In Spanish and Latin American countries "Misa del Gallo," the Mass of the Rooster, is celebrated at midnight on Christmas Eve. The crowing of the rooster at the dawn of each morning symbolizes the daily triumph of light over darkness and the victory of good over evil.

Christmas Nuts to Crack

Each answer will have "nut" in it.

1. A nut made from cream
2. A seashore nut
3. A vegetable nut
4. A nut that is the side of the room
5. What nut is uncooked bread?
6. A nut imported from South America
7. A nut named after a girl

8. A nut that is a box
9. A nut that is a hot drink
10. This nut does not end in nut but is a nut found on your foot.

A Lot of Truth in a Few Words.

*Sometimes a clear conscience can be nothing more than a short memory. *You cannot do a kindness too soon, because you never know how soon it will be too late. *Are you the type of person who doesn't know what he/she is going to say next, but says it anyway? *Early to bed and early to rise- and you get your own breakfast. The trouble with many people is that they stop faster than they start. *All things come to him who goes after what the other fellow waits for. *Health hint: To enjoy a long life, breathe through your nose and keep your mouth shut. *The man who rolls up his sleeves seldom loses his shirt. *Remember that every hard boiled egg is yellow inside. *Flattery is soft soap, and soap is 90 percent lye. *Some people think they have dynamic personalities because they are always exploding. The habit of going to the bottom of things often lands a man on top. *Just because you are puffed up with conceit doesn't mean you are a swell guy. *Chinese proverb: Do not remove a fly from your friend's forehead with a hatchet. The only people you should want to get even with are those who have helped you. *If your wife wants to learn to drive, don't stand in her way.

Answer to NUTS: 1. Butternut; 2. Beechnut; 3. Peanut; 4. Walnut; 5. Donut; 6. Brazil nut; 7. Hazel nut; 8. Chestnut; 9. Coconut; 10. Acorn.

February Hearts

"When in doubt, wear red." -Bill Blass Love lights more fires than hate can extinguish.

"Kindness in words create confidence; kindness in thinking creates profoundness; kindness in feeling creates love.-- Lao Tzu

"Love doesn't make the world go 'round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile." F. P. Jones

"The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even heard, but must be felt with the heart," Helen Keller
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Presidential Trivia Quiz

1. Who did General Cornwallis surrender to?
2. Which President purchased the Louisiana Territory?
3. Which President purchased Alaska?
4. Who was the first President to live in the White House?
5. Who was the first President who was the son of a President ?
6. Who was the first President to die in office?
7. Who was the third President to die on office of natural causes?
8. Who was the youngest elected President?
9. Who was the oldest elected President?
10. Who was the youngest President?

Find Your Perfect Red

Wearing red boosts your mood because its energizing. If you aren't bold enough to wear it but still want an emotional pick-me-up, try a subtler shade in the same color family.

****Try an Orange--**A mix of high-octane red and cheery yellow, this fun color sends out signals of approachability.

****Try a Pink-** The sweet side of red, pink makes you feel sensual and romantic.

****Try Purple-** It's like red-dynamic and sexy. But the addition of blue makes it a bit more serene and tranquil.

'Roses are Red--'

Roses and romance seem to go hand in hand. Here are a a few roses with names that evoke love and marriage.

"Puppy Love"- An orange-pink miniature.

"Flirtation"- Gold on top, pink below; this hybrid tea rose blooms all season.

"Lovers Lane"- 'A Red Devil' lurks in this scarlet hybrid tea's genealogy.

"Bridal Shower"- Light-pink flowers cluster generously on this florabunda.

"Silver Anniversary"- The white flowers of this hybrid tea are exceptionally full.

Messages in a Bouquet of Roses

Before you choose flowers for your bouquet, consider what each symbolizes;

****Rose-** Love

****Peach Rose-** Let's get together.

****Pink Rose-** Perfect happiness

****Red Rose-**1 love you; romance; congratulations

****Red and White Rose-** Unity ****Yellow Rose-** Joy; I care; welcome back ****White Rose-** Purity; I am worthy of you

****Primrose~** I can't live without you.

Answers to Presidential Trivia Quiz:

1. Cornwallis surrendered to Washington at Yorktown; 2. Thomas Jefferson from Napoleon in 1803; 3. Andrew Johnson purchased Alaska from Russia; 4. John Adams; 5. The sixth President John Quincy Adams, son of the second President John Adams; 6. The ninth President William Henry Harrison died a month after his inauguration and was the first president to die in office; 7. The 29th President Warren G. Harding passed away on 2 Aug. 1923 of a heart attack; 8. President John F. Kennedy, 43 years, 236 days (when taking office); 9. President Ronald Reagan, 69 years, 349 days (when taking office); **10.** President Theodore Roosevelt, 42 years, 322 days (when taking office) succeeding upon the assassination of Pres. McKinley.

Your Best Year Yet

Have you made your New Year's resolutions yet? The secret to succeed is: every promise needs a plan. Try these:

****You'll eat a healthier diet.**

Start with one change, such as making fruit your new fast food. ****You'll get more exercise.**

Add one physical activity at a time to your daily routine. Start by stretching every morning and next add a noontime walk. Soon you'll be getting more exercise. ****Strengthen your closest relationships.**

Start a game night with the kids, declare a "no TV" night and spend family time together or call one of your friends for a long chat.

****You'll boost your brainpower.**

Sign up for an adult education class that teaches a skill you've always wanted to learn be it photography, guitar playing, cake decorating etc. You'll sharpen your memory and problem-solving skills. ****You'll have more fun.**

Treat yourself to one new activity each month. Visit a comedy club, enjoy live music, attend a sporting event, visit a neighboring grange. You'll give yourself lots to look forward to and enjoy life more.

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January Trivia

1. On January 3rd, 1888, an invention made of paraffin-covered paper was patented by Marvin Stone. Name that invention.
 - a. Wax Paper
 - b. Wallpaper
 - c. Dixie Cups
 - d. Drinking Straws
 - e. Adhesive Tape
2. What singer was born with the name 'David Robert Jones' on January 8th, 1947?
 - a. Davy Jones (The Monkees)
 - b. Tom Jones
 - c. David Bowie
 - d. Elton John
 - e. David Lee Roth
3. What American institution opened its first location in the Soviet Union on January 31 st, 1990?
 - a. WalMart
 - b. McDonald's
 - c. Kentucky Fried Chicken
 - d. Taco Bell
 - e. The Gap
4. On January 26th, 1875, this invention which has caused fear for millions was patented. Name the invention.
 - a. The Atomic Bomb
 - b. Napal
 - c. The Guillotine
 - d. The Hypodermic Needle
 - e. The Dental Drill
5. What eligible bachelor tied 'the-knot' on Lanai Island, Hawaii, on January 1st, 1994?
 - a. Jerry Seinfeld
 - b. Tom Cruise
 - c. John Kennedy, Jr.
 - d. Jim Carrey
 - e. Bill Gates
6. What American patriot, silversmith, engraver, and maker of false teeth was born on January 1st, 1735?
 - a. Tom Paine
 - b. Thomas Jefferson
 - c. Benjamin Franklin
 - d. Paul Revere
 - e. James Madison
7. What game show made its debut January 6th, 1975, with Chuck Woolery as its host?
 - a. The Dating Game
 - b. The Love Connection
 - c. Scrabble
 - d. Greed
 - e. Wheel of Fortune
8. What rock'n'roll Hall-of-Famer was born in Tupelo, Mississippi, on January 8th, 1935?
 - a. Little Richard
 - b. Chuck Berry
 - c. Jim Morrison
 - d. Elvis Presley
 - e. Janis Joplin

9. On January 14th, 1794, Dr. Jesse Bennett of Edom, Virginia, performed the first successful operation of this type. The patient was his wife! Name the operation.

- a. Rhinoplasty (aka nose job)
- b. Appendectomy
- c. Breast enhancement
- d. Caesarean section
- e. Abortion

10. What country seized the American ship 'USS Pueblo' on January 23rd, 1968?

- a. Japan
- b. North Vietnam
- c. North Korea
- d. Iran
- e. Iraq

The Other Five Senses

Everyone is familiar with our five natural senses. Can you name them ? That's right.

They are the:

- 1. sense of sight
- 2. sense of smell
- 3. sense of hearing
- 4. sense of tasting
- 5. sense of touching

But do you realize that there are another five senses in this world? Can you name five other senses? They are:

- 1. common sense
- 2. horse sense
- 3. incense
- 4. your two cents
- 5. and nonsense.

QUICK QUOTES:

"It's that time of year when it's good to be fat and jolly."

"The simplest pleasures warm true friends most easily."

"He who has health has hope. And he who has hope has everything."- Arabian proverb.

Fresh Starts

Get a fresh start in the New Year by bringing order to your home, Here are seven helpful tips.

1. Order plants.

Treat a snowy yard as a blank canvas on which to envision next year's garden. Look over seed and plant catalogues and select your favorites.

2. Bring in the sun.

Apply a fresh coat of white paint to windowsills or just wipe them down. This will increase the day light available to houseplants.

3. Evaluate your dinnerware.

Check your dinnerware for damages and replace items as needed. This is also a good time to add useful items missing from your collection.

4. Protect your pets.

Ice-melting solutions on sidewalks contain irritants that can hurt your pets' paws and cause even more harm if swallowed.

5. Remember your birds.

Help birds find fresh water in winter. Having an inexpensive birdbath heater to keep the water from freezing will increase the frequency of their visits.

6. Improve your credit.

Obtain your credit score from one of the three major reporting agencies at annualcreditreport.com. You are eligible for a free annual report from each.

7. Fill 'er up.

Keep the gas tank of your car at least half full to avoid condensation buildup that can lead to a frozen gas line.

Answers to January Trivia: 1. Drinking Straws; 2. David Bowie; 3. McDonald's; 4. The Dental Drill; 5. Bill Gates; 6. Paul Revere; 7. Wheel of Fortune; 8. Elvis Presley; 9. Caesarean section; 10. North Korea.