

LECTURER'S BULLETIN

March, April, and May, 2010

Volume 42-Massachusetts State Grange

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Warmer weather is on the way with the months relegated as Spring. I hope that your grange has finalized its plans for celebrating Grange Month in April. This is a great occasion to bring the name of the grange out into your community and bring in new members as you go forward with your plans to help out in your community.

One of the ways to do this and work on "**Growing Our Children's World**," is to remember that April is Keep America Beautiful Month. Find an island in your community, or some other location which you can work on, and plant flowers, shrubs, or even a tree. Arbor Day is in the spring, also. If your grange cannot do this by itself, join with your local garden club or another organization in your community to help do this. Remember to keep up the maintenance on the area where you plant by weeding and watering it, when necessary, throughout the summer months.

Also, do not forget to participate in some of the contests open to all grangers this year. If you have not begun, there is still time to do a painting, take a photograph, write a poem or essay, or read a book and review it. Each department has its own contests, and the rules for all the contests are in your **Blue Program Book**. Please take the time to read it over and remember to announce these at your meetings.

This year the **Bake-Off**, and the **Talent, Sign-a-Song, and Public Speaking Contests** will take place at **Dunstable Town Hall on April 18th**. Those who wish to participate in the contests should be there by 12:30 PM. There will be an auction of the baked goods after the judging and a raffle of other items.

This year the Talent Contest is open to all-non-members as well as members. However, the Best in Show Winner **must** be a Grange member to be entered in the **North East Regional Contest at Lecturers' Conference** in August, and the **National Showcase of Talent** which will be held in November.

Material for the **Lecturers' Conference** will be coming out shortly. Please try to keep the week of **August 2-5** available. It will be held at **Vermont Technical College, Randolph, VT** with Vermont as our host. The theme this year is "**A Vacation To . . .**" and our program is on "**Nevada**." If you plan to attend it would be great if you could let me know **ASAP**. **Remember- You do not need to be a lecturer to attend this conference**. Come and have fun with us.

One final note: **PLEASE** remember to mail your reports to me, even if it is after the due date, or if you do not have a meeting for a particular month. It is important.

March, April, & May

Welcome to the months of Spring. March, April, and May turn our attention from inside the home to outside. With grass, flowers, and shrubs returning to life, these months revive our spirits and beautify our communities.

March is National Women's History Month, Irish-American Heritage Month, Caffeine Awareness, American Red Cross, Employee Spirit, and Optimism Month.

March 1-6: Beer Day (1); Read Across America Day (2); National Anthem Day (3); Toy Soldier Day (4); World Day of Prayer (5); US Snowshoe Day (6).

March 7-13: Day for Women's Rights & International Peace (8); Unique Names Day (9); Salvation Army Day (10); Johnny Appleseed Day (11); Girl Scout Day (12); Earmuffs Day (13).

March 14-20: Daylight Savings Begins (14); Napping Day (15); World Consumer Rights Day (16); St. Patrick's Day (17); Absolutely Incredible Kid Day (18); National Agriculture Day, Great American Meat Out Day, Won't You Be My Neighbor Day, and First Day of Spring (all on the 20th).

March 21-27: National Common Courtesy Day (21); As Young As You Feel Day (22); National Puppy Day (23); Diabetes Alert Day (23); World Tuberculosis Day (24); Greek Independence Day (25); Make Up Your Own Holiday Day (26).

March 28-31: Palm Sunday (28); Weed Appreciation Day (28); Passover (29); Texas Loves The Children Day (29); Pencil Day (30); Bunsen Burner Day (31).

April is Fair Housing, Financial Literacy, Frog, Informed Women, Keep America Beautiful, Sports Safety Awareness Month, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Child Abuse Prevention, Cancer Control, Alcohol Awareness Month, and Grange Month.

April 1-3: April Fool's Day (1); National Fun Day (1); Holy Thursday (1); Good Friday (2); Pony Express Day (3).

April 4-10: Easter (4); White House

Easter Egg Roll (5); Tartan Day (6); ASPCA Day (7); National Day of Hope (7); National Cherish an Antique Day (9); National Love Our Children Day (10).

April 11-17: World Parkinson's Disease Day (11); Licorice Day (12); Tax Freedom Day (13); Pan American Day (14); Income Tax Pay Day (15); Stress Awareness Day (16); Husband Appreciation Day (17).

April 18-24: Adult Autism Day (18); Boston Marathon (19); Kindergarten Day (21); Earth Day (22); Talk Like Shakespeare Day (23); Bulldogs are Beautiful Day & Arbor Day (24).

April 25-30: National Pet Parent's Day (25); DNA Day (25); Hug an Australian Day (26); Morse Code Day (27); National Dance Day (29); National Honesty Day (30).

May is National Mental Health Month, Older American Month, Hepatitis Awareness, and Get Caught Reading Month. Also, Mother's Day and Memorial Day are both in May.

May 1-8: May Day (1); Silver Star Day (1); Stepmother's Day (1); World Laughter Day (2); National Play Your Ukulele Day (2); Garden Meditation Day (3); Lumpy Rug Day (3); Respect For Chickens Day (4); National Teacher Day (4); Cinco de Mayo (5); No Diet Day (6); No Homework Day (6); National Day of Prayer (6); World Asthma Day (8); V E Day (8); National Miniature Golf Day (8).

May 9-15: Mother's Day (9); Windmill Day (10); Eat What You Want Day (11); Nutty Fudge Day (12); School Nurse Day (12); Root Canal Appreciation Day (13); National Chicken Dance Day (14); International Day of Families (15); Pizza Party Day (15).

May 16-22: Biographer's Day (16); National Sea Monkey Day (16); Victoria Day (17); Telecommunications Day (17); Visit Your Relatives Day (18); Turn Beauty Inside Out Day (19); Eliza Doolittle Day (20); National AWait Staff Day (21); Bike to Work Day (21); National Maritime Day (22).

May 23-31: Taffy Day (23); World Turtle Day (23); Brother's Day (24); Morse Code Day (24); Missing Children's Day (25); Senior Health and Fitness Day (26); Hug Your Cat Day (30); Indianapolis 500 (30); Memorial Day (31).

In Celebration of Women

Match each women below with her description.

1. Amelia Earhart
2. Rachel Carson
3. Sacajawea
4. Clara barton
5. Catherine Green
6. Harriet Tubman
7. Elizabeth Blackwell
8. Caroline Hall
9. Antoinette Brown
10. Margaret Mead
11. Georgia O'Keefe

- A. Western artist
- B. First woman doctor educated at Geneva Medical College
- C. First woman ordained a minister in New York
- D. First woman to fly the Atlantic
- E. Lewis and Clark guide
- F. Environmentalist who wrote Silent Spring
- G. Anthropologist
- H. Former slave who helped the "Underground Railroad"
- I. Founder of the American Red cross
- J. 8th Founder of the Grange
- K. Originator of the cotton gin, urged Whitney to patent it

What Do They Have in Common ?

Read over the following list of famous women. They all have one thing in common. Can you figure out what?

- *Laura Bush, Former First Lady
- *Hilary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State and Former First Lady
- *Mariah Carey, Singer
- *Rebecca Lobo, Basketball Player
- *Sandra Day O'Connor, Retired US Supreme Court Judge
- *Venus Williams, Tennis Player

Give up?

All were Brownies and/or Girl Scouts.

Test Your Irish IQ

They say everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day. Here's your chance to prove it. Whether you have Celtic roots or are just a pretender to the green, do you truly know your Irish or are you just full of blarney?

1. What is Ireland's national walking stick?
2. What is the most common surname in Ireland?
3. How many men are on a Gaelic football team ?
4. What is "keening?"
5. Approximately how many Americans are of Irish descent?
6. Who are the Fairy women whose wailing foretells death ?
7. Who is the female patron saint of Ireland?
8. What does the heart on a Claddagh ring symbolize ?
9. Kissing the Blarney Stone is said to give one what gift ?
10. Where are the famous fisherman sweaters made ?
11. Who introduced the potato to Ireland?
12. How many people fled Ireland during the famine ?
13. What did the Romans call Ireland ?
14. Name the Irish vocalist who made her debut on the "Arthur Godfrey Show" in the 1950's.
15. What is the longest river in Ireland ?

Answers to Women: 1. D; 2. F; 3. E; 4. I; 5. K; 6. H; 7. B; 8. J; 9. C; 10. G; 11. A.

Answers to Irish IQ:

1. The shillelagh; 2. Murphy; 3. 15;
4. An ancient custom where women wail loudly for a dead relative or friend at a wake; 5. 40.7 million; 6. Banshees;
7. St. Brigid; 8. Fidelity; 9. The gift of gab; 10. Aran island; 11. Sir Walter Raleigh; 12. 1 million; 13. Hibernia;
14. Carmel Quinn; 15. The Shannon.

Thoughts on Easter Eggs

Early man stared in wonder at the egg. It looked like a stone, Then-crack! Out of the dead-looking thing poked a tiny beak, a head, and the soft warm body of a living bird. It seemed a miracle- the miracle of new life.

Over the years, eggs became sacred symbols of life, no matter what group of people you research. No one is sure when the idea of the Easter egg started. However, the first book to mention Easter eggs was written five hundred years ago.

During the Middle Ages winters in northern Europe were very hard. Little food was left by spring. During Lent, besides giving up meat, people had to do without eggs. It was a religious custom and also a way of stretching meager food supplies a little further.

By Easter a fresh hen, duck, or goose egg was a precious thing indeed. Kings and nobles usually gave one to each of their castle servants as an easter gift. Boys and girls who were lucky enough received a fresh egg for Easter, too. Hungry children would roam around at Easter begging for them. Today children in some towns and villages in Europe still pass from house to house asking for easter eggs, just as American children pay trick-or-treat visits at Halloween. Perhaps this is the origin of the Easter eggs hunt American families have today.

"The stone is rolled away;
Behold an empty tomb! The
Resurrection dawn Dispels
earth's deepest gloom."

-by Edith Shaw Butler

Answers to Bird Quiz: 1. Bluebird; 2. Robin; 3. Hummingbird; 4. Oriole; 5. Blue Jay; 6. Crow; 7. Nuthatch; 8. Kingfisher; 9. Woodpecker; 10. Wren.

Spring Birds Return

April can be a time of mud beneath your feet, but there is a softness in the breeze. The warm sun on our faces speak to us of spring. So do the returning birds. How many of the following birds can you name?

1. What bird is a symbol of happiness? (Hint: The color of the sky on a spring day.)
2. Which bird is the best known and most loved in the country ? (Hint: It is often the early one who gets the worm.)
3. Which bird is only 3 3/4 Inches in length, can fly straight up or down, and even can fly backwards?
4. What bird is the world's best architect, and whose babies are rocked to sleep in a nest that hangs from a branch in the top of a tree ?
5. What bird is called the "Planter of Oak Forests" and is known as a tease?
6. Which bird is shrewd and fearless and has survived gunfire, poison, and destruction of its nests by man? He has a raucous cry.
7. What bird is sometimes called a tree mouse as he runs down a tree trunk head first talking in a low tin-horn voice?
8. What bird has a head so bog and a tail so short he looks top heavy, and dives for his food into the water?
9. What bird is a carpenter having his own hammer, chisel, and drill? His mate is not so brightly colored as he is, but is as good a carpenter.
10. What bird nests in strange places, is a gay singer, tireless and friendly? The male bird arrives first to look for a nesting place.

Mother's Day

May is mainly associated with Mother's Day. Setting aside a special day to honor mothers has some history. The English celebrated a Mothering Sunday as far back as the 1600's.

At this time young people who worked a distance from their home were given off the fourth Sunday in Lent so that they could visit their parents and take them presents.

This custom evolved from the tradition of returning to a parish mother church the one day in Lent when feasting and fun were allowed.

In the USA, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed an official day of recognition for mothers in 1914. This is a day to outwardly demonstrate appreciation for the women who give so much of themselves to their children. Some people buy gifts; others, spurning commercialism, give their time and themselves.

On Motherhood

The second Sunday in May is the day we honor cooks, waitresses, nurses, teachers, maids, chauffeurs, psychologists, psychiatrists, doctors, and bankers. We use their generic name-- Mother!

"Any mother could perform the jobs of several air-traffic controllers with ease." - Lisa Alther

After putting her children to bed, a mother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard her children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. At last she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings.

As she left the room, she heard

her three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was that?"

Mother was telling her little girl what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony, and we picked wild raspberries in the woods."

The little girl was wide-eyed, taking all this in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

"A mother is a person who, seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie." -Tenneva Jordan

"Motherhood . . . puts you in your place because it really forces you to address the issues that you claim to believe in, and if you can't stand up to those principles when you're raising a child, forget it." - Diane Keaton

Memorial Day

May is also known for Memorial Day. Originally declared as a day to decorate the graves of fallen soldiers of the Civil War, it has now become a day to remember all those who have died, soldiers or not, and to decorate their graves.

While the first verse of "*When Johnny Comes Marching Home*" may be familiar to most, the third verse mentions decorating the returning soldiers:

"Get ready for the Jubilee,
Hurrah! Hurrah!
We'll give the hero three
times three, Hurrah! Hurrah!"

The laurel wreath is ready now
to place upon his loyal brow,
and we'll all feel glad when
Johnny comes marching home!" -
Patrick Gilmore (1863)

Five Things with Alka-Seltzer

Here are five things to do with Alka-Seltzer that you might not have thought to use it:

1. * Deep-clean vases. Fill with warm water and drop in two of the tablets. Let them soak for an hour to remove stains you can't reach.
2. *Speed-scrub the toilet. Twice a week, drop in two tablets; 15 minutes later, do a once around with the toilet brush.
3. *Make an all-purpose cleaner. Drop three tablets into 8 oz. of warm water. Once the fizzing stops, wipe down counters, tiles, and tubs.
4. *Safely unclog a drain. Drop three tablets into the drain and run hot water for a few seconds (the hotter the water, the more fizzing). Let sit for 15 minutes.
5. *Build rockets. Entertain little ones by heading outside with an empty film canister, filling it halfway with warm water and dropping in a half-tablet. Snap on the lid and place the canister lid down. Take a step back and watch it launch into the air.

Stain-Less Bliss

A good rule of thumb to follow is: As soon as the culprit hits the fabric, apply cold water, and then a stain stick if you have one. Once home, follow these directions:

<u>Stain</u>	<u>Solution</u>
*Mustard	*Soak in a 1:1 vinegar/water mix; then spritz with diluted liquid dishwashing soap. Scrub and rinse.
Ketchup	*Douse in cool water to remove as much of the stain as possible. Apply stain stick; let sit, then wash
Ballpoint Ink	* Apply glycerin, then rinse in cold water. Apply liquid dishwashing soap and rinse. Repeat as needed.

Proverbs in Governmentese

See if you can find the proverbs hidden within the language used by government.

1. As with the sire, so it is with the scion.
2. A beholden vessel never exceeds 100°C.
3. Pulchritude does not penetrate beneath the dermal layer.
4. It is not proper for a mendicant to be indicative of preference.
5. It is fruitless to become lachrymose because of scattered lacteal fluid.
6. Your immature galliformes must not be calculated prior to their being produced.
7. A period of preeminence is passed through by each and every canine.
8. Articles which coruscate are not formed from aureate material, at least not necessarily.
9. Lithoidal fragments ought not be hurled by tenants of vitreous abodes.
10. Cleave gramineous matter for fodder during during the period when the orb of the day is refulgent.

Answers:

1. As the father goes, so does the son.
OR: The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.
2. A watched pot never boils.
3. Beauty is only skin deep
4. Beggars can't be choosers.
5. Don't cry over spilled milk.
6. Don't count your chickens before they hatch.
7. Every dog has his day.
8. All that glitters is not gold.
9. People who live in glass houses should not throw stones.
10. Make hay while the sun shines.

"Nothing is impossible; the word itself says, "I'm possible!"—Audrey Hepburn

The First Word Search Ever

On April 17, 1790, Ben Franklin died. But a month before his death Franklin invented what has since become one of the world's most popular puzzle types : the word search. Franklin's new brainteaser, discovered by bibliographers at the Smithsonian institute, was published in the April 1, 1790 edition of the Pennsylvania Gazette, the newspaper Franklin began in 1729. Here it is as it originally appeared.

NOTICE: 25 WORDS MAY BE FOUND AMONGST THESE LETTERS

N	E	V	O	E	V	A	W	O	R	C	I	M	B	N	M	K	V	Y	T	S	Z
L	H	T	S	Y	I	M	T	K	E	N	A	L	P	R	I	A	S	O	G	H	S
N	L	X	V	T	W	E	B	S	W	A	L	T	R	T	H	I	G	R	R	S	L
O	C	K	I	G	J	R	M	T	L	M	A	Q	E	S	V	Y	H	K	A	H	L
S	S	L	A	E	D	I	O	A	S	G	Y	P	V	L	F	N	Q	T	J	W	A
P	I	H	G	D	C	C	B	M	R	C	O	F	E	Q	X	O	E	O	L	T	B
M	D	B	F	B	J	A	C	P	O	O	R	D	R	K	R	L	N	W	M	L	E
I	R	P	O	E	T	W	I	A	T	F	B	W	E	Q	L	O	P	N	U	U	S
S	E	H	D	C	X	U	M	C	K	E	G	O	X	I	F	C	N	B	N	P	A
T	S	I	Y	S	A	J	O	T	H	J	L	X	T	A	N	P	T	I	M	W	B
R	A	L	T	L	R	O	T	A	V	E	L	E	K	I	I	H	O	M	D	C	J
A	L	O	A	E	S	S	A	Y	S	W	E	N	V	N	G	N	O	I	T	A	N
B	V	S	P	G	R	Q	Z	P	D	J	L	O	V	I	Z	D	A	F	G	O	R
E	K	O	M	R	J	X	O	R	E	X	N	D	L	G	S	U	F	B	T	B	T
A	B	P	K	O	R	W	R	I	R	M	D	N	Z	R	L	I	C	S	L	Z	B
W	N	H	X	E	P	L	Q	N	C	C	Y	O	X	I	B	N	O	Z	Q	A	P
K	E	Y	V	G	N	I	N	T	H	G	I	L	N	V	K	B	V	N	T	S	J

For the Amusement of All Citizens of Our Republic, We have concealed 25 Words amongst the Letters above. In Fairness, the Words are made up only of neighbouring Letters, which lie in a straight Line, horizontally, vertically, or diagonally, in any Direction. As an Example, the clever Reader will discover the Word LAWS in the 3d Row. The 25 Words follow herewith: AMERICA, BOSTON, COLONY, ESSAYS, GEORGE, IDEALS, KEY, KITE, LAWS, LIGHTNING, LONDON, MILITIA, NATION, NEWS, PHILOSOPHY, POET, POOR, PRINT, REVERE, ROYAL, STAMP ACT, STOVE, UNION, VIRGINIA, and YORKTOWN.