

LECTURER'S BULLETIN

September, October, & November, 2009

Volume 40--Massachusetts State Grange Susan Rotellini,

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I am beginning to believe that dej'a vu has struck me once more. It seems that for the third year in a row, as I write my Fall bulletin, **I have received extremely few entries into the contests for this year.** I hope that you will all come through as you have in the past with many entries being sent to me in September.

If you have anyone in your grange (even you yourself) who does art or takes photographs, or can enter the Pen-in-hand contests, **PLEASE** encourage them to send me their entries **ASAP** ! I will not be having the contests judged until after September 25th, but I will need to know the entries are coming in. Please let me know if you will be getting them to me after the original deadline.

I also am aware that there are contests in other departments which have received only one entry or none at all! This is very discouraging and frustrating for the department chairs.

Please check your Program Handbook for the contests not only in the **Family Activities** Department but also the **HPI** and **Agriculture and Environment Departments.**

Also, do not forget that **your final report** along with your monthly or quarterly report **is due by September 30th.** I need these to prepare certificates for State Grange.

On a different note, our Talent Contest winner, Amanda Gibson performed at the NEGL Conference

Regional Talent Show and came in third place. Congratulations , Amanda! Due to school, it is not clear if Amanda will be able to attend National Grange Session in Michigan to participate in the Evening of Excellence (Showcase of Talent).

I would also like to thank all those who attended the NEGL Conference this year. Those who did had a great time-- just ask them. We had a great time with our program on "Thanksgiving," with costume changes that included Viking hats, wigs, Pilgrim and Indian costumes, and dressing our "Tom" Turkey.

THANK YOU, to all of you whether you were on stage or not. I couldn't do this without you. And, one final **THANK YOU** to all the granges and grange members who contributed to my gift. **You are the GREATEST!**

On another note, **If you are no longer lecturer of your grange, please pass this bulletin along to your incoming lecturer** and help that person get started in the position. Those of us who are lecturers have the responsibility to plan engaging and educational programs which will promote the grange and increase our membership. We also need to help those who are current lecturers if we are no longer a lecturer. Please let your lecturer know you are willing to help with programs and filling out reports that are needed.

See you at State Session!.

September- *Labor Day signals the beginning of school, a new Grange year, and the nip of Fall is in the air.*

Sept. 1-5: Lily Tomlin born (1); Vince Lombardi died (3,1970); Mark Spitz won 7th gold medal (4, 1972); 1st Continental Congress began (5,1775).

Sept. 6-12: Labor Day (7); ESPN debuts (7, 1979); Pedro Menendez founds St. Augustine (8, 1565); American victory at Battle of Lake Erie (10, 1813); Patriots' Day (11, 2001). **Sept. 13-19:** Grandparents' Day (13); 16th Street Church bombed (15,1963); The village of Shawmut became Boston(16,1630); Explosives detonate on Wall St. (16,1920); Frankie Avalon born (18,1939); New Zealand becomes 1st country to grant women suffrage (19,1893). **Sept. 20-26:** Billie Jean King beat Bobby Riggs in Battle of Sexes Match (20,1973); First Day of Autumn (22); President Cleveland pardoned polygamous Mormons (25,1894); Barbara Walters (1931) and Will Smith (1968) both born (25); *West Side Story* opens (26, 1957). **Sept. 27-30:** Yom Kippur (28); Ted Williams finished season with a .406 batting average (28, 1941); Babe Ruth hit his 60th home run (30, ^927).

October- *The leaves turn bright shades of red, yellow and orange, and pumpkins, witches and black cats call out "Trick or Treat!" State Grange Session occurs. It is also Adopt a Shelter Pet Month.*

Oct. 1-10: Roger Maris hit 61st home run of the season (1,1961); Gandhi born (2,1869); *Red Badge of Courage* published (3,1895); George Westinghouse born(6,1846); Peshtigo, Wisconsin fire destroyed the town and killed 1100 (8,1871-- same date as the Great Chicago Fire); Roger Williams banished from MA (9,1635); US Naval Academy opened (10, 1845). **Oct. 11-17:** National Veterinary Technician Week; Children's Day (11); Columbus Day observed (12); Teddy Roosevelt escapes assassination attempt (14,1912); Emeril Lagasse born (15,

1858); Bosses' Day (16); Sweetest Day (17).

Oct. 18-24: Mason-Dixon Line established (18, 1767); Alfred Nobel born (21,1833); First recorded parachute jump (22,1797); Johnny Carson born (23,1925); The 40 hour workweek went into effect (24,1940). **Oct. 25-31:** Fred Waller patented water skis (27, 1925);T.

Roosevelt born (27,1858); Computers at UCLA and Stanford Research Institute first connect, later becoming the Internet (29,1969); Charles Atlas born (30,1893); Halloween (31).

November- *Give thanks to God for our bounty and prepare for the coming winter season. It is also Adopt a Senior Pet Month.*

Nov. 1-7: Daylight Savings Ends (1); John Adams first US President to live in White House (1,1800); "Spruce Goose" makes only flight (2, 1947); Election Day (3); First air-conditioned car, a Packard, debuts (4,1939); George Selden patents first automobile (5,1895); Maria Shriver born (6,1955); Magic Johnson retires from NBA (7,1991) later returns.

Nov. 8-14: Sarah Bernhardt's first US appearance (8,1880); *"Kristallnacht"*-- Night of Broken Glass (9, 1938); Berlin Wall opened (9,1989); Veterans Day (11); Grace Kelly born (12,1929); *Robin Hood* deemed communist propaganda by Indiana Textbook Commission (13, 1953); Kurt Schilling born (14, 1966).

Nov. 15-21: Federal Reserve System opened (16,1914); US Congress met in Washington, DC for first time (17,1800); LA Dodger Sandy Koufax retired (18,1966); Indira Gandhi born (19,1917); Calvin Klein bom (19,1942); JFK lifts Cuban blockade (20,1962); The philosopher Voltaire born (21,1694).

Nov. 22-30: JFK assassinated (22, 1963); *Life* magazine premiers (23,1936); Wilt Chamberlain establishes record setting 55 rebound grabs in one game (24,1960); UN establishes International Day to End Violence Against Women (25,1999); Thanksgiving (26); UN votes to create independent Jewish state (29,1947).

Weather Channel Quiz

Pick One: Wettest City

- A) Seattle B) Syracuse

Seattle ranks up there with 150 days per year on average, having measurable precipitation. However, it's not No. 1. That honor belongs to Syracuse, NY which gets precipitation 174 days a year. Of course, much of that is winter related, as Syracuse gets more than 120 inches of snow in an average year, the most of any city of its size in the nation.

The other way of measuring is not how often but how much total precipitation falls in one place. Seattle and Syracuse aren't even close to the top: Seattle-- 37 inches; Syracuse-- 40 inches. Mobile, Alabama and New Orleans rank highest here, with well over 60 inches per year.

Pick One: Sunniest State

- A) Florida B) Arizona

Florida is sunny, but it's not the sunshine state. If you compare the total amount of sunshine possible in any given year with the actual amount received, the state gets 60% to 70% on average. But Arizona does far better, with an average of 80% to 90% of possible sunshine, depending on the location.

Because Arizona and Florida are so far south, the angle of the sun is higher in the sky than in most of the rest of the country- so if you're there, you'll need a good pair of shades.

True or False?

During a thunderstorm, don't touch that phone- or PDA or game controller, either.

Well, that's true if you're using a phone with a cord. But phones and game controllers that are wireless? No problem. They don't have an electrical cord that can get zapped, so you're OK. In fact, with e-services provided by the Weather Channel and others, you can get severe weather warnings delivered directly to your mobile device, wherever you are.

True or False?

If a tornado is coming, open all windows, go to the basement and cover yourself with a mattress.

False. This was common wisdom: The pressure difference between the air inside the house and the much lower air pressure outside in the twister could cause the building to explode. Thus, open the windows.

But we know that the damage to buildings is due to—duh— incredibly strong winds. So don't waste time opening windows! Opening windows can increase air flow and give the funnel access to your belongings, and potentially even help lift the roof off. Yes, you should go to the basement, or the lowest floor available, away from windows and walls. But forget about the mattress, which could suffocate you. Cover yourself with a blanket instead as protection from debris. And if there's one handy, don a bicycle or motorcycle helmet. Many deaths from tornadoes are the result of head injuries.

True or False?

Wearing rubber-soled shoes protects you from lightning.

Don't bet your new shoes- or your life- on it. Rubber soles won't do you any good. That bolt of electricity traveled all the way from within the thundercloud and packs as much of a heated punch as the sun's surface. So if lightning strikes the ground nearby, it still can go into your body through your feet. Nor do the rubber tires on your car make a difference. However, the metal shell of a hardtop vehicle is a good conductor. It won't provide 100% protection, but as long as you aren't touching any metal and you keep the windows rolled up, you'll be safer than you would be standing outside.

Pick One: Calculate the Heat:

- A) Count how long a dog howls or
B) Count the frequency of cricket chirps

Cricket chirps are the correct answer. The chirping is influenced by the air temperature. Count the number of chirps in 15 seconds, and add 40. That's the temperature at ground level in Fahrenheit.

October Is Fire Safety Month

Fire Prevention week is traditionally held the week of October 9. The reason we observe this week is to commemorate one of the most devastating fires in US history. It was on October 9, 1871 that the infamous Chicago fire began, burning for days and claiming the lives of nearly 300 people.

Here are a few quick checks you can make to improve fire safety in your home.

- *Are stovetops and counters clean and uncluttered?
- *Are potholders within easy reach of the stove?
- *Are curtains and other things which can burn well away from the stove?
- * Is there a kid-free zone-3 feet- around your stove?
- * Do you always have an adult present when food is cooking on your stove ?
- * Does your fireplace have a sturdy screen to catch sparks ?
- *Has your chimney been cleaned and inspected in the last year ?
- *Are propane tanks and other fuels stored outside of your home ?
- *Are extension cords used safely ?
- *Are all electrical cords in good condition ?
- *Are kitchen appliances plugged into separate outlets ?
- *Do you have working smoke alarms and CO 2 alarms on every floor ?
- *Are all your exits clear of clutter, toys, and furniture ?]
- *Have you and your family practiced a fire-drill within the last 6 months ?

These are only a few things you should be aware of beside knowing 911.

Answers to "Pass the Turkey" Quiz:

1. drum; 2. tail; 3. Greece; 4. crop; 5. claws (clause); 6. the bill; 7. the first part- Turk; 8. comb.

Halloween Happenings

Here are a few places which celebrate Halloween in a very big way. Some charge admission while others do not. Check with each group to determine times and fees.

Boston Medical Center hosts the largest Halloween event in the greater Boston area at the Seaport World Trade Center.

Strawberry Banke Museum, Marcy Street, Portsmouth, NH hosts a Halloween happening.

Smolak Farms in North Andover hosts a pumpkin day in October.

In Agawam, Six Flags hosts a Halloween special also.

Do not forget Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH hosts a happening.

Witch's Woods at the Nashoba Valley Ski Area is a great take in also.

And, of course, do not forget all the spooky happenings in Salem, MA, home of the House of Seven Gables and the Witch Museum as well as the Peabody Essex Museum.

Do You Know ?

Long before masks disguised the faces of trick-or-treaters, early stone age hunters stalked their prey reputedly wearing masks that resembled various animals.

The image of a female witch whizzing through the air on a broomstick is iconic. But the first person to "confess" to using a broom as a mode of transportation was Guillaume Edgeline, a Frenchman accused of practicing witchcraft

Pumpkins, introduced to the colonists by American Indians, were not only enjoyed in soups and pies but also used as general pain relievers and as treatments for bladder problems. When consumed, the seeds were even believed to remove freckles.

220,000- that's the number of stolen beer mugs recovered by security during last year's Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany.

Superstitions and Tall Tales

People seem to be more superstitious around Halloween. One old superstition says that an unmarried woman will dream of her future husband if she puts rosemary and some silver under her pillow on Halloween night.

Black cats were once thought to be possessed by evil spirits.

Dont look back if you hear footsteps behind you on Halloween night. It might be a ghost with bad intentions.

If a candle goes out on halloween a ghost is in the room.

The Twelve Houses on Halloween

The following words are used in place of the **"*Twelve Days of Christmas!*"** in that song. These are courtesy of the Halloween program Marge Bemhardt and her Connecticut contingent put on at the NE Grange Lecturer's Conference this year. I hope you have as much fun with this as we all did.

At the first house on Halloween my neighbor gave to me:

A large piece of chocolate taffy. At the second house on Halloween my neighbor gave to me:

2 lollipops, and a large piece of chocolate taffy.

At the third house on Halloween my neighbor gave to me:

3 sticks of gum, 2 lollipops, and a large piece of chocolate taffy.

At the fourth house on Halloween my neighbor gave to me:

4 peppermints, 3 sticks of gum, 2 lollipops, and a large piece of chocolate taffy.

At the fifth house on Halloween my neighbor gave to me:

5 popcorn balls, 4 peppermints, 3 sticks of gum, 2 lollipops, and a large piece of chocolate taffy.

At the sixth house on Halloween my neighbor gave to me:

6 peanut clusters, 5 popcorn balls, 4 peppermints, 3 sticks of gum, 2 lollipops, and a large piece of chocolate taffy.

At the seventh house on Halloween my neighbor gave to me :

7 candied apples, 6 peanut clusters, 5 popcorn balls, 4 peppermints, 3 sticks of gum, 2 lollipops, and a large piece of chocolate taffy.

At the eighth house on Halloween my neighbor gave to me:

8 chewy caramels, 7 candied apples, 6 peanut clusters, 5 popcorn balls, 4 peppermints, 3 sticks of gum, 2 lollipops, and a large piece of chocolate taffy.

At the nintii house on Halloween my neighbor gave to me:

9 orange gumdrops, 8 chewy caramels, 7 candied apples, 6 peanut clusters, 5 popcorn balls, 4 peppermints, 3 sticks of gum, 2 lollipops, and a large piece of chocolate taffy.

At the tenth house on Halloween my neighbor gave to me:

10 shiny pennies, 7 candied apples, 6 peanut clusters, 5 popcorn balls, 4 peppermints, 3 sticks of gum, 2 lollipops, and a large piece of chocolate taffy.

At the eleventh house on Halloween my neighbor gave to me:

11 creamy nougats, 10 shiny pennies, 7 candied apples, 6 peanut clusters, 5 popcorn balls, 4 peppermints, 3 sticks of gum, 2 lollipops, and a large piece of chocolate taffy.

At the twelfth house on Halloween my neighbor gave to me:

12 cherry bon bon, 11 creamy nougats, 10 shiny pennies, 7 candied apples, 6 peanut clusters, 5 popcorn balls, 4 peppermints, 3 sticks of gum, 2 lollipops, and a large piece of chocolate taffy.

Daylight-Saving Time Trivia

Studies done by the US Department of Transportation show that Daylight Saving Time trims the entire country's electricity usage by @ 1% each day.

Daylight Saving Time is not observed in Hawaii, Arizona, AMerican Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.

Several studies un the US and Great Britain have found that DAYlight Saving Time reduces traffic accidents and fatalities by close to 1 %.

In an effort to conserve fuel needed to produce electric power, Germany and Austria in 1916 became the first countries to use a daylight-saving system. The plan was not formally adopted in the US until 1918, and it was repealed in 1919.

During WWII, President Franklin Roosevelt instituted year-round Daylight SAVING Time, called "Was Time," from February 1942 to September 1945. From 1945 to 1966, states were free to choose whether or not to observe Daylight Saving Time. This caused confusion in the broadcasting and transportation industries. In 1966, Congress established one pattern across tie country with the UNiform Time Act.

In the 1950's and 1960's when each US locality could start and end Daylight Saving Time as it desired, there were five weeks each year when Boston, New York, and Philadelphia were not on the same same time as Washington, DC, Cleveland, or Baltimore.

The idea of Daylight Saving Time was first conceived by Benjamin Franklin.

Calcium Rich Foods

Are you one of the people who have difficulty drinking milk or milk products? ff so, here is a list of calcium rich foods to add to your diet for stronger bone health:

Almonds Baked Beans Bok Choy
Broccoli Brussels Sprouts Collard Greens
Okra Peas Rhubarb Salmon
Sardines Sesame Seeds Spinach
Tofu Turnip Greens White Beans

Adopt A Shelter Pet

September is Adopt-A-Shelter-Pet Month, and millions of shelter animals need good homes. Why not yours? Taking in a pet from a shelter means you get a one-of-a-kind- companion- and an animal gets a second chance at life. After all, about half of the 6 to 8 million pets that end up in shelters each year are put to sleep. To find a reputable rescue center near you, ask friends, or pet supply store owners for recommendations, or check out petfinder.com or pets911.com. where you can search for pets waiting to be adopted in your area.

Before you visit your shelter for the first time, have a general idea of what type and size of pet you'd like. Also, make your visit without any children in tow.

Think seriously about adopting an adult animal. Older animals have usually lived with a family before and are house-trained and less hyper around people. Ironically, even though they require less supervision and basic training than younger animals, they are often the hardest to find homes for, since most potential pet owners prefer to pick from the litter.

After selecting your potential pet, make a second visit as soon as possible with the family in tow and ask to spend some time with the animal in the visiting room. Pay attention to the animal's behavior. If all goes well, most shelters will interview you to ensure that the animal is a good match for your lifestyle. They do have the right to refuse adoption if you lack proof that a rental home allows pets.

Here are a few shelter secrets. Before you head home, ask these questions:

1. Has this pet spent time with other animals and children?
2. What's the animal's health and vaccination history?
3. Is the animal house-trained or litter-box trained?
4. Does the shelter offer behavioral classes?

A Few Facts About Thanksgiving

The Pilgrims did not name Plymouth. Captain John Smith explored the New England coast in 1614 and made a map for Prince Charles who later gave English names to locations on the map, such as the Charles River in Boston, Gloucester, and Plymouth.

Massasoit in the Wampanoag language means "great leader." His real name was Ousamequin or "Yellow Feather."

Of the 102 passengers on the Mayflower, one died at sea (Sam Fuller's servant William Butten) and one was born, Oceanus Hopkins.

The turkey, native to this country, was a familiar barnyard fowl in England brought to Europe 100 years before by the Spaniards who found the birds in Florida.

At mealtime in the Pilgrim households, the adults sat down to a potluck style dinner while the children waited on them. All foods were placed on the table at once. The Pilgrims used a knife, a spoon, a napkin and their fingers and shared plates.

St. Augustine and Jamestown were established before Plymouth, but Plymouth was the earliest continuous settlement in America.

The Pilgrims did not happen upon unknown frontier. The waters off New England were fished by the English, the French, and the Portuguese for at least 100 years before 1620.

Lobsters, clams and mussels were considered "hard rations" to be eaten when food was scarce.

Only four married women survived the first winter in Plymouth. Elizabeth Hopkins, Eleanor Billington, Susannah White Winslow, and Mary Brewster oversaw the food preparations for the 3-day harvest festival serving 50 colonists and 90 Indians- an event which we celebrate today as Thanksgiving.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."—John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Let's Talk Turkey

The turkey is one of the most famous birds in North America. In fact, Benjamin Franklin wanted to make the wild turkey, not the Bald Eagle, the national bird of the United States.

*Male turkeys are called Toms" or "gobblers."

*Female turkeys are called "Poults." *Turkeys gather in groups called "Flocks." *Wild turkeys forage for food such as acorns, seeds, and insects during the day.

Turkeys roost in low trees at night.

Can You Crack These Nuts? See how many of the following "nuts" you can unscramble. Be careful with no. 12. It's not your usual "nut," but a nut anyway.

1. acnep----- pecan
2. twanul ----- walnut
3. zehla----- hazel
4. etrflib----- filbert
5. natepu----- peanut
6. oncatuoc----- coconut
7. tuntbeutr ----- butternut
8. nadmlo ----- almond
9. oyhcrik----- hickory
10. suhtncte----- chestnut
11. ucehbetn----- beechnut
12. gnoduhtu----- doughnut

Pass The Turkey!

Each answer to the following questions is some part of a turkey.

1. What part of the turkey is found in the band ?
2. What part of the turkey is a story ?
3. When the turkey is cooking, in what country is he?
4. What part of a turkey does a farmer watch with anxiety?
5. What part of a turkey is part of a sentence ?
6. What part of a turkey will appear the day after Thanksgiving ?
7. What part of a turkey is oriental ?
8. What part of a turkey assists you in getting dressed for the day?