



The Granite State Granger

Volume 47

Number 1

2017

March

NH State Grange at Farm and Forest by Norman Brandt

The NH State Grange once again had a booth at the Farm and Forest Expo in Manchester on February 17 and 18. Our booth's theme this year was Grange: Sowing the Seeds of Knowledge for the Future of Agriculture and Forestry. The knowledge we were seeding this year was "how to milk a goat", "how trees Grow", "hatching and growing chicks", "Guess the seed", and "how to make butter", all easy Lecturer programs that can be done at Granges like yours.

For how to milk a goat Dudley from a few years ago received an udder and a new name. The udder was made out of a dish washing glove with a hole poked into a finger and a sponge filling the void of the fingers. As you wring out the sponge it allows water to spray from the finger (teat). This one had the title of "Milking for Every Bit of Information."

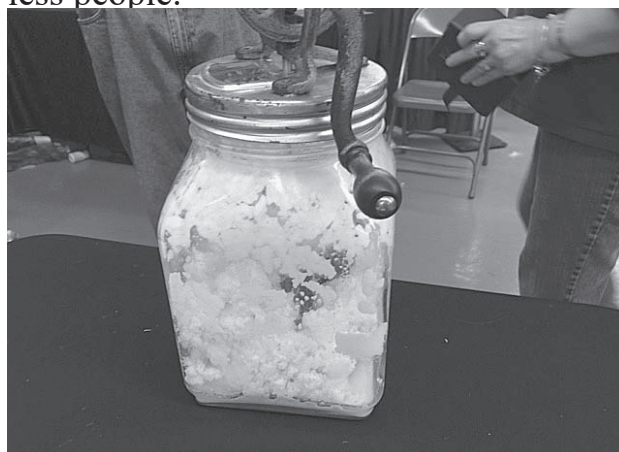


Les Avery was nice enough to bring in a cedar round that the rings have counted to 74 making it from 1943 as a seedling. We also had white pine trees that had sprouted in 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2013

to show the growth of pine trees over the years. This one had "Wood you Grow with Us?" as a title.

For "Are you Chicken to Learn?" we had an incubator that was full of plastic Easter eggs that had been painted on the inside with a red glazeto show different stages of development of eggs from day 2 to day 20. People could take the eggs and hold them up to an antique candler to see though the shell and glaze on what the embryo would look like at different ages. The age in days was labeled on the bottom of the egg. The eggs from day 18 on had little baby chicks in them that they could pop open to see why they couldn't see though the shell.

Once again Les Avery came though with a neat seed game, where he glued seeds on a door and you guess the seed and open the door to find out if you were right. This and the Butter Churn he brought were enjoyed and used by countless people.



All of this is great, but that brings us to the real reason we are here. With the help of the people that manned the booth we managed to get nine rip cards. In the past Manchester had always received the most rip cards Even though Manchester doesn't have a Grange any more I was surprised not to have any from Manchester this year. Instead New Boston seems to be the winner. The names and contacts have been passed onto Chris Heath to get them out to the Granges.

One person that was interested in Antrim Grange not only filled out a rip card she also filled out an application, then came back with a business card and phone number. She really seems to want to become a member! By the time this article comes out you only have a day or two before the cards become almost useless. Please call them NOW if you haven't already. The Grange spends hundreds of dollars to exhibit at Farm and Forest if we aren't getting new members and getting fuzzy feelings do we continue?

This year's exhibit was set up by the Membership and Agriculture Committees. The judges gave it second prize, which, unlike first prize, means only bragging rights.

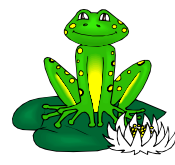


Spring Fling Saturday, April 8th, Taylor Community in Laconia

Lunch will be provided by the on-site kitchen. Menu will include sandwiches and soups.

There will be workshops throughout the day. One is a Loom class. If you have a loom and yarn and would like to learn how to use them bring them for the class. There will be some to use, but if you bring your own you will be sure to have one to use.

The State Master will be sending out a schedule and registration forms as soon as they are ready.



*From my pad
to your pad*

**Christopher Heath
NH State Grange Master**

I hope that you all have been surviving the winter okay. With the large amounts of snowfall and cold temperatures, I hope that you have been staying warm, safe and sound. With spring right around the corner I hope that you will soon be out continuing the good work of the Grange in the community. I have been having a difficult time staying healthy this year, but things are starting to take a turn for the good.

In January the directors and I attended the Northeast Leaders conference in Rutland, Vermont. We attended workshops and meetings during the day. Plans are continuing to be made for the 2018 National Convention which will be held in Stowe, Vermont. Since there is no longer a Northeast Connection assessment fee being collected, each state has been tasked to collect \$4500 dollars to assist with hosting the session in the region. Through fundraising and donations from Granges, we can fulfill our obligation to the region. I hope that you and your Grange will consider helping with this endeavor. National Session costs roughly \$30,000 to the region and though this is a lot of money, it is not the total cost.

The New England Grange building trustees have created a new competition for at the Big E. The challenge is to get as many of the members from our state to attend the fair for Grange Day. They would like to have at least 250 members to march in the parade. They are also hoping to have a float. If you have any ideas for the float, please feel free to send them to me so I can forward them to the trustees.

In February the Junior and Youth departments held their annual Winter Rallies. I want to congratulate both directors for having successful winter rallies this year. I was unable to attend because I was home sick with influenza but greatly appreciated the voice message of the group singing happy birthday to me.

It brought a momentary brightness to my unpleasant situation. Knowing that there were Grangers who cared enough to call me on my special day was heartwarming.

On Saturday, March 25th, starting 1 pm at Blow-Me-Down Grange we will hold a Celebration of Life for Stephen Tracy. We will have a memorial service in his honor. As most of you know, Steve went on to the Great Grange Above in December. Even though he requested no services, I felt that it was only right to have a time of remembrance for him after all the work he has done for the Grangers across the state. I hope that many of you will be able to join us on this day.

Spring Fling is planned for Saturday, April 8th, at the Taylor Community in Laconia. Those who attended last year really enjoyed the facility. Lunch will be provided by the on-site kitchen. Menu will include sandwiches and soups. There will be workshops throughout the day. I will be sending out a schedule and registration forms as soon as I have them ready.

Also, remember that April is Grange Month. Try to have a special event in your community. Maybe you could work with your local library to have a display for the month. You could even create a flyer to put up around town to promote your Grange and activities. Remember that you are the only people who can promote the Grange and educate the citizens in your town about the Grange.

In May, we will be having a Degree Day. The date is not set at this time, but it will most likely be towards the middle of the month. More information to follow on this event.

I hope that you have started working on your resolutions for this year. Please remember that any resolutions that have to do with changing by-laws need to

THE GRANITE STATE GRANGER

This is a free* publication to keep Grange members informed of past and up-coming events.

***(However, donations are accepted.)**

This paper is printed quarterly.

Postmaster or anyone else:

**Please send all related correspondence to
Hannah West
3 Depot Road
Chichester, NH 03258**

be submitted to the State Grange secretary before September 1st. Please do not wait until that day to submit them. Remember that they can be submitted anytime during the year.

Please be sure to do your part to grow our organization. Membership is everyone's responsibility and the survival of the Grange in your community depends on you. I hope to see many of you in my travels across the state. Once the weather has improved, I plan to be visiting as many Granges as I can. If I have not made it to your Grange yet, let me know when you are meeting and I will put it on my calendar. I wish for you and your Grange the very best for the coming year.

I am still looking for a volunteer to head up the Membership Department. This person only needs to have a desire to serve the New Hampshire State Grange and its members. I will be able to assist with training and will help out whenever needed. I am also looking for someone to chair the Publicity Department. This is a tougher job and will require a little more commitment. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact me and I will provide more information.

**A Hearty Grange Welcome
to Our New Members**

Joy Webster	Aurora
Harold Webster	Aurora
Nadine Jordan	Baker's River
Robert Guida	Baker's River
Nancy Scott	Blow-Me-Down
Georgiana Farrell	Centennial (Junior)
Brooke Olson-Doolittle	Centennial (Junior)
Thomas Russell	Golden Rod
Rebie Russell	Golden Rod
Joseph Russell	Golden Rod
Roger Russell	Golden Rod
Sandy Brackett	Mount Hope
Andy Brackett	Mount Hope
Barbara Jones	Tuftonboro
Jean Kobeski	Walpole
Steve Bennett	Wicwas Lake
Monica Bennett	Wicwas Lake
Kelly Bennett	Wicwas Lake
Molly Durand	Wicwas Lake
Darlene Slocum-Fitts	Wicwas Lake
Scott Groleau	Wicwas Lake
Christine Savage	Wingold
Julia Savage	Wingold

**Lecturer's Lines
State Lecturer
Jane Trombi**



Winter is upon us and with that getting out can sometimes be difficult. Now is a great time to be working on your contest entries as listed in the Lecturer's Program book titled "Education is the Key". I hope your lecturer has shared these contests with you. You can also go onto the Grange website at nhgrange.org and click on the Lecturer's tab. The rules were also listed in the last issue of the GSG.

Remember that a new category in the art contest is **coloring**. There are many coloring books available geared toward adults. You can color with gel pens, colored pencils, crayons or markers. It's also a very relaxing activity.

Bowling

Has your Grange made plans to attend the State Grange Bowling Tournament at Lakeside Lanes in Manchester at 12 noon on March 19? Even if you are not bowling, you are welcome to attend and cheer on others. The bowling prizes this year will be free entry for 2018. That means that the top male and female bowler (high triple) and the Grange team (4 members) with the highest score will bowl for free next year.

Grange Month

The next big event will be Grange Month. On Saturday, April 29th, we will meet at the State Grange Building in Hooksett, starting at 2:30 p.m. when you can bring your Penny Sale items. Penny Sale tickets will go on sale at 3 p.m. Our banquet will start at approximately 5:30 p.m. The meal will be a complete ham dinner for \$15.00 and \$7 for under 10. All proceeds from the penny sale and dinner will go to the talent fund. After dinner we will have a couple of Grange Awards and time for any member to show their talent to have a chance to represent NH at the Night of Excellence at National Grange in November, 2017.

Reservations for the dinner are appreciated by April 20th.

North East Lecturer's Conference

Mark your calendars now to attend the North East Lecturer's Conference which will be held at Castleton University in Castleton, Vermont. The dates are July 31 – August 2. More information will be out around the beginning of May. I will be looking for people to help with our program, which will be on Driver's Education. The theme for the conference is "School Days".

I hope to see many of you at Grange events around the state.

**National Grange Legislative Fly-In
Washington, D. C.
April 23-26, 2017**

Schedule

Sunday, April 23: Arrival and check-in; Evening social at the hotel
Monday, April 24: Issue briefings and speakers at the National Grange; Agency visits; Congressional Capitol Hill appointments (afternoon)
Tuesday, April 25: Congressional Capitol Hill appointments; Late day/evening departures for some
Wednesday, April 26: Finish Congressional Capitol Hill Appointments; Return home

All travel and hotel costs will be a personal expense for Fly-In attendees. Please make your own travel plans and book your hotel stay directly.

If you plan to attend the Fly-In, please contact:

Stephanie Tiller

Email: stiller@nationalgrange.org

Phone: (202) 628-3507, ext. 113

Hotel is the Quality Inn, 1587 Spring Hill Road, Vienna, VA 22182. Phone is 703-448-8020. The group rate is \$109 + 12% sales tax per night. **The cut-off date to make a reservation is March 22, 2017.** The Quality Inn is located just northwest of the Capital Beltway (I-495) in Vienna, VA. The hotel provides free parking and is just one block from the Metro's Silver Line for travel to downtown Washington, D.C. The hotel also provides a complimentary full breakfast. Please make your reservations directly with the hotel and mention that you would like to book with the National Grange's block of rooms.



**2017 Grange Family Weekend!
July 28-30**

Bring your family, bring your friends and join us at the Gunstock Mountain Resort for a weekend of camping, fellowship and fun. Bring something to share, for our potluck supper (followed by a campfire) on Saturday evening. Enjoy Bingo, Cribbage, Campground activities, and relaxation with your Grange friends.

Our group has a block of campsites reserved in the "Boardwalk" area. To make your reservation contact Bob Trombi (603) 762-2971 or robert.trombi@gmail.com Sites are filling up fast!

Campground Amenities

Gunstock is a full service campground, with an outdoor in-ground pool. The pool is open during the summer months and is handicap accessible. The campground has two bath houses with free hot showers and coin-operated laundry facilities. Campers can play in two playgrounds, hike through the wetlands boardwalk and fish in the pond. Kayaks, paddle boats and mountain bikes are available for Gunstock guests to rent. In addition, there is a skateboard park, and a mini golf course located near the lodge. Miles of hiking and biking trails start right at your doorstep. Athletic equipment such as horseshoes and volleyballs are available for use.

Complete resort information is available online at: <http://www.gunstock.com/recreation/camping/>

Hope to see you there!

Deadline

The next issue of the Granite State Granger will be mailed in June, 2017. Please send items for the paper to Hannah West on or before May 10, 2017. Report on events of March and April. Look ahead to events of July, August, and September.



If the children get bored in cold or wet weather, pull out some old magazines for them to start working on the collage contest for the Juniors. Be sure to watch those scissors. They should have a piece of cardboard no bigger than 1/2 piece of poster board cut in the shape of a cupcake and pick a theme: pets, places, nature, animals, flowers, vegetable favorite. I have sent each family a sample of the label to place on the back of their entries.

We have a new National Junior Director, Samantha Wilkins, from Texas. You can visit the National Website and click on Junior to find out some of the contests she will be working with us on this year.

On February 11 we held the Junior Winter Rally with thirteen Juniors and two futures. The traveling was not the best, and we missed the seven deciding to stay safe at home.



We began by making cookies for dessert at lunchtime. We made Strawberry baked cookies with Lily and Rebecca putting them on the cookie trays and adults watching the baking of them. For Chocolate heart cookies we used my Waffle maker with Lois Enman assisting with the hot iron. We put Strawberry

frosting on the hearts as Valentine's Day was coming. Crafts of Snowman Rulers to measure snow were made and snowman with sunglasses.



We then set up the hall and held a Grange meeting with all Juniors covering the offices. Parents and grandparents sat with some to assist them and gave them very encouraging instructions. We presented the flag and retired it. None of the children have held the offices they held and I was impressed with their great work. Each had a book whether they could read or not. Lunch was a joint effort of Junior and Youth with soups and sandwiches. The soup was great with the cold weather this year.



Juniors worked on their Collage contest and I came home with 9-10 complete and some taking home to complete. There was another craft for Valentine's Day and Woodland animals.

We missed Noel the Hamster and our State Master Chris, who was home with a very bad cold. His Mom took a video of us singing Happy Birthday to him for her to bring home to him.

Thanks to all who were willing to assist with the Juniors and travel the distance to have a great day. We talked about wearing Red T-shirts to bowling on March 19 this year to promote our 90th Junior Anniversary year. Also we hope to all wear red for the August 12th Birthday party at the Hooksett State Grange Hall.

I hope we will have some Juniors come to Laconia to Taylor Living Center for Spring Fling. I will bring some crafts for Juniors to work on while parents and grandparents go to the workshops.

Remember the Juniors can bowl while the parents bowl on March 19. The information should be coming from the State Lecturer. I will obligate anyone wishing to become Junior Members at the end of the Bowling.

Check out the other departments for contests the Juniors are able to enter. My granddaughter got a blue ribbon in the State Lecturer's Photo Contest, at State Grange last year. Children can take photos on a phone or a camera. If you watch for the theme and find a good photo, the children are excited to get the ribbons and money. Adults should enter, too.

Please let me know if you would rather I research the department contests and send them to each family or if you are able to get these on your own.

I want to help you grow your Juniors and if there is something I can do or come to visit and help, please let me know. If you see me putting dates that don't work for you, let me know so we can get everyone there at the events.



I hope Grange members have been doing community service projects this winter. Helping the elderly shovel a path to their mailbox or paperbox is a nice gesture to offer. Maybe your Grange could talk to your police department about organizing an Operation Check in or Project Good Morning for those senior citizens who live alone. I did this when I worked at Pittsfield Police Department.

I started small with 5 citizens and spoke to the local senior citizens center, local churches, and put up posters to announce the Grange is organizing this program. From 7 to 10 a.m. one member would be coordinating where the citizens will be calling. This program can be five days a week or seven days a week. I ran it from Monday to Friday. If a participant didn't call by 10 a.m., a call will be placed to that person in question. If the person answers the telephone and indicates they are okay, then they are all set. However, if they sound funny, you might call the police department to have them check their condition. If no one answers, you will call the police department to make sure they are okay and/or call a relative to let them know of the situation. You might save a person's life by offering this program. I would be more than happy to help you if you wish to try.

Easter is coming and it would be nice to surprise a few of the elderly neighbors or go to a local nursing facility and ask them if they would like Easter cookies and/or candy and bring each one an Easter card. Your Grange might organize an Easter Egg Hunt for your community. Many towns used to have an Easter Egg Hunt with some prizes, but for unknown reasons they stopped. This would be a great opportunity for your Grange to sponsor a great community event. If your Grange doesn't feel they have enough members to do an event, there is nothing wrong in reaching out to the community and ask for volunteers. It could be a great way to possibly get new members.

April is Grange Month and I hope your Grange is going to present awards to a police officer, firefighter, state police officer, educator, and agricultural awards. I also am looking for people to suggest members of your Grange for the Granger of the Year Award. Take a look around at your members and see if anyone is not only active in the Grange, but what else they do in the community. If they volunteer at church, other organizations, or community events, think about submitting their name for this award. Please submit your honorees to me for consideration for the state awards. I do have forms coming to you to submit the honorees on.

Spring is coming and now is the time for your Grange to plan for projects that your Grange might be involved in. Whether your Grange adopts a beautification spot, plants flowers, does spring cleanup in the local park, or possibly initiate a new project now is the time to start planning.

Mother's Day is a special time for the Grange to visit a nursing home with home made cookies and a nice bouquet of flowers for all mothers. If you have elderly neighbors, how about making a visit to see them and bring a small gift for them to enjoy. You will brighten someone's day that might not otherwise have a reason to smile.

Don't forget Memorial Day is scheduled for Monday, May 29. There are many ideas for your Grange to get involved. If your town or community has a parade, you might put in a patriotic float; if you can march maybe you can get a group to participate in the parade. If your community does not have a parade or public ceremony at the town common you might organize one; or you might ask other organizations to help organizing an event. Remember there are some elderly people who would enjoy a chance to go to the cemetery to place flowers at a loved one's grave or a few minutes to say a prayer at their gravesite.

Many people have forgotten why we celebrate Memorial Day. Some think it is to open the summer cottage, go to the mountains, or to have a cookout. We need to remember how special Memorial Day is to many people - a day to remem-

ber those who gave their lives for us to be free. A day to remember our loved ones and thank them for all they did for us.

I hope you are keeping a record of all the volunteer hours that your members have done between meetings. I am sure I have forgotten something, but I know as Grange members you are very dedicated to your Community Service projects. Don't forget to donate dictionaries to the third graders in the schools in your town or neighboring towns. Please contact Hannah West to order and send your payment for the dictionaries.

I know I have mentioned a lot of projects, but you can pick and choose and hopefully you will do whatever your members have an interest in. Please contact me if you need assistance. I am more than happy to help.



Events are scheduled every month from March until July. On March 11th we start with pizza at the State Grange Building (5:30 pm) and move on to glow bowling at Boutwells in Concord (8:00 pm). This will be a great chance to warm up before the State Grange bowling day.

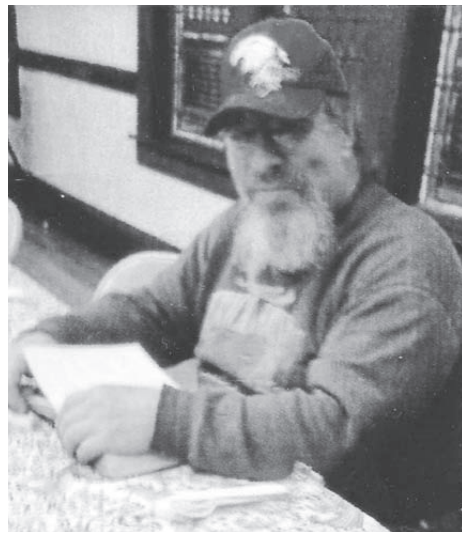
On April 1, we will be heading to the Chichester Grange Hall for a game night. Bring a snack to share, your favorite game, and be there for 7 pm. All ages are welcome (no fooling).

In May, it's time for a road trip, as we head up to Littleton, to make sure the Thompson Memorial Stone is getting the respect it deserves with some fresh mulch and a few flowers. After making the world more beautiful, we'll reward ourselves with lunch and mini golf in Lincoln.

June is Youth Rally at Camp Spaulding in Concord, NH. Join us for the whole weekend or just as a day visitor June 9 - June 11.

July 7-9 is the Regional Youth Conference at U-Mass Amherst. Who will get the spirit stick next?

Interested in any or all of these events? Check in with the Youth Committee chair at your local Grange.



Stephen A. Tracy

(courtesy of the Colebrook Chronicle)

Stephen A. Tracy, 58, of Stewartstown Hollow passed away on Friday, December 2. He was born on May 19, 1958.

A familiar figure in Colebrook, he often was seen walking to town from his home on Route 145, being given a ride and back by passersby. A "yes" and "no" sign on his door indicated whether he was home. He recently placed a new sign on his home which read, "Oleo Acres - A Cheaper Spread," painted for him by Pat Allin of Stratford Grange.

Stephen was active in both the Mohawk and Stratford Granges. He was also instrumental in starting the local chapter of the Small and Beginning Farmers in the area. He was a small farmer and raised animals and had a garden at his place.

He was featured in the recent N.H. Public Television documentary "Our Hometown" which focused on Colebrook. Stephen was one of the local people interviewed for the program.

Prior to living in Stewartstown, he was a resident of Cornish.

**Celebration of Life
for Stephen Tracy
Saturday, March 25th, 1 p.m.
Blow-Me-Down Grange
1107 Route 12A
Plainfield, NH**

Harmony Grange #99

Harmony Grange #99 is inviting the public to a free program on Lyme Disease and other Insect borne illnesses at 7 00 PM on Tuesday, May 2nd, at the Sanbornton Old Town Hall. The speaker will be Susan Laverack, Associate Director of the Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health. This is an especially timely topic as the spring and summer seasons begin.

Light deserts and beverages will be available on a donation basis. The Old Town Hall is located on Meeting House Hill Road in Sanbornton.

**Halloween Grange Flea Market
Saturday, May 6, 9:00-2:00
32 Hobart St. Penacook, NH**

Camden's Project Update

In the December GSG we reported on Camden Tillinghast, an Ambassador Girl Scout who was working on her Gold Award. Her project was to write a book about the Karner Blue Butterfly and make up a program kit with crafts, activities, and puzzles to teach about the life of a butterfly. Members of Wingold Grange assisted Camden by making bags to hold the book and program kit.

In February Camden passed her board-of-review and has now officially earned her Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. The Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission in India received one of Camden's books. The picture below shows one of the Mission students reading Camden's book.



Grange Bulletin Board

Concord Grange Awards Night

Concord Grange # 322 would like to invite you to join them for their annual Grange Month Celebraton on Monday, April 17, at 7 p.m. at the Internatonal Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Hall, 48 Airport Road. This will be an open meeting with non-members invited to attend.

The Grange will be honoring the outstanding Police Officer, Firefighter, Educator, Lifetime Achievement Award, Youth Award, State Police, and Agriculture Award. There will be refreshments served before and after the meeting. We hope to see many of you at the annual awards night.

Concord Grange will begin meetings on March 27 at 6:30 p.m. The Grange is going to bring back a tradition that was somehow stopped. The annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, April 15th, at 11 a.m. at Keach Park. Please call Dick Patten at 496-2917 for information.

Tuftonboro Grange

Tuftonboro Grange will resume meetings on April 14, 2017. This first meeting of 2017 will be at the home of Master, Florence Perkins.

Potluck will begin at 5:00 p.m. followed by the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Please feel free to contact Florence (569-2042) or Secretary, Joy Perkins (569-1887) for further information.

**Rochester Grange
will host a
NH Humanities Program
New England Stone Walls
Saturday, April 15th
in their hall at
21 Charles St., Rochester
Light refreshments at 6:30
program at 7:30**

**All are welcome,
please RSVP to
Lois Enman (LLjen@myfairpoint.net)
or Judy Bailey (1-207-698-1786)**

**Wingold Grange
Ham and Bean Suppers
April 22,2017
May 27, 2017
June 24, 2017
5:00-6:30 p.m.
Two types of beans,
Spiral Ham, Cole Slaw
Home made Potato Salad and Pies
Rolls and drinks
East Kingston Elementary School
Andrews Lane**



In December, Pine Grove Grange #298 Master Linda Lauer presented a letter from National Grange Master Betsy Huber to Sister Irma Clough in recognition of her 83 years of faithful service to the Grange.

In Memoriam

Sandra Coppola	Blazing Star
Fred Carlson	Chichester
Richard Foss	Chichester
Paul Ordway	Chichester
Arline French	Concord
Norman Berry, Jr.	Crown Point
Carole Brewitt	Gilman
William Lahey	Halestown
Stephen Tracy	Mowhawk
Reginald Clark	Prentice Hill
Robert Lovering	Stratford
Alice Bean	Sunapee Lake
Linwood Paine	Walpole
Marjorie Andersen	Wingold
Alice West	Walpole

Calendar of Events 2017
 March 19 - State Grange Bowling
 Lakeside Lanes, Manchester 12 noon
 March 21 - National Agriculture Day
 March 25 - Celebration of Life for
 Stephen Tracy - 1 p.m.
 Blow-Me-Down Grange, Plainfield
 April 8 - Spring Fling - Taylor Community
 Laconia
 April 15 - New England Stone Walls -
 Rochester Grange Hall 6:30 p.m.
 April 17 - Concord Grange Awards Night
 48 Airport Road 7 p.m.
 April 20 - Reservations for Grange Month
 Banquet due to State Lecturer
 April 22 - Wingold Ham & Bean Supper
 5 - 6:30 p.m.
 East Kingston Elem. School
 April 23-26 - National Grange Legislative
 Fly-In - Washington, D.C.
 April 29 - Grange Month Celebration
 Penny Sale 2:30 Banquet 5:30
 State Grange Building, Hooksett
 May 2 - Lyme Disease Program - 7 p.m.
 Sanbornton Town Hall
 May 6 - Halloween Grange Flea Market
 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 32 Hobart St. Penacook
 May 10 - Copy Deadline for June GSG
 May 27 - Wingold Ham & Bean Supper
 5 - 6:30 p.m.
 East Kingston Elem. School
 June 2-4 - June Youth Rally
 June 24 - Wingold Ham & Bean Supper
 5 - 6:30 p.m.
 East Kingston Elem. School
 July 7-9 - Northeast Youth Conference
 Massachusetts
 July 28-30 - Grange Family Weekend
 Gunstock Campground
 July 31- Aug. 2 - NE Lecturers' Conference
 Castleton, Vermont
 Aug. 11 - Junior Grange Birthday Party
 State Grange Building, Hooksett
 Aug. 31 - Sept. 4 - Lancaster Fair
 516 Main St., Lancaster
 Sept. 1-4 - Hopkinton State Fair
 State Fairgrounds, Contoocook
 Sept. 15 - Oct. 2 - The Big E
 West Springfield, MA
 Sept. 19 - Hotel reservations due for
 NH State Session
 Sept. 24 - Grange Day at the Big E
 Sept. 28 - Oct. 1 - Deerfield Fair
 Route 43, Deerfield
 Oct. 1 - Youth & Lecturer's Contest
 Entries Due
 Nov. 7 - 11 - National Grange Convention,
 Spokane, Washington

Stratford Grange will resume meetings on Monday, June 10th. That meeting will be held at the Stratford Grange Hall, 11:00 a.m. for lunch, 12:00 business meeting.



Farm Grown Leadership is a new book packed with leadership lessons which has been published by Ed Luttrell as a Kindle e-book.

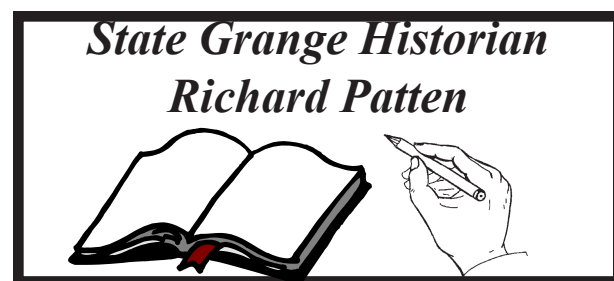
Farm Grown Leadership is composed of a series of short stories taken from the youth of the author with each story being an illustration of a key leadership lesson. Lessons learned from the farm, from FFA, 4-H, and the Grange are offered in an easy to read style. Humor and insight are bound together to teach the lessons of effective leadership.

Intriguing animals, interesting experiences, and people who served as role models populate these stories and demonstrate the importance of learning leadership skills.

The author grew up on a small cow-calf farm in Scholls, Oregon. He was an active 4-H and FFA member and joined the Grange at age 14. He has held leadership positions at all levels of the Grange including four years as the Oregon State Grange President, taught leadership and membership development for six years at the National Grange and served eight years as the National President. He has belonged to a variety of other organizations and has held leadership positions in many of them.

For more information go to CornerPostLeadership.com or find the book on Amazon.com. For additional information the author can be contact via email EdwardLLuttrell@gmail.com

State Grange Directors
 Agriculture - Norman Brandt
 Legislative - Robert Haefner
 Family &Community Service -
 Richard and Debra Patten
 Grange Services - Lois Enman
 Youth - Sarah Leclerc
 Junior - Joann Brandt
 Membership - Chris Heath
 Fundraising - Kim Bascom
 Webmaster - Sarah Leclerc
 GSG - Hannah West
 Building - Anne & Marty Boisvert
 Photographer - Mark Collins
 Family Weekend - Robert Trombi
 Resolutions and By-laws - Tara Sad



Word Unlawfully; For Imparting the Annual Word Unlawfully; For Proposing An Improper Person For Membership; For Stealing; and there are several more pages. I will continue this in the next issue. It is very interesting to read what they were proposing.

Now I will check into 1927 and see what was going on at the 54th annual session for the NH State Grange. I was reading the State Master's Report for the annual session. He was very happy to report that ten new Subordinate Granges were organized or reorganized: Mount Osseo of Lincoln with 29 members; Province Road Grange of Belmont with 18 charter members; Eden Grange of West Milan; and Stratford Grange of Stratford. State Master James Farmer paid a special tribute to State Chaplain Charles T. Reekie and Past State Master Richard Pattee who "answered the call of our Heavenly Father to continue his Grange work in Heaven where they are needed."

State Master James Farmer also continued the Grange Support for a State Police Force in our state. The Grange began its efforts through the State Legislature in 1917 to begin their efforts for a State Police Force. The Worthy State Grange Master outlined his recommendations for 1927: The Legislative Committee requested that all members appoint themselves a committee of one to enlarge Grange service in their respective community; That Granges throughout the state carefully study agricultural situations in their town and devise plans for improving the conditions; That we hold regional Grange meetings the coming year at which our beautiful degree work will be exemplified and noteworthy programs be presented; That the Grange demand and assist as far as possible in securing rigid enforcement of the present prohibition law; the immediate operation of Muscle Shoals for the production of nitrate for fertilizer purposers in accordance with the provisions of the Madden bill now before Congress.

He also recommended that a State Grange Agricultural Committee of three be appointed and that each Subordinate and Pomona Grange appoint a committee of three to work with the State Committee in encouraging and developing agri-

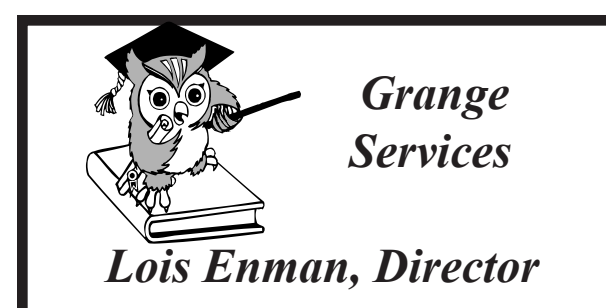
cultural work in our Grange communities and that each committee annually prepare a written report of the work and submit it to the State Grange on or before November 1st. Also, that the State Grange offer a suitable medal to be presentable to a Master Farmer in the state with the State Grange Executive Committee establishing guidelines.

The year 1927 also found the New Hampshire State Grange organizing the first Juvenile Grange in the state. Mountain Laurel Juvenile Grange # 1 of Northwood was organized by Mrs. Mary Farmer, Ceres for the New Hampshire State Grange, on July 26, 1927. They had 26 boys and girls with 42 honorary members. At the end of the September quarter, the Subordinate membership was 28,625. The net gain was 86 members. The Pomona Grange had a membership of 11,397 members, a loss of 99. The State Grange Officers conferred the sixth degree on a class of 222 candidates.

I guess it is time to close this report for this time. I hope you have enjoyed reading about the history of the NH State Grange. I find it very interesting and I hope you do as well. It is time to go back and locate information about Mont Calm Grange of Enfield.



On December 2, 2016 The selectmen of the Town of Tuftonboro (Carolyn Sundquist, Lloyd Wood, and William Marcussen) presented Phoebe Willey with the Boston Post Cane at her residence at Applegate Gardens in Tuftonboro, NH. Ms., Willey is 101 years old.



Once again it is time to remind Granges about the annual appeals letter for the Educational Loan Fund (ELF), which your Grange should have received before now. Without donations from Subordinate and Pomona Granges we may not be able to offer scholarships to our members planning to attend college or to take advance classes to improve their employment. Please mail donations to:

Patrice Lawlor
P.O. Box 386
Pelham, NH 03076

Members Benefits: There is a new set up on the National Grange web site (www.nationalgrange.org). Go to the heading **Values** and click on **members benefits**. There are more than 25 benefits listed for us as subordinate members. I hope that each Grange is having a member reporting about these benefits at your meetings. Remember to use the Annual Password to open any of these benefits.

Scholarship Applications

This will be my early reminder to all Seniors or students returning to College to start your application for the State Grange Scholarship. The complete application with CURRENT letters of recommendation are due July 1, 2017. These forms are on the state Grange web site (www.nhgrange.org) under Grange Service Committee or from your Secretary, Master, or any Grange Service Committee member.

National Grange Magazine

A reminder, National Grange is offering a quarterly magazine "Good Day" to debut in February. It will list upcoming events and contests for members as well as non-members. If your Grange gets a subscription, pass it among your members to have new ideas. Maybe get one for the library or community center, could be a way to get new members. Only \$14.00, call 1-888-4Grange to order.

Please travel safe & often, invite a friend to an upcoming event.



Spring is coming! Sheep are lambing. Goats are kidding. Geese are starting to lay, and trees should have been tapped back in January! The warm days and cold nights we've had this past January has caused the sap to flow early, and some have already made hundreds of gallons of syrup already.

I'm adding a few links at the end of this article to be used as a reference by everyone. Please feel free to use them. The first link is a NH Guide of when to start or plant seeds for crops. The second is the website that I get e-mails from on cheese making. It is a company in Massachusetts that sells the supplies and also puts out a Moosletter with recipes and classified ads. I find both of them to be useful websites that I use this time of year.

This past summer I tried a new method of growing sweet potatoes. I was able to get some nasty-looking slips at the end of the planting season ~June that my grain store was going to be tossing out. I filled black two-gallon plastic flower pots with some good compost/sand mix until the pots were almost overflowing. I put a board over the top and quickly flipped them over and put them on the gas line that I'm not allowed to till. This left me with an upside down black covered and raised flower bed with six holes: one in the center and five on the corner sides. I placed one slip in the center hole and then one in two of the five side holes and watered everything in. With the drought the little bit of rain we got would funnel into the center hole watering the plant. Also, sweet potatoes develop a large tap root, that I gave up following at five feet, allowing them to get water very deep in the ground. I also planted some sweet potatoes in regular fashion in the raised beds and also in black plastic mounded soil.

At about one week the plants took and took off at about the same speed,

spreading out nicely. Then as the drought continued and grass stopped growing and the swamp and ponds started to dry up the geese and goats started traveling further and further from their normal fields until one day they found my experiment area. I went up to check on everything and found the watermelons, cantaloupe, and carrots chewed down to stubs. Luckily the onions, beets and sweet potatoes were not touched, I considered setting up some fences to keep them all out of that area but didn't find the time I needed to do so.

About two weeks later I went up and only beets were left. They ate the vines of the sweet potatoes and finished my experiment. I flipped over the pots and was surprised to find sweet potatoes about four inches long and as thick as my finger in each pot. I turned up the controls to find smaller sweet potatoes in the black plastic lined hills and none in the raised bed. Now I'm waiting for this coming year to try again and hopefully we won't have a drought sending the animals searching again.


I'm thinking of seeing about doing a container garden where I am going to try grafting a tomato plant top onto the roots of a potato plant. I saw it in a catalogue that they were selling started plants for container gardening. I may try a couple before Spring Fling and if it goes well I'll check with the State Master on doing a Grafting Workshop and we can try that or just grafting tomato plants onto other tomato plant root stocks.

Keep an eye open for Ag programs this year, and hopefully I'll see you at them.

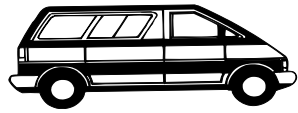
Web Sites to Visit

Planting crops in NH
<http://www.ufseeds.com/New-Hampshire-Vegetable-Planting-Calendar.html>

Cheese making supplies and newsletter sign up
<http://www.cheesemaking.com/>



Support the ELF!
Please send your
Educational Loan Fund
donations to:
Patrice Lawlor
P.O. Box 386
Pelham, NH 03076



**Family & Community
Department
Deb Patten**

It's almost spring! I know it's tough to believe with all the February snowstorms. Hope everyone is surviving the winter. This is a great opportunity to work on needlework projects, knit mittens, hats, work on fleece blankets for our Project Night Night project or items for Eastern States.

The committee decided to drop the Galoshes from Grangers from our program, so we won't be asking Granges to supply boots for this project in October. But if your Grange still wishes to collect and distribute boots on your own please feel free to do so.

Nighty Night Hugs

Project Night Night is now re-named to Nighty Night Hugs. We are continuing this project this year as it was so well received. It is amazing and extremely sad to learn how many homeless families there are residing in homeless shelters in NH. We distributed nearly 90 sacks to 11 shelters in NH. The shelters we distributed to: Concord, Manchester, Nashua, Rochester, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Littleton, Lancaster, Berlin, Keene and West Lebanon/White River Jct. which was distributed at State Grange.

This year we are asking Granges to please continue to make the fleece no-sew blankets which typically take about 1 1/2 yards of fleece for a child-size blanket or make crocheted afghans to fit a child (not baby) or purchase the fleece blankets. We ask that a NEW stuffed toy be put in the sack together with a children's book (no religious books please). Please make the sack out of a pillow case or sew a sack to put these in with a drawstring running through it.

Please deliver these to the committee representative for your Pomona as outlined below. She will deliver the sacks to the shelter in her area.

Very Important: Please keep track of how many are turned in to the committee so we will have an accurate count of

how many children's hearts we are warming by these sacks, which are typically all they have to call their own when they arrive at the shelter.

Mountain of Mittens

We are continuing this very well-received project. So many children going to our public schools need mittens, hats and gloves. They go to school with none. The school nurses/principal's offices are very happy to get these to distribute to children in need throughout our State. We divide them up so the entire State gets a few pair for each general area throughout the State. Please keep knitting hats and mittens and either hold them and bring them to State Grange in October 2017 or you can call me at 603-228-1803 and we can arrange for me to get them and hold them for you.

Needlework Contests

The contests are the same for 2017 as they were last year. I will be mailing the category lists and any rules associated with each category to each Family Services chairperson. The categories are:

Class A: Afghans – must be at least twin size

Class B: Doilies – knitted, crocheted or tatted

Class C: Embroidery – Back of work must be visible

Class D: 3 Piece Baby Set – Bonnet, booties, sweater – any three pieces but it does not include an afghan

Class E: Plastic Canvas

Class F: Counted Cross Stitch – back of work must be visible – can be framed or matted but not in glass frame

Class G: Adult Garment – knitted, crocheted or sewn but does not include hats, caps, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, collar, belt etc. These are accessories – not a garment.

Class H: Latch Hook

Class I: Quilted Wall Hanging – must be designed to be hung – not just a lap robe style

Class J: Stuffed Toy – must be child safe – may be stuffed with polyfil

Class K: Baby Afghan – suitable for baby – choice of color, size etc.

The above classes of needlework will be judged in August and the first place winners will be sent on for New England judging at Eastern States. Then

all items entered in all categories will be returned in October 2017 at the end of the State Grange session.

In addition there are State categories: Woodworking and Miscellaneous - any other category that doesn't fit into the above named categories

VERY IMPORTANT: Please invite non-Grange members to participate as well. All are welcome! This could be a good way to get new Grange members.

Baking Contest

All subordinate Granges should be holding the baking contest which is Blonde Brownies or Congo Bars. No special recipe. If you choose to use nuts please indicate as such when you bake for your subordinate contest. The first place winner at each subordinate should be submitted to Pomona. There should be a judging at Pomona for all first place subordinate winners. The winner from each Pomona is asked to bake again for judging at NH State Grange in October.

Family Services Committee

Please see list below for the committee representative in your area. Always feel free to reach out to me directly as well:

Debra Patten, Director – (603) 228-1803 email: dickdebatten@comcast.net

Virginia Clark – (603) 352-4887 – Cheshire County Pomona

Ann Leger – (603) 466-3831 – email: philfarm@netzero.net – Northern NH Pomona

Deb Stone – (603) 543-3272 – email: dr35stone@gmail.com – Mascoma Valley Pomona

Cam Twiss – (603) 673-5359 – email: grammytwiss@gmail.com – Hillsborough County Pomona

Mary West – (603) 568-3287 – email: marymwest612@gmail.com – Suncook Valley Pomona

Linda Phelps – (603) 455-9896 –email: LKphelps56@yahoo.com – Pemigewasset Valley Pomona

Patricia Izzo – (603) 778-0429 –email: pa93055@gmail.com – East Rockingham Pomona

Alice Tuck – contact Deb Patten for now – Eastern NH Pomona

Support the Granite State Granger with your donation.

**Home Grown Politics
Across New Hampshire Farmland
to Concord and Washington
Bob Haefner
Legislative Director**

Our politicians just give us so much fodder to discuss. Let's start with Washington and our new President. I certainly want to keep this a non-partisan column. It is going to be an interesting four years ahead of us. I have always given our newly elected Presidents a year to show me what they can do and whether their policies are going to work. I think it is only fair. The press and to a lesser extent, the opposition party has traditionally observed a honeymoon period for a new President. Not so this year. President Trump has been under attack from all directions starting on his Inauguration Day. Of course he has been an active participant in the back and forth. I think this is probably the most partisan and toxic environment for a new administration, that I have seen in my life time. I worry about the civility and the lack of working across the aisle. What is it with the violence in the demonstrations against our President?

Cabinet picks have been interesting this time around. I think there were some picks, that I would not have chosen, but you will not get the names from me. I also think in general, that we have some very good cabinet nominees. Again the only one that I will single out is General Mattis. Being a Marine myself, I think the General is truly a great choice for the Secretary of Defense. Did you know that General Mattis has a personal library with 7000 books, all of which he apparently has read? Much of the collection is history and especially military history and military strategy.

The new Congress has started to work on the farm bill. The farm bill is only done every five years. It is not expected to be completed this year and maybe not even 2018. It will in all likelihood be turned into law in 2019. We will keep a very close eye on it during the negotiations over the next couple of years.

The President has promised to not implement the Trans-Pacific Part-

nership (TPP), but negotiate individual contracts with our trading partners in the Pacific Rim. He is also going to back out of NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement). I can certainly show some examples of where NAFTA helped us in the USA, but we can also find other things that hurt our country and our labor force. One thing that I am very interested in and will follow closely is Dairy. The US dairy industry has jumped on a renegotiation of NAFTA as an opportunity to relieve US dairy over supply, by forcing Canada to take some of our milk. The Canadian dairy industry is not going to like that at all. They have been complaining for a year already, because TPP will force imports of dairy to Canada. You see, Canada has a supply management system to control how much milk they have to work with and the system has worked well for the entire industry north of the border. Imports would throw their system into chaos.

I found the election results in New Hampshire interesting. While our state voted a completely Democrat Congressional Delegation and by the way all female, we voted just the opposite at the state level. We for the first time in 12 years have a Republican Governor and both chambers of the Legislature are Republican Majority. For the first time in several terms we did not change majority in the NH House. This is a purple state. The New Hampshire State Grange current Legislator of the Year, Shawn Jasper was re-elected as Speaker of the House, but by only two votes. The new Governor has passed his budget to the Legislature. It is a half billion dollar decrease from what the agencies asked for. It has a long way to go before it is adopted, so I will not comment on the budget except to say that last term Sister Tara Sad and I worked very hard with Commissioner of Agriculture, the last Governor and the leadership of House and Senate Finance to increase the Department of Agriculture Markets and Food budget and were successful. My understanding is that that increase is now mostly gone. I will stop there before I say something I will regret.

How about legislations? The last Chair and Ranking Member of the Environment and Agriculture Committee, that

would be Tara and I, worked really hard to get drought assistance for our dairy farmers. Early last fall the Milk Producers Emergency Relief Fund Board recommended \$3.6 Mil in drought relief. In December the legislature formed a dairy drought relief task force that passed a resolution to help the Dairy Industry in NH. I am happy to report that the Senate drafted a bill to help with that drought relief for the farmers. They reduced the amount from \$3.6 to \$2 mil so that it had a better chance of passing and it has passed the Senate and is on a fast track for the House. The House Labor Committee has voted to not pass Right to Work and it now goes to the full House. The House and Senate have both approved Constitutional Carry and the Governor has promised to sign it. House Environment and Agriculture just heard a bill this week to ban the use of pesticides on school grounds or wherever children play. That is the third time that bill has been introduced to the legislature in the last seven years. It failed to make it the last two times and indications are it will fail this time. The last legislation I will mention is that there is another Agri-tourism bill in the Senate. The Prime sponsor tried to get me to take his bill as an amendment last term and I refused. So this year he has introduced it in the Senate. The Farm Bureau, The Department of Agriculture and the Municipal Association all oppose it and rightfully so. It would have helped one farmer, and hurt most other stake holders.

The last thing I would like to talk about. Sister Tara Sad and I have taken on the gig as the Agriculture and Rural Policy Advisors to the Council of State Governments (CSG) – East. We are job sharing the role. Our responsibilities are: 1) Plan the Agriculture and Rural Affairs program for the Annual CSG meeting; 2) Write a twice monthly blog for the membership on Ag issues; 3) Get the state policy makers working together as a region on issues common to the eastern states; 4) Provide policy research for state policy makers; 5) Participate in annual capitol visits. Our jurisdictions include the 11 northeastern states, Puerto Rico and five eastern Canadian Provinces.

You can find our blogs at www.CSG-ERC.org



Patrons, as most of you have already heard, the members of the Granges across the state of New Hampshire lost an important Grange advocate in December. Steve Tracy, Publicity director, former Prince, former Outreach Deputy and former Organizing Deputy passed away from a heart attack. His dedication and unbridled love of this organization is going to be greatly missed. His many hours of telling the Grange story to non-members, in an attempt to grow the Grange in New Hampshire and across the nation, are now our responsibility. We must follow in his big footsteps and start growing our membership.

We need to spread the good Grange word to all the citizens of our state. We cannot think that our Granges are strong and don't need any new members. We need to think about the future of our Granges. We need to wake up to the reality that we all need to increase the membership of our Granges. Too many Granges are in need of new members. Unfortunately we don't know what will happen tomorrow, next week or next month. If you really enjoy your Grange and want it to continue into the next year, five years or ten years, then we need to do something now.

We cannot rely on someone else to grow our membership. We all need to take responsibility and increase our Granges membership. Your State Grange membership department is here to give you the support and tools that you need to grow your Grange. We all need to realize that our individual Grange's growth depends on us.

Future members are out there and we need to find them. Some of these potential members are people that we interact with every day. Some are the friendly faces that we see in the grocery store or sit next to at church. They are our neighbors, friends and family. Anyone with whom we come into contact during the day or night is a potential member. We need to reach out to them and tell them about our Granges. We need to invite them into our meetings and Grange halls so they can find out who we are, what we do and how we operate. We need to have programming that will interest them and keep them coming back for more. We need to have projects that affect our communities and make people want to be involved.

We are the only ones who can grow our Granges. We need to teach people that the Grange is for everyone and not just for farmers. We need to make them aware that the Grange is for the entire family. Not just the adults but for children as well. The membership department has the tools to help you do just this and all you need to do is ask. The department members don't know who needs what unless you ask.

Let's make Grange growth our primary goal this year so our great organization will continue into the future. The committee has many supplies that will help you in achieving your membership goals. Contact Chris Heath for your needs and he will help you with materials.

Do You Remember This?

by Dick Patten

The heavy snow this February brought back a memory. In February 1972 the Winter Youth Rally was a two-night, three-day function. It was held at the Pembroke Congregational Conference Center on top of a hill in Pembroke off Route 3. I arrived Friday night with the other youth, and the sky was clear with the stars shining in the sky. The Prince and Princess started a Snowflake Dance and all enjoyed dancing.

I had to go home that night. The next morning when my Dad brought me back, it was snowing and I mean **snowing**, in other words a blizzard. My dad tried to drive up the hill only to get stuck. The road had not been plowed so no one could get up there and if you were up there, you couldn't leave. My dad and I, after getting a wrecker to pull us out, drove back home to Concord. I was so disappointed, but that was a winter storm you didn't forget right away!

Who else remembers this event? Patrice Lawlor, Rolf Staples, and Diane Hewes were three youth members that might remember this horrible storm.

THE GRANITE STATE GRANGER
 Official Publication of the
 New Hampshire State Grange
 Patrons of Husbandry
 Managing Editor - Hannah West
 3 Depot Road
 Chichester, NH 03258
 Tel. (603) 798-5783

NONPROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 EPSOM, NH
 PERMIT NO. 4