

Mini -Letter for Winchester #74

August 24, 2010

Another annual picnic, and if the weatherman is accurate, it may be cook in as well as eat in!

Many thanks to all for this annual event and to those who worked to make it possible and to those who came and ate. Next meeting will be September 14 – women to do the refreshments and what else I don't know. Listen to your worthy Master!

We have an unusually large group eligible for membership awards tonite. It is fascinating to me to note the family connections which I'm going to list as some of you may not realize. How true it is “in the Grange we are like one big family.”

- A father-in-law and son-in-law – Ernie Bengston and Jack Forchette
- 2 sisters, a brother and 2 aunts – Shirley Lemieux, Sandy Phillips, Barry Beecher, Arline Cote and Marion Beecher
- Brother & sister – Jerry & Gail Jewiss
- Mother & son – Angela & John Bolus
- Husband & wife – Ginger and Ed Chatfield, Joe & Betty Bement, Jean & Larry Hurlbut, Fran & Charlie Cooper

We have one who came from Vermont to get his seal – Jack Cable, and one from Glastonbury, John Waterhouse.

We have 3 really longtime members – I'll let Todd tell you about these great

longtime members. We have several 55, 60, 65 and even 70 year recipients. The total number of years being honored this evening is 1770 years!!!! Incredible!

Some time ago you may remember I tried to give Marie Kitch a Golden Sheaf – tonight she gets her Silver Star! Sue Kline should have gotten her Silver Star several years ago – you finally are getting it, Sue!

Blanche Sewell started her grange journey in Harwinton – then to Hope – and finally to Winchester. We're glad you made it, Blanche! Joe Cannavo has served as a judge for flowers for many years – which we greatly appreciate. Tonight he becomes a Golden Sheaf member – but that does not mean he won't be a judge next year. Thanks, Joe! Junior Grangers – Sandy French and Karen Papp – now Golden Sheaf! Ramona's sister, Julia Sullivan, is getting her 55 year seal! How happy that would have made Barb. And even if it hurts to climb those stairs, Marion Hurlbut will get her 65 year seal.

Several of those listed can not be here tonight which we regret. Can't be helped. Angie Bolus is house bound with live-in care. I talked with her on Sunday. She sends her love, which we return an hundredfold. Eddie Chatfield is not well at all and we hope he will be feeling better soon. I talked with him a minute – said, “How are you, Ed?” and he said “Lousy!” Explained how he feels in one word!

Mini -Letter for Winchester #74

August 24, 2010

Fran Cooper just cannot make the stairs quite yet. She has also had problems with her eyes – Pink Eye – it never rains but it pours, right, Fran! Hope you are better soon.

Please read this carefully

For many years Golden Sheaf members were excused from paying dues – like a reward. Around 1998 National Grange descended on this source of income and ruled that Granges now have to pay on *all* members including Golden Sheaf. Many of our Golden Sheaf have continued paying regular dues, or making generous donations. We sincerely hope that these new Golden Sheaf members will do the same. You know how vital the dues are to the treasury!

I wanted so badly to be with you all tonight but no can do. Believe me, I'm with you in my thoughts and proud of each of you.

Didn't even mention the Fair, which went very well in all ways, I understand. Sincere thanks to all those who helped in anyway – it takes many hands (and feet) to plan, carry out and clean up. Thank you!

Sorry to say Louise Warren's eye is still giving her problems. We do hope it will clear up soon.

What about degree work? Any candidates? Get out and talk it up. We

have lost several members this year. They need to be replaced – That's the wrong word – no one can be replaced – but the number can be returned.

I've gone on long enough – have a good time tonight and be proud of our “Awardees”

Miss you all – so much.

Marion

Report of the 2010 Fair

Dealers.....	\$310.00
Drawing.....	95.75
Bakery.....	112.00
Books.....	177.20
Vegetables.....	23.00
Games.....	32.75
Kitchen.....	140.40
<u>Grill.....</u>	<u>91.00</u>
	\$982.10

The Premiums were paid from the profits (about \$200.)

Next event – September 18, Super Prize Party (tea cup auction). We need donations of new items for the prizes. Nonperishable food, office supplies, knick-knacks, gardening or craft items, household products, etc. Anything and everything gratefully accepted.