

Winchester Grange #74 – Annual-Letter
News from your grange: Past – Present & What's Coming!
January 2010

Happy New Year to each of you –
Been quite a year just past – let's pray
for a better one up coming. Now get
comfortable, pour yourself a big cup of
coffee and let's chat.



I'll be selfish and start with
myself. Doing this for a good reason,
after fifty plus years I would like to
introduce you to your new secretary –
Sister Susan Addison. Sue has been
through the chairs – served as Master
and has been Lecturer for the past few
years. I have promised to help her and
one way will be this newsletter. Actually
she won't need much help and you will
soon find that she “nags” as well as I so
don't think it will be easier on you! In
fact I guess I will talk money to start
with. This time there is a separate bill in
this letter – as fast as you can will you
please return your dues and I promise to
return your receipt. Thanks so much. It
has been a bad year for the grange with
so many things becoming more
expensive. For you, also – I know. One
expense we didn't expect is dues
increase from the National Grange –
from \$4.75 to \$5.25 per member per
quarter! That is \$21.00 for the year. So
--- *please, Please, PLEASE* return your
dues as quickly as you can. And – of
course, we never refuse donations! (*hint,
hint*)

Lest I forget – there are some
“thank yous” I want to mention: Without
the help of these good folks we'd be in
BIG trouble!

Peter Marchand – a general all-
around great guy – if something is
wrong – we call Peter. One of the
greatest things he does is to check the
hall and fire company every morning to
be sure all is OK. That is *so* important
and is such a *relief*! Thank you, Peter.

Peter Mellas – for fifty years, Pete
has taken care of the plumbing needs for
you and me, the grange and for Camp
Berger – he has been so faithful, so
dedicated, so good to us! We've called
on him morning, noon and night and he
has always helped and Pete always got
things fixed up just right. Now he has
decided to “throw in the wrench”- so,
now we have a “new” face behind the
wrench – and I'll bet he will be just as
dedicated as Pete. That is Lonnie
Zelenkewich - “Zeke's Plumbing” -
some of you may remember his
children, Holly and Todd. The kids were
active in the Junior Grange a “few”
years back. Thank you to Pete and
Welcome aboard, Lonnie!

Phil Hurlbut – for years and years

Phil has mowed the lawn at the hall and keeps it very trim and neat. Phil had a knee replacement this past year. We wish him well. Thank you Phil! And speaking of the Hurlbutts – Marion had a bad experience this fall and nearly lost a finger! (from infection) She says she “hung on to it” and is doing quite well now. Sure hope that she is back to normal by June. For too many years to count, Marion and Julie have been providing the beautiful centerpieces at the Strawberry Festival. Thank you, Marion and Julie!

Ben Battista (12 years old), takes care of shoveling the front walk of the grange. He lives just across the road and zips over right after each storm to keep the walk clear. Thanks, Ben.

Charlie Cooper is another faithful helper. Since we can ever remember Charlie has been taking care of the trash from the hall. That is one of those “invisible” jobs that no one notices until it is *not* done. Then everyone notices! Thank you, Charlie!

Fran Cooper has had a bad year with two surgeries and much worry about Kevin, their son, who is not well. However, Fran keeps on going and going and going – have you noticed that she teaches a line dancing class at the Senior Center every week.

I could go on and on but I'd still forget someone so - “Thank You” to everyone who keeps the Grange going!

Now I guess I'll get to the *sad* news. The biggest blow this year to all of us was the death of Jerry Lemieux. He spent

many hours at the hall, painting, fixing and building things for us. He also, spent hours at Camp Berger making sure that everything was ship shape. Jerry left a *big* hole in the grange and is sorely missed. Last spring we, also, lost Margaret Carl and Elizabeth James. Our sympathies to both of their families.

Sara Bement has had a variety of ailments during the year and we hope 2010 will be better for her. She had a knee replacement, which went well, and also work on her back, neck and shoulder. Enough already – time to turn the corner and have a healthier year.

Louise Warren had trouble with her eyes but hopes to be well before long. We hope so too, Louise.

Dorothy Marino is still wheelchair bound so I wrote her and “challenged” her to a wheelchair race! Haven't had an answer yet, but I'll keep you posted.

Caroline Munroe is feeling much better but had a rough year. She was at Litchfield Woods at the same time that Sara was there. Two grangers in the same facility – that's too many. Caroline is getting around now and she is looking great! And – Sue Kline, Caroline's sister, is looking *thin*! All due to back surgery – but it seems to have worked! Stay healthy both of you.

Mildred Barshaw is another who has been in and out of the hospital but is now on the mend. Unfortunately, she is unable to climb the stairs at the hall so we haven't seen her in a while. Mildred is living at Chestnut Grove.

Ernie Bengston became a great grandfather and Dana Bengston Forchette became a grandmother when Ethan and his Becky presented Baby Addie! They (Ethan,





etc.), are now living in New Jersey. Nearer home than when they were in South Carolina. Addie comes for visits quite regularly. "Gramma" and "Great Grandpa" love that!

Talked with Curt Devanney to catch up on that family. He said that Ray and Carol are not well at all. He says "Hi" to all of his grange friends. Also, mentioned that Sean's son is in medical school! Sean is the only Devanney in Florida.

Heard that Sue Farnum is doing well with her "new" knees but is busy taking care of her husband. Hope that 2010 is better for you, Sue.

Betty Bement is another one having a "battle" with her knees. It has slowed her down but she still can *COOK!* She and Joe are so happy with their home in Drakeville.

When I was at Laurel Hill, Richard Galaise was there as well. He was our Master way back when the hall burned.

Suppose I mention Pomona right here. We are still fortunate in having a good strong Pomona. There are many having big troubles. Winchester has eight elected officers in Pomona. Fortunately, they are active, supporters and not just in name only. The new dues and fees for Pomona took effect this year. Dues are now \$5 annually and the fee for dinners is also, \$5. Certainly worth it in each case.

Pomona meets next on February 8, 7:30 at Whigville. Our grange could take home the attendance banner – why not try.

In case you had not heard – the Grange in general has lost the very first "peg" in the Pomona map. Hope Grange

#20 in Torrington, surrendered their charter to the State Grange. It is unfortunate but had to be done. No grange can function outside of grange laws.

Fund raisers this year were successful and did raise a lot of money. They will be continued so watch for the dates and please help as you are able.

Super Prize Party

One in the Spring and one in the fall. This is a tea-cup auction along with "super" prizes.

We collect new articles, "gently used" items, food and crafts, etc. for the auction and then several generous members have been providing the larger prizes. (\$10 or more) If you have any items that you would like to donate, we would be most happy to accept them. Call Sue (379-0210) to arrange for pick up. Thanks.

Strawberry Festival

Lots of folks did "take Dad out for dessert"! This is always held on Father's Day, June 20. We can use your help with hulling berries, baking items for the bake sale or working on the day of the festival. Let us know if you can be of assistance.

Annual Grange Fair & Flea Market

Saturday, August 14, come to the Center and enjoy the fair! Now is the time of year to plan your garden so that you can enter some flowers or vegetables in the fair. It is fun to "show off" your talents. Why not plan now to try your luck at the fair?

Holiday Bazaar & Cookie Walk

Saturday, November 13, plan on coming to the hall and get a start on your Christmas shopping and enjoy a nice lunch at the same time. The cookie walk has been a real successful "hit". Thank you to so many of you who have provided cookies these past two years. Watch the mail for details about



this year's Bazaar and Cookie Walk.

Items were collected for the soup kitchen and many items – toys and clothing – were given to Friendly Hands. They are always so appreciative – and the items are so *needed!*

Did you know that Dom Campi is working in the real estate business? Want to contact him? It is PO Box 43, Winchester Center, phone is 379-4597.

If you need a locksmith – call Vinnie Mele, 482-0361. He has helped out the grange by updating our locks and making sure that they are in good working order. His son, James, is our new Assistant Steward and is doing a wonderful job. James is another Junior Grange “Alumni”!

So many have asked me about Luwella Francis so I called and found that she is in Back River Bend, Georgetown, Maine. She lives near her son, Sam, who is a Lay Minister. Talked with Wayne Ellsworth who went up for her 101st birthday and said she was great. Happy Birthday, Luwella!

Camp Berger had a much better year in 2009. Director is Dorian Lockett and he will continue next year. Did you know the permanent caretaker is Richard Lemieux, son of Shirley and Jerry. He is doing an excellent job.

I hate to bring up the question of dues but we do have to emphasize the importance of getting our dues in. I know times are hard and we all have problems but we have to remember the grange has them, too. Dues are \$32.00 – no change. That is a

basic \$20 plus one dollar for each month of the year.

Told you last year that we were planning the installation of chairlifts at the hall. Well, you know what? The State turned our request down! It's a public building and needs an elevator, etc., etc., etc. So - we will be starting all over with our plans!

This has got to be the end or you will be so full of coffee you'll gurgle when you walk! Feels good to write to all of you even though my hand is permanently cramped. However, you are lucky. If I sent you my written copy of this you would not be able to read it! Thankfully, Sue is doing it on the computer. So – Happy New Year to each of you. Can't see each of you but you know you have my love and the love of your brothers and sisters in Winchester Grange!



Love,

Marion

THIS IS A BILL

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Winchester Grange Dues

Name(s) _____

Annual Dues \$32.00

Pomona dues (if you belong) \$5.00

Total - _____

Please make checks out to Winchester Grange #74, and mail to PO Box 155, Winchester Center, CT 06094

