



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

There really is no excuse for me not to have your annual letter out on time this year! All I have is time – so let’s see what I can do – and have the past year bundled up and delivered before 2011.

As many of you know I am at Laurel Hill Health Care Center in Winsted, as a resident. Bud comes in nearly every day, brings his paper work and has lunch with me. He is still able to take care of himself so is not a resident here. He is attempting to take care of things at home.

Not easy for him. Thank goodness for Sue Addison who does so many things for us; to Ernie Bengston and Gay Waldron who act as chauffeurs for Bud, and to Pam Salazar who takes care of his food, and the other friends who rally round when needed. How important friends are!

I am able to do the mini-letter for every meeting, which is a source of satisfaction to me as it makes me feel “a part,” and also as though I am helping a bit. And you know I’m nosy and want to know everything that is going on.

You know the following has to be first! We have to treat the financial aspect of the grange like a business – it is a business. If we have treasury problems we are in real trouble. That is why the fund raisers are so important and why your dues are vital! The dues have come in quite well this year but there are still a number not paid.

Please pay for 2010 if you haven’t – 2011 dues will be due as of Jan 1. Same old nag, nag, nag – but it is a necessity.

- Subordinate dues -- \$32.00 per person
- Pomona dues -- \$5.00 per person

And here is your bill.

THIS IS A BILL

Winchester Grange Dues

Name(s) _____

Annual Dues \$32.00 each

Pomona Dues (if you belong) \$5.00 each

Total - _____

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



So – Now let’s look at what went on. Get a cup of coffee or tea lean back and read on. First of all some “thank yous” – to those who sent donations with their dues. To those who help in so many ways – in so many places. Last year I mentioned some names and that is never a good idea – too easy to skip somebody and end up with hurt feelings! That will never do! So thank you to all who helped!

2010 has been a sad year for us with the loss of so many by death.

Phyllis Beecher Williams died early in the year; Theo Cone soon after. Richard Galaise, a Past Master, died in March. Fanny Rogers also died in March; as did Lewella Francis in Maine, at her son’s home at age 101! It was such a shock to lose Ben Thomas, dear quiet Ben who was doing so many good things for so many – Ben died as quietly as he had lived, but how he is missed! Charlie and Mary Anne Nash moved to Florida a number of years ago and we learned that Charlie died on June 2nd. According to Chuck and Peggy (son/daughter-in-law) a Memorial Service was held for Charlie in Winsted. Mary Anne is in a health care center in Florida. In August we lost John Waterhouse, who came to us from Manchester Grange and Gene Berlinski in October. Our love and sympathy has been and is extended to all these families, and to Winchester Grange. So many losses!

On to the happier things: Pam Wright won 1st place in the State Grange Muffin Contest! Romona Fassio won 2nd place in the State Grange Afghan Contest! Pauline Fancher, sister of Don, became 100 years old on August 7, 2010! Jim Rotondo was appointed Superintendent of Roads and has been very busy! Blanche McCarthy Sewell was elected first woman President of the Lions Club in Winsted. Kim Mele was elected Ceres of the Connecticut State Grange. Victor Salazar (actually from Eureka Grange, but seems as tho he is part ours) was elected President of the Future Farmers for the State of Connecticut. Sarah Bement (daughter of Joe and Betty) got her PHD – Psychology – and to anyone else who deserves it, Congratulations!



HAPPY NEW YEAR



In August our annual Picnic and award night was especially impressive. We had a full house – a great picnic and special recognition of Silver Star – Golden Sheaf and members for years beyond 50. The total years represented by those receiving awards that evening was 1770! What a record! Win Hurlbut received recognition for 85 years of membership.

Emphasis has been placed on Community Service – even more than usual this year, as the need seems greater than ever. A number of toys were collected at



Christmas last year and again this year, as well as clothing for all-ages of children. Staple and canned foods are collected consistently and the Pomona has a great collection of foods at Thanksgiving time.

Other forms of community service are being done more and more. I repeat – unfortunately the need is great.

Activities have been active (how do you like that?) with the usual and a bit more. All of these were successful and helped keep the treasury at a fairly even keel. We served the usual two Pomona dinners and the Pink Sash in April. These are not really fund raisers, but do help a bit.

Fund Raisers were:

Super Prize Party – in May and again in September. Strawberry Festival on Father’s Day in June when a goodly crowd does “take Dad out for Dessert.” The annual Fair in August did very well this year with even greater entries. Hopefully people will plan to sow more seeds of flowers and vegetables and bake more goodies this year. There is always a market. A Tag Sale was held in October with great results and in November a very successful Holiday Bazaar and Cookie Walk. There were 21 vendors at this event and bushels of cookies, which appeared by the tray full and vanished by the bagful! Most sincere appreciation to all those who worked so hard in so many ways – for so many events. That’s what it takes!

I have to mention those of our members who have been sick for any length of time. Of course there’s not enough room to list a broken fingernail or a cold. We hope all of that type of thing gets better fast – but we’ve had some major things and a little mention might help. Fran Cooper has a new knee and due to her determination (stubbornness) it is working well. She has started her line dancing classes again. Caroline Monroe and Sue Kline have had their turns in the hospital but are both at home now and doing OK. Caroline is having a major problem with an eye – we hope this improves soon. Matthew (Sue’s son) is in the hospital at this writing with breathing



problems. Hopefully that will be behind him by the time you are reading this. Louise Warren has been fighting eye problems also – with one eye really losing its sight. She can’t drive, of course, so her good sister Lavonne, is the chauffeur. Sara Bement has had a series of problems, but I’m glad to say she seems to be on the mend. Right now Beadie Broggi is here at Laurel Hill. I saw her this morning and she looks great. Maybe a short stay for Beadie. Eddie Chatfield is not well – in his own inimitable way he says he feels “LOUSY”! Angie Bolus did get to the awards night but she has problems getting around. It was so good to see her there. Marion and Phil Hurlbut have both had leg problems, Phil is doing very well – Marion is very determined! Betty Bement is at home – but is using a wheelchair and walker to get around. Joe Mori is here at Laurel Hill.



Surely there are others who have been sick or should be mentioned. Don’t know – can’t tell. If so, consider yourself thought about with care.

We are very proud of the number of pink sash wearers we have in Winchester Grange – appointed at the recent State Session. At the new State Master’s right hand, his General Deputy is our own Todd Gelineau.

Deputy for Mountain County Pomona is Victor Salazar. Sandy Phillips is on the new Junior Committee, Terri Fassio is the Co-Chair of the Information and Public relations Committee.



James Mele was appointed to the State Youth Committee. Our congratulations to all of them. They have work ahead!

Must be some sort of a record when you know Karen Papp, Sandy French, Gail Jewiss and Jerry Jewiss were all Junior Grangers and became 50 – year Golden Sheaf members in August! That has to be true commitment to remain a member for that long. The grange does have a hold on you and your heart!

Should also tell you that Jack Cable came down from Vermont to receive his Golden Sheaf. He did stay overnight with Dom and Joan Campi. And among the Golden Sheaf recipients was Joe Cannavo, our flower judge for many years and fairs. Sorry to report that Joe’s wife, Emily is traveling by wheelchair and walker these days. (I can sympathize, Emily)

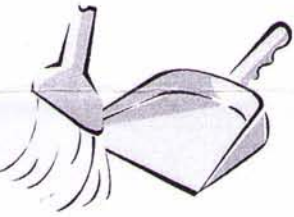
Due to the fact that Sue is going to California I had to turn my begging for help with his laptop to Victor Salazar (Eureka Grange, and Earl and Sandy Phillips’ Grandson. A wonderful helper.) who agreed to type up this epistle. Bud will run it off on our copier. Dana Forchette will do my labels and I will do the rest. Don’t forget I love to get pictures – keeps me up-to-date on the families. The address here is Laurel Hill Health Care, 108 East Lake St. Winsted 06098. If you are a Pomona





member you can include your Pomona dues (\$5.00 each) in the Winchester Grange dues (\$32.00 each) and any amount of a donation (?) I know – nag—nag—nag! I will try to help Sue by sending out dues receipts. (least I can do)

I want to give a compliment to our Master Todd Gelineau. He not only has his own printing business, he is very involved as General Deputy and was Pomona Deputy the last four years, runs an excellent meeting, is Master of Pomona, works on all the events, but also makes sure our Grange Hall is clean and looking good. Craig and Sue do a great deal of cleaning up as well and they have their hands full too. Pete Marchand keeps an eagle eye on the



continue to be proud of our hall, and it does take a lot of help. How about it? Live Nearby? Would be great! Speak to Todd or Sue, it would be appreciated.

mechanical end (furnace, heat, waterpipes) and Lonnie Zelekovich is there to do any plumbing pronto – if needed. It would be nice if you'd offer to sweep or dust – tell the Master you could help. We need to

In the paper I read about a project of the Beardsley and Memorial Library in Winsted. Due to the season they are calling it "Stocking Beardsley." I talked with our Linda Senkus who is Director of the Library and she explained the Library is asking for monetary donations to purchase new books or if you have new books contact the Library to confirm if they have it already or if it could be used. Good project – perhaps you can help. Contact Linda at the Library 860-379-6043.



I've rambled long enough – unloaded all I know, your coffee (or tea) must be gone, so all I can say is I miss being at the meetings and seeing you. My phone number here is 860-379-1415 and it is right by me!

Bud and I both wish each and everyone of you Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year!!

My love is with you,



Marion
✱



That's All, Folks!!