



# MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXIII NO. 2

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March–April, 2017



## GRANGE MONTH 2017 PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Grange celebrates its 150th birthday throughout the year 2017; and

WHEREAS, The Grange has played a major role in the development of rural America during three centuries, advocating for legislative protection for farmers through the Granger Laws in the 1800s; promoting research and education to improve agriculture through the Cooperative Extension Service and Land Grant Colleges and working to expand mail delivery and electricity to rural areas in the 1900s; and encouraging the expansion of broadband internet service in the 2000s; and

WHEREAS, The Grange continues today to be an active force in thousands of communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, The Grange provides leadership, motivation, and education to bring together rural and urban families and offers them opportunities for personal growth and individual expression; and

WHEREAS, The Grange emphasizes civic responsibility and the involvement of people in the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, The Grange promotes service to the local community and volunteerism to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of its members and friends; and

WHEREAS, Grange members everywhere wish to celebrate and express their pride in the legacy of their highly respected organization;

THEREFORE, I Betsy E. Huber, Master of the National Grange, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2017 as Grange Month, and further I do encourage the participation of each Junior, Community, Pomona, and State Grange in this annual celebration of Grange Month by planning and executing programs and activities that will highlight the Grange in their respective communities.

Betsy E. Huber, National Grange, Master

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# Michigan Grange News

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- Mar. 1     Ash Wednesday
- Mar. 12   Daylight Savings Time
- Mar. 17   St. Patrick's Day
- Mar. 20   1st Day of Spring
- Apr. 9     Palm Sunday
- Apr. 14   Good Friday
- Apr. 16   Easter Sunday 
- Apr. 22   Earth Day



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## Chaplain

## Getting into Heaven

Jeff Swainston 2589 144th Ave., Dorr, MI 49323 Tel: 616-405-6921 jeff@jnsphoto.biz

The story is told of a Sunday school teacher whose assignment was to explain to the six-year-olds in his class what someone had to do in order to go to heaven. In an attempt to discover what the kids already believed about the subject, he asked a few questions.

"If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale, and gave all the money to the church, would that get me into heaven?"

"NO!" the children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would *that* get me into heaven?"

Again the answer was "NO!"

"Well then," he said, "if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children and loved my wife, would that get me into heaven?"

Again they all shouted, "NO!"

"Well then, how *can* I get into heaven?"

A boy in the back stood up and shouted, "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD!"

As leader of the worship design team at our church, we have recently been visiting other churches in our area scoping out what they are doing in their worship services that we might be able to glean to make ours better. At one church I visited we were given a book by Andy Stanley called, "Since Nobody's Perfect, How Good Is Good Enough?" This reference of course is to being good enough to enter the gates of heaven when we die. For those of you who like to read it is good book and to the point.

Many of us want to believe that our family and friends who have not confessed Christ will be accepted into heaven because they are basically "good people." In the book the author shatters this false belief by reminding us that heaven is not filled with good people, but with people who have received God's grace. This powerful teaching on grace will bring you closer to God and will introduce your family and friends to the heart of the Christian faith.

Ephesians 2:4-10 says.... But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich with mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast.** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Until next time.... May God bless you all!!

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

~Numbers 6:24-26

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## National Grange

Throughout this year, the National Grange is asking all Granges to have a celebration in honor of 150 years of service to America. Since Grange month is just around the corner, this may be the best time to consider having a Grange celebration. However, you are not limited to do this during the month of April. Since we are in the Northern climate we may want to consider having a celebration during the summer when it is slightly warmer. (While we still encourage you to take part in the Grange month programs your Grange has normally taken part in.) We at the State Grange would appreciate you informing us if you are planning to have a celebration so that we could make an attempt to be there and we can pass along some footage and information to National Grange. If you choose to post pictures or information about your celebration on social media, please include the tag “#150yearsofGrange” to your post.

In the most recent edition of the National Grange Electronic publication called “**The Patrons Chain**” there is an article that may be of interest to some of our Granges. The article talks about a possible grant program that can be used to upgrade your Grange hall’s kitchen to a commercial kitchen. Your Commercial kitchen could be used to help entrepreneurs get their small business that requires a commercial kitchen up and running, by renting them the kitchen. This could be used to further supplement your financial wellbeing as well as a means of getting new Grange members. If you do not currently receive “The Patrons Chain” contact National Grange Communications Director Amanda Brozana and see about getting added to the email list.

## Michigan State Grange 150 Years of Service

In 2023 the Michigan State Grange will celebrate 150 years of service to the State of Michigan. In preparation for this great celebration we will have; the Executive Committee has approved getting some pins made through Monroe Classics that will be gold in color and the shape of Michigan with the Grange emblem in the middle of it. They will sell through the Michigan State Grange office for \$5.00 each. The funds will be used to help with the cost of the celebra-

tion.

In the next few weeks I will be asking people to serve on the planning committee for the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration, so when the phone rings and it is me on the other end, just say “I’d be delighted!” It really does make the job easier.

## State Officers

During the convention, a resolution was passed for me to assign Granges for each of you to visit. In the next couple of weeks, I will be pairing you each up with Granges to visit. I would like each of you to make contact with the Master of the Grange you are to visit and see if there is anything you are going to be expected to discuss or to do at the meeting you are attending. If there is anything they expect you to do that you are not familiar with, please let me know and I will guide you through whatever it is they expect of you. I would hope that the Granges expect you to do more than just sit idly on the side of the room.

## GOOD DAY! Magazine

If you subscribed to the National Grange’s new quarterly publication GOOD DAY!, they are making their way to mailboxes. If you haven’t subscribed, it is never too late to do so! The cost is only \$14.00 for the year.



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**PERHAPS I'M GOING DEAF**

Perhaps I'm going deaf—  
 The words that seem to be falling  
 From your mouth  
 Come out so garbled  
 That even when you  
 Repeat them  
 Time and time again  
 What I'm hearing  
 Is "Let me tell you  
 Yet another lie."—  
 Is that really your intent?  
 To continue the lies—  
 Or has my hearing  
 Degraded to the point  
 That those words  
 Are the only ones  
 My senses  
 Can detect?

I shake my head  
 Do my best  
 To clear it  
 To make way  
 For the message you seem so intent  
 To convey —  
 But no amount or clarification  
 Seems to come through—  
 Once again,  
 Interpreting your words,  
 "I'm Lying, lying, lying"  
 Is all I can hear from you.  
 It appears  
 That I most assuredly  
 Am going deaf —  
 For suddenly  
 I cannot even hear  
 Any sound you make —  
 It's just not  
 Getting through...  
 It seems to me  
 That  
 Being deaf  
 Is certainly preferable  
 To hearing the lies

**ARE YOU BECOMING DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING**



If you have been thinking about your hearing and whether you are having hearing difficulty take a look at the following situations and see if you can relate to any of these:

- ◆ **Are your family complaining they have to repeat themselves or that you have the TV up to loud?** Hearing loss can creep up on you, so gradually, over a number of years you don't notice the impairment right away and it can be the people around you that notice it before you do.
- ◆ **Are you turning the TV up for clarity but even then it still doesn't seem clear enough and generally the only people to be speaking clearly are those reading the news?** If you have a hearing impairment, turning the TV up may still not help with giving you the clarity you are after because you aren't picking up the full range of sound.
- ◆ **Can you hear much better when someone is facing you?** Without knowing it, you may have started to lip-read and read facial expressions more, we all do it to some degree but with hearing loss it becomes a more crucial part of understanding what is being said.
- ◆ **Do you feel yourself refraining from going into background noise situations due to having more difficulty hearing there than you used to?** Listening with background noise is difficult, even for those with normal hearing but with a hearing impairment it becomes a lot harder to mask out background noise.
- ◆ **Are you frequently misunderstanding what is being said and it is becoming embarrassing?** If you cannot hear particular frequencies of certain letters or words you start guessing what has been said from what you have hears. This can result in saying yes to things that you would have said no to or sadly missing the punch line to a joke.

Difficulty hearing conversations, your favorite music or programs on TV can be very frustrating. It can also be tiring and hard work due to the increased effort of concentration needed to listen, focus and lip read. It can be very easy to blame the person talking but recognizing the signs of hearing loss early can mean you can look at solutions to help improve your quality of life sooner. A chat with your GP is a good starting point or booking a hearing test with a hearing professional.

**What Causes Hearing Loss?**

- ◆ An illness or infection
- ◆ Certain medicines
- ◆ Loud sounds, like from machines or blasted music
- ◆ Being born with ears that didn't form well (on the inside or outside)
- ◆ Your genes
- ◆ A very hard blow to the head
- ◆ Problems during birth

**Could I Have Hearing Loss?**

- You may have hearing loss if you:
- ◆ Feel like people mumble
  - ◆ Often ask people to repeat what they said
  - ◆ Turn the TV up so much that other people find it too loud
  - ◆ Can't hear the doorbell

## Family Activities

## Quilts

Marybeth Bower, CO-Director 708 Ralston Road, Colon, MI 49040  
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Guess who's having a Birthday? It's our beautiful home state of Michigan who turned 180 on January 26th. In past years there used to be Michigan Week Parades, Mayor Exchange Days, Special Programs and the like. Lately, it seems like there is hardly any mention of it. Here is a couple of ideas I had how our Granges could do something to mark the milestone. Obviously, there are lots of ideas for Lecturer's programs on so many subjects such as Michigan history, famous Michiganders, tourist spots, Michigan music, etc. And how about a Michigan potluck?! Have each person coming to the meal bring something, with the main ingredient being a Michigan Ag product. Who wouldn't want to come to a meal that might include pork chops, asparagus, baked beans, apple pie, peach cobbler, or even a bowl of Kellogg's Frosted Flakes? And make it special! A program and meal like that would be a great time to invite someone to come to the Grange with you and have a membership application in hand!!!

I found the following in a book I bought at a used book sale a couple years ago for .25. *provided by Tom Smith*

### THE AMERICAN QUILT

Quilting is the process of sewing together layers of fabric and filler. The bottom layer is called the backing, the middle layer is the filling or batting, and the top is called, well, the top. The layers are sewn together to create cozy bedding or clothing.



People have been quilting for a long time. As ivory carving from around 3600 B.C. depicts a King in a quilted cloak. Excavation of a Mongolian cave revealed a quilted linen carpet...and a pair of quilted slippers found near the Russia/China Border dates to the eighth or ninth century.

Patchwork, the process of piecing together scraps of fabric to make a larger whole, was widely practiced in Europe in the 1600's because it was economical. Old clothing and blankets were often recycled into something entirely new.

The roots of the traditional quilt began to take hold in Europe and America in the 18th century. The oldest existing piece is the salton-stall quilt. It was made in Massachusetts in 1704, and though tattered, provides a window to the quilt making styles of the era.

Amish settlers arrived in the early 1700's in Pennsylvania and their quilts are known for their bold geometric patterns. Our concept of patchwork quilts has been greatly influenced by the Amish.

By the time of the Revolutionary war the English textile industry was exporting thousands of tons of cotton to America. These fabrics made up the majority of the clothes and quilts of the era.

It is a misconception that people made quilts just for practical purposes. In fact, most quilters engaged in the hobby because they loved the craft — not just because they needed a blanket. By 1820 sewing groups were widespread, allowing people to work together to sew quilts pulled across large frames. Many of these close knit sewing bees (or circles) of yesterday still function as quilting guilds and clubs today.

Though some quilters specialize in whole cloth quilts, most of the quilts made today are the patchwork variety. Pieces of fabric are sewn together to make a single block; multiple blocks are then

stitched to each other, creating the quilt top.

One of the most admired style of quilt comes from Hawaii. These quilts incorporate just two colors, usually red and white, and one large cutout design sewn directly onto the quilt top. The striking geometric shapes and intricate stitching have made Hawaiian quilts popular among quilters and quilt admirers for two centuries.

Quilting in American experienced a revival in the 1970's, largely due to the country's 200th birthday. As part of the celebration, women and men alike took a renewed interest in quilting, and in folk arts and crafts in general.

The surge in the popularity of quilting turned a humble past time into the \$3.3 billion a year industry it is today.

The current movements toward more simple eco-friendly lifestyles will likely keep quilting alive for years to come.

## Community Service

## Contests

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Helen Mudd 1757 Stewart Road, Midland, MI 48640  
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Welcome to spring! Hopefully. At the time of this writing, it has been in the mid 50's for 6 days now. My dogs are missing the snow!

Helen and I would like to encourage Granges to nominate a person in their community for the Dedicated Worker Award and a Grange member for The VIP – Very Important Patron Award. Both of these awards has importance to the Granges presenting the award.

The purpose of the Dedicated Worker Award is to honor someone who has made a difference in the community. Giving public recognition to those who have given outstanding effort is important. This recognition is our way of saying "Thank You" for a job well done. Though this award will no longer be judged on the state level, we strongly encourage Granges to honor someone in their community. We encourage Granges to submit their award winner for others to view at the Michigan State Grange session.

The purpose of The VIP – Very Important Patron Award is for Granges to nominate a member who has made an outstanding contribution to their Grange in the past year. Only one entry from your Grange may be submitted to the State Grange per year. Submit a biography and a summary of the contributions your VIP has made to your Grange. If possible, also submit a photograph of your VIP. Your submission should be sent to the Community Service Director by September 10th. This will be judged and an award presented at the Annual Session of the Michigan State Grange.

**Reminder:** The size of the community service books has changed for this year. This reminder will be in each of my articles! I do not want to hear "I didn't know that" when it comes time to submit your book. The maximum size that will be allowed is a 2 inch binder. Contact me if you have questions about this new requirement.

Remember – Granges that have active members and the help of non-members in their community service projects are getting their name out in the community. This is very positive and cheap advertising for the Grange!

Wishing you a happy spring! Tricia and Helen

START SOMETHIN'

When your Order doesn't grow,  
Dues a' comin' awful slow,  
**Start somethin'.**

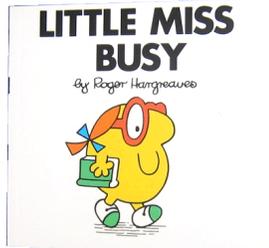


Don't act like you're full of dope,  
Don't lose every bit of hope,  
Don't just sit around and mope,  
**Start somethin'.**



Don't just open up and close,  
There's young members, think of  
those,  
Things are slow enuf, goodness  
knows,  
**Start somethin'.**

Find a subject for debate,  
Don't go home until it's late.  
Start a 'visitin', Fix a date,  
**Start somethin'.**



Get your social committee  
workin',  
Take a hand and don't be  
shirkin'.

When you're loafin', trouble's  
lurkin'.

**Start somethin'.**  
Start a sale or a dance,  
Have a picnic, take a chance.  
Ask your brothers, friends or  
aunts.



**Start somethin'.**  
Start somethin' that will take,  
No matter if you lose or make,  
But for thunderation's sake,  
**Start somethin'.**



THE SHIP GAME

1. What ship do you find in the country?
2. What ship is the most romantic?
3. What ship applies to your guests?
4. What ship belongs on the bench?
5. What ship belongs in church?
6. What ship is most hated in this country?
7. What ship is needed by political parties in the country?
8. What ship is shared with somebody else?
9. What ship is bought and paid for?
10. On what ship does Einstein travel?

1. Township
2. Courtship
3. Friendship
4. Judgeship
5. Worship
6. Dictatorship
7. Leadership
8. Partnership
9. Ownership
10. Scholarship

NATIONAL GRANGE MONTH  
APRIL 2017

This year Granges across the country are being asked to do or try something different for Grange month. So put your thinking caps on and see if you can plan a special event. Take pictures of your event and write an article about it.

In the program booklet, under the Lecturers category you'll see one of the stories that you can write about is on the same topic, something different your Grange did this year and write about it. What a Great opportunity to get an entry done for State Session along with having a fun Grange event!!

HAPPY GRANGE MONTH  
EVERYONE !!!!!  
!!!!!!

## GRANGE HAPPENINGS

### St. Joseph/Cass/Kalamazoo Pomona Grange #4

TRYING TO KEEP BUSY!! That just might be the motto for the St. Joseph/Cass/Kalamazoo Pomona Grange as we strive to find a role for the Pomona Grange in today's changing Grange structure.

Meetings are held monthly, at the Grange fairgrounds in Centreville and always features good Grange food and fellowship, accompanied by meeting, committee reports and a program on various subjects.

We've also been active in community service with the placement of a marker on the fairgrounds to commemorate 100 years of the Grange fair. This year we hope to erect three flagpoles at the marker: an American Flag, State of Michigan Flag and of course a Grange Flag.

Under the leadership of community service chair Lena Young, members brought food articles to be given to the local food bank at Christmas and a Collection of used eyeglasses which were given to the local Lions Club for recycling and further use.

Our Pomona is made up of Colon, Burr Oak and White Pigeon Granges of St. Joseph County, Community of Cass County and West Oshtemo of Kalamazoo County.

We may not be big in numbers, but we try to keep busy.

### Secretary

### Corrections

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### Corrections to the Roster:

I can remember years ago when working with Sister Beulah Winter, her saying when we would send the roster out each year....well that is outdated, someone who is listed in here has moved, changed a phone number, passed away or quit the Grange before we could even get these delivered. I think of that each year...only some of the time its because I don't get updated information from the Granges and I don't always catch the changes.

Well this year there are some "mess-ups" that have been brought to my attention and these I can't blame on the info that was provided or typo's but just mistakes I made. So here are the changes that need to be made in the 2017 Roster.

- ◆ Page 2 Steward: Barb Castle, 8157 Paige Road, Bel-laire, MI 49615
- ◆ Page 7 All of the officers/Dept. Chairmen who live in Kalkaska should have a zip code of 49646
- ◆ The Secretary should be listed temporarily as Barb Castle and all mail should be sent to P.O. Box 282, Alden, MI 49612
- ◆ Page 9 under Home Grange— the Membership Chair-man is presently same as Secretary

If you find others, please let me know....I have never claimed to be perfect, however, I can't read minds either.

### Studley Grange #1174 Presents Dictionaries



Studley Grange #1174 of Midland presented 132 dictionaries to the third graders of Pine River and Floyd Elementary Schools in November. Pictured are the students of both schools receiving their dictionaries.

The Grange members feel that this is a very worthwhile project. The teachers are very appreciative of receiving these dictionaries and the students are excited about them and read them as books.

This is the 14th year Studley Grange has donated dictionaries to third graders in the Bullock Creek school district. We have given away over 2000 dictionaries at this time.

### Junior & Youth/Young Adult And Membership Director

#### *Wanted/Needed*

Both a Junior/Youth Director and a Membership Director are needed for the Michigan State Grange.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact Chris Johnston, Master at

989-666-6648 or msgprez19@yahoo.com

Kevin Young, Director 60822 Creek Road, Niles, MI 49120  
 Tel: 269-684-3870 E-mail: Kevin60822@sbcglobal.net

Is it Spring yet?!?! The way the weather has been this winter so far it is almost like winter and spring are fitting. December was the bad month so far, at least for my corner of the mitten. It is only February 9<sup>th</sup> so I know there is plenty of time for winter to show up! Spring is around the corner just by looking at what is coming in my mailbox lately. Seed catalogs and the 2017 Murry McMurry Hatchery catalog have been coming for the last week or more! If looking at these types of catalogs do not put you in the mood for Spring I don't know what would!

This crazy winter weather is affecting my chickens just as much as it is affecting us humans. They don't know if they should be hanging out under the heat lamps one day or move about the coop because it is warm outside in the mid 40s! The weather changes are causing them to go off from laying eggs too. I am happy if I get 3 eggs in one day from 10 hens! Soon enough we will be getting plenty of eggs as I know it is not just my small flock of birds having issues this winter. Anyone I talk to that has chickens is seeing the same thing.



Well that is enough for now on my chicken farming. This is the perfect time to be planning your gardens for the coming growing season. You need to have time to decide what you want to plant so you can be ready when the ground is ready for preparing and planting in the early summer. You want to look at the different varieties of each vegetable you intend to plant. Of course you have to be careful that you don't plan too much for the size plot you have for planting. All your plants need their space and overcrowding is not a good thing in a vegetable garden. Many plants can spread out of the area that you think is enough and crowd into another area which causes problems for other plants not being allow to grow right.



Don't forget to plan what you would to grow for the [Agriculture Department Growing contests](#) that are new in your Program Book. Best pumpkin under 50 pounds, any variety of winter squash and sunflower head with 2" stem. Be sure to check out the Program Book for all the class details and rules. I hope we will have a good turn out as this will give everyone in the Grange a chance to show what they can do! If you plant pumpkins and have enough, be sure to see what

Family Activities has for a class using pumpkins as well!

Well that is it for now. Good luck with your garden planning and happy growing until later!



**Legislative**

**Washington Politics**

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**WASHINGTON POLITICS - NOT AS USUAL**

Washingtonians are still talking about the phenomenon commonly referred to as "Middle America." This is the vast expanse of geography between the coastal metropolises where folks feel ignored and forgotten. Rural economies continue to decline, small town businesses falter, factories shutter, hospitals close, schools consolidate and younger generations move away. Middle America's citizens turned out to vote for change and against the status quo. They voted not so much as Democrats or Republicans but as a common populace looking for hope and opportunity right where they are.

The Trump Administration aims to tackle some mighty big problems and quickly seize on some long-awaited opportunities. These include repeal, replace and transition the Affordable Care Act, control illegal immigration, reform the tax code, renegotiate trade agreements, rebuild the nation's infrastructure, and reduce federal regulations. National Grange policy is strong on all these issues which will require considerable time and attention from Grange leadership and staff. To accomplish most of these fetes, the President will have to enter uncharted territory for him...negotiations with Congress. While the President can implement some of his agenda by executive action, the heavy lifting on major issues cannot happen without Congress.

The President's choice for Secretary of Agriculture, Georgian Sonny Perdue, has good support on both sides of the political aisle and should be easily confirmed. Following Perdue's confirmation, the Deputy Secretary appointment should come down rather quickly but this position also requires Senate confirmation. Chances are good the Deputy Secretary candidate could come from either California or the Midwest. Nine Under Secretary and Assistant Secretary appointments, all requiring Senate confirmation, will follow. But don't expect USDA appointees to be in place any time soon. They're caught in a FBI background check logjam that's government-wide. The full regiment of top-tier leadership at USDA may not be in place for several months and could stretch well into summer.

\*\*This taken from parts of the National Grange Legislative update.