



POMONA NEWS

2018 CELEBRATING A NEW YEAR

Reflections

We have a tendency to reflect upon past accomplishments along with the opportunities we missed this time of year. Like a rite of passage, we move forward with great expectations of a New Year.

Homer Chamberlin in his out going speech as Master of Fernwood Grange reflected on his and the Grange's accomplishments as he presided over the membership. His short term of leadership was filled with accomplishments, the hall was a hub of community activity, the members took active interest not only in the Grange itself but in the community. They gained members and Homer wrote often for the Newberg Graphic. The title "Homer on the Grange" pulled the reader into Grange life, Grange member or not, the community had the chance to view the Grange as it really is -

A community center revolving around several individuals donating their time

and talent to the community.

Elizabeth Sammons, secretary of Leedy Grange in her December 31, 1930 report reflected on the membership of Leedy:

"It is the faithful performance of small duties and obligations that lifts one from the ranks of the unknown into the fields of opportunity for higher things, and it is those small little services that make life richer..."

January of 2018, Master Marilyn Reiher reflected on Winona Grange's 2017 accomplishments, the lessons learned and their success in the past year. She outlined Winona's future path as they moved into a New Year, by using the the wisdom of past reflections, the hope for future endeavors and the present.

As Grange members we have the gift of hindsight; we can look at past accomplishments of our peers who labored before us. We gained wisdom from past success and failures. We have an extended family. We have a solid foundation built upon trust and the insatiable appetite for information and education, what other group gathers with so many committee reports?

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2018

Degree Day
Sunday
February 25, 2018
McMinnville Grange
1pm - start time
First 4 degrees
Pot Luck to follow
5th degree after Pot Luck

Good of the Order Meetings
 Begin 10:00am
 Hosting Grange to supply refreshments

*May 26, 2018 - Leedy Grange

*September 22, 2018 Scholls Grange

*November 24, 2018 Hillsboro Grange

*February 23, 2019 -Winona Grange

Pomona Grange Meetings
 Begin 10:00am
 Lunch \$5.00

*January 27, 2018- Kinton Grange

*April 28, 2018 - Aloha Grange

*July 28, 2018 - Winona Grange

*October 27, 2018 - Washington Grange

*January 26, 2019 - Scholls Grange

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PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY BANK ON IT!

Education, Railroads, Better Roads, Farming, Land Conservation, Legislation, Co-Ops and Fire Insurance to name a few accomplishments of the Grange.

Banking?

It wasn't easy for the farmer to get a fair interest rate. Historically we have a wealth of written information about the injustice of interest rates and high transportation costs the farmer endured to get his product to the masses.

The farmer also endured exorbitant fire insurance rates, which is why we have a well documented history of Grange Insurance.

Banking on the other hand is a known anomaly lost to history.

We can find tantalizing evidence of Grange Banks, whether in name or affiliation. But, did you know Washington Pomona Grange had formed a credit union?

From oral history, we find that "Washco Credit Union" was first ran from the home of Avice Robinson.

Eventually an office was secured. From the minute books of the Washington-Yamhill Pomona we learn in the fall of 1982 Helen Brewer becomes president, Victor Berger became a new board

member and Jo Rhoades new manger of Washco Credit Union. Which from oral history we learn, was being run out of an office on Allen Blvd by this time.

The Credit Union like many Grange endeavors, was limited to Grange members. Like many, it fell victim to its limits. In 1984, the board of directors voted to merge the Washco Credit Union with the Grange Federal Credit Union in Clackamas, which was not received well with the Pomona Grange of Washington and Yamhill county. As we explore past minutes books and dig into the memories of our members, with any luck we will eventually have a complete story to share.



REFLECTIONS CONTINUE FROM PAGE 1

As Grange members, we have the opportunity to reflect. We are also given the opportunity to make our communities and our own life all that richer.

As our individual Granges look forward to a fresh start, so does our Pomona, State and National Grange.

Let us outline a path to accomplishments in the year ahead. Celebrate our families, our communities and be thankful for our membership in this wonderful organization.

WHAT'S IN YOUR ACCOUNT?

John Knox from Forest Grove Grange would say to the new members -

"You get what you put into it..."

Our membership is like a bank account.

We get what we put into it.

That also can be said about our individual life.

What have we put into it so far?

Is our spiritual bank account full?

Are we putting into the wrong account?

Reflection and evaluation --

Your 2018 challenge -

Making a 2018 road map.



Side note:

I was recently informed that the advice was first given by Faye Mills.

As we explore our history, I am sure we will find others who have given out the same words of wisdom.



Another type of bank account we have the habit of putting time, money and effort in is the Food Bank.

FOOD BANKS

At the end of each meeting we are reminded to .."be quiet, peaceful citizens, feeding the hungry.."

Our Granges throughout district 3, reaches out to the communities in profound ways.

The interest we gain from this kind of account is far better than any traditional bank account.



AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Forest Grove Grange #282 - Gave out 504 personalized dictionaries to grade school students in the Forest Grove schools.

Hillsboro Grange #73 - It is reported they have new members.

Kinton Grange #562 - The owners moved the old farmhouse onto the property next to the Grange, near the old Kinton school house and the Grange hall. The Grange now has less room to work with and will have to rethink the Annual Antique Fair. The antique fair has been very successful, with vendors inside and out, the Grange was utilizing every inch for outside vendors and parking.

Kinton is also having second thoughts on their sausage and kraut dinner, of which they were disappointed in the turn out.

Leedy Grange #339 - The hall is painted and now they are looking into having the hall floor done.

McMinnville Grange #31 - They remodeled the upstairs bathrooms.

Scholls Grange # 338 - A new cement wall has been put in place to save the building from collapsing in the back. They are having a Craft Fair on February 10th and will have burgers for sale along with pies.

Tigard Grange #148 - Their 150th celebration went well. They are also looking forward to having a haunted house this year.

Washington Grange #313 - A box of candy was sent to the troops in Afghanistan.

Winona Grange # 271 - They boxed up the seeds they received from Lake View seeds of Denver, Colorado. The seeds are ready to be distributed as orders come in.

Please note that the Washington-Yamhill Pomona Grange will be conducting Degree Day at MacMinnville Grange -

Bring your new members and join us at McMinnville

Sunday, February 25th - 1:00PM

Pomona: The goddess of fruit trees, gardens, and orchards.

Flora: The goddess of flowers and the season of spring.

Ceres: Roman goddess of agriculture, grain crops, fertility and motherly relationships.

In the first degree Ceres tells us to “take of this corn, but save a portion of the best for seed.

In our daily lives we give little thought to how our existence depends on such a tiny object.

How much thought do we put into the gift of sharing and storing seeds?

I had the pleasure of visiting Winona Grange during their January meeting. What struck me was how many lives were touched by the simple act of their seed program.



Above is a photo of The Worlds Seed Bank located on a remote Arctic Island.

This facility is where all of the world's seeds are Stored. The seeds are securely stored and are meant to be used to Replace seeds in times of man-made or natural disasters.

In the second degree, Patrons of Husbandry are given encouragement by the Worthy Master, which we need to be remindful as we move forward in our future endeavors - “Cultivate with **HOPE** the seed thus planted,”

Seeds are sent to community gardens and Granges throughout the state. They even had requests for seeds outside of the state of Oregon.

Last year they sent 37 boxes filled with seed packets.

Thank you notes from all over came in. One from a community garden in Sisters told how the produce was donated to the food bank.

A tiny Grange hall in Tualatin has the ability to reach out and touch so many lives.

Think about it -

A tiny seed can make a huge difference



POMONA

NEWS