



POMONA NEWS

Washington-Yamhill Pomona Grange

GRANGE CONNECTIONS



150TH ANNIVERSARY

I was 12 years old when Skyline Grange burned to the ground in 1974. We lived right next door to the fire pond. The Grange hall was a few miles west of us. The night of the fire, the Grange hall proved to be a few too many miles away from any water source, as volunteer fire fighters and paid fire fighters worked side by side fighting a hopeless battle with too little resources against a resourceful fire that refused to be put out until the last timber was a pile of ash.

In the end the hall was a total loss and a new one had to be built.

Grange hall fires are not all that uncommon. Skyline Grange #894 was a new building compared to Ash Butte Grange #802 which caught on fire in 2012. Like Skyline Grange, Ash Butte Grange was the center of the community. Unlike Skyline Grange the members were able to retrieve a few items before the hall was completely destroyed that Easter morning in 2012.

Down the road a good few country miles from Ash Butte Grange, years earlier Redmond Grange #812 became a pile of ashes one cold December night in 2001. Like Skyline Grange. The fire was late in the evening and no one was able to save the contents of the hall.

A few years ago South Fork Grange #605 joined the ranks of Grange casualties due to fire in February of 2015. Like its predecessors, the community rallied and a new home was made for the Grange members and community.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018

Scholls Grange #338
16917 SW Hillsboro Highway - Scholls
Thursday - November 1, 2018
7:00pm
Paint Night Fund Raiser / Register at paintnite.com

Tigard Grange #148
13770 SW Pacific Hwy, Tigard 97223
Friday & Saturday - November 23 & 24
Friday 8-3 - Saturday 9-4
Holiday Bazaar

2019

Officer Installation

January 1, 2019
New Years Day
Abernethy Grange #346
15745 S Harley Avenue
Oregon City, Oregon 97045
Clackamas County Pomona Master Ed Luttrell has invited Washington/Yamhill Pomona to a joint officers installation.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2 Grange Connections Cont.

PAGE 3 Grange Mutual Insurance

Above photo: Craig Cuttoff, Past Volunteer Fireman from Skyline Fire Department. Behind him is his house which burned to the ground 2015, while living in St. Helens, with his family.

Bottom right, Craig Cuttoff with Robert hosing down the horse arena at the Legion Hall west of Skyline Grange on Quarry road (1983)





Sandlake Grange 546

Inside Sandlake Grange you will find wood burning stoves on each side of the hall. A beautiful advertising curtain hanging over the stage and woodwork throughout the hall.

Below

A photo from Fernwood Grange. The ladies are cleaning brick for the fireplace room. The room was used for Junior Grange members.

GRANGE CONNECTIONS CONTINUE

It doesn't take a Grange hall fire to destroy valuable records. Scholls Grange #338 lost their records in separate house fires. A fire at the Flint home destroyed the records between 1903 and 1917. When the Millers home was destroyed by fire it took with it the records of 1928 to 1938. Then some more records were lost to fire when John Walker's home burned. Fire was a common occurrence, and became the basis for one of the first successful co-ops formed by the Oregon State Grange, Lower Columbia Relief Association, which became known as "Grange Mutual Insurance Company" before filing bankruptcy in 2002.

Recently at Scholls Grange during the Good of the Order meeting a

question was asked about Grange property. The short answer is all property belongs to the Grange.

When we take office we are told that all items given are to be returned to the Grange and our successor when we leave office. However, as noted, records are taken home and can become a casualty of an unfortunate event. The good news is, sometimes those records are tucked away and forgotten until the family decides to clean house almost a century later as in the case of Columbia Grange #89, Organized December 30, 1873. Descendants of James Imbrie found the minute book of Columbia Grange and donated it to the Washington County Historical Society. Some of the early records of Hillsboro Grange

can be found at the Historical Society also.

Inside Scholls Grange one can find traces of Sherwood Grange #272 which merged with Scholls in 2007. The same can be said for Beaverton Grange #324 and Bethany Grange #418, Beaverton Merged with Leedy Grange #339 after meeting at Leedy Grange for several years. Beaverton Grange lost their hall to "progress" and lost their charter after merging with Leedy Grange. Neither one of the Granges wanted to give up their charter, it was a long and emotional meeting before Beaverton Grange consented to surrendering their charter.

Continue Next Page

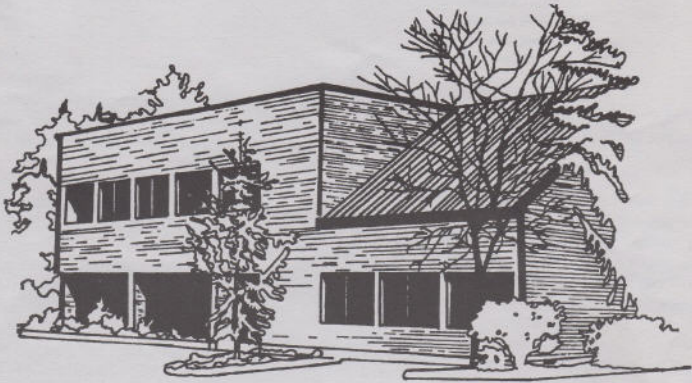


Fire Prevention & Safety Tips

1. Have smoke alarms installed. ...
2. Have fire extinguishers. ...
3. Watch the wiring. ...
4. Be careful cooking. ...
5. Monitor and maintain appliances. ...
6. Keep flammables away from flames. ...
7. Use your senses if you smell smoke. ...
8. Establish escape plans. Post those plans for everyone to see.

GRANGE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

7105 S.W. Varns St., Tigard, Oregon 97223-0330



*"The Oregon Company...With Oregon Directors...
for Oregon Grangers."*

GRANGE CONNECTIONS CONTINUE

Because of the Grange community and Grange Halls; raising from the ashes bits and pieces of other Granges can be found in Grange Halls around the state. At times we are lucky enough to have families stumble across an item from years gone by and donate it to the historical society as the Imbrie family did. Other times not everyone will know what they have and take it to the Goodwill or place it in a garage sale.

The simple answer to the question about Grange property. It belongs to State Grange.

The real answer, after 150 years, Grange items are every where...

The connections of our fraternal and the community have quietly disconnected and distance us as time passes. Not all communities have out grown the need for a Grange Hall, others just need to be reminded how much of a valuable asset that big old empty looking building is, preferably before a fire takes it to the ground.

Above photo: Grange Mutual was located on Varns Street in Tigard before moving to their last headquarters to the right.

Headquarters to Grange Mutual also served as home to Fanno Creek Grange #962

Grange Mutual

The Oregon State Grange members found a need for fire insurance and began offering such a product through the Lower Columbia Relief Association in 1885. During the Oregon State Grange Session in 1890 the direct connection between the Lower Columbia Fire Relief Association and the Oregon State Grange ceased; but the Association insured only Grange members in good standing, this made a bond of union between them and the Association became a valuable auxiliary of the Grange. The Lower Columbia Fire Relief Association served both

Oregon and Washington Patrons until 1894 when the Washington Fire Relief Association (now known as GIA) was formed. To this day GIA continues to insure Granges and their members.

January 4, 1924 the Lower Columbia Fire Relief Association changed its name to Grange Fire Relief Association. Oregon Grange members saw their insurance company change its name again in 1952 to Grange Mutual Fire Insurance Company and again in 1955 to Grange Mutual

Insurance Company. Grange Mutual expanded its line of business in 1988 to include auto insurance. Still limited to insuring only Oregon Grange members in good standing, Grange Mutual had a huge marketing handicap. The Grange was losing its membership base and by the dawn of the millennium Grange Mutual found it necessary to close its doors and another chapter in the Granges co-op history ended



Fire of 1928

Reprint of an article from

the Summer of 2009 Leedy Newsletter



Above
South Fork
Grange

Top Left Corner
Ash Butte Grange

C. M. Granger, district United States Forester at Portland, ordered all National Forests in Oregon to be closed Monday, September 10, 1928. Forest fire conditions were critical as the long drought-ridden summer slowly faded into autumn. On Tuesday, September 11, a gentle rain surprised the growing crowd as they lined the streets of Portland in anticipation of the unveiling of the fall fashions from over 130 retail merchants. In Hillsboro, contractors were working on the Washington County Court House. While down the road the Public Library breathed a sigh of relief as the roof had just been completed on the 1914 building before the rains set in. Farmers had some of their crops in, but some cuttings still lay on the ground eagerly soaking up the sweet moisture.

Friday September 21, the alarms began to sound as fire broke out at the old William Bagley place, the Hop house that was being dismantled broke out into flames. A second alarm went out at 2:30 in the afternoon as Henry Miller's House went up in flames, south of Witch Hazel School. The blaze fanned by winds soon spread to the barn and surrounding fields. Neighbors quickly responded hoping to save their own homes from the burning menace. It was later learned that Mr. Miller's fire insurance was to lapse the very next day.

The following day, Saturday, September 22nd smoke was seen coming from Bear Creek; fire had broke out in the Mt. Hood area. Flames fueled by strong East winds devoured the dry timber. From Klamath Falls to the South; Chellem, Washington to the North and all that laid

in between, smoke filled the skies as timber succumbed to the hot cinders, even Fernwood School house in Yamhill county fell victim.

Locally fires burned houses, barns and a garage just below Skyline between Cornell and Springville. Poor Ben Croni was severely burned while trying to save his house from the hot flames.

The smoke filled skies and burning hot fires of 1928 may have gone unnoticed if not for Leedy's faithful secretary who recorded the fact that very few members attended the September meeting, they were out fighting fires.

As for Henry Miller, South of Witch Hazel School. He would learn a valuable lesson in the wisdom of holding an insurance policy, his was to lapse the day following the fire. We can only hope he took that lesson and used it wisely.

I write this not only as a bit of history but also as a contrast to our current situation. 1928 you will note isn't much different than 2009 (or 2018). Drought like conditions plague the long hot summer days. Leedy Grange still sits on the far corner of Saltzman and Cornell. The Grange members still meet once a month and donate their time and money to charitable causes. Cedar Mill is now grown into a large community, the hall has shrunk, but not much has really changed in Leedy's purpose as a Grange and as we look forward to a promising future, it would be wise to remember the lesson of Henry Miller.

Do you have a story to share?

Please tell us

We will be happy to pass it on

Theresa Thorud, Lecturer

tthorud@hotmail.com

POMONA

NEWS

Washington-Yamhill Pomona Grange