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## Master's Message...

# New Year, New Officers, New Directors

Greetings from your new State Master. I am greatly humbled by the honor of being elected State Master by the delegates of the 92nd State Grange Session. My husband and I have been in a whirlwind since being elected. We had the pleasure of representing Oklahoma as delegates to the National Grange in Reno, Nevada this past November. We were paired with a mentor since this was our first National Session. Our mentors were Roger Bostwick, Kansas State Master and his wife Melanie. Having Roger and Melanie as our mentors was very special since we had both been State youth Directors of the Grange several years ago.

## Dates To Remember

**Send Grange News** to Marvin Purdy, 4202 W. Doolin, Blackwell, OK 74631, phone 580 363-5171, fax, 580 363-4296. Next issue deadline is March 1, 2008.

**Late March or Early April, 2008** -Degree Day to be announced.

**June 30, 2008** - Scholarship Applications due. Turn in to State Master.

Oklahoma had 20 members who flew to Reno, Nevada to take in the events of the National Grange Convention. Deloris Walker of South Coffeyville Grange and Donna Keeton of Thompson Grange represented Oklahoma in the talent event known as "An Evening of Excellence". We had three youth attending the youth activities including the tour, costume party and other activities.

Also, we had three members who took the 7th Degree. I was a court lady and Kay was a deputy. Over 120 members took the 7th Degree for the first time.

Kay served on the Transportation Committee and I served on the Conservation Committee. This was a very interesting and educational experience. We were very proud to have several of the resolutions submitted by the Oklahoma State Grange passed without much change.

One of the resolutions that were passed by the delegate body of the National Grange was a dues increase. Beginning in January of 2008, the amount to be paid to the National Grange will be increased by \$2.00 for the year, and then in 2010 the dues will again be increased. The

State Grange will pay this increase until the delegates of the Oklahoma State Grange can address this dues increase.

The 2011 National Session will be here before we know it. We will be working with the State Granges of Texas, Nebraska, and Kansas to host this meeting. The Masters from these states will be meeting in the near future to begin to make plans. This undertaking will require participation from many members. If you have never attended a National Session, this will be a wonderful time to show our state's hospitality. The dates for this convention will be November 10-20, 2011. And it will be in Tulsa at the Southern Hills Marriott. This will mean "all hands on deck". We will have a committee, which will work at getting this organized, but it will take more than this committee to make it a successful session. I plan to write a column in the paper each quarter addressing planning and where help is needed. Trust me, your help will be needed.

Degree Day will be here before you know. Cherryvale Grange has offered to host the Degree Day, however at

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## Master's Message

Continued

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the time of this publication the date is not known. It usually falls near the end of March or first of April, so keep your calendars handy so you can plan to attend.

The State Grange awarded 5 scholarships to the following Grangers: Clayton Krehbiel and Katrina Oldham from Cherryvale Grange, Andrew McCann and Ashley McCann from Goodwill Grange, and Tim Keeton from Thompson Grange. We are very proud to be able to assist these Grangers in furthering their education. It is important to invest in our members and remember these scholarships are open to all Grangers who have met the requirements of the application, which will be due June 30. Be watching the March edition of the Sooner State Granger for the application form.

Also, at the State Session we honored Past State Master Don Broyles and his wife Pat of Clear Creek Grange when they were named "Granger of the Year". I do believe this is the first time I have ever seen Don speechless. This couple has accomplished so much work for the Grange over the years and we wanted to take the opportunity to recognize their many years of hard work. A committee prior to the State Session selects the "Granger of the Year". The committee will be seeking nominations between now and August, so if you have someone who should be named "Granger of the Year" please forward that name to Lena Shufeldt, Committee Chairman.

Dee Proctor is our IT Director and has been working to update our web

page. I hope that the web page will be a site for communication between publications of the Sooner State Granger. So please contact Dee when your Grange is hosting an event and he will post it on the calendar.

As your State Master, I have an open door policy. If you have an issue or concern that you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me. I have unlimited state and nationwide calling so call and

leave your name and number and I will be happy to call you back. I will also ask for your suggested solution to the issue.

I would love to visit your Grange, so I welcome invitations.

Fraternally,  
Yvonne Meritt,  
State Master

Phone 405 262-3354  
email meritt73@gmail.com

Yvonne Meritt

## First Woman State Master Is Elected

Yvonne Meritt, delegate from Paririe Grange #334, was elected State Master at the 92nd Session of the Oklahoma State Grange in Tulsa, Oklahoma on October 20, 2007. Mrs.

Meritt has been a Grange member for 39 years. She has held several other state offices prior to being elected State Master.

She is married to Kay Lee Meritt, and they reside on an acreage near Union City, Oklahoma. where they raise llamas on their small farm. Mrs. Meritt is a Registered Nurse and currently is employed by the Oklahoma State Department of Health where she is the Medical Systems Preparedness Coordinator for the Terrorism Preparedness and Response Service. Mr. Meritt is an airplane mechanic and is employed by Midcontinent Airmotive just west of Yukon, Oklahoma. They have one living son, Kris Meritt, who is married to Morgan. They live in Del City, Oklahoma. Kris and Morgan have a son, Ryan who is 2 years old. Yvonne and Kay also had a son Nickolas, who died in 1987.

Mrs. Meritt is the daughter of the  
*(Continued on next page)*



Kay Meritt, First Man and Yvonne Meritt, State Master.

# New Master Is Not A Mister

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late Raymon and late Jewell Haymaker of Hennessey, Oklahoma. She joined Oak View Grange #198 near Hennessey, Oklahoma when she was 14 years old. She was the Oklahoma State Grange Princess in 1971 and served on the National Youth Team the following year.

Mr. Meritt is the son of Edna Merit and the late Fred Meritt of Pond Creek, Oklahoma. He joined the Grange when he was 14 years old and was a member of Riverdale Grange #314 near Jefferson, Oklahoma. After moving to Yukon, Oklahoma, Mr. and Mrs. Meritt moved their membership to Prairie Grange # 334. Mr. Meritt is currently the Master of Prairie Grange and Mrs. Meritt is the Secretary.

## Junior Grange

By Ann Keeton

Hello Fellow Grangers,

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Ann Keeton, and I'm your new Junior Grange Leader. I would like to say thank you to our new Master, Yvonne Merritt, for giving me this wonderful opportunity to lead our next generation of Grangers. I would also like to thank Martha Shufeldt for the outstanding things she has accomplished with the Junior Grange.

And I'd like to say a Special Thank You to all the Junior Grangers who attended the State Session.

The winners were as follows: For the Decorated Wall Hangings in the 8-10 category- First Place: Katelyn  
*(Continued on next page)*

## Lecturer's Lesson

By Deloris Walker

Season's Greetings from your newly elected Lecturer. The year is quickly coming to an end, but there are activities on the horizon for the new year.

We will be hosting the Corn State Lecturer's Conference, probably in mid April. When the arrangements have been made, I will be passing that information along and hope that many of you will be able to attend. I will be announcing the contests

for State in the next newsletter. At National Session I was able to attend some very interesting, informative meetings. I'll be using some of their ideas for our State Session. I have some big shoes to fill in this position, so I will need your support. I'll try to do my best.

Merry Christmas To All  
Deloris Walker  
State Lecturer

## State Grange Session Contest Winners

There were 71 Photo contest entries in 4 categories: Tell a story, Closeups, Remembering Oklahoma History (old photos), and Oklahoma Centennial. Prizes awarded were \$15 for 1st place; \$12 for 2nd place; \$10 for 3rd place; \$8 for 4th place, and \$6 for 5th place. Old Photo participants each received a \$5 participation award.

### Close Up

1st - Camille Krehbiel, Cherryvale Grange. 2nd - Yvonne Meritt, Praire Grange. 3rd - Phillip Larmon, Union Grange. 4th - Pat Broyles, Clear Creek Grange. 5th - Becky Larmon, Clear Creek Grange.

### Tell A Story

1st - Morgan Meritt, Prairie Grange.  
2nd - Mary Krehbiel, Cherryvale

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## Youth Report

By Billy and Lena Shufeldt

This year is coming to an end and it has passed so quickly. The New Year will be approaching soon. As the new State Grange Youth Directors, we would like to say Hi to everyone and let everyone know any comments and suggestions are welcomed. We hope we will do a good job for everyone and hope to see a good turnout of youth at Degree Day in late March or early April.

Also, you need to be thinking about the Youth Conference in July of 2008. Nebraska will be hosting it. Those

dates also should be announced in the next newsletter. Any Youth wanting to be in their speech contest needs to prepare for that, and might go ahead and bring your speech to Degree Day.

Billy and I look forward to seeing you all at Degree Day and we look forward to a new and successful year. We hope to see you all there.

Fraternally,  
Billy and Lena Sufeldt  
State Youth Directors

## Chaplain's Corner

By Sheila Shafer-Conrady

### Holiday Focus...

We've all had Thanksgiving, and I hope we all stopped to enjoy a special dinner with family and friends and reflect on the blessings God has given us this year.

Christmas is right around the corner and the Advent Season is upon us.

The expectation of gifts, visiting family, brightly lit trees, and softly sung carols are on our minds as we make our preparations.

The New Year looms near with

resolutions to make and changes to come and maybe a little toast to 2007. So as I pondered these holidays, I asked myself what are they good for. Well, this is what I came up with:

They focus us on three things. Thankfulness, Hope, and most importantly, Others.

So as we make our way through this holiday season, be thankful for what you have, keep hope for peace, love and joy in your heart, and be mindful of others - the less fortunate,

our families, and the troops serving our country.

If we focus on these three things, God's blessings of a thankful heart, hope to see us through our daily struggles, and others who offer friendship and love will be ours in 2008.

God Bless You In The New Year  
Sheila Shafer-Conrady  
State Chaplain

## Junior Grange

By Ann Keeton

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Bailey; In the 11-13 category- First Place: Kennedy Bailey.

Picture of yourself with favorite foods 5-7 category- First Place: Avery Couch; 8-10 category- First Place: Jace Couch.

Oklahoma Collage 5-7 category- First Place: Avery Couch; 8-10 category- First Place: Katelyn Bailey, Second Place: Jace Couch; 11 - 13 category- First Place: Saxon Kuehn, Second Place: Sheyian Borgstrom, Third Place: Kennedy Bailey.

Essay 5-7 category- First Place: Avery Couch, 8-10 category- First Place: Katelyn Bailey, Second Place: Jace Couch; 11-13 category- First Place: Kennedy Bailey.

The Reading Program winners were as follows: First Place: Saxon Kuehn, Second Place: Bailey Shufeldt, Third Place: Sheyian Borgstrom.

We have many things ahead of us for the coming year. Our first event is Degree Day. I would like to encourage all Junior Grangers and their families to attend. There will be many activities, prizes, and fellowship. The new theme for the Junior Grange is "Reading Across America." I ask that all Juniors attending Degree Day bring their favorite book. The contests we will have for the Juniors are as follows: Egg Carton project- Take an empty egg carton and turn it into whatever you desire.

We will also continue in the Jump-a-thon for the Kelly Farm. Last year, we raised \$1,000. We will also start a new contest for the Juniors, and that is a speech contest. The speech can be over any subject from your favorite hobby to what the Grange means to you. You will give your

first speech at Degree Day. The winner at Degree Day will receive a fully paid trip to the 2008 Youth Conference in Nebraska, where you will move on to the next part of the competition. I encourage everyone to give a speech at Degree Day and the Youth Conference. I cannot wait until Degree Day. I hope to see all of the Junior Grangers there! If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 620 515-0004 or by email at [akeeton@pittstate.edu](mailto:akeeton@pittstate.edu).

Fraternally,  
Ann Keeton  
Junior Director

# JUNIOR GRANGE

Carrying The  
Grange Tradition Forward!

# Oklahoma Grange Activities

by Debbie Borgstrom and Aliene Taylor

Happy Holidays to everyone! We are your new Activities and Community Service Directors. We have some great ideas for the coming year.

At Degree Day at the Cherryvale Grange 349, the activities for adult women will be:

## Flower Arrangement:

### Silk Flowers

1st Price	\$25.00
2nd price	\$15.00
3rd Price	\$10.00

### Fresh Flowers

1st Price	\$25.00
2nd price	\$15.00
3rd Price	\$10.00

For adult men, the activities will be:

## Flower Planter

1st Price	\$25.00
2nd price	\$15.00
3rd Price	\$10.00

## Wind Chimes

1st Price	\$25.00
2nd price	\$15.00
3rd Price	\$10.00

We hope to see you at Degree Day, and are looking for new ideas for the State Session. Any ideas will be welcomed. We look forward to hearing from you. May God bless you and your family.

Fraternally,  
Debbie Borgstrom and  
Aliene Taylor  
State Activities Directors

## GRANGE ACTIVITIES

Fostering  
Community Service,  
Traditional Skills,  
and Recreation

## Past Activities Directors Year End Report

Our year as co-directors has flown by quickly. We appreciate all who entered our contests at State Session. In the men's candy contest, the winners were: 1st Place Carl Shufeldt, 2nd Place Kent McAninch, 3rd Place Richard Volz, 4th Place Floyd Buffington, and 5th Place Brad Keeton.

Women's Apple Pie contest: 1st Place Cheryl Shafer, 2nd Place Martha Shufeldt, 3rd Place Donna Keeton, and 4th Place Marie Volz.

Age 4 and under Trail Mix: 1st Place Seth Buffington, 2nd Place Jacklynn Keeton, 3rd Place Elaine Buffington.

Men's decorative birdhouse: 1st Place Marvin Purdy and 2nd Place Don Broyles.

Birdhouse: 1st Place Floyd Buffington. Cross Stitch: 1st and 2nd Place Scheneista Procter. Canvas Needlepoint: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Place Wilma Purdy.

Christmas Ornaments were made by Yvonne Meritt and Green Country Pomona. The Christmas Tree and decorations we purchase have been given to a mother and her two daughters in Bluejacket. We were very happy with the donation (mostly pennies) for the Happy Hands School for the Deaf. We ended up with a total of \$1,050.00. Thanks goes to Oklahoma State Grange and Oklahoma Grange Mutual Insurance for matching our donation.

We know that you will support the projects of the new co-directors of Oklahoma Grange Activities, Debbie Borgstrom and Aliene Taylor.

Fraternally Submitted  
Deloris Walker and  
Donna Keeton  
Past Directors

## State Grange Session Contest Winners, Participants and Entertainers

*(Continued from page 3)*

Grange. 3rd - Yvonne Meritt, Prairie Grange. 4th - Camille Krehbiel, Cherryvale Grange. 5th - Lisa Larmon, Union Grange.

### Remembering Oklahoma History

Participants were:  
Larry Shafer, Cherryvale Grange, Cheryl Shafer, Cherryvale Grange, Donna Keeton, Thompson Grange, Don Larmon, Union Grange, Kay Meritt, Prairie Grange, and Yvonne Meritt, Prairie Grange.

### Oklahoma Centennial

1st - Don Larmon, Union Grange.  
2nd - Jennifer Larmon, Union Grange.  
3rd - Jennifer Larmon, Union Grange.  
4th and 5th - Don Larmon, Union Grange.

### Evening of Talent

Entertainers were:  
Seth Buffington and Andrea Buffington, Clear Creek Grange. Deloris Walker, Lee Ann Bailey, Kaitlyn Bailey, Kennedy Bailey, Bailey Shufeldt all of South Coffeyville Grange, Donna Keeton, Thompson Grange, and Yvonne Meritt, Prairie Grange.

## Secretaries Take Note

By Donna Keeton

Season's Greetings,

It is hard to believe that the State Session is over and a new Grange year has begun. The State Session was a great success. There were nine Subordinate Granges and two Pomona Granges who had at least two representatives from their Subordinate Grange. Goodwill #13, Clear Creek #84, Bethel #129, Big Cabin #156, Cherryvale #221, Prairie #334, Union #349, South Coffeyville #351, Thompson #352, Kay County Pomona, and Green Country Pomona. These Subordinate Granges will have their fourth quarter dues paid. The only thing that their secretaries will need to send is the Quarterly report for the fourth quarter, and the Initiation fee for any new members.

There were three candidates who took the Fifth and the Sixth Degrees.

This year there were 32 resolutions that were worked on during the State Session. Thirteen of the resolutions were sent on to the National Convention. Good job, delegates, and everyone who worked on the resolutions!

I hope next year that we can have

more Subordinate Granges representing their Granges during the State Session. It is always a rewarding and an educational weekend with a lot of fun mixed in.

This year I was able to go to the National Grange Convention in Reno, Nevada. I was able to talk to some of the people from the National Grange to see what the responsibility of the host Granges would be. We have a lot of work ahead of us.

There were 20 members from Oklahoma that also attended the

National Grange Convention. I know that they all had a lot of fun. There were two members from our state that took the Seventh Degree. Congratulations go to Jerry and Aliene Taylor. Also Deloris Walker and I were in the Show of Excellence, and it was a lot of fun.

I am working on a new roster book for our state and the 2007 Proceedings booklet.

Fraternally Submitted,  
Donna Keeton  
State Secretary

# Oklahoma Grange MUTUAL INSURANCE Association

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Grange Mutual Insurance Association  
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Marvin Purdy, President, Robert Bailey, Vice President,  
Mike McCann, Secretary, Brad Keeton, Treasurer

