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Marvin Purdy, Editor
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Master's Message...

Degree Day Tops List Of Grange Spring Activities

I hope everyone has survived the February snow storms. Ann and I were stranded at the hospital in Tulsa during the first snow storm, with Keykeigh Loraine Keeton. Keykeigh Loraine was born January 30, 2011 at 6:00 am, she weighed 8 lbs and 14 ounces and was 19 ½ inches long. Ann and Keykeigh are doing great.

It is my sad duty to inform everyone of the death of one of our Past

Dates To Remember

April 9, 2011- Degree Day, 10 am Fairgrounds, El Reno.

June 1, 2011 - News items for next Sooner Granger are due. Send to Marvin Purdy, 4202 W. Doolin, Blackwell, OK 74631 or Fax 580 363-4296.

June 17-19, 2011- Great Plains Conference. Clarion Hotel, Broken Arrow.

July 16, 2011 - Nationwide Grange Gathering. More details later.

October 14-16, 2011- State Session, Southern Hills Marriott, Tulsa.

November 8-12, 2011- National Session.

First Ladies Wilma Purdy on January 6, 2011. Wilma was a member of Bethel Grange and was a 75 year member. We will all miss her. The State Grange will be having a Memorial Fund for Wilma, which will go to the National Grange Name Protection fund and or the National Grange Youth Fund. There will be a form in this newsletter to fill out to designate which fund you would like to donate to, if you or your Grange would like to give a donation. Please send the donations to the State Secretary Jeannie Harrington, Rt.1 Box 108, South Coffeyville, OK. 74072.

April 9, 2011 is a date to mark on your calendar; that will be the date of the Degree Day. It will be hosted by Prairie Grange at the Canadian County Fairgrounds Education Building, 220 N. Country Club Rd, El Reno, OK; interstate 40 west Exit 123. It will begin at 10:00 a.m. I hope to see you at the Degree Day, there will be fun, fellowship, contests, door prizes, and lunch will be provided.

Another date to mark on your calendar is June 17-19, 2011. That will be our Great Plains Conference. It will be the first conference where

there will be Lecturers, Youth, Juniors, and Membership workshops. The following National Grange Officers and Directors will be there: National Grange Lecturer Pete Pomper, National Grange Youth Director Charlene Esphenshade, National Grange Junior Director Diane Szkutak and someone representing the National Grange Membership Team.

I know our directors are making plans where it will be an exciting and an informative weekend. We will also be having meetings about the National Grange Convention for 2011. The cost for our members is \$50.00 for adults and \$25.00 for youth and juniors. There will be a form to be filled out and sent back to me in this newsletter by May 25, 2011.

The last weekend of February Brad and I attended the State Master's Meeting in Henderson, Nevada. There were informative workshops about press releases, media on the internet, facebook, blogs, tweets and you tube.

While there, National Grange Lecturer Pete Pomper announced that on July 16, 2011 there would

Continued on page 2

Master's Message

Continued

Continued from page 1

be a Nationwide Grange Gathering where all the Granges or State's Granges would do something on that day. We will be thinking about an activity that everyone can attend or do. There will be more information about the gathering in the next newsletter. If anyone has any ideas about what to do or where to go let me know. Keep that date open this summer.

Don't forget that April is Grange Month; I hope that everyone is planning something to have your Grange recognized in your community. If you need materials from National Grange now is the time to order the items to get them to you on time.

The National Grange has put three discontinued cookbooks on a C.D. The cost is \$12.00. They

also have a few more National Grange music C.D.s available.

It is not too early to start planning on going to the State Meeting in October. It would be great to have more participation in the contests for the Lecturer's, Grange Activities, Youth and Juniors. Also now is the time that we need to look around and see what needs to be changed in the legislature in our state and in our nation's capital. Start working on those resolutions and send the resolutions to

the state secretary. The Oklahoma State Grange meeting will be October 14-16, 2011 at the Southern Hills Marriott, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Don't forget that we are helping to host the National Grange Convention in November; we will need a lot of help and volunteers all week long. We will also need donations for the goody bags that everyone gets when they come to the convention. It will also be at Tulsa Southern Hills Marriott.

SEE YOU AT DEGREE DAY!

Grange Activities

By Debbie Borgstrom and Aliene Taylor

Fellow Grangers

We hope everyone is doing well after a tough winter. With spring coming up it means Degree Day is also arriving next month.

The contests for Degree Day are:

Men: A wood flower planter.

Women: The dessert of your choice.

They will be judged first, second, and third. The desserts will then be eaten. I hope everyone plans to attend, and we have a great day of fellowship.

Fraternally,
Debbie Borgstrom
Aliene Taylor
Activities Directors

Wilma Purdy Memorial Fund	
Wilma Purdy Memorial Fund	\$ _____
National Grange Name Protection.....	\$ _____
National Grange Youth Fund	\$ _____
Name _____	
Grange Name _____	
Address _____	
Send form with your donation to: State Secretary Jeannie Harrington, Rt.1 Box 108, South Coffeyville, OK. 74072.	

**Patronize Your Own
Grange Mutual
Insurance
Association
and Save.**

**Marvin Purdy, President
Robert Bailey, Vice Pres.
Dee Procter, Secretary
Donna Keeton,
Treasurer**



In Loving Memory Of Our Grange Sister Wilma Maree Purdy

Wilma Maree (Elledge) Purdy, 87, of Blackwell, Oklahoma passed away Thursday, January 6, 2011 at Hillcrest Nursing Home, in Blackwell, Oklahoma. She was born November 12, 1923 to Ray and Ruth Ellege on the homestead west of Blackwell that William Payne's family staked out in the Cherokee Strip Run.

Wilma attended Star Country School and graduated from Blackwell High School in 1941.

She married Marvin Purdy on March 27, 1944 in Blackwell, Oklahoma and lived in rural Blackwell for awhile before moving to Oxford, Kansas in 1950. While living in the Oxford area, Wilma was active in the first United Methodist Church and served as a 4-H community leader in Cowley County. Wilma and Marvin moved back to Oklahoma in 1964. They celebrated 66 years of marriage be-

fore her death.

Wilma was a member of Blackwell First United Methodist Church,

Alco Club, Domestic Science EHU, Kay County Free Fair, and the National, State, and Bethel Grange.

Survivors include her husband, Marvin of the home; one son, Ray Purdy and his wife, Dena of Garden City, Kansas; one daughter, Marvis Gaddie and her husband Jim of Winfield, Kansas; seven grandchildren; and thirteen great grandchildren.

Memorial Service was Saturday, January 8, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. at the Blackwell First United Methodist Church with her grandson, pastor Mike Gaddie and pastor Kristen Brown officiating. Arrangements were under the direction of Blackwell Funeral Home, Blackwell, Oklahoma.

Memorials may be made to the Blackwell First United Methodist Church, and to the Oklahoma State Grange in support of the National Grange Name Protection Fund or the National Grange Youth Fund, or both.



Dear Fellow Grangers,

I hope everyone is surviving this crazy Oklahoma weather we have been having. We have went from blizzards, to tornados in a matter of days.

We have a busy year ahead and the meetings are about to begin. The first meeting we have is Degree Day on April 9. It will start at 10am at El Reno at the 4-H building. We will be filling out forms for Youth Ambassadors, Young couples, and for the Drill Team. We will also be picking parts for State Session.

The next event we will be hav-

ing is the Great Plains Conference on June 17-19th in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma at the Clarion hotel.

Youth Report

By Ann Keeton

The cost will be \$25 for the Youth. Adults-\$50 and Juniors-\$25.

We will have workshops, vespers, and the Youth will be going to a ropes course. Start working on your speeches and Sign-a-Song now. It will be a great weekend.

The applications and permission forms will be in this paper and are due by May 25th. You have to have both forms no matter what, and if you are under 18, your parents need to sign the permission parts on both.

We have many more events the rest of the year, that I will put in the next paper. I can't wait to see everyone again. I hope everyone has a safe Spring Break and I hope the weather cooperates for everyone.

Fraternally,
Ann Keeton
Youth Director



Legislative Report

by Yvonne Meritt, Legislative Director

Rita Matthews, Paul Matthews and Kent Pharaoh, Board Member of OHUF, on the occasion of Paul's Retirement.

A chapter has been closed on the Oklahoma Highway Users Federation. In January Paul Matthews retired as the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Highway Users Federation. The Board honored Paul and his lovely wife Rita at the January Board meeting. It was a beautiful ceremony even with a bag pipe player.

Paul was given a plaque in honor of his many years service. The Board of Directors tried to find someone to assume Paul's duties however no replacement was found. Therefore the Board elected to dis-

solve the organization. Oklahoma Highway Users Federation was one of the 9 states which had a state organization left. The Oklahoma AAA organization will take on the annual honoring of the Oklahoma Trooper of the Year Award. We wish Paul a long and healthy retirement.

The Oklahoma Legislative session has begun. It is a very busy time and is very challenging to stay informed about what bills are before our legislators and how they will impact the members of the State Grange. There are many issues such as our financial status of

our state budget. Governor Fallin took the oath of office in January, she is proposing a more efficient government. I am still working on the email distribution list and as I become aware of legislative issues I will begin forwarding them to you. I hope you will take a proactive role in addressing these concerns with your legislators as needed whether on the Local, State or Federal level.

Fraternally,
Yvonne Meritt
Legislative Director
405-262-3354
meritt73@gmail.com

Membership

By Jerry Taylor

Dear Fellow Grangers,

It's nice to communicate with you again. I hope everyone made it through the snow and winter months safe and well. I'm glad to see the snow gone and warmer weather.

With spring just around the corner it would be a good time to get energized and find people who might want to become involved in our Grange activities.

It looks as though we might have another increase in membership this year. I would like to thank all members for their hard work in getting this achieved. I hope to see you at Degree Day next month.

Fraternally,
Jerry Taylor

Membership Director

Junior Grange

By Cassy Shufeldt

Hello Junior Grangers and young at heart! Hope everyone stayed warm during all the snow! We are looking forward to a fun, exciting, and WARM year. We hope to see everyone April 9 in El Reno, OK for Degree Day. We are going to have crafts that we will be working on to send to nationals, and a CASH prize will go to the winners! Also on the agenda is Great Plains Conference June 17-19, we will be going to a petting zoo in Broken Arrow and have many other fun activities planned for the day. I know we have many talented juniors out there so start practicing on your speeches and sign for the Great Plains Youth

Continued on page 7

Chaplain's Corner

By Pastor Jimmy Harrington

We know that Easter signifies the resurrection of Jesus Christ. So I thought it would be significant that we know what was found in the tomb after His resurrection and why it is important.

Why Did Jesus Fold the Napkin?

The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed at the head of that stony coffin. Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone has been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved.

She said, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!" Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see. The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side.

Was that important? Absolutely!

Is it really significant? Yes!

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and the Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition.

When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it. The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished. Now if the master were done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, "I'm done".

But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, the folded napkin meant, "I'm coming back!"

He is Coming Back!!!

In His Service,
Pastor Jimmy Harrington
Okla. State Grange Chaplain

Lecturer's Lesson

By Deloris Walker

Are you ready for spring? The snow has certainly been plentiful this winter! But we know that spring will come. The robins have been appearing in large numbers at my house. So, I'm hoping that is a sign of spring coming soon.

Hopefully some of you captured some pictures of the snow. Even though it causes problems, it can make for some beautiful pictures. For this year's photo contest for State we will have the following categories: (1) Landscapes, (2) A new beginning (new baby animals, baby, etc.), (3) An Oklahoma Getaway.

We will still do the Tell-a-Story, as that seems to be a very popular one. (2 - 4 pictures telling a story

from beginning to end)

Rules are: 1 picture per category per entrant, mounted or un-mounted. There will be 3 age categories: Juniors 5-14, Youth 15-25, and adult 26 and over.

State projects are pennies for Dogs for the Deaf. We will collect pennies all year until State Session in October; both individuals and all Sub Granges. So save those pennies!! Let's be able to donate a good amount to this organization. (Please have a count of your pennies when you bring them.) The other one is saving your tabs for Ronald McDonald House, Ask neighbors and friends to save them also. We will be holding our talent night as usual. Be thinking about what you could

share with us. A song (vocal or instrumental), a skit, dance, recitation or other would be welcome.

The Great Plains Conference is being planned for June 17-19, 2011 at the Clarion in Broken Arrow. This will include workshops and activities for Juniors, Youth, Lecturers, and Membership from all the states in our Region. The cost for adults (for rooms and meals) attending the Lecturer's workshop will be \$50.00.

The National Lecturer Pete Pomper will be attending and holding a workshop for us. We hope to have some interesting workshops, so I hope that all Lecturers can attend.

Degree Day is set for April 9, 2011 at El Reno. The Lecturer's Dept. will have a Write A Short Story Contest. Write about your winter experiences. (snow storm, blizzard, etc.) Anyone may enter. So get those pens to writing! I'll be looking forward to seeing everyone in El Reno.

Fraternally
Deloris Walker,
State Lecturer

Secretaries Take Note

By Jeannie Harrington

Spring is just around the corner and I for one am MORE than ready!!!

March 13th will be the time to "Spring forward". Lots of Grange activities are coming up soon. There is Degree Day - April 9th, Youth Conference June - 17th-19th, State Session in October and National Session in November. Whew!!! Are you ready for all of that?

Just a reminder that it is time for First Quarter Dues. Remember that the dues were increased as follows:

Members	\$22.00
Family Unit.....	\$42.00
Associate.....	\$47.00

Also, don't forget that the assessments for everyone are due with the Second Quarter dues.

Packets with the new forms were sent out last week. If you didn't receive yours please let me know and I will get them to you.

See you soon!!!

Fraternally,
Jeannie Harrington
State Secretary

Junior Grange

Continued

Continued from page 5

Conference and the National Convention that will be held in Tulsa, OK this year. We are going to raise money for the Kelly Farm by having a Read-A-Thon, I would like everyone to start reading and getting sponsors to donate money either for a page or books that you have read the Read-A-Thon will go until the State Meeting in October. Have a fun and safe spring break.

GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE

JUNE 17-19, 2011

DEADLINE MAY 25, 2011

CLARION HOTEL

2600 N. ASPEN, BROKEN ARROW, OK 74012

Check one:

Lecturer____ Youth____ Junior____ Membership____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

ROOMS & MEALS: Rooms Friday night & Saturday night. Meals Saturday only. Breakfast provided.

1 PERSON \$185.00 per person, per room _____ King size bed _____

2 PEOPLE \$115.00 per person, per room _____

3 PEOPLE \$88.00 per person, per room _____ Double Beds _____

4 PEOPLE \$75.00 per person, per room _____

Check one:

Safari Sanctuary (Juniors & Young at Heart) _____

Ropes Course (Youth) _____

Bass Pro Shop (on your own) _____

Local Shopping (on your Own) _____

List names of people that will be staying in this room.(up to 4 in a room)

I _____ give my child _____ permission to ride in a vehicle assigned by Youth Director Ann Keeton on Saturday June 18th, 2011 to the Ropes Course in Tulsa, Oklahoma, or Junior Director Cassy Shufeldt to the Safari Sanctuary in Broken Arrow, Okla .

Signature: _____

Only necessary if under 18

