

POMONA ECHO

BERKS COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #43

May 2008

MASTER'S REPORT

By Charles Seidel

After a long winter, springtime has arrived. Have you enjoyed these spring events: Easter, Opening Day at the Line, the Fersammling?

At a recent Grange meeting, there was discussion on the Clean and Green Law (Act 319), which allows for preferential assessment of farmland and forest land. Concern was expressed about the 2008 assessment increases on "Clean and Green" land. Larry Eshelman, our agriculture chairman, presented a resolution at our March Pomona meeting opposing the annual increases. I was asked to discuss the issue and the Grange's viewpoint at a County Commissioner's meeting. After a few more meetings with county and state officials, we are hopeful that the spirit of the "Clean and Green" law will once again be followed.

(continued page 11)

SUGGESTION OF OFFICERS 2008-2010

Master—open

Overseer—Mike Adams, Hamburg Grange

Lecturer—Martha Bollinger, Virginville Grange

Steward—Derek Schroeder, Virginville Grange

Ass't Steward—Andrew Kieffer, Marion Grange

Lady Ass't Steward—Brittany Tempel, Pioneer

Chaplain—Gwen Switzer, Marion Grange

Treasurer—Henry Seidel, Virginville Grange

Secretary—Nettie Kauffman, Ontelaunee Grange

Gatekeeper—Tammy Schaeffer, Pioneer Grange

Pomona—Barbara Heffner, Hamburg Grange

Ceres—Donna Kunkle, Shartlesville Grange

Flora—Laura Wike, Fleetwood Grange

Ex. Committee—Charles Seidel, Virginville Grange

Ex. Committee—Eric Blatt, Virginville Grange

Fin. Committee—Tom Wike, Fleetwood Grange

ALL offices are still open for further suggestions—
election will be held at the June Pomona meeting

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Berks County Junior Grange News

Knoebels

The Berks Jr. Grange Day trip this year is to Knoebels Amusement Park. The date for the trip is June 17. EVERYONE in the county grange is invited to attend. The park opens at 11am that day. We have 100 seats reserved for us in Pavilion 'D'. That pavilion is very close to the Giant Wheel and Skloosh. The junior grange will be supplying BBQ, hotdogs, rolls, condiments, and drink. Everyone else is asked to bring a covered dish. So we get a variety of food, the different junior granges were assigned to bring a 'type' of picnic food. Please see your jr. leader for details. Most juniors expressed getting the all day wrist bands for the trip as they are only available during the week. For those of you wanting to attend the day on a more leisurely and less expensive scale, but still wish to partake in a few rides, we can only get group rate on tickets if we get more than \$100 of ticket books. We are asking that all interested in purchasing ticket books, please make payment by June 7 at noontime at Pomona meeting. IF we reach the \$100 mark, a \$10 book will cost \$8.50, and a \$5 book will cost \$4.25. All ticket books must be purchased at the same time on the day we go to Knoebels. If you run out during the day, we will not be able to take advantage of the group rate. Keep in mind that Knoebels tickets NEVER expire, and that the haunted house and the laser tag are not included in the wristband cost...tickets must be used for these rides. Again there will be a sign-up sheet on June 7.

June County Meeting

The juniors will enjoy a Dolphin presentation in the morning on June 7. They will also complete their community camp service project...summer centerpieces...for the Berks Heim. In the afternoon, the new Berks Jr. Royalty will be introduced as well as the juniors entertaining the members with some camp memories. Hope to see you at Gouglersville Grange.

REMINDER: Juniors please wear your new camp T-Shirt!

Hoss's

The county Juniors will again be holding a Hoss's day on June 10. Come out and eat at Hoss's (in Leesport) on that day and when you present a coupon, the juniors will receive 20% of your bill! Coupons will be available at county camp and at the June quarterly meeting! Reminder: Any gift certificates purchased on June 10 while using your 20% coupon for the juniors, also go toward the proceeds that the juniors can earn. Thank-you for your support of this fundraiser project.

Every County Granger...

Is always invited to visit the county junior camp for any period of time during our camp weekend, May 16-18. Please contact Heather to find out scheduled events. The Royalty Coronation and Program begin Sunday at 1:30pm

Thank-You to all that supported the Wolfgang Fundraiser!

Directions to Camp Swatara

Whether traveling East or West on I78, get off at Exit #10 (Frystown). Go North for 2 miles on Rte. 645. The camp entrance will be on your right. Camp Swatara has multiple sites and we will be staying at the East

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

By Laura L. Wike

Our pre-quarterly meeting will be on May 19th at 8 p.m. The meeting will be held at Gouglersville Grange hall. Gouglersville and Alleghenyville are hosting with Marion Grange assisting.

The annual Pomona Sale will soon be here—August 23rd. Granges to bring a gallon of beef vegetable soup are: Shartlesville, Virginville, Bernville, Geigertown and Gouglersville.

Lots of help is needed at the sale. We need baked goods—NOTHING that needs refrigeration, please! Friday some help is needed for early set up. We will be open for serving Friday.

On Saturday, we will need help from 7 a.m. until we are finished (around 5 p.m. or later).

Thank you to everyone in advance for your help.

RELAY FOR LIFE

BY Laura Wike

Our Home Business Fair was a success. We had a total of 21 vendors and we sold all 80 daffodils. Raffles for door prizes were sold and food in the kitchen. We made a profit of \$1,098.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Laura Wike

Our community service project will be concluded by the time this ECHO is published. A big thank you to everyone who helped make it a success. Thank you to the Granges that have sponsored baskets, collected door prizes, and people who baked cakes and things to serve. Also, a thank you to Family Activities and the Youth for being checkers and Mike for calling. Thank you to Heather for organizing and purchasing the baskets for us and keeping track of things for us. I'm sure Joe and his family will appreciate each and everyone's efforts.

AGRICULTURE REPORT

By Larry Eshelman, Chair

Our last agriculture and legislative meeting brought up the subject of Clean and Green assessments. We put together a resolution for our last Pomona meeting and through this resolution the subject was discussed by the County Commissioners and a solution was determined. The County Assessment Board along with Commissioner Leinbach; Sheila Miller; Agriculture Regional Director, William Zollars; and Charles Seidel, Pomona Master will need to now look the proposed solution. If approved, we would then need to change the way the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture informs the County Assessment Board of the land values.

This is just an example of how your committee works and any member that wants to discuss problems like this should come to the Agriculture and Legislative meetings.

LEGISLATIVE BANQUET

By Feryl Treichler

The Legislative Banquet is history; again, with an excellent turnout. We had 121 reservations. We still have room for improvement to better our attendance. There is no other meeting where you are able to meet as many legislators and county elected officials.

I hope you exercised your right to vote at the last election.

Keep those resolutions coming to act on at the Pomona meeting—June 7, 2008.



YOUTH NEWS

By Derek Schroeder

Summer is a great time to be a Granger. There are tons of things to do with your Subordinate, Pomona and State Granges.

In June, don't forget the "All Granger Picnic" at Edenburg Park. There will be a lot of good food, bingo, and even a softball game if we have enough people. On June 29th, there was a Youth meeting scheduled but that is going to be postponed (to be rescheduled later).

Finally, in June, is the Family Grange Picnic. Please attend with your family and/or friends. It can be a great way to introduce your non-Grange friends to what the Grange is. It is the first year for these picnics and it is up to every Granger to help make it a success!

July is the month to become involved in camp. Youth camp will take place during Family Festival, July 17-20. There are plenty of activities geared specifically toward youth, but there are many other activities that you can participate in. Please see your copy of the *Advocate* for more camp information.

August brings fair season and, as we all know, the Grange is very involved with many. Volunteer with your Grange to run their stands at the fairs. Enter items in the many competitions—there are some for every skill and interest. Just attending the fairs are a great way to support them.

And while summer is wrapping up, you can look forward to fall activities including Pomona on September 6 with a Haus night planned for that evening at Hamburg Grange and State Session October 18-21. (Have you started your Grange entries?)

HAUS TOURNAMENT AND GAME NIGHT

- Who:** Grangers, Families and Friends
What: An organized Haus Tournament and games
When: **September 6, 2008**
Where: Hamburg Grange
Why: Fun and Fellowship

Please bring a game of your liking if you are not playing Haus. Prizes will be awarded.

Refreshments will be available.

Did You Know

...Virginville Grange will serve breakfast at Kutztown Fair, August 11-16, from 7:30 a.m. till 10:30 a.m.

...Hamburg Grange is still selling cookbooks and raffle tickets for a quilted wall hanging.

Thanks is Extended

"On behalf of the Roy Heffner family and the Hamburg Grange, I want to personally Thank the Hamburg community for the support that was given for the Chicken Pot Pie dinner that was held on February 16, 2008 to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Assoc. in memory of Roy Heffner. The businesses and individuals that donated items for the Chinese Auction, the use of the high school cafeteria, the Hamburg Item pictures, and the individuals that came to eat were all greatly appreciated. Because of your generosity, over \$2,500 was raised for this cause..."

Michael Adams, President, Hamburg Grange

YOUTH NEWS (continued)

Don't forget that we cannot have a successful Grange YOUTH department without YOU!

ALL-GRANGER PICNIC

Sunday, June 15, 2008

Edenburg Park, Hamburg

12:30 p.m.—?

There will be children's games, softball, basketball and BINGO. Weather permitting, water games, also. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share with your fellow Grangers. You might also want to bring lawn chairs.

Come out for a day of fun and fellowship!

GRANGE AUCTION: COMMIT TO IT!

Once again it's time for the annual Grange Auction. This year marks the 40th anniversary and this year we need your help more than ever. Your local Grange will have a sign-up sheet in May or contact me at leroysslunatics@dejazzd.com to assist. It's great to ask that day what can I do, but we need to set up a schedule ahead of time. Please don't wait until that day, commit to it!

On the sale day, we need people to assist handing out buyer numbers, office help, people to assist auctioneers (holding up merchandise), clerks, runners, etc.

If you know you can't make it Saturday, August 25th, perhaps the pre or post sale work nights would suit you better. Help 1 or all 7 of the auction days, we'll find something for you to do. Let us know you're committed!

Ken Kerschner

2008 READING FAIR Monday August 4th through Saturday, August 9th

As usual there will again be great entertainment at the 2008 Reading Fair for young and old.

Appearing all week will be
Belmont—a very special kind of Magic

Also Cuizin Grumpy's Pork Chop Revue—
family entertainment fun for young and old

Monday, August 4th, 7:30 p.m.
Elvis Tribute Artist Jeff Krick

Tuesday, August 5th, 7:30 p.m.
Direct from New York City
The Sensational "Soul Cruises"

Wednesday, August 6th, 7:30 p.m.
American's Favorite Rock and Roll Comedy Show
"The Legends"

Thursday, August 7th, 7:30 p.m.
Direct from Nashville
Townsens O'Donnell

Friday, August 8th, 7:30 p.m.
Rich Clare
Pentagon

Friday, August 8th
Red I Rodeo, from Annville

Saturday, August 9th
The uptown Band, featuring
Erich Cowalls & Jenifer Tender

Saturday August 9th
There will also be a horse show at the fairgrounds

There will also be many games and contests for children and grown ups Wednesday and Friday evenings, Saturday afternoon, ending Saturday evening with the famous corn shelling contest and log sawing contest.



UPCOMING EVENTS

May—July, 2008

May 10 Fleetwood Community Yard Sale, 7 a.m.—? Soup (turkey noodle & vegetable beef) and food available, \$4/quart

May 11 Virginville Grange Mother's Day Dinner, 11 a.m. till 3 p.m., Family Style Cost is \$11; children, 5-10, \$5.50

May 16-18 County Junior Camp, Camp Swatara

May 16-20 Mid-Atlantic Lecturer's Conference, New Jersey

May 19 Pre-Pomona Meeting, Gouglersville Grange, 8 p.m.

June 1 Chicken Bar-B-Q dinner @Leesport Farmer's Market by Virginville Grange's Community Service Committee, 11 a.m. till sold out

June 2 Kutztown Basket Bingo @6:45 p.m., call 610-683-7975 for tickets (\$20 each)

June 7 Pomona Grange @Gouglersville Grange hall, 9:45 a.m.

June 13 Strawberry & Ice Cream Festival, 4:30—9:30 p.m. @Fleetwood Grange

June 15 Berks All-Granger Picnic, Edenburg Park, Hamburg, 12:30 p.m. till ?

June 17 Junior Grange trip to Knoebel's Park

June 22 Family Grange Picnic @Trexlerstown Grange, 2 p.m. (bring covered dish, plates, utensils, lawn chairs and enthusiasm) Host grange will provide drinks.

June 29 County Youth meeting—CANCELLED!

June 29—July 5 State Grange Junior Camp, Camp Sylvan Hills

July 1 ECHO newsletter deadline (note earlier date!!!)

July 17-20 Grange Family Festival, Centre County Grange Fairgrounds

July 18-20 Youth Camp @Family Festival

July 21 Pre-Sale Work Night @Bernville Grange hall, 7 p.m.

July 28 Collate ECHO newsletter @Marion Grange, 7 p.m.

July 28 Ag-Legislative meeting @Agriculture Center, 8 p.m.

August 23 & 24 Receive consignment items

August 25 Consignment Sale, 8:30 a.m.

August 25 Kutztown Grange Basket Bingo @6:45 p.m. Call 610-683-7975 for tickets (\$20 each)

August 27, 29, 30 Post Sale work nights @Ontelaunee Grange, 7 p.m.

JUNIOR CORNER

This quarter we are featuring Ricky Wike, 2006-07 Berks County Junior Grange Mini-Prince.

Hello, my name is Ricky Wike. I'm the Berks County Mini-Prince. I go to Fleetwood Grange. I keep myself busy by being involved with Grange, Scouts, singing with my church junior choir, bowling and playing baseball.

I live in Exeter Township with my parents, Laura and Tom, and my brother, Bobby. I have 2 rabbits named Cookie and Snowball.

My hobbies are collecting Poke'mon and Yu-gi-oh cards. I'm in 4th grade at the Jacksonwald Elementary School.



MARCH 2008 POMONA MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- The youth opened the meeting with a drill, Derek Schroeder served as Master
- Sheila Miller, Berks County Agricultural Coordinator, presented remarks on her duties, etc.
- Debbie Dietrich, County 4-H Extension Agent, discussed various programs and issues of 4-H
- Ernest Dengler, Carlene Heck, Tyler Sattazahn, Shawn Dengler, Desira Kunkle and Felicia Weitzel received 5th degree
- Mary Young, of Reading Eagle, to receive complimentary ticket for legislative banquet—approved
- Contribute \$1,740 to Reading Fair for various contests and projects—approved
- Provide Ambassador gifts, \$150, for Dairy Princess Pageant—approved
- Purchase an additional meal ticket for Dairy Princess Pageant—approved
- Contribute \$800 to Kutztown Fair for various contests and projects—approved
- Support county lecturer to attend Mid-Atlantic Conference, \$175—approved
- Renew membership with Berks County Conservancy, \$50—approved
- Purchase ticket for a legislator for State Grange Day, May 5, \$20—approved
- Hold fundraiser for cancer victim, coordinated by Laura Wike—approved
- Donate \$1,000 to 2 farm families affected by arson fires, total \$2,000—approved
- Presented Friend Inc with \$500 check from Grange visitations
- 24 brothers, 43 sisters, 25 juniors, 3 mini-juniors—96 in attendance
- Youth donated \$500 toward Relay for Life project
- Youth donated \$1000 toward Jon Sattazahn Memorial Fund
- Benefit Basket Bingo to be held May 9, Fleetwood Grange—this is fundraiser for cancer victim, Joe Santos
- April 29 is the presale meeting—this is the 40th year of consignment sale
- Larry Eshelman indicated that the Grange cookery tent will be 20 feet wider this year (Reading Fair)
- Reading Fair implementing new contest—Sheep to Shawl
- Marie Switzer will continue the transporting of patients on Sunday to Berks Heim church service project
- Fern Kulp reported that Granges need to be updating their individual Grange information for the website
- ECHO winner was Henry Bohn
- Final tour meeting will take place August 27, 6:30 p.m., Virginville Grange hall
- Literary program—information about the 1960's
- Cathy Fry, Berks County Office of Aging, gave a brief report and was available for questions
- Membership—1,469
- Contribute \$250 to PA State Youth and State Junior Department—approved
- National Grange dues increase of \$2 for 2008 and another \$2 increase in 2010
- Grange Day Luncheon program to be held May 5, Radisson Hotel in Camp Hill
- Regional meetings for 2008 were announced
- Grange Family Picnic for our region, June 22, Trexlertown Grange hall
- 2008 Grange Family Festival Registration form and information
- Members were encouraged to contact legislators: bill about transferring \$50 million a year from Motor License to General Fund to cover PA State Police funding; legislation that would make English the official language of PA
- Berks County will hold their own 5th Degree presentation October 4 (rehearsal dates are Sept 22, officers; Sept. 29 officers, candidates and court) - all at Virginville Grange hall
- Received 2 Farm Family Appreciation Celebration complimentary tickets—used as door prizes
- Regional meeting in Chester County—car pooling arrangements were announced
- Resolution on supporting Reading Police Department canine unit—defeated
- Resolution on eliminating school property taxes—approved
- Resolution on Clean and Green Assessment, increasing the assessment on yearly basis—approved
- Next junior Hosses' fundraiser is June 9
- Juniors will be going to Knoebels on June 17
- Gail Switzer was in charge of afternoon literary program, theme "fun"
- Door prizes were distributed prior to the end of the day's meeting

**NEXT POMONA
JUNE 7, 2008, 9:45 A.M.**

SENIOR GRANGER HIGHLIGHT

This quarter we would like to highlight:

NAME: Henry E. Bohn, Jr.

GRANGE: Gouglersville Grange #1743

AGE: 79

YEARS MEMBER OF THE GRANGE: 57

WERE YOU A JUVENILE MEMBER? No



HOW DID YOU GET TO BE A MEMBER? Clarence Henry, the Business Agent for Gouglersville Grange came around and encouraged us to join the Grange to be able to buy seeds and fertilizer for our farm at a reduced rate. It only took one meeting with the friendly PA Dutch members to get my “city girl” wife and me hooked to the Grange.

WHAT OFFICES DID YOU HOLD? Subordinate—Overseer, Master, Executive Committee and now Treasurer. Pomona—Executive Committee

PARTICIPATED IN WHAT ACTIVITIES OF THE GRANGE? Delegates to State Grange; Legislative meetings, state and county; Consignment Sale; Berks Heim; Reading & Kutztown fairs; Farm Family Banquet; Grange Engine Show; Bowling League; Grange trips; game nights

WHAT IS SOME KIND OF ACTIVITY THEN THAT IS NO LONGER HELD (THAT MAYBE WE SHOULD AGAIN HAVE)? More things that Members could buy at reduced prices.

WHAT IS THE GRANGE (IN YOUR WORDS)? The Grange is a great Family Organization, helping its many farmers and members through educational programs, legislation and social activities for all ages

CHILDREN/GRANDCHILDREN/GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN: 2 daughters—Kathy, 3rd grade teacher, and Terry, works for the Am. Assoc. of Meat Processors. 4 grandchildren—Josh, Joey, Nichole, Nathan

HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR GRANGE LIFE: Meeting the great people that belong to the Grange. Finding out my great grandfather, Edward Krick Bohn, Sr., belonged to the Welcome Home Grange, Wernersville and helped to start the Berks County Pomona Grange. He was the first Berks County Pomona Grange Master.

ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO LET US KNOW ABOUT YOU: I was born at Mohrsville, RD. My dad told me that mom was coming home in their Maxwell car and drove around a sharp, sharp turn too fast and when she got home, I was born!

Most of you know I was a farmer full time. How did my business start? In grade school, my first business was raising white mice. When they were fully grown, I sent them to New York where they were used for testing. Once in a while a school mate wanted one and I sold them for 10 cents each. My second business was raising rabbits when my dad wanted out of it. Next I raised pigs, ducks, calves to full grown animals while working on the farm with my dad (\$40/week). He was on a USDA committee to check and measure fields. Some time later a USDA ASCS officer, from Harrisburg, saw my work and wanted me to be the supervisor over the 16 fellows in the county. So, I took care of the animals before I headed off to work. When ASCS wanted to start flying over farm fields to take pictures of the crops, Co. Commissioner Vernon Shaffer talked to me and said he had an airplane and would cut a hole in the back seat floor and I could take the pictures of any farms ASCS wanted. So, that’s how ag photography started. Years later I was requested to go for office manager training—so we sold the animals and started training in Erie County, January 1961. After training I was transferred to Cambria County until the office manager in Berks County died. I was then requested to return to Berks to take the manager’s position.

Mark Wolfskill and his son, David, have been farming the crops on our farm now for years. My retirement has made it possible for me to become more active in Grange and I enjoy being involved!