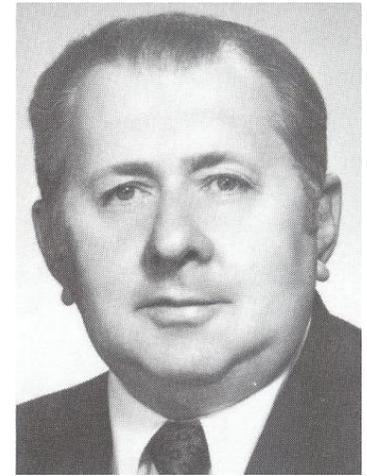


## A. WAYNE READINGER

### 15<sup>th</sup> MASTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANGE (1968-1974)



#### *The Person:*

- Elected in Butler, October 1968
- Member of Fleetwood Grange, Berks County. Grew up in the Grange and long before he could join Grange he attended with his parents.
- Impressed with leaders who visited Berks County, but more impressed and influenced by outstanding Grange leaders from Berks County. Past State Overseer and Master of Fleetwood Grange George Schuler, demanded perfection in Grange ritual and it left its mark on Wayne.
- Served as Steward, Overseer, Executive Committee member and Master of Fleetwood Grange from 1947-1951; Pomona Master and State Deputy Master of Berks County for six years.
- 1962 he was elected State Overseer holding the office for six years before being elected State Master.
- Past Executive Committee member and Past President of both Berks County Agricultural Extension Association and Berks County Fruit Growers Association. Member of State Horticultural Association and Vice President of Berks County Poultry Association, Director of Reading Fair and served six years on Berks County Planning Commission and County Farm & Home Administration. Member of the Berks County Fersommeling Committee.
- Graduated from Oley High School and was a lifetime resident of the Fleetwood area.
- Married the former Helen Marie Deisher. They had three daughters – Jean, Anna, and Doris.
- The Readingers were fruit farmers and won prizes at local fairs and PA Farm Show. Their farm operation also included poultry and vegetables which furnished the produce delivered to 300 customers door-to-door, seven days a week. The holidays were strenuous dressing turkeys for delivery and pick-up at the Farm.
- Chosen “Outstanding Farm Family for Berks County” in 1959 and honored at the Reading Fair.
- The family was a member of the Christ Lutheran Church, Dryville. He served on the church council at various times.
- Following his installation as Master, he and Helen witnessed the election, on the first ballot of John W. Scott as Master of the National Grange in Peoria, IL in November 1968 to fill the unexpired term of Hershel Newsom. Master Newsom had resigned to accept a Presidential appointment to the Tariff Commission.
- June 1969 Master Readinger was elected as an Agricultural Trustee of PA State University, appointed a member of the Executive Committee of the University Agricultural Advisory Committee.
- Named State Agriculture Chairman for PA Commission for United States Savings Bonds.
- Appointed as a member of Governor’s Priorities Committee & Citizen’s Advisory Committee on Natural Resources and Beautification.
- Member of Executive Committee of the Council of Farm Organizations.
- Appointed by Governor Milton Shapp as a member of the Citizen’s Commission on Basic Education in February 1972.
- December 1972 elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the PA Highway Users Conference.
- 1971 elected to the Board of Directors of National Grange Mutual Insurance Company.

## *Of Note:*

- Mr. & Mrs. John V. (Marjorie) Cressman, Hanover Grange, Lehigh County, appointed Assistants to the State Master with responsibilities in membership.
- In 1969 there were 2,200 members initiated, but due to a membership loss in some Granges, there was no net gain in membership attained.
- September 7, 1969 New Vernon Grange #608, Mercer County dedicated a new hall.
- “Tools for Bahia”, a PA State Grange project was successful with \$1,825 donated by Granges for use by Partners in Bahia work. Furman H. Gyger, Jr., Chairman of the Executive Committee, visited Bahia on behalf of the PA State Grange in 1968.
- At the close of State Master Readinger’s first year in office, he stated “As Grange leaders, we must join forces with other groups and organizations to reach our goals, and in so doing, we will become ambassadors of good will in PA.”
- November 1969, the first time in almost 50 years, a PA woman was elected to a National Office. Helen Reading was elected to the office of Ceres of the National Grange. Maggie Rhone held the office of Ceres from 1893-1895; Marie Hill was Lady Assistant Steward from 1901-1903; and Bettie McSparran was Pomona from 1917 until her death in 1920. John Scott was elected to his first full term as Master.
- 1970 was a very busy year for the Readinger Family. He worked diligently to build the Grange on all levels. He stated, “I’m firmly convinced the success of any Grange at the Subordinate, Pomona, and State level is activity, involvement of the members, good ritualism, and parliamentary procedure.”
- Three new halls were dedicated in 1970:
  - Steuben Grange #858, Crawford County
  - Morning Star Grange #1271, Fayette County
  - Blairsville Grange #2012, Indiana County
- A Memorial Fund was instituted by the Executive Committee Resolution to the Delegates at the State Session held in Meadville in 1970.
- The Granger of the Year in 1970 was Harold Pentz, Home Camp Grange #1222, Clearfield County
- 1971 four new halls were dedicated:
  - Valley Grange #1420, Elk County
  - Pomona Grange #49, Fayette County
  - Long Branch Community Grange #2072, Washington County
  - Shartlesville Grange #1512, Berks County
- The first Centennial Celebration of a Subordinate Grange was Eagle Grange #1, Lycoming County March 4-7. The first day, “Old Fashioned Lunch Box Social” everyone wore costumes of 100 years ago. An antique display and tea was held March 6<sup>th</sup>. The history was presented in pantomime and music – special guests participating were John W. Scott and A. Wayne Readinger.
- Keystone Grange #2, Montgomery County, was the second Grange to reach the 100 year mark, spreading their celebration over several months. Four banquets were held from March through May. A Centennial Antique Show was held in June and Keystone Grange Centennial Fair was held in August.
- The 105<sup>th</sup> Annual National Session was held in Charleston, WV. There was a wager between State Master Readinger and OH State Master James Ross to see which state could have the most Seventh Degree candidates. The lower was to buy a steak dinner. The final count resulted I 1,413 OH candidates and 1,399 PA candidates. Master Readinger lost the steak dinner by 14 candidates!
- The eighth person in the United States to receive an 80 year continuous membership certificate was William H. Weamer, Richland Grange #1206, Bucks County.

- Fourteen PA Grange members were recognized for 75 years of continuous membership:
  - W. F. Walker, Covington Boro Grange #1016, Tioga County
  - Mrs. Carrie Lewis, Middle Ridge Grange #384, Tioga County
  - Nellie U. Rockwell, Union Grange #155, Bradford County
  - William C. Snell, Sanatoga Grange #25, Montgomery County
  - William H. Weamer, Richland Grange #1206, Bucks County
  - Edith M. Wilcox, Stony Fork Grange #1033, Tioga County
  - L. Ada Criswell, Highland Grange #980, Chester County
  - Carrie M. Weller, Somerset Grange #1697, Somerset County
  - Lola Owlett, Middlebury Grange #705, Tioga County
  - William A. Farabaugh, Banner Grange #1115, Cambria County
  - Mrs. Louise Harris, West Branch Grange #136, Lycoming County
  - Harry W. Krider, Vernon Grange #936, Crawford County
  - Hallie G. Holt, Ackley Grange #870, Warren County
  - Euphemia Hill, Union Center Grange #784, Tioga County
- The PA Grange Centennial celebration began at the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Session in 1972 in Williamsport.
- There were 1,600 in attendance at the pre-session program. Citations from State House of Representatives and State Senate, along with telegrams from those unable to attend. Those included U.S. Senator Honorable Hugh Scott, U.S. Congressman Honorable Richard Schweiker, and Citation from President Richard Nixon.
- The ballroom of the Lycoming Hotel was the site of the Centennial Kick-Off Banquet with 600 in attendance. The Honorable Ernest Kline, PA Lieutenant Governor, addressed the audience.
- Fifty-six Past State Officers attended the Session and were treated as VIPs at a recognition ceremony. Each was presented to the speaker's platform in an impressive ceremony and given a corsage or boutonniere by State Flora Mary Buffington, State Pomona Genevieve Cooke, and State Ceres Ruth Fish. A luncheon followed for the Past State Officers arranged by Mrs. Vernon (Betty) Norris and Miss Isabelle Elliott, officers for the Past State Officers group.
- Subordinate and Pomona Grange, State Officers and Departments of the Grange challenged to engage in special activities throughout the year to prepare for the grand celebration in Reading in October 1973.
- Tuesday, October 24, 1972, members attired in Centennial costumes prepared to attend the banquet at the Lycoming Hotel.
- Mildred Shultz, State Lecturer, served as Chairman of the Centennial Committee. The program closed with a Centennial Fanfare to give an idea of what was to come in 1973.
- 1969 – Master Readinger noted in his address many activities, challenges, opportunities, legislative banquets, anniversaries, booster nights, Pomona meetings and legislative sessions that were held during his first year in office.
- Education was always a major concern for the Grange. Master Readinger discussed the high cost of education stating the education budget for 1969-70 was nearly one and one-half billion dollars contrasted with a total budget three years previous of less than that amount. Part of the increase was due to substantial increases in the State Scholarship program and Community Colleges. He further felt teacher strikes and other external conflicts plaguing school districts and expressed the opinion they could be settled without disrupting classroom work.
- The Education Committee, chaired by Charles G. McSparran, Lancaster County, made the following recommendations.

- We urge our school boards to watch their school budgets carefully, avoiding unnecessary expenses.
- We believe thousands of dollars could be saved in the construction costs of new buildings if the State Department of Education could make available to local school boards or authorities sets of plans, meeting the requirements of the State Board, any one of which could be used without charge to the local school board or authority.
- No state mandated increases unless accompanied by an equal increase in state subsidies.
- Many districts have been forced to resort to occupation taxes. This is not a fair tax and should be avoided. A one percent increase in the present wage tax law might answer the problem for some school districts.
- Federal mandated or recommended programs should be self-sustaining.
- Some tax relief should be given retired persons who own their own homes valued at \$25,000 or less for tax purposes. A state subsidy to reimburse school districts for loss of income should be provided.
- 1969 – Agriculture and Conservation Committee chaired by Glenn Handwork, Somerset County, recommended that sale of alcoholic beverages continue to be banned in the Farm Show Building.
  - Requested a continuance of federal funding of the Agricultural Conservation Program and opposed extending the length of time land could remain in the soil bank.
  - Endorsed the setting of a limit of \$20,000 farm program payments to any one farmer in a single year from U.S.D.A.
  - Approved a resolution from Kimmerlings Grange, Lebanon County, regarding establishment of a School of Veterinary Medicine at PA State University.
- Vernon Cox, Washington County, Chairman of the Dairy Committee urged financial appropriations be continued to finance and administer the present vaccination program for the control of Brucellosis. Dairy Committee also considered the Grange position over the PA Milk Marketing referendum to be voted on by milk producers in December 1969. Proposed referendum would supply an opportunity for uniform distribution of advertising and research costs that affect the sale of milk and milk products in the future.
- Education Committee recommended the State Department of Education develop building plans that would be available to local school boards without charge to the local school board authority.
  - They also stated “Busing children for the sole purpose of integration was a gross waste of taxpayers’ money and should be avoided.”
  - Delegate body adopted a resolution requesting an amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving all schools the right to hold religious services at their convenience.
- 1970 – Legislative Committee recommended that the Soil & Water Conservation Commission be retained under the Department of Agriculture and that the Soil & Water Conservation law be amended to provide a Board of District Directors consisting of one County Commissioner, not more than four or less than two practical farmers with the same rule applying to urban directors with a total to always be seven.
  - Voiced continued opposition to diversion of highway funds citing the need for money to maintain rural highway repairs and the rebuilding of bridges.
  - Taxation of farm land subject to several resolutions presented at the 1970 Annual Session. Montgomery County resolution stated “Be it resolved that all farm land be taxed on assessment of use rather than market value of surrounding lands.”

- 1970 – Master Readinger’s report to Delegates stated that Grangers needed to ask the question “Are we getting as much as we should out of the dollars we spend?” Noted that 55.5% of the State General Budget was going for education with a demand for more.
  - Requested the Delegates pursue a scholarship program in PA rather than a loan program. The Scholarship Program began in 1956 with \$4 million had grown to more than \$51 million in 1970.
  - Passage of Act 195 gave collective bargaining rights to teachers but also legalized strikes when mediation and fact finding were exhausted.
  - A “School Building Costs” authored by the Joint State Government Commission recommended the standardization of school building plans through the systems approach. He felt this may be a feasible approach to the Grange position of standardization of plans.
  - The 1969-1970 biennial session of the Legislature during the two year period had 4,188 bills introduced with less than one-fourth of them becoming law.
  - Grange opposed excessive rate of increase on small trucks as well as doubling of licenses on pleasure cards. Grange maintained it was better to tax those who used highways most by adding additional fuel taxes.
  - Grange viewpoint prevailed regarding three tax measures passed just before the new year when taxes were repealed.
  - Property and income gross receipt taxes on public utilities.
  - A 6% tax on most insurance premiums.
  - Grange urged passage of a broad based tax rather than a broadening of the sales tax since it would be costly to agriculture and others least able to pay.
  - Bills to reduce the membership of the House and Senate and one to make terms of Representatives four rather than two years were opposed.
  - Hearings had been held during the year on bills to amend the Pesticide Act of 1957. State Grange testified on behalf of these bills asking for the regulations in the use and sale of certain pesticides and their applications. Grange asserted its policy against banning these materials but asked for regulations to determine amounts and conditions of use.
  - Master Readinger stated “agriculture and agri-business are a vital part of PA’s economic well-being. Farm income in 1969 exceeded a billion dollars to our farmers while food processing reached the four and one-half billion mark, becoming PA’s second most important manufacturing category.”
  - He noted the necessity of preserving land use for agriculture and open spaces. Ways needed to be found to preserve Class 1-2-3 land for agricultural use.
  - Recommended a continued program to promote PA products to consumers. The observance of Farm-City Week to promote awareness of interrelationship between farm and city people was urged in every county.
- 1970 – Dairy, Agriculture and Conservation Committee recommended that state and federal funds for more research on handling farm wastes to minimize pollution of air, land, and water be made available.
  - Dairy Committee requested PA State University conduct research in handling animal wastes to protect agriculture from air and stream pollution.
  - Both Committees indicated a need for more effort in the field of herbicide, pesticide and fungicide research.
  - Committee requested the State reactivate the vaccination program for control of Brucellosis.
  - Construction of the new Farm Show Complex was favored.
  - State Grange position on supporting the Milk Marketing Board was unchanged.

- 1971 – State Master’s report to Delegates reported 2,800 bills introduced since January.
  - The major problem facing the administration was solving the fiscal crisis. A State Income Tax passed and then ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. However, a 2.3% personal income tax passed later to be effective June 1, 1971.
  - Hassles about welfare program, school subsidies, and tax reform. Against the wishes of the Grange, church groups, and others, a bill liberalizing liquor laws and Sunday sales of liquor became a reality.
  - Divorce laws made more liberal and a state lottery was approved for PA.
  - Master Readinger felt there was a danger of legislation to dilute process of motor license funds. He stated “we cannot permit this to happen if we want good roads.”
  - “We again see a real move to push a fee simple bill permitting the Department of Transportation to buy outright any land they feel might be of use in their future six-year construction program. This is a vicious piece of legislation we oppose.”
  - He voiced the Grange’s opposition to any decrease in the membership of the House and Senate.
  - PA Agriculture Commodities Marketing Act of 1968 when changed by legislative action requiring a simple majority rather than a two-thirds majority and permitting block voting. This was in accordance with Grange principle.
  - Master Readinger stated “One of the greatest problems faced by farmers is the increased cost of taxes on farm land, mechanization, marketing, and a general cost increase in almost every needed item purchased such as feed, chemicals and the cost of repairs.
  - As we look to the future, it is imperative that agriculture must receive greater recognition in the halls of legislature. The farmers must be assured adequate return on their investment, together with reasonable net profit.”
  - Regarding health, he stated “One of the real problems facing rural areas today is the shortage of doctors as well as the facilities to help many of those who are in dire need of medical care.”
- 1971 – Agriculture and Conservation Committee reported the action of the Federal Government to withhold R.E.A.P. funds and recommended that a telegram be sent to President Nixon urging the release of all available funds for the 1972 program year. They also urged the State and National Granges to do everything possible to prevent any cut in the school lunch program.
  - Suggested State Grange appoint a committee to study taxation by other means than real estate. The present form of taxation on rural agriculture is slowly causing agriculture and farm owners to be burdened with insurmountable hardships.
  - Bradford-Sullivan and Washington Pomona Granges submitted a resolution opposing the transferring of U.S.D.A. to other departments of the Federal Government. The wish was to have the Department remain with separate status and the Secretary of Agriculture be directly responsible to the President of the United States.
  - Resolution requesting PA State University establish a veterinary school and support the Veterinarians’ Society in an effort to amend their practice act to provide lay technicians to work under supervision of licensed veterinarians and the PA State Grange ask PA State University to establish a course for lay technicians.
- Dairy Committee in its report made the following policy statement:
  - Recommend that the PA State Grange extend every effort to maintain the same level of appropriations for the school lunch program as we have had in the past year.
  - Since the strength of our country is the military and recommendations have been made to Secretary Hardin of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reduce the appropriation for fresh

milk used by the Armed Services by 25 percent, we strongly urge our PA State Grange to extend every effort to have this fund remain the same as long as our military strength remains at the existing number.

- With pollution of the air and water becoming more and more a problem to the agricultural industries, we recommend that for our best interests we make a maximum effort to hold the farm contributions to pollution at a minimum. Where problems exist due to the problem of location of various types of terrain, we would recommend that R.E.A.P. (the former A.S.C.S. program) be considered to correct the circumstances. We further recommend that the PA State Grange strive to secure a sales tax exemption for construction of pollution control devices.
- With the jug milk sales increasing at a rapid rate in PA the Dairy Committee would recommend to the Delegate body that all jug operations be placed under the jurisdiction of the PA Milk Marketing Board.
- Last and far from the least important to the dairy farmer of PA is the proposed dairy referendum for milk advertising. This referendum proposes that a deduction of five cents per CWT will be deducted from the milk sold by each producer. An advisory board of 15 members will be selected from three districts, NY, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, (four members from each district and three members at large). This committee will not be salaried but shall receive all expenses incurred and a per diem of not more than \$20 per day. These directors shall be nominated by the producers and appointed by the PA Secretary of Agriculture. A referendum of termination may be called for in writing by 10% of the producers.
- To enable the producers to maintain a favorable market for their milk, the PA State Grange Dairy Committee recommends that the Delegate body endorse this referendum.
- Further recommend that the Master and Secretary of the PA State Grange exert all efforts to amend the act to permit the advisory board to be nominated and elected by the producers of their respective districts, these districts to be formed as nearly equal as possible, thus giving each director equal representation of producers advertising dollars.
- The Committee also approved a resolution from Chester-Delaware to “resist every effort to weaken, to dilute or to abandon the present Milk Marketing Board.”
- Master Readinger expressed continued support of the Milk Marketing Board. He noted the economic value of the dairy industry as it supplies 40% of the total cash farm income in the state. This position was affirmed by the Dairy Committee and adopted by the Delegate body.
- The Education Committee, chaired by Paul Keener, Armstrong County, reported on two matters relating to school boards.
  - School Directors being paid is opposed by the Grange.
  - No teachers or other personnel should be eligible to serve on any school board of directors. Both were approved by the Delegates.
  - 1972 Master Readinger was involved in many areas of legislation. Much attention centered on education with possible changes in the method of financing. He commented on the results in other states saying:
    - School property taxes could be replaced by a 2% income tax or a 5% sales tax; this would result in a 4.3% income tax or an 11 percent sales tax, according to the present tax rates.
    - If local school property taxes were abolished, a statewide levy could be imposed at a rate of 18 mills on 100% of market value.
    - Or, if all present school taxes were abolished, the required funds could be made up by a statewide property tax of 26 mills on 100% of market value; and

- Lastly, a land use tax based on the highest and best use to which the land should be put. These four are the alternatives to the present method with I submit for your consideration.
- He stated “finally, it would be most helpful to have recommendations from the Delegate body on how to keep school costs within the framework of our present taxing system.”
- 1972 – Charles Wismer, Montgomery County, chaired the Agriculture Committee, gave the following State problems and concerns:
  - Preservation of agricultural land. God blessed PA with fertile land and adequate rainfall for good crops, therefore we urge all planning commissioners, highway engineers, legislators and others in authority to give top priority to preservation of agriculture land. We also urge the State Grange to work with all others to prepare a long range plan for the preservation of agricultural land.
  - Taxation. Taxes of our farms are increasing at an alarming rate, in some cases forcing farmers to sell their farms. Therefore, we continue to urge all in authority to take the necessary steps to have farm land taxed on agricultural land use.
  - We urge the Bureaus of Food and Chemistry to implement a program of inspection of meat and other food commodities at store level.
  - We recommend to this Delegate body that we oppose the request of the Penn Central Railroad to abandon its line between Williamsport and Elmira. Similar instances should be looked into and rail service shouldn't be curtailed.
  - We continue to support Penn State in research projects in continued studies of pollution, solid wastes and further environmental problems.
  - We support the National Agricultural Day to be held on the fourth Monday of March as a yearly affair.
  - We believe farmers will have to pay more attention to flood plain management in the days ahead.
  - Mr. Wismer noted that the Grange was the only farm organization in PA to appear and give testimony before the State Environmental Quality Board. He stated it is a fact that this board has adopted many of the requests that the PA State Grange made.
- The Legislative Committee, chaired by William Ringler, Somerset County, presented the following recommendations which were accepted:
  - We recommend that the constitutional amendment providing for preferential taxation of open space land be enacted at the earliest possible time and that the Grange at all levels be prepared to encourage favorable consideration of this constitutional amendment when it appears on the ballot.
  - We recommend that the State Grange work with the legislative study bodies in determining whether it would be economically feasible and practicable to replace local real estate tax with an increased rate in a graduated income tax.
  - We recommend that the State and National Granges continue their long standing opposition to diversion of highway fund monies to any other use than highway building and repair work. We do recommend that the federal highway trust fund be changed to provide that monies be returned to the state for maintenance as well as for road building.
  - They further recommend that the State and National Granges work for the creation of a transportation trust fund to finance mass transit. No highway user funds are to be used in the transportation trust fund, but this fund be financed by a similar tax on equipment, parts and fuel on other forms of transportation as are charged the highway users.

- 1973 - Raised \$37,393 for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary expenses and following the celebration, used \$19,452 to renovate and improve the State Grange Headquarters on Second Street in Harrisburg.
- The Sixth Degree conferral at the State Session brought in 596 new members.
- There were 1,205 garments entered in the National Grange Sewing Contest.
- A Young Marrieds Conference was held at Edgewater Acres; 200 youth and 181 Juniors attended camps at Kanestate.
- John W. Scott, Past State Master, was elected Master of the National Grange, and Helen Readinger was elected as National Grange Ceres.
- John and Betty Master, Venango County, became the National Grange Young Couple Runner-up
- 1974 - Seventy thousand copies of the 1972 Cookbook have been sold.
- A year-long celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the State Grange was begun
- Junior Grange Camp drew 216 members to Camp Kanestate, 165 attended Youth Camp.
- National Grange Sewing Contest entries totaled 1,511.
- 1974 - There were 53,693 members in 606 Subordinate Granges; 4,582 members in 265 Junior Granges.

### ***Legislation:***

- 1969-1970 – Governor Raymond P. Shafer proposed largest budget ever put before PA taxpayers - \$2,500,000,000.
- Since introduction of budget, Legislature was trying to settle the tax problem developed by the proposed budget.
- There had been 2,873 bills introduced in the Legislature. Many had to do with liberalizing liquor and gambling laws. The Grange opposed these bills and with support of Grangers across the state, the bills failed to pass.
- Bills that would have abolished the Milk Marketing Board were opposed as were those preventing dairy farmers from selling unpasteurized milk.
- Loss to rural PA was in the change of the 40-60 formula refund of liquid fuel tax to municipalities and townships. Grange efforts were rewarded by a “Grandfather’s Clause” providing that no municipality would get less in future years than they received in 1968.
- Several bills introduced to reduce the size of the Legislature to 40 Senators and 120 Representatives. Opposed by the Grange because it would further reduce rural representatives.
- Grange supported HB 147 amending the ice cream law. It passed and was signed by the Governor giving the Secretary of Agriculture authority to write all product definitions.
- Two of the most debated bills were passed in 1970:
- Clean Streams Law – broadened the power and duties of the Sanitary Water Board and Department of Health. Established a clean water fund. Granted Department of Agriculture veto power in the case of rules and regulations relating to water quality management in industrial wastes. Made landowners responsible for correcting pollution problems which may emanate from the property whether or not they are responsible for creating the pollution problem. Under an amendment affecting farmers, the Board, if it finds that the pollution or danger of pollution results from an Act of God can absolve landowners for penalties. One such act could be sediment from land for which a complete conservation plan had been developed by local Soil & Water Conservation District and Soil Conservation Service, U.S.D.A.
- Senate Bill 1333, Public Employees Law, established rights for public employees to organize and bargain collectively through selected representatives. Bill passed both Houses and signed by the Governor. Bill does not permit closed shop or union shop contracts, but does permit maintenance of

membership contracts and dues check-off. Should negotiations break down, the bill prescribes the use of the Bureau of Mediation and a fact finding panel.

- 1972 - There were 4,300 bills introduced regarding general legislation in both the House and Senate. Most of the bills dealt with taxation, reform, welfare, education, ecology, consumer protection, insurance and law and order.
- Department of Consumer Affairs established Public Employees Bargaining Law and one of the most liberal Unemployment Compensation bills of any state.
- Passage of a flat 2.3% income tax was noted, but the work of the Grange and other farm organizations achieved a manufacturer's exemption for agriculture in the tax, an annual savings of \$1,200-\$1,500 to the average farmer.
- Passage of the Home Rule Bill, with the help from Senator Stauffer and the Grange, secured an amendment to the bill giving the right to the General Assembly to regulate the commodities of food such as frozen products, milk, bread, meat etc. It would prevent artificial barriers between municipalities adopting Home Rule.
- Another bill which had been passed provided increased benefits and broadened coverage to the PA Workmen's Compensation Bill. One of the features was the extension of coverage to most agricultural workers.
- A long-time Grange goal became a reality when SB 1330 requiring milk sanitation and labeling regulations in the state and permitting reciprocity among the states was introduced by Senator Patrick Stapleton and became law. Action would result in savings for every dairy farm and dairies without reducing present minim standards.
- 1973 - The "Taj Mahal" Bill was passed, limiting construction costs and frills in new school buildings.
- The State Income Tax was instated.
- "Clean and Green" went onto the Primary Election Ballot for approval and was approved.
- 1974 - No Fault Insurance became a reality; The Sunshine Law was signed by the Governor.
- The biggest disappointment was that the Milk Marketing Board failed to act to help dairy farmers who were producing milk at a loss.

### ***Youth Program 1968-1973:***

- 1969 – James and Betty Diamond, Plumsteadville Grange, Bucks County, appointed as Chairmen.
- An emphasis placed on inter-county exchange program, regional conferences, and opportunity for young people to express their opinions in Grange circles. Also placed an emphasis on parliamentary procedure for better Grange meetings.
- January 1969 PA Grange News original format changed from "Interested in Youth" to "Grange Youth In Action".
- August 5, 1969 Grange young people sent a telegram to Astronauts Neil Armstrong, Col. Edwin Aldrin, and Col. Michael Collins. The telegram thanked the Apollo 11 crew for their contribution to modern man. The landing on the moon filled the basic needs of young people for new challenges and goals.
- Young Married Program reestablished in 1969. Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Jane) Sattazahn, Marion Grange #1853, Berks County, were the first representatives to National Grange Young Marrieds Contest. They were active in Grange, 4-H, church, and community affairs and were effective ambassadors to the National Session in Daytona Beach, FL.

- 1970 – Delegates to State Grange approved a State Young Marrieds Committee to work with the State Youth Committee. First Chairmen were Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gruber, Stony Point Grange, Mercer County. They were the second young couple to represent PA at National Grange.
- Young Couples for the following years were:
  - 1971 – Mr. & Mrs. Henry (Betsy) Huber, Goshen Grange #121, Chester County
  - 1972 – Mr. & Mrs. Irvin (Nettie) Kauffman, Ontelaunee Grange #1617, Berks County
  - 1973 – Mr. & Mrs. John (Betty) Master, Scrubgrass Grange #1705, Venango County
- Edgewater Acres, Huntingdon County, became the location for the Young Marrieds Weekend Conference. The Conference was for couples 35 years of age or younger. Speakers and discussion groups were mixed with entertainment.
- In the 1969 State Report Mr. Diamond said “Patrons, it is important to remember that young married couples in the Grange are the ‘fire that heats the pot’.”
- Honors to Grange Youth -1969-1970 – Thomas Boldin, Logan Grange #109, Centre County, elected PA FFA Vice President.
- Edward Biddle, Logan Grange #109, Centre County, selected as a delegate to third National Agricultural Youth Institute at the University of Nebraska.
- 1969 – Art Zug, Goshen Grange #121, Chester County, selected National Youth Prince at Daytona Beach, FL. It was the first time PA had the honor National Price. He was recommended by Honorable Leland H. Bull, PA Secretary of Agriculture in 1970 for appointment to the Youth Advisory Committee to the PA Director of Selective Service serving as a member of that committee.
- Sylvia Paden (Shoup), Westfield Grange #1514, Lawrence County, represented PA at Daytona Beach as PA Princess.
- William A. Steel, Big Knob Grange #2008, Beaver County, former National Travel Scholarship winner and PA Assistant Steward was appointed National Director of Youth Activities in 1969.
- Nancy Althouse, Fleetwood Grange #1839, Berks County, filled the office of Lecturer on the National Youth Team for the opening at Daytona Beach, and was runner up National Princess in 1970.
- William Srbinovich, Greene County, placed first in the Highway Essay Contest in 1969.
- Crawford County Pomona Young Grangers had tried for eight years to win the Better Ritual Contest and finally achieved first place in Lewistown in 1969. John Hotchkiss, Pomona Master and Merle Siverling, Drill Team Director, led the entire team to National Grange in Daytona Beach, FL. The group raised all the funds for the trip with various fundraisers.
- Prince and Princess recipients:
  - 1970 – Gordon Fralick, Sparta Grange #110, Crawford County; Nancy Althouse, Fleetwood Grange #1839, Berks County
  - 1971 – Robert Boak, Willard Grange #1440, Lawrence County; Martha Brown, Big Valley Grange #1417, Huntingdon County
  - 1972 – Jeffrey Wetzel, Virginville Grange #1832, Berks County; Ruth Hart, Shenango Township Grange #2057, Mercer County
  - In 1972 Mary Charsar, attended the National Session in Hartford, CT and served as Ceres for the Youth Officers opening.
  - 1973 – Dennis Sattazahn, Marion Grange #1853, Berks County; Mary Charsar, Jefferson Grange #2019, Mercer County

- In 1971 Mercer County Pomona Youth attended the National Session in Charleston, WV with Directors Mr. & Mrs. Robert Steese. That year 900 people attended the National Grange Youth Banquet and approximately 100 were from Mercer County.
- In 1967 – Mr. & Mrs. Richard (Doris) Koenig, former member of the State Youth Committee and State Lady Assistant Steward became the mother of twins. She announced their arrival saying “a fast way to increase Grange membership!”
- In 1970 – Curtis Friebolin, also a member of the State Youth Committee and his wife became parents of twin boys.
- 1971 – After much thought and preparation, Jim and Betty Diamond relinquished the Youth Chairmen’s position. They accepted a two year service appointment by the Peace Corps and were sent to Thchad, Africa, 2,000 plus miles from the coast. Betty taught basic cooking and sewing and Jim showed native boys how to live better with their limited resources.
- 1970 – Lois Whelpley, Sugar Hill Grange #1969, Jefferson County, member of the State Youth Committee also joined the Peace Corp and went to Malaysia.
- January 1971 Kenneth and Sharon Schlegel, Fleetwood Grange #1839, Berks County, were appointed State Youth Directors. Ken had served as Youth Chairman of Fleetwood and was a member of the Berks County Pomona Youth Committee, and a member of the State Youth Committee. He was also a State and National Travel Scholarship winner in 1967 and attended the American Institute of Cooperative Conference at Purdue University as his award. He and Sharon were married in 1968 and shared a partnership with his father operating a 200 acre dairy farm. They have a daughter, Heather, and a son, Keith.
- New programs were added in 1972. A Public Speaking Contest was held at Youth Leadership Conference in June at Gettysburg College. The first place winners were Marsha Provance, Mercer County and Jeffrey Wetzal, Berks County.
- A Traveling Youth of PA Exchange Program was instituted to assist young people to make friends with other young Grangers across the state.
- Patty Steese, London Grange #1492, Mercer County, was a National winner in the Youth Representative Award program. She was assigned to attend the third Annual Midwestern States Grange Youth Conference June 23-25, 1972.

***Women’s Activities 1969-1973:***

- November 1968 Mrs. Ross (Jeanne) Metz, Huntingdon County, appointed Director. She had served on the State Women’s Activities Committee for four years with Mrs. Charles (Ann) Davis, Jr.
- Mrs. Metz was raised in Shavers Creek Valley and educated in Juniata Valley Schools. She and her husband, Ross, owned and operated Lake Vale Ayr Farms, Allensville. They were the parents of a daughter, Judy, and two sons, Larry and David.
- PA Grange News Women’s Activities’ Column was entitled “Up By Saddlers Run”. Articles included health care, sewing hints, gardening and household ideas.
- She was assisted by women from the Regions across the state encouraging and promoting Granges to become involved in programs and projects in their communities.
- 1969 “Keys of Opportunity” opened many doors of activities for Granges. Outstanding Community Service projects were established and greater participation in state projects were evident at the State Session.

### *National Needlework Contest:*

- Ona Baylor, non-member, sponsored by Valley Grange #1184, Montour County received first place Swedish Darning Class.
- Mrs. Joyce Shankweiler, Schnecksville Grange #1684, Lehigh County received second place in the sewing contest.
- PA State Grange Women's Activities report received third place in the Nation.
- PA Granges contributed \$1,211.78 to CARE to help provide school kitchens in Chile.
- 1970 – "Formula for Growth". Grange women were responsible for increasing the number of sewing entries. A total of 1,021 garments were entered.
- Madeline Lemmon, Aleppo Township Grange #2054, Greene County received second place with an embroidered apron.
- 1970 the contributions to CARE kitchens in Chile increased to \$1,369.50.
- A total of 37 regional conferences were scheduled across the state with the Family Activities Director participating and explaining the goals and aims of the Women's Activities Director.
- There was a demand for a new cookbook, and the Women's Activities Committee announced plans for a new book. The response was excellent in the call for submission of favorite recipes. The book was ready for distribution at the 1972 State Session in Williamsport. By January 1973 more than 10,000 copies were sold and the second printing was ordered.
- 1971 – "Bells of Friendship" rang everywhere as the Granges accomplished objectives in the Grange through Community Service and international understanding. CARE project provided community development in Panama stimulating others to help themselves donating a total of \$1,245.41.
- Mrs. Metz was appointed to serve on the National Women's Activities Advisory Committee. She assisted the National Director with Session displays and banquets, preparing the new program for women's work and attended conferences giving assistance.
- National Needlework Contest – Mrs. William Thompson, Mt. Pleasant Grange #1687, Mercer County, received second place for a bedspread at the Charleston, WV Session.
- 1972 – Rays of "Lights from Many Lamps" – Grangers became involved in new priority projects. They included home safety, bun prevention, and a health project for the deaf and hard of hearing.
- PA State Grange received an award from Care, Inc. for outstanding cooperation and contributions to the program they had made toward Community Development in the Panama project.
- PA State Grange achieved and surpassed the goal in entries for the National Grange Sewing Contest.
- Miss Denise Brugh, non-member, sponsored by Milford Grange #1744, Somerset County, received second place.
- Mrs. Lester Miller, Virginville Grange #1832, Berks County, also received second place.
- 1972 – A state project encouraged Grangers to do wood carving.
- State Committee arranged a banquet at State Session in addition to arranging displays and assisting the judging of the needlework. The Committee participated in arranging workshops at the Annual Leadership School.
- October 24, 1972, the official Grange flag was presented to the PA State Grange by the State Women's Activities Committee at Williamsport.
- Centennial Year the Women's Activities Committee members assisted with Open Houses, banquets, contests of sewing centennial dresses and aprons. The aprons were sold at the Centennial Session in Reading.

- The Women's Activities Committee assisted and participated in the Centennial Pageant and banquet. They also cooperated in planning and staging an outstanding antique display for State Session.

***State Grange Secretary:***

- J. Luther Snyder, Valley Grange #1360, York County continued to serve as Secretary through the Readinger Administration.
- Mr. Snyder served as Managing Editor of the PA Grange News, office manager, and served Subordinate and Pomona Granges as a guest speaker for special programs.
- The Snyder family all were very involved in the Grange.
- He conducted a Secretary's Award project. Each Secretary who reported collecting the year's dues from each member by September 30, received an award and were honored at their Subordinate meeting by the attendance of a State Grange Officer. A total of 185 Secretaries received this honor, representing 154 Granges in 52 counties. Mrs. Melvin Davis, Decatur Grange #2067, Clearfield County qualified every year.

***State Lecturer 1969-1973:***

- Miss Mildred Shultz, Somerset Grange #1697, Somerset County, elected Lecturer at the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Session. She previously served the Grange at all levels including six years as State Youth Director. She initiated many new programs in Somerset Pomona and also on the State level. Miss Shultz was a very dedicated Grange member, and her achievements can only be measured by the word "success" in all programs.
- She was an elementary school teacher and held a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Pittsburgh. She was the recipient of the Valley Forge Teacher's Medal in 1960 and elected to membership in Who's Who of American Women in 1968. In 1973 she received the National Grange State Lecturer of the Year Award.
- She served in her church in many ways as a Sunday School teacher, choir member, librarian, Elder of the Consistory, Director of Religious Education, member of the Stewardship Council on the National level and in the spring of 1972 was consecrated as a Lay Minister for the Penn West Conference of the United Church of Christ.
- She was well organized in her personal life and Grange programming she insisted upon organization. Her programs were well planned and the Conferences held were executed with efficiency and insisted those working with her carry out the program in a dignified manner.

***Lecturer's Activities:***

- 1969 theme "Plan, Prepare, Present Purposeful Programs Today for Tomorrow". Lecturers were urged to keep a library of program material and within a year 204 Lecturers reported they had used the idea and qualified as members of the Grange Library Honor Roll.
- PA Grange Lecturers across the state took part in "The PA Bahia Partnership" and told the story of Bahia, a state in Brazil. A total of \$1,815 was collected for this project.
- In 1970 PA entertained the Mid-Atlantic Lecturers' Conference at Gettysburg. A total of 541 Grangers registered and many were present for the dedication of the William Saunders Memorial at Gettysburg.

### *Contests:*

- 1969 – Morely Sisters – Salley, Vicky and Debby, Gold Grange #1207, Potter County, placed first in the Family Vocal Contest.
- Paul Creitz, Schnecksville Grange #1684, Lehigh County, received first place color photo
- Linda Housamann, Central Grange #1650, Lehigh County, also received first place color photo
- Howard Kelly, Keystone Grange #2, Montgomery County, received second place for an oil painting
- Ivena Smith, Pineville Grange #507, Bucks County, received second place for a black and white animal photo
- 1970 – Mrs. John (Marjorie) Cressman, Hanover Grange #1698, Lehigh County, received first place poster
- Ed Biddle, Logan Grange #109, Centre County, received second place photo
- 1971 – Charleston, WV talent contest
- Brackman Family, musical group, Schnecksville Grange #1684, Lehigh County received first place
- Shankweiler Family, instrumental group, Schnecksville Grange #1684, Lehigh County received first place
- Mrs. Elizabeth Dickey, Hillcrest Grange #1674, Somerset County, received first place color photo animals
- The National Grange Boy Scout Troop of the Year was awarded to Troop 96 sponsored by Goshen Grange #121, Chester County.
- 1972 – Mrs. John (Marjorie) Cressman, Hanover Grange #1698, Lehigh County, again placed first in the poster contest.
- Central Grange #1650 Square Dancers, Lehigh County, placed second
- Musical Quartet, a family instrumental group, Fleetwood Grange #1839, Berks County, placed second.
- “The Community More Beautiful” project provided an opportunity for Salem Grange #964, Clearfield County; Hickory Grange #1285, Clearfield County; and Eagle Grange #1, Lycoming County to place first, second, and third respectively.

### *Happenings:*

- Miss Shultz, when visiting Granges, asked for a Grange application blank, a copy of So Bold A Claim or Forward with the Grange. A prize was awarded for a member ready for the opportunity to secure a new member.
- 1971 – Leaders’ Conference had a very helpful program “Festival of the Months”. Twelve Lecturers explained a program they had prepared for the month assigned them. A similar idea entitled “Calendar Capers” was presented in 1972.
- Miss Shultz’s acrostic said what Grange should mean to everyone:  
G – is for the Grange we love so dearly  
R – means recreation to enjoy  
A – is for action we desire  
N – neighbors we are one and all  
G – is for the giving of our service  
E – means everyone that’s YOU AND ME  
    Joined altogether, they say GRANGE, Known as Patrons of Husbandry
- 1971 – A Pomona Chorus contest was initiated and grew in popularity with competition at Regional and District levels.

- District I – Beaver County Pomona Chorus
- District IV – Berks County Pomona Chorus
- No entries from District II and III
- 1973 – The first Lecturer of the Year was presented at Leadership School in June to Barry Driesbach, Berks County.

### ***Junior Grange 1968-1973:***

- Mrs. Alan (Annetta) Merkel, Berks County, PA State Grange Junior Superintendent.
- She had served as Lecturer of Virginville Grange, Berks County at age 14, Matron of Junior Grange before becoming State Junior Deputy in Berks County.
- She developed many projects for young Grangers in Berks County, including hobby shows, county-wide picnics, track meets and a day camp.
- The State Junior Prince and Princess program revived in 1969.
- 1969 – Michael Gerhart, Berks County and Susan Lerch, Lehigh-Northampton County
- 1970 – Ronald Albutz, Montgomery County and Barbara Harrison, Chester County
- 1971 – James Jacobson, Lawrence County and Anna May Snyder, York County
- 1972 – David Kerr, Lawrence County and LouAnn Snyder, York County
- Mrs. Merkel believed all Juniors deserved awards and made sure as many as possible were placed in the spotlight. Special recognition was given at Junior Camp to those who contributed to a better camp.
- A talent contest was part of Junior Camp, and winners were rewarded. In 1973, it became a statewide project for all Juniors and was not limited to only campers.
- State-wide recognition of Junior Granges were presented to the Delegates at State Session, and a Junior Grange Banquet was held primarily for Junior Grange Leaders.

### ***National Winners:***

- 1969 – 1<sup>st</sup> place photos - Jeff Paden, Lawrence County and Doris Hill, Berks County
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Black & White Photo – Jane Hill, Berks County
- 1969, 1970, 1971 – 1<sup>st</sup> place photo – Lynn Diehl, Carbon County
- 1<sup>st</sup> place art drawing – Donald Wall, Washington County
- 1970 & 1971 – 2<sup>nd</sup> place color photo – Mason Rockwell, Fayette County
- 1971 – 1<sup>st</sup> place color photo animals – Cindy McCullough, Lawrence County
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place water colors – Don Peffer, Butler County
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place color photo - Darlene Pratt, Chester County
- 1972 – 2<sup>nd</sup> place Community Service Report - Cambridge Junior Grange, Crawford County,

### ***Gifts to State Junior Camp:***

- Set of Regalia and sashes for Junior Prince and Princess donated by Erla Haas, Perry County in memory of her mother, Mrs. J. Earl Haas.
- Set of Junior Manuals donated by Mr. & Mrs. Earl Mosier, Crawford County.

### ***Junior Grange Membership:***

- Membership in 1972 Junior Report showed 259 Junior Granges with a total membership of 5,021.

### ***Centennial Project:***

- For a Centennial Project a Decorated Bottle Contest was held. The bottles were judged on creativity, neatness and usefulness. They were then displayed at the Centennial Session and sold as Centennial Souvenirs.

### ***Recognition:***

- Curfew Junior Grange, Fayette County received Recognition in August 1971 under the leadership of Mrs. Frank Leck, when they realized a goal of earning enough money to charter a bus for a tour of Washington, DC which included the National Grange Headquarters a visit with National Master John Scott.

### ***Centennial Committee:***

- Miss Shultz, headed the Committee and planned and executed the activities and programs for celebration from the 1972 Annual Session in Williamsport to the close of the 1973 Annual Session in Reading.
- August 9, 1972 – 15 member committee met at the State Office with Master Readinger to plan and make decisions for the year-long celebration. The following slogans were selected for use in the Centennial Year:
  - Let's Zoom Into the Second Century
  - New Horizons in the Second Century
  - Past Achievements Challenge the Future
  - "The Prologue" the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary kick-off event", would be during the banquet scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, 1972 at the Lycoming Hotel, Williamsport.
- The second meeting of the Committee was held August 25, 1972, with invited guests Mrs. Ross (Jeanne) Metz, Director of Women's Activities; Kenneth and Sharon Schlegel State Youth Chairmen, and Mrs. Alan (Annetta) Merkel, Junior Director. Each Department presented their Centennial program plans.
- The proposed souvenir program booklet for the banquet, prepared by Marjorie Cressman, was presented for the Committee's approval.
- Members of the Centennial Committee were:
  - Miss Mildred Shultz, Chairman, Somerset County
  - Alice Fox, Clearfield County
  - Joanne Keith, Huntingdon County
  - Doris Jones, Tioga County
  - Harry Althouse, Berks County
  - Jeff Holmes, Mercer County
  - Gary L. Gregg, Washington County
  - Hope Nelson, Warren County
  - Margaret Bitler, Columbia County
  - Lee Day, Centre County
  - George Raybuck, Potter County
  - Marjorie Cressman, Lehigh County
  - Lourene Cooke, York County
  - Frank Yablonski, Lackawanna County

- Charles Wismer, Montgomery County
- Daryl Heasley, Centre County
- To help defray expenses the Committee planned fund raising events. Centennial plates, wooden nickels, bumper stickers, and coin medals, designed by Marjorie Cressman and ballpoint pens and daisy key chains with Centennial imprints put on sale at the 100<sup>th</sup> State Session in Williamsport.
- 1973 – During the tour of regional meetings, Centennial items were sold.
- State Master Readinger suggested a letter to Granges asking them to conduct two special Centennial events be held during the year. The proceeds were to be sent to the State Grange and placed in a special Centennial Account. A recommended goal was \$.50/member.
- Centennial Committee prepared special certificates to be awarded for 100%, 75% and 50% participation. Those contributing less than 50% would receive a letter of acknowledgement.
- A Grange Antique display was planned and a room was reserved in the headquarters at Reading. “The Grange Centennial Museum” was for each county to display Grange related memorabilia.
- Arrangements were made for sponsors for six to eight pages of the 101<sup>st</sup> Session Souvenir Program Booklet to tell the Grange story in brief and give some pertinent historical fact.
- In February 1973 John V. Cressman, Lehigh County and Mrs. Vernon (Betty) Norris, Butler County were added to the Committee.
- Mr. Cressman ordered and sold most of the Centennial items and Betty had coordinated the material for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.