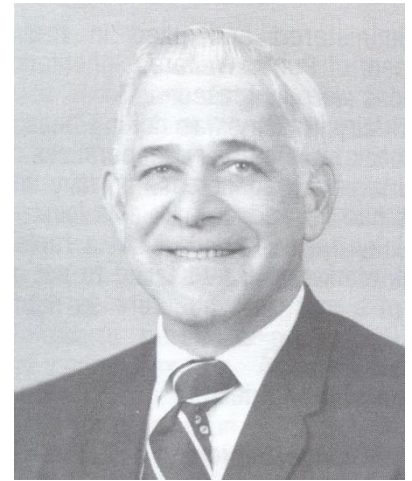


J. LUTHER SNYDER

16th MASTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANGE (1974-1979)



The Person:

- J. Luther was a native of York County.
- He and his wife, Fae (Yetter) Snyder, were married following his tour of duty in the Korean War. They became the parents of Anna May, Lou Ann, James Luther, Joyce, and Jennifer.
- He served as Secretary of the State Grange from 1966 until elected Master in 1974.
- Fae also worked in the Harrisburg office.
- Luther resigned as Master in March, 1979 to accept appointment as the Pennsylvania Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and served in that position until his death in 1987.

1975 IN REVIEW

- Nine regional instructional meetings were conducted by State Grange officers and departmental leaders across the state.
- Walker and Mary Shannon were named to head the 1979 Host National Grange Session Committee. The location would be Lancaster.
- Leadership School included Lecturers from neighboring states and attracted 634 participants.
- Cookbook sales provided \$132,404 to supplement dues income for the State Grange
- There were 154 resolutions for consideration at the 103rd annual State session in Lancaster
- 450 candidates received the Sixth Degree
- PA hosted the Mid-Atlantic Lecturers' Conference
- New halls were dedicated
 - September 20, 1975 – DuBois
 - September 27, 1975 - Warren-Forest Pomona Building plus held a Centennial Celebration
- Farmers & Traders Life Insurance Company continued the sponsorship of the Granger of the Year Program.

Legislation:

- Master Snyder presented testimony and policy statements before State House and Senate Committees on the role of Government, land use and taxation. Clean and Green became law.
- PA State Grange introduced legislation to exempt farmers from immediate payment of assessments on sewer and water lines being constructed.
- Numerous meetings held on Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Plans for PA
- Pa Milk Marketing Board held hearings on the 1975 Farm Emergency Bill which would have increased the price of milk to farmers and provided a measure of compensation for the increased cost of production but was vetoed by the President. PA State Grange presented testimony at all hearings.
- Concern for the number of teacher strikes and the bulk of revenue for educational purposes still being raised through taxation or real estate property.
- PA voters approved a Constitutional Amendment at the Primary to end Gubernatorial interim appointments. The Grange supported the Amendment.

- Opposed the amendment to the bill to amend the implementation of legislation to require only a majority vote instead of a 2/3 majority to confirm appointees that must have Senate approval.
- Grange policy supported a tax increase on fuel to raise revenue for the Department of Transportation.

The Order:

- As of June 30, 1974, the total membership was 53,693 and as of June 30, 1975 there were 53,076 members in 595 Subordinate Granges which was a loss of 617 since June of 1974.
- At the beginning of the Grange year October 1, 1974 there were 53,744 members in 595 with a total of 2,471 initiated compared to 2,646 in 1973.
- The September 30, 1975 state reports from 540 Granges indicated a loss of 96 members.
- No new Junior Granges were organized, however three were reorganized.
 - Willard #120, Lawrence County
 - Wesley #143, Venango County
 - Jordan #501, Clearfield County
- As of June 30, 1974, there were 265 Junior Granges and 260 as of September 30, 1975. The total Junior membership as of September 30, 1975 was 4,460.
- There were 526 candidates for the Sixth Degree.
- O. Walker Shannon, East Central Regional Manager of National Grange Mutual Insurance Company, presented membership awards to 88 Subordinate Granges. Also presented a check for \$715.00 to PA State Grange.
- Nine Better Ritual Awards presented and 39 Awards of Merit in Code Reading
- Resolution to increase dues paid to the National Grange.
- Granges encouraged to assist in raising funds for the debt retirement of the National Grange Building.
- National Grange Bicentennial Cookbook available.
- October 23, 1975 – 68 Subordinate Secretaries qualified for the Secretary's Award Program compared to the 92 in 1974.
- The State Grange Office was sided at a cost of \$11,000 and was part of the Centennial Fund.

Lecturers:

- Leadership School's Wednesday banquet had 634 in attendance which included 136 attending the Mid-Atlantic Lecturers' Conference at Gettysburg College.
- 1975-76 Pomona Lecturer of the Year – Joan Keith, Huntingdon County; Subordinate Lecturer of the Year – Frances Merkel, Ontelaunee Grange, Berks County.
- Requested that National Grange rules be changed allowing Pomona teams for square dance or folk-dance teams.
- Bicentennial Flag Program developed by National Lecturer William J. Brake to be used at six meetings through the year – July 4, 1975 – July 4, 1976.

Youth:

- The National Grange Youth Department introduced "Signed Singing" at the session in Columbus, OH
- State Youth Princess - Jane Hill, Berks County; State Youth Prince – George Rodgers, Lawrence County; State Young Couple – Glenn and Peggy Sterner, York County.
- George Rodgers, Lawrence County, was named National Grange Prince
- In 1974 there were 32 entries in the Youth Representative Award. Recipients were:
 - Male 14-17 – Robert Decker, Mercer County
 - Female 14-17 – Anne M. Brown, Huntingdon County; also a National winner

- Male 18-25 – Jeffrey B. Holmes, Mercer County; also a National winner
- Female 18-25 – Debbie L. Heath, Mercer County
- Male 26-29 – Robert H. Steese, Mercer County; also a National winner
- Female 18-25 – no applications
- Grange Interstate Youth Exchange (GISYE) had four applications received and approved to be forwarded to National Grange. Those selected for exchanges in KS were:
 - Bonnie Sticklin, Tioga County, exchanging with Lois Kincaide, KS
 - Robin Hollabaugh, Warren County, exchanging with Melanie Steffey, KS
 - Jay Chase, Beaver County, exchanging with Todd Douglass, KS
- Youth Safety Program – Scrubgrass Grange 1705, Venango County was one of ten State Grange reports submitted to National Grange. They received a \$100.00 scholarship for a project in First Aid. Three reports submitted on the state level.
- Leadership School – 89 registered for Youth workshops; the largest number on record and second only to the Lecturers.
- Seven contestants competed in the Fourth Annual Public Speaking Contest. Overall winners were:
 - 1st – John Keith, Huntingdon County
 - 2nd – George Rodgers, Lawrence County
 - 3rd – Jane Hill, Berks County
- Both John Keith and George Rodgers represented PA in the National Grange Mid-Atlantic Region Public Speaking finals held at Gettysburg during the Mid-Atlantic Lecturers’ Conference. George Rodgers received first place.
- State Youth Camp – 178 campers, staff and visitors attended the annual Youth Camp at Camp Kanesatake. National Princess Clarice Marquart of Knowles, WI was the official National Grange representative
- Selected as the 1975-76 Prince and Princess were Fred Rudy, Allegheny County and Barbara Harrison, Chester County.
- Anna May Snyder, York County, first runner-up (state) Princess served on the National Youth Officers Team in Columbus, OH.
- Regional Conferences – Six were held with an average attendance of 75. Conferences featured educational workshops, Grange ritual, and several regions selected Regional Prince, Princess and Young Couple.
- Young Marrieds Weekend – 22 couples participated in the three-day weekend at Edgewater Acres for the Sixth Annual Weekend. Workshops, recreation, entertainment and Young Couple contest were features of the weekend. Nine couples competed for the 1975-76 Young Couple title. Selected were James and Lois Steele, Chester County.
- Ritual and Demonstration Contests – seven teams registered for the competition. Winning team receives the Beatty H. Dimit Memorial Youth Ritual Plaque.
- A new program designed for smaller Grange Counties was the Demonstration Contest.
- Grange Youth Care and Grange Youth Leadership Fund – The PA State Grange Youth Committee sponsored a new community service project in 1975. “Grange Youth Care” consisted of four phases of service – international, national, state and local levels. A total of \$975.31 was donated for UNICEF - \$282.86; American Indians - \$388.04; and Deaf - \$304.41. PA collected more than any other state.
- National Grange Youth Leadership Fund – PA was first in the National and donations amounted to \$2,829.30, including amount sent to PA Junior Superintendent. The fund enables National Grange to carry on youth activities on the National level.

- State Session Activities – The Youth Department assisted with the kick-off of hosting the 1979 National Grange Session. In addition to placing banners and posters around the session, they collected \$570 from Convention attendees for the National Grange Host Fund.
- The State Youth Banquet was attended by 473 persons. Dorothy Scott, National Grange First Lady, addressed the group with “Which Tire Is Flat”.
- The Demonstration Contest was won by Chester-Delaware Pomona.
- The Beatty H. Dimit Memorial Youth Ritual Award was won by Berks County giving them an opportunity to open the Thursday morning State Session.
- State Youth Department in conjunction with State Women’s Activities Committee provided six Hearing Aid Kits to Lancaster Lebanon Intermediate Unit to assist in training deaf children.

Women’s Activities:

- Assisted in presenting various topics for Grange Lecturer’s programs.
- Assisted in providing entertainment and support of youth and Junior programs and projects.
- Cooperated in celebrations of Grange anniversaries, Open House programs and banquets.
- Provided funds for Grange Hall improvement projects raising a reported \$27,511.65.
- Community Life – Granges and members worked in cooperation with many community organizations providing funds and manpower. A total of \$14,723.21 reported being raised for these endeavors.
- State Sewing Contest goal was 2,125 entries and 2,847 entries were received surpassing the goal by 722 entries. Judging at the State level resulted in 112 entries at the State Grange Office which was followed by an Open House.
- Health Programs – National project “Dream Along with the Deaf” received \$839.25 in contributions, and the PA Health Project “Ears to Hear” raised \$919.17.
- The Care project – nurses providing medical assistance in rural areas of Honduras received \$1,127.00 in contributions.
- Mary Margaret Craft, York County, won the Grand Award in the National Grange Needlework Contest; Mary Schuler, Berks County, won first place in class B.

1976 IN REVIEW

- The 104th Annual Session was held in Sharon, PA
- Richard Troendle, Vice-President of Farmers & Traders Life Insurance Company announced a new program “Grange of the Year”.
- Community Service report winners were:
 - 1st – Kennett #19, Chester County
 - 2nd – Perry Valley #1804, Perry County
 - 3rd – Hookstown #1980, Beaver County
 - 4th – Washington #1763, Lehigh County
- Open House winners were:
 - Class 1 – less than 100 members – Hanover Grange #1698, Lehigh County
 - Class 2 – 100-300 members – Perry Valley Grange #1804, Perry County
 - Class 3 – 300 members or more – Fleetwood Grange #1839, Berks County
- 1976 Granger of the Year – Albert Zufall, Roseville Grange #1290, Jefferson County
- 1976 - A new furnace was installed in the State Grange Headquarters building in Harrisburg
- Four hundred ninety-five delegates acted on 121 resolutions at the convention in Mercer
- “Shine In 79” Fund to host the National Session had raised \$5,106.50 to date.
- 1976 - Master Snyder was elected to the position of Priest Annalist of the Assembly of Demeter

Legislation:

- 1976 - Act 71 exempting farmers from immediate payments for water and sewer line constructed on the farm frontage was signed May 28, 1976. The payment was delayed as long as the farmland remains in agricultural production.
- Charles Wismer, Legislative Chairman, presented testimony in opposition to the Department of Welfare's proposal to phase out institutional farms.
- PA State Grange asked to assist in formulating a plan to control and/or eradicate Multiflora Rose. Meetings held with ASCS Committee that led to approval of Tordon 10K, a chemical that will destroy the plant. State ASCS Committee provided a cost sharing program for control of Multiflora Rose. The Committee obtained approval from USEPA for use of herbicide Tordon 10K.
- PA Milk Marketing Board continues efforts to have a current price structure throughout the state.
- Act 195 – Strikes in schools by teachers.
- January 1975 – 4,392 bills introduced; mid October 1976 only 546 bills passed and sent to the Governor. Of the bills introduced 152 proposed creation of 121 new governmental agencies. This would include nine new departments which would mean an increase of 50% over the present 18.
- Motor Vehicle Code – prohibited use of studded tires as of May 1, 1978. Permitted right turn on red after a complete stop, except where marked.
- Annual fee for registration of farm trucks was \$27 and permitted the use of the vehicle within a 25-mile radius of the farm.
- The dairy industry economy, education costs, and health care costs were also addressed

The Order:

- 1976 - There were 52, 582 members in 591 Subordinate Granges; PA ranked second in total membership in the nation. As of June 30th, there was a loss of 494 members. As of October 1, 1976, there were 591 Subordinate Granges.
- 257 candidates received the Sixth Degree at Sharon and 486 received the Sixth Degree at a special Session Conferral at Berwick
- New halls dedicated
 - November 6, 1975 - Cherry Hill #1214, Erie County
 - June 12, 1976 – Eureka #1011, Westmoreland County
 - Centre Hill #855, Clearfield County (addition)
- Eight regional meetings conducted
- As of June 30, 1976 – 221 Junior Granges and 3,949 members.
- Slippery Rock Junior Grange #531, Butler County, was organized March 27, 1976.
- 24 Award of Merit cards issued
- 11 Better Ritual Awards – Junior, Subordinate and Pomona Granges must score 85 points or more

Lecturers:

- A Traveling Flag program was begun by State Lecturer Mary Buffington for 1976-78 which consisted of American and Grange flags
- 53rd Leadership School held at Gettysburg College with 404 registered representing 49 counties and 11 states. The banquet had 414 in attendance.
- 1976-77 Lecturer of Year – Margaret Lindley, Washington County Pomona #16; Jane Fogal, Bernville #1887, Berks County – Subordinate.
- Millers Run Grange #2020, Washington County, Square Dance Team placed first in Other Acts at the National Convention.

- Glen E. Byers Family, Perry County, received fourth in Family Vocal and first in Family Instrumental at National Grange.
- Marjorie Cressman, Hanover Grange #1678, Lehigh-Northampton Pomona, received first place with her poster.
- 54th Annual Leadership School had 440 in attendance representing 50 Subordinate Granges
- 1977 National Grange began a program honoring top three Subordinate and Pomona Lecturers in each state and were entitled to a Recognition Award.
- Marjorie Cressman, Lehigh-Northampton Pomona, won first place in the National Grange Poster Contest.
- Black & White Photography Contest – Elizabeth Baccardo, Lower Bucks Pomona, won third place in Scenes and Close-ups.
- Color Photography Contest – Animal – Daniel Koutz, Virginville #1832, Berks, third
- Color Slide – Animal – Nancy Walker, Community #1767, Perry County, second
- Color Slide Close-up – Mrs. Charles (Winifred) Rice, Vernon #936, Crawford, third
- Family Instrumental Contest – Kissling Family, Berks County, won second place.
- Family Vocal Contest – Yankee Doodle Dandies (Shankweiler Cousins), Lehigh-Northampton Pomona won first place

Juniors:

- National Junior Achievement Award – Bernville Junior Grange #152, Berks County, Mrs. Edna Zerbe, Matron, received first place.
- Community Service – Pleasant Hill Junior Grange #529, Cambria County, Mrs. Carl Durbin, Matron and Lori A. McNulty, Community Service Chairman, received first place in the Nation.
- 1976-77 Junior Prince John Shankweiler and Princess Susan Young, Schnecksville Grange, Lehigh County.
- The first Annual Junior Day was held at the 1976 State Session

Youth:

- State Youth Director Doug Bonsall reported on the results of the first Bowling Tournament and the softball league
- State Youth Princess – Barbara Harrison, Chester County; State Youth Prince – Fred Rudy, Allegheny County; State Young Couple – Jim and Lois Steele, Chester County.
- George Rodgers, Lawrence County, was selected the 1976 National Prince in Columbus, OH
- Anna May Snyder, York County, served as the Steward for the National Youth Officers Team in Columbus, OH
- Youth Representative Award had 36 entries. Winners were:
 - Male 14-17 – Jeffrey Nutt, Fayette County
 - Female 14-17 – Lou Ann Snyder, York County
 - Male 18-25 – Paul Baker, Mercer County
 - Female 18-25 – Juanita Roberts, Warren County
 - Ages 26-29 – no entries
- GISYE – Carol Courtney, Mercer County, exchanged with Kristine Whitford, RI
- Youth Safety Program – final year for the program. Stony Point #1694, Mercer County, submitted report to National Grange representing PA. They planned and carried out installation of concrete sidewalks to the Grange Hall entrance.
- Public Speaking – 11 youth competed

- 14-18 – Lena Garvis, Mercer County, received first place in PA and second place at Mid-Atlantic
- 19-35 – Barbara Harrison, Chester County, received first place in PA and first place at Mid-Atlantic
- The 24th Annual Youth Camp was held at Camp Kanestatke with 184 in attendance.
- 1976-77 Princess – Anna May Snyder, York County
 - Prince – John Keith, Huntingdon County
- New bowling contest instituted chaired by Ken and Sharon Schlegel, Berks County, had 43 teams participating. Finals held at Bellefonte Lanes, Centre County.
- First place team was Ontelaunee Grange #1617, Berks County consisting of Forrest Blatt, Edna Blatt, Ronald Merkel, and Frances Merkel.
- Softball contest chaired by Randy Douglass, Beaver County with 14 teams participating. The State tournament was held at Potts Field, Pleasant Gap, Centre County. Crawford County named 1976 State Champions.
- Six of the eight Regions held Regional Youth-Young Marrieds Conferences.
- Seventh Annual Young Marrieds Weekend held at Edgewater Acres, Huntingdon County. Five couples competed for Young Couple. Selected were Richard and Wanda Gallimore, Adams County.
- Ritual and Demonstration Contests – Four teams competed in the Third Degree with Washington Pomona #16 receiving first place. The Demonstration teams had nine teams competing with first place going to Fayette Pomona #49.
- Second Annual Youth Banquet held at State Session with 500 in attendance.
- Youth contributed \$407.00 to “Ears to Hear” and \$1,301 to the National Grange Youth Leadership Fund.
- Wanda Gallimore, Adams County, served as the Chaplain for the National Youth Officers Opening
- Bill Steel, National Youth Director, presented Miss Deaf America as a guest for Youth Activities Days at the convention in Atlantic City, NJ

Women’s Activities:

- Handicrafts for others (Charitable Organizations) resulted in 7,151 items being given
- Donations and collections received \$13,437 being donated
- 2,500 pair of eye glasses were donated to the VOSH program
- National Grange Sewing Contest – A total of 2,848 entries were made by Pennsylvanians. PA was one of six states making a three-year gain. A total of 114 garments were judged on the State level.
- Class C – Miss Mildred Kirkner, Chester Valley Grange #1496, Chester County, received Honorable Mention at the National judging.
- Health Projects – “Dream Along With The Deaf” - \$894.64
 - PA Health “Ears To Hear” - \$1,507.82
 - 1976 Care Project – Nurses Training Program in Choluteca, Honduras - \$1,327.78

1977 IN REVIEW

- The 105th Annual Session held at Danville, PA
- Richard Troendle, Vice-President, Farmers & Traders presented Grange of the Year Awards
 - 1st – Virgenville Grange #1832, Berks County
 - 2nd – Logan Grange #109, Centre County
 - 3rd – Kennett Grange #19, Chester County
- 1977 Granger of the Year – Caroline McCullon, Wesley Grange #1675, Venango County

The Order:

- 1977 - Downsizing of *The Grange News* was considered to reduce printing and mailing costs
- There were 51,421 members in 588 Subordinate Granges; 3,690 Junior members in 195 Junior Granges.
- No net gain in membership since 1960.
- 304 candidates received the Sixth Degree
- There were 15 area meetings conducted throughout the state
- Secretary's Award Program continued for Subordinate Secretaries who collected dues from all members by September 30 of the current year.
 - October 18, 1977 – 59 Secretaries qualified
- "Hello Neighbor" membership program sponsored by National Grange Mutual. Granges having a net gain between July 1 – June 30 – 153 Granges qualified with 108 Granges qualifying with the minimum number of new members. Top four in PA were:
 - 1st – Kutztown #1836, Berks County – 64 members
 - 2nd – Virginville #1832, Berks County – 40 members
 - 3rd – Mount Pleasant #975, Clearfield County – 32 members
 - 4th – Siglerville #2068, Mifflin County – 24 members
- Membership as of June 30, 1976 – 52,582; Membership as of June 30, 1977 – 51,421, making a loss of 1,161 members.
- Membership as of October 1, 1976 – 52,372; 588 Granges
- One Grange was reorganized – Asylum #1764 Bradford County
- Shine In 79 Fund – 246 Subordinate Granges, 16 Pomona Granges, 1 Junior Grange, 5 Youth Groups, and 5 individuals have contributed \$14,288.65 including interest.
- Credentials Committee for the 1977 State Session reported there were 233 Subordinate Granges with 386 Delegates; 42 Pomona Granges with 74 Delegates for a total of 460 Delegates.
- The Sixth Degree was conferred on 304 Candidates.
- The 1979 National Grange Host Committee reminded members of the "Five Point Plan"
 - **GIVE** – a small financial contribution from each Grange
 - **ASCERTAIN** – a survey of the membership of each Grange to determine those members not having received the Sixth and Seventh Degrees
 - **VOLUNTEER** - help of all kinds needed before, during, and after the session
 - **ESTABLISH**- "Pomona Days" to encourage the active participation and attendance of all PA Grangers
 - **SECURE** – initiate new candidates so that PA can have one of the largest Seventh Degree classes in history
 - Introduced a new slogan "C U at National in "79"

Legislation:

- 1977 - George Rodgers, Lawrence County, was hired as Legislative Assistant to the State Master. He compiled a new style Policy Booklet, and a policy index that went back five years and included 612 resolutions.
- He spent much time with the Department of Environmental Resources, AG Advisory Committee; PA Intergovernmental Council (land use, comprehensive water management, planning meetings, soil conservation service, standing committees in PA Senate and House of Representatives. Also as the Legislative Assistant, he attended several Grange Legislative banquets.
- PA State Grange supported Lehigh-Northampton Pomona in opposing the taking of land for the construction of the Trexler Dam. The Dam would have forced the relocation of many families and taken

thousands of acres of land out of agricultural production. The project delayed until the question can be referred to the voters.

- Supported passage of House Bill 111 Preservation of Ag Land

Lecturers:

- Open House winners:
 - Class 1 – less than 100 members – Cross Creek Village Grange #1751, Washington County
 - Class 2 – 100-300 members – Ontelaunee Grange #1617, Berks County
 - Class 3 – 300 plus members – Fleetwood Grange #1839, Berks County
- 1977 - State Lecturer Mary Buffington, began the collection of Campbell Soup labels with 60,000 being collected in the first year.
- National Master John Scott and his wife Dorothy spoke at Leadership School to 426 attendees
- Community Service Awards
 - 1st Kutztown Grange #1836, Berks County
 - 2nd Franklin Grange #1169, Fayette County
 - 3rd Hookstown Grange #1980, Beaver County
 - 4th Kennett Grange #19, Chester County
- First year for the National Award of Excellence Program
 - 1977-78 Pomona Lecturer of the Year – Anna Mae Gahagan, Armstrong Pomona #11
 - Subordinate Lecturer of the Year – Violet Fosselman, Oliver Grange #1069, Perry County
- National Winners - 1977 Skit Writing Contest – “The Visit” by Mary Devilbiss, Fawn Grover Grange #1733 entered in National competition
- Lecturer Mary Buffington began the collection of Campbell Product labels to benefit the Deaf-Hearing Center, Springfield, PA
- 1977 - Kutztown Grange, Berks County, placed first in the National Grange Community Service Contest

Women’s Activities:

- State Women’s Activities Director Ruth Hoover reported 2,818 entries in the National Grange Sewing Contest. There were 112 entries judged on the State level.
- Class A – 1st place – Sharon Kubinec, Greensburg, non-member, sponsored by Harrold Grange #1984, Westmoreland County
- Class B – Youth – 1st place – Carol Weyand, non-member, sponsored by Milford Grange #1744, Somerset County
- Class C – Children’s – 1st place – Norma Smith, non-members, sponsored by Woodcock Center Grange #1084, Crawford County
- Class D – Adults Sewing for Youth – 1st place – Janet Ridge, non-member, sponsored by Blairsville Grange #2012, Indiana County
- Class E – Men’s – 1st place – Lila Newhard, Virginville Grange #1832, Berks County.
- Health Project – Ears to Hear contributions \$1,218.95; Dream Along With The Deaf - \$735.00, and Care – Multi-Purpose Center construction in Costa Rica \$1,356.56.
- The VOSH (Volunteer Optometric Service for Humanity) program dispensed 3,123 pairs of glasses in the Dominican Republic. Additional glasses were sent to SVOSH (Southern College of Optometry). During 1977 there were 3,500-4,000 pair of glasses collected.
- Recycling of hearing aid batteries netted in excess of \$368.32 for the Deaf Program.

Youth:

- The GROW Club was organized to encourage youth to “Go Right On Working” organized in NJ. PA’s Chapter formally organized at the 1977 PA State Grange Youth Camp. Those included in the group are Past Youth Prince and Princess, Young Couples, and PA included Past State Youth Directors and spouses of Past Royalty.
- Youth Director Bonsall announced a horseshoe tournament for 1978
- Wanda Gallimore served as Chaplain on the National Youth Officers’ team in NJ
- 33 applications received for the Youth Representative Award
 - Age 26-30 – Male – Paul Baker, Mercer County; Female – Sharon Schlegel, Berks County
 - Age 19-25 – Male – Thomas Boldin, Centre County; Female - Darlene Gruber, Mercer County
 - Age 14-18 – Male – Kenneth Smith, Crawford County; Female – Carol Courtney, Mercer County
- National Grange new program “Grange Citizenship Short Course” winners of YRA invited to attend were Tom Boldin, Sharon Schlegel, and Darlene Gruber. Tom Boldin was unable to attend, but Kenneth Schlegel and Stanley Gruber attended with their wives.
- GISYE participants were:
 - Mary Styer, Valley #1184, Montour hosted Beth Anne Miller, OH
 - Kelly Hollabaugh, Watson #1068, Warren County, hosted Stephanie Hall, MA
- Second Annual Bowling tournament had 53 teams participating, chaired by Den and Sharon Schlegel, Berks County.
- 150 Patrons participated at the State Competition.
 - 1st place Scratch Team – Bernville #1887, Berks County – 2,043; team members were Art Kissling, Marilyn Kissling, Ralph Kissling and Ella Becksler
 - 1st place Handicap Team – Edinboro #947, Erie County; team participants were Ezra Snyder, Louise Snyder, Joe Ondrey, and Ann Ondrey
- Leadership School – Youth Department held an auction to benefit the Shine in 79 Fund and raised \$50.00.
- Public Speaking
 - 14-18 – 1st Judy Paull, Ridgeview #1948, Fayette County
 - 19-35 – 1st Dave Hanks, Fulton #66, Lancaster County; also received overall award
 - Both competed at the Mid-Atlantic Youth Conference
- Youth Camp celebrated their 25th Anniversary – 166 in attendance at Camp Kanestate
- 1977-78 Prince – Dale Weisz, Lawrence County; Princess – MeeCee Baker, Juniata County
- Softball held the 2nd annual tournament with 24 teams participating and chaired by Dick and Virginia Mangel and Barry Peffer of Butler County.
- Lewistown Grange #1639, Schuylkill County named the Championship team at the State finals held in Centre County. An awards luncheon held at Logan Grange for 128 persons.
- Regional Conferences were held in six of the eight Grange Regions.
- Seventeen couples attended the State Young Marrieds Weekend at Edgewater Acres, Huntingdon County.
- Four young couples competed and Richard and Virginia Mangel, Butler County, selected as the State Young Couple.
- Ritual and Demonstration Contests
 - 1977 Contest – Opening Drill and Parliamentary Procedure – 4 teams participated
 - Demonstration – entering and leaving the Grange meeting – 6 teams participated
- Ritual Team – 1st place Washington County
- Demonstration Team – 1st place Beaver County

- Grange Youth Care and National Youth Leadership Fund received donations from Youth groups in the amount of \$525 and from Junior, Subordinate, and Pomona Granges in the amount of \$2,185. This was an increase of \$884 over the previous year and one of the largest state contributors in the Nation.
- The third Annual State Grange Youth Banquet was held.
- John Keith, Huntingdon County, and Anna May Snyder, York County, were named National Grange Prince and Princess, the first time a state had won both titles at the same time, and Dick and Wanda Gallimore, Adams County, were first runner up for the National Grange Young Couple title.

Juniors:

- The first annual Junior Day was held in Sharon in 1976 with 150 Juniors participating.
- The Executive Committee approved talent divisions into two age groups 5-9 and 10-14 in 1976.
- Alan L. Merkel Memorial Tribute established to honor the Junior Deputy who organized or reorganized the most Junior Granges, the Junior Grange that had the largest net gain in members, and the Junior Granger who brought in the most new members. The winners were as follows:
 - Gladys Blain – Junior Deputy in Butler County – 1 new Junior Grange
 - Valley Junior Grange #75, Montour County with 16 new members.
 - James Wheeler, Greenville, Pleasant Ridge Junior Grange, Mercer County – 8 new members
- Better Ritual Award
 - Virginville Junior Grange #436, Berks County, Jane Hill, Matron
- Community Service
 - Pleasant Hill Junior Grange #529, Cambria County
- Women's Activities Junior Report
 - 1st Perry Valley Junior Grange #507, Perry County
- 1977-78 Junior Prince – Dwayne Reinert, Lehigh County; Princess Sherri Zeckman, Berks County
- Annetta Merkel's final year as Junior Director after 9 years.

1978 IN REVIEW

- 1978 - David Weinstock was hired as the first Public Relations Director for the State Grange
- A Christmas Card fundraising effort was begun with mailings to all families
- The State Grange Constitution and By Laws were studied
- Granger of the Year – Eleanor Wilson, Big Beaver Grange #1578, Lawrence County
- A Health Insurance program for members was introduced
- Campbell Soup label collection totaled 48,147
- The State Grange Deaf Activities Department presented communications equipment to the Selinsgrove Center
- State Session held at Butler, PA
 - 233 Subordinate Granges
 - 407 Subordinate Delegates
 - 43 Pomona Granges
 - 74 Pomona Delegates
 - 481 Total Delegates
- 468 candidates received the Sixth Degree

The Order:

- Despite great efforts and membership programs, the membership fell to 48,907 in 581 Subordinate Granges.
- Survey Committee presented their report with three recommendations.
 - Eliminate all State Officers reports at State Session except Master, Secretary, Treasurer and Executive and Finance Committees. All officers' reports to be printed in Journal of Proceedings.
 - Eliminate recognition of Past State Officers during the State Session.
 - Survey Committee make a study of the format of the State Grange Session for better utilization of time, to be reported at next state session. All three recommendations were accepted.
- 1977-78 "Action" Membership program sponsored by National Grange Mutual. PA had 100 Granges participate with a net gain of 580 members earning a total of \$1,301.25 for PA State Grange. Top four winners were:
 - 1st Ginger Hill Grange #1549, Washington County
 - 2nd Curfew Grange #1052, Fayette County
 - 3rd West Valley Grange #1760, Armstrong County
 - 4th Prosperity Grange #1700, Indiana County
- The "Action" membership program had a gain of over 3,500 new members across the National
- Community Service Awards
 - 1st Hookstown Grange #1980, Beaver County
 - 2nd Hayfield Grange #800, Crawford County
 - 3rd Brokenstraw Grange #407, Warren County
 - 4th Valley Grange #1360, York County
- The Delegate count was 481 at the state session; they addressed 127 resolutions
- 465 candidates received the Sixth Degree
- Farmers & Traders Life Insurance Company presented Grange of the Year Awards:
 - 1st Logan Grange #109, Centre County
 - 2nd East Franklin Grange #1709, Greene County
 - 3rd Virginville Grange #1832, Berks County
- 16 Regional meetings held across the state
- Secretary's Award – Secretaries who collect all dues from members by September 30th of the current year had 33 Secretaries qualifying as of October 18, 1978.
- Membership as of June 30, 1978 – 48,907, a loss of 2,514 as of June 30, 1977
- October 1, 1977 membership was 51,346 with 1,516 initiated during the year.
- The quarter ending September 30, 1978 had 521 Granges reporting a loss of 349 members.
- No new Granges were organized or reorganized, two Granges disbanded, and six Granges consolidated.
- As of October 1, 1978, there were 581 Granges.
- Master Snyder was named to chair a special Trial Committee at the National Grange convention to handle charges against another State Master
- Douglas Bonsall, now the chair for the "Shine in '79 Committee" addressed the National Grange convention with an invitation to attend the 1979 convention in Lancaster PA.
- Shine In 79 Fund received \$20,559.42 in donations plus interest of \$888.91 with a total in the fund of \$21,448.33.

Legislation:

- 1977 - The Grange expressed concern about the costly mandates directed toward business, industry and agriculture by government

- The Grange voted to oppose the measure to give the District of Columbia two Senate seats
- The increase of foreign purchases of agricultural land is a concern

Lecturers:

- Open House Program Awards
 - Class 1 – less than 100 members – Cross Creek Valley Grange #1751, Washington County
 - Class 2 – 100-300 members – Ontelaunee Grange #1617, Berks County
 - Class 3 – over 300 members – Fleetwood Grange #1839, Berks County
- Penn National Fair approached PA State Grange to hold a talent show at the Fair.
- 1978 Leadership School held at Elizabethtown College, attendance of over 370 but down from the attendance the previous year
- 1978 Pomona Lecturer of the Year – Helen Sipe, Somerset Pomona #39; Subordinate Lecturer of the Year – Mildred Shultz, Somerset Grange #1697, Somerset County
- 1977 National Grange winners
 - Best of Show – Art – Bruce Williams, Kissinger Grange #2046, Berks County
 - 2nd place Drawing – Harriet Beeson, Goshen Grange #121, Chester County
 - 3rd place Photo , Color close-up – Elizabeth Boccardo, Middletown Grange #684, Bucks County; and 2nd place Black/White Photo Close up.
 - 2nd Photo, Black & White People – Mildred Ringler, Wills Grange #1690, Somerset County; and 3rd place Black & White Animal
- Family Talent
 - 2nd Instrumental – VanOrd Family, Ackley Grange #870, Warren County
 - 4th Vocal – Field Family, Berks County
- Talent
 - 2nd Vocal – Jim Schlegel, Virginville Grange #1832, Berks County

Youth:

- Youth Camp held the 26th Anniversary at Camp Kanestate with 175 campers, staff and guests
- 1978-79 Princess Cindy McCullough, Lawrence County; Prince Ken Raney, Lawrence County
- 1977-78 National Royalty – Princess Anna May Snyder, York County; Prince John Keith, Huntingdon County; Runner-up Young Couple Richard and Wanda Gallimore, Adams County.
- The first Family Camping Weekend was held by the Youth Department
- 1977 National Youth Team Officer was Walter Cox as Assistant Steward, Washington County.
- A Royalty Reception to salute the National Winners. Mistress of Ceremonies was Dolly Parton (Annetta Merkel) “This Is Your Life”. There were 150 Patrons in attendance.
- Youth Representative Award
 - Age 14-18 – Male – Bradley Craft, Female - Mercer County; Carol Courtney, Mercer County and National Winner.
 - Age 19-25 – Male – Barry Peffer, Butler County; Female – Martha Herbert, Berks County
 - Age 26-29 – Male - Roy McMillin, Lawrence County and National Winner; Female – Carrie Steese, Mercer County and National Winner
- Carol Courtney, Mercer, Roy McMillan, Lawrence, Bob and Carrie Steese, Mercer, participated in the “Grange Citizenship Short Course, introduced by the National Grange Youth Department.
- State Bowling Contest had 88 teams participating; an increase of 50% over 1977. Program chaired by Ken and Sharon Schlegel, Berks County. Twenty-four teams participated in the State competition held at Bellefonte Lanes, Centre County.

- Scratch Team – Fleetwood Grange #1839, Berks County – Ken and Sharon Schlegel and Richard and Nancy Oswald
- Handicap Team – Watson Grange #1068, Warren County – Bill and Judy Martin, Tina Hollabaugh and Brian Weaver.
- GISYE – Becky Miller, Elk Creek Grange #997, Erie County hosted Tera Brooks, Manchester, IA
- Leadership School hosted the Mid-Atlantic Youth Conference with 340 Grangers in attendance
- Public Speaking Contest:
 - Age 19-35 – 1st Sandra Kerstetter, Turbot Grange #249, Northumberland County
 - Age 14-18 – 1st MeeCee Baker, Turbett Grange #781, Juniata County and also received the Overall Award
- Double R Camping Weekend held at the Centre County Grange Fairgrounds with 60 in attendance. Finals in softball and horseshoes held.
- Softball chaired by Dick and Virginia Mangel, Butler County had 29 teams competing in the third annual event held at Potts Field, Centre County.
 - 1st place Biglerville Grange #2063. Adams County
- Other teams in the State playoffs were:
 - Washington Pomona
 - Buckhorn Grange #1119, Cambria County
 - Lewistown Grange #1639, Schuylkill County
- First Annual Horseshoe Tournament had 11 teams participating, chaired by Tom and Shirley Boldin, Centre County. Winners were:
 - 1st Male Division – Paula and Lester Valentine, Union Grange #152, Susquehanna County
 - 1st Female Division – Alice Kensinger and Marion Luther, Banner Grange #1115, Cambria County
- Young Marrieds Weekend held at Edgewater Acres with 21 couples in attendance.
- 1978-79 Young Couple Keith and Suzanne Treichler, Virginville Grange #1832, Berks County
- Ritual and Demonstration Contests:
 - Ritual – 1st place – Lawrence County Pomona
 - Demonstration – 1st place – Mercer County Pomona
- PA contributed \$2,168.50 to the National Grange Youth Leadership Fund

Juniors:

- Union Junior Grange #522, Susquehanna County only Junior Grange organized in 1978.
- Two Junior Granges were re-organized:
 - Cherry Hill Junior Grange #243, Erie County
 - Greenwood Junior Grange #146, Juniata County
- 49 Junior Granges declared dormant.
- As of June 30, 1978 there were 149 Junior Granges with a membership of 2,541.
- 1978-79 Junior Prince Stephan Kromer, Northampton County and Princess Carol Rennard, Chester County.
- Camp held at Camp Kanasatake with the theme of “Merry Christmas”

Women’s Activities:

- 3200 pair of glasses were contributed to the VOSH program
- PA had 2,413 sewing entries in the National contest with 109 entries judged in the State Competition.
- Class A – Adult – 1st Teresa Lynn Guide, Green Grove Grange #1955, Lackawanna County, non-member

- Class B – Youth – 1st Gwen Tataleba, Valley Grange #878, Somerset County, non-member
- Class C – Children’s – 1st Sharon Cox, Claysville Grange #1510, Washington County
- Class D – Adult Sewing for Youth – 1st Mrs. Martin Guide, Jr., Green Grove Grange #1955, Lackawanna County, non-member
- Class E – Men’s – 1st place Judith B. Mitcheoo, Salem Grange #964, Clearfield County, non-member
- Health Program donations –
 - Dream With the Deaf – 626
 - Ears to Hear - \$908.25
 - Care – Multi-purpose Health Center in Costa Rica - \$1,175.61

1979 IN REVIEW

- 1979 Granger of the Year – Elaine Cooke, Brandywine Grange #60, Chester County
- 233 candidates received the Sixth Degree
- 400 attended All Granger Banquet at State Session
- National Grange Mutual Safety Contest 1978-79 contest “Sharing Is Caring Project: Safety”
 - 1st - Somerset Grange #1697, Somerset County
 - 2nd – Woodcock Center Grange #1034, Crawford County
 - 3rd – Plainfield Grange #1727,
- 1979-80 Subordinate Safety Contest “Working Together....for Safety”
- Farmers & Traders Grange of the Year – Logan Grange #109, Centre County
- Open House Award Recipients:
 - Class I – under 100 members – West Valley Grange #1760, Armstrong County
 - Class II – 100-300 members – Ontelaunee Grange #1617, Berks County
 - Class III – over 300 members – Fleetwood Grange #1839, Berks County
- Community Service – 48 Granges completed reports
 - 1st – Hayfield Grange #800, Crawford County
- National Grange discontinued the program in 1980 and PA State Grange continued sponsorship.
- Grange Advocate for Rural PA started in last month of Master Snyder’s term.
- Seven Special Sixth Degree Conferrals held across the state with 1,140 candidates. Locations included Claysville, Hollidaysburg, Mifflintown, Sandy Lake, Johnsonburg, North of Reading and Western Wayne Counties. An additional 233 Candidates received the Sixth Degree at the annual Session in Williamsport.
- New Services for members
 - Lawyer Referral Service with 29 lawyers participating.
 - Avellino’s Group Purchase Plan – service for Grangers in the southeastern counties of the State. Provided a 10% discount on tires, automobile accessories and inspections.
 - Pearle Vision – a statewide program providing a 15% discount on lenses and frames.
- Credentials Committee reported:
 - 217 Subordinate Granges
 - 377 Subordinate Delegates
 - 44 Pomona Granges
 - 74 Pomona Delegates
 - 451 Total Delegates
- June 30, 1978 – June 30, 1979 – loss of 2,105 members; 3 three Granges declared dormant or disbanded and four Granges consolidated. Membership as of June 30, 1979 – 46,802 members in 576 Granges.
- Berks County installed bookcases in State Master’s Office in honor of A. Wayne and Helen Readinger, Past State Master.

Lecturers:

- New in 1980 – National Grange began the Award for Public Service for Pomona Granges
- 1979 the Mid-Atlantic Lecturers' Conference requested that PA withdraw as a participating member of the annual Conference.
- National Winners at the 1978 Convention
 - 1st Photo Color Slide – People – Reverend Brynard Kurkowski, Community Grange #1767, Perry County
 - 2nd Photo Color – Animals – Sandy Miller, Virginville Grange #1832, Berks County
 - 2nd Photo Color – Close-up – Elizabeth Boccardo, Middletown Grange #684, Bucks County
 - 2nd Family Vocal – Wetzel Family, Berks County
 - 3rd Family Instrumental – Lenox Family, Rockdale Grange #1458, Crawford County
- 1979 State Talent Contest
 - Best of Show – Schnecksville Quartette – Althea Grim, Barbara Schantz, Audrey Marsteller, Pam Knappenberger, and Accompanists – Joyce and John Shankweiler
 - Family Vocal – 1st Wetzel Family – Jeff, Cindy, and Allison Wetzel, Eileen and Angel Adam, Virginville Grange #1832, Berks County
 - Family Instrumental – 1st Dale Mattocks Family – Dale, Janet, Annette, Mark and Lyle Mattocks, Troy Grange, Bradford County
- Lecturer of the Year – Pomona Irene M. Werley, Berks Pomona #43; Subordinate – Nancy F. Leibensperger, Kutztown Grange #1836, Berks County
- Last year for the Traveling Flags program
- Ritual Understanding Project
 - Have all officers commit their parts to memory for opening and closing
 - Have ritual performed correctly
 - Help members realize good ritual procedures do not take time from meetings
- CPR-Heimlich Maneuver Project introduced in 1977 will continue for another year.
- Program Ideas Project
 - Subordinate – 1st place – Jane H. Abel, Dunkard Township Grange #2045, Greene County
 - Pomona – 1st place – Olive Schuler, Fleetwood Grange #1839, Berks County
- Leadership School
 - Keynote speaker – Penrose Hollowell, PA Secretary of Agriculture
 - Banquet Speaker – John W. Scott, National Master
- National Skit Writing Contest
 - 1st place Mildred Shultz, Somerset Grange #1697, Somerset County, “Jest Like”

Juniors:

- Better Ritual Contest had four teams entered.
 - 1st place went to Virginville Junior Grange #436, Berks County; they were to present the Junior Degree at the National Session in Lancaster
 - 2nd place – Mercer County; they were to open and close the Grange and present honored guests.
- Beth Taylor, Butler County, Vocalist, selected to present entertainment at the National Junior Luncheon.
- Instrumental – Henry Holman, III, Perry County
- Other Acts – Karen Dusenberry, Greene County
- Prince – Brad Wilcox, Warren County; Princess – Karen Raney, Lawrence County
- Camp theme “A Tribute to the Fifties”

Youth:

- Youth Representative Awards
 - Age 14-17 – Male – John L. Rennard, Chester County
 - Female – Laura V. McMillin, Lawrence County
 - Age 18-22 – Male – James L. Snyder, Jr., York County, National Award winner
 - Female – Judith A. Paull, Fayette County, National Award winner
 - Age 23-30 – Female – Janet E. Ruckert, Beaver County, National Award winner
- 5th Annual Bowling Contest, chaired by Ronnie Harris, Bradford County, held at Bellefonte Lanes, Center County with 24 teams competing.
 - Overall Team – Iona Grange #272, Bradford County; Ken Harris, Captain
- GISYE – Judy Paull, Ridgeview Grange #1948, Fayette County hosted Donna Wakefield, Randolph, VT.
- Wendy Hollabaugh, Watson Grange #1068, Warren County, hosted Rhonda Routier, Grinnell, IA
- 56th Annual Leadership School held at Gettysburg College in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic Youth Conference. Banquet attended by 350 members and guests.
- Mid-Atlantic Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song finals held. Winners in public speaking were
 - 14-18 – Judy Paull, Ridgeview Grange #1948, Fayette County
 - 19-35 – Kay Burkett, Hyndman Grange #1954, Bedford County; also won Mid-Atlantic
- Sign-a-Song
 - Individual – Cheryl Stark, Butler County; also won Mid-Atlantic
- 27th Annual Youth Camp held at Camp Kanasatake with 200 campers, staff and guests in attendance. The theme was “The World of Disney”. Ed and June Filipksi, NJ, 1st place Runner-up National Young Couple were National Representatives
- Prince and Princess – James L. Snyder, Jr. and LouAnn Snyder; Valley Grange, York County.
- Double R Camping Weekend held at the Centre County Grange Fairgrounds with 100 in attendance.
- Second State finals in horseshoes held with nine teams competing; chaired by Alfred Stewart, Erie County.
 - Men’s – Paul and Lester Valentine, Union Grange #152, Susquehanna County
 - Women’s – Carol Heminger and Donna Long, Buckhorn Grange #1119, Cambria County
 - Mixed Division – William & Marion Luther, Banner Grange #1115, Cambria County
- Softball Tournament had a total of 19 teams participating; chaired by Dick and Virginia Mangel, Butler County. The playoffs called off due to rain. District winners were:
 - District I – Crawford County, Region A
 - District II – Buckhorn Grange, Cambria County, Region F
 - District III – Centre County, Region G
 - District IV – Lewistown Valley Grange, Schuylkill County, Region H
- Young Marrieds Weekend held the 10th Conference at Edgewater Acres, Huntingdon County. National Young Couple Ken and Kathy Reeves, CO attended the weekend which had 20 young couples in attendance.
- Four couples competed for Young Couple; selected were Ken and Sharon Schlegel, Berks County.
- Jim and Betty Diamond were recognized for originally organizing the weekend.
- Ritual and Demonstration Contests
 - Ritual – Fifth Degree – 3 teams participated
 - Demonstration – Grange Obligation – 2 teams participated
- National Grange Youth Leadership Fund - PA contributed \$2,299.55
- PA provided two youth officers for the Youth Officers Opening at the Host Farms, Lancaster, PA.

- Master – Janet Ruckert, Big Knob Grange #2008, Beaver County
- Pianist – Michael Lenox, Rockdale Grange, Crawford County (1978 Best of Show in the Talent Contest)
- Regional Conferences held in seven of the eight Regions.

Women's Activities:

- National winners – Mrs. William Adamisky received first place Grand Award for a Hooked Rug
- Tracy Walker received first place for a Stuffed Toy Animal; 133 stuffed toys were entered.
- Sewing Contest – Goal 2,800/1,583 entries received; 94 entries judged at the State level.
 - 1st place Best of Show and 2nd place at National Grange – Sharon Cox, Claysville Grange #1510, Washington County
- Health projects
 - Ears to Hear received contributions of \$1,391.81 from 172 Granges
 - VOSH – 3,705 pairs of used eyeglasses
 - CARE – Peru – provided irrigation systems to farmers - \$1,350.96
 - Dream Along with the Deaf - \$889.00