

GORDON HILLER

**20th MASTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANGE
(1992-1996)**

Gordon Hiller was a native of Lycoming County. He was born on a farm, and he and his wife, the former Mary Gill, lived the farm life through much of their marriage. They were the parents of four daughters, and raised four other foster children.

An early passion in his life was conservation and renovation of farm land. This led to the formation of the Lycoming County Conservation District and eventually to positions with the State Conservation Commission and the Department of Agriculture.

Gordon first joined the Grange in 1942 and served in many Subordinate and Pomona Grange offices.

Brother Hiller served as an Agriculture Trustee at Penn State University.



1993 IN REVIEW

- A “Future’s Committee” (a Pomona Master from each of the 8 regions) was named to implement the goals adopted at the 1991 session.
- James Mentzer joined the State Grange staff as Public Relations Director and editor of *The Grange Advocate*.
- The delegates approve a change in ritual by omitting the taking of the password in open meetings.
- Granger of the Year was Alice McDowell, Wesley Grange #1675, Venango County.
- Emilee Colver, Illinois, the National Grange Junior Director, attended State Junior Camp
- More than 7,000 stuffed toys and 800 ABC quilts were made and distributed by local Granges.
- The Deaf Activities Department had 25,000 manual alphabet cards printed and distributed

LEGISLATION

- The State Grange worked for governmental reorganization to pull together compatible bureaus in several departments into one
- The Grange promoted real estate and “nuisance” tax reforms.

THE ORDER

- There were 34,170 members in 480 Subordinate Granges; 836 Junior members in 59 Granges. There were 768 Lifetime members, 3,466 Associate members and 2,457 Golden Sheaf members.
- The Sixth Degree was conferred on 206 candidates.
- Tuscarora Grange, Juniata County dedicated a new hall.
- Five Granges were consolidated and five Granges closed.
- 428 Delegates at State Session
 - 183 Subordinate Granges represented by 348 Subordinate Delegates
 - 41 Pomona Granges represented by 80 Pomona Delegates
- The National Grange Certificate of Achievement recognized 99 Granges.

NATIONAL GRANGE

- The “Grange Today” magazine was introduced.
- Lecturer Hedy Chaffee was named National Lecturer of the Year in States with more than 200 Granges.
- Nettie Kauffman received the Youth Director of the Year Award in states with more than 100 Granges.

JUNIORS

- Held at Camp Kanesatake with 104 Juniors, helpers, counselors and staff.
- Junior Prince – Arnold Becker, Cambria County and Princess Traci Mattern, Beaver County
- The Juniors sold first aid kits, fire extinguishers, and nuts.
- State Junior Director Debra Campbell recognized by National Grange as the top Junior Director in Communication and Membership.
- Oliver Junior Grange, Perry County organized.
- The State Junior Grange received a \$2,500 grant from the PA Department of Agriculture.

YOUTH-YOUNG ADULTS

- Carson Long Military Institute was the setting for the annual Youth Camp.
- Hosted the Mid-Atlantic Youth Conference in Williamsport with 170 in attendance including 64 from PA.
- Gina Gallimore, Adams County placed first in the Individual Sign-a-Song Contest and Floyd Buffington, Dauphin County placed first in the 14-18 Public Speaking contest at the Mid-Atlantic Conference.
- Stacy Ebersole, Perry County and William Steel, Beaver County, were named State Youth Ambassadors and Maurice (Skip) and Sheila Moyer, Berks County named Young Couple.

WOMEN’S ACTIVITIES

- Harmony Grange, Crawford County worked with local schools and made 3,085 toys.
- Pomona Women’s Activities Director of the Year – Esther K. Stitzel, Berks County and Subordinate Director Eleanor Hill, Virginville Grange #1832, Berks County.
- A total of 858 ABC Quilts were made and donated.

LECTURERS

- Subordinate Lecturer of the Year – Doris Egyud, Lakeland Grange #2095, Crawford County
- Pomona Lecturer of the Year – Betty Lou Williams, Crawford County Pomona #26
- Kerry Corbett, Cambridge Grange #168 placed first in National Grange Vocal Division.
- The Summer Jubilee was changed to Grange-a-Rama and held at St. Francis College, Loretto.
- Community Night –
 - under 100 members – Alleghenyville #2065, Berks County
 - 100-199 members – Bald Eagle Grange #1390, Blair County
 - 200 plus members – Virginville Grange #1832, Berks County
- There were 111 Subordinate Granges entering the Community Service Contest with 56 Granges reporting.

1995 NATIONAL HOST COMMITTEE

- Raised in excess of \$18,000 to date.
- The 1925 PA Grange Cookbook reprinted with sale proceeds designated for the Host Fund.

1994 IN REVIEW

- The 1925 Cookbook was reprinted and 15,000 copies were sold, with the funds designated to help pay for hosting the National Grange session in 1995. The Fund now reported \$56,682.23.
- The 1972 cookbook was reprinted with 20,000 copies.
- The PA Service Corporation hired “Sanwest” (Sandra Westover) to handle bookkeeping.
- The PA Grange Credit Union reported having \$2,000,000 in assets.
- Past State and National Master John W. Scott received Outstanding Service Award for work instituting the Compac forming the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

LEGISLATION

- The State Grange filed statements in favor in support of Ag Department reorganization and food safety regulation changes.
- The Grange supported English as the official language for all governmental forms.
- The Grange supported limitations on welfare payments.

THE ORDER

- There were now 458 Subordinate Grange with 32,801 members; 773 had purchased the Lifetime category. There were 3,544 Associate members and 2,463 Golden Sheaf members. There were 818 Junior Grange members in 59 Junior Granges.
- Granger of the Year Judy Hetzell, Mt. Nebo Grange #1675, Allegheny County.
- 422 Delegates at State Session
 - 184 Subordinate Granges represented by 345 Subordinate Delegates
 - 41 Pomona Granges represented by 77 Pomona Delegates
- The Sixth Degree was conferred on 172 candidates.
- Fourteen Granges consolidated, 12 Granges closed and five Grange halls were sold.

NATIONAL GRANGE

- Hedy Chaffee was again named National Grange Lecturer of the Year in states with over 200 Granges.
- Kutztown Junior Grange won the National Junior Grange Community Service Award, Jane Adams, Leader.
- Mary Jo Wojton, State Deaf Activities Director, named among top five Deaf Activities Director of the Year.
- Pennsylvania State Grange made more stuffed toys – 8,997 – than any other State Grange with Rebecca Michalka, State Director recognized.

JUNIORS

- Junior Camp held at Carson Long Military Institute with 89 campers, helpers. Counselors and staff in attendance.
- The Juniors supported the O. H. Kelley Homestead financially.
- The State Junior Grange received a \$2,500 Grant from the PA Department of Agriculture.
- Junior Prince David Sparr, Lawrence County and Princess Sarah Adams, Berks County.

LECTURERS

- Grange-a-Rama held at St. Francis College, Loretto with 150 in attendance.
- Community Night Awards
 - under 100 members – Scrubgrass Grange, Venango County
 - 100-200 members – Pioneer Grange, Berks County
 - Over 200 members – Ontelaunee Grange, Berks County
- Subordinate Lecturer of the Year June Schular, Fleetwood Grange, Berks County
- Pomona Lecturer of the Year Margaret Verbeke, Jefferson County Pomona
- There were 106 Granges registering for the Community Service program and 54 reports judged.
 - Subordinate
 - 1st – Virginville Grange, Berks County
 - 2nd – Middletown Grange, Bucks County
 - 3rd – Harveys Grange, Greene County
 - 4th – Ontelaunee Grange, Berks County
 - Pomona
 - 1st – Berks County
 - 2nd – Chester-Delaware County
 - 3rd – Jefferson County
- Klaus Schmidt, Hillcrest Grange #1674, Somerset County placed first in the National Talent Contest in the Instrumental Division.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT

- Young Marrieds Conference held at Intercourse, PA. Ken and Cathy Metrick, Butler County named Young Couple.
- Youth Camp held at Carson Long Military Institute. Pamela Seidel, Berks County and Floyd Buffington, Dauphin County named Youth Ambassadors.
- Floyd Buffington, Dauphin County, received Jody Thomas Bailey Spirit of Youth Award at National Grange.

1995 IN REVIEW

- The Steering Committee raised more than \$84,000 to host the National Grange Session in Harrisburg, and placed \$20,000 of the excess funds into a future hosting account.
- It was noted that the Service Corporation had paid the State Grange a total of \$309,000 since its founding.
- The Stuffed Toy count exceeded 10,000 in 1995.

LEGISLATION

- The Grange opposed “Outcome Based Education” legislation, as well as standardized testing.
- The over population of deer and Canada geese were addressed with the Game Commission.

THE ORDER

- A “Family Dues” structure was adopted.
- There were 31,550 members in 448 Granges including 3,755 Associate members and 804 Lifetime members. There were 748 Junior members in 55 Junior Granges.
- Nine Granges were reorganized or reactivated, and one Junior Grange reorganized.
- The Sixth Degree was conferred on 133 candidates.

- 349 Delegates at State Session
 - 155 Subordinate Granges represented by 280 Subordinate Delegates
 - 52 Pomona Granges represented by 69 Pomona Delegates
- There were 415 in attendance at the All Granger Banquet.
- Betty Master, Scrubgrass Grange #1705, Venango County named Granger of the Year.

NATIONAL GRANGE

- State Women's Activities Director Rebecca Michalka named to the National Women's Activities Advisory Committee.
- Lois Steele, Chester County, signed the Seventh Degree which was conferred on 1,332 members.
- Patricia Beck, State Deaf Activities Director, named one of top five Directors in the Nation.

JUNIORS

- Location of Junior Camp changed to Camp Sylvan Hills, Centre County with 116 campers, helpers, counselors and staff attending.
- PA State Junior Grange received a \$2,500 PA Department of Agriculture Grant.
- Junior Prince Adam Britcher, Perry County and Princess Denise Zug, Juniata County.
- The Junior Jamboree held at State Grange was attended by 140 Juniors and adults.
- Philip Vonada, Centre County received first place Photo in the 5-9 age group; Christine Zeigler, Berks County received first place in the Art Portrait in the 10-14 age group; Brittini Treichler, Berks County placed first in the Creative Writing Contest and Daniel Reppert and Crystal Kramer, Berks County placed first with crafts.
- State Junior Director Debra Campbell placed first in Programming.

LECTURERS

- State Grange Lecturer, Donald Evans, conducted a "Leadership Academy" at Penn State for Grange members with 131 in attendance.
- Subordinate Lecturer of the Year - David Hay, Hillcrest Grange #1674, Somerset County
- Pomona Lecturer of the Year - Heather Mengel, Berks County Pomona #43
- There were 147 Subordinate Granges registered in the Community Service Program and 61 reports submitted and nine Pomona reports.
 - Subordinate
 - 1st - Lakeland #2905, Crawford County
 - 2nd - Hookstown #1980, Beaver County
 - 3rd - Scrubgrass #1705, Venango County
 - 4th - Plain Grove #1341, Lawrence County
 - Pomona
 - 1st - Berks County
 - 2nd - Jefferson County
 - 3rd - Huntingdon County
- Community Night
 - Under 100 members - Lakeland Grange, Crawford County
 - 100-199 members - Pioneer Grange, Berks County
 - Over 200 members - Ontelaunee Grange, Berks County
- Carol Jamison, Butler County placed first in the National Talent Contest Vocal Division.

WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

- Pat Weir, Butler County accepted the award for the first place hand quilted quilt by a group.
- PA was recognized for making 10,519 stuffed toys.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS

- Young Marrieds Weekend held at Intercourse, PA. Young Couple were Robert and Amy Noble, Mercer County.
- Youth Ambassadors selected were Chris Straub, Mercer County and Kristen Haas, Lehigh County.
- State Youth Department received a \$2,500 PA Department of Agriculture grant.
- Martha Ebersole, State Youth/Young Adult Director, received a special State Directors Award for Variety in Youth Work.
- The Spirit of Grange Awards went to Stacy Ebersole and Floyd Buffington.
- Kirk Sattazahn placed first in the 14-35 age group for the video contest.

1996 IN REVIEW

- The 125th Anniversary Celebration for the Pennsylvania State Grange was begun at the closing of the 1996 session in Warren. Donald Evans, State Lecturer, was appointed to chair the event.
- Donald Evans and James Diamond were named as editors for a book to be published. "Historical Excerpts of the Pennsylvania State Grange" was composed during the year from history summaries submitted by Subordinate and Pomona Granges.
- A Traveling Torch began its tour across Pennsylvania, from Pomona to Pomona, scheduled to arrive in Reading for the 1997 Annual Session.
- A one dollar per member dues increase was approved by the Delegates.
- State Master Hiller chose not to seek a third term, and William A. Steel, Beaver County, was elected as State Master.

LEGISLATION

- The Grange supported a Nutrient Management program for all high intensive livestock operations.
- Supported goal of Farm Link Program to assist person interested in farming to establish a business relationship with farmers who may wish to retire or leave productive agriculture.
- Supported development of the PA Ground Water Management Plan.

THE ORDER

- There were 29,222 members in 435 Subordinate Granges. Non-dues paying Gold Sheaf (50 years) members totaled 2,565. The Lifetime membership reflected 834 members.
- One new Grange was organized and 15 Granges reactivated following dormant periods.
- The Sixth Degree was conferred on 85 candidates.
- 391 Delegates at State Session
 - 169 Subordinate Granges represented by 320 Subordinate Delegates
 - 53 Pomona Granges represented by 71 Pomona Delegates
- Nettie Martsolf, Jefferson Grange #1373, Butler County, named Granger of the Year.
- Resolution presented to give National Grange \$20,000 toward the National Postal Museum.
- Established a scholarship fund in the PA State Grange Foundation.
- Valley Grange, York County dedicated a new hall in October.
- During 1996 there were 16 Grange halls sold, 26 Granges closed and 15 consolidations. During the previous 10 years there were 10 Grange halls sold, 31 Granges closed and 19 Granges consolidated.

NATIONAL GRANGE

- Brian and Stacy Ebersole, Perry County, won first place in their respective age groups in the Public Speaking Contest.
- Junior Grange Director, Debra Campbell, received recognition for organizing five new Junior Granges, and was named the National Grange Junior Director of the Year in states with 20 or more Junior Granges. She also received first place for Programming, Membership and Ritual and second place in Communication.

JUNIORS

- Junior Camp held at Camp Sylvan Hills, Centre County with 111 campers, helpers, counselors and staff.
- Prince Jeremiah Wimer, Lawrence County and Princess Jessica Blair, Perry County.
- Travis Guzel, Canonsburg Junior Grange, Washington County, place first in the Junior Division 5-10 of the Needlework Contest.

LECTURERS

- Second Leadership Academy held at Penn State University.
- Subordinate Lecturer of the Year - Nettie Kauffman, Ontelaunee Grange #1617, Berks County
- Pomona Lecturer of the Year - Nancy E. Cole, Centre County Pomona #13
- One hundred twelve Subordinate Granges registered for the Community Service program with 63 reporting.
 - Subordinate
 - 1st – Hookstown, Beaver County
 - 2nd – Middletown, Bucks County
 - 3rd – Schnecksville, Lehigh County
 - 4th – Virginville, Berks County
 - Pomona
 - 1st – Berks County
 - 2nd – Jefferson County
 - 3rd – Centre County
- Community Night Reports
 - under 100 members – Lakeland Grange, Crawford County
 - 100-199 members – East Lynn Grange, Chester County
 - Over 200 members – Fleetwood Grange, Berks County
- David Hay, Hillcrest Grange #1674 received Best of Show Photography Award in Family album and first place Subordinate Lecturer's Report.

WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

- Rebecca Michalka, State Director, recognized by National Grange for having 8,723 toys; the most from any state.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS

- Young Marrieds Weekend held at Intercourse with Greg and Isabelle Myers selected as Young Couple.
- Youth Camp held at Carson Long Military Institute with Brian Ebersole and Jennifer Campbell selected as Youth Ambassadors.
- Brian and Stacy Ebersole and Katie West received Spirit of Grange Awards.