

Speakers Announced For PA State Grange Convention

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania State Grange Master Charles E. Wismer, Jr. has announced the keynote speaker for the 114th Annual State Grange Session Banquet is Captain Edward Davis of the U.S. Navy. Capt. Davis is scheduled to speak at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29 during the All Granger Banquet. The banquet begins at 6 p.m.

Approximately 1,500 members from around the Keystone State are expected to attend the convention with delegates representing 550 local Granges. The delegates will use the session to decide legislative policy which will direct the Grange in its legislative lobbying efforts for the upcoming year.

After seven and a half years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, Capt. Davis was released to return to the states in 1973. While many POWs were released that year, Capt. Davis received particular attention and made national headlines. Upon his liberation from captivity, Capt. Davis in turn liberated a small, dust puppy named Maco (Mah-co') from the Communist Vietnamese.

A native of Pennsylvania, he attended St. Joseph's College

Preparatory High School in Philadelphia, where he was a varsity oarsman and was twice national champion in quadruple sculls.

After high school, he studied at Villanova University for one year before accepting an appointment to the Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Following graduation from the academy, Capt. Davis completed Navy Flight Training and was awarded his pilot's wings. While attached to a squadron based at Alameda, Calif., Capt. Davis flew the A-1 Skyraider. Then, in 1965, two weeks after his wedding, Capt. Davis' squadron reported for duty onboard the Aircraft Oriskany. It was during that deployment to the coast of Vietnam that Capt. Davis was shot down, on his 57th combat mission.

For the next ninety months, his life, his career and his marriage were put on hold.

After returning home in 1973, Capt. Davis did graduate work in international affairs at the University of Virginia. He then became senior instructor and executive officer of the Navy ROTC Unit at the university.

Currently, Capt. Davis resides in

Millersville with his wife, Elaine, and their two daughters, 13-year-old Jennifer, and 7-year-old Amanda. He is retired from the Navy as of October 1985. Presently, he serves as flight department manager for the International Signal and Control Group, a Lancaster based corporation.

Capt. Davis' awards include three Silver Stars, The Legion of Merit with Combat "V", four Bronze Stars, Meritorious Service Medal, five Air Medals and two Purple Hearts. He is a recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution Silver Medal, the Sons of the American Revolution Gold Medal and a life member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and the United States Rowing Association.

Wismer also announced four other prominent featured guests, who are scheduled to speak at various times throughout the convention. Senator Michael O'Pake from Berks and Montgomery counties will address the Grangers at 3:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 27 at the Wilson High School, Reading. O'Pake, who is a member of the Fleetwood Grange

in Berks County, is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee. He also serves on the Senate committees on Aging and Youth, Banking and Insurance, and Agricultural and Rural Affairs.

Dr. Richard Grubb, secretary of the Department of Agriculture will address the Grange members at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 28 at the Wilson High School, Reading. Grubb was appointed by Governor Thorn-

burgh on May 8 and took his office on June 10. Prior to his appointment, he was the senior vice president for administration at Penn State University.

Gubernatorial candidates Lt. Governor Scranton and Bob Casey are scheduled to address the Grange members. The times will be announced at a later date.

Master Wismer will make his address at 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 27 at the Wilson High School.

Consumption Increases

BY SHERRIE BIERNACRI
USDA Information Spec.

"Americans are once again eating more grain products," says Karen Bunch, an economist with the Agriculture Department's Economic Research Service. Grain product consumption hit a low of 137 pounds per person in 1972, but by 1985 it had risen 9 percent to about 150 pounds — around the levels of the 1950's."

In an article recently published in USDA's National Food Review, Bunch says that a couple of factors have led to this increase. Health concerns may be one. Consumption of the complex car-

bohydrates found in grain products has been linked with cancer prevention. Another reason behind grain's new popularity is greater consumer demand for variety. Manufacturers have responded to this demand by introducing grain-based foods that are new to the American diet — like croissants. In addition, some old favorites, such as pasta and rice, have achieved new popularity.

With 80 percent of total grain consumption, wheat is the major grain eaten in the United States, and wheat flour is one of the major gainers in recent years. In 1985, almost 123 pounds of flour were produced for every American, up 12 percent from the low point in 1972 and the highest in more than 30 years.

One of the main uses for all this flour is bread.

"Nowhere are the issues of health concerns and demand for variety more clearly seen than in the case of bread," Bunch says. "Total per capita bread consumption declined 22 percent after 1967, to about 46 pounds per person by 1985. All of the decrease was in white bread, which fell more than 39 percent. At the same time consumption of whole wheat and variety breads, such as pumpernickel or Italian, increased 12 percent. Nutrition and the desire for variety contributed in the switch."

One of the largest gainers among flour products is pasta. Last year, each American ate more than 12 pounds of pasta, up more than 30 percent from 1970.

"Pasta consumption has increased in part because these products fit into changing lifestyles, having shed their dull image in the process," Bunch says. "More restaurants are serving pasta, and new products like pasta primavera — pasta and vegetables — have helped consumers see an exciting new image for this product."

Rice is another grain product that is on the rise. Rice use has increased about 39 percent since its low point of about 7 pounds per person in the 1970's. The amount of rice used directly as food now stands at about 10 pounds, the highest since the 1920's. According to Bunch, the increasing number of Oriental and Mexican restaurants and larger populations of these ethnic groups in the U.S. are behind the gains in rice consumption.

Another factor not included in rice consumption figures is the increased use of rice in beer. Because alcohol is not considered a food, use in beer isn't counted in the statistics. If it were, rice use would more likely total around 13 pounds per person, instead of 10. Use of rice in beer has increased more than 70 percent on a per capita basis since the 1970's, partly spurred by a 16-percent rise in beer consumption.

While rice has benefited in the ethnic food market, so has corn. Consumption of corn meal has increased 8 percent from its 1977 low, partly because of a rise in the number of Mexican restaurants in the United States. Big growth has also occurred in corn snack foods. Sales of corn and tortilla chips increased almost 70 percent between 1980 and 1985.

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