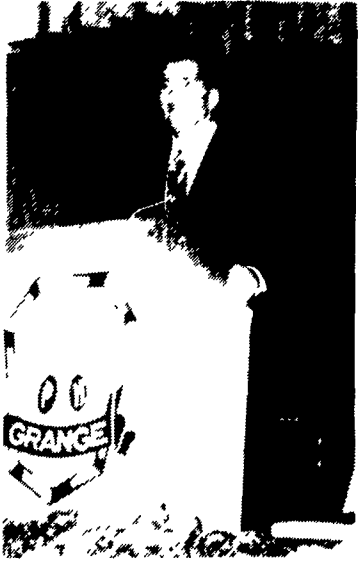


Governor Ridge Proclaims Grange Week

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—More than 300,000 Grange members nationwide will celebrate Grange Week April 23-29. In recognition of the event, Governor Tom Ridge has officially proclaimed that week Pennsylvania State Grange Week.

"Their (Grange members) values of hard work and service to the community have helped to reinforce our agricultural traditions and have bettered the quality of life in rural communities for many years," Ridge said. "Grange efforts are focused on family and opportunities to be involved in agriculture and community service as it provides leadership and support in the technical and scientific advances of tomorrow. I urge all of our citizens to acknowledge and applaud the achievements made by the Pennsylvania State Grange."

The Pennsylvania State Grange will officially celebrate Grange Week on Monday, April 24 with educational workshops on such topics as health care, environmental issues, agricultural concerns and combatting animal rights activists. A legislative reception and banquet follows the work-



Gov. Tom Ridge spoke to about 500 Grangers at the state convention in Carlisle last November just two weeks before he won the election.

shops, which kick off Grange Week activities at 1 p.m. Nearly 400 Pennsylvania Grangers are expected to attend the festivities at the Sheraton Inn-East in Harrisburg. Non-grangers are cordially invited and can register by calling 1-800-552-3865 by April 19.

PA Grangers To Discuss Issues With Lawmakers

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sink in the state House. The Grange, in an effort to further oppose riverboat gambling, joined a coalition that is fighting to defeat the bill.

Truck Plates—This bill passed the House and is currently in the Senate Transportation Committee. Many farmers want to drive their farm vehicles after dark and for more miles. The Grange fixed that problem in the last session, but some farmers wanted more options. To correct the situation, the Grange supports legislation that creates another class of registration to accommodate all farm vehicle owners.

Underground Storage Tanks—HB 825, which contains several agricultural provisions, passed the House recently and is now in the Senate. Operators of tanks on farms would pay the same indemnification fee (2 cents per gallon used plus \$100) as owners of gasoline tanks. Farmers cur-

rently receive bills on capacity of tanks and not usage. The bill also would add a farm owner to the storage tank advisory committee and a Grange member to the underground storage tank advisory committee. Furthermore, a storage tank loan fund would be available to the owner of the farm who wishes to close or remove a storage tank under this legislation.

State Budget—The Grange is pleased that the governor's budget seeks increases in agricultural funding, but seeks more funding for ag research and Penn State Cooperative Extension, whose funding remained the same as last year. The Grange also opposes cuts in the FFA, the Animal Health Commission and mushroom promotion.

Property Rights—The Grange seeks legislation that would provide compensation for landowners when there is a property loss. The bill also would require government agencies to assess the impact of any new regulation on the rights



Pennsylvania Grange News

Pennsylvania State Grange Works To Cultivate Youth

Pennsylvania
State Grange

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—It has been said that our youth are our most precious resource. The manner in which we raise our children will have an impact on generations to come. Deb Campbell, PA State Grange Junior Director, said it's a privilege to work with young people in the Junior Grange.

"I've always said that Grange kids are different," Campbell said. "I'm not like some other adults who look for the faults in our children. If you can keep kids busy, they'll stay out of trouble and will be willing to do what you ask."

Junior Grange, entering its 108th year, is open to children ages 5-14 as part of the Pennsylvania State Grange. The Grange is a rural, agricultural and family organization which offers members social activities, a legislative voice, community service and insurance and cooperative buying programs. The PA State Grange is celebrating Grange Week 1995, which is being honored the week of April 23-29, with its Legislative Day in Harrisburg on April 24.

One of the organizations' greatest interests is the development of its youth and juniors.

"Junior Grange teaches leadership to young people," Campbell said. "It also teaches them not only to get along with children their own age, but how to interact with everyone."

Contests and programs are offered through the Junior Grange as a way to promote this leadership and develop the children into active citizens. Every year there is a statewide talent competition, creative writing contests, craft contests, various field trips and Junior Camp.

At Junior Camp, a Junior Prince and Princess are chosen to repre-



At Junior Grange Camp for fun, all jump into the water together. Camp is held for junior grange members between the ages of 10 and 14 while any youth age 5 to 14 may become a member of the Junior Grange.

sent the Junior Grange for the coming year. They are selected based on their knowledge of the Grange, answers to impromptu questions and an essay. This interest in the children doesn't end once they leave Junior Grange.

At age 14, they can no longer be Junior Grangers, but are eligible to become regular members of their local Granges and part of the Youth Department.

"Where will the Grange—and society in general—be in the future if it doesn't nurture its youth?" Martha Ebersole, state youth/young marrieds directors, said.

The Youth Department picks up where the Junior Grange leaves off by offering various activities and programs that would appeal to the different age groups between 14 and 35. There is an annual Youth Camp, statewide volleyball tournament, public speaking contest and other honors such as the Youth Ambassadors. At Youth

Camp, the highlight of the Youth Department's year, one female and one male Youth Ambassador between the ages of 16 and 22 are chosen.

"These Ambassadors will hold their title for-a year," Ebersole said. "During their reign, they help spread the word of the Grange by representing the organization at various functions."

The Grange also does its part to develop its young married couples, according to Ebersole. Each spring, a Young Marrieds Weekend is sponsored and couples have the opportunity to get away from home to relax and socialize with other young couples. There are also a number of educational workshops geared toward the couples on subjects such as remodeling your home, family finances and health care.

No matter what age, the Grange tries to develop activities and programs to interest its members.



Diane Myers, former Cumberland County dairy princess, left, and Jennifer Grimes, former Pennsylvania dairy princess, serve milk punch at the annual Legislative Reception at Grange Day '94.

of private property owners.

Industrial Sites—Senate Bill 1 encourages cleaning up and reusing abandoned and polluted industrial sites. The Grange supports this bill and believes every effort should be used to utilize existing sites and not build new sites on agricultural and forest lands.

Prior to the evening legislative banquet, workshops on various topics will be held. Two cabinet members in the Ridge administration, Charles Brosius, Secretary of Agriculture, and James Seif, Secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources, will be on hand to discuss their plans for their respective departments and answer questions from audience members.

Non-Grange members are invited to attend these workshops and Grange Day festivities. Call 1-800-552-3865 by April 19 for more details or to register.

The PA State Grange, representing 33,000 members in 66 counties across the state, is an



Grange cookbooks are a staple in many Pennsylvania kitchens as well as kitchens from Hawaii to Canada. Marcia Shore, left, and Mary Hiller, show two of the Grange cookbooks.

agricultural, rural and community service organization working to improve the quality of life for Pennsylvanians through legislation

and community service and is a grass-roots organization that gives members a voice in local, state and federal government.