



ILLINOIS GRANGER

In Essentials... Unity
In Non-Essentials... Liberty
In All Things... Charity

April 2024 Vol 4 No 4



Spring Fling participants from northern Illinois at the Museum.

Calendar of Grange Events

2024

- 4/7 Flora Roast Beef Dinner
- 4/7 Turkey Hill Chicken Dinner
- 4/13 Prairie Grange Consignment Auction
- 4/20 Turkey Hill Grange 150th Anniversary
- 4/21 Floraville Chicken Dinner 10 :30-2 :30
Dine in or carryout
- 5/3/4 Prairie Grange 4Momz 2 Momz Childrens Con
signment sale. Boone County Fairgrounds
- 5/4 STATEWIDE GRANGE PICNIC
- 9/13-15 Illinois State Grange Session-
St. Clair county
- 11/10-17 National Session Quad Cities
Sign up to work

2025

9/19-21 State Session at Boone County Fairgrounds

Donations: Memorial Scholarship

Donations: Illinois Granger

**NOTE: Please send me any important dates, mem-
bers in nursing homes, rehabs, or senior living, obitu-
aries, donations, births, weddings, any good news
from your Grange so I can add them to the newslet-
ter.**

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Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms

The weather here in central south Illinois is very changeable recently, it was warm, WINDY, chilly and raining. But we are not complaining about the rain – we need the moisture in the soil. Happy Easter to all of you. This has been a tough week for our family. My mom, Lucille Lang, passed away on March 25, 2024. Lucille was ready to meet her Maker and share in the Easter story.

Brian Keller, member of Enterprise and Emerald Mound Granges has been appointed as the new state Grange Secretary. His appointment was approved at the March 7th Executive Committee meeting, and installed at the March 8th Enterprise Grange meeting. March 16th Brian and I traveled to Belvidere to sign papers for the Secretary checking account. We will all need to make some adjustments. All money that comes to the IL State Grange for dues still needs to go to Robin. She will deposit the money and send the information to Brian. The bank is not as contemporary as we would have liked. Robin will make the deposits and send pertinent information to Brian. All correspondence that does not have money needs to go straight to Brian. Brian Keller, 703 E. 2nd Street, O'Fallon, IL 62269, 618-632-5834, brianjkeller@gmail.com. If you are unsure as to who you should send something to – just sent it to Brian. Thanks to Robin for her service to ISG during this transition and Brian for accepting the position.

The Grangers of St Clair County will be hosting 153rd annual IL State Grange Session at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Collinsville, IL September 13 – 15, 2024. Hope you are all planning to attend. Be making resolutions now so that when the date is set for turning them in, your Grange is ready. The meals have been decided at the March 7, 2024 ISG Executive Committee meeting and information will be available soon. Watch your email or USPS box for more information.

Scholarships were awarded at the recent Executive Committee meeting. Those getting scholarships will be needing to attend a IL State Grange event.

Meetings are being held for the next National Session in Bettendorf Iowa, Nov 12 -16, 2024. IL State Grange is part of the host group. If any Granger is wanting to help, please let us know. Emalee Colver was appointed as Registration host. Ruth Blasingame and Lana Korte have been appointed as IL Hospitality hosts for Wed, 13th and IL will assist WI on Saturday. Karie Blasingame is working on Transportation for the convention. These groups

will need assistance during the convention. Please contact them if you are willing to help. If you would like to receive the 7th degree, Bettendorf will be the place on November 16. If you would like to be part of 7th degree as a candidate, let me know. We are asking if there are veterans that have not received a Quilt of Valor and will be at the National Grange Convention, please let me know, they could be part of the NG presentation. There is also a need from each state to provide two quilts, please let me know if you are interested in providing a quilt.

Always remember if you have a Grange Hall and need to make some improvements, the State Grange has a Hall Improvement Fund. The application form is on the website illinoisstategrange.org. Contact me, or anyone on the IL Ex Committee if you have any questions. ISG has just provided hall improvement funds to Flora, and Emerald Mound.

Karie and Marisa planned a great Spring Fling, March 15-17 at the Boone County Fair Grounds. Thanks for all of their hard work. I understand there was a good crowd for the Mystery Dinner. Sorry I missed it. I know there will be an article in this paper, be sure to read it. Thanks to all those that supported the Youth.

I participated in the National Grange on Zoom on Monday, March 18 for a **Virtual Fly-In**. The speakers were knowledgeable and well-spoken on current topics about the public policy issues that affect rural and small-town residents. Check the NationalGrange.org website or YouTube for the replay of the event. Thanks to those IL Grangers who were able to attend the event.

A FAC chair for 2026 for the IL State Grange is still needed. ANYONE interested in these positions please let me know. There are people around you that would be willing to assist you with the service.



Lucille Lang 1933-2024
Floraville Community
Grange

Lucille C Lang, nee Ries, passed away on Monday, March 25, 2024 at St. Elizabeth Hospital, O Fallon, IL. She was born January 18, 1933, in Columbia, IL. Lucille was a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Floraville, IL. along with being a member of the women's fellowship. She was also a member of the Smithton Turner Auxiliary and the

rural letter carrier auxiliary. Lucille was a member of the Floraville Community Grange since May 1, 1954, as well as the Illinois State Grange and the National Grange. Lucille loved doing all the community service projects, working on the quilts and serving on various committees or offices in different groups she belonged to. She enjoyed going to the Executive Committee meetings with Lavern while he served (1989-2007). In 2006 she and Lavern were co-chairs for the hospitality room for the National Grange Session. She enjoyed making sure everyone at the meeting in Springfield IL was able to have a snack. Her other memberships included St. Clair Pomona, Modern Woodmen and Floraville/Mon-Clair Homemakers. She really enjoyed quilting, gardening & baking.

Surviving are her daughters, Lynette (Don) Schaeffer & Lana Korte, her son, Leon (Joan) Lang, her grandchildren, Justin (Christina) Schaeffer, Brandon (Tina) Lang, Jolene (John Jr.) McDonald, Brian (Andie) Lang and Rebecca (Matt) Aguayo, her great grandchildren, Francesca (Dustin) Lang, Anthony (Renee) Skodachek, Joseph Skodachek, Bailey McDonald, Logan McDonald, William Boddy, Olivia Schaeffer, Lillian Schaeffer, Gage Lang, Brynn Lang, Felix Aguayo and Katalina Aguayo, her brothers, Harvey Ries & Marvin (Rosalie) Ries, her sister, Loretta (Joe) Vogt, sister-in-law, Myrt Metter, along with other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lavern W. Lang, her parents, Edwin & Frieda, nee Gummersheimer, Ries, her son-in-law, Jerry Korte, & her brother, Harold Ries.

In lieu of customary remembrances, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be directed to St. Paul United Church of Christ in Floraville, IL., or the Illinois State Grange Scholarship Fund.

“Well done good and Faithful Servant”

Broad Hollow Grange

We met Friday March 1st. The evening began with a potluck featuring lots of green food followed by a St. Patrick's Day program. A St. Patrick's Day prayer preceded the potluck. The program opened with participants listing items that reminded them of St. Patrick's Day. After that everyone sang "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling." A quiz challenged everyone about their knowledge of St. Patrick's Day. All enjoyed a funny

Irish saying. With spring around the corner, and thunderstorms threatening, each participant gave information about thunderstorms. The evening closing thought was "May the roof above us never fall in. And may the friends gathered below never fall out."

County Line Grange

We had our meeting March 13. A short meeting was held since we had guest speakers. Our hosts for the evening were JoEllen C., Heather M., and Cathy Z. They served delicious vegetable beef soup and cream of potato soup, all homemade. Thanks for hosting.

Kim Robin lined up the speakers, so we can be a Distinguished Grange.

Speakers were: Sherry from Rosecrance talked about all the facilities they have. Most of those are in Rockford. They are all nonprofit organizations. A lot of support services are offered for parents, children, grandparents etc. Stephanie Grimm and Marisa O'Dell were from Haven Network. This is also a nonprofit network. They have served Rockford for 20 years. They offer services to help those people who have lost a child.

Karie Blasingame and Marisa O'Dell talked about Spring Fling that was held on Saturday night. This was a murder mystery dinner. JoEllen Coleman, Cathy Zei and Kim Robin made dinner for the evening for about 40 people. Everyone had a very good time.

On Thursday March 21 we did our Road Clean Up. John and Carol Null, Myron Peterson, Paul Anderson and Cathy Zei braved the cold morning and cleaned the road side. Thanks guys. Afterwards they warmed up with coffee at the Garden Prairie Cafe.

County Line and Leroy Granges had their annual 4-H Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on March 23. Lots of Grange members and 4-H members worked and helped with the dinner. We had lots of raffle baskets, 50/50 raffle, and silent auction items for everyone to try their luck at winning. Tamra Brauer did a wonderful job of organizing the basket raffle. Thanks to everyone who donated items. The Spring decorations were beautiful. The dinner was a great success. The spaghetti and desserts were delicious. Thank you to all the wonderful people who came and supported our 4-H organizations.

Happy Spring everyone!

Bluff Grange News

Bluff Grange's fencing team "The Fencers of the Corn", competed in the President's Day Cup in Orlando Florida this February. Three Grangers, 2 Granger grandchildren and one additional long time Bluff Grange fencer were on the trip.

The day before the tournament the team played and fenced on the beach and in the Atlantic Ocean near Cape Canaveral.



(Ashley Katze and Bluff Grange member Yinka Adewale fencing on the beach.)



(Ashley Katze, and Bluff Grange members Pearce Wilson and Yinka Adewale on the Florida beach.)

Tournament day is always exciting, this time especially for Skylee Hanson, Bluff Grange members Darla and Pearce Wilson's granddaughter. This was her first ever competition. She ended her day with a 6th place medal in the under 8 year old women's epee competition.

Bluff Grange member Yinka Adewale fenced the over 40 year old women's epee competition. She also won a 6th place medal



(Yinka Adewale, Skylee Hanson, and Ashley Katze pose with their medals.)

Ashley Katze, a recent college graduate and long time Bluff Grange fencer competed in both the adult foil and the adult saber events. She took 1st place of all the women in both events.

She also got to compete against the men in both the saber and foil events.

Ashley finished in 5th place fencing saber against the men.

In foil she tied for 3rd with a man from Puerto Rico. A man from Kuwait won the silver medal and a man from the Virgin Islands won first place.

The Virgin Island fencer who Ashley lost to in the semi-finals is currently ranked #35 in the world. Ashley was able to score on him twice. Not too shabby!

There were 10 countries represented at this AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) sponsored tournament.

Now that the Covid lockdowns are past we are back to the fun and adventure of competing both locally and around the country against some of the best athletes in the world.

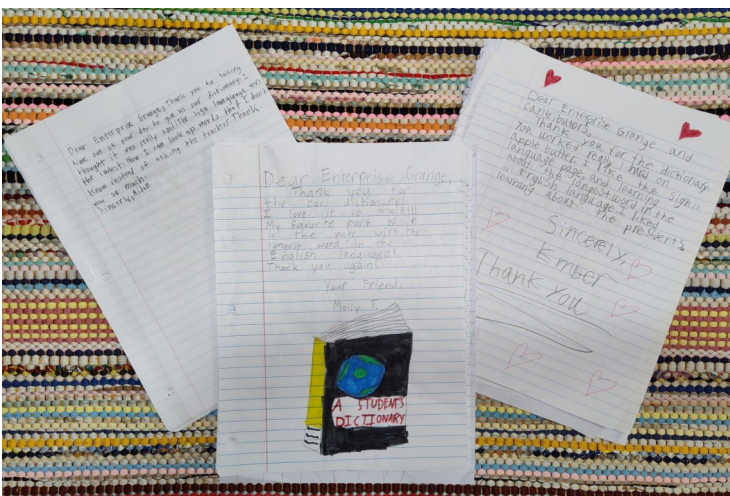
Well done Bluff Grange and The Fencers of the Corn!!

Enterprise Grange #1929

On February 5, 2024, members of Enterprise Grange unboxed and labeled 538 dictionaries as part of their annual participation in the Dictionary Project. For about 20 years, Enterprise has distributed dictionaries to third graders in O'Fallon schools, this year including students in Districts 90 and 104, St. Clare Catholic School, and First Baptist Academy. Over those 20 years, Enterprise has personally delivered 12,264 dictionaries in what has become a popular and much-anticipated tradition for both students and teachers in O'Fallon schools. Not only do students get a valuable learning tool that is theirs to keep, but they also learn about the Grange and its role in the community. The 540-page softcover dictionaries were brand new and current - printed in September 2023. Funding was through Enterprise's annual apple butter sales, supplemented by additional donations by individuals.



Enterprise members label dictionaries in O'Fallon. From left to right: Terry Reeves, Mary Ann Joseph, Kenneth Joseph, Henrietta Keller, and Karen Reeves.



A sample of thank you letters received this year from third graders who received dictionaries from Enterprise Grange.

Emerald Mound Grange

Emerald Mound Grange has been very busy this year. Every month on the third Saturday, we hold a great big breakfast. This is popular with not only our local town of Lebanon but with quite a few Grangers from other Granges, too.

During Lent, we sold desserts at the Summerfield Lions Club Fish Fry.

Our Grange dining room has had a new facelift. Secretary Charles Treser painted the concrete floor in both the dining room and the bathrooms. He and Vice President Steve Alltop painted the posts also. President Marc Henrichs was responsible for the lights that hang from the ceiling and changes the colors depending on the season. The atmosphere is a lot brighter with the yellow tablecloths, the lighting, the light-colored floors and blue on the posts.



During the February meeting, Illinois State Grange President, Lynnette Schaefer, attended our meeting and presented our Grange with an incentive check for our participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program.



Lastly, our Grange held a spaghetti dinner on March 23. Donations from Grangers and friends were given to help a Granger with medical needs.

News from Flora Grange

Flora Grange met on Tuesday, March 13th, 2024, at 6:30 pm starting with a potluck, hosted by Emalee Colver and Dona and Todd Hegge. Following a delicious potluck, our meeting was held.

President Fidder called the meeting to order, followed by the Grange Salutation, Prayer by Chaplain Emalee Colver and Pledge to American Flag.

Roll call of officers was taken by Secretary Laurel Ratcliffe and the minutes of the February 13th, 2024, meeting was approved. Laurel announced Larry and Mary Kappenman who demitted from Leaf River Grange, that is no longer in existence want to remain in Grange and members of Flora Grange, however, unfortunately they now reside in Lafayette, Indiana.

Reports of Committees:

Community Service: Lindakay Ebel, chairman, suggested we move our awards for Distinguished Individuals to the month of May, instead of the month of June when many people go on vacation. It was voted on and passed. The Memorial Day program will also be held at the May meeting. We will have a potluck in the month of May instead of June. This will be held on May 14th. Lindakay asked members to think about who they wanted to nominate for this year. **Agriculture:** Robert Scherer reported that the price on corn has finally come back, and the farmers are thinking about getting in the fields sometime soon.

Fair board: Todd Hegge stated the Draft Horse committee is working on their own face book page. The bathroom project is slowly being worked on; the fair book should be completed by the end of April. August 26 will be the fair appreciation dinner. **Farmland Protection:** Jack Ratcliffe reported they will hold their annual meeting on Thursday evening, March 14, all are invited, speaker will be talking about water. **Legislative:** Marion Thornberry encouraged everyone to get out and vote on March 19th.

Membership: Lindakay Ebel stated April is Grange month. Would encourage everyone to get out and talk about the Grange and the Boone County Fair and what the Grange is and try to bring someone to our next meeting. If you go online the Grange has many benefits and the Grange magazine, 'Good Day' has a lot of good information also. **Quilting:** Emalee Colver reported the two quilting groups will be meeting this weekend to quilt, or bring any project you may want to work on. She and Nancy Lyford showed quilts they have been making at the quilting sessions, also Nancy showed a pillow she made. They each had made a Quilt of Valor quilt. **Buildings & Grounds:** Jack Ratcliffe thanked Terry and Julie

Willis for raking stones off the grass and the Euckers for mowing the lawn this past year at the Grange Hall.

Lindakay Ebel had written copies of the treasurer's report and went over each item on each account. Motion to approve.

Roast Beef dinner: Annual roast beef dinner will be held on Sunday, April 7 from 11:30 to 1:30 at the Flora Grange Hall. We will also have carry-outs, price \$12.00 per person and we will also hold a bake sale. Contact Laurel Ratcliffe for reservations. 815-222-6173. Members, the hall will be open on Saturday from 8 am to 5 pm on Saturday to prepare salads for dinner and set up.

It was noted that we need to clean up the junior's room again. There is a lot of miscellaneous stuff and some paint that needs to be taken out. We need volunteers to help with this project. Members, if you can help, contact Jack or Laurel.

The evening ended with our program director, Jack Ratcliffe, playing a game on 'Shamrocks' wearing a green shamrock hat. \$56.00 was collected in 'G' bills.

We welcomed Sno-birds Loren and Pat Due back from Alabama, birthdays for the month includes Deb Silvers on the 25th, Sharon Miller on the 31st and Al & Lindakay Ebels anniversary on March 24th. The Bible was closed, Chaplain said a prayer and the meeting was closed in full form.

Lindakay Ebel
Publicity



The Prairie Grange Report

The Prairie Grange meeting was called to order at 7:04PM on Monday March 18, 2024 by president Don Ellwanger.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented.

The Prairie Grangers were saddened by the loss of one of our long time members Brother Spencer Morris and we draped the charter in his honor.

We took in one new member tonight Jackson Dinges. Committee reports were given:

Legislative – Get out and vote on March 19th. A few of the Grangers listened in on the National Grange Virtual Fly-In and they said they learned a lot.

Youth – Scarlette Ellwanger reported on Spring Fling this past weekend. We watched several movies, made centerpieces for the tables, listened to a Ritual workshop on the First Degree of the Grange, walked the streets to see the painted murals on the different buildings, visited the Boone County Historical Museum, visited Julie's Diamond Art Store where we picked out a project to do for the Grange contests this year and several Youth and Grangers took part in the 1950's Murder Mystery. During dinner we had to figure out who was killed, how they were killed and where they were killed. Several people guessed correctly "who dun it". We played several boardgames, stayed up late, had a workshop on Internet Safety for Teens and Adults, cleaned up and went home. If you didn't come you missed out on a lot of fun and be sure to watch for the next one.

Juniors – Sara Ellwanger reported at the May 1st Pomona meeting Prairie Juniors are having a fundraiser. They are having a Baked Potato Bar with several toppings and a drink. So come out and support the Juniors.

Community Service – Everyone was reminded that when you work the Consignment Auction to be sure and turn in your community service hours.

Sunshine – We sent a plant to Jeanette Morris in honor of Spencer. Also keep Jeremy Meyer in your thoughts and prayers and Jackson Dinges as well who is still dealing with Post-COVID health issues.

Ag – Be aware of the late frost yet to come and it was suggested not to put your plants outside before May 10th.

Fairboard – Several repairs have been done to the Dairy, Beef and Sheep Barns and many other projects are underway.

A thank you was read from Jeanette Morris and family thanking us for the Dish Garden Plant she received and also thanking the ladies for fixing and serving the food for the funeral luncheon.

Treasurer's report was approved as presented and there is enough money in our auction account for this year. Some of the advertising has already been paid for,

The Prairie Grange will be starting a new Community Service project soon so watch for more details especially if you have young children.

The policy for attending Grange events and getting reimbursed was discussed and approved as presented and it will go along with our By-Laws for future reference.

The meeting was closed in full form at 7:45 PM. Refreshments were served after the meeting.
Robin Kindberg Publicity Chairman



Boone County Pomona Grange Report

Boone County Pomona Grange meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Ruth Blasingame. Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as presented.

We took in 1 new Pomona member, Julie Willis from Flora Grange.

Committee Reports were given.

Get out and vote at the Primary Election on March 19th. Farmers are getting anxious to get in the fields but mother nature has other plans. Commodity prices are low.

It was reported that Medicaid Scripts were hacked and Pharmacies are slowly getting it back up and running.

Everyone was encouraged to start on their projects for state session.

Prairie Jr are going to have a baked potato bar at the May 1st meeting for a fundraiser for the department the cost is \$8 and drinks are \$2.

Spring Fling will be March 15-17 at the Boone County Community Grange Hall. There will be workshops, crafts, a walking tour of the Belvidere Murals and a tour of the Boone County Museum. As well as 1950 Murder Mystery Dinner served by County Line Grange everyone is welcome to join in the fun.

Thank you to those who brought stuffed animals we have quite a collection and now we will donate some of them to the ISG Community Service Project.

Everyone was reminded to collect books and small toys for the schoolhouse.

Get well cards were sent to Jean and Marion Thornberry and to Donna West on the loss of her husband Gene.

Several projects are underway at the Fairgrounds and fairbooks will go to print the end of April. Several acts have been booked for the fair and tickets for Scotty McCreery are on sale online at this time.

County Line Grange and Leroy Community Grange will be serving a Spaghetti Supper to help raise fund for our local 4-H program on Sat. March 23rd from 4-7 PM at Zion Lutheran Church in Belvidere.

Flora Grange will be having a Roast Beef Dinner on Sunday April 7, 2024 from 11:30-1:30PM at Flora Grange Hall. Call 815-222-6173 for reservations.

The Prairie Grange will be having their annual Consignment Auction on Sat. April 13th starting at 9:30 am. Contact Lyle Lee if you something to put in the auction.

We discussed the Boone County Pomona Grange By-Laws and we will vote on them at the May 1, meeting.

Help is needed for the National Grange Convention in November 2024 in the Quad Cities and if you can help at all contact Karie Blasingame or Lynette Schaeffer. The Host Dinner for National Grange will be a Lunchtime Narrated Cruise down the Mississippi River and it will be open to all Grangers in Bettendorf, Iowa. Watch for more details to come out on the convention.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm Refreshments and fellowship followed.

Karrie Kindberg
Publicity Chairman

Spring Fling Pictures



At the Museum



Illinois State Grange Youth

All we can say is WOW and THANK YOU!!!! If you missed out on Spring Fling this past month you missed a Great time!!!! We would have loved more youth to join in on the fun but thank you to The Prairie Grange and Beaver Valley for sharing your Youth with us. We had the biggest turn out on Saturday.

We started the day with breakfast and took on the cold for our tours in Belvidere. We met up at the museum with a few other Grangers and had a guided tour of the museum. Even the teens got engaged!!! We then started our walking tour of the murals as we made our way to the Diamond Art store. Karrie Kindberg was a great guide for that part and even had the sun come out for a bit.

We made it to the store, ordered lunch and started shopping for our entries for State Session. After eating and shopping we decided to pick up trash along the sidewalks and the park by the museum. We made it back to the hall and some rested, while some started decorating for our event.

We had a workshop on Grange Rituals which was very informative. We then started our Murder Mystery Dinner. It was very well attended (41 in attendance) and received. We can't wait for our next one!!!

Sunday after a late breakfast Brian O'Dell did a workshop on Internet Safety, Are you Savey? Part of it was geared to our Youth and the second part was general safety tips. We hope this can be done again for more Grangers to attend.

Our next event will be the Statewide Grange Picnic on May 4th, which will be held at the Boone County Fairgrounds at the Grange Food stand. Please bring a dish to pass. We will be in charge of the main course, which will be a bit different this year. On the menu will be hamburgers and hotdogs.

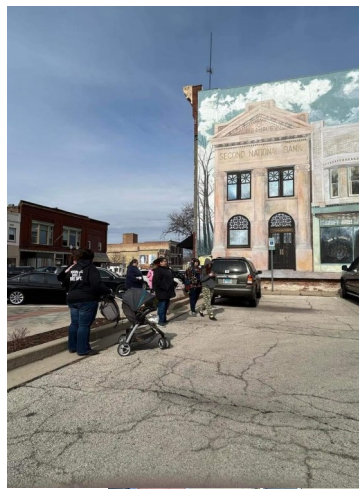
We would also like to ask Grangers to bring items for auction. Remember this is a fundraiser for the Youth.

We would like to send a BIG THANK YOU to those that donated for Spring Fling. Fay Ellwanger, Dayle and Steve Paulson, Lyle and Patti Lee, Ruth Blasingame, Beaver Valley Grange, County Line Grange.

We would also like to say THANK YOU to some extra hand helpers; Kim Robin, Sara Ellwanger, and the Kindberg Family. And thank you to everyone who came to dinner and donated. We hope y'all had fun as much as we did.

Marisa and Karie

CO- State Youth Director's



Some of the Murals



Cleaning up on our walk



Guess who died during the Murder Mystery Dinner?????

Sandra Dee

Aka Renee O'Dell



Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens

By the time many of us read the Granger Easter will have passed. During the Lenten season many daily habits change. My church has Wednesday evening services. Many people give up certain foods, drinks or other things.

In our area fish fries are special on a Friday night. We all need to remember though why we celebrate the Easter season, it's not just all about Easter eggs, Easter candy, new clothes and parties. It is because Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Let us all remember that Jesus died because of us, that He took our sins away and washed us clean.

Blessings to each of you, stand firm in your faith for He is always with us.

Blessings of peace and comfort to those who have lost loved ones, and blessings to those who have new happiness and joy in their lives. Remember CHRIST HAS RISEN !



Ken Allison
1935-2024
Prairie Grange



Ken was always one of the first to volunteer to help at the set up for the Prairie Grange consignment auction. He was always funny and happy to help everyone. He loved working on antique tractors and displayed his at the Fair every year. He was a long time member of Prairie Grange with his wife Nancy. He volunteered to help with everything and always had a great attitude. He will be greatly missed.



Dorothy Newcomer
1920—2024
Rock River Grange

Dorothy was a founding member of Rock River Grange. She spent the last years in a nursing home and was very upset when her Grange finally gave up it's charter. She was a sweet lady that should be remembered as a dedicated Grange member.

"Well done good and faithful Servants"



IN OUR FRATERNITY THERE IS WORK FOR ALL AND THOSE REAP THE MOST ABUNDANT HARVEST OF GRANGE BENEFITS WHO CONTRIBUTE MOST LIBERALLY OF THEIR OWN TIME AND TALENT.