

The Gobbler

Volume 4, Special Edition



150th Anniversary
Special

Turkey Hill Grange
1874 – 2024



—Photo by Bobbi Shryock

Sesquicentennial Celebration

With great pride and humility Turkey Hill Grange hosted a gala celebration of 150 years of service to Belleville and surrounding community, Saturday, April 20, 2024. The Grange of the National Patrons of Husbandry chartered Turkey Hill Grange #1370 April 17, 1874. The celebration featured an open house Saturday morning displaying historical items and photos summarizing the history of Turkey Hill Grange. Grange members prepared refreshments

based on historical recipes from the early 20th Century including delicacies such as Hoover Stew. Also on display were proclamations and congratulations from St Clair County and the Illinois House of Representatives.

Saturday afternoon featured a more formal celebration of the 150th Anniversary. Lary Eckert, master of ceremonies, welcomed all and introduced honored guests (see list on page 7) including the National President, Chris Hamp, and the Illinois State Grange President, Lynette Schaeffer. (Lynette also is Chair, National Grange Executive Committee.) In the spirit of Grange meetings past where skits and plays were popular entertainment, the “Not Ready for Prime Time Players” presented *A Trip Through Time* recounting the history of Turkey Hill Grange with both historical insights and humor. Chris Hamp then made congratulatory remarks and read her letter of congratulations to Turkey Hill Grange. Lynette Schaefer congratulated Turkey Hill Grange on its longevity and service to the community, St Clair County, and State. She recounted the names of many Turkey Hill Grange members who had served as State Grange Officers over the past decades. Steve Koluch, Membership Committee Chairperson, in concert with President Hamp presented certificates and devices to Grangers with 25 or more years of membership. Notable among those were David Donley and Floyd Schlueter who are 75-year Grange Members. Turkey Hill Grange President Charles Treser announced Ron Bersett is the 2024 Turkey Hill Granger of the Year.

Saturday evening featured a celebration banquet. Lary Eckert continued as master of ceremonies noting that he had done the same job for the 100th Anniversary celebration in 1974. After a delicious dinner provided by the Bel-Air Bowl Banquet Center, Mark Kern, St Clair County Board Chairman, presented a proclamation congratulating Turkey Hill Grange on its 150th Anniversary. Next National Grange President Chris Hamp gave her keynote address. Birthday cake and ice cream closed out the evening.

“The impact of your service is not measured merely in years but in the countless lives touched, the community bonds strengthened, and the positive changes witnessed.”

—National Grange Letter of Congratulations

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Open House



Grange Items from 19th and 20th Century



Grange had a baseball team in the 1920s; now we sponsor t-ball teams



Turkey Hill sponsors American Heritage Girls Troop 1370



Quilting Team makes Quilts of Valor yearly.



Turkey Hill Sponsors the Busy Bees 4H Club. Photo by Bobbi Shryock



Can't have a Grange Celebration without food! From left to right: Lary Eckert and Carol Schlueter review historical recipes. David Donley selects from snack line. Costumed for Trip Through Time play, John Rutledge enjoys cake; Urban and Mary Lou Baum in background.

Photos this page by David Phillip unless otherwise noted.

Celebrating 150 Years



Lary Eckert, Master of Ceremonies



Honored Guests: National Grange President Chris Hamp and husband Duane

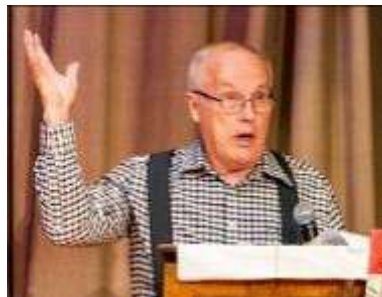


Illinois State Grange President Lynette Schaeffer

A Trip Through Time



Chris Bersett narrated the play adding historical context



Mardy Eisloeffel as Worthy Master



Rivertown Singers entertained between acts



At left, 19th Century Grangers (Left to Right) Tami Hughes, Emma Rutledge, John Rutledge



"Not Ready for Prime Time Players" take a bow. Left to right: Chris Bersett, Tami Hughes, Lynne Edwards, John Rutledge, Emma Rutledge, Ron Bersett, Mardy Eisloeffel, Rivertown Singers, and David Edwards (behind Quartet).

Photos this page by David Philip

Celebrating 150 Years (Membership Awards)

At the Regular Grange Meeting, April 12th, we recognized:

5 Years: Judy Brindley, Dude Underwood, Joy Underwood, Dennis Vest

10 Years: Edith Robinson, John Rutledge, Stacy Rutledge, Jennifer Smith, Nathan Stanforth

15 Years: Taylor Miller, Keegan Miller



Steve Koluch, Membership Chair, presents 5-year certificate to Judy Brindley



Steve Koluch, Membership Chair, presents 10-year certificate to (Left to Right) John Rutledge, Stacy Rutledge, Jennifer Smith

35 Years



National President Chris Hamp presents 35-year certificate to Matt Helms

“For 150 years the members of your Grange have served as a beacon of strength, resilience, and community spirit.”
—National Grange Letter of Congratulations

Thirty-two Turkey Hill Grange Patrons have been Illinois State Grange Officers or Committee Chairs. Including 1 President, 1 Vice President, 2 Lecturers, 2 Secretaries, 1 Treasurer, 4 Agriculture Chairs, 2 Legislative Chairs, and 7 Family Activities Chairs.
—Lynette Schaeffer, President Illinois State Grange

Unable to join us for the celebration:

30 Years: Ron Haynes, Scarlett Haynes, Todd Beisiegel

40 Years: Grace Moon

45 Years: Tom Range, Pat Range, Rita Wurth

81 Years: Maurice Vale

Celebrating 150 Years (Membership Awards *Continued*)

50 Years



National President Chris Hamp presents 50-year membership certificates to Amy Bouvet (Left) and Kathy Lickenbrock (Right)

55 Years



National President Chris Hamp presents 55-year certificate to Mardy Eisloeffel

65 Years



National President Chris Hamp presents 65-year certificate to Barbra Joseph

70 Years



National President Chris Hamp presents 70 year membership certificates to Jane Helms (Left) and Kenneth Joseph (Right)

Photos this page by David Philip

Celebrating 150 Years (Membership Awards *Concluded*)

75 Years!



National President Chris Hamp presents 75 Year Membership certificates to David Donley (Left) and Floyd Schlueter (Below).



**Turkey Hill Granger of the Year
Ron Bersett**



Ron accepts certificate and Granger of the Year T-shirt from President Charles Treser

Photos this page by David Philip

Anniversary Banquet



Lary Eckert continued duties as Master of Ceremonies for the Banquet Celebration

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Mark A Kern, County Board Chairman, do hereby recognize the 150th Anniversary of Turkey Hill Grange and thank them for their dedication and wish them many more years of success."

—County of St. Clair, County Board Proclamation



Mark A. Kern, St. Clair County Board Chairman, presented a proclamation celebrating Turkey Hill Grange's 150th Anniversary.



National President Chris Hamp accepts stained glass gift from Turkey Hill President Charles Treser

"RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate the Turkey Hill Grange on their 150-year anniversary, and we commend them on their continuous support to the Belleville community"

—House Resolution No. 689 Offered by Representative Jay Hoffman



The Banquet concluded with cake and ice cream

HONORED GUESTS

Chris Hamp, National Grange President and her husband **Duane**, from Washington
Amanda Brozana-Rios, National Grange Membership Chair, from Pennsylvania
Claire Logan, National Ceres, and her husband, **Stephen**, from Connecticut
Jody Cameron, National Grange Convention Coordinator and Past-President Rhode Island State Grange and his wife, **Jodi Ann Cameron**, also a National Grange Convention Coordinator, from Connecticut
Lynette Schaeffer, National Grange Chair of Executive Board and President of Illinois State Grange and her husband **Don**
Mark Kern, St. Clair County Board Chairman and member of Turkey Hill Grange

Photos this page by David Philip

THANK
You
SO VERY
much

150th Anniversary Committee

- Stacy Rutledge, Chairperson
- Charles Treser
- Chris Bersett
- David Donley

And appreciation to all of the Turkey Hill Grangers who worked to make the 150th Anniversary Celebration a success.

Turkey Hill Grange
1375 East State Highway 15
Belleville IL 62220