

Patrons of Husbandry

Oliver Hudson Kelley was an employee of the Department of Agriculture in the 1860s. He made an official trip through the South and was astounded by the lack of sound agricultural practices he encountered. Joining with other interested individuals in 1867, Kelley formed the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, a fraternal organization complete with its own secret rituals. Local affiliates were known as "granges" and the members as "grangers." In its early years, the Grange was devoted to educational events and social gatherings.

Growth was slow in the early years, but the attraction of social events was considerable. Farm life in the 19th century was marked by a tedium and isolation that usually was relieved only by church functions and the weekly trips to town for supplies.

Following the [Panic of 1873](#), the Grange spread rapidly throughout the farm belt, since farmers in all areas were plagued by low prices for their products, growing indebtedness and discriminatory treatment by the railroads. These concerns helped to transform the Grange into a political force.



National Grange Headquarters Building,
Washington DC

Grange influence was particularly strong in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois, where political pressure yielded a series of "Granger laws" designed to give legislative assistance to the farmers. Those laws received an initial blessing from the [Supreme Court](#) in [Munn v. Illinois](#) (1876), but a later counteroffensive by the railroads brought the [Wabash case](#) (1886), which wiped out those gains.

During the 1870s, the Grangers advocated programs such as the following:

- Cooperative purchasing ventures as a means to obtain lower prices on farm equipment and supplies

- Pooling of savings as an alternative to dependence on corrupt banks, an early form of credit union

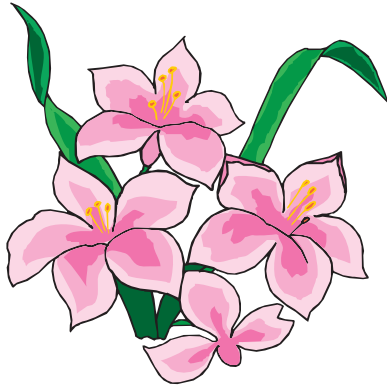
- Cooperative grain elevators to hold non-perishable crops until the optimal times to sell

- An abortive effort to manufacture farm equipment; this venture depleted the Granger organization's funds and was instrumental in its decline.

A major shortcoming of the movement was the failure to address what was probably the root cause of many farm ills—overproduction. There were too many farmers and too much productive land; the advent of new, mechanized equipment only exacerbated the difficulties. A few perceptive individuals recognized that flooding the market with produce only depressed prices further. Mary Elizabeth Lease of Kansas, one of the nation's first female attorneys, traveled to grange halls and urged the farmers to "raise less corn and more hell." Such pleas went largely unheeded, since most farmers preferred to blame the politicians, judges and bankers for their plight.

The Grange as a political force peaked around 1875, then gradually declined. New organizations with more potent messages emerged, including the [Greenback Party](#) of the 1870s, the Farmers' Alliances of the 1880s and the [Populist Party](#) of the 1890s.

The Grange had played an important role by demonstrating that farmers were capable of organizing and advocating a political agenda. After witnessing the eclipse of its advocacy efforts by other groups, the Grange reverted to its original educational and social events. These have sustained the organization to the present day.



CLARA WALDO

Clara Humason was born May 23, 1858, and married John B. Waldo in 1877. Clara Waldo became the first female to be named on the Oregon State board of Regents and was the first female to give an address to the Oregon State graduating class.


Mrs. Waldo has the honor of being the only female representative on a large project for the Lewis and Clark Exposition in 1905, that of the agricultural interest in Oregon.

Clara's efforts was focused on betterment of the farm-home, traveling library, agricultural education and many other enlightening programs designed to up lift the human character.

In 1904, Sister Waldo organized the first Juvenile Grange in Oregon and served as the State Juvenile leader (1904-1909).

Oregon State Grange Lecturer

1904 - 1908



14th Oregon State Lecturer H. A. Darnall, 1910-1912

Darnall maybe one of the first Lecturers' to put together a scrap book.

Titled: The Lecturer's Scrap Book.

Darnell compiled the scrap book for Lecturer's of the Subordinate Granges of Oregon.

Brother Darnall shared with us tips on "Summer Pruning Young Apple Trees" by Ben F. Brown, "Preserving Insect Specimens," "Legal Points Worth Knowing," and poems like these:

When Daddy Was A Little Boy

By Betty Sage

When daddy was a little boy
All little boys were good;
And did just what their nurses
And their parents said they should;
And sometimes, when I'm naughty,
He takes me on his knee
And tells, when he was little,
How good he use to be.

He never stole a cherry tart,
Or hid in passageway To "boo" at Jane as she came by
With dishes on a tray;
He never once put currant jam
Where grandma'd prob'ly sit,
And when he fell and hurt himself
He never cried a bit.

He didn't pinch Aunt Lucky's legs
When going up the stairs,
He never told poor little Ted
His bed was full of bears,
He never kicked good Mary Ann
Or hit her with a spade;
I guess perhaps my daddy was the best boy ever made.



Oregon State Lecturer, Marie Thiessen, shared many ideas and good stories with the membership during her time in office.

A small sample taken out of the Oregon State Grange Bulletin, July 20, 1944 we find the following:



A letter from Mabel Rider,
Lecturer of Abernathy Grange No. 346.

On June 21, 1944 Abernathy Grange hosted a free chicken dinner with all the trimmings, followed by a dance for the service men.

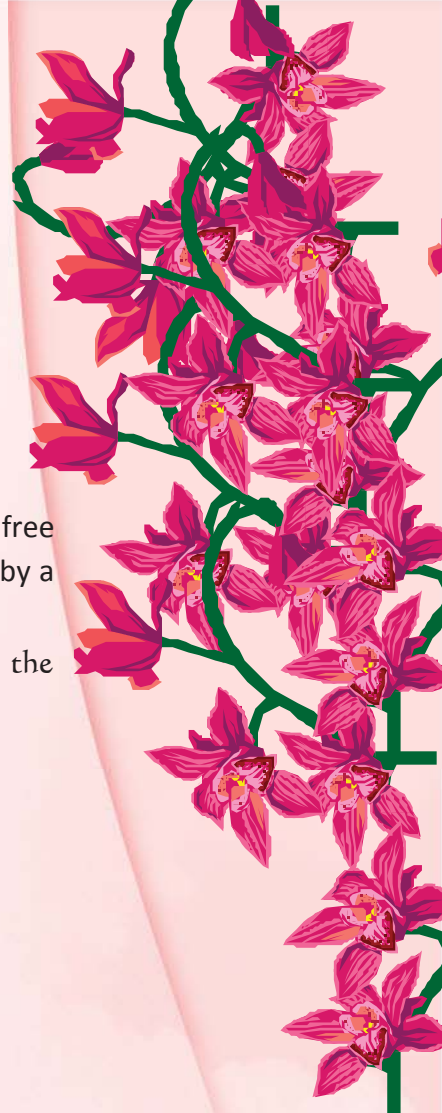
(This would be a good idea to coordinate with the Veterans' Committee Chairman)

Cora Dorland of Washington Grange No. 313

One of her lecturer programs; she had people bring in a piece of old china and tell a brief history of that piece.

Another Lecturer program they had an Easter Hat Parade, the hat being made from something you use in the kitchen.

(This would be a good Easter Program or Mother's Day Program. The hats could then be brought to State Grange for the GWA contest)



Julia Haldorson, Lecturer of Central Grange No. 360
Had a Mother's Day program. All mother's were presented with corsages made of wild orchids. Origin of Mother's day was read, which was followed by music, songs, humorous skits and readings.

Verla Walters. Lecturer
of Lone Pine Grange No. 752;
Had a shoe race, men versus the women.



Marie Thiessen

Oregon State Lecturer
1936-1942

