



# **Perry Valley Grange #1804, Inc. Newsletter**

## **An Ending. A New Beginning?**



**Effective Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 11 a.m., this building will no longer be owned by Perry Valley Grange. The new home for the Grange will be the Millerstown Community Park Building at 110 Juniata Parkway West, Millerstown, PA 17062.**

**To say this is a bittersweet moment (as least for some of us), may be an understatement. Read one member's review and perspective on the matter on the next pages.**

# Don't Complain; Do Something Positive

**The day is almost here.....the day when Perry Valley Grange no longer owns its home and our organization becomes a tenant in another facility. It won't be the same as we've been used to, but we can adapt as the Grange always has.**

If you've been reading this newsletter or attending Grange meetings even occasionally, you know this is not an action that comes as a surprise. The day has, in fact, been a long time coming. At least 15 years ago, we noticed less new members coming into the Grange and less willingness among members to help with all the events that made our Grange one of the most active in Pennsylvania.

So, we did everything possible to communicate the need for more help and actively involved members. When that met with limited success, we first adapted by moving from serving banquets family style to serving buffet style. Later the Grange began providing a stipend for local FFA members at Greenwood and Newport High School to help with serving the larger banquets and public dinners. Meanwhile, the number of cooks willing to take charge of the kitchen continued to decline due to deaths and the infirmities of age, but one or two faithful cooks managed to prepare the food with assistance from other kitchen volunteers.

The shortage of volunteers was apparent in other areas of Grange life beyond the fund raising events. Fewer were willing to serve as committee chairs and there was a perpetual lack of help to maintain the grounds and property of the Grange. By 2005 we started to contract with a lawn care service to mow the grass. The popular Fall Fest one day festival drew big crowds for 5 years but was discontinued after the 2007 event for lack of help.

A welcome boost came in 2010 when the Newport Masonic Lodge moved into the Grange Hall with the agreement that no rental would be charged if the Lodge members would help with fund raising and property maintenance. That arrangement worked well at first, but eventually only a few Lodge members were willing to help regularly and that relationship ended by the close of 2012.

So it became apparent to the small number of active Grange workers that something even more drastic would have to be done. Multiple special meetings and brain storming sessions were held to get input and more involvement from the membership and the community, all in hopes of avoiding an action that was becoming more and more inevitable. Finally, the tough decision was reached - The Grange Hall at West Juniata Parkway and Owl Hollow Road, built in 1988 after fire heavily damaged our former facility (originally the one-room Ferrell's School), would be sold. This action ends 43 years of ownership of our own building (1972-2014) and we'll return to the using other facilities as was done for the first 52 years of our Grange's history.



**So now this lovely facility – the Millerstown Community Park Building - will become the Grange's home.**

National Grange law requires that the sales proceeds after expenses of the transactions must be held in trust by the State Grange. Interest on this investment will be paid to the local Grange; principle can be used only for re-investment into real estate or no more than 10% per year for community service work.

Perry Valley proposed to the State Grange and received approval for the payment of \$75,000 of the sales proceeds to purchase a 25-year lease to use the Millerstown Community Park Building located at 110 Juniata Parkway West, Millerstown. We feel very fortunate to have received great cooperation from the park board to move into this facility and look forward to this relationship.

***Continued on Page 3***

## ***Don't Complain (continued from Page 2)***

The Grange is permitted to hold 12 meetings and up to 6 fund raisers per year at the park building. It is a nice facility, but not as large or as well-equipped as what we had at the Grange Hall. We won't be able to serve any large public dinners but expect to continue serving small banquets to some of our long term customers. Hopefully we won't hear too many complaints about not having the kind of space that many formerly took for granted. It's too late to complain about what could have been avoided if only more people would have stepped forward.

The past few months before the move have been lots of hard work for a few faithful members and very much an emotional roller coaster. We've alternated between:

- bouts of extreme sadness as our former Grange home was dismantled,
- anger that more people were not helping with the physical work, and
- relief to know that soon the burden of owning/maintaining this property would soon be gone.

It's been especially frustrating to hear so much "advice" from members and non-members who don't think the Grange should be selling its property. I admit to being less than sympathetic to these opinions from people who have been unwilling to help prevent this necessary action.....after all, there have been many years of begging for help and the dire warnings of what could happen. Now those warnings have come to pass.

The equipment, furnishings and kitchen dishes/utensils have been distributed free of charge to local churches and community groups. Although it was very hard to see the things purchased with years of hard work go so quickly, the Grange is pleased that these things will be used by other organizations serving the community.

So one chapter of the Grange's 95 year history is closing and we have the ability to write a new chapter. If Perry Valley Grange is to continue as a viable organization in the life of its community, we need to work just as hard as before but in different ways. While we'll no longer be serving as many meals or handling dozens of property issues, we need to find new purpose in serving the needs of the community.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, please note that two representatives from Penn State University will be leading a goal setting exercise at our January 9, 2015, meeting. We need everyone to come with an open mind, ready to share hopes/dreams about the future of the Grange and willing to commit time and energy to make something great happen.

This is your opportunity and your challenge. If you don't attend or sit back expecting someone else to do the work, then please don't complain about what does or does not happen. If you didn't help with other Grange activities for whatever reasons in the past, this is your invitation to get involved and help the Grange find new purpose for the years ahead.

**If we don't all work together to make something positive happen in the future, how will the job get done?**

***Doug Bonsall***

Treasurer/Past President/Property Sale Chair

## **Celebrating Special Days**

### ***December Birthdays***

- 5 Shirley Delancey
- 10 Boyd Delancey
- 21 Louise Pennay
- 29 Barbara McMillen

### ***December Anniversaries***

- 7 Ken & Peg Bolton

### ***January Birthdays***

- 4 Bob Sheaffer
- 19 Joan Walker
- 24 Joan Bonsall
- 25 Catherine Morrison
- 27 James Myers
- 30 Jim Hoffman, Jonathan Gantt

### ***January Anniversary***

- 10 Ralph & Edith Lesh

**If you know of a Grange member who is ill, in the hospital or grieving the loss of a loved one, please call Peg Bolton @ 589-3897 so a card can be sent from the Grange.**

**Don't Forget – 2015 member dues are now payable - \$50 for adults and \$12 for youth.**

The 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Perry Valley Grange was celebrated with a catered banquet and program on October 17<sup>th</sup>. More details on the Grange website @ [www.perryvalleygrange.org](http://www.perryvalleygrange.org).



Perry Valley Grange was organized July 19, 1919, at Beaver' School. A 22-page historical booklet is available with details about the Grange's history.



Long time Grangers were recognized with continuous membership awards. (left to right) Seated - Doug Bonsall – 45 years; Harry Schreiber – 50 years; Robert Cauffman – 40 years. Standing – Sueann Byers – 45 years; Carol Gantt – 30 years; Virginia Shotzberger – 30 years. Past presidents were also recognized and shared highlights from their terms of office.



Musical entertainment for the anniversary celebration was provided by the Reeder Sisters.



Renee Hetrick (center) presented 2014 Grange raffle proceeds of \$1,239 to Greenwood & Newport FFA Chapter representatives.



A pictorial walk through 95 years of Grange activity was part of the program. That slide presentation is available on the website.

# Business Sponsor Recruitment Underway

The annual recruitment of **Business Sponsor Supporters** began in November. The annual contribution for each Business Sponsor is \$60 and free advertising is provided in this newsletter and on the Grange website. The annual recognition of Business Sponsors will be held in April 2015 as part of our Open House-Community Night fellowship dinner and program. Printed below and on the following pages are all the current (2014) Business Sponsors. 2015 Business Sponsors will appear in the next issue.

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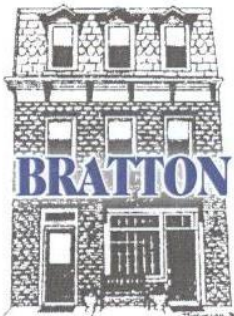
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# Winter Events Coming Up at Perry Valley Grange

*During these winter months we are sometimes faced with inclement weather conditions. Call President Bill Cameron (589-3782) for the latest news when the weather is bad.*

## December 2014

12	<p><b>Grange Christmas Party/Game Night 6:30 p.m. @ Park Building</b></p> <p><b>Social Committee</b> – Carol Rhoades &amp; Peg Bolton</p> <p><b>Please Bring to share:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a favorite holiday appetizer or dessert</li> <li>• card or board games</li> <li>• 5-6 dozen cookies for the Christmas in Millerstown event on 12/13</li> </ul>
13	Banquet – Miller family
13	Christmas in Millerstown – Grange hosts reception at Cochran-Anspach House

## January 2015

9-17	PA Farm Show, Harrisburg – Perry Valley helps in milk shake booth – see below
9	<p><b>Grange Business Meeting/Program 6:30 p.m. @ Park Building</b></p> <p><b>Social Committee</b> – Marge Earnest</p> <p><b>Program</b> - Drs. Daniel and Melanie Foster from Penn State will lead Grange members through a planning process which will help us create our new direction for the future. Please bring new ideas, hopes for the future of the Grange and an open mind to this exciting and important session.</p>

## Farm Show Milk Shakes

Perry Valley will again provide volunteers to help our friends from Valley Grange in Lewisberry with their annual milk shake fund raiser at the PA Farm Show in early January. For the past several years we were pleasantly surprised to receive a nice donation to our Grange for all the help we provided as well as volunteers treated to a meal at their annual appreciation dinner in the spring.

Help is needed every day, Jan. 9-17. If you have not already signed up to help, please call Doug Bonsall at 921-1957. The work schedule is being coordinated that will enable carpooling to Harrisburg since we will have a limited number of passes for free parking in the exhibitors' lot at the Farm Show building.

## Other Service Projects

Other projects in the works include:

- Hunger Banquet in conjunction with Greenwood FFA
- Essay-Poster contest in local elementary schools

**At press time no further details on either project were available.**



## Financial Report

Checking Balance 10/1/2014 ..... \$ 15,410.66  
**PLUS: Receipts** – Oct.-Nov. 2014.....+ 2,000.67  
**LESS: Expenditures** – Oct.-Nov. 2014 ....- 4,654.11  
 Checking Balance 11/30/2014..... \$12,757.22  
 Certificates of Deposit ..... \$66,008.68

## Perry Valley Grange Vision

Foster an atmosphere where individuals can grow spiritually, intellectually and socially and, through that growth, improve themselves, their families, communities and the nation.

## Perry Valley Grange Ideals

*A good Grange member:*

- \* Places faith in God,
- \* Looks forward to the future,
- \* Helps those in need, and
- \* Is loyal to family, community and nation.



## ***Inside This Newsletter***

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.....Service Projects; Financial Report

Our fraternal circle has been broken with the recent deaths of long-time members **Kathryn “Kitty” Smith** and **Robert “Bob” Cauffman**. The charter was draped in their memories at the November Grange meeting.

### For Holiday Gifts

## **GRANGE COOKBOOKS ON SALE**

Five different editions are still available and are sure to be popular for gifts this holiday season. Orders come in regularly from all over the country, thanks to people reading our Perry Valley Grange website.

Contact Doug Bonsall (921-1957) to get your copies. The cost varies for the different editions: (from left to right) 1950 - \$13; 1972 - \$20; 1984 - \$13, 2000 - \$13, 2010 - \$18.



## **Perry Valley Grange #1804, Inc.**

*c/o Douglas A. Bonsall  
300 Swatara Street, PO Box 765  
Dauphin, PA 17018-0765*



**Dec. 2014 & Jan. 2015  
Newsletter**