



Winona Grange # 271



Established in Tualatin in 1895
Spring 2011 Newsletter

New Event Signs

Our new signs pointed the way to “**Tualatin in the Ice Age**,” which was jointly sponsored by the Tualatin Historical Society and the Grange. Even though the event was held on Superbowl Sunday, 100 community members of all ages sat on the edge of their seats while excellent speakers told stories about our mastodon, bison, giant sloths, the Willamette Meteorite, and the Missoula Flood.



New Committee Chairs

Anne Doherty volunteered to be Community Service Chair, taking over from **Mary Ann Hulquist**, who has served faithfully for several years. Anne needs your hours worked, dollars donated, and miles driven between January 1 and June 30 for her report.

Sam Keator and **Larry McClure** agreed to be co-chairs of our Fundraising team.

Awards to Winona Members

The Chamber of Commerce recognized two of our members at the 2010 Celebrate Tualatin Awards and Recognition Luncheon.

- **Jonathan Crane** was named Business Leader of the Year for his *Tualatin Life* and Integrity Staffing businesses.
- **Larry McClure** received the Spirit of Tualatin award for his work with the Historical Society and Heritage Center.

Congratulations!

Garden and Farmers Market

This year's garden will be at Lee Farms, 21975 SW 65th, Tualatin. **Craig Lee** assures us that the Grange can use plenty of land and that members can come and go at will to care for the garden. Having the garden there will not conflict with Lee Farms' operations or business. Now we need to pray for the rain to stop.

The Grange voted to have a booth at the Tualatin Farmers Market again this year. There were concerns about how we will staff the booth. We'll need to try new approaches, involve our new members, and maybe enlist support from other organizations.

Nonprofit Training

Dick and Suzanne Naven represented us at the Nonprofit Organization Board Training held at Oregon State University in January. Their reports indicate that it was an information packed day. Some of the sessions they attended covered measuring project and event success, Roberts Rules of Order, and working with volunteers.

Open House on April 16

From 10 to 2, the building bustled with activity as exhibitors set up their tables. They included Washington County Ag Extension, Portland Puzzlers, Friends of the Library, S & A Irish Events, Tualatin Police, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Chamber of Commerce, Lee Farms, Tualatin Farmers Market, Pohl Senior Center and Loaves and Fishes, Tualatin Historical Society, Winona Cemetery Association, and Winona Grange's Garden Seed Distribution project.

Thanks to Parallel 45 for donating tasty sandwiches.



State Senator Richard Devlin stopped by. He's on the left with Larry McClure, the Senator's assistant Jen, and Norm Parker.



Rosa Lee Dickson checks out Winona Grange's history exhibit and Margie Larsen's beautiful quilts.

President's Column



Grange Open Houses: Looking Back and Looking Forward

We held our Grange Open House on April 16, and the Washington-Yamhill Pomona held theirs on April 30. Were they successful? **How do you measure success?**

If the only measure of success for an Open House is a gain in membership, then the results were pretty disappointing. We may have one or more applicants for membership as a result of our Open House, but I am aware of only two non-Grange persons attending the Pomona Open House (the Mayor of Newberg, and the Librarian, both of whom were invited to speak).

Our Open House was spoken of in terms of being a "Membership Drive." I was pleased to see a variety of age groups among the public attendees, even though we had not discussed what age groups we wanted to target. After the Open House, and again after the Pomona Open House, I reflected on our plight and the plight of Granges in general.

A great deal of verbiage has been produced on this subject, so I will try to summarize the salient points. I see at least four of what you might call paradigm shifts that have largely taken place since the end of WWII.

The first is a shift, or decline, in **volunteerism**. The WWII generation is often referred to as "the last great generation of joiners." This has affected all types of non-profit organizations. Interestingly enough, demographic studies are now showing many similarities between the WWII generation and the young adults of today.

The second is the path of **Big Agriculture**. As former Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz was famous for saying, "Get big, or get out." We've certainly seen that happen in our lifetime. People often speak of "Industrial Agriculture" without defining what they mean by it, but we can see two solid trends, not necessarily mutually exclusive of each other. One might be called "Production Ag," where bigger is indeed more cost-effective. The other might be termed "Niche Farming," where the price of the product is secondary to its quality or some unique characteristic.

A third is **Globalization**, a phenomenon made possible by cheap transportation. We may now be experiencing the beginning of the end of cheap oil, and hence, the end of cheap transportation. This trend toward having any food from anywhere, any time, may become moot.

The fourth trend has happened in **family values**. Everyone has their own opinions here, so I will simply mention it. You may nod your head, or shake it, whichever suits your disposition.

All four trends are certainly **beyond our ability to control**, but we are not here to control, just to recognize. Nothing is ever accomplished by not recognizing the "Elephants in the room," but once we recognize them we can work around, or with them.

In past times, when the community surrounding Granges was more agriculturally-oriented, the natural process of families having children who grow up in the Grange, join the Grange, grow up some more, and have their own children who grow up in the Grange, join the Grange, and so on, has provided continuity in Grange membership. All of the four trends mentioned above, as well as other factors, have served to break down that traditional pattern.

What shall we do? What can we do? First, let's look around at the Elephants in the room. The future of **volunteerism** is brighter than it has been for at least a generation. There are people who will serve for a good cause. We

can see hope here.

Second, we are seeing smaller, family farming units blending Big Ag with **Niche Farming**. Look at organic farming, free-range poultry and other meats. Some of this springs from a (negative) reaction to the results of Big Ag (meats injected with water, animals fed hormones, veggies sprayed with poisons, etc.). We may yet see a turning point in healthier food in the years ahead.

Third, if we never see gas under \$3 or \$4 per gallon again, we will need to **grow our food a lot closer to home** than we do nowadays. And it is the younger generation that will lead the charge on this one; it will take the energy of youth to accomplish it.

If we are to not only survive as a Grange, but to grow and thrive, we must embrace a paradigm shift of our own. We need to be consciously targeting **younger candidates for membership**. For some Granges, the target age group should be "the next generation down," while for others, the target should more realistically be "half your age." Yes, that would be a paradigm shift, wouldn't it?

Which group are we in? You decide. Ultimately, we do decide, because the people we bring into the Grange are tomorrow's Grange members. Choose them wisely.

And please **let me know any suggestions you may have** for accomplishing this. I look forward to your ideas. Even though we should be recruiting new members all year long, not just in anticipation of an Open House, all your efforts to make our Open House on the 16th were greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Dick Naven

Did you see Winona Grange on this billboard?



Heritage Trees



These two maples and one on the East side of the hall are to be designated as Heritage Trees by the Tree City.

Seed Distribution Project



Norm Parker, Loyce Martinazzi, Suzanne and Dick Naven sort seed packets. They were joined by Ken and Rosa Lee Dickson and Marilyn Reiher.

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Mark your calendar for these Grange meetings

Saturday, May 14
June 11
July 9

Potluck **brunch** is at **10 am** followed by our meeting at **11 am**

See you there!