

Cedar Valley Grange News

Cedar Valley, WA

Spring 2011

Grange sponsors Fundraiser for Northwest Folklife, 2011

Once again the Cedar Valley Grange has offered to contribute to our dance community and the Northwest Folklife Festival by donating the hall for the evening of March 19, 2011. Contribution to community is part of the life of a Grange.

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. In its early years, the Grange was devoted to educational events and social gatherings. The Grange organization also lobbied for laws to support the farm community. On the local level, Grangers helped one another build barns, care for the sick, and support the community. This camaraderie has continued over the years.

The Cedar Valley Grange is over 100 years old. Rather than a Farm Grange, it is designated a Community Grange. It supports the local school through donations of dictionaries, gives coats to children in need, supports the food bank, and donates to Ronald McDonald House. Grange members also contribute to the community by helping those unable to drive to doctor appointments, etc.

They tell stories of the potbelly stove in the corner of the hall, working together to build the stage, and attending dances at the hall after meetings. They continue to work together in maintaining the building that many dancers call home.

Over the years, very reasonable rent, a fantastic wood dance floor, easy access to Seattle, and great, safe parking have blessed clubs that use this wonderful facility. Many of us understand, that without the support of the

Cedar Valley Grange, our dance group would no longer exist.

It is easy to become 'Granger'. Pick up a membership application at the Grange. Dues are \$36 per year. By becoming a member of the Grange, you join a family that supports the dance community and the greater community. Perhaps you know someone who might enjoy being a member of the Grange, not necessarily a dancer, but a person who has recently retired or lost a spouse, and wants to remain active in the community. Grange membership comes complete with friends, support, and ideas to remain a vibrant member of society. Membership also gives the dance community the opportunity to "give back" to an organization that supports our activities.

Cedar Valley Grange 305



This is your community hall, built and maintained for our local neighborhood. It provides a meeting place for Northwest Folklife Dance Group, Dudes & Dolls Square dance Club and many other groups that need to have a meeting place. The floor is exquisite for dancing, and is used extensively throughout the months. Help keep this facility in our community by joining the Grange. There are many benefits and advantages.

One fine morning at Cedar Valley School in Lynnwood



These are a few of the dictionaries that were passed out to by our Cedar Valley Grange on Wednesday, February 9, 2011. The Third Graders at the school were pleased with this gift of knowledge. Having their own dictionary at their desk makes it possible to look up a word immediately, rather than standing in line to use the 'community' one.

Your Grange at work. It was not really work, however, it was more like knowing how Santa feels when he is giving all those presents to the children. There are Community Projects that your community-minded Grange is involved in. Investigate us to see if you fit in an organization that is helping in YOUR community. Call 425-776-8671 for information.

Help us help your neighborhood.

It's what *we* do.

Three Cedar Valley Grangers bearing gifts of knowledge



Shown here are three of the four Grangers that visited Cedar Valley Elementary School bearing gifts for the Third Grade classes. Not shown is the photographer. Names withheld to protect the guilty. All students received the American Standard dictionary, and those that could use a Spanish-American Dictionary were presented with one.

What's wrong with this picture?



The "wrong" thing with the picture is that there is a blue water bottle under one of the chairs. Look closely, and you will see it. Grange's rules regarding the "No Food or Drink Upstairs" is in place to take care of the hardwood surface. The floor is taken care of by Margaret Sherman, and she is doing a yeoman's task. Let's help her out by making sure all in the hall follow the rules.

The facilities of the Cedar Valley Grange Hall are rented out almost every day of the month. Each month the Cedar Valley Grange Hall management team is finding maintenance and upgrading tasks that need to be performed. A few dance groups call Cedar Valley Grange their "Home". If you belong to both a dance organization, and the Grange, your participation is needed. If you don't belong to the Grange, you should. It is good to have a place your club can call Home, but it is also good to take care of your home

Where is Cedar Valley?

Searching for the location of Cedar Valley on a map of the Lynnwood area, I found the "Cedar Valley" name printed roughly over the Grange Hall location. Cedar valley was a part of this area, as was Seattle Heights, which was at Highway 99 and 212th Street. I am looking for the boundaries, so if there is anyone reading this newsletter that can identify the location, please let me know at WarnFnel@msn.com.

Our communities, made up of our neighbors, are the strength and backbone of our country, as it was with the Granges, as they formed to be heard. Let's keep our community together. It is time to be neighbors again.