

Marys River Messenger

The Marys River Grange Newsletter



Vol. 4, Issue 4

March/April 2022

Log Building Recounted.

Found in Photo album from 1975-1980, handwritten note. Suspect this was collected in 1977 for 50 year anniversary.

A.G. DuBois and Fred Seedenburg went to the Griswold sawmill to investigate. Can put logs in the pond and have the use of the mill for \$1.00 per thousand. Grange to leave mill in as good shape as found. Grange to furnish labor. They have lumber seconds at \$5.50 per thousand. Logs in the pond can be sawed next week, Grange to furnish labor and pay \$5.00 per thousand. Mr. Baker's offer of a piece of land for grange still stands.

Mr. McCormick, Millman, will cut logs on shares, 50-50 if the Grange furnish logs to cut lumber. Building logs shaped for \$1.50 per thousand. Mr. Cone gave an estimate on how much it would take for the building. One party with truck will haul to mill and back for \$2.50 per thousand. Mr. Bennett talked with Mr. Thomsen about location. Mr. Thomsen (Shroyer Ranch now) is going to make playground of his place. He will give us a site in the field, we will have to do fencing and can park in his park. Said it has water and electric lights about 50 rods away and about 50 rods from highway. They want a clear title or long term lease. Bennett is willing to donate logs or if Grange wants can have 3 to 5 years to pay for them.

Mr. Booth, banker, will let us have \$100.00. Figure building will cost some less than \$200.00. It should pay stumpage, \$1.00 per thousand.

Lester Bennett reported seeing Mr. Thomsen. Mr. Thomsen will donate one acre of ground for Grange hall, no strings attached, will furnish deed, but no abstract, the Grange to fence said plot down to the creek, about 15 rods. On Dec 17, they accepted the Hall plans submitted by Mr. Thomsen. Sister Ida Bennett offered use of her home for preparing hot lunches for me when logging (Bevans home now). Lester Bennett said he had room for 3 teams in his barn.

Jan 6, 1933. L.J. Bennett reported work in woods getting logs for the Hall. A.R. Hoyt was chairman of the farming project to raise money for the building fund.

On January 11, 1933 the members pledged for the construction of the Grange Hall to pay the following amounts:
[Note: in 2021, \$2.50 would be equivalent to \$50, and \$5.00 to \$100]

Sarah J. Pratt	\$2.50	Glen DuBois	\$2.50
L.J. Bennett	\$2.50	Nannie Brown	\$2.50
Fred Seedenburg	\$2.50	G.W. Cummings	\$2.50

Terry Brown	\$2.50	Dorothy Minshall	\$2.50
A.R. Hoyt	\$2.50	Mrs. Vern Clark	\$2.50
E.A. Cone	\$2.50	C.J. Baker	\$5.00
S.D. Morford	\$2.50		
A.W. Bennett	\$2.50		

On Feb. 1933, a resolution was passed to raise bonds for \$500.00, interest on more than 6%, for sole purpose of building a hall.

On Mar 1933 J. Thomsen wished to furnish posts and labor for new fence around Grange property.

On April 1933 L.J. Bennett reported all but 7 loads of logs hauled to mill.

April expenses to date

Hauling and yarding logs \$99.19

Sawing logs \$72.16

On May 1933 Seedenburg reported all logs are peeled.

Aug 18, 1933. Forms for concrete made and part of holes dug. Grange gave Bennett \$10.00 for nails and cash. Cement work for 50 sacks of cement \$27.00 and credit for 23 sacks returned \$2.37.

Oct 20. Road and approach to highway graveled, used about 40 yards of gravel. The construction of the hall going on with first flooring laid and 2 logs high.

December 1933. All logs up – rafters placed. There were 39 loads of gravel hauled out to front yard.

Jan 1, 1934. Met at hall for work, putting shakes on roof and sheathing on. Two old heating stoves with pipes out the windows in ladies parlor made warmth and served to make coffee. Blankets were hung in open doorways to help keep warm. Poured rain all day. Boards and saw horses and nail kegs made seats and tables and women had a hot lunch. They organized a Home Economics Club known as Christmas Club.

Marys River Grange was chartered on March 11, 1927. An Open House and Birthday Party is planned for March 12, 2022, 10AM-2PM at the Hall. Displays will feature the building, history, Junior Grange activities, member farms and more. Cake and ice cream! 24707 Grange Hall Road. Everyone is invited!

Hope Helps

It is mid-February, 2022, and I am feeling something that has been missing for some time. Optimism.

I realize we have seen drops in COVID numbers before, and so my feeling is not entirely based on the current trend, although it certainly helps. The decision at the February meeting to try and return to potluck-style meetings in April also provides some basis for optimism.

Yet what has truly inspired me is the attitude and dedication of our new officer group, and the re-invigoration of long-time members who are once again investing themselves in our activities. Already, Susan Stogsdill has been an active and effective Vice President and our new Lecturer Mike Terry has both educated and entertained us. Chaplain Caroline Choquette delivered a very moving testimonial about the value of our Grange and what Faith, Hope, Charity and Fidelity mean to her, and encouraged everyone to think about what they mean to us. Suzy Gilruth, our new Gatekeeper/Greeter (and 2021 Volunteer of the Year!) has been active in organizing and painting the Hall, as well as a powerhouse in locating used and free materials for the Hall. Our new Secretary, Barbara Carter, has produced exceptional records and tries to manage my wild ride through the meeting format to keep me on track. Our new Treasurer, Denise Guinn, is enthusiastically learning our system and is quick and happy to respond to unplanned requests. Nate, our Assistant Steward, is consulting and assisting with our grant project to provide water capture and gutters for the Hall, taking time and energy to save us \$550 on tank costs. Matt Coen and Kurt Weidenmann of our Executive Committee have spent countless hours improving the Hall. Suzan Foley, our Flora, and Lady Assistant Steward Elizabeth Bolte have also helped with painting. Rounding this up is Steward Jay Sexton, who despite undertaking the massive task of restoring Willamette Hall, continues to donate time, energy, materials and love to Marys River.

Marys River is not the traditional, old-style Grange that has marching into openings, performing degrees and singing century-old songs to open our meetings. We have adopted modern titles, replaced portions of the opening to be more equitable, and stressed non-sectarianism by placing holy books of other faiths alongside the Bible. So, I am happy to see our officers, tastefully and with proper respect to the Grange, embrace and define the roles of their offices.

It has also been uplifting to see members who cannot attend otherwise, like Camille Kaplan who helps with firewood, and Demetri from GreenGable who takes an interest in the Hall.

Marys River also has new members who have invested time and energy by helping work on the

building: Nancy Weidenmann, Jim Rouff and Camille Hall, and those like Tanya Lasswell who have helped research the history of our Hall. This, too, uplifts my spirit.

Not all of these members come to all the meetings, and some members don't make any. Some members bake pies, or help with a particular event they enjoy or support. Some donate plants. Some work on the building. Some just pay dues and support us.

The meetings, and even the Hall, are not the foundation of our Grange. Community is. I encourage all members to join and support our Grange community in whatever manner you feel comfortable. All our Grangers are welcome, all the time, and I truly hope you feel it in our Hall. Even if it's not often, we hope to see you sometime. It's a small investment to be a part of our community, and the rewards are exceptional bonds with awesome people.

- Sonny Hays-Eberts, MRG President

Marys River Grange #685 regularly meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at 24707 Grange Hall Road in Philomath and online via Zoom.
Contact marysrivergrange@gmail.com or 541-829-2907. See also: marysrivergrange.org facebook.com/Marys-River-Grange-Hall-288171007887164/
To rent the Grange Hall, see Rental at marysrivergrange.org



And, in 1969...

Renew for 2022
Dues - \$50 per person or \$100 per family
Send to
Marys River Grange #685
PO Box 1301
Philomath, OR 97370



By Susan Stogsdill

Marys River Grange's Annual Plant Sale and Seed Swap will be on Saturday, April 30, from 10Am to 4PM at the Grange Hall. The majority of funds raised are gifted to Philomath Community Services. Last year MRG donated \$1,300. As rentals and use of the Hall have increased since then, an even larger percentage of the proceeds will go to PCS in 2022.

Please start seedlings of all kinds, transplant the overflow from your yard, farm or garden, clone houseplants, gather excess pots and gardening supplies, and sort and organize seeds! Your donations make this a successful event. This year, Vernonia Grange ran out of seeds before we contacted them. More so than ever, your seeds are needed for gifts and swapping.

Last year the sale drew great attendance. The pandemic may have moved people to be more self-sufficient, and the lockdown created a hunger for social contact. Let's build on that, and combine it with the generosity of our community and our members, and make this event the best one yet.

Plants and other items may be dropped off at the Grange a few days before the event (depending on rentals). If you would like to volunteer at the event or make a donation of plants, seeds or gardening items, contact Sonny at marysrivergrange@gmail.com or call/text the Grange cell: 541-829-2907.

Brothers, the springing seed teaches us to increase in goodness, and the growing trees to aspire after higher and broader knowledge. Thus the labors of the husbandman and his surroundings beget refinement of feelings and kindly sentiments. In no other occupation does a man's daily labor bring him into such close companionship with the Great Creator as in the cultivation of the soil. Therefore, guard against selfishness. If thine enemy hunger, feed him. Do good, hoping for nothing in return, and your reward shall be great. Love one another.

- *Manual of Subordinate Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry*

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GreenGable Farm offers U-Pick and already picked strawberries in early June, as well as Self-Serve flowers, at their field on NE Wolcott in Corvallis.
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Windy Hill Farm

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www.windyhill-familyfarm.com
Philomath, Oregon



Jim Gray leads the MRG float while Charlotte holds the award banner in the 1994 Philomath Frolic parade.

A Joyful Heart

By Suzy Gilruth

Sharing with you the many wonderful members of Marys River Grange

At this writing my heart goes out to Jim Gray whose sweetheart and wife of nearly 46 years, Charlotte, passed recently. They were married in 1976 on Valentine's Day! I encourage you to consider your fellow members with care of their unseen burdens and linger to listen as they share their time with you. Our Grange membership offers a rich and diverse community full of experiences assembling together in friendship and service.

Jim is grateful that he is part of our wonderful Grange community, as he has been his whole life. Jim feels blessed with a large family and his relatives were part of the first 'prospective grangers' who helped form what would become Marys River Grange in 1927. His parents, Joseph and Martha, celebrated their child Kenny's birth as being the first child born to members. Jim's was actually one of two unrelated Gray families that were members and friends of the Grange here in Philomath. When the Hall was completed in 1934 there was a water well below the kitchen with a hand pump that needed to be primed with someone bringing water from home or a member fetching water from the river! All the Gray family including aunts and uncles were very involved with Grange life and held many official roles throughout the years. Jim's sister-in-law Virginia was the favored piano player for the MRG community for several years. Jim has several fond early memories including Cub Scout functions held at the Hall. In that era Graces Ceres, Flora, and Pomona had seated podiums stationed in front of the stage area. With a twinkle in his eye, Jim recalls the boys running off the stage and jumping over the Graces' podiums! With quite a large and active "juvenile" Grange membership the adults decided in 1953 to build what is now the Junior Grange room at the Grange Hall. It was built separately from the existing Hall but at the same level, with the intention to join the two Halls in the future

with a connecting room. Jim is proud that his father sawed the beams and helped construct the addition. The main part of the Hall was used for formal meeting stations and ritual activities, with the north corridor between the restrooms and kitchen used for seated potluck meals. Jim shared that the officers would sit at the tables in order of their positions. Jim remembers two lit wagon wheels hung from the rafters in the main Hall until members came in one day to find one had fallen to the floor. It was also discovered at some point that an electrical wire had been pierced while attaching the metal roof when someone felt a tingle placing a metal ladder up against the structure!

Jim has many fond memories of serving Marys River Grange, especially installing officers for all the Granges in the Willamette Valley along with Lincoln and Polk Counties. He still recalls the installation words for the various officers and solemnly holds the rituals to heart. He also served ten two-year terms as President in our local Pomona Grange which is at a county level above the individual community (subordinate) Granges. He and his wife Charlotte enjoyed various local Grange memberships and settled on being members of the Willamette Grange in Corvallis. There Jim took a leadership position as President for a year. Jim was also involved at State level, serving as Energy Director, District 2. Together he and Charlotte were a part of the Youth Committee. Jim now is honored to be considered our local Grange historian. He notes that only women can hold all the official positions of the Grange as Lady Steward, and the three Graces Ceres, Flora, and Pomona, which are reserved for females. Early on MRG held business meetings twice a month so people had options to when they could attend. Jim recalls with a chuckle that it takes seven for a quorum but only two for a potluck! Alternate weeks offered

card and game nights with pinochle the main focus and cribbage also enjoyed. The members felt it was good for the building to be used often. Dances, craft bazaars, holiday celebrations, religious services, graduations, quilting bees, and sponsored community-wide dinners were some of the many social gatherings at the Hall.

Not only is the Grange a place of community gathering and service but a welcoming group of people where lifetime friendships blossom. You will be surprised to learn members' history and their experiences. I know that Jim would like to share his stories of off road car racing, the winning kiss that wasn't, and his 1969 drag vehicle waiting for him to restore!



Marys River Grange #685 50th anniversary.
Jim Gray is fifth from the right in the back row,
Charlotte is directly below him.



Jim Gray as President of Willamette Grange #52, 8/12/20

Willamette Grange #52 meets on the second Sunday of the month, 3 PM.

Contact Jay Sexton/Toni Hoyman at 541-929-5452 or willamettegrange@gmail.com. Historic building at the corner of Hwy 99W and Greenberry - 27555 Greenberry Road
[facebook.com/willamettegrange52](https://www.facebook.com/willamettegrange52)
See also: willamettegrange.org



**“How well do you know Philomath?” challenge.
What is this spot and where is it located?**

[The answer is on another page.]

OLD BLUE *Raw Honey*

Old Blue Raw Honey is a small beekeeping enterprise owned and operated by Henry and Camille Storch in Philomath, OR. Henry's ecologically diverse apiaries provide his bees the ideal environment for producing varietal honey. By raising his own survivor queens, Henry is working to preserve and propagate the hardy honeybee populations adapted to the flora and climate of Western Oregon. His practice of incorporating local feral genetics into managed colonies for migratory pollination is critical to the long-term resilience of regional food systems.

Old Blue Raw Honey is never heated over natural hive temperatures and is only filtered minimally, so it may include pollen, small wax particles, and the occasional bee bit. All natural honey will solidify eventually. To liquify, place the jar in a bowl of warm (not boiling) water.

> website: oldbluenaturalresources.com | > contact: oldbluerawhoney@gmail.com
> facebook: [facebook.com/oldbluerawhoney](https://www.facebook.com/oldbluerawhoney) | > instagram: [@oldbluerawhoney](https://www.instagram.com/oldbluerawhoney)

FRIDAY, APRIL THE TWENTY-THIRD, LUNCHEON

Pieplant [Rhubarb] Meringue Pie—Either fresh or canned pieplant may be used for this. Take enough stewed pieplant for one pie—about half a pint—and stir into it while boiling a heaping teaspoonful of cornstarch mixed with the yolks of two eggs and a cup of sugar and one tablespoonful of butter; have ready a pie tin lined with a nice crust already baked. Spread this with the pieplant mixture and cover with a meringue made of the whites of the eggs, beaten stiff, with two tablespoonfuls of sugar. Set in the oven until nicely browned and serve cold. Delicious.

- *The Daily News Cookbook, c1896*

Health Care for Farm Workers

Farm Clinic is expanding services to uninsured & underinsured agricultural workers in Benton, Linn, & Lincoln Counties. Any small-scale & family-run farms (vineyards, tree farms, dairy, ranching, etc.)

Contact: Lisa Quick, Community Outreach & Farm Clinic,
541-758-3000



Marys River Junior Grange Hall, 1955

MRG's Wish List of Tools and Materials

This issue features MRG's Junior Grange Hall and the connecting room:

Some sort of large door (41-ish inches wide, I think?) is needed for the kitchen/connecting room doorway. A sliding track will be suspended from the ceiling for it, probably.

More six-foot utility tables, ideally with white plastic tops, would be useful. Rental wear is starting to show on some of the current tables, and there is not a large number of tables. An increase would be super helpful for events such as Amazing Grange Day and the Plant Sale.

Now that the Junior Grange Hall is free of stored chairs and tables, a dehumidifier would be helpful to reduce the moisture (and consequently mold odor) in the Junior Hall.

Finally, a substantial amount of Junior Grange supplies has accumulated – craft materials, games, books and more. Any sort of storage – shelves, bookcases, cabinets, whatever, would be greatly appreciated.

If you happen to have any of these things you are not using, or come across an inexpensive version at a bargain bin store or recycle place, let us know!

– Sonny Hays-Eberts, marysrivergrange@gmail.com



Marys River Junior Grange Hall now has a pellet stove, donated by the Lasswell family. MRG paid for installation.



Maisie and Kim Woo created these make-your-own-card kits in January and freely offered them to all MRG members.

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Susan Stogsdill, Owner



Answer to "How well do you know Philomath?" challenge:
 "Horse", horseshoe art by Bud Thomas, honoring Paul and
 Lola Skirvin. Located at Horse Plaza at Skirvin Park, S. 13th
 St. & Cedar in Philomath. - Suzan Foley



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Sowing the Seed

- Laura E. Newell and Jas. L. Orr

*Sowing the seed in the morning,
 Working while shineth the day;
 Shadows of evening are coming,
 Cheerfully work while we may.*

Chorus:

*Sowing the seed,
 Sowing the seed,
 Toiling till shadows grow long;
 Brief is the day,
 Brief is the day,
 Merry with labor and song.*

*Sowing the seed in the valley,
 Fertile the beautiful fields;
 Harvest-time crowns them with plenty,
 Nature her fullness then yields.*

*Sowing the seed, and its increase
 Surely is coming we know
 Trusting, we wait for the harvest,
 Reaping whatever we sow.*

- from *The Patron: The Official Song Book of the Grange*

Now is the time to prepare to share at MRG's Annual Plant Sale and Seed Swap on April 30th!

Vegetables, herbs, flowers, shrubs – all manner of plants
 are welcome (barring invasive species), such as raspberry
 canes, grape cuttings, strawberry runners, flower bulbs,
 houseplants and other extra plants; also seeds and
 pots/containers to swap, garden art... Contact Sonny at
 marysrivergrange@gmail.com for more info.

Marys River Grange #685 Secretary's Record Minutes from April 18, 1930

*Mary's River Grange No. 685 was opened by Worthy Master
 C.J. Baker in due and regular form. Officers roll call showing
 Chaplain and Lecturer absent, Sister Parker served as Chaplain
 and Ladies rendered program at lecture hour.*

*Communications read from Co. Agent, stating a program of
 activities for Agricultural Committees. This was endorsed and
 Agricultural Committee instructed to inform the Co. Agent of our
 action. ...A letter from Missouri Flat Grange outlining a plan to
 study butter situation read and discussed. No action taken. Moved
 to adopt resolution of Willamette Grange in regard to Bulletin
 Board in Corvallis to advertise Farmers Commodities. Then after
 some discussion, Bro. Edwards was appointed to confer with other
 nearby Granges in regard to holding auctions at stated times in
 Corvallis. Invitation from Fairmount Grange to Dedication May 3
 read.*

*Bill read and acted upon allowing the secretary \$1.20 for
 Demit Cards and Stamped Envelopes.*

Penny Drill netted .50.

*Discussion in regard to changing lecture hour to beginning of
 session was lost.*

*Grange was then closed in regular form and the ladies
 furnished a good program, various and comic numbers
 interspersed with community singing.*

Receipts Dues for A.W. Frederick & Wife 2.00

Demits for A.W. Frederick & Wife .50

Disbursements 1.20

40 present.

Eva M. Phinney, Sec.

**Send items for the *Messenger* to Judy Hays-Eberts at
 marysrivergrange@gmail.com or mail to Marys River
 Grange, PO Box 1301, Philomath, OR 97370. No fee for
 business card-sized advertisements from members of MRG.**

Deadline for May/June *Messenger*: April 25th

Observations in March

Set Vines and prune them, set Hops and Willows, and cut
 Quicksets hedges.

In the waine, set Pease and Beanes, and sowe Onions,
 Parceneps, Otes, and Field pease.

Good huswives are now knowne by their gardens,

I neede not to tell that it is now good to set and sow all
 herbs, except Basell and Margeram and such like.

In ye end of this month set Cucumers, Melons, and
 Artichocks.

- Gardening Calendars from *Ram's little Dodoen, 1606*
 Reprinted in *The Old-World Pleasaunce: An Anthology, c1925*



Ronald L. Marek

810 SW Madison Avenue
 Corvallis, OR 97333-4513

541.754.1411 phone

541.754.1413 fax

rmarek@peak.org

Estate Planning • Elder Law
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Marys River Grange #685
PO Box 1301
Philomath, OR 97370
marysrivergrange@gmail.com
541-829-2907



Yoga at the Grange

Spring 2022



Join us for yoga at
Mary's River Grange
Tuesdays and Thursdays 7pm-8pm
March 29th - June 2nd 2022

Classes are \$5 for Grange members,
\$10 for non-Grange members.

Questions? Please contact Laura Coen, 331-201-5458

PLANT SALE AND SEED SWAP



APRIL 30 10AM-4PM

MARYS RIVER GRANGE HALL
24707 GRANGE HALL ROAD PHILOMATH
(541) 829-2907 OR
MARYSRIVERGRANGE@GMAIL.COM



**VEGETABLES
FLOWERS
SEEDS**



**PROCEEDS BENEFIT PHILOMATH
COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
MARYS RIVER GRANGE HALL**