

MANUAL OF POMONA GRANGES

OF THE PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

ADOPTED AND ISSUED BY
THE NATIONAL GRANGE ®

FIFTEENTH EDITION
2017

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Granges OF THE
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Even though members of the Degree team must take a Manual home to memorize the charges and to perfect the ritualistic work, the Degree team Master and the Grange Master himself should have a record of the location of ALL Manuals at all times. This record must be kept up-to-date and transmitted to his successor in office.

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OPENING CEREMONY

[The Master will take his place, and call the Pomona Grange to order by one stroke of the gavel. Officers, clothed in proper attire (sashes), will immediately repair to their respective stations and remain standing; stations same as in Subordinate Grange, except those of Ceres and Pomona reversed. Members will be seated.]

M. Brothers and Sisters, we have assembled for work in the Degree of Pomona. Please assist in opening the Grange.

Worthy Overseer, please ascertain if all present are entitled to remain with us in the Fifth Degree.

O. Worthy Steward, will you direct your Assistants to satisfy themselves that all present have received the Fifth Degree?

S. My Assistants will make examination and report.

["The Assistant Stewards will open the Bible, receive the words (Subordinate annual, Pomona annual and Fifth Degree word) from the Overseer, and make the examination and report, in the same manner as prescribed in the opening examination in the Subordinate Grange."]

O. Worthy Master, I am satisfied that all present have been instructed in the Fifth Degree.

M. Worthy Steward, is the Gatekeeper on guard?

[The Steward will ascertain if the Gatekeeper is at his post and report.]

S. He is, Worthy Master.

[M. Calls up.]

M. Worthy Chaplain, we will join with you in seeking Divine favor.

Chap. *[Prayer]* Our Father, who art in heaven, we beseech Thee to

inspire us with Thy presence on this occasion. Give us Strength of mind, purity of thought, and earnestness of purpose in the discharge of every duty; and may the work and influence of this Grange imbue us with wisdom and virtue – that we may be able to carry good cheer to our homes, and become better qualified to discharge the duties of life. We ask all in Thy holy name.

All. Amen.

[Opening Song]

M. Worthy Steward, please close the Inner Gate.

S. *[Closes the gate]* The gate is closed, Worthy Master.

M. Brothers and Sisters, having reached this high position through the exercise of Faith, Hope and Charity, with Fidelity, and by Perseverance, let the language of the Salutation of this Degree be our inspiring motto in all our work as Patrons of Husbandry.

[Salutation]

M. I now declare this Pomona Grange opened for work in the Fifth Degree. Worthy Steward, inform the Gatekeeper.

S. Worthy Gatekeeper, the Worthy Master directs me to inform you that this Pomona Grange is opened for work in the Fifth Degree.

SALUTE THE FLAG

[M. Calls down.]

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Opening of the Grange.
2. Roll call of Officers.
3. Reading the Records of last meeting.
4. Proposals for membership.

5. Conferring the Fifth Degree.
6. Reports of Standing Committees:
 - a. Legislative-Agriculture
 - b. Women's Activities
 - c. Youth
 - d. Junior
 - e. Deaf Activities
 - f. Membership
 - g. Others
7. Reports of Special Committees.
8. Reports of Subordinate Granges.
9. Communications.
10. Bills and Accounts.
11. Unfinished Business.
12. New Business.
13. Report and Action on resolutions.
14. Sick or in Distress
15. Lecturer's Program.
16. Suggestions for the Good of the Order.
17. Reading and adopting minutes.
(Optional. May be read as third order of business at next meeting.)
18. Closing the Grange (see page 32).

[The Pomona Grange may, by majority vote, lower to the Fourth Degree, following the second order of business, but the voting privilege shall be limited strictly to the members of the Pomona.]

[In Pomona Granges, the report of the Committee on Candidates may be received only in the Fifth Degree. Candidates are elected or rejected by the adoption of the committee report, which may be done by majority vote, using the voting sign of the Order.]

CLOSING CEREMONY

M. Worthy Overseer, is the work of this Pomona meeting completed?

O. It is, Worthy Master.

M. Patrons, this Pomona Grange is about to close in the Fifth Degree. We will join in the closing song. *[Calls up.]*

[Song]

M. Worthy Steward, is the Inner Gate securely closed?

S. The Gate is closed, Worthy Master.

[Salutation]

[Retire the Flag]

M. Worthy Assistants, you will please close the Bible upon our altar.

[Asst. Stewards close the Bible and resume stations.]

M. Patrons, as we return to our homes let us be mindful of our responsibilities as the legislators of our Order. This Pomona Grange can make its influence effective only if we, as individuals, practice in our daily lives the noble principles of our fraternity and manifest an active interest in carrying forward the work determined upon as the result of our deliberations. Worthy Chaplain, we will join you in seeking Divine wisdom and strength to do our part as loyal Patrons.

Chap. *[Benediction.]* Almighty God, we recognize our duty to uphold Thy law and to aid in promoting the welfare of this great Nation. Give us wisdom to understand, and strength to do, whatsoever is right, that our efforts may be acceptable in Thy sight. We ask it in Thy holy name.

All. Amen.

M. Brothers and Sisters, I declare this Pomona Grange duty closed until again lawfully opened. Let us remember our motto and persevere in all good works.

[Master closes Grange with one rap of gavel.]

THE FIFTH DEGREE

[Curtains are stretched across the hall in front of the stage screening the Court of Pomona, over which she presides, seated upon her throne between her Sister Graces and surrounded by a number of lady attendants, all appropriately dressed. The stage should be decorated with flowers, shrubbery and fruits, and made as attractive as possible. (See Instructions page 23.)]

[If a feast table is to be used (see instructions) it should be carefully prepared in the anteroom beforehand, ready to be presented quickly at the proper point. The hall should be dimly lighted by single candles upon the stations of Master, Overseer, Lecturer and Chaplain.]

[All candidates for the Fifth Degree must be examined by the Assistant Stewards as to their good standing in the Subordinate Grange prior to admitting them at the Inner Gate.]

[A.S. gives alarm.]

S. Worthy Overseer, an alarm!

O. Worthy Master, an alarm!

M. Worthy Overseer, direct the Steward to ascertain who thus disturbs our deliberations.

O. Worthy Steward, by command of our Worthy Master, you will ascertain who is without.

S. *[Opens gate.]* Who are these persons thus disturbing the deliberations of this assembly?

A.S. Patrons of Husbandry who desire to receive the Degree of Pomona.

S. Will you testify that they are eligible?

A.S. I will. They have their credentials (see page 31), which appear to be correct.

S. [*Closes gate.*] Worthy Overseer, those without are duly qualified candidates for the Degree of Pomona.

O. If you will assume the responsibility you may admit them.

S. [*Opens gate.*] Worthy Assistant, the gate is open, but at your peril, let none enter who are not fully qualified. Tread lightly, and be silent!

[Soft music as Assistant Stewards lead the candidates once around the hall, halting as they pass Overseer's station second time.]

O. Who are these and whither are they going?

A.S. Patrons of Husbandry, who have served faithfully in all the Subordinate degrees, and who desire to enter a higher field of usefulness.

O. Have they credentials?

A.S. They have, and I now present them for your examination. [*Presents credentials.*]

O. While their credentials are being examined you will conduct the candidates to the Chaplain.

[Soft music]

A.S. Worthy Chaplain, by order of our Overseer, I bring these Patrons of Husbandry for instruction, preparatory to their advancement.

Chap. Patrons, the ceremony of the Degree you are about to receive is one that can never be erased from your minds, and should be considered by you with all due solemnity. Therefore, that you may be prepared in heart and in mind let us unite in prayer.

[M. Calls up]

Chap. Almighty Father, we bow before Thee in all humility, and beseech Thee to look with favor upon those now present who seek further knowledge of our mysteries. May this occasion teach them to look to Thee with increased reverence, and to love and to serve Thee with greater fervor and devotion. Give them strength of mind and body, that they may labor more effectively in the good cause. We ask it in Thy holy name.

All. Amen.

[M. Calls down.]

[While candidates stand before the Chaplain the Overseer says:]

O. Worthy Assistant Steward, their credentials are correct, and you will proceed to the altar with the candidates.

[Music while candidates are placed in position before the altar.]

A.S. Worthy Master, the candidates at the altar are ready to take the obligation.

[O. Calls up]

M. Patrons, I am about to administer to you the Obligation of the Fifth Degree of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry. You will repeat after me:

I hereby pledge my sacred honor—that what I may now learn – of the mysteries of this Order – shall be kept secret by me, – and I solemnly promise – that as a representative – in any legislative – or business body of the Order – my voice and my vote – shall always be used – to promote the welfare of the Order – without fear, favor, or personal bias. – I declare that I never will – by word or deed – wrong a member of the Order – and will always endeavor – to protect our Brothers and Sisters from harm. – I here-

by renew and confirm – all former pledges – under the penalties heretofore invoked – and make them part of this obligation.

[O. Calls down and M. says:]

M. Worthy Assistant Stewards, you will conduct the candidates to the Overseer.

[Music]

A.S. Worthy Overseer, I bring these Patrons of Husbandry to be prepared for entering the Court of Pomona.

O. Patrons, have you brought any token of your industry – any product of the soil?

Each Candidate. I have not.

O. It is necessary that you do so: for, to gain favor with Pomona, some tribute must be presented. I cannot grant you authority to proceed further, and if you venture, it must be at your own risk.

[O. Inverts candle]

A.S. Patrons, you have heard the Overseer. Shall we proceed?

Candidates. Yes.

A.S. If you will take the risk, I will be your guide. [Music] Worthy Lecturer, these Patrons are on their way to the Court of Pomona.

L. To be admitted there, each must present a written essay upon some agricultural subject in which the writer is interested – one calculated to advance the interests of our Order. Are you so provided?

Each candidate. I am not.

L. It is highly important that you should be, to show that you take an active interest in the progress of our Order. It is instituted not merely for amusement, but to accomplish great objects. If all are negligent in this respect, our time is lost. All the results of experiments must be noted, and this experience given for the benefit of our associates. Hereafter, heed this. As it is, I cannot encourage you with even faint hopes of success in your pilgrimage to Pomona; and if you proceed, I must caution you that it will be at your own risk.

[L. Inverts candle]

A.S. Patrons, the prospect of success is far from encouraging. We will venture to approach the Worthy Master, and see if we can gain his approval. *[Music]* Worthy Master, I bring Patrons of Husbandry, who seek admission to the court of Pomona.

M. Have they brought evidence of their skill as Husbandmen and Matrons?

A.S. They have not.

M. Then they certainly cannot expect to find favor here. It is one of the precepts and commands of our Order that each member shall contribute liberally, either in the products of the soil or of the mind, for the common good of our fraternity. They cannot be permitted to participate in the benefits of this Degree without the special permission of Pomona.

A.S. May they have your authority to approach and ask her permission?

M. Coming here without any specimen of their skill and industry. I cannot give it. They must go at their own risk.

[M. Inverts candle.]

A.S. Patrons, your hopes of success grow faint. There remains but

one way in which you can succeed. Will you venture on that?

Each Candidate. I will.

A.S. I charge you then to have courage! You must first secure the Password. Come this way.

[Music. Every candle except that of Chaplain is extinguished. It is dark. Distant thunder and rain are heard. Lightning flashes. Storm continues as Assistant Stewards conduct candidates to a position half-way between station of Overseer and the Altar, and halt them facing the stage. Thunder ceases as the outer curtain is partially drawn aside, revealing Specter in white.]

Specter. Who are these that dare intrude within this sacred portal?

A.S. Patrons of Husbandry who have labored diligently in the Subordinate Grange, and who now desire to gain admission to the Court of Pomona.

Specter. Have they brought offerings to lay before her?

A.S. They have not.

Specter. How, then, do they expect to gain admittance? Have they authority from the Worthy Master?

A.S. They have failed to secure that.

Specter. Why did they fail?

A.S. Because they brought no offerings.

Specter. Then they cannot pass.

A.S. Are all their hopes, then, blasted? Is there no way in which they can gain your favor?

Specter. There is – one way.

A.S. What is it?

Specter. Hope and Persevere.

A.S. In what respect?

Specter. All through life! Let it be a lesson, never to be forgotten, that success in a good cause is gained only by perseverance. Never be discouraged. Hope and Persevere!

All. Hope and Persevere!

[Thunder and lightning. Grand crash. Specter disappears.]

A.S. Now we have a clue! With it you may gain your end. Come this way.

[Assistant Stewards conduct candidates to anteroom. Then the curtains are drawn back, full light, and the whole room made to appear like a floral arbor, in as strong contrast to its former gloomy appearance as possible. A.S. then gives alarm, which is answered by the S., and the gate is thrown open. All join in a welcome song, while candidates march once around the hall, and as the song ends stop at station of L.]

A.S. Worthy Lecturer, we are on our way to the Court of Pomona, seeking wisdom.

L. Patrons, those who seek Pomona's Court should delight in the science and art of Agriculture. The charge and labors of the farm, the garden, the dairy, and the farm household, should have a humanizing influence on the mind. Can we aid in giving fruitfulness to the soil, assist in the subterranean mysteries of germination, and direct the growth of the almost intelligent plants, without grateful recognition of the power of the Almighty? Can we superintend the mysterious alchemy of dairy and kitchen; and the more interesting changes

of the human frame and intellect in their wonderful developments from infancy to age, and not feel an adoring awe at the wisdom and love of the framer of our bodies and the Father of our spirits? Thus the study of God's work is a never-ending source of delight and improvement. It enlightens our minds, refines our tastes, and expands and improves our affections. In these great aims of our Order Pomona delights, and richly rewards all who endeavor to promote them.

[Music, during which candidates are conducted to O.]

A.S. Worthy Overseer, we seek your instructions.

O. Patrons, you have been prepared to consider anew your obligations as Husbandmen and Matrons. There is one great duty which I would impress upon your minds at this time. It is to preserve, and bring together for exhibition, at proper seasons, the choicest products of orchard, farm, garden, dairy, and household skill, that we may incite one another to good works. But what avail these, beyond a momentary pleasure, without that instruction which will inform others how they may accomplish similar valuable results?

Every Patron of our ancient art should experiment to discover new methods of cultivation, or to ascertain precisely what are the elements of success. He should note the character and condition of the soil; the quality, measure and weight of his seed; the time and mode of planting; and the state of atmosphere and season, before, at, and after planting. He should also carefully observe and record all changes and accidents, helps and hindrances that attend each state of growth. And when the experiment is completed, he should as carefully note all particulars pertaining to the results obtained. This will enable him to instruct others, and will suggest many valuable hints for future use. Thus, will you truly become eminent Patrons of Husbandry, honoring and being honored, blessing and being blessed, instructing and being instructed, favored of God, and your brethren, approved by your own conscience, and the judgment of the wise and good who know you and your works.

[Music, during which candidates are conducted to Chaplain.]

A.S. Worthy Chaplain, we solicit words of counsel from you.

Chap. Patrons, it was fitting that you presented yourselves at our altar. None should live so near God, and in such acknowledged dependence upon Him, as the Husbandman and Matron. We live amid His works, surrounding by His productions, dependent on His air, His light, His warmth, to cause the seed we plant to germinate, and all our labors to yield fruit. Our every sense is vitalized and gratified by His providence, and our every want supplied by His bounty. “in Him we live, and move, and have our being”; for our labors are His labors, our rewards are the results of his workings, and our every pulsation and breath should therefore be in harmony with His works and His will. Even we, ourselves, are God’s husbandry.

[Music. Assistant Stewards conduct candidates to station of Pomona.]

A.S. Worthy Pomona, *[Pomona rises]* we greet you, and in behalf of these Patrons we solicit your favor.

Pomona. Have they brought any tribute?

A.S. They have not.

P. How then, could they enter here?

A.S. The talismanic words of success were uttered, and all obstacles were removed.

P. What were they?

A.S. Hope and Persevere!

P. Let those words be indelibly graven on their minds. *[To candidates:]* What seek you?

A.S. The authority by which they may be invested with all that belongs to this Degree.

P. It is granted. Take this signet to our Worthy Master, that they may receive the sign and password.

[Pomona passes cornucopia appropriately lettered and filled with fruit to one of her Attendants, who presents it to A.S.]

A.S. We thank you, Worthy Pomona. *[Bows to her and turns to candidates.]* Through Perseverance we have gained our object. Now let us to the Worthy Master. *[Pomona resumes her seat as Assistants conduct line from her station.]*

[Music]

A.S. Worthy Master, I present this signet, received from Pomona, and ask that these Patrons be invested with the sign and password of this Degree.

M. The signet is received, and the request shall be granted, Patrons, our wishes may produce pain and anxiety, but Hope always gives pleasure. Hope on, persevere ever. These words express the meaning of the letters as placed on the cornucopia, the emblem of this Degree, H-O-P-E.

The Degree that we are conferring upon you is that of Pomona, and is the Fifth Degree of our Order. It is intended to represent the ominous darkness of a great electric rainstorm, such as we frequently witness passing over our hills and valleys, watering and refreshing our parched fields, orchards and vineyards so as to make them again productive.

It is also intended to teach us to look with greater appreciation and reverence upon the wise provisions of the Creator, to protect our very existence. Were it not for the purifying effects of these great electric storms upon the air, life could not be permanently maintained, as disease and death would scourge the country with pestilence and destruction.

Hence, what we have been taught to look upon with so much dread, as elements of destruction and death, are really God's wise provisions for the preservation of life itself.

You observed at the close of the first part of this Degree a luminous Specter rising in the distance. This is in symbolism of specters rising in the night from the drenched and marshy soil; and after the dread and darkness of the storm have subsided heaven's sunlight bursting in upon us, making our hearts glad with the revived freshness of fruitful fields, orchards and vineyards.

Thus, in this Degree, as in all previous Degrees, we make the symbolism and teachings part of the farmer's life.

[Master then instructs candidates in the Unwritten Work. See Pomona Code Book.]

SECRET INSTRUCTIONS

[Master calls up the Grange and continues:]

M. Now Patrons, let us pay our respects to our Worthy Patroness, Pomona.

[Master leads the line to front of stage, halts it and addresses Pomona as follows:] “Worthy Patroness.” *[As Master speaks her title, he pauses, Pomona rises and advances to front of stage, with ladies of the Court arranged in most artistic grouping. Master then continues:]*

M. These friends of ours, co-workers in the lower Degrees of our Order, come to greet you and to pay homage at your Court. They have learned well the lesson of perseverance and now solicit your counsel and instruction.

Pomona. Patrons, this is truly a fit time for serious reflection. If we work upon marble, it will crumble – if we work upon brass, time will corrode it – if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds – if we imbue them with just and true principles, the reverence of God and the love of our fellowman, we engrave on something which will brighten to all eternity.

As a reward for your fidelity, your industry and zeal, let us now partake of those bounties which our labors have secured. I invite you all to join us in the feast.

[Music. Pomona leaves the stage, accepts the offered arm of the Master, and they lead the march to the dining hall. Officers of the Pomona advance and are joined in turn by ladies of the Court. Then the Assistant Stewards, leading the candidates, followed by the members, all marching to the dining hall. Master calls upon Chaplain for the blessing. After the feast the Grange reassembles.]

[If, instead marching directly to the dining hall, a feast table is to be used to exemplify the feast, the same march formation will be followed as far as the setup of the Grange hall will permit. (See Instructions page 27).]

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FIFTH DEGREE

The Fifth Degree teaches the lesson of Perseverance and incites the initiates to strive unwaveringly to attain the goal toward which they aspire. Many obstacles block their pathway, but through perseverance they ultimately win the desired end.

The symbolism of a great electrical storm is designed, in line with the lessons of the Degree, to teach that God's wisest provisions for human good often bear the garb of destructiveness – even bringing terror, anxiety and sorrow – but ultimately contribute to the well-being of the race. When rightly viewed in its deep significance, the Fifth Degree is one of the most impressive in the entire ritualistic structure of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry; and to vividly illustrate its lessons should be the earnest endeavor of those who undertake its presentation.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE STAGE

Decorate with seasonable fruits, plants and trees, representing orchard, vineyard and fruit garden – the abundance of a well-tilled farm. To give an impressive effect to the Court, the stage layout should be not less than 10 feet deep and 15 feet wide, and may be arranged to good advantage in larger proportions. It should be screened off by two separate curtains, the front made of light, thin, white material, and the back of dark, heavy material. It is between the two that the

appearance of the Specter is to be made.

In the first part of the Degree both curtains are securely closed, entirely obscuring all view of the stage. In the second scene both curtains should be completely drawn and the full beauty of the stage setting revealed. Colored lights can be used to good advantage where available, and Grange ingenuity will readily suggest appropriate methods of stage decoration and arrangement.

Pomona's throne is the center of the Court scene and she occupies the seat of honor, with Flora seated at her right and Ceres at her left.

COURT ROBES

Much depends upon the effective costuming of the Court, and competent Sisters of the Grange should prepare this feature, under the supervision of Pomona. The established regalia house catalogues show attractive Court robes, whose cost is not at all prohibitive, and these should be secured if possible. If homemade robes are decided upon, good material should be selected and robes carefully cared for between meetings. Light green material should be used for making same. Ceres trimmed with yellow; Pomona, pink and white; Flora, pink. The robes can readily be made so as to be worn as overdresses, thus fitting anyone. The Grecian style will ordinarily be found the most effective. Fruit blossoms should be provided for headwear where possible. Each of the Graces should carry the emblem of her office – grain and sickle for Ceres, flowers for Flora, while Pomona carries the cornucopia of fruit. A small basket of fruit should be provided for Pomona's use after the cornucopia has been presented to the Assistant Steward.

The impressiveness of the Degree is enhanced if the Sisters taking part (except the Graces) dress in white, and if the Brothers wear white trousers and black coats.

PART OF SPECTER

The part of the Specter is very important and the person selected (either Brother or Sister) for this impersonation should be carefully chosen and thoroughly trained, with the ritual part perfectly committed.

The costume should be white, completely covering the person, with only the face and the right hand revealed; heavily draping of the garments and the arrangement of head-dress adding to the weird appearance of the figure which the part suggests. With hall and stage properly darkened, the impressiveness of the scene can be greatly heightened by making it a "luminous Specter" indeed, by the application to the costume of some chemical solution obtainable from local sources; or startling color effects thrown on the Specter are possible by clever manipulation of lights from the sides of the stage while the Specter is speaking. When he appears between the two curtains, the flimsy one in front is parted only enough to reveal the Specter as he stands at stage center.

THE ELECTRICAL STORM

So much of the symbolism of the Degree and the explanation of the lectures concerns the electrical storm effect in the first scene that great care should be taken to make it as realistic as possible. Several supply houses provide excellent mechanical devices for producing the various effects of thunder, lightning, wind and rain necessary to exemplify such a storm. These devices are fairly inexpensive and with a little practice can be readily and safely operated. Various homemade contrivances for producing the effect of thunder, lightning and rain can be worked out by ingenious Patrons, and halls equipped with electric lights will find the latter very effective in the imitation of lightning. An experienced musician will usually be able to provide on the piano a good representation of rolling thunder, while the sound of falling rain can be easily made by use of small shot dropped into a pan, or by revolving the shot in a wooden churn. All these homemade contrivances however, must be manipulated by skillful hands and only after thorough practice if satisfactory results are to be expected.

THE FEAST OF POMONA

If the hour of working the Fifth Degree is such that it is not convenient to go directly to the banquet room, this feature described in the

Manual (See page 21) may be omitted and in its place the feast table, likewise mentioned in the Manual, may be considered sufficient as the concluding feature of the Degree. In the latter event the march for Court ladies and officers will be followed inside the hall, terminating at the feast table. The latter should be attractively arranged and the Master, Pomona and Chaplain will take places at the head of the table, with the other officers and Court ladies grouped about the table in attractive positions. Pomona stands at right of Master, the Chaplain at his left. At the call of the Master, the Chaplain offers the following:

Chap. Gracious Father of us all, accept our thanks for Thine unfailing provision for our every need; and in the abundance before us may we recognize Thy love for mankind and Thy directing care over our daily lives.

All. Amen.

Great care should be taken to make the appearance of the feast table as attractive as possible and symbolical of the fruits of the season, the nature of the latter to be determined somewhat by the locality in which the Degree is being conferred – local fruits always given the preference in display.

If the size of the hall will permit, the feast table should be prepared and in place before the work of the Degree begins, but obscured by an attractive covering, which is not removed until the exact point when Pomona invites all to join the feast.

If hall conditions render this course inadvisable, the feast table should be prepared outside, in advance of the Degree, and should be brought in immediately following Pomona's invitation, care being exercised that its entrance be in a dignified manner and accompanied by appropriate music. Altar should not be removed.

Even if the Degree is to be followed by the serving of a feast in the dining room, the Pomona Grange may, if it chooses, use the feast table plan as the concluding feature of its Degree, then followed by general march of all to the dining room.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS

When the candidates first enter the hall it should be totally dark, except for single lighted candles upon the desks of Master, Overseer, Lecturer and Chaplain.

As the candidates pass the various Officers and are instructed, the candles are extinguished as directed in the Manual. Distant rumblings of thunder are heard and at the last passing of the Master's station, his candle is extinguished also. (Chaplain's candle alone remains burning.) The distant thunder now becomes more ominous, the sound of rain is heard and the fury of the storm increases. Lightning flashes vividly and the darkness and solemnity of the scene presented is the drama of a great electrical storm whipping over the hills and valleys of rural homes.

As the candidates are led toward the altar, prior to appearance of the Specter, the flimsy outer curtains are partially drawn to either side, parting sufficiently to show the Specter in white. The thunder becomes more distant and the Specter speaks in a slow, measured voice, as in the Manual. Finally, when the Assistant Steward and the Specter finish their colloquy, there is thunder, lightning and a grand crash of the elements, following which the Specter quickly disappears. The Assistant Stewards wait with the candidates standing in place facing the altar until the sunlight appears, light coming slowly, imitating the sun emerging from the clouds after a storm. (If hall equipment makes it unwise to attempt the sunrise effect, candidates should be conducted to anteroom while the hall remains darkened.) After the candidates are conducted to the anteroom, all curtains are fully drawn back and the room is quickly rearranged. The table, laden with fruits and flowers (see table instructions), is revealed; the hall is brilliantly lighted, floral decorations appear everywhere and Pomona with her Court attendances, accompanied by Ceres and Flora, are seen in their places on stage, appropriate robed, amid the carefully arranged decorations.

The candidates are now brought in and instructed by the various officers, finally reaching Pomona. She received the greeting and presents the Assistant Steward with the cornucopia having the letters H-O-P-E engraved upon it. Following the march around the hall,

the Assistant Steward addresses the Master and presents to him the cornucopia, the emblem of the Fifth Degree.

Before the candidates are led into the Grange room they should be instructed by the Assistant Stewards as to the correct responses they are expected to make at various points in the Degree.

An appropriate song by a selected chorus, or sung by all, immediately following the Chaplain's blessing at the table, adds to the impressiveness of the feast, if desired. Suitable selection can readily be made from "The Patron" or the "Grange Songbook."

It will be noted that the use of hoodwinks for candidates when they enter the hall, is no longer in vogue.

As in all other ritualistic work, perfect order should be maintained throughout the entire Degree and every feature presented with becoming dignity. Especially necessary is appropriate music as the candidates are led from station to station.

Applications - A uniform application blank for Pomona initiates is provided, and it is recommended that the same be used in all Pomona Granges.

Credentials - These are the applications for Pomona membership which the candidates have signed, attesting their standing in the Subordinate Grange; and certified by the Subordinate Master or Secretary. These applications constitute proper evidence upon which to permit advancement. If desired, the Secretary may keep the original application blanks and furnish the Assistant Steward with duplicates. Salute to the Flag - As prescribed in Opening Ceremony: Same rules apply as are specified in the Manual of Subordinate Granges. (See page 87 Subordinate Manual.)

Closing the Grange - If the Pomona has lowered to the Fourth Degree it may close in either the Fourth or Fifth Degree.

POMONA CODE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FIFTH DEGREE

SIGNAL

- 1 Tsotfditr
- 2 oatboatc
- 3 aoattotd

DEGREE WORD

- 13 TdwotdiP

SIGN

- 9 Tsotfdbw
- 10 tsotfeai
- 11 mbbteott
- 12 afotlhti
- 13 acactitr
- 14 htfothpu
- 15 eotcfwf

POMONA ANNUAL PASSWORD

- 1 TPAPicbt
- 2 HPoDttMot
- 3 NGbhhtMo
- 4 SGttootNG
- 5 attsmotS
- 6 FotO BMoS
- 7 GttMoPGw
- 8 trjabta
- 9 ttmotrGw
- 10 aetri

SALUTATION

- 1 Tsotdits
- 2 oatdtwTf
- 3 stfafa
- 4 wtw“AgPpF
- 5 iGnHdCi n
- 6 fFawP

The Pomona Password consists of three words:

The Subordinate Annual Word

The Pomona Annual Word and the Degree word.

OFFICIAL FIFTH DEGREE OBLIGATION CEREMONY

The following Obligation Ceremony is authorized for use by Pomona Granges, State Masters and Deputy State Masters between conferral of the Fifth Degree, upon approval of the State Grange in Annual Session and with special permission granted by the State Master.

Members received by way of the Official Fifth Degree Obligation Ceremony are considered Fifth Degree Members entitled to receive the Sixth Degree.

It is important that the ceremony be committed to memory in order to favorably impress the candidates.

CEREMONY

(To take place during the Order of Business – Conferring of Degrees. Candidates are brought into the hall and seated to the left of the Master's station.)

SECRETARY: Worthy Master, we have applicants who have been duly elected to membership and are present this evening. They are _____, _____, _____.

MASTER: The Worthy Chaplain will lead us in a word of prayer.

(Master calls up.)

CHAPLAIN: Almighty Father, Maker and Ruler of the Universe and Giver of every good and perfect gift, we beseech Thee to be with us on this occasion and bless those who shall now receive this advancement in our Order. We ask all in Thy Holy Name.

Amen.

(Master calls down.)

MASTER: Patrons, you are now members of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry and you seek to advance. Before you can do so, you will be required to give a pledge of secrecy and fidelity. *(The Assistant Stewards will conduct the candidates to the Altar to give their Obligation.)*

(Assistants conduct candidates to the Altar—they should pass to the Overseer and turn squarely to the left in front of the Overseer and proceed up the hall to a point slightly beyond the Altar—the Lady Assistant Steward on the right of the Altar and the Assistant Steward on the left. Master should proceed to the Altar at the same time. At the proper signal, the candidates should face in, and, when instructed by the Master, place their right hand over their heart.)

(Overseer calls up.)

MASTER: Please place your right hand over your heart and repeat after me:

I hereby pledge my sacred honor – that what I may now learn – of the mysteries of this Order – shall be kept secret by me – and I solemnly promise – that as a representative – in any legislative – or business body of the Order – my voice and my vote – shall always be used – to promote the welfare of the Order – without fear, favor or personal bias. – I declare that I never will – by word or deed – wrong a member of the Order – and will always endeavor – to protect our Brothers and Sisters from harm.

(Overseer calls down.)

MASTER: I will now impart to you the sign, salutation, signal and password of this degree.

(The annual Pomona Password is to be given only if the members are joining a Pomona Grange.)

Patrons, you are now members of the Fifth Degree of our Order. In the previous four degrees you learned how the lessons of nature and of the farm are important to the leading of a rewarding life. The lessons of the Fifth Degree are **Hope on, Persevere ever**. Hope is the essence of life; it gives us the anticipation of facing each new day and its uncertainties. Perseverance is the tool by which all worthy objectives are attained. The ominous, threatening summer thunderstorms are nature's examples of occasions that engender hope and fear. We fear the destruction that the storm can bring, and we hope that it produces the life-giving water that is needed by all living things.

The Pomona Grange is designed to foster the legislative work of the Grange and to work with regional concerns that cannot be effectively addressed by the Subordinate Granges. We hope that you will participate in the important activities of the Pomona Grange.

(The Assistant Stewards will now conduct the members to their seats.)

