

The Mayflower Log

Fall 2008

A Publication of the Mayflower Residents Association



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MAYFLOWER RESIDENTS HELPED FORM CERA

When CERA, the Conard Environmental Research Area, was begun 40 years ago, **Ken Christiansen** and **Ben Graham**, now Mayflower residents, helped in its development.

Ken Christiansen joined the Grinnell College faculty in 1955. In the spring of '56 he taught a class entitled, "Animal Ecology Course." The railroad tracks provided the laboratory area for studying the Iowa ecosystems. When Ben Graham joined the faculty in 1959 the "Ken & Ben" team began petitioning the College to find a more appropriate facility. It took four or five years to get the proposal on the College "wish list." The search began. Ben and Ken looked at every possible site within ten miles of Grinnell and finally turned to a land agent for help. Eleven miles from town they found a farm that now is CERA. The owner was an elderly person with no heirs who wanted his land preserved. He offered to sell at a more than reasonable cost, and one year later the funds were available.

CERA has been growing ever since those first long years, struggling to find the right place where biology majors, scholars and community members could "watch the grass grow." Of course, much more of the ecosystem is also studied, but the regeneration of the Iowa prairie with its grasses and trees is central to the purpose of CERA. Ken and Ben are careful to give great credit to all the people who have contributed time, effort and financial resources. When a dam was needed on the pond a Grinnell graduate had a granddaughter at the College who was a biology major and Grandma Perry gave the needed money. They mention Glenn Leggett and George Drake as

facilitating benefactors. Everett Woods, a retired farmer, managed the day-to-day operation in a way that Ben and Ken praised. They even gave credit to the local beaver who built a second dam near the pond that created a new ecosystem to study.

You really need to visit CERA to appreciate what has happened on that 365 acres of Iowa that Ben Graham and Ken Christiansen initiated, and they encourage you to do just that.

Duane Meyer



The Center for Prairie Studies, of Grinnell College, sponsored a trip to CERA (Conard Environmental Research Area) in July; staff and students identified prairie plants that were in flower at the center. Mayflower residents shown boarding the bus are: l.to r. Bob and Dot Anderson, Lyle Kuehl, Larissa Mottl, Biological Field Station Manager for CERA, Mark Pederson (of Seeland Park), Netia Worley, Jim and Dorothy Fyfe, Jean Libbey, Imogene Knowles and Nancy Hendrickson. (not pictured are: Sarah Joan Baker, Gloria Clay and Judy Kuehl)

What do you love best about Mayflower?

Look through this issue to find responses of some of our residents.

Jo Meyer, Interviewer

Welcome RUTH HIGDON

Born on a farm north of Malcom, Ruth has lived her entire life in the Grinnell area. She moved to her Buckley 202 apartment last spring.



Ruth received early education in country school, later graduating from Grinnell High School in 1937. She then worked at the Grinnell State Bank.

In 1939 Ruth was married to James Higdon. They moved to the Higdon family farm south of Grinnell. After Jim's retirement from active farming, he worked for the Post Office as a substitute rural mail carrier. In 1999 the couple moved to Grinnell and following a stroke, Jim died in 2007.

Ruth was a "stay at home mom" to the couple's five children: Karen (Bill) McNally, Grinnell; Robert (Nancy), Sycamore, IL; Michael (Donna), North Pole, Alaska; Paul (Mary), Maple Grove, MN, and Mark of Des Moines. Ruth has ten grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and one great, great-grandchild.

She was involved in her children's 4-H, FFA and school activities. Ruth served on the Grinnell General Hospital Auxiliary board of directors and is a member of the Blue Point Friendship Club, originally a group of farm wives. However, she says, "most of us are in town now and our ranks are getting smaller, but we still meet once a month."

When their children were older, Ruth returned to the work world. In 1963, Mayflower resident, **Harris Stafford**, then administrator, hired her as a nurse's aide in the Mayflower Infirmary, located in what is now the southeast corner of Edwards. Following work at Mayflower, her work resumé includes the local Penney's store,

brief time for the late Dr. Porter and then back to the bank. After a few years at home, she worked part-time at Grinnell House for nine years. Ruth says, "I thought I was going to retire." However, she eventually returned to part-time work at the Grinnell Country Club and Mayflower Dietary department. She says, "When I was 75, I decided it was time to quit," and adds, "in all my job hopping, I was never fired."

Last year when she began considering options for retirement living, Mayflower seemed a natural choice. She was well acquainted with Mayflower, as a former staff member, and knew many of the current residents. She says, "I'm a daily walker and would be within walking distance of downtown and would be able to continue my practice of attending daily mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church."

Elaine Noe

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RECYCLE OIL BASED PAINT

Household hazardous waste such as lead and oil based paints and chemicals, cleaners and poison require special disposal. The City of Grinnell is conducting, free of charge, their fall collection of these materials on Saturday, October 11th from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Take your items to the city building located at 1411 First Avenue (corner of First Ave. and East St.). Be sure that containers are sealed.

Mayflower's ad hoc environmental committee thanks you for your cooperation -- just one more step in taking care of the planet and the greening of our Grinnell community.

Bette Kersey

What do you love best about Mayflower?

"They are the finest group of residents and employees I've ever been associated with. And Mayflower proved that recently when I had retinal surgery."

Bob Mann, Pearson

Welcome PETE AND MARILYN SCHULER

Pete and Marilyn moved to Mayflower from Lynnville in May. Their Altemeier 107 apartment overlooks the beautiful central campus garden.



Marilyn, born in Grinnell, was raised in nearby Searsboro. Following graduation from Searsboro High School in 1950, she attended Kletzing (now Venaard) College in Oskaloosa. She received a teaching certificate and taught country school in Jasper County.

While in college, she married Richard Edward Sparks. Following his graduation from the University of Iowa Medical School, he established his practice in Lynnville. Marilyn was a “stay-at-home” mom for their children. After Richard’s death in 1966, she resumed her education at William Penn College in Oskaloosa. She then taught school in the Lynnville-Sully School District, retiring in 1996 after a 30-year teaching career.

Pete was born and raised in Buffalo Center, Iowa. After high school, he attended William Penn College. He taught school for a year before returning to Penn College, graduating in 1954. He then attended Western Evangelical Seminary in Jennings Lodge, OR. After graduating in 1959, he taught school and later was a school principal in Rockaway, OR.

In 1962, Pete and his first wife, Jean and family moved to Lynnville where he served the

Lynnville Friends Church. In following years he served pastorates in Marion, IN; Haviland, KS; Buffalo, IA; Omaha, NE; and finally, Centerville, IA, when he retired from the active ministry. His wife, Jean, died in 1995.

The following year, 1996, Pete and Marilyn were married. Marilyn says, “I had been a widow for 30 years and admit I had some trepidation about becoming a pastor’s wife, as Pete served the Taintor Community Church for three years following his retirement.”

Pete and Marilyn enjoy a large blended family: Elizabeth (Craig Allin) Sparks, Mt. Vernon, IA; Dr. Stephen (Sharon) Sparks, Bloomfield, IA; Kenneth Schuler, Haviland, KS; Deborah (Jack) Higginbotham, Corvallis, OR; Susan (Dave) Vander Linden, Grinnell; Peter (Renae) Schuler, Wichita, KS; Laurie (Jeff) Terpstra, Coralville, IA; Timothy Schuler, Omaha, NE. They have 16 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

The couple has a mutual history and enjoyment of the outdoors and camping. Pete is an all-around outdoors man, enjoying hunting and fishing. Marilyn began biking at age 50, rode on nine RAGBRAI’s and participated for a day or two on six other rides. However, she says, “I now consider myself a ‘has-been’ biker.”

Marilyn enjoys quilting and is a member of the Piece Maker Quilt Guild in Montezuma. She entered one of her quilts in the Poweshiek County Fair this summer.

Pete and Marilyn’s decision to move to Mayflower was prompted by Dave Vander Linden’s involvement with Mayflower as well as Sue, Marilyn’s daughter, living in Grinnell. However, their ties to Lynnville remain strong as they attend weekly services at the Community Church.

Elaine Noe

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What do you love best about Mayflower?

“There is always something to do. It’s a busy place.”

Erma Lincoln, Buckley

Welcome WILMA AND VIC GRADEN

It was because Wilma and Vic Graden wanted to be closer to their children and grandchildren that they chose to move to Mayflower from Davenport. They are living at 613 State Street.



Wilma, oldest of three children, lived in St. Louis and Omaha before moving to Cape Girardeau, (Cape), MO, where she graduated from Central High School. She completed college at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape, earning her degree in biology, chemistry and math. She worked as a lab technician, later as a paraprofessional in the science department at Bettendorf Middle School. Following advanced studies Wilma received her teacher certification and spent 22 years teaching science to 6th and 7th graders in Bettendorf Middle School before retiring in 1990.

Vic has positive memories of growing up in a family with 11 children, living on a farm of 46.7 acres near Cape. When Vic was born, after six girls had graced the family, his father joyfully announced, "Victory at last!" And that is how Victor got his name. Vic completed the first eight grades at Campster School, a country school near the farm, and graduated from College High School in Cape in 1943. He worked on the farm before enlisting in the Maritime Service. Drafted during the Korean War, Vic spent time in South Korea with a policing force. Following that military duty, he became a student at Southeast Missouri State University for two years under the GI Bill. Vic was

recalled to the Army and served two years at Fort Riley, Kansas.

Although Wilma and Vic met in 1948 at Christ E & R Church in Cape Girardeau, when she was 16 and he was 22, they didn't marry until 1952. During this time Wilma started a cross-stitch quilt that she determined she would finish before they married. As time passed and the quilt was still not completed, Vic learned to cross-stitch on his leaves at home so he could assist with the stitching and thus help move up their wedding date. They celebrated their 50th anniversary with a re-enactment of Vic's proposal, which was at Cape Rock, a high point overlooking the Mississippi River and the historical location of the first trading post that would become Cape Girardeau.

Vic completed his education at Kansas State University under the GI Bill, and graduated in 1954 with a degree in Industrial Engineering. He was recruited by Alcoa in Bettendorf, IA, where he worked for 30 years, retiring in 1985.

Their three children are: Roger (Julie) Graden, Story City, IA; Barry (Lela) Graden, Greenville, SC; and Lori (Tim) Lockhart, Newton, IA. They have six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Although their move to Mayflower means they leave their home they built in 1968, and long-time membership in Faith United Church of Christ (they were charter members), they look forward to making new friends and enjoying being closer to their children, while at the same time appreciating having the support of services at Mayflower.

Jean Libbey

MORE NEW RESIDENTS MEANS MORE INTERVIEWS

Because of a higher than normal number of new residents, this issue has five interviews, introducing them to the Mayflower Community. It is expected there will also be a larger-than-usual number of interviews in the next LOG issue.

Editor's note

MAYFLOWER RESIDENTS GIVE TO THE COMMUNITY BY VOLUNTEERING

This is the second of occasional articles about Mayflower residents who volunteer in the Grinnell community. The untold hours residents contribute at Mayflower is valuable beyond measure, and marks the significant spirit within the community of Mayflower. Many are very active in their local congregations as well. But we want to recognize those who play a significant role in Grinnell. We are proud of those who maintain Mayflower's visible presence in our town.

Many Mayflower residents volunteer at Grinnell Regional Medical Center (GRMC.) We mentioned some of them in the spring issue of the LOG, but following are more who give of their time at GRMC. **Deena Wellborn** and **Pat Groth** volunteer in the Surgery Waiting Room; **Nancy Smith** and **Mary Lou Clotfelter** help with the Living Portraits Program; **Nancy Hendrickson** and **Gloria Clay** can be found in the gift shop, the Glass Gift Box; maintaining historical records is where **Elaine Noe** gives of her time.

Floyd Postma provides internal mail delivery; **Mary Lou Clotfelter** leads a group of

other knitters, through the "Sit 'n Knit" group, to make one-of-a-kind hats so that each baby born at GRMC receives one on dismissal; the Hospice program is aided by **Phil Kintner**; four Mayflower residents serve on the Arts Advisory Board—**Jean Jones**, **Russ Leggett**, **Connie Marshall**, and **Merle Zirkle**; **Bette Kersey** and **Beryl Wellborn** are members of the Patient and Family Care Council; and through the Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) **Beryl Clotfelter** provides counseling information about health insurance, and also writes an information column that appears in the Grinnell Herald-Register regularly; finally—**Charlaine (Char) Ewan** is a member of the Auxiliary Board.

Beryl Wellborn assists in a first-grade classroom; Nancy Smith is editor of the Friends of Stewart Library (FOSL) newsletter; and Russ Leggett serves as a docent at the Merchants National Bank, nicknamed the "jewel box" and designed by Louis Sullivan.

More volunteers will be listed in upcoming issues as names come to the Editor.

"I love the enormously creative and talented people here, plus the wide variety of activities both here and in the Grinnell Community."

Tom Evans, Pearson

"I love being here because my kids don't have to worry about 'what are we going to do with mother.' Plus, everything else people have said."

Connie Molsberry, Buckley

UPDATE ON LIVING PORTRAITS

Living Portraits is a service, offered through Grinnell Regional Medical Center, that will enhance a person's future stay in the hospital or health care facility. Volunteers will interview an individual about special life events, and make this information available to staff and friends, should a person enter a health facility. A part of the Living Portraits program is being developed for current Health Center residents. The brief life story will soon be placed in the resident's rooms so that staff and visitors can become knowledgeable about the resident. To learn about volunteering, contact Janet Lacey, 236-2524, or Joanne Bunge, 236-5321.

Joanne Bunge

Welcome JIM AND SUE AHRENS

Jim and Sue moved from Lexington, MO to their South Harwich Terrace home this spring.



Jim, raised on a farm, graduated from Grinnell High School in 1958. He attended Iowa State College (now Iowa State University), then Grinnell College, graduating in 1962. Following graduation he entered the U.S. Air Force and a 32-year military career. He married Julie Williams. Later he received a master's degree in Public Relations from Boston University. Following separation from active duty with the rank of Captain, he retained his commission in the U.S. Air Force Reserve and returned to Grinnell to farm with his family. Julie, a well-known artist, died in 1980.

Sue, born in Omaha, NE, was raised in Cedar Rapids, IA. She attended Iowa State College where she met her first husband, Dick McDougal. Following their marriage in 1960, Dick served in the US. Air Force and they began a military life. Soon after Sue joined Dick in Okinawa with their children, he was killed in an aircraft accident. Sue says, "I found myself a 24 year-old widow with two young daughters." She returned to Cedar Rapids, worked at a local pre-school, while attending Coe College, graduating in 1968, then taught elementary school in Cedar Rapids.

An interesting facet of Jim and Sue's story is that they and their respective first spouses, all met and became friends while at Iowa State. Sue

and Julie continued their friendship through the years.

In 1981 Sue and Jim resumed their friendship. In 1982 Jim joined the faculty at Wentworth Military Academy, Lexington, MO, teaching social science courses in the junior college division. The couple was married later that year. Seeking reserve military duty, Jim received a direct commission in the U.S. Army Reserve. He mobilized and commanded the unit as it served in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Turkey during Operation Desert Storm. Jim retired from military service in 1995, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and from teaching in 2002. Sue taught kindergarten in the Lexington School District for 21 years, retiring in 2003.

Following their respective retirements, Jim and Sue devoted their time to the Lexington 4 Life Project. As volunteers, they were active, not only in raising \$3.2 million to create the model community center, but also served the various programs offered by the center.

Sue has two daughters: Dawn (Mike) Miller, Plymouth, MN and Wendy McDougal, Guemes Is., San Juan Islands, WA. Jim also has two daughters: Ame (Brian Krippner), St. Louis, Mo; Abi Ahrens (Eric Rathburn), Overland Park, KS. They have four grandchildren.

Why Grinnell and Mayflower? For Jim, it was "coming home" and he has a brother and family in the area. His mother, Esther Ahrens and his aunt, Betty Ahrens, were both residents at Mayflower.

Sue and Jim have both resumed their memberships in PEO and Rotary, respectively, here in Grinnell. Sue, raised UCC and Jim a Presbyterian, are gradually becoming involved in these congregations.

Elaine Noe

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What do you love best about Mayflower?

"Mayflower has so much to offer. And I love to go to the college swimming pool."

Sylvia Trish, Montgomery

Welcome DEENA AND BERYL WELLBORN

Deena and Beryl Wellborn moved from Grinnell into Edwards 11 in May. Making their new residence into a home, they have added flowers under their windows, and placed a stone near the entrance to Edwards Hall which says, "Come grow old with me, the best is yet to be"—a gift from Beryl to Deena when they married in 1980.



They both grew up on farms: Deena in Ottumwa which she calls home and where she graduated from high school. Her family included two brothers and three sisters. Beryl's early years, in a family of four boys, were spent near Cantril, IA, where his family later moved following the depression and where his father had a grocery store.

Deena is well-known at Mayflower where she was the receptionist in the main office in Pearson Hall for 13 years, retiring in 1997. When asked by Dennis Acrea, then-executive-director of Mayflower, to take this position, the job was not clearly defined. However, during her time it eventually encompassed twelve different responsibilities which were pictured on a t-shirt Art Heimann designed and gave to her when she retired. Deena also worked under Ted Mokricky's leadership.

Beryl graduated from high school in 1942, then attended Parsons College, receiving a teaching certificate. He was 17 when he started teaching and his oldest pupil was in the 8th grade,

a fourteen-year old. After serving two years in the Army, Beryl completed his education.

Beryl taught at all levels and held administrative positions. In 1958 he joined the Grinnell College faculty. While still at Grinnell College he began 20 years of service on the Board of the Iowa Valley Community College (IVCC), part of that time serving as the Board's president. About his role on the Community College Board Beryl said, "It was my 'Field of Dreams.'" He participated in securing new facilities for IVCC, putting what formerly was in three buildings under one roof.

Beryl has served on the Stewart Library Board, the Grinnell-Newburg School Board, the S.E.E.D. Committee, and the State Board of Trustees for Community Colleges. When he retired from IVCC he was honored with an Honorary Doctorate Degree, and a Commitment to Excellence Scholarship was established in his name. Beryl was recognized for his volunteer work by Iowa's Governor Branstad in 1984.

After both of their spouses had died and they were married, they have blended their five children: Jeff (Diane) McKim, Dallas, TX; Scott McKim, Burbank, CA; Lori (Steve) Adams, Cedar Falls, IA; Kevan Wellborn, Grinnell, IA; and Annette Candland, Tony, WI. They have five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Deena does cross-stitch, has a number of collections, volunteers at GRMC in the Surgery Waiting Room, and holds membership in a few clubs. They have enjoyed traveling and both love to read. Beryl volunteers with a first grade class.

Jean Libbey

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MAYFLOWER AT PRAIRIE POINTE

The first unit to be built at Mayflower at Prairie Pointe, a 40-acre area in northeast Grinnell being developed by Dave Vander Linden, was started in July, 2008 thus becoming the anchor in the new venture for the Mayflower Community at Prairie Pointe.

This condominium will be completed in late fall 2008. It's owner, **Janice Kriegel**, answers the question: why am I excited about my decision to move to Mayflower at Prairie Pointe? "Maintenance support; helping my son not worry; windows to the east and south so I can see the sun come up; walking paths to help me maintain a healthy life style; and being close to Ahrens Park where I'll take my grandchildren."

The Mayflower portion, approximately 10 acres, of the total development at Prairie Pointe, which includes single family homes and a pond, will be a multi-year project. Jack Morrison,

Facilities Manager, says, "it is a wonderful partnership with Vander Linden, who builds quality homes, that will also be good for the entire Mayflower Community."



Mayflower At Prairie Pointe Groundbreaking
Bob Anderson, Orlan Mitchell, Sue and Dave Vander Linden, Janice Kriegel, Bob Mann, Jack Morrison, and Gayle Strickler, Jr.


Mayflower
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