The Mayflower Log
Fall 2009
A Publication of the Mayflower Residents Association

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Mayflower Gift Boutique—October 3, 9:30-2:00—Y'all Come!

Late last winter Mayflower residents Dot Anderson and Wilma Graden wanted to use their skills and enjoyment in making crafts. At the same time Executive Director, Bob Mann, began seeking support to purchase a Bathing Unit for the Health Center. Dot and Wilma matched their craft skills with the need for funding, and the "Mayflower Gift Boutique" was developed. This effort has been targeted to bring in funds for a Towel Warmer Unit costing $2,000.

The sale of handmade items will be on Saturday, October 3, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the United Church of Christ, corner of Broad and Fourth Avenues and will include decorative home articles for the autumn season, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. There will be utility type gifts, as well as decorative and even whimsical gifts and at a variety of prices.

Buoyed by the support of Bob Mann and the MRA, the project was launched by a group of residents called "Helping Hands," who met weekly to fashion the items. Husbands Bob Anderson and Vic Graden have been very helpful, as well. In some way or another 54 hands, meaning 27 residents, have been involved. It is proof that together a group of Mayflower residents, with a meaningful purpose and enthusiastic leadership, can achieve great things.

These "gals" have been creative in securing raw materials at little or no cost. Large tree branches, bowling pins, candy canes, light bulbs, gourds and buttons have been turned into one-of-a-kind gifts! For instance, a tree trimmer was removing a tree on the parking at the Mayflower entrance to Pearson. A large tree branch was needed. When asked if that large branch could be had, the trimmer replied, "I'll do you one better. I'll cut it the thickness you want." PRESTO! Raw material was had.

Moldy, dirty, and dried-to-the-membrane gourds, with a good scrubbing using brush, soap, water and scouring pad, have been transformed into lovely decorative items. Kathy's Pumpkin Patch in Donnellson, IA, was the source of these gourds. (Mayflower residents, Earlene and Dewayne Hentzel, are Kathy's parents.)

"There will be homemade snacks at the 'Boutique Gift Sale'," Dot and Wilma said, "just as we always have at Mayflower." Cinnamon rolls, muffins, scones, cookies, coffee, tea and milk for "dunking" the baked goodies.

We urge all to get into the "spirit" of the last trimester of the year by coming to the sale. Y'all come—and experience this day that will be dedicated to Mayflower's Health Center!

Community Education Council presents

THE BUCKET COURSES

What is a "Bucket Course?" Joanne Bunge, chair of the CEC and a leader in developing educational opportunities for community members, says, "The title comes from the popular movie, 'The Bucket List,' and—referring to the courses—makes one think of all the things a person wants to learn before kicking the bucket."

Dr. Beryl Clotfelter

The first course, a series of eight weekly classes that is currently being offered, is taught by Grinnell College Professor Emeritus of physics, Dr. Beryl Clotfelter, on the subject, "Our Universe—How Do We Know?" Dr. Clotfelter is a Mayflower resident.

For future Bucket Courses, look for the information cards in the colorful buckets placed at businesses and retirement communities. For additional information about future courses, call Joanne Bunge, 641/236-0513 or email jbunge@iowatelecom.net.

The Community Education Council is made up of representatives from the Grinnell Regional Medical Center, Grinnell College, Mayflower Community, Iowa Valley Community College, Drake Community Library, Grinnell-Newburg Public Schools, and the Grinnell Area Arts Council.

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Highlights of MRA meetings

The July quarterly meetings of the MRA, assembled as the Executive Committee and Town Meeting, focused on the following topics: Treasurer Gordon Borthwick reported 93 residents contributed to the 2009 annual membership drive. Money raised supports activities of the MRA, such as the Flower, Chapel, and Audio Visual Committees. All committees are encouraged to bring to the October meetings their suggestions for expenditures.

The resignation of Dorothy Fyfe, Librarian for the past two years, was received with appreciation for her creative work.

Greeting cards with photographs of the flowers in the Central Courtyard, taken by Tom Evans, are available for purchase in the Mini Gift Shop. Similar pictures can also be seen on the Mayflower web page: www.mayflowercommunity.org.

It was decided to delay until October action on proposed By-Law changes.

Bette Kersey, recognizing that Montgomery Lounge is often used by outside groups, pointed out there is not a handicap accessible rest room and recommends Mayflower look into correcting that.

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We've asked some residents the question, "Who was a mentor or role model for you?" Some responses are included in this LOG.

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STAFF
Editor -- Jean Libbey; Co-Editor -- Judy Kuehl;
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Welcome
SHANE COOK

105 Pearson

"Mama!"
"Winthrop, where've you been?"
"Fithin!"
"Fishing!"
"With Harold."
"You mean Professor Hill?" *

Shane as Mrs. Paroo and her son, Ronald, as Winthrop delighted audiences with this conversation and many others as they performed their respective roles in **"The Music Man."** This role was only one of many productions in which Shane was involved, on stage and/or off stage, during her active years in Community Theater in Grinnell and other communities where she lived.

The League of Women Voters and ACLU were two organizations in which Shane had particular interests. She gave more of her expertise and time to the ACLU, including having served on its National Board and having chaired Iowa's State Board of ACLU.

Shane's home was in Chicago. Her introduction to Grinnell was in 1952, enrolling as a freshman (oops, as a first year student) at Grinnell College. She graduated in 1956.

During her senior year she married Chuck Cook. They returned to campus in 1957, and Shane served as assistant to the Dean of Women while Chuck completed his undergraduate degree. They returned again in 1963 when Professor Cook was appointed to teach in Grinnell College's Department of Physics.

The Cooks left Grinnell for other professional opportunities. Following Professor Cook's death, Shane returned to Grinnell as Director of Grinnell College's Alumni Relations,1982-1996. "One of the most interesting duties I had as Director," she related, "was that of traveling to foreign countries to negotiate and plan alumni tours led by our faculty members."

"Why Mayflower?" She smiled and continued, "I was active in the Presbyterian Church. I worked for seven years at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. I have many friends here….and even though I was advised by my doctor for health reasons to locate where the climate didn't get too cold….Mayflower is the best."

Her sister, Judy , who lives in Virginia, helped her move to Pearson. Her son Ronald, who with wife Amy lives in Boston, was here to help unpack and get her settled in.

"In the meantime," she said with a bit of laughter, "I will visit with my mother, Phyllis Bellis, also a resident, visit with friends, and read more mystery stories."

* Willson, Meredith. **The Music Man.** New York: G.P. Putnam Sons, 1958

Beryl Wellborn

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COMING TO LYCEUM IN FALL

September 10 -- Too Many Strings Band
September 17 -- Schultz and Company
September 24 -- Erin and Dorothy Band

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Welcome
GRETCHEN ISENBERG
105 Pearson

"This isn't going to hurt, so relax and enjoy. Just think of how much better your smile will be when we're done. And how much better your teeth will feel to you," Gretchen would suggest, particularly to first time patients getting their teeth cleaned. She, no doubt, made comments similar to the one above to some of us here at Mayflower. For 35 years. she worked as a dental hygienist for several dentists in Grinnell, working most of those years for Family Dentistry.

Gretchen is a native Iowan. She was born and raised in Earlham, IA. Following her high school graduation at Earlham, she earned a B.A. Degree as a Dental Hygienist from the University of Iowa.

Her future husband, Ken, lived in Dexter, IA, which is only six miles west of Earlham. I knew of him but it was not until we were students at the University of Iowa that we dated," she said. "He was the only one with a car," Gretchen laughed, "so that was my ride home and back to Iowa City."

Following their graduation they were married in Earlham. They have two sons: Tom and Jeff. Tom and wife Kathi and their two children live in Des Moines. Jeff and wife Cara live in Colorado Springs, CO, with "their cats, dogs, birds, and fish."

Gretchen is a member of PEO, the Red Hat Society and Lady Elks. She is also busy with church activities and finds time to enjoy reading. And she is, of course, an avid Hawkeye fan.

One of the events which the neighborhood anticipated and enjoyed was the annual 4th of July picnic at the Isenberg's. The picnic, for 37+ years, followed the 10th Ave. Pl. and 10th Ave. 4th of July parade. Lots of food and drink. Fun playing games. And lots of conversation.

Why Mayflower? "I want to stay in Grinnell and think Mayflower is the best option for my future."

Beryl Wellborn

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My Mentor?—Jim Ahrens

It didn't take Jim Ahrens more than a second to respond to the question, "Who has been a role model for you?" Said Jim, "That would be George Drake." During Jim's first year at Grinnell College he took a course in British History during which Professor Drake asked Jim to lead a discussion for one entire class period. The experience of the class that semester was a major factor that led Jim to decide he would like to teach at the college level.

Jim's interest in history was ignited earlier when, as a sixth grader, he joined students from three elementary schools in Grinnell (Cooper, Davis and Parker) to study history at the "old" high school. He had access to Stewart Library where he read Omar Bradley's biography, "Soldier's Story," and developed a particular interest in military history. Jim taught military history at Wentworth Academy and Junior College, MO, for 22 ½ years. After retirement he moved with his wife, Sue, to Mayflower a year ago. He served in the military and retired from the U.S. Army Reserve as a Lt. Colonel. Jim, inspired by George to go into teaching, sought to be an agent to bring out the best in his students as his mentor had done for him.

Welcome
JAN PEAK

Edwards 12

This bride from Ft. Madison, IA, was one who had been living and working in cities and not acquainted with farm life. It was Spring. Time to plant the fields and the garden.

"Here's the garden "spot," exclaimed Ed. "It's huge," responded Jan. "But you're the gardener….I'm the harvester and the food processor!" she said. So began Jan's life as a farmer and for 40 years this was the arrangement for managing the garden.

Janis Sopher grew up in Ft. Madison, IA. She graduated from Ft. Madison High School in 1957. Four years later she graduated from Iowa State University in Ames with a degree in Food and Nutrition Dietetics. She completed an internship at University of Oklahoma Medical Center in Oklahoma City. Her first position was at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, in the College's Food Service. Later, Jan's professional expertise took her to the School of Nursing, Presbyterian St. Lukes' Hospital, Chicago, where she taught Nutrition.

Then one day her telephone rang…"Hello." And the voice she heard was of that young man she had met at Iowa State but with whom she had not kept in touch. Ed had found her name in the directory.

Jan and Ed were married in March, 1966. They had two daughters, both of whom live in Chicago: Sara (Frank) Convery and Cynthia "Cyd" Peak.

Jan continued her profession as Consultant Dietitian in the Grinnell area . She wrote policies and procedures for GRMC's Food Service and was a Food Consultant at Friendship Manor, Mayflower Homes, and St. Francis.

She volunteered for United Church of Christ in state and national offices. She likes to read. She knits with a local group. Sewing is another one of her talents.

Circumstances were such that she was able to live for a few years across the street from her mother while at Seeland Park.

"Coming to Mayflower is like coming home," says Jan. Good, says the interviewer. Welcome to Mayflower and Edwards.

Beryl Wellborn

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Iowa -- The Tall Corn State

Just how tall does corn grow in Iowa? The magazine, Our Iowa decided to find out, so they obtained corn from South America and distributed it to all their subscribers this spring. It is a variety which grows extremely tall, but doesn't produce much of an ear of corn. With Edward Jones as their sponsor, they are offering a bundle of prizes for the winner. The financial advisers from Edward Jones are also the official measuring experts!

A few of the gardeners at Mayflower decided it would be fun to enter. Seed was planted and it has grown!!! Kathryn (pictured to the right) and Warren Louden furnished the seed, Dewayne Hentzel was the planter. A tall pole is marked with the proper feet measures!

(NEWS FLASH: corn almost at 11 feet!)

Welcome
GRACE DAVIDSON
Beebe 205

Madison Township, Poweshiek County, IA, RR 2, Brooklyn, IA was Grace Lang's first address. Her family moved from the farm to Grinnell in 1934.

She attended elementary through high school in Grinnell. She was valedictorian of her class, graduating in 1946. During her school years, she and nine other girls formed the 10 Friends Club. A picture of the girls resides in her bedroom. With a remembering smile, she recounted, "We had many secrets… no one knew about our group….there are eight of us left and we still keep in touch. We shared many good times. We even talked about coming back to Grinnell in our later years."

While majoring in classical music at Milligan College, TN, and studying at the Arthur Jordan Conservatory of Music , she met William "Bill" Davidson, also a student at Milligan. They were married in 1949. They became the parents of daughter Leslie (Robert) Litwiller, Rochester, MN, son David (Gloria) Davidson, Cedar Rapids, IA, Christine (Clark) Jensen, Des Moines, IA, and Patrice Davidson, Rochester, MN. Grace hears, "Grandmother, may we…?" from 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Grace sang in the choir at her church. As the children got involved in theater and singing in musicals, Grace also got interested. Her interest led to her acting and singing in "South Pacific," "The King and I," "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" and other productions.

She served for a short time as secretary of the Grinnell College Alumni Association. She left Grinnell to become a professional fund raiser for the YWCA in St. Louis. She held this post for 20 years. She was invited to become the fund raiser for Adult Retarded Citizens of St. Louis. As their fund raiser, she called on prospective donors and wrote grant proposals on ARC's behalf. Grace retired from ARC after 14 years of service.

She is surrounded by pictures of family and friends, and paintings by some famous artists. Her lovely desk is one made by her late husband. "It is modeled after Justice John Marshall's desk. Bill had the wood cut and cured. He really made the desk from scratch," she fondly remembered.

"I like writing long rambling letters, especially at Christmas time, to family members and friends," she reminisced, "which they may or may not like but that's the way it is."

Beryl Wellborn

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My Mentor? — Dorothy Christinson

"My mother was my mentor," said Dorothy Christinson. When my father died at a younger age, my mother had to make some major decisions—where to live, how to make a living, and how to raise her two teenage sons, Dorothy's brothers. Mrs. Christinson moved from DeKalb, IL, to Grinnell where she had family, parents and nieces and nephews. Dorothy's mother, who never drove a car, selected a house that would be within walking distance of downtown and school.

As Dorothy and her mother were reminiscing one day, Dorothy's mother said, "It's all right to look back but don't stay there." Dorothy learned from her mother to appreciate the past, but look to the future.

Dorothy gained from her mother a sense of courage to face life's challenges, and the determination to "make it work" when she hit a bump in the road.

Welcome
JOHN AND GWEN BUDDING

Altemeier 102

Full circle…now that John and Gwen Budding are Mayflower residents, they are back in Grinnell where they first met! They have had a very busy life before retirement. Coming to Mayflower was a family decision. And the decision put them closer to family.

John was born in Sully. His family moved to a farm near Searsboro during his early years. He graduated from Searsboro High School and then from Iowa State University in Veterinary Medicine. He took care of large animals while in practice for 12 years at Brighton, IA ,and 30 years at Wilton, IA.

Gwen O'Banion came to Iowa with her parents from western Kansas. Her father worked for the railroad so they lived in several communities. After graduating from high school she earned her nursing degree from Henroten Hospital in Chicago. Her first job in nursing was in Grinnell. "I worked at the old Community Hospital from January, 1948, until January, 1951," she recalled. "I also attended Grinnell College for a semester, "but working nights and going to school was too much. In addition to GCH, she worked in several other hospitals during her professional career.

Gwen and John met in Grinnell and were married in 1951. They have two sons, a daughter, and four grandchildren. Their son Lynn (Jeanette) lives in Grinnell. Son Wayne (Diane) lives in Wilton, IA. Daughter Susan Carroll (Rick) lives in Marion, IA.

John is a numismatist. He has been a serious coin collector for fifty plus years. He also is a collector of antiques. He and Gwen were members of an antique collector's club, Questers Club of Wilton. Also, while being busy with his professional duties, he made time to serve their church. Having served as a member of the building committee in both communities. among other activities, speaks to his commitment to church and community.

During World War II, John was a Yeoman in the US Navy.

Gwen enjoyed playing golf, playing cards and she added, smiling as she nodded her head, "Raising kids, that was a full time job." But she also made time to be Superintendent of Sunday School, direct the church choir and be active in the church women's group! As was mentioned, she too likes antiques.

Both John and Gwen like to read. "We're pretty much stay-at-home people," John opined. "Laid back and boring," he added. (Laid back, perhaps. Boring? I would take exception to that.)

Beryl Wellborn

Movies

Through the planning of the Social Committee, movies are shown on Saturday afternoons from September through May each year in the Kiesel Movie Theater, lower level of Edwards Hall. The 2009-10 season starts September 12; volunteers show the movies on the wide screen and prepare and serve popcorn. Although the members of the Movie Team sign up for this, additional volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Jack Gustafson to put you on the "I want to help" list. Here are the movies for September and October:

9/12—Mamma Mia
9/19—Gathering Storm
9/26—New in Town
10/3—Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?
10/10—The Ipcress File
10/17—Marley and Me
10/24—Girl With a Pearl Earring
10/31—Rebecca

CENTRAL IOWA HONOR FLIGHT

On August 11, 2009, 350 WW II veterans and 76 "Guardians" flew from Des Moines to Washington, D.C. Seven Veterans from Poweshiek County, including Don Pederson and Art Heimann from the Mayflower Community, were on the Flight. The group visited the WW II, Iwo Jima, Korean and Viet Nam Memorials and toured Arlington National Cemetery.

At lunch time, with a box lunch on our laps, we toured the heart of D.C. An emotional long day started at 2:00 a.m., an experience that none of us will forget. The time in Arlington was the most impressive for me. Many of the Veterans needed assistance to enable them to visit the Memorials to their service time. The "Guardians," who paid their share of the trip, provided the needed support.

From the very start to the conclusion of the Honor Flight we were greeted by crowds of people shaking our hands thanking us for our service time.

When the 747 landed in Des Moines, each reflected on the day. This once-in-a-lifetime honor would not have been possible without the grant from Hy-Vee and the support of the "Guardians" and the coordinating team from the Central Iowa Honor Flight Hub.

Art Heimann

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