

# The Mayflower Log

Spring 2010

A Publication of the Mayflower Residents Association



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## How Do You Use Your Computer... Google wants to know!

Earlier this winter, Mayflower was honored to host a research team from the Google Corporation who spent two days here interviewing and videotaping more than a dozen residents in hour-long segments. Their goal: to discover how senior citizens use computers today.

Of 260-some residents, around 60 now own and use computers. That number has grown from about 40 in the last seven years, when Mayflower began helping residents with internet connections.

The Google researchers reported being surprised and delighted with the wide range of things in which residents are interested. Most common is email to communicate with family and friends (most using Google's own Gmail program), followed by many kinds of word processing (MRA committee reports, to name some).

Look at a few local examples: Gladys has read the Oskaloosa newspaper online for years; Dorothy follows every game and statistic of the Boston Red Sox; Rey buys hundreds of hankies on eBay; Jo makes beautiful online scrapbook pages; Judy creates lovely calendars for her family at Christmas; our librarian buys all large print books electronically; at age 102, Neal reads family email every day.

A fast growing interest is processing, editing and sharing digital photographs with digital cameras. That includes making photo calendars, greeting and note cards, and a wide variety of craft projects. Third is the internet, using search engines like Google and Yahoo to research thousands of subjects, and often to purchase items on line. Not a few enjoy eBay, the largest worldwide auction online.

Thomas H. Evans

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## Underground Railway: A Hobby for Tommy Haas!



Tommy Haas points to the Hitchcock House noted in article.

*Connections*, says Tommy Haas, is one of the fascinating things she's enjoyed throughout her study, which has grown into a wonderful hobby, of the Underground Railroad. She first *connected* with stories about J. B. Grinnell, our town's founder and a staunch abolitionist, when she moved with her family to Grinnell in the late 1960's.

As a first grade teacher in elementary schools in Grinnell Tommy *connected* for her students the stories of Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, slaves who sought their freedom in the 1850's. Through visiting sites in Iowa where

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# Welcome BESSIE BAILEY

Beebe 103

In a pretty wooden frame a Certificate of Recognition greets one entering Bessie's Room. The certificate recognizes her seventy-fifth birthday.



It is signed by State Representative Eric Palmer and Governor Culver.

Bessie Schmidt Bailey is the daughter of Russell and Winifred Schmidt. She made Beebe 213 her new home November 2, 2009.

While growing up with her family, she lived in several communities in Poweshiek County, Iowa before moving to Grinnell. She graduated Searsboro High School in 1952.

During her teens, Bessie enjoyed dancing, roller skating, and playing bingo, particularly if the

prizes were stuffed animals. One night while roller skating she was having difficulty standing. And who was there to help? Roger Bailey. She fell into his arms. In the not too distant future they were married. The year: 1953.

Bessie and Roger had three sons—Roger Wayne, Lawrence and Eric—and one daughter, Cindy (Asay). She also enjoys thirteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Mr. Bailey died in 2004.

She helped with both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts during the time the children were participating in scouting. During her active years she worked at Village Laundry, Jerry's By-Lo and Wal-Mart. She volunteered, "My gardening was limited to growing tomatoes because other vegetables didn't want to grow for me."

Bessie takes delight in watching TV game shows. She hasn't given up on bingo. She still plays for stuffed animals and, also, bingo at the casino. "Any luck?," I asked. She smiled. "Yes, I've had a bit of good fortune."

*Beryl Wellborn*

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## (Underground Railway -- continued)

runaway slaves were helped to freedom by residents offering overnight lodging, Tommy has *connected* to an important part of our country's history.

Iowa has many locations worthy of a visit. There is the Congregational Church in Denmark, organized in 1836; the Rev. Hitchcock (he built a house with a false room to accommodate slaves) House in Lewis, and the Jordan House in West Des Moines.

This intriguing hobby has led her to many locations. It is not an uncommon experience for Tommy to make arrangements with docents to stop on her travels to see former lodging locations. For instance, she mentions the Owen Lovejoy home in Princeton, IL, which is just six miles off I-80.

Recognizing that citizens willingly broke the law to aid slaves, she ponders how people choose to disobey laws. A question still worthy of thought today!

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LYCEUM PROGRAMS	
April 8	Humour Therapy by Peg Ehler
April 15	The Boys of Piano by David Gilbert & Lucas Chamberland
April 22	Music by the Reutzel Band Erv Reutzel & Co.
April 29	WWII Songs Dorothy Meyers & Ed Poush
May 6	Mayflower Bell Choir & Singers Jeanette Tisdale
May 13	Music by Minner Lance Minner
May 20	Too Many Strings Band

## OPEN HOUSE FOR BEEBE LOUNGE

One of the first events of 2010 at Mayflower was the January 9<sup>th</sup> Open House to celebrate completion of remodeling the common areas on Beebe Hall's second floor, with the central focus being the Lounge. There is more open space in this remodeled Lounge that provides an attractive setting for activities, from games to discussions and more. Regular theraband exercise sessions bring together residents from Beebe and the apartments.

The warmth of attractive wood cupboards and shelves, the glow of the fireplace, and a row of Grinnell Company JeldWen windows connect to the out of doors, bringing daylight into the room. The Lounge is an inviting place for families to gather with their loved ones who are residents of Beebe. Conversation groupings of attractive and comfortable chairs, selected for ease of use by older persons, invite people to "stop by." A small kitchen facility is available for making a cup of coffee or tea.

Attractive pictures grace the walls not only of the Lounge, but also the halls on second floor of this assisted living unit, part of the Continuum of Care facilities that make up the Mayflower Community.

Down the hall from the Lounge, staff offices were relocated for privacy, and an adjacent space provides an area for consultations. Replacing the former staff office is a cozy area with table and chairs; residents enjoy this welcoming location for games in the evenings.

Jenny Neeley, Beebe coordinator, says, "We know we have a top-notch facility. The remodeled Lounge shows our unit is as good as the care we give!"



**Gladys Booth** and **Elaine Bigbee** enjoy a good conversation together during the Open House for the **Beebe Lounge**.

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## EXERCISE GROUP IN LOUNGE



Bob Baumann, Warren Loudon, Don Puls and Grace Davidson work on balance skills under leadership of Gail Greenwald at the Theraband/Exercise session. Bob Baumann, future resident, is getting acquainted with people and programs at Mayflower.

The well-lighted Beebe Lounge is a great place for a weekly exercise group using therabands and practicing balance skills. Gail Greenwald leads the residents of Beebe and independent living units as they hold onto the back of their chairs, standing on one leg, then alternating to the other leg. Throughout the week exercise classes are held in Beebe Activity Room/Lounge and Montgomery Lounge; the sessions are led by Sue Ahrens, Dorothy Breuning, Ruth Greenwald, Gail Greenwald, Imogene Knowles, Judy Kuehl and Ray Obermiller. The schedule is listed in the Informer. All are welcome!

# Welcome PHYLLIS ARMSTRONG

Buckley 110

"IOWA! I have never been to Iowa. I hardly know where Iowa is," Phyllis responded when she learned that her husband-to-be would be moving her to Iowa, specifically, Grinnell, IA.

So, Phyllis came to Iowa: once to meet the Armstrong family, then again as Mrs. Everett Armstrong where she has lived since 1946.



Phyllis Colton Armstrong was born and raised in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. She graduated Pine Bluff High School in 1936. Soon, with her parents, she moved to Little Rock, AK. She enrolled in a business college and following graduation worked for Arkansas Power and

Light in the accounting department.

Not far from Little Rock was the US Army's Camp Robinson. While attending a dance, she met this handsome soldier from Iowa, Everett Armstrong. "We didn't get engaged before he was sent for further training, then overseas, but we kept our relationship alive by writing to each other...hundreds of letters," Phyllis recalled. "He

didn't want to get engaged until after he came back from the service because his assignment kept just to the rear of the frontline in Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany."

During her active years Phyllis' non-work activities included craft work, knitting, helping in her church and she had fun playing bridge. She and Everett travelled extensively. They wintered in Palm Desert. She especially enjoyed visiting in Washington, DC, not only to visit their son and his family, but to visit the many historical places in and around DC.

Son Philip, lives in Darien, CT and daughter, Linda Robbins, with husband George, lives in Kansas City, Mo. Phyllis is always happy to talk with her two grandchildren, Kathryn and Colton, children of Philip and Lynn. "But it's more fun when they come for a visit," observed grandmother. Another grandson, John, lives in Charleston, SC.

I still love to play bridge. And I log on the computer often to learn of new things. It is interesting...I can keep learning so much. I couldn't do without the computer."

"I'm looking forward to being at Mayflower. I know many people there and will enjoy meeting new folks. I know there are many activities, so I'll have to pick and choose."

Smiling she said in her soft southern accent, "And I love Iowa, especially Grinnell."

*Beryl Wellborn*



<u>APRIL MOVIE SCHEDULE--2010</u>		
All movies are shown Saturdays as noted in Kiesel Hall at 2 p.m.		
April 4	Julie and Julia	Meryl Streep, Amy Adams
April 10	Amelia	Hilary Swank, Richard Gere
April 17	Six Days, Seven Nights	Harrison Ford, Anne Hecke
April 24	Dreamers	Kurt Russell, Dakota Fanning

## Welcome

### **ANN COPPOCK BUCHMEIER**

Harwich Terrace Southeast, 1024 1st Avenue

"Yes, you might think of me as a collector," Ann responded to my question about collecting.



My most prized collection: fleurs-de-lis. However, I like to collect things that some of my relatives or friends might enjoy. And I'm always looking for a bargain." She laughed, "I've missed the MiniShop today, how sad. But I had some important errands to take care of."

Ann Coppock Buchmeier is an Iowan. She was born in Marshalltown, raised in Gilman. In 1960 she graduated from high school at Gilman. She soon married and lived on a farm north of Kellogg. She is the mother of daughter Susan, living in Prairie City, IA, and son Steven who lives on the family farm. She is grandmother to Susan's

sons, Hunter and Dakota and Steven's Kalleen and Jared. Kalleen and Jared are the fifth generation to live on the "home place" near Kellogg.

"I've been to China...travelled around the United States, gone on cruises. I find day-trips most enjoyable," she concluded. She found her trip to southeast Iowa so interesting she would like going back and spending some time in that area.

"Other areas of interest?" I asked. Her face lit up with a big smile. "I love playing my piano and organ; I am so very happy to have room for my piano." She continued, "I am learning to play the bells! Imagine me, being a bell ringer!"

Ann plays for services at her church. She visits nursing homes and entertains the residents with her music.

"I'm so happy living here at Mayflower. I love having people around because I like visiting with folks. Also, there are so many things to do here. I should have come sooner, but..."

She has been enjoying her new home since November, 2009.

*Beryl Wellborn*

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## **Kathryn Loudon, Quilter extraordinaire!**

Kathryn tells this story from her childhood: "On Sunday afternoons all the women gathered on the porch and sewed. I joined them, making a dress for my doll. At the end of the afternoon, I had sewed the doll's dress to my dress!" Kathryn laughs, thinking this is not a very good beginning for someone who we all know now, will become a quilter exceptional with a compelling hobby!

It's putting the pieces together and selecting materials because of the colors they offer that particularly attracts Kathryn to quilt. She can lose herself in a fabric store! She has been known to



**Kathryn Loudon** stands beside the historical quilt she assembled. It hangs in the Carman Center.

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# Welcome JACK AND EDIE DAWSON

Altemier 206

“Well, once upon a time, we vacationed in Bali and Edie vacationed in Indonesia while I was on assignment there. Another time we sailed around the British Virgin Islands. A little more exciting than sailing at Rock Creek,” Jack reminisced.



“But we had great fun sailing at Rock Creek. Several of our friends also had sailboats and whether it was with them or just ourselves, we have great memories of fun-filled times sailing at Rock Creek,” Edie recalled. Laughing, she added, “Speaking of our time in Indonesia, I had fun learning to drive on the right side of the road.”

John, we all refer to as Jack, and Edith, who we all refer to as Edie, came to Grinnell in 1957. Jack was appointed to the Department of Economics, Grinnell College, where he taught courses in economics and finance. He retired from teaching in 1996. Edie earned her Master’s

Degree in Remedial Reading from the University of Iowa after which she taught Remedial Reading at Grinnell Public Middle School.

Edie and Jack entered Middlebury College the same year. Jack was called to the United States Navy for duty during WW II. He returned to Middlebury, resumed his studies and renewed his friendship with Edie. Their friendship blossomed into marriage in 1949. They both graduated from Middlebury. Edie majored in English; Jack’s major was economics.

Jack earned his Ph.D. in Economics from Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. His professional duties, prior to coming to Grinnell and while at Grinnell College, include being re-called to the Navy, serving on the aircraft carrier, the *USS Boxer*, followed by several years working for the World Bank and consulting with Third World countries in the area of economics and finance.

Edie said she and some other women decided it was time they pursued their professional interests. And this they did. As mentioned she taught Remedial Reading. (Her cohorts also found fulltime work outside the home.) “We felt we were contributing to the ‘feminist movement’ by using our talents and, by example, encouraging other women do the same.”

Daughter Lauren (Wendy) lives in Ashville, NC. Son Bruce, his wife and their two children, Holly and Christopher, live in Castle Rock, CO.

“Perfect grandchildren,” Grandpa bragged.  
*Beryl Wellborn*

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**(Quilter extraordinaire -- continued)**

use a pattern, but she also often designs the quilts. Most of the quilts she makes have been given to family, with the latest for a new great-grandchild born in January.

The Mayflower Community enjoys the historical quilt hanging in the Carman Center. With Betty Ernst, (long-time Mayflower resident, now

deceased) whom Kathryn counts as her mentor, she put together the quilt that celebrates the first 50 years of Mayflower, using the new-at-the-time method of printing pictures on fabric. The next time you are in Carman Center take the time to examine the quilt carefully, and see how many of the pictures you can identify.

# Earth Day Turns 40

It's hard for many of us to think of the Vietnam War in positive terms. But something remarkable – Earth Day, which will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 22, 2010 – was inspired by War-related activities.

Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, who ardently shared Theodore Roosevelt's love of Nature, modeled the first Earth Day after anti-Vietnam War demonstrations, called "teach-ins," which were common then on college campuses.

When Earth Day was first celebrated in 1970, 20 million persons joined in the first nationwide demonstration of concerns for environmental issues. Groups that had been fighting against polluting factories and powerplants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, the loss of wilderness land, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values.

Even Congress adjourned for the day so the legislators could attend Earth Day activities with their constituents. In due time the federal government passed laws that continue to monitor our stewardship of Earth.

Earth Day 1990 went global. That celebration also gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide. Within the next 10 years, the number of Earth Day celebrants had swelled to hundreds of millions of persons in 185 countries.

It's gratifying to realize that every time we recycle paper, plastic, glass, or metal, every time we shop with our own cloth bags, every time we reduce our water and electricity usage - whatever we may do – we, too, are celebrating Earth Day's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday by honoring the Earth.

*Dorothy Meyers*



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