The Mayflower Log

Winter 2010

A Publication of the Mayflower Residents Association

Robert G. Mann, Executive Director + 616 Broad Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112 + (641) 236-6151 + http:/www.mayflowercommunity.org

Lyceum Programs Continue to Draw Crowds

Pictures below show two of the fall Lyceum programs, a Style Show and presentation by Leslie Wright, Director of Faulconer Gallery at Grinnell College, on the subject "Roots of Renewal," a Gallery show mounted in 2003.

Notable in these fall programs were the involvement of staff and residents. Lyceum provides one opportunity when residents from all areas of living come together. We've experienced the increased attendance by residents of the Health Center and Beebe living units.

We thank the very active and hard-working Lyceum Committee: Deena and Beryl Wellborn, Pat and Virgil Groth, Jan Lovig, Phil Kintner, Jeananne Schild, and Netia Worley, staff, ex-officio. They are happy to receive your suggestions for future programming.

Sharon Mathis sported a "24-carrot" dress (note the 24 carrots on the skirt) with a plunging neckline. Sharon is the Coordinator for Special Housing in Grinnell, managed through Mayflower.

Bev and Ed Anderson arrived to the tune of "The Dark Town Strutters Ball."

Myrt Canfield, more often seen as receptionist at Mayflower's Health Center, modeled a working woman's attire, complete with flower hat and pinstripe suit.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Leslie Wright shared after-program cookies with residents l.-r., Pat Groth, Imogene Knowles, Marilyn Schuler, Leslie Wright and Jeanette Tisdale. In her presentation 'Roots of Renewal,' Leslie spoke of the ...

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

... Gallery show which she curated in 2003. She mentioned "the goal of the show was to present a positive image of the Midwest. Many Mayflower residents were involved in this topic through community events."

With this issue we start a series on residents' hobbies. More will be forthcoming.

Bill Bloom's Hobby Spans a Lifetime

It was when he was in junior high school that Bill Bloom began to build model airplanes. That led him to learn to fly, in a Piper Cub, J-3, with which many "age-mates" (he's 88) would be familiar.

He continued his love of airplanes all through his life. It led to a hobby of making gasoline powered model airplanes, which he worked on until his wife became ill.

One type of model (free flight) was powered by a very small gasoline engine. The motor ran for only 20 seconds and had enough power to take the plane straight up. Then when the engine quit it would glide back to earth. Some would fly some distance and require creative searching to locate.

Bill Bloom and his Stearman model plane

Now models are radio controlled which permits the engine to run for extended periods in the air. The pilot has complete radio control of the flight and many become very skillful in their flight patterns. A plane of this type costs about $350. While air currents affect the flight, a pilot can land the plane nearby so one does not need to hunt for it as in "free flight."

Since retirement here at Mayflower Community Bill has made planes out of pop cans. One plane he made, using a pattern and the raw materials of pop cans (in this case, Coca Cola cans), was the Stearman plane, which was used during World War II. To put it together required 72 hours of work and 20 Coke cans. Bill appreciated the inexpensive material, and was drawn to the bright red color of the Coke cans. He used a particular kind of glue that set up fast, and on some occasions, tape, as well as a glue gun, to put the parts together.

Bill says the benefit of his hobby is that "it was an enjoyable way to pass the time."

THE LOG is published quarterly by
Mayflower Homes, Inc. of Grinnell, Iowa
STAFF
Editor -- Jean Libbey; Co-Editor -- Judy Kuehl;
Photography -- Thomas Evans;
Feature Writer -- Beryl Wellborn;
Proofreader -- Janet Neff

COMING TO LYCEUM IN JANUARY

January 7-- Bob and Dot Anderson, Rose Bowl Parade
January 14 -- Prairie Jewel Dixieland Band
January 21 -- Grace Notes
January 28 -- Earl Blair, Comedy Sketches

FORUM SCHEDULE

Jan. 12—Bob Cadmus, Grinnell College Physics professor, 25th Anniversary of the Grant Gale Observatory
Jan. 26—Emily Guenther; Volunteering at the Prison
Feb. 9—Lorna Caulkins; update on the Drake Community Library
Feb. 23—Emily Sevarese; Autism

Welcome
DON PULS
Beebe 204

Hanging on the wall in Don's room are pictures of family and friends. What really catches one's eye is the head of a prong-horned deer which had eight prongs.

"That was my Dad's deer head," Don observed. "Dad went hunting and I got to stay home and do the chores," chuckled Don.

Dad was Walter "Ward" Puls and mother was Dorothy Puls. His parents and two sisters are deceased.

The chores. Well, they included raising and taking care of Angus cattle and Poland Spotted hogs. The Puls' also raised and harvested corn and soybeans. Don's family farmed in Poweshiek County: first, near Malcom and later in the Sheridan neighborhood.

During his farming years, Don showed both cattle, mostly heifers, and hogs, both sows and boars, at the Poweshiek County Fair. Showing animals at the fair was one of his 4-H activities. He participated in showing animals at the fair for ten or twelve years. Winning Blue Ribbons was one of the rewards for his efforts.

Don's first year of school was in the country. He finished the rest of his elementary/high school education at Malcom Public School, Malcom, IA. He graduated from William Penn College -- now William Penn University -- in 1964. He majored in history, with an emphasis in American History.

Beebe became Don's place of residence in September, 2005. He does a lot of reading. He maintains his interest in history by reading historical materials and viewing historical documentaries. He watches videos and television and plays cards "five evenings a week." He didn't think he'd get very rich playing penny ante poker but said, "It is lots of fun."

"Do you have favorite foods?" I asked.

"I like any food that's prepared for me to eat," he replied. Then with a wry smile, Don added, "I want to keep the cooks happy."

Good philosophy, don't you think?

Beryl Wellborn

~ ~

Welcome
CAROL ARENDT
108 Beebe

Carol Arendt was raised on a farm near Montezuma, the daughter of Earl and Ruth Lamb. She graduated from Montezuma High School in l958. She was married to Larry Arendt and is the mother of three children -- Craig, living in Grinnell; Jack, living in Coralville; and Barb (Baker) living in Montezuma. She also has six grandchildren.

She lived at Lake Ponderosa prior to a stroke she suffered in 2003. The effects of that stroke are what has moved her to Beebe Hall. Prior to her move, she loved living at the lake, golfing

and attending her grandchildren's many activities and Hawkeye football games.

Now she enjoys visits from family and friends, attending grandchildren's events, and cheering on the Hawkeyes!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Answer to puzzle on page 6:
Move 1st letter of each word to the end of the word. The word reads backwards just the same.

Welcome
SHIRLEY CLARK
Beebe 211

Before Beebe became home for Shirley, two communities in Clayton County (IA) had been home: first Elkader, then on a farm near Gunder, which was "just a piece down the road" from Elkader.

Shirley was born and raised in Elkader. Her mother died when she was quite young so household duties and caring for dad fell to her and her sister. She graduated high school at Elkader Public Schools in 1938.

"We lived on the edge of town," Shirley remembered. Continuing, "We had a large yard with lots of flowers, a garden, apple trees and a pond and across the street was the jail."

Ah, the jail! "I was a friend of the son and daughter of the man and his wife who were in charge of the jail. Often we would see those in jail exercising or playing some game outside. When the jail was empty, us kids would play in the jail," she recounted. Shirley began laughing as she told of going to one of her friend's birthday parties held in the jail and some other fun times in the jail.

"Did you work outside the home while you and your sister were keeping house and going to school?"

"Well, I probably shouldn't tell this," she began, laughing again, "but I did work in the local bakery for a short time. You see, the baker would rather pinch me than the dough, so I quit."

Two years after graduating high school, Shirley and Quinton Clark were married. They started married life on his farm near Gunder, a Norwegian community. They became the parents of Shelia, who now lives in Lynnville. Shirley and her family became very active in the Lutheran Church. (She had been raised in the UCC Church.)

Shirley adapted to farm life very quickly. She loves animals. Today, she settles for stuffed ones, but she loved the livestock they had on the farm. Not to mention the cats and dogs they had through the years. She learned to milk and do all sorts of things that a farmer and his wife have to do.

Shirley's eyes have failed so she doesn't visit people in the Health Center as she did yesteryear. Nor is she able to cook, one of her favorite activities.

We had a discussion of Jack Dittmar, an Iowan from Elkader who played second-base for the then Boston Braves, now the Milwaukee Braves. She knows the family. Her husband bought a car from the Dittmar Auto Dealership, which Shirley didn't like, but that's a story for another time.

Beryl Wellborn

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Welcome
MILDRED SAMPSON
Beebe 214

Mildred Olson Sampson is the daughter of John and Allen Olson. The Olsons lived and farmed near Grinnell. Mildred's elementary school years were in a country school. She graduated Grinnell High School in 1932.

Shortly after graduating high school, she married Len Sampson. They are the parents of three boys: John of Grinnell and Robert who lives in West Des Moines, IA. Len, her son, is deceased. She enjoys her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In addition to being a busy mother, active in her church and PTA at her sons' schools, she was

(go to next page)

(Mildred Sampson - continued)

a seamstress for five years at DeLong's glove factory. She also worked at Grinnell Community Hospital.

"Every summer we took a vacation…going all over the United States," she said. Continuing, she commented, "I didn't have a favorite place in the United States because I enjoyed them all. We even went to Norway one of the summers."

Mildred enjoyed doing embroidery. A beautiful piece of her work hangs on the wall. It is a winter scene, a church being the focal point of the picture. On another wall is a fascinating painting by her niece: a fawn standing on snow-covered ground by a lake, looking and listening. Mildred also made rag rugs and did other hand work.

Son John visits her almost every day and takes her for ice-cream. Saturday is pie day! She is most appreciative of the cards and pictures of family and friends which she has displayed where she can look at them daily.

Beryl Wellborn

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Welcome
BARBARA O'ROAKE-HOYOS

Beebe 101

Barbara "Bobby" lives with many family pictures, her many books, "old friends and new," and classic vintage movies. Her library is quite extensive. The wide variety of titles speak to her wide interests: biographies, poetry, political science, Irish literature, mysteries.

"Right now, I'm reading mysteries. But I enjoy other literature, particularly Irish literature and the world of poetry," she said. Bobbie is quite

(Barbara O'Roake-Hoyos - continued)

proud of her extensive collection as she called my attention specifically to the volumes, arranged by subject housed on shelves and on the inside of the door through which one enters her room. She continues to add to her collection, having just ordered, but not yet received, Senator Ted Kennedy's last book.

Barbara, who goes by Bobbie, was born in Newton. She graduated Newton High School in 1953 and soon entered nurses training.

"I didn't finish my training, but married the doctor," she told me. She was smiling as she added, "Marrying the doctor was easier than taking all those tests." The family lived in Michigan and Connecticut. The family traveled in the Caribbean and Mexico.

Bobbie is the mother of seven children: daughter Peggy living in Texas, daughters Mary, Martha, and Teresa, and son, Pete living in Michigan. Daughter Shelia lives in Illinois and son Mark lives in Connecticut. There are also seven grandchildren. Before health became a consideration, Bobbie visited her children and grandchildren in their homes but now they come to visit her.

"Raising and caring for seven children kept me very busy," Bobbie observed. "I limited my outside-the-home activities to that of being active in my church."

"I really enjoy watching again the classic vintage movies. Too many of today's movies ….well, I can't stand the language," she said. As an afterthought, she added, "I worked in my dad's plumbing shop when I was still in high school and never heard such language in the shop as is used in too many of today's movies."

"My life has been very ordinary. Enjoying my children and grandchildren, my books and movies, and television keep me occupied."

Beryl Wellborn

Scale Models Fascinate Gordon Borthwick

Walking into Gordon Borthwick's work room is quite an experience. There is not a tool out of place, but more importantly there are three beautiful models just waiting the final touches: an antique road grader, a Spaulding car and a steam engine.

Gordon says the antique road grader was his first scale model. He worked from a photograph, transposing from full size to a scale of 1:25, making drawings on a huge drafting board.

Features of this gleaming model made mostly of brass parts include working controls to change the angle of the grader blade, a tongue to hitch to a horse who pulled it, and a shiny seat for the driver, styled like one you would see on a tractor. Gordon reports he's sold three like this model on E-bay—for about $200 each. It is a labor of love, for surely this would not cover the total cost of parts and time.

Serving on the fund-raising committee for the Iowa Transportation Museum, Gordon became interested in making a model of an early 1900's Spaulding car, which he donated to the museum. His second Spaulding model is for an admiring customer.

His model of the Shay steam engine features a boiler where water is heated to generate live steam that powers the pistons to move the wheels. Tiny metal rivets seal two layers together. These rivets are both functional and add style to the engine. It is Gordon's plan to enter this model in an annual railroad competition in Boone, IA, in November. If we were judging, there would be no question but what he'd come home with a Blue Ribbon—just on appearance alone. In addition Gordon has created a fully working model.

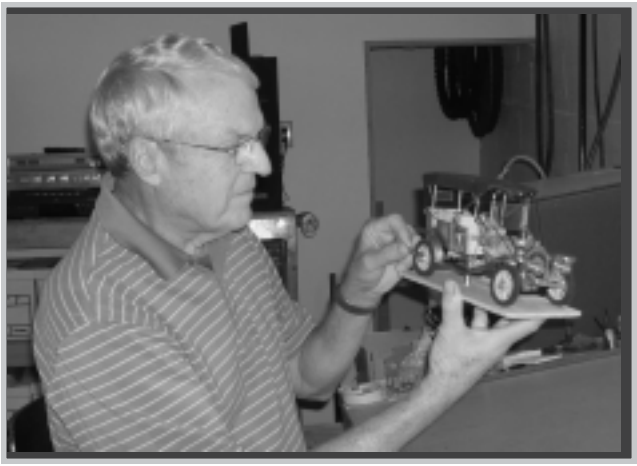
He reports he has built models all his life—starting with airplanes built with balsa wood. There are many other endeavors he has worked on since his early retirement from a position in the engineering department at Fisher Controls in Marshalltown.

He is enjoying the satisfaction of translating the photograph into an actual model with working parts, polished finishes, and correct proportions.

He says, "I wouldn't know what to do if I didn't have this hobby." He also commented, "Doing something new helps those of us who are seniors maintain a healthy mental outlook and overall good health."

Looking at the models one would say Gordon is in very good health!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Model of an early Spaulding car

What do these words have in common?

Banana
Revive
Uneven
Assess
Potato
Dresser
Grammar

(Answer: p. 3)

Welcome
ROBERT AND SALLY BRIERLY

Harwich Terrace South, 528 Broad

"Go Cardinals! Go, go," shouted Bob Brierly along with his Newton High School classmates. The rival, and Bob does mean RIVAL: the Grinnell Tigers! Bob and his friends were graduating Newton High, spring 1947. Bob would enroll at Iowa State College, now Iowa State University, and major in architectural engineering. His father encouraged Bob to study law and become a member of the Brierly Law firm, but "law was not for me," Bob said.

In Akron, Ohio, at Cuyahoga Falls High School, Sally Fullen was finishing her senior year in 1947. Following graduation, she enrolled at the University of Akron to major in education. Having earned her degree, Sally found her first teaching position in Silver Springs, Maryland, 1952.

In 1952, Bob Brierly was stationed at Ft. Belvoir, VA, an Army Engineer's Center. He had a car. There were dances close by. A blind date was arranged which brought Bob and Sally together at one of those dances and 55 years later they are still dancing together.

They returned to the Des Moines area to live. Their children are David living in Des Moines, Tom, Orlando, FL and Rebecca, Alexandria, VA. Five grandchildren complete their immediate family.

After working for other firms, Bob became part of an architectural partnership in Des Moines. One of his first design projects was in Grinnell. Cunningham Drug was housed in a three-story building adjacent to the Merchants National Bank on 4th Ave. It burned down. "Mr. Cunningham wanted a one-story building. The famous soda fountain known for its candylands and 5-cent coffee was to be retained," Bob said, "and the design of the building had to fit in." The design was completed. Bob wrote in hand script CUNNINGHAM DRUG on the blueprint. Mr. Cunningham accepted the plan so the new building was constructed. Today, it is known as Merchant's Row.

Bob's business took him all over Iowa and northern Missouri, designing schools, businesses, houses, churches, etc. "My business took me to 95% of Iowa's cities and towns during those 40 years," he recalled.

Today, Sally enjoys reading "true-to-life stories." She is a long-time member of the Literary Club. At their home in Rock Creek, she had many flower beds which she sorely misses. Bob still plays tennis and collects stamps.

"When I was a senior in high school, I could never have imagined working in Grinnell nor living in Grinnell. But we really like Grinnell. We have friends here. We attend church here," Bob commented, "we are quite comfortable here." Sally nodded her head in agreement.

Doubtful that we'll hear "Go Tigers!" from 528 Broad because Bob is still looking for the Grinnell player who stepped on his hand as he, Bob, snapped the ball from center during a Cardinal vs. Tiger game.

Beryl Wellborn

Quote:

"Success isn't permanent and failure isn't fatal"

Mike Ditka, of the Chicago Bears

Welcome
SANDY BEYER
104 Pearson

Mayflower Community welcomes Alice Darlene Beyer who answers to either Sandy or Alice. Sandy explained, "*Sandy* comes from my maiden name, Sandholm."

The third of seven children, Sandy grew up on a farm near Dayton, IA, graduated from Dayton High School in 1943, entered the Cadet Nurses Corps and trained at St. Mary's in Rochester, MN. She worked at Grinnell Community Hospital, where one of her colleagues was Mayflower resident, Sally Johnson.

Ben Beyer and Sandy met at a dance in Malcom. The band played one of his favorite songs, "Now is The Hour." They continued dating and dancing together for over a year, then became Mr. and Mrs. Ben Beyer.

The Beyers lived on a typical Iowa farm near Lynnville, raising both animals and grain. There they had six children. Ben and Sandy have eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Sandy added, "Two more 'greats' are expected soon." She is glad her children live relatively close.

She and her husband traveled extensively. "We visited every state in the United States but one, traveled in Mexico, Hawaii and Europe. I liked the historical information gained from our trips. Seeing the beauty of the land and learning about its topographical features were also of great interest," she commented. Mr. Beyer, a veteran of WW II, died in 2003 following an extended illness.

Sandy's an avid reader, particularly of history. She enjoys theater, some TV and some movies. She is looking forward to making new friends. "Making new friends is very important to me." This will be an easy task for Sandy because of her engaging smile and cordial demeanor.

Beryl Wellborn

Mayflower COMMUNITY
616 Broad Street
Grinnell, Iowa 50112
http://www.mayflowercommunity.org

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 130