

Table Tennis is More Than Hitting a Small Ball

When Irene Engelmann moved to the Mayflower Community four years ago she brought more than her furniture, clothing and personal belongings. Accompanying her was her passion for all the aspects of table tennis.

She and her late husband, Vic, had played table tennis since they were young, and continued during their ministry within the United Church of Christ. Vic was a local church pastor in Iowa and Kansas; Irene served as a Certified Christian Educator. They saw table tennis not only as a way to connect young people with the church, but also to learn a skill that could be enjoyed over a lifetime. In retirement the Engelmann's saw the on-going value for older persons of remaining active, physically and mentally, and started table tennis organizations in Texas where they spent part of the winter. Irene says, "I just want people to keep their hands, head and feet moving."

Irene quietly arranged for tables she had left in Council Bluffs, her former home, to be moved to

Mayflower. Soon there were people gathering twice weekly to play. Facilities Management staff installed improved lighting, and players put up net "walls" to contain errant balls.

Some players became so enthusiastic they encouraged the MRA to contribute to the purchase of new tables, adding to private contributions. Now two top-of-the-line tables greet us as we walk into the newly dedicated "Irene and Vic Table Tennis Center" where smiles abound on the faces of players, as well as determination, for those more serious about the game. Dedicated Mayflower players who volunteer at the Grinnell-Newburg New Horizons Alternative High School have introduced table tennis within that program.

Watchers are always welcome, and someone—probably Irene—will willingly introduce newcomers to the joys and challenges of the game.

Jean Libbey



Irene Engelmann says, "Table tennis can be played for a lifetime"



The sign declares this space the Irene and Vic Englemann Table Tennis Center

Welcome GLADYS WEBER

Beebe 110

“No, I never played any musical instrument, I just liked to be entertained,” Gladys chuckled.

“However, I did do some sewing—even though I really didn’t enjoy it but it was a necessity,” she added. “I also did some sewing projects and cooking projects and entered them in the county fair in my younger years.”



A native of Grinnell, Gladys is the daughter of Fred and Selma Weber. Her brother, Paul, also lives

in Grinnell.

She earned a high school diploma through the Adult Education program. For two years Gladys worked for the Veterans Administration in Des Moines. But because of her mother’s illness, she returned home to help take care of her.

“I didn’t have a lot of time for diversity in my life. I did manage two trips to California to visit an aunt.” She continued, “We lived on a farm. Canning produce from the garden and helping with other farm related duties were time consuming.”

During her working years after returning to Grinnell, she worked 20 years for DeKalb and in a local doctor’s office.

“Next to home, I like being in Beebe. We never know what might happen.” Her room spoke to her faith. There was a beautiful wall hanging with a Christian theme. Other religious pictures and plaques throughout her room comfort her. Her reading is confined to Christian literature. She also enjoys walking around the Mayflower campus.

I thanked her for our conversation. “Wish me luck,” she smiled, “in finishing up my business so I can relax.”

We agreed that downsizing was never easy but is an event that comes to most of us.

Beryl Wellborn

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Who Would Have Guessed It?

When Sally Johnson, Gwen Budding and Sandy Beyer each earned her RN degree through the Cadet Nurses Corps program, neither was thinking about where she might retire. What was paramount was that of finding employment.

Lucky Grinnell Community Hospital! It needed nurses and the new nurses needed jobs. So, in the late 1940’s, all three lived next to the hospital and began their professional career at GCH.

While living and working in Grinnell, each met her husband. Following marriage, they went their separate ways: Sally stayed in Grinnell, Gwen moved to Eastern Iowa and Sandy lived near Lynnville, IA

Today, each has retired and in a sense, life has come full-circle, bringing each to a place “called home, the *MAYFLOWER COMMUNITY*.”

Beryl Wellborn



Three nurses:
Sandy Beyer, Gwen Budding, and Sally Johnson
reconnect after 40 years

Welcome **MARY EDNA SHERMAN**

Buckley 110

Mary Edna Pilgrim Sherman's roots are in Poweshiek County, IA. She is the daughter of Raymond and Lily Pilgrim. She graduated Grinnell High School in 1935.



"Family came first for Laforest and me, then other activities followed," Mary Edna said, when she was asked about her immediate family.

Family is her late husband, Laforest Jr., and sons, John (Winnie), Grinnell; Jack (Cynthia), Grinnell; Raymond (Sheryl), Camas, WA; and daughter, Mary Pat (Thomas) Griffin, Apple Valley, MN. And there are several grandchildren and great-grandchildren for her to enjoy.

"We wore out two or three RVs during our traveling years. We traveled extensively in the United States and in Europe." They had taken the children on many trips and she and Laforest continued traveling after the kids were grown and had their own families.

After high school she enrolled in Grinnell College for a year, then enrolled in Iowa State

University, Ames, IA. She was studying in the Department of Home Economics, as it was then known. (Actually, when I asked, "And your area of study?" she replied, not batting an eye, "As little as possible." We both had a good laugh.) She came home during her junior year to care for her mother who had become very ill.

While a student at ISU, she met her husband-to-be, Laforest. They married in 1939. They lived on military bases in North Carolina, Alabama and Colorado during WW II. After the war they returned to Poweshiek County, IA, where they farmed for many years.

Mary Edna, in addition to being mother and wife, worked more than twenty years at Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance. She started in the Reinsurance Division, later moving to the Communication and Publication Department. She retired in the 1980's.

During her active years she was a member of the Magoun Club, played in a bridge club, helped with activities in her church and helped with 4-H.

Mary Edna was commenting on how well she liked living at Mayflower. "I know several people here and there are many things to do." Speaking of things to do, she continued, "I'm waiting for a great-grandson to arrive so we can have ice cream in the Anchor Room." With a smile, she added, "He told me he had earned the money for his ice cream."

Beryl Wellborn

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Welcome **BETTY RATCLIFF**

Beebe 215

"When you weren't busy on the farm, what did you like to do?" I asked. Laughing, she replied "Well, my husband worked at Maytag and with a garden to tend, yard to mow, buildings to paint, housework to do...." I got it.

Betty added later that she also taught Sunday School classes at Center Friends Church in Jasper

County, IA, where she and Ross Ratcliff, her late husband, met and married. They had a son, Gary. Betty also has a granddaughter.

Clarence and Rufinia Baldwin, her parents, lived on a farm in Jasper County. Her elementary school education was in a country school, graduating high school at Newton High, Newton, IA.

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Welcome ANN STILLMAN

916 First Avenue

“After graduation, Class of 1951, I left Grinnell College for graduate school with my husband-to-be,

John Morrill. He entered graduate school, his Ph.D. was in cell biology. I earned a M.A. degree in Psychology, Florida St. University and a Ph.D. in Psychology, at Union Graduate School.



“Eventually we settled in Sarasota, FL, at New College. We had a wide

range of interests in natural history, plant life, birding and environmental issues. These interests gave us opportunity to travel in many parts of the world, including Europe and the Galapagos Islands, as well as throughout the United States.”

While at Sarasota, Ann became the mother of daughters, Betsy and Sandy. Sandy and son Sam live in Berkeley, CA. Granddaughter Cally lives in Banner Elk, NC.

“I was a 4-H mother,” Ann laughed. Continuing, she said, “We had an acreage and every small animal you could think of.” She also worked professionally as a part-time counselor at New College.

After her divorce, Ann worked for 20 years in the area of Mental Health. She was particularly interested in helping those clients “on the outside.”

Her professional expertise was used to alleviate peoples’ problems associated with gender and racial issues, spousal abuse, the need for vocational rehab.

Since the early 1980s, Ann has been very active in the American Friends Service Committee.

“How did you happen to come back to Grinnell?”

“Well, I had property in Algona—and still do. I had to return to take care of other business with my sister, Marsha, now living in Green Valley, AZ. I know several people in Mayflower. I also participated in some Grinnell College sponsored educational trips. For a long time I have had the feeling that I’d someday be here.”

Busy. Busy. Still very active in many activities, the daughter of Judge Jerry and Betty Stillman can hardly wait to get settled so she can continue participating in her many interests.

Ann says she doesn’t know very much about southern Iowa, particularly my home county, Van Buren County, but probably she’ll soon know more about that area than I do.

Beryl Wellborn

Betty belonged to a girls 4-H Club and was President. Most of her projects were those which involved sewing.

The Ratcliff’s did some local traveling, visiting relatives and friends. Their longest trips were those to Hawaii. Their annual get-together with a group of Ross’ GI buddies and their families here in Iowa was most enjoyable.

We visited about the several prizes she has won playing bingo, a stuffed kitten “which looks just like my cat” and a bouquet of artificial flowers her niece had made. An attractive quilt, a gift from the ladies of her church, drapes over a favorite chair.



Beryl Wellborn

ELIZABETH ERNST REMEMBERED



Chaplain John Saxton and artist Merle Zirkle share information about the sculpture with the audience

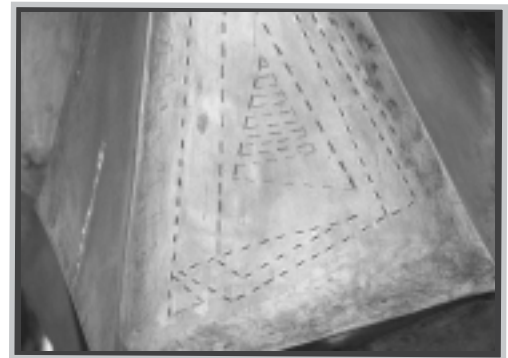


The sculpture is nestled in the Center Courtyard between two birch trees

In the midst of a blistering heat wave in August, the weather modified so family and friends could gather out of doors in the Central Courtyard of Mayflower to dedicate a sculpture designed and fashioned by Grinnell artist and Mayflower resident Merle Zirkle to honor Elizabeth Ernst, a long-time resident prior to her death.

“Betty” Ernst has the distinction of being the longest resident at Mayflower, which was her home for 34 years. She, with her husband, lived in all levels of residency before their deaths, respectively, in 2006 and 1997.

Elizabeth devoted her talents both within the Mayflower community as well as in the town of Grinnell. She initiated keeping historical records of Mayflower; a gifted quilter, she left many quilts we continue to enjoy, and which can be seen hanging



Sculptor Merle Zirkle included ‘quilt-like stitches’ visible on the face of the sculpture

in the Carman Center. She loved the central courtyard, often “deadheading” flowers, according to Bob Mann.

Elizabeth’s family commissioned Merle Zirkle, a long-time friend, to design and fashion the sculpture. The task spanned a four year period.

Jean Libbey

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Motion-activated light switches have been installed in 15 common bathrooms throughout the Mayflower campus, in an effort to conserve both energy and costs. Like the more common outdoor fixtures, these sensors will assure that lights are on only when needed. This Green Team initiative was

funded by a specific donation from residents, and the purchase and installations were made by the Facilities staff. It is a testament to the joys of Mayflower living: residents are encouraged to make suggestions, and staff members are open to ideas as well as competent in carrying them out.

Nancy Reinecke, for the Green Team

Welcome
ROBERT AND MIRIAM
BAUMANN
 1105 First Avenue

This summer marks a significant milestone for the Baumanns. Not only are they joining the Mayflower Community but are celebrating 50 years of being Grinnell residents.



Robert grew up in Durant, IA, and Miriam in Wilton, IA. After Robert earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery at the University of Iowa (1957) and finished his internship with United States Public Health, Seattle, WA, and two-year service at a medical outpatient clinic in Cleveland, OH, Dr. Bob was ready to begin his professional career. "We looked at other communities, but Grinnell was the best fit," he said, "so in 1960 we came to Grinnell."

Before Miriam and Bob were married she attended Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, IA, then transferred to Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, IA, where she received a teaching degree. She taught school in the Mt. Vernon Public School District for four years.

They are the parents of Kent (Stefan), Dubuque, IA; Craig (Ann), Woodbury, MN; Scott (Delphina), Grinnell, IA; Julie, Sun Prairie, WI; and Mark, Des Moines, IA. They also enjoy eleven grandchildren.

Dr. Bob is active in the Presbyterian church, Kiwanis Club, Fortnightly, and the Masonic Lodge. He also enjoys old cars, stamps, coins, pocket watches and model railroading.

Miriam is also active in the Presbyterian church, PEO, Drummond Club and RE Group. During her more active years, she did calligraphy and re-finished furniture. She also enjoys the theater and the traveling they did, particularly their trips to Europe. "But my family and friends are most important to me, and happily for us, we have space for them all to gather here."

"We are blessed to be a part of the Mayflower Community," Miriam said. "And I agree with that," Bob added.

Beryl Wellborn



Residents Caroline Darlington, Sally Johnson, and Gretchen Isenberg test one of three new benches built by fellow residents Dewayne Hentzel and Virgil Groth. The benches are placed in various garden areas around Mayflower and enable people to enjoy fellowship in the out of doors

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STATE FAIR, MAYFLOWER STYLE

Creative members of the MRA Social Committee designed and carried out a State Fair experience right here on Mayflower's grounds. For many who have entered items in the Fair or attended loyally, this was almost a journey down memory lane.

From the State Fair mugs, filled with flowers and placed on each table, to the dessert and fresh vegetable entries, to the displays of antique items—Buckley Dining Room was teeming with items to see. Judging of entries took place before the supper



Summer Poinsettia, with it's red and yellow striations, was entered by Addy Hanson and won a ribbon

when all gathered to applaud the winners, enjoy true State Fair 'fare', which included corn dogs, pork on a stick, and 'turkey' legs. Those gathered either participated in, or watched, the 'rooster crow' and 'hen clucking' contests with outloud laughing.

Scott Gruhn noted the only disappointment of the event was that the 'best legs contest' was cancelled! Maybe another year, Scott. Certainly this event will occur again.



The 'Mayflower Butter Cow' entered by the Food Service staff, was easily judged to merit a ribbon

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