

The Mayflower Log



Winter 2012

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>

ANOTHER SET OF SERVICES FOR MAYFLOWER RESIDENTS

Bob Mann, Executive Director of the Mayflower Community provides leadership for our office staff. Bob came to Mayflower in January, 2007.

"I am responsible for the over-all functions," Bob stated. "Having said that," he continued, "in practice, I delegate most of the operational responsibilities to senior staff: Ed Poush, Healthcare; Jack Morrison, Facilities Management; Scott Gruhn, Food Services; Pam Vosburg, financial affairs. Of course, I give support to all staff members as needed."

Bob takes personal responsibility for sales and marketing.

Bob is a non-voting member of the Mayflower Board of Trustees but has a voice in its deliberations. He recommends policy and budgets and informs the Board of development activities.

Bob provides staff support for Mayflower Homes Foundation. This group consists of 12 local citizens. It raises and manages operating and endowment funds for Mayflower.

The local United Fund board is chaired by Bob. He is active in his church and other local organizations.

Quoting a friend, Bob says, "You can't take from the community without giving back to it."

Office Staff

Helping residents resolve some of their special needs, making sure Mayflower complies with a myriad of governmental regulations, communicating with the Mayflower's Board of Trustees and Foundation Board of Directors implementing its policies, and helping to keep the Mayflower community a vital, contributing citizen in the greater Grinnell community are some of the overarching responsibilities of office staff members.

More specifically, but not all-inclusively:

Pam Vosburg, chief financial officer, is responsible for the overall accounting of records and funds. Working with the management team, she

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Members of the Administrative Staff, l. to rt.:
Denise Smith, accounting specialist;
Rhonda Whitehead, Receptionist and Informer/
calendar editor; Pam Vosburg, chief financial
officer; Janet Neff, executive secretary
and Sally Maring, part-time bookkeeper.

ANOTHER SET OF SERVICES

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helps in setting the budget, manages cash-flow, and helps keep the costs of the over-all operation down. Also, Pam is responsible for financial statement preparation and annual audit, and reporting to the Board of Trustees.

Janet Neff, executive secretary, prepares the payroll, in-puts the accounts receivable and accounts payable, up-dates the donor records and composes the 'thank you' letters, and distributes mail to the Health Center.

Sally Maring, part-time bookkeeper, prepares accounts payable vouchers, works with accounts receivable, reconciles with the banks, receipts gifts, tracks property taxes, and helps individual residents with their bank statements upon request.

Denise Smith, accounting specialist, is the liaison between resident and government payment issues, including Medicare, Medicaid and Elder Waiver (Title 19), long term insurance and related matters.

Rhonda Whitehead, receptionist, answers questions, directs people to their destination, schedules events for the use of facilities, and composes the calendar, the *INFORMER* and announcements. She oversees sign-up lists, directs telephone inquiries, grocery delivery, etc.

Residents are grateful that each staff member is more than willing to answer 'day-to-day' questions: 'Can you send a fax for me? May I buy some stamps? How do I get housekeeping? Where do I find help with my laundry?' and so on and on.

And they answer more private questions such as 'Can you help me with my checkbook? Will my long-term insurance pay for care in the Health Center? Is my will on file?'

Each office member is committed to helping residents in the areas described so that residents live with as few frustrations as possible.

Aren't we fortunate?

Beryl Wellborn

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Welcome **AUDREY OLTROGGE** Beebe 212



"I like it here at Beebe, the people are so kind and helpful," Audrey said. Laughing, she spoke of her reason for being here, "My hip had to be repaired and I needed to be where I could recover."

Audrey studied cosmetology in the Des

Moines School of Cosmetology following her graduation from Grinnell High School.

She and husband Walter farmed east of Grinnell and for many years she had a beauty shop in their home. I used to say about my shop, "Only five minutes from Grinnell on highway number six."

Walter is deceased. Audrey is the mother of Fritz (Lori), who farms the home place. Cindy (Mike) Kriegel, Audrey's daughter, lives in Grinnell.

Reminiscing, she commented, "Walter and I had a new house built. We worked hard. We traveled some. We enjoyed every minute of our life together."

Beryl Wellborn

NEW EDITOR/CO-EDITOR

The LOG staff welcomes two new members: Harley Henry will become the new Editor, and Selva Lehman will serve as the new Co-Editor, beginning with Spring issue, 2012, of the LOG. Tom Evans, photographer, and Beryl Wellborn, writer of “Welcome” articles and other features, will continue.

Jean Libbey and Judy Kuehl “retire” as Editor and Co-editor, respectively, of the LOG. Judy

has worked with two other editors during her service of nine years; Jean has been editor for three years. A special word of thanks goes to Judy and Jean for their long and faithful work with the LOG!

The following article, written by Harley Henry in response to a request for a story about a meaningful experience he had, gives us an introduction to the new Editor.

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A CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

In 1992, I spent six months in Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) as the American director of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest’s study-abroad program. My 23 students included five from Macalester (where I taught) and two from Grinnell. The ACM program was based in Harare (formerly Salisbury), the capitol of “Zim” (as we came to call it) and the site of the University of Zimbabwe, where I had been a Fulbright senior lecturer in American literature in 1988-89, and where my Zimbabwean co-director (a graduate of Colorado College) taught in the political studies department.

Midway through our semester-long program we took the students to Bulawayo—the second largest city in Zimbabwe and the center of Ndebele [the second largest ethnic group in the country] culture—for three weeks. While we were there we visited a rural missionary school (and hospital) founded by the Dutch Reformed Church.

As is customary in Zimbabwean rural schools, the “assembly,” in which we introduced the 23 American college students to the approximately 150 students at the mission school, was held out of doors, mostly in the shade of trees. The honored guests, including the school officials and my fellow director and myself, sat on chairs beneath a canopy to ward off the sun. All of the students, including the Americans, sat on the ground.

After the usual formal proceedings of such activities, the headmaster of the school tried, rather unsuccessfully, to prompt his charges to ask

our students any questions they might have for their visitors from the United States. Now, I must tell you that English is the national language in Zimbabwe and most school children have been learning it since the first grade. Nor are they ignorant of the world outside their country. Their reluctance to ask questions of us Americans was, I feel pretty sure, mostly a matter of diffidence; but it also involved something that the “adults” (the ones sitting under the canopy) failed to consider.

What was most memorable for me about this experience is that as soon as the headmaster dismissed the assembly, the Zimbabwean school children rose *en masse* and ran to engulf the 23 Americans. Foremost among their now shouted questions were: “Do you know Hulk Hogan?” “Do you know MacIver?” and “Do You Know Magnum PI?”

I’ve spent about ten years of my adult life outside the United States. One of the things I think I’ve learned is that an important part of understanding someone who is different from us requires trying to understand how they *see us*. Whatever we may think of ourselves as Americans—white, lowans, seniors (whatever) — our personal integrity should not be an issue when encountering someone who is not like us.

You might also want to think about how the exporting of American culture—music, films, television and clothing, not to mention Facebook, etc.—depicts us to the rest of the world.

Harley Henry

SOCIAL WORKER AND CHAPLAINS WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER

Social Services Director, Rhonda Hudson, sits quietly at her desk in a room that looks anything but like an office.

“I want residents who want and need my help not to be reluctant to enter. My door is always open. And I strictly observe confidentiality about a person and his/her situation.”

She went on to say that, for example, if a person needs to make arrangements for elective surgery, she can and does assist the person in scheduling the doctor, arrange for transportation and answers questions from family.

Another example she cited was that of helping a resident make different living arrangements: moving from independent living to assisted living, or to the Health Center from Beebe.

“I always let the nurses and the Food Service know when a resident has unusual requests or needs.”

“When there are end-of-life issues, I lean on our Chaplains’ work with the resident’s family. And I help the staff, because they become attached to our residents like family.”

Rhonda was very emphatic when she remarked, “I always want to be certain, whatever the issue, the dignity and self-respect of the person is never compromised.”

Adapting to a new and different living arrangement, be it independent living in an apartment, wherever, learning different routines, finding how to become acquainted with new surroundings, and meeting new people usually causes some trauma and apprehension. Alleviating the disquiet is what Rhonda does. “Helping people get back to a comfortable routine is such a job,” Rhonda concluded.



Pastoral care of residents of Mayflower Community, available to people regardless of their faith connection, is provided by the Reverend Christine Tinker and the Reverend John Saxton.

Mayflower Chaplains focus on residents in the Health Center and in Beebe. They help keep people in touch with the resident’s pastor, provide spiritual support and become the pastor for those not having a home pastor.

Being present during crises or death, bereavement support for families, daily visits to those in the hospital are also on the list of ‘to do’ for the Chaplains.

We may be asked to help a staff member having a personal difficulty...or, we may be meeting with a committee planning the next Chapel Service...or we might be giving the next chapel service...or we might be asked to counsel with a resident concerning some personal issue.”

The Chaplains are active in the local Ministerial Association and other outreach activities in the Grinnell community.

“The greatest gift you can give another is the purity of your attention.” Richard Moss

From our Chaplains we experience that commitment every day.

Beryl Wellborn

Note: Reverend Saxton was on leave when this article was prepared.

Welcome
MAMIE McCLELLAND
Pearson 212

Mamie gained the first eight years of her education in a one-room school house in Pennsylvania. Following high school graduation she enrolled in Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA. She majored in Home Economics.



She and her husband James 'Jim' were parents of son, Kent (Katherine), who lives in Grinnell. Mamie's grandchildren are David and Laura and there are three great grandsons.

"James loved to canoe and camp all over the United States. I didn't enjoy outdoor life as much as

he and Kent, but made do," Mamie opined. She and Jim traveled in Mexico, England, Israel, and retraced St. Paul's mission journey in Turkey.

Mamie has always been busy helping in her church.

"The Lord must be trying to tell us something, given all the disasters in this world," she observed, "and we don't seem to be able to figure it out." (We were looking out her windows at the peaceful view of the gardens and trees, quite a contrast to what we were discussing.)

In addition to her working for her church, Mamie likes to read, work puzzles, play board games. She is also learning what she needs to know about computers and e-mail.

"People here are so friendly and helpful. I'm glad to be a part of this community."

Beryl Wellborn

Welcome
DOROTHY MILLER
Pearson 109

"You know Don Schild?" Dorothy asked. "He's my nephew," she continued, "and he convinced me I should come to Mayflower. And I'm glad I listened to him."



Dorothy was born and raised in Keystone, IA. Following graduating Belle Plaine High School, Dorothy studied to be a nurse at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, IA.

She entered the US Army and served as a nurse for 14 months at the Evenstone Hospital, Springfield, MO.

Dorothy and her husband, Thomas, had 60 years together! Their three sons: Grant and Kent both live in California. Son Craig is deceased.

Dorothy enjoys six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

She and Tom, as he was known, traveled in thirteen foreign countries on the European continent and Ireland.

While the boys were growing up and in school, Dorothy was active in school activities, including PTA. For fun, she gardened, knitted, read, and played bridge.

Unfortunately, Dorothy's eyes have failed and she is legally blind. Fortunately, there are audio-books and other services of the Commission for the Blind she can take advantage of.

"My life seems somewhat uneventful. But there are great memories and I'm looking forward to my life here at Mayflower."

I could not help but ask about any humorous story she would tell me about Don as he grew up in her neighborhood. She smiled, "Yes, but I think I'll just let you wonder what they might be!"

Beryl Wellborn

**Welcome
SUE CHASINS**

Buckley 215



Sue finished her college studies at Swarthmore, majoring in English. She met and married a gentleman named Edward Chasins. They decided that before they started a family, they would do some traveling. So, off to Europe, good idea!

They visited most of the countries on the continent. When it was time to come home, longshoremen were on strike and the Chasins were in Paris, down to their last few dollars. Fortunately, a generous uncle got them home safely. That adventure didn't deter their traveling. They traveled the United States, Mexico, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. And later, they visited their son in Sweden.

Sue has three children: Margaret, now living in Toronto, Canada; Daniel in Michigan; and Harriett in Grinnell.

"I've a grandson living in Montreal, Canada. He speaks French fluently, I can't believe it!" She also has four other grandchildren and one great grandson who bring a twinkle to her eye as she talks about them.

"I was a stay-at-home mom. I participated in the usual community activities: PTA, Art Center, Audubon Society. My husband was so anxious to keep the local Audubon Society alive that I agreed to write the newsletter for the Society and fix a dinner as a part of the revival of the Society.

Today, Sue enjoys playing bridge, sewing and reading.

"Leaving the retirement home outside Philadelphia wasn't easy—so many friends but coming to Mayflower was the right thing to do."

Sue will find many new friends quite easily.

Beryl Wellborn



**Welcome
MARIE FOGEL**

Beebe 103



"Well, I had interesting jobs before retirement," Marie said. "Being a mother and wife were the most important. I taught in rural schools in Poweshiek County, IA. I worked at the Ben Franklin Store and I sold Stanley Products." She didn't say anything about farm work but living on a

farm there is always work.

She has two daughters, Connie Thompson, Gilman, IA, and Marla (Boyd) Francis who live in Brooklyn, IA. There are five grandchildren. Warren, her husband, is deceased.

During her active years she and Warren visited most of the states in the USA. Marie worked in her church. "She did the whole-9-yards in her church," commented Marla.

Marie collects dolls as a hobby. She also enjoyed knitting, sewing, playing cards, visiting people and being a good neighbor.

"Yes, she really likes living at Beebe," Marla said. "Mother finds so much to do, always busy as she wants to be."

Beryl Wellborn

Mayflower's Historical Records

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In 2007 older historical records (1959 to 1987) were deeded to the Stewart Library (now known as Drake Community Library) with the understanding that preservation work on the records would not begin until the move to the new Drake Community Library was completed. In June of 2011 all records prior to 2000 were in the Mayflower collection at Drake Library in a climate-controlled environment; records will continue to be transferred at the end of each decade, with current material stored in the MRA office in the Health Center. New products have become available such as archival paper and improved storage methods, that improve the life of those items.

You, the readers, say, "Why is keeping old information important?" Dorrie LaLonde, who is a professional in her work and donates her time, says, "Everything is valuable." Reasons people come to the archive room at the Drake Library are many; some simply want to recall a family member, others want to verify dates, programs undertaken by an organization, or the history of a period of time.

Those who have cared about, and for, Mayflower's records, generally from articles in the LOG, which provides the foundation for the body of material now at the Drake Library, include in recent years, Ralph Schneider. He is a former Mayflower Librarian now living in the Health Center, who gathered a committee of 12 persons to explore how to gather the history of Mayflower's first 50 years. In 2000 this effort produced the book, "A Journey in Faith," edited by Bette Kersey. An oral history and recorded interviews with administrators and residents were also produced. Residents who were fabric artists, including Kathryn Loudon, designed and made a 50th anniversary historic quilt that hangs in Carman Center.

Others who have had a passion for Mayflower's history include Dorothy Fyfe, now deceased. She had a sense of the value of historical records, and was one of the persons who made initial contact with Dorrie LaLonde to lay the groundwork for transmitting Mayflower's materials to the Library. Names from our history who led the effort to maintain records also include Agnes Wood and Betty Ernst.

The dream of Dr. Royal J. Montgomery, affectionately called "Monty," was to develop a retirement community when he retired as Conference Superintendent of the Congregational Churches of Iowa. He envisioned such a community would serve clergy and those in lay ministry as they retired from their service. Most of those persons had lived in parsonages. Monty planned for a residence that would be a part of the Grinnell community, located near the center of town.

Now after its first 60 years, the 240 residents come from all walks of life and most faith backgrounds—developing a community of people who work and play together, while also maintaining their independence and remaining active—being vital members of the entire Grinnell community.

Bette, who has led the preservation of memories and materials telling of Mayflower's history, completes her years as Historian in January, 2012. She has also served as LOG editor and developed the Coordinator of Resident Activities position.

Welcomed as continuing Historians in 2012 are Barbara Reynolds and Deena Wellborn.

Beryl Wellborn

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STAFF
Editor -- Jean Libbey; Co-Editor -- Judy Kuehl; Photography -- Thomas Evans;
Feature Writer -- Beryl Wellborn;
Proofreader -- Janet Neff

Mayflower's Historical Records at Drake Library



L. to rt., Bette Kersey, Mayflower Historian; Dorrie LaLonde, Drake Community Library Archivist; and Cheryl Neubert, volunteer; as they look through pictures documenting Mayflower's history in the Library archives.

When Mayflower Historian Bette Kersey visited with volunteer archivist, Dorrie LaLonde, at the Drake Community Library recently, Bette noted this was the culmination of a long-time effort to ensure that records of Mayflower Community's 60 year journey would be available to all in years to come.

In 1959 the LOG was introduced as the publication of the Mayflower Residents Association (MRA). Historian Mertie Hempstead began organizing articles from the LOG along with other information of historical value into scrapbooks. Since we were dealing with the beginning of a very viable organization, it was deemed by the MRA that the early history of the institution be saved. Furthermore, we should be concerned with preserving materials for another hundred years. We didn't have space at Mayflower for the home these records needed.

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