

The Mayflower Log

A Publication of the Mayflower Residents Association



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CHANGES CULTIVATE CURIOSITY

Welcome New Residents



CAROL NIELSEN

(Story on page 3)



GORDON AND KAREN
PACKARD

(Story on page 3)



THOMAS SELLE

(Story on page 6)



SANDRA 'SANDY' TOKLE

(Story on page 6)



Over the winter, residents of the Mayflower have grown increasingly curious about some of the changes evident on the campus. Pearson residents in particular, heard lots of noise as a two-story addition to two apartments on the south end of their building took shape. By spring, the matching brick exterior walls, southern windows and eastern sliding doors to the soon-to-be-completed decks made the remodeling look as if it was part of the original building. The addition added about 196 sq. ft to the living space of both apartments 105 and 209. Carol Nielsen and Sandy Tokle are the new residents and are welcomed elsewhere in this edition of *The Log*. Our curiosity will soon be fully satisfied by an open house on both levels.

A further outcome of the



addition will gradually become evident. The driveway between the Mayflower Lane and the front entrance of Pearson, closed since the construction began, will be replaced by a sidewalk which will eventually pass through an enclosed surface connector between the north entrance to Edwards and the east entrance to Pearson (see sketch on page 2). Along with new landscaping of the area, the recent traffic snarls at the west entrance to Pearson will be alleviated by a new circular driveway. If sufficient funding becomes available, the project could be finished by the end of

(Continued on page 8)

FROM THE EDITOR

Whether prompted by the mild winter, the early arrival of spring, or some higher influence, the winds of change are very evident at the Mayflower.

This issue of The Log contains photos and accounts of various improvements to our campus: the splendid extension of two apartments on the south end of Pearson with a new driveway from Broad Street; the remodeling of the Anchor Room; the installation of the "T-coil" system for the hearing-impaired in Carman, Kiesel, and the Buckley dining room; the upgrading of the sound system in Carman; the arrival of the five new residents welcomed in this issue (at least three more newcomers will be featured in the summer issue), and three remodeling projects in the Health Center. The first, replacement of wood flooring (\$30,000), has been completed. The second, re-carpeting of all currently carpeted areas (\$62,000), should be finished by early May. Fundraising is underway for the third phase (estimated \$45,000), the "dignity project" which will reconfigure the entrance area to the Health Center.

Also on the horizon is the acquisition of specialty software to keep track of the various activities carried out by the food

service. Here again, depending on the availability of funding, this project might begin to reveal itself in the fall.

You may also have noticed some changes in The Log itself. The front and back pages now appear in color; we've also adopted a numbering system that can be used to create an index for back issues, and we have both a new editor and layout editor, though Selva and I are grateful that our feature writer, Beryl Wellborn, is still gracing our pages. We also express our thanks to Laura Nelson-Lof of the office of communications and development at the Grinnell Regional Medical Center, for her lucid account of the "T-coil" system being installed at the Mayflower.

As your new editor, I'm aware that The Log is published to two groups of readers. While about 200 copies of each issue are made available to residents, over 650 copies are mailed to friends of the Mayflower—members of the board, donors, churches, Grinnell residents, and others.

With such a wide audience, we're looking for more folks with inquiring minds who'd like to try their hand at being our type of "investigative reporter." There are lots of interesting stories out there in our community. We need your help in celebrating them.

As my friend and sometime-lunch-companion Buckley Edwards is wont to observe, "The only thing around here that's constant is change." I should add that Buckley has acquired a large ear-trumpet because, as he says, "I don't wanna be in the loop!"

---Harley Henry



WELCOME CAROL NIELSEN - Pearson 105

"I'm a Grinnell Princess," Carol said. Noticing I had stood and bowed, she laughed. "[We were] seven women, all graduates of Grinnell College, referred to as the 'Seven Princesses' at the several Elderhostels we enjoyed together." Carol and her classmates have also kept in touch over the years via 'round robin' letters begun in 1956!

"Being a part of an Elderhostel is the only way I would travel," she added. "I have seen quite a bit of the United States and learned much."

Carol has also lived in several cities, but she came to Grinnell to stay in 1969. She is the mother of three sons: Scott (Adriana), Chicago, IL; Peter, St. Petersburg, FL, and David, St. Paul, MN.

For twenty-seven years she directed and taught in the Grinnell College Pre-school.

Now she continues to be very involved in the community. She was the first woman president of the Grinnell-Newburg School Board of Education. She is very active in the League of Women Voters, the Grinnell Historical and Museum Board, a Housing Board, and two boards associated with the United Church of Christ.

Once a very active person, now she spends "a great deal of time reading, I'm always anxious to learn something new. Tennis was my game, I really enjoyed playing. Now, I have to settle for board games," she sighed. "I'm really looking forward to moving to the Mayflower," she concluded. "I can still be active with the groups I'm currently associated with and will be able to participate in some of the activities in my new community."

--Beryl Wellborn

WELCOME GORDON AND KAREN PACKARD - Edwards 4

The Packards returned to live in Grinnell in 2002. Both are graduates of Grinnell College: Karen in 1954 and Gordon in 1958. They were married in June of 1954.

Gordon's education was interrupted by service in the US Army in Korea. Following his service and graduation from Grinnell College, he subsequently graduated in 1963 from Garrett Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL and was ordained an Elder in the United Methodist Church. He served as a pastor in various churches for 38 years.

Karen earned her BA in Elementary Education and taught at Davis Elementary and Cooper Elementary in the Grinnell-Newburg School District. "I really like children," Karen told me. "I also taught swimming for 23 years, and always taught a Sunday School class where ever we

were." Karen is still teaching a Sunday School class at her church and continues as a class agent for her Grinnell class.

"I'm truly a handy-man" Gordon assured me. "With the help of my father, my children and I designed and built our house in Clear Lake, IA. I find great satisfaction in being able to do construction, plumbing and electrical work." He's looking forward to using the wood working room in Edwards.

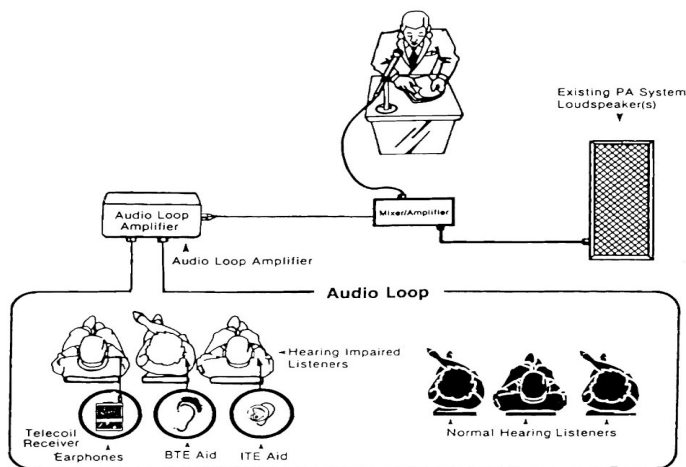
The Packards are the parents of Jim, Huntington, NY; Bruce, Magnolia, TX; Lory Harris, St. Charles, IL; Ginger Johnson, West Des Moines, IA; and Dean, Columbia, MO. They have eleven grandchildren. Both plan to remain active and be involved in new activities here at Mayflower.

--Beryl Wellborn

MAYFLOWER GETS IN THE LOOP

Mayflower Community Installs Three Hearing Loops

The Mayflower Community recently installed what is known as a "hearing loop" in three of the larger meeting spaces within the community. A wire is installed around the room, forming a closed loop that uses magnetic waves to work with hearing aids to act like a miniature loudspeaker within the ear. Once a listener with a hearing aid that includes a T-coil enters a room with a hearing loop, they activate the t-coil in their hearing aid for a louder, clearer signal with reduced background noise and distortion. The t-coil is also referred to as a "telephone switch." The Carman Center, Buckley Dining Room, and the Kiesel Theater now have a hearing loop.



The idea for this technology came from a resident whose daughter is a pastor in a congregation that uses a hearing loop. This project is made possible by donors and particularly funds from a memorial to Pat Saxton. Saxton was a local musician and vocalist who played the piano in the Carman Center for many occasions over the years.

Dean Kayser, AuD, a Des Moines audiologist who has had office hours in the Mayflower Community for about 23 years, has been a part of the planning process for the hearing loops. Residents uncertain

whether their hearing aid is T-coil accessible should contact Dean Kayser through the Health Service.

"It says something good about Mayflower to install these hearing loops," Kayser says. "It is an investment that helps accommodate hearing-impaired people in everyday life. I don't know of any other hearing loops in the immediate Grinnell area."

This kind of technology is not new, but it is new to the United States where an increasing number of hearing aids are being manufactured with a "telecoil" or "T-coil." This T-coil is a component of newer hearing aids and its primary use is to increase hearing capability with telephones. Most of those who truly need the additional hearing boost from a hearing loop already have a t-coil in their hearing aid.

An estimated 36 million Americans have hearing loss and about one in four Americans use hearing aids. Hearing loss in adults is typically related to physical changes in aging or from years of environmental noise. The majority of older adults live with some degree of hearing loss.

-- Laura Nelson-Lof

Editor's Note: An additional outcome of the improvements in the Carman Center may be the improvement of the center's sound system. Bob Mann announced that generous responses for the remaining funds needed for the project insured a grant from Grinnell College. The current ceiling-mounted speakers, which have limited effectiveness and often cause squeaky feedback, will be replaced with front-mounted speakers better designed to transmit sounds to the Carman audience.

A BIG HIT, THE MAYFLOWER PILGRIM PLAYERS

Appearing in a Readers' Theater was a delightful experience for me - and my first. I am convinced there is a little bit of 'ham' in all of us. Another joy was our director, Karla, who has such a gentle way of pointing us in the right direction that you could almost take her critique as a compliment. That, and a great group of Mayflower performers, truly made it a rewarding experience. **Susan Johnson**



Karla Cornish, director of the Mayflower Pilgrim Players, taught English and Drama for ten of her twenty-five years at Grinnell High School. She also directed plays at her own dinner theater. Now she is a sales associate at Farm Bureau Financial Services, Grinnell.

The idea of a Readers' Theater came to Beryl Wellborn, Chair of the Lyceum Committee, two years ago, as he watched Karla do a one-woman show at a lyceum. Would she be interested in directing such a group for Mayflower residents? "Of course I will," Karla said enthusiastically, and the Readers' Theater was born. Its debut charmed the Lyceum audience on October 14, 2010. By their second production the actors aptly named their group "The Mayflower Pilgrim Players."

Here's how it works. Karla finds a suitable play---"suitable" meaning funny, even a bit ridiculous. She posts a casting

call and holds an audition. Everyone gets a part. Karla skillfully adds parts to accommodate the number of persons interested in participating. It's a win-win for everyone. When parts are assigned, rehearsals follow. Then it's opening night!

"I am amazed at the [participants'] talent," Karla exclaimed. "Directing them is such a satisfying experience!" When asked about the props and costumes the cast comes up with, Karla laughed. "It is unbelievable what the readers can find in their closets or wherever. Those 'get-ups' help bring the play to life." To date The Mayflower Pilgrim Players have presented *How Does a Thing Like That Get Started?*, *The Italian Rum Cake*, and *An Old Fashioned Christmas*. On May 2, they will perform *All I Needed to Really Know I Learned in Kindergarten*.

Stan Greenwald has had a part in each of the productions. His comments:

Being a participant gives some of us opportunity to continue an activity we first began in high school but because of the demands of work, etc., could not continue. It's an opportunity for others to do something they may have wanted to do all their lives.

Participating in the arts, in this case theater, helps us grow.

We share ideas about the intent of the dialogue ...ideas flow from person to person. It's a vehicle for us to express our being, differently than from day-to-day. Even my grandchildren, viewing me on tape, saw me as more than just grandpa. That's good.

Mayflower Pilgrim Players' productions are always a most welcome program for Lyceum. For all who so wish, step up and let yourself have a good time as a reader/actor.

--Beryl Wellborn

WELCOME THOMAS SELLE - Beebe 109

"I was a jack-of-all-trades and master of none," Tom replied when asked about his working years. "I grew up in this area. I graduated from Grinnell High in 1942, went to Iowa State for a semester, but ran out of money, so I joined the US Navy. They sent me to school for gunnery and turret training and I learned about handling bombs." Tom then spoke of his last assignment, a flight from Oakland, CA to Phoenix, AZ where he helped "mothball" B 29s. "That flight was beautiful. I could see for miles and miles and everything, including the trains and autos looked very, very small."

After his discharge from the Navy, Tom came back to Grinnell, but for health reasons soon moved to western Colorado where the climate was dryer. While working in Delta, CO for the telegraph

office, he met and married his boss' daughter, Lois. He had a feed store in Delta before he and Lois returned to Grinnell to live and raise their family. Tom and his late wife have a daughter, Connie (Duane) Morrison, Malcom, IA, and a son Michael, Holland, MI. Another daughter is deceased. He has three grandchildren.

Locally, Tom was self-employed, then worked for the Iowa Highway Department when I-80 was built. He also worked for the Donaldson Company, Grinnell College, and L.O. Wilson. During our conversation we learned that we had mutual acquaintances. By chance, one had been Tom's boss, who told me, "Well, Tom was a very skilled carpenter and painter and hard worker. I'm sure he could repair almost anything...Tell him Hi". And I did.

--Beryl Wellborn

WELCOME SANDRA 'SANDY' TOKLE - Pearson 209

"I was always happy when any of the girls were awarded a ribbon at the 4-H Fair and at the State Fair," Sandy said. "I was a 4-H leader for many years. The girls' projects included clothing, cooking, presentations, sewing, raising livestock, and gardening. Having been raised on a farm these activities were not new to me."

Sandy is the mother of two daughters and two sons: Rhonda Sepic (Bill), Wisconsin; Brian Tokle, Grinnell; Bruce (Mindy), Grinnell, and Raelene Lench (Chad), West Liberty, IA. There are twelve grandchildren for her to love.

After moving to Grinnell from the Gilman area, Sandy worked in the Grinnell-Newburg Public Schools teaching challenged children. Later, she spent twenty years working in the office of a local doctor.

Teaching Sunday School in her church and participating in other church activities have always been an important part of her life. Sandy and her late husband, Ray, did some traveling, "although the farm kept us close to home." They did manage to travel about in the mid-west and made two trips to Hawaii.

"I belong to the Sunset club. I read and enjoy movies, and I like to work in flower gardens. I hope I can help with the flowers here at Mayflower," she added. "I am very excited about moving to Mayflower." There are so many activities and so many nice people."

It was lunch time. The real estate people were showing her house. So, we went to lunch at the Bistro.

--Beryl Wellborn

MAYFLOWER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION TOWN MEETING

January 16, 2012

After installing the new officers and committee chairs, past-president Bob Williams saluted the over sixty residents who are serving as officers, committee chairs and committee members.

Vice President Sue Ahrens introduced the new members of the Association for 2012: Sue Chassin, Betty Ann Francis, George and Sue Drake, Ernie Marriner, Mamie McClelland, Dorothy Miller, and Loree Rackstraw.

Treasurer Bob Anderson's report showed a balance of \$6,658.71 as of January 1. Shane Estes reported that of this date, 77 residents have purchased name tags.

Bette Kersey announced that Barbara Reynolds had assumed the duties of historian for 2012. Jean Libbey introduced Harley Henry as the new editor of The Log and Selva Lehman as co-editor.

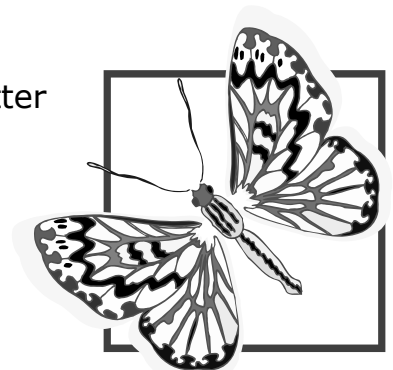
IN MEMORIAM

Residents who died in 2011

Their names have been entered in the Book of Remembrance:

Ruth Ann Gross
 Lois Gwen Jensen
 Blanche Lavina Osborne
 Gwendolyn L. Budding
 Charles A. DePauw
 Iona I. Hudnutt
 Bette J. Smith
 Jeanette Watson
 Cyril Joseph Gallagher
 Robert Bertrand Dixon
 June M. Gropper
 Katherine M. Marquardt
 Ron Bruce
 Kathryn Nelson
 Albert Carl Eisenman
 Germaine "Gerry" Schmidt
 Edward Earl Francis
 Irene M. Brant
 Shane Cook
 Elizabeth "Betty" Latcham

John Lewis Duke
 Constance "Connie" Molsberry
 Dorothy Mary H. Wolf
 Walter Robert Lemke
 James Elbert Booth, Jr.
 Pat McCracken
 Frances Sammon
 William E. "Bill" Doyle
 James F. "Jim" Mitchell
 Lois Sylvia Reed Reisetter
 Lawrence Paul Kriegel
 Betty Jean Ratcliff
 William Bloom
 Patricia Saxton
 Lola M. Simmons
 Mary Edna Pilgrim Sherman
 Charles Theodore Hoover
 Pauline Erma Vincent
 Mary Ann Nixon



CHANGES (Continued from page 1)



the summer.

More recently, the Anchor Room, located at the north end of the Buckley Dining Room acquired a beautiful



new ambiance. On the west wall two new windows have replaced the door to the patio outside and the interior walls are now a soft muted green and the woodwork a rich cherry. New carpeting matches that of the dining room. The floor of the off-set area where the cabinets, counter and ice-cream machine are located is tiled. Three ceiling fans now circulate the air and there is a cable television screen in the northeast corner of the room.

The Anchor Room is available for small meetings and coffees. When more seating is needed for an event in the dining room, the Anchor Room will accommodate an additional 24 to 26 people.

--Beryl Wellborn



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