

The Mayflower Log



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Connie's Dollhouse

Mayflower's miniature marvel

Just outside the Fireside Room, directly across the doors to the Carman Center, sits a magnificent dollhouse. Connie Osborn, a Mayflower resident, made it. Connie also taught high school science for 30 years and recently wrote an excellent book for children about Parkinson's disease (*Nana Connie Gets the Wiggles*), so it's no big surprise that she could build a dollhouse.

Still, this one is particularly impressive. It's three stories high and the rooms are full of handsome furniture, some of which Connie made.

For example, she created the bunk



The nine-room dollhouse put together by Mayflower resident Connie Osborn is lovingly furnished with pieces Connie collected and made herself. The structure measures 16 inches by 32 inches and is enclosed in a glass case

Photo by Bill Pollak

beds on the third floor from a couple of wooden storage boxes for books. One bedroom features a lovely canopy bed; another, a sweet cradle. A well-crafted table and matching chairs grace the dining room, and a fairly realistic

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MEET OUR NEW RESIDENTS

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MAYFLOWER WRITERS

The Mayflower Community is full of creative people. In this issue we feature poems by Gene Rohr and a short story by John Graves. Page 7

Welcome Jim and Janet Ferguson

Janet grew up on a farm in the north part of Colorado. Jim grew up in Denver, and his childhood was more nomadic because his father was an electrician and followed construction jobs all over the country, mostly west of the Mississippi. Of course, that was difficult for Jim because it meant frequent school changes.

The last one, however, worked out well when he met Janet.

They were high school sweethearts and got married when they were teenagers. People said the marriage would not last because they were so young, but this coming August

they will have been married for 65 years!

After they were married, they settled in Denver, where Jim apprenticed with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He worked as an electrician for 55 years. Janet developed an interest in painting soon after they married. She also worked the front desk in sales and in a dental office. They raised four children (three still living) and now have 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Wanting to do something different, in 1978 they moved to Alaska, where Jim worked as an electrician for the State of Alaska. His first job was with the Park Service, then the Alaska pipeline on Prudhoe Bay. He also worked near native villages near Barrow, helping when new tunnels were built for all utilities. In Alaska, the utilities are in tunnels located eight feet underground because of the severe winter weather. Janet continued

to work and also had a studio overlooking the Chena River. Some of her paintings are hanging on the wall of their Buckley 305 apartment.

During the winter, the rivers were frozen solid and used as roads for transportation (although not guaranteed absolutely safe!) Jim would simply drive across the river to get to work, rather than going to

a bridge. Jim also developed an interest in hunting. A part of their diet was meat from wild sheep, deer and moose. Jim has two wonderful reminders of that time hanging on their bedroom wall - a deer head

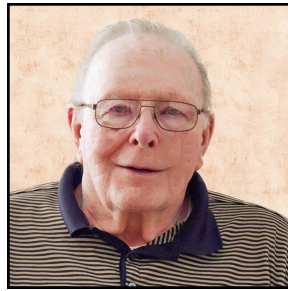
with a large set of antlers, and a sheep with curved horns.

In 1993 Jim retired and they moved back to Colorado to Janet's family farm. In the ensuing years they were able to travel to Ireland and Italy. Another consideration was that although all of their children had been able to visit them in Alaska, they had not been able to follow their grandchildren closely as they grew up.

In 2003 the Fergusons moved to Grinnell to be closer to their youngest daughter, Susan, a faculty member at Grinnell College, and her two young daughters, Gillian and Alana. Jim and Janet moved to Mayflower in January.

Please welcome this well-travelled and multi-talented couple to Mayflower!

John and Marge Graves



Jim and Janet Ferguson

Welcome Pam Gruhn

Pam Gruhn moved to Montgomery last August. She grew up on the family farm northeast of Kellogg. She has three brothers and one sister; two of the brothers operate the family farm, and her sister and husband farm in the area. We all know her other brother Scott, who is Mayflower's director of dining services. All of them now live within 12 miles of each other!

Pam attended school in Grinnell. In her high school days, she sang in the chorus and played clarinet in the band.

Her friends in town wondered why she could not stay after school to participate in other activities. Well, she had chores to do! She says she really didn't mind and it didn't hurt her a bit. She was active in 4-H.

Sometimes Pam would drive the tractor to mow or rake hay. In the fall she would sometimes pull a wagon loaded with corn from the combine to the grain bin. In one field she had to drive from the field to the road to get to the grain bin. Once she got too far over on the shoulder when she pulled over for a car, and the wagon ran into a neighbor's mailbox, broke the post, and knocked it over. She was somewhat fearful about going to tell the neighbor what she had done. When she recounted her problem, the farmer and his wife both started laughing. The neighbor asked if her father had an extra post. He did, and the neighbor said that would take care of the situation!

Pam's employment after high school has been in food service and retail businesses, including the Montgomery Ward catalog



Pam Gruhn

sales office, Newton Burger King, and a women's clothing store in the former Newton Shopping Center.

Pam and her husband, Bill Doud, purchased an acreage north of Kellogg. It contained a house nearly destroyed by fire. The entire family came to help them clean up the rubble and clear the area so they could install a mobile home. Bill retired from Heartland Coop at Kellogg in December 2018 after 47 years of service. He had developed serious health problems, and spent his last 30 days in the Mayflower Health Center. He passed away in March 2019.

Pam's family lost their mother, Kay, 12 years ago. Their father, Ramon, stayed on the farm as long as his health enabled him to do so. He moved to Mayflower, eventually to the Health Center; his family and many friends visited him frequently before he died in 2017.

At the present time, Pam is driving a vehicle for Mayflower, taking Mayflower residents on errands and to local appointments. She mentioned how much she enjoyed that work because it gave her an opportunity to meet many people as well as help them.

Pam emphasized how important it was to her to have grown up on a farm and in such a close knit and supportive family. We welcome her to Mayflower.

John and Marge Graves

Welcome Rosey Mathews

As she settles into her Altemeier apartment, longtime Grinnell resident Rosey Mathews is happy.

Born the third of four children in a family in Humeston, IA, she remains connected to this 500-person town located in beautiful hilly country 17 miles north of the Missouri border. There her father ran the pharmacy where he dispensed medicines.

As the third girl in her family, she was welcomed even though her father wanted a boy. Later on, the family voted that, since they could afford to send only one child to college, it should be her brother, the fourth child born.

So when Rosey graduated at age 16 from Humeston High School, she went right to work to save money to put herself through school. At the same time, her father was offered a job in a Grinnell Rexall pharmacy and moved the family to Grinnell.

She worked in the office of a Grinnell dentist, Dr. Jim Searles, where she got on-the-job training as a dental assistant. Then she put herself through school to become certified as a dental technician.

She married the son of her father's boss, Jack Mathews, and they had three daughters, born in 1960, 1962, and 1965. Although the couple divorced after 38 years of marriage, they remain friends; Rosey credits her connection with Al-Anon for her ability to cope with the stresses they both faced.

Oldest daughter Sara and her husband, Sam, both veterinarians, operate a veterinary clinic in Vero Beach, FL. Known as the "cat lady," Sara has been jailed for her advocacy for animals.



Rosey Mathews

Second daughter Sally has a degree in business from Iowa State; she runs her husband's sportswear business in Urbandale. She and her husband have children from his previous marriage.

Third daughter Sue teaches sixth grade science in Cumming, GA. Sue's husband, Vince, is a pilot for Delta, based in Atlanta.

And the grandchildren! Rosey is proud of them: John, now a movie producer in California; Mona, teaching and working on her Ph.D. in psychology in Waco, TX; Parker, a sophomore at the University of North Carolina, majoring in computer engineering; Vince, Rosey's "brand-new pilot," graduated from college with a commercial pilot's license and now getting the air hours to fly for Delta; and Samantha, a recent graduate of the University of Georgia. Rosey travels often, maintaining ties to her widespread network.

In Grinnell, she attends meetings of Sit 'n' Knit. She loves knitting for Sit 'n' Knit's entries in the Festival of Trees each year. She also makes baby clothes and doll clothes to be sold at Lorelei's Gift Shoppe in Grinnell. A member of Drummond Club, she also enjoys reading, playing bridge, and doing crossword puzzles.

She returns often to Humeston for class reunions, which are now combined with those of Mormon Trail High School. At the Mayflower, she appreciates the camaraderie of the Altemeier residents, who have a monthly gathering and often walk together to the wine and cheese events in Buckley.

Mayflower is lucky to gain such an upbeat person!

Judy Hunter

Welcome Linda Stoll

Linda Stoll was born in rural northeast Nebraska. Later, the family moved to Hastings, NE, where she lived until graduating from high school. She had known since the age of three that she wanted to be a nurse, so she attended Immanuel School of Nursing in Omaha, and graduated in 1972.

In 1985 Linda was commissioned in the U.S. Army Reserve as a Second Lieutenant and specialized in surgical nursing. Twice in her career, she was ordered to active duty:

First, for Operation Desert Storm, and then for Iraqi Freedom. In 1990, Linda earned a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in emergency management.

Much of Linda's nursing career was spent working in Lincoln, NE, at Bryan Medical Center in the department of surgery. The hospital was built right next to William Jennings Bryan's house, known as Fairview, erected in 1902 and later restored to its original Queen Anne Victorian styling. Linda remembers attending seminars in the historic home, as well as Christmas teas, with seasonal decorations and delicious treats.

One of Linda's favorite activities is traveling. Opportunities for travel came with Army training courses located in various regions in the United States: Texas, Kansas, Colorado, Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin, Louisiana, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania, to name a few. Special memories include the five years before her Army retirement, when she was assigned to Fort



Linda Stoll

Wainwright, in Fairbanks, Alaska. At various times of the year, she would receive orders to go to Fairbanks for a month to work in the operating room, relieving personnel—a duty which gave her a great opportunity to experience Alaska's various climates. Later, she was delighted to learn that Sara Tabbert, daughter of Grinnell residents Russ and Barbara Tabbert, designed the interior artwork for the Fairbank's military community hospital.

In 2010 Linda moved to Grinnell, where she worked for the Iowa Department of Public Health, serving communities in central Iowa and preparing for eventualities like terrorism, major health issues, and natural disasters. She was appointed a Commissioner with Poweshiek County Veteran Affairs, and now enjoys working with veterans to obtain assistance.

After her move to Grinnell another memorable trip was an Iowa Public Television tour of Ireland. Linda and 30 other Iowans toured the country for about three weeks, especially appreciating the beautiful churches, stone fences, endless green fields, and sheep grazing everywhere. Linda enjoys wearing her two wool capes she purchased and brought back and remembering other beautiful woolens she saw in Ireland.

In addition to travel, Linda enjoys reading, knitting, sewing, any outdoor activities, and nature in general. She has two children and one grandson.

Linda has recently moved to Watertower Square, and we are lucky that this busy, warm, and friendly woman has joined the Mayflower Community.

Betty Moffett

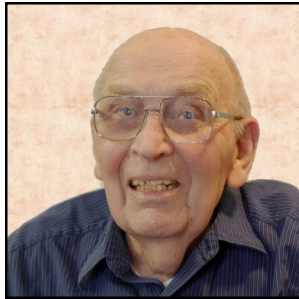
Welcome Bill and Jean Wissmiller

Both Bill and Jean grew up in rural Illinois. Jean was a "town" girl from Paxton, IL. Bill lived in Gibson City, IL, just 16 miles away. They met while representing their respective 4-H groups at a county federation meeting, and this was the beginning of a long and happy union.

Bill's college was interrupted when he was drafted and spent two years with the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Jean received her B.A. and M.A. at the University of Illinois and taught in a nearby high school while Bill finished his education. Bill was hired by Cargill, Inc. while at the University of Illinois graduate school of agronomy and worked in Cargill Seed Research in northern Illinois for 12 years before he was transferred to Grinnell.

Bill's entire career was with Cargill, and Jean was able to use her degree in literature and French to acquire a position as a high school teacher in Rochelle, IL. She taught until her first pregnancy with daughter, Ann, began to show. In those days pregnancy in a teacher was deemed unsightly. After their second child, Paul, was born, Jean returned to teaching. During those years Bill did a lot of traveling for Cargill and spent weeks in Florida, Hawaii, and Mexico, growing test plots in winter months.

Daughter Ann lives in Denver, IA, with her family. After a career as a computer programmer, she is at home with two school-aged daughters. Son Paul lives in Minne-



Bill and Jean Wissmiller

apolis. He was trained in photography at Hawkeye Tech and has worked for several advertising companies in the Twin Cities.

When the Wissmillers moved to Grinnell, Jean was not able to land a job with the Grinnell schools as the administration said she was over-qualified, so she started her

own business: candle carving. She became a member of the International Guild of Candle Artisans (IGCA), a professional group with a world-wide membership.

Beginning in 1974, Jean traveled to Ber-

muda and other places to teach wax sculpturing. She sold her business and equipment to the Amana Candle Company when the couple moved overseas with Bill's research.

Jean and Bill moved to Zimbabwe, Africa, for three years beginning in 1994. Cargill had a research station outside the capital city, Harare. The aim was to teach modern maize research and development methods to local Cargill employees. Jean and Bill were able to travel to a number of countries in southern Africa, and Jean met other members of the IGCA in Cape Town, South Africa, as well as other places where Bill's research took them. Jean and Bill have some lovely wooden carvings brought back with them from their travels in Africa. Several of these are on display at the apartment where Jean lives on the second floor of Buckley. Bill moved to the Health Center soon after becoming part of the Mayflower Community.

Karen Phillips

POEMS

By Gene Rohr

OF all the things we take to the beach
and all we take away
imagination and memories are the best

DO we not take the butterfly's place
have wings like sails, with iridescent scales
that swims instead of flies
and settles to the bottom when it dies?

IF not through our eyes who will see?
the grass, the flower, the tree
will the milkweed seed feel the wind it rides
and wave goodbye when it sets out to fly?

All we know of God is,
that fragment left behind in us.
We come together in church
hoping the many pieces
may reveal a clearer picture
of what we are
a fragment of.

Gene Rohr is a Mayflower resident who moved here in November 2019. He has been writing poetry since 2013 and is a member of the Mayflower Poetry group.

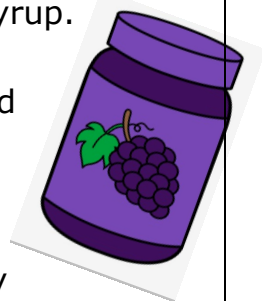
The Best Jelly

By John Graves

Grandpa and Grandma were absolute, complete teetotalers. Grandpa's opinion about liquor may have been influenced by the fact that his father had trouble with the government over making whiskey. He lost 400 acres of land and very nearly went to the penitentiary. Grandma's opinion about liquor probably came from growing up in the Southern Baptist Church, where drinking and smoking were considered very evil.

Grandma always made jam and jelly. One year one of the glasses of jelly did not seal properly and became fermented. A good whiff of the jelly would leave no doubt that it was very well fermented.

Grandma **never** threw anything away. The fermented jelly had about the consistency of corn syrup. She put it in a small blue clay pitcher and they used it at breakfast by pouring it over toast or biscuits. They remarked several times, "That stuff is really pretty good!"



John Graves grew up in a rural community in northwest Missouri. He enjoys writing about many of the characters he knew and situations he observed, and the many stories he had heard over the years.



Steve Langerud, Executive Director
616 Broad St. Grinnell, Iowa 50112
641-236-6151
www.mayflowerhomes.com

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LOG Staff

Char Ewan
Marge and John Graves
Judy Hunter
Betty Moffett
Karen Phillips
Bill Pollak
Mary Schuchmann
Gene Wubbels

Connie's dollhouse

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couple relax on a sofa in the living room.

At one point, Connie ordered a whole family for her house, but the figures were too big to fit comfortably in the rooms. She has recently ordered a front porch swing, and hopes it arrives in time for spring.

Connie decorates her house appropriately for each season—Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day. The decorations are all tasteful and carefully arranged.

According to Connie, she'd always wanted a dollhouse, and when she retired from teaching, she ordered a kit



Carefully fashioned table and chairs are the centerpiece of the dollhouse dining room. Look who is dozing in the tiny basket on the floor.

Photo by Bill Pollak

(with many, many parts) and created one for herself. She figures she spent about \$1,000 on the project, and she enjoyed the process.

Betty Moffett