

The Mayflower Log

Winter 2011

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>

MAYFLOWER CELEBRATES THE LAST 10 YEARS OF ITS 60 YEARS



Shown in front of the model of the Mayflower Ship are the "Last 10 Years' Committee":
Art Heimann, Netia Worley, Bette Kersey, Sue Ahrens and Deena Wellborn.

During 2010 the Mayflower Community recognized its Sixtieth Anniversary by marking new developments that had occurred over the past ten years. Following are comments from staff and residents:

- ◆ **The Central Courtyard**—Standing beside the remarkable Central Courtyard as water bubbled gently from pond to pond in the gardens, newcomer Ann Stillman says with eyes dancing, "This Courtyard is the heart of Mayflower!"
- ◆ **Name Change**—Executive Director Robert Mann notes the process to consider a name change, to the Mayflower Community, came as a result of research conducted in 2007. The change highlights the relational nature of our lives, which Ferne Norris, 94-year-old stroke survivor, said was very important to her. She looks forward daily to the friendship that has developed with her evening supper mates in Buckley Dining Hall.
- ◆ **Neighborhood Dinners, Movies, and Game Night**—These activities, staffed and led by Mayflower volunteers, are just some of the opportunities that develop a sense of community. The dinners are served by the exceedingly competent food staff, and a volunteer host ensures the comfort of all diners.
- ◆ **Fellowship of Givers**—Bette Kersey points to this new program that encourages residents and others to participate in the ongoing financial support of Mayflower. Bob Mann underscores her words with this story: "Two residents who wished to contribute to the future support of Mayflower pooled their limited resources, partnering together to participate in the Fellowship of Givers."
- ◆ **Theraband exercises**—a broadening of the **Wellness Program**, there are six opportunities weekly for Theraband sessions, all led by residents who are volunteers.
- ◆ **Mural at South Village**—"Residents sit quietly" as they view the mural "and let their thoughts move into the landscape," (painted by Netia Worley), says Social Worker Rhonda Hudson. "It gives the residents a sense of calm," Rhonda continues.

(continued from page 1)

- ◆ **Christmas decorations at the Health Center**—“Without volunteers,” says Activity Director Chery Nelson, “we wouldn’t be able to do a lot of the things we provide residents” such as holiday decorations.
- ◆ **Green spaces and flowers**—“The ambience of Mayflower Grounds brings pleasure to all—including the flower pots at the entrance to the Health Center,” comment Chery Nelson and Rhonda Hudson.
- ◆ **Health Center offers Skilled Nursing Care in 2003**—Associate Director Ed Poush reports this Medicare certification provides covered rehabilitation nursing care.
- ◆ **Ethics Committee**—“Composed of a medical doctor, representatives from the clergy community, mental health professional, residents, social workers, and Grinnell College professors, this Committee provides advice to Mayflower staff, and can also recommend care alternatives to family members,” says Ed Poush.
- ◆ **Carman Center**—“Moving Chapel functions to Carman Center from Kiesel Hall,” says Chery Nelson, “makes attendance at Tuesday Chapel, regular Celebration of the Mass, and other events in Carman Center, available to Health Center residents as well as campus wide residents.”
- ◆ **Foundation Board enlarged**—The Board has grown from eight to 12 members, with able members, all from Grinnell, giving their financial expertise to ensure the stability of Mayflower’s future. The Board’s work, guided by Bob Mann, continues the vision of former Directors, Ted Mokricky and Harris Stafford, and development director and chaplain, Orlan Mitchell.
- ◆ **Radio at the Health Center**—The purchase of a Bose radio allows meal-time enjoyment of residents’ favorite CD’s.
- ◆ **Mayflower recognized in 2005**—the Iowa Association of Homes and Services for the Aging awarded Mayflower its prestigious Public Trust Award. The award recognizes Mayflower’s advancing the public trust and confidence in aging services.

(continued on top of next column)

The changes and developments noted above are only a partial list of new emphases that occurred during the past ten years—changes that continue to knit together the campus that started with three residents that is now about 250 residents. We are a community of neighborhoods, improving and enhancing the living experience at Mayflower. Bette Kersey, Historian, sums up the Mayflower spirit well: “Mayflower Community is proof that retirement living can be interesting, creative and an opportunity to make new friendships.”

Jean Libbey

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
 Welcome to Laird Keever, new resident in Beebe, apt. #202. Laird is a UCC minister whose “Welcome to Mayflower” introduction will appear in the next LOG. In the meantime, greet him when you see him: he enjoys people.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Welcome RICHARD WATKINS

Beebe 201

For 30 years Richard lived the motto (unofficial) of the U.S. Postal Service: “Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.”

He worked for the U.S. Postal Service carrying mail in the city of Grinnell. “Winter was, obviously, the most difficult time for the mailman,” he remembered, “but that was all a part of the job.”



Richard was born and raised in Grinnell, IA. He graduated Grinnell High School in 1949. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy following graduation, serving from 1949 to 1953. Following basic training he was assigned to a U.S. Cruiser as a radio operator. Most of his active duty was in the Pacific Area. He is a member of the American Legion, Grinnell.

(continued on page 5, column 2)

Welcome HARLEY HENRY

Buckley 310

"I'm a small town person," Harley told me. "Until I was 11, I lived in a river town in southwestern Pennsylvania, then moved to a small beach town east of Jacksonville, FL. I attended junior and senior high school there and (after 11 years of college and graduate school) took a teaching position at Macalester College, St. Paul, MN in 1966. I spent the next 35 years in the Twin Cities with some academic excursions to Chicago, England, Denmark, and Zimbabwe."

Professionally, Professor (now *emeritus*) Henry earned his BA at Kenyon College in Ohio, studied at Oxford for three years and earned his Ph. D in English at Johns Hopkins University. At Macalester, he frequently team-taught courses with historians involving the two disciplines: English and history. He has been the author of several articles dealing with works of fiction about baseball as well as the editor of the Romantics section of a large high school anthology of English literature. He has been a baseball fan (as well as a high school college player), beginning with the Cincinnati Reds, then the Cubs, and, of course, the Minnesota Twins.

Following retirement from Macalester in 1999, he returned to his hometown of Atlantic Beach, FL. He chose to join the Mayflower Community because his oldest daughter teaches Women's Studies at Grinnell.

Harley has been a life-long musician playing the clarinet and saxophone and dabbling on the guitar. He was a member of the Macalester faculty Dixieland band, the Macalester Wind Ensemble, and the St. Paul Civic Orchestra.

Harley is the father of three grown children. Daughter Astrid Henry, Associate Professor of Gender & Women's Studies at Grinnell College; daughter Else Henry, an administrator for pre-school health projects, Los Angeles, and son Axel, a Commander in the St. Paul, MN Police Department.

Harley laughed as he re-counted how the children "worked and conspired together" to get him to move to Mayflower. "I'm glad they did. After I get settled in, I hope to do some volunteering, particularly hosting some film series. I am a big movie fan and enjoy getting folks to watch a movie then talk about their experience of it. As a teacher, my joy has always been to stimulate others to talk about what interests them."



Beryl Wellborn

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

MRA BY-LAWS REVISED AND UPDATED

At the October, 2010, Town Meeting of the Mayflower Residents Association, By-Laws revisions were approved. The MRA Executive Committee sent the recommendations to the Town Meeting for action. Revisions were suggested by Jeanette Tisdale, President; Phil Kintner, President-elect; and Duane Meyer, Past President; the persons holding those offices will in the future become a permanent committee to keep the By-Laws current.

The main changes to the By-Laws were:

1. Officers and chairs of standing committees shall have voting privileges at the Executive Council meetings. Formerly only officers were authorized to vote, according to the By-Laws.
2. Terms of officers and committee chairs: President and President-elect shall be one year; terms of all other officers shall be three years.
3. Institutes an annual auditing procedure of the MRA budget.

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

Welcome SELVA LEHMAN

Montgomery 6

The Rev. Selva Reissig Lehman, native of Argentina, graduated from the University of Buenos Aires with a MA Degree in Chemistry, 1955. She



earned a Master of Divinity degree from Hartford Seminary. Hartford, CT, 1964, Selva was ordained in the United Presbyterian Church, the first ordained woman in that Presbytery, and was soon serving as Assistant Director of the Greater Hartford Council of Churches.

Rev. Lehman moved to Iowa in 1967, where she received standing as a Minister in the United Church of Christ. She served as Supply Pastor at various Iowa UCC churches. For eight years she served as Chaplain for the Madrid Home for the Aging, Madrid, IA. While there she started her ministry as a Specialist, Intentional Interim Minister, within the Iowa Conference. Her ministry opened doors for other Clergywomen to be accepted in Iowa churches.

Selva and her late husband, Harold, who farmed near Alleman, IA, were very active in the UCC church. They hosted international students and many international visitors. The Lehmans served as Area Representatives and Host Parents for high school and university students. They were awarded the Dorothy L. Town Award for outstanding service to building bridges of understanding throughout the world. Following Harold's death in 1990, Selva moved to Ames, IA.

Pastor Lehman was a member of various UCC Boards: Homeland Ministries, CROP/CWS World Service, the General Board of the National Council of Churches, the Mayflower Board. She traveled with a group of UCC Clergywomen to Russia to dialogue with Russian Sisters to build bridges of understanding between the two countries.

She also was active in several civic organizations. The League of Women Voters honored her with the Carrie Chapman Catt Award in 2008. At present she is the LWWIA webmaster. While working with the Des Moines Area Religious Council, Selva was instrumental in creating the Food Pantry. She served as Interim Director of the Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance Cooperative whose purpose is to help low-income families.

"I enjoy, as time permits," she said, "reading, going to concerts, theater and indulging in my hobby of pottery. I'm a member of Creative Art Studios of Ames." She added, "I am still on the Board of the Ames Town and Gown Chamber Music. I love music."

The Reissig family was forced to leave their native land by the military dictatorship of Juan Peron. Selva worked as a chemist but her work volunteering among Spanish speaking families led her on her faith journey to becoming a minister.

Their family was terribly disrupted. But how fortunate the Reissig's chose the United States for their new home. Selva continues to serve the people of Iowa and those of her adopted country with distinction and caring.

Beryl Wellborn

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

SOME INTERESTING STORIES OF 2010 AT THE MAYFLOWER COMMUNITY!

Motion-sensitive lights in central campus bathrooms—these fixtures are a leap forward in saving electricity, installed by Facilities Management staff and underwritten by some caring residents!

Volunteering at Mayflower!—the "Last 10 Years Committee" sought the number of residents who volunteer at Mayflower. Specifics are not yet available, but a conservative estimate has arrived at about 135. This does not take into account those who volunteer in other community organizations, with family, and in their local churches. Residents are involved in many aspects of our Mayflower, and wider, community.

Welcome CHARLES AND WILMA ZIEGENMEYER

Edwards 1

The State Fair in Des Moines in 1976 was a lucky fair for Wilma and Charles. At one of the booths chances to win a trip to London were being drawn. And, yes, Wilma won! Later, son Daniel surprised the Sm on their 40th Wedding Anniversary with a trip to the Hawaiian Islands.

“That was the extent of our distant travels, but both trips were great,” Wilma said, smiling as she recalled those days.

Another time they remembered, about which we all laughed, was Wilma’s telling how she and Charles met. “A girl friend and I attended a high school football game here in Grinnell. After the game we decided to jump over a barrier rather than go out the gate. We jumped. I landed in the lap of this man sitting in a chair. I didn’t know him, nor did he know me.”

“We introduced ourselves,” Charles added. “I also explained that I was sitting there because I was one of the persons who had raised the flag before the game and would be lowering the flag following the game.” Charles continued, “It was about a year later before I asked Wilma for a date.” He wasn’t too late—Charles and Wilma Stoker were married in April, 1953.

Both lived on a farm during their early lives. Both attended country school for their elementary education, Charles went to Grant 8; Wilma attended Grant 3. Both graduated from Grinnell High School.

Charles served in the U.S. Navy’s pilot training program, V5, 1943-45, which meant schooling at St. Mary’s in Minnesota and St. Mary’s in California. He served in the reserves until 1947. Charles is a member of the American Legion.

Charles returned to the farm after his active service. He worked for Rudkin Feed, Grain and

Hatchery for a short time, then was employed by Donaldson Company, Inc. full-time for thirty years and after retiring, part-time for eight years.

Wilma completed a year’s nursing training and taught self-physical therapy to students and to adults enrolled in adult education. She also conducted physical exercise classes for residents at Mayflower Home for 30 years.

They are parents of three grown sons: Steven, Grinnell, IA; Daniel (Teresa), Grinnell, IA; and Matthew (Carrie Lee), NC. There are also 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Wilma always had a vegetable garden—canning much of its produce—and flowers to enjoy. She found time to do some craft work, particularly with jewelry. They both like to play cards and watch their favorite TV programs.



Beryl Wellborn

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

(Watkins, continued)

Their daughter, Tonya Tunnick lives in Des Moines, IA. Richard and Johanna enjoy four grandchildren.

During their active years, Richard and Johanna did quite a bit of traveling in the United States. He’s pleased that now he can travel vicariously and enjoy other programs via television.

Johanna Watkins is his wife. When his health was good, he and his wife lived on an acreage east of Grinnell. Richard enjoyed keeping the grass mowed and the trees trimmed.

Beryl Wellborn

Welcome EVA STORY

Altemeier 102

To Iowa City, IA, to Malcom, IA, to Grinnell, IA, to Holt, MO, back to Grinnell...that's the route



Eva took to get to the Mayflower from her home in Glen Ullin, North Dakota. She and her late husband, Earl Story, lived 53 years in Malcom prior to their moving to Grinnell.

Born and raised in Glen Ullin, ND, Eva graduated Sacred Heart High School in Glen Ullin. Following graduation, she was working as a server in a restaurant where she met her future husband. "Earl was a mechanic. He was responsible for the big machines used in the construction of the dam being built at Garrison (ND), keeping them operational," Eva said. They married in 1948, and after living in Iowa City for two years, moved to Malcom, Earl's hometown.

Eva is blessed with six daughters and one step-son: Tru Ann (Wayne) Chase, TX; Donna Story, Richmond, MO; June (Greg) Golden, Holt, MO; Robin (Steve) Pollock, Grinnell, IA; Angie Story, Brooklyn, IA; Alison Lentz, Kearney, MO; and Phillip (Gigi) Meyers living in North Carolina. There are 12 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. "Not to mention the many times I "doggie sat" their many dogs," Eva chuckled.

"What did you do to keep busy?" (To my surprise she didn't throw a pillow at me.)

"Well, I always liked children, so in addition to caring for my own, I would 'baby sit' for other people...especially those whose mothers worked outside the home. And I continued working some of the time at nearby restaurants." Eva continued, "I was active in my church. We would visit relatives,

fortunately they were in the mid-west. I wasn't a good traveler."

The family has always played board games. "Grammy, play a game with me," one of her grandchildren will say upon arrival. Eva laughed as she told about how when the grandchildren were real young and didn't understand the rules, grandmother would let them win. But as they got old enough to understand the rules, they didn't always win which took some getting used to. But they liked to play the games so always winning ceased to be an issue.

Eva worked in Housekeeping at Grinnell College for 22 years. She has been a greeter at Wal-Mart. But, now, in addition to playing board games with grandchildren, she reads, does some embroidering and, smiling, she added, "I have to go to Malcom to visit relatives and friends, at least twice a week."

Beryl Wellborn



Welcome JOANN ORR

Beebe 211

When the President of Iowa's Senate gaveled the senate of the 65th General Assembly to order in 1973, the 36th Senate District (basically, Iowa and Poweshiek Counties) was represented by Joann Yessler Orr of Grinnell, IA. She served two terms, ending with the 68th General Assembly, 1980. Joann was one of four women serving in Iowa's Senate during her two full terms. (She finished the last year



(continued on page 7, column 1)

(Joann Orr continued)

of Mr. Ken Benda’s term prior to being elected to a full term. Before Ken’s death, he was a resident of Mayflower.)

Joann was born and raised in Cedar Rapids, IA. After graduating McKinley High School, she earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Music Education from Oberlin College Conservatory of Music. She did graduate studies at Chicago Teachers College and the University of Iowa. She also taught music in the Cedar Rapids and Chicago schools.

Following her work in education, Joann went to New York City to find work. She was employed by a firm owned by the brother-in-law of another young man, Carl Orr. “Neither of us was very excited about dating, but friends insisted we have at least one date,” Joann recalled. “But after the first date...well, you guessed it, we soon married.”

In 1952, they purchased Lang’s Dairy, Grinnell, IA. “It was the best move we ever made. I worked in the office. Finding new customers, doing the billing and other general office work were my responsibilities.”

In 1966, Carl bought All-Star Ford of Grinnell. Before I could ask, Joann began smiling and said, “No, I never became a car salesperson.”

During her active years, Joann not only served in Iowa’s General Assembly, she was active in several civic organizations. Two of the more important ones were the League of Women Voters and Poweshiek County’s Mental Health Center.

“We traveled back to New York City because that’s where Carl’s family lived and we spent at least fifty winters in Florida. We did some other traveling in the United States. I still enjoy theater, concerts, speakers and I read.”

“Oh, yes,” she called to me as I was about to leave. With a big grin Joann said, “You know, I am a Unitarian-Universalist but they let me sing in the UCC Church choir!”

Beryl Wellborn

(Howig’s continued)

Debbie (Paul) Pohlson, Grinnell, IA; Jodie (Randy) Kelley, Marion, IA; and Robert “Bob” (Linda) Howig, Sunnyvale, TX, are their children. Ethel and Don also get to enjoy five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The Howig’s became Grinnell residents in 1956. Don was national sales manager for Miracle Playground. He later established his own business. Ethel and Don played golf and tennis. They traveled in Europe, Prince Edward Island, Mexico and “the beautiful Black Hills of SD.” The Howig family is active in St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

Don coached women’s softball at Grinnell College. Ethel always had a vegetable garden. “My garden also attracted rabbits and an occasional opossum,” she remembered. Her flowers were prolific. She is also a knitter.

We still don’t know if Ethel had to buy popcorn and soda with her own money at that first ball game...we’ll hope she got a hamburger & fries at game’s end.

Beryl Wellborn

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

INTERESTING STORIES (continued)

Monitoring speed on First Avenue—A few residents, recognizing the risk of fast-moving vehicles along First Ave., and the many residents who cross that street daily between Broad and State Streets, sought reduction of risk to persons and cars. The Grinnell police cooperated, placing an electronic speed recording device in the parking along the street, and handed out warning tickets to drivers as necessary.

We are reminded the speed limit, not posted along the street, is 25 mph. Even though Mayflower’s effort, including Executive Director Robert Mann’s participation, was an effective awareness program, we are reminded to remain alert to the traffic and to our speed

Welcome DONALD AND ETHEL HOWIG

Altemeier 203



There she stood, Ethel Linkletter, on the steps of her apartment building. There he stood, Don Howig on the same steps. She was talking to a girl friend. Then she heard: "How would you like to go with me to a baseball game in Adel?" (I don't know this guy, but why not go.) "That would be fun," she replied. "I'll get you a free ticket," he added.

Thus began a 60 year-plus romance, officially beginning at their wedding in 1960.

Don, born and raised in Chicago, had been drafted by the New York Yankees which meant a possible professional baseball career. The Korean War and the draft caused a change in plans. (He did play semi-pro ball) He came to Drake University in 1945 and graduated from Iowa State University in 1950 in engineering. The U.S. Corps of Engineering put him to work teaching engineering at Ft. Belvoir, VA.

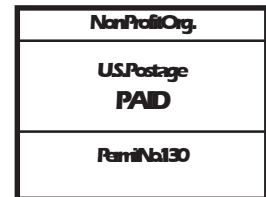
Ethel Linkletter was a citizen of Canada, starting life in Winnipeg. She moved with her parents to Cedar Rapids, IA. Her elementary/secondary education was completed in Cedar Rapids. She enrolled at the University of Iowa, studying sociology, then worked in Des Moines, IA. After she and Don married she worked at the George Washington Hospital in Washington, DC, while Don was stationed at Ft. Belvoir.

(continued page 7, column 2)

-8-



616 Broad Street
Grinnell, Iowa 50112
<http://www.mayflowercommunity.org>



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

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