



## A Child's Memory of Christmas *by Susie Ward*

A bright, full moon shone on the silvery fields of snow behind our little house in Ohio. Christmas was in the air. My heart was filled with awe and wonder as I looked out the frosted windows into the crystal night. Little girl's dreams of Christmas presents during the Great Depression were limited but ever hopeful.

Holiday preparations began in our little 4-room school. For weeks, our visiting music teacher would lead us in singing Christmas carols. Our writing lessons consisted of copying 4 verses of familiar carols from the blackboard. Just before vacation, our giant Christmas tree would be all aglow with lighted candles. Miss Cameron, our teacher, kept an anxious eye on the candles during the program. The Christmas story was read from the Bible, carols were sung, and each child received a little box of hard candy. How grateful we were for this little gift!

Our father, farmer and electrician, was a real "Bah humbug". He had to work so hard he never learned to enjoy life. My mother, sister and I waited each year for the moment he would finally decide to go into the woods to cut a fir tree. It was a magic moment when the scratchy little symbol of Christmas was gaily decorated. I often looked up into the jagged green branches and imagined myself a part of the great tree.

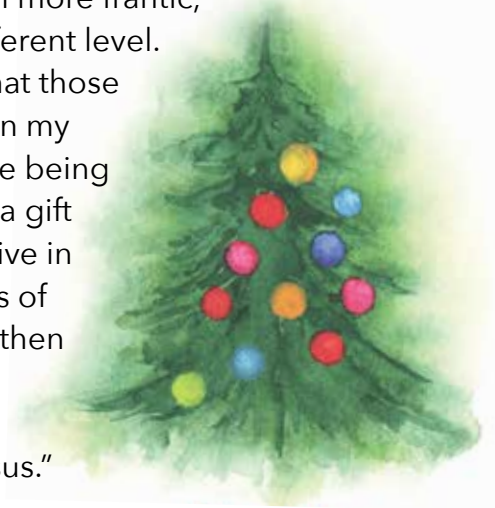
On Christmas Eve, we read the Bible account of the Nativity. Our caroling always ended with "Silent Night". We could hear the soft rustle of

tissue paper and knew SOMEBODY was out there. We didn't dare venture out of our warm beds. The thoughts of the bitter cold of the linoleum floor was enough to keep us under cover. Besides, we did want to scare HIM off.

Christmas morning brought my sister and me into the bright, cold living room. Mother busied herself with starting up the now dead fire in the old pot-bellied stove. As she poked the ashes, we carefully emptied the contents of our stockings. There was the predictable orange and a piece of candy. "You'd better get something on your feet," Mother gently reminded. There was always a doll for each of us, a pair of pajamas or a gown perhaps. Each year we got the latest edition of "The Bobbsey Twins," which we loved to have read while being rocked.

Those were gentle, loving times for us. In the difficulty of mere survival, I'll never know how my Mother managed, but she gave of herself, and we knew we were very loved. Today the struggle for survival is even more frantic, although on a different level.

I am so grateful that those values held dear in my own childhood are being carried on. What a gift I continue to receive in hearing the voices of my own children, then my grandchildren singing "Happy Birthday, dear Jesus."



# Changes in the *Villager*

The first Carolina Village newsletter was published on August 30, 1974. It was a 3 x 5 publication consisting of 4 pages. As the Village grew, the publication increased in size and information. Later on color copy was added to the front page. Over the last 6 months, the Villager Committee and Administration has reviewed options to make the *Villager* environmentally friendly and economic. In October 2017 the HUB was introduced and became a new tool of communication for the Village. It provided the most updated information about events, residents, and staff.

A large amount of the information in the *Villager* is now being disseminated via the HUB. As a result, this edition of the monthly publication of the *Villager* will come to an end.

Beginning in 2018, the monthly publication will not occur, but the information will still be available in different formats.

- On a monthly basis you will receive a "Meet your Neighbor" flyer in your pigeonhole. This will feature any new neighbors who have moved into the Village.
- On a weekly basis the "week at a glance" activity calendar will be printed and available on the counter near the mailboxes and pigeonholes. The upcoming weeks' activities will be available each Friday morning.
- We plan to publish a physical copy of the *Villager* 2-3 times annually. Over time the *Villager* has evolved into a dynamic tool of communication. The HUB has provided a different way to communicate and is the next step in this great journey. We trust that each resident will continue to enjoy the *Villager* and take advantage of the HUB as well.

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## Amahl and the Night Visitors

A special Christmas opera has been scheduled at 6pm on Sunday, December 17th. "Amahl and the Night Visitors." Amahl is a crippled shepherd boy near Bethlehem who sees a star, then welcomes the Three Kings before being miraculously healed.

Commissioned by NBC, this short work by Gian Carlo Menotti was the first opera written for television. Its live presentation in 1951 was the debut performance of the Hallmark Hall of Fame. It is family-friendly, with an English libretto by the composer. Please invite your friends and family to view this video (including a short performance of Christmas music by a boys' choir) in the Village Hall. The opera series organized by Mary Tims probably will resume in January.

# A Memorial Garden For Carolina Village

by Chaplain Don Taws

Some of the folks here at the Village have expressed an interest in having a place to place the ashes of a loved one who has died. A spot where friends and relatives can come for a time of quiet reflection of sweet remembrances.

Well, plans are underway for such a place. It will be in a quiet spot just up the hill from the E building. We plan to have a shaded area with benches and a large plaque on which the names of the loved ones will be engraved.

We have engaged a company that does landscaping here to present a plan and an estimate of cost. We hope that the folks here will respond to this and donate to the cost of landscaping etc.

Our Garden Committee decided that they will match any gifts up to \$4,000! More information will be forthcoming as we begin the planning. Contributions can be made to the Village with the notation that it is for the Memorial Garden.

The pictures here are from a nearby church to give an idea of what it will be like.

Let me know if you want to help in the planning.



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## Coming Soon • PRN SOCIAL TIME

Exclusive membership limited to those who can converse intelligently about blood, guts, death, bodily functions, laugh hysterically and devour awful tasting food all at the same time.

Intrigued? Curious? Details to follow in 2018.

# Highlights of Residents Council Meeting - Nov, 2017

*submitted by Austin Hurley*

Austin Hurley opened the meeting with prayer.

A MOTION was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2017 meeting as written.

**Treasurer's Report** - Pauline presented the November Financial Statement dated November 8, 2017, and the Income & Disbursement Statement for the period November 1, 2016 to October 31, 2017. A MOTION was made and seconded to approve the October 2017 Financial Statement and the November 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017, Income & Disbursement Statement as presented. Motion approved.

**Comment Cards** - Shanti Kudva - Comment cards (1) can be completed on the CV Hub and (2) can be used for all services, events, facilities, etc. - not only dining. Entry on the CV Hub is preferable to hand written cards which must be manually entered into the Hub in order to generate charts and sort data.

- Dietary Compliments - 20  
Many received for chili soup, veal liver, blueberry pecan salad, seafood and service by our wait staff.
- Complaints - 13
- Suggestion was made to replace bulbs in Dining Room chandeliers.

## Old Business

### Employee Appreciation Fund- Jeanne Reno

- Posters will continue to be relocated each week.
- Letters are to be sent to residents as well as those with power of attorney serving a resident currently.
- Christmas Cards are on hand to be addressed.
- Nona Schmook is arranging refreshment donations for the Employee Christmas Party December 14.
- Christmas Party - Thursday, December 14th for presentation of the gifts (348 employees). The event will be held in two sessions - one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Times to be determined.

### The Villager

- Last issue of The Villager in its current form will be December of this year.
- The Hub replaces about 80% of the information contained in the publication.
- Another publication will be available two or three times a year with special articles.
- Biographies will be printed and be made available via resident pigeon holes.
- Wait-listed individuals will have limited access available to The Hub.

- When residents in the new construction have moved in, a special edition of biographies will be printed.
- A weekly calendar (Sunday through Saturday) will be made available on the preceding Friday and copies placed in the post office areas.

Volunteer Opportunities assignment sheet was reviewed and updated. A copy will be put on The Hub.

Letter has been posted requesting residents contact their Congressional Representative and Senator regarding the proposed deletion of tax deductions for medical expenses and the elimination of tax exempt financing for new construction and improvements for facilities such as Carolina Village.

Alternate location is being reviewed for placement of the garden sheds and equipment.

### Kevin Parries and Jon Renegar Update

- Fiber Optic Wi Fi - still waiting on easements.
- Dining Plan has been divided into three committees: Take-out; New menus and Dining; and front of house (wait staff, hostesses, servers, etc.). No decision will be made prior to the first of the year. Looking at food provider options available besides Sysco.
- On November 29, certain trees will be removed in the area of adjoining property with Lake Pointe Landing and some on our property.
- Audio video: Will test equipment at Pardee Foundation to determine if it's a possibility for us.
- Looking at wage increases for wait staff, housekeeping and nurses.
- Election Day (November 7th) 201 voted here at Carolina Village.

### Construction

- Met with Henderson County Tree Board to discuss replacing trees in excess of 12 inch diameter impacted by construction.
- Meet today with construction company which will begin shortly.
- Waiting for Department of Insurance approval. County is completed. Waiting on one person in Raleigh.
- Construction crew will be housed in the old part of Main Street.
- Garage owners to vacate by December 22nd. Any contents can be donated to the Endowment Fund for a future yard sale in the spring if so desired. A tax deduction letter will be provided to donors.
- Kevin will give a construction update at the next Town Hall meeting on November 14th.
- Updated power support is necessary for the two elevators by the Village Hall - awaiting. A generator has been purchased to provide emergency power to both elevators.
- Kevin and Jon attended a LeadingAge Conference in New Orleans. There were 200 education opportunities and 700 vendors in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 3 pm. The December meeting will be cancelled. If necessary, a special meeting will be called.

# HAPPY Birthday



## Birthday Party • December 20

Join us at Noon in the Dining Room

Please RSVP to Betty Hensley

828-692-6275 ext. 206

**MUST RSVP TO ATTEND**

- |                     |                   |                     |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Clint Byrd        | 15 Paddy Deich    | 22 Mary Levi        |
| 3 Elizabeth Brennan | 15 Ben Johnson    | 25 Martha Hogenboom |
| 4 Charlie Horne     | 16 Elroy Conrad   | 25 Rick Houston     |
| 5 Georgia Hemenway  | 16 Betty Spraul   | 26 Jim Ballard      |
| 7 Dot Lovick        | 17 Bill Cole      | 26 Ken Calhoun      |
| 7 Stella Murph      | 17 Joyce Hallberg | 29 Pat Buck         |
| 7 Charlie Sproles   | 19 Bob Ray        | 29 Ruth Johnson     |
| 12 Catherine O'Neil | 19 Rev. Don Taws  | 30 Nancy Loss       |
| 12 Janet Spence     | 21 Charlie Lewis  | 31 Ann Destremps    |
| 13 Helen Reinhart   | 21 Lee Marquardt  | 31 Peggy Elliott    |

## December Vespers

*Submitted by Religious Life Committee*

- 3 Bob Hicks - Presbyterian  
John Bayne - piano
- 10 Major Gilliam - Salvation Army  
Salvation Army Band
- 17 Jack Presseau - Presbyterian  
Anita Robertson - piano
- 24 Don Taws - Chaplain  
Virginia Lancaster - piano
- 31 Lester Vier - Congregational  
Louise Vier - piano

## Happy Anniversary

- 11 Jim & Madge West
- 12 Ron & Roxana White
- 19 Bill & Barbara Clark
- 19 Buddy & Nancy West
- 20 Frank & Ellen Shaw
- 23 Louis & Judith Santiago
- 26 David & Omie Sitton
- 26 Jim & Jinny Vallar

## In Memoriam



- |                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Russell Milliken      | 10-29 |
| Katherine Wylde       | 10-26 |
| Christine Folwell     | 11-2  |
| Ruth Tillman          | 11-2  |
| Frances Munk          | 11-13 |
| Eleonore Stabler-Camp | 11-17 |
| Jennie Adams          | 11-24 |



## In-Village Special Activities

- 5 Tu Fletcher Chorus, VH, 7pm
- 7 Th Reading Buddies, Ed. Room, 9:30-10:30 am
- 7 Tu Kevin's Town Hall, VH, 2pm
- 12 Tu Computer Class, Ed. Room, 2pm
- 19 Tu Bill Moody, In Concert, VH, 7pm
- 24 Su Yule Log Burning, Fireplace Lounge  
Readings and Music Bill Moody, 7pm
- 27 We Pam & John, Travel Cuba, VH, 7pm
- 31 Su Bingo in the New Year, VH, 7pm

No Seeing Impaired Meeting in Dec.



## Out-of-Village Trips

- 2 Sa Carolina Concert Choir, BRCC,  
depart 2:15 pm, Ticket \$22.00
- 3 Su Hendersonville Community Band,  
depart 2:15 pm
- 9 Sa Hendersonville Symphony,  
depart 2:15 pm
- 13 We Christmas Light Tour,  
depart 6 pm

## Saturday Night Movies

7pm in Village Hall

- 2 Two Weeks Notice
- 9 The Guilt Trip
- 16 Christmas Around The World
- 23 No Movie
- 30 The Family Stone

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## Tuesday Entertainment For December

Here are the two dates for the special Tuesday Evening Entertainment for December:

December 5 - The Fletcher Chorus will be at Carolina Village to help us get in the holiday mood. Always a favorite group, they will be bringing a large chorus of wonderful voices singing popular music of the season. You won't want to miss this evening of delightful entertainment!

December 19 - We will welcome back our long-time friend, Bill Moody, as he sings classical Christmas music for us. If we aren't in the holiday mood by then, we are sure to be after this hour of music!

Be sure to check the schedule for other events happening in December. Betty Hensley, Activities Director for Carolina Village, has made plans for our traditional evenings of fun on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve! Except for December 19, we will also have an opportunity to be entertained by the Reader's Theater group in the Fireplace Lounge during the week before Christmas.

# DECEMBER



Be alive as long as you live!

Emotional Wellness

Environmental Wellness

Intellectual Wellness

Nutritional Wellness

Physical Wellness

Social Wellness

Spiritual Wellness

Vocational Wellness

ACR = Arts & Crafts Room

AR = Aerobics Room

CDR = Card Room

CH = Chapel

CFR = Conference Room

DR = Dining Room

EC = Education Center

FE = Front Entrance

FPL = Fireplace Lounge

CCMR = Care Center

Magnolia Room

PA = Parlor

PPR/LDR = Ping Pong Room

Line Dancing Room

TH = Media/Theater Room

TP = Therapy Pool

VH = Village Hall

YB = Youngblood Business Office

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<p>11am: Quaker Worship Group (Med Center Activity Room) <span style="float: right;">3</span></p> <p>Dep 2:15pm Hendersonville Community Band (FE)</p> <p>3:45pm: Vespers (VH)</p>	<p>10am: Education Committee Meeting (EC) <span style="float: right;">4</span></p> <p>2pm: Adult Coloring Workshop (ACR)</p> <p>2:30pm: Health Series- Stay Fit As You Age (TH)</p>	<p>9am: Dr. Ellis, psychologist (Apt 187)</p> <p>10am: Art Series- Art of the Northern Renaissance (TH)</p> <p>2pm: Science Series- Grass Australia's Megafauna (TH)</p> <p>2pm: Wreath Workshop (A)</p> <p>7pm: Fletcher Chorus (VH)</p>
<p>11am: Quaker Worship Group (Med Center Activity Room) <span style="float: right;">10</span></p> <p>3:45pm: Vespers (VH)</p> <p>5pm: Resident Christmas Party (VH)</p>	<p>2 pm: Greeting Cards w/ Eve (ACR) <span style="float: right;">11</span></p> <p>2:30pm: Health Series- Stay Fit As You Age (TH)</p>	<p>9am: Dr. Ellis, psychologist (Apt 187)</p> <p>10am: Art Series- The Ba Collection- Post Impress Art (TH)</p> <p>2pm: Computer Club (E)</p> <p>2pm: Science Series- Mammoths, Mastodons, the Quest to Clone (TH)</p>
<p>11am: Quaker Worship Group (Med Center Activity Room) <span style="float: right;">17</span></p> <p>3:45pm: Vespers (VH)</p>	<p>2pm: Adult Coloring Workshop (ACR) <span style="float: right;">18</span></p> <p>2:30pm: Health Series- Stay Fit As You Age (TH)</p> <p>7 pm: Reader's Theater (FPL)</p>	<p>9am: Dr. Ellis, psychologist (Apt 187)</p> <p>7pm: Entertainment- Bill Moody in Concert (VH)</p>
<p>11am: Quaker Worship Group (Med Ctr Activity Room) <span style="float: right;">24</span></p> <p>3:45pm: Vespers (VH)</p> <p>7pm: Christmas Eve Yule Log and Reader's Theater (FPL)</p>		
<p>11am: Quaker Worship Group (Med Ctr Activity Room) <span style="float: right;">31</span></p> <p>3:45pm: Vespers (VH)</p> <p>7pm: Bingo in the New Year (VH)</p>	<p>6pm: Christmas Day Reader's Theater (FPL)</p>	



WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



			1		2
			10am: Caregiver's Support Group 1:30pm: Knit & Crochet (ACR) 7 pm: Mark Twain Series (VH)		Dep 2:15pm: Carolina Concert Choir- BRCC (FE) 7 pm: Movie, Two Weeks Notice (VH)
5	6	7	8	9	
10:30am: Carolina Village Singers practice (PA) 11am: Healing Service w/ St. James (CH) 2pm: Religion Series- World's Greatest Churches (TH)	9am: Dr. Ellis, psychologist (Apt 187) 9:30am: Reading Buddies (EC) 10:30am: AAA Supplement (TBA) 10:30am: Bible Study (VH) 1pm: No Matinee (EC) 2pm: Kevin's Town Hall Meeting (VH) 7pm: Wellness Symposium- Fall Prevention (VH)	1:30pm: Knit & Crochet (ACR) 7 pm: Mark Twain Series (VH)	Dep 2:15pm: Hendersonville Symphony (FE) 7 pm: Movie, The Guilt Trip (VH)		
12	13	14	15	16	
10:30am: Carolina Village Singers practice (PA) 2pm: Religion Series- World's Greatest Churches (TH) Dep 6pm: Christmas Light Tour (FE)	9am: Dr. Ellis, psychologist (Apt 187) 10:30am: Bible Study (VH) 1pm: Movie, Catch Me If You Can (TH) 2pm: Conversational Spanish (EC) 2pm: Reader's Theater Rehearsal (PA)	1:30pm: Knit & Crochet (ACR) 7 pm: Mark Twain Series (VH)	7 pm: Movie, Christmas Around the World (VH)		
19	20	21	22	23	
12pm: December Birthday Party (DR) 7pm: Reader's Theater (FLP)	9am: Dr. Ellis, psychologist (Apt 187) 10:30am: Bible Study (VH) 1pm: Movie, American Ballet Theater "The Nutcracker" (TH) 7pm: Reader's Theater (FLP)	1:30pm: Knit & Crochet (ACR) 7pm: Reader's Theater (FLP)	7 pm: No Movie (VH) 7pm: Reader's Theater (FLP)		
26	27	28	29	30	
7pm: Pam and John Gaitskill- Travel to Cuba (EC)	9am: Dr. Ellis, psychologist (Apt 187) 10:30am: Bible Study (VH) 1pm: Movie, While You Were Sleeping (TH)	1:30pm: Knit & Crochet (ACR) 7 pm: Mark Twain Series (VH)	7 pm: Movie, The Family Stone (VH)		

# Wellness Classes & Monthly Activities

## Monday

- 9 am - Abs/Core & Flexibility w/ Louis (AR)
- 9 am - Just My Speed w/ Lynnina (Pool)
- 9:40 am - Water Tai Chi w/ Lynnina (Pool)
- 10 am - Helen's Exercise Class (VH)
- 10 am - Core and Balance w/ Lynnina (Pool)
- 10:30 am- Water Games: basketball, volleyball, beach balls (pool)
- 11:30 am - Ageless Grace® w/ Denise (VH)
- 2 pm - Playing Pool with Friends (Pool room)
- 2 pm - Strength Training w/ Laura (AR)
- 3 pm - Tai Chi Chih w/ Bev (AR)
- 6:45 pm - Bridge (Card Room)

## Tuesday

- 9 am - Water Wave Challenge w/ Lori  
All are welcome. (Pool)
- 9:30 am - Open Studio in Arts & Crafts room
- 9:30 am- Resistance strength training w/ Marian and Eileen (AR)
- 10 am - Men's Water Exercise w/ Lori (Pool)
- 10 am - Men's Book Club, first Tuesday
- 11 am - Line Dance (LDR)
- 2 pm - Stronger Seniors Exercise Video (AR)
- 2 pm - Playing Pool with Friends (Pool room)
- 2 pm - Pinochle (Card Room)

## Wednesday

- 8:30 am - Water Arthritis w/ Nancy (Pool)
- 9 am - Advanced Abs/Core w/ Laura (AR)
- 9 am - Water Exercise w/ Nancy (Pool)
- 10am - Water Core and Balance w/ Nancy (Pool)
- 10 am - Tai Chi Chih w/ Bev (AR)
- 10 am - Chess Club (Parlor)
- 11 am - Balance Class w/ Laura (VH)
- 11 am - Healing Service with St. James, first Wednesday (Chapel)

- 1:30 pm - Chaplain Sallie's "Grace-ious" Meeting with Grace Lutheran, second Wednesday (Parlor)

- 2 pm - Ping Pong (PPR/LDR)

- 2 pm - Bingo, last Wednesday (Card Room)

## Thursday

- 9 am - Abs/Core & Flexibility w/Louis (AR)
- 9 am - Just My Speed w/ Lynnina (Pool)
- 10 am - Men's Water Exercise w/ Lynnina (Pool)
- 10:30 am - Bible Study (VH)
- 11 am - Sit-n-Stretch w/Marian Soss (AR)
- 1 pm - Matinee Movie (TH)
- 2 pm - Playing Pool with Friends (Pool room)
- 3 pm - Strength Training w/Laura (AR)

## Friday

- 8:45 am - Advanced Abs and Core w/ Laura (AR)
- 9 am - Just My Speed w/ Lynnina (Pool)
- 9:15am- Resistance strength training w/ Marian and Eileen(AR)
- 9:40 am - Water Tai Chi w/ Lynnina (Pool)
- 10 am - Core and Balance w/ Lynnina (Pool)
- 10 am - Chair Yoga with Jennifer (AR)
- 1 pm - Water Weight Loss w/ Lynnina (Pool)
- 2 pm - Stronger Seniors Exercise Video (AR)
- 3 pm - Balance Class w/ Laura (VH)

## Saturday

- 10 am - Cribbage (Card Room)
- 10:30am- Chaplain's Worship Service (Magnolia Room)

## Sunday

- 10:30am- Strength training with Judith (Magnolia Room)
- 11 am - Quaker Worship Group (Med Center Activity Room)
- 3 pm - Ping Pong (PPR/LDR)
- 3:45 pm - Vespers (VH)

# Music Series Schedule

The long-running music series hosted by Robert Hudson concluded last month. Because of the holidays, no similar programs will be offered until 2018. If there is sufficient interest, Robert is willing to facilitate a series of eight sessions each on individual composers. He would begin with Mozart; the group would then select from among about a dozen other composers. If you are interested in learning about composers (possibly at 10am on Monday mornings), please notify Marguerite Martin (unit 181-D; 290-7525); she will contact Robert.

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## A Mystery Solved *by Anne Morton*

When I was about 5 years of age, my father's younger sister came to live with us, as my father was the oldest child of my grandparents and my grandmother had died, leaving six children without a mother. My father and mother were newly married with four children of their own and we welcomed this teenager to our home. Her name was Mary, and she was a lovely girl with some beautiful clothes and accessories she had acquired while living with a great aunt (my grandfather's sister). She fit right in to our family and became very close to my older sister as they were close in age. I think it was my older sister who got the bright idea of dressing me and my younger sister in the hats, shoes AND feather boa that belonged to my aunt and took our picture in the front yard in front of a car. I often looked at that picture growing up and marveling at it. Well, Mary matured, went to college and got married but maintained her closeness with my older sister. They both ended up married and living with our great aunt in Wilson, N.C. as she had a big house and she was a widow with no children. As time went on and World War II was taking place, Mary became pregnant, she developed a problem and died like her mother, in childbirth. Her husband, still young and handsome, took off and was never heard from again. Since the baby had also died, there was no reason for him to keep in touch with the family.

Some 70 years later, in Carolina Village, as I devoured a delicious breakfast with two women I had never met before, one woman spoke the name Maynard Turner to her friend and I was aroused to hear that familiar sound. Upon further questioning her about it, I found out that she had gone with this man for 19 years and never married him. He still remained prominent in her mind, as her memory faded. It seems that Maynard had fled from Wilson after Mary's death and created the mystery that existed in my family all these years. With the exception of my younger brother and a cousin, no one is here to appreciate the story. Maynard died at age 98 in 1994.

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## Your generosity enhances this community

Carolina Village is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that depends on the generosity of our residents and the community to enhance the lives of all current and future Villagers. Find out all the ways to support the Village throughout the year, contact Phyllis Smith at (828) 692-6275 ext. 274 or [psmith@carolinavillage.com](mailto:psmith@carolinavillage.com).



Carolina Village is a non-profit 501(c)3

# The High Bridge over Green River *by Jim Brittain*

A published inventory of historic engineering and industrial sites in North Carolina listed the Green River Bridge on Highway 176 as the only bridge in Henderson County. It was described as a rib-arched reinforced concrete bridge with four approach spans and three main spans. The overall bridge length was 584 feet with a main span length of 185 feet.

The so-called "High Bridge" was constructed during 1927-28. An article in the Hendersonville Times-News of April 18, 1928 reported that the "engineering marvel" had just been completed. According to the article, it had cost about \$113,000 and had "unique characteristics" intended to avoid the need for expensive excavation. The bridge had been designed by W.F. Hunter, a state engineer. The Times-News of April 26, 1928 announced that the "high bridge would open at 8a.m. Sunday and that large crowds were expected. The article mentioned that construction begun June 6, 1927. The newspaper headline on April 29, 1928 was "High Bridge Opens to Traffic." The story mentioned that two workmen had died due to accidents during construction. It was reported that more than 3000 cars from 22 states crossed the bridge on opening day.

In the summer of 1937, the High Bridge became the site of a controversial death. The victim was a 12-year-old girl, Gloria Jane. At the time, her mother was married to her third husband, who was much younger than she. Gloria Jane had attended a girl's camp in Henderson and her mother and stepfather had come to take her back to their home in Indiana, but before starting the trip home, the stepfather took the girl on a short drive to Saluda. On the way back they had stopped to throw rocks from the bridge into at the gorge below. According to the stepfather, he had left the girl and walked to the end of the bridge to collect more small stones. He stated later that Gloria had disappeared by the time he returned to the center of the bridge. He had then seen her lifeless body on the rocks under the bridge. The



girl's mother subsequently accused him of molesting the child and throwing her from the bridge to conceal the crime. A few days after the event, the stepfather was arrested and jailed without bond. He retained two well-known local lawyers to represent him in the matter. After a coroner's jury had heard the evidence on September 1, 1937, the county solicitor concluded that there was some suspicious evidence but not enough to convict. The stepfather was released and the episode remained a mystery.

By the late 1900s, the state's Department of Transportation engineers determined that the old bridge should be replaced. The Times-News reported in its edition of November 13, 1999 that a new replacement bridge costing about 3.75 million dollars would be completed in June of 2001. When work crews on the new bridge cleared trees and brush near the East end of the project, it was said to have opened up a "breathtaking view" of the old bridge as well as of the large cypress-wood pipe that ran under the bridge carrying water from a dam to a power plant downstream. Before the new bridge was opened, the Mayor of Saluda launched a campaign to save the old bridge, and numerous local residents signed a petition urging preservation. The County Commissioners also joined the preservation effort.

The new Highway 176 Bridge opened for traffic on May 31, 2001. By then, the State Department of Transportation had decided to spare the old high bridge and renovate it so that it could be used safely by pedestrians and bicyclists. A small parking lot was installed to provide easy access to those wanting to enjoy the view.



# Welcome to Carolina Village



## Hilda Roberts

Hilda was the Secretary for the Dean of Engineering at Clemson. A conference was planned about animal research. She remembered Jim Roberts, a urology professor at Tulane Medical School, was doing research on monkeys. Hilda told the Dean who said to invite Professor Roberts to present his work at the conference. Jim was invited, presented his paper, met Hilda, proposed, and Professor Roberts and Hilda lived happily ever after. What a love story! They were married for 30 years.

Hilda is from Burnham in central Pennsylvania. She went to Washington, DC and was a clerical worker for the FBI. She married and lived in Maryland. She moved to Louisiana and then to Anderson, South Carolina. Hilda has 4 children. Her hobbies include water aerobics twice a week, walking, reading, social bridge and Bible study. She likes to travel. Her favorite country is Italy, especially between Lake Como and Rome. She has been to Japan, Argentina, Spain, Sweden, and France. She is scheduled to go to Greece with First Baptist Church. Much of her travel was with Jim when he presented his research work at conferences.

How did you get to Hendersonville? "Jim's best friend lived here. Twenty years ago we bought in Laurel Park," said Hilda.

Carolina Village, "I love it. Standing in my small apartment with boxes stacked to the ceiling, a sense of peace came over me and I was at home. The staff all have smiles, and work orders

are completed without delay. The food is great. Darcy, my Boston Terrier, and I are happy," said Hilda.



## Bobbie Seeman

Barbara Ann (Bobbi) was eating candy in her grammar school class. Her teacher said to eat candy in class; you must bring enough for everyone. Bobbie brought enough for everyone the next day. Her grandfather owned a candy store. Bobbi's first job was at her father's haberdashery. Her home was Camden, NJ.

Bobbi's synagogue sponsored a dance for service men and to go a girl should be 18. At 16 and a tall girl, Bobbi attended and met Mel Seeman, age 23. They dated and married when Bobbi was 19. She attended NYU, Temple, and earned a elementary education degree from Brooklyn College. Bobbi taught fifth grade for five years. She also taught remedial reading and math for special needs children. Her favorite year was teaching a pre-prison class for boys. The discipline was strong and the boys behaved.

Bobbi and Mel had three children, Howard, Eileen, and Cynthia. The favorite family activity was camping cross country using a big tent. Mel retired in 1987 and they moved to Hendersonville and bought a spec house in Cummings Cove. Bobbi attended Clown School in Georgia. Driving back with her clown tea shirt on, she was stopped by a police officer. He asked about her tea shirt and asked what she learned.

Bobbi replied, "I learned to be courteous to police officers."

Bobbi is a professional clown. She makes balloon figures and is good with puppets. She has preformed all over Hendersonville, including entertaining as a pink lady at Pardee Hospital and at various nursing homes. Her clown is Little One. She chose that name because her husband who was 6'6" and she was a mere 5'8". Bobbi sells fruit cake as a Civitan Club member and served as a clown at the Christmas meal at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

Bobbi served as a swimming instructor at summer camp. She enjoys golf, bridge, board games and reading. She has traveled the states, including Alaska, and Quebec, Canada. Bobbi is a member of Agudas Israel Synagogue. Concerning Carolina Village, Bobbi said, "the moment I walked in I felt at home." From observation, I think she gets the prize for meeting the most Carolina Village residents in the shortest time. She has a dog named Augie, who felt right at home the minute he entered their cottage.



### Jim and Madge West

Jim was born in Cincinnati, OH. His father was in the advertising

business and they moved to Los Angeles and Evanston, IL. He graduated from Northwestern University, majoring in Business Administration. Madge was born in New York City, moved to New Jersey and then Evanston, IL. She graduated from Connecticut College for Women with majors in botany, biology, and a minor in French.

They were engaged just prior to Jim's enlistment in the Army. Jim was assigned to the Army Security Far East Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan. Madge joined him in Japan and they married. Madge said, "My most exciting event was traveling alone to Japan and getting married there." While in Japan, they were able to travel and experience many fine ethnic restaurants. Tokyo is a very cosmopolitan city.

After the Army, Jim took a job with Teletype Corp. in Skokie, IL. Madge worked with Illinois Bell Telephone and a inspecting architect. They have one son, Michael. Jim and Madge were active members of the Presbyterian Church. Both sang in the choir and Jim became an Elder. He played timpani and percussion in several community bands and orchestras.

Madge and Jim moved to Carriage Park in 1996. Madge served on the social and ground maintenance committees. Jim computerized the data base of residents and owners, and maintained the first Carriage Park website. They had five rescued greyhound dogs and were part of a group placing greyhounds.

Madge's hobbies are needle point, knitting, reading, music and walking dogs. Jim's hobbies are photography, music, playing the organ and computers. They both like to travel and have been to Japan, England, Canada, and most states. "Alaska is the most beautiful state. In Denali we traveled 90 miles to the north face of Mt. McKinley," said Madge.

Their son Mike and wife Alice have eight dogs - Jim and Madge's grand dogs. Jim and Madge have a 9 ½ year old Cirneco del'Etna named Fausta. She has adapted well to CV. Do a Google and YouTube search for Cirneco. "We love it here in Carolina Village," said Jim and Madge.



## Connie Watkins

Connie was born in Boston, MA and grew up in Larchmont, NY. Both Connie's parents were Canadian so she traveled by train to Montreal many Christmases to visit her

grandmother, and spent summers on the Bay of Fundy with her cousins, with whom she had a wonderful time.

While in high school, Connie met a dashing young Marine, Charlie Watkins. His father's illness had taken the family's savings so Charlie quit high school in his senior year and joined the Marines for the GI Bill. Instead, one of his sergeants helped Charlie apply to the United States Military Academy at West Point, and even gave him enough travel money to get there. Charlie and Connie dated throughout his time at West Point and were married in December 1952. They spent the next 26 years traveling the globe as Charlie served first as an Air Defense officer and eventually on the faculty at West Point. Connie loved being an Army wife, raising their three children, Bill, Gayle, and Steve, and helping other Army families.

What was your most exciting event? "Traveling with my husband while in the Army." said Connie. "We lived in 22 homes in Boston, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Atlanta, Kansas, Hawaii, two tours at the Presidio of San Francisco in CA, and two tours at West Point, NY!" When Charlie was a battalion commander, Connie enjoyed helping the wives of the junior officers. During their final Army assignment, Charlie was the Vice Dean of West Point. As a result, they lived in a lovely set of Army quarters built in 1897; it had plenty of room for Connie to host many cadets' girlfriends on weekends.

When he retired from the Army, Charlie became President of St. John's Military Academy in Wisconsin. There Connie loved being the "away from home Mom" to 350 boys.

When Charlie retired for good, they bought a 34' motor home and traveled for two years throughout the USA and Canada. In My 1985, with the dogwood and azaleas in bloom, they visited the parents of a West Point friend in Hendersonville and fell in love. They first moved to Hawthorn Hills and in 1995, built their home in Mountain Valley with a 180-degree view of the Blue Ridge and Smokey Mountains.

Connie is thrilled to make her next move to Carolina Village, especially since two of her three children will soon be living nearby. Her youngest son, Steve will be moving into Connie's house in Mountain Valley in November. Gayle and her husband Andy moved to Highlands, NC last year. Her oldest son Bill and his wife Donna live in Jackson, WY. Connie also has two grandchildren and several "grand-dogs." Gayle raises golden retrievers, and Connie loves having puppies to play with and cuddle. Connie, a Presbyterian, enjoys traveling, gardening, sewing, reading, and the game Sudoku.

A few quotes from Connie about Carolina Village, "It's another sunny day in paradise! I enjoy being here! CV is a wonderful change from caring for my Mountain Valley home and yard. I love all other programs, especially the Tuesday night entertainment series, Laura's exercise classes, the art classes, movies and Live Dancing."



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