

At Home

Fall/Winter 2015

For Families, Friends and Neighbors of Crowell Home
245 S. 22nd Street – Blair, NE 68008 – 402-426-2177



I Remember Christmas

Goodness, Christmas is just around the corner. With our beautiful weather, so many of us are still enjoying the out-of-doors. Roses are continuing to bloom, but by the time you read this, it may have snowed!! That is the way it is in Nebraska. We thought it would be fun to ask our residents and staff what they remember about their early Christmases. What memory do you have when asked this question? Recently, many of our residents and staff replied with some interesting and wonderful responses.

S.R. and her brother would lie on their backs under the Christmas tree and look up through the branches at the beautiful lights. It was a unique way to enjoy their tree. Her Mom would comment that Dad would use the same tree each year because there was always a big empty space in the center of the tree and each year Dad would complain about how expensive the tree had been!

Kathryn Rose lived on a farm near Orchard, Neb. Her mother was a great cook and after church the family would sit down for a big meal. She especially remembers their grandmother living with them.

Ruth Bedke grew up on a farm near Ravenna, Neb. The five children and their parents would have an early morning Christmas and then the extended family would gather together for a meal and celebrate the rest of the day. If it snowed, it didn't matter be-

cause "we had horses and we could move around." "We had fun!" and, "no one got drunk or shot!"

Living in Kennard, Neb. Helen Kruse and her family were always involved in the church Christmas Eve program. Her Mother's family came for all the major holidays and she loved and looked forward to the meringue and date pudding. They had a "Charlie Brown" Christmas tree, which sported seven lights.

The "Christmas Story" was told at Shirley's church on Christmas Eve. Her Mom would sew her a new dress from material used from an old dress of her mother's. The family lived on a farm near West Point, Neb., and the extended family would come for dinner.

Mary Zysk Cordle put on her good, flowered dress and went to church. Her family baked bread and they shared the bread with the church, and even traded the bread for a Christmas tree. Christmas was made special by enjoying their meal in the dining room and as an unusual treat, the kids were allowed to play in the kitchen. Like all of us today, they would put a blanket over the kitchen table for a tent! There were four girls in the family and their gift was a single doll. But, Mom would sew four doll outfits, one for each daughter, so they could individually dress the doll! Wow, what ingenuity!

Christmas continued on page 3

Goodbye Chaplain Bob Meanor

By Bill Williard, Executive Director

I had the pleasure to hire Reverend Bob Meanor in 1994 as chaplain. He held that position for 19 years and retired in 2013 because of health issues. In order to be close to family, Reverend Bob and his wife Barbara went to a health care facility in Dodge City, Kansas.

For 19 years Chaplain Bob Meanor shepherded our flock at Crowell Home. Bob liked people and cared deeply for those he considered his flock, which was all of us. Many times Bob would tell me that being Crowell's Chaplain was the best job he ever had and that he loved working here.

Proverbs 27:17 (NIV) ~ As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

I would often go to lunch with Chaplain Bob and he would share thoughts with me that he had written down on a note card. If you had shared time with Bob, you had seen him pull out notes from his pocket. During one of the last lunches I had with him, Reverend Bob pulled out a card and started to talk about bucket lists; the things you would like to accomplish before you go to be with the Lord. I remember telling him I had something I always wanted to accomplish, but there was no way it would ever happen. Bob perked up and said, "Tell me what it is Bill. With God all things are possible." I told him, for once, "I would like to win an argument with my wife." Bob laughed and the lunch went as it usually did, him serious and me joking around. In the Bible, we are told as Christians to have fellowship with one another – so one man sharpens another. Bob was an example to me of how Jesus wants us to make a difference in the lives of those around us.

Bob's daily goal was to make life a little better for those around him. He knew and cared about people. I spoke with him a few months back and asked how he was doing. Bob said, "I'm doing great Bill, I'm in Hospice and playing my guitar for residents." Bob was always the eternal optimist. I found out this morning that Bob passed away and is now with the Lord.

Reverend Bob gave me his resume in 1994, and included his theological viewpoints:

"I have a strong belief in the Bible as the Word of God and that it gives us direction, inspiration, and guidance for our daily lives. I am able to relate well to persons on either end of the theological spectrum and allow for other points of view. I believe that God created mankind for fellowship with Him. Because mankind disobeyed, separation has come between God and man. God revealed himself through His son Jesus Christ, who taught and showed us how to live. I believe Jesus died and rose again making it possible for mankind to be reconciled to Him and to receive everlasting life. I believe God works through people led by the Holy Spirit as He gives them ideas and strength to do His work in the world."

Bob has fought the good fight, has finished this earthly race and kept the faith. He will be missed.



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245 South 22nd Street
Blair, NE 68008

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Christmas continued from page 1

Linda and her five siblings came downstairs on Christmas morning to discover lots of Christmas gifts, all wrapped in the same red and white paper! The question? Which was whose? Dad, who owned a store, had wrapped them all in the store paper. Beautiful and so much fun! They figured it out quickly!

Lois remembers her Dad bringing home the scrawny Christmas tree. The family would decorate it with lots of icicles and plastic birds. The birds would be attached to the branches and would always turn upside down, because the branches were twigs and too weak to hold the birds upright!!

Every Christmas Eve, my family would travel to Craig where our Grandma & Grandpa Deckard lived. If it snowed, it didn't matter, Dad made the drive to Craig! Terry Wulf said "We were so excited", cause Grandma always gave us such wonderful gifts. The Christmas tree was in front of the picture window and eleven cousins would gather around it. And always, there were Aunt Babe's chocolate chip bars. (Makes my mouth water to think about those!!)

We had a white-flocked Christmas tree which was illuminated by a blue, green, red, and yellow light. It would rotate and light the tree with each color. Prudy Cemer still uses the Hallmark Christmas balls her Mom collected. I remember Grandma's tree, too, which was a silver tensile tree.

You are in the barn and a barn sparrow flies towards you! "Bang!!" goes your new Daisy BB gun. The gun was a present for Bill Brass' Christmas when he was twelve years old. Bill could only use the gun in the barn, but picture how exciting it must have been and how his imagination would be in overdrive. He states, "I never put anybody's eye out!"


Deb McKain remembers a slightly different Christmas than her sister, Terry Wulf. On Christmas Day the family would travel to Decatur to Grandma and Grandpa Ford's. A huge family would gather (25 – 30 cousins) and Grandma Ford would fix a fantastic meal all prepared on the corncob cook stove.

Snowflakes are kisses from heaven and a snowman must be assembled, a lot like life. We get the building blocks and then we must sort them out and put them together in a usable and productive way!!

Merry Christmas to All!!

Christmas Gift Ideas

Buy a small journal and record your memories of Christmases past. Share the memories and family activities, show them pictures. They will love it!

- Bring stationery and help write a letter
- Christmas cards and help address the envelopes
- Postage stamps
- A Christmas cactus, small tree or plant
- Box of candy
- Large print crossword puzzle or word search books
- Large print books
- Clothing with snaps or Velcro; make sure you label items
- Comb, brush, hairpick, hand mirror, tweezers
- Non-slip slippers
- Credit in the beauty or barber shop
- Large print calendar
- Hand or body lotions
- Body wash
- Warm blankets, throws, lap robes 




110 Years of Excellent Care

by Linda Howland

In 1905, Christopher Columbus and Polly Crowell donated their mansion to the Methodist Church as a retirement home for Methodist ministers and their wives. The Crowells were from a prominent East Coast family who had made their fortune as ship chandlers, among other things. In Blair, they were in the coal and lumber business and had a town in northeast Nebraska named for them.

Over the past 110 years, the mansion has been replaced with the present-day buildings, with many updates along the way. Remodeling, a new Assisted Living wing and most recently, our brand new state-of-the-art Medicare unit. These have all enhanced Crowell Home's commitment to continue our tradition of "Excellence of Care" to the seniors of Blair, Washington County and surrounding areas.

Since 1905, our residents have been our prime focus and will continue to be well into the future. 

110 years! A lot to be proud of!!

2015 "Fabulous Fourteenth" Golf Tournament



It had rained and rained and early on September 25th there were dark clouds in the western sky. The staff and golfers were pondering, "Will it clear up? Will we be able to play golf?"

With total faith, Linda Howland, the Foundation Director and coworkers proceeded to set up the sign-in-table, door prizes and all the preliminaries for the day! And "lo" and "behold" the skies brightened and the fabulous 14th Annual Crowell Home Golf Tournament commenced. It was a "fabulous" event! Supported by 90 golfers, birdie sponsors and door prize donors, the tournament lived up to its history.

After eating delicious brisket, potato salad, beans and cookies, the golfers set off with a "shotgun" start. On each golf cart was an individual goodie bag, which included a free malt certificate from Butch's Deli, a free oil change from Country Tire and other "useful" items!

Winning the flights were:

- 1st Flight** 1st Place – Enterprise Publishing
2nd Place – Community Pharmacy
3rd Place – Roger Lorsch's team
- 2nd Flight** 1st Place – McKinnis Roofing
2nd Place – Great Plains Communication
3rd Place – Country Tire
- 3rd Flight** 1st Place – Prudy Cemer's team
2nd Place – Edward Jones
3rd Place – Roger Howland's team



These teams won a combination of cash and gift cards to the River Wilds Clubhouse. There were 65 door prizes handed-out and pin prizes were awarded on 14 holes. Roger Howland won the putting contest for a split of the money. The grand prize of the day, a 42" TV, was won by Dr. Dave Johnson.

The tournament held a silent auction and R.J. Ryan (Kelly Ryan Equipment) crafted and donated a chimenea; made from cast iron, the symbols of the Big Ten Conference were cut into the metal. It brought the highest bid by Rich Buckingham and netted \$500. River Wilds donated a golf bag, Family Fare an outdoor Dr. Pepper awning and the Drew Law Firm two tickets to the Kansas City Chiefs/ Cleveland Browns football game. Sid Dillion sponsored the Hole-in-One, with the prize being a two-year lease on a 2015 Chevrolet Impala or a Colorado pickup truck. Alas, no one won, but maybe next year!

We are grateful for all the community members and businesses that support our Golf Tournament. The proceeds of this year's tournament will be used to furnish and landscape the front patio area of Crowell Home. Residents, family members and friends will have a beautiful area in which to visit. A special thanks to all who volunteered for the day, including Tiffany Olson, Erica Bruner, Rich Buckingham, Cheston Field, Don Sorensen, Roger Howland, Russ Foust, Terry Wulf, Mimi Cemer, Allison Lorenzen, Steve Peck and Dan Russell. Thank you all for caring enough to "give your best!"

We want to give Don Sorensen a special THANK YOU. He is retiring from the Foundation Board after 14 years of service. We have been so fortunate to have had his leadership and help for so many years. Our gratitude to you Don! 🍷

Donations & Memorials

The Memorials and Donations are from
January 2015 - October 2015.

Memorials to \$99

| FOR | FROM |
|------------------------|--|
| Dolores Trumbo | Wayne & Jane Smith Kirk & Deb Hutton Steven & Connie Buller Family & Friends Kerry & Ann McKain Janice Wulf Shirley Jensen Michael & Vicki Janssen Lyle & Merry Truhlsen Rodney & Joan Weise Steven & Kimberly Huffman Roger & Judy Schulenberg Scott & Lisa Andersen |
| Darwin Herzberg | Richard & Janice Anderson Phyllis Wagoner Rex & Vicki Crosby Duane Hartstack Larrie & Lynette Palmer Searle & Sharon Kirchner Viola Sunderman John & Ann Boyd Raymond & Karen Brown Mike & Catherine Herzberg W.J. & P.J. England Tom & Janice Lippincott Joseph & Rosalie Hanson Marie Wiese Karen Anderson Brenda Lu & Gretchen Lu Larry & Lillian Smith Robert & Amy Harper Gilbert & Arbutis Backens Phyllis Karple Gary & Beth Kruse James & Barbara Sluyter Cathy Williamsen |

*"Fall - what leaves do - is a farewell."
Glenn Morris*

Memorials to \$99

| FOR | FROM |
|---------------------------|--|
| Vern Kruse | Loren & MaryBeth Cohrs Helen Kruse Harlan & Nancy Custard Sofia Sorensen Patrick & Sandra Prieb & family Mildred Lantefield Pastor Shirley Schmidt Clint & Amie Clausen Linda Olson Stephen & Sharon Skimmer Faye Dierking & Cynthia Hild Bob & Donna Autenrieth Thomas & Jane McGown Seth & Michelle Strom Larry Hansen |
| Rosemary Nelson | Jon & Lisa Timperley Scott & Suzanne Nicholson Mr. & Mrs. Truhlsen |
| Heather Tunender | Terry Wulf Bill & Prudy Cemer |
| Mildred Lantefield | Doloris Popken Ronald & Betty Andreasen Barbara Lanning & Heidi Neuhaus Daniel & Beverly Hartman Eugene & Kathleen Severens Carol McCann Family & Friends |

Memorials \$100 - \$499

| FOR | FROM |
|------------------------|---|
| Dolores Trumbo | Jean & Joan Omel Daniel & Jeanine Coffman |
| Darwin Herzberg | Kirk & Deb Hutton Robert & Elizabeth Sweeney |
| Vern Kruse | W.C. & J.E. Tallman Mari Japp |

Memorials \$100 - \$499

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Rosemary Nelson | Kevin Boston |
| Mildred Lantefield | Roger Lorsch Clayton & Nancy Sorensen |
| Sofia Sorensen | Allan & Sue Arp Clayton & Nancy Sorensen |

Memorials \$500 - \$999

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| FOR Sofia Sorensen | FROM Eugene & Kathleen Severens Dan & Bev Hartman |
| Rosemary Nelson | Norm & Karol Svoboda |
| Kelly & Mardelle Ryan | Kelly Ryan Equipment |
| Mildred Lantefield | Sydney Clausen |

Memorials \$1,000 - \$4,999

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| FOR Dolores Trumbo | FROM Family & Friends |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|

Memorials – Designated for Chapel Shades to \$99

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| FOR Gwen Rasmussen | FROM Sharon Miller Bill Rasmussen Loren & MaryBeth Cohrs James & Susan Bensen Vaughn & Clarice Christensen Mark & Kay Dickinson Thomas & Marilyn Irwin Tom & Janice Lippincott Shelly Torpy Rodney & Diane Christenson Don & Julie Sorensen David & Danielle Ladwig Paul & Shirley Emmerich Bob & Donna Autenrieth Meta Brandes Gordon & Sharon McDonald Darrell Dibben |
|-------------------------------------|---|

June Appeal to \$99

| | |
|---|---|
| FOR Shirley Gutschow Lucille Jarosik | FROM Jim & Pam Gutschow Melody Macek Lorene Hayes Carol McAlhaney John Little Lois Olsen Roger & Linda Howland Irene Champ Bill & Sydney Winstrom |
| Marlene Raymond John & Joanne Little Isabelle Vaught Wayne Anderson Roy & Clara Greider Maurice Marshall | |

Memorials – June Appeal \$100 - \$499

| | |
|--|---|
| FOR Georgia Staley Vern Kruse George Ricker | FROM Robert & Toni Shreve The Japp's JoAnn Ricker |
|--|---|

Memorials – June Appeal \$500- \$999

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| FOR Kelly & Mardelle Ryan | FROM Kelly Ryan Equipment |
|--|-------------------------------------|

Memorials – June Appeal \$1,000 - \$4,999

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| FOR Pat Wright | FROM Jess Wright |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|

Donation – to \$99 - Not Designated

Randy & Linda Homes
Roger Lorsch
Dale Lemon
Deb Kistler
Hugh & Phyllis Shields
Don & Nancy Boswell
Karen Washa
Irene Champ
Royal Neighbors of America-Chapter 1132, Kennard

Donations - \$100 - \$499 - Not Designated

Jerry & Rosalie Barabas
Monte & Julie Flynn
6-4 Porkers/Holsteins
Keith & Bonnie Taylor
Amy Schlapter
Cheston Field
Mrs. Hubert Shields
Keith & Bonnie Taylor
Amy Schlapter
Cheston & Erin Field

Donations - \$500 - \$999 - Not Designated

Riverview Grange
United Methodist Women/Blair
Michael Nelson

Donations - \$1,000 - \$4,999 - Not Designated

Katherine Koenig

Donations - \$5,000 + Not Designated

Everett & Irma Holstein

2015 Golf Tournament To \$99

Blair Real Estate

\$100 - \$499

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Two Rivers Bank | Dennis Carlson & Team |
| Roger Petersen & Team | Roger Lorsch & Team |
| Good Shepherd Lutheran Community | |
| Black Hills Energy | Don Stepanek & Team |
| Kathy & Terry Brechbill & Team | |
| Rich Buckingham & Team | Bill Williard & Team |
| Harland Construction | Abe's Trash Service |
| Wulf's Ground Maintenance | WRK Systems |
| Provider's Plus | Radloff & Associates |
| Christensen Specialty | Roger Howland & Team |

Golf Tournament \$500+

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Shonsey & Associates | Washington County Bank |
| McKinnis Roofing | Health Information Systems |
| ConStruct, Inc. | Woodhouse Auto Family |
| Community Pharmacy | McKesson |
| Edward Jones/Don Sorensen | Mutual of Omaha |
| Supply Works/Marshall Nelson | Cargill |
| RehabVisions | HCI Holdings |
| Great Plains Communications | Country Tire |

Donation - to \$99 - Therapy Unit

LeuEtta Wulbern

Thank you for your generous support to Crowell Home. Your gifts are very important. If you find an error, please contact Linda Howland at 402-426-2177.



UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

December 2 – Wayne Miller

December 8 – Blair Junior High Jazz Band

December 9 – Friendship Singers

December 12 – Christmas Tea with Classic Christine

December 15 – Christmas Pageant

– MDR - Families welcome

December 18 – Fontenelle Forest

December 22 – Merry Makers – Michael Lyon

December 30 – George & The Juniors



Crowell Home
245 South 22nd Street
Blair, NE 68008

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please check the appropriate boxes and return to Crowell Home.

I would like more information about the Home.

I would like to donate \$_____ to the Home. The money can either be specified for

_____ or go to the Foundation Fund.

This gift is in memory of

This gift is in honor of

I would like to be a volunteer at the Home.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Beneficent Giving

By Linda Howland, Foundation Director

In the Spring, the Riverview Grange will partner with Crowell Home to plant a Healing Garden in the courtyard outside of the Medicare wing. This garden will be a place for residents in the rehabilitation area of the Home to enjoy the outdoors with others, or to just sit and meditate on their own. (This is a separate area from the front patio on which we are working.)

Healing Gardens are popular areas at hospitals and rehab centers. They promote progress in patients' well-being and health. It is a fact that being outdoors with green plants and trees around enhances healing and shortens a person's time in recovery.

We already have a large, stately oak tree in this courtyard and plan to add beautiful plants, flowers and shrubs to further enrich this area for our residents' enjoyment.

If you are a nature lover, please consider sending a donation to help us make the Healing Garden a beautiful, serene place for all residents and staff to take a few minutes in their day to reflect and refresh themselves. All donations help, big or small, and we appreciate your support so much. Thank you and we all want to wish you a Blessed Holiday Season and Happy New Year! See you in the spring.