



THE CHERRY PIT

IMPOSSIBLE DREAMS ACHIEVED



Bonnie & Bill Pickens

Bill and Bonnie's meeting was an impossible dream. They first met in Goose Bay, Labrador, then were engaged via military radio from Saigon to Okinawa and married in the Philippines.

Bonnie, a Minnesota farm girl, remembers their first tractor, electricity changing farming, family members off to war and buying War Bonds from sales of pigs for her college. She loved lying on the lawn reading and dreamed the "impossible dream" of the airplanes overhead taking her to distant places. She taught senior high English, speech, and debate in Minnesota, traveling to several states during summers, and interning in Senator Humphrey's D.C. office. To satisfy the travel bug she applied to teach in the Department of Defense schools located around the world. Her first job was in Puerto Rico, then Goose Bay and Okinawa.

At an early age Bill's parents divorced; his mother and the 6 children moved to Jackson, Tennessee. During the civil rights movement, his mother taught them that we are all pink under our skin. Bill had a paper route and he learned to win at "pitching pennies" from his customer, song writer (Blue Suede Shoes) Carl Perkins. He excelled at school but at that time, college was an "impossible dream". Working as an electronics technician in the US Navy, upon discharge, Bill joined Sperry-Univac as a computer technician. He worked on military bases. First assignment was Goose Bay, then Saigon, the Philippines, Japan and Hawaii. The computers with 16 K memory were the fastest at the time. In Viet Nam they required 4 trailers to house the equipment, Bill received his college degree in Business in Hawaii.

The family moved to San Rafael, Calif. in 1977 to briefly help his sister-in-law when his older brother tragically died, they bought a home with a swimming pool which propelled them to their biggest "impossible dream!" Tired of leaves in the pool, Bill contacted the area's only automatic swimming pool cover company who basically said take it or leave it.

(continued on page 2)

By coincidence, sensing an opportunity, Bill heard of a different manufacturer of covers wanting a dealer and the Pickens started a safety pool cover business in their spare bedroom, sharing a desk and phone. Bill did sales, installation, and service, using a beat-up van. They did home shows, visited pool services and builders and soon business flourished, making it necessary to hire and expand into a building. It became the largest independent safety automatic pool cover distributor in the US, and was recognized as a leader in the industry. Their business model: Treat employees and customers with respect and fairness. They believed those who were helping make the company successful should benefit, so using open book and participatory management, it became employee owned. The company contributed its' profits to a trust distributed as company stock to employees and upon resignation or retirement, the employee could sell his stock back to the trust and take a cash payment. The company won many awards for its ESOP and Bill and Bonnie spoke frequently at national and international conventions about their company.

In 2002, they retired in northern San Diego County and became active volunteers in the Fire District and Homeowners' Association - Bill as Membership Chairman, Bonnie as Treasurer and President. They enjoyed many riverboat and ocean cruises and trips to Portland to visit their daughter Pam and family.

In 2016, they found their last "impossible dream" - CherryWood!

Submitted by Lauralee Ware, Orchards



MAGICIAN DICK BARRY'S magic class. Join us at 2pm on Monday, April 15th in the Boardroom. Bring paper & pen for notes. OK to come and just watch, just don't tell.



CHERRY BLOSSOM MEALS ON WHEELS

Delivery Drivers & Dining room helpers wanted.

Make a difference in a senior's life by volunteering

2 hour commitments - Background check required.

Located in the East Portland Community Center - 740 SE 106th Avenue

Please call 503.953.8104 for more information.

Let them know you saw this in the Cherry Pit.



As we enter into this April together, let us be grateful for the amazing relationships that we have with one another. The friendly warm atmosphere of CherryWood Village is often the main attraction that brings people to call it home and sets us apart from all the others. Why is that? Well I would propose that it is because of the Residents, Staff and our Mission. Our mission says, “Enhancing lives and celebrating the excitement of living” and it is our desire that both Residents and Staff fully embrace this as a collective purpose! When we mutually attempt to enhance each other’s lives through the big and the little things. By doing this, just maybe, we can bring a little excitement into each other’s lives. As you know, living in a senior housing community is not always considered fun and certainly not easy. Most of you have experienced incredible loss and grief. That said, our neighbors, friends and staff might just need a little mission stimulation! So let’s make today a great day and enhance one another’s lives, because we never know when we will have to say goodbye.

On a different note, please know that we continue to make headway on some large capital investment plans. Carpet and paint colors have been picked out for some upgrades to the Wynridge and Greens buildings. More details will be shared at the next Town Hall regarding these enhancements.

Sincerely,
Ole Lindbo
Senior Executive Director



BOOK REVIEW

Jewelweed by David Rhodes

A second novel by David Rhodes centered in the Driftless region of SW Wisconsin, following his earlier novel “Driftless” by about 10 – 15 years. It is not quite a sequel, although it does have several of the “Driftless” characters and it is written in a similar style. It is plain, simple, often quirky, but not unrepresentative of the area, and showing wide and deep understanding of its culture. This book is a bit more action oriented than the previous book, but it still focuses on the inner thoughts and feelings of its characters (e.g. one of the characters is a devotee of the philosopher Spinoza). It’s a big, long book, but easy to read and very rewarding. Read both books independently, or, if possible, successively.

Dick Sakurai, Gardens 210

The Fifth Thing You Never Knew About Your Cell Phone

(shared by Barbara Nika, Orchards)

Free Directory Service for Cells: Cell phone companies are charging us \$1.00 to \$1.75 or more for 411 information calls when they don't have to. Most of us do not carry a telephone directory in our vehicle which makes this situation even more of a problem. When you need to use the 411 information option, simply dial 800FREE411 or 800-373-3411 without incurring any charge except for minutes used. Program this into your cell phone now. This is the kind of information people don't mind receiving, so pass it on to your family and friends.

And here's another suggestion from Barbara: Want to stop getting those newspaper junk mailing flyers on Tuesday? Just call 800 437 0479. Press 3 for the representative (a real voice will take your info) Just give your full mailing address. Allow 5-6 weeks for this to take effect. I did this in 2018. So easy!!

And a third:

The Center of Vitality

The equipment is great and the pool is wet,
Now it's up to me to work up a sweat!
So, to begin with dieting, the scale I must use.
Will it pose a challenge or resemble a ruse?
I gave up desserts over a 2 week phase,
But all I lost was 14 days!
If your idea of exercise is a good brisk sit,
Even speed rocking will not keep you fit.
The Vitality Center is Open to All!!



THE FREE – 4 – ALL VOLUNTEERS

The Free-4-All was a tremendous success because of a group of accomplished hard-working and dedicated volunteers. All commendations go to YOU.

Thank you volunteers,
Dean Knox

MULTNOMAH COUNTY LIBRARY

This is a reminder that the Multnomah County Library comes to CherryWood the first Thursday of each month. They are in the Community Room from 1:30 to 2:15pm and bring a selection of regular print and large print books, movies and audio books.

PLEASE REMEMBER these books need to be returned to the Multnomah County Library when they are here on the first Thursday of the month. **DO NOT** leave them in the CherryWood Library. They are checked out to you, and you need to check them back in on the first Thursday of the month. *Anne Warner, Library*



ITEMS NEEDED BY PACS (Portland Adventist Community Service)

Toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap
and cartons for 12 or 18 eggs.

Contributions may be left outside Chaplain Mick's office door.



Products with "Box Tops for Education" coupons...

Lola Pogue in Orchards 211 is collecting them to benefit
the Holbrook Indian School in Arizona.



General Mills Cereals
Betty Crocker
Fiber One
Nestle
Green Giant
Hamburger Helper
Old El Paso
Progresso Soups

Pillsbury
Land O'Lakes
Yoplait
Fiber One
Fruit Roll-ups
Nature Valley
Golden Graham
Welch's

Avery
Marks-A-Lot
Ziploc
Cottonelle
Scott
Hefty
Brita



RESIDENTS: Have you heard about GFF? It is a non-profit and was established to support Generation's Universe, but is completely separate from Generations LLC. Their mission is 'connecting giving hearts with those in need'. The Generations Family Foundation (GFF) is dedicated to providing short-term, immediate relief to employees and residents of the Generations family of companies and communities who have suffered hardship as a result of natural disaster, family death, medical emergency, or other unexpected crisis or distress that has created a financial need. For more information, please see HR Director Olivia, Anna, or Judy Keiper. Brochures are available at the Front Desk.

More good news: Iris Werth, Super Seams, has now established office hours in the Medical Room (across from the Board Room) for your alteration needs. Her hours are Sunday from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. Telephone Iris at 503.674.5262 to make an appointment.

Judy Keiper, Secretary



Many thanks to the **VITALITY DEPARTMENT**

I meant to do this in the March Cherry Pit but didn't get to it in time, sooo here we are in April – THANK YOU Vitality for the incredibly fun, successful Prom! From the creative beautiful decorations to the delicious food and drinks, to the skillful D.J. who even taught us how to do the dances. My expectations were way, way exceeded. Dean and I had a ball, and everyone else I talked to did too! I could tell that even the people who couldn't dance enjoyed themselves because there was so much to watch. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Carol Knox, Orchards

QUILTING IN THE GARDENS. *Actually it's for quilters, sewers, crafters, knitters, etc.* The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month on the 2nd floor lobby of the Gardens, 10am to 4pm. Come any time and stay as long as you want. We enjoy talking and sometimes accomplishing something. For additional information, call Karen Black, 503-679-2182 or Sallyann Gabriel, 503-720-9332.

Meetings this month are April 12th and April 26th.



WOODY'S WISDOM

Old is good in some things: Old Songs, Old Movies,
And best of all OLD FRIENDS!

CLASSIFIED ADS

NEEDED – Items for the Cherry Pit. Poetry and prose pieces written by residents are encouraged. Hand them in at the Front Desk and ask that they be placed in the Cherry Pit wall file. B.J. Nichols wants the original drawings and Martha McMinn can use book reviews. Leave classified ads, stories under 400 words, letters, brief recipes, jokes, puzzles, etc. for Joan Walborn.

Deadline for ads for the May issue is 3pm, Monday, April 22nd.

Distribution date for the May issue of Cherry Pit is April 26th.

One of the **CherryWood poker players** has moved and we are in need of another player. This is a low-key social fun filled game. We meet on the first and third Saturdays of every month from 1:30 to 4pm in the Board Room. Anyone interested in playing, please call Mike Sands at 503-719-4748.



CHERRYWOOD CATS: Would you like to sharpen your claws on a never used Kong Naturals Incline Cat Scratcher? Tell your staff to call Joan at 503-327-8173. She keeps telling me her previous cat loved hers, but I have other things I'd rather scratch! **Please** take it – it's free. Thanks, *Bella Blue Walborn*

FOR SALE – Sleep Number C5 Split King Bed – 76" wide by 80" long. Bed is two twins used together or apart. Bed package includes C5 mattress and Flexfit 2 fully adjustable base. Bed is located in Royal Anne and is being sold only because residents now require hospital beds. Sale price \$1,000 firm. Please contact Barb at 503-901-3709.

LOST – A BOOK OF VIOLIN PARTS FOR BEETHOVEN PIANO TRIOS

Bound with blue cover. Probably lost somewhere in the Chapel, Dining Room or Greens. It is very valuable to Sue Goodman, 503-208-3060.

SCOOTER FOR SALE – \$400 – Please Call Marge – 208-861-4973.

ANY MAC USERS OUT THERE willing to help other Mac users? I get a request once in a while and would like to be able to tell them who to call.

CWV T- shirt Spirit Days are April 10th & 25th.

WELCOME, NEW RESIDENTS

Sylvia Bates, Orchards 218
 Cythia Beraud, Parkview 205
 Richard & Nan Conser, Cottage 1602B
 Dennis Fisher, Parkview 107
 Margie Fisher, Royal Anne 103
 Barbara Janac, Wynridge 303
 Clara La Marche, Gardens 109
 Gordon & Betty Williams, Greens 310
 (returned to CW)

CHERRY PIT Staff

Joan Walborn, Editor
 Karen Arendt, Proofreader
 Shirley Eggiman, Reporter
 Martha McMin, Book Reviewer
 B.J. Nichols, Art Editor

The purpose of the Cherry Pit
 is to get news to the residents,
 furnish some entertainment,
 provide little-known facts of
 CherryWood, and have fun.

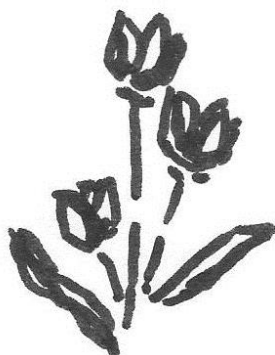
Deadline for ads for next issue is
 3pm on 4th Monday of the month.

*The pit is the heart
 of the cherry.*

IN MEMORIAM

Coraleen Cromwell, Orchards 218
 Richard Elkins, Orchards 226
 Betty Limp, Royal Anne 216

A HAPPY AND
 BLESSED
 EASTER



B.J.N.