



# THE CHERRY PIT

"A letter led to a kiss. A kiss led to wedded bliss"

## Marilyn and Ernie Cowan



It was a long distance romance like we see in the movies. Ernie Cowan was born and raised in southern West Virginia. After high school, during the Korean Conflict, he joined the Air Force and eventually was sent to Japan for two years. In the meantime, his older brother traveled to Oregon to visit relatives in southeast Portland. He met and married Marilyn's older sister, Noreen. They put Marilyn and Ernie in touch and they became pen pals. After his enlistment was up and being discharged in California, Ernie came to Portland to visit his relatives and meet his pen pal. They met on Marilyn's 20th birthday. It didn't take long to discover their strong mutual attraction. Ernie went back to West Virginia to start college on the G.I. Bill, and they continued writing. A year later he returned to Portland where they were married at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church.

Ernie enrolled in the University of Portland and Marilyn worked as a secretary to help put him through college. Ernie earned a master's degree in English with a minor in history. After he graduated, they moved to Oxnard, California where Ernie took a teaching position in a junior high school. There was a mad German guy who taught at that school, Joel Heck, and his lovely wife Ann. Ann and Marilyn became friends through the faculty wives club. They weren't there very long before they discovered Marilyn was pregnant. Their son Greg was born in Oxnard and Marilyn took in ironing to help make ends meet while they raised their toddler. A teacher at the school befriended Ernie and she and her husband loaned them a down payment on their first home. It was a huge act of kindness and the loan was quickly repaid, but it paved the way for several real estate purchases that proved lucrative.

*(continued on page 2)*

After four years and not being near family, they moved back to Portland where Ernie taught English at Grant High School and Marilyn became the principal's secretary at Kennedy School (now McMenemy's). Ernie was asked to get a second degree in counseling psychology and went to Portland State University for that degree. Afterwards, he spent the rest of his career in counseling at several Portland schools from elementary to high school. He retired from Madison High School in 1993 where he also shared half of a fulltime drug and alcohol counseling position. He loved that work and felt it some of the most rewarding work he did as a counselor. Marilyn retired the following year as a secretary to one of the three Directors of Instruction for Portland Public Schools.

Celebrating their 63rd wedding anniversary this past June, Marilyn and Ernie are currently under house arrest here at Cherrywood. Pen pals to prisoners, they have had a wonderful life.

*Janet Sciolaro, Wynridge 208*



### **HIGH FIVES FOR ELIZABETH...**

I am sure I can speak for everyone when I say a "1,000 High Fives" to Elizabeth for the phenomenal job she did for many months. She and the rest of the staff who supported her deserve our highest thanks. She, too, walked into the job during this crisis and like all of us, was hit with a situation none of us had faced before. She "rolled up her sleeves and took over with her running shoes on."

Elizabeth, thanks from all of us for taking excellent care of us during the pandemic and keeping us all healthy. You were and are appreciated! Her job was made easier by the residents who supported her by safe distancing and mask wearing. You are also appreciated.

*Judy Keiper*



**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER:** "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14 NIV





# WOODY'S WISDOM

A positive attitude may not solve all your problems.  
But it will annoy enough people  
to make it worth the effort.



## Twelve Horses for Julia by Lara Malmqvist

A fictionalized version of the life of the author's real great-great-grandmother based both on documented history and family history. Julia, the young daughter of a French Canadian immigrant father and a mixed Sioux and French mother, was moving West with her family, leaving their Iowa farm, when she was kidnapped by Blackfoot warriors and brought back to the Blackfoot reservation and adopted by a family there. As Julia was growing up, she and her adopted family were sometimes visited by a French Canadian farmer rancher trader from Oregon (he was very helpful in one of Julia's problems). When Julia reached the age of 15, the Oregon rancher trader returned and offered 12 horses for Julia's hand in marriage (hence the book's title). After initial reluctance to leave her adopted family, Julia is convinced to accept the offer. So they move to the Oregon ranch. After a number of years, they decide to move to the newly opened NW Territories of Canada to start a new farm in Alberta. Soon their place becomes a stopping place for stagecoaches and other travelers. After a few more years, the new railroad comes right next to their place, so their farm becomes a kind of rest stop for the railroad travelers.

The author knew very little of this until a meeting with a distant cousin with sparse family history. Most of the story comes from the author's research into the historical records.

*Dick Sakurai, Gardens*



## Famous Women

Test your knowledge of women's history by seeing how many of these famous women you can match with their outstanding accomplishments. *By Herm Albright*

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Harriet Beecher Stowe..... | A. Author of "Little Women"                    |
| 2. Pearl S. Buck.....         | B. Founder of American Red Cross               |
| 3. Louisa May Alcott.....     | C. Author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin"               |
| 4. Margaret Mead.....         | D. First woman named to Aviation Hall of Fame  |
| 5. Rachel Carson.....         | E. Founder of Christian Science                |
| 6. Anna Jarvis.....           | F. First black woman elected to Congress       |
| 7. Clara Barton.....          | G. Received Nobel Prize for "The Good Earth"   |
| 8. Mary Baker Eddy.....       | H. Originator of Mother's Day                  |
| 9. Amelia Earhart.....        | I. One of the world's foremost anthropologists |
| 10. Shirley Chisholm.....     | J. Author of "Silent Spring"                   |

**Answers on page 7**

**From your Employee Appreciation (EAF) Fund Committee...**

Thank you all for your generous support to the EAF fund. We trust you have enjoyed the informative letters we have sent out. Look for more in the coming days. We want to give everyone an opportunity to get acquainted with all the wonderful employees here at CWV.

We were sorry to cancel the Fun-R-Nival scheduled for September 15. New date for the Carnival was September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Hopefully you all came down and took part in the fun. This was a fundraiser to show appreciation to our “all hands on deck” employees. They are fabulous aren’t they!

**From your Preparedness Committee...**

Thanks to all who filled out their request form for the whistle and sign. One hundred fifty-two (152) were returned. They will be delivered to your apartment as soon as we receive an order from the supplier. If you have not filled out the form, or need another one, please let Judy know at 503.703.7789 or send an e-mail to Jkeiper2@comcast.net. You will be receiving other forms regarding the equipment we recommend you have so you are prepared for an emergency. The resident will pay for those orders. We will do everything we can to get the best prices available.

*Fran Schultz, Chairperson*

**Dining Services Committee...**

We had our second meeting since our last one in March. John Goodwin, our new Senior Executive Director, and Gianni Carbone, our new Dining Services Director were introduced. Because of the Covid 19 virus, all BOD/Resident Council and committee meetings have to be reduced to 10 members at one time. We practice the social distancing and mask wearing at all times.

You will be noticing some changes in the menu items, especially our vegetarian entrees. It has been a trying time for all of us, including the employees, and we thank you for your patience and understanding. Both John and Gianni came to work in the middle of this crisis and had to march right into action! In addition, they did!

As the weeks go by you will be seeing some other changes and maybe even have an opportunity to come to the restaurant again. It will not happen over-night, but there is talk and plans are being made.

**From the President's Desk:**

For more than six months now the world has faced unusual circumstances that has at least temporarily changed the fabric of our lives.

These measures have produced a significant isolation from family, neighbors and friends. The social life we used to know came to a halt. With that, inconveniences surfaced, some generating at times undesirable outcomes. Our lives here at CherryWood Village came to an abrupt lifestyle transformation.

But slowly we are taking small steps to re-integrate what used to be the norm before. So far, the Ambassadors, Dining Service, Environment and Emergency Preparedness committees and the Resident Council Board of Directors have met and little by little we are creating opportunities for changes and advancements. It is nice to see the return of some aspects of normalcy. We must not only survive but we need to thrive and generate new and productive ideas.

Some positive changes are already present. There is a new Senior Executive Director. The parking lot social distancing tent is a great success (it may be weatherized during Fall and Winter). The Concierge garage family gatherings have been well attended. Residents returned multiple food comment cards and survey sheets that are being analyzed. The hall exercises received nationwide TV coverage. The Employee Appreciation Fund is receiving our support. The goal is to equal or surpass last year's contributions to honor the entire staff who is working so hard to keep us safe and fed.

Claudio Lima

BOD President



Because people have been using [amazonsmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) for purchases and have designated Generations Family Foundation as their choice for donations, to date there have been total donations of \$457.23. There is no charge to you. Amazon contributes from the amount of purchases you make. Thanks for using [amazonsmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) for your Amazon purchases. GFF has been helping residents, and employees and their families, during the Covid-19 and more recently with fire evacuations. Every amount helps and we say a huge "thank you" for your contributions.

GFF committee



## CHILDREN'S NOTES TO GOD

- Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now. (this was before MLK day)
- I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart. I had to have 3 stitches and a shot.
- Did you really mean Do Unto Others As They Do Unto You? If you did, then I'm going to fix my brother.
- My Grandpa says you were around when he was a boy. How far back do you go?
- Is it true my father won't get in Heaven if he uses his bowling words in the house?

- My brother told me about being born but it doesn't sound right.
- In Sunday School they told us what you do. Who does it when you are on vacation?
- We read Thomas Edison made light. But in Sunday School they said you did it. So I bet he stole your idea.
- I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday.



If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water. When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.

## PUNOGRAPHY.....the lowest form of humor

- I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

- This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.
- I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
- At the hospital they told me I had type A blood, but it was a type-O.



**CLASSIFIED ADS** *and other important info*

*Let's get acquainted.* Since I am new at this stuff, let's get acquainted: Do we live under the same roof and breathe the same smoky air? I feel we could become friends, so I am reaching out:

Barbara Beamer, 541-969-6208, or bbeamer.541@gmail.com

**WOODY'S WISDOM**

A positive attitude may not solve all your problems.  
But it will annoy enough people  
to make it worth the effort.



**NEEDED** – Items for the Cherry Pit. Any poetry, prose pieces fewer than 400 words, classified ads, stories, letters, recipes, jokes, puzzles, etc. must include your name and telephone number in case we need additional information. Hand items in at the Front Desk and ask that they be forwarded to Editor Joan Walborn. Deadline for ads for the November issue is 3pm Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Famous Women Answers:** 1-C; 2-G; 3-A; 4-I; 5-J; 6-H; 7-B; 8-E; 9-D; 10-F.





## WELCOME, NEW RESIDENTS

Allan & Ardyce Johnson, Cottage 1602 C  
Janice Lowe, Wynridge 203

## IN MEMORIAM

Mae Bolden, Orchards  
David Howard, Cottages

## CHERRY PIT Staff

Joan Walborn, Editor  
Karen Arendt, Proofreader  
Susan Howard, Art Editor  
Clara La Marche, Reporter  
Bill Sanjour, Reporter

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 the next issue  
is 3pm on 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month.

*The pit is the heart  
of the cherry.*

