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Sands through

The Hour-Glass



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www.thenebraskamasonichome.org

Plan a Visit Now . . .



It has been such a pleasure keeping our Masonic family and friends well informed through our quarterly newsletter during the recent building/renovation project. Now that the project is complete, I would like to invite you to come for a meal and a tour. Get together

a group of friends, your favorite Masonic organization, or maybe the local Lodge and Chapter and schedule a visit to The Nebraska Masonic Home. You have seen wonderful pictures of the changes that have been made here, but now we want everyone to come and see the beautiful improvements first hand.

So far this year we have proudly welcomed four large Masonic groups to The Masonic Home. Our Dietary employees take such pride in preparing a delicious home-

cooked meal for our guests.

When guests tour our beautiful, updated facility, the dedication and hard work by all of our employees is evident.

We have nine large groups that have scheduled a meal and a tour in the coming months. We are so excited to have so much interest from so many Masonic groups.

I want to extend a sincere invitation to all of our Masonic family and friends to please encourage your members to plan a trip to visit The Masonic Home.

All our employees take such pride in caring for our 94 residents. We want everyone to see the new and updated Masonic Home and see the results of The Home's 135 loyal and dedicated employees. You will be so proud of your beautiful facility.

I look forward to receiving your phone call soon so we can plan your lodge, chapter, or Shrine visit soon.



Mary C. Stapp

Mary C. Stapp
Executive Director

Thank You Tangier Shrine for donating one of your vans to The Masonic Home. Your kindness is much appreciated!

Happenings at The Home

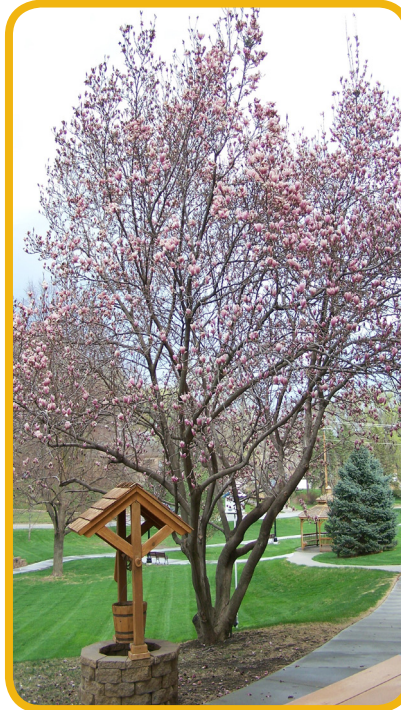
Photo Op
for
Carl and Willa
at 50's Party



Easter Fun
with the
Activity Staff



Staff preparing for
the Ice Cream Social



One of the first signs
Spring had come to
The Home



Games of challenge
at the Spring Party



Mother's Day Party 2014



Celebrating our Volunteers!

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Meet Connie... Our Super Volunteer!



Connie with Janna, Lexi, Gracie, Luna and Maia.

A wonderful tradition has developed here in recent years, one which brightens the lives of many, and it's hard to say who is having the best time – our residents who are being visited or our volunteers.

Since her retirement from The Nebraska Masonic Home about a year and a half ago, Connie Exley – sometimes daily – comes back to visit our residents, accompanied by her “babies”, her very friendly Pomeranian dogs.



And it is hard to say who enjoys these visits more, the residents who eagerly wait for Connie and her charges, the dogs themselves (each with her own personality and reaction

to people), or Connie herself, whose love for her dogs and their special mission in life shines through in every conversation.

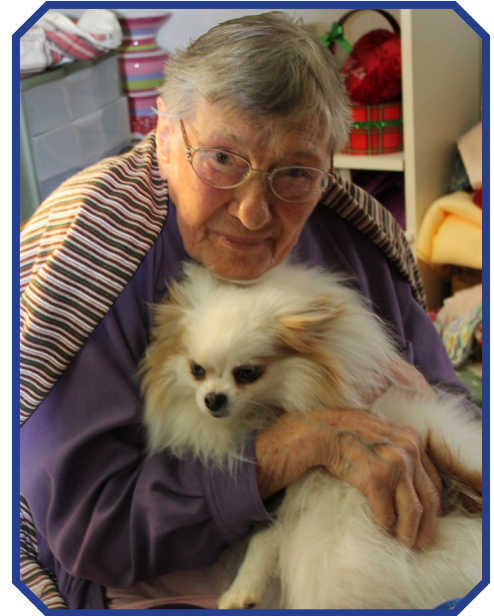
Connie's love for Pomeranians goes back over a quarter of a century. During that time she and her

husband Byron have adopted six Pomeranians and raised five from pups. Connie says “They have all been dogs who needed a home where they are loved.”

Connie and her husband currently share their home in south Plattsmouth with their beloved canine friends. Byron loves the dogs too and the way they tend to dominate life in their home. Byron laughs and says “But don't come home with any more.”

Three dogs usually join Connie for a visit to see the residents. There are many rooms and several floors to visit here at The Home, so visits usually take two or more hours. . . which thoroughly pleases everyone! “A Pomeranian loves you unconditionally” Connie says with emphasis.

Born in Nebraska City, Connie was raised in Plattsmouth and graduated from Plattsmouth High School. She worked at Mutual of Omaha for 38 years before deciding to take it easier in Plattsmouth. She soon learned of an opening at The Home which led to a 5-year position in the Dietary Department before her second retirement. During her time at The Home, her dogs were constant topics of discussion and that is how the volunteer visits began after her retirement from The Home.



So . . . who benefits the most from these visits . . . the residents who wait for a visit from their friends, the Pomeranians who have each found a new home and a new lease on life, or Connie herself who brightens a room with her presence and her sweet stories of her dogs.

The answer is EVERYONE wins, and this tradition of love, friendship, and caring is sure to last for years to come! 🐾

“ . . . you couldn't find a better place to stay ! ”

HAROLD POLLARD at The Nebraska Masonic Home

Harold Pollard's long and interesting life began in 1926 in Lincoln, and he was raised on the family farm close to Highway 34 near Nehawka, Nebraska. He graduated from Nehawka High School in 1944 and immediately enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

After boot camp in Idaho, the young Nebraskan found himself—at 18 years of age—the youngest of the crew of 1,500 men on the *U.S.S. New Orleans* (the “NO BOAT” as it was called).



As the War seemed to be nearing a conclusion in the European Theater, much action loomed ahead in the Pacific. Harold was a signalman on the cruiser, using the flags system of his craft, and remembers well the shelling of the beaches of Okinawa—and some of the more horrific sights and sounds of war-time.

After rest and relaxation in the Philippines, the *New Orleans* took off for its next assignment—Tokyo Bay and the certain dangerous future there—but the dropping of the two atomic bombs in early August, 1945, hastened the end of WWII before the “NO BOAT” reached its perilous destination.

The next year the ship was ordered back to its namesake city, going through the Panama Canal as it made its way to New Orleans. Once there, it seems, the local residents were eager to celebrate the war's end and the distinguished role of the *U.S.S. New Orleans* in it.

Harold returned to the farm in Nehawka, and began farming 160 acres with a partner. This land was

close to his father's 200 acres along Highway 34.

Through the years he acquired more and more equipment and branched out from a farming operation to aerial spraying and dirt work (helping carve the Highland Country Club into an Olympic style golf course out of the raw countryside), construction projects, enlarging small airports, and much dam and road work.

Through his adulthood Harold was happily married to wife Betty, a beautiful girl he met at the Music Box dance hall and bowling alley in 1948. “She was a city gal and didn't know a lot about my lifestyle, but she sure learned quick” he said recently.

And to this marriage were born five children, three boys and two girls. All have done very well in their adult lives, Harold is quick—and proud—to say.


Betty designed the new home they built on the homestead in 1969, utilizing Texas white rock on the inside and Colorado red rock on the outside.

Betty passed away a few years after their 50th wedding anniversary, and Harold started to ease out of working and into retirement status.

An accident last year paved the way for his application for and admission to The Nebraska Masonic Home.

Harold Pollard joined Nehawka Lodge No. 246 in 1950. Nehawka consolidated with Western Star No. 2 in 1990 and Harold transferred to Euclid Lodge No. 97 of Weeping Water in 1991. He is very proud of the 60 year pin he received from Euclid Lodge No. 97 in 2011.

Moving around Harold's room at The Masonic Home, it is easy to visually identify the things which have meant the most to him in his long and colorful life . . . a picture of the beaming 18-year old in his Navy uniform, a young Mr. and Mrs. Pollard, an etching of the *U.S.S. New Orleans*, pictures of his family, and Masonic memorabilia.

He has surely had a full life and happily states “you couldn't find a better place to stay” than The Nebraska Masonic Home. “They've got a good thing going here.” 

Summer 2014

This is a Wonderful Place . . .

Friends,

While sharing information about The Nebraska Masonic Home with Nebraska Masons, there are times I have been at a loss for words to explain what The Home is all about. However, I think one of our dear residents has recently said it best. Let me rewind the scenario so you can get the full picture of her beautiful quote.



Knowing that he has enjoyed writing and poetry composition over the years, I recently asked resident Dean Cowles if he would like to submit an article about life at The Home. Several days later he returned with his editorial, somewhat disappointed that the words hadn't popped on to his new computer screen as easily as he had hoped. Nonetheless, I began reading his article.

In his brief but expressive article he had managed to put into words what it is like to live at The Masonic Home. During their 5 1/2 year stay here, Dean and his lovely wife, Mary, have grown accustomed to seeing the "imposing structure whose 'chiseled' limestone block rises above the ample expanse of shade trees and well manicured lawns." He vividly recalls the "thorough introduction to the interior" of The Home. At the same time he was enlightened about the "various modes of living accommodations" as they toured the facility with Mary C. Stapp, Executive Director.

But what he has been more impressed with is their "growing awareness of the ever-continuing attention and smiles" given by all the staff. (Providing loving, dignified care is a core belief of each and every staff member from the Executive Director down through the ranks.)

On this particular day, Dean's wife, Mary, had recently returned from her weekly whirlpool bath, her hair appointment in The Home's Beauty Salon and a nutritious noon meal. While relaxing for a moment on the couple's sofa, Mary turned to Dean and in her soft, tranquil voice said, "**This is a wonderful place!**"

Having read Dean's editorial down to this point, I looked up. And there he stood with the grin of a Cheshire cat on his face, waiting for my response. But before I could say anything, he said to me, "You know what I did next? I planted a kiss on her lips for helping me finish my article."

Dean didn't know it, but he had captured the feeling of life at The Home that I was so desperately trying to explain to folks. If you haven't been here for a visit or experienced a family member, friend or loved one's life here, you need to **come see it and feel it for yourself!** **It is a WONDERFUL PLACE!**

With Warm Regards,

To Peters



P.S. We welcome your visits, your gifts, and most importantly **your on-going support** of The Nebraska Masonic Home and the wonderful care you help make possible for our Masonic Family.

2014 Caring Club Donor Recognition Event



It's not too late to join us for the 2014 Caring Club Donor Recognition Event. Those Caring Club members who have donated a cumulative total of \$500 or more from September 1, 2013 through

August 31, 2014 will receive an invitation to our Polynesian themed dinner, with food and atmosphere reminiscent of the islands. This event will be held Sunday, September 28 at 1:30 p.m.

All Caring Club members who have donated \$250 or more for the same time period will be acknowledged with a recognition plaque with yearly date plates added for each consecutive year of membership.

Address Corrections



Please contact The Foundation office at (402) 296-7336 with corrections or updates to your mailing address. With your

help we can be reassured that our Masonic Home friends receive our newsletter.

Van Update

If you were one of those wonderful 315 donors who answered our plea last fall to help us purchase a new van for transporting residents to and from doctor appointments . . . we are pleased to report that new vans are being test driven this week, with a selection to be made soon. Once it has been ordered and arrives from the dealer, it will be retro-fitted to accommodate wheelchairs. The new van should be outfitted and on the road within the next few months. **Thank You** to all of you for your kindness!

Bed Update

The Bed Replacement Fund is still growing and it's not too late for you to make a contribution! As of this printing, we have received funds to replace 35 of the 50 beds we're hoping to replace. The new beds will have more adjustment features to better meet the individual care needs of each resident. We are anxious to start putting the new beds in place!

Please accept **our heartfelt thanks for responding** to the needs of The Home. Together we are able to carry on the legacy of The Nebraska Masonic Home by providing loving and dignified care to those members of the Masonic Family who have chosen to make this their home.



A Caring Testimonial . . .

"Having lived in Plattsmouth most of our lives, The Masonic Home has always been very important to us and will continue to be throughout the rest of our lives. Not only is it one of the most beautiful facilities in the State, but the Staff is superb and the care given is the BEST! Whether you are a visitor or a resident, you always feel "at home" when you are at The Home!

We are so proud to be a part of the Masonic Family that gives us the privilege of spending our later years at the beautiful Nebraska Masonic Home, surrounded by love, friends, and people with like interests."

*Jon and Dee Schuetz
Bellevue, NE*