



1300 Avenue D • Plattsmouth, NE 68048 • (402) 296-7300

Sands through

The Hour-Glass



Vol. 20 No. 2 • July 2015

www.thenebraskamasonichome.org

Guests are Always Welcome!!



When you receive this Hour Glass publication, we will have enjoyed half of 2015 here at The Masonic Home. I can't help but reflect on how many wonderful visitors we have been fortunate to entertain here at The Home in that time frame.

It has been such a pleasure to welcome Masonic Lodges, Eastern Star Chapters, and Shrine Units to our facility again this year. Our visiting groups range in size from 6 to 50 guests. There are groups that make their visits an annual affair. These long-standing traditions are a testament to how much they enjoy coming to The Masonic Home – we also very much appreciate their visits. Many of our visitors that return annually come to hold a monthly meeting and are also served a delicious home-cooked meal. Our guests may eat either with our residents or at a separate time. It depends what time our guests prefer to be served. A tour of our facility can also be arranged for those that are making their first visit. As I look through the rest of the calendar year, we have many more Masonic groups that are scheduled. We look forward to their visits as well.

It is always my personal hope that every person who visits our beautiful facility will share their experience here with several of their Masonic-affiliated friends or with members from one of the other Masonic groups of which they are members. Our visitor calendar would then definitely fill up quickly with interested groups wanting to see what The Masonic Home has to offer.


assisted living or long-term care facility that is so clean and well maintained.



Our guests are so gracious with their praise of our residents' appearance, the friendliness of the employees, and excellence of the meals.

Not only do we appreciate all the Masonic groups who visit us, we are also very pleased with the number of residents' family members who are using our facility for special family celebrations involving the residents.

With the changes that have taken place as a result of our recent building renovation project, we now have several additional attractive and convenient areas for families and residents to gather and enjoy each other's company for anniversaries, birthdays, and other special events. Our staff is ready to help you make arrangements for family gatherings for your loved ones residing here at The Nebraska Masonic Home.

Don't hesitate to call and schedule a time for your Masonic group to visit or for your family to hold a special event for a family member or friend. We look forward to hearing from you. 



We are so proud of the many positive comments our visitors make. Most of them say they have never seen an

Mary C. Stapp

Mary C. Stapp
Executive Director

Mother's Day Celebration




Expanding Family Ties . . .



We all grew up in a family, whether there were only 3 members or 15 members. Here at The Nebraska Masonic Home we have very special families.

Our families include residents, co-workers, and visitors. Some of our residents are either far from their own families or do not have a family, so the staff becomes their family. There is true caring, love, and concern in this new family which is beneficial for everyone.

We always hear about the Masonic family and it truly is a family to all involved. The family groups at The Home lend an ear and a shoulder to cry on providing great support. We laugh, play and cry together; most especially, we enjoy life in each other's company.

So whether you live here, work here or come to visit, welcome to our family at The Nebraska Masonic Home. 

Mary Vrbka

Mary Vrbka
Administrator

The Nebraska Masonic Home Board of Trustees

John M. McHenry *President*
Gary W. Radil, *1st Vice President*
Philip A. Lorenzen, *2nd Vice President*
James F. Brown, Jr., *3rd Vice President*
Jay H. Speck, *Secretary*
Bruce A. Baker
Kenneth D. Beebe
Ronald E. Brasel

Kent B. Broyhill
Russell A. Clark
James R. Erixon
David L. Knutson
Robert S. Maline
John T. Parsons
Dwight E. Smith

The Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation Board of Directors

Gary W. Radil, *President*
Philip A. Lorenzen, *Vice President*
Jay H. Speck, *Secretary*
David L. Knutson, *Treasurer*
Bruce A. Baker
Kenneth D. Beebe
Ronald E. Brasel
James F. Brown, Jr.

Kent B. Broyhill
Russell A. Clark
James R. Erixon
Robert S. Maline
John M. McHenry
John T. Parsons
Dwight E. Smith

KEEPING UP WITH DEE GALL

“ . . . it’s not as good as ‘home’ here, but it’s the next best thing . . . ”

Deloris Smith was born in 1929 near Mynard, just a hop, skip, and a jump down the road from Plattsmouth. She attended a country school through eighth grade and then graduated from Plattsmouth High School in 1946. It was at Plattsmouth High that she met Bob Gall, recently returned from service in the Navy. Bob finished high school, and they were married in 1948.

By that time Deloris had attended York College for a year and spent considerable time babysitting the children of a family friend. The youngsters shortened her name to “Dee”, and the nickname stuck.

Mike and Mark were then born and Dee became a stay-at-home mom while Bob worked as a carpenter. They lived in an apartment in Plattsmouth, but when the Navy beckoned Bob to serve in the Korean conflict, she and her two boys moved back to live with her parents in Mynard. Dee then got a job as a secretary at Offutt Air Force Base.

She then decided to buy a home on South 6th Street in Plattsmouth, and she and the boys lived upstairs while she rented out the downstairs to another family. The plan worked, and the rent from downstairs nearly covered the payments on the house. When Bob returned from Korea, he had to admit her reasoning had been sound; he was pleased with what she had done in his absence. They made their home on 6th Street for almost half a century!

A daughter, Meridee, was born in 1954 and another son, Robert Scott, followed in 1955. Bob secured a



carpentry job at Offutt Air Force Base, and Dee started working at the courthouse in Plattsmouth. She was in the assessor’s office for a couple of years and then almost two decades as Clerk of the District Court.

Bob joined Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6 which was also the lodge of Dee’s father, Royal Smith. Dee, for her part, became a member of Home Chapter No. 189 OES, and she maintains her membership to this day.

Bob Gall served for one year as Nebraska Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It was a whirlwind of a year for Bob and Dee as they traveled all around the country. In addition to all the U.S. travel during Bob’s busy year, they also took trips throughout the years to Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, and two trips to Europe.

About twenty years ago Dee heard about a woodcarving class and decided to enroll. After getting a taste of this new art form, Dee purchased her own woodcarving tools and some wood. Today there are beautiful, finely-etched eggs and other creative wood carvings in Dee’s room. The favorite, she is quick to point out, is a carving made of a piece of a cedar tree from the family homestead near Mynard.



As the years passed, Bob and Dee retired. They decided to give up the yard work and moved to The Commons in 2006. Sadly, one of Dee’s sons, Mark, passed away in 2006 and then after 58 years of marriage, Bob passed away.

Recently Dee was surprised when her son Robert Scott and his friend stopped by and put on a delightful musical presentation of good ole’ down home guitar and vocal music for all the residents. It was such a proud moment for Dee.

“I’ve had a good life . . . it’s not as good as ‘home’ here, but it’s definitely the next best thing . . . ” That being said, Dee went to get a snapshot of her youngest great grandchild. We talked about the baby’s huge eyes. She took it back from me, smiled, and gently kissed the picture.

And that sums up Dee Gall . . . a compassionate, crafty, hard-working, and fun-loving lady that now calls The Nebraska Masonic Home her home. 🕒

MEET OUR CONTROLLER . . . BILL ROUX

Bill Roux is a sort of jack-of-all trades, you might say. In addition to the normal functions you might think of for a controller (the budget, payroll, financial statements) he also orders supplies, serves as a backup computer consultant, and provides banking services for the residents.

Bill, a native of Council Bluffs, Iowa, who has not worked in that city since his first job with a CPA firm, was born in 1956 on the western edge of town near 35th and E Streets. He attended Council Bluffs'



St. Albert's School which is located in the hills of the eastern part of the city and played football. Graduating from high school in 1974, Bill then went on to attend Northwestern Missouri State on a football scholarship. In 1978 Bill graduated with a BA in accounting. Also that same year he married Vicky who he had known since first grade. Now all these years later, they are blessed with three children and seven grandchildren.

The Roux family lives about as far east as you can go in Council Bluffs, across the street from the airport and the 13th hole of a golf course. Following Bill's first job with a CPA firm in the Bluffs, he began commuting to work from his home on the east side of town to jobs in Omaha, and now finally to Plattsmouth. These jobs included 18 1/2 years with a firm in Regency, 12 years as controller and chief financial officer for the Metropolitan YMCA office, and then a stint at Charles Drew Health Center in North Omaha.

On the internet he learned of an opening for a controller at The Nebraska Masonic Home. He applied, was interviewed by Mary Stapp, and the rest – as they say is history. Bill has now been a part of the administrative team since June 2014.

One of the side benefits of working here was Bill's introduction to Masonry; he recently completed his degrees at Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6.

"It felt good," he said, "to expand my horizons and to experience personal growth in the fraternity responsible for the establishment of The Home."

Bill enjoys golf and chasing the grand kids around. "That keeps you young" he says. His love of football is still there . . . he makes occasional trips to see the Kansas City Chiefs, his alma mater Northwestern Missouri State, and also follows Iowa State and Iowa University. There are mixed emotions when the Iowa teams play the Nebraska Huskers, which Bill also likes.

Bill and Vicky love cruises, and they have celebrated anniversaries with cruises to the Bahamas, Hawaii, St. Lucia and Costa Rica. The cruises are an every 5th anniversary tradition. It's not too soon to think and to save for the 40th anniversary a few years down the road.

Bill Roux, our "Controller plus", is very happy with his position at The Nebraska Masonic Home. "It's a beautiful facility with wonderful residents and compassionate employees" he says, adding "that we owe a great debt of gratitude to our Board of Trustees for their ongoing leadership."

How fortunate we all are that this professionally competent and caring family man is willing to drive the extra mile, actually 32 of them one way, to be with us at The Home. 🏠





Summer 2015

Dear Friends,

The **Fourth of July** is upon us. Do you have wonderful *memories* of parades, picnics and fireworks? Our residents come with many memories of time spent with loved ones, family and friends, celebrating our nation's Independence Day.

Moving into The Nebraska Masonic Home doesn't mean having to forgo celebrating the holidays or making new memories — in fact, it is quite the opposite.

A lot of things about The Nebraska Masonic Home are special, but **holidays are really special here**. The staff works hard to make sure that residents will feel the spirit of each holiday from the **decorations** gracing the dining rooms and hallways, to the special holiday **foods** being served, to the **entertainment** and the **activities** planned for the residents and their guests.

For those of you who like to entertain, you are well aware of the costs involved with putting on fun parties. Here, just like at your house, there is a cost involved with providing food and pretty decorations, both of which help set the ambiance for the event. **Because of the terrific support from you**, our donors, we are able to **provide the wonderful care we're known for and delightful holiday events** for our residents and their guests on a regular basis for each of these holidays:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| • New Year's Eve | • Easter | • Fourth of July | • Veterans Day |
| • Valentine's Day | • Mother's Day | • Labor Day | • Thanksgiving |
| • St. Patrick's Day | • Father's Day | • Halloween | • Christmas |

Thank you for helping make these holiday celebrations happen for our residents! Because of you, life at The Nebraska Masonic Home has those extra little touches that make it feel like home. Whether you choose to give to the Caring Club, the General Fund or the Activity Fund, thank you for caring!



Jo Peters

Jo Peters
Foundation Director



P.S. The Chapel Restoration Project is underway – thank you for your support!



"Growing up it was only natural that we were aware of The Home as both our families were active in Masonic organizations and we attended many Home Chapter picnics with them. We saw the care given to The Home's residents then and later first-hand while Nancy's parents, Ray & Ruby Lancaster resided there.

It is amazing how The Home has grown with the recent addition, renovations and the continuous expansion of services to its residents. It is satisfying to both of us to play just a small role in contributing to that growth. It's our way to thank the staff for the excellent care and friendship they have shown to our families.

Giving back is important."

--- R.L. "Butch" & Nancy Furse
Aurora, NE

Caring Club

2015 Caring Club Opportunity

*Looking for a way to make a difference?
Become a donor to the **Caring Club**!*

Caring Club funds are used to help pay for the excellent care given to our residents.

With your help we can make sure these members of The Masonic Family and those who follow are well taken care of to the end of time.

Yearly **Caring Club** memberships are available at two levels of giving:

1) **Caring Club Gifts of \$250** or more will be acknowledged with a recognition plaque with yearly date plates for each consecutive year of membership.

2) **Caring Club Gifts of \$500** or more will be acknowledged with the above plaque and an invitation to the annual Donor Recognition Event which will be held on **Sunday, September 27th** this fall.

2015 Caring Club Recognition includes those gifts received from Sept. 1, 2014 thru Aug. 31, 2015.

Hope you will join us this year!

Save the Date

Sunday, September 27th!

Charitable Giving

A charitable gift in your will could easily be the most important—and lasting—gift you ever make!

Through the years, legacies and bequests have played a vital part in the success of The Nebraska Masonic Home. Every department of The Home has benefitted from gifts given in the wills of family, friends and supporters.

A gift in your will can help The Home continue to be an option for Masons and their eligible female relatives for many years to come.

Contact your attorney or call The Foundation Office to learn how easily this can be done.



Address Corrections

Please contact Lisa Davis in The Foundation Office at (402)296-7336 with corrections or updates to your mailing address. With your help we have reduced mailing costs associated with incorrect addresses this past year. Thank you for your help.

