

The Village Voice

Bradford Village, a Brookdale Community



Resident Spotlight

Don and Alene Self: 35 Years of Marriage

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Don and Alene Self have lived in Bradford Village for around ten years, living at 16 Hadwiger. They have been married 35 years.

Alene was raised on a farm outside Hennessey, OK, and she was one of seven children. She was the church pianist as a teen. Upon graduation in 1942, she was recruited and hired by a Wichita, Kansas aircraft defense plant. She worked there two years as a sheet-metal worker (on B 17's), earning an honorable membership of the "Rosie the Riveter"

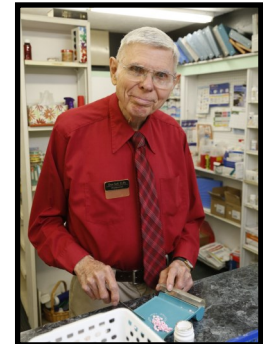
organization.

Don was raised during the Great Depression, and says he understands the importance of earning a living. As a boy, he sold magazines and worked in a lard refinery. Tall for his years, he began a 15-month position with the Santa Fe railroad as a car carder on the swing shift. He skipped his senior year in high school to barely make the G.I. Bill deadline at age 17, enabling him to attend college to become a pharmacist. His first job paid \$425 a month - a large amount in that era. He has

worked as a practicing community pharmacist ever since, nearly 52 years. Don and Alene met in 1981, introduced by their daughters who were in college together at OU. Don and Alene were married 6 months later, combining Don's 3 children with Alene's 4. For 23 years, they worked together in the pharmacy he owned in Bethany, OK. Sadly, she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, which led to their moving to Bradford Village.

A man's legacy can be

measured in different ways. Don is blessed with many grandchildren and great-children. He has a reputation for being generous to them and in his professional work as a pharmacist. He is still working two days a week at Mark's Drug in downtown Guthrie.



Don still works part time at a pharmacy in Guthrie. Photo credit: newsok.com

Chaplain's Corner by Jim Davidson

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Matthew 5:44

Be kind to unkind people—they need it most.

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Join us for the Walk to End Alzheimer's. The walk is Saturday, September 24 at the Bricktown Ballpark. Registration and events begin at 7am; the walk is at 9:30am.

Around the Village

Tim Ray: Fix-it Man and Friend

Although you may know Tim Ray as our Director of Maintenance at Bradford Village, you may not realize that Tim and his family have a long-time connection with many of us here.

Tim's mother, Dee, and Hulda Hamilton were good friends; Dee and Hulda share the exact same birthday! Hulda's daughter is married to Tim's first cousin.

Carlita Walters was Tim's neighbor when he was a baby. As he grew older, he mowed her lawn with an old push mower.

Joyce Findley was his teacher.

Loree Rice lived three doors down from him.

Mary Quisenberry was a good friend and fellow member of P.E.O. with Tim's mother. He remembers them coming to his home for meetings and he and his father having to leave.

There are too many more lovely memories and acquaintances to name.



Tim Ray: Our "go to" man, our "fix anything" man, and our friend!

Tim's father was a principal and real estate broker in Edmond for years. His grandparents had a hamburger stand and flower shop in Edmond. The flower shop was called Pearce, which was his mother's maiden name. Tim was born in Edmond, in 1960, in the old hospital above the theater. You may know that area—it is now known as Othello's Restaurant. While Tim was being born, his father went downstairs and watched a movie! Tim attended first grade at Clyde Howell; he moved on in grade school to Clegern, and then to Will Rogers. He said the reason he kept changing schools was because if he didn't he would have had his mother for a teacher, and that was not allowed.

In his past, Tim was a custodian in Edmond public schools. He worked for 10 years at Frontier Engineering in Stillwater. He has also served in the United States Air Force. Currently, Tim lives on a beautiful acreage by Lake Arcadia. He loves fishing and enjoying the wild life there.

He adores his two daughters, Starla, of Edmond, and April, who resides in Orlando, Florida. He has one grandson, twelve years old, and another one coming next month!

Tim took care of his mother for 11 years and he is still taking care of people! For the past two years, Tim has been with us! His official title is "Director of Maintenance for IL and AL." In other words, "he takes care of us!" He says, "I love working here. I have a great boss (Eric) and I love all of the residents. I really do!"

We love you too, Tim. Thank you for all you do.

Quips and Quotes

"The greatest gift of life is friendship, and I have received it."

~ Hubert H. Humphrey

Welcome, New Neighbor!



Odom McDaniel, Jr. is our newest Bradford Village resident, residing at 6 Whitwell. He was born in a small sawmill town just outside Monroeville, Alabama (Harper Lee's hometown). Bogalusa, Louisiana soon became his childhood home and he graduated from LSU with a degree in Forestry. His career took him to many places in the south, as he worked for the U.S. Forest Service.

He met Dona Mae Crouch when he lived in Poteau, working for the Forest Service. She was newly graduated from high school and it seems it was "love at first sight." He proposed barely a month after they met; she received her engagement in the mail, as Odom had been transferred to Florida. They married soon after and Odom says, "She was ready to travel." Traveling became a way of life, as his career caused him to be transferred often.

Odom and Dona moved to Oklahoma when he retired after 30 years with the Forest Service. She insisted that they move back to Oklahoma, choosing the Oklahoma City area to be close to their daughter, Lynette. The couple also have a son living in Georgia. They celebrated their sixtieth anniversary recently, just before Dona passed away from a fall due to a massive stroke several years ago.

Odom's faith in the Lord is the cornerstone of his life; he attended Quail Springs Baptist Church until his hearing loss made it difficult for him to hear the sermons.

Welcome to Bradford Village, Odom McDaniel, Jr.!

A Tisket, A Tasket, a Green and Yellow Basket

Our latest "Memory Zone"—or maybe the "Remember When" zone—in the North Entry of the Community Center has drawn a lot of comments and contributions. Back before we had plastic and paper containers, we had baskets to move things around.

So, we tried to remind you of some of the important occasions when baskets were used, from the baby basket, laundry basket to picnics, or simply taking food to a church dinner. Baskets were used for gardening, harvesting, birthdays, funerals, etc. The uses were endless, depending on the occasion and, of course, size.

We also want to include a salute to Colene, who delivers meals daily with her basket—sometimes needing two—to those unable to attend meals. We hope you'll stop by and "Remember When." Thank you to those who contributed to our idea, and we hope you enjoy our salute to Baskets! Special thanks: Carol Biby, Donna Suenram, Ann Cather, Sandy Binkley, Sue Holcomb and Jerry Biby.



Marie Byrkit

We ran an article in the August edition of The Village Voice about Marie Byrkit. Marie has led such a full life that we omitted a few items—this is the updated and corrected article. ~ The Village Voice Team.



Marie Byrkit grew up in Decatur, Illinois as the oldest of 4 daughters; her father was a railroad engineer, and her mother was an assistant post-mistress. After finishing high school, she graduated from Eastern Illinois Teacher's College, completing a two-year elementary education certificate .

When urged by her mother to find a husband, Marie replied that she hadn't met anyone who interested her. While attending a Young Professional Retreat, she met Jack Byrkit. He invited her to a movie; it was Sunday and her mother didn't approve of movies on Sunday. However, the couple attended the movie, only to agree that both their mothers would have disapproved!

Jack, age 28, and Marie, age 27, were married after a year's courtship. They moved to Peoria, Illinois where they made their home: she was a stay-at-home mom until the children began college, when she returned to teaching. She commuted to Chicago to do graduate work while the children were in college. The couple was married for 63 years and had three sons. Marie now has eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren (with another on the way!).

After a career as an auditor for a trucking company, Jack retired. They chose to move to Edmond to be near their son, Dr. Gary Byrkit, who was Minister of Southern Hills Christian Church, until his sudden death 3 years ago. Jack and Marie lived at the AL for 16 years and Marie has lived in the Assisted Living for 2 years. "I've lived a blessed life, having lived 63 years married to a wonderful man, and raising happy, successful sons and grandchildren.

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The Dog Days of Summer

It's pretty tempting to stay at home in the cool air-conditioning during the hot summer days. However, we found a nice place in the shade where friends old and new can have a cool drink or cup of coffee—the back porch of the Assisted Living offers a great place and a marvelous opportunity to find several former cottagers, who would love a visit and a chance to get reacquainted.

We found cottager Clella Adams on the porch visiting with AL resident Mel Lochner, enjoying a nice, shady place in the morning to visit.



We thank our two "gardeners" who are faithful in tending to the plants on the AL porch. You may run into Jerry Biby or Charles Suenram, who take care of plants at the AL, as well as maintaining great yards of their own. Thanks to them for keeping things green and we look forward to the great fall display of mums, hay bales, pumpkins, and corn stalks that will be showing up soon on this great "Gathering Place on the AL Porch."

