

The Village Voice

Bradford Village, a Brookdale Community

Resident Spotlight

Genny Adamson



Issue 14
April 2017



Genny Adamson lived in 22 different homes before moving to Bradford Village as an independent cottager in 2000, and later chose a prime corner-room at the Assisted Living in 2015. She loves the sunshine that streams through the large window frames and has found contentment in the activities offered by living there, especially those that stimulate her mind. She reads three different newspapers daily, is a great listener and really enjoys people-watching.

Topeka, KS was the place of her birth, but the family soon moved to Wichita, KS, where she remained through high school. Her mother suffered from schizophrenia and was frequently hospitalized, but Genny remembers her as being a quiet, good mother when she was home. Her parents divorced, but her father remained in their lives and supported the family well.

Genny married soon after World War II began and had a son; five years later their daughter was born. Her son later married and had two sons. He was a chiropractor, but died at 37 due to leukemia. Patricia, her daughter, lives in New York City and is a retired opera singer, who performed with many famous tenors and baritones.

You can listen to recordings of her singing on You-Tube (search for Patricia Wise). Pat no longer performs, but she is sought out by professional operatic singers for private coaching. She has a daughter. Genny's late son's children have provided two grandchildren living in Bristow, OK.

A friend who was a librarian encouraged Genny to enter the field. She found much satisfaction in that work, since she loves to read and enjoys meeting people. She worked diligently with the Edmond Chamber of Commerce to convince the Oklahoma County Public Library to locate a branch in Edmond, which she served as Head Librarian. She is proud to say that it quickly became the most ac-

tive in circulation in all of Oklahoma County. While serving as a librarian, Genny also found time to participate in DAR, PEO, Cambridge Society, and became active in the First Christian Church of Edmond.

"Good things come out of bad things" and "Accept any positives you have to give and give them away" were two phrases Genny has used to guide her life.

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Around the Village

Resident Spotlight

Madge Cockrum



Madge Cockrum was born in a two room house in rural Illinois. When she was in 4th grade, they moved to a town of 450 residents about 20 miles from St. Louis. She is an only child, and the only girl in her class until high school. She graduated in a class of five, two girls and three boys. Until she was 12, Madge was the only grandchild in the family.

Grandparents held a big role in her life; both spoiled her. When she was a young girl, she wrote to her grandfather and told him that she wanted a pony. It was agreed that the grandfather would buy it, and her father would buy the feed! She rode the pony to school with all the school children taking turns during recess to ride the pony. As a high school graduation gift, her grandmother and Madge went to Chicago. They boarded a lake steamer to ports in Canada and the U.S., landing in Buffalo, N.Y. The two traveled by train to New York City, where they climbed to the top of the torch held by the Statue of Liberty. The trip included a stop in Washington, D.C., where her favorite memory was visiting the Lincoln Memorial.

Southern Illinois University offered her a scholarship, and there she soon met the man who became her husband. Her roommate introduced them; Madge returned the favor by introducing the roommate to the man who became *her* husband! Ernest and Madge were married for 47 years. He was in the army during the Korean Conflict, serving state side. After he returned, they moved to Madge's hometown and purchased a chicken farm with 1,000 laying hens, whose eggs she collected and sold to the local grocer. After four years on the farm, Ernest got a job as a salesman for a fertilizer company, where he quickly rose to be the top salesman. That led to their moving often; they lived in eight states. Madge worked at a drugstore and her boss sent her to Chicago to become a cosmetics representative. She also sold Avon.

The Cockrums had three children; she has a living son and daughter. She is the proud grandmother of five grandchildren. Her granddaughter is an attorney in Washington, D.C., and her grandson is a mechanical engineer. Of the other three, one is in computers, one is a Lutheran minister, and one is a salesman. She has one great-grandson and another on the way. Madge and Ernest moved to Oklahoma to be closer to their family. Madge was widowed in 2000 and moved into the Bradford Village Healthcare Center in 2010.

St. Louis Cardinals baseball is Madge's favorite team, but she also enjoys watching basketball and football; she used to play golf. She attends church weekly with her daughter. She's traveled to England, Ireland, Italy, Greece, and all states but Alaska. She collects angel figurines—she's even crocheted some—and crosses. She made afghans "for everyone!" She enjoyed playing the piano, a skill she learned as a child. She also played the clarinet in school and all her children are musical.

Madge's closing remarks were: "I like to be neighborly and see lots of beauty in the sky."

Associate Spotlight

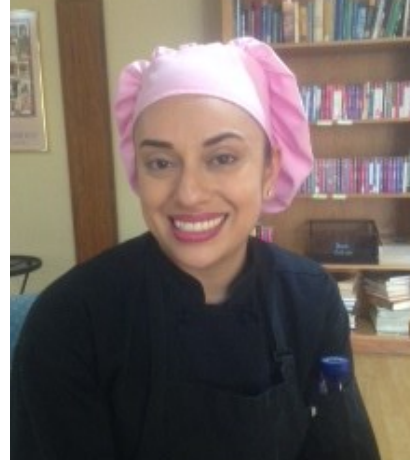
Gabriela Strayer

Gabriela Strayer serves as Lead Cook at the north dining room of the Healthcare Center, a position she has held for about 18 months. She learned her job while working as a server. This is her third job; she previously worked as a manger at Shoe Warehouse and later as a detention officer for the Juvenile Detention Center in Oklahoma City.

She has one sister and two brothers, three nieces and five nephews, all living in Oklahoma City. She graduated from Northwest Classen High School and attends First Church of the Nazarene in Oklahoma City (Spanish).

Gabriela married in October 2016 in Clearwater Beach, Florida—a beach wedding! She and her husband met when both worked at Shoe Warehouse. He is the Regional Loss-Prevention Manager for Shoe Warehouse and serves as a Reserve Sheriff in Oklahoma County. They honeymooned in Puerto Rico, but their dream trip for the future is visiting Bora Bora. The two enjoy “nerd stuff”—board games and puzzles—rather than going out or frequenting clubs. “Just hanging out” fills the rest of their time, though she confesses she loves to shop!

It’s easy to see why Gabriela is so well-liked at Bradford, as she has a quick smile, is soft-spoken, and has lovely features. You can easily spot her by seeing the pink chef’s hat she always wears. Her goal? “Making people happy by talking with them and making them feel good!”



The last full week of April is National Volunteer Week. We have so many residents on our campus who are giving of their time; information is coming soon about this special week of recognition of our awesome volunteers!

APRIL
23rd - 29th

NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER
WEEK 2017

MOBILIZE. BUILD. INSPIRE.

Welcome, New Neighbors

Winnie Hall



Winnie Hall and her dog Star are our new neighbors, moving recently into 12 Whitwell. She was born in Oklahoma City, moved to Putnam City for a time, then the family returned to Oklahoma City. Winnie graduated from Oklahoma City's Northeast High School. She attended Texas State College for Women in Denton, Texas; Bob Smith, her serious boyfriend in high school, was studying at Baylor in Waco, Texas, and the couple chose to marry after their first year of college. She quickly became a stay-at-home mom to their two children. Their son Robert, since deceased, gave Winnie four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, who live in the Dallas

area. Cynthia, their daughter, had cancer for 14 years and lived with Winnie the last 1 1/2 years of her life before passing away in September, 2015.

Bob was a self-employed entrepreneur in the Oklahoma City area. He also loved using his beautiful tenor voice in directing the choir at Edmond's First Christian Church. Winnie and Bob had been married for 48 years when Bob passed away from lung cancer. We hear his beautiful memorial when the bells chime on the quarter-hours at the church.

Winnie and a friend founded an interesting fashion item one Christmas which they named "Classic Threads of Edmond, OK." Winnie was unable to find a jacket she wanted, so she chose to make one and wore it during the holidays. Many people admired it and it grew into a successful undertaking for about five years. They had trunk shows at Balliett's in Oklahoma City, and sold to high-end gift stores in North Texas, Branson, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and Lawton.

There were many ways Winnie was active in the First Christian Church of Edmond, including serving as president of Christian Women's Fellowship three times, being in charge of the first CWF Women's Retreat, and singing in the choir. For several years, she served as wedding coordinator at the church, a job she enjoyed very much.

Four years after Bob's passing, Winnie encountered another boy she remembered from high school, a widower named George Hall. He had known of Bob's passing, and was patiently waiting to rekindle the friendship with Winnie. After a brief courtship, he proposed during Christmas and they married shortly afterwards. He was retired from being employed by Southwestern Bell and they enjoyed traveling widely with the Telephone Pioneers. George was a diabetic, and he ate well and exercised faithfully, but he was later diagnosed with Parkinson's. After an eight-month illness, he passed away in June, 2016. They had enjoyed 16 years of marriage.

Winnie is anticipating entertaining in her lovely cottage.

Dr. Verlin and Mona Richardson

A warm welcome to two of our most recent residents. Verlin and Mona Richardson have considered becoming members of the Bradford Village Family for quite some time and have attended many of our guest functions.

They moved into their cottage here from their home of forty five years in Timberridge. To quote Mona, "I like our little cottage - it is starting to feel like home."

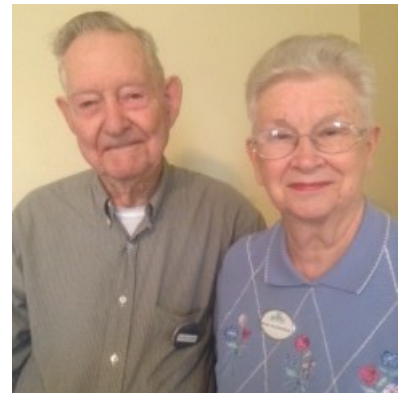
Verlin was born on a farm in Gage, OK on July 5th and says that from an early age he learned to fix things when they broke. You just didn't throw anything away as you could always find a way to use some part of it to fix something else that had broken! After high school he attended Northwestern and after graduation he had teaching positions first in a high school, then in 1958 he taught at El Dorado Junior college in Kansas. In 1962 he secured a position in the Chemistry department at Central State (UCO) where he remained until he retired in 1996.

Mona was born on December 15th in Ringwood, OK. She and Verlin met at Northwestern in Alva. They had a short engagement, and were married after their first year on July 27, 1951.

She describes herself as the ultimate homemaker, supporting Verlin and raising 3 children—2 girls and a boy. Their oldest daughter has one son, who in turn has 2 sons; their second daughter also has one son. Their son in California has two children.

In their retirement, Verlin still like to ride his bike and garden and Mona enjoys sewing and crossword puzzles, although she says she doesn't sew much any more. Together, they enjoy traveling and have gone with Village Bus Tours to all but 3 or 4 states. They are active members of Memorial Road Church of Christ, support the Children's Home, and Verlin helps send weekly Bible lessons to the prisons.

Welcome to the newest members of the Bradford Village Family!



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Jim Davidson

"Brighten the corner where you are."

Let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and
give glory to your Father in Heaven.

Matt. 5:16



My Easter Prayer

*If I had been there when they took him away
Would I have stood at the side and watched in the crowd that day?
Would I have followed as He was tried
Or would I have spoken up and been at His side?*

*I wonder how it felt to see Him carry the load
On His back as he stumbled down the road.
Would I have cried out when they hung Him on the tree,
Or stood silently by and said, "What will be will be."*

*I do know why He died that day on the hill
To take all our sins and to do God's will.
May I never forget that Easter morn
He brought hope to the world and new life was born.*

*Thank you, Lord, Jesus, for loving us so,
Our sins are forgiven by what happened so long ago.
You rose from the grave, it's empty we see
Because you showed us all what life ought to be.*

(Inspired by God, written down by Jeanne Peterson, Easter 1991)



Bradford Village Cottager's **Easter Celebration**

**Thursday, April 13
1:00pm**

Community Center Dining Room
Guests are welcome!

Please RSVP by signing up on the bulletin board, with total number of guests attending, by Tuesday, April 11 at 12pm.