

# The Village Voice

*Bradford Village, a Brookdale Community*

*Resident Spotlight*

## Clella Adams



Blackwell, OK was the hometown of Clella Adams, who was the youngest of three children. Her grandfather lived with them until his death, nurturing her love for history with memories he recounted of voting for Lincoln for president and making the 1893 Oklahoma Land Run. She graduated from Blackwell and soon married Harold Adams, who was from nearby Tonkawa, OK. Harold had earned an associate degree from the college in Tonkawa, but the U.S. Navy offered many opportunities. He served during World War II and the Korean conflict, retiring in 1961. Their first child

was born while he was away; Karen first met her daddy when she was two years old! During World War II, Clella lived in Wichita, KS and worked in the office at S H Kress as a long-distance operator for Bell Telephone. The Adams family included one daughter and two sons. The children learned to adapt to the frequent moves the Navy imposed. All especially enjoyed living in Key West, Florida and Naples, Italy. They spent four years in Naples and took the opportunity to visit many sites in the Mediterranean area. The family now includes 6 grandsons, 1 granddaughter, and 4 great-grandchildren. Upon Harold's retirement from the Navy, they remained in the Norfolk, VA area for Karen to finish high school there. They chose to settle in Edmond, OK to enable Harold and Clella to earn their teaching

credentials, to be close to the facilities for medical, etc. at Tinker Air Force Base, and to be closer to their parents, who still lived in northern Oklahoma. They graduated from Central State College, now UCO. Clella taught history at Mid-High in Edmond, while Harold taught at Orvis Risner (Edmond) and later served as Principal at Jones and Oakdale. They retired in the early 1980s and resumed their enjoyment of travel. They visited their children and grandchildren, in addition to traveling to every state except Alaska. They went to Australia twice and Hawaii several times. They cherished maintaining their active membership at First Christian Church and the Homebuilders Sunday School Class. Harold lost his sight and they decided to move to Oklahoma Christian Homes

(cottages) in 1997, now known as Bradford Village. Harold died in 2005 and Clella still lives in her cottage with her beloved Dolly, a cream-colored Persian cat with beautiful blue eyes. A wonderful memory was made in 1999 when Clella was the recipient of the "Experience of a Lifetime Award" by Brookdale Senior Living, and she and her two sons visited Washington, D.C. seeing the World War II Memorial and several other sites in the four-day all expenses-paid trip. A quote from Clella: "Try to live your life so that at the end, you'll have very few regrets."

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# Around the Village

## *Resident Spotlight* **Mary Billingsley**

Mary Billingsley is petite, well-dressed, and has a ready smile. She was born in Henryetta, OK, one of four children. Her father worked for Phillips Oil Company and the family moved often. Mary attended high school in Wewoka, OK, but followed her heart and chose marriage rather than graduating in three more months. Afton Wendell Billingsley was in the Army Air Corps Pilot Instruction School, so they lived in Louisiana for the first eight months of their marriage. He was soon sent overseas during World War II, and Mary returned to Wewoka to live with her parents while he was gone. Their daughter was born there; Afton didn't see their daughter Judy until she was 16 months old.



Afton remained in the National Guard and later served in the Korean conflict. At the end of World War II, the couple returned to Wewoka and he worked as a bookkeeper for a company who used trucks and bulldozers in building dams. Time passed and Afton purchased the company and continued to run it for years. Later, Afton worked at the GRDA (Grand River Dam Authority) and they lived in Pryor, OK and various other places in Oklahoma. They lived in a 31 foot travel trailer on the sites, taking it through Oklahoma as the work demanded. Mary didn't drive, and they didn't have a phone, but she taught herself to sew, making 15 suits for herself and others.

They had two children: Judy, who has three children and four grandchildren, and Mike (3 years younger), who has a daughter, a son, and two granddaughters. Mary takes great pride in them all.

Retirement saw the Billingsleys move to Tulsa, owning and operating an upscale consignment store for eight years. Afton died in 1996 after a satisfying life of working and serving as an Elder in the Church of Christ. Mary's activities have included playing bridge, tap dancing, ballet, exercise, and knitting. She has compiled impressive scrapbooks of her childhood, Afton's life, and the lives of their children.

After several surgeries and frequent falls, Mary spent three months in a nursing home, and then moved to Bradford's Assisted Living four years ago. If you see her, say a friendly "hello." to this vivacious, interesting woman.

**One flag, one land, one heart one hand, one nation evermore.**

**~ Oliver Wendell Holmes**

**Flag Day is Wednesday, June 14**

## Associate Spotlight Jean Wallick

Jean Wallick, receptionist at Bradford's Assisted Living, was born in Oklahoma City, lived in Wisconsin until she was 12, and graduated from high school in Arvada, CO. After attending the University of Colorado for two years, love won out and she married Frank Wallick. He was soon drafted by the U.S. Army and was sent to Germany. Jean joined him in Stuttgart, Germany for the second year. When his tour of duty ended, they lived in Wisconsin, Colorado, and southern Kansas, finally settling in Perkins, OK.

Jean was a stay-at-home mom while raising their three children, only working part-time. One part-time job which gave the couple a lot of satisfaction was the five years they spent as Ranch Parents at the Oklahoma Lion's Boys Ranch in Perkins. They are pleased that some of the boys they mentored still occasionally contact them, commenting through Facebook. The Wallicks have two daughters who live in Wichita, KS, and a son living in Perkins. The three children have a total of 11 children. Jean and Frank celebrated their 50th anniversary last summer with a small reunion of family and friends at a church in Kansas.

Bradford Village hired Jean on December 31, 2002 to work in the kitchen at the Health Care Center. She has also served in medical records, worked in the dining room at the inception of breakfast and lunch being served at the Independent Living, was Activity Director at the HCC for about five years, and was the receptionist at the HCC. Jean told of beginning to smile at a resident at the HCC, letting herself care about him. She has learned that everyone can make a difference simply by smiling. "All the jobs have been meaningful. No matter what you do at these facilities, it's worthwhile," was her assessment.

Frank is retired and the couple enjoys their membership in the American Trike Riders Club. A trike is a motorcycle which has been modified to have three wheels. They spend some of Jean's vacation time with the club's activities, traveling to Branson, MO and Eureka Springs, AR.



*(Jean enjoys a visit with her sister, Joyce.)*

## **Fish Fry!** **Saturday, June 10th, 11:30am-1:00pm** **Community Center Dining Room**

We will be recognizing Father's Day, but all residents, family, and guests are welcome to come. Be sure to write your name/guests' names on the sign-up sheet. Cost is \$7/person.

### **MENU**

Fried fish, chicken planks, coleslaw, fries, hushpuppies, cobbler and ice cream, tea, lemonade, and a selection of beers.



# Around the Village

## Join the Bradford Village Book Club!

Bradford Village Book Club is looking for a few good readers! The Book Club meets at 10:30 on the second Tuesday of each month in the Community Center Library.

June	<i>Pudd'nhead Wilson</i> by Mark Twain
July	<i>Hidden Figures</i> by Margot Lee Shetterly
August	<i>Dust Bowl Girls</i> by Lydia Reeder

### ***Pudd'nhead Wilson* by Mark Twain**

The novel's central intrigue revolves around two boys—one, born into slavery, with 1/32 black ancestry; the other, white, born to be the master of the house. There is one copy of this book in our Community Center Library. The Edmond Public Library offers this novel in e-book form and in print as part of a collection of three novels in one book located in the Fiction section.

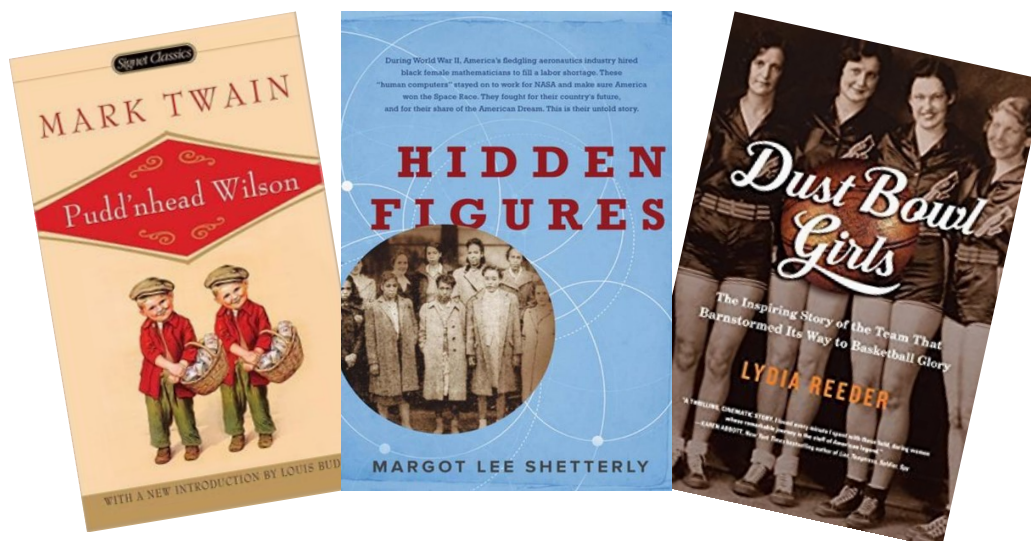
### ***Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly**

The book is the phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA at the leading edge of the feminist and civil rights movement, whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space—a powerful, revelatory contribution that is as essential to our understanding of race, discrimination, and achievement in modern America. There is one copy of this book in the Community Center Library. And it also is available from the Edmond Public Library in print form in the Biography Section, as well as an audio book, as a CD book, and the movie as a DVD.

### ***Dust Bowl Girls* by Lydia Reeder**

The book's full title is *Dust Bowl Girls: A Team's Quest for Basketball Glory*. At the height of the Great Depression, Sam Babb, the charismatic basketball coach of tiny Oklahoma Presbyterian College, began dreaming. Like so many others, he wanted a reason to have hope. Traveling from farm to farm, he recruited talented, hardworking young women and offered them a chance at a better life: a free college education if they would come play for his basketball team, the Cardinals.

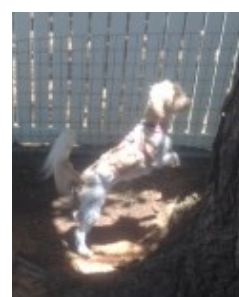
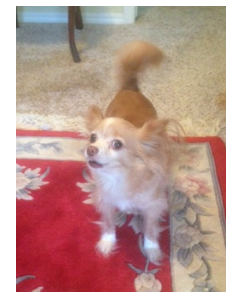
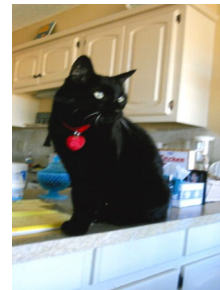
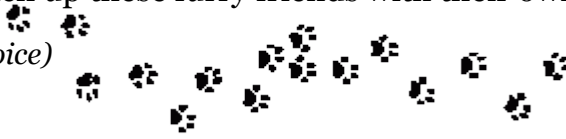
We hope this helps you locate a copy for you to read. Looking forward to hearing your thoughts about these books as we discuss them!



# Furry Friends of Bradford Village

Bradford Village doesn't only include residents of the human variety; we have lots of pets that live among us, too! Can you match up these furry friends with their owners?

(Answers in next month's Village Voice)





# Summer Fun

We had a lot to celebrate in the month of May. From a zoo trip to Celebrations to our gardening project re-planting the Healthcare Center West Courtyard, Bradford Village residents have been busy!

