

The Village Voice

Bradford Village—Villagio Senior Living

Resident Spotlight—Don McGregor



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Don McGregor was born into a close-knit family in South Haven, Kansas. Both sets of grandparents lived within 2 miles. When he was 9, his family moved to Dexter, Kansas where he attended a one-room school. He had anticipated being a farmer like his dad, but during his senior year in high school a missionary from the Belgian Congo spoke at his church and ignited Don's fire to become a missionary. Upon graduation

from high school in Emporia, Kansas, he took 2 semesters at Ottawa Baptist University.

Billy Graham and his soon-to-be team spoke at a conference Don attended in Urbana, Illinois and reinforced his call to missions. A lady he met at a Youth Camp suggested Life Pacific College in Los Angeles, California to earn the training and credentials needed for missionary work. He decided to hitchhike to

reach California, but on the way, he met a boy in Colorado who was a senior at Life Pacific. The two took a bus to L.A. and they roomed together for a year.

Don met a classmate named Sally (from Parsons, Kansas) and the two were married their second year of school. She was a schoolteacher, and shared his calling to missions. She became a true partner in the career both of them chose.

After graduating from Life Pacific, Don pastored a church in Pittsburgh, Kansas for 5 years. In 1948, the Mission Board asked the couple to go to the Philippines, a nation which includes 7,000 islands, 6,500 of which were inhabited. They took their two children and spent 22

days getting to Manila on a freighter. They remained 15 years, directing a college for aspiring Christian leaders. Students were multilingual, speaking English and one or more of the 7 main languages of the nation.

The Mission Board then asked the McGregors to help other countries establish schools in the area known as Austral/Asia/Pacific. Don and Sally commuted from their home in Los Angeles. For ten years, they helped form self-supporting colleges for aspiring Christian leaders in that vast region. Their goal was to estab-



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lish “Life Long Learners.”

In 1993, the Mission Board appointed Don Director of Foreign Missions; he served for 3 more years. They retired in 1996 and spent the next several years traveling independently to Europe, Africa and South America helping to establish more self-sustaining colleges with “Life Long Learners” programs.

The McGregors’ 3 children on this odyssey grew up in the Philippines and “have a love for the people there.” They are Mike (Edmond) who has 3 children and 7 grandchildren, Robin (Edmond) who has 2 children and 4 grandchildren, and Julie (Napa Valley, Idaho) who has 2 children.

Sally died in 2007 so Don moved to Oklahoma City and subsequently to Bradford Village in 2014. He’s very glad to be here saying: “People love and care for one another.”

New Neighbors

The Coody’s!

Clara Lou Coody

Long-time resident of Edmond, Clara Lou Coody lives at 229 Lincoln with her husband, Don. She attended school in Cleveland, Ok (35 mi. from Tulsa) and began college at Central State University upon her graduation, earning a B.S. in Education and Business and a master’s degree in Education. A teacher for Edmond Public School for 27 years, she capped off her career as Principal of Northern Hills Elementary for 10 years.

Mark Tyler, resident of San Antonio, is Clara Lou’s oldest son. He has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. Jeff, her middle child, has 2 daughters and 1 grandchild and lives in Edmond. Sherma Lou Higgs, her only daughter lives in Couer d’Alene, Idaho and has 2 sons.



Clara Lou has been an active worshipper at Edmond’s First Presbyterian Church, serving as Clerk of the Session for about 20 years. Additionally, she sang in the choir and was active in her women’s circle. She has also been a long-time member of PEO.

Clara Lou and Don met at an Arthur Murray Dance Studio when both were taking dance lessons. After a 3-year courtship, they married in 1978, sailing on a honeymoon to northeast Europe, which culminated in Russia. Travel continued to play a role in their lives as they helped

New Neighbors Cont'd

The Coody's!

chaperone the Oklahoma Show Choir's trips to Europe. They have also taken 2 cruises down the Rhine River, another cruise on the Lewis/Clark Riverport, and one from NYC to Quebec, Canada.

Changes in Edmond and especially at Central State (now known as the University of Central Oklahoma) have been numerous since Clara Lou settled here. The entire enrollment at Central State while she was in school was about \$1,000 (1951). She worked at the Dean of Men's office and a friend worked at the Business office, so they kept tabs on things.

Don Coody

A native of Bethany, OK, Don lives at 229 Lincoln with his wife Clara Lou. He went through school in Bethany, graduating with a class of thirty in 1949. Don attended Bethany Nazarene College for a year, then chose Southwestern State College (now a university) to pursue his pharmacy degree. Downtown Bethany was his first job (Wehrenburg Drug); he stayed 3 years. Dr. Gilbert opened Gilbert Clinic and asked Don to open the pharmacy in the clinic. That was the inception of Don's Pharmacies. He eventually operated stores at Grand Lake, Canadian, Texas, and several in western and central Oklahoma, often recruiting able people to co-own some of them.

Don was active in professional and civic activities. He served a 4-year term on the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy, the licensing body. He also was on the City Council of Bethany and was President of the American College of Apothecaries (ACA).

He has three children, all of whom live in central Oklahoma. Denice Brown has 2 daughters and 6 grandchildren, Rick Coody has 2 children and one grandchild, and Mike Coody is single.

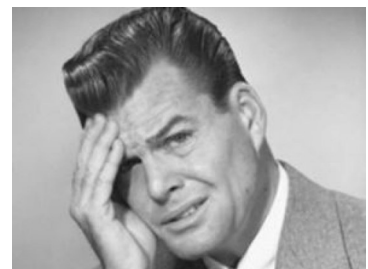
A former member of the Nazarene Church, Don changed to Presbyterian upon marrying Clara Lou. He supports her active involvement and they are regular worshippers at Edmond's First Presbyterian Church.

He retired about 8 years ago and both have enjoyed traveling—especially to their cabin on Grand Lake. Several long-time friends have encouraged their moving to Bradford Village to simplify their lives and enjoy more leisure time.

Riddle Me This...

What starts with "e," ends with "e," and contains one letter?

(Answer on Page 6)



Monthly Quote

“You are as welcome as flowers in May.”

-Charles Macklin



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Jim Davidson

"Therefore comfort each other and edify one another." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Throughout the day, God prompts us to build up another person through a hello or a smile. Who knows what a difference a smile or hello will make in someone's life?

Encouragement is also a powerful tool to get your mind off yourself.



Letter from the editor

Calling all writers! The Village Voice is looking for contributors to the newsletter. What kinds of things can you share?

- ◆ Personal memories (see our two featured articles this month)
- ◆ Articles on a topic of interest (gardening, history, crafting or quilting)
- ◆ Favorite recipes
- ◆ Photographs

We also need writers to interview new and current residents. If you are interested in being a regular contributor, talk to Hannah about joining our team!

Holidays



May Day 5/1

Cinco de Mayo 5/5

Mother's Day 5/13

Ramadan Begins 5/16

Memorial Day 5/28





A Statement from Villagio

Villagio Senior Living, an Independent, Assisted Living and Memory Care provider with communities in Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado, is the new owner of Bradford Village.

“We look forward to a smooth transition for Bradford Village and all who reside here,” said Eric Lindsey, Chief Executive Officer for Villagio Senior Living. “Our team has worked closely with those who have operated Bradford Village successfully over the years, and together we offer a combined 80 years of experience in the field. As we move to put our own spin on some things at the community, some things will change but we’ll never compromise the quality of care.”

Bradford Village has been serving Edmond and surrounding city residents for 60 years with Assisted Living, Independent Living, skilled nursing, and long-term care options. Villagio Senior Living is a leader in Assisted Living and Memory Care, and they are excited to take on Independent Living. They will continue to provide these community options to current and future residents.

What’s different about Villagio is their approach to senior living. Villagio combines unique amenities with the highest level of caregiving to provide passionate care for residents and peace of mind for their loved ones. In addition, Villagio offers exceptional programs that are built around each individual’s life history, cultural heritage, current abilities, and personal interests.

“We pride ourselves on innovation and a high-quality experience for all our residents,” said Lindsey. “That’s why we constantly develop and test new programs with the intent of building stronger, healthier, and more vibrant communities for our residents and their families.”

Core programs coming to Bradford Village are Pet Therapy, Memories in the Making—an art program, Once Upon a Dream—a program to fulfill residents dreams, and Fit for Life—a fitness program catered to each resident’s needs, to name a few. Villagio will also bring to the community its models for agendas, menus, and living option progressions.

I’m Not So Sure

By Don Self on 4/04/2018

Angels are with us, nearby, to guide our paths and make us safe and secure. Angels are all around us, we’ve heard that before. A doubting Thomas, I was unconvinced.

Though I wonder now if my wife wasn’t one? She made my life matter, made it complete. Though I was happy, there were a few days when I was lonely and down. My remedy for that—to hold her hand. That worked for me every time! It was like God sent an angel just for me. But, after thirty-five years, God took her away and gave her a crown. If she wasn’t an angel before, she may be one of His angels now!

Why would God send angels to us? Could it be He loved us so much?

Gifts to the Lonely



The three women pictured above are recognizable to most at Bradford Village. They are Penny DiMaio, Debbi Doyle, and Mary Parsons, at their post in our Community Center serving as poll officials for the elections held here. As many of us have noticed, during some elections there are often “slow times.” The three talked over ideas to keep themselves occupied during those times of few voters. They recognized that they could put that time to good use—and for a good cause.

The women were at an estate sale when they spied a lot of yarn being sold for a very economical price. They purchased the yarn and started crocheting twin-sized afghans. They just put the colors in the afghans as they had available yarn, creating original and very attractive afghans which they decided to give to some of the potentially lonely people at the Bradford Village Healthcare Center. They contacted those in charge at the HCC and turned their finished products over to them to distribute on people’s birthday. “We are especially interested in these afghans going to those who have few, or very seldom, visitors,” they said.

What a wonderful activity for those three—and a blessing for so many!

Riddle Answer: An envelope!