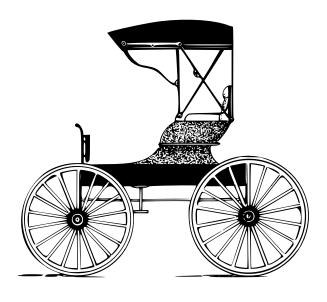


# **ESUNSET OBSERVER**



# Blessings and Buggies



Gene Ganstrom's family has been in the Concordia area since his great grandfather came from Sweden. He homesteaded north of Concordia and helped establish the Gottland community. "He lost his first wife, and there wasn't any cemetery, it was that long ago" says Gene. "They buried her on a creek bank, and we don't know where that is for sure. But then, when he was applying for his homestead he told them:

(continued on page 2)

When I get that homestead I want one acre of that homestead to be a cemetery. And it is to be named Gottland', because that's where he came from."



Gene holds a puppy during a resident activity.

Gene grew up in a Christian home and helped his Dad on the farm. He had two brothers that were 12 and 14 years older than him, but they moved away and many of chores fell to Gene. He does remember when his brothers were around, "They were far enough older that they teased me a lot" he says.

One of the big events that Gene remembers from his childhood is when his older brother George shipped out on the train for the second World War. "I remember we saw George off. That night he left we took him to the railroad station with a bunch of others. And the train was so slow as it turned away because there were a lot of tears."

In their early years, Gene and and his wife Pearl drove around in a Studebaker. Ironically, Gene's father and mother courted in a Studebaker buggy. Gene had a replica made of the buggy, since the original was too

much for him to keep and store when his father sold the farm. The little black buggy sits proudly on beautiful wood shelves that Gene made. He plans to give the buggy to his son Sheldon, while another buggy that sits opposite will go to his daughter Kathy. "There was a famous Swedish singer named Jenny Lind. And when she came (continued on page 3)



Gene participates in the weekly veterans meetings at Sunset Home. 2

(continued from page 2)

to America for a tour she ordered a special buggy." Gene says of the other buggy. Gene's granddaughter is named Jenny Lind, after the singer.

The biggest loss Gene ever had was when his wife Pearl passed away a few years ago. "God blessed me with a wife and I loved her dearly" he says. Pearl and Gene were married for 67 years and during their union they made it to every state in the nation, even Alaska and Hawaii.

Gene has five grandchildren and twenty great grandchildren. He wants them to remember how much he loves them. His best piece of advice for living is, "Accept Christ as your Savior and stay with it".

#### **Spotlight on Tammy**

Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant at Sunset Home



Tammy (left) and Deanna are part of the therapy team at Sunset Home.

What are your hobbies or collections? Reading and chicken or snowmen collecting.

If you could have one superpower, what would it be and how would you use it? To stop human trafficking.

What's a fact about you that nobody would guess? I have been married for 45 years and have 27 grandkids.

What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten? Bobcat and alligator.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received? To quit worrying. It never turns out like you think.

## **Season of Cheer**

Residents and staff celebrated in many ways this December!



















#### Welcome, Richard!



Richard was a farmer and an auto mechanic. He was also a maintenance director at Sunset Home for 14 years.

Richard Palmquist Concordia, KS



## Happening in January...

**Every Monday - 10 am** Veterans Meeting

Every Wednesday - 2:30 pm B-I-N-G-0

January 10 - 1:30 pm Man Cave Monday

January 13 - 10:00 am Winter Aerobics January 17 - 10:00 am

January 27 - 10:00 am Snowball Bowling

January 28 - 10:00 am Make Blueberry Pancakes









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Locally owned and operated since 1910.

JANUARY 2022

#### WHO LOVES MAIL?!?!

Would you or someone you know like to receive our newsletter, no strings attached? Simply fill out this form and send it to us at Sunset Home (620 2nd Ave., Concordia, KS 66901).

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