

THE SUNSET OBSERVER



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Pursuing Her Passions



Not only is Marilyn Johnston a resident of Sunset Home, she is a long-time supporter and friend of the community. She puts passion into whatever she pursues and has lived a full life.

"I was born, about seven, eight miles west of Concordia, not far from Scottsville," says Marilyn. "The exciting thing for my mother was not only was I a breech birth, I was a

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frank breech birth, and I weighed nine pounds. My poor mother, what kept her alive, I don't know," she says.

Eventually Marilyn's family moved to Concordia. "Not many people can brag that they were raised in a barn," she says. The barn, in fact, was an apartment next to the sale barn. Her family took it over until they bought a house.

Marilyn has one older sister who is a very accomplished musician and directed numerous musical comedies. Marilyn had the pleasure of going to her shows for years. "I remember I went to *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Hawaii*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*," says Marilyn.

Marilyn has five children of her own. "I just loved raising kids," she says. Three of her boys have degrees in engineering from Kansas State University. Her daughter studied geology and has a degree from K-State, too.

Marilyn worked with another resident, Aline Luecke, at the Cloud County Historical Museum for several years. Marilyn volunteered at the museum because she enjoyed researching family history. "And so we started doing that and I got to know her better" Marilyn says. "Besides that, in high school I went with her brother. I don't know where that came from," she chuckles.

Marilyn also served on the library board, "I was proud to be asked to be on the library board, that was my kind of stuff." An avid reader, Marilyn used to read about five books a week. One of her favorite authors is James Patterson and she has read most of his books.

In the early 2000s, Marilyn was instrumental in the formation of a book to document the first 100 years of Sunset Home. For ten years, she also led residents in The News Forum Group. Each week they





Marilyn's photo of "Relics at the Ruins" in Ireland, 2009.

talked about the news of the day and shared stories and musings with each other.

Marilyn taught night classes in photography at Cloud County Community College for 17 years. Soon, she was saving her teaching money so her family could take a trip abroad every five years.

They visited Scotland a few times and Marilyn was able to continue some of her genealogy quests. On their last trip, her husband Dean did not want to do anything too strenuous, and Marilyn remembers him saying, "How would you feel about Ireland?"

Everybody tells us how beautiful Ireland is." Even though it wasn't part of their genetic background, Marilyn agreed, "It was one of our favorite and it was our last trip together."

When thinking about a life well lived, "Not setting your goals too high," comes first to mind for Marilyn. "So many things are involved in that, your family, their battles, and their successes and so on are all such a part of it, and just how dependent we are on where they're at in their lives" she says. "I think I've been content most of my life. But I had difficulty when I lost Dean, it was hard to do. And he was so kind and so good and my kids loved him so much that we sure wouldn't have the same life if it hadn't been for him."



Hello, New Residents



Deanna Sweat
Concordia, KS

Deanna was a county agent and helped judge at the fair. She likes knitting, crafts, and puzzles.



Helen Danielson
Concordia, KS

Helen was born and raised in New York. She was a military wife for 25 years and eventually landed in Hastings, NE and then Concordia.



Betty Strait
Concordia, KS

Betty went to a country school and played a lot with the neighbor girl. They were tomboys and liked riding on the tractor with their fathers.



Doris Davis
Ada, KS

Doris was a farm wife and raised three kids. She contributed to many aspects of the farm, including baking cookies to give to others.



March Activities

Wed. & Fri. - 10:00 am
Christian Service

March 1 - 10:00 am
"I Am Lucky" Craft

March 7 - 1:30 pm
Bus Trip

March 8 - 10:00 am
Shamrock Suncatcher

March 21 - 10:00 am
Noodle Ball

March 17 - 2:30 pm
St. Patty's Popcorn & Punch

March 21 - 10:00 am
Springtime Reminiscing

March 28 - 1:30 pm
Make Popsicles!



Trivia thru Time

Test your knowledge of the 1950's...

Which president of the United States was in office from January 20, 1953 to January 20, 1961?

What was the name of the first satellite launched into orbit by Russia in 1957?

What year did Disneyland open?

Which famous song by Doris Day was introduced in the 1956 Hitchcock thriller, *The Man Who Knew Too Much*?

Tony and Maria were the lead characters of this Broadway musical that premiered in 1957.

Which television game show first aired in 1956 and is still running today?

What famous cowboy of the 1950s was really named Leonard Slye?

What piece of women's clothing, named after a dog, became popular in the 1950s?



- March -

Aline Luecke
Pat Richey
Deanna Sweat
Betty Strait

Trivia Answers:

Dwight D. Eisenhower
Sputnik
1955
"Que Sera Sera"
West Side Story
The Price is Right
Roy Rogers
Poodle skirt

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