

THE SUNSET OBSERVER



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Friendships & Family



Joseph “Dean” Grimm was born in the Aurora community in 1934—the Dirty Thirties. His family was originally from Ireland.

Dean’s family operated a 774-acre diversified farm when he was younger. Dean has many fond memories of the farm and remembers back to when he was two years old. “We had a milkman come pick up our milk and cream. For my second birthday,

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he brought me a little puppy.” Dean and his brother spent a lot of time playing with the puppy and their Radio Flyer wagon, including collecting walnuts and cracking them as a pastime.



When he was 11, Dean’s family left the farm to support his dad’s health. Only knowing country schools, Dean was about to go to Washington School in Concordia. “My first friend that I met when I went to school--we still keep in touch,” he says. His friend, Susie, lived right across the street and they would walk back and forth from school together. They spent hours swinging on a rope swing she had in her yard. They also played a lot of Monopoly.

When he grew up, Dean knew he wanted to work for the post office. “I thought that would be a fun job.” He met his goal and delivered mail in Salina until he retired. Prior to his civilian career, Dean served in the Engineer Aviation Battalion for nine years.

Dean and his wife were married for about 60 years. She was from Beloit and they were 22 and 20 years old when they tied the knot in 1956. They had four children, three girls and a boy. Two of his kids live in Concordia while the rest are in contiguous states.

Dean’s had some close calls in his life. As a boy, he got stuck in a muddy pond with just his head above water before a neighbor boy pulled him out and saved his life. “Another time I was underneath the porch, helping a friend of mine get some lumber out for his dad. Water had run underneath there and it was wet. And I was carrying an extension cord. I was getting electrocuted, and my friend noticed the extension cord wasn’t moving.” If his friend had not pulled the cord out or Dean had been by himself, he probably would not have made it.

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Dean's most recent close call was in 2020 when he had a urinary tract infection. As he was being admitted to the hospital, he also tested positive for CoVID. He had a very difficult time keeping it together and making it through. He slowly got better and was able to come back to Concordia. With therapy assistance, he was able to recover to the strength level he was at before his illness.

If Dean could go back to any time, he would go back to that swing with Susie. "It's good to have friends," he says. His fondest memories include those spent with family and friends. He continues to make sure his home is a welcome space for anyone that visits, with plenty of toys for his great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Hello, New Residents



Laura Slagle
Belleville, KS

Laura grew up in Narka, KS. She worked at the Belleville police department, JCPenney's, and kept the books for the lumber yard her husband ran.



Elgin Saunders
Courtland, KS

Elgin was a self-employed brick-layer. He has five grandkids and he enjoyed playing basketball and going fishing with them.



Ruby Phillips
Concordia, KS

As a Navy wife, Ruby watched other military kids along with her five children. She liked sewing, especially clothes.



Spring has Sprung!

Spring is off to a busy start with haircuts, Peeps Play Dough, an Easter Egg Hunt, a birthday party and more!!





Trivia thru Time

Test your knowledge of the 1970's...



Memorial Day, Concordia, 1973

In 1971, the 26th amendment gave 18-year-olds what right?

Which Olympian set a record in 1972 by winning 7 gold medals?

Who beat Babe Ruth's home run record in 1974?

Name the top selling song of the decade.

What was Stephen King's first published novel that came out in 1974?



Trivia Answers:

Right to vote

Mark Spitz

Hank Aaron

"American Pie"

Carrie



Spotlight on Kim Hernandez

Speech Language Pathologist and Director of Therapy

What's your favorite thing to do in the summer?

Garden, fish, and go to the lake.

If you could have one superpower, what would it be and how would you use it?

To return this world to common sense and to teach others to be grateful for every single day.

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Kim works with a resident during a therapy session.



Kim with her grandson and a resident at Sunset Home.

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Growing up, who had the most influence on you and why?

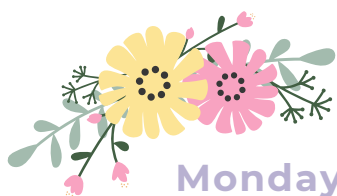
My grandparents. My grandpa was paralyzed at the age of 34 in a skiing accident. My grandma took care of him for the rest of his life. They showed me how to love unconditionally and to take care of those in need.

What are your hobbies or collections?

I love volleyball! I loved playing when I was younger. I refereed for many years and now I coach volleyball.

What's the craziest thing you've ever done?

I played in an all day softball tournament in July when I was six months pregnant.



May Activities

Mondays - 8-9:30 am
Coffee Chats

Wednesdays - 2:30 pm
BINGO!

May 7 - 1:30 pm
Mother Daughter Tea

May 9-13
Nursing Home Week!

May 20 - 10:00 am
Water Color Painting

May 24 - 9:00 am
Games at the
Senior Center

May 26 - 1:30 pm
Bus Trip



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MAY 2022

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