



THE SUNSET OBSERVER



In this issue...

Sunset Happenings - 5
Treat Yourself! - 6

Heights and Flights



Jerome Johnson was born on the farm twelve miles southeast of Concordia. He is an only child and a miracle at that. His mother had a condition that should have prevented her from having any children.

Jerome went to a country school, District 76 - Nelson Center, before attending high school in Concordia. "I was in the FFA and I needed a project. And since I

(continued on page 2)

helped on the farm my dad set aside a 40-acre patch. And that was mine to farm. I planted row crops on it or I planted wheat or whatever I wanted to plant. I used my dad's equipment and I also worked his ground, except that piece was mine."

"I got to keep the crops and when I graduated from high school I had saved enough money that I bought a new Rocket 88 Oldsmobile." Jerome wishes he still had the Rocket and his '57 Thunderbird. "If that Thunderbird was in good shape, I'd imagine it'd be worth \$80,000-90,000," he says.

After high school, Jerome was drafted into the military and stationed in Korea and Germany. "I was in communications, which more or less fit in with the hobby I had before I went into the service which was electronics, and I had an amateur radio."

When he returned from service, Jerome continued to do amateur radio and helped families speak with their loved ones in the military overseas. "I would call up a parent and say, 'I have your son on the phone will you pay the long-distance charges from Concordia, Kansas to your house, so you can talk to them?' And I never had anybody turn me down."

During a time when overseas calls were astronomically expensive, families would get on the phone and talk for 30-40 minutes by radio, saying "Over" when they were ready for the other person to speak.

During the holidays there was a lot of "traffic", but a clear channel was kept open so families would have a chance to hear from each other. Sometimes Jerome would stay up until 4:00 am connecting families.

Jerome also has a lifelong interest in planes. "I flew some gliders over there in the foothills of the Alps."



Jerome and his wife Joann having fun at Sunset Home activities.

"On Sunday, they would have this large diesel motor with a big winch drum on it that was mounted on the back of one of their trucks," says Jerome. The gliders would go up to around 1,000 feet and were operated by a single rider. "The longest I ever stayed up was an hour and a quarter. I had some pretty good currents that morning. It was neat because all you heard was a soft whistle, no motor." Jerome says they called it a paper airplane because it was lightweight, covered with fabric, and made from balsam wood.

In addition to farming, Jerome was an electronics engineer. He put up radio towers in central Kansas--some were 140 feet tall. Jerome climbed many towers himself, the highest being 500 feet.

Jerome never told his wife when he was going on a climb. Back then there were no harnesses or safety regulations for the work he did.

Jerome and his wife Joann, have four children. Joann also lives at Sunset Home and Jerome appreciates all the time they have together. He spent several hours each day with her when she first came about five years ago. Now, he can be with her as often as he likes.

Jerome says, "My definition of a life well-lived would be a long life with loved ones around you, and a wonderful wife and the many, many friends you make over the years. The only drawback of it is that your friends get less every year."



Jerome participates in group outings offered by Sunset Home.

Spotlight on Valerie Hamilton

Certified Medication Aide

What is one of your favorite places and why? Near an ocean, river, or lake because being close to the water makes me calm and relaxed.

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

My dad. He told me that hard work never killed anyone--and he's right!!

What's your favorite family tradition?

When my Grandma Barajas was alive all of the girls would get together and help make a Mexican feast for the rest of the family.

What are your hobbies or collections? I love to bake and cook. I collect anything heart-related.

What's a fact about you that nobody would guess? I smile a lot to cover the pain of my mom having dementia. This disease robbed me of my mom.

What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten? Alligator--it definitely has it's own distinct flavor.



Valerie and Sammy.

- October -

Dolores St. Pierre

Lela Chaput

Lana Lanik

HAVE A
Wonderful
BIRTHDAY

Happening at Sunset...

Tuesdays - 1:30 pm

Dominoes

October 4 - 1:30 pm

Wedding Reminiscing

October 11 - 2:00 pm

Soft Pretzels & Cider

October 18 - 10:00 am

Witch Wind Catchers

October 24-28 - Spirit Week!

October 27 - 9:30 am

Brown Grand Ghost Tour

October 30 - 1:30 pm

Haunt the Halls

October 31 - 9:00 am

Halloween Party!

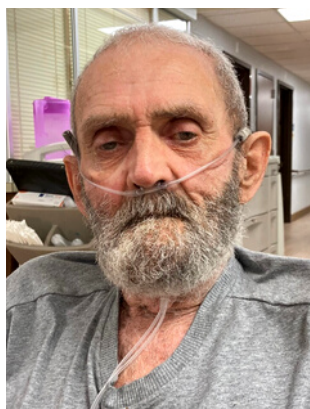


Hello, New Residents



Joan Pickard
Agenda, KS

Joan worked for AT&T for 16 years and traveled all over the country. She also enjoyed creating with stained glass as a pastime.



Steve Hanson
Jamestown, KS

Steve worked in factories and on pipelines. He loves fishing and hunting and once caught an 80 pound spoonbill in Oklahoma.



**October is
Physical Therapy
Month**

*Thank you
Deanna and Joel
for helping us
find our strength!*



620 2nd Ave. | Concordia, KS 66901
785-243-2720 | sunsethomeinc.com

Locally owned and operated since 1905.

NOW OFFERING *Massages*

FOR RESIDENTS
& STAFF

Contact Kambree

+785-243-2720 ext. 125

