



Sunset Home
— Senior Living Community —
Locally owned and operated since 1905

NOVEMBER 2022

THE SUNSET OBSERVER



In this issue...

Fall for All - 4

Happy Birthday! - 5

Brick by Brick



In 1944, Elgin Saunders was born in White Rock, Kansas. He was the oldest and had a younger brother and sister. Elgin's family has been in the United States since 1780 when his great-great-grandpa came to New York.

When he was very young, Elgin's family set up a dairy farm five miles north of Courtland, Kansas. Elgin remembers the cream going to

(continued on page 2)

Courtland, but the milk would be used to help feed the pigs. Once they moved to Class B milk, a lot of their products went to Superior, Nebraska.

“When I was about 8 years old, Dad put me on a tractor and I was driving it by myself,” says Elgin. Elgin would mow the hay while his dad raked it.



As a young adult, Elgin worked on a neighbor’s farm. “He was fun to work with because he had brand new tractors,” says Elgin.

One winter when the farming had slowed down, Elgin was in Courtland while his family was buying groceries. “I came across a couple of boys laying blocks and they taught me how to lay blocks. Then they retired and I took over.”

For 45 years Elgin laid bricks and worked in about every town in a 40-mile radius of Courtland.

It was tough work and today Elgin has back problems because of it. “I regret not stopping sooner laying bricks. It was hard turning people down. I figure you touch every block about three times. Once to stack it, once to pick it up, and once to lay it,” he says. Elgin could lay about 250 blocks a day, but he had a worker that could lay 300 blocks.

Elgin also did concrete work. One of the first times he put in a step, a farmer forgot and used the door where they were working. The old step was gone and the farmer came tumbling out of the house. The farmer knew they were working there, but it would have been better to latch the door.

“I was a pretty good basketball player,” says Elgin. He also did football and track in high school and still loves watching sports. Up until a few years ago, he was still playing basketball with his son and grandkids.

(continued on page 3) 2



Elgin visits with a trainer about a CARES dog.

Elgin's grandfather used to say, 'If you have the ambition to move a mountain, you can do anything you want to do.' Elgin would continue to share this advice with the people in his life, including the many young adults that worked for him.

Elgin's wife passed away last spring. She was a schoolteacher for many years. Elgin fondly remembers the things they liked to do together like going to sales and antiquing. They worked hard to make money, but took time as a family to go camping, fishing, and boating. They made a good team raising their children.

One of Elgin's biggest accomplishments was building rooms onto the house he and his wife bought when they were married. "It costs a lot more now than when I was doing it," he muses. They got the house for a bargain because it sat far back from the street and was partially finished inside. Elgin worked hard to make it into a home they would enjoy as a family for many years.

Happening at Sunset...

Tuesdays - 1:30 pm
Dominoes



November 10 - 9:00 am
Thankful Trees



Wednesdays - 2:30 pm
BINGO!

November 16 - 1:30 pm
Afternoon Outing

November 1 - 2:00 pm
Puzzles and Pizza Bites

November 18 - 11:00 am
Lunchtime Friendsgiving

November 4 - 2:00 pm
Celebrate November Birthdays!

November 22 - 10:00 am
Thankful Tuesday ~ Donuts and Devotions



Spotlight on Janel Koons

Marketing Director



Janel bakes at home with her children.

What is one of your favorite places and why? Savannah, Georgia for its history, culture, art, food, entertainment, water, and shopping.

If you could have one superpower, what would it be and how would you use it? Make time stand still--so I can do what I love with more time.

What is your favorite family tradition? Growing up it was 4th of July on the farm with cousins, hand-cranked ice cream, food, and fireworks.

What are your hobbies or collections? Crafting, cardmaking, cross-stitching, baking, and books.

Fall Fun!



Hello, New Residents



Shirley Davis
Miltonvale, KS

Shirley raised her three children and liked to crochet and sew. She watches movies and loves animals, including her three dogs.



Robin Thiede
Concordia, KS

Robin is married and has a son. She enjoys crafts and reading. On Sundays, Robin and her husband watch their church service together.



Edie Davis
Concordia, KS

Edie has lived in Concordia all of her life and used to work for OCK. She loves playing card games and Bingo!



Jeffrey Danielson
Salina, KS

Jeffrey is a history buff and likes anything war related. He also likes sports, fishing, and hunting.



Larry Zentz
Concordia, KS

Larry farmed and put up a lot of hay. He went to rodeos and fairs and was always on the lookout for antique cars and steam engines.

620 2nd Ave. | Concordia, KS 66901

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WHO LOVES MAIL?!?!

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FULL NAME _____

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CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

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