

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Rocky Mountain Village Estates • February 2020

Meet Rick Olson

Rick Olson's been familiar with Rocky Mountain Village since his mom moved here in 1995 as one of the original owners in Genesee.

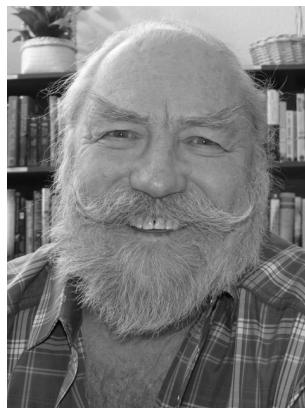
He'd grown up in Evergreen, after his parents settled here in 1959 from Minnesota. His folks were both teachers in the local schools, back in the days when spouses were not permitted to work in the same school. His father taught typing and bookkeeping, and his mom was a substitute teacher.

"Mom turned out being my first grade teacher the end of the term because my teacher was out on maternity leave."

Somewhere along the line the high school took over the old elementary school, and his dad taught business subjects to him and other seniors in the very same classroom his mom had taught him in first grade.

"Evergreen was a small town then," he says. "When somebody went by on the road, you knew who they were and where they were going." In fact, the community only boasted about 2,000 year-round residents, expanding tremendously in the summers though as people flocked to their mountain cabins to escape the heat. There were far fewer roads back then.

In those days the family could drive to Denver once a week to buy four gallons of milk for practically nothing compared to what it cost here in Ever-



green. He recalled getting groceries at Super Foods, a little grocery store on Main Street before the first Safeway went in on Meadow Drive.

With work schedules that permitted extended travel, the family would put their personal things in the attic and rent out their house to seasonal visitors. Then they'd pack up for Minnesota where they enjoyed summers on the family farm. His granddad had bought the farm in 1892, and Rick's dad had built a cabin on the lake there. While Granddad sold the farm some time ago, his mom kept a few lots along the lake. He and his mom still go back each summer, and Rick maintains the structures while he's there.

By age 14, Rick would help his uncle on a farm in North Dakota, an annual pilgrimage he's made for the past 42 years. Helping with farm duties meant harvesting the grains (wheat, oats, barley), haying, and tending to the team of horses and the 60 or so head of cattle.

He's always been an outdoorsy sort ... doing lots of fishing on Cub Creek while a kid. He was big into wandering the hills, hiking, walking through the pastures to and from school.

Having both parents be teachers, he leaned toward that profession himself. He decided on teaching industrial arts, starting his education at Colorado Mountain College in Glenwood Springs, later transferring to Adams State in Alamosa. But before teaching industrial arts, he wanted to get some practical experience under his belt. "I worked at it instead," he disclosed, outlining his career with a hammer and nails — "installing hardwood floors mostly" in the mountain towns between Aspen and Vail.

In 2002 he moved into Rocky Mountain Village

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**"More smiling, less worrying. More compassion, less judgment.
More blessed, less stressed. More love, less hate."**

-Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*

Memo from the Manager

We hope you were able to attend the Annual Owners Meeting to keep updated about the business affairs of RMVE. Your VOLUNTEER Board works hard throughout the year on your behalf. We are happy to announce that Walt Weiss and Donna Frantz will continue to serve on your board of directors. Walt has the 2-year term and Donna the 3-year term. I will be posting the new roster this week. The 2020 Board meeting schedule has yet to be determined.

The Board met immediately following the Annual Meeting and re-elected the same slate of officers: Ron Pieffer, President, who announced he will not be running again for the board when his term expires next January; Linda Kirkpatrick as Vice President; Walt Weiss as Secretary; Donna Frantz as Treasurer; and Pat Eskew as member-at-large.

Please check the assessment schedules provided in your annual meeting packets for your new HOA monthly dues amounts. If you pay by having a check sent from your bank, you will need to contact them to change the amount. If you have your payment automatically deducted, you need do nothing. If you write a check, you'll need to change the amount you're submitting. This change becomes effective with your February payment. Dues payments are due the 1st of the month and are late after the 10th.

-- Kathy

Rick Olson continued

as his mom's live-in caretaker — Mildred's now 99. He's used his fix-it skills here, working on deck repair and replacement and doing odds and ends for neighbors. He puts in the foundation for the Christmas display in the lobby each year. And each January for the past several years, he's helped with check-in and ballot counting at the annual meeting.

Rick appreciates the fact that staff can do so much themselves without having to hire a repairman every time something breaks or malfunctions. In his mind Rocky Mountain Village hasn't changed much since 1995 — "just new faces," he says. He's disappointed that the original plan for assisted living here on the grounds didn't materialize. Initially, there was a three-tiered plan that included a nursing facility as well.

We're glad to have him here as one of those familiar faces at Rocky Mountain Village, easily recognizable with his handlebar mustache, up-swept eyebrows, ponytail, and ever-present smile.

Profile and photo by Linda Kirkpatrick.

Reminders from Kari....

Saturday, Feb. 8 from 1-5: Opera Der Rosenkavalier by Richard Strauss will be showing in Genesee's Mountaineer Room.

Monday, Feb. 10 both Bergen & Genesee houses will meet in Genesee's Mountaineer Room for coffee hour and a presentation from the Fire Dept. and the UC Health. The subject will be STROKES. There is new information on symptoms and treatments. This should be an interesting and important meeting for our residents.

The birthday celebration will be held at 3:00 on Wednesday, February 12th in Genesee's Mountaineer Room. The Genesee Pot Luck takes place on Monday, the 24th. Two members of the cast of "Lend Me a Tenor" will sing a 10-minute preview of the show playing at Center Stage Feb. 21 - Mar 8. Bergen's Pot Luck is scheduled for Monday, February 10th.

Lisa from Elk Run invites you to take part in her chair yoga class on the 19th from 1:30 to 2:30 in the Mountaineer Room. The class focuses on stretching, balance, and strength. She brings fruit and cheese to encourage participants to linger and visit. Give it a try!

Evergreen Park and Recreation District plans monthly "cultural excursions" such as visits to the Museum of Nature & Science, the Monet Exhibit, and restaurants, providing van transportation with pickup points right here at Bergen and Genesee. The February event is a luncheon at nearby Tuscany Tavern on Valentine's Day — 12:00 on the 14th. \$25 per person. Sign up in advance at the Buchanan Rec Center or online.

Maren from the Rec Center offers a drop-in exercise class appropriate for our age group three times a week (M-W-F) in the Avalanche Room in Bergen, usually between 4 and 5 pm. \$3 per visit.

Be sure to watch the bulletin boards for information of other upcoming local and community events!

A huge thank you to Darlene Higdon for being Social Committee chair for Genesee for the past several years! She's done an outstanding job and we are all thankful for her dedication and commitment!! She announced her retirement, and Mary Ellen Putnam has offered to be chair. Her short-lived retirement comes to a close when she takes over reporting tidbits for the Village Voice starting with the March edition.

Editor's note: A big thank-you to Kari for her role in feeding us these reminders on a monthly basis. She and her husband, Dave, will soon be moving to Arizona -- we'll miss them!