

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Rocky Mountain Village Estates • June 2021

Meet Helen Oltmans

Helen Oltmans' travels have given her a deep familiarity with most parts of our state. Her dad's job with the Colorado Department of Highways required the family of three to move frequently during her formative years. "I know the state inside and out," she says, citing the many library cards she's accumulated over the years. "My mother said she had 67 post office addresses during her lifetime."

"My dad worked as a bulldozer operator when they put in the original highway over Loveland Pass," she says, referring to the time when the wagon trail was converted to an unpaved highway for automobiles in the 1930s.

"We were some of the first people in trailer homes," she recalls. "I went to 10 different grade schools and 4 different high schools." Playing the violin made integrating into new surroundings much easier than it might seem. "I played all the way through high school and played in a dance band as a senior."

Books and libraries have been an important part of her life. She remembers getting her first library card in Denver at age 10. When she had Scarlet Fever in 4th grade and was quarantined for a month, a teacher would bring her books to read; *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was her first long book. At Rocky Mountain Village she's part of a small book group with three other women who stretch her when it comes to book choices and discussions, something she really enjoys.

Helen studied nursing at the Presbyterian School of Nursing in Denver but developed a decades-long skin rash that kept her from doing the floor work necessary to earn her degree. After marrying the descendant of a homesteader from Douglas County, she devoted her life to being a stay-at-home mom in

Castle Rock, doing a little work now and then for a couple of antique dealers. Before being widowed, she was married for 43 years to a heavy-duty mechanic who worked on construction.

When the ranch where her husband grew up became a protected open space working ranch, she gave talks to school kids about the genealogy of the family who'd homesteaded there, the Indians that had made it their winter camp for thousands of years, the plants and wildlife, and the caves with doors.

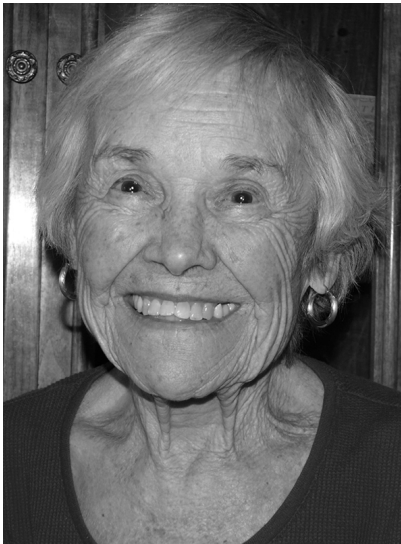
Helen is the original owner of her unit in Bergen, having moved here in 1994 and sleeping that first night in a sleeping bag. She'd chosen Evergreen because one of her three children lived here at the time.

With sewing a favorite pastime, she worked two days a week at Walmart in the fabric and crafts department for a few years. "I still see some people I used to wait on at Walmart," she commented. "It was fun because people would share their projects." She herself has had to give up her sewing machine because she could no longer see to thread a needle.

For 20 years she enjoyed keeping up the library in Bergen, dealing with the books people donated, weeding out older items as new ones arrived, and keeping it neat and orderly. Twice a day she'd walk down the hall to see what had been returned and re-shelve the books, CDs and magazines. "Now Sharon [Adams] and Dottie [Fair] do it."

She's proud of being part of a long lineage of family members who've served their country. "My mother's dad fought in the Civil War; my father was a WWI vet; my husband served in WWII and the Korean War; my older son served in Vietnam; and my other son spent 10 years in the army and now is a helicopter instructor."

Continued on back side.



Before you speak ... THINK

T = Is it true? H = Is it helpful? I = Is it inspiring? N = Is it necessary? K = Is it kind?

Memo from the Manager

The Community Rooms will reopen for use June 1st but will be limited to vaccinated RMVE residents only -- no outsiders or unvaccinated residents are encouraged until further notice.

The road will be sealed and striped on June 15 and 16. Maps of which areas will be done on which day are being displayed in both lobbies with an explanation. If you have questions, please ask. Please be cooperative with the work crew so they can get this job done well and in a timely manner.

Since there are many new residents, I thought a few reminders might be helpful -- and they bear repeating....

- Quiet hours are 10 pm to 8 am.
- Feeding bird seed is not allowed, as it draws rodents to the buildings. Putting out nectar for the hummingbirds is ok, and putting out water for the rest of the birds is helpful and encouraged.
- Please do not place trash in the recycle bins.

Living in a community is not the same as living in your own single-family home, so please be respectful and aware of your actions and how they might impact your neighbors and the Association as a whole.

-- Kathy

New free transportation services

To replace the Seniors' Resource Center transportation services previously offered throughout Evergreen, Via Paratransit is now operating Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm in addition to the RTD Flex service.

Service areas include: Genesee, Lookout Mountain, Evergreen, Conifer, Marshdale, Idledale, Kittredge, El Rancho, and Chief Hosa. The service is FREE but does require a reservation.

Via can take you almost anywhere you'd like to go within these areas -- including medical appointments, therapy, grocery stores, social events, restaurants, senior centers, adult day programs, employment, and more. Via can also pick up and deliver pre-paid grocery orders within the service area.

Potential riders must register first by calling 303-444-3043. Registrants will then be given the number to call for making a reservation.

WELCOME!

No new residents, but Lea Vern Dabbs is moving from unit 219 to 207 in Genesee

Helen Oltmans continued

Closing in on turning 96 soon, Helen is still mighty spry. "I love it here because I can get out and walk." She rounds Buchanan Park twice a week at a brisk pace and, for years, four flights of stairs four times a day on the other days to keep up her cardio. "I had to give up the last 18 steps because I get tired," she admits. She also participates in a weight-lifting class three times a week in Bergen to keep her muscles strong.

"It's my opinion that people who keep their minds active seem to enjoy better health," she says.

Profile and photo by Linda Kirkpatrick

Comcast changes....

If you missed the notice on the bulletin board regarding the scheduled Xfinity help session, you should be aware of a couple of changes.

With the renewal of our cable TV contract with Xfinity, a new service, high definition, is available to residents on two outlets *at no additional charge*. If you have a high-definition-capable TV, you may have this service added; it may require a new box to be installed.

If you have been paying for high definition, contact Deb, our Xfinity service rep, to have those extra charges removed from your bill -- email her at Deborah_lemon-lheureux@comcast.com.

In addition to better clarity of the picture, high-def TV means getting used to different channel numbers when you tune into familiar stations. Download the channel lineup from the Xfinity.com website or watch for copies to be available from Kathy.

Free spaghetti dinner to celebrate making it through the worst of COVID times....

Parkside Cafe is planning a celebratory FREE spaghetti dinner for all vaccinated RMVE residents to show their appreciation for the support given them during the pandemic. They plan two evenings -- Tuesday, June 15 for Bergen and Wednesday, June 16 for Genesee, each starting at 5:00 pm in the community rooms.

They would welcome some volunteers to help with serving guests to avoid buffet lines. The plan is for 3-4 volunteers to enjoy dinner in their own building but help serve at the other building on the opposite night. If willing to help, contact Judi Quackenboss in Genesee (303-880-4825) or Linda Kirkpatrick (303-674-6269) in Bergen. Watch for details and a sign-up sheet.

The restaurant has had to alter the nights it's open for dinner due to a shortage of restaurant staffing. Watch for a new summer menu and a change of meal-delivery nights from Wednesdays to Saturdays when they resume dinners to go.