

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Rocky Mountain Village Estates • March 2021

Meet Ruthanne Huber

Ruthanne Huber is one of those people with a quick wit and an abundance of colorful sayings to prove it, pointing to her Southern roots – South Dakota, that is – where she grew up. “That’s why I have two names and have a Southern accent,” she explains. She refers to places in South Dakota as “poke-and-plum towns.” Poke your head out the window and you’re plum out of town.

She describes life in Yankton as a place where doors weren’t locked ... people just gathered on front porches or in driveways ... it was a lovely time, a great childhood. Her only sibling – a sister eight years older – acted as her surrogate mother as both parents worked. “It took us quite awhile to become friends,” she admits. “One time we argued so loudly that someone turned the hose on us!”

Living close to the Missouri River, they’d bike 11 miles to the Gavins Point Dam and sunbathe – “enough to look like a lobster,” she added. With her light hair, she tended to burn.

After high school she became a Registered Nurse, training she put to good use for more than a quarter of a century, mostly in mental hospitals. Because her parents had operated a snack shop at the local state mental hospital, Ruthanne developed a comfort level with the psychiatric population.

She worked her way into the Veterans Administration system where she spent most of her nursing career. While other areas of nursing sound more romantic, she considers herself blessed to have worked in an area where there was so much hurt.

She and her husband, Jerry, moved around some, spending time in Sturgis, SD; Salida, CO; Sheridan, WY; Lincoln, NB; and then Bailey, CO, raising four children.

Jerry’s job was with a major dairy company. “He did a lot of fundraising for sports teams in Nebraska,” she adds.

While in Salida, she and her sister opened a ceramics studio. “We didn’t know beans from buckshot,” she confessed.

After researching places to live in the Denver metropolitan area, they chose a place in Bailey in 1999 – quite a daily commute into Denver for Jerry but he

only missed one day of work – when the Blizzard of ’03 dumped more than 7 feet of snow on the area. By then the VA was downsizing, and she didn’t want to commute 50+ miles each way to the hospital in Aurora, so she took a part-time job in an Evergreen clinic.

Most of their social life centered around Evergreen, she notes, mainly for church services and activities. “Bailey wasn’t much of a town, so we didn’t get involved there.” Ruthanne sings in the choir at the Methodist Church – sometimes solos or duets. “I love to sing – I enjoy carrying a message,” she says.

Jerry had some health conditions that motivated him to work toward downsizing and moving out of a large

home and into a place with fewer responsibilities for upkeep. He passed away the first year they were here, first renting in Genesee before Ruthanne relocated to Bergen.

When the Hubers moved to Rocky Mountain Village in 2016, Ruthanne took up quilting for enjoyment, having always dabbled in crafts from her earliest days. As with all quilters, she collects fabrics — but Ruthanne can remember the purchase of every piece she owns. “One can consider it an addiction,” she says, “or we can say ‘this is my fabric library.’”

The most extraordinary piece she’s ever quilted is a wall hanging of chickens, a portion of which is visible in the background of her picture.

Continued on back side.



“You may have a fresh start any moment you choose, for this thing that we call ‘failure’ is not the falling down, but the staying down.”

—Mary Pickford

Memo from the Manager

Daylight Savings Time begins March 14, 2021 - Don't forget to SPRING FORWARD!

There will be a Regular Board meeting via Zoom on Thursday, March 18 at 2 p.m. If you are a new resident or have not attended the Zoom Board meetings before and would like to receive an invitation, please email rmve2@comcast.net prior to March 15th and ask to be included in the Zoom list.

The plan is to reopen the guest suites and the community rooms on April 1, providing there has been no recent spike in Covid cases in the area and that everyone still follows the safety guidelines that are in place at that time.

-- Kathy

COVID Vaccines

Watch the bulletin board for a mobile vaccine service that may be coming to Rocky Mountain Village.

Approximately 20 residents took advantage of special arrangements with King Soopers in Bergen Park the end of February.

WELCOME!

Cynthia Lowrey · 313-6

Ruthanne Huber continued

Besides quilting, Ruthanne fills her time with playing cards, competing at mahjong, and doing crossword puzzles. "I like things that challenge my brain." And she often challenges others with trivia questions!

In addition, she's a mentor for Crossroads Prison Ministry, an international organization that pairs up people like Ruthanne who have a strong faith with students in Bible study groups at prisons anywhere in the US. Once a week she gets a letter from a prisoner, and she responds with encouragement, only corresponding once and never meeting the people with whom she exchanges letters. She's also carved out time regularly over the past 12 years – 30 weeks each year – to participate in a Bible Study Fellowship, of which she is now a leader.

Ruthanne and Jerry traveled a lot in their fifties logging many international destinations with groups of people they knew, favorites being New Zealand, Patagonia, Africa, Peru, the Amazon, the Mediterranean, Greece, the British Isles, and Scandinavian countries. They enjoyed cruises as well.

She admits to being very grateful for having downsized from a big house to living at Rocky Mountain Village, pointing out that friends and neighbors proved to be such a help when Jerry was in his final weeks.

"It's nice to be in a community, to have people who care about you and to care about them." She even finds the sounds of neighbors comforting. "And sometimes people show up asking for a little first aid," she adds with a smile.

Profile and photo by Linda Kirkpatrick