

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Rocky Mountain Village Estates • January, 2019

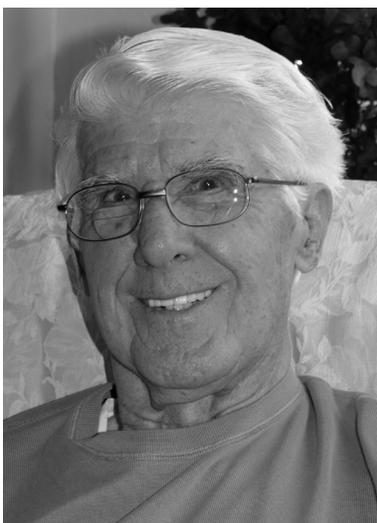
Meet “Blackie” in Bergen

You might recognize “Blackie” from his distinctive abundance of white hair.... He moved into Rocky Mountain Village about 18 months ago, renting a unit on the 4th floor of Bergen. His son had made plans for him to live in a cabin on Upper Bear Creek, “but I couldn’t take the quietness!” he says.

When his only son retired as a doctor in Scottsbluff and relocated to Evergreen about 6 years ago, Blackie followed in time. “I lived there 20 years and liked it a lot,” he says of the small city located in the Nebraska panhandle (particularly the ability to get from one end of town to the other in about 10 minutes without a lot of traffic). He’s been a widower since 2010 after 60 years of marriage.

Having grown up on a farm in Jeromesville, Ohio, he realized at age 26 he wanted to do something meaningful and joined the air force. “It’s one of the best moves I’ve ever made in my life.” Growing up, his room was wallpapered with airplanes.... He got into the B52 bomber program — Strategic Air Command — at that time a very prestigious program. It involved “going anywhere we had to in the world carrying nuclear weapons.”

In addition to various posts all over the United States, Blackie spent a year in Thailand during the Vietnam War. As the crew chief on a B52, he was responsible for everything going on on the aircraft — and



responsible for the six people on board at all times. “We turned around an aircraft so quickly that we couldn’t work on the engines because they were so hot....”

After leaving Thailand in December of 1959, he and his wife arrived in South Dakota in January with 30-degree-below-zero temperatures. “My wife sat in a corner and cried and cried,” he says, pointing out that she also cried later when they left South Dakota because she’d met so many good friends there — Norwegians and Swedes. “In South Dakota, they said if you blinked your eyes, you missed summer.”

Upon retiring from the Air Force after 20 years, he and his wife moved back to Mansfield, Ohio where he started a second career with Kemper Insurance. They were looking for someone dependable and good with detail to serve in an administrative/clerical position and felt his military background would make him a good fit. He worked his way up and eventually managed four departments.

Fishing in Saskatchewan and Manitoba is one of his favorite pastimes — they have to fly in because there are no highways. “The wildlife and fishing are outstanding!” He’s seen a lot of eagles, moose, bear, deer — and MONSTER Northern Pike measuring 40-45 inches in length!

Other hobbies include shooting (he used to hunt but doesn’t anymore, just shoots pictures of wildlife with his camera and does target practice with his guns), bowling, and golfing. He walks regularly.

Here at Rocky Mountain Village, Blackie participates in many, if not most, of the activities offered, finding it’s been a good way to get acquainted. He still values his close friendships with former air force buddies. “I loved the camaraderie of the military!”

Oh, by the way, if you need to look him up in the directory, his REAL name is Clayton Black.

Profile and photo by Linda Kirkpatrick.

“For it is in giving that we receive.”

—St. Francis of Assisi

Memo from the Manager

Watch for the Annual Owners' Meeting notices as well as sign-up sheets for food donations, rides, etc. You will be receiving your packets of information for the meeting before January 15th. The meeting will be Friday, January 25th at 1 p.m. at the Bergen Park Church.

There will be an RMVE Owner Information meeting on the 2019 proposed Budget — to be held in the Bergen Evergreen room on Saturday, January 19th at 10 a.m. Please try to attend so you can be personally informed on the budget you will be asked to approve at the Annual Owners meeting.

-- Kathy

Water conservation tip of the month

Turn off the tap while washing your hands and brushing your teeth.

Reminders from René and Kari:

JANUARY 1st: Delicious NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH starting at 9 am, in Genesee's Mountaineer Room, hosted by Bergen Park Church. Sign up sheet(s) are in the Genesee and Bergen lobbies, so sign up if you are able to enjoy a "free brunch". Nothing to bring, except yourselves! What a great gift to start the New Year 2019.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9th, 3 pm: Our Genesee/Bergen combined monthly BIRTHDAY PARTY celebrating January birthdays. All are welcome, even if you weren't born in January! Cake, ice cream and coffee! Join in the FUN in Genesee's Mountaineer Room.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25th, 1pm: RMVE ANNUAL MEETING held at Bergen Park Church. All are encouraged to attend and be informed of what's happening on "our" campus.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9th 1-3 pm ACES BRIDGE resumes after the holiday break in Bergen building. All levels of experience welcome. Contact Rene Kilmer at 303-679-4907 if you'd like to participate.

A Tragic Situation is Looming ...

By Pat Eskew

Unfortunately SPEEDING up and down our driveways will eventually catch-up with one of us at Rocky Mountain Village Estates ... a tragedy we will all want to avoid.

Many of our fellow residents and as well visitors are completely IGNORING the 15 mph speed limit in front of our buildings... Someday, one of us is going to get seriously hurt (or much worse) ... With conscious awareness, a future tragedy can be easily avoided.

We all are aware many of our residents are innocently walking or exercising with their walkers or bikes on our beautiful driveways.... Please also note there is a blind turn before our Genessee parking garage... please begin slowing down at that turn. Many of us are hastily careening around the corner and still going way, way over the posted 15 MPH limit.

Please, Please, Please... BE AWARE and S L O W D O W N.

Additionally, please warn your future guests about this concern as well.

Your board at work on your behalf.



Happy New Year!