

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Rocky Mountain Village Estates • May 2019

Meet Kitty Larson

In keeping with customs at the time, many people with long family names or double names had them shortened before the ink dried on the birth certificate. Margaret Katherine became Kitty before she knew it. “I remember they’d pat me on the head and say ‘good kitty’ when I was young.” She’s lived her life as “Kitty,” and that’s how we’ve known her since she moved into Bergen eight years ago.



Rocky Mountain Village may have a rule about “just one cat,” but Kitty Larson’s place is overrun with hundreds. She keeps most of them contained in a curio cabinet in the living room, but some spill over onto other pieces of furniture with dozens on the bed. Not a single one requires a litter box. There’s not a cat hair to be found, and neighbors never complain of meows.

When she started dating her husband-to-be, he gave her a ceramic kitten, the start of what’s become a large a collection of feline likenesses.

Having grown up in a hamlet in northern Virginia — Middelburg, the Nation’s Horse and Hunt Capital and now home to many wineries — Kitty didn’t venture too far for nursing school in Washington, DC. Then it was a three-year program to become a registered nurse, the first year taking college courses, and the next two years gaining practical experience at Garfield Memorial Hospital.

She recalls renting canoes with friends and rowing

down the Potomac River, visiting the museums and memorials, enjoying the cherry blossoms in the spring. “It was a walkable city, and there were so many historical places to visit,” but noted that there were many cautions to young women about crime. “The dangers of living in a big city were quite different after growing up in a small town like Middleburg with a population of just 1,000.”

She recalls being one of many who’d stand on the street to catch a glimpse of famous people who’d come to visit the President when Eisenhower was in office in the 1950s. “There’d be a parade of cars with a couple of famous people....”

She met her husband-to-be during her four-year stay in DC. After they married, her nursing degree helped him finish schooling at Northwestern to become a dentist. They’d moved back to his hometown of Chicago and then on to a small town in Wisconsin before they decided small towns weren’t for them. Rochester, MN posed some opportunities for a dentist, and they relocated there around 1960.

It was in Rochester that the Larsons raised their four children. Kitty stayed at home while their daughter and three sons were young but took a job at a small county hospital after the kids had grown. “Nursing helped a lot in raising four kids,” she adds.

Since her husband’s idea of a vacation was fishing in Minnesota, Kitty’s opportunity to travel didn’t come until later when she and her daughter visited faraway places like Hong Kong and Australia. Her daughter and son-in-law own and operate a small beach hotel in Belize, and Kitty’s been there several times in the past decade when she still felt comfortable traveling alone. Having two sons living in Colorado

*“A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions,
and the roots spring up and make new trees.”*

- Amelia Earhart

Kitty Larson, continued....

is what brought her to Evergreen after her husband passed away. She'd spent 40 years in Rochester.

Although you won't spot a sewing machine in her condo, Kitty enjoyed sewing a great deal over the years, making many quilts, several of which are part of the décor where she lives now. She also enjoyed knitting.

Here at the Village, Kitty's helped Mary Leeper organize the finger food socials for the past eight years. She and friends enjoy eating out — Maya's Cantina on Main Street is one of her favorites. She attends Bible Study on Wednesday evenings and appreciates the fact that her church is so close by.

If you're bad at remembering names, Kitty often gives a clue ... look for an appliqued cat on her clothing. We're glad to have you (pardon the pun) 'here, Kitty.'

-- profile and photo by Linda Kirkpatrick

Reminders from Rene and Kari

Pick your winning horse! Come watch the Kentucky Derby May 4th, 4 to 7 pm in Genesee's Mountaineer Room. Dress in style with your special Derby hat and BYOB as well as snacks. Mint green tea will be available.

Join us for a Barber Shop musical performance playing at Arvada HS June 1st at 2:00 pm. See bulletin board for more information.

Finger-food socials will now be known as potlucks. No potlucks in June, July or August but coffees and birthdays will continue during the summer months.

The Evergreen Chamber Orchestra Guild meeting will be held May 18th in Bergen's Evergreen Room starting at 9:30 am with coffee, followed by a 10:00 program featuring harpist Catherine Rand. A short meeting will follow at 11:00.

Sadly, the much-appreciated King Soopers card program has been discontinued, as Kroger's corporate guidelines now require participating groups to be authorized non-profit organizations.

Memo from the Manager

The Evergreen Fire Department has made a few specific instructions and requests for us to follow:

- If you use oxygen in your unit and don't have a sign on your door, please ask me for one to place on the outside of your unit door for the firefighters.
- Keeping the doors closed to the common rooms.

Please let me know if you are aware of any specific problems on your decks.

There is a regular Board meeting on Thursday, May 30th in Genesee.

-- Kathy

WELCOME!

Joan and Rob Engelhardt in 305 B

Steven Landert in 101 G

**Charlene Hahn moved
to 420 B from 206 G**