



A Quarterly Publication of the Mayflower Residents Association

# The Mayflower Log



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## ORLAN MITCHELL - A FULL AND ADMIRABLE LIFE

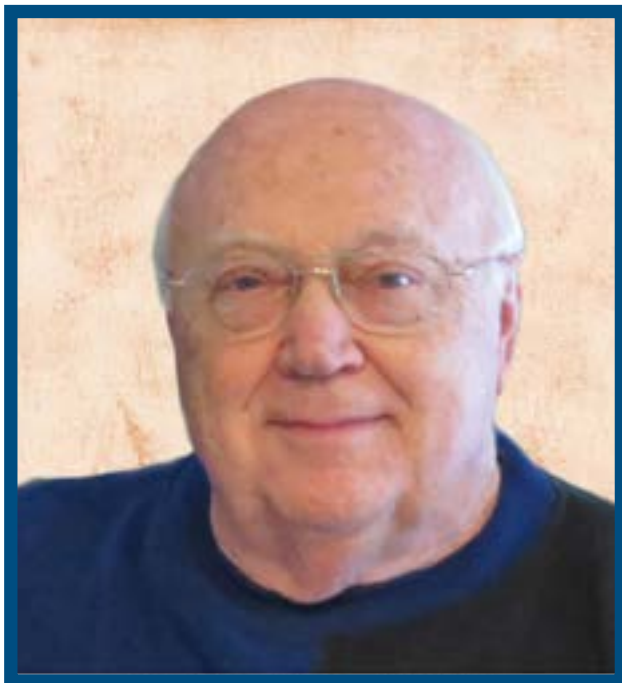


Photo by Selva Lehman

By Betty Moffett  
Log Staff

Orlan Mitchell has led and is living a full and admirable life. Now a resident of Beebe Hall, he was born in Eldora, Iowa, 60 miles northwest of Grinnell. When he was in high school, the minister at the Congregational Church suggested that Orlan ought to go to college. This was right after World War II; many soldiers had made use of the GI bill, and now college enrollments had dropped. Grinnell College's enrollment was down to

800 students, a dangerously low number. The administration had recently established the 'Cream of Iowa' scholarships by *not* paying the faculty for one month. Both Orlan and Nick Ryan, who later became an exceptional recruiter for Grinnell's Admissions office, qualified for the scholarships, and both came to Grinnell.

At that time, Orlan recalls, the college had a narrow concept of a 'core curriculum': Modern European History, Basic Communication (writing and speaking) and Advanced Communication. The concept of a major was developed later. Students were even taught to brush their teeth and walk upright!

Orlan received financial aid from Helen Burling, for whom Burling Library was named. When he was growing up in Eldora, he mowed the lawn and shoveled snow for Helen, and she suggested to her brother, Ned, that he establish a scholarship, which paid Orlan's tuition all four years.

The acting president of the college at that time was Rupert Hawk. At graduation, he called Orlan to his office

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Orlan Mitchell

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and asked him to write a thank you letter to Ned Burling, in hopes that he would donate money for a new library. Ned told Orlan that the *College* had awarded him his scholarship, and asked what he would do after graduation. When Orlan said that he wanted to go to Yale Divinity School, Ned informed him that he had gone to Harvard! Nevertheless, he paid Orlan's tuition for all of his career at Yale, as well as at Grinnell.

Along with his college studies, Orlan was the campus Coke dealer. The college was not enthusiastic about soft drinks, but the students insisted, and half a dozen Coke machines were installed. Then the question of picking up bottles and refilling the machines arose. By this time, Orlan and Verlene were married and living in married-student quarters. Since this many-talented student had experience in plumbing, he became the college's night watchman and maintenance man, which meant he unclogged toilets, fixed leaks, and kept the Coke machines full. When the treasurer called him to settle his account, he received \$800 as a commission.

After graduation from Yale Divinity School, Orlan served several small churches, one in Putney, Vermont; one in New Preston, Connecticut. Then he received a phone call from Virginia Camberer and became minister of the First Congregational Church in Clarion, Iowa, where he remained for 10 years, from 1959 to 1969.

Just after Easter of '69, he heard footsteps, then a knock at the door, which he opened to find Wes Nufeld,

chair of the Yankton search committee. Four months later, he was the minister at the Congregational Church in Yankton, South Dakota, where he and Verlene spent the next 15 years. (Verlene told him she had wanted to move *South*, but not to *South Dakota!*)

Yankton College, in the same town, was the oldest college in South Dakota, and small, like Grinnell. For eight years, Orlan served as its president. He says it was a good experience, though the college's survival was uncertain. It had a fairly sizable endowment, but lost much of its money during the recession—and actually closed a year after Orlan left. The government bought the campus for \$5 million and turned it into a minimum-security prison!

In the meantime, Orlan received a phone call from Scott Libbey, inviting him to become an Associate Conference minister. He and Verlene moved to Des Moines, and then decided later to retire to the Mayflower in Grinnell. Orlan soon became president of the Mayflower's Board of Trustees. He and Verlene shared a duplex with the Yungclases for 26 years.

During this period, the Board determined that the Mayflower needed to be more than an apartment complex for retirees, and soon a Health Care Facility was created on the first floor of Beebe Hall. Orlan and Glenn Leggett, who was also on the Board, were responsible for building a second floor of Beebe, and then proposing a bigger separate health center. After many reworkings of plans, they got permission to build, and the new facility immediately filled up.

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Orlan Mitchell  
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Along the way, Orlan and Verlene had five children. Verlene named the girls: Jolene and Nadene, and Orlan, the boys: Steven, Timothy, and Mark. After the birth of their fifth child, Verlene developed diabetes, and Orlan became her round-the-clock caregiver.

Eventually, he could no longer help her, and before she could move to the Health

Center, she entered the hospital, where she died in her husband's arms.

Orlan then moved to Buckley 101 for a year or so, and then, after rolling—or falling—out of bed, he came to Beebe, where he enjoys the companionship of long-time friends and takes part in activities from concerts to candy-making.

This smart, witty, kind, and talented man has accomplished much, and is now a gift to the Mayflower.

## BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

For the year of 2023, 25 names have been added to the Book of Remembrance:

Joan Mohan  
Betty Ann Francis  
David Douglas Caulkins  
Barbara Rosfjord  
Dorothy Mae Christinson  
Patricia 'Pasha' Buck  
Patricia 'Pat' Cushing  
Jeanette Eleanor Tisdale  
Gayle Strickler Jr.  
Dwight Kermit George  
James Ferguson Jr.  
Luther E. Erickson  
Albert Rudolph 'Rudi' Munitz

Gene Rohr  
John Saxton  
William 'Harley' Henry  
Patricia Groth  
Chao Teng Huang  
Dorothy 'Dottie' Blazek  
Deloris Montgomery  
Dale Lippincott  
Teresa 'Jean' Wissmiller  
Gloria Clay  
Phyllis Lamb Goldman  
Carol E. Crawford

The Memorial Committee is notified of a resident's death. At that time, a letter is sent to the next of kin expressing condolences, telling them that a \$50 gift has been sent from the MRA to the Mayflower Human Needs Endowment Fund in memory of their loved one. The Book of Remembrance is found outside the Pearson front desk.

Tommy Haas

**GET READY TO MEET  
ALL OUR NEW  
MAYFLOWER NEIGHBORS**



## WELCOME BACK TO MAYFLOWER, BETTY WEEKS

By Nancy Cadmus  
Log Staff

Betty Weeks is a familiar face to many at Mayflower. She has spent the last two years in Des Moines, where she moved after her husband Dick passed away. Betty relocated to a retirement community there to be nearer to her two sons. Much as she enjoyed being closer to them, she found her living situation compared poorly to her experience at Mayflower, and so has returned.

Betty and Dick first moved to Mayflower in the spring of 2012, having lived in many different places. They'd been familiar with Grinnell ever since their older son Dan enrolled in Grinnell College. Since Dan had settled in Des Moines, and their other son Geoff retired near Atlantic, Iowa, Betty and Dick chose to retire at Mayflower.



**Betty is ready to get into a Bucket Course!**

Betty and Dick both grew up in Schenectady, New York. They were high school sweethearts and managed a long-distance romance during college, with Betty studying in Rochester and Dick in Princeton, New Jersey. They married after graduation, and Dick pursued graduate work at the University of Rochester while Betty taught. In subsequent years they lived in many different places, following where Dick's distinguished career in optics led. Among other things, Dick led the team that designed the optics for the Polaroid SX-70, the first folding single lens reflex camera, and chaired a NASA commission to ensure that errors in the Hubble Telescope design were not repeated in the Chandra x-ray telescope.

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Betty Weeks  
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While living in Lexington, Massachusetts, Betty and several associates operated a craft shop in nearby Concord. She entered a new world, met fascinating creative people and learned how to run a business. Some art from that time now graces her apartment: blown glass by Richard Harkness, and a group of remarkable Inuit carvings. She also has a cabinet built by Dick, as well as a wood model he carved of the body of their sailboat.

Some of Betty's fondest memories involve summers sailing off the coast of Maine with Dick, a master sailor, and their three children and dog Susie. Susie objected to swimming and considered it her duty to haul the children out of the ocean whether they wanted her to or not. Their time on and near the water brought the family close and allowed close encounters with wildlife, especially seals.

Betty's three children are retired. Their son, Dan, is a writer who lives in Des Moines. Son Geoff is a retired long-distance trucker who lives in rural Atlantic. Daughter Lizzie Hazelmyer, who was an airplane mechanic and instructor at Boeing, now lives in Virginia Beach. Betty is also very close to her sister, who lives near the Twin Cities. They were a musical pair, with Betty playing piano and her sister violin. During college, while studying English at the University of Rochester, Betty took piano lessons at the Eastman School of Music and earned her Performer's Certificate.

Betty says she is happy to be back at Mayflower, looks forward to all the activities Mayflower has to offer, and especially to the Bucket Courses.

## SAY HELLO TO HOWARD AND SUE MCDONOUGH

By Gene Wubbels  
Log Staff

The McDonoughs moved from their farm just northeast of Grinnell to their new residence at 104 Altemeier early in December. They have led lives of remarkable activity and leadership in Grinnell over many years.

Both were born in 1942. Howard was born in Grinnell while his parents farmed nearby, and Sue was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. When Sue was six, her parents moved to Grinnell, where they owned and operated the creamery then on Commercial Street. Howard and Sue were classmates in Grinnell schools and graduated in the Class of

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The McDonoughs  
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1960. They dated each other starting at age 14 and were married in 1963. Sue undertook training as a nurse in Des Moines and practiced nursing at St. Francis Hospital in Grinnell. After several years at St. Francis, Sue retired to tend to their



**Howard lends his talents to many community services.**

family of four boys. Their sons are Kyle, Brian, Scott, and Brad, all of whom are accomplished professionals and fathers of many grandchildren. Sue later returned to St. Francis for another 15 years of nursing.



**Sue is a caregiver and “people person.”**

Howard bought his first farm northeast of

Grinnell when he was 18 years old. He later bought the farm of his parents just west of his first farm and then bought another farm east of Grinnell. These farms produced both livestock and row crops. The crops included corn, soybeans, and hay, and the livestock included 3,600 hogs and several hundred black Angus and Texas longhorn cattle annually. The whole family participated in operating these farms and running large vegetable gardens and fruit orchards that produced lots of canned food that they consumed. When the farm crisis hit in 1980, they managed to hold onto their farms, and Howard expanded into building sports stadiums. He built 101 stadiums across the country during the next 20 years, many of them associated with the Stadiums Unlimited Co. in Grinnell.

If that were not enough, they also got involved seriously in community service. Highlights include Howard’s service for 28 years on the Grinnell Historical Museum Board. He initiated with others one of the first gifted and talented programs in the country and served on the school board for nine years to help it thrive, along with the schools. They also carried on about 400 big BBQ feeds that raised almost \$500,000 for organizations such as the Boy Scouts, H.S. band and football, RAGBRAI, and church groups. They are interested in continuing their gardening on a reduced scale at the Mayflower.

We are pleased and honored to welcome this couple to the Mayflower.



# WELCOME SISTERS, NANCY CARL AND SALLY MOORE

By Betty Moffett  
Log Staff

Sisters Nancy Carl and Sally Moore have very recently moved to Grinnell from Iowa City to become Mayflower residents, but their house on Broad Street already looks like a home, with handsome bird prints on the walls and welcoming sofa and chairs in the living room and bears!! Many bears. The largest is two feet tall; the smallest measures an inch and a half. Sally says she made one from a neighbor's camel hair coat. Each bear has its own personality, and each is delightful.

Nancy and Sally were born nearly two years apart (Nancy first, then Sally) in California. When they were five and six, respectively, the family moved to Atlantic, Iowa. Sally remembers that, on the trip, Nancy slammed her finger in the car door and got to wear a sling, making her younger sister jealous.

Both attended school in Atlantic. Their parents allowed them to walk around the block by themselves but not to cross the street. For

spending money, they picked up nails in the alleys, earning a penny a nail. The family lived with grandparents until the girls entered junior high. Then they moved to their own house and later to a larger home surrounded by woods.

Nancy went to Iowa State, earning a degree in food and nutrition. After graduation, she married John Carl, and both enrolled in Michigan State, where Nancy earned more credits and ran the school's dairy lab, testing milk. The couple moved back to Atlantic, where John had a job at the radio station, and then to Newton, where John bought a radio station. Their son Peter was born in Centerville; their daughter Christine, in Newton.



**Nancy enjoys a quiet read in the cozy home she shares with her sister.**



**Sally manages the home's bear population.**

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Welcome Sisters  
(continued from page 7)

In the meantime, Sally explains, she got married at 19, and attended Tarkio College in Missouri and Boyles Van Sante business college in Omaha. While there, she lived in a home with 'old ladies,' who appreciated Sally's future husband because he played the piano when he came to pick her up for dates.

The couple had two children. The older son, John, owns a barbershop in Iowa City. His brother, Steve, is a doctor in Dewitt. He and his wife have made Sally three times a grandmother, and she now has four great grandchildren.

Nancy's daughter, Christine, is an artist in Seattle, where she sells her handsome paintings and made a label for Blue Moon Beer! She and her husband, Kevin, have one son, Max. Nancy's son Peter lives in Chicago and works for an investment firm. He and his wife, Molly, have a daughter, Cecilia, and a son, William.

And back to the bears, Sally got started making bears when Christine made a speech about teddy bears in 4-H. It's important to know that many of the bears wear sweaters which Sally knit for them.

Mayflower Community is happy to welcome Nancy and Sally and the bears!

## Former Grinnellians, the Noltes, Return to a Home at Mayflower



By Judy Hunter  
Log Staff

Chris and Jean Nolte have returned to Grinnell, having purchased one of Mayflower's patio homes.

Chris, a native of Fairmont, Minnesota arrived in 1983, and Jean from Moline, Illinois, in 1984. They met here and married in 1987. Chris served as the executive director of the Grinnell Chamber of Commerce and Jean was part owner of Thorndike Motors. Later

**After an absence, Jean and Chris Note are back in Grinnell among old friends.**

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The Noltes

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Chris spent 10 years working in public relations and fundraising for the Grinnell Regional Medical Center, and then worked for the Federal Government during the 2000 census as Iowa team leader for outreach and public relations.

When first in Grinnell, they lived in a lovely Craftsman home on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue. They find with their return that they are once again living near neighbors they had then, including Jack and Jan Mutti (currently living in Watertower Place) and Rosie Matthews (currently living in Altemeier).

While they lived in Grinnell they were active in the community. Chris worked with JR Paulson and Gregg Hawkins to reinvigorate the community band. Chris also established the Music in the Park program. Jean served on the boards of Friends of the Stewart Library and the Poweshiek County Mental Health Center.

When they left Grinnell in the early 2000s, they moved first to Storm Lake Iowa, where Chris served as executive director of their Chamber of Commerce and Development Group, and then to Winterset Iowa, where he served as executive director of the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Group for four years and then worked for 12 years for their hospital in public relations and fundraising. He later was volunteer coordinator for hospice there.

Jean was the editor-in-chief of Fons & Porter's *Love of Quilting* magazine, as well as several other titles. She was also the editorial director of the *Love of Quilting* TV show on public television. Currently, she is doing some part-time freelance work designing quilts and writing quilt patterns.

During their 20 years in Winterset, Chris was involved with many organizations, including the John Wayne Birthplace & Museum Board of Directors and Madison County Cares, a non-profit organization that brings area human services organizations together. They were active in the Friends of the Library, and Jean taught embroidery classes at the Winterset Public Library.

In addition, Chris, an Air Force veteran, is secretary of the Iowa Military Veterans Band, a group with membership throughout the state that comes together six or seven times a year to perform. He hopes they can perform in Grinnell sometime.

Chris and Jean have one daughter who lives in Beaverdale.

Chris and Jean are glad to be back in Grinnell. They feel comfortable here, and both know many people from their previous time in the community. Grinnell and the Mayflower are both lucky to have these talented people return to the community.



# HELLO TO BRICE HUGHES & JONNA JENSEN

By Judy Hunter  
Log Staff

Brice Hughes and Jonna Jensen, two long-time UCC ministers, are combining households and moved in early November into a lovely tree-shaded home on the corner of Mayflower Lane and First Avenue.

In 1990, Brice, still living in Tennessee, where he was born, left his previous employment in public health and commercial photography to follow a call he felt to professional crisis counseling, which he had been doing on a volunteer basis.



**This multitalented couple are busy people.**

After earning an Masters of Social Work from University of Tennessee and an Masters of Divinity from Vanderbilt Divinity School, he began doing social work with hospice when he was invited to become a pastor for a church in Tennessee. In 2001, Brice moved to Iowa to serve a church in Nevada, and finished his ministry career in Burlington, Iowa, where he served for nine years.

Brice and Jonna met through their participation in Iowa Conference activities; during a lunch in Iowa City, Brice persuaded Jonna that Mayflower would be a great place to retire.

Jonna, a native Iowan, never saw women being pastors when she was growing up; however, as a child she played church, serving as minister and using her dolls and stuffed animals as her congregation. Her early practice paid off. After earning a BA in religion at the University of Iowa School of Religion and beginning doctoral study in theology and ethics there, she completed M.Div. study at Andover Newton Theological School. She served the UCC in Olds, Iowa for seven years and the UCC in Central City, Iowa for 19 years.

She went on to serve as an associate conference minister on the Iowa Conference staff and, later, the Tri-Conference staff. After two years as the interim conference minister of the Maine Conference, she is serving remotely as the acting conference minister of the Pacific Northwest Conference and supporting pastoral searches part-time on the Tri-Conference staff.

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Hughes & Jensen  
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She uses comedy in her work and talks of how she loves “the music of voices and laughter.” Her son, who lives in Ankeny with his wife, is an involved member of a UCC church there.

Brice and Jonna are both published writers; they serve as each other’s first readers. Brice is also a Master Gardener and Jonna an enthusiastic knitter. Both also paint (Brice says Jonna’s are good and Jonna says Brice’s are good). They have two fur babies: a cat named Midnight, and a golden doodle dog named Lucy.

Mayflower welcomes these two talented residents!

## MEET LEROY AND RUTH VAN MAANAN

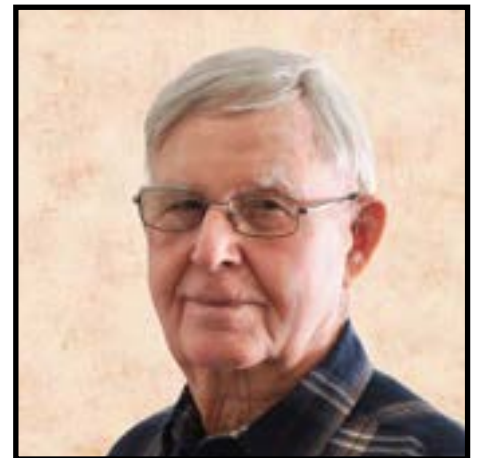
By Mary Schuchmann  
Log Staff



**Ruth is a seamstress and quilter.**

It’s never easy to leave the land after a lifetime on the farm, but LeRoy and Ruth Van Maanan are meeting the challenge. The couple moved to Mayflower in late October after 58 years on a farm two miles south of Lynnville.

“Life is good,” Ruth said, barely a month after their arrival at Buckley 209.



**LeRoy is enjoying retirement.**

LeRoy is relishing retirement as well as new surroundings. “When I get up, all I have to do is eat breakfast,” he said.

A son, Arlyn, now manages the 800-acre farm, but LeRoy still has a hand (and a heart) in the operation. “Going out to the farm” is a regular part of the Van Maanans’ weekly routine since their move to Mayflower. A dog named Corky, a young miniature Australian Shepherd, is one of the attractions of the farm. “She jumps all over me when I come,” LeRoy said.

Ruth and LeRoy both grew up in the Lynnville-Sully area. Their families were some of the many with Dutch heritage and surnames. Ruth noted that their own last name is spelled several different ways, even by relatives.

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Kellie McGriff, Executive Director  
616 Broad Street  
Grinnell, IA 50112  
[www.mayflowerhomes.com](http://www.mayflowerhomes.com)

#### Log Staff

Jeanette Budding  
Judy Hunter  
Patty Johnson  
Dorothy Martinek  
Betty Moffett  
Bill Pollak  
Mary Schuchmann  
Gene Wubbels

Photos by Bill Pollak

#### Van Maannan

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LeRoy was born near Sully. Ruth is a native of rural Otley, a tiny unincorporated community. After high school, she worked for a time a Grinnell Telephone Company in Grinnell, then at Rolscreen in Pella. The couple met at church and were married two years later.

In addition to Arlyn, the Van Maanans have another son, Kent, who lives with his wife in Altoona. There are six grandchildren – three boys and three girls, ages 18 to 31.

The couple are enjoying their new home, which overlooks the Buckley courtyard and garden. In a cozy space with a pocket door that was formerly an office, Ruth has installed her sewing machine as well as a computer. LeRoy's favorite room is a former bedroom that they have furnished with comfortable chairs, a TV and a small organ.

The First Reformed Church in Sully continues to be an important part of the couple's lives. Ruth still takes part in the church's periodic Sewing Days, where dozens of warm quilts are put together every year.

The couple has also maintained ties with lifetime friends from the Lynnville area. "But things have changed as we have gotten older," Ruth said, noting that once upon a time they recognized the names of most high school students because they were the sons and daughters of their friends. No more, she said, expressing an experience common to all as we age.

And, like the rest of us, the Van Maanans are sure to make plenty of new friends at Mayflower. Welcome, Ruth and LeRoy.