

Colonial Manor receives Excellent State Report

By Molly Bausch

Did you know that every year Colonial Manor has a State Inspection? This is time for staff members to test their abilities and show how well they know their job duties.

Colonial Manor recently had their annual State Inspection with the Department of Inspections and Appeals and passed in excellent standing with many compliments from the Inspectors themselves. The Inspectors were impressed with the overall condition of the building and especially with the way staff members treated the residents. The residents of Colonial Manor expressed to the Inspectors their happiness with the staff and the care they receive at Colonial Manor.

During the State survey Colonial Manor received two citations (or deficiencies) that were very easily corrected in the nursing department. With all of the regulatory requirements placed upon Nursing Homes – it is felt by all the staff members that these are very good results.

As a consumer, you can check the survey results, facility size, type and learn other information about any of Iowa's Nursing Homes at https://dia-hfd.iowa.gov/DIA_HFD/Home.do. If you have questions about the information on the website or about Nursing Homes in general, give us a call. We would be happy to talk with you anytime.

Colonial Manor is pleased to announce that on June 8th, 2009 Roberta "Bobbie" Shirkey will be starting her new position as the Administrator of Colonial Manor.



Bobbie is looking forward to meeting the staff, residents and other community members of Columbus Junction. An Open House will be planned at a later date.

The week of May 10th Colonial Manor celebrated National Nursing Home Week with the annual Family and Friends Potluck and lots of special entertainment. National Nursing Home Week is a way to recognize all of the hard work performed by the

staff members and a celebration of the lives of those that are cared for in the Nursing Homes throughout the year.

Colonial Manor has been a provider of quality care in the Columbus Community for over 34 years. A big part of the success is attributed to those that have volunteered their time in service of the residents over the past years. Colonial Manor is a vital part of the Community allowing citizens to stay in the town that

they have been a part of and by allowing citizens to volunteer their time to others as a civic responsibility.

Thank you Columbus Junction for allowing us to serve you and we hope to continue a wonderful partnership for many more years to come!

(See Page 10 for a special section on Nursing Home Week at the Manor.)

Columbus City business mainstay changes hands

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

In late 1962 a young International Harvester salesman drove through Columbus City and thought that it would make a good place for an implement dealership. That salesman was Chuck Plank, and he was living in Washington. After some negotiations, Chuck was able to purchase the roller rink building in Columbus City from John Summy, and opened an International Harvester dealership in January of 1963.

Obviously Chuck's idea in 1962 was a good one, because for forty-six years Plank Implement has remained a mainstay of the Columbus City business community. A wide range of equipment has been sold over these years at Plank Implement, today being a New Holland and one of the largest Kinze dealerships in Iowa. But Chuck has decided to step down from active management of the dealership, and last Monday he transferred the reins of the business over to Bennett Farm Equipment.

Over the years Chuck has seen a number of changes in the business. "I think the additions of cabs to tractors has been a big change," said Chuck, "it not only added to the farmer's comfort, but also did a great deal for his safety." Chuck also is impressed with the prevalence of electronic equipment in machinery, "In the beginning the equipment was a little awkward and didn't always work very well, but it certainly has improved over the years." But Chuck commented that the biggest change he had to get used to was

prices, "Today we are selling lawn mowers for the same price we sold large tractors for when the dealership opened. I still find it hard to comprehend."

Chuck remembers the farm crisis of the 1980's as being his most difficult time. "We took the approach that we were dealing with people rather than just numbers, and we tried to do everything that we possibly could do to help our customers survive those days. I'll always hope that we were a help to some of those individuals."

When asked how the dealership has remained successful through all of these years, Chuck simply commented, "Good People. I've been fortunate to have so many good people working for me, I've had many loyal customers, and my dealings with all of my distributors have been great. I'll always remember and appreciate these relationships."

Although there may be new owners of Plank Implement beginning this week, you can still see Chuck's familiar face when you go into the business. Chuck plans on staying involved in the dealership for a few more years, but also have the chance to spend a little more time with his family. Chuck is married to Connie, and they have three children: Andy, Shawn and Jodie.

Chuck, we're all glad you made that trip through Columbus City in 1962. You have been a positive impact on the Columbus Community, both in business and personally. Thanks for your service and dedication to our area.



Chuck Plank in front of his dealership

Saying good-bye to a passion, not just a job

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Since the fall of 1973 the halls of Columbus Community Schools have been fortunate to have a resident that can be described in the simplest of terms, "A Teacher." Teaching has never been a job for Sandy Martin, it has been a passion. "My fondest memories of teaching will always be the opportunities I had to work with students on a one-to-one basis, and then watch them succeed in life," said Sandy, "I've always felt we should teach to a student's strength, education has never and never will be a one-size-fits-all situation." But after a dedicated teaching career, Sandy has announced her retirement. A replacement will certainly be hired, but this replacement will soon discover that he or she will have a big role to fill.

Sandy and her husband, Bob, also a long-time Columbus teacher, moved to Columbus Junction in August of 1973. Bob had received a teaching job, and Sandy was hoping to find some substituting opportunities. "When we stopped at the school to see about apartment opportunities, I was told that a job had just opened in the English Department, and I was offered the job, it all happened that quick," Sandy remarked. Sandy began teaching Speech, Stage, Advanced Stage, American Literature and English 10. "I taught English 10 with Dick Peterson, and all of the kids wanted Dick as their teacher since I was the new one," Sandy recalled.

"I didn't have a lot of background in this area, but I took what skills I had and by talking with veteran teachers and reading everything I could find, I managed to acquire the skills," Sandy remembered. Last year Sandy taught Publications, Advanced Composition, Advanced English Skills and English Acquisitional Skills. "I think I've now taught everything in the whole curriculum," she said.

Some of the biggest changes Sandy has seen in the educational field has come from the "No Child Left Behind" legislation: "I'm not sure all of this has been for the best. It has changed student's attitudes towards education somewhat. I don't think they all look at where an education can take them, they sometimes just feel it is important to do the necessary work because they are supposed to. It has also affected teacher attitudes. We have become more philosophy oriented in education rather than working with the nuts and bolts of education. Although there



have been some good changes, some areas need to be revisited."

Sandy is leaving the teaching field with many fond memories, "I really enjoyed the exit interviews with seniors, and still become overwhelmed when a student returns to the school after graduation and thanks me for something I did for them. I just can't describe the gratification that this gives me." In retirement Sandy plans to be involved more with her family, and enjoy some quiet time. Bob and Sandy have three children, Jeff, Michelle and Vicky. Jeff and Michelle have also pursued careers in education.

In saying good-bye, Sandy said, "I want to give a Thank You to this community. I came here and was accepted. It truly has become my home. I couldn't have asked for better people, and for better kids. All of the kids that I have been fortunate to be associated with have made all of this worth while."

In the Gazette's working with Sandy on the school page, we have all come to respect and appreciate her devotion to education. It isn't everyday that we come into contact with someone of Sandy's values and determination, and she will be deeply missed by us as well as the students of Columbus Community. Have a great retirement, Sandy, and take pride in the generations of students you have influenced. You were truly a "Teacher." (An open house honoring Sandy's dedication to our schools is set for Sunday, June 7, 2009 in the school auditorium. The program will begin at 2:00 p.m. with refreshments to follow in the student center. It is also Bob and Sandy's 40th wedding anniversary.)

Briefly -

Legion Auxiliary Potluck

The American Legion Auxiliary will meet on Tuesday, June 9th for a 6 p.m. potluck at the Lekwa home. Meat and drink will be provided. Remember to bring your spouse and a chair.

Museum extended hours

The Columbus Community Heritage Museum will be open Saturday, June 13th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All Alumni classes and others are invited to visit the museum that day.

City to flush hydrants

The City of Columbus Junction will begin flushing hydrants the week of June 8th, 2009.

Cemetery Notice

After June 10th, all shepherd hooks that are not being used with flowers on them will be removed and placed in the cemetery building. If you want to keep your shepherd hook, please remove by June 10th.

Conesville UMC Ice Cream Supper

Conesville United Methodist Church will be having a homemade ice cream supper on Thursday, June 11th, beginning at 5 p.m. Creamed chicken on a bun, loose meat hamburgers, potato salad, baked beans, pie, cake, homemade ice cream, and beverages will be served. There will be a free will offering.

Empowerment Board to meet

The Des Moines/Louisa County Caring CommUNITY Empowerment Board will be meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle Street, Mediapolis, IA, today, Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Farmers' Market now open

Fridays 4:30 to 6:30 • American Legion Parking Lot -The farmer's market season has begun! Thank you to everyone—vendors and buyers, who came out in the cold rain last week. (Reminder: the market is held rain or shine). Hopefully we'll have nice weather this Friday! We have a record number of vendors planning to sell in Columbus Junction this summer and will have better-than-ever variety of fresh local products for you to buy every week—from bedding plants to dog treats.

Fire Department Open House

Members of the Columbus Junction Fire and Rescue would like to invite you to an open house at the Columbus Junction Fire Department on Sunday, June 7, 2009, from 1-4 p.m. Come and see the renovation of the station after the 2008 flood and view up close the new pumper truck recently delivered. Light refreshments will be served. Please plan to attend this event!

Great Beginnings PreSchool

Great Beginnings Preschool is now accepting student applications for the 2009 - 2010 school year. Great Beginnings offers quality care and education for children ages 3, 4 and 5. The school also provides transportation to and from the preschool. For more info please contact the preschool at 728-2669 or Beth Hills at 728-3157.

Conservation District to meet

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will meet June 10, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. at the NRCS Office in Wapello. Topics on the agenda will be an update on cost share projects and the secretary's retirement. For more information please contact the office at 260 Mulberry St. STE 2, Wapello, or phone 523-6411.

Main Street Clean-up

Residents of Columbus Community are invited to help clean up the north end of Main Street on June 6th at noon. Bring gloves and hand tools to work with plants, etc. Rain date will be one week later, June 13th - same time. We hope for at least a dozen workers.

PEO to meet

Chapter CX, PEO will meet Monday night at 7PM at the home of Jennifer Buffington. The program is the convention report.

Fair Queen and Princess contestants

Seeking contestants for the 2009 Louisa County Fair Queen and Princess Contests. Contestant packets and information can be found on our website at www.louisacountyfairqueen.com. The contest date is Monday, July 27th. Fair Queen contestants must be at least 16 years of age and no older than 21 by August 1st. Winner receives a \$500 scholarship and a \$250 cash award along with many gifts from local sponsors. Awards will also be given to runners-up and Miss Leadership and Miss Personality. All contestants will also receive t-shirts and certificates. There is no entry fee for the Fair Queen contest. Fair Princess contestants must be at least 4 and no older than 8 by the contest date. All contestants receive tiaras, sashes and certificates. Entry fee is \$25. Winner receives a savings bond, crown and sash.

St. Jude's Fish Fry in Conesville

Conesville is hosting a fish fry and auction on Saturday, June 20, 2009, from 12:00 Noon until 4 p.m. Dinners are Adults: \$8.00; Children: \$5.00. We would like to ask everyone to give a helping hand. Please help by donating new or gently used items for the auction (No clothing please), to help support these special children. Auction items can be dropped off at Bell's Melon Shed in Conesville. For more information, or if anyone is willing to help, please call Amy or Skip Kirk at 728-8829 or Saddle Bronc at 725-6011.

CCHS Alumni Banquet

The annual Alumni Banquet for Columbus, Cotter and Conesville schools will be held on June 13, 6:30 PM, at Roundy Elementary School. Tickets are \$10 each and are available from Sherry Pine at the Columbus State Bank (728-2436) and Carol Ann Howell at the Community Bank (728-2226). Since the banquet was cancelled last year, we will honor 50-year classes of 1958 and 1959, and 25-year classes of 1983 and 1984. Please buy your tickets early so we can plan for food and space. If you have questions, please contact Jerry Bell or Jim Howell.

Final Cairo Reunion Scheduled

The 20th annual and FINAL scheduled Cairo, Iowa potluck reunion will be held at Louisa County, Iowa, Virginia Grove Park, at Noon, on Sunday, June 28th. This reunion was formed, and has now, completed a number of Historic Preservation Projects including the recent renovation of the Cairo Cemetery. All are invited.