



Your Award Winning Hometown Newspaper

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## Taking a trip to the "Warsh" House

By Mary Masonholder Wilson  
Gazette Staff

At the C.J. Park Apartments, located just West of the Colonial Manor Nursing Home, there is a building, which houses the laundry facilities for the residents of the 24-unit apartment complex. This building is called the "wash house" by the group of people who live there, but is pronounced 'warsh' house, as Midwesterners tend to do. Whatever the residents call it, everyone has a good time there, and it definitely is a 'community center' and meeting place for these people.

The Wash House has two washers and dryers. However, it also has a space big enough for meetings and this area has a small kitchenette. The mailboxes for the 24 units are housed here, and there is a restroom.

Every Wednesday at 10:00 A.M. some of the residents gather together for coffee at the Wash House. Often coffee, cake, cheese and crackers, and other foods are brought to share. A real favorite is toast that is put in the oven with honey butter. According to Arlene Johnson, who lives in one of the apartments, "This toast is really good." Usually around eight to ten people gather on Wednesday's. People sit and visit, eat, and enjoy hearing what is going on. People of-

ten wait for their mail to come before they go home. Sometimes a few of them sit and read the Gazette together.

Another great activity at the Wash House is putting together puzzles. Usually a big picture puzzle is left out on the table in the meeting space. Residents go there whenever they want to work on the puzzles. Upon completion, Johnson has glued many of them, and they are hanging on the walls for decoration.

The residents enjoy "community decorations." Kurt, the maintenance man, puts up decorations at Christmas time. It really brightens the area. Also, Johnson, who was a member of the Legion Auxiliary, goes around the apartments and takes orders for food for the American Legion Fish Fries. A Legion member delivers these, and last time Johnson had 13 orders for meals. She also took orders for the Catholic Mexican meal to raise money for Rueben Zuniga's mission trip to Guatemala. The residents of these apartments also donated stuffed animals for Zuniga to take to the children who had surgery during his mission time there.

The residents of the C.J. Park Apartments, some of them have been there over 20 years, have a great place to live. And the "Warsh House" pro-



Arlene Johnson retrieving her mail

vides a great place for them to meet. Stop in on a Wednesday for coffee. They'd be glad to see you.

## Tyson foods recognizes Team Members for United Fund Contributions

Tyson Louisa County Team Members were recognized on Valentine's Day for being sweethearts of the Columbus United Fund. In this year's drive, Tyson employees pledged the highest amount since 2004. They are the largest donor group to United Fund in the Columbus Junction community by far and make it possible for dozens of organizations to serve hundreds of people in our community.

All Tyson employees were given a Valentine wrapped candy bar to show appreciation for their generosity. The Valentine wrappers were put on by Silver Cord volunteers and United Fund board members (see above). On Tuesday, as employees left for the day they were each handed a candy bar by United Fund board members and Silver Cord volunteers.

Dave Duncan Tyson HR Manager is pictured with three of the Silver Cord volunteers who came out and helped pass out the treats to the Team Members on valentines days as they left work. Thank you to everyone that helped make this possible.



## Former CJ Resident celebrates 104th Birthday

By Mary Masonholder Wilson  
Gazette Staff

Evelyn Allen Hankins Foss lives in Sterling House Assisted Living in Lehigh, Florida. However, she was born, raised, and married twice in Columbus Junction, Iowa. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, she celebrated her 104<sup>th</sup> birthday at Sterling House.

Evelyn Allen was born in Columbus Junction and was the daughter of Minton and Louise Allen. She grew up on a farm located three and a half miles southeast of Columbus City on what is now Q Ave., just off County Road X 17. She was one of seven Allen children: Reuben, Mina, Harlan, Eldie, Clement, Clarence, and Evelyn.

She attended school through the eighth grade at Pleasant View County School, then located at the end of the Q Ave. lane, on the South side. Pleasant View School is now in Wapello at the County Museum area. Foss went to high school in Columbus Junction and played basketball. While growing up, she attended the Columbus City Methodist Church with her family.

Evelyn Allen married Roy Badem and they farmed near the Cummings Corner area off of Highway 92. Her husband was killed in a

car/train accident. At the time, she was pregnant with her daughter, but did not know it. Royene was born, and she too grew up in this area. Royene, as an adult, married Wayne Hankins of Conesville.

Some years after the death of her husband, Roy, Evelyn married August Foss of this area, and they had one daughter Joan Foss. Joan later married Dick Hendrickson from Columbus City. Joan is now deceased. Even though many locals may not know the name of August Foss, he left his mark on this area. Foss built homes, and he particularly liked to use stone. One of his legacies is the stone structure that houses the Columbus School Bell on the northeast corner of our current school grounds. He also built a house in Columbus City, which has a stone fireplace outside and one inside.

August Foss, called Augie by his friends, loved to fish, and he and Evelyn often went to Florida for this sport. Later they moved to Florida on a permanent basis. August died some years following, but Evelyn stayed. Her daughter Royene was also in Florida. As age advanced, Evelyn moved in with Royene. However, seven years ago she told Royene she wanted to move to an assisted living

facility. Royene objected, but finally they settled on Sterling House and an opening came and Foss says, "I jumped out of bed."

Foss is very active in Sterling House, and according to the director is loved by all, has a great mind, and is full of determination. She uses a walker, sometimes a wheel chair, and has a hearing aid.

When interviewed, she said her first husband fought in World War I, and her second husband served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. She often did substitute teaching before she was married. The local board of education in Iowa came to her house to convince her to teach full time. Foss said, "My mother would have none of that and told them to go away. So I just did some substitute teaching."

When asked if she had ever voted, she replied that she was a Republican, and that her whole family was Republican. She said she had voted for Hubert Hoover, but people sort of got to not liking him. She was surprised when Democrat Obama won, but she didn't want to discuss a Democrat, and she even wrinkled up her face when the name of John Kennedy was mentioned.

Theodore Roosevelt was presi-

dent when she was born. She was the youngest of the seven children in her family and one of her sisters just died a few years ago at the age of 101 and a half. She remembers the Influenza outbreak across the nation in around 1918 that claimed thousands of lives. "We lived out in the country but a lot of people were getting the flu and my brother would run errands for everyone on the farms who were sick and couldn't do for themselves. He would do the chores for them."

When asked what her secret was to living to be over 100, she answered, "I never drank alcohol and never ever tasted beer. I never ever smoked. I just ate what I wanted—that's about it," she said.

At her 104<sup>th</sup> birthday party, Foss is shown pointing to a picture of Pleasant View School, her childhood place of education right here in Columbus Junction, Iowa. Foss may not live here, but her roots are here along with many family members who still remember her.

Thanks to Arlene Johnson for supplying this information and article, and thanks to the LEHIGH ACRES CITIZEN newspaper for quotes from Evelyn Foss.

## Briefly -

### Career/Tech meeting at CCHS

Columbus Community School District will hold a Career/Tech Advisory Council meeting on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, at 5:30 pm in the Family and Consumer Science Room. Dinner will start at 5:00 p.m.

### Cedarcrest "Dues Rendezvous"

The annual "Dues Rendezvous" will be held at Cedarcrest Golf and Country Club on Saturday, February 25 at 6 p.m. Fingerfoods and beverages will be provided, but feel welcome to bring a dish. All members, and those seeking membership, are invited to attend.

### Class of 1982 plans Reunion

Attention Columbus Class of 1982: It's time for our 30-year class reunion. We need to get addresses for all classmates. Parents: If you can help out, call Deb at 319-750-2636 or email me at cpmc\_jp@yahoo.com.

### Blood Checks at Senior Center

Colonial Manor will be hosting health checks (Blood sugars, blood pressure and cholesterol checks) at the Columbus Senior Center today, Wednesday, February 22, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Hope to see you there!

### Alumni Banquet Scheduled

The Columbus area Alumni Banquet will take place at Roundy Elementary School on June 9, 2012. Social Hour will begin at 5:30 p.m., and Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Special recognition will be given to the 50-year (1962) class and the 25-year (1987) class. Put the date on your calendar now!

### Early Childhood Board to meet

The Des Moines/Louisa Early Childhood Iowa Area Board will be meeting at the ISU Extension Office, 102 W. Main Street, Mediapolis, IA on Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

### Grandview/Letts Lions Blood Drive

The Grandview/Letts Lions Club is sponsoring a blood drive on Thursday, March 15, 2012, from 1-6 p.m. at the Letts Library/Community Building. To donate, contact Marvin or Margaret Thomas at 319-726-3286 or email them at: mmthomas@iowatelecom.net. Please eat before donating and bring photo ID. The last date to donate elsewhere was January 19, 2012.

### Cattlemen's Banquet scheduled

The Annual Louisa County Cattlemen's Banquet will be held on Wednesday, February 29th 2012 at the American Legion in Columbus Junction Iowa. The evening starts with a 5:30 pm social time and a prime rib supper starting at 6:00 pm. The evening activities include local FFA chapter presentations, beef industry news, local activities, a scholarship presentation and the evening concluding with an auction and door prizes. Come join the evening. Tickets available at the door for \$15. For more information, contact Tom or Rebecca Bonnichsen at 319-729-2020.

### Master Gardeners' to meet

The February meeting of the Louisa County Master Gardeners will be held on Tuesday night, February 28th at 7 PM at the Extension office in Wapello.

### Historical Society Soup Supper

The Louisa County Historical Society is hosting a soup supper on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the dining room at the museum. The guest speaker is Mr. Stark from Washington, Iowa. He will talk about "Little Known Facts About Louisa County." A free will offering will be accepted.

### Louisa Longbeards Banquet

The twelfth annual Louisa Longbeards Banquet is being held Saturday, March 3. This event is being held at the Briggs Community Building, Wapello. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for guests to participate in games, raffles, review items for silent and live auction, etc. Supper is served at 7 p.m. Any questions concerning the banquet or becoming a member, please contact Todd Shutt at 319-572-1522 or David Boysen at 319-572-1551. New members are always welcome.

### Ham and Beans in Columbus City

The Columbus City Lodge #107 will have a Ham and Bean soup supper Friday, March 2 at the Lodge in Columbus City. Serving will be from 5:30-7:00 PM. A free will donation will be accepted. The public is invited to attend.

### Amateur Radio Club to meet

The Muscatine Amateur Radio Club will meet Monday, March 12, at 7:00 pm in the upper-level conference room at the Musser Public Library, 304 Iowa Avenue in Muscatine. All amateur radio operators, and those interested in learning more about amateur radio, are invited to attend. For more information, visit muscatinehams.org.

### Port City Coin Club to meet

The PORT CITY COIN CLUB of Muscatine will hold its annual coin show on March 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel, junction of Highways 61 and 38 North in Muscatine. Dealers from Iowa and Illinois will buy, sell or trade U.S. and foreign coins and currency. Admission is free and open to the public. A raffle for a \$5 U.S. gold Indian Head coin and free hourly door prizes are a part of the show. Also, free numismatic literature will be available. More information is available at 563-264-8148.

### School Board to meet

The Board of Education for the Columbus Community School District will hold a special public meeting to review the results of the bond sale on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, at 12:00 p.m. at the Columbus Administrative Office (the White House).

### See Carpenter's Corner for St. Patrick's Day Parade Information

## Will your child be old enough for Kindergarten in the fall of 2012

Will your child be old enough to attend school at Roundy Elementary, Columbus Junction, Iowa this Fall? Roundy Elementary is preparing for Kindergarten—If your child was born before September 15, 2007 and is not currently enrolled in the Columbus

Preschool Program, KFC Preschool, or the Great Beginnings Preschool Program, please call the school at 728-6218.

¿Usted cree que su hijo/a tendrá la edad necesaria para empezar el Kindergarten en el Otoño del 2012?

¿Tendrá su hijo/a la edad necesaria para asistir a la Escuela Primaria Roundy en Columbus Junction, IA este otoño? La Escuela Primaria Roundy se está preparando para Kindergarten—Si su niño/a nació antes del 15 de Septiembre del 2007

y no está inscrito actualmente en el Programa de Preescolar de Columbus, el Programa Preescolar de KFC, o en el Programa Preescolar Great Beginnings, por favor llame a la escuela al 728-6218.

A tu kum 2012, sianginn kaithan

tik ah nan fa le kindergarten kai ding an um ma?

Roundy Elementary sianginn, Columbus Junction, IA, ah a tu kum nan fa le sianginn kai ding an um ma? tling mi an um lai maw? Kindergarten sianggackchia tamdeuh lak dingin Roundy sianginn nih timh tuah nak a

ngei, cu hna cu September 15, 2007, hlan I a chuak mi, a si lo le a tu lio I KFC preschool a si lo le Great Beginnings Preschool a si lo le Columbus preschool i a kai lio mi an si lai. Thawngpang tam deuh theih na duh ah cun hi phone ah hin rak hal khawh a si 728-6218.