



MAHOVA

September 2021

News

Growing up at the Masonic Home

Notes from a conversation between Frances Gillie, Bob Harrison, and Peg Davis on August 18, 2021

Both Bob and Frances grew up at the Masonic Home and they are always eager to reminisce about those times. They both stressed the importance of their experiences working on the farm as they learned both responsibility and accountability. Bob was assigned four cows, out of the herd of 30, to milk each morning and evening. He harvested vegetables that were carried in baskets on a trailer pulled by one of the four mules from the field to the kitchen. Frances said the girls were involved with canning and preparing the produce. But she quickly added that each girl also had daily responsibilities—from ironing the little boys' shirts to collecting the dishes after meals, to housekeeping.

Bob added that the boys also had housecleaning responsibilities. One was to clean the railings, stairs, and hall floors. They worked very diligently on the first flight of stairs and the hallway, but were less industrious about the upper stairs and halls. It seems that because the first flight looked so nice, the Matron didn't go up the stairs to check the others. The boys claimed a little reprieve.

Chapel was each Wednesday evening and each youngster had to repeat a Bible verse learned during the week. They both laughed that one boy never got beyond "Jesus wept." But they remembered the young Presbyterian seminarians who came each Sunday to teach Sunday School. Not only did they give memorable lessons, but afterwards they would take the younger ones for walks in the woods, a special treat for the girls who were not allowed to play in the woods.

Everyone knew that when the bell rang, it was time to head to the dining room, where the students sat in small groups. However, they did not race in to grab a chair; rather the protocol was for each child to stand behind the chair and wait until a blessing had been given before being seated. After the youngsters were in bed and had said their prayers, a Matron would tell them a story. Bob especially loved to hear these tales.

In addition to the chores, there was a lot of time for fun. A movie was shown every Saturday night and Frances said each child received a weekly allowance of \$.35. A big event was "Grand Lodge Day" when the Masons would bring entertainment and treats to the children. Each child was given a handful of nickels—remember in the '30's and '40's, a nickel had more spending power than it does today. Nickels were important at other times; they each received a nickel for each year of age on their birthdays. They could walk to a local store and buy "goodies," but there were also trips that the Home provided. Both Bob and Frances said there was ample space and amazing playground equipment for the children to use. But the children—especially the boys—improvised.

Continued on page 2

In This Issue:

Health Rx

Notifications

Book Ends

Brain Teasers

Birthdays

Resident Advisory Council

Peg Davis
President

Ray Taylor
Vice President

Sandra Young
Secretary

Alice Bond and Betty Klotz
-B Wing

Tom Kaufman and Jerrell Morton —C and D Wing

Steve Bollinger and Peg Davis
- Village

One of these improvisations was the swimming hole. The boys dammed up the creek that ran through the hog pens and made a pool where they could cool off in the summertime. There was even a rope they could swing out on and drop into the water. But, alas, that didn't last. When Pop Turner learned about it, he closed this recreation area. No fear, they had another idea—to make “dump” candy in the area where debris was taken from the farm. They built a fire with sticks and small branches and used a large commercial size can for their pot. The boys added sugar, milk, and whatever other ingredients they could get to make the candy. Apparently the boys thought it was “mighty fine.” Sometimes, a special girl got a taste. And, the boys found another way to use the fire—they built rockets from discarded pipe. One end was plugged with a cork and then the pipe was filled with water. The object was to heat the pipe until the water spewed out and to see who had made the rocket that could shoot the water the farthest. Bob admits that the boys had more privileges and freedom than the girls. He even had jobs in the neighborhood when he was in high school to earn money.

The Home children, like others of their ages, were tempted by tobacco. One of the side benefits of “Grand Lodge Day” was the discarded cigarette butts that the Masons left behind. Some of the girls believed it was their duty to smoke them. Most got sick and some swore never to smoke again. The boys waited until they could buy chewing tobacco and cigarettes—but they didn't know how to use either one. Bob remembers swallowing the tobacco juice and getting very ill. He didn't have any better luck learning how to smoke cigarettes.

The girls did their share of mischief, but none is any funnier or more poignant than what Frances and five of her 12-year-old friends did when they wanted some excitement in their lives. They chose to get this excitement by running away one night. They had one suitcase and each girl put in a toothbrush and a change of underclothes. The largest girl was elected to carry the suitcase. About 11 o'clock, they took off walking through the cornfield until they came to the road. As they walked along the road, it started to rain. They saw a light on the front porch of a house in the distance and headed to it. After banging on the screen door, a lady with her hair rolled in rags opened the door. She wanted to know what they wanted and where they were from. And the girls gave some creative answers: New York, Chicago, Washington, D.C. The lady let them on the screened porch and said she would take care of them. She went inside. And the next thing they knew, she drove a car around the house and told them to get in. She had called Pop Turner and he told her to bring them home. He was waiting for them. They just knew they were doomed. But he told them to go to bed and get some rest and he would talk with them in the morning. They were afraid about what would happen to them on top of the agony of having to wait until morning to find out. When Pop called them to his office in the morning, he wasn't upset. Rather, he asked them to tell him why they had done what they did. This was not the conversation the girls were expecting. He dismissed them. The girls learned that listening before reacting determines a positive or negative outcome. They never ran away again.

Bob and Frances said that every youngster had a nickname. It was a way to give each other a unique identity. They remember those nicknames today. Both cherished the close and lasting relationships formed between the youngsters and adults who lived at the Masonic Home. Many have endured a lifetime. Bob, nicknamed Pedro, said, “It was a blessing for me to grow up here.” And Frances added, “I didn't realize how happy I was here until I left.” The childhoods of Frances and Bob were truly special because they lived among people who loved them enough to give them all they needed to become the best adults they could be.

Health

Here's To Your Good Health!

Tips for Healthy Aging

1. Stay positive. Don't let negativity control your life. Distance yourself from people who do not have a positive outlook on life.
2. Stand up straight! Fix your stance and practice it every day, all day until it's natural. You will look great and feel better.
Tip: Your waistline will look trimmer if you follow this advice.
3. Research shows people who smile more often are happier. Your teeth are just as important to your good health as the rest of your body. Not only is it the first thing people notice, but good oral health is a gateway to your overall well being.
Tip: Go to the dentist regularly.
4. Lonely? Stop thinking about how you don't have any friends or family and do something about it now. Pick up the phone and make a call. Volunteer, take a class, invite someone for lunch or coffee, sign up for an activities program, sit at a new table in the dining room.
5. Start taking walks. Not only is this healthy but it's a good way to meet the neighbors. Have a dog? Dogs can be great conversation starters and encouragement to get up and out.
6. Take some time to set up your annual physical and health screenings.
7. Eat healthy.
8. Find your inner artist. Take a class. There are multiple artistic opportunities at the Home. Try out painting, adult coloring, woodworking, jewelry making, learn a new instrument, etc. The possibilities are endless.

Notifications

| | |
|---|--|
| Resident Council Meeting Tuesday, September 7 9:30 AM Dining Room | Activities Committee Meeting Thursday, September 16 3:45 PM Library |
| Advisory Council Meeting Tuesday, September 21 10:00 AM Private Dining Room | Food Committee Meeting Tuesday, September 21 1:00 PM Private Dining Room |

Book Ends

By Georgeen Carden

Mary Higgins Clark

Mary Higgins Clark was a prolific writer, having penned 38 suspense novels, four collections of short stories, an historical novel, two children's books and a memoir. She is the co-author, with her daughter Carol, of five suspense novels. Clark is an international best seller with over one hundred million copies of her books in print. She has won numerous mystery writers awards including an "Edgar". Having said all that, I don't know why people like her books so much. I read *I'll Walk Alone* and thought the story implausible and the characters shallow..

I'll Walk Alone is the story of a woman whose only child has been kidnapped at age three, two years prior to the opening of the story. The woman, Zan, had divorced the child's father before she knew she was pregnant, but he was active in the child's life. Zan has recently opened her own interior design business after having worked for 10 years as an assistant to an overbearing womanizer who had started making passes at her. For some unclear reason, the police reopen the kidnapping case and decide the mother took the child when his babysitter fell asleep in Central Park. Clark's writing style is interesting. She writes in short chapters that are each from the perspective of one of the characters. Toward the end the novel gets a little tedious as it prolongs the "denouement" when the reader has easily figured out the mystery.

I don't feel inclined to read any more of Mary Higgins Clark's work. Her characters did not seem well developed and I could not envision the story actually happening.

A native New Yorker, Mary Higgins Clark was born in the Bronx in 1927. Her father died when she was 11 and her mother struggled to raise Mary and her two brothers. Out of high school, Mary went to secretarial school and worked as a secretary until she was bitten by the travel bug and then worked for a year as a stewardess. She married a much older neighbor whom she had known since high school and with whom she had five children, all but one of whom bore Higgins as a middle name.

She began writing short stories and sold her first in 1956 for \$100. Widowed in 1964, she went to work writing radio scripts. She did her writing every morning between five and seven before getting her children up and ready for school. In 1969, she published her first book, a biographical novel about George Washington. Her first suspense novel became a best seller in 1975, allowing her to do something she had always wanted to do. She went to college, graduating *summa cum laude* with a B.A. in philosophy. She has been awarded 21 honorary doctorates.

Many Mary Higgins Clark novels have been made into movies. None of them are available in the Mahova library. Eighteen of her novels are available in regular type face and six in large print plus two on DVD if you want to read while you shell butterbeans.

Notifications

In Memoriam



James Herring
Joseph Hogge
Conwelsey "Ruffner" Simmons



Anniversaries

ANNIVERSARIES



September 1, 1957 Carroll and Elizabeth Jones
September 26, 1959 Frank and Molly Perdue



Have You Heard?

- Out of all 12 months of the year, September is spelled with the most letters, contains nine letters and it happens to be the 9th month of the year. No other months have the same number of letters as their number in the calendar year.
- September 17th is Constitution Day, that marks the day that the U.S. Constitution was adopted.
- September is National Happy Cat Month, Kids Take Over the Kitchen Day on September 13 and International Talk like a Pirate Day falls on September 19th.
- There are more pop and classic songs with "September" in the title than any other month.
- The birthstone for September is the sapphire and symbolizes intuition, clarity of thought, peacefulness, loyalty and trust. The flower for September is the aster and morning glory.

Brain Teaser

Fall Word Search

C U W V B F K S Q S W H A R V E S T H G
O Y S M A N T A T O U U O G K R P M L E
A C F D F O O T B A L L W B T Q W O Z B
S E E Z Z A G E R Y N T U E N I B E X R
W J P N X T B U W A A P P L E C I D E R
E A U O A H U D C N U T U U U N C T A Q
A P R V S A U U R K K P P Z M H R B C T
T P L E A N N O J Y S R P C U P A G I C
E L E M J K C A D B E F W K E U K Y M K
R E A B U S K F Y O P L I O H Z E I Y B
P S V E L G P H L N T Z H P S J S Q N O
Q Q E R S I Q A W F E Y E M U W E Q J O
J N S O M V V C N I M C O Q N R M W K T
T B M E K I F Z B R B R Y C F K N L J S
V Y A P N N Q K G E E A V G L U T A A O
V N R R D G H N A B R U Q T O O N I G V
C Y A O O P I Q O N H T X F W J Z Y P E
L C X F E A L T K O E U W Z E S U P P B
R D E F I D C W K O Q M Z Q R B F Z U S
D R Q R J O V Z O Y W N C J G R K N E U



CORN
AUTUMN
BONFIRE
BOOTS
OCTOBER
RAKE

THANKSGIVING
HARVEST
LEAVES
CARNIVAL
APPLES
APPLE CIDER

PUMPKIN
FOOTBALL
SWEATER
NOVEMBER
SEPTEMBER
SUNFLOWER



Copyright © Wondermom Wannabe

Fall Word Search



ACORN
APPLE
AUTUMN
CHESTNUTS
CHILLY
CIDER
COBWEB
FALL
FOOTBALL
GOURD

HALLOWEEN
HARVEST
HAY BALE
HAYRIDE
LEAVES
MAIZE
NOVEMBER
NUTS
OCTOBER
PUMPKIN

QUILT
RAKE
SCARECROW
SEPTEMBER
SLEET
THANKSGIVING



Happy Birthday to You!

Happy Birthday to the following residents who celebrate their birthdays:

- 9/8 Pat Heald
- 9/16 Juanita Ragsdale
- 9/17 Maurice Beachum
- 9/17 Paul Canter
- 9/21 Phyllis Rowe
- 9/22 Larry LaRoche
- 9/23 Jerri Morton
- 9/25 Agnes Cash
- 9/26 Sandra Butler
- 9/26 Helen Duke
- 9/28 Helen Melton
- 9/30 Kenneth Shook

Employee Birthdays

- 9/3 Khalil Harney
- 9/4 Claudia Walters
- 9/4 Roshey Bowens
- 9/7 Sade Redd
- 9/7 Reshawn Pritchett
- 9/16 Kevin Grubbs
- 9/24 Sheena Houchens
- 9/25 Devona Henderson
- 9/26 Scotty James
- 9/27 Barbara Jehu
- 9/29 Terrance Hill, Jr.

Scan this QR image to go to the Masonic Home Website.



Welcome New Residents

Bland and Judy Wade

Raymond and Ramona
Ridgeway

Masonic Home Census -- 167

The MAHOVA News

A monthly publication of the Masonic Home of Virginia
500 Masonic Lane
Henrico, VA 23223
804-222-1694
800-262-4644

The MAHOVA News is published monthly for the residents of the Masonic Home of Virginia. Articles in this publication may not be reproduced without permission.

Anne Hagen, CPA, MBA

Chief Executive Officer

Warren Swanson, CPA, MBA

Chief Financial Officer

Robert Adkins, LNHA

Senior Administrator

Kathy Bryant, ALFA

Assisted Living Administrator

Dr. Danny Felty

Medical Director

Terry Hilton

Director of Development

Regina Pettaway, RN

Director of Nursing

Barbara Ramirez

Human Resources Director

Mike Butler, Jr.

Director of Facilities

MAHOVA Editor
Robyn Massie
804-222-1694
Extension 77268