

Valley View Voice

Valley View Retirement Village • Rock of Ages Mennonite Home • M.A.I.D.S. • McMinnville, Oregon • Summer 2021

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Valley View Voice

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Simon Steely

by

Victoria Wilbanks

Simon was born in Corbin, Kentucky in March of 1932. Corbin was a railroad town, and the family lived on the edge of town, where they were able to raise a few animals. Simon's father worked as a boilermaker; his occupation was compatible with the town they lived in, because in those days, locomotives ran by steam. Simon's parents raised eight boys and one girl. Simon's mother had been a school teacher before her marriage and family, but soon became very busy as a homemaker.

After high school, Simon went to Berea College for two and a half years, and studied mathematics. However, he decided that he wanted to join the Air Force, and enlisted knowing that he would eventually be called, and by enlisting, he would get his choice of where he wanted to be in the military. He married his college sweetheart right after basic training, and then spent four and a half years in the Air Force, where he studied hard and became an Electronics Counter Measures Technician. Because his grades were excellent, he was given his choice of duty, and the obvious choice for him was to stay stateside and teach basic electronics. After his military duty, Simon went to the University of Kentucky, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering, and later went on to the University of New Mexico, where he earned a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering. All of these carefully made goals paid off, and Simon procured a job with Sandia National Labs, where he stayed for his entire career, and was able to retire at the age of 53.



Simon really enjoyed the challenges of his work, and especially embraced the opportunity to travel. He was sent to Australia for several years with his family, and considered the whole thing a wonderful adventure. They lived in a government town called Woomera, and his work involved satellite tracking.

The family had three boys, and a girl. During his time in Australia, Simon sent two boys to the University of New Mexico. This was a huge step for the two young men, but Simon and Alice had great faith in them, and knew they would be successful. Their oldest son went to the University of Adelaide in Australia, then later went to

(Steely continued pg 3)

From Delvin's Desk



One of the more difficult things during the last year was TRANSITION! What do I mean by that? The COVID-19 pandemic has changed many things, like: how folks are looking at each day, the future, and getting back to where they were in productivity and their day-to-day activities. There are those who just want to “move on” or were never really affected by COVID-19, and there are those that have experienced loss in their families or have friends that became very ill or even died. What one thinks about the seriousness of the virus is another whole discussion. Wherever you are in this thought process, it HAS affected you. So many things changed for us here at Rock of Ages since the last week of July 2020. An outbreak (16 residents testing positive) changed our world. Staff and residents responded in different ways, some knowing they were putting their family at risk felt they needed to leave immediately, and some dug in and took charge of the challenge, creating a whole, dare I say, “new normal stress level” with the ups and downs of this past year. It has been very difficult for both staff and residents to see staffing and resident changes, creating a type of COVID-19 PTSD for some. Some care centers are still on major shut down. At Rock of Ages, we are so blessed to have a strong core staff, dedicated beyond measure, taking on extra work because of our low staff count. They truly have made a tremendous commitment knowing their own presence on campus makes a difference in the lives we serve.

Transitions and changes have been real this past year and we are so grateful to all our staff of dedicated, compassionate caregivers, maintenance personnel, office staff, and kitchen crew. The Clinic staff,

Ashley and Kim, did so much to support the rest of the campus, by testing, and setting up the vaccination clinics. Residents have been very considerate and supportive, with several taking on new tasks to support our community. Thank you each one as we continue to navigate this time of difficulty and the transition back to a more normal campus.

It is exciting to see we are moving closer to having our Voluntary Service unit up and running. During a phone call with Lee Hoover this morning, I learned that the BMF VS Board has selected Lewis and Esther Swartz as house parents for us who, Lord willing, plan to be in Oregon this fall. They are from Kentucky and are making plans for the move. They will be establishing the Voluntary Service unit here at Rock of Ages with the goal to bring in young people from across the states who have a desire to serve in a mission setting. We are excited for this development and are hoping this will also help ease the staffing situation. We appreciate your prayers for our current caregivers, and the need for more.

I also wanted to note another exciting development and that is the creation of the Spiritual Life Committee. With the absence of a fulltime chaplain, five individuals have stepped forward to help out. A minister and a retired chaplain and their wives who are planning to move to our campus, two staff and a resident are all willing to support those who may be struggling or needing spiritual encouragement. Give the office a call if you or someone you know wants their support. I know we all have had our discouraging moments and if there are ways we can help, we want to give that support.

One of the highlights of struggling the past year is the willingness for each one to help one another. May each of you be blessed for reaching out and making our community a special place to live

Memory Care News



Things are getting better at Memory Care after the many challenges with COVID-19. We are still being very careful, with guidelines still in place; like asking visitors to please check their temperature, and wear a mask when visiting. Residents still get to do many activities, especially this summer when the weather is nice; they go outside and spend time with other residents and just enjoy being outside for

awhile. Twila is in charge of activities like playing bingo, singing, reading, tea parties, watching movies, and painting. Also, the Spiritual Care Team comes to Memory care to talk with residents to encourage them, pray with them, and listen to their stories. The caregivers always work hard to make sure each resident receives their proper medication, helps them with meals, personal care, and in general, have a lot of fun with them

Honoring our Employees

Employees of the Month



Erica Lobatos is the Employee of the Month for March. Erica has been an essential employee here at Rock of Ages for 15 years, serving in the kitchen most of those years. Her hard work and dedication has truly blessed us all here. She has

given so much especially the last few months when we have been short staffed. During COVID she worked six or seven days in a row most weeks and didn't complain. Her attitude helps encourage others around her. Thank you, Erica!



Jessica Diaz is the Employee of the Month for April. She has worked at Rock of Ages for 10 years, and the MAIDS would be lost without her. Jessica does the scheduling, records doctors orders, and helps keep the MAIDS office going, all while she is working and

caring for the residents. She is willing to come and help cover when it is needed, takes phone calls every other weekend, and does all this with a smile. She well deserves this honor and more. Jessica has been a dedicated employee all through this most difficult past year.

(Steely continued from pg 1)

the University of New Mexico as well. During the time that the family was in Australia, Simon's wife Alice developed breast cancer, and he lost her after 30 years of marriage, but not before they had raised their four children together. They were all grown when she died. Prior to her death, Simon and Alice went back to Australia for fifteen months, this time without their grown children.

After Alice died, Simon struggled through his sad period of bereavement, but during this period he met Beverly, who had lost her husband, too. They were both attending bereavement counseling. Beverly had four children, three girls and a boy, so their blended family comprised eight children.

You have probably noticed as you read this, how

(Steely continued from below left)

devoted Simon was to his family, his career, and his country. However, he still found time to bring excellence to his hobbies, and had the time to devote to them, since he retired at 53 years of age. Simon is proud to say that he cycled across Oregon six times, and also enjoyed running marathons. Even though Simon has been such a robust individual, enjoying great overall health, he has still suffered several severe health conditions which could very easily have taken his life prematurely. However, Simon credits his longevity to many things, not the least of which is a positive attitude, and great joy in living. Simon has also weathered tragedies in his life. Beverly, Simon's second wife, began her journey into memory loss in 2003. Simon finally found foster care for her when he could no longer take care of her himself. Eventually, even the foster care could not provide all that Beverly required, and their daughter, who is a nurse, volunteered to take care of her in her home. Simon said he highly discouraged her, knowing that it would be a life changing experience for her, but said if she did it, he would support her totally. At this point, Simon has "Visiting Angels" drive him to Portland to see Beverly once a week in their daughter's home. He says she does not always recognize him, but his visits are satisfying, nevertheless. Simon cannot drive out of town himself, as the doctors thought he had suffered a mini stroke, so Simon complies with their wishes.

Simon likes to remember the travel experiences he had with Beverly, including his favorite, a leisurely trip to Alaska in their RV, taking all the time they needed to get there. Another trip at the top of his list was an Elderhostel trip to Europe where they cycled along the banks of the Danube, now restored for cyclists and pedestrians, but where horses once pulled barges on the river. RV'ing was also a large part of their lives. Simon recalls that he has visited 49 states.

Simon now seems very contented in his current home, having had a very well traveled and interesting life. He is so happy to have found Valley View/Rock of Ages, and is so grateful for a life well lived. Many days he can be seen enjoying rides on his power assisted recumbent trike. He says, "The motor on the back wheel helps with the hills, and with three wheels I don't have to worry about my 89 year old balance."

Life in the Village by Gordon Martin

Rock of Ages has too many ducks!

This is strictly my own opinion, of course. Some folks would say we can never have too many ducks and geese around. I admit they are kind of cute when they are babies but, like most critters, they grow up. And when they become adults they get greedy, noisy and poop a lot. Have you walked around the pond lately? Wear your barn boots if you do. Of course the geese make a bigger mess. It wasn't too bad when our Gertie Goose was the only one. And she, at least, did a good job of sounding the alarm whenever a predator was sighted. But, alas, she has disappeared. Maybe she got COVID-19; but more likely she ran into one of those predators she kept honking about. We have nine wild geese now, and all they do is eat and poop. This is the first time



a wild Canadian pair has had a nest and raised a brood of goslings here at Rock of Ages, at least that I know of. The four babies are now almost adult size with proper Canadian markings, but they still have a “peep, peep” voice that has not changed to a honk yet.

We now have about 38 ducks, depending on what day you count them. Some of us tried to slow down the over population by eating the duck eggs as they were laid. I think Gary Binder and some others consumed about 60 eggs this Spring, so just think, we could have almost 100 ducks now if we hadn't eaten a lot of them! Five hens hatched out about 40

babies between them and some of them were drowned by the goslings who are really racist! One resident told me she saw the goslings pushing the baby ducks under the water in the pond. Of the 40 baby ducks hatched there are 18 left. But someone dumped two “adolescent” ducks off here apparently, and they joined one of the mama duck's flock so now there are 20. One of the mama ducks hatched four



babies, three of which soon died, and the one remaining baby joined in with the other mama's brood. There was one other hen who had a nest with about 12 eggs that ended up being breakfast for a coyote or some other critter. I found the empty egg shells and the innards of the mama out in the lower field. If those eggs had all hatched, and we hadn't eaten a bunch, we would now have about 110 ducks!!

Since the geese have exhibited violent racist tendencies, the mama ducks keep their broods away from the pond and mostly inhabit the creek. That's not a good thing either, because they have eaten all the Red Legged Frog (*Rana aurora*) and Newt (*Taricha granulosa*) eggs this year! I have only seen one frog and no newts this Spring—except for one that was squashed on the road. That's sad, because the Red Legged Frog is getting scarce and nearly endangered.

A lot of people feed the ducks and geese. They probably shouldn't. Unless you feed them pelleted poultry food you are probably not doing the waterfowl a service. It means the ducks and geese aren't foraging as much for the bugs and weeds and aquatic critters they need to give them a balanced duck diet. I pulled one dead duck out of the pond that had no evidence of being killed by a predator so maybe she died from a poor diet. Who knows? I guess I shouldn't be concerned if it slows down the wildfowl population explosion!

Valley View Air Show & Concerts

August 14, 2021



3 Heath Brothers



Liberty Quartet



Bethel Mountain Band

The Cragun's



Gospel Echoes NW

Concerts and activities are FREE!

9:00am -RC Aircraft

Kids Village

10:00 - *Puppet Show*

Horse & Wagon Rides

11:00 - *Candy Bomber*

11:30 - *Second Winds Band*

2:00 - *Gospel Echoes NW*

3:00 - *Bethel Mountain Band*

4:00 - *Liberty Quartet*

5:00 - *3 Heath Brothers*

6:00 - *Craguns*

Food available (at a minimal charge)

Snacks and cold drinks all day

Valley View Retirement Village

15600 SW Rock of Ages Road

McMinnville, OR 97128

503-472-6212

www.rockofagesvalleyview.com

Visit us on Facebook!

Your donation of canned foods
for local food banks is
appreciated.

Directions: Old Sheridan Road to Peavine Road, turn left on Youngberg Hill Road, continue to Rock of Ages entrance and concert site. Follow the signs!

Bible Mennonite Fellowship, Inc. dba
Rock of Ages

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Too Much Zucchini?

Have you ever wondered what to do with 20 pounds of zucchini? Make zucchini relish! Just mince up the zucchini, add some chopped onions, peppers, and spices. It's great. Dolores will share her recipe if you contact her.



Rock of Ages Endowment

(501-C-3 organization)

Thank you for considering Rock of Ages
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