No Retirement From Opportunities

Hawthorne’s sixth semi-annual community-wide program conference was the setting recently when Program Director Dr. Earl Kauffman presented thoughts on community programs and their significance in giving a highly distinctive character to community life.

In his comments Dr. K. remarked about the uniqueness of Hawthorne, saying, “Whether it be on the streets of Hawthorne or Leesburg, whether it be among ourselves or with strangers, people say: ‘I can tell that you are from Hawthorne, the people there are so happy and active.’ And best of all, everyone is determined to keep it that way... for ourselves and for the generations which will follow us here.”

“There is another component to life at Hawthorne which is emerging as an effective force in our daily lives. I refer to what sociologists would define as ‘mores,’ the code of inter-personal relations which directs our attitudes and behavior one toward the other. It also gives substance to our concepts of ourselves as people, as citizens of Hawthorne and larger communities.”

“Did you ever see a cleaner community than ours? It is very seldom that one finds clutter either in the Clubhouse, along our streets, or around our homes. We have pride... a pride shared by all others. We can be grateful for this oasis of human warmth and concern in a world so fraught with tension, fear and hate.”

Many hands have helped forge the community program at Hawthorne. No enterprise can be successful for long unless it has a purpose. The goal or purpose of the community program is a model in clarity, according to Dr. Kauffman.

“Our goal is to provide opportunities for each person living here to achieve a high state of morale. Morale is defined as a zest for living, finding a full measure of joy and happiness in today, and looking forward with anticipation bordering on excitement to the coming of tomorrow. A measure of the effectiveness of efforts to achieve the goal is the often heard expression, ‘Did you ever know a place where time goes as fast as here at Hawthorne?’ Morale is achieved through involvement: intellectually, socially and physically, in experiences which are personally satisfying and which are appreciated by the community at large.”

Everyone at Hawthorne has an opportunity to achieve this high state of morale, selecting their own level of involvement in community programs.

Dr. Kauffman concluded his conference remarks by thanking the Cabinet members who have led the program from April to October of this year: Marion Piehl, Ralph Gray, Water Smoyer, Charles Mason, Lee Mamer, Cliff Hollister and Carl Curtis.

The dynamic leadership talents of residents guides Hawthorne’s program each year. During the next six months we turn to these new Cabinet members for leadership:

- Marion Piehl - Arts & Crafts
- Gertrude Strahsburg - Cultural & Spiritual
- Paul Garrick - Educational
- Loyal Wilkens - Social
- Bob Winthers - Physical

The appointive Cabinet members, Cliff Hollister - Communications and Carl Curtis - Long Range Planning, will continue in their positions.

Deputy members assisting in each area are: Alice Brown, Arts and Crafts; Jim Hamilton, Cultural and Spiritual; Bill Simon, Educational; Louise Hutchinson, Social; and Parry Owens, Physical.
Little boys were talking on the way to school. "We have our Thanksgiving program today," one said. From the others, in chorus, came the question, "What is there to be thankful for?" Parents, over coffee when the children were in bed and the hour was quiet, asked each other, "What do we have to be thankful for this year?" Grandparents, with pictures of families and children on the table put down their books and knitting and wonder aloud, "It's Thanksgiving again, so soon. What do we have to be thankful for?"

The good book tells us that in life there are seasons just as sure as those that are told to us by the calendar on the wall. Into each season there are a multitude of reasons for being thankful. We who are now of retirement age have fond memories of seasons past . . . maybe of . . . "over the hills and through the woods to grandmothers house." But what about Thanksgiving, 1976?

We can be thankful that it was our good fortune to live in the United States and to participate in the Bi-centennial celebration of the founding of our nation. There are older countries by far but ours is the oldest democracy in the world today. We can take pride in the fact that we, America's senior citizens, have held the history of our country in our own hands and are passing it on to our children, and theirs, to have and to hold for centuries to come.

We can be thankful that we live in a nation that does not have custom posts between states. Our many travelers go to all corners of the map without being stopped once for a passport or visa. We can be thankful that we live where each one of us can speak with and understand each other, generally. A common language unites us and give us comfort wherever we travel. We can be thankful that there is a universal system providing our economic needs. The spector of the "poor house" has all but disappeared from our lives. Even though it is imperfect, we are comforted by the assurance that there are ways to pay most of our hospital bills when we become ill. We can be thankful, too, that there is food available for our tables and that our cooks at home, especially, prepare wholesome and nutritious meals.

Best of all we can be thankful that we have a future. In our earlier years we had to work. Our energies, time, and thoughts were devoted to our jobs. Now we have shucked off the shackles of compulsion; we are free to take on the opportunities of self-direction in personally chosen pursuits in which the remuneration is not taxable. To achieve the optimum in life satisfactions in an environment of opportunity to choose from a variety of experiences is essential. When such an environment is peopled by kindred souls with experiences and ambitions in common there are no limits to our "pay" in retirement living.

Thoughts For A Bicentennial Thanksgiving

There are so many gifts from God, could anyone list them all? Impossible! Even to list those intimate gifts you talk about only to God, gifts for which you whisper "Thank you God . . .

For sharing your strength with me today when I wanted to quit.
For giving me the words to say to my neighbor when he turned his back.
For allowing me to talk with you as a friend.
For helping to show someone who is so close to me that I care.
For bringing me joy in the love and laughter of my children and grandchildren.
For letting me find peace, safety and comfort in your house of worship.
For giving me courage to mention your name to a friend.
For giving me assurance in troubled times and uncertain days.
For bringing me comfort when my loved ones went to be with you.
For protecting me always.
And last of all, for giving me your greatest gift of all — the gift of your Son."

Contributed by Pop Mernitz

Penn Notes Staff

Associate Editor ............ Dr. Earl Kauffman
Staff Photographer ............ John Tienken
Flo Abraham, Mary Elizabeth Caldwell, Henry Drane, Harry Galbraith, Myrtis Maharay, George McDermid, Mary Smith and Dewhirst Wade.
Ginny Simpkins, chairman of Hawthorne's Annual 50-50 Sale, proudly presented a check for $1,180.31 to Al Blackburn, Executive Director for Lake County United Way, on behalf of the residents of Hawthorne. Charles Johnson, Hawthorne's United Way chairman, reported a total of over $5,300 in contributions by the Hawthorne community thru the 50-50 Sale, plus contributions and pledges to date. This is resounding proof that we care about others in our neighborhood.

Some Thoughts on China and Mao

The death of Mao Tse-tung on September 9 created a flurry of excitement around the world, even though it did not come unexpectedly. Aside from his colorful and many-sided personality, Mao's career was so enmeshed in recent history and world politics that his passing from the scene was bound to provoke speculation as to China's future course.

Attitudes toward China and her Revolution have changed remarkably during the past quarter century. In World War II the United States was allied with the Nationalist government of Chiang Kai-shek and — even when Chiang was defeated by the Communists in 1949 and driven to Formosa (Taiwan) — continued to regard him as the legitimate head of the "Republic of China." Successive American administrations adhered to a policy of isolating mainland China economically and diplomatically. Consequently it is no wonder that American citizens remained generally ignorant about what was happening behind the "Bamboo Curtain."

Instead of collapsing, as many had predicted, the Peking regime grew stronger and gradually won recognition abroad. After repeated rebuffs, Communist China in 1971 gained admittance to the U.N. on her own terms — a seat on the Security Council and expulsion of the Taiwan representatives. The most dramatic sign of change was the move toward friendly relations between China and the United States, climax ed by President Nixon's visit to the People's Republic of China for summit conferences in 1972.

The awakening of interest in Chinese affairs is long overdue. China is one of the most important regions in the world, with almost one fourth of its inhabitants and rich natural resources which are now being rapidly developed. The Chinese Revolution has demonstrated the possibility of transforming a backward semifeudal society into a vigorous modern one, able to meet the basic needs of its population for food, shelter, and health care.

The central figure in turning the "sleeping giant" of China into a formidable world power was Mao Tse-tung, chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, a complex and versatile person and probably the most influential Chinese since Confucius. Ruthless in methods and compassionate in goals, he was both a man of action and thinker, who adapted the dogmas of Marxism to Chinese traditions and circumstances. Most of his close associates in the revolutionary struggle are gone, and Mao's death marks the end of an era. It is perhaps significant that the extreme "radical" wing of the party has been suppressed and the party chairmanship given to the relatively obscure and cautious Hua Kuo-feng.

Mao's unique belief, or obsession, was that China could be kept in a continual state of revolution instead of subsiding into complacency like Soviet Russia. If his dream of permanent revolution died with him, his ghost should not be too surprised or disappointed. In a conversation with Edgar Snow in 1965 Mao observed that human conditions constantly changed and that in a thousand years even Marx, Engels and Lenin might appear ridiculous.

—Philip L. Ralph
84 and Going Strong

An excellent example of the full life that is available just for the taking is being lived by a little lady who is 84 years old. Mrs. Blanche Dohrmann lives at 107 Pyracantha Lane.

Three times a week she goes to physical fitness. Each morning she swims then spends her allotted time in the whirlpool. She often goes to the Arts and Craft class on Monday and to ceramics on Thursday. In October she went on the Busch Gardens trip, had a ticket to the Hawaiian Luau and had an array of appropriate items selected to make a prize winning costume for the Halloween party.

Only four years ago she went with her granddaughter on an extended tour which originated in Germany. On this tour she was especially impressed with several things she saw in India. The famous Taj Mahal and the 2000 year old caves where the Monks lived, are the two wonders of India. On the walls of the tiny individual caves, as well as on the walls of the larger assembly hall, there were carved likenesses of naked babies and elephants.

A wonder of nature was found in Madras State, also in India, which was a Banyantree, 250 feet in diameter. It is sacred and is worshipped by a certain sect of people. No one speaks above a whisper while on the grounds.

A custom observed in India is that only women doctors deliver babies. Also the mother of the new mother stays in the hospital for 9 days to take care of the daughter and new baby.

Of Iran, Mrs. Dohrmann has vivid memories of her surprise at seeing the crown jewels, which to her were far more impressive than those in England, being displayed without guards to protect them from being stolen.

She saw the mirrored room where the Shah of Iran, after four years of marriage, crowned his wife queen.

In Turkey, Blanche Dohrmann had great pleasure shopping in the numerous shops which were arranged in the shape of a huge wagon wheel. This arrangement is called a Suk.

During Mrs. Dohrmann’s younger years she lived in Baltimore where she worked as a tailor of men’s coats.

Yes, in March she will be 85 years young.

— Mary Elizabeth Caldwell
CITIZENSHIP

The dictionary defines citizenship as 1. the state of being vested with the rights, privileges, and duties of citizenship. 2. behavior in terms of the duties, obligations, and functions of a citizen.

Hawthorne believes in good citizenship; it believes in exposing its residents to all elements of the democratic process which result in helping them make intelligent decisions.

To that end A.A.R.P. held a meeting to introduce the judicial candidates (who in Florida are elected in the primaries) to the residents. Then the entire community backed and participated in a Citizenship Day in September where 21 primary candidates were presented to 575 residents. Again on October 8th, A.A.R.P. presented to 250 residents the successful candidates who were in the election on November 2nd. Finally on October 19th, Richard Langley, State Representative from the 35th District (of which Hawthorne is a component) and Gordon Savage, Leesburg attorney, explained to 175 residents, the nine Amendments to the Florida State Constitution. All four meetings were broadcast over our own Channel 4.

Yer, citizenship has its rights and privileges, it also has its duties and obligations.
— Walter Smoyer

A Salute to Hawthorne Employees

Recently Mel Harrison, Supervisor of Hawthorne's Service Dept., appeared on Channel 4 and presented to the residents a certificate representing 50 units of blood given by Hawthorne employees, to be credited to the Hawthorne Residents Blood Reserve which was depleted to a crucial stage.

This is the second time that this fine contribution has been made on the part of the employees, for which the recipients are most grateful.

Since most retirees are beyond the blood donor age limits, we again urge all residents to appeal to their younger Hawthorne guests and family members to become special persons by being a blood donor.

They can go to any Blood Bank in the United States, which is a part of the American Assn. of Blood Banks, and request that their contribution be credited to the Hawthorne Resident's Blood Reserve, Leesburg, Florida. For further information call Mildred McConnell, 728-3222.

Nature Talk Reviews Ocala Forest

The Nature Club of Hawthorne sponsored a very interesting and well attended meeting at its first fall program of the year on Oct. 21st.

The feature was an illustrated slide talk on Ocala National Forest by Ranger Larry Grimes, of the U.S. Forestry Service Station at Eustis.

We should all plan to visit the Ocala Forest with its many varied recreational areas of nature trails — particularly the Tropicana Nature Walk, a self-guided interpretative trail through a beautiful sub-tropical vegetative community. The picnic grounds in a wilderness character of a natural forest setting is incomparable to any other area in the State of Florida.

At Hawthorne, we also have a semi-unique natural setting of all the varied environmental aspects worthy of appreciation and study by those of us interested in nature.

Ocala National Forest is a multiple use area of over 367,180 acres of timber, water, range, recreation and wildlife.

Did you know that this year 10 new eagle nests were located and mapped, making a total of 36 eagles nests? That 67 osprey nests are now to be seen in the Ocala Forest? Nature and bird watchers — take your binoculars or a light weight pair of opera glasses to watch the movements of these large birds, generally seen in the tops of dead or dying trees near water, swamp and bog areas.

Two years ago approximately 450 deer were bagged by hunters in Ocala National Forest — Deer population studies and habitat analysis are reviewed each year.

The average yearly forest fires number around 100 (lightning and man-caused), burning approximately 90 acres of Ocala National Forest land each year.

Here at Hawthorne, residents may start planning now to purchase grain and bird seed to attract certain birds for their daily winter visits.

— Dewhirst W. Wade
Swine Flu Program on Tap

When you receive this copy of Penn Notes, the free Hawthorne Swine Flu Innoculation Program may have been completed. The actual schedule is dependent upon the availability of the vaccine from the Lake County Health Department. Every means of Hawthorne news media has been utilized to keep you advised of the requirements preceding inoculation.

The opportunity for early registration was provided during the week of Oct. 11th with more than 700 people signing up. However, a clipboard is available on the Triangle for those who were unable to register early.

This program has been made possible by the efforts of nearly 65 volunteers who are trained and ready to carry out the project. It includes doctors, nurses, dentist and medics to administer the vaccine.

As instructed by Dr. Murray, Director of the Lake County Health Department, when she appeared on Channel 4 program sponsored by the Health Education Committee, we have advised anyone who had any questions relative to the advisability of taking these shots, to consult their personal physician.

—Paul Garrick, Health Com.

Volunteer counselors to serve in AARP'S Tax-Aide Program for the 1976-77 tax season are now being recruited, according to George Drysdale, Program Coordinator for AARP Chapter 1775. Last tax season our trained volunteers assisted 668 older residents in Lake County and Hawthorne in filing returns.

Volunteers will attend training programs conducted here at Hawthorne, in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service. Each will be expected to commit a minimum of three hours a week to the program during the coming tax season.

The Tax-Aide Program is a community-wide service available free to all older persons, regardless of Association membership.

Additional information can be obtained by calling George Drysdale at 728-3593.

Count Your Blessings

Now that you have retired down south and are leading a more leisured life, aren't there many things for which you are thankful?

How about the energy you now have by not laboring to put on storm windows, especially the upstairs ones.

Be glad for the shoe leather you save by not walking the dog twice a day.

Add up the money you have accumulated by giving up cigarettes (well, almost) in these relaxing surroundings.

Remember the no longer needed expenditure for exterior paint and the added misery of apply said paint.

Think of all the frustration gone now that you need not start that old snow blower any more.

No doubt you can add a dozen more reasons for giving Thanks this November 1976.

—Myrtis Maharay

Social Shuffleboard

One hundred and twelve shufflers celebrated the first anniversary of the Wednesday morning “Mixer” and Social on Oct. 6. Paul & Wilma Gentry supplied ice cream for each one and two cakes were made and decorated by Faith Swaney. Coffee was made by Fred Farrell as usual.

Dr. Kauffman gave a short speech honoring the Gentrys, George Lawrence, Randy Butler, Fred Farrell and Faith Swaney.

All our thanks go to the faithful workers who have made our Wednesday mornings a special time of fun.
Canoeing — A Delightful Pastime

One of the surprises encountered in Central Florida is the delight of a canoe outing on one of the rapid, spring-fed streams found in the Ocala National Forest.

After only an hour's drive from Hawthorne, one can arrive at lovely Juniper Springs in mid-morning, change in the attractive bathhouse and enjoy a super-refreshing dip in the 72 degree pure water of the springs before lunch. So crystal clear is the water that tiny fish can be seen swimming at a depth of 20 feet.

The pool is a jewel in a setting of palms, cypress, palmetto and ancient live oaks. The trees host the many forest animals that are easily observed because they have little fear of swimmers and picnickers.

After a swim, lunch can be shared with visiting raccoons and squirrels and a few jays and cardinals who boldly vie for leftovers. Then off to the stream for an exciting canoe trek down the swift flowing Juniper Springs run.

The stream is narrow as we push off, just below a tumbling rapids which leads from the whirling old water wheel at the main springs. We can almost touch each bank; but looking down we can see that while crystal clear, the water runs deep and dark in many places. Overhead is a green arch of trees and vines. Huge cypress trunks dwarf us and we realize with awe that many have been standing for centuries before the discovery of our continent by European man! We are enchanted by the contrast between the warm tropical growth and the cold rushing water that speeds us along between the twisting, curving banks.

Sometimes the headlong current eddies around sharp turns and forces us to paddle madly for a few seconds to avoid grounding the canoe or smashing into fallen logs.

We glide silently so as to preserve the stillness and to keep from disturbing the wild creatures of the forest. We hear bird calls, some familiar, some exotic. We see a flash of red and spot a piliated woodpecker and hear his "wood-chopping." We may be approached by a pair of otters swimming upstream. They look at us inquisitively with their noses and ears poking above the water, then they swim to the bank and sit up on their haunches, chittering about those silly humans scrabbling along trying to keep straightened out in the swirling waters.

Always as we round a turn, there is a breathtaking new vista of forest and glade. About five miles downstream, still being fed by bubbling springs, the waters begin to widen and we emerge from the dense green into the sunlit marshland crowded with lavender and yellow hyacinths. Other marsh flowers abound here — red, yellow, purple and white — nearly always a-flutter with many-hued butterflies.

Here we glimpse an occasional alligator sunning in the pads, and many wading birds, the Great Blue Heron, Egrets, Ibis feeding in the long grasses. Here we must watch a bit carefully to find a clear channel. The channels are a fishermans paradise as large catfish and bass dart about in the clear water. The sun is hot but the water is cold so we are comfortable.

Soon we approach the old pilings of a former wooden bridge which signals that our delightful journey is nearly ended. We duck low to pass under the highway bridge and behold, there is a "good-ole swimming hole" complete with rope hanging from a strong oak branch! Our trip ends with another cool dip before we head for home, wishing we were just beginning our trip into "that other world!"

—Jim and Grace Magurn

Election Turnout

Hawthorne residents have done it again . . . turned out in record numbers for the all important 1976 general election.

Official reports are that 984 residents voted at our own Hawthorne precinct, representing a whopping 93.40 percent of the registered voters here.

A great symbol of Americanism in this Bicentennial year!
A Historical View of Hawthorne

Having been the official City of Norwich, New York, historian I thought that serving as historian for a new community would be a snap of a job for surely a new community like this would have records of dates, names and so on all neatly tied in one package that I could put together in a small brochure with the most important phases for anyone to read who was interested in the birth of Hawthorne. Much to my surprise, that was not the case and I found myself going from office to office, as well as asking questions of staff members and those first residents and reading material announcing a new concept of senior citizen retirement living.

Sometime late in 1969, Foster J. Pratt, then president of AARP, had a dream of developing a community for retired citizens. He mentioned his idea to Bernard Nash who at that time was Executive Director of AARP/NRTA who thought it to be such an excellent idea that it should be presented at a joint board meeting to be held in 1970. Mr. Pratt explained his idea and asked the board members to seriously look into the possibility of developing such a community. The suggestion was received enthusiastically.

At the Chicago 1971 combined NRTA/AARP meeting workshops were formed to study all phases of this idea. As you can see by looking around you, building a community from scratch would be a tremendous undertaking. The Colonial Penn group learned of the project and expressed a keen interest in developing the community. Their representative met with representatives of both associations and with the combined ideas it wasn’t long before the wheels were set in motion. Colonial Penn group then formed Colonial Penn Communities, Inc., and the word was go.

First, and perhaps the most important consideration, was location. Realizing a warm climate was desirable, it was only natural that Florida was the logical choice. Mr. Fitzgerald, president of NRTA at that time, along with Mr. Pratt and a representative of Colonial Penn Communities toured Florida in 1972. A site away from winter tourists and the hassle of traffic seemed best suited. Just such a site was located outside of Leesburg city limits. I feel these men should be congratulated for riding in a four wheel vehicle over 350 acres of woods, swamp areas, orange groves and melon patches. That hurdle over, the plans were presented at the October, 1972, joint meeting. The plan was again enthusiastically endorsed by all present.

On October 1st, 1972, Amos Henley was appointed to direct the operations of Hawthorne. By November, 1972, heavy equipment arrived and work commenced. By December of that year, the sales office was opened for business and the model homes were ready. The first salesman remembers he could see from his office window men cutting and molding the pure Brazilian copper used on the roofs, and we mustn’t forget John Rankin who was general foreman of the Miller Construction Company and who is now our club house manager. By late 1972 and early 1973 a letter was sent to all Association members explaining the new concept in retirement living and a brochure was prepared for distribution containing pictures and special features to be incorporated into Hawthorne. Project reports were mailed out in March and May of that year and a newspaper article describing Hawthorne which was to open in the near future was prepared.

By July, 1973, the bridge was opened. Before that, the only entrance was through the back gate. By July, 1973, prospective buyers had already toured the complex, some selecting their lots and homes, but moving day for some 20 people did not occur until October 1st and then only furniture; as water, sewers and electricity had not been connected nor were the streets yet paved. Never has there been so much rain over so many days in Central Florida as in the summer of 1973. The first residents did not actually begin living at Hawthorne until October 27, 1973. Dr. Kauffman was appointed Program Director on October 1, 1973, but commuted until June, 1974.

Dedication ceremonies were held on March 16 and 17, 1974. There was a parade starting at the west end of the bridge with the Leesburg High School band leading the procession followed by the new red fire truck. Dignitaries, Leesburg business men and bike riders crossed the bridge with Mr. Pratt, Mr. Fitzgerald, Arnold Ross, president of Colonial Penn Communities, John J. MacWilliams, chairman of the board of Colonial Penn Group, Amos Henley and Dr. Kauffman. The ribbon, strung across the bridge, was cut opening the gateway to Colonial Penn Communities 20 million dollar complex called Hawthorne and a new life-style was begun.

Founders Day has now grown to a week-long celebration which occurs annually in the middle of March.

There is so much more to the history of Hawthorne but at least this is a sketchy beginning. Thank you for letting me share with you this bit of history and I respectfully invite your help on this project.

—Rosamond H. Braddock
Hawthorne Historian