



# PINECREST PRESS

*The Monthly Newsletter of Pinecrest Place • October 1999*

## Resident of the Month

### *Margaret Vasey*

Margaret Vasey, Apt. 715, is originally a farm girl from Oskaloosa, Iowa, who enjoyed such things as climbing a tree to read a book and playing ball with her brothers and cousins in the fields.

Her schooling began with grade school in a one-room country school. Since there were no school buses in the area at that time, her first year of high school was at the same Quaker boarding school her father had attended in Oskaloosa. The school closed after that school year, so for the rest of her high school days she attended the public high school and stayed with relatives in town. She went on to graduate from William Penn College, also in Oskaloosa, with a Bachelor of Arts degree. It was there she met Wayne Vasey, who would become her husband.

Margaret first taught at a high school in a small consolidated school at Paton, Iowa, teaching social studies, typing, PE and coaching plays. She confesses that she bluffed her way a bit about her abilities when applying for the job, but carried it off.

In those days of more teachers than jobs, married women were required to step down in favor of jobs for single women, so when Margaret and Wayne married two years later, she had to quit teaching. Wayne became the editor of a small-town newspaper in Fremont, Iowa. Those were such depressed years that they would have to take produce and even took a dog, in lieu of money for subscriptions. It didn't take long before they realized things couldn't go on that way, so Wayne decided to go back to school. He was admitted to the graduate school of social work at the University of Denver. The school's secretary had just resigned and Margaret was given that job which financed the project.

After graduation, Wayne worked in public welfare in Martinez, CA and also taught courses at the University of California at Berkeley. His work continued at various universities over the years including the University of Iowa at Iowa City, Rutgers, Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. It was while they were at Rutgers they met Freya and Alan James and Virginia and Jim Watson. They discovered

Virginia's brother had been one of their close friends in Iowa.

Margaret became the typical faculty wife, not only giving birth to their three children, but also typing the papers and books Wayne wrote and belonging to a variety of clubs and organizations such as a Newcomer's Club, League of Women Voters, PTA and her favorites, book clubs and bridge clubs. While they were at Rutgers she got a masters degree and taught in Edison, NJ and later in St. Louis.

Wayne's work often entailed travel and in 1958 he started to collaborate with a travel agency in New York for trips they sponsored to international conferences on social work, which combined visiting social agencies, attending conferences and sightseeing. They have been on every continent except Antarctica. One of their most interesting journeys was when they visited their son, who is an anthropologist and who was working in New Guinea. There they witnessed a tribe going to war wearing mud and carrying spears.

Wayne retired in 1975 and they moved to Fort Myers supposedly to play golf and live the good life, but the University of South Florida in Tampa persuaded him to (temporarily) teach social work and gerontology there. That meant building a house and living in Tampa for 15 years. The Watsons eventually persuaded them to move to the Pinellas side of the bay and they settled at Raintree at Sunset Point and Belcher.

Wayne died in 1992 and in 1998 Margaret moved to Pinecrest Place upon the recommendation of friends and this lovely lady is still enjoying the companionship of those dear friends. She appreciates the facilities and activities here and is especially thankful for the transportation. She is quite a jewel among the residents here.

*Mary Kiger*

