

# Culpepper Place

## *Senior Living*



June 2011

*A Premier Senior Address*

5351 Gretna Road, Branson, MO

417-334-3336



**Donna  
Ferne  
Cunningham**

*"I feel like I am at home here, and it's so nice that everything is taken care of for me here so I can simply enjoy living."*

She considers herself to be bashful, yet she is always so cheerful, pleasant to be around, very involved and brings a smile wherever she goes. Donna Ferne Cunningham was born on September 25, 1943 in Logan, Iowa to Farmers Della Ferne and Arthur Fredrick Rudolf Boss. Donna laughs and says, "We sort of got a nickname, we were always known as the bossy

Family.” The family worked very hard and made a living farming 160 acres. Donna was the eldest child of four children with a brother Ron who lives in Branson today, and two sisters; Peggy Kelly in Missouri Valley, Iowa and Ida Jean Hilgerson residing today in Elgin, Iowa.

At the very young age of three, Donna was diagnosed with Polio.

After three days in the iron lung to help her breath and a month of therapy in the hospital she was able to return home. March of Dimes was a blessing with their financial support.

As a young girl Donna describes playing house with her brother and sisters, riding imaginary horses through the forest, sharing a bicycle and venturing into town together. It was simple fun. The family attended church together every Sunday.

Donna attended Magnolia High School in Magnolia Iowa. “It was a great big brick building, three stories tall with lots of stairs, it was huge! Or maybe it seemed at the time because I was so little.” She says. As a sophomore she was elected president of the

class and as a Junior worked on the newspaper editorial staff. Although there were times of feeling limited by her polio, she succeeded as a cheerleader and really enjoyed it. She graduated in 1961.



After graduating, Donna ventured to Omaha Nebraska where she began attending commercial extension college courses and graduated with a secretary

degree. Her first job was working for AT&T at the trouble desk attending to calls from customers having issues with their service. Being a very patient and helpful person, she stayed there two years.

At 19 she married her High School sweetheart, Mr. Teddy L. McCurley. They had one son named

Shad, after Shadrach a story of Ester from the Bible. Sadly Teddy past away in 1975 due to an accident.





Left: Ron,  
Donna,  
Peggy and  
Ida Jean.

Right:  
Donna dis-  
plays her  
chain linked  
animal col-  
lection.



In 1975 Donna moved to Nevada. While working she met Jim Cuningham. He was a printer for the state of Nevada. In 1986 they married. They made a good living as a print shop manager in Boulder City, Nevada (the only town without gambling in the city limits) and as a printer in Henderson, Nevada.

Donna has always been very involved in the church, enjoys Blue Grass Country music, crafts, and the artist and works of Thomas Kinkadee. Her collectibles, shadow boxes, silohets are remarkable.

She enjoys one Grandson Jeffrey McCurley who lives in Missouri Valley, Iowa.

Donna really enjoys living at Culpepper Place Senior Living because everything is handled for her, it's a nice place to live, the food is very good and she is content knowing that everything is taken care of for her.



Donna shares her Thomas Kinkadee puzzle, "The chapel in the hill" done with her brother and sister in law that took three months to complete.

*She explains how her amazing collection of Vaseline glass, will actually glow in the dark with a black light.*



*Donna has a very extensive collection of unique shadow-boxes filled with treasures and collected many silhouettes over the years, which were given away free when you bought particular items or as prizes.*