

Culpepper Place

Senior Living



July 2011

A Premier Senior Address

5351 Gretna Road. Branson, MO

417-334-3336

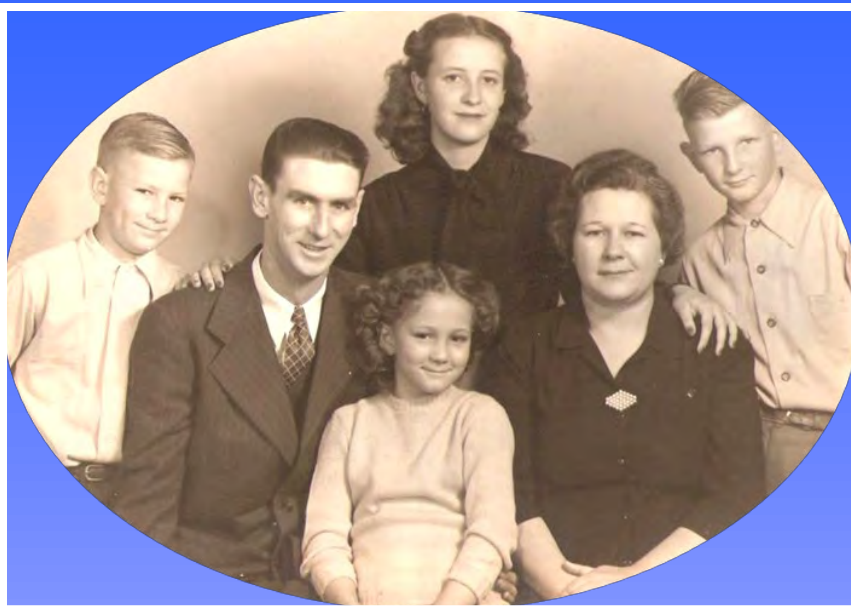


**Bessie Lou
Keefover**

*“If I can do something
to help someone else,
that gives me great
pleasure.”*

Bessie Lou has always been a worker. As a young girl her daddy would say to everyone, “Oh Bess can do that for you... Bess can help you with that....” Bess has kept that passion for working, helping and doing for others all of her life.

Born on October 16, 1930 in Galena, Missouri to Blanche Helen Grisham and Theodore J. Barnes, Bess is the oldest of four children. She has two younger brothers, Perry



Lee and Robert and younger sister, Gloria Mae.

Growing up, Bess always acted and did things beyond her age. With her father always suggesting to her and others that “she could do it”, that is exactly how Bess lived. Even as a youngster, she looked after her siblings and laughs today when she says, “I was always the little mother, taking over, bossing them around, and taking care of them while I made sure things were in order.” It was while she was very young that she learned to cook and care for others.

At the age of 10 she began working for her Grandmother, down at the White River Hotel, and later at the local soda fountain when a milkshake was just 15 cents. Her family moved to Branson in 1937.

Bessie Lou attended Branson High School and enjoyed attending games, cheering from the sidelines with her friends in their black skirts and red sweaters. She shares being elected a Queen in High School, before graduating in 1946. After school, she became a

switchboard operator. This is where she met her husband to be, Mr. Lloyd Sutherlands. Everyone called him “Champ”.

After marrying on April 5, 1947 Champ spent 37 months overseas in the South Pacific

as part of the NAVY. Bess tells how a discharge date was selected for him to return home and he was held over that date to be part of the A Bomb test of Atoll, in the Bikini Islands.

Champ and Bess raised three beautiful children, Bob, Joe and Melinda.

Growing up the family had about six couples and their children, who would get together very regularly for picnics, holidays, and other activities such as bowling and swimming at the lake.

Much of her life she worked in the retail industry and tells that she was one of the first employees at the Piggly Wiggly Supermarket. Later she went on to work at the dime store, Brites, and then IGE. “I was so nervous for my interview for IGE, I knew it would be a great place to work and they paid for all of your benefits.... When I sat down for my interview, my future boss asked, “So when can you come to work?” She was thrilled. With a surgery required during that time of

her life, she was so thankful she had insurance. "I'd still be paying for that today, if I hadn't of had that job!" Expresses Bess. Her husband Champ sadly passed away in 1971 due to lung cancer, there is still question as to the radiation he was exposed to during the war.



Today she remains very busy doing her own laundry, cleaning and cooking. She has even demonstrated to other residents through activities here at Culpepper Place her ability to cook, (while living with a vision disability). Often you will hear, "Wow, something smells good, it smells like bacon... Bess must be cooking her BLT's again."

Bess later re-married in 1974 to a man named Daryl Keefover and happily retired from the world of retail at the age of 67 and 17 years of working for "Touch of Class." Bess always was a busy woman, even on her time off she was busy volunteering and meeting friends at the civic club for a game of bridge, drinks, and desserts.

Bess enjoys five grandchildren and two great grandchildren with another one on the way. She holds beautiful gatherings in her room full of laughter, joy and food when it's time for her

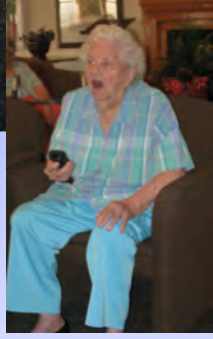


Here at Culpepper Place-Senior Living Bess enjoys the staff very much and feels everyone is treated so well. She also enjoys the freedom to continue doing what she has always done her whole life; whether it be cooking and cleaning to laundry or lending a helping hand to another resident, Bess is very busy and happy.

.....and the choir sang on... what a wonderful way to spend the afternoon!



Friends and family joined Anita to celebrate her very special day!



The concentration...the focus..the crowd waits with anticipation... a STRIKE! SUCCESS!



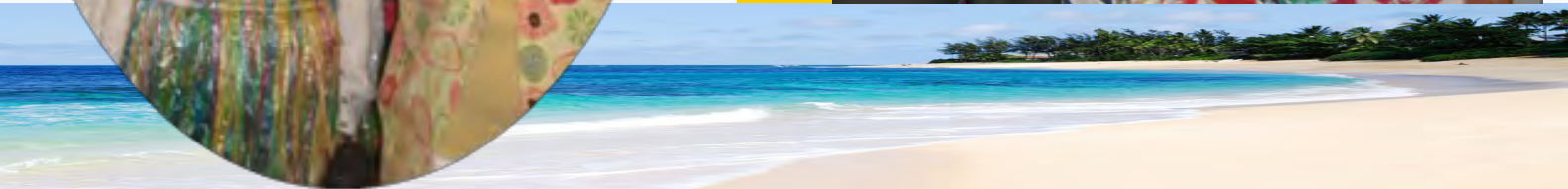
The Wii system has brought us so much fun!



Even Sassy, enjoyed our Hawaiian Party, along with Barbara!



We thank Kalolaine so much for introducing us to the history and sacred art of the Hawaiian Dance



From the Community and Health and Wellness Directors:

Community awareness

Christina Thompson, Area Supervisor of the Senior Centers has written a grant to help seniors with transportation needs.

To schedule a local ride from Monday-Friday, 8 am-3pm please call 335-4801.

1. Any medical appointments must be in the morning.
2. Bring copy of any medical information to Lisa in Health and Wellness office.
3. Sign the Leave of Absence form in the dining room.

The Wisdom of Will Rogers-"his idea of keeping healthy and well!"

- * Don't squat with your spurs on.
- * Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
- * Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier 'n puttin' it back in.
- * If you're ridin' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.
- * If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.
- * After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him.....The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.
- * If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.
- * Never slap a man who's chewin' tobacco.
- * Always drink upstream from the herd.
- * When you give a lesson in meanness to a critter or a person, don't be surprised if they learn their lesson.
- * The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it back in your pocket.

We hope you are enjoying a great and healthy summer.... Wayne and Lisa

Celebrating July Birthdays!

John Kalita 7-2

Lois Travis 7-3

Merl Milligan 7-7

Ann Hoover 7-22

Walter Otto 7-24

Eulalee Anderson 7-25