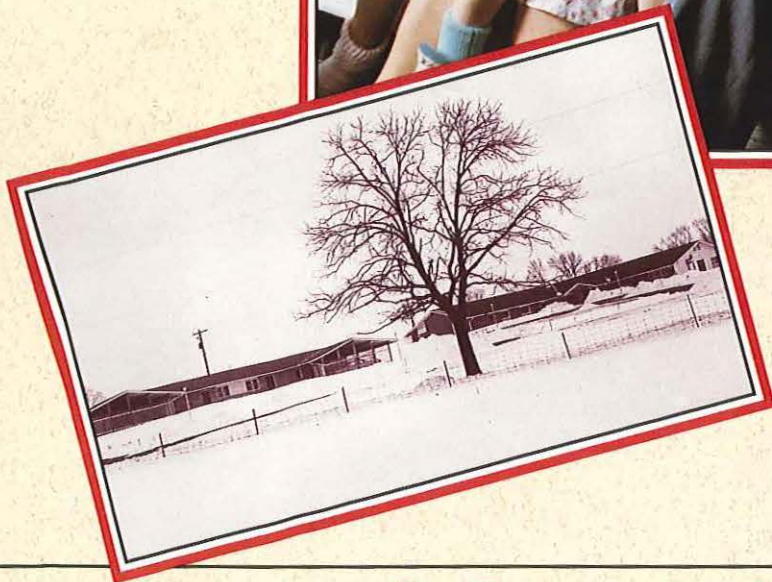
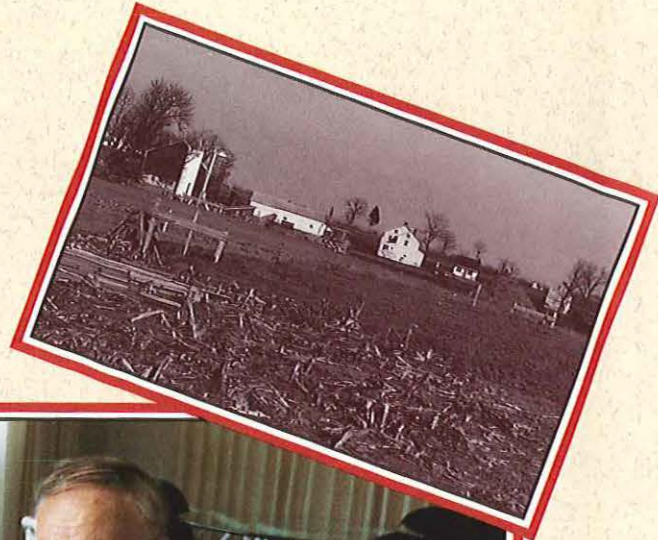


The First Thirty Years

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Landis Homes Retirement Community

Landis Homes

The First Thirty Years

1 9 6 4 ~ 1 9 9 4



A. Grace Wenger



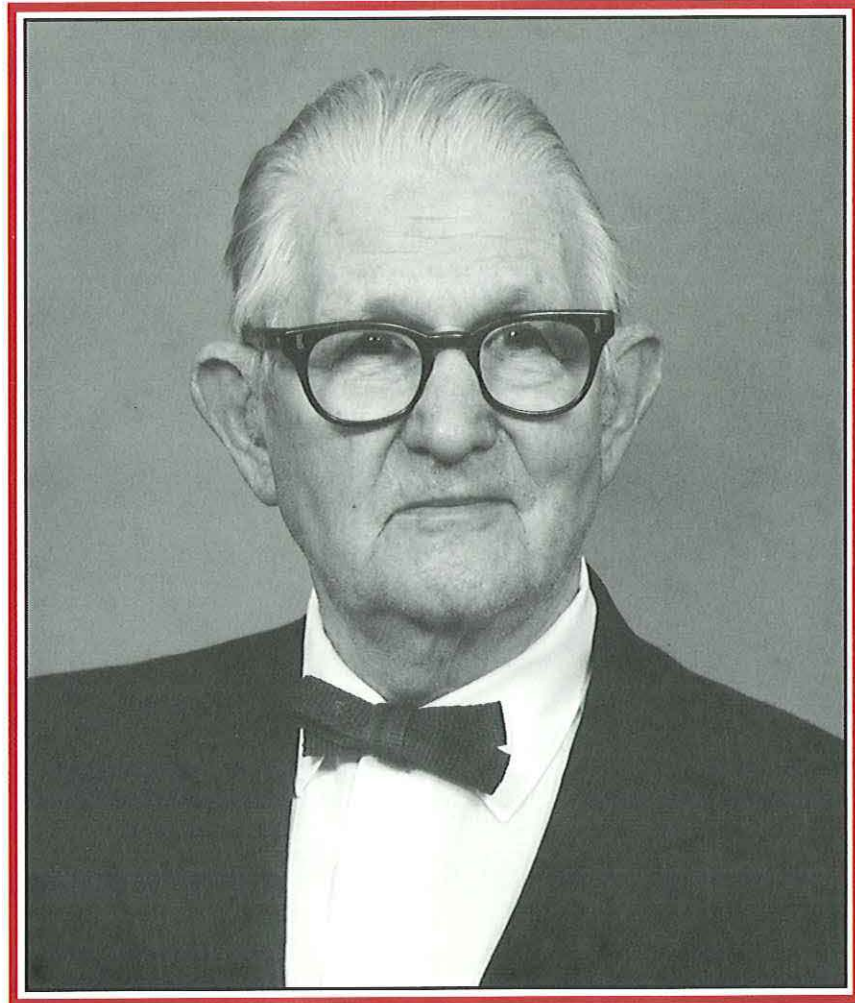
Cover color photos by Howard Zehr:
Wilbert and Rhoda Lind with grandchildren, 1993.
Ida and John Winters, 1993

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Dedication



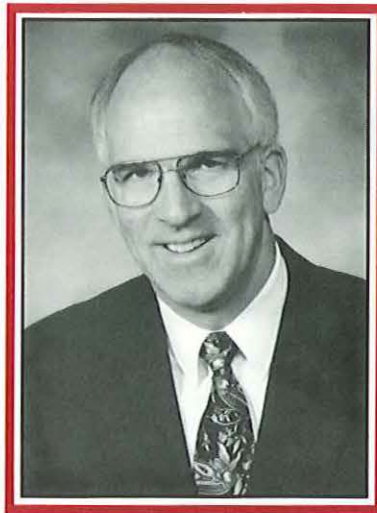
George W. Leaman

This history is dedicated with love and appreciation to George W. Leaman, first administrator and current resident of Landis Homes.



Graybill Landis, original contributor and early resident of Landis Homes, 1964.

Forward



To some Landis Homes may still be considered in its youth. Now that we have reached our 30th year of operation there are reasons to reflect on our history and rediscover the "who, what, and why" of our past.

It is important that we tell our story and put into written form the events that have shaped Landis Homes. We want to tell what it is today and share the vision for what it may become tomorrow.

While brick and mortar are the physical substance of buildings and tend to catch one's first attention, Landis Homes is much more. It is a story of people, men and women of faith. It is a story of those who labored to develop a dream and bring a vision into reality.

Who would have the energy, time and talent to tackle this assignment? I was delighted when Grace Wenger agreed to author this story. She is a former English teacher of mine at Lancaster Mennonite High School. Grace is now a resident of Landis Homes and has served on the Board of Directors.

Many of the persons who played important roles in those early years are no longer with us. However, Landis Homes is young enough that some of the longer term residents and staff provided much of the valuable resources. This is a story of residents, staff, board members, volunteers, families, visitors and many others.

Deborah Laws-Landis agreed to coordinate this project. We sincerely appreciate her efforts and the efforts of all those who have contributed stories and pictures. They reflect some of the vitality of the program as it exists today. As you read this story, you help us celebrate 30 years of history.

Ed Longenecker, Administrator



The Clayton Landis farm with stakes visible in the foreground for the first building at Landis Homes, 1963.

Introduction

A committee of three persons to plan celebrations for Landis Homes' thirtieth year met for the first time in July 1993. At this meeting it was suggested a history be written to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Landis Homes. A. Grace Wenger, a historian and resident of Landis Homes was suggested as author.

Over the next months, Grace interviewed numerous persons gathering stories and facts. She also spent many hours pouring over board minutes, newspaper clippings, and old copies of *Landis Homes News* to glean more history.

She has pulled together this material into a collection of chapters. Using the Landis Homes' mission statement as a guide, Grace in each chapter begins in the early years and comes to the present. A map is included at the end of the book to help the reader visualize the continuum of growth of the Landis Homes community.

In addition to Grace, thanks goes to many persons. Particular thanks to Janet Kreider and Phyllis Horst Nofziger for their editorial expertise. Also thanks for photographs to Eastern Mennonite Missions, Catharine Leatherman, Ruth Johnson and Martha Charles. Appreciation to typist Marilyn King and to many others who contributed in a variety of ways.

Current residents, families of previous residents and staff both past and present contributed freely to the project. It is through the love and care of many persons that this history and the Landis Homes community have come to be.

Deborah Laws-Landis

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From Small Beginnings

Thirty Years Ago

Ninety-year old Henry Weber and his wife, Mary, the first residents of Landis Homes, moved into Unit A on February 18, 1964. Having chosen to pay \$1,000 of the \$4,000 entrance fee, they were charged \$43 a month in addition to the basic rate of \$100 a month per person. George and Grace Leaman, designated as superintendent and matron, had already moved from "The Dell," an attractive woodland home near Mount Joy, into one unit of a quadruplex, even though the interior was still unfinished and the floors bare. Until the first live-in workers arrived, the Leamans slept in the main building so the Webers would not be alone.

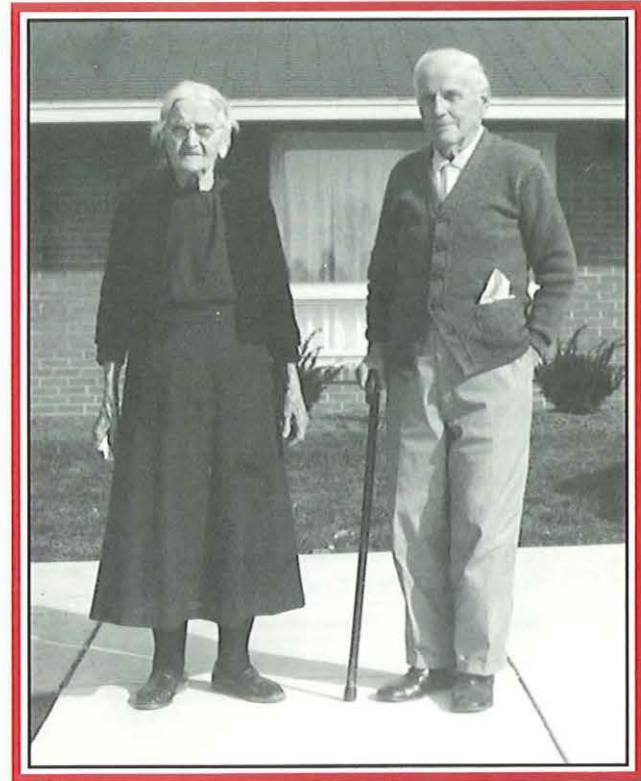
When the first cook, Helen Bucher, came, she lived in the main building so she could be on call for emergencies. Anna Mae Graybill, an experienced R.N., arrived on May 2. Two general workers who lived nearby completed the original staff.

At that time Landis Homes had only two buildings, Unit A with twenty-four rooms, and the quadruplex to the left of the East entrance.

"When I first saw the few small buildings in the vast area of farmland, it was difficult to believe that this could be a retirement home," recalled Emma Rudy, who with her Philadelphia Mission co-worker, Alma Ruth, moved into one of the quadruplex apartments on March 6.

The reaction of Graybill Landis, donor of the \$100,000 gift that spurred the project, had been even more negative. As he observed the first walls going up, he announced, "Those walls will never stand!"

On February 18, 1994, thirty years later there were five buildings in East, five buildings in West, and 113 residential cottages housing a total of 481 residents. The waiting list numbered 880.



Mary and Henry Weber, first residents, 1964

To meet needs ranging from skilled nursing care to maintenance for residents in independent areas required a total of 240 staff members (116 full-time, 102 part-time and 22 seasonal or on call). Harvest View, to be completed in 1995, will provide 125 more apartments and will require some additional staff.

How It Began

The Landis Homes story began in 1961. An elderly widow, Mrs. Harry Shenk, offered to donate land near Strasburg for an "old people's home." Interest in her offer grew when Graybill Landis, a benefactor of Philhaven Hospital, announced plans to make a large contribution for some charitable project, possibly a children's home or a retirement home at Philhaven. Lawyer Samuel Wenger succeeded in directing his inten-

tion toward the idea of a retirement community, perhaps on the Shenk farm.

Nearby congregations took the initiative in developing the project. Strasburg Mennonite Church appointed Trustee Charles Good, Willow Street Mennonite Church appointed Trustee J. Mowery Frey, and Bishop Clayton Keener was asked to chair a planning committee. Another Strasburg trustee, Musser Herr, was one of the three trustees administering the Harry Shenk estate. A long-time member of the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities, he saw the possibility of building a home for retired missionaries, similar to Schowalter Villa in Kansas. It was probably Musser who urged Clayton Keener to discuss this idea with Orie O. Miller, who served on the board of Schowalter Villa.

At the same time, Keener went to the Bishop Board of Lancaster Mennonite Conference for approval and direction. The Bishop Board endorsed the concept and added Levi Brubaker and Amos S. Horst (later replaced by Elmer Martin) to the planning committee. After several meetings of the committee with members of the Executive Committee of the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions, Salunga, Pennsylvania, the Mission Board expressed interest in providing creative retirement living for their missionaries and appointed Ira Buckwalter to represent them in dealing with the planning committee. At this point, the committee requested the Bishop Board to release them from their responsibility if the Mission Board would undertake the work.

The Retirement Home Development Planning Committee

On September 19, 1961, the Bishop Board, supporting the vision of providing for retired missionaries, directed the Mission Board to be responsible for planning the retirement community. On October 31, Clayton Keener, Charles Good, J. Mowery Frey, Musser Herr and Ira Buckwalter drove to Goshen to attend a conference on "The Church and Its' Aging." As he recalls the meeting, Charles Good admits he has forgotten many of the good thoughts presented, but vividly remembers a drama produced by Goshen College students showing the problems of adjusting to retirement.

On November 7, the Mission Board

appointed a ten-member planning committee: Levi Brubaker, Ira Buckwalter, Frank Enck, J. Mowery Frey, Charles Good, Clarence Harnish, Sanford High, Adam Martin, Orie Miller and Lester Wenger.

Orie Miller, who convened the first meeting on December 13, 1961, led a devotional meditation based on Psalm 71:17-19 and Psalm 92:12-15. He commented that ten percent of the United States population was over the age of 65 and that there were now more than a million people over 85. He asked, "For what is God giving us these additional years?" He answered his own question: "Certainly for a purpose, and youth and old age together should find ways to make these extended years meaningful."



Orie Miller, 1960's

At this meeting the committee elected Frank Enck, chairman; Sanford High, vice-chairman; Ira Buckwalter, executive secretary; and Lester Wenger, recording secretary. In January three sub-committees were appointed: Site, Building and Program Development.

Because of his broad experience in construction, Sanford High, the founder of High Steel Structures, was asked to be chairman of the Building Committee. Other members were not appointed until later, since building could not begin before the other committees had made their recommendations. With Chairman Enck and Executive Secretary Ira Buckwalter, High recommended that builder Abram S. Horst and his son Clyde be asked to serve as consultants to the sub-committees. In outlining the work of the Program Development Committee, Chairman Enck wrote, "You will keep in mind our vision of creating a community rather than the traditional old people's home facility."

Choosing A Location

Locating a site for a retirement community proved more difficult than simply accepting the Harry Shenk farm, as the Site Committee

members soon discovered. At least a dozen different locations were suggested by persons interested in giving or selling land. After looking into such factors as water supply and sewage disposal, future industrial or residential development in the area, and proximity to transportation, church and shopping facilities, Committee Chairman Clarence Harnish reported in April on eight possible tracts.

"Shouldn't the home be near a Mennonite congregation?" asked one committee member, modeling Calvary Fellowship Homes, projected for a site adjoining Calvary Independent Church. "The congregation would have good service opportunities," he explained, "while residents could relate to the total life of a congregation."

Later, using the example of Schowalter Villa next to Hesston College, several persons suggested locating the retirement community near the Lancaster Mennonite (High) School campus.

Meanwhile Graybill Landis, impatient to see the project get started, contacted his cousin, Clayton Landis, who owned a 113-acre farm in Landis Valley. The farm was deeded to two unmarried daughters, Viola and Catherine, who found its operation a burden. The Landis family was willing to donate the farm on an annuity basis, with provision of life right. Convinced that the Lord had revealed to him that the Landis Farm was the location, Graybill ordered shrubbery and flowers for the retirement home. However, since the plantings arrived before the site was chosen, he had to plant them on the grounds of Philhaven Hospital. He urged the committee to decide the location quickly, since a second order was already on the way.

"How did you decide which location to recommend?" someone asked twenty years later.

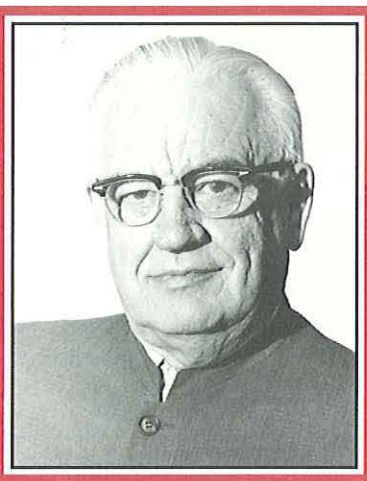
"We couldn't decide," said Charles Good.

Raymond Charles recalled, "Well, we seemed to be narrowing it down to the Clayton Landis farm, but before deciding, we called in the experts. The experts were negative!"

An experienced home administrator said, "You must build on the edge of a shopping center. You must be along a bus line."

Levi Brubaker, in his slow deliberate way commented, "It had been said that this location is too isolated. Can you think of a place in Manheim Township being isolated?" Levi pushed hard for the Landis Valley location, recalls Charles Good.

Two of the experts were Lancaster County Engineer Henry Huth and a member of the County Planning Committee, Binkley Foster. They were asked to evaluate five locations. Shortly



Ira Buckwalter, 1976



Raymond Charles, 1964

afterward, one of these sites, the southern part of the Lancaster Mennonite (High) School campus, was eliminated. The school board refused to sell the land, partly because of its value as a wild life area, partly because of the school's future need for expansion. After studying water supply, rock formation, drainage, sewage facilities, view and accessibility, Mr. Hugh and Mr. Foster rejected two sites owned by Mrs. Shenk, the Strasburg farm and a property south of Bridgeport. They rated as ideal a tract owned by Leroy Andrews, adjacent to the Willow Street Mennonite Church. In their view, the Manheim Township site was less desirable because of the area's potential for industrial growth. They also felt that proximity to the airport would create problems.

"Air traffic is likely to increase," said Mr. Foster. "There will be many more small, faster and noisier planes. Old people don't sleep soundly. Planes coming and going at night will keep them awake."

Planning The Community

Even before the site was chosen, the Program Development Committee members were busy with their assignment. After visiting and investigating various homes for the aged, they were to recommend the type of home, its purpose and function, and to submit proposals for layout and design, financing, administration and

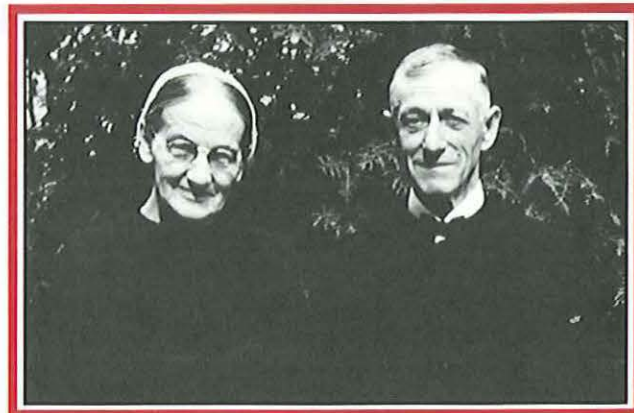
"If we face this project with anything but an optimistic attitude . . . and that it will be the answer to a very real need in our area, we will be making it difficult for ourselves."

operation. At their first meeting on January 16, 1962, they made plans to visit different kinds of retirement homes. Ira Buckwalter made the practical suggestion that whenever possible, visitors should take good black-and-white snapshots of interesting points, so that the entire committee might review them.

Members visited the Methodist Home at Cornwall, the York County Home for Old People, and the Lutheran Home at York. Ira Buckwalter and Orie Miller consulted with the administrators of the Neffsville Brethren Home and the developing Calvary Fellowship Home. Early in February, Frank Enck and Sanford High traveled to Florida, where Mowery Frey joined them, to observe retirement facilities in the Miami and St. Petersburg areas. John Winters, pastor of the Mennonite Church in Miami, met them and took them to visit three retirement communities, one of which had attractive duplexes for independent living. Impressed by this type of retirement living, the committee members gained a sense of direction for Landis Homes.

The Program Development Committee concluded that a retirement community should offer several options, ranging from nursing care to independent living. They favored financing through an admission fee and a monthly charge. They felt detailed procedures for administration and operation could be worked out after building had begun since the church already had experi-

ence in managing retirement homes. Meanwhile, Orie Miller had contacted representatives of the United States Housing and Finance Agency in case there might be interest in financial help from the government. Lester Wenger had spent time

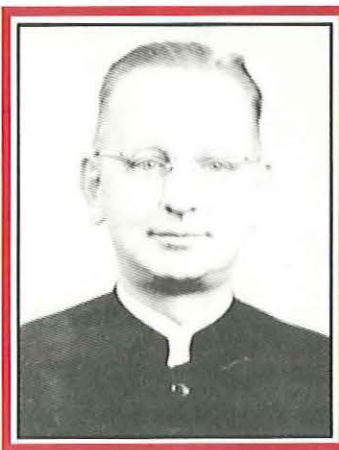


Ellen and Clayton Landis whose farm became Landis Homes.

researching literature on older persons' desires and needs, producing a list of good features to be considered in planning a retirement community.

From the beginning the Planning Committee received many suggestions. Amos Horst cautioned, "A church home should not be available only to those with substantial financial resources." David Thomas advised planning not only for retired church workers, but for all people. Donor Graybill Landis offered much advice, including, "Plant thirty acres in vegetables and grow your own food. The home should not be a financial burden to the church."

During committee discussions members voiced their concerns. Ira Buckwalter hoped that the Mission Board would not sponsor a home with a living standard so high that it contradicted its own teaching on stewardship. Lester Wenger feared that another home would compete with existing homes. He suggested incorporating with Oreville (now the Mennonite Home) by adding an infirmary wing and by building independent living units on the grounds. But Chairman Frank Enck insisted on a positive approach: "If we face this project with anything but an optimistic, convinced attitude that this will be an ideal facility for the intended purpose, and that it will be the answer to a



Frank Enck, 1965.

Notes from Lester B. Wenger

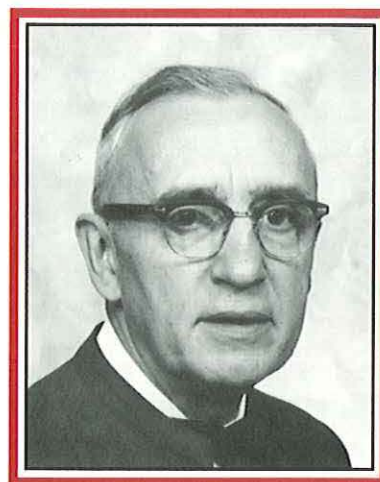
January 7, 1959

Special features that older people want in their retirement homes:

1. One-Floor House.
2. Maximum Sunlight.
3. Uniform Interior Lighting.
4. Air Conditioning.
5. Fireproof.
6. Non-slip Floors.
7. Bathtub should have grab rails and a step down type would be desirable.
8. Storage space for some of their cherished possessions.
9. Minimum exterior upkeep - The preference is for woods that require no paint, composition walls, brick, cinder block and cement exterior walls.
10. Bedroom comforts are most vital. Cross ventilation is desirable. Since the bedroom is the principal site for fatal accidents for people over 65, safety features are most important there.
11. No stooping or reaching. The eye-level oven in the kitchen, cabinets and shelves should be accessible, and all working surfaces should be on an easy working level.
12. Recreation - Hobby room, workshop or office.
13. Site - Location near shopping, transportation and other public facilities is also important for these people. A level piece of ground is the most popular.

Six Keys to Well-being:

- The need to Belong
- The need to Accomplish
- The need for Self-esteem
- The need for Acceptance
- The need for Security
- The need for Creativity



Lester Wenger, 1980's.

very real need in our area, we will be making it difficult for ourselves."

An important milestone was reached on August 30, 1962, when the Planning Committee declared the work of the subcommittees completed. Two new subcommittees were appointed: the Building Planning Committee and the Financing and Costing Committee.

First Steps Toward Building

The Building Planning Committee arranged for a landscape artist to do a topography survey to guide them in locating the building and a pond and in planning for a water supply and sewage disposal. On their recommendation, Abram and Clyde Horst were employed as contractor and architect. The long-range plan envisioned a maximum of two hundred guests, a hundred congregate and a hundred in independent living. The first stage would be a building which would initially provide for twenty-nine guests in single and double rooms and a quadruplex for independent living. Besides ensuring the floor plans provided for sufficient kitchen, laundry, storage and office space, they faced many decisions on what to recommend: electrical heat vs. oil or gas, wall-to-wall carpeting vs. tile, a central vacuum cleaning system vs. multiple outlets.

The Finance Committee debated the pros and cons of life leases or founders' fees and considered ways of financing capital costs. They also made comparative studies of operating costs and monthly rates at the Welsh Mountain Samaritan and the Oreville Mennonite Home. They wrestled

with the question of how to make the home self-supporting.

"With rates in present homes averaging about \$65 a month," they wondered, "on what basis do we assume it will be possible to charge \$100 or even \$85?" Their final recommendation was that there should be an entrance fee or an occupancy annuity and that guests in the central unit should pay \$100 a month. Capital costs not covered by the entrance fees would be financed by gifts, loans from Church Investment Associates and local bank credit, if needed. Gifts might also be designated to help pay entrance fees for church workers or applicants in need of charitable help.

The Retirement Home Development Planning Committee gave overall guidance to both subcommittees and dealt with a multitude of other details. An early decision was made to keep and plan for the eventual use of the entire farm. A Farm Committee was given direct responsibility for overseeing that part of the project. When a high-tension power line was projected to cross through the center of the farm, Executive Secretary Ira Buckwalter negotiated with Pennsylvania Power and Light, who agreed to an alternate route on the east and south boundaries of the property. Payment for the right of way was used for farm improvement. Also, the committee consulted with local representatives of the Pennsylvania Department of Health about water supply and sewage disposal.

Finally, at a joint meeting on March 12, 1963, the Bishop and Mission Boards approved the recommendations of the Planning Committee. The name Landis Homes became official. On the landmark date, May 1, 1963, the farm was transferred to the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities by Viola and Catherine Landis.

Vision Becomes Reality

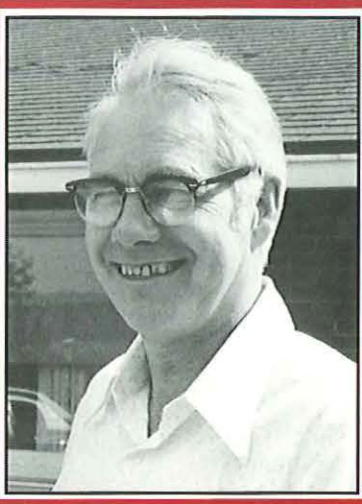
The Mission Board asked the Planning Committee to continue to serve in giving counsel to the developing project. New subcommittees began to function: Building, Decorations and Furnishing, Publicity and Promotions, and

Development of Staff. To assist Ira Buckwalter, who feared his work for Landis Homes was taking time from Mission Board duties, Chester Steffy was assigned to represent the Building Subcommittee and the executive secretary in working with the contractor, arranging for volunteer workers, and helping in other ways. As supervisor of I-W men assigned to work on Mission Board properties, Chester had already done volunteer work on the Landis Homes project. His contribution as liaison was so valuable that the Horst Company employed him as foreman for the Landis Homes building projects. Chester supervised construction of all the buildings erected before 1984, the year of his retirement. Once someone told him, "Since you're working there all the time, you might as well move in."

On March 22, 1963, Clyde Horst reported on a trip to Harrisburg where the building plans received final approval from the Public Welfare Department and

the Department of Labor. Construction began in the summer. Building subcommittee minutes reveal decisions, not only about construction, but also about well-drilling and on-site sewage disposal. The decision to use asphalt tile in bedrooms and carpet in halls, lobbies and lounges caused an unexpected problem for the first administrator. When incoming residents asked for wall-to-wall carpeting in their rooms, George Leaman spent many days making doors a half-inch shorter to fit the carpet.

For suggestions about interior decorations, the Decorations and Furnishings Subcommittee consulted with Clyde Horst. They decided that the bedrooms should be made distinctive by variation in color schemes. In spite of some objection, they chose pink as one of the colors since "some people like pink." They agreed that the furniture should be serviceable, but as homelike as possible. After determining what basic furnishings to put into each room, they suggested that guests be permitted to bring additional pieces. Because of inquiries about nursing care, they recommended that two rooms be equipped with hospital beds. In considering bids from would-be suppliers, they worked hard to economize without sacrificing quality.



Chester Steffy, 1979.



Abe Horst and Graybill Landis, 1964 - Open House of Unit A.

The Development of Staff and Admissions subcommittee drew up recommendations for needed staff, hiring policies and staff housing. After a number of unfruitful leads, they were able to report to the Planning Committee on November 5, 1963, that George and Grace Leaman of Mount Joy had consented to be superintendent and matron. The superintendent's duties were listed as "general supervision, guest application, property maintenance, purchase of supplies and guest travel." The matron was to take charge of housekeeping, be responsible for kitchen and laundry and supervise guests and volunteers who helped in the home.

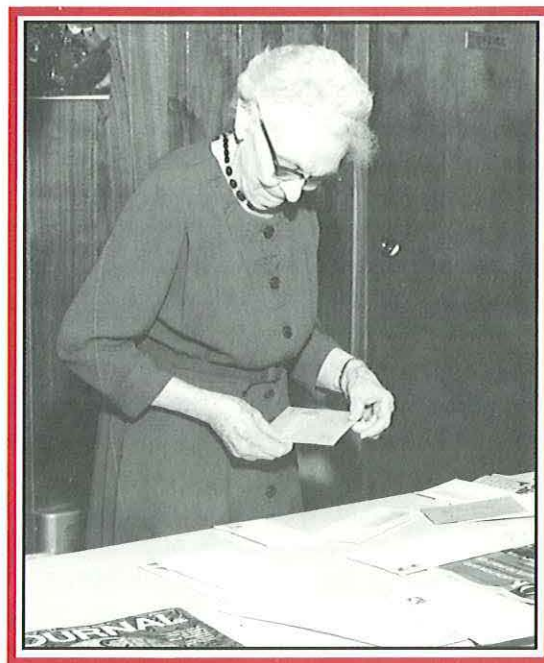
The Planning Committee arranged for developing the meadow, planting trees and seeding the lawn. After weighing options suggested to the Farm Committee, among them that Landis Homes should operate a dairy and produce its own milk, they decided to continue renting the farm to David Glick. Because extensive improvements would have been needed to continue a dairy operation, the barn was remodeled and an additional silo was built to accommodate a steer-feeding operation. Glick was encouraged to keep cattle in the meadow within sight of the Home buildings to enhance the rural landscape. The committee supervised construction of the pond which Graybill Landis envisioned and postponed action on his request for a building to house peacocks, turkeys and a tractor, explaining that landscape plans were not final and that nobody was

available to care for the fowl.

As opening day approached, they discussed mail delivery, bread and milk suppliers and equipment for mowing lawns and removing snow. At the first meeting in 1964, when told that very few persons were ready to come in, they debated whether or not to open. The general feeling was that they should open to a small number of guests and plan the staff accordingly.

Opening Days

At an Open House on February 1, 1964, about 1,500 visitors registered, not including children, and a number of persons went through the buildings without registering. Some commented on what looked like extravagance — wall-to-wall carpeting and electrical heating. "That's for missionaries?" exclaimed one. Another said, "I'll admit it's beautiful, but I could never afford it!"



Bess Lowry sorts mail, 1966.

In retrospect, expenses seem minimal. Unit A, including furnishings, cost \$205,995.54; the quadruplex, \$34,525.26. Visitors who stayed for meals paid fifty cents for breakfast, a dollar for dinner, and seventy-five cents for supper. George



Unit A - Original Building - 1964

and Grace received, in addition to housing and meals, a combined salary of \$187.50 a month. Out of that, they paid all expenses on their car, which they used to do shopping for the home and to transport residents to church, doctors' offices and stores. Even so, one resident, commenting on the monthly rate of \$100 per person for room and board, told George, "You and the Mission Board are going to get rich on the home." In spite of what the resident considered exorbitant rates, breaking even was not easy. July, 1964, was the first month when income exceeded expenses.

Looking back, George comments, "Those were happy years. One day Grace looked up from her typewriter and said, 'I really enjoy this work. Even if I didn't get paid a cent, I'd enjoy it just as much.'"



Grace and George Leaman keeping the books, 1966.

Landis Homes was well started on the ministry expressed in the mission statement developed in 1991:

Landis Homes is a retirement community and a ministry of the Lancaster Conference of the Mennonite Church serving older adults of the church and larger community.



Landis Homes covenants to

- Affirm the importance of retirement years as a vital stage of life during which creative expressions are encouraged, recognized and valued;
- Provide affordable, high quality residential and health-care services which minister to the needs of the whole person;
- Develop a community wherein dignity, self-worth and independence are nurtured in an atmosphere of Christ-like love;
- Provide a home-like environment where individuals may experience freedom, security and joy.

A Home-Like Environment

Leaders Who Care

From the very first day, Landis Homes had a home-like environment, due to the warm-hearted leadership of George and Grace Leaman. George found he had to be janitor, maintenance man, chauffeur, admissions counselor, business



Grace Leaman, Annie Gehr, Lizzie Hess, George Leaman, 1965.

manager, social worker and activities director. Besides supervising kitchen, laundry, housekeeping and volunteer help, Grace met visitors, showed rooms to prospective guests, helped to interview applicants and served as George's secretary.

Whether a guest flooded his room by forgetting to turn off a faucet or complained that the place was too quiet, the Leamans solved the problem. George pulled out the saturated rug, hoisted it onto a wheelbarrow, and took it to the basement to dry out. He and Grace bought a piano to satisfy the resident who complained about the quietness. The man played it for a day and then moved away, but the piano remained to delight others. In spite of a crowded schedule, the Leamans took time to listen to residents and either grant their requests or consult with the

Landis Homes Advisory Committee. Through the years, residents asked for many different privileges, from keeping soft drinks in their rooms to having an outdoor pavilion.

Activities For Everyone

Once a week a staff member, usually Grace, drove residents to town for shopping. The trip often lasted the better part of a day since people took their time. She started projects in quilting and other handwork for the women. Also, she encouraged them to help in the kitchen or dining room. George looked for ways to keep the men active. He installed his own woodworking equipment in the basement for residents to use, had a shuffleboard painted, and recommended that walking paths be provided. Fostering good feelings among residents was a priority for the Leamans.

Attending To Details

When new buildings were planned, George worked with the building committee to iron out details. He brought to the Finance and Admissions Committee the names of applicants for admission. With Executive Secretary Ira



Harold Reeves, Elam Hess, Martin Ebersole, 1965.

Buckwalter, he discussed and made recommendations about staff salaries and residents' rates. Four times a year he met with the Landis Homes Advisory Committee, giving detailed reports on residents admitted or withdrawn. He called attention to many needs: a floor shampooer, air conditioning, outdoor benches — to name just a few. He asked many questions, such as: Should I accept a residents' offer to buy a piano for the new chapel? The answer was, "Yes, provided it's not used for worship services."

After George reported difficulty in finding workers, the Advisory Committee asked him to investigate the possibility of setting up a program to train nursing help. He was also directed to study the implications of qualifying for Medicare coverage. The frequency with which the committee decided to "refer the matter to George for further study" reveals their confidence in the man chosen to be superintendent. His comments reveal how well he and Grace related to the staff. Once he reported, "The help doesn't watch the clock and is congenial to work with."

Man Of All Work

In addition, George heated the water, operated the sewage plant, repaired anything that broke, kept financial records, paid the bills and did the purchasing for the home. Once he drove to a nursery in Indiana, Pennsylvania, and brought back a truckload of shrubbery and trees. He met with doctors and nursing staff, attended meetings of residents' groups or committees and invited outside groups to give programs at Landis Homes.

As more and more people found Landis Homes an attractive retirement option, the administrative work load increased. Answering letters from interested persons, interviewing applicants and showing available facilities took a great deal of time, as did finding and interviewing greater numbers of workers. Although Grace gave good clerical help, within a few years George's work load had become overwhelming.

Sharing The Load

After George requested help, the Finance and Admissions Committee agreed to plan toward releasing the Leamans from janitorial and clerical work so that they would have more time

for counseling residents and other administrative duties. In 1968 a maintenance man left and an Advisory Committee member, Henry Shenk, stepped into his place. Marian Buckwalter served as secretary-bookkeeper for three and a half years before going to Europe in a cross-cultural exchange program.



Grace Leaman, 1969.

When Marian terminated, she had organized office details so carefully that her successors had a well-outlined course of procedure to follow. A new secretary-receptionist relieved Grace of the work of hostess. Curtis Johnson, who was employed as bookkeeper in the autumn of 1971, became administrative assistant the following January. Before long, both Curtis and George were making quarterly reports to the Advisory Committee. Courtesy, helpfulness and a quiet sense of humor soon made Curtis popular with residents and staff. When asked whether he was related to President Lyndon Johnson, he replied, "I think I am because I'm sure the Lord didn't think enough of the Johnsons to make two sets of them."

From Superintendent To Administrator To Retiree

In 1972, after taking a Temple University course in hospital administration and passing a state examination, George became an administrator licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Several years later, when the residents numbered

two hundred, with as many more on the waiting list, the Leamans began to think of retiring. Not until 1977 was a successor employed.

On Monday morning, December 5, 1977, following Edward Longenecker's installation as administrator, George and Grace officially retired, although they continued to serve as volunteers for many years. On January 8, 1978, approximately 350 people honored the Leamans at an appreciation tea. Besides cards, letters and gifts, they received a photo album containing pictures of Landis Homes and a scrapbook filled with comments of appreciation. A few days after the tea, the Leamans went to Florida where they conveniently missed the large snowfall of 1978. After they returned from Florida, George spent several months as administrator of Pleasant View Rest Home in Manheim, freeing the administrator to work for his state license. Grace continued to give volunteer help in the office of Landis Homes.

A New Leader And New Responsibilities

Edward Longenecker, who soon became "Ed" to residents and staff, was a graduate of Eastern Mennonite College with a degree in Bible and Sociology. He held a Masters Degree in Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. Neither Ed nor his wife, Rhoda, were strangers to Lancaster County. She had grown up on a farm near Morgantown, he on a farm near Middletown. Both had graduated from Lancaster Mennonite High School.

Ed was appointed Associate Administrator in November 1976, to serve a year of internship, since Curtis Johnson preferred to continue as Administrative Assistant. A favorable review of Ed's work after a year as associate led to his appointment as Administrator. At his installation service, December 4, 1977 a basin and towel were used to symbolize servanthood. Rhoda was a full-time homemaker for Ed and their three children. Later she worked part-time as receptionist and then as a nurse at Landis Homes.

Ed's administration saw rapid expansion, beginning with construction of the first buildings in Landis Homes West to the Harvest View apartments. Administering an institution for the

increasing number of residents demanded more and more time. Since 1982, Fannie Shelly, secretary to the Administrator, has provided competent assistance in the day to day operation of Landis Homes. In addition to the increased work load at the Home, Ed spent much time representing



Elizabeth Brenneman and Ed Longenecker, 1977.

Landis Homes at meetings of the Lancaster Conference Board of Brotherhood Ministries, the Mennonite Health Association, the American Association of Homes for the Aging and the Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Homes for the Aging. Keeping in close touch with all of these agencies was essential in working through difficult issues and in keeping abreast of changes in federal and state regulations.

A Growing Staff

To keep up with increasing administrative work, new administrative positions were created in the last two decades. In 1981, Arlene Mellinger became the first Admissions Counselor. The following year, Ira Buckwalter began working half-time in Landis Homes West as Financial Advisor. In 1986, a controller was hired to assist Ira. That position became Director of Finance in 1988, and is ably filled today by Clyde Espigh.

Three new administrative positions have been created since January 1, 1990: Director of Human Resources, presently filled by David Keim-Shenk; Director of Facilities and Planning, Paul M. Martin; and Director of Development, James Roth. Marian Buckwalter became Director of Admissions and Deborah Laws-Landis was hired as Admissions Counselor. More secretarial and bookkeeping staff became necessary, as well as

full-time receptionists in both East and West to handle incoming calls, to direct visitors, and to meet the needs of residents who wanted to buy stamps, make photocopies or sign up for shopping trips.

The management team continues the tradition of efficiency and friendliness established by George and Grace thirty years ago.

Board Leadership

Less visible to residents, but essential to the ministry of Landis Homes, are the members of the Board of Directors. This is the group responsible for appointing the administrator who maintains the home-like environment. For nearly two decades, Landis Homes was directed by a committee of the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities. After the first buildings were occupied, the Retirement Home Planning Committee became the Landis Homes Advisory Committee.

For fourteen years women outnumbered men in the resident population, however there were no women on the Advisory Committee. In 1977, Ira Buckwalter expressed concern about this discrepancy. As a result, in 1978 the first women were named to the Committee: Beatrice Hess and Gladys Rutt.

Transfer of Responsibility

At 12:01 a.m. on January 1, 1982, the ownership of Landis Homes was transferred from the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities to the Landis Homes Retirement Community Board. With this step Landis Homes became a separate non-profit corporation under the auspices of Lancaster Conference. The transition resulted from more than a year of exploration, discussion and drafting of by-laws. However, nearly twenty years earlier, even before the first construction had begun, Ira Buckwalter had made the suggestion that it might be wise to transfer the project to a separately incorporated board.

The New Board

In November, 1981, Leon Stauffer, representing the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities, called the first meeting of the Landis Homes Retirement Community Board to prepare for their 1982 activities. Ten of the twelve newly appointed directors had been members of the

old Advisory Committee.

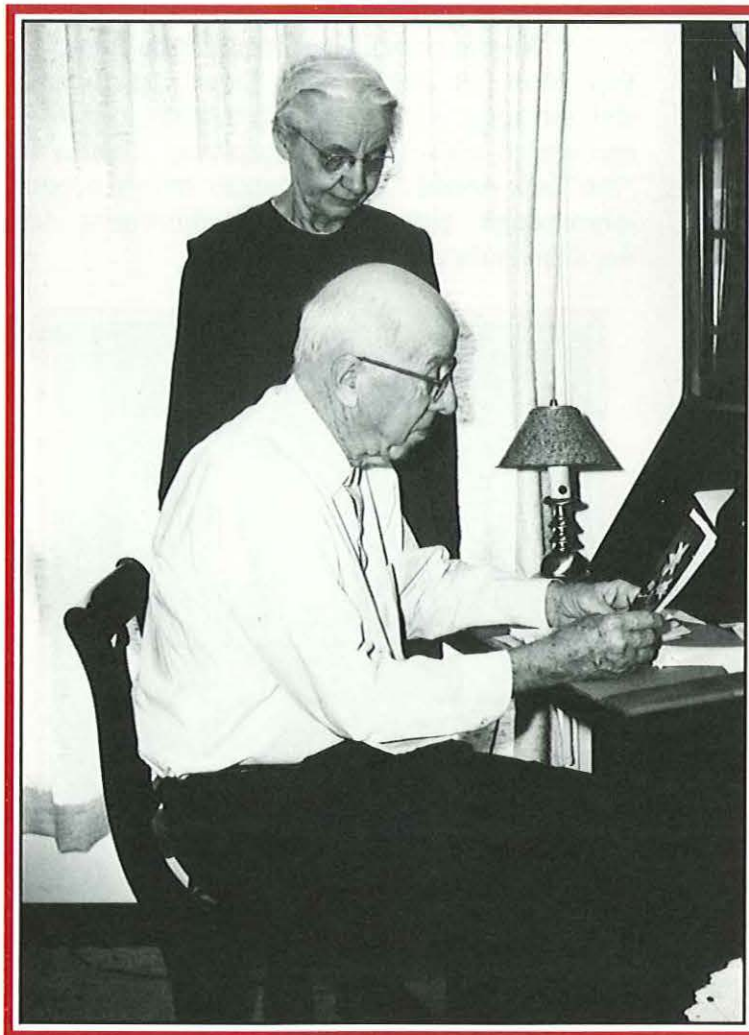
The first annual meeting of the Board on September 23, 1982, began most appropriately with the song "All the Way My Savior Leads Me," and ended with a talk by Raymond Charles on "The Task Ahead." The minutes report a good interchange between Board members and department heads.



Anna Grace and Edna Weaver, 1971.

Decisions Great And Small

At regular meetings the directors make decisions as major as approving the annual budget and as minor as paying fifty dollars to the farmer for damage to his grazing area by cars parked in the meadow for Friendship Community's Open House. They have authorized appeals for exemption from property taxes and made decisions about insurance protection. They agreed to buy the Forney property adjacent to Landis Homes. When the administrator demonstrates a need, they authorize creating new staff positions.



Harry and Emma Winters, 1967.

They have invited Philhaven Hospital to set up a satellite pastoral education program, approved a scholarship fund for employees who want to get more nursing education and voted for a nursing assistant training program. Over the years, they have made decisions about sewers and water supply, rental agreements with a local farmer and an appreciation banquet for volunteers. Minutes record discussions on such varied subjects as arranging activities for residents, concern that trees are being cut down, lightning rod protection, the trigger-happy hunter who shot all the ducks on the pond but one and the request by nurses to wear pant suits.

Maintaining Relationships

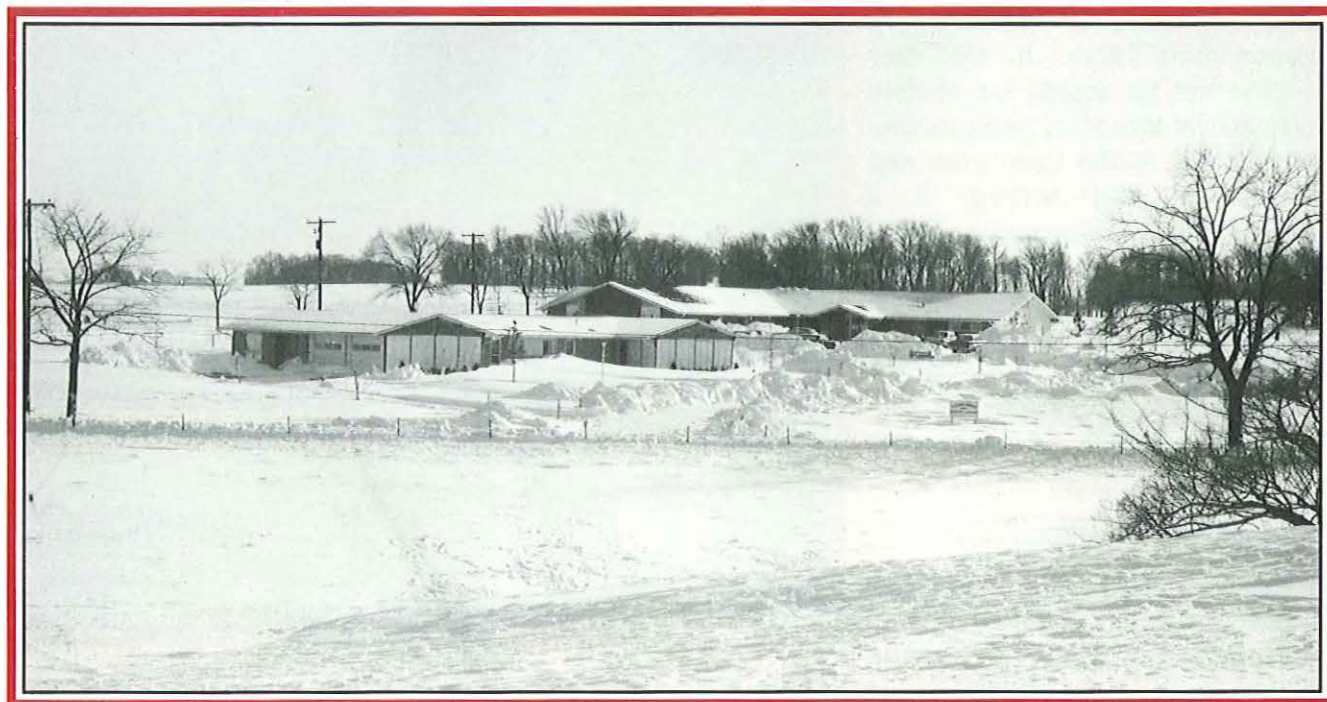
The Board of Directors appreciates the value of keeping in touch with other retirement homes, both nation-wide and local. They approved membership in the Mennonite Health Association, the American Association of Homes for the Aging and the Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Homes for the Aging. At a meeting with the directors of the Mennonite Home, both boards agreed to set up a joint committee to work at mutual concerns. When a group interested in starting a retirement community near New Holland asked to operate as a satellite of Landis Homes, the Board turned to Lancaster Conference for guidance. They explained they did not seek any added responsibilities, but would serve in any way the church desires. After a period of study and interchange, Landis Homes encouraged the development of an autonomous facility, but declared willingness to offer experience and expertise in a supportive role.

Fiscal Responsibility

Much time at Board meetings is spent on financial matters: approving loans, arranging short-term investments, studying balance sheets, weighing gains and losses. Directors feel responsible to



Suzanna Toews, Fannie Landis, Katie Horst and Amanda Buckwalter, 1974.



Unit A and Quadruplex, 1966.

maintain a strong financial position so that residents can feel secure about the future. Through the years the challenge has been to keep facilities affordable for residents while paying adequate wages to the staff. At the beginning the Advisory Committee considered lowering rates to attract more residents. However, after a year and a half they recognized that the costs of operating the retirement community were more than a hundred dollars a month for each guest and that employees were working for very low wages. In 1967 the board decided to start paying the minimum wage. Since then workers have received better compensation with adequate medical and retirement benefits.

Increases in cost of living, wages, and other operating costs, as well as adjustments for inflation, have resulted in a steady increase in occupancy annuities and monthly rates. Residents who confront a higher rate each July sometimes forget that living expenses would be rising just as certainly if they lived in private residences.

Dealing With Growth

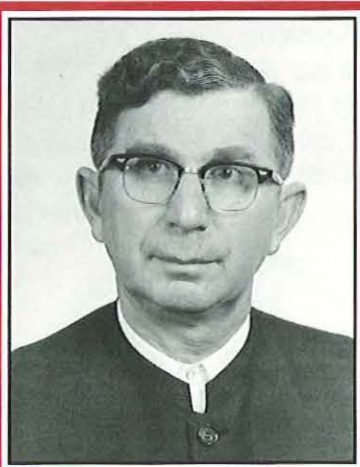
In the beginning growth was very slow. On March 30, 1964, the Advisory Committee discussed the lack of guest response. At that point forty days after opening, there were six guests in the main building and two in the quadruplex, with

only two prospective residents. Some committee members suggested lowering the rates. Others argued for letting more time pass before changing the financial policy. "The project is still quite new to our people," said Orie Miller. Then he suggested, "If Mennonites won't come, let's open the door to others."

All of the residents at that time were Mennonites. Of the ten who entered from April to August, only five were Mennonites. The others were United Brethren, Presbyterian, Plymouth Brethren, United Church of Christ and Calvary Independent.

"After that the Mennonites began to apply," recalls Charles Good.

As the number of residents grew and applications for admission increased dramatically through the 1970s and 1980s, the Board of



Charles Good, 1970.

Directors found it necessary to impose some limits. In 1986 they decided not to accept out-of-state applications except for persons who had families in the local area and those who had served in a Mennonite mission program. A burgeoning waiting list (1,008 in 1989) led to further restrictions: raising the application fee and limiting applications to Lancaster County residents, with exceptions for persons with family in Lancaster County.

Expanding Facilities

Increasing admissions demanded more rapid expansion than had been envisioned in the beginning. In 1965 the concern was whether or not to expand, since many retirement homes were being built in the area. Soon the issue was not whether to expand, but how rapidly and what type of facilities to build. The Board had to reckon with the fact that amenities considered as extravagance in 1964 were deemed necessary conveniences by applicants twenty-five years later. In 1970 the directors decided that the entire Board and the Administrator should constitute a development-study committee to work at master planning. As each decision to expand was made, the Board gave its approval to employing architects, inviting bidding for construction and accepting bids.

By the 1980s it had become clear that professional expertise was needed to determine the future direction of Landis Homes, especially in respect to the long waiting list. In 1990, after several years of exploring consulting services, the firm of Kolb and Christophel, from Goshen, Indiana, was employed as consultant for long-range planning. Part of the process developed by this firm included evaluating the existing program and re-examining the mission and goals



Landis Homes Retirement Community Board 1993-1994.

Left to right, seated: Lynn Roth, Secretary, Mervin Nolt, Treasurer, Ruth Weaver, Assistant Secretary, J. Clyde Root, President, Dr. J. Kenneth Brubaker, Vice President. Standing 2nd row: Harold Horst, A. Grace Wenger, Carlton Miller, Irvin Martin, Gladys Rutt. 3rd row: Lois Good, Mark Landis, Chester Steffy, Glenn Weaver.

of Landis Homes. As a result of the study, a five-year strategic plan was implemented. This included the 24 Northwest cottages and Harvest View, which consists of 125 apartments.

A Goal Achieved

In 1994 Landis Homes sought accreditation by the Continuing Care Accreditation Commission of the American Association of Homes for the Aging.

After several months of self-study and hard work, the staff prepared a comprehensive report, over a hundred pages of written answers to questions, with many exhibits and attachments. The visiting evaluators commended the careful work and recommended Landis Homes for accreditation. Especially gratifying to Board members and staff alike was the spontaneous comment of one evaluator, "It just feels so comfortable - like a home should."



High Quality Residential Services

Beginning To Expand

The commitment to "provide high-quality residential services" has led to expansion far beyond the 200-person facility which was first envisioned. After the tenuous beginning, interest in Landis Homes began to grow. By October 1964, George Leaman reported nineteen residents and eight prospects. The following March, when he said there was space for five more people and six persons were interested, the Committee began to talk about expansion. They referred the matter to the Mission Board, who instructed them to study the matter further and present a proposal. At its August 1965 meeting, with Clyde Horst present as a consultant, the Advisory Committee recommended adapting Unit A for nursing care, building a second unit and a duplex and planning for a staff house.

Unit B, The First Duplex And The Staff House

In September 1965, the Mission Board approved the plans to expand. With Clyde Horst as contractor and Chester Steffy as building foreman, work began on Unit B. Even before it was completed, the number of applications exceeded the available space. The new building, which opened on January 16, 1967, provided fifteen single rooms, five double rooms and six apartments. The Unit B kitchen was three times as large as the old one, which became a pantry. A basement under the new kitchen housed a walk-in freezer and refrigerators. The new dining room was large enough to seat seventy-five persons and the old one became a lounge. This expansion necessi-



Units A, B, D and quadruplex, 1969.

tated drilling another well and installing a new sewage system.

Before Unit B was ready for occupancy, construction began on a duplex because two couples were eager to move into cottages. At the same time plans proceeded for building a staff house, which released two apartments in the quadruplex for residents.

Unit D and More Cottages

By the fall of 1966 an increasing number of Unit A residents needed nursing care, and it was clear that many more who needed care were looking toward Landis Homes. With the approval of the Mission Board, the Advisory Committee took action in January 1967 to plan a nursing unit (Unit D). Construction began in 1968.

"This place looks like a cyclone hit it!" exclaimed a resident one March day in 1969. Approval to occupy Unit D had been received on

March 10, and nearly twenty residents of Units A and B moved to the new building, several at a time. During the weeks of moving, the halls were filled with furniture. Friends and neighbors came with mops and buckets to help the cleaning staff.

Unit D had room for thirty-six residents. The new building provided a diet kitchen, a second dining room, a doctor's office and examining rooms. An enclosed glass corridor leading from the old dining room connected the west wing of the new building to Unit A, and a lounge connected A and D on the east, creating an enclosed courtyard which became a center for outdoor social activities. A basement built under two wings provided space for a maintenance shop and equipment, a mechanical room, an emergency generator, a beauty and barber shop and a physical therapy center.

Because many applicants asked for apartments, the next building project focused on cottages. A single two-bedroom cottage north of Unit A (presently occupied by administrative offices) was built as a residence for George and Grace Leaman. A duplex and triplex were followed by a group of six cottages. A new resident, Roy Wenger, was employed to make some of the cabinets for the new cottages. Others cottages followed, at the urgent request of prospective residents.

East Bethany

While the first of these cottages were being built, plans for a chapel developed, to be located west of the glass connecting corridor with its entrance from the corridor. A small room on one side of the chapel became the pastor's office. The room on the other side was designated as a prayer room. Whether or not to have a spire was debated, with the result that Chester Steffy was commissioned to draw up a sketch for a simple spire with a base that could be used to house speakers for musical broadcasts.

Residents entered into the debate about a name for the chapel. After *Bethany Hall* was chosen over other suggestions (Assembly Hall, Learning Center, Assembly Room or Menno

Simons Hall), negative reaction led the Advisory Committee to recommend *Bethel Chapel*. The name, which means *House of God*, seemed appropriate. However some residents reacted even more unfavorably, arguing that Jereboam had set up golden calves at Bethel, the place where Jacob



Unit C under construction, 1970.

met God. One very indignant woman quoted Amos 4:4, "Come to Bethel, and transgress." Finally the committee settled on the simple name *Bethany*. When the one-word name was criticized, the chapel became *Bethany Center*. Today it is *East Bethany*.

The June 12, 1970, issue of the *Landis Homes News* has this item: "Tuesday evening, May 12, was a red-letter day for the residents when for the first time we gathered in the new hall for prayer meeting. We all had plenty of room, and it was cooler, plus excellent acoustics." The chapel was dedicated on October 9. Residents, Advisory Committee members and staff participated in the dedication of the building and then dedicated themselves: the residents "to the service of our Heavenly Father while spending life's evening here at home"; the board members "to the continuous pursuit of the abundant Christian life for those senior citizens who choose Landis Homes for life's eventide"; the staff "so that residents may be suitably accommodated and their needs

met." More than eight hundred adults registered at the Open House on October 10 and 11.

Unit C And Dreams Of Future Expansion

Plans for Unit C had already begun, and in the spring of 1970, Unit E was added to the master plan. Purchase of a nine-acre tract west of the Home in January, 1970, led to preliminary thinking toward planning a second community after the first set of buildings, designed to house two hundred or more, would be completed. In June, 1971, Unit C opened for residential and intermediate care living. Connected on the north to B and on the east to D, the new construction created a second courtyard west of the chapel corridor. It also provided a third dining room and a library.

In July 1972, ground was broken for six cottages to be attached to a wing of Unit C by an enclosed corridor. The first residents to move into one of these cottages were Dick and Ruth Sauder. Ruth's electric scooter was a novelty to many residents and visitors. Once, when volunteers began to push wheelchairs as residents were leaving a program in Bethany Center, an astonished three-year-old watched Ruth ride by. "Look!" he cried aloud. "An angel's pushing her."

Unit E And More Cottages

In the fall of 1971, planning began for Unit E, which opened in October 1973. The new unit extended southward from the connecting point of Units C and D, with a fire wall between the old and new construction. An attractive innovation for Landis Homes was a stone fireplace in the lounge. The basement under the east wing became a shop for resident woodworkers.

In the fall of 1974, open house and dedication of the new facilities, Units C and E, were combined with the annual chicken barbecue fel-



Ruth Sauder, 1972



J. Paul and Alice Sauder, 1972

lowship day. At the service in East Bethany, Raymond Charles spoke on the history and purpose of Landis Homes, Ira Buckwalter led the group in a responsive reading, and Melvin Lauver prayed the dedicatory prayer. A song about Landis Homes written by resident Paul Sauder was sung to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne."

In Landis Valley

*Should old acquaintance be forgot
And never called to mind?
The friends we've made in many a year
The friends who've been so kind?
Oh no, we'll keep them on their shelf
In memory's closet yet
Old friends are safely treasured still,
Old friends we'll not forget.*

*Should new acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to view?
Oh no, the folks at Landis Homes
Are in our circle too.
This circle widened all at once,
Much larger friendship grew,
For when you think of Landis Homes
Three hundred come in view.*

*From many a place and job we've come
To spend our evening years;
To fellowship and friendships make,
To share both joys and tears.
We live a life at Landis Homes
Enriched and full, you see.
In Landis Valley live we now;
Contented now are we.*

—Words by J. Paul Sauder

Meanwhile, more cottages were being built. When a twelve-unit complex west of the early buildings was completed, a group of residents contributed furniture and agreed to care for one apartment to be used as a guest house, Amity House. In January 1975, the Advisory Committee held its quarterly meeting in the newly furnished guest house. Two years later, when eight resident cottages were built near the woods, a ninth became the second guest house, the House of Grace.

The Farm Buildings

In the early 1970s attention turned to the buildings on the farm site. A community resident suggested restoration of two old houses because of their historical value. Although their exact age had not been determined, they were assumed to be very old, since the deed, with the signature of William Penn's sons, showed that the land had been purchased in 1738. It was estimated that one house, a small building close to the farmhouse, had been built as early as 1798. This house was being used to store wood. Apparently firewood had been hoisted by a farm elevator through an attic window and dropped to the first floor through a large hole cut in the attic floor. The other house was a two-story building which, after serving as a chicken house, was used for storing roosts and other unused items. Both houses had stone fireplaces.

Friendship Community

As the Advisory Committee debated restoration or demolition, another group was looking at the potential of the farm site. As early as the fall of 1968, Orie Miller had reported appeals for provision of facilities for mentally handicapped persons. In 1971 Raymond Charles reported that the group planning for such a facility had asked for a lot on the Landis Homes property. The Executive Committee of the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions recommended that the Landis Homes Committee give consideration to this request. This action was taken: "That the Committee for the Mentally Handicapped plan to build their facility on the Landis Homes farm site, the location to be determined by the Development Study Committee."

Friendship Community opened on October 25, 1972, with Emory and Idella Otto as



Jean Landis (Yordy) and Katie Stoltzfus, 1972.

administrators. This was the first group home in Lancaster County for persons, eighteen years old and older, with developmental disabilities. In 1982 when Landis Homes became a separate corporation, Friendship Community remained under the auspices of the Mission Board. Ten and one-half acres of the original farm on which Friendship Community is located today, continued under the ownership of the Mission Board. In 1987 Friendship following the Landis Homes process became a separate body.

Meadowview Apartments

After David Glick, the farm tenant, bought his own farm in the spring of 1974, the Advisory Committee decided to convert the farmhouse into two apartments and to renovate the smaller old house. The three units would be made available to residents on the same basis as other apartments. After studying the problems of restoring the two-story cottage, the Committee decided to tear it down and build, at the request of Viola and Catherine Landis and at their expense, a two-bedroom cottage with a two-car garage. As Friendship Community grew, the smaller house became a residence for some of their staff. In time they requested the use of the farmhouse for offices. After the Landis sisters moved into Unit D, their house was divided into three apartments, which welcomed the new residents in March 1992.

Expansion To The West

On September 20, 1978, residents watched earth-moving equipment move into the corn-

field to their west. The development of Landis Homes West had begun. The first construction was three-fold: Unit F to house administrative offices, a kitchen, a dining room, a multi-purpose room and storage space; Unit G with thirteen apartments; and Unit H with residential rooms for forty-two persons. The following September, the first Unit G residents, Charles & Marion Lefever, moved in. The Lefevers served a unique role: besides work in the maintenance department, Charlie served as moderator of religious services; Marion helped in the kitchen and with the crafts. Both were 24-hour "trouble-shooters" for residents with an unexpected need. In January, Unit H was ready for occupancy. Residents Leslie and Blanche Hoover offered to be on hand to help the newcomers get settled.

"Getting settled" was not without problems. The first night in H, all night lights suddenly went off around midnight, leaving the halls in complete darkness. In contrast, one resident slept in brilliant fluorescent light, unable to turn out her bed lamp because of a faulty switch. On the second night, a woman was kept awake by the noise of a motor outside her window. Night nurses could not solve the problem, which was caused by snow and ice falling into the fan of the motor. By the third night, life was moving smoothly. On June 22, 1980, Open House for Units F, G, and H welcomed some five hundred visitors.

Unit K And An Enlarged Unit D

In January 1983, in response to urgent requests for apartments, the Board approved construction of a wing attached to the west side of F. Unit K was planned to include four efficiency, five one-bedroom and four two-bedroom apartments. The new unit opened in November 1983.

While K was under construction, plans were made for additional space in Unit D. This work was completed in June, 1984. The central bath area was enlarged, a new sitting room relieved congestion at the nursing hub, and a 28-



The West expansion: Buildings F, G, and H. (The Forney tract in foreground).

foot extension to the east wing provided additional rooms for residents. The extended lower level allowed expansion of activities and physical therapy facilities.

Dedication for the new construction on September 8, 1984, highlighted the twenty-year anniversary of Landis Homes. At 6 o'clock, the



Marion and Charlie Lefever, 1985.

group gathered on the lawn near the entrance to Unit D. Raymond Charles was moderator of the program "Celebrating Community." Ed Longenecker welcomed the group, George Leaman led a devotional meditation, and the Landis Homes Ladies' Chorus directed by



Blanche and Leslie Hoover, 1980.

Romaine Sala sang. Lois Good, representing the Lancaster Conference Commission on Aging, made comments. Residents Mildred Mohn, Lois Messner and Anna Grace Weaver gave their reflections. This was followed by Ruth Johnson, Director of Nursing, who declared herself ready to serve another twenty years. Dr. Dan Wert and Dr. Harold Stauffer spoke for families of residents. Luke Bomberger, chairman of the Board, shared in "Looking Ahead," and Raymond Charles led staff, board members and residents in a dedicatory prayer committing themselves to a full program of excellence.

West Bethany

For some time, overcrowding in Bethany Center had concerned the staff. Suggestions for enlarging the chapel, such as moving the side walls outward or building an extension east of the chapel corridor, seemed impractical. As the waiting list grew, it became clear more residential units were needed and that a second chapel would be necessary. In January, 1984, the Board decided to build a chapel and more cottages. After contractors were invited to submit bids for chapel construction, the bid of Clayton E. Gerlach was accepted. Construction began in November.

On April 12, 1985, residents, some with cameras, watched while the steeple and cross were crane-lifted into place. At the first service in the new chapel on Sunday morning, September 1, 1985, Blanche Hoover played the organ and the piano, both purchased with money contributed by residents and friends.

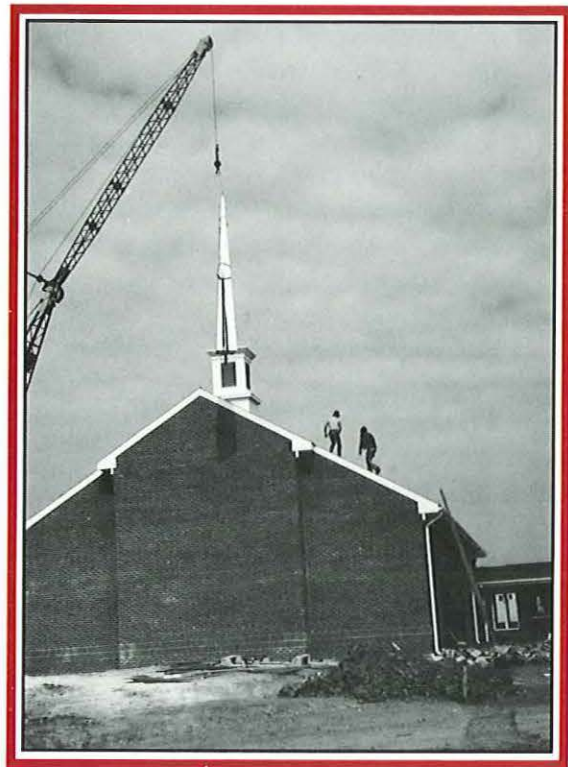
Invited to submit names for the new chapel, residents gave so many suggestions that making a decision was overwhelming. The Life

and Activities Committee recommended **Bethel**, one of those most frequently submitted.

"That's too much like Bethany," said a Board member. Others agreed that the similarity would confuse people.

"Let's just name it **West Bethany** and call the older chapel **East Bethany**," was the sensible solution. "After all, we are one community with two places of worship."

This decision led to the next step, renaming the first complex, which had been called Landis Homes **North** because that was its identification on the architect's original master plan.



Steeple is put in place on West Bethany, 1985.

In the early drawings, the site around the farm buildings was labeled **East**. Now the term **North** was dropped, and before long everyone was talking about **Landis Homes East** and **Landis Homes West**.

Cottages In The West

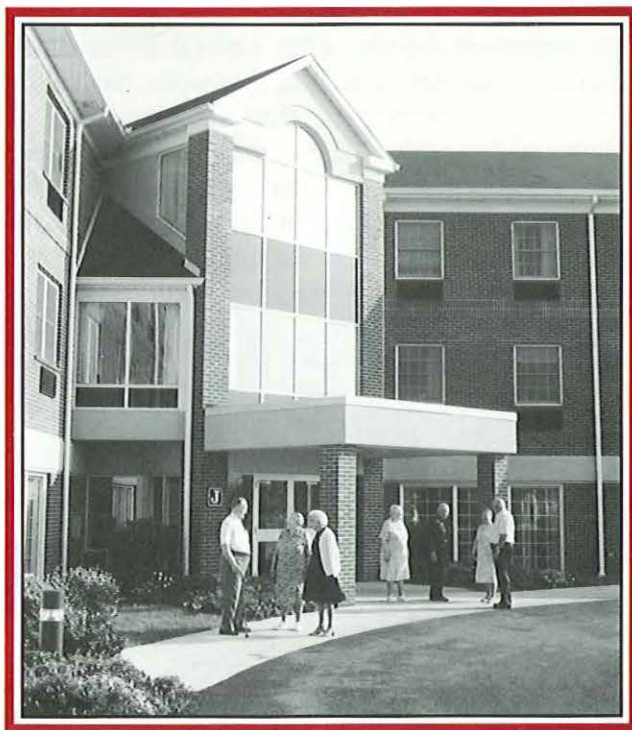
Dedication of West Bethany was combined with Open House for ten new cottages which were begun in November, 1984, and completed by the following October. These were the first of forty planned for the West Complex and built by Earl King. J. Mark Stauffer, chaplain of Menno

Haven in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, was guest speaker at the dedicatory service on October 13.

Construction of cottages in the West continued, with six more opening in April, 1986, and thirteen about a year later. The last ones built in this group were begun in 1990 and ready for occupants in 1991.

Building J

Building the new cottages failed to reduce the long waiting list. Even before the cottages were finished, the Board recognized the need for another residential building with space for support services. After many meetings and detailed dis-



Building J, 1991

cussions, plans evolved for a building on three levels, with twenty-eight living units on each of two floors, and on the lower level a therapy pool and facilities for social and recreational activities. Benchmark Construction was awarded the building contract. Ground was broken on September 14, 1987. Admissions Counselor Arlene Mellinger, with the help of Board member Ruth Weaver, accepted responsibility for interior decoration and choice of furniture.

On a chilly, rainy first of November in 1988, twenty-two residents moved in, even though carpeting had not been laid in the halls and lounges.

Lounge furniture was still stacked in cartons. By Christmas the workers had completed all that needed to be done on the first and second floors, but the ground floor was still unfinished. By March the Community Room, capable of seating two hundred persons, with an attached serving kitchen, was ready for use. Besides providing an attractive place for family gatherings, it became a popular center for crafts, ceramics, shuffleboard and other activities. The therapy/swimming pool was beautified by a mural painted on the 75-foot wall by resident Lois Messner. Residents enjoying the pool or spa could imagine themselves outdoors in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.



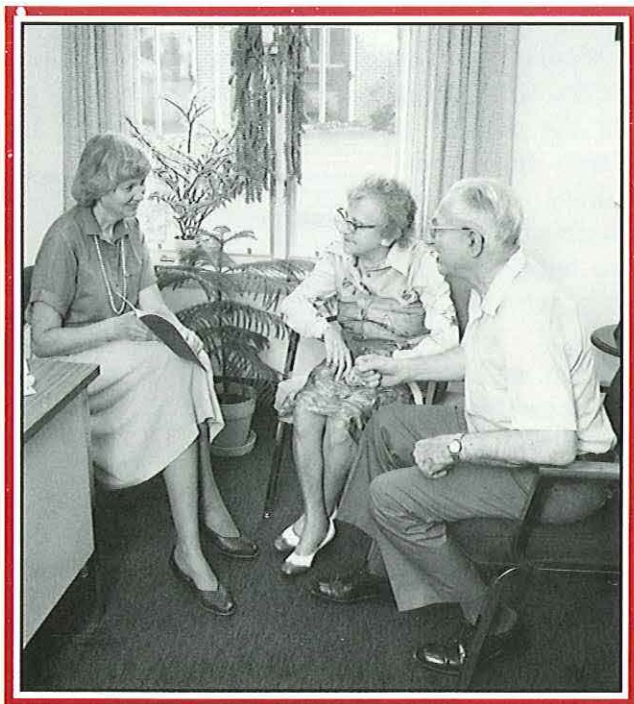
Lois Messner, 1989.

Also on the lower level were a physical therapy room, a snack shop and a room for Adult Day Care. Later a small store was opened for the convenience of residents. A second shuffleboard and a table for billiards solved the problem of conflicts in scheduling use of the Community Room.

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The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary

The dedication of Building J on May 21, 1989, was combined with a celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Landis Homes. A special 24-page edition of *Landis Homes News*, with glimpses of history in words and pictures, introduced visitors to Building J. Board Chairman Clyde Root was the speaker at the dedicatory service in West Bethany and David Thomas led the prayer of dedication. The Landis Homes men's chorus sang, and residents Blanche Hoover and Irma Brubaker served as organist and pianist. After the service, about a thousand friends and relatives toured the new building. Some stopped for blood pressure tests in the physical therapy room while others lingered at the pool to admire



Arlene Mellinger, Kathryn and Richard Herr, 1985.

the mural. Only one negative comment was overheard among the frequent expressions of admiration, "But there aren't any vacancies!" The tour ended in the Community Room, where volunteers served refreshments and the activities staff gave balloons to the children.

On July 8, 1989, residents were invited to a special twenty-fifth anniversary celebration, a treat for those unable to participate in the Open House in May. The group gathered near the pavilion, where they heard old-time singing by the Joyful Hearts Band from the Elizabethtown Senior Citizens Center. Residents and staff shared memories and appreciations of Landis Homes. At the close of the celebration, each member of the Landis Homes family received an anniversary coffee mug imprinted with the Landis Homes logo.

The Northwest Development

In the summer of 1989, the campus was enlarged by the purchase of a tract to the west, the property of Roy and Martha Forney. After the barn and vineyard were removed, the farmhouse was used for staff and residents. When studies

showed that the house was not structurally sound enough to justify the expense of renovation, it was torn down to make room for new cottages. In the summer of 1992, ground was broken for twenty-four cottages. By January, 1993, the first of these was ready for residents and the project was completed in midsummer.

Water Problems

As landscaping around the new cottages began to beautify the northwestern part of the campus, excavations began to disrupt other areas. For some time tests had shown an unacceptable level of nitrates in the water from Landis Homes wells. Rather than install a very expensive treatment system, after several attempts to solve the problem by drilling new wells, the Board decided to connect to the water system of Manheim Township. Using public water would solve another problem, the danger of an insufficient water supply in case of fire. The water main was installed in a loop encircling the campus,



Carl Drohan, John Winters, Lester Weaver, Mahlon Kreider, Harold Breneman, Reuben Stoltzfus, Ed Weber, and Ephraim Nafziger sang at Building J dedication program in West Bethany, 1989.

and by early 1994 all Landis Homes buildings had been connected.

Harvest View

While the water main was being installed, new activity began at the southern part of the campus. Earth movers, huge pipes and stacks of

wire cages signaled the beginning of another major project: two detention ponds and relocation of the stream, part of a new drainage system. The wire cages would be placed in the stream bed and filled with stones to prevent erosion. Trees which had to be moved were temporarily banked to be replanted when the project was completed.

"More than likely the home will be continuing to expand long after most of us are gone."

All of this disruption was necessary because of the construction of a three-level 125-apartment building designed to relieve the pressures of the waiting list. Early in 1992 persons on the waiting list had met in focus groups at which planners assessed the level of interest and got feedback on suggestions for design. A model of the new building placed in the lobby of the West



Northwest Cottages, 1994.

name, "Harvest View." On the afternoon of Barbecue Day, September 11, 1993, about 175 persons gathered to break ground for the new facility. Ed Longenecker welcomed the group, Janet Peifer led in prayer and Clyde Root led a responsive litany. After administrators, Board members and future residents spaded the earth, the assembly sang "How Firm a Foundation." The foundation was firm indeed, as excavators discovered when they started digging for the west wing. In spite of the problems of hard rock, the building was "out of the ground" before winter. Big blizzards delayed construction so that by March about eight weeks had been lost. Even so, Horst Construction planned to complete the project by the January 1, 1995 deadline.

A Prophecy Fulfilled

On February 5, 1968, when there were sixty-nine residents in Landis Homes, Orie Miller told the Life and Activities Committee, "More than likely the home will be continuing to expand long after most of us are gone."



Clyde Root, Ed Longenecker, and Mervin Nolt break ground for Harvest View, 1993.

entrance attracted the interest of residents and visitors, as well as prospective tenants.

Unlike earlier buildings, which were designated by letters, the new building was given a

Health-Care Services

Early Nursing Care

Providing high-quality health care in an atmosphere of love is the mission of the nursing department. The first nurse, Anna Mae Graybill, arrived on May 2, 1964. Before that time, the Advisory Committee thought a full-time nurse was



Beth Kling (Leaman) and Anna Cooper, 1968.

not needed. They had decided not to admit any nursing patients, but to provide care for those residents who began to need nursing services.

By an arrangement with Brethren Village, Anna Mae, who was employed there, was on call for emergencies. However, it soon became clear that a full-time nurse was needed, especially as one of the first residents showed signs of increasing mental deterioration. Anna Mae agreed to come for a two-year term. A registered nurse who had served a term in Ethiopia, she brought to the position not only valuable experience in geriatric nursing, but also a strong sense of mission.

At first she lived in the main building. As time passed, more and more residents needed her services on weekends when she was not supposed to be on duty. Observing that she was working overtime, George Leaman told the Advisory Committee, "We need another nurse." In the autumn, a second registered nurse joined the staff. When a guest admitted early in 1965 needed a great deal of care, a practical nurse was employed and several others were called in part-time. With more help available, Anna Mae was able to move into an apartment in the quadruplex.

Every effort was made to make Landis Homes seem like a home, not a hospital. For this reason, nurses did not wear uniforms in those early years. With all employees working for mission allowances rather than salaries, nursing services were inexpensive. Early in 1965, the Advisory Committee agreed that persons needing minimum care should pay an extra charge of fifteen dollars a month. The rate for constant care was \$6.75 a day, and for intensive care, \$7.75. For a tray served in the room, a resident paid twenty cents.

A "Home" Wedding

A highlight of the year 1966 was Anna Mae's wedding to Malcolm Schaffer. When the staff surprised Anna Mae with a shower, Malcolm helped in the conspiracy. One evening he came, as he often did, to meet her after her day's work. Usually if she was busy at closing time, he told her, "Your work comes first, take your time." Then he would go to visit residents until she was free. However, on this evening he hurried her away from her work to the kitchen, where her co-workers were waiting to surprise her.

After supper on June 11, residents and staff gathered on the lawn that sloped from the main building to the quadruplex to witness Landis Homes' first wedding. Background music was provided by Grace Leaman playing her



Elizabeth Good, Anna Mae and Malcolm Schaffer, Ammon K. Graybill, 1966.

organ, which had been moved to the patio. Two of the staff with their friends formed a mixed quartet. Anna Mae's uncle, Clayton Keener, performed the ceremony.

A Growing Program

By the fall of 1965 more than half of the twenty-nine residents required some medical attention; two of them were bed patients. When the nursing Unit D opened in 1969, eighteen residents transferred from Unit A, one from B, and eighteen more were admitted. Ruth Johnson, who was employed in 1968 while Unit D was being built, organized the skilled care unit. Her husband, Curtis, who had many contacts with suppliers of medical equipment because of his experience as purchasing agent for Bethany Hospital in Chicago, assisted George Leaman and Ruth in buying supplies and equipment for the new unit. He wisely recommended buying steel bedpans instead of the cheaper plastic; they are still in use, whereas plastic would have had to be replaced many times in the past twenty-five years. Curtis gave voluntary service, freely offered before his employment as administrative assistant.

Landis Homes became a family project for the Johnsons. When Ruth had to work on Sunday, Curtis took their baby son, Alan, to church and then brought him to Landis Homes at noon. When the little boy grew older, he began to run errands for the nurses and even helped to

feed residents. Ruth was amused to see a resident lift the four-year-old to a chair so that Alan could feed the woman's husband. Soon a little daughter, Beth, also felt at home in the nursing unit. Before long, she too was helping the nurses, wearing a candy-striper's apron made by her mother.

To meet the growing need for personal and nursing care, Landis Homes again expanded. Unit C for personal care was opened in 1971. Unit E for residents needing skilled or nursing care was opened in 1973. Eventually, A and B residents were transferred from residential to nursing or skilled care. The nursing department also offered temporary care for persons who did not choose to be admitted as residents.

Since the nursing care units have opened, it has been a challenge to get and keep qualified staff. Many applicants are referred by residents, families and staff. Prayer is an impor-



Ruth and Curtis Johnson with children, Alan and Beth, 1972.

tant part of the hiring and screening process. Having dedicated and qualified staff to provide the quality of care which Landis Homes residents deserve has always been important to the Director of Nursing. The Lord has provided these staff persons when needed.

A Dedicated Staff

From 1968 to 1971 Ruth Johnson served as Director of Nursing, responsible for hiring, orienting and scheduling employees on the nursing staff. When she wanted to spend more time with her children, Barbara Cooper, who joined the staff in 1969, took her place, serving from 1971

to 1978. Ruth continued to be available to fill in as needed, writing policies, assisting with orienting new staff and providing training for all nursing assistants. Landis Homes recognized the need for training assistants many years before 1987, when the state mandated a training program for nursing assistants.

In 1979, Ruth again became the Director of Nursing. Her responsibilities grew as Landis Homes grew and as federal and state requirements became more demanding. Writing policies, educating staff, making changes to be more efficient, involving other departments in enhancing the well-being of residents—these were some of her many responsibilities. Today, with twenty-six years of service to her credit, Ruth continues to direct the program, ably assisted by Barbara Cooper and Ethel Caldwell. Another long-term nurse, Rachel Brubaker, came in 1965, and continues to work today.

Landis Homes nurses are a dedicated group. At eleven o'clock one night many years ago, resident Elam Hess who had a night-time job at Stauffers of Kissel Hill started to leave for work. A newly employed night nurse met him in the hall.

"Where are you going?" she asked him.

"To work," he replied.

Although Elam tried to explain that he was expected at Stauffers, she was sure his mind was wandering and would not permit him to leave. Unable to convince her, he politely gave up and went to bed. Only after Stauffers called to ask why he wasn't at work did she realize that she had been too protective of this resident.

Even nursing assistants demonstrate a single-minded devotion to duty. The story is told of a night-time aide whose last duty was to strip beds for laundry after residents were up. After stripping a multitude one morning, she went to the staff house to sleep. Later in the day she woke up to find her own bed stripped. She was so tired she had done it in her sleep.

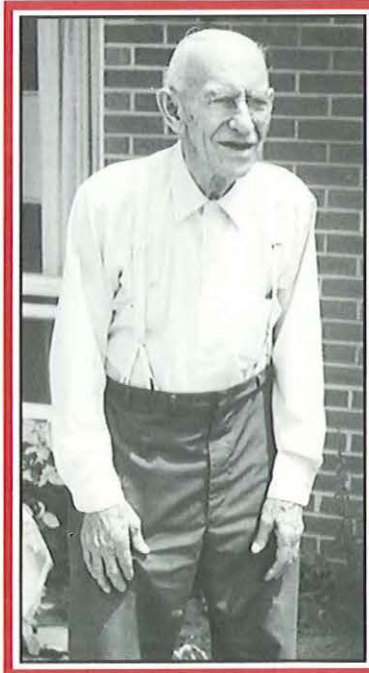


Ruth Johnson and Barb Cooper, 1973.

Special Services

Through the years, special services have been developed to insure maximum care. Dr. Floyd Landis, the first medical director, served for twenty years. Today Dr. John Wolgemuth fills the position. In addition to regular visits, the medical director is always available for consultation and emergency calls. He serves on many committees to help improve quality of care. The Quality Assurance Committee conducts ongoing studies. Some have centered on overuse and interaction of medications, prevention and treatment of pressure sores and prevention of falls.

A dentist donated and set up equipment in the doctor's office to treat residents unable to travel to a dental office. Podiatrists make regular visits to treat foot problems. Physical, occupational, and speech therapy is available five days a week. Therapists instruct nurses to carry on therapy at times when they are not on duty. A hearing aid representative is available to repair hearing aids and an optician comes to adjust eyeglasses. Omega Lab provides laboratory services daily. Manheim Township provides ambulance service.



Elam Hess, 1972.



Lizzie Coppenheffer and Dr. Floyd Landis, 1979.

Preventive Measures

Besides care of patients, a Quality Assurance program has been developed to emphasize wellness, safety and quality of care for residents. All departments are represented on this committee. Manuals which include policies and procedures for infection control and disasters are available to all staff. Wellness programs include educational films on subjects such as nutrition and fitness in later life, courses offered by the Arthritis Foundation, and "Brown Bag" day, when residents bring their medications for a pharmacist to evaluate. The nurses encourage physical activity: organized walks outdoors, exercise classes with specially designed activities for those with physical limitations.

The opening of the therapy pool in Building J in May 1989, proved especially helpful. With easy access steps, a maximum depth of four feet, and handholds around the edge for individual exercises, the pool provides a variety of individual and group activities. These include swimming lessons, water walking and modified volleyball. Arthritics find the aquacize program of gentle movement in warm water especially helpful. Some participants reported noticeable improvement in their conditions. A diabetic reported less need for insulin. Others rejoiced in weight loss.

Training Programs

Over the years an inservice training program for nurses and other staff has developed, beginning with several programs for nurses and a two-day seminar for nursing assistants. Today all staff participate in REC (Recreation, Education and Communication) day, a four-hour seminar which meets four times during January and February. On REC day participants discuss such issues as patients' rights, fire prevention, infection control and psychosocial needs. Recently an Ethics Committee has been formed to deal with controversial issues faced by staff and residents and to promote discussion on moral, ethical and religious questions.

In 1988 a special training program for nursing assistants began, with forty classroom hours and forty hours of supervised clinical, when nursing assistants care for residents, using the skills they have learned. Taught by Barbara Cooper, the program has been approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to meet the Commonwealth requirement that all nursing assistants must be trained and certified within four months of employment. Not only nursing



Ruth Ann Zeiset, Ruth Johnson, Vanessa King Boyer, Ethel Caldwell, Cindy Hess, Marie Thomas in Inter-disciplinary Care Planning Conference, 1994.

assistants, but also caregivers and young people who are thinking of a career in nursing, are welcome in the program. The classes meet in the physical therapy room in Building J, where Susie/Simon, the mannikin, gives students opportunity to practice what they have learned through lectures, reading and audiovisuals.

It is hoped that this educational program, as well as a scholarship fund available to employees who desire further training in nursing skills, will help solve the problem of nursing shortage. Many years ago, on November 15, 1966, visionaries Ira J. Buckwalter and H. Raymond Charles wrote, "We are anticipating qualifying to set up an acceptable nurse aid (sic) training program in connection with the operation of Units A and B. Perhaps the program could serve in providing a substantial amount of staff that would be required."

A new experience in 1993 was involvement with Lancaster General Hospital, when four senior nursing students did their geriatric assignment at Landis Homes.

After Thirty Years

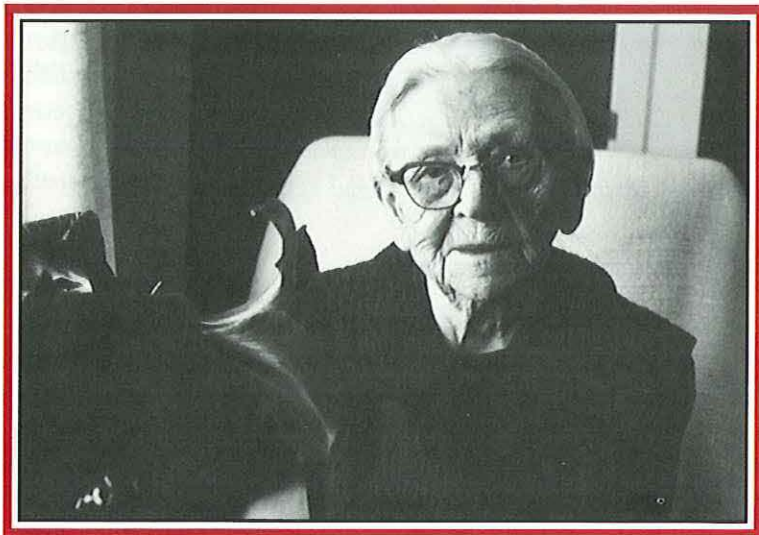
Today in contrast to the lone RN who served in the summer of 1964, there are more than a hundred persons on the nursing staff. This includes registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and nursing assistants, nearly half of them full-time. One thing that has not changed in thirty years is the commitment to give high quality care in an atmosphere of Christian love. Nearly every issue of *Landis Homes News* contains expressions of appreciation from residents who have spent time in nursing care or from families of residents who received terminal care. This note appeared in a 1993 issue:

We wish to thank the staff and nurses for the excellent care given to mother during her illness, and we also want to thank the Pastoral Care Unit for their visits and prayers. It was a special comfort to the family to know her physical and spiritual needs were being cared for and that she was made as comfortable as possible before her death.

Surprised By Joy

Landis Homes nurses work very hard and sometimes feel frustrated, but often they are surprised by joy. Some of the happiest memories of those who served in the 1970s center on Lizzie Copenheffer, who died in 1980, just two weeks

before her 108th birthday. "Aunt Lizzie" attributed her longevity to "nurses, good medicine, clean living, and always being a religious person." Handicapped by total hearing loss due to spinal meningitis when she was only eighteen months old, she communicated well by sign language. For friends not versed in sign language, she carried a pencil and pad and wrote quick little notes. "Her mind is as keen as an ax blade and she real-



Lizzie Copenheffer, 1972.

ly enjoys living," declared one staff member on Lizzie's 105th birthday.

Until she was nearly a hundred years old, she raised flowers so successfully that someone said, "If she stuck a nail in the ground, it would grow." Afterward, she limited her creative work to making decorative cutout paper designs and crocheting doilies and bookmarks. Well past the century mark, she kept her room in meticulous order, making her own bed and doing some of her personal laundry. The staff enjoyed seeing her open doors for younger residents who needed help or running down the hall to catch the elevator. Her sense of humor brightened days for her neighbors as well as her caregivers.

Landis Homes nurses have worked with many interesting persons, but "Aunt Lizzie" still holds a special place in their memories.

Meeting The Needs Of The Whole Person

Religious Life Thirty Years Ago

Important in the ministry to the needs of the whole person is the work of the pastoral team. However, thirty years ago Landis Homes had no pastor. Residents attended their home churches, and congregational pastors were expected to continue shepherding members who lived at Landis Homes. When Mrs. Earl Groff brought her class from the Strasburg Mennonite Church to discuss the Sunday school lesson with residents from Strasburg and any other interested persons, she started a tradition which eventually led to Sunday morning services.

For a number of years groups met for Sunday school lessons taught by visitors from residents' congregations. Not until January 1971, is there a record of a Sunday morning sermon, preached by resident Shem Peachey. From then until 1985, when the Sunday school lesson class moved to Friday evening, the Sunday school period was followed by a short sermon.

Before Sunday worship services began, Bible study and prayer meeting were held each Tuesday evening. On Friday evening there was a vesper service, including a talk, pictures, or a musical program, sometimes in combination. After a time several small Bible study groups began to meet, usually in residents' cottages. From the beginning, daily morning devotions planned by George and Grace Leaman were held in the dining room after breakfast.

In the early years all services met in the A lounge, where dining room furniture had to be pushed aside to make room for the meetings.



Melvin Lauver, first chaplain, 1979

After the chapel was built in 1970, meeting became far more convenient. At first there was no instrumental music in Sunday morning services. A piano donated by residents was used for programs, but not for worship services. Ten years later, a donated organ was moved into East Bethany, and Grace Leaman played it before worship services.

The First Pastor

The Life and Activities Committee, appointed in 1966 to plan for a physical and spiritual ministry to residents, recommended that a pastor be employed. As Raymond Charles, chairman of the committee, visited residents, he learned that they missed having Sunday worship services. In 1968 the committee recommended the employment of a part-time pastor.

On January 1, 1970, Melvin Lauver, pastor

of the Lititz Mennonite Church, was employed to give two ten-hour days a week to the ministry at Landis Homes. Besides scheduling services and arranging for speakers, he met with new residents, mingled with established ones and visited those in the hospital. As he listened to their concerns, he looked for ways to help—getting large-print Bibles for those with vision problems, recommending earphones in the chapel for those with hearing difficulties, to name only a few. Individual counseling took a great deal of his time. A December entry in a resident's diary gives a glimpse of the way in which Pastor Lauver related to people:

We had a lovely program by a handbell chorus. I had previously arranged to speak with the pastor after the service. It so happened that the pastor's wife was present that night. The three of us sat in the chapel, lighted only by the Christmas star. We talked, praised God and sang...It was a precious time of fellowship. I grew in my understanding of God's love to me.

A Spirit Of Unity

The pastor's ministry helped to create a sense of congregational unity among residents from diversified religious backgrounds. Important in building this spirit was the Community Communion service. The first all-faith communion was held on December 31, 1971, with David Thomas leading. Before this, individual residents unable to attend services in their home congregations were served communion by home bishops or pastors. Pastor Lauver had to assure some non-Mennonites that the service was for all who had communion privileges in their home churches. A few Mennonite residents had wrongly given the impression that only Mennonites were invited to participate. A communion set was borrowed until 1981, when one was donated by residents Nelson and Hazel Bergey.



Catharine Leatherman, 1972

Resident Participation

The Religious Life Advisory Committee was created after the pastor suggested it would be good to have a residents' committee assist in scheduling programs and in deciding how to disburse offerings. The committee met for the first time on February 4, 1975. At each meeting they evaluated past programs and planned new ones, bringing in speakers as varied as Katie Funk Wiebe and a representative from the Leighton Ford evangelistic crusade. Beginning in 1977, they planned a World Day of Prayer each March.

In deciding what to do with Sunday morning offerings, the committee usually followed the suggestions of the Eastern Mennonite Mission Board, but they also welcomed suggestions from residents. To receive these suggestions, they placed a suggestion box inside the main door of Bethany Center. That box was an antique which had been used at the Kraybill Mennonite Church before an offering basket was passed in services. In those days, people simply dropped in gifts of money as the Spirit moved.

Services In The West

After Landis Homes West opened, the new residents met for worship in the Multi-purpose Room in Unit F until 1985, when West Bethany was built. A second Religious Life Committee planned religious activities for the West. Because of the increased work load for Pastor Lauver, Catharine Leatherman was employed in 1980 to assist the chaplain and to give direction to new activities. Catharine was no stranger to the Landis Homes community, having served as volunteer coordinator for ten years before going to St. Croix to work for Choice Books Caribbean.

A New Chaplain

After more than a decade as chaplain, Melvin Lauver asked to be relieved. On December 14, 1980, the staff and residents had a farewell tea for Melvin and his wife Mary. As Ed Longenecker wrote in a tribute printed in *Landis Homes News*, "During these past years the Landis Homes com-

munity has benefited from his tremendous care and concern for people. Having Pastor Lauver around gave us the good feeling that 'all is well.'

His replacement, James Hess, served three days a week. After beginning work on December 1, the new chaplain was officially commissioned on December 30. Pastor Hess related well to residents. Before long he was writing a *Landis Homes News* column entitled "South of Bethany." As he explained, the title referred to the location of his office, though he much preferred to be outside of the office talking to residents.

Today's Pastor

After nearly four years, James resigned because his ordination as bishop of the Lancaster District brought new responsibilities that left too little time for ministry at Landis



James Hess leads in worship in East Bethany Chapel, 1982.

dents. In 1986, a "caring team" was assigned to each group of cottages for a ministry of prayer, visitation and pastoral caring, to supplement the pastor's work.

The Pastoral Team

After Building J was occupied, the pastor's work load again increased dramatically. With the prospect of 125 more apartments in Harvest View scheduled to open in January, 1995, Don needed more help. In September 1991, Janet Peifer, a member of the pastoral team of the Refton Brethren in Christ Church, became associate chaplain, serving three days a week. Since her special assignment was ministry to residents in the East, especially in the nursing center, she moved into the office south of East Bethany. Don Good moved to Landis Homes West, where his vision grows, even though his office has no windows. The pastoral team works in consultation with the Religious Life Committees which continue to meet bimonthly.

On birthdays each resident receives a birthday greeting and a special visit, with an invitation to suggest speakers or ideas for programs. As a result, Sunday morning speakers often represent the congregations of residents, and a variety of religious programs reflect varied interests. Singing groups range from grade school children to college choirs. Concerts bring in harpists, violinists, or trombone choirs, as well as organists and pianists. There are talks by missionaries, slide shows, films, even puppet shows. These spe-



Don Good and Florence Cohen, 1988.

Homes. Don Good, part-time pastor of the East Petersburg Mennonite Church, became chaplain on April 2, 1984. Soon he was sharing his thoughts in a "Good News Corner" in *Landis Homes News*. Don's unfailing cheerfulness was and continues to be greatly appreciated by residents, families and staff.

As his responsibilities multiplied with the construction of more and more cottages, Don introduced a caring ministry for cottage resi-

cial programs usually occur on Tuesday or Sunday evenings. Regular services are Wednesday morning Bible study, Wednesday evening prayer meeting, Friday evening Sunday school and Sunday morning worship services. Each morning a short devotional meditation is held in the dining rooms after breakfast. In addition, many small groups meet for prayer.

The year's schedule of religious meetings falls into a pattern. Special services mark the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. At Easter-time residents celebrate Communion, usually on Good Friday. A second Communion service is held in the fall. Keystone Bible Institute classes in late winter attract those who enjoy in-depth study. The World Day of Prayer in March is recognized by a program in West Bethany. In August, a Galilean service with teaching from a boat and "disciples" serving bread and fish recalls the ministry of Jesus and the twelve. Twice a year there are renewal meetings, in autumn in the East, in winter in the West. This ministry to the spiritual needs of residents continues to grow as Landis Homes grows.

Social Services

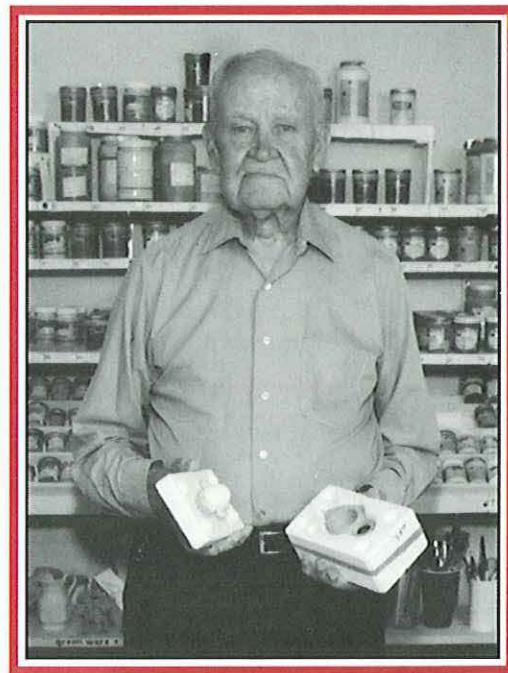
The work of the Pastoral Team finds strong support in the services of the Social Work Department. An official Social Work Department was established in 1974, when Leona Gingerich became Social Services Director. When she began her work, her tasks were integrated with the Activities Department. She paved the way by developing a job description for Social Services director and compiled a social history of each resident. She learned to know residents and staff when assisting nursing staff with typing, filing, and indexing medical records. The Book Club and Music Appreciation Hour were first suggested by Leona. Since her job was newly created and she had no prior history to refer to, she depended on the support and guidance of other staff and residents.

Meeting A Variety Of Social Needs

When Leona chose to go overseas in 1976, Gayle Zehr joined the Landis Homes staff as Social Services Director. Since she had worked in the Activities Department before this,

she was familiar with the tasks. At this point the Activities and Social Service departments functioned separately. Gayle concentrated on orienting new residents, relating to families and giving support when difficulties arose. The present Social Services Director is Vanessa King Boyer, who joined the Landis Homes staff in December, 1989.

Through the years, the social worker has assumed responsibilities which have contributed to the department goal of trying to maintain the highest psychosocial well-being of each resident. The social worker often spends time with residents, solving problems and acting as mediator,



Quentin Gord, 1991.

listener and advocate for the resident. Other tasks include sponsoring meetings for residents' families, putting residents in touch with community services and finding transportation for those who want to go to community support group meetings. Those who take advantage of the visits of the American Health Care Apparel store owe this convenience to the Social Services Department.

A New Team Member

In June, 1993, Elizabeth Weaver joined the staff as Associate Social Worker, serving three days a week. Her main focus is on residents in per-

sonal care and residential living. She is also available to those living in independent living areas. She helps to plan care for personal care residents, explores the interest of families in forming a support group and assists in evaluating the needs of new residents. Vanessa King Boyer's primary focus is the health care area and giving overall direction to the department.

The increased regulations by the State of Pennsylvania in the health care area require careful documentation on how the social worker is meeting psychosocial needs. Much time is spent in talking with residents, assessing concerns, exploring options and carrying through with goals to assist them in meeting their highest level of functioning. The social workers continue to assist residents in achieving a good living experience at Landis Homes.

Coordinating Volunteer Work

The Volunteer Coordinator is a member of the Social Services team. The first person to serve in this capacity was Catharine Leatherman, who was employed in 1969 with a two-pronged assignment: to minister to residents and to coordinate volunteer services with Landis Homes needs. In 1982 Erma Landis became coordinator, serving one day a week. Her successor, Barbara Ann Hershey, was employed in 1987 to work three days a week. Today Arlene Kreider serves full-time to coordinate some two hundred registered volunteers, who in 1993 gave 37,364 hours of service.

Resident Volunteers

From the beginning, volunteerism was an important part of Landis Homes life. Many helped in the kitchen and dining rooms. Others folded laundry, mended or sewed on name tags for residents unable to do these tasks for themselves.

One of the earliest resident volunteers is in her twenty-fifth year of service. When Christ and Martha Charles moved into the first duplex in the spring of 1967, both became active volunteers. "We hope to be an asset to the place before we become a liability," they wrote on their application form. Christ, a deacon in the Landisville

Mennonite Church, became a "short-notice preacher," filling in whenever a scheduled speaker failed to show. During the week he taught Bible studies in the chapel and also volunteered at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.

Both he and Martha brought wheelchair residents to services in Bethany Chapel. Some Sundays they pushed as many as thirty-five or



Christ and Martha Charles, 1983.

forty wheelchairs to and from the chapel. On weekdays they shopped for Landis Homes, as well as for some residents who had no cars. In addition, Martha sorted and delivered mail. In the evenings and on weekends, when there was no receptionist on duty, she sat in the front lobby to direct visitors. While waiting for the mailman or visitors, she crocheted and knitted items to give away or to sell in the gift shop.

After Christ's death in 1990, Martha continued her active life as a volunteer. As Landis Homes grew, sorting and delivering mail became a large-scale operation, with a number of assistants. In 1994, at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, Martha was recognized for logging the most volunteer hours in 1993, a total of 2,044!

Today the nurses appreciate many resident volunteers who deliver and gather trays, feed residents and push wheelchairs. Others read to, write letters for, or just visit with residents. A few deliver newspapers, sort and deliver mail, or take the snack cart through the corridors. Creative residents have taught classes in



Mabel Kreider and Mary Guntz, resident volunteers, 1972.

the crafts rooms. Some lead morning devotions, prayer meetings, or special interest groups such as Music Hour, Book Reading, and Poetry Hour.

Volunteers serve as receptionists, as ushers in the chapels and as clerks in the gift shops and stores. Volunteer drivers make daily trips to the post office so that residents can get their mail before noon. The campus is more beautiful because many volunteers have planted and cared for flower beds, have contributed trees or have painted the meadow fence.

Volunteers Reaching Out

Some volunteers efforts reach far beyond Landis Valley. For a number of years residents collected, cut and trimmed used postage stamps. Mailed to an institution in Germany, the stamps provided therapy for handicapped persons who cleaned and packaged them for sale to collectors. Another group of volunteers touched inmates of a maximum security prison in Alabama. Each week they corrected Bible correspondence lessons for classes taught by prison chaplain Martin Weber.

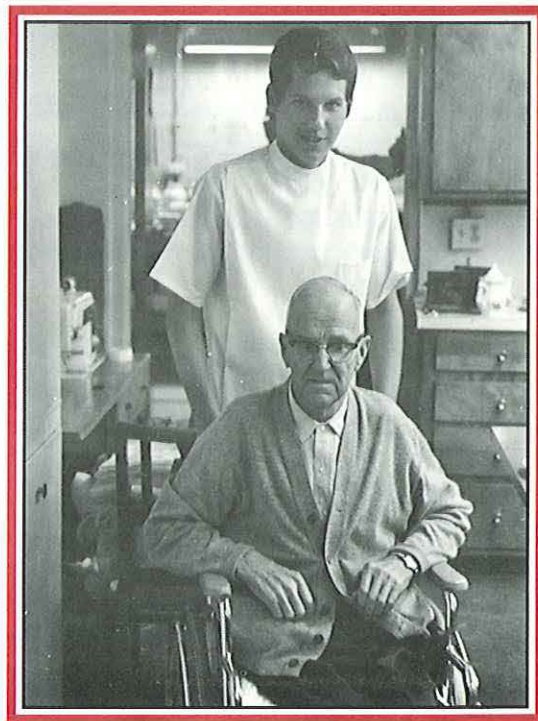
Other off-campus activities included helping with routine mailings at Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions, or local service organizations. Occasionally groups have been asked to give pro-

grams at Mennonite churches in the area or to talk to pupils in Mennonite schools. In the past a ladies' chorus directed by Ada Leed highlighted many programs in Mennonite churches. In 1990 a group presented a skit entitled "Hope After Sixty-five" at the local WMSC annual meeting.

Landis Homes Auxiliary

Many volunteers are supplied by the Landis Homes Auxiliary. As early as the fall of 1964, the Advisory Committee discussed a need for drivers to take people on shopping trips. "Could there be a 'Gray Lady' setup," someone asked, "or might some of our MYF groups help?" Interest in the idea grew. Ira Buckwalter's research showed that forty-nine Mennonite congregations, totaling about seven thousand members, were located within fifteen miles of Landis Homes. The committee reviewed the functions of the Camp Hebron and Black Rock auxiliaries, Grace Leaman gathered information about the organization of the Neffsville Brethren Home Auxiliary, and Martha Moseman did further study which led to the decision in October 1969, to establish an auxiliary.

About three hundred women responded when a meeting of interested persons was called



German Trainee, Wendelin Ahlgrimm and Allen Gehman, 1970.



Chicken Barbecue, 1976.

in 1970. By autumn of the following year the first Auxiliary secretary-treasurer, Mary Ella Herr, reported a total of 106 members. In the next decade the membership grew under the vigorous leadership of the first president, Arlene Hess, and her successor, Erma Landis. Today Rozanne Zimmerman is the president of the Landis Homes Auxiliary, which is a division of the Mennonite Homes Auxiliary, an organization of more than two thousand members serving four institutions: Landis Homes, The Mennonite Home, The Welsh Mountain Good Samaritan Home and Friendship Community.

Key Ladies

The concept of "key ladies" was borrowed from the Brethren Village Auxiliary. These women encourage members of their congregations to volunteer, plan social functions for residents, promote membership and collect dues. Volunteers solicited by the key ladies share their gifts in many ways: mending, helping with crafts, baking cookies, planting flowers and cleaning house each spring. They do favors for individual residents such as shopping, providing transportation, reading, or visiting.

Parties And Socials

The Auxiliary plans several social activities each year. One of the most popular is an ice cream and strawberry party in June, outdoors if weather permits. They solicit volunteer groups to give monthly birthday parties. Frequently they plan contests such as spelling bees or Bible quizzes, some-

times in competition with Mennonite Home residents. One year they had a "Precious Treasures" evening, when residents could show very old things or possessions that had special emotional attachments. By far the best known of their activities is the annual chicken barbecue.

Barbecue Fellowship Day

At the first barbecue on September 8, 1973, the Auxiliary originally planned to serve five hundred guests. They doubled that number when key ladies reported ticket sales. When the day came, they served more than 1,350 people and sold another two hundred chicken halves. Since the emphasis was on fellowship, there was no provision for take-outs. When people asked to take out their dinners, the ladies quickly packed meals in empty cupcake boxes. Today a special take-out committee serves at a pick-up station at the entrance of Unit F. In 1994 a total of 3,480 chicken halves were sold. One resident had forty-five members of her family "home" for dinner.

Proceeds from the barbecue have purchased "plus" items for Landis Homes, among them the Dodge mini-van, the 25-passenger bus, and the mini-van equipped for wheelchairs. Nurses are grateful for the whirlpool lift for Unit D and for additional wheelchairs. Other gifts from the Auxiliary include beauty shop equipment, plants, pictures and furniture for lounges.



Curtis Johnson with bus purchased in 1988.

Residents attending programs in East Bethany appreciate the new organ, the upgraded sound system and the large screen video cassette projector. Outdoor gifts include entrance signs, street lights, many trees and shrubs, and the East pavilion.

Other Volunteer Groups

In addition to the Auxiliary and the registered volunteers in the coordinated program, many other groups volunteer their time and services: Sunday school classes, church school pupils, youth groups or families. At times teenagers can be seen weeding and watering flower beds, mulching shrubbery, or washing the Landis Homes vans. Often in the summer, groups take nursing care residents for wheelchair walks. Through the years men have come to help paint, build fence, or clean underbrush from the woods. The Landis Homes staff relies on a number of dedicated drivers to take people to doctors and dentists or to drive the van or bus on shopping trips, to church meetings, or to local cultural events.

The dedication of volunteers—resident and non-resident, individuals or groups, registered or spontaneous—adds a special touch to life at Landis Homes.

A Voice For The Residents

The Residents' Council was organized in 1979. At a meeting on June 7, after hearing guests from the Mennonite Home and Brethren Village describe their residents' councils, the group voted to form a residents' council and to elect a committee to draw up by-laws for a residents' association. On October 16, 135 residents met and approved the by-laws. Eight Council members and eight alternates were chosen by mailbox voting. The Council decided to hold bi-monthly meetings and to designate a Residents' Council mailbox for written suggestions "with those bearing signatures to be given more consideration and weight than unsigned papers."

A Multitude Of Concerns

The first annual meeting of the Residents' Association was held on December 5, 1979. Before long the Council was busy handling sug-

gestions which ranged from "more beans and less ham when ham and beans are served" to "chapel speakers can't be heard" and "the top mailboxes are too high for short people." Residents reported leaking spouts, inadequate outdoor lighting, and too much noise. One person complained that nurses' uniforms were too sheer and too tight. Another thought the cleaning staff wasted time talking. Frequently there were requests for control of speeding cars and motorcycles on Landis Homes driveways. A number of persons expressed concerns about safety,



Alice and Leaman Hershey, 1972.

calling attention to unlocked doors, a stairway without railings and the need for a night watchman.

Others asked for stop signs at intersections, reserved parking spaces, direction signs on the campus, and a metal post for tying horses. They asked questions: "Do residents have a right to erect whirligigs on the grounds?" "May residents plant trees?" "Would it be possible to have a bank and a pharmacy on campus?" and "Could competent advice on investments for older persons be arranged?" Council members took these concerns to the appropriate department or staff persons, often with recommendations for action.

The Residents' Council found so much to do that in 1986 they decided to meet every month and suggested that the Residents' Association should meet twice a year. Beginning in 1985, there were two Association meetings, one for the East and one for the West. In 1987 both groups began to meet semiannually. Board members,

administrators, the nursing staff, social workers, the pastoral team and others were invited to report, highlight their services and answer questions.

Results Of The Council's Work

The Council has brought about many improvements, among them the recycling program, protective bird decals on the windows of the glass corridor, and directional, speed limit and stop signs on the campus. The Council requested that music be played from the towers of East and West Bethany, as well as having lights installed on the spires.

In 1981, at the suggestion of the Council, a series of articles appeared in *Landis Homes News* to acquaint new residents with available services. The *News* is more readable today because they asked that the color of the paper be changed. They requested that the *Lancaster Intell* be delivered by carrier



Luetta Zook, 1994.

Bus Tours

Bus tours began in 1983 as a brainstorm of a new resident, Luetta Zook. Out of her experience as a tour guide for visitors to Lancaster County, she suggested to Ed Longenecker that residents might enjoy a bus trip to see the Christmas lights. Although somewhat skeptical, Ed said, "Give it a try." On December 9, forty-three residents traveled in a 47-passenger Executive coach to enjoy Christmas displays in neighboring towns. The success of that venture led to a full program of bus tours each year. Interesting bus tours are scheduled each year by a committee appointed by the Council.

Residents have ridden on a mule-drawn canal boat at New Hope, the Lewisburg and Buffalo Creek Railroad and a paddlewheel boat on the Susquehanna. They have visited the Seeing-Eye Dog training facility at Morristown, the Land of Little Horses near Gettysburg and the Great Adventure wild animal park in New Jersey. Popular seasonal attractions include, Longwood Gardens in the spring, fall foliage tours and the Christmas displays at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. These are only a few of the interesting tour experiences the Residents' Council offers each year.

A Cooperative Effort

Meeting the spiritual and emotional needs of nearly five hundred residents could be an overwhelming task, but it becomes possible as the pastoral team, social workers, volunteers and Residents' Council work together to insure a full and productive life for all.



Residents' Council Officers 1993-1994: Robert Scott, President, Ruth Balmer, Secretary, Katherine Hershey, Assistant Secretary, and James LeVan, Vice President.

rather than through the mail and that volunteers bring the daily mail from the post office to insure earlier delivery. They urged that more volunteer drivers be licensed to drive the 25-passenger bus.

Encouraging Creativity



Anna Mae Graybill (Schaffer), Annie Gehr, Margie Book, Fannie Brubaker, Della Ebersole, Katie Stoltzfus, Rosa Miller, Harold Reeves, 1966.

Early Activities

From the beginning, the staff encouraged residents in a variety of creative activities. Women were welcome to help in the kitchen and dining room as they would in their own homes, preparing vegetables or setting and clearing tables. Sometimes they went with the staff to pick cherries or strawberries. In springtime groups would gather and clean dandelion greens. A kitchen garden invited the help of those with green thumbs. Flower lovers planted and cared for beds outside their own windows and at the front entrance.

Before there was a crafts room or workshop, quilting and sewing projects were begun in a little room across from the office. In the first summer George found space for shuffleboards in

the basement and asked a resident to paint them. He also encouraged men to use his own wood-working equipment. When residents began walking along the road for exercise, the Advisory Committee approved clearing a path through the woods.

A Life and Activities Committee was appointed in 1966 to help in planning for spiritual and physical activities. Raymond Charles served as chairman. At their first meeting they pointed out the need for more outdoor walking facilities and also for a quiet lounge for reading and writing.

Purposeful Therapy

When Jean Eberly joined the staff in 1966, residents had new opportunities for purpose-

ful activity. Before long she reported that women were active: quilting, knitting bandages, hemming diapers, sewing buttons on dresses, and making comforters, slippers and receiving blankets. One man who learned to knit bandages was taunted by a fellow resident, "You're nothing but an old woman, knitting all those bandages!"

Henry Schaff's reply was quick, "I'd rather be an old woman than an ignoramus like you, just sitting there and looking out the window all day long."

Much of the work the residents accomplished benefited the program of the Mennonite Central Committee. In addition, some residents made things to sell or give as gifts.

A Variety Of Crafts

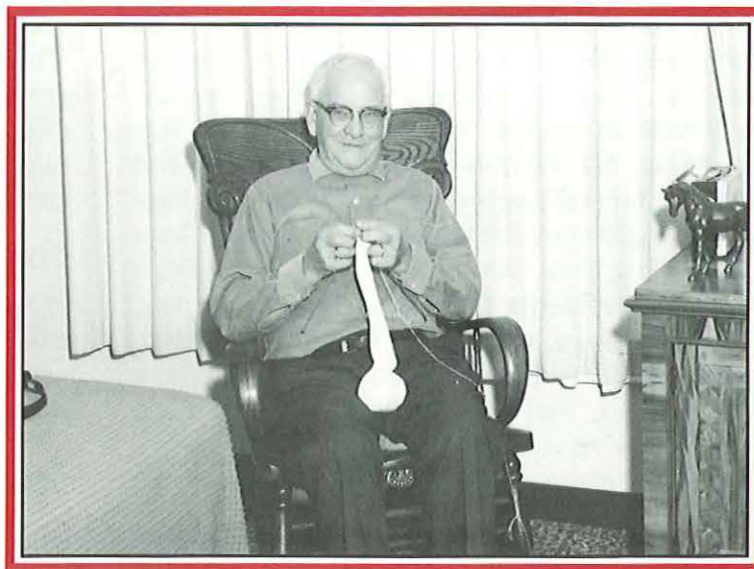
As the number of interested residents increased, Jean introduced more varied activities: making and cutting out flannelgraph figures to be used in Child Evangelism, crocheting bookmarks and doilies, tooling leather belts and wallets, braiding rugs and chair mats and cross-stitching aprons.



Ira Frank and Jean Eberly, 1970

Residents were introduced to a new hobby after ceramics equipment was donated by a friend of Landis Homes. Besides ceramic classes, there were lessons in macramé, decoupage, and candle-making. The renovation and enlarging of Unit D in 1984 provided room for an enlarged Activities Center on the lower level.

With more space, a larger staff and more



Henry Schaff, 1972

volunteers, activities increased. While crafts continued in one room, the other became a center for table games, exercise, sing-alongs, bingo, spelling bees and current events. Coffee and cookies were served during the Activity Hour, from 8:30 to 11:30 Monday through Friday. Sometimes there was "Kitchen Fun" for those who enjoyed cooking and baking. As a special effort to attract men, bowling leagues were organized.

Crafts in the West began in 1980 with resident Marian Lefever assisting Rachel Ritter in organizing projects in sewing and quilt making. Quilting frames were set up in the Multi-purpose Room. When Building J opened, the Community Room became a workshop for crafts as well as classes in ceramics, sketching and painting. More persons were added to the Activities staff as the program developed.

Creative Fun

The Activities staff continues to plan recreational and social activities for the entire campus. In the 1970s there were outdoor games of shuffleboard and croquet. Today the shuffleboard in the Game Room is a popular gathering place for players and fans, and organized tournaments attract campus-wide interest. Game nights in lounges encourage informal get-togethers. Book reading, poetry hour and listening to tapes bring interested persons together.

The staff plans a host of other activities such as breakfast or lunch out, picnics, exercise classes, pool activities, Valentine parties, Mother-and-Daughter fellowships, Fathers' Day programs, fall festivals and Christmas teas and parties. Animal lovers enjoy the kittens and puppies brought in by the Love-a-Pet program. There are spelling bees, information classes and Bible quizzes. Residents participate in talent shows, men's meetings, reminiscing hours and mystery activities. They have enjoyed a baby parade, a ventriloquist, and an antique car show. Each May "Older Americans' Month" features special programs, many of them planned to recall old times.

Trips

In the early days staff members and volunteers took residents by car on short visits to places of interest. Today the vans and the mini-bus offer many chances to get away. Shopping trips are scheduled to Oregon Dairy, Stauffers of Kissel Hill, Lancaster Shopping Center, K-Mart, Park City, Good's Store and downtown Lancaster. The mini-bus takes interested residents to Travelogues, Community Concerts, the Lancaster Conference Annual Meeting and missions conferences. Residents have opportunity to visit such places as Shenk's Ferry, Longwood Gardens and the Hershey Rose Gardens. Frequently they enjoy fall foliage tours, Ocean Grove trips, Black Rock events, and trips to Woodcrest Retreat, the Strasburg Railroad Museum and the MCC SelfHelp Center. Also, the staff drives East and West residents to visit each other.

Today all of these activities are coordinated by Activities Director, Eileen McIntyre, assisted by a staff of six full-time and two part-time employees.

Fun And Fellowship Committee

With the coming of seventy more residents after Building J was completed in the fall of 1988, a Fun and Fellowship Committee was created. The committee, consisting of six residents, assists the Activities staff in providing more and varied programs. They planned parties—"Harvest Moon," Valentine, and Watermelon—

sponsored films such as "Sound of Music" and "Fiddler on the Roof," and brought in music groups like the Moravian Trombone Choir. They raise money for their projects by holding yard sales, to which residents donate baked goods, crafts, plants, or "white elephants."

Spontaneous Activities

Some activities begin spontaneously, like the Scrabble games, a regular activity in East some years ago. One day Ruth Sauder rode through the corridor carrying her Scrabble game.

"Could I interest you in a game of Scrabble?" she asked octogenarian Elam Hess.



Amos Weaver and David Nolt, 1982.

"I never heard of that game," said Elam, "but I'm willing to learn."

After that the two met often and played several games at a time. When Ruth became too busy doing office work for her husband, Elam played with anyone he could find. Sometimes he played by himself with two sets of tiles. He kept records of the scores of every game and listed words he placed or was unable to place.

Elam's enthusiasm became contagious. As others joined him, Scrabble playing became a regular activity in A lounge. A news item in *Landis Homes News* in 1980 describes a record-breaking evening: four games played in one hour and fifty-five minutes with a total score for all games of 2,402.

Bird Watching

From the beginning, nature lovers developed their own activities. From their windows they could watch robins and mourning doves build nests and feed their young. Many residents put up bird-feeders that attracted cardinals, finches, juncos, and a variety of sparrows—song, chipping, white-throat, and, of course, English. No one can miss the songs of the mockingbirds or the cries of the jays. Each spring and fall flocks of purple grackles crowd the lawns. In autumn cock pheasants find a haven from hunters among the bushes near the buildings. The most observant residents spot red-winged blackbirds, chickadees, swallows, bluebirds, killdeer, downy woodpeckers and kingfishers. One year a horned owl found its way into the East courtyard. Even more unusual was the ringed turtledove, a Western United States bird, which appeared for several days one August.

The pond attracts wild geese, mallard ducks and less familiar water birds. One year a resident spotted seven white cranes. Blue herons occasionally appear. In recent years hundreds of black-crowned night herons have been nesting in trees along Lititz Creek in Oregon, just a short drive from Landis Homes. A mallard duck which builds her nest and raises her brood in the courtyard each spring, delights residents in the East. When the ducklings are ready to be led to the water, there is no exit. Staff members or residents come to the rescue, holding open the door to the hall and calling the mother duck, followed by the ducklings, across the hall and through the outer door to freedom.

Other Nature Activities

A path through the woods invites walkers to see May apples, jack-in-the-pulpits, bloodroot, Solomon's seal, toothwort and other spring beauties. One nature lover found trailing arbutus, but refused to tell where, for fear that some insensitive person might pick the flowers. One year two young red foxes were spotted playing around a pile of brush in the woods. Nearer home, one morning a resident saw what looked like a bald head peeping out of the green carpet

in the courtyard. Closer observation revealed a huge puffball, 19 inches in circumference.

In 1993 a Nature Club was organized, which plans monthly meetings and summer field trips. Programs on campus often pay tribute to the wonders of nature. The curator of North Museum gave a slide lecture one year. A geologist showed slides of rock formations in Australia. Other slide shows featured such places as Alaska, Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons, Glacier National Park and the game parks of Africa.

A Library For Book Lovers

The first library was a case of shelves in the Unit B lounge holding books donated by residents which grew to nearly four hundred vol-



Martha Moseman, 1972.

umes. In 1971, when Unit C opened, a room next to the new dining room was set aside as a library-reading room. The Life and Activities Committee asked Martha Moseman to develop the library. First of all, she sorted donated books to weed out textbooks, badly worn copies, or those with very fine print. She kept acquisition records, set up a card file, stamped the books, prepared check-out cards, pasted pockets and arranged the books on shelves. In this task she gratefully accepted the help of Leroy and Mildred Mohn, who offered to do the cataloguing. Among the residents most generous in donating books were the Mohns and the Orie Millers. Orie also gave metal magazine

racks, and the maintenance men made racks for newspapers.

In her October 4, 1973, report to the Life and Activities Committee, Martha Moseman wrote:

Leroy and Mildred Mohn have finished cataloguing the books and are doing excellent work in the library. They are helpful to residents and are respected by them. Residents listen especially well to Mr. Mohn, who has a kind and commanding way about him. Every morning Mrs. Mohn opens a large print devotional book to the daily reading, and places with it a Bible opened at the appropriate Scripture reading. This remains on the library table throughout the day.



Mildred Mohn, 1988.

Dedicated Librarians

When Martha's health made her unable to continue as librarian, the Mohns were asked to take her place. In carefully written reports to the Life and Activities Committee, they described the operation of the library. Not only did they regularly report the number of books in each classification, but they also calculated the percentage of readers in each classification. For donations, they contacted women whose names were suggested by Catharine Leatherman, with "encouraging results both in the form of money and books." The Ladies' Auxiliary and Sunday school classes from various congregations also

gave gifts to the library, among them subscriptions to magazines and newspapers as varied as the *Budget* and the *National Geographic*, the *Gospel Herald* and *Eternity*. In addition, many residents placed their own periodicals in the library. Encyclopedias and other reference books were added to the collection. A large wall map on the south wall and beneath it a bookcase on which stood a world globe contributed to the scholarly atmosphere.

Reading Encouraged

Maintaining a quiet atmosphere for reading and study was a priority for the Mohns. "Reading in the library is always encouraged," they wrote, "and gradually we see more readers and less distracting conversation." The librarians also had to help some residents understand the importance of checking out books before removing them from the library. Forgetful persons sometimes carried newspapers to their rooms, depriving other readers. The choice of books expanded in 1975, when the Lancaster County Library Extension Service began to lend an average of fifty volumes a month, including large-print books.

Growth And Change

When Unit F opened in 1980, a corner of the Multi-purpose Room became the library for residents in the West, with Anna Eby as librarian. Duplicate books from the East library were sent to the West, and many new residents contributed books from their own shelves.

After the death of Leroy, Mrs. Mohn continued her service to the East library for twelve more years. She retired on January 1, 1989, and Margaret Brenneman assumed the position. The Bookmobile from the Lancaster County Library began making visits in April of that year, giving residents opportunity to choose their own books from the traveling library. Recently the Landis Homes libraries have provided a collection of audio cassette tapes which may be checked out. Titles are as varied as "Bach at the Organ," "Bird Songs," or "T.S. Eliot's Poetry."

In 1993 Margaret resigned. Erma Landis, who accepted the position in 1994, is a familiar face at Landis Homes, having served for many years as volunteer coordinator.

Landis Homes News

The Landis Homes News, which began with the purpose of acquainting people with Landis Homes, soon became an important outlet for residents' creativity. The idea of printing a news sheet was born when members of the Life and Activities Committee were considering various means of publicity. The first issue was released at the second Open House on May 3 and 4, 1968, when "an atmosphere of festival prevailed in a spotless and shining Landis Homes." It was a single 8½" x 11" sheet printed on both sides. The eight headings suggest the contents: "Open House," "Did You Know?" "The Staff," "Who Lives Here?" "Landis Homes Is Expanding Again," "Threefold Therapy," "Staff Needs," and "Acknowledgements."

News Editors

Although no editor's name appears on any of the early editions, minutes of the Life and Activities Committee show that Martha Moseman was responsible for its production. In the first year it grew to be three pages folded and stapled to form a six-page booklet. Twice a month residents eagerly awaited each copy of the little paper which reported who went where and who visited whom. News reporters were appointed to gather these items. Residents often sent in quotations or poems and articles borrowed from other sources.


Martha encouraged original articles, suggesting that people should write about childhood memories or recent experiences. She invited board members and staff to contribute. Among the most popular features were the mini-biographies of residents. In the early years Raymond Charles, J. Paul Sauder and Mildred Mohn were active in interviewing people and writing these interesting descriptions. Staff member Catharine Leatherman took many pictures for the News. An early artist was Allen Guntz, who contributed attractive pen-and-ink sketches.

In 1974, when Martha Moseman asked to be relieved of editorial responsibility, Josephine

Landis became the editor, the first of a succession of office staff members who served. With typical Mennonite modesty, the editor's name did not appear on the publication until the April 13, 1990, issue.

An Interesting Variety

Through the years there has been a decreasing emphasis on reports of visits and visitors. "I Remember" articles and resident profiles continue to be popular. At times there have been riddles, puzzles and quizzes. A sample question in a "Who's Who at Landis Homes?" quiz was: "Who equalled George Washington's skill when he successfully threw a stone from the bottom and hit the roof of Natural Bridge in Virginia?"



LANDIS HOMES NEWS
Volume 1, No. 1
May 3, 1968

OPEN HOUSE
Friday, May 3, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 4, 1:30-9:00 p.m.
A sincere welcome to friends and relatives of the Landis Homes family who will be of the home these days. Thank you for taking this opportunity to become better acquainted with the residents, staff, and facilities at the home. We trust your visit will be enjoyable.

WHO LIVES HERE?
A total of 61 persons live in the main building, and 8 persons live in surrounding apartments. The average age of the residents is 79; the oldest is 99. Members of the Landis Homes family represent 12 different denominations.

LANDIS HOMES IS EXPANDING AGAIN
In keeping with the vision of Landis Homes to provide the best possible professional care in a Christian atmosphere for residents or short-term convalescents who need medical care, a second major expansion was authorized.
Plans have been carefully prepared and approved, and construction has begun on a 46-bed infirmary-nursing care unit, which will include single and double rooms and a 4-bed ward. Each room will have a lavatory. It is anticipated that the building may be ready for occupancy by January, 1969.
The facilities will qualify for Medicare and DPA and will include physical and occupational therapy programs. Rates will be based on a weekly charge.
No general solicitation for contributed funds is planned; however, contributions will be greatly appreciated.
We urge our brotherhood to invest capital funds through Eastern Board Church Investment Associates or a Gift Annuity for this building program. Prepaid occupancy annuities for residence in the home are also encouraged. Interest will be allowed and the principal repaid if residence in the community does not develop.
Contributions of labor during construction are also solicited and encouraged.

DID YOU KNOW...
That the idea for a Landis Homes originated in 1961 when an individual gave a sizeable annuity gift for this purpose?
That the first unit with accommodations for 29 people was ready for occupancy in February, 1964?
That a second unit to accommodate 36 persons was built in 1966?
That Landis Homes is owned and sponsored by the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities, Salunga, Pa.?

THE STAFF
George and Grace Leaman are the able administrators. They are assisted by a competent staff team composed of:
1 secretary
1 occupational therapy director
10 full-time nurses
5 part-time nurses
7 full-time kitchen and housekeeping
11 part-time kitchen and housekeeping

Landis Homes News, first issue, May 1968.

Sometimes staff members contributed articles describing their work, administrators described expansion or announced changes and board members recalled history. A series by resident volunteers featured such articles as "A Paring Knife in My Hand," "A Needle in My Hand," or "Time in My Hand." Staff changes, resident admissions or deaths, birthdays, anniversaries — all of these appear.

Change Of Format

What began as a simple list of "Coming Events," which covered less than a page in the 1960s, twenty-five years later had become a six-page "Activities Schedule." Beginning in September 1993, the *Landis Homes News* became a monthly, rather than a semimonthly, publication. Separate activities calendars, one for East and one for West, were printed and circulated each month. Also in the fall of 1993 a quarterly newsletter, *Landis Homes Horizons*, began publication as a way to communicate with the larger community, including persons on the waiting list, families of residents and contributors.

Creative Expressions For Everyone

No matter what talents or interests a resident may have—crafts, games, travel, nature study, reading, or writing—Landis Homes offers a creative outlet. Residents and staff unite to "affirm the importance of retirement years as a vital stage of life during which creative expressions are encouraged, recognized and valued."

LH Landis Homes Retirement Community

HORIZONS

1993

FALL SECURITY • CHRIST-CENTERED CARE • CREATIVE LIVING

Harvest View has Bright Beginning

Landis Homes Retirement Community Board President Clyde Root, Administrator Ed Longenecker, and Board Treasurer Mervin Nalt are the first of many to break ground for Harvest View.

The sky was bright blue and filled with fluffy clouds. The air was crisp and cool after a week of warm, humid weather. It was a perfect day for a new beginning at Landis Homes.

On the afternoon of Barbecue Day, September 11, 1993, about 175 persons gathered on the southwest lawn to break ground for HARVEST VIEW, Landis Homes' new 125-apartment facility. The brief ceremony included a welcome by Administrator Ed Longenecker, a prayer by Associate Pastor Janet Peifer, and a responsive litany led by board President Clyde Root. Then followed the actual spading of earth by administrators, board members and future residents of Harvest View. After much turning of ground, the assembly united in singing "How Firm a Foundation".

The ceremony was preceded by a meeting of future Harvest View residents. Ninety future residents accompanied by friends and family members came together for the first time to begin meeting their new neighbors, to gather information, and of course to take part in the groundbreaking.

Harvest View is projected to be ready for occupancy in early 1995. Seventy percent of the apartments are already reserved. Currently, there is a good selection of one and two-bedroom apartments still available. Interested persons may contact the Admissions Office.

25 Years of Dedicated Service

On October 16, 1993, Ruth Johnson achieved a milestone. Twenty-five years ago on that day she came to work at Landis Homes for the first time. The majority of those years Ruth has served as the Director of Nursing. She has given many hours of dedicated and caring service to Landis Homes residents. She has also given oversight to the nursing program, which has experienced growth and change over the past quarter of a century. Thank you, Ruth, for your loving commitment to Landis Homes.

—Ed Longenecker
Administrator

Horizons, first issue, Fall 1993.

Meeting Physical Needs



The First Kitchen

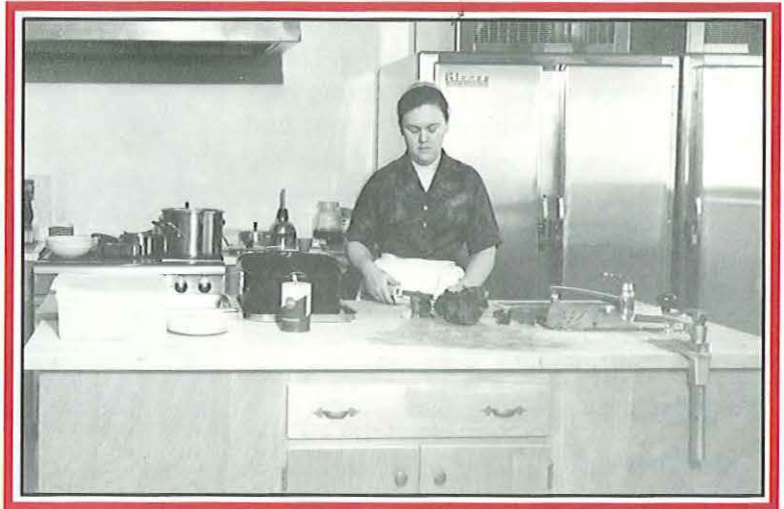
The kitchen is essential to the happiness of every home. Landis Homes is no exception. Thirty years ago the kitchen occupied the area which is now the pantry in Unit A. The dining room was a part of the present lounge. Such small facilities were adequate for a small staff and few residents. In fact, when George and Grace Leaman went with Frank and Betty Enck to Watt and Shand's department store to buy kitchen and dining room utensils, Grace told a clerk, "No large kettles — we would never use them." Grace cooked until Helen Bucher came.

The First Cook

One Sunday morning in the vestibule of Lititz Mennonite Church, Lydia Wenger, the wife of Advisory Board Member Lester, approached Helen Bucher. "Will you come to Landis Homes to be the cook?" she asked. Institutional cooking? The young girl had never done it, although she liked to cook. Helen refused. However, Lydia assured her there would be only a few people to cook for. "Give it a try," she urged. Helen tried it and liked it so well that she stayed for more than five years, leaving in the fall of 1969 to become the cook at the Teen Challenge Center in Philadelphia.

Residents Help And React

The early kitchen had all the informality of a farm kitchen. When nurses or housekeeping staff had nothing to do, they dropped in to help Helen. Residents came in often to shell peas, floss corn, or peel peaches, especially when farmers donated fruit or vegetables. Such gifts were



Helen Bucher (Heurich) in the original kitchen, 1964.

always welcome, but occasionally a surplus of something like squash kept the cook looking for new recipes.

One afternoon each week Grace Leaman and Helen would sit together to plan menus for the following week. As a rule, residents were happy with the meals. "The food is too good," was one comment to Raymond Charles when he was visiting. In the early days, however, there was one person who complained about nearly every meal. Afraid that her work was not satisfactory, Helen asked others and found them appreciative. After Helen left, she was told that the dissatisfied resident's new complaint was, "If only Helen would come back! She used to cook such good meals."

Ready For Anything

Helen's abundant energy was not confined to the kitchen. She was the one who helped George Leaman remove the wet carpet from a resident's flooded room. When George's smooth-soled shoes slipped on the wet floor, Helen caught him before he fell. One day a confused

resident stood along Oregon Road waiting for a bus, and nobody could convince her that no buses would ever come. Helen got out her car, drove down to the road, stopped and said, "I'll take you where you're going." The woman thankfully accepted the ride. Helen recalls, "We drove around the country for a little while, and when we got back to Landis Homes she went to her room without any trouble."

After the staff house was built, Helen moved in and soon became "Mom" to the younger women. One evening they called her to deal with a snake that had found its way into the house and crawled behind the wall heater in an empty room. With a yardstick in one hand, a hammer in the other, and high-topped boots on her feet, Helen prepared to deal with the invader. But the snake poked his head out a few times and then disappeared. The girls never saw him again.

Kitchen B

When Unit B was built, Helen met with George and Grace Leaman and Clyde Horst to plan the layout for the new kitchen. The Leamans supported her request for a walk-in refrigerator and a walk-in freezer in the basement under the kitchen. The old kitchen became a pantry and the old dining room became the central lounge in Unit A. General workers continued to help in the kitchen and dining room as the number of residents grew.

Today Kitchen B, with a staff of seven full-time and seven part-time workers, prepares all the food served in Landis Homes East. Food from Kitchen B is taken to the diet Kitchen in Unit D, which serves the dining rooms in C and D and prepares the trays sent to residents' rooms. The supervisor of Kitchen B is Elta Ebersole, who joined the staff in 1972 after ten years' experience as cook at the Mennonite Children's Home. Her assistant is her cousin, Lois Sauder, who came in 1972 after seven years at the Children's Home. One of their most faithful helpers is Helen Esbenschade, who is in her twenty-fourth year of service.

Excitement In Kitchen B

One afternoon in 1985 Kitchen B staff heard a crash of glass. Helen Esbenschade went to see what had happened. A deer was running



Elta Ebersole and Lois Sauder, 1973.

around the kitchen splattering blood all over the place. It had leaped over a large dumpster and jumped through the kitchen window. Helen opened the door, but the deer would not go out. Instead it ran around the kitchen, getting its legs tangled in chairs, and finally fell down the stairs to the basement. There a game warden rescued it. Unable to tranquilize the desperate animal, he tied its legs together, transported it to the state game lands above Manheim and released it. "From the way it took off, there is a hundred percent chance it will survive," was his comment. Meanwhile, kitchen staff went on with their work and served Saturday night supper (fortunately, an oven-baked meal) on schedule.

The Diet Kitchen

Emma Martin, a diet cook at the Ephrata Community Hospital, joined the Landis Homes staff in January, 1969. After Unit D opened in March, she was responsible for the diet kitchen. Her experience had prepared her well for following exact instructions for the diets of diabetic residents. Even so, she was alarmed one evening when a nurse rushed into the kitchen wheeling a diabetic who was having an attack

and needed food immediately. "I thought she was dying," recalls Emma. "I was sure I must have made a mistake in her diet. After the nurse fed her, she seemed to be recovering. Then the nurse got called away. I saw the patient start to pass out again, so I fed her and she got better. I went home that night and said, I can't work at Landis Homes. I'm not fit to do diets."

The diabetic resident survived for four more years, and Emma survived for more than twenty-four, until she retired in 1993. In her last year of work she had the satisfaction of seeing the Unit D kitchen enlarged and renovated and of helping to organize a new tray line service. Barbara Martin and Edith Horst took over Emma's duties, supervising a staff of twenty-one, nearly half of them full-time. Besides serving the C and D dining rooms, they fill some 130 breakfast trays and about half as many for other meals.

The West Kitchen

When Units F, G and H opened in 1980, Martha Zimmerman moved from Kitchen B

ber of residents eating in the F dining room doubled. The spacious area was large enough to accommodate the new guests, but the dining tables had not arrived. Picnic tables from the pavilion made a satisfactory substitute. The staff also had to scurry to find enough chairs and silverware for the increased population. At the last hour they discovered a shortage of teaspoons. Ed Longenecker came to the rescue, borrowing spoons from the kitchen in his church.

Currently, facilities are being enlarged in anticipation of the completion of Harvest View, when many new diners will join the group. A new feature will be an informal dining room.

Through the years a number of residents have worked part-time in all of the kitchens and dining rooms. Their dedication to their responsibilities is illustrated by a story from the winter of 1978. Early one morning Irene Witmer, a cottage resident, found herself unable to open her door because of a large snowdrift. She crawled out her window in order to report for breakfast duties in the B dining room.



Mary Eby, 1968.

to supervise the new kitchen in Unit F. Some of the equipment was not delivered on time. "It's hard to make pancakes without a pancake turner," observed Martha.

After Building J was completed, the num-

Food Service Director

In 1986 the position of Food Service Director was created. Since 1988 Cindy Hess has coordinated the total Food Service Program, working with kitchen supervisors, planning menus and special diets, ordering food and supplies, attending care plan meetings and working with nursing and other departments as needed.

Because of the increasing numbers of residents in nursing care, the Food Service Director's responsibilities have grown dramatically. That situation, combined with the need to expand dining room facilities in West, made additional management staff necessary. Finding a qualified person with experience in food service in retirement homes proved difficult. As a result, the management staff recommended purchasing food service management from Culinary Service, a company which had already given good help in designing the physical layout of the expanded kitchen and enlarged dining room in Building F. Early in 1994 the Landis Homes Board approved this recommendation. In July 1994, Maria Burdette arrived to coordinate the food service program.

Food For All Tastes

Finding a balance between healthful meals and residents' likes and dislikes has never been easy. In the past the cooks sometimes prepared foods which might not have met a dietitian's approval. A news item in *Landis Homes News* in 1970 read, "The kitchen girls deserve a special word of appreciation for the old-time specials they prepared recently, including schnitz and knepp, fried mush and puddings and apple dumplings." Several years later the *News* reported that the cooks had a party making fasnachts and the residents had a party eating them.

One resident, Mary Bare, nearing her hundredth birthday, told her visiting pastor, "I like everything about Landis Homes but one thing. They don't give us mush and puddin's often enough."



Mary Bare, 1965.

"Perhaps they feel that wouldn't be too good for you," suggested the pastor.

"I've been eating mush and puddin's all my life," retorted the alert old lady, "and it never hurt me!"

Housekeeping In The Sixties

Acheerful housekeeping staff contributes to the home-like atmosphere of Landis Homes.

The first two general workers, in addition to cleaning and laundry, gave all-around assistance to the Leamans and cook Helen Bucher. One of these, Emily Keens, came only three days a week. Working full-time was eighteen-year-old Anna Mary Charles.

The first year brought tragedy to the housekeeping staff. One hot July afternoon in 1964, Anna Mary and nurse Anna Mae Graybill got an urge to wade in the farm pond. When Anna Mary went home to get permission, her mother said, "Yes, but be careful."

The two stepped into the pond and cautiously moved toward the center. Suddenly, when the water was waist-high, they stepped into a hole and sank. Anna Mae was able to get to shore, where she called for help. Several of the Glick boys at the farm came running to the rescue. But it was too late. Melvin Glick found Anna Mary's body and brought it to shore. Residents and staff alike mourned the death of the helpful teenager.

Doing The Extras

In August Eva Martin came to take Anna Mary's place. Five years later Eva described her work:

In addition to the routine cleaning, there are always the unexpected jobs. Sometimes it will be a nurse asking that a certain room be cleaned. When everything seems to be going fine, one of the girls comes with a problem, or maybe a resident says she lost something or didn't get all her laundry back. I always like to help them whenever I can, as I think this is our duty as a staff.

If the laundry woman calls and says she can't come in, we try to work together so that the laundry will be completed as before. Then there are floors to be scrubbed and waxed, windows to be cleaned, linen closets to be kept in order and stocked so things are at hand when we need them. The work here is interesting and I enjoy it very much.

Eva neglected to mention all the extras she did for residents. One woman kept complaining about the cold air she was convinced came from the ceiling outlet of the air-conditioner even when the vent was closed. Eva found a piece of fabric that matched the painted ceiling exactly, brought in a step ladder, taped the cloth neatly over the outlet, and said, "Now you won't

feel any drafts." The happy resident pointed it out to visitors proudly, "Look what Eva did for me!"

She was not the only one made happy by Eva's work. The September 9, 1966, Minutes of the Advisory Committee contain an expression of appreciation for the evidence of clean housekeeping. Later housekeeping supervisors, Sarah Zook and Shirley Smith continued to keep up the high standards.

Keeping Things Spick And Span

Today a staff of fifteen works hard to keep East and West buildings clean. Their supervisor is rarely sitting at her desk in the Housekeeping Office. More often she is slinging a mop or polishing windows. Her subordinates know she is not afraid of the hard jobs. Residents' rooms are cleaned every week and those in the nursing units more frequently. Some need daily mopping. Also scheduled for weekly cleaning are all offices, lounges, dining rooms, activities and crafts rooms, the library and the janitors' room. The chapels are cleaned every two weeks; bathrooms twice a week. One staff person is always on duty for emergency cleaning on Saturday and Sunday.

Floors are waxed once or twice a year with frequent buffing between times to keep them shining. Window washing begins as soon as weather permits in the spring, and the staff tries to clean all windows at least twice a year. Thorough housecleaning occurs once or twice a year, with the help of volunteers from the churches. Then there are the extras: the guest houses, the outdoor pavilion, and cottages or rooms to be cleaned after residents move.

The dedication of the housekeeping staff



Clara Weber, 1982.



Fanny Glick, 1978

is evident in immaculate buildings. One year an observant resident commented after the visit of a state inspection team: "They opened doors and looked into every corner, but they couldn't find any dirt anywhere!"

Laundry Services Yesterday And Today

Fanny Glick, who began work in the housekeeping department in 1965, became the first laundry supervisor. In an article written in 1981 she described her schedule for laundering personal clothing for residents, as well as bed linens, towels, dishcloths, tea towels, cleaning cloths and mop-heads. "Every day," she wrote, "there is a lot of hand ironing, mangle ironing and folding galore." She expressed appreciation for the volunteer menders who came from various congregations each month to mend clothing for residents or to sew on name tags for new residents unable to do it themselves. Among the residents who helped to mend and fold was Irene Shenk, who is still an active volunteer in the laundry and kitchen.

The final step in laundry work is returning clothing to residents' rooms and re-stocking all the linen closets. Perhaps laundry workers do not fully realize the results of their careful performance of duty. An older woman visiting a friend who had recently moved to Landis Homes happened to pass the open door of a linen closet. When she saw the neat stacks of spotless linens, she thought, "If that's the way they do things here, this is where I'm going to retire." Immediately she got an application form and in due time became a creative resident of Landis Homes East.

Today four full-time and six part-time workers supervised by Ella Burkholder provide

laundry service for about 250 residents in addition to washing kitchen linens, pool mats, linens for the guest houses, and cleaning cloths and mops. In an average week they do seven thousand pounds of laundry. About a dozen volunteers come in on a regular schedule to help with mending. Ella's happy smile reflects honest enjoyment in her work as she says, "It's a satisfaction to see cartloads of clean clothing and stacks of clean linens go back to the residents."

Maintaining Building And Grounds

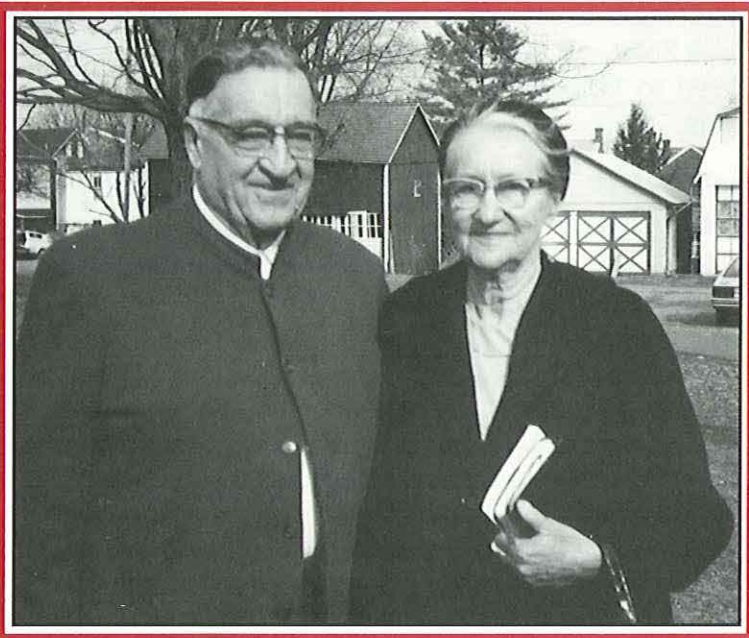
Benches, fountains, a swing, swans and peacocks, paths for walking or biking—all contribute to an inviting environment. Concern for a beautiful landscape was a priority for Henry Shenk, Mission Board member who served on the Landis Homes Advisory Committee. He became maintenance man in 1969, when the first employee in maintenance left after a year. Henry attended to leaks and lawns, painting and plumbing, burning trash and shoveling snow. George Leaman praised his work: "We appreciate his visibility. Repairing things, maintenance, landscaping—you name it—Henry's there, and efficiently."

A resident added, "If something with movable parts malfunctions or quits, see Henry. He'll either fix it or take it away to be fixed, or try to teach you to get along cheerfully without it. This is an art, too."

Concern For The Landscape

Besides repairing anything that wouldn't work and keeping the grounds neat, Henry planted trees, vines and shrubs. His wife Margaret volunteered many hours assisting in planting and caring for rose bushes and flower beds. Each year when Lancaster Mennonite High School held a benefit auction, Henry and Margaret would go early to check out the donated trees and shrubs to be sold. They would find front seats and bid freely. When the pile of purchases got so high that Henry could no longer see the auctioneer, he would carry them away while Margaret took over the bidding until he returned. As a result, the

Landis Homes campus is graced with a variety of plantings: spruce, hemlock, maple, crabapple, dogwood, holly, mountain ash, viburnum, firethorn and honeysuckle. For future landscaping, seedlings from the Lancaster County Conservation Extension Office were planted on the edges of the property: black walnut, white pine, red oak, tulip poplar, white dogwood and pecan.



Henry and Margaret Shenk, 1970's

Work For Everyone

When there was too much maintenance work for one man, Henry welcomed a part-time helper, resident Clarence Nissley. His expertise in electrical work made him a valuable addition to the staff. Clarence's testimony was, "I am glad I can work, specifically to help make this place nice. I enjoy fixing things, make them serve some time longer, and so serve people." Through the 1980s and 1990s, Mervin Landis and Melvin Weaver gave efficient leadership to the maintenance department.

Volunteer workers, many from youth groups or Sunday school classes of area churches, also spent many hours trimming, pulling weeds and planting flowers. Residents and staff members took the initiative in planting and maintaining many of the flower beds around the build-



Esther Good of Good's Greenhouses, 1972.

ings. After the Auxiliary was organized, members came each spring to plant flowers, many of which were donated by local greenhouses. Families or friends of residents often donated trees. The gazebo, with fountain and surrounding rock garden, in the courtyard between Units D and E was a gift from the family of Martha (Mrs. Clayton) Yake.

Cheerful Service Day or Night

Today seven full-time and three part-time workers, under the direction of the Maintenance supervisor, Chris Kennel, keep after routine maintenance. Whether a

drain is clogged or a squirrel climbs a utility pole and trips the transformer, a cheerful man soon appears to take care of the problem. Depending on the season, residents see maintenance men mowing and trimming, spraying and fertilizing, or plowing and shoveling snow. Sometimes they are called to remove wasp or yellow jacket nests. Less obvious are routine tasks like testing fire alarm systems, clearing air-conditioning filters, replacing light bulbs, oiling motors or squeaky doors. Each year there is need for outdoor painting, and often roofs need repairs. When residents move, maintenance men check any need for repairs or replacement of equipment in rooms, apartments or cottages.

Since May 1993, security maintenance men are on duty from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. The nurses, especially, appreciate the additional nighttime staff. Residents can relax, knowing that someone is keeping a watchful eye on buildings and grounds.

Maintenance, housekeeping, laundry and kitchen staff give their best efforts to "provide a home-like environment where individuals may experience freedom, security and joy."



Gazebo given by family of Martha Yake, 1980's.

New Directions

A Dream Realized

“What do I want, sitting here in a field between Neffsville and Lititz?” demanded a resident who had difficulty adjusting to life at Landis Homes. That was in 1965. Her eyes would open wide if she could see that “field” today.

What will people see here in the year 2024 A.D.? More buildings and more residents, certainly. Is there also hope for an enlarged vision?

Everything that has happened here resulted from the visions of dreamers thirty years ago—dreamers who believed enough to introduce a new concept in retirement living, dreamers who had the wisdom and energy to make their dreams come true.

Dreaming Today

Today’s dreamers are suggesting that it may be time to explore further the ways in which Landis Homes might serve retirees. Recently a few of those dreams have been verbalized:

We must examine our faithfulness to the vision of our founders: to provide a community for retired missionaries. Many church workers have worked for little or no pay. We should help them find quality retirement after a lifetime of sacrificial service.

We ought to work harder to make our facilities available to low-income retirees.

Should we bring everyone to this location? Should we discover ways to provide services to aging people who want to stay in their own homes?

Instead of building more and more big buildings, we might supervise retirement living in group homes scattered throughout the area.



Adult Day Care, 1989.

Assisted living centers may be the next direction to expand.

Couldn't we have health services located on our grounds—a medical center, dentists' offices, laboratories, a drug store—instead of driving residents to off-campus offices?

Adult Day Care

One of these dreams is already coming true: to provide services to aging people who remain in their own homes. The year 1989 marked the beginning of an Adult Day Care Program. This center provides meaningful activities for older persons who need a place to stay while caregivers are working or taking a break. By July the facilities had passed state inspection, Evanna Hess had been employed as director, and temporary furniture was in place since the ordered furniture had not yet arrived.

Because the program is a joint venture with the Lancaster County Office of the Aging, County Commissioner James Huber and Pat

Mann executive director of the Lancaster County Office of Aging were present for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Center opened on August 1, with three clients participating the first week. Enrollment increased gradually, until today there are thirty-eight enrolled, not all of whom come every day. The program is licensed for a maximum capacity of twenty-four per day.

Support from the Lancaster County Office of the Aging provides subsidies for eligible participants. Even so, additional funds are needed. The staff has raised money by sale of a cookbook with recipes gathered from residents, staff and friends of Landis Homes as well as from family, staff and friends of Day Care. Other fund raisers are an annual sale of Easter flowers and a benefit golf tournament.

Adult Day Care meets in a pleasant room on the ground level of Building J, where decorations made by the guests contribute to the cheerful atmosphere. At any time one will find men and women playing games, competing in contests, listening to music, doing crafts, cooking or having discussions. They enjoy walking, swimming, field trips and programs by visitors. Among recent highlights were a men's fishing trip and a monologue of the late hymnwriter Fannie Crosby. Adult Day Care participants invite

friends to Christmas parties, Open House celebrations and appreciation teas. For these events they prepare refreshments and make little gifts.

Stepping inside the door of the Adult Day Care Center, a visitor is impressed by the feeling of friendliness and mutual helpfulness which echoes the spirit of Landis Homes. Of special interest is the return of Helen Bucher, now Helen Heurich, the first Landis Homes cook. She is currently one of seven part-time employees in addition to the Director who serve in the center. Supplementing the work of the Day Care staff are twenty-seven volunteers, many of them Landis Homes residents. They take day care guests for walks, help them in the swimming pool, lead sing-alongs, show slides, read stories and poems, assist with crafts and provide transportation.

Reaching Outward

This service to non-residents is one small step in a new direction, reaching beyond our own campus to give Christ-centered care to retirees in the larger community. As staff, board and residents discover new ways of sharing compassionate service, they may see, thirty years from now, the fulfillment of one man's vision: "***a Landis Homes Community without walls.***"

Chronology of Important Events

October 18, 1961 - \$100,000 gift from Graybill Landis
August 10, 1962 - Clayton Landis farm accepted
March 12, 1963 - Name "Landis Homes" chosen
May 1, 1963 - Landis farm transferred to EMBMC
February 1, 1964 - Open house for first buildings
February 18, 1964 - First residents entered
January 16, 1967 - Unit B opened
May 3, 1968 - First issue of *Landis Homes News*
March 10, 1969 - Unit D opened
January 1, 1970 - Resident pastor began work
October 9, 1970 - East Bethany dedicated
June 25, 1971 - Unit C opened
October 25, 1972 - Friendship Community opened
October 17, 1973 - Unit E opened
December 4, 1977 - E. Longenecker installed as administrator
June 7, 1979 - Decision to form Residents' Council
September 29, 1979 - Unit G opened
January 8, 1980 - Unit H opened
January 1, 1982 - Landis Homes became independent corporation
November 1, 1983 - Unit K opened
September 8, 1984 - Twenty-year Anniversary celebration
October 13, 1985 - Dedication of West Bethany
November 1, 1988 - Unit J opened
May 21, 1989 - Twenty-fifth Anniversary celebration and Dedication of Building J
June 13, 1989 - Forney tract purchased
August 1, 1989 - Adult Day Care Center opened
February 2, 1992 - Meadowview Apartments opened
February 3, 1993 - First Northwest Cottage occupied
September 11, 1993 - Ground broken for Harvest View
December 14, 1993 - Public water hook-up to Landis Homes West
January 1, 1995 - Completion of Harvest View

Landis Homes Advisory Committee

1 9 6 1 - 1 9 8 1

(Predates Landis Homes Board of Directors)

Officers

Chairman:

Frank M. Enck, 1961-1966
Sanford H. High, 1967-1979
Luke R. Bomberger, 1979-1981

Vice Chairman:

Sanford H. High, 1961-1966
H. Raymond Charles, 1967-1981

Executive Secretary:

Ira J. Buckwalter, 1961-1981

Recording Secretary:

Lester B. Wenger, 1961-1970
Larry W. Newswanger, 1970-1981

Members

Levi H. Brubaker, 1961-1969
Ira J. Buckwalter, 1961-1981
Frank M. Enck, 1961-1966
J. Mowery Frey, 1961-1974
Charles E. Good, 1961-1981
Clarence H. Harnish, 1961-1980
Sanford H. High, 1961-1980
Adam R. Martin, 1961-1964
Orie O. Miller, 1961-1977
Lester B. Wenger, 1961-1981
Chester M. Steffy, 1961-1981
H. Raymond Charles, 1966-1981
Henry E. Shenk, 1966-1981
Earl B. Groff, 1966-1979
Larry W. Newswanger, 1970-1981
LaMarr Sensenig, 1971-1981
Luke R. Bomberger, 1974-1981
Lynn L. Roth, 1976-1981
Leslie K. Hoover, 1977-1981
Beatrice Hess, 1978-1981
Gladys Rutt, 1978-1981
Harold Nissley, 1978-1981
John K. Denlinger, 1979-1981
Paul K. Graybill, 1979-1981
Mark G. Landis, 1979-1981
Wilbert G. Lind, 1979-1981
J. Donald Siegrist, 1980-1981

Landis Homes Board of Directors

1 9 8 2 - 1 9 9 4

Officers

President:

Luke R. Bomberger, 1982-1987
J. Clyde Root, 1987-1994

Vice President:

J. Clyde Root, 1982-1987
John K. Denlinger, 1987-1989
Paul M. Martin, 1989-1991
J. Kenneth Brubaker, 1991-1994

Treasurer:

Lynn L. Roth, 1982-1984
Mervin H. Nolt, 1984-

Secretary:

Ira J. Buckwalter, 1982-1989
Lynn L. Roth, 1989-

Assistant Secretary:

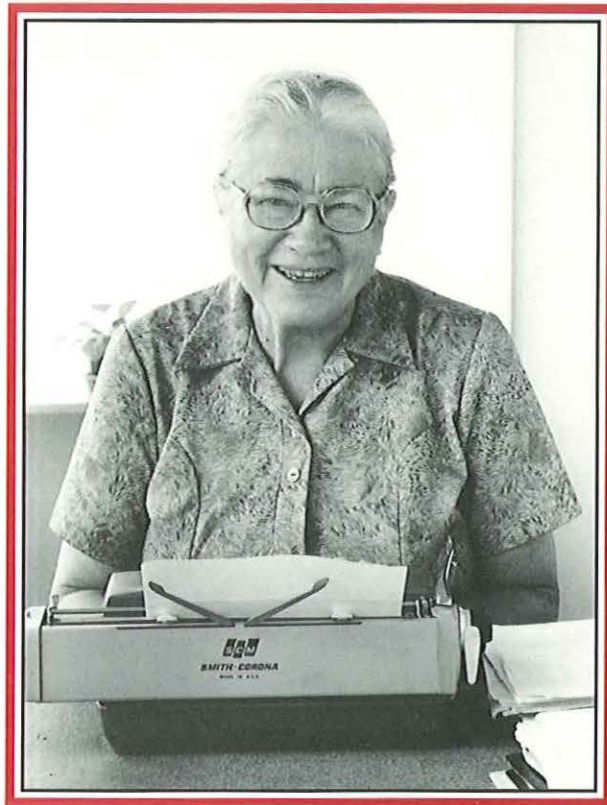
Ruth S. Weaver, 1982-1987; 1991-1994
Rebecca Herr, 1987-1989
Mark G. Landis, 1989-1991

Members

Ira J. Buckwalter, 1982-1992
Chester M. Steffy, 1982-1994
H. Raymond Charles, 1982-1988
Luke R. Bomberger, 1982-1993
Lynn L. Roth, 1982-
Gladys M. Rutt, 1982-1994
John K. Denlinger, 1982-1991
Paul K. Graybill, 1982-1993
Mark G. Landis, 1982-
Wilbert G. Lind, 1982-1985
J. Clyde Root, 1982-1994
Ruth S. Weaver, 1982-1994
Mervin H. Nolt, 1984-
Rebecca Herr, 1985-1991
Harold M. Horst, 1989-
Paul M. Martin, 1989-1991
J. Kenneth Brubaker, 1989-
Lois M. Good, 1991-
Glenn H. Weaver, 1992-
Carlton L. Miller, 1992-
Irvin L. Martin, 1993-
A. Grace Wenger, 1993-1994

The Author

A. Grace Wenger



A. Grace Wenger has been a teacher, writer and historian most of her life. She began teaching in a one-room school. She taught high school English at both Eastern Mennonite and Lancaster Mennonite High Schools. She retired in 1979 from the English Department of Millersville University.

Her own early education was in a one-room school. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Elizabethtown College and Master of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania. Her post graduate studies have focused on English as a second language.

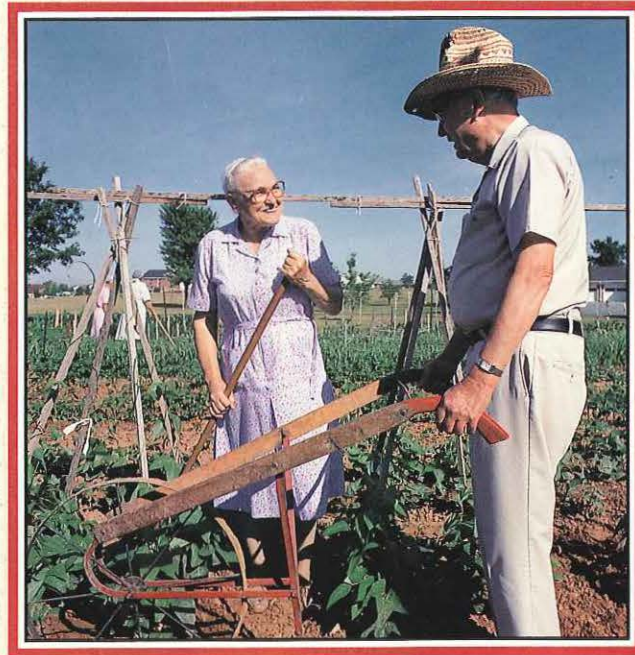
This book is Grace's third historical endeavor in as many years. In 1992 she authored *Frontiers of Faithfulness*, the 275-year history of the Groffdale congregation where Grace has been a member for over sixty years. This year she completed her work on *A People in Mission*, the 100-year history of Eastern Mennonite Missions.

Grace lives in a cottage at Landis Homes and has served on the Landis Homes Board of Directors for the past year.

Landis Homes

S I T E P L A N

Showing Facility Expansion



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*Since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your
marvelous deeds.*

*Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your
power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come.*

Psalm 71:17-18