

# The Village Voice

*Bradford Village, a Brookdale Community*



Resident Spotlight

## Hulda Hamilton Remembers the Early Years of Bradford Village

Issue 6  
August 2016

As the person who has lived in Bradford Village the longest, Hulda Hamilton was willing to share some memories of its early years.



Originally called Oklahoma Christian Home, it was simply a residence for retired women. The residents were quite self-sufficient, as they maintained their own garden nursery and supplied many things for themselves. Bill Hamilton was on the board and the facility was owned by the First Christian Church of Edmond. As years passed, it became a nursing home for women; later it be-

came a co-ed community for both sexes.

As more needs arose, the First Christian Church began building cottages. Six structures were built on Whitwell Circle; they were simple cottages, with carports but no garages. At about the same time, the site we know as the Assisted Living was a private bungalow, built by the owner. When he died, his widow sold it to the Church and the bungalow became the area's first community center.

Hulda had been a widow for 8 years and began dating Bill Hamilton. When he observed her care of her dog "Buck" as she prepared for him to be put down, he saw her lovingly cook the dog's favorite meal, bathe him and care for him. Bill watched and stated: "If you take care of your dog like this, I am quite sure that you will take good care of me." They

were married soon afterwards! As time went on, they became tired of keeping up a home and decided to move to Bradford Village. There were 4 duplexes started in May, 1994 which brought the community to 8 units total; Bill and Hulda moved in November, 1994. About 3 years later, the 4 duplexes on the east side of Jacobs were built. Clella Adams is the only one of the original eight couples who moved into one of those.

In the early years of Bradford Village Independent Living, there were no meals offered and very few planned activities. There was one pot-luck a month, exercise classes 3 days a week and an executive board. Since there were no mail boxes, Hulda and Bill hand-delivered the monthly minutes from the executive board and the monthly calendar to

each cottage--which they did for 12 years.

In the 50 years the First Christian Church owned this community, there were only 3 directors: Reverend Elbert Whitwell, Reverend Harold Enz and Reverend Charles Hattendorf. (See related article: *On the Street Where you Live.*) About 2004, the community became bankrupt and about 2006, American Senior Foundation bought it out of bankruptcy. Brookdale became the managers and later-bought Bradford Village about 2014.

by Sandy  
Binkley



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# Around the Village

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## Meet Hwa Yun Paddack, One of Our Newest Residents

*by Mary Davidson*

What a delight it was to visit with Hwa Yun (pronounced like "HawaiiAn"), one of our newest residents at Bradford Village. She has led a very interesting life.

She was born in Japan to Korean parents. When she was 8 years old, at the end of WWII, on August 15, 1945, she went to Korea, which had regained its independence from Japan. As a young woman, she spent 6 years in the German Embassy in Korea, graduating from the Language College in Korea; she is fluent in German.

In May, 1964, her husband-to-be, Ronald Paddack, went to Korea to teach in the elementary school for the U.S. Department of Defense, teaching dependent children of the American service personnel. After a year, Ronald transferred to Germany. Hwa Yun had left Seoul, Korea and traveled to Germany in 1965, where a mutual friend introduced them. Ronald and Hwa Yun were married on April 6, 1967.

In August 1968, they went to Ankara, Turkey where Ronald taught 6th grade. Their son, Arlie, was born there. They stayed there one year and Hwa Yun said it was a very nice place to live and she enjoyed their time there. The next year, they were sent to Japan where Ronald accepted a teaching assignment with the Department of Defense. Their daughter, Marjorie, was born in Japan. From Japan, they relocated to Waco, Texas where Ronald enrolled at Baylor to pursue his PHD. Upon receiving his PHD they went to William Carey University in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where he was Chairman of the Education/Psychology Department.

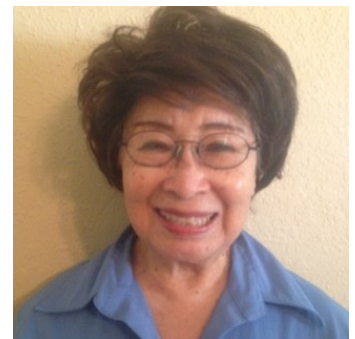
They also spent 2 years in Guam, where her husband taught again for the Department of Defense, serving as Chairman of the Education Faculty. Hwa Yun said that Guam is a beautiful place; however, it is very hot and humid and living expenses were very high.

Finally, in 1976, the Paddacks came to Edmond where he was Founder and Director of the International Students at UCO. She and Dr. Paddack were the first people to welcome new students when they arrived. Hwa Yun says they were "parents" to many students and she continues to keep in touch with many of them. Dr. Paddack spent 30 years in that capacity, retiring in 2006. Dr. Paddack died March 14, 2016. During their time at UCO, Hwa Yun pursued and received her RN degree from UCO.

Their son, Arlie, is a self-employed businessman in Oklahoma City and daughter, Marjorie, is a pharmacist in Dallas.

Hwa Yun is a seamstress, having made most of her husband's business suits on the old treadle Singer sewing machine. However, she says now that she prefers to upholster.

Hwa Yun reports: "I love being a resident of Bradford Village. I'm also thankful to God that I am a citizen of the United States of America."



## Cottagers Had Great Turnout to 4th of July Block Party

About 153 Bradford Village residents and their guests celebrated the red, white and blue 4th of July with a Big Bang Party. Guests included a 3-week old baby (Bob and Marilyn Shewmaker's grandson), a 90+ year old resident from the Health Care Center (Jeanne Peterson) and the Shewmaker's son's family visiting from their home in Germany. Good food and companionship were the ingredients for an evening of fun.

The University of Central Oklahoma fireworks display provided an evening of excitement. Hot weather and clear skies cooperated and all enjoyed themselves.

Special thanks to the residents and guests who helped clear the areas of debris after the festivities.



## ON THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE

New resident Bill Adel asked me one day about how the streets in Bradford Village were named. Here are the answers we found.

**HADWIGER:** Lloyd Hadwiger was an attorney from Cherokee, OK. He served on the Board at First Christian Church and was on the committee to find a locale for the proposed Okla. Christian Home.

**WHITWELL:** Elbert M. Whitwell was the first superintendent of Oklahoma Christian Home and was the director responsible for raising funds for its construction.

**JACOBS:** Norman Jacobs was a professor at Phillips University and pastor of University Place Christian Church in Enid. They were early cottagers; his wife, Alice Ann, began the Stephen Ministry at First Christian Church, Edmond

**ENZ:** Harold Enz was the second superintendent of Oklahoma Christian Home. His wife, Vera, was recognized for her expertise at the organ.

**SPENCE:** Walter Spence was an early cottager, along with his wife Zelma. Walter had worked as a typesetter for a newspaper's financial section and he used the knowledge to learn about the stock market and invested wisely. When they passed away, they left a sizable legacy to the First Christian Church and the Oklahoma Christian Home.

**Information:** Sue Holcomb, Sue Frain, Loree Rice, Bill and Ann Cather. Sue Frain played the piano for the groundbreaking in 1956, and now lives in the first cottage built. It was first owned by Effie Brisben, whose pictures hangs opposite the mail boxes in the Community Center.

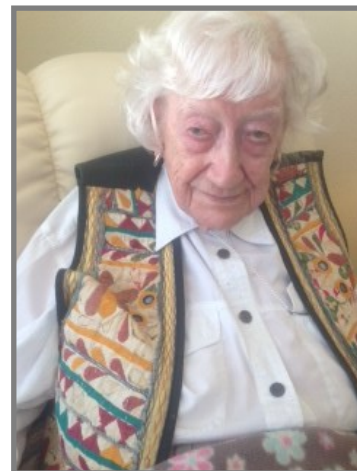


# 100 Years Young

It was recently brought to our attention that there are three ladies who have attained 100 years of age, living at Bradford Village's Assisted Living. These are some of their remembrances.

## Marie Byrkit

Marie Byrkit grew up in Forest, Illinois as the oldest of four daughters. Her father was a railroad engineer; her mother was an assistant post-mistress. After finishing high school, she began teaching elementary school in Decatur, Illinois. She felt the need for further education, so she went to night school to earn a college degree, eventually earning a master's degree.



When urged by her mother to find a husband, Marie replied that she hadn't met anyone who interested her. She attended a Young Professional Retreat sponsored by the Presbyterian Church and met Jack Byrkit. He invited her to attend a movie; it was Sunday and her mother didn't approve of movies on Sunday. Marie agreed to attend the movie, only to confess to Jack later that her mother would disapprove. He was delighted and replied: "My mother will love you-she doesn't approve of going to movies on Sunday either."

Jack, age 28, and Marie, age 27, were married after a year's courtship. They were married 63 years and had three sons. Marie now has 8 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren (with another due in August).

After a career as an auditor for a trucking company, Jack retired and they moved to Edmond. They lived in a Bradford Village cottage for 16 years and Marie has lived in the Assisted Living for 2 years. "I've lived a blessed life, having lived 63 years married to a good man, and raising happy, successful sons and grandchildren" Marie reported.

### Secrets for Longevity:

- Live for each other
- Practice a Christian life, including tithing
- Follow a good cookbook!



## Mona Baird

Mona Baird will reach her 100th birthday this fall! Mona was born in November, 1916 in Quanah, Texas, one of six children in the family. She remained in Quanah through high school, graduating in 1935 during the Depression. She recalls that her father, as a rural mail-carrier, always was able to feed his children. Her mother had a soft heart for the hungry men who knocked on their door and she gave them food.

Phillips University was her destination after high school, where she earned a degree in Christian Education. She met Scott Baird while at Phillips and they married in 1942. His calling as a minister took them to

(continued from previous page) Blytheville, Arkansas—a long was from home. Their Ford car took them home occasionally, however. They served there a year, then went on to serve churches in the Shawnee and Oklahoma City area.

The couple had 1 daughter and 3 sons, who have given them 6 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. When their children went to college, Mona started teaching elementary school. She taught in Oklahoma City and Shawnee, then spent 5 years as the Head Start supervisor for Pottawattamie and Cleveland Counties.

The Bairds lived in a cottage at Bradford Village for 22 years and she has been in the Assisted Living about 2 1/2 years. Her long-time dream is soon to be realized: later this month, Mona is going to Tulsa to have a Hot Air Balloon ride!

### **Secrets for Longevity:**

- Good health
- A good family
- Have a concern for others
- A positive attitude
- Choose a wonderful husband

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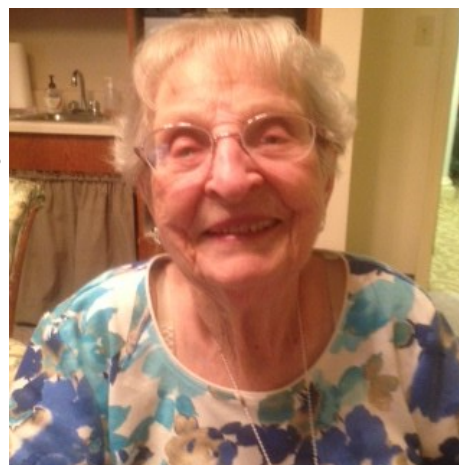
## **Dorothy Messenger**

Dorothy Messenger was born in Dallas in 1915 and raised in Ft. Worth, Texas. She is the oldest of four daughters, and the only one who graduated from college. She earned a degree from Texas Christian University, where she met her husband, G L "Andy" Messenger. After living with her parents for a year ("no money"), they went to Chicago, Illinois, where Andy earned a master's degree and Dorothy worked as a secretary.

The couple had three daughters and two sons; one daughter lives in Edmond, one son lives in Maryland and the rest have lived in Switzerland for 27 years. They have seven grandchildren, twelve step-grandchildren, one great-grandchild and two step-great-grandchildren.

Andy Messenger's career took the family to churches in Texas, where he ministered in Canyon, Center and Denton. They spent five years at a church in Peoria, Illinois, then went to three churches in Oklahoma for most of their service. They spent 12 years in Stillwater, 13 years in Bartlesville and some time in Woodward. Dorothy was busy in all these places teaching small groups in churches state-wide. Her service was mainly in training teachers.

Upon retiring, Andy and Dorothy moved to a cottage at Oklahoma Christian Home in 1991. After having a stroke last year, she moved into the Assisted Living Center at Bradford Village. She still has a computer and enjoys watching television, mainly the news. She did all her finances on the computer until 1999. She still writes letters to the editor.



### **Secrets for Longevity:**

- 3 meals a day and good sleeps
- Good times
- Keep interested in world events

## **Chaplain's Corner by Jim Davidson**

**“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”**

**~ Psalms 46:1**

When we put our problems in God's hands, He puts His peace in our hearts.



## MyBradfordVillage.net : A Go-To Resource for Resident Needs

I would like to thank you for your interest in MyBradfordVillage.net. I enjoyed introducing it to you after lunch on July 25. If you were not able to attend, or have questions, please check out the “how to” videos on the site. You can find them at <https://www.mybradfordvillage.net/site-training/>. Of course, you are welcome to call me if you need assistance. I’ll also be offering beginner and intermediate user classes in August. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Community Center.

It is my hope that, in time, MyBradfordVillage will become the “go to” resource for Bradford Village residents’ information needs. It is already maintaining and producing the Independent Living Resident Directory and phone list, as well as the Management Team Directory and phone list. As of this writing, we’re adding Assisted Living residents to the site as well.

Don’t forget that your family members may also join the site and become “Virtual Residents” of Bradford Village. In fact, Eric will be hosting a reception for them on Thursday, August 4 at 4:00pm. We’ll be demonstrating the site for them, much as we did after lunch recently. If you have family members who cannot attend this event, please suggest that they visit <https://www.mybradfordvillage.net/become-a-virtual-resident/> and request an account.

As you and your family use MyBradfordVillage, I’d love to hear your suggestions for the site. What features can we provide to help you better keep in touch with your loved ones and the community in which we reside? We’ve got some ideas in progress, but I’m sure you’ll have some great suggestions to help the site develop. Please post your ideas in the “Upcoming Features” forum on the site, or email them to [bradfordvillageweb@gmail.com](mailto:bradfordvillageweb@gmail.com).

Finally, I’d like to thank Eric for his support of this project. When I first suggested it to him, he was quite enthusiastic about the idea. Another Brookdale community has a resident-developed web site, and Eric arranged a telephone conference with its developer so we could get some insight to their experience and the goals for their site. We found that their site was well-planned and organized, but is more of a static reference. Our goal for MyBradfordVillage was to build something dynamic and interactive. I hope we’ve succeeded. —*Robert Drummond*

### Family and Friends Workshop

Thursday, August 4 @ 4pm \* Community Center

Please RSVP to Caitlin at [ccairns@brookdale.com](mailto:ccairns@brookdale.com) or call 405.341.0810 x2284

### THE 2016 “WALK TO END ALZHEIMER’S”

Last year a last minute effort by IL included four resident walkers in the Bradford Village team of seven. We came in fourth out of over 300 teams in donations with \$7,890. This year we are organizing a community wide effort and anticipate there will be participants from all three of our communities for the walk on September 24th. It is a great opportunity to show our concern for family, friends and fellow residents who suffer from this awful disease. If you can walk two miles, join the team. It is a fun and rewarding experience. All others can show support by donating to the team or a team member. Dick Thomas says it will take him 4,000 steps and would love to know that each step brings him at least 25 cents in donations. Watch for other novel and exciting ways to show that you care. Our associate teams leaders and Dick want to make it a banner year! —*Dick Thomas*