

## Summerfield Sentinel Summerfield Assisted Living

& Retirement Community



### RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: Lowell Dahl

Lowell Conrad Dahl was born in September, 1928 as the first child of Conrad and Rita Dahl. He was raised with two sisters and three brothers. Growing up in West Jordan, Midvale and Union, Utah, Lowell had a variety of chores working with the family. He also did summer work at relative's farms and acquired many skills. One job he had that captures imagination was the time he spent running a delivery service riding a motorcycle. He kept the motorcycle running himself and even rode it to college before finally selling it.

Lowell attended Jordan High School. He played in the band, learning the clarinet and saxophone. He also played in a small combo with friends for some of the many dances popular in that era.

The highlight of his years at Jordan High was meeting his pretty red-headed sweetheart, Ila Mae Fairbourn, from Crescent, Utah. They both graduated in 1946. They were married in August, 1949 in the Salt Lake Temple. Together, they raised three sons and three daughters, who have given them 29 grand-children, 64 great-grandchildren and 1 greatgreat grandchild to date. Ila Mae passed away in December, 2013 after 64 years together.

Lowell graduated in Civil Engineering in 1950 from Utah State University. Having been in the R.O.T.C. in college, he was called to serve his active duty commitment from 1954 to 1956, serving in California and Alabama. Even though they now had two young sons, Randy and David, Ila Mae went with him so the family could be together. He stayed in the Air Force Reserves for another few years, reaching the rank of Captain.

After his discharge from active duty, the family returned to Rawlins, Wyoming. Two daughters, Janell and Annette were born there. We lived in Rawlins until 1962 when we moved to Boise, Idaho where daughter Sandra and son Jason were born.

Lowell worked for the US Government for 35 years, mainly for the Bureau of Land Management. He worked in Utah, Wyoming and Idaho. He would work on the design of large earth fill dams and then travel out to oversee the

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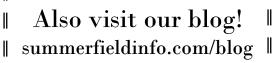
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construction. Sometimes, family members could go out with him, though this was limited by regulations. He spent the first half of his career in construction related engineering. Later, he could see the values of computers to automate the calculations. He taught himself to program and later taught others. He retired in 1985 as the head of the Data Processing of the BLM for the State of Idaho.

Lowell and Ila Mae both shared a love of music. They sang together in duets. They bought a piano while living in Rawlins and over the years, all of the children took some lessons. Lowell played a lot by ear. He would read or memorize the melody then accompany himself by chording the accompaniment. He also took a harmonica with him on the long drives to and from his construction sites. He would play it to stay awake. Sometimes he would play it at home to his family's delight.

He expanded his repertoire to the organ, mastering first a Thomas organ, then a Lowrey organ he played for relaxation and music appreciation. He made demonstration recordings to share and also played mini-concerts for any who came to visit. He spent many hours in retirement playing the organ.

In Rawlins he had more time to explore a lifelong interest in photography. He set up a "dark room" in the basement and took lots of pictures in the field as well as designing Christmas cards, taking custom pictures for others and documenting our family trips and growth. He followed this interest for 40 years.

Another interest that blossomed was a love of model railroading. A Christmas gift of a Lionel train to the boys blossomed to a full layout with scenery and scale cars, towns, farms and more. Over the years, Lowell built three different detailed layouts. These were multi-train layouts with painted backgrounds and many working yard equipment models. The trains that provide the decoration for his room at Summerfield are from his last layout.

Lowell learned to work hard for what he needed. He has always been an example of hard

work and ingenuity. He has applied his problemsolving skills to improve his surroundings through home improvements, home repairs and new gadgets to make life easier for him and his family. He made numerous upgrades to the Boise home by adding a patio, fencing the yard, adding cabinets, finishing out the garage with another "dark room," and a room for model railroading which eventually became his computer room. He even tackled re-roofing the house after he retired.

Ila Mae and Lowell served in the Boise Idaho Mission during 1989-1991 as the office couple. There, Lowell put his computer skills and clerical background to work. He also cultivated a strong relationship with the Mission President, Howard Barlow, which continued after their mission when Ila Mae and Lowell moved to Orem in 1991. Lowell helped with a family website and other projects.

Lowell stayed busy in retirement. He assembled the computer lab at the Orem Senior Citizen's center and taught classes. He helped people organize their family history work. He took the mystery out of the computer for many. He even made house calls. Friends began calling him Dr. Computer. The nickname stuck and he enjoyed the friendships.

Lowell enjoyed taking Ila Mae on long drives in the mountains. They were season ticket holders at Hale Center Theatre. One year, they photographed and documented a Church History tour they took hosted by Elder Paul H. Dunn.

Lowell continued building things to make life easier. As it became harder for him to get around, he acquired an outdoor scooter which he adapted to allow himself to move his garbage cans, shovel snow, and worked on a sweeper for the driveway. He equipped the house with cameras so he could answer the door. He tried hard to make the house livable as long as he could.

Now at Summerfield, Lowell appreciates the good care and still works hard at solving problems of getting around and would love to help more. His engineering mind just keeps on churning out ideas.

### Father's day BBQ Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>

Summerfield Retirement would like to invite all male residents & their families to our Father's Day BBQ!

Come have fun in the sun and enjoy food, games, and good company!

### Friday June 16, 2016 12:00pm Riverview Park 4620 North 300 West Provo, UT 84606

Please **RSVP** by **Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> 801.434.7581** 

If transportation for residents is needed, please inform Linda or BreeAnna when you RSVP.

Summerfield Birthdays

### <u>Manor</u>

Lucille Rawcliffe – June 4<sup>th</sup>

### <u>Staff</u>

Cahntel Perucca – June 3<sup>rd</sup> Floyd Davis – June 5<sup>th</sup> Cathy Fuller – June 16<sup>th</sup> BreeAnna Fletcher – June 25<sup>th</sup> Toni Smith – June 28<sup>th</sup>

## History of Father's Day

Sonora Dodd had the idea of Father's Day while she was listening to a Mother's Day sermon in Spokane, Washington in 1909. She wanted to honor her own father, William Smart, who was welldeserving of a special day as a widowed farmer left alone to raise his six children single-handedly.

A short year later, residents embraced the idea so warmly that by June 19, 1910 the first Father's Day celebration was proclaimed in Spokane because it was the month of Dodd's father's birth.

Decades later, the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers was issued in 1966 when President Lyndon Johnson designated the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

Father's Day in America has been officially celebrated annually since 1972 when President Richard Nixon signed the public law that made it permanent.

Due to her efforts, Sonora Dodd is known today as "the mother of Father's Day".



# Summerfield Assisted Living & Retirement Community

911 North 800 West Orem, Utah 84057

Phone: (801) 434-7581 Fax: (801) 802-9078 Visit us on the web at: summerfieldinfo.com

Making our community feel like home is more than our business ...

t's our mission!

## Beauty and Barbershop Shop Hours:

## Kathy Gadd

801-980-7900

Tuesday 9:00am-12:30pm Wednesday 9:00am-3:00pm Thursday 9:00am-12:30pm Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

### Sarah Landau

435-817-3744 Friday 10:00am-5:00pm

#### Athena Jones

(Manicures & Pedicures) 801-618-9482

Call or Text for Appointment

# Transportation Services

We offer transportation to doctor's appointments on **Tuesdays & Thursdays** from 9:00am to 2:00 pm. If you have an appointment, please notify our driver at 801.234.0232. Our driver must be notified 48 hours in advance.

