

McIntosh Senior Living History

Gertrude and Magnhild Husby began providing care to the elderly in their large family home 1940. In 1943, they purchased the Ohnstad Hospital and established Sunset Home and it was the first licensed nursing home in Polk County with ten residents. It was then leased to Mr. and Mrs. George Vaatveit and operated for two years as the Vaatveit Old Peoples Home. In October of 1945, the nursing home it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Walla, who were unable to operate the home, themselves. Mr. and Mrs. John Ramse managed the business until December when Miss Paula Iverson and Miss Emma Twedt, both registered nursing nurses with experience at House of Mercy in Fargo arrived as managers. They purchased the facility in February of 1946 and dedicated it as "Rest Haven Home for the Aged." In 1952 the Husby sisters encouraged Rev. Elmer B and wife, Anna Holt to take over the nursing home. With Anna as a registered nurse and the Rev with management skills and pastoral care, they purchased the business and were soon joined by Bertha Mathison, LPN who was Anna's sister. Occupancy in the nursing home was increased to 16. The kitchen and living areas were enlarged and sprinkler system was installed for fire protection.

In 1959, the nursing home name was changed to McIntosh Nursing Home, when Mr. and Mrs. Lorimer Torgerson purchase the home and ran it for six years when Mr. Torgerson died. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Odell and the Rev. and Mrs. Phillippe took over ownership. These new owners began a project of expansion and extensive remodeling with an entire wing was added allowing for a 76 bed facility and the name change to Mac Manor. Following the death of Mr. Odell, the Phillippe's sold their interest to Mrs. Frances Odell and her family.

In 1983, construction began for a new facility located at the north end of McIntosh on Riverside Ave. The spacious new building was completed in 1984. It featured three resident wings accommodating 80beds and a fourth wing for offices, lobby, activity room, dining room, kitchen, laundry and heating plant. In 1985 an additional nine beds were added through internal design changes.

In 1987 all of Mac Manor's licensed beds were upgraded to the skilled care service level. In 1988 a waiver was obtained from the State Health Department to construct a locked unit within the existing building for the care of those with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. This wing was known as "Memory Lane" and was home for 24 residents once construction was complete with adding a nurse's station, new dayroom and dining area to the end of the south wing.

Records are missing of the facility by an interim company. I can tell you what staff can remember.

In 1999 the facility became a nonprofit facility and became the corporation of Foundation for Rural Health. This corporation owned four different facilities, Mac Manor, Crestview Manor in Evansville, MN, Pelican in Ashby, MN and a facility in Cannon Falls, MN.

At this time, Bob Odell and his girlfriend, Coral Blaze were running corporation. I have been told that bills were not paid and census went down for all facilities. Cannon Falls was the first facility to close and unsure of the date. Pelican in Ashby closed in 2008.

They are unsure when nursing home beds were decertified as well as having 20 beds on lay-a- way.

In 2006 Mac Manor became a Special Focus Facility. There was major debt in the amount of \$4,000,000.00 for Mac Manor as the surcharge was not being paid.

In August or September of 2008, the Foundation for Rural Healthcare board members abandoned the corporation. The facility was left with no known addresses for correspondence.

An interim Administrator did however recruit a new Director of Nursing, Tricia Hove and an Assistant DON, Deb Solheim who started in September of 2008. They were also able to recruit front line staff to start to make change in the facility. On January 12th, 2009 the DON recruited Sharlene Knutson as Assistant Administrator. This was basically the same day that Mac Manor went into receivership and was managed by Eldercare of MN. There were community members who were concerned for the welfare of the business. Numerous meetings were held in regards to the future of Mac Manor. The community members, Steve Haaven, Virgil Lerfald, Daryl Johnson and Bernie Marshall were in attendance of these meetings exhibiting interest in the welfare of the 29 residents and the 68 staff which was the largest employer in McIntosh.

These four members recruited five other concerned community members, Roxanne Stordahl, Jered Agnes, Russ Horacek, Joan Kasprzak and Rudy Finseth to establish the nonprofit organization, McIntosh Senior Living and on June 17th 2009 the first organizational meeting was held with Sharlene Knutson, Assistant Administrator and Trent Fischer, Fischer Law Office present.

On September 23, 2009 the Mac Manor business was purchased by McIntosh Senior Living nonprofit organization. McIntosh Senior Living received funds from the USDA to purchase the building.

December 1st 2009, we received notice that McIntosh Senior Living was removed from the Special Focus Facility list in a matter of one year with new staff managing the facility. This was a great accomplishment.

The facility motto is "Dedicated to Quality Care".