

the *Charm*

The Helen Purcell Newsletter • 2020

Helen Purcell

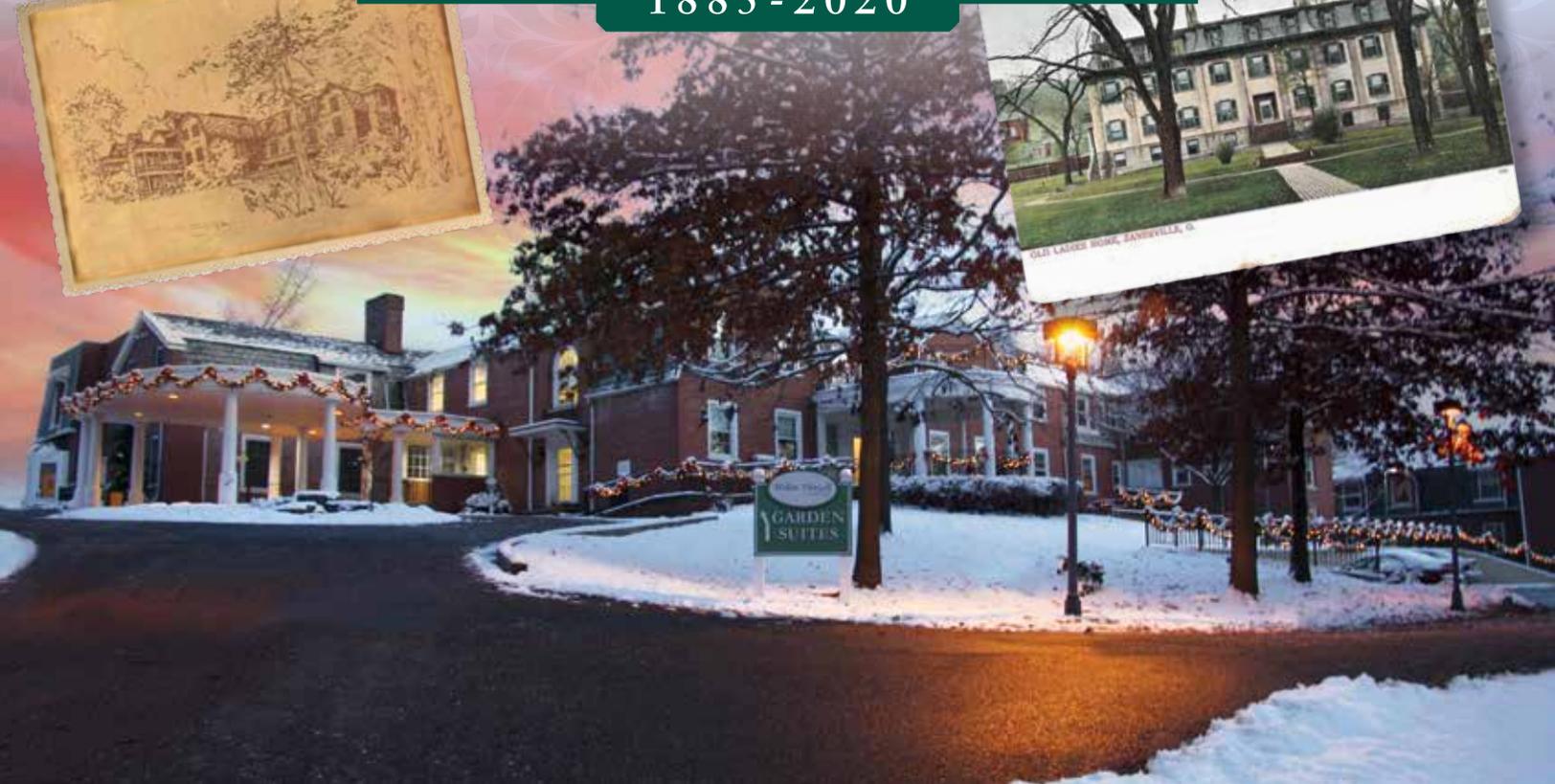
CELEBRATING

135

YEARS

AUTHENTIC LOVE, LEGENDARY CARE

1885 - 2020



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The Charm *The Newsletter of Helen Purcell*
Published by Helen Purcell Southeast
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Cover Worthy...

The wording on the back of the 1977 post card reads as follows:

"The Helen Purcell Home 1854 Norwood Boulevard, Zanesville, Ohio 43701 was named for Miss Helen Purcell who directed by her will, that a retirement home for ladies be established. It was chartered Nov. 7, 1885, and began operations May 17, 1905, and moved to the present address from the Putnam Seminary in 1937. In 1977 it was expanded to the present capacity of 74 residents."

While the building and location has changed over the past 135 years, the reputation, tradition, and heart of The Helen Purcell Home remain the same. While not taking away from the traditions that Miss Helen Purcell established, some have been added. The Helen Purcell Home is assisted living that now accepts men as well as women. In meeting the needs of the community, the Helen Purcell Home offers assisted living with a la carte services in our Garden Suites and Legacy Living options, and health and memory care in our Shinnick Center.



To: Our Wonderful Community

It was the American patriot, Thomas Paine, who coined the phrase “these are the times that try men’s souls”. Mr. Paine was speaking of much different circumstances, and in a much earlier time, yet the phrase seems to fit our current situation very well. There is no shortage of worry, concern, and stress in our world today.

This year we are celebrating our 135th year of caring for folks in our community.

As trying as these times are, we have experienced many other eras of worry and concern during the years we have been in existence. The Spanish Flu Pandemic, World War I and World War II are just a few times in our past when I feel certain the level of concern was perhaps even greater than the ones we are experiencing now. We have also conducted our business through many changes that were more positive in nature and ones we take for granted today. These changes included such things as the inventions of the automobile, airplanes, television, talking motion pictures, computers, cell phones, the internet and yes, even Coca-Cola. I think you can agree we have experienced much during our 135-year history.

We are proud of our history and thankful to those who came before us as well as those who are helping us maintain and build on those traditions we still hold dear today. Perhaps our greatest tradition is providing not only great care but loving care to the folks who call Helen Purcell Home. Another tradition is to put our residents first when making decisions that impact them. We have many other traditions such as decorating for Christmas, celebration of birthdays, preparing our grounds in the Spring, the blooming of the daffodils and cookouts in the summer. These traditions are important to us because they have been developed with the enjoyment of our residents in mind.

We were planning a year that included several events that just will not work well in this time of social distancing. However, even without the events we plan to celebrate in a more modest way, the traditions that have been ingrained in our culture over the past and continue to be developed today.



Sincerely,

Vince Durant

Executive Director of Helen Purcell

A Look Back...

There Was A Lot Going On At Helen Purcell... To Say The Least

The history of Helen Purcell in the Zanesville area is full of interesting bits. The following story is probably one of the most ironic and now humorous, while it may not have been so humorous in 1923. One community tradition was that of the Harvest Home Day of which many Zanesville residents gifted the residents of Helen Purcell with canned fruits, jellies, vegetables, and household supplies. It appears that while gifts of the bounty were coming in the front door of The Helen Purcell Home, the Helen Purcell maintenance person had a product of his own to share out the back door.

Two articles, side by side, in The Times Recorder appeared on November 7, 1923. The first article is written as follows:

A Jelly Shower At Purcell Home

“A jelly shower was given Monday evening at the Purcell home by the members of the Margaret Williams Sunday school class, of the Central M.E. church. An information program was given, preceded by a devotional service.”

The second article is paraphrased as follows:

Two Men Sentenced To the Penitentiary On Liquor Charges

Two men were sentenced to the Ohio penitentiary for not less than one year nor more than five; to pay a fine of \$500 and pay costs in their cases on Tuesday, having several days ago been found guilty of manufacturing distilled liquor. The sentence was passed by Judge C.C. Lemert in common pleas court and the men taken back to the county jail until taken to the penitentiary. No part of the time there is to be in solitary confinement.

One man was employed at the Helen Purcell home and in a raid on his quarters there, officers found a still, mash and corn whisky. Three other found guilty of manufacturing distilled liquor were sent to the penitentiary from Muskingum county last week.

So, it appears, that while jelly was coming in the front door, corn whisky was going out the back door.

How Miss Helen Purcell Truly Looked Remains a Mystery

Many times we have been asked the question; “What did Miss Helen Purcell look like?” While there are no pictures or illustrations of her that we are aware of, there was this “sketch” of her written by her friend Dr. McElroy.

“The following sketch of Miss Purcell’s life was taken from her own life by Dr. McElroy several years before her demise. In person Miss Purcell was very slight, 5 feet 5 1/2 inches in in (sic) height and weighed about a hundred pounds. She had few personal attractions, having obliquity of the right eye, and was very short sighted. Had difficulty on recognizing persons on the street. In reading held book or paper very close to face. Had lost all her natural teeth, but wore artificial dentures. Hair very fine, lightly sprinkled with gray. Her manners very pleasant but very modest and retiring. Her dress was very plain. She was a very devoted student of the Bible having read it through thirty-two times during her life.”



Sincere Gratitude to our 2019 Donors

Helen Purcell would like to take this opportunity to express their gratitude to those who made donations in 2019. Those donations will be used to continue the Helen Purcell legacy of Legendary Care and Authentic Love.

Donations of \$1,000 or more result in the donor being honored on the Donor Wall of Honor at Helen Purcell.

Your tax deductible gift to Helen Purcell may be sent to:

Helen Purcell
1854 Norwood Blvd.
Zanesville, Ohio 43701

Or by way of Pay Pal at
www.helenpurcell.org

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In Memoriam for Fred Deitz

Martha Gross

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Frederic Grant

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Pete and Judi Peterson





While the days of “Jelly Showers” at Helen Purcell have passed, traditions remain, like our devotional services and the Lady Managers’ Birthday Teas, and the Life Enrichment Department continually adds new events for our current residents’ interests.

Loving





Life

at Helen Purcell



Helen Purcell

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