

HONEYVILLE DEWEYVILLE

DEWEYVILLE

CORINNE PLYMOUTH

"Welcome to Deweyville"

Couple claims "official greeters" title

Ellen Cook
Leader Editor

Deweyville is a great place to live. Just ask Jack and Barbara Rindlisbacher.

The couple has spent the last 37 years of their lives enjoying the close-knit community they call home. In fact, they feel so strongly about "one of the best cities in Box Elder County," that they have become its official greeters.

They more or less coasted into the role about 15 years ago when Jack, a retired educator, past mayor and a former LDS bishop, noticed that some people "seemed to get lost" after moving into the community. "No one knew them and no one cared about them," he said.

He and Barbara, who had also been a teacher, decided they were the ones who could do something about the perceived problem. But both readily admit being outgoing is way out of their comfort zones. "I am basically a bashful soul," Jack contends, but added that taking something "in hand" gives him a reason to go and makes the visit easier.

So armed with treats, or what Jack calls "my vehicles," the two began doorbell ringing at the homes of all the town's new arrivals. The welcoming committee of two became so popular that in 2002, they received the official "town greeters" title, given to them by then mayor Jim Poulson.

Today the pair is quick to drop in whenever they hear about someone who is new to Deweyville.

Barbara said they try to watch for moving vans and unfamiliar vehicles at rental homes and neighbors are good to let them know where the latest move-ins are.

But treats aren't the only things this couple delivers. Barbara has prepared a folder containing all the important information anyone new to the area could ever need, from local government officials and their phone numbers to addresses of churches and their meeting schedules. She said she makes up about a dozen each year and they usually all get handed out.

The Rindlisbachers don't often come away from those home visits empty-handed either. Barbara keeps a notebook of basic information she collects, like family names, birthdays and likes and dislikes. Those facts frequently come in handy, Jack said. They were able to supply the town's last 4th of July parade with a bagpiper, after they found out a new resident was learning to play the instrument.

But Deweyville's "goodwill gurus" don't stop with one visit. Jack makes sure he drops off a candy bar when a resident celebrates a birthday (another reason for keeping the notebook) or shares the bounty from his garden's ample harvest during the



Jack and Barbara Rindlisbacher are town greeters and have spent the past 15 years welcoming newcomers to their community. They were honored for their efforts by the Utah Humanities Council.

summer months.

Both Jack and Barbara said the reactions to their welcoming visits are positive. "First of all people are impressed that Deweyville does this," Barbara said, "and they are happy that someone cares. It gives them a chance to ask questions and we are able to answer them."

And what does this duo get out of being greeters? In 2006 the couple received recognition for their efforts from the Utah Humanities Council, but they

maintain, they're not in it for the accolades. Jack said it best. "The greatest reward is that we open doors so that we can be friends with people. We now know everyone who lives here."

Barbara was also able to add her own brand of logic for the couple's longevity as Deweyville's welcoming duet. "We don't do much else. This is what we do for fun."

Ready... Set... Sew

Deweyville woman known for her gorgeous quilts

Jessica Tanner
Leader Staff Writer

Joyce Stewart, a Deweyville resident, has about 30 years of quilting experience. She has made 400-500 quilts during this time and written three books with her sister Ann Seely of Taylorsville. Together they have taught quilting all over the state and country.

Stewart began quilting when she was 40 years old. Her church was having an auction and she was asked to make a quilt. She had no idea how to make a quilt so she began learning. "At the time there were no classes to take so I got books and taught myself," said Stewart. "I found out that I really liked doing it. I have taught and got my mother, sister, daughters and in-laws into this."

Stewart makes wall hangings and bed quilts. She makes them for her children and grandchildren. The grandchildren get two quilts when they are born, one to hang on the wall and then other to cuddle and wrap up in. When they are two years old, she makes them a twin-sized quilt because this is about the time they outgrow their crib and get a toddler bed. When the grandchildren get married they get another big quilt. "I started doing this [tradition] and now I cannot stop, they like it." She has 19 grandchildren and one great-grandchild but luckily for her they are spread out in age.

Each quilt is unique and takes a different amount of time, depending on the type of quilt. A show quilt is very elaborate and

detailed. It can take her up to about a year while other kinds of quilts can take a week.

Stewart makes about 50 quilts a year. Each year she and her sister make humanitarian quilts. These quilts are just squares sewed together so they are able to make these much faster. They make 12 of these quilts a year to donate. She makes quilts for other people, as well.

Her favorite part about quilting is the fabrics. "I love the fabrics and the applique [a pattern of pieced parts that are put on top of the fabric]. There is not much I do not like about quilting."

Stewart and her sister have written three books ranging from 80-260 pages. One was published in 1992, another in 1997 and the most recent book is called "I Can't Believe it is not Piecing" and was new this last month. This book has 10 projects inside and was published by AQS Publishing. It is available at www.americanquilter.com and Village Dry Goods, a quilt store in Brigham City.

She said writing these books is a long process. They have to make all the quilts they put in the book, make the patterns for those quilts and write out the details and instructions, which takes a lot of time. The books show different techniques and instructions, not just patterns. It takes Stewart and her sister about a year to two years from start to finish to complete everything that goes into these books.

Stewart has won several awards for her quilts at local and national shows, and has



Courtesy Photo

This quilt by Joyce Stewart and her sister, Ann Seely, is a fairy tale quilt called "Once Upon a Time."

entered her patterns into magazines. Many of her quilts are very detailed and time consuming. She said, "I like to do the things that are tedious and take a lot of time. Most people do not like the tedious things in quilting."

Stewart said in the past, all quilts were hand quilted but now many are quilted with a machine.

About six years ago Stewart started using a machine to do the quilting and her sister helps her. This allows them to add more detail by doing smaller and closer quilting, which is not possible with hand quilting because it would take forever.

Stewart and her sister do a lot of stuff together. About half of her quilting is with her sister while the other half is projects on her own.

Stewart and her husband Lynn will be celebrating their 51st anniversary next month. They are both retired and work in the Logan LDS Temple baptistry.

THATCHER

COLLINSTON

PORTAGE

PENROSE

FIELDING

BEAR RIVER CITY



"Our Most Important Loan is Yours."

18 N. 200 E., Suite 201
Tremonton, UT 84337
435-257-8804



MELLEN GLASS, L.C.

(435) 723-3446

132 North Main, Brigham City
Home ~ Commercial ~ Auto

Windows & Replacement Windows
Mirrors • Shower Doors • Storm Doors • Screens
Windshields • Store Fronts • Door Hinge • Closure Service

Call For Your Free Estimate

Need Cash Now?

We want to make you a loan!

\$100 ~ \$3000
usually 30 minute service!

Noble Finance
146 N. Main St
Brigham City 435-734-0599