“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 run the past 37 years of its many enjoyings the close-knit community they call home. In fact, they feel so strongly about “one of the best cities in Utah,” so that some homes have become 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 official greeters is not way out of their comfort zones. "I am basically a helpful soul," Jack contends, but added that making something "in hand" gives him a reason to go and makes the visit easier.

He still armchair with, or when Jack calls "my vehicles," the two began doorbelling at the homes of new arrivals. The welcoming committee was formed in 2002, they received the official “town greeters” title, given to them by the local chamber of commerce.

Today the pair is quick to drop in on any new arrivals. "We make sure they are comfortable," Barbara said. But Deweyville's "goodwill ambassadors do not often come away from those home visits empty-handed. 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 support their last 4th of July parade with a bagpiper, after they found out a new resident was a bagpiper.

But Deweyville’s “goodwill ambassadors" do not give up on visits. Jack makes sure he drops off a candy bar when a resident cele- brates a birthday (another reason for keeping the notebook) or shares the bounty from his garden's ample harvest during the summer months.

Both Jack and Barbara Rindlisbacher 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 due 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 it for the accolades. Jack and it base. "The greatest reward is that we open doors so that we can be friends with more people, and 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 duo. “We don’t do much else. This is what we do for fun.”

Deweyville woman known for her gorgeous quilts

Jennica Tanner
Leader News Staff

Joyce Stewart, a Deweyville resident, has about 30,000 of quilting experience. She has made 500-500 quilts during her life and written three books with her sister Ann Seely of Taylorsville. Together they have taught quilt classes and sold hundreds of books.

Stewart began quilting when she was 15 years old. She called it practice she needed in an auction and the ability and skill is not always easy to talk about quilting.

Stewart and her sister have written three books ranging from 80-260 pages. One was published in 1992, another one in 1997 and the most recent book is called “Joy Stewart’s Quilt Pattern Pricing” and was last new this 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 give step by step instructions, which takes a lot of time. The books show different techniques and instructions, not just patterns. It takes Stewart and her sister about two years to 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 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 have been hand quilted but now many are quilted with a machine. About six years ago, Jack and Barbara Rindlisbacher 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 will quilt her sister 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.