

D

eb Egeland believes in being active in things you care about and some area projects blossomed through her volunteerism.

She worked for the Extension Office with 4-H groups and did their newsletter, volunteered with the Girl Scouts and was a troop leader, was on the Child Abuse Prevention Council and played Happy Bear for a few years. and started the Curtain Up program. This was after she decided to be a stay-at-home mom when her oldest daughter was born.

Volunteerism, nature part of Egeland's life

Deb Egeland is also an accomplished musician and plays the piano and guitar.



Before that she was a ranger with the Corps of Engineers at Rathbun Lake. In fact, the only woman ranger in the whole Kansas City District. She married her fellow ranger, Paul Egeland.

"At that time, the Corps office was open every day of the year and there would always be one of us working. We never got the same days off, so I decided I would resign," she said.

She said her Girl Scout troop received the Moingona Council Award one year and she enjoyed her time in Scouting. When she was Happy Bear with the Child Abuse Prevention Council, Nell Gates was the director and she said it was a very active group.

"We started a drama group of high school girls who did skits. We took them to a statewide meeting where they performed," she said.

When she was with Curtain Up, the group first performed "Music Man" at Simons Estes Auditorium.

"We had a big tent with an ice cream social. It was wonderful," she recalled.

"We planned to have a musical in the summer and a drama in winter. The next year we presented 'The King and I.' It was incredible, too. I was just amazed. The costumes were great, the turnout was great - it was all we'd hoped for."

She served as president from the beginning, but thought that to keep Curtain Up going, someone else should hold the

office for a change, so she left the group.

"It was non-profit and the money was used for the performances. Louise Kennis came up with the name Curtain Up," she said.

After leaving, she began working at Drake Public Library, a place she loves. Although she is no longer an employee there, she set up a noon reading group that she still attends regularly and writes book reviews for the newspaper.

Egeland also joined the school board about the same time she started working at the library.

"They asked me to fill out someone's term and then I ran for the seat and served four more terms," she said.

"I took one term off and didn't run because my daughter asked me not to. Whatever her issue was, it got resolved, so I ran again. I decided not to run this year. I feel very strongly that people with kids should be on the school board. I think it allows you to ask questions about issues going on at the schools. You can be an advocate for education, as I am, but

it's very important to have parents with school kids so they are more aware of the issues."

Natural settings play a big part in Egeland's life.

She and her husband live in a home that is partly underground and depend somewhat on the sun for heat and light. Former ranger that she is, Egeland likes the outdoors. Since their kids are grown and gone, she and Paul have pets sharing their place. Large front windows allow a good view of the bird feeders outside, and birds of every description visit daily.

Egeland comes from Madison, Wis.

"Everyone enjoyed winter in Wisconsin. It was fun and exciting. Here, everyone just sits and complains. I figured out it's because there is no consistent winter in Southern Iowa. There, once it became winter it stayed winter. Here, it snows one day and the sun comes out the next," she said.

She told about finding a good skating place for her kids south of the old Buck Creek beach, where it usually froze solid.

"When they were young, we took the kids there and we all had a lot of fun. But the ice wasn't always consistent, either," she said.

By Patsy Cincotta
Staff writer

Let our family serve yours!

Drive-Up Pick-Up window! Use it anytime for anything!



Snacks, deli with drive thru, pop, potato chips, cigarettes, wine, gum, stamps and so much more!

Largest Selection of Imports.....

and the LARGEST, COLDEST, walk-in beer vault in town!

