

# One Park Place - A Vibrant Life

Misty Tindall, Marketing Director of One Park Place, had already alerted me about the fun-loving personalities of Millie and Clara, two residents at One Park Place. "They are so loved here," Misty said. They are always out chatting and helping someone if needed. They both bring a lot of life to One Park Place. We are blessed to have these ladies."

Outgoing and happy were my first thoughts when I met Mildred Faye Miller and Clara Brumley Kihl. Mildred, nicknamed "Millie" is so busy and active every day; one can hardly get on her calendar. She's that kind of person with a twinkle in her eyes that will make you want to strike up a conversation.

Millie, born and raised in Daviess County went to Daviess County High School. "Before I graduated, my teacher, Miss French, sent me to the telephone company, Southern Bell (now Bell South). She knew I wanted to work and my teacher's friend was the chief operator," said Millie. The chief operator told her she always hired the girls Miss French sent to the telephone company, because she already knew they were hard workers with credibility. Millie retired from Bell South in 1981 with 33 years of service.

Millie's activities in the Daviess County community included: mission work, attending First Baptist Church, and teaching Sunday school for years. "When I retired, my husband, Chester Miller, sold his business, the Lawn and Garden Center, and we bought a motor home and traveled the United States," Millie said. Later we sold the motorhome and purchased a place in Fort Marsh, Florida, where we spent our winter months. Six months out of every year. I played tennis, bocce ball, and a lot of table games."

Millie and her husband joined the Friendship Force and went overseas to Holland. "My husband had served overseas in WWII and met friends from Holland who kept in touch. We visited them through the Friendship Force and later went back to visit our Dutch friends; staying in Europe for three weeks touring Holland, Germany and Belgium. We made several trips to Europe over the years and visited ten countries in all. We had a big time over there!" stated Millie.

When Millie's husband passed, she knew she needed to downsize. "We had lived at Spring Bank in Owensboro and the homes there were pretty large," said Millie. "I didn't want to stay in a big house by myself, so I decided to sell our home. Almost immediately after listing her home, it SOLD...much quicker than had Millie expected. After looking at smaller homes, I started to think; do I really need to be taking care of a home, lawn, flowers, repairs, etc.?" This led Millie to consider Assisted Living.

Although Millie was in good health, knowing the conveniences of having all her meals prepared, laundry done, apartment cleaned, plus the excitement of meeting new friends, this seemed the logical thing to do. When Millie learned she already had several friends living at

**"One Park Place" (an upscale Assisted Living Facility off Frederica Street in Owensboro)** she toured the beautiful facility and secured a two-bedroom suite with open floor plan and lots of light. Having a two-bedroom suite was part of her decision-making, as Millie didn't want to let go of all her furniture. "I knew when I had company in from Florida or other places, I needed another bedroom, and having a lot of my furniture really makes me feel at home," Millie said.

Millie grew up on a farm near Panther Creek Park, where Clara Marie Brumley Kihl had also grown up. "We rode the same bus to school, but I didn't really know Clara well, as she was a few years ahead of me. It was her brother who was in the same year as me."

When Millie got settled into One Park Place, she noticed a sign that said, "If anybody wants to play Rook (a trick-taking card game) come see Clara Kihl. When Millie

contacted Clara, she met her in the activity room and immediately thought she looked familiar. You see Millie knew Clara's brother, Harry, who was in her high school class. "Clara was a few years ahead of me and upper classmen don't usually pay attention to the younger kids, so she didn't know me," said Millie. Clara agreed and said, "But we've had great tales to share about my brother and some real good laughs! I feel like Millie is my sister."

Clara assists the new activity director in keeping things new at One Park Place, and Millie also brought in a lot of new games for the activity center including: Fast Track and Mah John. "We now have a lot of interesting and fun games here," Clara said. They also go to the Health Park and play games. Millie drives herself even though One Park Place provides transportation.

One particular thing Millie and Clara both chimed in to say; is they really appreciate One Park Place having dress rules. "You don't go out in the hall with your pajamas or housecoat on," said Clara. "What's nice is you get up and get dressed, and it makes you feel good to look nice. You're also ready to go anywhere at any given time," Clara said. So if someone says, hey, would you like to go with us;

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I say, READY! Where we going!"

Clara is also very active at the age of ninety-three. She assists at The HELP Office in Owensboro (a place where you can donate anything that someone else might need; clothes, shoes, etc). Clara said, "Giving something to someone else is very rewarding." Kay Meisenhelder, another HELP Office volunteer, lives at One Park Place. On Friday's she and Clara like going shopping and to the beauty shop. They also walk the grounds daily on the trail around One Park Place.

"Others who prefer to walk inside, can walk all the halls on every floor. We have three floors and four wings; it's about a mile," stated Marketing Director Misty Tindall.

Clara traveled a lot after she retired, but before retirement, she worked as a nurse in Ft. Lauderdale. In her travels, one summer she donated her time in a nursery clinic in Glennallen, Alaska. She also visited Japan three times through missionaries. Clara said, "I also traveled to Haiti on a mission. We helped with building more than anything and taking care of the children. One little girl had a real high fever, and of course they didn't have medicine or anything, so I gave her an aspirin and after a couple hours she was feeling great! I felt like I had performed a miracle." said Clara chuckling.

Clara helps with church services at One Park Place. Even when it isn't her own denomination, she checks the roster to see who's in and sets up the chairs. "We have prayer sessions during the week and a prayer box if people want to submit something; this way we can all help everyone pray." says Clara.

On Sundays, First Baptist Church brings in a tape from the morning's sermon and every Wednesday there's devotion time with Ray Acree, a deacon

from a local church and resident at One Park Place. "He helps with devotions and prayer," says Clara. "It doesn't matter if someone is Catholic, Baptist or Presbyterian, we all have prayer together. Every resident also gets a Birthday card every year. "This place is truly like home."

When I asked if there was anything more Millie and Clara loved about One Park Place; Millie stated, "I feel very secure here. All our desires are met here and we have our freedom. There is no place we'd rather be. This is our home."

By Linda Dillon



**Misty Tindall-Marketing Director Ph: 270-926-6669**  
**2701 Frederica Street Fx: 270-688-0878**  
**Owensboro, KY 42301 misty.opp@outlook.com**