



Eye on Evergreen

Conversations with your friends and neighbors

Vol. 5 No. 13 January/February 2025

IT'S SNOWTIME AGAIN!

BRR!, so cold—it's snowing and icicles are hanging from the eaves.
Hooray! Rev up the snowmobiles—get out the sleds, snowboards and skis!

Good idea to fill up the bird feeders for all those hungry beaks.
Oh, oh, I'll need new boots, cuz both of mine have leaks!

Because shoveling is a back breaker, pretty hard to take.
We really get to hate the sight of each and every flake!

WHEW! Everything is finally cleared away, right out to the street.
NO, NO, NO!! The city plow just went by, leaving more piles of a least two feet!

C'mon build a snowman, and make him real tall.
Let's see how big we can roll each ball!

Here's a black hat, and eyes made from coal.
A carrot for a nose and a bright scarf that's wool.

Hope the ice will form out there on the lake,
Or maybe create a rink, so people can skate.

But then there are the streets and roadways, all ice and slush.
Everyone should be careful, slow down and not be in a rush!

So snuggle up with a good book while the storms rage out there.
Some hot cocoa, a cozy fire—we really don't care!

Yes, winter is here, with lots of activities at hand.
Or just enjoy the beauty of a lovely Wisconsin white wonderland!

-Maurene C.

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU!

With sad but grateful hearts we say goodbye and thank you to Courtyard resident Maurene Christensen, who passed away January 2, 2025. Maurene joined the Eye on Evergreen team in early 2020. From that time on she contributed many interesting articles to the Eye, including her Collections and Treasures column.

Maurene also wrote poetry and we thought it appropriate to share, in her memory, IT'S SNOWTIME AGAIN! published in the January/February 2021 Eye. Thank You, Maurene!



THIS AND THAT

Daylight Savings

Did you enjoy your extra hour of sleep last November? We will be losing that hour when we reset our clocks to “spring forward” an hour early Sunday morning, March 9th, the start of Daylight Saving Time.

Armchair Travel with Kristin

Have you checked out Kristin’s Armchair Travel program? The meetings are the second Friday of every month in the Behnke from 1:30 to 2:30. She started the series January 10th with a fun program on Scotland. If you have questions or a travel adventure you would like to suggest or share, please call Kristin at 920-237-2156. No passport required!



Assistive Devices

Many of us have had an accident, surgery or other incident requiring short-term use of an assistive device, such as a cane or walker.

Did you know these devices may be available at no charge, on a short-term basis, from our Therapy Department?

If you are experiencing issues or problems requiring such a device, first reach out to your doctor and ask for a referral for therapy evaluation and treatment. Your doctor can fax the referral to the Therapy Office (920-232-0193) and an appointment will be set up for an evaluation to determine which, if any, device would be appropriate for your use. This evaluation can either be done in your accommodation or in the therapy gym on campus.

Any questions? Please contact Anne Ventura, Evergreen Therapy Manager, at 920-410-8759.

COLLECTIONS & TREASURES

When she first saw the sun pour through a window display of cobalt glass and turn her friend's kitchen into a mini-blue cathedral, Linda Calica was in love. She knew she had to acquire some of this vibrantly colored glass. Since that first encounter, Linda has built her cobalt glass collection of over sixty pieces, picked up on travels, received from friends, and found at thrift and conventional stores. Some pieces are ornamental, others functional – pitchers, glassware, salt and peppers, etc. A standout in her collection is a large art glass swirl, looking like a fantasy of ribbon candy, purchased by Linda at a shop between Green Lake and Princeton.

A self-described collector, Linda shares her cobalt glass and other beautiful things with residents of the 1000 building in Evergreen's Village by maintaining a rotating display in their common hallway.



Linda, a Randolph WI native, came to Oshkosh in 1967 to attend UWO and never left. Linda earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education, computer science and business administration. She worked as a substitute teacher in area schools, including Oshkosh North and Oshkosh West, teaching history and political science classes. An interesting later job was working for Office Technology in Neenah, teaching early computer classes to businesspeople including Oshkosh Truck executives.

She married Dr. Roman Calica, a psychiatrist who worked in UWO's Educational Testing and Research Center and with local medical facilities, in 1972. Their son Carlo and Roman's son Butch made a family. Both the Calicas' sons now work in the computer field, Carlo in Washington state and Butch in Illinois. The joy of Linda's life is her grandson, Ethan Roman. She maintains a condo in Vancouver, WA and gets there as often as circumstances permit.

Roman had a stroke in the 1990's, and Linda cared for him at home for ten years before he passed. During that time, the computer world changed drastically. After Roman's death and with medical issues of her own, she decided to move to the Evergreen Village – seventeen years ago. She is so glad she did. Here, she especially enjoys the pools, the availability of PT and OT services, the convenience of the Evergreen van for necessary transportation, her sunroom and beautiful garden. She loves to cook and share the resulting goodies with friends, plan parties and get-togethers. Linda served as "sunshine lady" for the 1000 building for twelve years. Reading was a particular passion, but she has experienced vision loss that has made engaging in that pastime reliant on friends and Evergreen at Home caregivers to assist her.

Thank you, Linda, for sharing your lovely collection with us to brighten the gloomy winter days!

-Alyson Z.

SAFETY FIRST: ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS AND SCOOTERS

Many residents depend on electric wheelchairs or scooters to navigate the halls of Evergreen. Did you know general guidelines for their use can be found in the Resident Portal? Look under the FAQ section of EVERGREEN POLICIES & EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.

If you utilize one of these devices, did you know you are responsible for the maintenance and repair of your “vehicle”? If you have an “oops” and there is damage to the Evergreen building or property, you are responsible for the cost of repair. You are also responsible for any injury caused to another resident, staff, volunteer, or visitor.

Guidelines for Driving Inside the Building:

- . Slow speed when approaching pedestrians and intersections.
- . Pedestrians always have the right of way.
- . All electric devices are to be operated at slow speed (only as fast as the slowest pedestrian).
- . Drive on the right side of the hallway.
- . No passing in the hallway.
- . Avoid backing out of elevators and rooms.
- . Residents are asked to park electric devices outside of any dining area and walk in (if able) for seating.
- . Electric devices must be parked inside resident’s accommodation.




Outside the Building:

- . You are encouraged to wear your Lifeline bracelet or pendant when on campus grounds, or carry a cellphone when off the grounds.
- . Maintain a slow speed when approaching pedestrians, crossing streets or when on uneven surfaces.

If you have any questions about the use of your electric wheelchair or scooter, please contact Jill Walters Independent Living Housing Coordinator, at (920) 237-2175.

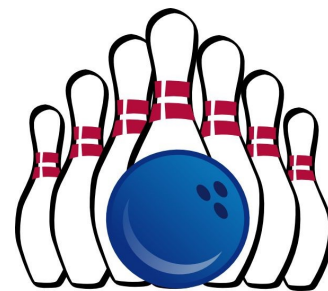
As a footnote: Evergreen reserves the right to require a resident to go through Therapy Department testing to assess abilities to operate the electric devices.

-Donna L.

Just for Fun: Can you find the “Eye” on Evergreen? In each issue of “Eye On Evergreen,” an eye is hidden somewhere. Can you find it?  **Happy Hunting!**

Bowling for trophies – and fun!

Walk past the Recreation Room across from Pub 67 and you may hear shouts of jubilation or dismay as Evergreen’s Wii bowling tournament teams hold their weekly matches. This enthusiastic pastime began when a remodeling project ended a similar past activity, to the consternation of residents. In 2017, Sandi Challoner, then vice-president of the Residents’ Council, volunteered to present the concern to Linda Greene, then head of Life Enrichment. Linda agreed that Evergreen could purchase Wii bowling equipment – and promptly put Sandi in charge of the new offering.



Sandi Challoner

Today, Sandi serves as troubleshooter for the teams, helps fill open team slots, addresses schedule variances, etc. Leanore Rommelfanger ably handles bookkeeping of individual and team scores, which Sandi says has been a great help. Life Enrichment liaison Kristin Walker schedules the three season-ending banquets, maintains the scoresheets and sends announcements to participants.

Wii bowling is played by pointing a remote device at the “bowling alley” on the screen, swinging the remote towards the screen as you would a bowling ball, and pushing a button on the remote to release the “ball”. Participants can play from a standing or seated position. Some bowlers play from their wheelchairs. Sandi sees the game’s benefits as physical movement, improved hand/eye coordination, fun and friendship.

There are nine teams of four members each. Six teams are mixed men/women and three are women’s teams. Teams choose their own names. Some years ago, LE Specialist Edie Norenberg cajoled 4Imprint into donating team shirts, worn for competitive play and at the banquets.

Tournament competitors play weekly, two games per session. There are three seasons. Each runs for ten weeks, with seven weeks off in between seasons. One team plays competitive games in the Manor South lounge, and the rest in the Recreation Room.

At the Bowling Banquets, team members wear their shirts and sit together. Traveling trophies are awarded for: high score; high average; most strikes; most spares; most turkeys; high team score. If you’re wondering, as your editor did, what constitutes a “turkey” – it’s three strikes in a row. Back in the day, the “prize” was, in fact, a live turkey. There is also a *large* trophy, pictured here with Sandi, for the winner of the current tournament. Standout individuals are recognized, like Bob Niendorf, who had *seven* perfect 300 games during the most recently completed tournament.



Bob Niendorf

-Alyson Z.

What Are You Reading?

Diane Kohl, Village resident, just read the non-fiction book *Framed: Astonishing True Stories of Wrongful Convictions*, Grisham, John and McCloskey, Jim. Doubleday, 2024, New York. Grisham, a best-selling author since his debut novel *The Firm* in 1997 teams up with McCloskey, an advocate for innocent people who have been wrongly convicted of crimes they did not commit. She read it on the recommendation of friend and Library Committee chair Jan Nash, and said it was very different from Grisham's novels, all of which she has read.



Grisham and McCloskey each wrote detailed accounts of five cases of people whose lives were turned upside down when they were convicted at trial and sentenced to prison for crimes they did not commit. The reasons for the unjust verdicts varied with the cases, summarized in a *New York Times* book review as “laziness, malice and tunnel vision among the police, prosecutors, jurors and judges”. McCloskey's advocacy organization, Centurion Ministries, was involved in getting these verdicts overturned. Justice, however, was sometimes impossible for the person in question to receive, due to various legal twists and in one case, the death of the wrongly accused.

As Diane read the book, she became very upset and angry that this kind of abuse of the legal system is going on, and she, a concerned citizen largely aware of what's going on in the world, did not know about it. Her takeaway from the book is that there must be something she can do to shed light on these problems – perhaps joining Centurion to support its advocacy efforts.

Diane pointed out that these kinds of wrongs do not permeate the whole legal system. Diane strongly recommends the book because everyone should be informed about this issue.

* * * * *



Another Village resident, **Barbara Bowlus**, recently re-read a classic coming-of-age book, *Demian*, Hesse, Herman. Fischer Verlag, 1919, Germany, in her native German. An English version of the book was published in the 1920's.

Barbara recalls teaching the book to her Advanced German students – and upon re-reading it, doesn't know what she was thinking. This exceedingly complex narrative follows a young man from a religious family, as Hesse's was, who is studying to become a minister and becomes deeply conflicted between the pious world he grew up in and the temptations of German society before World War I. The book examines the interdependence between good and evil. His guide to this other world is Demian, the title character, a bit older and somewhat mysterious. East Indian myth, dreams and the supernatural prompt actions.

Barbara is glad she re-read it, saying it is important to see the book through the lens of its time. It gives a good sense of the atmosphere in Germany pre-World War I. Barbara's mother told her that when *Demian* came out, its effect on her generation was “electrifying”.

She found that revisiting the intellectual strains that occupied people in the early twentieth century, and the complexity of the story, stimulated her mind to reflection. Barbara recommends the book more for younger people, noting that it has been the subject of much commentary over the hundred-plus years since publication.

Evergreen Transportation Services

We residents are fortunate to have transportation available to us for appointments, errands, and more. One-way, round-trip, and transports outside the city limits are available to and/or from Evergreen seven days a week. The service rates for 2025 are:

Within City Limits: one-way trip-\$9.50 per person; round-trip-\$19.00 per person; multiple-stop trip-\$19.00 per person, plus \$19.00 per additional half hour. Outside City Limits: \$19.00 per half hour plus \$0.67/mile per person.

For personal errands (with no passenger) call the Transportation Coordinator at (920) 237-2106 for pricing.

Please call the Transportation Coordinator to schedule a trip. A 72-hour notice is recommended for scheduling trips. All requests will be accommodated based on availability and first come, first serve basis. A 24-hour cancellation notice is required for all transports. If required notice is not given, the full trip fee will be billed.

A minimum of 24 hour notice is required for transport outside regular service hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM. Weekends 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Evergreen staff will do its best to accommodate requests for last-minute appointments or personal errands that just come up. Last-minute trips and those outside normal operating hours are not guaranteed.

Do you know about on-site transportation? As an example, if you live in one of the houses or condos and would like to attend an event in the Behnke Center, the weather is bad or your health isn't conducive to walking, you can request transportation to/from your on-site destination. Call the Transportation Coordinator to request a ride. A 72-hour notice is appreciated, and all requests are granted on availability and first come, first serve basis. There is no cost to you as the \$2.00 fee is paid by the Residents' Council. Another great perk of living at Evergreen!

-Donna L.

Drivers



Bree Van Asten



Scott Houts



Ross Nelson

**Transportation
Coordinator**



Katie Leuthold

**Transportation
Manager**



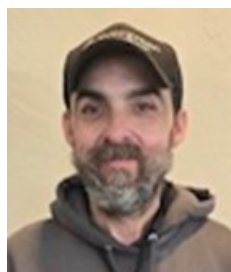
Lisa Ruiz



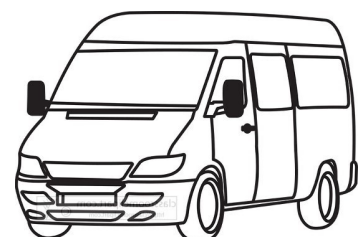
Merrick Sohm



Estellia Wojahn

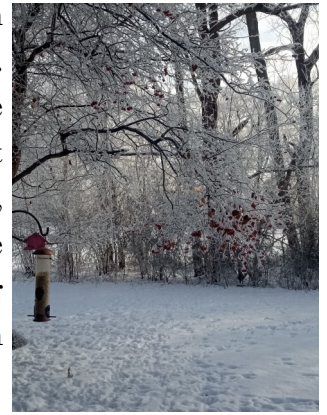


Rich Wojahn



Campus Notes

All through December temperatures were unsettled, changing back and forth between warm-ups and freezes; sunny, blue days alternated with gray ones. Sometimes there was a little snow on the ground, then it was gone again. The creek started freezing over, then thawed out again. Thus, it was an amazing sight when, on Christmas morning, we woke up to a world of delicate hoary frost, covering every bush and branch with millions of tiny crystals, conveying the appearance of a fairyland. Accompanied by thousands of colorful lights which our diligent ground crew had strung on trees all over campus, we were blessed with an unforgettable gift of harmony and natural beauty.



On one of my solitary campus walks, I noticed our flag at half-mast. A moment's reflection made me realize that this must be in honor of Jimmy Carter who at age 100, after a long life of service to his fellow men, had left his earthly existence behind. These thoughts took me out of our peaceful environment into the bitter climate of political divisiveness that is currently plaguing our nation.

With the arrival of January, winter weather finally prevailed. While large areas from Kansas to Washington D.C. were covered with swaths of heavy snow, Wisconsin just got a sprinkle of the white stuff; still, temperatures generally remained below freezing, often hovering around zero at night. The ducks that had been frolicking in the frigid waters had left, as a solid sheet of ice began covering the creek. Meanwhile an array of birds was crowding the feeders, ranging from various sparrows to downy and red-bellied woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees, cardinals, and mourning doves. And the squirrels, whose unsuccessful attempts to access the bird feeders, used their acrobatic skills to reach the berry clusters dangling from the Hawthorne's thinnest branches.



Journeying into the new year, our community is thankful to live in a caring, safe place, mostly protected from strife, violence, and suffering around the world. May hope and human solidarity conquer the dark forces which threaten free societies everywhere.

-Barbara B.



Christmas Project 2024

Thank you, Evergreen residents and staff for supporting Evergreen's Christmas Project to benefit the *Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family Program!*

Together

- We gifted two families several wonderful gifts along with many household and toiletry items.
 - \$400 in gift cards were given to support the *Salvation Army Teen Angel Tree*.
 - Many toiletry items were also donated for the *Salvation Army Pantry*.

Thank you for helping to give others a Merry Christmas!

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Have you met Courtyard resident Pat Haas? She was born in Blue Island, Illinois in 1933, the oldest of a family of six children. When she was eight years old the family moved to Naperville, Illinois. Pat's parents taught her to swim and she enjoyed the YMCA pool in the winter and a nearby quarry in the summer. She, and her brothers and sisters, swam competitively and enjoyed winning races. They won many medals and ribbons. Pat took piano lessons and played to accompany singers at high school in Naperville. After she graduated high school Pat went to Northwestern University in Chicago where she studied dental hygiene. She worked for a local dentist two days a week until she moved to Florida.



She met her future husband, Paul Haas at a friend's home, and they were married May 25, 1955. They had three children – two boys Mike and Tim and a daughter Kathy, and lived in Bloomington, Illinois. From there, they moved to Geneva, Illinois. They had a pleasure speed boat they used during vacations in Minnesota. The children had all become good water skiers. When their children had grown and married, Pat and Paul moved to Lake Placid, Florida, where they enjoyed their pool and golf course.

After Paul died in 2000, Pat spent the next 20 years traveling to Europe, Hawaii, Australia, Ireland and Alaska. She played golf three or four times a week and was pretty good at the game – she loved it! She also loved the warm Florida weather and the many parties she and her friends enjoyed.

Pat moved to Evergreen in 2022 and enjoys many activities: bridge, Supper with the Chef, daily Rosary, movies, all the entertainment, and new friends. She says she loves it here – and we love having you here! We look forward to seeing you in the neighborhood!

-Donna L.

Employee Committee Thank You

On behalf of the employees at Evergreen, we'd like to extend a huge **Thank You** to the Employee Committee. We appreciate all those who contributed to the fund in an effort to let employees know how much their work is recognized. For some, this means they are more able to celebrate and give in the spirit of the season. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!! You are the reason we are here! As well, we'd like to thank the Employee Wellness Committee for putting on a beautiful holiday party for all the employees. It was truly wonderful and made us feel so appreciated!

-Edie N.



Never Too Old for Love

Pine Street in Stevens Point was full of kids in the late 1930's into the mid-1940's. One of them was Manor South resident Ralph Larson. Two of his buddies were brothers of Manor North resident Joann Klein (then Burmeister). When the boys were outside playing ball and other games, Joann, a self-described tomboy, always tried to join them. Ralph says that he and his friends thought girls should stick to playing dolls, but that wasn't Joann's idea of fun. As Ralph approached eighth grade, he was starting to view Joann as less of a pest. Ralph's father was then transferred to Waupaca and his family moved. Ralph and Joann lost touch for the next 77 years.



During those years, Joann married, gave birth to five children, was widowed and lived primarily in Madison, Wisconsin where she worked at the Dane County Human Services department.

Ralph, too, married and had six children with his wife of sixty-five years, Bobbie. He had become an educator and coach, working first in the small K-12 district of Muscoda and then from 1967 until retirement teaching science and coaching basketball in Winneconne.

They were each brought to Evergreen by changed life circumstances. Joann contracted covid in 2022, was hospitalized and almost died. She candidly shares that the disease left her with "covid brain", affecting her memory. After she recovered, her family said she could no longer live alone. Her eldest daughter Vicki, an Oshkosh resident and former Evergreen employee, contacted Evergreen, and Joann became a resident in 2023.

Ralph's wife Bobbie sustained a serious leg fracture in a 2021 fall, complicating her battle with dementia. Due to space constraints, Evergreen was unable to admit her to rehab, so she went to Park View. Ralph made daily trips from their home in Winneconne to visit her, until his children encouraged him to move to Evergreen to be closer to Bobbie while having the opportunity to interact with others in social activities and draw support from those facing similar life challenges. Bobbie passed away in December 2023.

Joann, looking at the Resident Directory, noticed the name, "Carl 'Ralph' Larson". She thought to herself there couldn't be two people with this name, and she called him and asked if he was from "Point". He responded affirmatively. They started having an occasional lunch or dinner together, talking about old times and all the years since they had known each other as neighborhood chums.



Joann said they had so much in common, and the more they talked, the more compatible they felt with each other. She describes herself as the talker, him "not so much". Ralph responds that it's one of the things he loves about her – that she's so outgoing. One night, she surprised him by coming up behind him, grabbing his shoulders and saying, "We've got to fatten you up – you're too thin!". The lunches and dinners became more frequent, and as Joann says, "We discovered we liked each other after all these years!"

Continued on next page...



Never Too Old for Love cont.

At some point, they say, the friendship became love, something neither saw coming. They then knew they wanted to be part of each other's lives. Together they sought out Pastor Steve Wood and shared their feelings for each other. In late 2024, Pastor Steve officiated at their commitment ceremony in the Arline Sitter Worship and Performing Arts Center. The two exchanged vows and rings as a sign of their love and commitment to each other.



Joann says that she has strong legs and Ralph has a strong brain – so they can help each other with their health issues, in a true life partnership. Congratulations to Ralph and Joann on finding love again in their early nineties!

-Alyson Z.

A VIEW FROM THE VILLAGE

Taco Time at the Village

On Monday, January 27, the Residents from the 1140 Building and the Homes hosted a late afternoon Taco Bar in the Behnke Center. The room was decorated with brightly colored napkins from yellow to bright orange and matching colorful centerpieces. Forty seven residents from the Village and Homes attended and had a great time eating and socializing.

The menu included both hard and soft tacos with a choice of ground beef, shredded chicken (or both) and all the fixings. There was also Mexican rice, chips and guacamole, salsa, and a luscious chocolate dessert. To put us in the “taco mood,” beverages included wonderful Margaritas. Many went back for seconds and stayed to socialize, while perhaps enjoying another Margarita. We received many positive comments, such as, “this was a really good idea,” “great choice of food and drinks,” “it was nice to stay on campus rather than going to a restaurant,” especially since the weather was howling outside.

Many thanks to Jason and his crew, Audra for bar-tending, and Kristin who helped coordinate the festivities. We are hoping to keep this as a yearly event.

-Vicki M.



Committee

Back Row: Kathy McHugh, Vicki Moss,
Doug Austin, Karen LaBorde, Phil LaBorde

Front Row: Joan Best, Rose Metz, Sally Mathison

Home Cookin' at Evergreen!

The howling winds of our Wisconsin winter have descended upon us. The air is brittle crisp and frigid—so bundle up if you venture outside. It's soup weather!!!

If you choose to stay warm and cozy for a leisurely winter day, how about enjoying the aroma of French Onion Soup wafting about you as you settle in with a good book or movie?

Caramelizing onions to prepare the traditional recipe is tedious and time consuming. With this recipe the crock pot does all the work while you enjoy the aroma.



Steve Hintz, Alyson Zierdt, & Jan Nash

I invited Steve Hintz, Alyson Zierdt, and Jan Nash to participate in the taste testing. All agreed the soup was worthy of the Eye on Evergreen. In addition to enjoying the soup, we also shared a great evening of conversation. We learned Steve, a former political science professor at the University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh, also served as a consultant on many municipal and county government matters. Who would have guessed that Alyson was a buyer of home goods before she entered law school—or that Jan, our quiet and creative painter and librarian, taught the children of military personnel in Okinawa and that she had the opportunity to travel to many parts of the world including Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, and India. She also reports that the ratio of men to women in Okinawa was quite favorable. She and her friends had a mighty good time.

All in all, we shared a lovely evening.

-Pat B.



Slow Cooker French Onion Soup Gratinée

Servings: 6 to 8

6 cups thinly sliced onion
1 tsp. sugar
2 tbsp. olive oil
1 tbsp. melted butter
1/2 tsp. dried thyme
5 tbsp. Cognac or brandy

1 cup dry white French vermouth
2 tbsp. flour
2 qt. beef stock
12 hard toasted French bread rounds
2 oz. thinly sliced Gruyère or baby Swiss cheese
2 cups finely grated Gruyère or baby Swiss

Place onions in a 6 qt. slow cooker. Toss with salt and sugar. Drizzle oil and butter over top. Cover and cook on high for 2 hours. Stir. Cook 8 more hours or overnight until onions have caramelized, they will be a deep brown in color. Add flour. Stir until combined. Add stock, cognac, and vermouth. Cook an additional 3 hours. Cool and refrigerate until ready to use.

To serve, Place 6 bread rounds in bottom of 6 oven proof soup crocks. Place slices of cheese over top. Ladle 1 scoop of soup over top. Cover with remaining bread. Ladle additional soup over crocks until full. Divide grated cheese evenly over top of crocks. Bake in 425 degree oven for 25 to 30 minutes until cheese is brown and bubbly.