



Kim Simmons, retired Village Office clerk

I was in the Philmont Village Office, hard at work, socializing with whomever came in. That day, Al Russo was there, and Eilene Morris was there, of course; she was the clerk. I was the deputy at that time. And I happened to look up from the conversation and I saw this gentleman walking up the street who I didn't recognize. He had on a long trench coat, and there was a trail of smoke following him, and I said, "I think that man is on fire!" Al was a volunteer fireman for the village and he ran outside and sure enough, the man was on fire. He had a lit cigarette in his back pocket that was burning a hole in his coat. And he was oblivious to the whole thing, didn't even know he was on fire! Yep, only in Philmont!

There used to be so many deer in my backyard. I had to smack 2x4s together to get the deer out of there. The yard is fenced now and the deer know that the dogs can't come out of the yard. Now, the deer and the dogs stand almost nose to nose at the fence! One night when I wasn't sleeping, I looked out the window and thought, what is that across the street in my neighbor's yard? I saw a light there and I thought, I don't care that it's 2 o'clock in the morning and I'm wearing my pajamas; I'm going out to investigate! I heard someone talking. It was my neighbor, out there with a flashlight, and there was a big black bear up a tree! Good lord, I don't see the wildlife anywhere that I see in Philmont!

By Kim Simmons