



FRANKE TOBEY JONES

Meet Resident Elsie Forrest

Elsie was born in Minnesota and spent her early years there graduating from high school in Virginia, Minnesota. She then received a Bachelor's Degree in Personnel from the University of Minnesota and a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Northern Colorado.

In 1967 Elsie moved to Oregon where she was employed by the State of Oregon for over two decades in various positions from counseling to program planner, and budget & systems supervisor. Next, she was employed by the Federal Government in Rehabilitation Services Administration for the Department of Education where she worked as an Advisor to the State of Alaska's Rehabilitation program.

Elsie met her future husband James "Jim" on a blind date and they immediately knew they belonged together, dating for just nine short months before they married. Elsie and Jim have a wonderful son, Cameron, who works for Boeing and travels often, and their daughter-in-law is a gourmet cook – an artist with food. Cameron has blessed them with a granddaughter who is a Neonatal Intensive Care Nurse.

Jim was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis at the age of 34 and spent the last 20+ years of his life at home in bed. He had various activities which gave him a sense of worth. Activities such as finding rides for welfare recipients who had doctor appointments; giving talks to health care students about living with long-term illness; and counseling newly diagnosed M.S. patients referred to him by their minister. With the assistance of aids and a live-in housekeeper for a short time, Jim was able to live a very good life, and was thankful for it.

With Elsie's first graduation from college she received a gift of a 35mm camera. She enjoyed taking photos, and both she and Jim went on many photo adventures together. She began photographing seriously after attending a photo course at Portland State University. Elsie's first photo trip was in Arizona. Since then she has gone on several photography trips in the U.S. including many national parks, overseas to Australia and New Zealand, and several other short photography trips as a respite from caregiving. She enjoyed all the trips and learned much from her teachers. She especially liked taking photos of the Polar bears in Hudson's Bay, Manitoba, Canada. That was an experience, and was one of the most enjoyable trips she has taken. Elsie also went to Alaska to photograph both Black and Grizzly bears...another amazing trip. She has shown photos at a Gig Harbor gallery and has also had a photo published on a brochure for Oregon College in Monmouth.

Elsie lived in Renton for a short time and was very active at the



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Renton Senior Center where they offered many types of classes. Her interests expanded into oil painting, which she greatly enjoys, and she especially delights in oil painting her photographs. Elsie proudly displays her paintings in her FTJ Garden Apartment as well as in our public FTJ Resident Art Gallery. Elsie also enjoys reading and sewing. She is a woman who likes to keep busy.

Elsie moved into the Garden Apartment at Franke Tobey Jones in January of 2014 and has been delighted to have a new audience for sharing her photographs and paintings. She especially enjoys the camaraderie of the Garden Apartment residents, our Senior University classes and other offerings that keep her mind active. We are pleased and honored to have such a talented woman as part of our Franke Tobey Jones family.