



Thursday, April 16, 2009

## Stars of stage and (TV) screen

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A group of 18 residents at Maplewood Village got their moment in the sun last Thursday when a film crew from WMTV Channel 15 - Madison was on hand to document this unique singing group.

Eight of the group's members are over the age of 90, and five of those are over 96. Another eight members are in their upper 80s. The other two are just youngsters.

Additionally nine residents known as "the clappers" make sure the singers always have an audience.

The group started out singing gospel songs after the supper meal. They would sing along with Alan Jackson's Precious Memories CD. Staff member Diane Clement is a big fan of Jackson's and got the group going.

Members of "the clappers" include, front, Joyce Kaufman, Helen Pletzer, Lucy Coenen, Marion Carter and Glen Carter; back, Joan Zauft, Lilah Porter, Al Brickl and Florence Pellowski. Photo by Michael Carignan

"I was doing some last minute things in the office when I heard the tenants singing these beautiful songs which brought tears to my eyes," said Director Karen Volker.

Maplewood Village is celebrating its 10th anniversary this June at the Assisted Living facility. "We are proud of that and thought instead of having an outside group entertain we would have our tenants with their singing be our very special entertainment," added Volker. "The group feels the music has brought them closer together as a family. Everyone is involved that lives at the Village, including the staff."

With that in mind Volker invited Channel 15 to do a story on the group and the TV station took them up on the idea. The story aired on WMTV on the 6 o'clock news on Thursday, April 9.

Tenants and the home traditionally wear red on Fridays in support of our troops and even though it was only Thursday they chose to don red for their appearance on TV as well.

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