

Transcript of Sally Robinson at Herbert Sauer memorial 10/23/2010

We come this day to celebrate this life of 100 years. I started thinking of all the changes Herb saw in his lifetime. I hang out with folks who are in their 80s and 90s and 100 and I think about my short life what the changes have been but when I look at their lives and see all the changes, it's amazing – what has happened in his life time. He saw men land on the moon and people go live in space for long periods of time. He saw communications change drastically from radio and seeing news at the movie theater to television and now on the Internet. We can even get it on our phones. I don't know if he understood that concept or not. I know a lot of my friends are not quite sure how I can get all that information on that little phone.

But he also helped to make many changes in this world, as well, through public health, through his life and how he touched people's lives. And each of us here today has a memory or two or three or a lot of memories of our time with Herb. And each of us has interacted with him in different ways, and so some of us are going to come up here this afternoon and share some of our thoughts and our times with Herb. And hopefully that will get your mind going and you will share in our fellowship time some of your stories following the service.

I met Herb about 10 years ago when I came to Lenoir as the chaplain. And I just realized the other day that he was in his 90s already when I met him. I could not believe that – he seemed so young and active when we met. So I only got to know him in basically the last decade of his life after his wife Doris had died, she had already died by the time I came, and I knew that was a difficult time for him, a difficult adjustment. He was living in his house out on Lemmon Drive, here in The Village, and I remember him in the summer times, in the summer he liked to garden. If you've not been out in The Village, on the far end of The Village there's a community garden, and anybody that wants a plot can have that. And I can still see him walking down the street, hoe in hand, to his little garden plot, to hoe a little bit and spend some time in the sunshine. Sometimes he'd take his leftover vegetable garbage, he'd plant it there in a hole next to his garden so that it would help the garden to grow better. I remember him telling me the importance of eating healthy and to exercise. He firmly believed in that, which is probably why he lived to be 100 years old.

But he also wanted to help others, and I know Mel's going to touch on that a lot more, but he talked about how he could help other people in his own way, with his finances, or just going and helping someone physically and praying, and how important that was to him to share that with the rest of us, so that we would also do that and follow in his footsteps and help others have a better life.

Also, I remember talking about the peace movement. I was never clear whether he was part of the M.U. Peace Studies or he just attended some of their functions, but he was, when I met him, very involved in that part of his life. That was on his mind a lot in our early visits when I first came to Lenoir.

When he first moved over the Lenoir Health Care Center, that was again a difficult time for him, but for a while he was able to go to New Horizons United Methodist Church. Someone would come and pick him up and then it got so that got to be a little more difficult. There was a little communion service on Sunday afternoons at the Health Care Center, and often he'd find his way out there and would sit in worship. I know often times he didn't hear anything that was said because his hearing was so bad and often times I was hearing the speakers, so I know he didn't. But I think for him, he was worshiping God, and he was able to take communion and be in a fellowship with other believers, and that was important for him. And even the last year or so, he'd find his way out and sit down and listen for a little while and worship with us, so I remember that.

I miss seeing him walking down the hallways when I'm over at the Health Care Center visiting. I know you all have memories and thoughts and things you'd like to share as well, and again, share those with Lucy and Chuck and their families after the service.

Lucy would like to share some of her thoughts of her Dad at this time.