

Kathleen DeGaramo presents at September Meeting of the Sleeping Giant Seniors

At the September 24 Sleeping Giants Seniors meeting, we were privileged to enjoy Kathleen DeGaramo's presentation of the history of Charles Schultz and Charlie Brown. Kathleen lives with her husband, Joel DeGaramo on the old Wilson-Berggren place at Trout Brook and Wamsley Roads.

I was so happy to give a presentation to my fellow seniors at our last meeting. I have loved the history and the story of "Charlie Brown and the Peanuts Gang" for as long as I can remember. One of my first memories was the very first time I watched *The Charlie Brown Christmas Special* that aired on CBS for the first time in 1965. The story of Charlie Brown and The Peanuts Gang was first in print in newspapers in 1950. I love the story that brings smiles to people from 3 to 103.

Some of the things in my collection are beautiful well-loved vintage pieces that I have acquired for nearly 50 years. I've kept every Charlie Brown toy from when I was a very small child and I still collect today.

Most of my collection I have acquired at yard sales and vintage or thrift stores. Great Fun!! When I find something to add to my Charlie Brown collection I'm a child again in my heart and can't wait to bring it home.

Charles Schulz was born in 1927. He began the comic strip of *Charlie Brown and The Peanuts Gang* in 1949 which was picked up and published in many newspapers beginning in 1950. He wrote over 15000 comic strips for over 52 countries in 26 different languages. He reached 300 million readers in 2600 newspapers. He created 40 TV specials. This was the happiness of his life. The characters of the Peanuts Gang were based on real childhood relationships that Charles Shultz had in grade school, always showing goodness in every story line.

Charles Schulz is no longer with us, but Charlie Brown and the Peanuts Gang continue to bring happiness to so many in the Funny Papers and on several television specials throughout the year.

I have enjoyed so much sharing my collection of Charlie Brown and The Peanuts Gang and the Snoopy Smiles with our seniors group.

Snoopy Smile Wishes!!

Kathleen DeGaramo



To our senior readers: Please join Minerva's seniors at our next monthly meeting, October 22, at the Community Center, 1 p.m., when Joel DeGaramo will be sharing some of his collection of taxidermy pieces and some exciting history connected with them.