

## **AUTHOR TO SPEAK ABOUT LIFE WITH LOU GEHRIG'S DISEASE**

*Robert Paulson scheduled to appear at Garden Spot Village on June 14*

**NEW HOLLAND, Pa. — May 14, 2011** — In 1996, Robert Paulson was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a chronic debilitating condition also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Over the next decade, he lost the ability to walk, to speak, even to breathe on his own. Despite these adversities, in 2009 he published a memoir, *Not in Kansas Anymore*, about growing up on a farm, New York City and life with ALS.

Paulson, 74, and his wife, Maureen, will talk about his book on Tues., June 14, at 2 p.m. in the chapel at Garden Spot Village, 433 S. Kinzer Ave. here in New Holland. The presentation is the first in a series of quarterly "I Have a Story To Tell...Author Talk" presentations hosted by Garden Spot Village and the Eastern Lancaster County Library.

"We are featuring authors who have faced and overcome challenges," said Colleen Musselman, director of life enrichment at Garden Spot Village, who developed the program with Donna Brice, director of ELANCO Library. "Two of our residents, John and Irene Smucker, told us about Mr. Paulson's inspiring story, and the Paulsons kindly agreed to do a presentation."

Paulson was born in 1937 and raised on a farm near Linsdborg, Kan. After college he attended law school and went to work as a patent attorney in New York City. He and his wife raised three sons. He retired from the firm in 2003—seven years after his diagnosis. Friends encouraged him to write a book.

Paulson wrote *Not in Kansas Anymore* with the help of sophisticated assistive technology. The ERICA eye-tracking computer system enabled him to write, edit and publish the manuscript literally with the blink of an eye, one letter at a time. He worked on the book four to six hours a day for about 14 months. In it he tells readers to "take advantage of any and all opportunities that present themselves."

"I Have a Story to Tell" presentations are free and open to the public. Copies of Paulson's book will be available for sale in the chapel lobby.

For more information, call 717-355-6000.

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