



# Westmar Alumni and Friends Association

Volume 7, Issue 3

August, 2005

## Reunions: Highlight of Summer

Two Westmar reunions were held this past July. The first one was a combination Faculty, Staff, Administration and the 70s Decade.

More than 80 members of the Westmar Faculty, Staff, and Administration met for supper at Archie's Waeside in Le Mars on Friday, July 1. They then joined the 70s Decade for the rest of the weekend.

Saturday activities included viewing the Westmar Room at the Plymouth County Historical Museum, a campus tour, a banquet, and the taking of class pictures. Sunday began with services at the United Methodist Church of Le Mars (College Church) followed by a noon meal in the church basement.

Reunion committee chairs, Julie (Johnson) Dirks and Kay (Bass) Powell began the preparations for the reunion in July 2004 by sending invitations to 2300 people. Of those, about 150 were able to attend the July 2005 reunion.

Serving on the Sunday Activities Committee was Barb (Clark) Johnson. Carolyn (Swenson) Vance, Denice Kolker, and Judy (Merchen) Cambier were members of the Registration Packet Committee. The decorations were planned by Julie (Johnson) Dirks.

"I felt having both the classes and faculty reunions at the same time was great! It provided a great opportunity to meet both classmates and professors and staff at the same time. Even though the school is gone, the Westmar spirit has prevailed. It seems like everyone that was at Westmar during the streak especially likes to reminisce about that," commented Julie (Johnson) Dirks.

The other big reunion for the summer was held on July 15, 16, and 17 when the classes of 1954 and 1955 got together for a 50-year reunion.

A total of 58 people attended the reunion which included 42 alumni and 16 spouses.



### Reminiscing—

Scenes like this could be seen during two Westmar reunions this summer.

Myrt (Beurer) Vick (far right) was heard to say, "I recognize the dress, but that doesn't look like me wearing it.," while other 50-year reunion attendees look on.

There were 59 graduates in the class of 1955, with 44 still living and 39 from the class of 1954. There were also 34 who graduated in 1955 from a two-year program.

They began their reunion by having a get together Friday night in 'Old Central' Gym in Le Mars. The night's activities included a tour of the Plymouth County Historical Museum and the Westmar Room.

Saturday was a campus tour and a lunch at United Methodist Church of Le Mars. The reunion participants were free to explore Le Mars during the afternoon. A banquet and program was held at United

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# Alumni news

## News

**1942-Lorraine Davis** retired from teaching at Maple Valley in 1983. She has logged over 11,000 volunteer hours since retiring and lives in Onawa, Iowa.

**1964-Wendell H. McKenzie, Ph.D.** was president of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi from 2001 to 2004.

**1967-Mary (Hefty) Groyon** retired in May after teaching 34 years in Le Mars and Topeka, Kansas, where she currently lives.

**1978-Hiram Philo and Jolene (Stratton) Philo** live in Boone, Iowa. Hiram is a nurse at Mary Greeley Hospital in Ames and Jolene taught school for 25 years and is now working part-time at her

church. She is also pursuing a career as a speaker and writer. She has several magazine articles being published during the next year, has written one book, and is at work on a second. They have a son (23) and a daughter (16).

**1982-Darby Anderson** is a landscape artist who works primarily in the Midwest, Great Plains states and parts of the Rocky Mountains. The Omaha based artist dedicates several days every month to the process of plein-air painting.

**1987-Jeff Kelly** of Le Mars has been promoted to vice president of marketing and supplier development for Harker's Distribution.

**1988-June Mikkelsen** has accepted a 6-

12 Guidance position with Remsen-Union School and is residing in Remsen, Iowa.

## Deaths

**1943-Harold J. "Hal" Lippke** passed away in Council Bluffs, Iowa on May 25, 2005.

**1943-Elaine (Mittag) Mugler** of Denver, Colorado died on June 11, 2005.

**1948-Rev. Joe Raymond Anderson** died Sept. 13, 2004 at his home in Seguin, Texas after having been a rancher and rice farmer.

**1951-Rev. Richard C. Gayley** of Loveland, Colorado died on June 16, 2005 where he had worked as pastor and counselor.

# A Look Back Across the Decades

The following are excerpts from *The Gleam*.

## January 24, 1931: Graduating Classes of Years Gone By

Western Union college has a very interesting history for one to study. Thursday afternoon two boys became so interested in this that they went to the president's office and rooted out the old Pilots dating from 1914 to 1930.

Not being satisfied with this they proceeded to entice Dr. Zuehl to help them search out the old files of Gleams and Journals. At this point Dr. Zuehl questioned them as to their purpose. They thereupon told him they were curious to know just how many classes and the number in each class that had been graduated from Western Union college from the time of the old normal school up to the present date.

The following data is the result of their afternoon's work:

In 1889 there were two graduates; in 1890 there were four; in 1891 four; in 1892, twelve; in 1893, twelve; in 1894, thirteen; in 1895, six; in 1896, eight; in 1897, eight; in 1898, eight; in 1899, none; in 1901, three; in 1903, six; in 1904, eight; in 1905, six; in 1906, sixteen; in 1907, seven; in 1908, none; in 1909, two; 1910, four; in 1911, two; in 1912, one; in 1913, three; in 1914, one; in 1915, six; in 1916, six; in 1917, nine; in 1918, twelve; in

1919, four; in 1920, twelve, in 1921, sixteen; in 1922, thirteen; in 1923, fourteen; in 1925, thirteen; in 1926 seventeen; in 1927, twenty-two; in 1928, twenty-three; in 1929, thirty; in 1930, twenty-six.

## December 12, 1941: Program for the Opening of New Gym Wednesday

The date for the formal opening of the new physical education building at Western Union College has been set for December 17, 1941. President D. O. Kime is making arrangements to have a suitable program of opening in connection with the first home basketball game of this season. Parsons College will compete with the Golden Eagles in the first intercollegiate game to be played on the new floor. Beginning with band music at seven-thirty o'clock, several short addresses will be given, the contractors and builders of the unit will be introduced. The keys of the building will be turned over to the proper college authorities and Coach Dick Crayne, Director of Athletics, will have a part in the ceremonies. The architects Buettler and Arnold of Sioux City, Anton Henn Electric Company, Nemmers Brothers Contractors and Nemmers Plumbing and Heating Company will all be present in the dedicatory ceremonies.

## October 1, 1951: On The Campus By Tom

Yesterday I started for the Student Union

for a cup of coffee. Broke—no nickel—no coffee. So I decided to see what went on around the campus.

I looked at the L-shaped building across the street, the one that looks like an army hospital with brick veneer. I saw 'Kime Science Hall' on the front, so I decided to try it.

I slipped in real quiet like and saw many people working with gadgets. I finally recognized one as a teacher and went over to talk to him.

"Yes, my name is Sheldon Cram," he tells me. Then I ask him if that is his brother over in the Industrial Arts Shop where I hang out.

"Sure enough," he says. Then he tells me he teaches a beginning course in physics and a course in physical chemistry.

He doesn't say anything more so I am looking around and I see equipment: radar, radios, generators, and other gadgets.

He looks like he is holding something out on me, and I am a reporter, so I says, "What class is this?"

Of course, I am expecting him to say physical chemistry since I knew the students were upper classmen — Pieper, Marty and Trapp were at one table. He says, "This is magnetism and direct current." I guess he didn't want to admit it just then that this was his class.

Then Marty says, "Mr. Cram, will you go through that once more?" Then he starts,

(A Look Back continued on page 5)

# 2005 Reunion Photos



On July 2, a group of reunion goers toured the campus. Here they are in front of Koeller Hall/Memorial Hall.



Alumni had a chance to visit the Westmar Room inside the Plymouth County Historical Museum. It is the contributions of the alumni that make the room possible.



The 1948 Chevy truck which announced the Westmar reunion is owned by Wayne Marty. It was bought new by the Marty family for use on the family farm. Restoration work began in 1990 by Howard and Wayne Marty.



A group of 50 year reunion attendees gather in 'Old Central' Gym to reminisce about their college days.



Those attending the 50-year reunion on July 16 met for lunch at the United Methodist Church of Le Mars (college church).



Working the registration table for the 50-year reunion are Audrey Scholten and Ardella Hodg-

# Taber tells his story

When I enrolled at Western Union College in the fall of 1946, I was 18 years old, and now am 77. I married Lois Eller, June 3, 1946 and during my Senior year at then Westmar, she taught in a country school near Le Mars. I pastored an EUB Church on weekends near Pomeroy/Fonda, Iowa. I sensed God's call to Christian ministry in my Junior year of college which was a shock to many friends and family members, even the late Alice Kruse (Westmar professor).

I was accepted at Western Evangelical Seminary in fall of 1950 near Portland, Oregon (Jennings Lodge). Lois was accepted as a second grade teacher at West Linn, Oregon during those 3 a bit hectic years. I served as student pastor in 3 different EUB churches while in seminary and then in May, 1953 I graduated, came back to Iowa and was ordained as pastor and assigned to Bethany EUB Church in Marshalltown, Iowa... just an hour away from Hubbard where Lois and I grew up and met each other when she was 14 and I was 16. God arranged that and through her family and small country EUB Church's prayers I accepted Jesus into my heart at a summer family camp at Cedar Falls, Iowa. WOW! - what a surprise to see 18 farm couples coming down the aisle of that tabernacle with tears in their eyes, thanking God for answering their prayers for my salvation.

Our first three children were born while

pastoring in Marshalltown, Randy, Jeffrey, Kathy. In 1957 I was assigned to Faith EUB Church in West Davenport, Iowa (a new church plant) which God blessed wonderfully and served there 8 years before God called us into fulltime missionary ministries with OMS Intl. founded in 1901 (an evangelical non-denominational faith mission ... early known as the Oriental Missionary Society which began in Japan, and now in 2005 is in 40 different countries.)

This year June 3rd we celebrated 56 years of marriage and ministries, the last 40 with OMS and still keeping on for HIM as long as HE enables us. We've been ministering since 1993 in Russia, Ukraine almost every year, and have had special ministries in 27 OMS countries since 1965. No retreat—no reserve—no regret—and our perspectives together as a family (all who are strong Christians, plus 11 grandchildren, and one great grandchild) has been and still is, "Not somehow but triumphantly!"

As we say in Russian, Slava Bogue (Glory to God!). Yes, sensing God leading us into fulltime evangelism/mission ministries across North America and overseas was strongly affirmed even by a 1929 Westmar (Western Union) graduate, Miriam Faust, Lois's dear aunt, who entered heaven in May, 2004, after many wonderful years as a missionary in China-Sierre Leone, Africa – Redbird Mission in



**Robert Sterling Taber (1950)**



**Lois (Eller) Taber (1949) and Robert Taber (1950)**

## Send us your story for publication.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Methodist Church of Le Mars that evening.

Sunday began with services at the college church (the United Methodist Church of Le Mars) followed by a lunch.

"Although it was hot, everyone seemed grateful for the opportunity to renew so many old friendships and recall old memories. There were many who stated how great an impact those days at Westmar had on their formative years and give Westmar lots of credit for helping shape them into the persons they have become," reported Reunion Committee member Clayton Hodgson.

Other members of the committee who worked for a year planning and implementing the reunion were Rod and Colleen (Mulder) Scholten, Gen (Scharf) Murphy,

Ardella Hodgson, and Jim Divelbiss.

Several alumni had to travel quite a significant distance to be at the reunion. Those traveling the farthest were Roberta (Graling) Harris from Castaic, California; Dora (Giron) Mitchell from Iverness, Florida; and Floyd and Myrt (Beuer) Vick from Austin Texas.

After all the work was finished and the reunion a success, Clayton Hodgson said, "It takes lots of work and coordination to organize a reunion, but it's the smiles

and expressions of appreciation that convey a great sense of satisfaction in knowing that our endeavors were factors in mak-



Tables were decorated and awaiting guests of the 70s decade reunion. More reunion photos are on page 3.



(A Look Back continued from page 2)

"The double integral is equal to the surface integral, evaluated on the contour,—"  
That's when I got out of there.

In the next room more bottles, and sure enough, there is Dr. Hershberger. I know him; his is always around taking pictures of everything. He takes me by the arm and we are in his office. He explains he is busy teaching chemists. Then I ask him what's new around, and he beams and says something about Dimmick and a circular staircase.

He says, "Follow me," and we start to the back. There are students and vials all over the place, but we make it. A circular staircase. Where am I? Is this place haunted? Down the case we go; it is getting darker and darker, and soon there is a door.

Hershy, that's what Mrs. H. calls him, walks right up, nonchalant and opens the door. "Dark room," he says.

He doesn't need to tell me it's dark; I can see.

"Dark room," he says again, but I'm already going up those stairs. I don't want anything to do with that place, so I am out the side door in a very few minutes.

But, you know, I couldn't help feeling that over in that hall they are hiding something.

### **May 12, 1961: Drama plays important role**

A gay, goofy farce which has won both the Pulitzer Prize and the Academy Award will be presented in Thoren Auditorium on Friday and Saturday nights, May 12 and 13, at 8:00 as part of the Westmar Fine Arts Festival.

In the uninhibited play "You Can't Take it With You," the merry Sycamore clan led by Grandpa Vanderhof, pursues its hobbies which include manufacturing fireworks in the basement, ballet dancing in the living room, distributing revolutionary tracts in boxes of homemade candy, running a printing press, writing plays on a typewriter that was delivered by mistake, and attending commencement exercises.

Hilarity ensues when daughter Alice, the only normal member of the Sycamore family, is visited at home unexpectedly by her fiancé and his very dignified parents.

The roles of the zany Sycamores and their cohorts will all be portrayed by West-

mar students under the direction of Mr. Charles Frohn, English instructor.

### **October 12, 1971: Drive Ends in Big Heap**

Residents and business and industrial firms of Le Mars have met the \$47,500 challenge goal of the 1971 Le Mars for Westmar Campaign.

The financial drive is conducted in Le Mars each year to secure funds for Westmar College. Fay Wells, partner in Wells Blue Bunny Quality Dairy Products of Le Mars and chairman for the campaign, reports that contributions and pledges now total \$47,578. Additional funds are anticipated.

Goals for the Le Mars for Westmar campaign this fall were \$37,500 as the victory goal with \$47,500 representing the challenge goal. Wells explained that the goals were established by the Le Mars Westmar College Advisory Board.

The \$10,000 difference between the victory and challenge goals represents funds that will be invested by Westmar College in capital improvements, primarily in developing 40 acres of land recently secured by the college adjacent to the present campus.

Goal for the 1970 Le Mars for Westmar Campaign was \$45,000. A total of \$45,483 was received.

Kick-off for the 1971 Le Mars for Westmar Campaign was September 14 as 130 volunteers began the solicitation. Robert C. Greear of the J. C. Penney Company in Le Mars served as campaign co-chairman.

Wes Sprunk, secretary-treasurer of Pew's Incorporated in Le Mars was alumni chairman assisted by Clayton Hodgson Plymouth County farm operator. Dr. Clarence J. Attig, professor of history, and Dr. Robert L. Franklin, associate professor in chemistry, represented Westmar faculty and staff.

Westmar College will raise this year \$295,050 for current operations including scholarships and is seeking an additional \$40,000 for special projects and capital development.

### **November 4, 1981: Order of the OBF's**

Remember the new group, Order of the Beards? Well, in the interest of retaining Title IX funding for the club, those of us

lucky enough to be unable to grow a beard are starting a female counterpart. Our group is known as the Order of the Beard Feelers.

We are not an auxiliary, but an entity in ourselves. There are two main purposes to the group:

1. To promote esthetic values of facial hair and appreciation thereof.
2. For pure enjoyment of the valiant efforts of this campus' male species.

To obtain these purposes, our goal is to sponsor a contest later this year for members of the Male Order.

Anyone wishing to join the female order, faculty or students may contact one of the charter members: Kristi Baier, Becky Young, Susie Megill, Sue Brehm, Chris Oswald, Gwen Wilson, Ann Hansen, Jennifer Philips, Lori Steele.

### **October 25, 1991: Monument erected in celebration of Westmar centennial**

Construction began two weeks ago on a monument to celebrate the centennial year of Westmar College.

The monument being built on the plaza, will display a bronze plaque. This, in turn, will name the plaza.

There will be two end date stones removed from a statue resembling "The Thinker," taken from Weidler Hall, and also from the now razed, Thoren Performing Arts Center.

The money to build the monument was donated by alumni, Mr. and Mrs. Brian Proctor.

Mr. Proctor, also a member of the Board of Governors of Teikyo Westmar University, and his wife will help dedicate the structure and the area in which it sits.

The dedication will be held during Homecoming on Oct. 5, at 10:30 a.m.

The Proctors were also responsible for the donation that built the gazebo which already stands in the plaza.

Dr. Valda Embree, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, revealed there are more plans in the making for the current plaza.

"We want to enhance the whole area," Embree said.

Eventually, there are to be benches and tables added to the area, making it a circular congregation and relaxation area for the students.

**Do you have any Westmar items you would like to donate to the Archives or for room display?**

Contact Westmar by mail or e-mail. Addresses are listed on the back of this newsletter.

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WESTMAR ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION  
335 FIRST AVENUE S.W.  
LE MARS, IOWA 51031



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**Show your Westmar spirit!**  
*Do you know classmates or other Westmar alums who are not yet Wafa members? Ask them to send information and yearly dues to the office in Le Mars to be included in future mailings.*

**Contact us!**  
**Wafa e-mail address**  
**westmar@lemarscomm.net**

**Current Members:** You will receive a postcard when it is time to renew your membership. Please pass the form below on to other Westmar Alum so they can be part of the momentum also.

**What's Happening with You? Tell Us!**

We are interested in knowing what has recently (or not so recently) happened in your life. Promotions? Marriage? Births or deaths? Honors or awards? Graduate degree? Semi- or full retirement? Pass on the information so we can print it and spread the good news!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Class year \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse also an alum \_\_\_\_\_

Other relatives also alums \_\_\_\_\_

News (attach a separate sheet if needed ) \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Wafa  
335 First Ave. S.W.  
Le Mars, Iowa 51031  
Or e-mail to: westmar@lemarscomm.net



**Westmar Alumni & Friends Association**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address, if available \_\_\_\_\_

Attended Westmar \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership fee: Single \$15.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Couples \$25.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yearbook copies \_\_ Years \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$.50 each)

Maintenance of Westmar Memory Room \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to:  
Wafa

335 First Avenue S.W.  
Le Mars, Iowa 51031

Please make check payable to Wafa

