



Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

Volume 10, Issue 2

May, 2008

Spanish Professor Garrido Dies

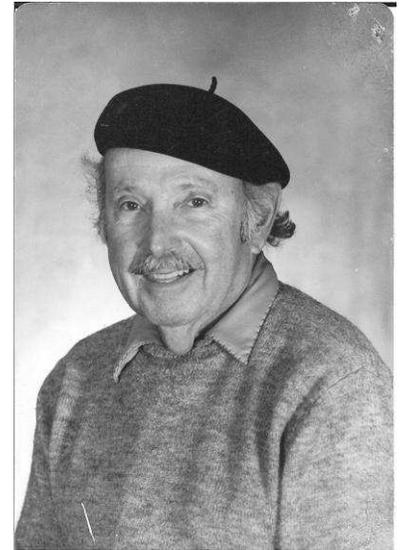


Dr. Jose Garrido, a Spanish Professor at Westmar for 20 years, died at age 93 in Miami, Florida on April 14, 2008. Jose was born Oct. 10, 1914 in Havana, Cuba. He was a lawyer by profession in Cuba and served as the mayor of Havana in 1950. He came to the United States in 1964, fleeing the Castro regime, along with his wife Lydia and granddaughter Inger. He joined the Westmar faculty in 1967 and was a popular, dynamic, Spanish instructor until they moved to Miami, Florida in 1987.

His obituary states that, "This time in his life was one of joy and passion for his students". He initiated the popular, annual, COPACABANA" - a Spanish festival in the college cafeteria with Spanish food and entertainment. Dr. Garrido, with his big sombrero, was always the MC for the event.

Jose was an active tennis player and even at age 70 was winning matches against much younger players. When asked how he was able to do that, one of his replies was "Use head!, Use Head!". He loved the Westmar Bowling league that was a popular event at 4:30 on Thursday afternoons, during the 70's and 80's, for all interested Westmar Faculty, Administrators, and Staff.

His wife, Lydia, died in 1976 and is buried in the Le Mars Memorial Cemetery. Following the loss of his wife, it was common to see Jose walking on campus in the evening with his dog and visiting with students along the way. Jose was a vibrant contributor to the Westmar experience and will be remembered by many of the Westmar Family.



Dr. Jose Garrido



Still receiving your newsletter by mail? If you have an email address, please consider helping us cut costs by allowing us to send a link to the newsletter file on the internet. We will email the link to you and you will be able to read the newsletter as long as you have the free Adobe Reader program. You will also be able to print a copy if you choose.

Don't forget to send in your reunion reservation. A form is on page 5 of this newsletter or you can print one from the website or register online (address on back of newsletter). Don't miss out on reconnecting with old friends and maybe even making some new ones.

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Bricks and Mortar and More

Airport

By Dr. Wayne G. Marty

D. O. Kime, president of Western Union and Westmar College for 26 years (1930 to 1956), began his tenure at the college in 1920 when he was hired as Professor of Mathematics, and Physics and The Athletic Coach. His positive influence on the students and the college in general was recognized already in 1922 by the dedication of the 1922 Pilot yearbook to David Orion Kime "in appreciation of the service he has rendered to our Alma Mater..."

Kime was an innovator and by 1925 he had led Western Union College to the forefront of radio broadcasting. President Kime continued his innovative ideas but was also a prudent financial manager. In the late 1930's he was encouraging the Board of trustees to build a stable endowment for the college by investing in farmland. In his report to the Board at the annual meeting of March 11, 1941, Kime writes, "The third farm recently acquired as an endowment investment, and as a part of the college plant is located on highway 75, one mile from the campus. This tract is almost level containing approximately one hundred seventy acres and is suitable for an airport and as an addition to the Dairy Farm. It is perhaps the only site available for this purpose near Le Mars."

During the 1940-41 academic year, the college had already introduced a C.P.T. (Civilian Pilot Training) course and had enrolled the first 20 students even though there was, as yet, no runway or airport. They were flying from a farm field 3 miles west of Le Mars. The first class sat for their Civil Air Regulation and Navigation-Meteorology exams in January of 1941. The top scores in the exams were earned by Sylvia Dahmes who later became a member of the WASPs (Women's Army Service Pilots) that provided non-combat pilot services for the U. S. Army. Construction of the runway on the new farm close to campus was scheduled to begin in April of 1941 and the first hangar was built as the runway was being constructed. President Kime, in his report of April 12, 1944 says, "A large sign on Hangar No. 1 identifies the College with the airport. It is plainly visible to all who travel U. S. Highway No. 75 and the Illinois Central and Northwestern Railroads."

The tragic Japanese bombing of Pearl



Western Union College Airport

(taken from the 1941 Eagle yearbook)

Harbor on December 7, 1941 plunged our nation into WW II and the intensive war effort demanded a rapid increase in military equipment and trained pilots. It was unusual for a college to own its own airport and have a pilot training program already in place. A government contract to train Naval Aviation Cadets was obtained in 1942 and hangar No. 2 was built. During the 1943-44 academic year only 308 regular students were enrolled at Western Union College but a total of 400 Naval Cadets were housed and fed in Wernli Hall while they received their basic flight training on the new college field. In 1944 Hangar No. 3 and the two story Administration building were constructed.

The Naval Cadet Training contract with the government was terminated in June of 1944 which prompted innovative Dr. Kime to search for other pathways that could keep Western Union College in the Aviation business. (See the story of the Mars Skycoupe in the Jan. 05 WAFSA Newsletter.)

The Westmar College airport was sold to the City of Le Mars in 1964. The Grass runway was replaced with concrete and new individual hangars were built. Commercial business hangars were constructed in 1979 and 1984 to accommodate the private commercial jets for the growing Le Mars industries.

(Continued on page 4)



Control tower, office and two of the three hangars at the college airport.

(taken from the 1944 Eagle yearbook)



Alumni News

News

1929-Alice Kruse, at the age of 101, is the oldest alumna that we are aware of.

1955-Arthur Angove would like to hear from all who served in the USAF Ground Observer Corp at WC. Contact Westmar Alumni and messages will be forwarded to him.

1957-Clif and Marge (Voas) Ellerbeck will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on June 1 at Trinity United Methodist Church in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

1958-Leroy Pickett and wife, Mary Joyce went on a tour of Italy last fall and enjoyed seeing the sights.

1960-Kenneth Hellar of Littleton, Colo., has retired and is ready to do some motor home traveling, skiing, and visiting four children in Ark, Wis., N.Y., & Colo.

1960-Sharon (Smith) McCormick of Arvada, Colo. reports that she is a retired United Methodist clergywoman and that she and her husband Tom like to travel. She takes pottery classes and writes creative nonfiction.

1965-Anita (Harrison) Ervin taught music and physical education for 34 years before retiring in 2000 and has been substituting for six years.

1973-Rita (Sukut) Carlson has enjoyed a career in Church Music for 28 years. For

health reasons, she has been forced to retire early and misses directing her choirs. She credits voice teacher Wayne Mitchell for "getting my husband of 35 years."

1981-Paul Dove is the fire marshal of the Coldwater Fire Department in Coldwater, Mich. He is married and has one daughter.

Faculty-Robert Pettit after retiring from full time college teaching he designed and presented specialized industry courses and taught part time in the engineering department at Penn State. He is now retired.

Deaths

1927-Clarence "Skip" Westphal of Manson, Iowa died on February 26, 2008. He was featured as the oldest alumnus in the November 2006 newsletter which can be viewed online at <http://www.westmarcollege.org/newsletters/200611.pdf>

1930(York)-Dorothea (Store) Curtis passed away on October 7, 2007.

1931-Mamie (Meyer) Hall died on August 26, 2007.

1937 (York)-Vera (Thamer) Hicok died on September. 25, 2007.

1939-Jeanne(Juist) Veen passed away on January 14, 2007.

1940 (York) -May McPherson died on

July 31, 2007.

1940 (York)-Lenora Leslie Terrell passed away on February 15, 2008.

1942 (York)-George Doerr passed away on March 16, 2007.

1943-Lorene "Renie" (Asseln) Harms died on March 21, 2008.

1948-Robert Gillespie died on July 21, 2007.

1950 (York)-Pauline E. Smeltzer passed away on April 8, 2007

1950-Bonnie Jean (Eaton) Good died on May 24, 2007 in Omaha, Neb.

1952-Donald Frogge passed away on February 20, 2008.

1953-Wilbur Molendorp died on April 8, 2007

1959-William R. VanDevender, II passed away as a result of Multiple Myeloma on April 11, 2008.

1960-Joy (Feil) Janssen passed away on February 27, 2007.

1962-David Dowd passed away on April 30, 2008 in The Dalles, Oregon.

1975-76 (attended)-Debra (Folkers) Wharton, daughter of graduates Robert (1953) and Connie (1954) Folkers died on March 3, 2008.

Staff-Donald Mott, former custodian at Westmar died on February 1, 2008.

Faculty 1967-1987-Dr. Jose Garrido passed away on April 14, 2008 in Miami.

Westmar Alumni on Facebook

Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association has a page, and enter "Westmar University Alumni" in the search group at Facebook! If you have a Facebook account, search for area. Click on the blue Wafa logo to go to the page, then click on the "join" link under the logo on the right side of the page.

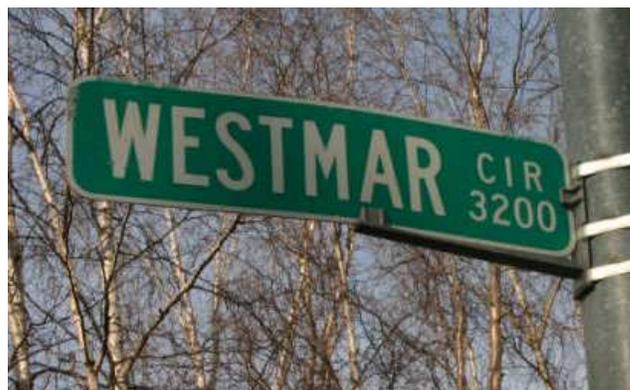
Don't have a Facebook account yet? If you have an email address, you can have a Facebook page! To sign up, visit <http://www.facebook.com/>. After you've set up your account (it's quick and easy), look for the "Groups" link at the left side of the page. Or, contact "friend" Carrie Radloff, let her know you'd like to join the Wafa group and she'll send you an invitation. Still having problems? Write to Carrie at radloff@hotmail.com and she'll do what she can to help.

Anchorage Street Named 'Westmar Circle'

Does anybody know how Anchorage, Ala. got a short little street named Westmar Circle in a section of town close to the University called "College Town?"

Margaret Hendriks Skoog (1963) and husband Dennis were up there visiting an old high school friend recently and saw this sign while out on a walk. All of the streets in this area have the names of small private colleges. Margaret guesses the houses in this part of town were built in the late 60's/early 70's. It's just off 36th Avenue east of the New Seward Highway.

If you know the answer to this question, please contact the alumni office so we can include it in a future newsletter.





Proposed Slideshow Project

The alumni office recently received several digital images of slides that Leland Eyres (1957) scanned and emailed to us. His slides are mainly from 1956 and will be available on DVD, complete with background music, during the reunion this summer.

That gave us an idea. If we were to purchase a slide scanner, we would be able to

scan the slides that are in the Westmar Archives. We would then be able to arrange them by decade or by activity and make them into slide shows that we would put onto DVD disks and offer for sale. We would be able to do the same thing with digital photos that are taken during reunions.

Depending on just when we are able to

acquire a slide scanner, we may be able to ask reunion attendees to bring their slides for scanning while they are here and the slides would be returned to them before they leave.

If you have slides to share, please contact the alumni office before coming to the reunion in August.

Westmar Alumni and Friends Association Board of Directors

Paul Coffin '75 (president)
Leon Scott '66-'97 faculty
Rosemary Radloff '93 & staff
Milt Martin '53 & fac. '63-'97
Jeff Neary '81
Denise Kolker '75
Gregory Mc Innis '92

The board meetings for the rest of the year will be July 15 and October 21 at 7 p.m. in the Plymouth County Historical Museum's Welcome Room. All members are encouraged to participate in whatever way they can.

WAFAs Dues Support These Activities:

- Work with the Iowa College Foundation to administer the Westmar Endowment Scholarship
- Help sponsor and organize Westmar reunions
- Publish WAFAs newsletters
- Help maintain displays in the Westmar Room of the Plymouth County Historical Museum
- Maintain Westmar Alumni, Faculty, Staff, and Administration database
- Help maintain the Westmar Memorial Park on the former campus
- Maintain the WAFAs web-site

Airport—

(Continued from page 2)

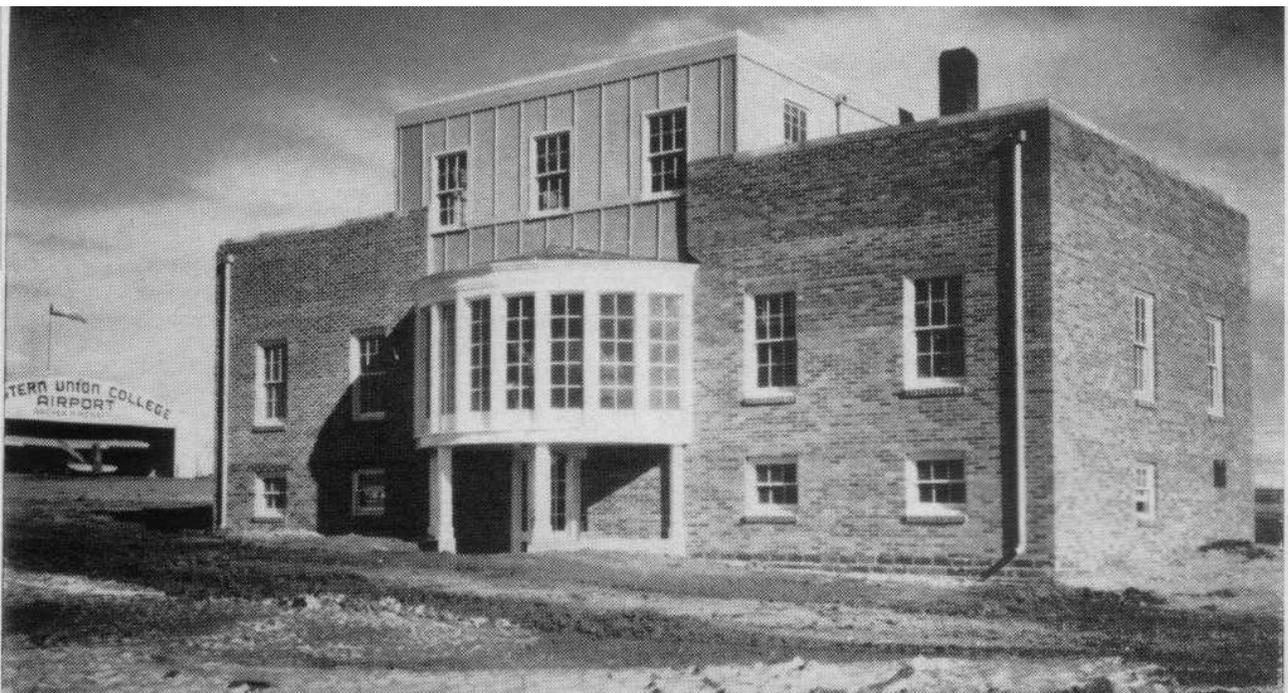
Of the original hangars, only No. 2 remains and it is now used only as a storage shed. However, the Administration building is still "flying". It is now owned by Bernie De Boer, Westmar Class of 1960, and is home for his "Hobby Haven" business that is a major service supplier for radio controlled model airplane enthusiasts in the northwest Iowa territory. The air-

port runway has just recently been lengthened to provide a safer landing strip for the larger corporate jets and the airport is now tied to the City of Le Mars by the new winding ribbon of concrete that curves by Hobby Haven, old Hangar No. 2, the new runway extension, along the banks of the Floyd River, past Wal-Mart, and continuing for a total of 9 miles to the Municipal Park on the opposite edge of the city.

What is today has resulted from the active minds and determination of dreamers from yesterday.

Next time we will discuss "Old" Kime Science Hall. Your memories are welcome.

The picture below is of the Administration building which is still in use today. (From the 1945 edition of the Eagle year-book.)





Westmar Alumni Office News

Did you ever wonder what happens in the Wafa office?

We (Jan and Mary) work out of a little storage room/office off the Westmar Room at the Plymouth County Historical Museum. We staff the office Tuesday through Friday afternoons. Here are some of the things we have handled in the last year.

We sent out over 1900 Reunion invitations for the August 2008 Reunion (Decades of the 1930s, 40s, and 50s), then followed up on undeliverable mail to locate death records and address changes. Then we posted the "missing" names on our website. Be sure to check it out to see if you can help us "find" anyone.

We help people find each other. When we get an inquiry for someone's whereabouts, we contact the person being sought to get their permission to release their information to the person seeking them.

We matched a friend from Nebraska with an alum from Arizona, who then asked about someone from New York who we located. All in one day!

We matched an alum from Alaska with her friend from Florida.

We have helped a woman locate information about her father who is a 1970 graduate. She was planning a surprise 65th birthday party and was wanting some information.

The published works display was taken down and we put up a Bayles display.

Richard Bayles (1962) donated a large amount of items to the Museum. Many were from his mother (Dorothea Batson Bayles-1929). The items included things from W. Wallace Bayles (Richard's uncle) who is shown in the 1928 football photo in the display; Lillian Bayles (Richard's aunt) whose autograph book from 1940 in on display. F. MCP Bayles (Richard's grandfather) was the Field Secretary of Western Union College and is pictured in the 1930 Western Union yearbook. Richard's sister, Genevieve, attended Westmar from 1960 to 1963, but didn't graduate from Westmar. It's a very interesting and varied display.

We were contacted by a lady whose possessions were destroyed in Hurricane Katrina. She wanted to replace her yearbooks from 1959, 1960, 1961, and 1962. Unfortunately, we were out of 1959 and 1961, but had the other two years. She also asked about Le Mars Community yearbooks for 1955-1958. We knew the Museum had a supply of extra LCS yearbooks. They had only the 1958 yearbook and sold that to her. After receiving the books she sent us an email that started with this sentence, "The three yearbooks came today and I am so happy I could cry." We are still on the lookout for the other books for her. Helping people like this is the most rewarding part of our job.

In a recent newsletter we included a por-

tion of a letter from one of the Japanese students to his host family. We emailed that newsletter to him and in return he sent back an order for the 1997 yearbook. In the confusion of the rapid closing of the college, not all the yearbooks were distributed. We sent him a yearbook and used his money as a membership since we figured he had already paid for the yearbook once already.

Shortly after that we got an email from another Japanese student asking that a yearbook be sent to the parents of a friend of his who died on campus in January of 1997.

Many orders for yearbooks, t-shirts, sweatshirts, Chorale CDs and other memorabilia have been filled.

With the help of Dr. Wayne Marty and Norm Barker, faithful Museum volunteers, we have the Trost Office plaque and the A.V. Howland Periodical Room plaque on display in the Bulletin Board donated by the Class of 1920. This is in the hallway outside the Westmar Room.

The job that takes up a lot of time and is probably the most important is to update addresses, email addresses and phone numbers of over 14,000 entries in the data base.

We enjoy hearing from alumni and helping in whatever way we can.

Reunion Registration —Please return by July 1, 2008

Name _____
First Last Class

Name _____
First (Maiden) Last Class

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Friday evening: Le Mars Convention Center Number _____ @ \$20.00 each \$ _____

Saturday lunch: Museum Gym Number _____ @ \$10.00 each \$ _____

Saturday banquet: Museum Gym Number _____ @ \$20.00 each \$ _____

Sunday morning Coffee: Museum Lobby Number _____ No charge

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Reservations are now being taken for the August 1-3, 2008 reunion. Everyone is welcome to attend, especially graduates from the Decades of the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. The class of 1958 will celebrate its 50-year reunion at the same time.

Make checks payable to **Wafa** and send to:
 Wafa
 335 First Avenue SW
 Le Mars, IA 51031

Or pay on-line at www.WestmarCollege.org

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



Alumni Office Staff

Janice (Dunbar) Kooiker '67: Executive Director
Mary Holub: Communications Director and
Newsletter Editor

Return Service Requested

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

Contact us!
westmar@lemarscomm.net

http://www.WestmarCollege.org/

Be sure to check out our new and improved, ever-changing website at:
<http://www.WestmarCollege.org/>. We offer online shopping, membership,
and reunion registration. Suggestions are always welcome.

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



Westmar University Alumni & Friends Assoc.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail address, if available _____

Can we e-mail your newsletter? Yes No

Attended Westmar _____ to _____ Class of _____

Membership fee: Single \$15.00 \$ _____

Couples \$25.00 \$ _____

General donation to help sustain your
Alumni Association \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Return this form to:

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



*Please make check
payable to WAFAs*

To avoid cutting your newsletter, these forms can be copied or printed from website and mailed to us.