



Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

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Traveling Wedding Veil Travels Again

Most wedding veils see only one ceremony and then are packed up and placed in storage. They might be taken out at special wedding anniversaries and then returned to their box. This isn't the case with a veil purchased by Dr. and Mrs. B.F. Zuehl for their niece, Mildred Hahn.

The veil has been in the guardianship of Leland and Marlene Eyres for several years and was passed to Gretchen Schaeffer, another family member, during the Westmar Reunion on August 2.

An article in the April 29, 1960 edition of *The Gleam* gives the story.

Treasured traveling veil worn fifty times in thirty years

Not many people buy a wedding veil after twenty years after they are married. Yet, this is what Dr. and Mrs. B.F. Zuehl, of Westmar College did.

When they sailed for Europe in 1930, they promised their niece, Miss Mildred Hahn, that they would return in time for her wedding to Donald Eyres of Le Mars that August and bring her a wedding veil. They were unable to find anything that suited their taste until they reached Parish, France. There they found and purchased a veil.

A large, egg-shaped creation, the veil is approximately seven feet long and three feet wide. It has a foundation of sheer linen net, is adorned with Battenberg lace and is simple in design.

After the wedding the veil was returned with an expression of appreciation and the suggestion that it be kept for other brides to use and enjoy as she did. And that is exactly what Mrs. Zuehl did.

Since that time fifty brides have worn the veil. Four of them have been related to the Zuehls and the rest have been college girls whom Mrs. Zuehl became acquainted with at Westmar.

The veil has done quite a bit of traveling too. It has been from California to Ohio and from North Dakota to Kansas. If the bride is unable to take the veil herself, it is insured and mailed to her; and she returns it in the same manner. The insured value is an approximate value.

Said Mrs. Zuehl, "We decided that we wouldn't tell anyone what it cost. If it costs more than people think it should, they think we're spendthrifts; if less, it isn't worth much. Besides, we ceased to measure its value by monetary terms a long time ago. We never dreamed when we purchased it that it would have a life such as it has had. It has become a very treasured possession."

The veil has been neither torn nor damaged in all this time and is still in good condition. When it gets soiled,



Left to right: Annabel (Streyffeler) Meyer who married Leonard Meyer in 1951; Sharon (Eyres) Trost Jones who married Keith Trost in 1958; Marlene (Schmidt) Eyres who married Leland Eyres in 1963; and Juanita (Carpenter) Hahn who married Samuel Hahn in 1957.

Helen (Parkinson) Vance (inset) wore the veil when she married Kenneth Vance in 1946.

Mrs. Zuehl launders it by hand. Before washing, the outline of the veil is marked by pins on a sheet which has been laid on the floor.

This is necessary because after washing, it shrinks into a small ball which can easily be held in the palm of the hand. It must then be stretched back into its proper shape. This requires someone else to help get it back in shape before it dries, because it dries very rapidly.

With the exception of four years, this veil has been worn at least once every year since its purchase in 1930. A few of the brides to wear it within the last seven years are Lilly Dragoo (Mrs. Clair Kerns), Delores Krafft (Mrs. Keith Roepke), Ruth Carpenter (Mrs. Arnold Ubben), Juanita Carpenter (Mrs. Sam Hahn), Mabel Luetchens (Mrs. Wayne Koch), and Sharon Eyres (Mrs. Keith Trost).

Mrs. Zuehl said, "I have no set rule for who is allowed to wear this veil. Whenever I know of a girl who is getting married and might enjoy wearing it, I tell her that she may wear it if she wishes, but I won't feel offended if she prefers one of her own. The choice is hers."

Mrs. Zuehl has a picture of nearly all of the weddings in her collection. The veil is the same yet each girl has been able to add her own touch because the bride must furnish the tiara. No head piece accompanies the veil.

The veil has been displayed on several occasions and it was worn in the bridal style show at Westmar last spring.



Bricks and Mortar and More

“Old” (Kime) Science Hall

by Dr. Wayne Marty

During the 1946-47 school year the science classes and laboratories continued to be located in Thoren Hall as they had been since Western Union College began but post WWII changes were in progress. Enrollment was increasing with returning veterans and also surplus military materials were becoming available for civilian use. Surplus military barracks were acquired from the Sioux City Air Base, reconfigured into an L-shaped building, and brick veneered to become a nice looking “new” Science Hall ready for the Fall 1947 school year.

The upper level of the two story wing was occupied by the Biology Department under the direction of Dr. Danner who at that time, with the help of student assistants, taught the entire Biology curriculum. The first floor of the two story wing was for Physics and the primary Physics professor and also president of the college was D. O. Kime. The single story wing provided a large lecture room and the Chemistry laboratories with Dr. Hershberger as the only Chemistry professor.

Many will remember the “foot long” paper wasp nest that hung on one of the pillars in the biology lab. The nest and various pieces of antique laboratory equipment are now saved in the Plymouth County Historical Museum. Memories may include the numerous holes in clothing and even shoes from acid spills in the chem. labs or the shocking color change of the newly painted chem. lab ceilings and walls following the Hydrogen Sulfide experiment. Hydrogen Sulfide reacts with lead to produce a black pigment and the summer painters had used lead based paint. But the education in the WWII recycled building produced nationally recognized educators, research scientists, and Medical doctors – too many to mention by name.

“Hershey” was also an avid photographer and many students enrolled in his Photography course. In the early 50’s a quality photography lab was built in the basement at the far end of the Chem. lab with a spiral staircase leading down to these dark rooms with the shiny stainless steel sinks and counter space lined with the bottles of developing chemicals and processing trays.



“Old” Kime Science Hall about 1955. Photo contributed by Leland Eyres.

Continuing enrollment growth created space pressures for more laboratory space during the 1950’s. The merger with York College in 1955 not only brought more students to Westmar but also brought Dr. Noll from York to join Dr. Danner in the Biology Department. In the fall of 1959, I (Marty) as a “kid” just six years past my 1953 Westmar BA degree replaced Dr. Noll and Dr. Rebstock joined the “Hershey” in the Chemistry department. There was only one telephone in the building and it was in the hall outside the Marty upper level office. Sometimes I had to get “Hershey” to the telephone from the basement Photo Lab – two flights of stairs and a long walk away.

More science space was needed and there was serious talk of a new science building but temporary adjustments were made by moving the physics labs back to the basement of Thoren Hall which then provided two laboratory rooms for biology. In 1967, after 20 years of science in the WWII “barracks”, the move was finally made into the new four story Kime Science Hall. The faculty had grown to four in Biology, three in Chemistry, and two in Physics. More faculty growth was yet to come.

The “old” Science Hall was now available for a new era of versatility. The next 30 years would include several significant renovations and modifications with changing occupancy until the college closed in

1997. The Department of Psychology occupied the upper level under the leadership of Dr. Embree. The building had housed mice, and frogs, and fish, subjects of study for the first 20 years, but the remodeling now provided space for the study of behavior – space and equipment for experiments with pigeons and the one way glass window for the observation of human behavior. The Development Office occupied the lower level so the building soon became known as the Dev-Psyc Building.

Various service offices occupied the longer one story segment of the building and remodels often preceded the changes. Many will recall their experiences with faculty and staff in Admissions, Financial Aid, Dept. of Education, Area Education and even the offices for the Dream Team effort that some will remember from the 1990’s. The mailroom and “print shop” occupied the north end above the basement photo lab. It was a common conversation location as faculty and staff picked up mail and placed copy orders. It was a very important “service center” that provided support for the entire Westmar community.

The building was demolished in February 2002, 4 ½ years after the college closed in Nov. 1997 but memories of the experiences in the “old” Science Hall and the Dev-Psyc building will last for many more years.

Next time we will take a look at the Industrial Arts Building.



Alumni News

News

1942-Lorraine (Bartel) Davis does volunteer work at Act II and spends four months as a winter Texan. She is a retired elementary teacher and lives in Onawa, Iowa.

1955-Arthur Angove was appointed Chaplain of the American Legion Post 488. In June he traveled with his daughter's art class to France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Lichtenstein.

1969-Dee Ann Mezger of Lawrence, Kansas has retired from KS East Conf. in June.

1976-Marilyn O. Finstad has received an Associate of Science degree in Management in 1996 from Gateway Technical College. She lives in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa.

1991-Shannon (Schwartz) Simmons married Russ Simmons in 2003 and they have a baby girl. She works with computers and Russ is a paralegal.

Deaths

1933-Della (Herlig) Gray of Marcus, Iowa died on July 7, 2008.

1959-Perry Uhl passed away on July 2, 1999.

1966-Luella (VanderHamm) (Siege) Schiltz passed away on June 13, 2008 in Le Mars.

Staff-Wendel Carstensen of Le Mars died on Aug. 21, 2008.

Westmar Kansas Reunion Attracts 39

By Jeanette (Schroeder) Grenz '70

Thursday night, May 22, 2008, 39 people attended the 10th reunion of the Kansas Conference Kids. This was the second time it included other people with Kansas and Westmar ties so there were several people who attended for the first time. We were served a delicious dinner by Fran Odgers and a crew of helpers (including Leon and Cate Hayen) from Topeka First United Methodist Church. After dinner, we each introduced ourselves and told when we were at Westmar and gave a sentence or two summary of what we had been doing since leaving Westmar. Lorene Kehler told us that her husband John, who had been at the last reunion, had died shortly after that. Jeanette Grenz shared information about Paul and Jane Hett who were in a car accident recently and were unable to be with us and Don and Joyce Appleman who had sent word that morning that they wouldn't be joining us. She also passed around a notebook of greetings from other people who couldn't be there. We were pleased that Wayne and June Marty could join us and Wayne brought greetings from Miss Alice Kruse who the Marty's had visited that afternoon at her place in Blair, NE. Miss Kruse is 101 years old now and Wayne had several fun stories to share about her (including her "dog" which is a helium balloon that has stayed up for three months and "follows" her around her apartment.) Next we saw some pictures that Ken Grenz had taken in his travels last fall of some EUB historical places in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Friday morning at 9:00 we reconvened at the Forest Park Conference and Retreat Center. Several who were with us on



Thursday night could not stay for Friday, but we were joined by one more so our number was at 31. We started our time together with a wonderful brunch served by Leon and Cate Hayen. Jeanette called us together and shared a devotion called "We Are Connected" from the book Queen Anne's Lace and Other Weeds by Mary Jane (Crosley) Hartman (class of '45). Jeanette reported that Chuck and Marge Kehrberg and Nita Merriweather had been planning to come but due to illness, they also had to cancel. Jeanette also reported the following deaths that she had learned about since our last reunion: Jean (Nelson) Clark (she actually died 12 years ago but her daughter sent a nice note in response to the invitation to the reunion), Andy Jordan, John Roth, and Doris Sander. It was also reported that Don Frogge had died recently. Next we brought out our Old Time Gospel Song-sheets and did some singing accompanied

by Iola (Hegle) Schroeder on the piano. We concluded our singing with Oh Westmar College and the Westmar Pep Song.

Our lunch was catered by Selighoff Bakery and Deli in Lyndon, KS. The owner told us about their group of liberal Amish, and the food they served us was very good. After lunch we had group pictures taken. It was decided that we would once again meet in two years on Memorial Day weekend.

We sang a few more songs ending with "Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow" and we were sent out with the one who had led us to Westmar and to this reunion.

The Forest Park dining hall has been reserved for Saturday May 29, 2010. We will plan to meet on Friday night, May 28, hopefully at First UMC again. Put this date on your calendar now! Overnight lodging will probably be available at Forest Park if some wish to stay there.



Westmar Reunion 2008



Greeting reunion goers at the door of the Le Mars Convention Center was Wayne Marty's restored 1948 Chevy farm truck.

People gather at the Convention Center to reminisce.



The Friday evening meal was catered by Timmy's Catering. Owner's Tim and Bonnie Rasmussen are 1973 and 1974 Westmar graduates, respectively.

Former Choral members perform Saturday at the banquet.



As he does for every reunion, Wayne Marty lead a campus tour. They found shade and a couple benches to sit on while Dr. Marty discussed changes and answered questions.

Saturday afternoon, reunion attendees gathered in small groups to catch up. Here a group from the 1950s meets in the Museum's Welcome Room.



Bill Miller and Charlyn (Frahm) Shickell



Bill Arnold and Charlyn (Frahm) Shickell



Sylvia (Feiock) Frahm



Chuck Kehrberg directed the music while his sister, Norma, accompanied on the piano as a last-minute substitute for Betty Lou Larson.

Selections from "Beautiful Day," otherwise known as the musical "Oklahoma" were presented by the original performers during the entertainment portion of the banquet Saturday night. Fifty years after their Homecoming performance and the still sounded great.

Reunion photos by Mary Holub



Stan Schmidt



The traveling veil is very well documented with photos, names, and dates as seen in the display that accompanied the veil.



The veil is displayed along with Marlene (Schmidt) Eyres' wedding dress. Marlene wore the dress and veil in 1963 when she married Leland Eyres.

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WESTMAR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI & FRIENDS
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