



Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

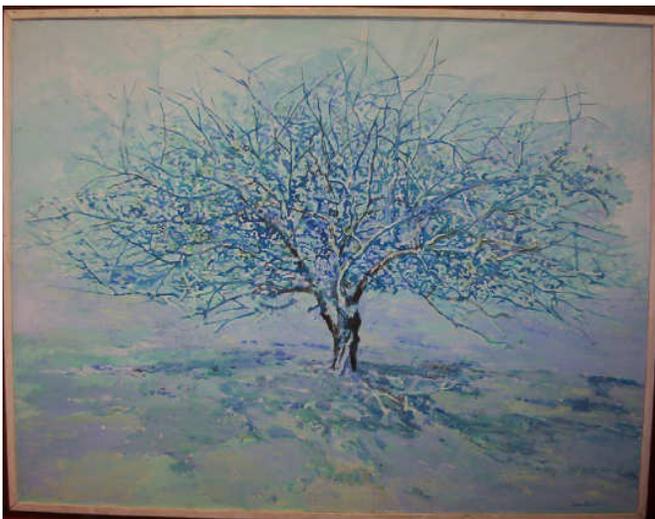
Volume 11, Issue 2

May, 2009

Westmar Artwork on display in Museum



Prairie Edge by Gary Bowling



Blue Tree by John Gordon

When Westmar closed in 1997, the collection of art and autographs held by Westmar was turned over to the City of Le Mars. A few years ago, the City decided that the Plymouth County Historical Museum would be the best place for this large collection. Since then the Museum has gotten grants to frame part of the autographs and provide proper storage for the art and autograph collection.

Some of the artwork is hanging in the first floor hallway at the Museum through the Summer and into Fall.

Gary Bowling

Gary Bowling from Lamar, Missouri earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in 1974 from the University of Arkansas and shortly afterward, took an art teaching position at Westmar. He taught for about nine years taking a sabbatical from Westmar in 1981 to spend time at Yaddo, an artist's colony in Saratoga Spring, New York. He quit teaching in 1983 and moved back to Lamar to concentrate on his painting full time.

Mr. Bowling's next public showing will be at the Groveland Gallery in Minneapolis, Minn. from June 5 through July 18, 2009. His artwork can be seen on his website <http://www.gbowlingstudio.com/>.

John Gordon

John Gordon attended art schools and colleges in France and the United States and earned his Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Iowa in 1952. He taught at several colleges around the country including Drake in Des Moines (1964-1967), Westmar (1972-1974), and finally Morningside in Sioux City (1974-1975).

Mr. Gordon has held one-man shows in Des Moines, Sioux City, Omaha and New York and group showings in Philadelphia, New York, Minneapolis, Summit, New Jersey, and Corpus Christi, Texas.

Mr. Gordon died on April 13, 2004.

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 remainder of 2009 will be held on July 21, and Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Plymouth County Historical Museum's Welcome Room. All members are encouraged to participate in whatever way they can.

Inside this issue:

<i>Bricks & Mortar & More</i>	2
<i>Alumni News & Deaths</i>	3
<i>Texas Mini Reunion</i>	4
<i>Trost Plaque</i>	5
<i>Contact Information</i>	6



Bricks and Mortar and More

Married Student Housing

by Dr. Wayne G. Marty

Apparently married students were rare in the early years of Western Union College so the college made no effort to provide housing for these few students. However, the many veterans returning to college following WW II provided a totally different scene.

The immediate need for married student housing was met by the post war availability of military barracks buildings from the Sioux Air Base. The president's report, dated April 9, 1947, to the College Board of Trustees states, "The units were completed and occupied November 1, 1946. Each apartment has a living room, dinette and kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom. The facilities include a gas cooking range, gas water heater, gas space heater, and an ice box. The fair rent set by the Federal Public Housing Authority, including electric light and water, is \$28.00 per month with a minimum of \$20.00 a month for veterans with an income of only \$90 a month. The Units have proved to be very satisfactory. Beds, mattresses, chairs, blankets, sheets, pillows and towels may be rented at a nominal fee."



These five "newlywed cottages", with two apartments in each, were located south of the Memorial Hall men's dormitories but were in place and occupied before the dorms were completed. These "Huts", officially known as the Campus Court, were the homes for young couples into the early 1960's. It would be interesting to know how many newborns spent their first months in the "Huts". One resident, Duane Buttenob '53, recalls that the little stove and no A/C resulted in considerable temperature variability for their kids, Carole '70, and her siblings.

In 1947 the new Eastview Apartments were completed and provided homes for 8

married student couples. Rent was \$45 per month including utilities. Eastview heat



was provided by the campus Central Heating Plant and Bethel (Johnson) Kienitz '50, recalls encounters with cockroaches that wandered from the heating plant pipe tunnels into their apartment. She tells of returning to their apartment at night and moving carefully into their bedroom, without turning on lights, to pick up their slippers so the cockroach "slipper tenants" could be discarded to reduce the population by at least a bit. Eastview, through the years, had a mixed population of married students and faculty. In 1999, after the college closed in 1997, Eastview was sold to Leo Langel and the building was renovated and continues to be an apartment complex with units now renting for \$325 and up.



Trailers (mobile homes) placed at various locations on campus also provided for married student housing. One location in the 1950's was east of the Student Union before the building was modified for the Home Ec. department and later the Art department. In addition to normal home and study activities, the trailer home of Ray and Joyce Scott also served as a popular "Barber Shop" for some of the nearby dorm residents. Ray clipped my hair regularly.

The Kluckhohn "Mansion" at 700 4th Ave. SE was acquired by the college in 1940 and was modified and separated into five apartments, primarily for faculty housing, but married student couples occupied various apartments at various times as they were available. The house was sold to



physics professor Sheldon Cram in 1972 and continued to be used as apartments under several changes of ownership until 1992 when it was purchased by the Matt Ahlers family and beautifully restored to the one family dwelling as it is today.

In the mid 1960's, as college enrollment grew, the Campus Court was demolished and the space became a parking lot for the newly constructed men's dormitory and two new married student apartment buildings that provided a total of 24 additional one and two bedroom apartments. These two apartment buildings were sold to John Meis after the college closed and continue as a fully occupied apartment complex.

The College Yearbooks would suggest that the occupants of married student housing were often not in the mainstream of campus social life. They probably had different obligations and responsibilities. But Rueben and Beverly Job '54, who lived in the "Huts" their senior year, remained sufficiently involved to be selected as the 1954 Homecoming Duke and Queen, even though they were now buying groceries, cooking meals, and "catching the rodent residents" that were commonplace in the Campus Court.

The married students were an important part of the Westmar Family.

Next time we will either take a look at the president's houses or we may take a break from this column and replace it with an interesting Westmar story.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

We want to thank Wayne Marty for taking the time to get these columns ready for us. He is helping to preserve the history of Westmar College.

(Photos for this column were found in the 1950 Eagle yearbook.)



Alumni News

News

1954 (York)-Keith Megill enjoys their hometown boys basketball team who made it to the State tournament this year while **Viola (Grass) Megill (1958)** enjoys encouraging missions in the Topeka District and they both enjoying speaking for the McCurdy School located in Espanola, New Mexico.

1959-Phyllis (Bechtle) Miller is a retired pharmacy technician and kindergarten teacher living in Minnesota.

1971-Philip Pfaltzgraff informed us that he and his wife, Sherry, have moved to Wayne, Neb. where he is a staff accompanist at Wayne State College while Sherry works in Norfolk. They have one son and

one grandson.

1975-Don Featherstone is retiring from the Red Wing School District in Red Wing, Minn., on June 9, 2009 after 34 years. He served the school district as Aquatics Director, Phys Ed instructor, Athletic Director, and Assistant Principal.

Deaths

1940-Melvin Farley passed away on February 5, 2009 in Long Beach, N.Y.

1947-Margaret Jean (Dennler) Man-ning died April 23, 2009 in Remsen, Iowa.

1952-Arle Jean (Bader) Brawn passed away on December 14, 2008.

1955 Patrick L. Kelly of Le Mars died March 21, 2009.

1959-James Fletcher of Gresham, Oregon passed away on his 80th birthday, March 18, 2009. He was a speech professor from 1960-1976.

1965-Hester Crosswait passed away on May 26, 2008 at Lake City, Iowa at the age of 101.

1967-Bruce Alan Capra died on March 5, 2009 in New York.

1974-Jeffrey Swartout passed away in Sioux Falls, S.D. on Sept. 15, 2005.

1987-Thomas Martin of Pierce, Neb., passed away on March 23, 2009.

Please watch your local newspapers for news involving fellow Westmar alumni (including obituaries) and email or send it to us for publication.

Shannon Schwartz-Simmons Publishes Play

Shannon Schwartz-Simmons, 1991 Westmar graduate, has published a play she says she has “been sitting on for ages.”

It’s a stage play about coming of age in the end of the 1960’s. All characters including Grandma Freedom set out on a journey to change their world, and fight the good fight against Viet Nam.

The play can be either purchased in book form or as a download from the internet. The website for purchasing it either way is <http://www.lulu.com/content/5541042>. The first few pages can also be previewed on the website.

Letter from Byron Jeys

Byron Jeys (1963) sent the alumni office a letter from his farm in Africa overlooking Lake Malawi. He regrets that he won’t be able to attend the reunion this summer, but has invited any Westmar people visiting Malawi to stop and see him.

Byron tells us that he has lived in Malawi since 1985 when he went there to set up a national vocational rehabilitation program for disabled people.

After finishing the project, he was an education officer at a self-help secondary school which was modeled after Tuskegee Institute.

In 2001 he retired to his farm in an area where he and settlers had to build schools, churches, roads, bridges, a water supply, stores, grain mills, and every thing needed for survival.

Alumni Membership on the Rise

According to the latest figures, membership is at an all-time high for the last five years.

We want to thank each and every one of you for your continued support.

We hear all the time of people that didn’t know there was an alumni association here. If members help spread the word, we can raise our figures even more.

Here are the figures for the last five years.

12/18/2004	271
1/26/2006	446
1/19/2007	462
1/15/2008	528
1/24/2009	541
4/17/2009	<u>545</u>

Room Display Help Needed

We are looking for some volunteers who would like to help create displays in the Westmar Memory Room located inside the Plymouth County Historical Museum in Le Mars.

The Westmar Archives are stored in a store room in the Museum and very well documented and organized.

If you live nearby or plan on being in the area and want to spend some time helping with new displays, please email us at wafa@WestmarCollege.org.

Please check the “Missing” list on our website and let us know if you can help us “find” somebody.



Westmar Mini Reunion Held in Texas

Westmar graduates living in Arizona, Colorado, Iowa and Texas all gathered together in west Texas over the Easter weekend (April 10-13, 2009). It took special planning to make the weekend happen. What great fun sharing stories of their respective lives, families, and their memories and friendships from the good ole days spent at Westmar.

For some, it had been decades since they had seen each other and it had been 40 plus years since they all were together in Le-Mars. As one person said after the weekend, "You all have been so successful and lead fun and exciting lives that we can all be very proud of, but can't remember everyone being that smart."

Yes, a very good time was had by all. Special notes of thanks were sent to Rod and Mary Hench for being such wonderful hosts on their ranch (Wild Wings Ranch near Snyder, Texas). The time together went by all too fast but made for a special couple of days together. All hope there will be future opportunities to get together again. The weekend served as a precursor for the Westmar reunion planned for this summer - July 10-11. (Contributed by Lowell Ensey)

The Westmar Alumni office is willing to help anybody who is interested in putting together a mini reunion by supplying addresses, if needed.



Those attending the mini reunion April 10-13, 2009

Front Row (left to right.):

Jerry Johnson ('66), **Mary Hench** (Drake U '65), **Wanda Chittenden** (Faculty '66-'81), and **Jan (Davolt) Christensen** ('66)

Back Row (left to right):

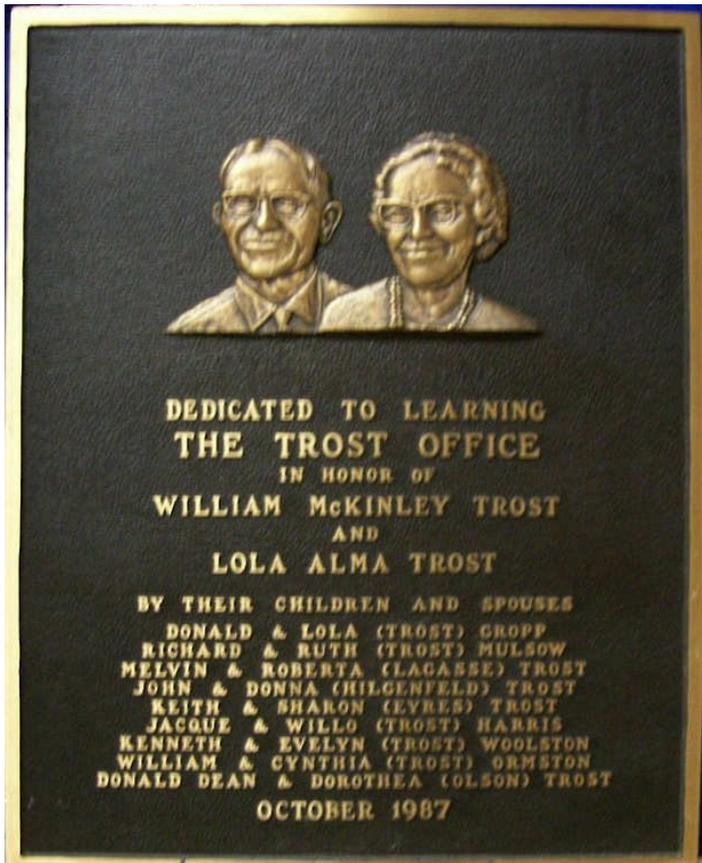
Lowell Ensey ('67), **Rod Hench** ('67), **Dave Chittenden** ('67), and **Terry Christensen** ('66)



Aligned on the wall in the Westmar Memory Room are early Western Union and Westmar College leaders. They are (left to right) H.H. Thoren (President 1900-1906), Charles A. Mock (President 1911-1930), B.F. Zuehl (Dean 1920-1952), David O. Kime (President 1930-1956), H.H. Kalas (President 1956-1968), and G.O. Thompson (Dean-no dates listed). On another wall are three of the York College Presidents, John R. Overmiller (1928-1938), Deleth E. Weidler (1938-1947), and A.V. Howland (1953-1954).



Westmar Memory Room

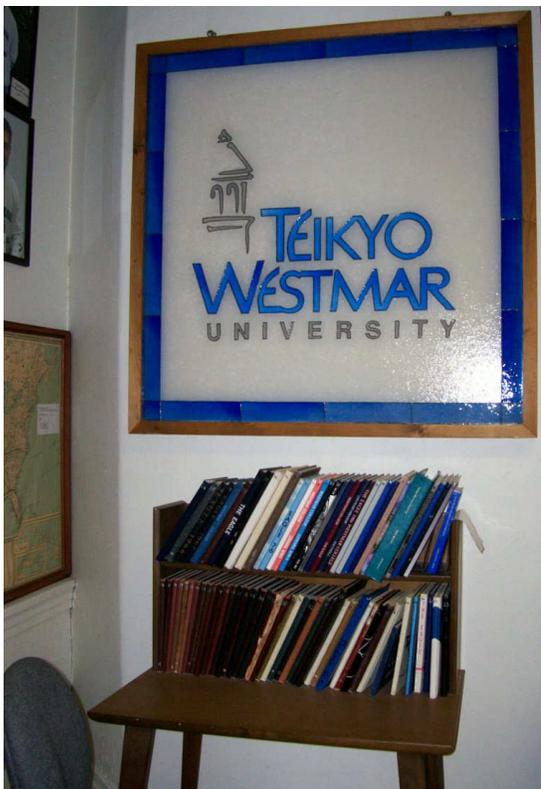


Trost Plaque on Display

Will and Alma Trost had a passion for giving their children an education. They said to them, “An education is something you can’t lose.” Their oldest daughter, Lola, was the first of all the Trost cousins to graduate from high school in 1941. Six of Will and Alma’s nine children attended Westmar, with four of them becoming educators.—Evelyn (Trost) Woolston

The wording on the plaque says:

Dedicated to Learning
THE TROST OFFICE
In Honor of
William McKinley Trost
And
Lola Alma Trost
By their children and spouses
Donald & Lola (Trost) Gropp
Richard & Ruth (Trost) Mulsow
Melvin & Roberta (Lagasse) Trost
John & Donna (Hilgenfeld) Trost
Keith & Sharon (Eyes) Trost
Jacque & Willo (Trost) Harris
Kenneth & Evelyn (Trost) Woolston
William & Cynthis (Trost) Ormston
Donald Dean & Dorothea (Olsen) Trost
October 1987



Left photo: The Westmar Memory Room has a complete set of yearbooks for the public to use.

Right photo: The west wall of the Westmar Memory Room contains the photos of All American athletes in the sports of wrestling, volleyball, basketball, and cross country.

The Westmar Memory Room has numerous temporary displays, so be sure to visit your room the next time you’re in town.

Suggestions are always welcomed for new displays.



Volume 11, Issue 2

May, 2009

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

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@WestmarCollege.org

http://www.WestmarCollege.org/

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit org.
Bulk Rate
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 95

Be sure to check out our 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: Wafa
335 First Ave. S.W.
Le Mars, Iowa 51031

Or e-mail to: **Wafa@WestmarCollege.org**



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:

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



Please make check payable to Wafa

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