



Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 3

August 2011

Reunion News:

Those attending the 80's reunion seemed to enjoy the time and are continuing to get together on Facebook. Getting together with old friends, meeting new alumni, reminiscing, listening to chorale music, watching DVD's about campus events, reliving football games on film, checking out the yearbooks and sharing memories were some of the activities along with great food and touring the campus and the Westmar Park. Most everyone took time to check out down town LeMars, have a Bob's hot dog and ice cream at Well's Blue Bunny's new ice cream parlor among other things that there are to do in LeMars like visiting the Westmar Room at the Plymouth County Museum, golfing and shopping.

More reunion photos on pg 5.

Decade of the 80's - July 2011



Front row: L to R—Frank Sauter '82, Bob Ruby '83, Randy Preston '83, David Burrack '83, David Sickelka '82, Angelo James '82, Harry Montoya '82, Darryl Rollins '82, Stuart Fischer '84. Back row: L to R—Kristi Kannenberg Sauter '83, Sandy Weise Ruby '81-'83, Sandie Siewert Craven '82, Kathy Betsworth Neary '82, Jeff Neary '81, June Marty '53 & Staff '86-'92, Wayne Marty '53 & Faculty '60-'94, Mary E. Brown '82, Brenda Kriegel Kim '82, Paulette Kabat Hamlin '82, and Robyn Surface Plocher '83.

50th YEAR REUNION FOR THE CLASS OF '61

This reunion includes the classes of 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962 and 1963. The dates are Sept. 16th, 17th, and 18th 2011.

A special visitor to the Westmar Campus this summer was Lorena McWilliams from Glendale, CA who is the Gr. Granddaughter of Charles A. Mock for whom the Westmar library was named. He was the Western Union College President from 1911-1930. Her gr. grandfather was very special to her, "being a brilliant scholar, inspirational leader and a compassionate man". She was grateful to be able to see the history we have of



him and to be able to tour the library. She spent time visiting here with Wayne Marty and Jan Kooiker (Wafa Executive Director) who were happy to show her around the campus and the Westmar Room.

Check out the Website for Memorabilia. Some prices have been lowered and more items to be added shortly. www.westmarcollege.org



Front row, L to R: Tim DeLarm '86, Brian Baldwin '81-'83, Keith Emerson '84, Larry Clatt '85, Terry Plocher '84. Back Row L to R: June Mikkelson '88, Susan Bray Cunningham '84, Dawn Reams Baldwin '81-'83, Wayne Marty '53 & Faculty '60-'94, June Marty '53 & Staff '86-'92, Wayne Brown '84, Helen Guse '83. (photos by Clayton Hodgson)

New park benches have been installed and were ready for the 80's reunion. The "park" committee has been busy and have scheduled another planting time. **It just keeps getting better!!**



Bricks and Mortar and More

Bricks and Mortar and More—Athletic Fields

By *Wayne Marty*

Can a college compete in a “Track and Field” event if the college has no “field”? Of course it can. Western Union College had significant and successful involvement in athletics in its early history before it had any noticeable physical athletic facilities. The first Western Union yearbook was published in 1914 and it reports the success of the college’s early entry into the world of football with a 1911 season of:

	WUC	O
Oct. 2—Alton at LeMars	87	0
Oct. 6—Creighton at Omaha	27	0
Oct. 14-Buena Vista at LeMars	16	0
Oct. 27-Mankato Normal at LeMars	30	0
Nov. 3-Buena Vista at Storm Lake	21	0
Nov. 10-Nebraska State Normal at LeMars	57	0
Nov. 17-Augustana at LeMars	39	0
Nov. 30-SD State S of Mines at Rapid City	5	0

WOW! That looks like success but it didn’t last. The record for six scheduled games in 1912 was a 4-1-1. 1913 got worse with only one win and three losses. Two of the losses were to colleges that became long time rivals for Western Union and Westmar. Yankton and Buena Vista both beat WUC that year by terrible identical scores of 82 to 0.

Home football games at that time were probably played in the McDuffie baseball stadium three blocks west of the LeMars Central High School. Travel to some of the “far away” games was probably by train. Track is first mentioned in the 1917 yearbook with plans for an inter-class track meet on campus and “if any fast time is made during the inter-class meet, WUC will be represented in the state meet at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

Thus football and track involvement proceeded with some irregularity for many years without any significant local supporting physical facilities. In association with the college there was also a Western Union Academy (High School) operating which often functioned to assist older students with the completion of the preparatory work needed to enter college. Eligibility rules for athletic participation were probably sloppy or nonexistent. Some students played football throughout both their academy and college years. McDuffie Stadium continued to be the home field for football and all official track meets were probably at away from home locations.

1935 brought a major change. Al Wilken, football player and graduate of WUC ‘38, still remembers, now at age 95, his days of driving a steam roller during the construction of the new Memorial Field on campus. The 1935 football season opened on the new field surrounded by the new cinder track and lighted with the new “carbon arc lights”. Carbon arc lights were



Bright but usually had to be adjusted periodically so that the bright arc could “jump” between the rods. Does anyone remember if anyone climbed the poles to make those periodic adjustments? WUC finally had its own football field and track and the Sept. 24, 1935 Glean reports that money was being collected from the LeMars community to build a fence to enclose the new field so that attendance and admission fees could be more adequately managed. The scheduled opening game on the new field was with Dana College from Blair, NE. Interesting that both of these colleges are now closed—Westmar in 1997 and Dana more recently in 2010.

I have found no record of who was being honored by the new “Memorial Field”. 1935 would have been 18 years following the 1918 end of WWI but this field served WUC and Westmar college for 23 years. Many football players, runners, cheerleaders, students, faculty and community members will remember the many WUC football and track years that were guided by Coach Dick Crayne, the outstanding University of Iowa football player. Many will remember the pre-game pep rallies with huge bonfires, Marching Band and the Baton Twirlers on the field at half-time and the Gold and Maroon uniforms changing to Blue and White following the merger with York College in 1955. Kingsley native, Vic Grothaus set his long standing javelin and shot-put records in the early ‘50s with practices on that field.

The next major outdoor athletic facility change was the construction of the ‘new stadium’ that was ready for the opening of the football season of 1959. The land was purchased by the college in 1953 from the Hahn family (Ella, son Benny and spouse Clara, and Mildred Hahn Eyres and the planning for the facility was a cooperative venture with the LeMars Central and Gehlan Catholic schools. The facility included a cured cinder track. Early (1900) maps of LeMars show this land as the location of the “Interstate Fair Grounds”, Polo Fields and rows of stables. The Polo Fields were busy places in the 1890’s when young, wealthy Englishmen were coming to LeMars to “learn farming”. The High Schools paid rent to Westmar for use of the new stadium and scheduling of home games was a cooperative venture. The dressing rooms under the concrete seating were modest and rainwater leaks through the concrete joints were common. Football reached a high point in the 1960’s under the leadership of Coach Jack Scott with multiple Tri-State Conference Championships.

Peak enrollment years for Westmar were in the late 1960’s and began to decline in the 1970’s. By this time the LeMars Community Schools had built their new High School and Junior High on Land north of the stadium. The financial struggles of the college made it difficult to provide the expected stadium improvements and in 1983 the stadium was sold to the LeMars Community School and thereafter the college rented the field from the High School. In 1987 the cinder track was resurfaced with cushioned asphalt material, additional seating space was added, the press box was considerably enlarged, and in 1995 the stadium was renamed the Jim Lorenzen Field in honor of the retiring high school coach and long time

Cont. on page 5



Alumni News

A note regarding **Weidler Hall**: Virginia (Frank) McQuiston—Reference Librarian (67-'77) during that time writes that following the move of the dining facilities to the new Commons, and before the remodeling of Weidler, the lower level was used as a temporary library while the library addition was under construction. The private dining room was used as the librarians' offices. Only the circulation desk, card catalog and reference materials were moved to Weidler. Students would use the card catalog to identify needed materials, place a request and a couple of times a day library staff would take a truck to the library, find their way through the construction materials, and retrieve the books needed by the students.

Class of '78—Karla Nicklas Hollemweguer, RN, was married to Dr. Enoc J. Hollemweguer in Dec. of '77. After graduation, they have lived and worked in Rochester, MN, Denver, Co, Orlando, FL., San Diego, CA and retired to Sun City West in Phoenix. She was on the "missing" list and does miss that Westmar is no longer in operation.

Class of '64—Robert Kolbe (wife Jane Boegler '66) writes that Jane retired in '09 from her work as a Librarian, the last 12 yrs having been at S. Dakota State, Brookings, SD. Robert retired in '09 from 20 yrs. as Minn. Co. Commissioner (5 terms) and will retire from Antique Clock & Repaire Shoppe in 2012.

Class of '50—Bob and Lois (49) Taber sent a message that they celebrated 62 years of marriage on June 3rd this year. He says NO REGRETS!

Class of '58—Royal Speidel is doing in depth coaching of churches and pastors for Mo. Conference of UMC.

Class of 83—Rev Dean Trapp and Susie (Megill '84) moved to Sioux Falls, SD in 2010 and Dean is the Pastor of Sunnycrest UMC there. Their oldest daughter Kimberly and husband Justin are in Wilmore, KY where Justin is enrolled at Asbury Theological Seminary. They have two daughters at home.

Class of '47—Robert "Bob" Bletscher sends greeting from Oregon and states they have fond memories of Union Hall, the basketball and baseball teams, and roommates Ken Koth and Dick Pfaltsgraff. He and Grayce Pike were married in 1950 and have five children and 13 wonderful grandchildren. "Dr Danner was our fine science professor though we did major in history." They would like to return to LeMars for a visit.



Class of '68—Esther Winterfed Oloff from Craig, may be our oldest living alumni, having celebrated her 100th birthday on July 29, 2011.

She shares a milestone with her community and church which also celebrated the century mark this year.

She took classes after graduating from high school so that she could teach. After her husband died in 1951 she went back to teaching—first on an "emergency certificate" because they needed a teacher. During her teaching career she taught her three grandsons. While she was teaching in Craig she continued her studies at Westmar College graduating with a bachelor's degree in education in 1968. She retired from teaching after 22 years. She was church organist for 25 years. She now lives in LeMars. (photo and story was taken from an article in the *LeMars Daily Sentinel*, written by Beverly Van Buskirk—with permission)

Class of '63—Bryon Jeys writes from Malawi, Africa, (his career was working in vocational rehabilitation of the disabled and working in community development in Europe, Africa, MN, NE, LA, CA, N H, and OH. He served in the National Guard from '57 to '65 and qualified as Army Ranger in '61. He served as a Peace Corps Volunteer from '85 to '88.) - "I have lived and worked in Malawi since '85. I live on a 5000 foot plateau in northern Malawi. I was the first person to settle in this area. My 1000 acre farm overlooks Lake Malawi which lies in Africa's Great Rift Valley. Other people have settled near me and we have built roads, bridges, a school, and several churches. I built a maize mill and store. For 25 years I have been taking in orphans and unwanted children, totaling over 100 children. The farm, which is 40 miles from a black-top road, is a good place for rearing children. I grow many crops, keep some livestock, have fish ponds, and grow pine trees and fruit trees. My tribal name is "Mawingomara", which means "clouds are going". In the US and Africa I taught secondary school for about 20 yrs. I worked in Vocational Rehabilitation of disabled for 10 years in both countries and stopped paid employment at the end of 2000. I was identified by Our Nation newspaper as "Malawi Developer of 2009". In 2010 I was honored by President Mutharika for work in community development, reforestation, education, and humanitarian efforts with orphans and disabled. I would be glad to hear from members of the Class of '61 and others who were at Westmar 50 yrs. ago. Best wishes for a pleasant reunion.

Westmar Alumni and Friends Association Board of Directors

Rosemary Radloff '93 & staff (Pres.)
Cory Isebrand '88
Jan Wagner '76
Phyllis Mitchell '90
Dennis Smith '71
Linda Smith '71
Bonnie Lassen '71
Stuart Fischer '84

Board meetings for the rest of 2011 will be held on and Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Plymouth County Historical Museum's Welcome Room. All members are encouraged to participate in whatever way they can.

Don't forget to visit the website

Reunion Dates

Sept 16-17: 50-Year reunion of the Class of 1961 (including '59-'63)

2012 - 90's Decade plans being made.

See our website for more information and registration.



Alumni Deaths

Western Union College—

Class of '39—**Marjorie A. Moritz Page**, 93, of Kingsley, IA, passed away May 3, 2011. Educated at Western Union College, she taught country school. Charter member of T.T.T. Society and Kingsley-Pierson Order of Eastern Star Chapter. 171. (www.mauerjohnsonfh.com)

Class of '40—**Dolores A. Sitzmann Paulson** died June 6, 2011 in LeMars. She received her teaching certificate from Western Union College. She volunteered at community homes and peer programs for the seriously ill. She travel to every state as well as several foreign countries. (www.lemarssentinel.com)

Class of '41—**Dr. Roland C. Bunge**, 91, died July 11, 2011 in Nacogdoches, TX. He attended Western Union College and graduated from Drake U in Des Moines. After serving in the Army in WWII he graduated from Iowa State as a Dr. of Veterinary Medicine. He retired in '91, and was active as a volunteer firefighter, played racquetball, and member of Barber-shoppers for 50 yrs. He was an airplane pilot, church camp counselor, and volunteer at the Lamplite Theatre. (www.lairdfuneralhome.com)

York—Class of 42—**Dr. James E. Koontz**, 91, died May 24, 2011 in Hasting, NE. After graduating, he taught for a few years and then joined the faculty of York College, teaching music and directing the college choir until the college closed in 1954. He then taught at College of the Ozarks and back to Hastings College. (www.lbvfh.com)

Class of '46—**Joyce Moeller**, 90, of Sioux Center, IA died July 22, 2011. She attended Western Union College for one year and then taught country school. She enlisted in the US Navy and served in the Hospital Corps at Camp Pendleton, CA. (www.siouxcityjournal.com)

Class of '47—**Pastor Kenneth Koth**, 90, of LeMars, died June 13, 2011. From Jamestown, ND he returned to Western Union College after WWII for his degree. He attended Seminary in Ore. Returning to ND to serve churches for 18 yrs. And returned to OR where he served for 25 yrs. Returning to LeMars in 1994 he served as assoc. pastor of LeMars Bible Church and on moving to a nursing home he continued to conduct chapel services, Bible studies and other ministries. He is survived by his wife Virginia (Rau '47) of 63 yrs. (www.lemarssentinel.com)

Westmar College

Class of '58—**Lillian Beelner Tonsfeldt**, 95, of Granville died Feb 11. She obtained her teaching certificate and taught country school until moving to CA in '38 to work at Douglas Aircraft. Upon returning to the Granville area she returned to Westmar and obtained her degree. (www.lemarssentinel.com)

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.

Class of '62—**Thomas P. Wurth**, 70, of Remsen died March 2, 2011. He had served in the military. (www.fischfh.com)

Class of '66—**Walter Fuller**, 71, Merrill, IA died July 22, 2011. He earned a degree in Industrial Art at Westmar and worked as a police officer for the City of Merrill and farmed for several years. He was involved with establishing the Merrill Ambulance, active with Boy Scouts, Fire Department and Ply. Co. Disaster Services. (www.carlsenfuneralhome.com)

Class of '69—**Marjorie Widman Meseck**, 88, of Urbandale, IA died May 11, 2011. After earning her degree she taught several years and was a lifetime member of the National Education Assoc. and the Lutheran Church. (www.lemarssentinel.com)

Class of '74—**Tim Hupke**, 59, of Danbury, IA died unexpectedly July 18, 2011. Graduating from Westmar, he was on the golf team. He taught world history and coached basketball. In 1977 he began a career in insurance. He was an advocate of youth sports, coaching basketball, softball, golf and football and refereeing basketball. He was an avid golfer and pilot of his own plane. (www.siouxcityjournal.com)

Class of '78—**Jack D. Sprague**, 54, of Lakeville, MN, died on May 25, 2011. He received his degree in Computer Science and was employed by NCR as an analyst. He had his own business Items Processing Solutions, worked as a realtor and as a bartender. (www.whitefuneralhomes.com)

Class of '78—**Cynthia S. Ruby Kotewa**, 50, of Granada, MN. Died June 19, 2009. She was an elementary teacher and attended Westmar College. She struggles with bouts of cancer for 17 yrs. Among her survivors are Bob Ruby '83, and Sandy Weise Ruby '85. (www.lakeviewfuneralhome.net)

Class of '83—**Craig, Keast**, 50, of Mount Vernon, IA died unexpectedly on July 9, 2011. After graduating from Westmar he began his career with KKRL radio station as a broadcaster in Carroll, and served as program director. He worked for Orion Food System for many years and moved to Mount Vernon in '91. He worked for Sauter-Baty Architects, was active in Chancel Choir and Praise Team at UMC. Having a passion for music and theater, he was active in Community Theater, acting in "Among Friends", a presentation of the Last Supper as his last play. He collected and worked on Volkswagen Beetles and displayed at car shows in the Midwest. He is survived by wife Kristi (Baier '83) (www.thegazette.com)

Meet your friends on Facebook:

Westmar University Alumni and Friends Assoc.

or

Friends of Westmar College



Faculty attending Sat. luncheon: from left—Frank Summerside, Robert Embree, Wayne Marty and Milt Martin.



Wafa president Rosemary Radloff and her husband Larry visit with Robert Embree.



More photos of the reunion will be posted on the website. www.westmarcollege.org

(Bricks and Mortar cont. from page 2)

Athletic Director, Jim Lorenzen, a hometown LeMars native and Westmar graduate of '53.

Memories of activities in that stadium abound—Gerald Olson and the “Rowdy Pep Band”, the emotion filled games with Northwestern, Yankton, and Sioux Falls, and colorful Spring Track Meets with the quick sprints, the precision passing of the baton between relay runners, and the graceful enduring rhythmic strides of the two and three milers. Memories enable each of us to relive our own emotions of those days.



WESTMAR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
 335 FIRST AVENUE S.W.
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Alumni Office Staff

Janice (Dunbar) Kooiker '67: Executive Director
 JoAnn (Skinner) Schleis '64 + staff:
 Communications Director and Newsletter Editor

Inside this Issue:

Westmar Reunions	1
Bricks & Mortar & More	2
Alumni News	3
Alumni Deaths	4

Still receiving your newsletter by mail? Get it on line and get it in color—make the print as large as you like. Get it where ever you get your e-mail. Better and more convenient. Make sure we have your e-mail address today.

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 and encourage them to be a WAFA member.

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.
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Or complete form online at:

www.westmarcollege.org/membership.html



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Attended Westmar _____ to _____ Class of _____

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

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