



Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 4

November 2011

50th Reunion for Class of '61



Class of '61 Part 1: Row 1—L-R Carol Kober Thompson, Beverly Krueger Pitkin, Marlys Streiffeler Pavel, Gay Feind Weber, Twila Miller Rosenow, Ramona Kolbo Oehlerking.

Row 2—L-R Ron Thompson, Richard Mills, Ray Zeisset, Keith Schlender, Bob Pfeil, Marilyn Schlaphoff Mertens, Betty Durrett Moellenberg, Joy Johnson Vogel, Linda Weidermier Mayer, Arnold "Arnie" Thompson and A. John Martin.

Reunion held in LeMars Sept. 16th, 17th, and 18th. Class of '61 Part 2: Row 1—L-R Arllys Allison Adelman, DonnaKay Pantzer Lee, Karen Mosimann Biederman, Deloris Bechtle Knight, Lillian McKenzie Brice and Dorothy Beeghley Carver.

Row 2—L-R Ken Krippner, Don Funk, Donald Bredthauer, Dennis Koelling, Mel Luetchens, David Brice.



Class of '59—Row 1 —L-R Virginia Weinert Gesell, Doris Friesz Lange, Phyllis Bechtle Miller, Dorothy Knight Funk, June Machmer Erdmann. Row 2—L-R Donald D. Lange, Harold R. Biederman, Roger Erdmann.



Classes of '62 and '63 —Row 1—L-R Pat Johnson Krippner, Carolyn Moore Zeisset, Joan Clark Franklin, Marjorie Wright Thompson, Peggy Moritz Pfeil. Row 2—L-R Ardith Mason, Tony Pitkin, Jan Frahm McGrann, Bob LaCount, Bob Franklin.

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Bricks and Mortar and More

Bricks and Mortar and More – Bonebrake Hall

By **Wayne Marty**

In an ideal setting with a sophisticated audience, it is probably not uncommon to set some lofty goals. Such might have been the case at the dedication of “The New Dorm” on October 16, 1964 on the Westmar campus. The 1965 yearbook states, “For the praise of God and the shelter of His children who dwell here. For the encouragement of quiet contemplation, earnest study, and peaceful rest. We dedicate this house.” I suspect that some of



college dormitory, will recall their variety of experiences - serious moments with serious fellow students and productive discussions but also the times of fun, laughter, fatigue, frustration, and late hours of work because of procrastination.

In September 1967, “The New Dorm” was officially named Bonebrake Hall in honor of Dr. E. K. Bonebrake, a long time benefactor who had received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from Westmar College in 1963. The delayed official naming is unique but no residence hall can be used for over 30 years without being exposed to many changes. Jan Dunbar Kooiker (W '67) remembers that during her freshman year she and others stood at the Wernli Hall windows and watched the construction of “The New Dorm” and especially admired the physique of the young muscular construction workers. When completed for the opening of the 1964 year, at a cost of \$787,000, the dorm was a beautifully designed modern building with a very open appearance because of all the glass on both sides of the lobby. But the 1960s was not a time when energy conservation was a major consideration. The energy crunch of the 1970's brought a new way of thinking and in the 1980's some of the open glass beauty was sacrificed and the amount of glass was reduced as an energy conservation correction. A third



floor chapel was part of the original design but changing needs and maybe changing attitudes in the 1980s led to the chapel becoming a “study room”.

these goals were met by some of the women, some of the time but there is not much prediction of frivolity, laughter, noise, mischief, or even intentional pranks and trickery. Any, who have spent some time in a

In 1964 the long tradition of “Girls in and Doors locked at 10:00” was still in place and accepted. But standards were changing. Closing hours were extended, particularly on weekends. Designated hours for male visitation beyond the lobby became common but, with the geographical and cultural diversity and the variable family backgrounds of 230 young women, the pathway to acceptable “new rules” was a struggle. Eventually IRV (Inter-Residential Visitation) rules were established that allowed men in the dorms within certain hours. Doors were still locked at designated times but dorm keys were issued and the girls could come and go as they wished. The inside Hallways of Bonebrake also took on a new look in the 80's when each floor was encouraged to “redecorate” the hallways. It was a pleasant experience to visit each hallway during the Bonebrake Open House and see the creative wall designs. And Fashions changed. Skirts were still the standard classroom wear in the 60's. By the 80's, skirts in the classrooms were rare. The semi-enclosed south outdoor court of the U shaped building was a common sun-bathing spot for the dorm residents and bikinis were becoming acceptable. It was also in that court yard, at 3:30 AM one morning, that Dr. Marty and some accompanying students were throwing pebbles at the window of Sandy Vollar's room because she did not show up for a scheduled early morning departure for a premedical student meeting at the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

And even good activities can deteriorate to rudeness. Nov. 1, 1980 was the first occurrence of the, now very traditional and successful, United Methodist In-Gathering for collection of materials, animals and food for Third World countries. The open area south of Bonebrake was the gathering location. Because it included some gifts of livestock (pigs), Robin Plocher (83) recalls that there was casual mention of the Bonebrake courtyard as the “Bay of Pigs”. Within a few years, the term became crudely used by the “mean men” on campus to refer to the Bonebrake sunbathers. June Mikkelson (88) also recalls (picture Gleam Dec. 5, 1984) that in November of 1984 some pranksters successfully deposited a pig through the fire escape door on Bonebrake 3rd East.



“...And this little piggy went to Bonebrake.” It was soon detained and arrested by the LeMars Police Dept.

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



This same court was the focal point for a regular summer activity that occurred for over 25 years without much campus notice. Each June, from 1971 to 1997, the annual Merkle Family Reunion was held on the Westmar campus. Esther Merkle, librarian from 1958 to 1971 and Wayne Marty, Professor of Biology 1959 to 1994 were members of that family. The family members and friends gathered from CO, PA, FL, NY, CA, MO, IL, MN, and even Germany and Norway and the 50 to 100 attendees stayed in the Bonebrake rooms with all meals served in the Commons. Meeting and visitation space was in the basement recreation room and family and kids activities, (softball, races, volleyball, etc.) with associated laughter and cheers filled the open space south of the dorm.

Decreasing enrollment in the 80's prompted additional changes. The lower east wing became Faculty Offices for the Social Science Division. Much of the basement recreation space was converted to Campus Security offices.

After Westmar closed in 1997 and the campus became Le Mars City property, "The New Dorm" (Bonebrake) was sold to a private developer. As a women's residence hall, it was common to hear stories about the thin walls between the rooms in the building. The basic building construction was of pre-stressed concrete floors so the walls were non-supporting, un-insulated, frame construction. This made it possible for the developer to remove and rearrange walls and convert the building into the Royal Plaza Apartments with 36 apartments. Generally every four rooms became an apartment. Some space in the main floor lounge has been walled off as a fitness room and a portion of the basement recreation room was excavated to become a year-round exercise swimming pool. 31 single stall garages have been constructed on the south and west sides of the building. The open space south of the building (a soccer practice field for many years) was also sold and is now the location of the Carlsen Funeral Home.

So the "The New Dorm" and surrounding space is still fully used – not as originally intended, but adjustments to change are part of normal living. We wish for many happy activities to continue in that memorable space.

Wayne Marty

Alumni News

SAVE THE DATE....

Westmar Wrestling Reunion—June 15, 16 2012
During LeMars Ice Cream Days. Milt Martin and the reunion committee would like to invite everyone to this reunion. Plans are being made for lots of activities including building a float for the Ice Cream Days Parade!

Decade of the 90's—August 4th, 2012

Class of '62—50th Reunion — August 24, 25 2012

Bernard and Dorothea De-Boer of LeMars observed their 70th anniversary Oct. 22, 2011. Many will remember this couple for hosting college students in their home and being very supportive of Westmar. The information can be found at www.lemarssentinel.com/story (Used with permission.)



'75—**Joe Krogman** held a book signing in Remsen, IA on Sept. 3, 2011. Known for novels "Not Above Suspicion" released in June 2010 and "Debt to Society" released June 2011, Krogman currently resides in Minnesota. Information was found in the LeMars Daily Sentinel. (Used with permission.)

'80—**Jenny Herrick**, nationally known humorist gave her presentation at the LeMars Arts Council's 'Gals Night Out' fundraiser Sep. 29, 2011. Her presentation stimulates laughter and entertains. She is a Sioux City resident. Information from LeMars Daily Sentinel. (Used with permission)



'78—**Jolene Stratton Philo** has a new book, *Different Dream Parenting: A Practical Guide to Raising a Child with Special Needs*. It will be released by Discovery House Publishers on Nov. 1st. The intended audience is preoccupied parents of kids with special needs. More information at www.DifferentDream.com

'78—From Jeff Neary: Perhaps you remember **Kevin Baum**, he was a music major and great tenor. He is singing in So. California and has a CD entitled Lullee, Lullay, Advent, Christmas & Mystical Songs. I recommend it. His e-mail is homerkevin@att.net and is a part of a musical group called Clerestory.

Cont. on page 5

Westmar Alumni and Friends Association Board of Directors

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Rosemary Radloff '93 & staff (Pres.) | Next Board meeting is January 16, 2012 |
| Cory Isebrand '88 | at 7 p.m. in the Plymouth County Historical Museum's |
| Jan Wagner '76 | Welcome Room. All members are encouraged to participate in whatever way they can. |
| Phyllis Mitchell '90 | |
| Dennis Smith '71 | |
| Linda Smith '71 | |
| Bonnie Lassen '71 | |
| Stuart Fischer '84 | |

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



Alumni Deaths

'35 (Western Union College) Bernice A. Becker Guthridge, 95, of Merville, IA, died Oct. 20, 2011. She taught country school for a number of years. www.siouxcityjournal.com

'36 (Western Union College)—Gladys Winter Taylor, 96, of LeMars, earned her teaching degree - began teaching in '34. www.siouxcityjournal.com

'42 (Western Union College)—Marjorie Daniel Wych, 87, passed away Sept 3, 2011 at Akron, IA. She taught country school. www.siouxcityjournal.com

'42 (Western Union College)—Josephine VandeBrake Wielenga, 88, of Orange City, IA, died Sept 30, 2011. She worked at the Pentagon during WWII and later was a teacher. www.siouxcityjournal.com

'42 – Margaret A. Doherty Scott, 88, of Hawarden, IA, died July 31, 2011. She taught country school for a number of years. www.siouxcityjournal.com

'48-'50—David Lansman, 81, of Audubon, IA died August 24, 2011. His son Randy attended Westmar '66/'67. www.kesslerfuneralhomes.com

'50—Rev. Willis Elliott, retired elder, died April 20, 2011 in Wichita, KS. He served several churches before retiring in '85. DeVorss Flanagan-Hunt Mortuary.

'50 – Nicholas Kellen, 85, of Worthington, MN died Oct. 29, 2011. www.dglobe.com/event/obituary

'50—Lloyd Kallsen, 82, of LeMars, died Oct 13, 2011. He served in the Navy and retired from as the Woodbury County Engineer after 27 yrs. www.lemarsdailysentinel.com

'50—Edwin Karssen, 85, of Alton, IA died Aug. 28, 2011. After serving in WWII he attended Westmar College. www.siouxcityjournal.com

'51—Lucille E. Moffatt Harkness, 86, died Sept 15, 2011 in LeMars. She taught in country schools for 7 years before marriage. www.lemarssentinel.com

'56—Rev. Charles S. Henry, 88, Des Moines, served churches in Iowa and Illinois. He served as a visitation pastor for 15 years. www.desmoinesregister/obituary

'56/'57—David W. Hawkins, 73, died Aug. 26, 2011. David was active in agriculture and received several awards for farming achievements. www.lemarssentinel.com

'57—Janette Bohlke of Ida Grove, IA died Sept. 12, 2011 at age 87. She taught in Ida Grove for 42 yrs. She was "outstanding Teacher of the Year", and she was awarded "Friend of Education". www.christensenhuffman.com

'63 – Elsie Heitritter Baerenwaldof Hull, IA, died Aug 11, 2011, one day before her 101st birthday. She taught for over 36 yrs. www.hartquistfuneral.com

'71—Rev Mehl Cruitt, 62, of Wichita, KS died Feb 7, 2011. He served several churches in Kansas, retiring in 2009. www.wsmortuary.com

'71—Fred H. Bleil, 62 of San Marcos TX and formerly of Kingsley, IA died Sept. 26, 2011. He was a college/university football coach, having his last position at Texas State Univ. www.siouxcityjournal.com

'77 – Jodene Ann Hanson, 70 of Sioux City passed away unexpectedly on Sept. 15, 2011. She received her BA at Westmar College and her MA at USD. She worked and taught at St. Joseph School of Nursing although her loved career was cut short by MS in '82. www.siouxcityjournal.com

'77 Attn'd – Wayne E. Weber, 79 of LeMars died Sept 12. He was a farmer and had served during the Korean War. www.siouxcityjournal.com

'83-'85 Attn'd—Donald W. Beermann, 56, LeMars, died Oct, 1, 2011. He had worked for Well's Dairy for 32 years. www.lemarssentinel.com

'82-'87 Attn'd—Marlin Borchers, 80, or Oro Valley AZ and formerly of LeMars area died Aug. 20, 2011. He served in Korea and was a farmer. www.lemarssentinel.com

'86-'91 Attn'd –Dorothy Duistermars Coats, 83, died Sept. 18, 2011 in LeMars. www.lemarssentinel.com

STAFF

1962 – 1994—Dr. Robert L. Herrick of Green Valley NE died Sept. 8, 2011. He was a Professor of Sociology and the head of the Sociology Dept. at Westmar College. He played an important part in many student lives. Published in the Green Valley News & Sun.

'90's—Floyd A. Pace, 86, of Alta, IA died Sept. 12, 2011. He chaired the Humanities Dept. and taught French and Spanish at Buena Vista College and taught some classes at Westmar. www.desmoinesregister/obituary

FRIENDS OF WESTMAR

Rudy Adler, 95, LeMars, died Sept. 5, 2011. He was a long time business man and supporter of Westmar. Many of you will remember Adlers' Sporting Goods in operation from '49 with Rudy retiring in 1988. www.lemarssentinel.com

Ronald Charlson, 72, of LeMars, died Sept. 22 2011. He taught and coached football at LeMars Community High School for 33 years. He supported the athletic at Westmar College in many ways. www.lemarssentinel.com

*Wishing you a Very Blessed
Christmas and Wonderful New Year*

Westmar Alumni and Friends Association
Jan Kooiker, Executive Director
JoAnn Schleis, Communications Director
And Newsletter Editor



Alumni News...continued



'36—**Margaret Spies**, age 101, a longtime member of the congregation of the Merrill Melbourne UMC located east of Hinton. They celebrated 151 years of worship on Sept. 25, 2011. (Used with permission from the LeMars Daily Sentinel, LeMars, IA)

'53 - **Dolores Krafft Roepke** now has a MBA and is President of American Assn. Of University Women (AAUW) Scottsdale, AZ. Her husband Keith Roepke who was a Westmar Classmate, died in 2004.

'55 - **Arthur E. Angove, D.O.**, General Surgeon, Ret. Of New Berlin, WI writes "this morning, 9/2/11, I received a call from Meshack Ouma of Vipingo, Kenya who told me that he had resuscitated a friend yesterday by using the CPR training that I taught there this past July. He is going to go to other villages such as Bomani and Tiwi in the Mombasa area to teach Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation. Tukiwa na Mungu yote yana wezekana = Together with God everything is possible. (Ki Swahili). God is continually blessing me and my families. Learned today that my grandson who had testicular cancer, Ryan Klug, who has two daughters, is now going to bless me with my 4th gr. Grandson. Life is good! Mungu akubariki+God bless you.

'93—**Pete Greco and wife Gail Vold Greco** ('92) write that they have 2 sons and are living in Minneapolis, MN. They add "contact us on Facebook if you know us!"

'64 - **Marilyn Merchen Birmingham**, Universal City, TX, writes that on Oct 8, the University of Dubuque in Iowa will dedicate Mercer/Birmingham Hall on the campus. It will house ROTC, coaches and classrooms. Marilyn, Dawn and Dana will be attending. Don attended Westmar and was in the class of '62. He also coached until '65. Don passed away in '98. From UD Headline News: The new construction was made possible through the gift of Joe and Linda Chlapaty and memorializes acclaimed U of D coaches Kenneth "Moco" Mercer and Don Birmingham. ...Don Birmingham made an immediate impression when he came to UD in '77. While his first football team managed a 4 - 6 mark, it was the most wins by a Spartan squad in the '70s. However, the groundwork was being laid for the future success of the university's football program. Coach Birmingham led the Spartan program for 8 yrs. And compiled an overall record of 42-24-1: his IAC mark was 31-18. Most notable, in '78 he led UD to its first Iowa Conference Championship in 39 yrs. He proceeded to earn three straight Iowa Conference Championships ('78, '79, '80) and two NCAA playoff appearances ('79, '80). He is recognized as a great motivator and had the ability to bring his teams together to achieve goals - all the while building school unity and spirit."

'64 & '66—News flash— **Jane & Bob Kolbe** are having a 45th Anniversary party in their back yard June 30/July 1. Food & Libation provided. Your presence is our present. Please pass this along to any Westmar People ca 1961-1967 RSVP would be nice ASAP but any time up to 1 week ahead will do. We are looking forward to a good time. Jane & Bob Kolbe

Class of '61 reunion photos continued.....



Class of '60 Row 1—L-R Marlys Ruff Nickisch, Wanda

Westmar Items make great Christmas gifts! Check the website for more gift ideas. www.westmarcollege.org



Westmar tee shirts come in - white or blue.



Westmar Quartet entertains at "61's reunion.. L-R Dave Brice, Dick Mills, Don Bredthauer and Bob Pfeil.



Faculty and Staff Row 1—L-R Virginia Bushong, Betty Lou Ratliff Larson, June Asplund Marty, Janice Dunbar Kooiker. Row 2—L-R Dr. Robert Embree, Dr. Wayne Marty, Dr. Robert Franklin.

WESTMAR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
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LE MARS, IOWA 51031



Alumni Office Staff

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

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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.
Le Mars, Iowa 51031

e-mail to: WAFA@WestmarCollege.org

Or complete form online at:
www.westmarcollege.org/membership.html



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