



# Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

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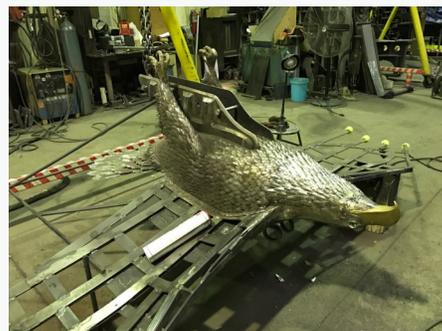


## Oh, but we aren't done yet !!

We have surpassed the fundraising goal for the Eagle. That allowed us to make some changes that we feel will make a much better memorial to Westmar College that we can all be very proud of and will help the memory of Westmar to live on.

We have received over 291 individual and business donations. There were "In Honor or In Memory" donations for 92 individuals or groups, a favorite professor, family member or campus group.

The original concrete pad will be upgraded to a paver plaza with a "W" in a center circle making it a more lasting and impressive attraction.



To make the upgrade complete, the City of LeMars has agreed to share in the cost of a granite marker with Dedication and Donor information which will harmonize with the markers in the Plymouth County Veterans Memorial Park nearby.

The eagle has his body feathers but he is waiting for his wing feathers to be completed.

We are planning installation and dedication of the plaza and structure in the spring when this magnificent bird will be ready to fly.

Donations may still be made until January 1st and then the names will be engraved into the stone. A list of those names to date who have been honored "In Honor or In Memory" is included on pages 5 and 9. Also a donation form is found on page 5.



### Moving of a tree.....

A beautiful White Oak tree was thought to be blocking the view from the street to the Eagle Plaza and was to be removed until it was found to be a donated tree. Cory Harman a member of the American Legion had donated it to be in the Veterans Park which adjoins the Westmar Park but there was no room at that time and it was placed in the Westmar Park. This tree was then moved, at the "Eagle" expense to the Plymouth County Historical Museum to replace a tree lost earlier in the season in a windstorm. Thank you to our Eagle donors who made the tree moving possible.

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## During the Last 100 Years

By Wayne Marty

### *Bonnie Burgard (W '43) Voted The Most Beautiful Girl — Not Just Once but for a Lifetime!*



Bonnie Burgard Dull (W'43) died September 11, 2016 at the age of 95 in her home town of Le Mars. Bonnie was voted The Most Beautiful Girl during the Western Union "Date Night" activities of 1943 when Bonnie was a Senior but by then it was a familiar honor because Bonnie had also been selected as Most Beautiful Girl during her Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior Years – four years in a row. Bonnie was a hometown girl and was part of the 101 freshmen that enrolled at Western Union in the fall of 1939. But, four years later the graduating class numbered only 20. The college enrollment was decimated by the many that had been drafted or enlisted to support the WWII effort.



Bonnie was a social person and her recognized beauty and social skills may have even been complimented by the acquisition of a uniquely painted, Maroon and Gold (the Western Union colors) 1929 Model A Ford convertible during her senior year of college. One can imagine, that "a girl" owning a fun car in that era when availability of cars was limited because of the war, would be a social plus.



Bonnie majored in English, and History, with minors in Music and Speech. Following graduation she joined her parents in Santa Monica, CA where they had moved for employment at McDonnell Douglas to support the war effort. Paul Dull was a sophomore at WUC when Bonnie enrolled as a freshman. They met during those college years and their relationship developed. Paul enlisted in the Navy following his graduation in 1942, and in July 1943 Bonnie flew across the U.S. to Philadelphia where Paul was serving in the Navy and they were united in marriage. Bonnie was an only child but nine children were born to the Paul-Bonnie family.



Pastor Jan Christiansen shared during Bonnie's Memorial Service, "Bonnie and Paul enjoyed life together and loved their family. They insisted on going on a vacation each year, not an easy feat for such a large group! With a mother and father who

### IN MEMORY/IN HONOR

Making a donation in someone's name that is deceased places that person's information in a special section of our MEMORY book, on a stand, in the Westmar Room. The page will also include donor's names. Donations may also be made in HONOR of someone living, with Westmar ties, and a page will also be entered for that person in that section of the book.



Model A with Bonnie in the drivers seat and Paul as passenger

both enjoyed theatre and singing (Bonnie singing in Sweet Adeline's and Paul in Barbershop) they grew up with a lot of activity and fun, and countless games of charades! On holidays, they had big games of charades where everyone had to participate – a practice that wasn't always very comfortable for the visiting boyfriends and girlfriends around the table. While Bonnie never raised her voice, she had a look, her children termed the hawk-look, and it seemed to get quick results. She is also remembered as chasing them with her tennis shoe. Growing up with a mother who was an English major, of course, no one dared speak with poor grammar, and they knew the saying well, "if you have nothing good to say, say nothing at all."

Paul died suddenly of heart failure in 1972 and Bonnie was left with 6 children in the home with one of them attending Westmar College just down the street. Moving into the role of both mother and father, Bonnie sought solace through her faith and by sitting in front of the fireplace. She loved her community and was a willing servant and volunteer. She served as an ordained deacon in her church. Within a year of Paul's death, she ran for a position on the Le Mars City Council, was elected and served for 14 years (1973-1987) and served 2 terms as mayor of Le Mars (1988-1993). She was honored with the Le Mars Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award in 1987.

One of Bonnie's passions was acting and the theatre. In 1968, Bonnie, along with others took an Acting night class from Professor Jim Fletcher at Westmar College. This group found it to be such fun, that they worked to get a community theater off the ground in Le Mars, and the first play, "See How They Run" was produced within a few months. Not only was she a founding member, officer and board member of what has now become the Postal Playhouse, but she also performed in numerous plays, directed many of the productions, and served in any capacity involved in play production. She remained active with the playhouse until the last few years and will be remembered for sharing her talent of standing on her head at the cast party after each play.

Bonnie appropriately carried the honor of The Most Beautiful Girl on Campus for all four years of her college life and remained a Beautiful Women in Body, Mind and Spirit for her entire life. Thank You Bonnie (W'43).

Information appreciation: Rev. Jan Christensen, Pastor Presbyterian United Church of Christ, Le Mars

Margaret (Dull) Britton, Daughter of Bonnie

By Marty



# ALUMNI NEWS



The following Westmar alumni and faculty met at Archie's Waeside on Thursday Sept. 29th. From L to R—Larry and Marilyn (Redmer) Persutti, Paul and Kathy (Johnson) Coffin, Wayne and June Marty, Judy Merchen Cambier and Roger Cambier, Laura Dominquez and Mike Wolfswinkel with their son Shawn, and Tom and Jolene Wiltgen.

Mike Wolfswinkel was inducted into the Central Lyon (Rock Rapids, IA) Hall of Fame for football on Wed. Sept 28th during Homecoming activities at the school.

Some 1970s residents of 1st West Bonebrake gathered in LeMars in August. In addition to touring the former Westmar campus, the group enjoyed the Westmar Room in the Plymouth County Historical Museum, lunch at Bob's Drive Inn, the Blue Bunny Ice Cream Parlor, and dinner at Archie's Waeside. Mary (Potter) Peshek '71 and Dr. Wayne Marty of LeMars also visited with the alumni.

Front row (basketball players)  
 Sherri (Chamberlin) Loots '76, Staunton, IL  
 Carol (Wiegert) Franken '76, Sioux City, IA  
 Ede Breitmeier '76, Chinook, MT  
 Bev (Nelson) Haack '76, Sanborn, IA

Center row  
 Gayle (Camarigg) Naglak '76, Story City, IA  
 Kay (Heathman) Olson '75, Bode, IA  
 Michele (Stearns) Olsen '76, Sioux Falls, SD  
 Crystal (Nobel) Strouth '76, Sibley, IA

Back row  
 Beth (Gelhaus) Allman '76 LaPorte, CO  
 Deb (Gelhaus) Baker '78, Cheney, WA  
 Leah (Pepple) Bothmer '76, Omaha, NE

This group of friends from the class of 1969 met this year in the Black Hills and attended the yearly buffalo roundup. They were eating at the Bumpin' Buffalo Bar and Grill! Those attending were: Milo and Jan Sprout (Illinois), Bruce and Mary Rudolph (Colorado), Keith and Jan Brandt (Iowa) and Glenn and Brenda Jagodzinske (Kansas). Unable to attend this year were Rich and Linda Gaumer (Iowa).



Julie M. Poore '81, writes from Osceola, IA, that she graduated from Iliff School of Theology MDiv in '84. Received a Certificate for Spiritual Direction in 2010. She was 500 hour certified yoga instructor in 2011. She serves as a United Methodist pastor in the Iowa conference and teaches yoga as a spiritual practice. She has two sons and two grandsons.

February issue will include all donations made this year to Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association.

This will include donations to the Eagle Sculpture and those made In Honor or In Memory.

Do you have any Westmar items you would like to donate to the Archives or for room display? We are also looking for Sports Memorabilia as well as items from other groups for display. Good copies of photos or certificates are also welcome.



## Alumni Deaths

'41 Western Union – **Evelyn M. Orr White**, 95 of Manhattan, KS died July 5, 2016. She taught primary schools in the area. She began writing letters in elementary school as an English assignment and wrote to more than 200 pen pals over the years. She was a strong supporter of Manhattan Food Bank, Crisis Center, Libraries, Historical Association and the Plymouth County Historical Museum Le Mars. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

'42 Western Union – **Marjorie “Jane” Johns Robar**, 95 of Danville, Ind. Died Aug. 13, 2016. She taught math and business courses for four years before her marriage. They then farmed in rural Aurelia, IA. Preceding her in death were her father, **Lloyd Johns** WU '06 and her sister **Geraldine Mullineaux** WU '39. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

'43 Western Union - **Bonnie Ilene Marguerite Burgard Dull** 95, of LeMars, IA died Sept 11, 2016. She and her family returned to LeMars in '64. She was active in the Presbyterian United Church of Christ where she was a deacon; in city government, she served 12 years on the City Council; and held two terms as Mayor. She was part of the Community Theatre for 41 years. Among survivors are: **Anne Dull** '70, **Mark Dull** '76, **Beverly Burik** '77 and **Daniel Dull** '87. She was preceded in death by her husband **Paul E. Dull** '46 and son, **Dennis J. Dull** '69. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com) *Story on page 2.*

'47 Western Union – **Dorothy M. Begg Etzel**, 96, of Sioux City, IA, died Oct. 8, 2016. She started teaching in Plymouth County right out of high school. After raising a family, she resumed her teaching in Sioux City in 1968, working with 6<sup>th</sup> grade until retiring in 1984. She was active in church, community, traveling around the globe. Her husband, **Herman Etzel** '48, predeceased her. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

'49 Western Union – **Robert E. Nipp**, 89, of LeMars, IA, died Oct. 15, 2016. He attended WU after serving in the US Marine Corps. He served in the US Army Reserves for 30 yrs. and attained the rank of Colonel. He taught school in Atlantic, IA before accepting a position with the US Dept. of Agriculture, which led to a media relations and speech writing position with the Federal Government in Washington D.C. He contributed to speeches for Presidents Johnson, Nixon and Ford among dignitaries there. Bob was predeceased by his brother **Tom Nipp** '62. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

'50 – **Russell R. “Doc” Boehlke**, 89, of Fort Collins, CO died July 17, 2016. A medical doctor, he first served in Public Health Service as an Indian Health Services doctor and then became interested and pursued ophthalmology. He practiced primarily in Ft. Collins for 40 years. He took many medical mission service trips to Africa. He was a girls' softball coach for 20 yrs. with teams earning regional, state and national honors. [www.bohlenderfuneralchapel.com](http://www.bohlenderfuneralchapel.com)

'53 – **David Spencer Burgett**, 85 of Elkton, VA died Aug. 14, 2016. He served in the US Army in Germany for two years and taught industrial arts for 9 yrs. He was appointed a home missionary of the EUB Church and served 22 years at McCurdy Mission School in Espanola, NM. In '87 he accepted a position with the National Division of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries in New York City, overseeing national mission institutions for 9 years. [www.kygers.com](http://www.kygers.com)

'54 – **Emily Millicent Duffield Ehler**, 82, of Kellogg, IA died Sept. 30, 2016. She taught school in Kellogg before her marriage. She and her husband then farmed on the homestead that was in his family since 1883. She was active in school activities, farming and helping her neighbors. Active in church, she served as Community Bible School Director for 20 yrs. She was Mariposa Township Clerk for 32 yrs. She loved family gathering, traveling and genealogy. [www.wallacefamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.wallacefamilyfuneralhome.com)

'54 – **Dorothy Mae Mauer Tammes**, 88 of LeMars, IA died Aug. 23, 2016. She taught school for four years before her marriage and then her husband joined her father in the Mauer Funeral Home. Dorothy was active in the United Methodist Church in LeMars, Chapter CD of P.E.O. and many other organizations and volunteer groups. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

'55 – **Doris Mae June Muyskens**, 81 of Mason City, IA died Sept 6, 2016. At Westmar, Doris traveled with the concert band, playing clarinet and fell for a handsome basketball player, **Ken Muyskens** '55. They both taught school in Melvin. Doris taught one year and stayed home with the first child for a few years before returning to teach until '95. She was active in church and volunteered in her community. She and her husband were instrumental in founding a local chapter of Child Evangelism Fellowship. Ken died in 2013. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

'60 – **Dan L. Johnston**, 78 of Des Moines, IA died Oct. 21, 2016. He was a staunch advocate for the civil rights of others. Dan successfully argued the landmark US Supreme Court free speech case, “Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District” (“the black armband case”) which established free speech rights for students in public schools. Dan served a term in the IA General Assembly for '67-'68 and later served as the Polk Co Attorney from '77 to '85. An avid Sailor and member of Harlem Yacht Club in New York City where he lived from '72 – '77 and from '85 to 2012. In Washington DC, he worked for the National Center for State Courts and on the Criminal Justice Subcommittee of the US House Judiciary Committee. [www.hamiltonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.hamiltonsfuneralhome.com)

'64 – **Carol Sue Vander Feen**, 73 of Sioux City, IA died Sept. 29, 2016. She was an interior decorator and owned her own furniture store in Glenwood Springs, CO. Most recently she owned Second Seasons store in Sioux City. She enjoyed reading, traveling and gardening. [www.rexwinkelfh.com](http://www.rexwinkelfh.com)

'72 – **Ruth Marie Trometer**, 66 of Merrill, IA died Aug. 4, 2016. She moved to Cambridge, MA in '76 and began a career in administration of foreign language teaching laboratories at Harvard University. She served 30 years as director of the foreign languages lab at the MA Institute of Tech. (MIT) retiring in 2010. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

'74 – **Dennis Gordon Davis**, 68 of Elk Point, SD died Aug. 14, 2016. He enlisted in the US Air Force in '67 and served in the Vietnam War. He was awarded a Purple Heart and was honorably discharged in '71. He was hardworking and enjoyed fishing, horses, and telling stories. He enjoyed his family, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. [www.koberfuneralhome.com](http://www.koberfuneralhome.com)

'74 – **Francis Michael “Mike” Sutton**, 64 of LeMars, IA died Oct. 6, 2016. While at WC he went on the Biology Field trip in '72. He worked at the Sioux City Stockyards, quality control at Wells



## Alumni Deaths continued

Blue Bunny and was an owner of rental properties in LeMars and Sioux City. He was also a professional photographer in Sioux City. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

'79 – **Theodore J. "Ted" Voss**, 85 of Sioux City, IA died Oct. 16, 2016. He served as a Los Angeles police officer until returning to Nebraska and attending WC. He was employed at MidAmerican Energy, retiring in '86. He enjoyed golfing, walking, playing pool, treasure hunting and traveling. He was active at the Siouxland Center for Active Generations and had many friends there. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

'97 – **Rochelle Ann Thelen Pecks**, 61 of LeMars, IA died Oct 11, 2016. She worked as an accountant for the Ford dealership in LeMars before working for the Chemical Sanitizing Systems in LeMars as an accountant and office manager for 30 years. She enjoyed bowling, crocheting ,and time spent with family, especially grandchildren. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

### Donations In Memory/In Honor of – For the Eagle Sculpture

**Jacob Wernli**, Founder of North-western Normal School and Business College, forerunner of Westmar



#### Groups

- 1<sup>st</sup> W Bonebrake, Classes of '67- '72
- 1<sup>st</sup> W Bonebrake, Classes of '75 -78
- Wernli Hall
- The 80's Decade
- Westmar College Band 1977-1980
- Class of '67
- The Wonderful Staff of '73
- Westmar Faculty & Staff
- The Roger Hawkins Family
- The Kelly and Allen Families
- The Marty & Asplund family members (34)
- Parkinson and Vance Family

#### Faculty, administration and staff

- Joseph O. "Joe" Bottiger, Westmar VP, Treasurer 1979-1989
- Sheldon L. Cram, Physics Faculty 50-55, 57-75
- Dr. Larry J. Day, Music Faculty 1951-1963
- Dr. Delmer D. DeBoer '59, Math Faculty 63-67
- Ramona Smith De Boer '58,
- Merlin H. Dipert, Math Faculty 1947-1952
- Dr. James E. Divelbiss, Biology Faculty 61-85;
- Dr. Robert A. Embree, York '51, Psych Faculty, 58-93
- Valda Franz Embree "71, Dir. of Alumni Activities, Dir. of Admissions, and Dir. of Development 1972-1993
- Dr. Robert L Franklin PhD. Chemistry, Physics Faculty 67-69,79-86,93
- Dwight J. Garrington, English Faculty 67-70 & Neoma Garrington '70
- Freddie J Goodchild, Dir. Of Physical Plant 65-88
- Dr. Frederick C. James, Biology Faculty 69-71;
- Lamar Jones, Admissions Counselor, 70/71 & Ruth Elliot Jones '73
- Dr. Cheul Weun Kang, Economics Faculty 1963-1985
- Dr. Lyman F. Kells; Chemistry Faculty, 64-74;

### My Taxable Donation to the Eagle Fund

\$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_, \$500 \_\_\_\_\_, \$250 \_\_\_\_\_, Other \_\_\_\_\_

A plaque listing individual or group donors of \$250 or more and honorees (if applicable) will be placed in the Eagle Plaza area.

(All donors will be listed in the February 2017 WAFA newsletter)

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail

\_\_\_\_\_

I wish my donation to be in honor of

\_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to WAFA and return to  
**WAFA**

**335 First Ave SW  
LeMars, IA 51031**

Donate by PayPal at <http://www.westmarcollege.org/Membership.html> "Donation in Honor" box. Indicate Eagle Fund and person you are honoring if applicable.

### Donations In Memory/Honor of – For the Eagle Sculpture Continued.....

- Dr. Arthur Q. Larson Hist. Faculty 52-87 & Betty Lou Ratliff Larson Music Fac. 58-68,80-95
- Dr. Wayne G Marty; Biology Faculty 60-94;
- Dr. Hayes McGraw, El. Ed Fac. 57-72
- Dr. Wayne "Mitch" Mitchell, Music Faculty 66-83
- Ellen O. Turner Oliver, Math Faculty 57-84
- Dr. Theodore L Rebstock, Chemistry Faculty 60-84;
- Rodney H. Scholten, Industrial Arts Faculty 63-78
- Dr. Leon E. Scott, Education and Psychology Faculty, Academic Dean, Interim President 65-97
- Richard N. Skinner, Director of Buildings and Grounds, 59-62 & Henrietta Skinner
- Dr. Charles W. Semke '45, Psychology Faculty. 59-90
- Dr. Harriet D. Mugler Semke '46, Language Faculty, 60-90
- Rev. Dr. Thomas S. Stone, York '54, Dean of Students, Registrar, Admissions 58-72
- Dr. M. Gene Ulrich, PhD; Biology Faculty, 66-75 x
- Gene W. Petersen, Industrial Arts Faculty 74-75
- Frank N. Summerside, Music Faculty. 63-93
- Frieda Dahmes, Westmar Dietician, 1945-1951

## Westmar Chorale – 1981 Tour to Europe

By Frank N. Summerside

1981's tour was understandably different from the three European tours and Expo '67 that preceded it. Westmar had lost most of its EUB traditional backing, so the geography of the membership was vastly changed.

Keys to the success were still Max Pehler at Far Away Tours and Pastor Heinrich Meinhardt in Germany. Carlton Young of the United Methodist Church also played a key role. He had invited the Chorale to sing at the World Methodist Conference in 1980 in Indianapolis.

What had I learned about programming? We were to sing more concerts in Scandinavia. That meant a change in repertoire. Norwegians had learned their English from that country's teachers so the English composers they knew could be included. Germans were now more interested in hearing non-German composers as the new generation had experienced a diet of their own history.

Here was the itinerary starting in mid-May: Day 1 - Fly Lufthansa from Chicago to Frankfurt; Day 2 - Marburg; Days 3,4,5 - Berlin and 1 concert; Day 6 - Bayreuth, Bamberg; Day 7 - Stuttgart concert; Day 8- Karlsruhe concert; Day 9-Trier; Day 10-Cologne; Day 11-Oldenburg concert; Day 12-Lubeck concert; Day 13-Denmark and ferry overnight from Fredrikshavn to Larvik and Oslo; Day 14-Oslo; Day 15-Drammen concert; Day 16-Ullensvang concert; Day 17 Bergen concert; Day 18-Bergen concert; Day 19-Haugesund concert; Day 20-Stavanger concert; Day 21-Stavanger concert; Day 22 Kristiansand concert; Day 23-Oslo concert; Day 24-Oslo; Day 25-Stockholm; Day 26 Stockholm concert; Day 27- Kalmar concert; Day 28, 29-Copenhagen; Day 30-Kassel; Day 31-Fly Frankfurt to Chicago.

**NOTABLE EVENTS:** Pastor Meinhardt had scheduled a new double-decker bus out of Lubeck to meet us in Marburg. At the East German border on our way to Berlin they asked for all passports and a list, which we had prepared, of all on board. We waited hours for what? Finally the examiner said we needed to pay him 15 marks per person because "we weren't sitting in alphabetical order." Talk about harassment! With no cell phones to call Berlin in '81 we were hours late for dinner and they were frantic.

Very interesting tour of Berlin, Wagner's Performance Hall in Bayreuth and seeing home of Bamberg Symphony often heard on European recordings in music classes on campus. In Stuttgart, after the concert, a man came into the dressing room and introduced himself. It was a serviceman, Michael McCabe, the composer of "In Quiet Joy" that we had sung with **Christy Curry Hoyland, '81**, on oboe and **Melody Murra Olson, '82** on the piano. I had written him through his publisher after I had heard he was stationed in Germany, but I didn't know if he would be able to make it to a concert.

On our way to Cologne (Koln) we stopped to see Beethoven's home in Bonn. When leaving the city we approached an underpass. Whoa!! We were stuck under it. Upper deck students had to come down to the aisle, - air let out of the tires-back up and find a new route! When we arrived at the hotel I made a quick call to Pastor Meinhardt to arrange for different transportation once we made it to Lubeck. We would never make it

through Norway with this height. We ended up with a smaller bus and a car driven by students who did a fine job of driving the rest of the trip. The Opera in Cologne's new hall was exciting.

Oldenburg concert was a highlight of the tour. Everything came together with the new music we'd learned for Europe, a thrill for all and reported in the review. Pastor was formerly in Dortmund on earlier tours. Memorable was to tour Bach's place of residency in Lubeck. Our concert that night was also excellent. It was warm and humid so at breaks we went outside. After the second break, an elderly woman came out of the church and spoke to me. "Please forgive for leaving. But I must keep tribute to Kennedy in my ears." That piece was "Take Him Earth for Cherishing," by English composer Herbert Howells. That was an unforgettable moment to share with the Chorale.

An overnight ferry ride for the first time is always exciting. Next night in Oslo we heard a concert in the Opera House just around the corner from our hotel. We had a fine receptive audience the next night in nearby Drammen. The next day's trip was through WWII Norwegian Resistance Territory on our way to Ullensvang.

There the apple trees were in full bloom along the fjord and hillside. We sang in a historic church where leaders from across the world had signed the registry.



Field near Koblenz

A tour to see Grieg's home in Bergen and singing two concerts kept us busy. We drove inland thru smaller towns and enjoyed some local food while waiting for our ferry to Haugesund. The reviewer there really knew our repertoire. On to Stavanger to sing at the cathedral and at the Methodist church down the block and a warm reception from all. Then another bus ride to Kristiansand, usually where we had taken a ferry to and from Denmark. Beautiful cathedral for our concert and friendly home stays. Next day it was back to Oslo.



Fish Market with lady in traditional dress.

We sang our concert in their huge cathedral located at the end of their main street. Many concert goers from

### Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

The next Wafa quarterly Board of Directors meeting will be held on January 16, 2017, at 7:00 PM in the Plymouth County Historical Museum's Welcome Room. All Wafa members are welcome to attend and are encouraged to participate in whatever way they can.



Drammen had driven up for the event and greeted us after the concert. Next day was a tour of the city with its City Hall's murals always spectacular and many of the gifts to the King are also on display there.

Busing to Stockholm is a long day and not the most scenic, but Stockholm itself always makes up for it. Most students are aware of the Nobel prizes and their ceremonies



Mural in Oslo City Hall

both in Oslo and Stockholm's rather severe hall in comparison. The shopping district is unsurpassed. This was the first tour



Sculpture park and museum in Oslo

when we were welcome to sing a concert in Stockholm as the Bishop had heard the Chorale in Indianapolis the previous Spring at the World Methodist conference.

One of the pieces in the last group was the Swedish hymn found in many U. S. hymnals, "Day by Day". It had been suggested by **Sylvia Holmen**, a faculty

wife. At the close of the concert the Pastor was to give a benediction. However, he began by commending the Chorale and then said, "as a closing will you sing "Day by Day" again and we will join you singing it in Swedish"? There were many tears leaving the chancel that night over such a touching moment of Christianity across the globe.

Our last concert was again hosted by the Lion's Club in Kalmar, original capitol of Scandinavia. We again sang in their magnificent and acoustically wonderful cathedral. That we ended on a high note can be read in the reviews. On our way home now, we had a mindboggling display of glass blowing with our stop at Kosta. How many crystal pieces purchased that day remain unbroken?

Copenhagen has always been an entertainment stop on tours for its history, its shops and the vast array of sights and sounds in Tivoli gardens.

So far we had survived the tour with no physical mishaps. But, on the last travel day as some students were sitting in the aisle for one of our endless card games, a suitcase rack fell from the overhead and hit a head. It was the owner's head, **Linda Biederman-Hink '81**. No blood, no sweat, for our fine organist. Later that evening at our hotel in Kassel, there was a knock on my door. It was Linda with a splitting headache. Off we went to find a doctor. I so wish that today's technology had been available for the next scene on a phone. The hospital was dark even

though it was a bit past 9 p.m. Finally someone came to the door. A curtain was lifted and we viewed a night capped elderly woman peering out and speaking German. Eventually we saw a doctor and after an examination, he thought it was not serious but Linda needed some aspirin for her headache and to be awakened periodically to be sure it wasn't a concussion. That Linda survived can be attested by her joyful appearance at the 2015 reunion. But, someone missed out on some cash!

Before we left in May I had suggested at a rehearsal that given the history of tour injuries in Europe, we should put everyone's name on a slip of paper in a hat. Each member would contribute a dollar to our treasurer and then draw a name out of the hat. Whoever had the name of the injured on the trip would win the kitty. There were loud voices rejecting the suggestion, especially from the S/A sections. "You are tempting fate." So democracy won.

1981 was a musical success and I'm reasonably sure most members still view it as a memory success, so to all——  
**THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!**

### Choral Reviews for European Tour '81:

1. Oldenburg, West Germany—Tuesday, May 19: Four concerts comprise the program of the Oldenburg Choir Day 1981, which came off thanks to the initiative of the church music director, Dieter Weiss of the Lamberti church. The first group was an American college choir; the Westmar Chorale comes from a small city of Le Mars in Iowa. This singing group under the leadership of Frank N. Summerside is on their fourth European tour traveling from West Berlin through the cities of West Germany to Norway and Sweden. Oldenburg also lay on their route and the concert in Lamberti church gave the local choir day a captivating upward beat, the program compared to German conceptions was richly varied.

The area of music in the high schools and colleges of the United States form the basis for the North American life of music. It gives them, through opera and oratorio performances, a body of sound and to the most exacting standard. Particular institutions of this type bestow such application of compositions by noteworthy composers and bring to these outstanding works the feeling of the first night performance. The accomplishment of smaller colleges often stands at an astonishingly high level.

To such a group belongs the Westmar Chorale: approximately sixty men and women vocalists in this far reaching choir from Westmar College connected to the Methodist church. The imprint of the Oldenburg evening showed itself in Frank N. Summerside as gifted, inspiring the singer's attention, who rounded vowels in full sounding tone and the high precision in rhythmical sharpness and clarity of intonation showed they had been trained. All numbers in the program were committed to memory and at no time did the choir lose its poise. We heard a satiating fullness of sound with dynamic climaxes in Handel's "Resurrection" and Schutz's "Lord, if I but Thee May Have" for double choir and in the great dynamics of Johann Christoph Bach's composition and Felix Mendelssohn's "Psalm 43".

The compositions of the Anglo-Saxon sphere of influence that caused special interest were motets of the American, Aaron Copland, who blended impressionistic effects with elements of the temperate modern with daring risks of the triad. Olaf C. Christensen's motet, "Trumpets of Zion" realized similar sound con-

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cepts.

A dirge to the memory of J. F. Kennedy by the Briton, Herbert Howells, displayed itself through a single motif while parallel leading tones evolved to powerful polytonal tone clusters. Samuel Barber's "Agnus Dei",—without doubt a high point of the evening—intensifying itself from quiet Psalmode while quietly gliding chords brought strong harmonic tension, which in the varied repetitions and the theme swelling left one with a very intensified tone.

Hugo Distler's influence was heard in the ringing choral motets of the Canadian Bernard Naylor while during Michael McCabe's "In Quiet Joy" with oboe and organ a late Romantic tone was captured. A set of Spirituals, whose expressive palette reached from joyful faith to sadness and back again to composed self-possession, came in effectively built phrases in part with the feeling presented by the choir. A tender hymn which grew from a soft unison to a powerful forte ended the program.

A Choir of high understanding and basic musicality, which between spontaneous effective vitality and artistic discipline of their director which stands in direct proportion performed here. The listeners in the Oldenburg Lamberti church applauded after each section of the concert heartily, and thanked at the end with lengthy, spirited applause. *Norbert Hampel*

2. PERFORMANCE WITH HIGH CHORAL DISCIPLINE: The Westmar Chorale was the guest choir in the Andreas church on Dorfstrasse in Lubeck. This sacred concert was delivered with typical American precision. Motets by Handel, Schutz and Johann Christoph Bach led the program in full sounding splendor. Mendelssohn's "Psalm 43" was sung in German. The choir's powerful force filled the walls to bursting. The motets by Copland seduced one through their expressive harmonies as did the "Trumpets of ZION" by Christiansen.

In the second part, the memory of President J. F. Kennedy in the contemplative motet "Take Him Earth for Cherishing," by Howells with the choir in its dreamlike assurance of intonation of difficult intervals supplied us with proof of their ability. The "Agnus Dei" by Barber proved to be of high tonal density and expression. Under the leadership of Frank N. Summerside, nothing was left to chance: clear, pure women's voices who also mastered the extreme high notes effortlessly and without even a bit of darkening; effective rounded men's voices, all in high choral discipline. The motets by Naylor, with one of the choir's overlying solo quartets, was a good example of the contemporary melody and character. The concert ended with a set of less well known Spirituals whose rhythmic and harmonic precision were persuasive in their presentation. *Pater Sach*

3. Haugesund, Norway—Wednesday, May 27: Music as a subject obviously stands high in the study at this school. To accomplish a concert program of this degree of difficulty and with such scope with regard to both style and musical expression demands a choir of musically gifted members. When the whole is consistently memorized with unerring security, it tells one of their discipline and will to extend themselves.

It is always disappointing to me personally when it is necessary for the American college choirs to perform music from earlier periods than our own. It is not exciting. However, when it is a question of music from our own century, then the choir is a first class instrument to express the music. Therefore, we will gladly forget the choir's performance of Schutz and Mendelssohn

and return our memory to performances of strength. Aaron Copland's two motets were magnificent music given superb presentation.

The program's musical center point was the contemporary English composer Herbert Howells' great composition with the text: "Take Him Earth for Cherishing". Howells, nearly ninety, will always stand as one of the greats of English 20th century music.

It is also interesting to hear Samuel Barber's own transcription of his famous "Adagio for Strings" adapted to the liturgical text of "Agnus Dei". Brilliantly performed were two compositions which were familiar to me, "Crown of Thorns" and "The Ascension" by Bernard Naylor, And, of course, an American choir is at home when it comes to performing choir arrangements of Spirituals and folksong. *Njal Steinsland*

4. Kalmar, Sweden—Thursday, June 4: Exquisite Choir Presentation. Four years ago the Westmar Chorale gave a concert in Kalmar. Yesterday the choir was back again in connection with a tour through West German, Norway and Sweden.

The choir comes from Westmar College in Le Mars, Iowa and consists of fifty-seven singers. The director since 1963 is Frank Summerside. Already well known from the first visit, the choir made an exceptionally good impression, but it is now possible to say that they are better. A fully balanced choir sound, exquisite intonation and phrasing, and one hundred per cent attention to the director's smallest motion—such are signs of distinguished choir culture.

In the concert's introductory part, one could state that they established that they certainly controlled the classical Baroque style, as documented in Schutz's "Lord, if I but Thee May Have", performed with refined style, and terraced dynamics. Sounds of the modern American classicist were evidenced in two motets by Copland and Olaf Christiansen's "Trumpet of Zion".

The middle section of the concert was an interesting cross-section of modern church music. Howell's elegy to President Kennedy's memory was gripping in a kind of oscillating church sound with tone clusters featured, while in the late Samuel Barber's "Agnus Dei", a tightly romantic theme encircled the old text. The two motets by Naylor reached the concert's high point, "Crown of Thorns" with its simple telling style and "Ascension" with its thrilling high Alleluia's".

The last part of the concert contained many Negro Spirituals which received an engaging and vigorous interpretation. Such politeness to Sweden from Iowa with many Swedish folk tunes, such as Ahlen's "Summer Psalm" and Ahnfelt's "Day by Day", brought a positive element.

Appealing were ten of the choir members appearing as soloists. They were fantastically fine, but a pair of the sopranos made an unforgettable impression. The director led his well dressed ensemble with such discipline as I have not seen, small but very effective gestures. What lies behind a concert such as this is precise, diligent work. The work praises the master.

The Lions Club of Kalmar is due large thanks that Westmar Chorale came here again. *Per Edwall*

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**'60s' REUNION** hosted by John and Shirley Goutcher , Aug. 27th at their home in Preston, MN. The event was held on a beautiful evening. There was a great deal of visiting, eating and story telling. It all ended with music on the back patio.

Some special moments were experienced when Gordy Klomps spoke of the last days of Jack Scott, when people told a bit of their life stories and also when Maurice Schroeder returned a football to Lloyd Petersen that he had kept for 50 years!



Women: Back row L to R—Jean Siegle Vrieze '69, Shirley Roder Goutcher '64, Jo Unruh Putz '68, Mary Klomps, Pam Ollman Wright '69, Vera Loise Robinson Tippe '68, Rennae Erdman Peterson '67, Edie Paetz-nick Cook '68. Front row—Dolores Dunn Voorhees '64, Rebecca Pierce '68. Judy Miller Boutelle '66, Norma Schneider '68, Penney Kramer Eberhart '63, Dorothy Waddingham Wenzel '64, Ginni Cook '64, Kathy Dunn Christianson '68.  
 Men: Back row L to R—Allan Vrieze '70, Bob Seidel '67, Paul Mathison '48, Jim Oestereich '66, Emil Eberhart '64. Front row—Gordon Klomps '65, Lloyd Petersen '65, John Goutcher '62 Jerry Boutelle, John Tippe, Lowell Wenzel. Not pictured—Mary Ring '68, Bob Colby '64, Jane Kolbe '65, bob Moline '64, Harriet Schroeder, Maurice Schroeder '64.

Check out the Website for lots of memorabilia!! Other than shirts and jackets, you can find Choral CD's and other items. You can place your order at the website or contact us at the office. [www.westmarcollege.org](http://www.westmarcollege.org) or call 712-546-8759 and leave message.



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Most newsletters are now sent by email to reduce office costs of printing and postage. We send to a few who do not have email or who have a special request. Get it on line and get it in color—make the print as large as you like. Get it where ever you get your email whether at home or on vacation. It's the best way!!

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

**Current Members:** You will receive **only one** reminder 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.

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