



# Westmar Alumni and Friends Association

Volume 9, Issue 3

August, 2007

## Milton Martin to be Inducted into National Wrestling Hall of Fame

It was announced at the July 14 Wrestler's picnic at Le Mars Municipal Park that the name of Milton Martin will be entered into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Iowa Chapter with the Life Time

Participant Award.

The award ceremony will be in Des Moines on October 27, 2007.

Several of Martin's former wrestlers were responsible for nominating Martin

for this honor and word came that Martin had been accepted just days before the reunion.

Milt Martin coached wrestling at Westmar from 1963 to 1997.

## Memories of Summer Reunions

The first reunion of the summer was held in Le Mars on July 14. 141 members of the Decade of the 1990s, Chorale, and Wrestling exchanged hugs along with memories of their Westmar days.

Even though the rehearsal was warm, the members of the Chorale gave a memorable concert for the public Saturday afternoon.

Frank Summerside, conductor of the Chorale summed it up by saying, "One of the keys to the Chorale's success was the time for prayer before each evening's concert. Saturday, July 14, 2007 that was omitted as a group process due to the rather chaotic time of ending a most enjoyable rehearsal, time for renewal of friendships, greeting a huge audience already arriving in 'Calvary,' plus RR time before the 4:30 p.m. concert. What an afternoon!! Loved it. I know individual prayers offered for guidance were answered and as one of the anthems sung said, 'Sent from Heaven Thy rays were given on great and small to shine.' And shine they did. Thank you, Lord, for giving us this day."

A group of about 86 people involved in wrestling gathered for a picnic at Le Mars Municipal Park. The highlight of the picnic was the announcement that Milt Martin will be inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Iowa Chapter with the Life Time Participant Award. The award cere-

mony will be in Des Moines on October 27, 2007.

The evening's banquet saw Bill Dickey of Wayne, Neb. as emcee, Judy Bahr Mitchell and Susan Brasel from Denver as soloists with Miriam Hector, Le Mars at the piano.

Two weeks later Le Mars was host to the 50-Year reunion of the Class of 1957 with classmates from 1955-59 joining them. Once again, hugs and memories abound.

The banquet entertainment started out with a group sing along of some old favorites. Even the caterer joined in as she cleared the tables after the meal.

On August 10-11 thirty-one people attended the reunion of athletes who played under Coaches Brockman, Robinson, Wilson, and Knudtson from 1955 to 1963. A tour of the gym which is now an aquatic center and part of the Family Y, old movies of football games, laughing over year-books, and time to visit the Westmar room in the museum filled the weekend with warm memories and renewed friendships.

A reunion was held on August 25, in Northglenn, Colorado. Forty-one alumni and past students along with five spouses attended. Some came from South Africa, Nevada, Missouri, and Iowa.

The highlight was "Westy" (Dr. Wayne Marty) greeting all in the parking lot and

then bringing up-to-date news about the campus, buildings, and professors.

This was the first large Westmar Reunion in Colorado in over 20 years. A potluck dinner and renewal of friendships was enjoyed by all.

Reunion photos start on page 4. Please note, due to space constraints, we will try to run the pictures from the Colorado Reunion in the next newsletter.

### Grad Talks to USA Today

Scott Starkweather (1986), while on vacation to see a Giants baseball game in California, was interviewed by USA Today about what he would do should he be lucky enough to catch Barry Bonds' home run ball No. 755 or 756.

The entire story can be found at [http://usatoday.com/sports/baseball/2007-08-03-307153707\\_x.htm](http://usatoday.com/sports/baseball/2007-08-03-307153707_x.htm).

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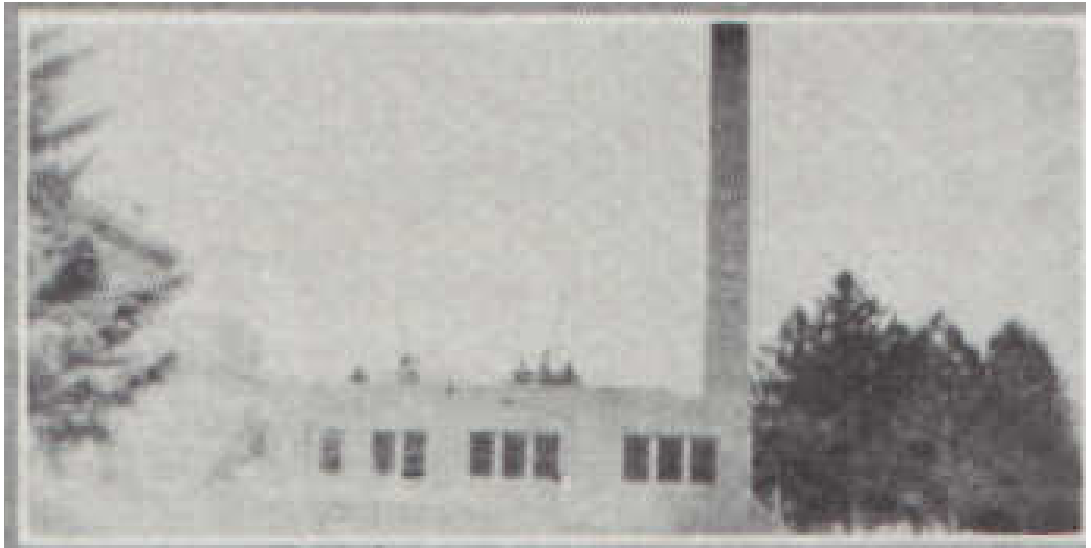
# Bricks and Mortar and More

## The Heating Plant by Dr. Wayne Marty

Sometime during the Western Union 1920-21 or 1921-22 school years, while the Dubs Memorial classroom building and the Wernli Hall girls dormitory were being completed, a little "working" building, only 38 ft. x 50 ft., was also constructed. The Heating Plant was somewhat like the servant slaves of the early American south. The little building, located at the center of the campus, was visible from all parts of the campus because of its tall smoke stack. It had no fancy name but it provided the heat, and many other services for the 20 year old Thoren Hall, and the new Dubs and Wernli buildings.

The front portion of the building (north side) was the Spartan living quarters with bunks and study desks for the two or three students who earned their way through college by working in the heating plant. In the basement below the living quarters were the bathroom and storage rooms. The back part of the building (south side) was one big room from basement floor to roof that contained three big gas fired boilers, commercial size laundry equipment, and water treatment equipment. As more buildings were added to the Westmar campus in later years additional tunnels were channeled to the heating plant for installation of the steam pipes radiating out from the big boilers. When Westmar was serving its greatest number of students in the 1960's and 70's the boilers were providing heat for Thoren, Dubs, Wernli, the Industrial Arts building, the 1908 gym (Art & Home Ec.), the 1941 gym, Weidler, Memorial Hall, Eastview Apartments, and the Library.

The "Heating Plant Guys" were on duty around the clock and every day. They could have used the term 24-7 but it was probably not a popular term then. They scheduled their classes (and probably their dates) so that one of them would always be on duty in the Heating Plant. Primary duties were watching the boilers and doing laundry. At least through the 30's 40's, 50's and into the 60's all of the dining hall table clothes and towels and the sheets and



### Heating Plant

*(taken from the 1926 Pilot yearbook)*

towels for the girls in Wernli hall were washed, dried, and ironed (using commercial roller irons) by the heating plant guys. Laundry for the athletic department was also done in the heating plant. Coach Milt Martin says that, "the heating plant guys never had to buy socks". There were always extra athletic socks that got "stuck in the washer and dryer." But Bob Enck, a heating plant resident of 1954 says that "the athletes never had to buy towels" because the number in the wash became fewer and fewer as the year progressed. So there are often two sides to a good story.

The boss of the "Heating Plant Guys" was the Director of Maintenance and their jobs were many and varied. They cleared sidewalks and shoveled snow before class time in the winter. They mowed the lawns, serviced the college vehicles, hauled garbage, and hauled (unpasteurized) milk directly from the college farms by the airport to the dining hall in the 1940's and 1950's. They repaired roofs and gutters, trimmed trees, watered plants, changed light bulbs and repaired electrical switches when needed. Elgie Fireoved was the "Boss" in the 1940's and 50's and it led to a special sign over the Heating Plant door: "St. Elgie's Monastery - Put off thy shoes from off your feet for this is Holy Ground".

Frugal budget management was usually a part of the Westmar business plan. Cal Hartman, a heating plant guy in the late 40's says that the thermostat in Wernli Hall

did not really control the heat. When the thermostat was turned up it only turned on a red light in the heating plant and then the guys would maybe release more steam to Wernli. Now Cal, who at age 82 gets cold more easily, says he feels badly that they often did not give Mrs. Daeschner, the Wernli Hall Housemother, all the heat that she wanted.

We owe a BIG THANK YOU to the long list of those who served Westmar by living and working in the Heating Plant. It appears that resident students in the heating plant ended in the early 1960's. It was also at that time that the "little slave" building began to grow. A 28 ft. addition was added to the east to provide a more useful and accessible shop area and a 20 ft. addition was built to the west for a campus Laundromat that functioned through the 1970's

Now all the boilers (still in place) are idle. All buildings that have been sold to private parties or are now owned by the City of Le Mars have their own independent heating systems. So no smoke come out of the tall stack, one city employee uses the shop area, and the little building waits for the determination of its final assignment.

**Update:** During the last week of August 2007, workers from the Mayfield Hutterite Colony near Watertown, South Dakota, removed all three of the 7 Ton boilers, along with the burners, water tanks and

*(Continued on page 3)*



# Alumni News

## News

**1957-Ted Yoder** and wife Jeanne celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house on June 30, 2007 in Clinton, Iowa.

**1958-Bob Darrah** is coaching women's golf at Simpson College.

**1962-Reicka-Louise (Koehler) Wehrman** had a brain aneurism, surgery, and stroke in January 2000. She is still partially paralyzed on the left side and needs assistance from family or friends to dress and walk.

**1968-Ann (Hefty) Krone** is teaching art for Friends University in Wichita, Kansas.

**1986-Tim DeLarm** has been married to Michelle for 17 years. They have four children and live in Le Mars.

**1992-Michelle (Graham) Driscoll** is living near Washington, Iowa with her husband Mike Driscoll. She works for Northwestern Mutual Insurance and the couple has two young children.

**1993-Allan Pick** is living in Renton, Wash., after being in Omaha, and Stamford, Conn. He and his wife Keri Kunkel had their first child last December.

**1995-Lisa Langlitz** is the Mental Health Administrator for Cherokee County.

## Deaths

**1936-Emma Jewel (Godson) Nielsen** of Paullina passed away on July 15, 2007.

**1957-Elmer Coleman** of Rushford, N.Y., passed away on July 6, 2005.

**1963-Ronald L. Mueller** of Alta, Iowa died of a sudden illness on July 11, 2007.

**1969-Mildred (Tindall) Hunter** of Le Mars, Iowa died on June 1, 2007.

## Thank You from Scholarship Winner

"I wanted to take the opportunity to say thank you for the Endowment Scholarship for college. I am starting classes at Briar Cliff University...and am very excited. Your scholarship will be used to offset some of my room and board expenses. At Briar Cliff I plan to double major in psychology and education. I will also be playing basketball for the Chargers. Thank you again for making my transition into college easier by awarding me with your Endowment Scholarship. Sincerely, Kendra E. Collins."

Kendra was awarded a \$1000 scholarship through the Iowa College Foundation scholarship fund. Westmar is still playing an important role in education.

## Anniversary/Reunion

A mini Westmar Reunion was held in Sioux Falls, S.D., at the home of Bob (1964) and Jan Kolbe in conjunction with their 40th wedding anniversary.

Westmar graduates in attendance were Ray DeVogel (1965), Dolores (Dunlop) Voorhees (1966), Ray (1965) and Clarice (Brand) Krippner (1965), John (1962) and Shirley (Roder) Goutcher (1964), Bob

(1967) and Chris Seidel, Lee Wiersma (1962), Boyd (1953) and Evelyn (Roepke) Blumer (1953), Terry (1966) and Jan (Devolt) Christensen (1966), Wendell (1964) and Georgianna (Knoll) McKenzie (1965), Emil (1964) and Penny (Kramer) Eberhart (1963), Wayne (faculty) and June Marty (staff) and Al-len (faculty) and Marilyn Herboldt.

## Western Union Yearbooks Needed

The following yearbooks are needed for Archives, Memory Room, and reunion use:

1933, 1934, 1936, 1937, 1943, to Wafa, please send them to the address on the back of this newsletter. If you would care to donate any of those yearbooks

## Heating Plant—

(Continued from page 2)

associated piping. The Hutterite workers with their trouser suspenders and beards communicated during the work in German, which is the primary language of the colony. The boilers will be converted to coal burning units and used to heat the livestock and poultry barns of the colony. So the boilers return to a "German" culture - the German culture that holds the roots of the Evangelical United Brethren church which gave birth to Westmar College.

The next issue of the newsletter will feature Wernli Hall.

**Right: Joe Waldner, the manager of the Mayfield Colony, checks progress on the removal of the boilers with two left to go. The three boilers used to deliver steam to all of Westmar's campus. (Photo courtesy of the Le Mars Daily Sentinel.)**





# Decade of the 1990s, Chorale, and Wrestling Reunion



Reminiscing around the registration table.



Touring Mock Library; a building that was familiar to some and new to others.



Miriam Hector accompanied Susan Brasel at the banquet.



Resting a moment under a shade tree, the campus tour group broke into song singing the School Song.



Frank Summerside behind the piano giving instructions at the Chorale rehearsal on July 14.



Gathering for a Westmar Wrestling Reunion in July 2007 with the college's only wrestling coach, Milt Martin (seated, center). The wrestlers presented Martin with a plaque in appreciation of his years of coaching Westmar wrestling. *(Photo courtesy of the Le Mars Daily Sentinel)*



# 50-Year Reunion



Great-granddaughters of Dr. Golden O. Thompson, Dean of Westmar College (1951-1970) Cosette and Manon Thompson attended the 50-Year Reunion with their grandfather, Wendel Thompson (1958).



Dwight Vogel (1959) at the piano during the 50-Year Reunion.



Entertainment was provided by a group of women singers. Left to right: Sally (Blumer) Enck (1955), Shirley (Savage) Adelmann (1957), Marilyn (Schindler) Grauberger (1957), Marjorie (Voas) Ellerbeck (1959), Janet (Scherbenske) Elliott (1955), and Fidella (Hughes) Marty (1956).



Standing in the shade during the campus tour lead by Dr. Wayne Marty, discussing campus changes.



The men had their turn singing. Layen Adelmann (1957), Bill Arnold (1955), Carlton Bauer (1954) and Dwight Vogel (1959).



Everyone got their turn at the microphone to tell what has happened in their life during the past 50 years.

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WESTMAR ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION  
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LE MARS, IOWA 51031



**Alumni Office Staff**

Janice (Dunbar) Kooiker: 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  
WAFAs members? Ask them to send  
information and yearly dues to the  
office in Le Mars to be included in  
future mailings.*

**Contact us!**  
**westmar@lemarscomm.net**

**http://www.WestmarCollege.org/**

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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 re-  
cently) 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Class year \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse also an alum \_\_\_\_\_

Other relatives also alums \_\_\_\_\_

News (attach a separate sheet if needed ) \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: WAFAs  
335 First Ave. S.W.  
Le Mars, Iowa 51031

Or e-mail to: westmar@lemarscomm.net



**Westmar Alumni & Friends Association**

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Attended Westmar \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

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

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