



## Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2

MAY 2016

### Make Plans Now!! Westmar Reunions

*Decade of the 80's and Madrigal—July 15–17 2016  
At "Westmar Commons" (LeMars Convention Center)  
LeMars, Iowa*

Information can be found on the facebook.com group for Friends of Westmar College and by searching for Westmar Decade of the 80's event hosted by **G. Timothy Hoffman** and **Jeff Kathy Neary**. Information will also be sent from the WAFA office to those alumni we have email addresses for. Registration information will be available soon.

**60's Reunion—Aug. 27. 2016 in Preston, MN at home of Jack and Shirley (Roder) Goutcher**  
Anyone in the upper Midwest with a Westmar connection is also invited.

Come at 3 p.m., eat at 5:30 p.m. and stay till???  
26347 Jet Rd, Preston, MN 55965

In case of in climate weather the alternate site will be  
Preston United Methodist Church

212 St. Anthony St., Preston, MN 55965

**Contact John & Shirley by Aug 13, 2016, with your questions or to RSVP**

Ph: 507-765-2286 or email coldcountrybeagle@yahoo.com  
Bring yourselves, memories and a lawn chair if possible.

### Colorado 'Westmar' Reunion

Sat., June 11, 2016 after 11 am—eat @ 12:30 pm  
Northglenn United Methodist Church

1605 W 106th Ave - Interstate 25 to 104th

West to Livingston Dr.—north to 106th Ave—west on 106th

Please bring salad and/or dessert—all else provided

**RSVP to '61 Gay Feind Weber 303-452-1723**

'60 Wanda Powell Schneider 303-674-4957

Or wandasch13@gmail.com

**Before May 15, 2016**



### An Eagle will fly over Westmar Memorial Park!



The Westmar University Alumni & Friends Association (WAFA) Board of Directors has approved a project to enhance the Westmar Park with an iron and stainless steel eagle sculpture, with a 16' wingspan, to 'fly' 15' above the park. This will be something that all Westmar alumni and friends can be proud to share!

The eagle, a dream of local metal sculptor Terry Utesch, has been made possible by a \$10,000 donation from Barbara Wernli Collins '73, and her husband Steve Collins in memory of Barbara's great-grandfather Jacob Wernli, founder of Northwestern Normal School, which later became Western Union College, then Westmar College. No doubt many of you have memories of Wernli Hall which was named to honor his contributions.

The eagle, weighing approximately 2,000 lbs. on completion, will need a substantial base, which will be incorporated into an attractively landscaped plaza area. A local company has quoted \$24,000 for the base, plaza and lighting. Additional funds are needed for landscaping, plaques, and a perpetual maintenance fund.

**Continued on page 7**

### *This issue is 10 pages!*

Thank you for the articles and information you provide. It is only with your input that we can share this information with WAFA members and we are so pleased to do so.

When sending us information we need to know where it came from. There are copyright laws and we can't take photos and articles without permission. We also like to share websites so that you can see additional information on a subject or an obituary.

Thank you again for helping to make this newsletter better!

## 100 Years Ago —#9

### 100 Years Ago - Western Union College (WUC) – 1916

By Wayne Marty

We know that change happens and adjustments to change are part of being alive. A few moments of reflection about WUC 100 years ago can provide some appreciation, smiles, and awareness of change.

WUC was only 16 years old. The WUC yearbook, "The Pilot" was published for just the third time beginning in 1914. There were just three buildings – Thoren Hall, the original wooden frame gym, and Union Hall. Only the 1908 Gym, now a Teen Center, remains today. The enrollment included 7 Seniors, 16 Juniors, 27 Sophomores, and 23 Freshman making a total of 73 students. But it was a diverse group with students from Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Montana, Illinois and Pennsylvania. Family loyalty was already appearing with three Arnold students enrolled and four Streyfeller students. J. J. DeWall was a Sophomore who would become the pastor of the Evangelical church in Le Mars from 1919 to 1921 and guide the construction of the new Hildreth Memorial Evangelical church. Rev. DeWall then left Le Mars and founded Red Bird Mission in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky. Rex Frolkey, from Eddyville, NE, was present for his first year at WUC, as a Sophomore in the Academy (High School studies). He was already 26 years old and would finally graduate from the college at age 38 in 1927 and become the famed Preacher-Bank Robber. (See full story in the August 2009 WAFA Newsletter found at [www.westmarcollege.org/Newsletters.html](http://www.westmarcollege.org/Newsletters.html)) Also present from the little town of Eddyville, NE (population 250 then – now it is 95) as a College Junior was Floyd Hedglin. Floyd was the only one who died in action, of the 79 WUC students or Alumni that served during WW I.

WW I was one of the big issues of 1916. The conflict had been growing and expanding since 1914 and was a major activity and news event but the U. S. had declared neutrality and did not become fully involved until declaring war on Germany in April of 1917. Writings indicate that the students were aware that Germany was trying to convince Mexico to become a German Ally. That was a concern. In the election campaigns of 1916, Woodrow Wilson, the incumbent running for reelection was campaigning with the phrase that "he had kept us out of war" but on April 4, 1917, four months into his new term, that position changed. About one year later, on April 19, 1918, Floyd Hedglin joined the navy and with minimal training was assigned to serve on the USS. President Lincoln.



This large German commercial ship was trapped in American waters when WW I began in 1914 and was held in a New York harbor until the U.S. entered the war.

tered the war. It was then turned over to the U.S. Navy and converted to a transport ship and renamed



the President Lincoln. On May 31, 1918, only 6 weeks after Hedglin joined the navy, the ship was returning from France after its 5<sup>th</sup> troop transport trip when it was torpedoed by a German submarine. The President Lincoln was the largest ship lost from the U.S. fleet during WW I but was only carrying about 700 passengers and crew on this return voyage. Most were saved by nearby navy vessels and only 29 lives were lost but Floyd Hedglin was one of them.

The ship's Commander Foote later wrote the "Narrative of the President Lincoln" and the closing paragraph reads, "I cannot close this narrative without speaking of the loyalty and devotion of the dear ones at home who with tearful eyes but set lips said 'goodbye' to those who were called to meet the enemy and if necessary offer their lives in defense of their country. ... I quote the following letter written by the father and mother of Floyd Hedglin on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1918. 'Gentlemen: Your message in regard to the loss of the life of Floyd Herbert Hedglin was received to-day at 2:50 p.m. We sincerely thank you for your promptness in advising us. We had only one boy to give to our country and he was only a little past eighteen years of age. He went with his own free will and accord and with our blessing. I regret that I have only one boy to give. Any little detail that you can send us will be appreciated. ...Respectfully, Floyd's Father and Mother /s/ Mr. & Mrs. Bert R. Hedglin.'

A very active organization on campus in 1916 was the I.P.A. (The Intercollegiate Prohibition Association). The group had a student-faculty membership of 53 which was a major portion of the student body. There were local speech contests on the topic and winners participated in the State contest at Cornell College, in Mt. Vernon, IA. The campus was visited by state I.P.A. officers who credited the WUC group to be one of the best organizations in Iowa. In our current era with the widespread and popular acceptance of alcohol consumption as a normal part of many social gatherings, it is difficult to comprehend that the efforts of the I.P.A., Women's Temperance Union, and other groups could lead to the passage of the Prohibition 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1920, which could only happen after ratification by 3/4<sup>th</sup> of the states.



And the Model T Ford was in its major growth phase and was the mainstream auto of the day. Active production was from 1909 to 1927 with only minor changes during the 18 years.

How does that compare to the rate of change in our current technological age? The yearbooks of the early years always had some pages of jokes. They

also reflected the popular culture of the day:

There was an old man

Annee hadda wooden leg,  
An' he couldnen goota work,  
An' he didnen wanta beg.  
So he took four spools  
An' an old tin can,  
An' he made a little Ford  
An' the blamed thing ran.

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



.....100 Years.. Continued.

The jokes also seemed to be less gender sensitive than we would expect today:

Adam was born first so that he would have a chance to say something.

Young ladies faults are many'  
Young men have only two;  
Everything they ever say,  
And everything they do.

So here we are today right in the middle of "100 years ago" and "100 years in the future". It is most certainly much easier to get a glimpse of the past than it is to see the future. There will probably be no living Westmar Alumni 100 years from now but I predict that some of the Westmar Spirit will live on.

*Marty*

## Alumni News

'71 – **Philip Pfaltzgraff**, staff accompanist at Wayne State College in Wayne, NE, gave a classical piano concert on April 24, 2016 at the United Methodist Church of LeMars. Proceeds went to the LeMars Arts Center which sponsored this concert. In addition to his responsibilities at Wayne State, he continues to pursue the field of musical composition and arranging.

[www.lemarsarts.com/events.html](http://www.lemarsarts.com/events.html)

'68 – **Jan Baier Trometer** and husband **Dennis Trometer** '68, of Jamaica, IA write that they moved to Jamaica in '93. Dennis retired as a National Bank Examiner in '95 and is now enjoying being a fulltime farmer. Jan has been a substitute teacher for many years for Perry and Panorama Comm. Schools. They recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Jan. 23, 2016. They have two children: Vince lives at Sioux City, IA and Chrissy '92, who married Matt Westendorf (Assoc. '91) live at Onawa, IA. They have two grandsons, Josh who attends Morning-side College and Tyler, a senior at West Monona HS in Onawa.

'62 – **DarEll** and his wife **Diane (Kenney) Weist**, now live at Pilgrim Place in Claremont, CA along with Al and Mavis Streiffeler and Dwight and Linda Vogel. DarEll was elected as the President of the Western Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History in 2015. This is an organization of the 8 United Methodist Conference Archives in the Western United States. DarEll is also a member of the General Commission on Archives and History for the United Methodist Church at Drew University. He has been chair of the Cal-Pac United Methodist Commission Archives and History located at the Claremont School of Theology. He's now doing two projects for the Cal-Pac Commission. He is scanning 90 years of Conference Journals and supervising the scanning of the rest on the Journals of the 23 Annual Conferences which now comprise the California Pacific United Methodist Conference. As they are scanned, they are going on the internet in a Google Book site and saved in a 4 Terabyte External Server. He is also serving as the research associate for a new Cal-Pac Conference history from 1950 to 2016 being written by Paul McCleary. (Editor's note: wish you were at WAFA, we have lots to do if anyone is interested in working in our archives with a goal of putting the information on the internet.)

'76 – **Joyce Kaiser**, Sioux City, IA was interviewed for an article written by Denise Mann and published at the website

[www.bphope.com](http://www.bphope.com) in the Winter 2016 edition of the BP Magazine. The article is titled "unravel your wrath". She is listed as Joyce K. of Sioux City in the story.

'59 and Faculty – **Dwight and Linda (Baker) Vogel**, Claremont, CA, write that Dwight is about to finish 45 proton therapy treatments at Loma Linda Medical Center for prostate cancer. He is doing well and is so grateful that insurance allows him to receive this treatment which has many less side effects than more traditional treatments. They believe proton therapy will soon be the preferred treatment for many kinds of cancer. They continue to stay busy at Pilgrim Place where they work for justice and peace in a variety of ways. The intentional faith community enriches them in so many ways. Last summer was their 45<sup>th</sup> summer at their Bird's Nest in the beautiful Black Hills of SD and they have decided it will be their last summer spent there. Sadly, mobility and health issues make that a wise decision. They do continue to enjoy symphony concerts, theater and desert, mountain and beach get-aways closer to home. They anticipate trips to visit their children in 2016 as well as two weeks on Sanibel Island with good friends from Dubuque. They add "blessing to all WC friends".

'60 – **Stan Schmidt** sent us a wonderful article from the Argus Leader in Sioux Falls, SD featuring his love for choral music and his weekly radio show that is broadcast on line and on KVNO-FM in Omaha, NE. The program is "Going Beyond Words" and is produced from his basement in Sioux Falls. Stan has an extensive music background beginning with teaching high school choir and directing chorales. Please look for the article and photo at [www.argusleader.com/story/life](http://www.argusleader.com/story/life) and search for Stan Schmidt. Very nice Stan thanks for sharing.

'64- **Nancy Helene Hissem Hier** of Marcus, IA was Inducted in the Marcus, Meriden, Cleghorn Hall of Fame in 2015 for contributions past and present to the Community School District. Nancy humbly accepted her award and spoke on how important it is to be able to share and care. She came back to Marcus to care for her parents and realized the "roots from your family area are what made you who you are". An article also was printed by the Sioux City Journal about Nancy and how she has brought the Westernaires, a mounted precision drill team from Colorado, to Marcus to appear at the fair. She prepared a meal for 62 of them on her century farm of steak, corn on the cob, potato salad and more. The article with pictures can be found online at [www.siouxcityjournal.com/search/nancyhier](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/search/nancyhier)

'57- **Jerry Martin** of Marcus, IA was also inducted into the Marcus, Meriden, Cleghorn Hall of Fame in 2015. Jerry was a science teacher and coach from '65 to '98. His teams won 538 games and in '79 and '84 he was chosen as state girls' coach. In '86 his basketball girls went to state and '92 was the last year he coached. He has touched many lives in Marcus. He loved the classroom but really enjoyed the athletics. "I accept this plaque on behalf of all of you who were there for me. It is yours as well as mine." (article submitted)

'65 – **Carol Lange** writes from Wisconsin that she is well and President of the Southwest UMW District and VP-President Elect of Church Women United, Wisconsin State Unit.

Check out the Website for lots of memorabilia!! Other than shirts and glasses 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.



## Alumni Deaths

'41 Western Union – **Ross I. Pauli**, 96 of Manhattan, KS, died Aug 7, 2015. Ross began teaching that same year and with Pearl Harbor he was drafted in '42. He was married just before his induction into the Army. He became an X-ray technician and assigned at Kennedy General Hospital. He then served as a Medic in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Div. in Europe. He earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Ross retired from the K-State Mechanical Engineering Department in 1983 after 36 yrs of teaching. Ross' car was hit head-on by a drunk driver resulting in over 30 broken bones from his head to toe. They spent winters in CA with their daughter and he lived on his own until age 91. [www.ymfuneralhome.com](http://www.ymfuneralhome.com)

'44 Western Union – **Warren Franklin Mugler**, 95 of Highlands Ranch, Co, died Aug 27, 2015. He was an Army Air Corps B-24 bomber pilot in WWII and spent his professional career as a pilot and flight manager with United Airlines. A devout Christian, he was kind and loving until the end. He was a brother of Dr. Harriett Semke '46 and Leora Musser '39. [www.denverpost.com/obituaries](http://www.denverpost.com/obituaries)

'44 Western Union – **Ruth A. "Suzy" (Pratt) Pratt**, 92 of Kingsley, IA, died Feb 21, 2016. At Western Union, she met Grace Pratt in English class. With the same last name, they became roommates. Grace introduced Ruth to her brother Ben and they were married in '42 and lived on a farm near Kingsley. She was well known for her beautiful voice, singing her first solo at age 12. She sang for all kinds of events, was part of the Sweet Adelines and a quartet. At the EUB church in Merville, she sang, played piano and organ, directed the choir among other activities. She led bible studies at a retirement park in AZ and for 13 years they hosted "Gospel Sing on the Farm". [www.mauerjohnsonfh.com](http://www.mauerjohnsonfh.com)

'46 Western Union – **Noema "home" Buckley Priksat**, 91 of Le Mars, IA, died Mar 6, 2016. She began her teaching in Rock Valley and continued until '62. She went back to teaching in '69 and in '79 she began work at Westmar College as head of word processing, also serving on the Board of Trustees until the school closed. She enjoyed hand crafts and needlecrafts and her family. Survivors include her nine children, of which Harlan '78, Ray '76, Bob '79 and his wife Jane '82, Doris '81 and husband Rick '81 and Sue '86 are alumni together with her sister Annetta Bjorholm '47, who is deceased. [www.carlsenfuneralhome.com](http://www.carlsenfuneralhome.com)

'53 – **Rev. Samuel John Hahn**, 85 of Audubon, IA, died Oct 10, 2016. His first call was at Buffalo and Lincoln Churches near Cedar Rapids, IA and various other churches before moving to Iowa City, IA where they retired. During retirement he served at the UMC in Moscow, IA and also as Chaplain at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Iowa City and U. of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. He was preceded in death by his wife Juanita Lou Carpenter '58 and among survivors is a daughter Eunice '82 and her husband Philip '82 Mennonoh of Audubon. [www.kesslerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.kesslerfuneralhomes.com)

'53 – **Verjean Wetrosky Heydon**, 82 of Laurel, NE, died Feb 6, 2016. She graduated with a secretarial degree and began working as a secretary in the Westmar College Business office from '53 to '56. She then joined LeMars Federal Savings and Loan Assoc becoming an officer before her departure in '63. She and her husband farmed and she worked in Laurel and also served as secretary for two churches and as organist. While at Westmar she was in Band and was a woman athlete. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

'55 – **Genevieve Scharf Murphy**, 81 of LeMars, IA, died Feb 3, 2016. After college she taught fourth grade in Luverne, MN and enjoyed teaching until she retired in 1985. She married Leslie Murphy in '83 and they enjoyed summers at Arnolds Park, IA and winters in Mesa, AZ. She was active in the United Methodist Church in LeMars. [www.mauerjohnsonfh.com](http://www.mauerjohnsonfh.com)

'57 – **Marilyn Schindler Grauberger**, 80 of Englewood, Co, died April 8, 2016. She was retired as a teacher and active in the Evanston UMC where she had served as music coordinator and director for 30 years. She is survived by her husband Larry Grauberger '59, 2 sons and 4 grandsons among other family members. [www.horancares.com/obituary/Marilyn-Grauberger](http://www.horancares.com/obituary/Marilyn-Grauberger)

'58 – **Myron Ernest Oehlerking**, 82 Murdock, NE, died Feb 9, 2016. After spending 2 yrs in the Army he started his teaching and coaching career in Adams, NE. He taught history, math, civics and drivers ed. He coached volleyball, football, basketball and baseball. They moved to Lincoln where he taught at Lincoln East High from '67. Over the next 37 years, he coach the varsity volleyball teams to 793 wins, 22 state tournaments, 6 Class A state titles and 3 runners-up. Myron retired in 2008 as the all-time winningest coach in NE high school history which is only a part of his coaching awards. Among survivors are his wife Marilyn (Miller) '56, a brother Marvin and his wife Ramona '61 Kolbe Oehlerking. [www.roperandsons.com](http://www.roperandsons.com)

'63 – **Alta Siders Baack**, 80 of Wellesley, MA, died Jan 23, 2016. She graduated magna-cum-laude and taught elementary grades in IA, MI and MA, gaining the distinction as a skilled elementary reading teacher. Hobbies included golf, bridge and traveling with her husband. She served on the council and committees of the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. She is survived by her husband John E. Baack, '58. [www.mauerjohnsonfh.com](http://www.mauerjohnsonfh.com)

'64 – **Ron August**, known as **Ron Gehring** at Westmar, 77 of Sioux Falls, SD, died Feb. 25, 2016. A survivor is his sister Gayle Gehring Krughoff '63. His father was Rev. Otto A Gehring '33. [www.argusleader.com](http://www.argusleader.com)

'68 – **Esther Koerselman Plantage**, 86 of Sioux Center, IA, died Feb 12, 2016. Her family states that "there is an irony that the lover of U.S. history and teacher to thousands, passed away on Lincoln's birthday. She would be gratified if her former students recalled that date as significant." She had a 42 year teaching career beginning in country schools teaching eight grades and working toward her Westmar degree. She enjoyed traveling, family, and church, encouraging all to become learners of life's most important values and instilled a respect for our country. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

'68 – **Karen Redman**, 69, of Rochester, MN, died Feb. 25, 2016 at Lamberton, MN. Following graduation from Westmar, she taught elementary school at New Ulm, MN and in New Jersey before working at Good News Children's Center in Rochester as lead nursery school teacher for 35 years. She retired in '08 and was an active member of Bethany UMC, Rochester, with a special interest in missions and went on short term mission trips, including three to Africa. She volunteered for over 20 years at the Dorothy Day House homeless shelter in Rochester as her church's coordinator. She enjoyed traveling and spending time with family and friends. (Submitted)

'71 – **Colleen Leyh Rolfes**, 67 of LeMars, IA, died Mar 30, 2016.



## Alumni Deaths— cont.

She attended Westmar on a music scholarship and was part of the Chorale. She enjoyed singing, dancing and watching the Iowa Hawkeyes. Loved time spent with family, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. [www.carlsenfuneralhome.com](http://www.carlsenfuneralhome.com)

'71 and Admin. – **Valda J. Franz Embree**, 85 of LeMars, IA, died Mar 22, 2016. She attended York College where she met her husband, Robert A. Embree, later earning her degree from Westmar. In '72 she became alumni director and held several positions over 20 years becoming the first woman vice president at Westmar. She was very active in community and professional organizations. Survivors include her husband Robert, York '51 and Westmar Faculty, and two sons, Marlowe; and Rodney, '83 and his wife Carla Zimmerman '83. [www.mauerjohnsonfh.com](http://www.mauerjohnsonfh.com)

'74 – **James L. Foster**, 63 of Sioux City, IA, died Feb 27, 2016. Sports announcer Gene Sherman referred to Jim as “greased lightning”. He attended Westmar College on an athletic scholarship to play basketball. Retiring from Laborers Intl. Union Local #427, he and his wife created The Icky Nickel Bar & Grill in '97. [www.meyerbrochapels.com](http://www.meyerbrochapels.com)

'77 – **Mary Allen Seggerman**, 77 of Kingsley, IA, died Feb 14, 2016. She had started college at USD and then married, raised their family and returned to Westmar to graduate. She taught music for 12 years and received her MA in counseling. She was a guidance counselor at Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn CSD for 6 yrs. She returned to teach music. She was very active in Church, youth activities and Eastern Star where she was a 50 yr member. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

'80 – **Kermit J. Clark**, 58 of Granville, IA, died Jan 20, 2016. He was raised with his grandparents and his uncle and aunt Freddie and Edith Goodchild. He attended Westmar. He moved to CA and started a construction company returning to LeMars in '90 and working with Wiltgen Construction. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

'83 – **Jean P. Rayner Rowe**, 81 of LeMars, IA, died Feb 11, 2016. Born in England, she met her husband; Dean Rowe, deceased, while he was in the US Air Force serving in England. They farmed and she worked at several businesses including the LeMars Public Library, in the travel industry, and led tours to England. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

'87 – **Robert P. (Bear) LeClair**, 52 Omaha, NE, died Feb 20, 2016. An avid Iowa Hawkeyes, Dodgers, and Bears fan who wasn't afraid to share his point of view and wasn't one to complain. Survived by his wife, Jane Scott LeClair '84. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

Faculty – **Dr. Leon 'Scotty' Scott**, 86 of LeMars, IA, died Mar 25, 2016. He served in the Army during the Korean Conflict, on the front line as company clerk. Following his honorable discharge he taught and coached basketball on Santee Sioux Reservation, at South Sioux City and Sioux City Schools. He began teaching at Westmar College and served as department chairman for the education and psychology departments, then as academic dean and as interim president for a total of 32 years. He was active in many community and special interest groups as well as the American Legion Post 241 and Korean War Last Man's Club. He enjoyed many activities and especially times spent with family. He is survived by his second wife Aurelia Osterman Conley '79 whom

he married in '81 and among his children, Susan '80, and Jane '84 who are alumni. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

Staff – **Ruth G. Ohlrichs**, 76 of LeMars, IA, died Mar 1, 2016. After she married and they lived on a farm, she worked at Westmar College Cafeteria for a few years when their children were young. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

Faculty – **Gene F. Ebner**, 81 of Sioux City, IA, died Feb 20, 2016. He served in the Army during the Korean Conflict and returned to his work on the railroad. He enrolled at Iowa State and earned a BA in physics and education in '61. He taught physics and earth sciences at LeMars Community Schools, Iowa City Community Schools, Westmar College and Sioux City Community Schools. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

### 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.

New Memory Pages have been started for:

'62 **Forrest Kramer** by Lillian Kramer  
'58 **Myron Oehlerking** by Marvin and Ramona Kolbe Oehlerking  
Fac. **Dr. Leon Scott** and **Valda Embree** by Dixie Dahl Kooiker '67 for Eagle Sculpture Fund

*Your name may be added to a Memory Page for established Memorials and can be for any amount or special*

### Reunion Support Guidelines

Guidelines adopted by the board at the Oct. 2015 meeting:

- Publish reunion information provided by Committee on Facebook, WAFA Web Site and in WAFA Newsletter.
- Provide mailing labels or mailing list for sending invitations. (USPS only or USPS plus e-mail)
- Provide use of group e-mail for invitation and updates. Committee would provide copy of message to send.
- Provide information on a personal PayPal account to accept registrations. Alternative to accepting checks only.)
- Provide contact lists of LeMars area hotels, caterers/ restaurants, and meeting rooms.
- Make room reservation at LeMars Convention Center, if needed, to get 40% non-profit discount. Pay for room, to be reimbursed by Reunion Committee. (Reunion Committee would have to set up and take down the room. Reunion Committee would make alternative room arrangements (i.e. church, restaurant).
- Make Westmar Memorabilia available for purchase in the Westmar Room and the Museum sales area.
- Publish reunion pictures in WAFA newsletter if pictures are provided with names and reunion identification.

1981

**MADRIGALS**

From Left: Kathy Lawton, Joretta Marshall, Joan Brown, Dave Burrack, Rae Riley, Dr. Mitchell, Kauthy Sauter, Dean Trapp, Kristi Baier, Bruce Brown, Joy Allen, Tim Pick, Cindy Reis, Karen Sellers, Jeff Neary, Sue Rohwer.

**"Welcome "Drigals"**

I'm looking forward to "our time" in the scheme of things. Reunions at our age are fun beyond words. In 1993, when we met together for two "boars head feastes" we had a great time representing the good times of the past and looking to the future. WAFA thought that the week-end was so successful, both for Westmar and the community of LeMars, that they wanted me to organize another "Christmas in Merrie Olde England" for Dec. 1997. We all know what happened at Thanksgiving of that year!

I was recruited to teach at Westmar in 1964 to teach voice, Westmar Singers and to start a Madrigal group. That invitation turned out to be a wonderful, rewarding and successful experience starting in 1966. It was seventeen years of working with wonderful, talented and outstanding people. Yes, you all are included. The first five years of concerts were performed in the Kime Science lecture auditorium. We sang around the science table in the "pit" of the room. That was the beginning of many years of having fun and enjoying the experience of ensemble and comradery through the medium of music. (You were kind enough to allow me to perform with you. Thanks!!)

In 1971 we ventured out into uncharted territory by starting the Boars Head Feastes, which were bigger than myself or the Madrigal Singers. "Christmas in Merrie Olde England" was a community and campus event. It encompassed the Business Office (reservations, the Mail Room (Printing and Mailings), Faculty and Administration (Lord and Lady of the Banquet and Friar), Students (servers of the Banquet) and my dear friend Fawzy Simon, the director of the food service.

The contract between Westmar College and the Food Service stated that the food service had to "give back" to the institution (students). Mr. Simon chose the Madrigal Dinners as his choice in giving back to Westmar College. Through this gift we were able to have a five-course meal at a very reasonable price. Fawzy pulled out all of the "stops" for us. We always looked forward to the "Feastes". The community of LeMars was always very supportive. Many of the LeMars residents returned for the "Feastes" in 1993 after my release from the faculty.

The spring semester concerts were shared with: Westmar Singers, the Chamber Music Group (piano, violin and flute,) and good desserts - another Fawzy Simon gift. These concerts were closer to the heart of the "Drigals" - we actually sang madrigals both old

and new. The December "Feastes" were in the manner of the Madrigal and fitted into the style of our ensemble size and performance style.

Mr. Simon and I would always work through the process of banquet very carefully. This was needed in order to be able to serve our guests with hot food. Timing throughout the dinner was essential in order to make the event a success. Madrigal members who sat next to me during the dinners would ask why I was always checking the clock during the meal. Fawzy and I had each segment of the meal timed and visually observed, so that we would always have the food hot and served in proper timing by the many servers.

Dr. Ruth Monroe was very helpful in making the "Period" costumes we wore. This was an enormous benefit for the Madrigals by having period type clothing. It was a very sad moment when the costumes were destroyed during the planning of the 1993 reunion of "Drigals".

Janice Kooiker and I are working to create what I hope will be an accurate mailing list. This process is a little complicated. In the early years of my tenure with Westmar, the Madrigal Singers were not part of the curriculum. Not being included in the schedule of classes meant that we had to work around intramural basketball and student work schedules. I'm still grateful for the flexibility of the "Drigals" in getting us off the ground. We were eventually allowed credit and had an assigned rehearsal time in the weekly schedule.

The reunion is scheduled for July 15 - 17, 2016. I hope that many of you will be available to attend and will connect with other "Drigals" that you may keep in touch with or contact again. I look forward to seeing you in LeMars.

Wayne Mitchell



1978

### Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

The next WAFA quarterly Board of Directors meeting will be held on July 18, 2016, 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.

#### Current Board Members:

##### January 2016 - January 2018 term

Cory Isebrand '88, Amy Allen Kelly '85  
Stuart Fischer '84, Rosemary Jeys Radloff '93 + Staff

##### January 2015—January 2017 term

Barbara Wernli Collins '73 and Steve Collins Attd,  
Craig Hoffman '88, Jeff Neary '81, Steve Wick '78



Eagle over Memorial Park, cont.....

## Help us Make The Eagle Fly!



**A total fundraising goal of \$40,000 by July 1, 2016  
has been established.  
\$12,920 has already been committed!**

This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize someone in the Westmar family that you wish to honor! A plaque listing donors of \$250 or more and honorees (if applicable) will be placed in the Eagle Plaza area. Honorees will also be included in the Memorial/Honor Book in the Westmar Room at the Plymouth County Museum. All donations of any amount are welcome and will be recognized in the Feb. 2017 newsletter. All monies go directly to this project.

**You may clip the donation form and return it with your check to :**

**WAFa at 335 First Ave SW, LeMars, IA 51031  
OR:**

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

We encourage your membership and support enabling WAFa to fulfill its mission of supporting connections of the "Westmar Family" through the member newsletter, Facebook groups, reunion support and maintaining a database of contact information. Thank you for your important consideration of this exciting project!

Watch for information on Jacob Wernli and the Eagle Project at [www.westmarcollege.org](http://www.westmarcollege.org)

Visit our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/WestmarAlumni/](https://www.facebook.com/WestmarAlumni/) to watch the donation progress!

WAFa membership information can be found at [www.westmarcollege.org](http://www.westmarcollege.org)

by contacting the WAFa office at 712-546-8759, or at [WAFa@westmarcollege.org](mailto:WAFa@westmarcollege.org)

or WAFa at 335 First Ave SW, LeMars, IA 51031.

### My tax deductible donation to the Eagle Fund

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

A plaque listing 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**



**Never fear! Westy is not  
going anywhere.**

**He still rules near  
Weidler Hall**

#### The Eagle Committee-

Al Maser, Trustee, Wayne Marty, '53 and Faculty, JoAnn Skinner Schleis, '64, Janice Dunbar Kooiker '67, Barbara Wernli Collins, '73, Steve Collins, Friend, Cory Isebrand, '88



## Choral '73—European Tour

By Frank Summerside

Looking back 43 years to the 1973 European Tour triggers the faces of those singers in my memory bank. Last article I mentioned the challenge facing us to sing in Aberdeen and how that freshman class deserved some credit for its success. The same must be said about the frosh group of '72 - '73.

Beauty of tone and tremendous spirit characterized that group. They melded into the core already established so the esprit de corps of that Chorale was something to cherish. Everyone coming back and those newbies knew what lay ahead after Commencement.

Yes, there were a few who decided that financially they were not ready to commit, but a strong group in tone and numbers remained. In the choir were some AFS students. We capitalized on their connections to arrange concerts. A LeMars man, August Kamman, was born in Varel, Germany. August wanted us to sing in his home church and his nephew was Mayor of the city. We now had an outline for our tour: Emmeloord, Netherlands, where **Dick Bardole** '74 had been; Varel, Germany and Skara, Sweden where **Betty Willhoite Cave** '73 had lived.



Varel i. O. Ev. Kirche

The remainder of concerts was scheduled through our 1969 contact, Pastor Heinrich Meinhardt in Berlin and personal contacts I made based on, "if you don't ask, you don't even get a No". We flew into Frankfurt on Lufthansa from Chicago. Our buses met us and took us to a Rhine steamer stop for our ride to Koblenz, our first overnight stay. Yes, some were jet lagged and dozed on the ride but we were definitely not on the Floyd River looking at corn fields, but looking at terraced grape hillsides for the wine industry interspersed with small castles and hamlets.

Next day we stopped at Beethoven's home in Bonn, then to the great cathedral in Koln and stopping at Dortmund for a concert hosted again by Pastor Soberger, a '69 site. We then headed to the Netherlands. The Emmeloord congregation wanted to sing with us so our two choirs learned some music jointly, a unique experience. We had grand home stays. A group of four girls had admired their hosts' china when she served them lunch after the concert and at breakfast next day, she had wrapped a cup and saucer for each of them as a remembrance. When we left the church that sweet lady trotted along the slow moving buses waving cheerily. **Debbie Fields** '74 remarked, "I'll never tell a mean Dutch joke again," as she stood in the aisle waving back.

Next stop was Amsterdam after a ride thru windmill country. That city's museums, menu and canal ride certainly made an imprint on all of us. Then, we went on to Varel. We had a fine brass group with us trained by Gerry Olson, our Band man. They played at each concert intermission and accompanied us on the Hammerschmidt that we sang. Members were **Lynn Clausen Needham** '76, **Cynthia Sampson Eisenmann** '76, **Bill Lund** '76 and **Gayle Camarigg Naglak** '76. Mayor Kamman was a great host.

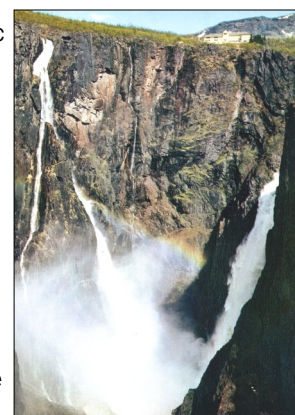
The next day we ferried eventually to the main stem of Germany on our way to Flensburg for the night. Unfortunately, one of the gang felt ill and so my wife stopped with her to see a doctor. They later went back down to Hamburg and flew up to Ber-

gen to rejoin us. No, Ruth did not know German, but you get along. Our ferry to Norway left from Hirtshals, at the tip of Denmark. Students had time to visit WWII fortifications as well as sample the delish ice cream before our departure time. We stayed overnight in Kristiansand.

We bused thru scenic mountainous Norway until a lunch stop. As I called for boarding I heard a crunch behind me. **Racinda 'Cindy' Metzger** '73 had turned her ankle on a stone and was in trouble. A couple of guys loaded her on to the bus and off we went to Bergen thru beautifully flowered valleys and fjord crossings. In Bergen, it was a trip to the hospital for Cindy and me. Next day she made the decision that to be on crutches was not going to be an option, so we got her a plane ticket to Rochester to be met by her mom who lived a short drive away in Iowa. We didn't have the money available to pay the hospital so an aide, over-hearing our conversation said, "you have a taxi out back at 6 tomorrow and I'll make sure Cindy is in it." Her mom worked for an insurance company so we knew the bill would be paid.

So much to see in this historic Hanseatic city. One highlight being a trip to Grieg's home on a nearby fjord and a recital in his living room. Our wayfarer's arrangement from Germany and our concert Wednesday night in a state church went beautifully and the reviews aided future tours. Max Pehler, Far Away Tours, had arranged a tour guide from Norway. Fernanda was most efficient, but let us say, not particularly congenial with college students.

Who can forget our waterfall stop on the way to Oslo, and the fantastic meal in Geilo, a popular ski resort in Norway. Oslo's City Hall is one of Europe's most eye catching edifices with its grand murals telling the story of Norwegian history. We viewed Munch's museum and its painting, "The Scream" and Vigeland's sculptures in Frogner Park. Our concert was really anthems sung during a Sunday morning service at the



Voringfoss Falls

American Lutheran church, all in English. Our changing room was actually their



Vigeland's Sculptures

crafts area and we saw artwork in all stages of development. Our next real concert was in Sandviken, Sweden, two days hence and then to Stockholm through the university city of Uppsala.

Stockholm was a culture stop:



Warship WASA

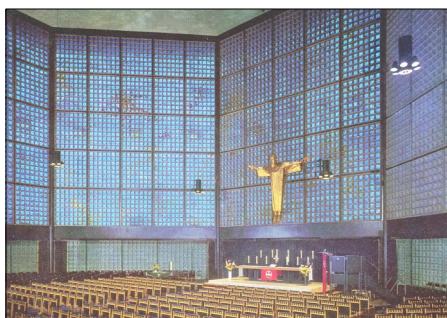
their City Hall, the home of most Nobel awards, viewing her internationally acclaimed ballet, the WASA Ship and great shopping before departing for Skara and our last concert in Scandinavia. Skara's cathedral was great acoustically. One of our numbers was Paul Christiansen's



Stockholm Royal Palace

setting of a Carl Sandburg poem, "Prayers of Steel". During the concert that night I gave the downbeat numerous times before the Chorale sang a note. Talk about delayed attacks!

Next we stopped at Copenhagen and viewed her Tivoli garden, then took the night train to Berlin via Poland reached by ferry. We had to go thru multiple check points in East Berlin and Berlin which was always stressful. In Berlin we were back in the capable hands of Pastor Meinhardt and Conductor Brose of the Berlin Youth Choir, friends and guides from '69. They brought their choir to the U. S. many times and we hosted them in LeMars, Joyfully.



**Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedachtnis-Kirche in Berlin for Saturday Vesper Concert**

Our first concert was in the extraordinarily beautiful state church, Kaiser Wilhelm Gedachtnis Kirche, on June 9. The original church had been bombed in WWII and this edifice was built adjoining the remains as a memorial. Our concert was late afternoon. As the Chorale walked in, the sun shining brightly thru the dominant blue stained glass windows on those blue robes was breathtaking as I waited in the doorway for them to complete their entrance. The next night we sang in a Methodist church whose congregation burst into stamping applause at the close of our singing "There's a Little Wheel a 'Turning". Our next two days were with our families, touring the city, shopping and hearing the Berlin Opera. Berlin was no longer a mysterious city but a place where church friends lived and worked. What a way to end our tour!

1973 Itinerary, Concerts underlined.

Omaha/Chicago/Frankfurt/Coblenz, Bonn, Koln, Dortmund, Emmeloord, Amsterdam, Varel, Flensburg, Hirthals, Kristiansand, Bergen, Geilo, Oslo, Orebro, Sandviken, Stockholm, Skara, Copenhagen, Berlin, Frankfurt/Chicago/Omaha.

Snatches from 1973 Reviews:

"The European tradition of unison applause reserved for the best performers was rewarded the Westmar Chorale last night. Such singing should be heard to be believed." Netherlands

"A brilliant choir like the Westmar Chorale deserves great interest. What they are able to convey is so positively beautiful, that in many instances it is completely ravishing in its rich variety of sound." Bergen, Norway

"Strength, precision and joy describe the Westmar Chorale's appearance. Some count it as the most impressive concert to date in Sandviken history, a city long noted for hosting concerts by renowned groups." Sandviken, Sweden

"Westmar College's Chorale, Frank N. Summerside, conductor, is without a doubt one of the highest representatives of choral culture. Their singing is of a sure balance and a thrilling mixture of colors. Rarely has Grieg's "Spring" reverberated so melodiously as in their unusual transcription." Skara, Sweden

The Chorale was chosen to sing a special Pentecost broadcast over Berlin radio.

### T-shirts in grey, white or blue

Great for gifts and travel. Prices are: Small, Medium, Large and X-large are \$15.00 each and XXL & XXXL are \$18.00 each.

(Note: not all sizes may be available in all colors.)

**Get yours for your reunion!**



This may be the new site for the Eagle Sculpture...

The Gazebo had been deteriorating and it would have had to be replaced with a metal structure or similar. It was removed by the city. As the Board was contemplating something in its place, the Eagle Sculpture was presented. Plans call for a plaza to hold this magnificent bird on its perch amid landscaping and lighting. It should be a beautiful tribute to Westmar Eagles of all time.



thing in its place, the Eagle Sculpture was presented. Plans call for a plaza to hold this magnificent bird on its perch amid landscaping and lighting. It should be a beautiful tribute to Westmar Eagles of all time.

### Corrections:

Alumni News in November listed Sharon Moline Smith and her husband, however her husband is deceased.

In the Feb. Choral article, the name of Aaneu, Switzerland should have been spelled Aarau.

### WAFA Dues Support These Activities:

- Work with the Iowa College Foundation to administer the Westmar Endowment Scholarship
- Provide Alumni & contact assistance for Westmar reunions
- Publish WAFA newsletters
- Help maintain displays in the Westmar Room of the Plymouth County Historical Museum
- Maintain Westmar Alumni, Faculty, Staff, and Administration database
- Help maintain the Westmar Memorial Park on the former campus
- Maintain the WAFA web-site [www.westmarcollege.org](http://www.westmarcollege.org)

**Westmar University Alumni & Friends Association**  
 335 First Avenue S.W.  
 Le Mars, Iowa 51031  
 Ph: 712-546-8759

**Alumni Office Staff**

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

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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.

**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](mailto:WAFA@WestmarCollege.org)

Or complete form online at:

[www.westmarcollege.org/Membership.html](http://www.westmarcollege.org/Membership.html)

**Westmar University Alumni & Friends Assoc.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address, if available \_\_\_\_\_

Can we e-mail your newsletter? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

**Membership fee:** Single \$20.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Couples \$35.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

General donation to help sustain your Alumni Association \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of (person) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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[www.westmarcollege.org/Membership.html](http://www.westmarcollege.org/Membership.html)