



Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 1

February 2016

Can You Imagine.....

A “Westmar Eagle”.... similar to the one sculpted by Bud Bolser, in metal, many years ago.



It hung in the Library with a lamp of knowledge in it's talons and currently hangs in the hallway above the entrance to the Westmar Room in the Plymouth County Museum.

Only Bigger—with a 16’ wingspan!

Artist and sculptor, Terry Utesch '80, has decided to sculpt this eagle and it has been purchased for the Westmar Memorial Park by Barbara Wernli Collins'73, and her husband Steve Collins for \$10,000, in memory of Barbara's Wernli family and specifically Professor Jacob Wernli, founder of the Northwestern Normal School which became Western Union and then Westmar College and beyond.

This magnificent eagle will fly over the Westmar Park on the east side of the main entrance, with an American Flag in it's talons!



AND NO, that beloved eagle, Westy, will not be removed—he will remain on the west side of the main entrance, watching and waiting as he always has.

It can happen with your help.....

Additional funds are needed for a stand to keep this eagle in flight and the base and landscaping around it. Together, an estimated \$25,000 is needed to complete this project. Even if we can successfully acquire some grant funds, we will need substantial help from alumni, faculty and staff. Donations can be given in Honor or In Memory as well as individual or by groups.



We have received several donations in the amount of \$500 each and of course those of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 will help us reach the goal more quickly. All donations will gladly be accepted and acknowledged. *Please be a part of this project and make the “Westmar Eagle” fly.*

Scholarships

It's Scholarship Time!!! Please encourage your children, grandchildren, gr.- grandchildren, nieces and nephews to apply for these scholarships. Last year over \$35,000 was given to 37 students including two students who received \$5,000 each in the Presidential Scholarships.

Applications are online for 2016 - 2017 at www.iowacollegefoundation.org. Click on 'For Students', then click on 'Westmar Endowment Scholarship Application' which takes you directly into the application and description of the scholarship program. Please note that application materials and official transcripts must be received by the Iowa College Foundation no later than April 1, 2016, for those attending private colleges in Iowa.

Iowa Methodist Foundation Westmar Scholarship can be found at www.iumpf.org/westmar.html - download application. Applications and transcripts must be postmarked by March 15, 2016, for those attending United Methodist Colleges in Iowa.

Send applications early and make sure your Official Transcript arrives BEFORE the due date. Good luck, the money will go to someone and it might as well be YOU!

Save the Date!! Westmar Reunions

*Decade of the 80's and Madrigal—July 15–16 2016
At LeMars, Iowa
60's Reunion—Aug. 27. 2016 in Preston, MN at home
of Jack and Shirley (Roder) Goutcher
Registration information will be posted soon!!!*

Reunions

If you are planning a reunion for sometime this year, please let us know and we will list it in the May newsletter, our Facebook page and on our website. We can also help with sending an email to your classmates or providing addresses. We also love pictures of reunions no matter how large or small and be sure to include information and names.

Westmar Blue Polo Shirts—\$25

Port Authority—65%Poly/35% cotton. Available online and at the WAFA office. Perfect for Reunions. Check the website for T-shirts, sweatshirts and jackets. Many other items are available in including Westmar music CD's.



During the Last 100 Years —#8

By Wayne Marty

The Importance of Westmar Alumni—

Even 18 years following the closing of Westmar, people still frequently ask why Westmar closed. With some amount of laughter, even though it is factually true, I often reply, “The answer is very simple – The Faculty got paid too much and the Alumni didn’t give enough”. The Faculty could have lived in poverty and survived by living in the dorms and eating in the commons with the students. Some did that in the 1930’s depression. Or the Alumni could have lived in poverty and given much more to Westmar. But this is all silly talk. We can simply say that, for whatever reason, we (whoever that is!) just didn’t balance the budget.

BUT LET ME EMPHAZISE – THE ALUMNI HAVE GIVEN A LOT and the college community, faculty, staff, and student body need to be consciously thankful that the gifts were often beyond the monetary \$\$\$ support. The Alumni –individually and personally - and their gifts - are greatly appreciated and remembered.

“The Little Blue Trailer” is one such gift. The Little Blue Trailer was not always blue. In September 1977 when Greg Engelke (A Biology Major Westmar Alum of 1977) pulled into the parking lot by the Science building and introduced our Biology Staff to the trailer that he was offering as a gift to the Westmar Biology department. The gift triggered mixed emotions. It was green and black with the white wooden stock rack still attached to the old converted pick-up box. The bent frame hitch was massive as it protruded an excessive distance beyond the trailer box. There was some doubt about how much we would be able to use this gift.

I asked Greg how this trailer came to be and he related the story. His family had acquired the white 1959 Chevy pick-up with the 3 speed shift on the column in 1968 for \$625. For 6 years, until 1974, the machine led an interesting and variable life. It herded cattle which produced a few dented fenders; it encountered a steel post that punctured another fender; it provided transportation to and from school in Sutherland, IA; it served as a dating machine during Greg’s high school years; in 1970 the motor gave out and was replaced with an engine from a 1956 car; in 1971 it received the new coat of green paint; in 1972 the rear bumper rusted off and was replaced with a 4 inch channel iron; at one time 20 high schoolers were transported in the versatile machine – four in the cab and 16 in the box. A broken odometer with a reading of 68,423 leaves little clue to the actual miles when the second engine gasped its last breath in 1974.

Marty’s virgin voyage “From the Top to the Bottom of the Colorado River” was planned for the Westmar Interim of 1978. Fourteen students were already enrolled and a significant item in the tentative budget was already designated for the rental of a U-Haul

trailer to carry the necessary food and camping gear. “Would it be possible to use this budget item to make this green machine usable for this anticipated 5000 mile trip and then possess a good trailer for trips in following years?”

Favorable spring-like weather during the 1977 Christmas break enabled Marty to make the required trailer modifications. An over-length, used pick-up topper was installed with the excess length extending over the extra length frame hitch. When this space was enclosed, it created a front-end cooking facility with storage space for camp stoves, and pots and pans and with the door open, counter space was available to hold stoves and cooking materials. Finishing touches – ball hitch, retractable trailer stand, wiring, new tires, and matching green paint – readied the trailer for the January 3, 1978 departure for the Colorado River. Total renovation cost was \$320.

The Green trailer made that first trip with flying colors. It traveled slick roads to Berthoud Pass in Colorado and stood in the snow at 12,000 feet while the Interim group spent two days skiing; it rested in Canyon Lands National Park in Southeast Utah while the group hiked to and camped near the confluence of the Green River with the Colorado River; it traveled over and around the various Colorado River Dams including a rest near Hoover Dam while the student group spent an evening in Las Vegas, NV; it followed faithfully during the long drive down the Baja Peninsula in Mexico and waited at sea level while the interim group collected sea stars and mollusks from the Gulf of California; it rode the ferry across the Gulf of California to Guayas, Mexico, waited while the group examined Carlsbad Caverns and faithfully followed during the long trip home to wintry Iowa.

In 5 years, by 1982, the trailer had carried suitcases, sleeping bags, food, and supplies for a second Colorado River trip and supported various other Westmar group travels to Arizona, Califor-



nia, New Mexico, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Canada. It had earned the Westmar Colors and was given a new coat of Blue and White paint and even new chrome wheel covers. The “Little Blue Trailer” was ready for further service.

By 1997 when Westmar College closed, the trailer had logged over 100,000 miles. It had made at least 7 trips to Mississippi and New Orleans, 5 Colorado River Trips, 3 trips to California, 2 trips to Florida, and 4 trips to Canada, It made at least 8 trips with the Calvary United Methodist Youth – 3 for work camps in Tennessee, 1 canoe trip to Canada, and at least 4 ski trips to Minnesota. It has carried the tools for the Youth Work Camps, carried instruments for the Westmar Band, and carried the necessary gear for the Westmar football and basketball teams. In latitude it has traveled from 25 degrees at La Paz, Mexico to 50 degrees in

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



.....100 Years.. Continued.

Canada; in altitude it has been from Sea Level to 12,000 ft.; it has been from Florida to California. The "Little Blue Trailer" has experienced mud, sand, high winds, and snow; has experienced camp stoves and peanut butter-jelly sandwiches on its kitchen counter and tailgate; also microscopes, worms, and other creepy crawlers on the tail gate; it has carried firewood, skis, horseshoe crabs, live fish, pickled fish and many pounds of sleeping bags, tents, suitcases and duffle bags.

When the college closed in 1997, the City of Le Mars became owner of all Westmar property, including "The Little Blue Trailer". Marty arranged for it to be sold back to the donor, Greg Engelke, for \$50. By 2005, Marty was missing the trailer and offered to buy it back because it was stored, but not being used by Engelke. The final result was a gift of the trailer a second time – this time the gift of "The Little Blue Trailer" from Engelke to Marty. Its use now is more varied and the cargo includes leaves, & dirt, & rocks, but has also been used and borrowed for some family trips. It has earned respect and is worthy of love and appreciation. Thanks, Greg!

Marty

Alumni News

67—Marilyn Brant Spatz is a 3rd generation alum with her sister **Elaine Brant Schrader '69**. "Our grandfather John F. Brant attended Campbell College, Holton, KS, approx 1909–1912. It was supported by the United Brethren Conferences. Walter R. Brant graduated from York College, York, NE in '43. His United Brethren upbringing influenced his graduation from York College and United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH. He was ordained in 1946 as an elder in the Evangelical United Brethren Church. Marilyn and Elaine became Westmar College students as Kansas EUB's before the 1968 merger into the United Methodist Church. Marilyn Brant Spatz '67 served in El Obrajae, Honduras Oct 5–9 as a member of a team hosting a medical & dental clinic. She applied fluoride to the teeth of children & adults who have a sugary diet and poor ground water. Marilyn can be found volunteering with UM Missions in Kansas City and MMDC, Midwest Mission Distribution Center, in Chatham, IL. " (We have so many great Westmar families!! We love these stories!)

'66 **Dave** and '64 **Gwen Koth Mead** write from Rochester, MN that they have 2 married sons, are retired and will be celebrating their 50th anniversary May 28, 2016! They are volunteers in Christ Church and community. Congratulations on your anniversary.

'68—**Mark** and '66 **Linda Minnis Brice** write from Erie, PA that they have moved. Since Mark retired in 2012, they decided to move closer to their daughter Christi and her family.

'64—**Ginni Cook** wrote in Nov. and sent photos of her granddaughters, Ava 4 1/2, and Autumn 3 1/2. "You can see why these special girls have caused joy in my daily life through 6 difficult months. Yesterday, my leg cast for fractured patella was removed, tomorrow I start rehab for 4 weeks, still using walker. Then I can drive" We certainly hope 2016 is kinder to you Ginni.



Chorale goes to Europe—'69

By Frank Summerside

Last issue, we were in 1967 ready to roll to Montreal and EXPO 67. Remember, Westmar was still an EUB college, so we lined up concerts starting in Naperville up thru Michigan to Canada for a concert tour before Montreal, and then back thru NY, Ohio, Indiana, Rockford and home. Judy Bahr was the last one leaving the concert at EXPO, and two couples called out to her and visited. They were from Zurich. In the Fall I had a letter from one of the wives offering to meet us if we ever came to Europe. One time during a rehearsal on campus, a student, I believe it was Rich Frankhauser, asked, "when are WE ever going to get a chance to go to Europe?" I replied, "I'll tell you when I think we're ready, and you can tell me if you can afford it."

In the Fall of 1967, we had a challenge ahead of us. The two Dakotas were having a uniting conference of the EUB and Methodist denominations in Aberdeen, SD in their Civic Auditorium. Growing up in Redfield, nearby, I was well aware of the venue having attended state basket-ball tournaments and music contests there. Dakota Wesleyan's choir would represent the Methodists. Since our major piece learned for EXPO was "Apostrophe to the Heavenly Hosts," a double choir number by England's Healy Willan, now living in Canada, I thought we should hold it over for 1967-68 since it had not been recorded. We had a remarkably talented freshman class that responded to the challenge and we sang it in Aberdeen. I was especially pleased as my aged parents were able to hear the Chorale for the first and only time.

Back on campus, after conferring with the administration, a plan for Europe began. Headquarters for the European EUB was actually in Indianapolis as well as for U.S. congregations. Indianapolis gave the go ahead and Pastor Heinrich Meinhardt in Berlin became our contact for concerts primarily in Germany, but also in Switzerland. German prof. Mrs. Meixner, originally from Austria, found us a church in Salzburg. Here in Le Mars, I sat down with Max Pehler of Far Away Tours to get some ideas as to air transportation, hotel costs - when not utilizing home stays, two buses and a German speaking guide. We wanted as much information in writing for returning students to decide if they could afford it and incoming students to know what lay ahead if they made the Chorale. The 1968-69's tour to Europe then became front and center.

There came a time during the second semester of that year when we had to know a count. Once that was decided, the opportunity for members of the Westmar Singers to audition for those vacancies was made available. Those accepted were given the music and we began Europe choir rehearsals on Friday to assist the new members. That the Chorale was able to sustain its abilities can be seen by a representative Europe review included later. Getting passports with the help of Mrs. Herman Oetken at the Plymouth County courthouse was no mean task. Max Pehler was a gem in making arrangements with Swiss Air for our air transportation and all land needs when housing by a church was not given. (cont. on page 5)

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 or call 712-546-8759 and leave message.



Alumni Deaths

'44 - Western Union - **Joseph Campbell** - 93, of Sioux City, IA, died Nov 15, 2015. After high school he attended Western Union before entering the US Army in 1943 and serving with the US Army Air Corps in the South Pacific Theater until '46. He continued with the Air National Guard for a 38-year career as a civilian employee with them. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts and retired in '82.

www.siouxcityjournal.com

'56 - **Maureen Murphy Soules**, 83, of Worthington, MN, died Jan. 2, 2016. She was a teacher, bookkeeper and a tutor all of her life. She and her husband Benny Soules owned and operated the Gateway Standard Service Station in Worthington until his death in 1980. Very active in church and social groups she had a beautiful smile, sharp mind, kind heart and generous soul.

www.lemarssentinel.com

'59 - **Eileen J. Stoltenow Larson**, 77, of Battle Lake, MN, died Aug 31, 2015. She married Lowell Larson '56, and together they farmed near Dwight, ND. Eileen worked for many years as a caterer and was a member of the Henning Senior Citizens Group.

www.olsonfuneralhome.com

'60 - **Harry C. Gilbert**, 77, of Danbury IA, died Nov 9, 2015. After attending Westmar for 1 year, he enlisted in the US Army and served three years in the Medial Corp in Korea. Later earning a degree in business administration, he worked for several entities in auditing and as a county assessor. He later went into horse shoeing and then real estate. He was active in church, American Legion and as an ambulance driver. Among survivors is sister Kay Gilbert Pfaffle '59, and he was predeceased by brother in law, Tom Pfaffle '61. www.armstrongfruneral.com

'62 - **Forrest M. (Fuzzy) Kramer**, 82, of Blair, NE, died Jan 2, 2016. After graduation he served in the US Army in the Korean War Era. He retired from Omaha Public Schools as an industrial arts teacher. He enjoyed traveling and was a carpenter his entire life. Past president of Blair Optimist Club and past gov. of the NE District of Optimist Int. Survivors include his wife Joyce Morgan '57, his sister Marjorie '58 and sister-in-law Lillian Graff '54.

www.campbellaman.com

'63 - **Elizabeth Rose Feind Osborne**, 74, Indianola, IA, died Dec. 3, 2015. She taught English for a few years and later worked for the University of Iowa, first in Department of Residence and then for the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She was formerly married to Ron Osborne '62. Among survivors is her sister Gay Feind Weber '61. www.overtonfunerals.com

'63 - **Edmund Joseph Lanners**, 75, Arvada, CO, died Nov 2, 2015. He served in the US Air Force and spent many years in Omaha, NE working for American Family Insurance as an Adjuster, Underwriter and Claims Department until retirement in 2002. He was active in the Catholic Church and civic organizations. He had a tenor voice and sang in church and events. He enjoyed travel and moved to Co. to be closer to family.

www.aspenmortuaries.com

'68 - **Linda Sue Lester Wise**, 59, Joplin, MO, died Dec. 19, 2015. Linda also served as an Adjunct Professor of English at Westmar. Her husband Phillip Wise also served on the Faculty. She had a beautiful voice and loved singing, being in musical theatre and performed in numerous productions. She was active in church activities. www.parkermortuary.com

Faculty and Staff:

'70 to '82 - **John Forrest Courter**, 90, of Pittsburg, KS, died Nov 4, 2015. He served as dean and president of Westmar College from '70 to '82. He had served in the US Army in Europe '43 to '46. Loving to travel he took his family to all 50 states and often led tour groups throughout the world. He was an avid photogra-

pher, historian and gardener. Among survivors is his daughter Ann Hirsch '77. www.brennertortuary.com or www.lemarssentinel.com

FCL—**Larry Willey**, 77, Estes Park, CO, died Oct. 27, 2015. He was ordained in the EUB Church and served as a minister in the EUB as well as the United Methodist Church. He was a Professor of American History and Chaplain for Westmar College. Active in church, he sang in the choir and volunteered for Crossroad Ministries. He also enjoyed history and genealogy. www.allnutt.com

'87 - **Arnold Hummel**, Akron, IA, died Dec. 1, 2015. He was part of the '87 Maintaince Staff. He was a farmer and worked in several industries. Among his interests was that of being an avid Studebaker collector. www.christysmith.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.

A nice way to honor Westmar Alumni, friends, or family.

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.

Now is the time to order your T-shirts for this summer's fun! You never know who you might meet that has also been to Westmar or knows someone who has.



Great for reunions. Order online at www.westmarcollege.org or contact the office. Sizes S,M,L, X-L are \$15.00 and XXL, XXXL are \$18.00

plus postage—or order to pick-up at reunions.





Chorale '69 cont.....

The excitement on the flight to Europe was unbelievable. Kids were taking pictures of the clouds over Lake Michigan, as we began our trip. We landed in Zurich and quickly transferred to a flight for Copenhagen, and fun in Denmark before concerts began. However, I noticed a number of girls standing in the aisle as we were announced to depart. I reminded the steward when our reservations were made and soon some unhappy businessmen were giving up their seats to some much relieved choir members. Later that week, we took the train to Hamburg to be met by our buses for the tour. A German student, representing the church, made sure we were on our way after lunch. He was amazed that so many non-music majors would take the time to be in such a group, unheard of in the European university system.

Our first concert was in Hannover. Two American opera singers beginning their careers in Europe, stopped me at the church upon our arrival. They warned that the Chorale should not drink the water, only bottled beverages, tea or coffee. There were too many bacteria to get used to when the Chorale members needed to be on their feet, not disabled with digestive plagues. Only one member, that I know of, did not heed the warning and she paid the price.

Our second concert was in Dortmund where we began a long association over the years with that pastor, Siegfried Soberger. Dortmund also began the broken bone hospital visit that carried over to future tours. The accident happened going up the church stairs to perform a last half group. It was a Friday and we headed for Berlin the next day, but a hospital visit didn't happen until our arrival in Berlin. They took care of her until we carried her on the plane to Nuremberg the following week on our way to Vienna. Berlin was memorable for crossing into East Berlin at Checkpoint Charlie, and singing in an EUB church by government

permission. He said, "the church can have guests for dinner. If the congregation doesn't know the music that will be sung later in the sanctuary, that isn't my problem. But, the guests cannot stand in front of the congregation." So, we sang in the balcony and went down-stairs and greeted



Brandenburg Gate, Berlin

the congregation as they left the concert at the pastor request. As we left on the streetcar for our crossing point, only one drunk was with us and the streets were eerily deserted, another world. On all tours it was crucial to experience the culture in the countries and cities visited. We were honored by the Mayor of Berlin by a reception and speech. We sang on Berlin television, viewed the memorial museums and sang in their churches. In Vienna we heard an opera in one of the most famous venues in the world.

In Denmark we visited the site of Shakespeare's plays as well as Tivoli and the Little Mermaid to cite a few. And in Salzburg we toured the scene of the "Sound of Music" movie and Trapp family escapade. Anytime we were in the area, we stopped at Lichtenstein and loaded up on the best pastries in Europe. Our journey that day was to Zurich and west of the city to Aaneu, Switzerland. Here we sang for the uniting conference of the European Methodists and EUB group. What a striking part of church history that was. One pastor attending had heard us in East Berlin. Then we went down to Lucerne and later a concert in Interlaken. Strolling

her streets on a sunlit afternoon had to be a highlight compared to the starkness of East Berlin.



At Aaneu

On our return to Germany, we stopped in Garmisch. After getting settled at the hotel and a fine dinner, we spent our free evening listening to a typical German band concert in their park. Later I heard that a student had lost her passport. I was a hand waver, tour planner, and hospital guide. I spent the day in Vienna while the student got a permanent cast, and now I was a passport finder. Let's go back to that day in Vienna. The orderly in the hospital had been a POW in Texas and spoke good English. He learned of our tour and during the day as he pushed the cart to another site, he murmured to me, "you don't want to mess with a handicapped singer who can't stand up for concerts. Leave her with me. I'll take good care of her until you are ready to leave the area." When he left us to wait for the doctor, the student looked up at me with terror in her eyes and said, "Mr. Summerside, please don't leave me with that man." Wouldn't that have been fun? But we left Vienna together and the guys were so good about assisting her on and off the bus.

Continuing after Garmisch, we went to Augsburg for historical viewing and on to a church run hostel in Reutlingen. This would be our housing stay as we toured the area. The day before we left, the manager's son called from the police station in Garmisch. He remembered his mom had U.S. guests. Did this girl on the passport happen to be one of the group? Miracles do happen! The passport arrived before we left for Strasbourg, Heidelberg and the plane in Frankfurt. We transferred to a flight to Zurich and there at the terminal to greet us was the couple from Zurich who had heard us in Montreal.

We do not have recordings of the concerts in Europe, only the opinions of reviewers who heard the Chorale, and what we have in our memory banks. The recordings that exist in the Westmar office were made earlier in each semester. They contain different personnel from Europe, different acoustics and certainly different mind sets of the performers. That is what makes live performances unique and exciting. It is what made the Aberdeen conference performance so memorable. The group had worked so diligently to achieve it. And then when it came time to deliver, and they most certainly did, it was a recreation of repertoire that was an exceptional listening experience. These moments happen individually at rehearsals when the work materializes into what the composer intended. From then on it is repeating the mechanics, but the initial wonderment of the singers is not possible. Concert wonderment happens when piece after piece falls into its rightful place. And an audience contributes. When we had been told applause will not happen in this church tonight, but the audience is moved to applaud, that energizes the singers even more for the next repertoire to be sung and the two entities feed off one another. There were beauty spots throughout a program. I looked forward to those moments. They energized me for working harder to achieve "beauty spots" to experience for the first time in other

Chorale '69 cont....

places. Faces energize a performance. If a choir member was having a bad night, for whatever reason, my eye contact with them became even more important. You can't lose people because they can affect their neighbors on both sides. That is why sectional placement in a choir is crucial. They are dependent on one another.

I'm including the itinerary because when I look at these cities something special to that spot comes back and I'm sure that will happen with Chorale members. The same is true of what is still Calvary Church to me. Its balcony remains a magical place of creation, its aisles as well. And when we stood in the chancel area this August, 2015, at the Chorale Reunion, we were back home, ready to share our work and inspiration of God's message with a group of listeners. And they came.

Transportation and housing certainly were important to the planning of Europe '69. However, most important to the success of the tour would be communication with the audience. As countries, we were still in a period of re-establishing international relations and trust. Where we were going they may have heard of Iowa, but probably not Westmar. Therefore, the music, at least most of the composers needed to be in their ears.

Research became a consuming necessity for titles and then examination. That it paid off can be seen in the reviews. Anyone interested in having all reviews sent, let us know, but here is a compilation of the nine given. Touring as we did is a thing of the past for most college groups, and the composers so important to us and our listeners are rarely heard in this country. Reviews from the 1969 Chorale tour were translated by Mrs. Ferdinand Meixner, Asst. Prof. and Mrs. Harriet Semke, Instructor of the German dept. at the time. Compilation of the 9 reviews: Headline: "Perfect Choir Artistry from the U.S.A." "It is astonishing, that in a time, in which the enthusiasm for choirs on the part of German students is at a low ebb, so many voluntarily come together to make vocal music in America. The choir not only mastered the difficult motets of Thomas, Distler and Pepping, but committed them to memory and in their interpretation, made these works their own." "The importance of the Westmar Chorale which sang at Expo 67 in Montreal was confirmed last night. Heard wonderful intonation, and conformity, but one of excel-



Chorale and family before the end of the trip—Heidelberg.

lent elaboration and dynamics of the finest tints of gradation. Heard was choir music of an astonishing abundance, which was inwardly moving, and of an intonation which one is hardly able even once in a lifetime to experience in such perfection." "Exemplary and probably hardly to be surpassed, was the outward, as well as the inner organization: strict discipline, quick as lightening intonation, mastery of the entire monstrous program committed to memory and changes to the extremes of the tonal scale, which are not usually performed and almost require machines to be executed." "The most interesting contribution was the introduction of contemporary American composers. Among these motets, two of Frank Summerside's own compositions were outstanding because of their daring sound combinations, their melodious independence and their harmoniously mixed chords. The Spirituals of Dawson and Hayes are artistically difficult, but the sonority of the hummed parts contrasted well with the splendidly rendered soli."

Europe 1969 itinerary: 23 Days. Chicago, Zurich, Copenhagen, Hamburg, HANNOVER, DORTMUND, Koln, Wiesbaden, Frankfurt, BERLIN, EAST BERLIN, Nuremburg, Vienna, SALZBURG, AARAU, Lucerne, INTERLAKEN, Garmisch, Augsburg, REUTLINGEN, ESSLINGEN, KARLSRUHE, Strasbourg, Heidelberg, Frankfurt, Zurich, Chicago. Concerts are capitalized.



The 2015 Christmas tree at the Pioneer Village was decorated by (from left) Janice Kooiker '67, Dixie Kooiker '67, Barbara Wernli Collins '73 and Steve Collins Attd. The theme was Postcards from the Past. Thanks also to Steve for the picture.

Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

The next Wafa quarterly Board of Directors meeting will be held on April 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



2015 Donations

\$100 to \$249

Lawrence Dunphy—'57
David Collins—'74
Gene Boerger—'85
Helen Jean Andres—'72
Jean Stone—'54
Lloyd and Marilyn Christmore—'67
Lloyd and Rennae Petersen—'65/'67
Mary Tindall—'72
Robert and Jane Kolbe—'64/'66
Rodney and Mary Lee Black—'56

\$25 to \$99

Brian Blanchard—'78
Devin Stahl—'71
Marjorie Dykstra—'74
Walter and Virginia Lobel—'58/'56
Lynn Becker—'83
Jolane Bakley—'55
Dorothy Carver—'61
Roger Wither—'56
Elvin Gunnink—'53
Amy Gerlach—'95
Connie Gerth—'74
Corey Isebrand—'88
Daniel Weirda—'74
Dar Ell Weist—'62
Darrell Gorter—'78
Darwin Dirks - '70
David Martin—'67
Dixie Kooiker—'67
Elwin Gunnink—'53
Gayle Krughoff—'63
Greg Engelke—'77
James Oplinger - '68
James Ritz—'64
Judith West—'70
Karen Johnson—'66
Larry and Darlene Pals—'64/'66
Maggie Chandler—'56
Mary Peshek—'71
Melody Korlaske—'79
Norma Schneider—'68
Pete Hansen—'68
Rebecca Pierce—'68
Robert Hershberger—'63
Sue Betsworth—'78
David Copenhaver—'86
Joyce Gelhous—'74
Judy Cambier—'74
Keith Emerson—'84
William Wood—'59

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Carrie Radloff—'96
Dolores Voorhees—'66
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Stephen & Linda Garrington—71/70
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Gaylia Weber—'61
Joan Zoeller—'52
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Kathleen Hawkins—'76
Lavonne Frandsen—'50
Lee Wiersma—'62
LeRoy Pechett—'58
Norma Kehrberg—'60
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Robert and Sharyn Taylor—'67/'70
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Sandra Halverson—'66
Sharon McCormick—'60
William and Cynthia Ormston—59/60
Wilma Bryan—'74
A. John Morten—'61
Ben Bye—'69
Dave and Esther Schneider—'51/'52
Gary Johnson—'74
Joyce Lake—'56
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Marylan Keehn—'50
Nicholas Freymann—'68
Patti Mirza—'71
Wilbert Trusheim—'61
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Phillip Langstraat—'65
In Memory of Jack Scott
David and Cheryl Hantke—'67
In Memory of Jack Scott
Rebecca Jauquet—'68
Bev Haack—'76
In Honor of Wanda Chittenden

\$1 to \$99

Anita Ervin—'65
Ramona DeBoer—
In Memory of Jack Scott
David Else—'66
In Honor of Milt Martin
Aaron and Katie Lee—
In Honor of Milt Martin
Melinda Stelling—'88
In Honor of Milt Martin
Cory Iseband—'88
In Honor of Milt Martin

Composite Photo Project

Jean Stone - '54

Westmar Park

Dixie Kooiker '67—Goods and services

In Honor/ In Memory—\$99 to \$200 (each)

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Memory of Gwen's brother, Gene Koth '60
Beverly Job '54— Memory of husband Rueben Job '54
Stephen and Linda Pretzer Garrington '71/'70
Memory of Stephen's parents
Neoma '70 and Dwight J. Garrington Eng. Fac. '67—'68

\$25 to \$99 (each)

Marilyn, staff '86-'97 and Joseph Vollmecke '93
Memory of son J.J. Vollmecke attd '89/'90
Bernice Rath '55 - Memory of husband Theodore Rath '57
Nolan Rath '85—Memory of father Theodore Rath '57
Marilyn Brant Spatz '67—Memory of Uncle Joseph Bottiger Adm.
Jean Stone '54—Memory of Warren Hartman '45
Robert Darrah '58—Memory of wife Donna Irene Ely Darrah
Pearl Heitke '48 - Memory of William Wendlant '48
And Memory of Lorraine Schafer Kurtz, wife of Rev Delburn D. Kurtz WU '49
Mary Hartman '63—Memory of son Carl Hartman '76

\$1 to \$24 (each)

Arthur Angove—Memory of his wife Carmen Fosberg Angove '55
Memory of his sister Marilyn Angove Yenger '55
Beverly Van Devender '60
Memory of husband William Van Devender '60

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The Wafa staff thanks each and every one of you for each dollar that you so graciously donated this year. Your donations make it possible for Wafa to continue to be here for YOU!

This years donations totaled \$5,776 and of course some of them are set aside for special projects to make Westmar visible into the future. We know Westmar means a great deal to you.

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- Maintain Westmar Alumni, Faculty, Staff, and Administration database
- Help maintain the Westmar Memorial Park on the former campus
- Maintain the Wafa web-site
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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!!

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