

Disciples of Christ Historical Society

## Digital Commons @ Disciples History

---

Oldtimers' Grapevine

Stone-Campbell Movement Periodicals

---

1993

### The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 3 (January - December 1993)

William K. Fox Sr  
*Oldtimers' Grapevine*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.discipleshistory.org/oldtimersgrapevine>

---

#### Recommended Citation

Fox, William K. Sr, "The Oldtimers' Grapevine, Volume 3 (January - December 1993)" (1993). *Oldtimers' Grapevine*. 3.

<https://digitalcommons.discipleshistory.org/oldtimersgrapevine/3>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Stone-Campbell Movement Periodicals at Digital Commons @ Disciples History. It has been accepted for inclusion in Oldtimers' Grapevine by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Disciples History. For more information, please contact [jmcmillan@discipleshistory.org](mailto:jmcmillan@discipleshistory.org).

# The Oldtimers' Grapevine

An independent newsletter for "The Over 60" in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Volume II No. 1

January-February 1993

Raymore, Missouri

## ◆ What's in these boxes?

### Old Magazines & Newspapers?

For more than fifty years one of the persistent dilemmas facing me every ten to twelve days has been what to do with those newspapers and magazines I've received which contain significant articles and/or pictures I have- or have not yet - read. Usually I stuff them in boxes which have grown yellow after many years of preservation. My intention is to wait for the right occasion when I could clip out the articles and use them for reference in some earth-shaking speech or paper.

A few days after last Christmas such an opportunity came. Doris Kohl, program producer for the Cable TV2 station, enlisted me to develop a program for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday observance. I reached into those old tattered boxes and came up with six posters which depicted the life and times of Martin Luther King, Jr down to the present day. The posters provided excellent background for the community leaders recruited for the TV panel dis-



Photo by Hugh Kohl- Foxwood Springs-

**THE MLK EXHIBIT at Foxwood Springs- 1993-** Gleaned from old papers and magazines faithfully put away for more than 30 years.

cussion. Later half were used as the setting for an MLK book exhibit in the library and the remainder put on hall walls.

Why are you saving those old newspaper and magazine articles? You may have something old which could be put in a form to convey a meaningful message today! -

-W. K. F. 'Sr-



from The Joyful Noiseletter  
© 1992 Doc Goodwin (Phillip's Flock)  
Reprinted with permission

## As 1993 Begins-

### Let's Celebrate-

We join hands with the following who have encountered divine blessings:

**\*William and Reubena Fox of Raymore, MO** who celebrated 49 years of marriage December 30, 1992. (They took a couple of days "out on the town.")

**\*Woody and Mildred Whitlow of Columbus, MO** who celebrate 50 years of marriage February 18, 1993. Woody says: "Never thought we would make it, but now it looks good. I met

(See CELEBRATE, Page 2)

Some Reflections

**On Reading  
Those Christmas  
Letters /Notes-**

Last week a pulled out about twenty of those Christmas letters and cards with the handwritten notes and put them in a stack by themselves.

Invigorating spiritual insights were revealed! Together they capsulized a variety of faith journeys. A graphic outline of a modern Pentecost was painted.

**\*All reflected a common devotion to Jesus Christ-**

**\*Actions of dedication and loyalty among family members while being tested by illness, unforeseen tragedy and the sting of death were implied.**

**\*Many rejoiced in the success of others who had found ways to meet the unusual challenges of every day living.**

**\*There was a pervasive spirit of thanksgiving and joy for the blessings of being alive and having the necessary strength to face a new day.**

**\*I found all of this and more in the Christmas letters and scrawled notes on cards which came to Reubena and me**

during the Christmas/New Year's holiday season. Thanks for sharing with us. - W.K.F, Sr.-

**CELEBRATE**  
*from Page 1*

Mildred in October 1942. I didn't see her again until January 8, 1943. Proposed that night and we were married in February. Then I left April 6 and was gone 2 1/2 years and still we're hanging in there."

**\*Ernest Joshua Newborn, Sr. of Indianapolis, IN- fresh from retirement December 31, 1992 and 15 years of stellar service to the church as the administrative director of Reconciliation- accepted a call to become the "designated interim minister" for Faith United Christian Church in Indianapolis. January 1, 1993,**

Ater 21 years away from the "congregational front," Dr. Newborn was "back on the firing line." (There is "no rest for the dedicated weary and able!") Before the last day of retirement, Newborn acted in the tradition of his middle name- "Joshua"- and rode around Missions building seven times to induce more money for BMF! It worked!

**DONORS SINCE  
LAST ISSUE!  
THANKS MUCH!**

\*Lucille Coward, St. Laurent, P.Q., Canada; Clede Enloe, Robt/Jessie Boyd; Glenn/Charlotte Shoemaker; Sheldon/Miriam Shirts; Raymore, MO; Dorothy Wilbert; Verlesta B. Hicks, Curtis I. Lloyd, Dayton, OH; Ruth/Lewis Deer; Harold/Evelyn Watkins; Chas/Irene Mills; Thelma Pyatt; Walter/Sue Cardwell; Levene W. Graham, Indianapolis, IN; Woody/Mildred Whitlow, Columbia, MO; Dwight/Ruth French, Verona, PA; Deloris A. Turner, Kansas City, MO; Roland/Pearl Thompson, Cincinnati, OH;

**OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE  
FINANCES: Jan. 1- Dec. 31,  
1992**

**INCOME:**

Brought forward -- \$453.85  
Extrashare (\$15 plus)- 625.00  
Regular - (\$5 to15) 483.00

\$ 1561.85

**EXPENSES:**

Check book ----- 15.25  
State Corp. Fee ----- 1.00  
Share for paper, labels 14.50  
Printing/duplication 700.34  
Mailing/stamps 243.52  
Share for tapes/disks 21.80

\$ 996.41

**BALANCE 12/31/92: \$565.44**

**Networking**

**Letters to The Editor:**

**FROM CANADA-**

**W**e still have an excellent OLDTIMERS "connection" in Canada via Lucille Coward- a close friend of the late Helen Pilgrim-Minor for more than 60 years. Lucille shares the following on Helen:

"Last January 6... Helen was taken to the...hospital with a slight stroke...She was not happy staying there. Always fit and well... in the swimming pool seven days weekly... visiting museums, libraries, showing her travel slides to community centers, church groups, clubs...homes of friends. Living with Haitian folk and attending their churches in French... Spent three months after retirement in Paris, France... Lots of friends from her Zaire days... who were all out to the memorial service...

I met Helen in 1932 or '33 at a Youth Conference in Indianapolis...She was our group leader with exercises and songs, etc....We were in touch with each other through the years through church conferences, conventions, meetings, post cards, bulletins, and visits..." -Lucille Coward-

NOTE: A memorial service for Helen Pilgrim-Minor was held in Montreal November 22, 1992 at the Union United Church near Lionel Croulx Metro Station. Ms Coward assisted the officiating Pastor Bigby by giving the euglogy.

**Pray For:**

\*Amy Hohman of Raymore, MO who was hospitalized in Indianapolis, IN during the recent holidays from a blood clot on the leg. She was visiting friends. Amy is home now and doing fairly well.

\*Lambrini Steriogipol of Indianapolis, IN has been undergoing out-patient chemotherapy treatments since the 1992 Holiday Season. She is currently employed by the Church Finance Council of the denomination.

\*Ruth Kuntz (wife of late DHM president Kenneth Kuntz) of Indianapolis, IN brain surgery December 24- cards in care of her daughter- Joaan Barnett, 734 Filbert, Westland, MI 48185.

\*Ruth Johnson (wife of retired general church staff executive Harold Johnson), Indianapolis, IN- recent "serious glaucoma and cataract surgery."

**As '92 Pointed to '93:**

**For Whom the Bells Toll**

**R**obert Gemmer, St. Petersburg, FL died December 21, 1992 via seizure while swimming in his pool. Mr. Gemmer demonstrated his strong commitment to the growth of racially inclusive churches by establishing an interest-free fund with the Board of Church Extension of the Christian Church to be used for the establishment of such congregations.

**V**erona (Ratten) Robinson, Jackson, MS, veteran lay leader of United Christian Church, died. She was active in the operation of the children's day care program and gave faithful service to the larger formations of the church in Mississippi. She recently completed a term as treasurer of the Minister's Wives/ Spouses Fellowship of the National Convocation of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church.

**W**illie D. Smith, Roanoke, VA, member of 12th Street Christian Church of Washington, DC and Loudon Ave., Roanoke, died September 4, 1992. He was a carpenter by trade and usher in the church.

(See BELLS TOLL, Page 4)

## BELLS TOLL

**J**ames A. Moak, Lexington, KY- former moderator of the general assembly of the Christian Church and a regional minister- died January 3, 1993. He was memorialized January 6 at Central Christian Church in Lexington with friends encouraged to send memorials to the Christian Church in Kentucky, Transylvania University and Lexington Theological Seminary. He was a dedicated and loyal servant of Christ. OLDTIMERS' editor recalls association with Dr. Moak in the installation of a young pastor. While functioning as both moderator of the assembly and a regional minister, he and the madame made the long journey via automobile from Lexington, KY to Cleveland, OH to fulfill the commitment. He is survived by his wife, Millie, two daughters, Margaret Ann and Jamie and one son- James A. Moak, Jr. Condolences can be sent to 532 Fairfield Drive, Lexington, KY 40503

**C**harles C. Mosley, Jr. of Dallas, TX - educator- was laid to rest in Dallas December 22, 1992. He was the youngest son of Dr. Jessie B. Mosley of Jackson, MS and her late husband- Dr. Charles C. Mosley, Sr. Charles, Jr. taught at Jackson State University before being employed in the

Dallas, TX public school system. Memorials can be sent to his mother- Dr. J. B. Mosley- 1968 public school system. Memorials can be sent to his mother, Dr. J. B. Mosley, Wingfield Circle, Jackson, MS 39209.

## But Then Face to Face\*

It is the judgement scene.  
The climax of man's pilgrimage has come at last.  
The Judge, like some Oriental Despot, sits enthroned.  
One by one, they come-  
No longer men or women,  
Struggling for status, rank, wealth and power;  
But human spirits, laid bare  
Without pretense; all shadowy seemings  
Swept away by the mighty spread of ceaseless light.  
"I was sick, helpless;  
I was lonely, wretched;  
I was in prison, deserted."  
Strange, awful words from Him.  
"Oh, I know you are busy,  
So many affairs claimed your thoughts and energies  
There was little time left for simple deeds  
Of gratuitous extras.  
Yes, I know all about your temperament, your health-  
Somehow you were always in arrears with chores.  
Excuses come easily, alibis ever at hand. I can understand how hard it was for you to overcome  
Your fear of being an 'easy touch' or sentimental;...  
And now no words of mine can alter  
What your days have done.

## The Oldtimers' Grapevine

Published six times a year via donations  
Send correspondence to:

William K. Fox, Sr. - Editor/Manager  
500 Mott Dr. Apt. 102-B  
Raymore, MO 64083  
Phone: (816) 331-7323

Wm. K. Fox, Jr. - Desktop  
Publishing  
Consultant - San Diego, CA

### FIELD REPRESENTATIVES:

National - Ernest J. Newborn, Sr.  
Indianapolis, IN  
West Coast - Cornelius and Alpha  
Arnold, Enoch W. Henry  
Los Angeles, CA

The history of your life...that is your judgement."  
Such is the picture- and there is no escape.- *\*From The Greatest of These,\** page 24,- by Howard Thurman- 1944

## MORE PRAYERS NEEDED FOR:

Raymore, MO- Cotten Boyd- convalescing from serious case of pneumonia; Sheldon Shirts- recovering from awkward fall on face; Thelma Hastings recently moved from independent living" apartment to "residential care" facilities; Charles Holmes- homebound with illness for extended period- and all others in need of a special Divine Presence.



**WE ARE TWO YEARS OLD!**

**W**e must pause and express appreciation to all of you who have enabled THE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE to celebrate its second birthday and starting toward our third! Whenever senior citizens- especially members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)- understand the intent and nature of the OLDTIMERS' newsletter, they are eager to become a reader. Ninety-nine percent will make a free-will donation to help assure its publication and distribution. Praise God!

\*Other members of the church who are not senior citizens see an issue and have sometimes expressed an interest. We have accepted their donations and placed them on the mailing list. We appreciate their interest in keeping up the doings of the older generation. However, they are not our target reader group. At the same time, we rejoice whenever we are able to share information which expands the knowledge of the whole church. -EDITOR-

**YOU ARE THE "VINE."**

\*When you share your personal experiences with the GRAPEVINE, you make the senior network a reality.

\*When you share your copy of the GRAPEVINE with a prospective reader you can help expand the THE VINE.

**YOU KEEP US GOING.**

\*When you make a reasonable donation at least once a year, you enable us to publish and distribute. You enable us to improve the product.

\*WE SEEK 125 NEW DONORS IN 1993! HELP US REACH THE GOAL!  
-W.K.F. -SR.- Manager



**OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE GOOD FAITH FORM:**

(Please fill out and return today.)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City-Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED IS MY DONATION OF: \$8 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECK OUT TO THE "OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE" and send to William K. Fox-  
Editor/Manger - 500 Mott Dr. - Apt. 102-B - Raymore, MO 64083**

"It is the judgement scene...one by one, they come- No longer men or women, Yellow, Red, Brown, Black, White,...laid bare without pretense..." —Howard Thurman-

## Making Things Happen!

The inauguration of William Jefferson Clinton last month as the 42nd president and the 16th. annual celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday were front page events. Most people expect Clinton to "make things happen" and history credits King as a person responsible for making many good things happen for a variety of people.

George Goldtrap has an article in the January 1993 issue of

JOYFUL NOISELETTER in which he credits "attitude" as the main factor in making "things happen." Goldtrap says "During the 11 years I lived in south Florida, I observed that there were two groups of 'old people'- those who came to Florida to retire from life, and those who came to live.

The latter were fun to be with. You could count on them. They had a spirit of friendliness and helpfulness. They were playful but responsible. They were full of life and love for everybody and everything around them...They were involved in community, civic, and church

affairs. They traveled. They made things happen..." Goldtrap says he "learned from them." He claims the difference was in "attitude."

Strange he didn't credit time, money, health, or physical energy. We all know people who make things happen but don't seem to have much time, money, health or physical energy. They display enriched minds, spirit and reach outward toward others. A word, smile, or light touch from them seems to make things happen.

We all have an "attitude." What are you doing with yours?

William K. Fox, Sr.- EDITOR  
THE OLDTIMERS'  
GRAPEVINE  
500 Mott Dr.- Apt. 102-B  
Raymore, MO 64083



Mrs. <sup>May</sup> F. Reed @  
1101 Nineteenth Avenue, South  
Nashville TN 37212

# The Oldtimers' Grapevine

An independent newsletter for "The Over 60" in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Vol. II No. 3

May - June 1993

Raymore, Missouri

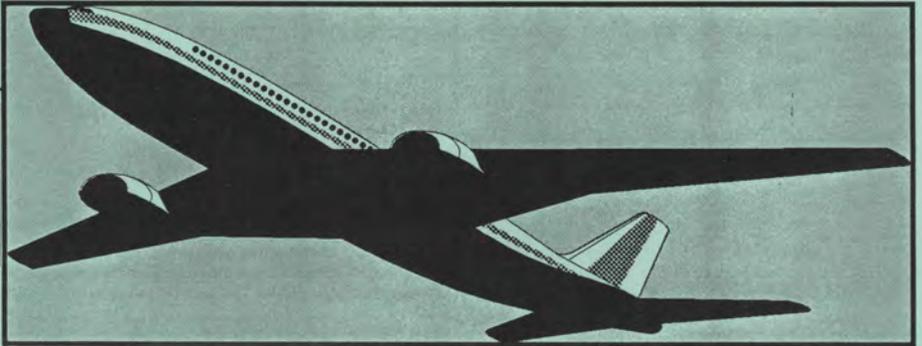
## Choreopoem Highlights

### Human Relations Day

**J**ackson, MS- Drawing upon the literary skills of Ruth P. Hobbs, the annual Human Relations Day February 14, 1993 under the sponsorship of the Mary Church Terrell Literary Club, was stimulated by a choreopoem entitled VOICES OF THE HUMAN FAMILY. Persons representing the African, Asian, Hispanic, Native, White citizenry in this nation gave dramatic readings of the Hobbs created script to a receptive audience crowded in the Pecan School auditorium.

Speaking with one voice the readers opened with a statement on "America" which began-

"God built him a continent of glory-  
And filled it with treasurers untold;  
He carpeted it with soft-rolling prairies-  
And columned it with thundering mountains...  
God fashioned a nation in love,  
blessed it with a purpose sublime,  
And called it America!"



## Retiree E. Cave Reports on Caribbean Christians in Crisis

Then each shared a special message- The White American spoke of reaching "beyond imposed boundaries in search for God's promised peace..."

The Asian American laid claim to having "a part of America's dreams. The melting part of the world... to live in right

*See CARIBBEAN, Page 8*

**E**liza H. Cave, Bath, S. C.- veteran leader in the Aiken Poplar Hill Christian Church and South Carolina Regional Church, recently made a key presentation to the Georgia Christian Women's Fellowship Conference in Sanderville, GA on experiences she had last December among Christians in the Caribbean.

*See RELATIONS, Page 2*

### Inside This Issue

1 *A "P. K" Gives Testimony- Page 2*

2 *Minister's Wife "Confesses"- Page 3*

3 *Praise from the Vineyard- Pages 4-6*

4 *Meritorious Transitions- Pages 5-7*

5 *Senior Passages- Pages 7-8*

◆ A Testimony-

**Preacher's Kid!-** by  
*Mike Myers*

**P** K. is an acronym and label that I disliked as I grew up. I don't know how my brother or sisters felt about being P.K's, but I didn't like it. Looking back it appeared that I played out the script of some of the negative stereotypes commonly associated with P. K's. But inside I was a youth struggling with a unique soul- challenging and responding to what I perceived as reality.

I always felt like I was in a glass bowl; constantly reminded of who my dad was in the community; even by members of dad's church. There seemed to be an expectancy that overlooked my individual soul. Some of the members of the church were sometimes unknowingly mindless in their looks and their remarks as I interacted in the church community. Actually my behavior was normal for some youth of my age and the cultural times of that period.

I was found of some members because they accepted me as an individual. Now I understand they were "the salty ones" Christ spoke of- the meek, the humble- they were the good men and women- the faithful few.

It was an especially rare occasion that when I matured in years I was present at the bedside of one of those men who was in passage from this earthly existence. My dad calmly reached out his large hands and grasped the faithful, loving man who was as gentle and sweet then as I always remembered.

My dad sung a soft endearing song of prayer and comfort. My tears flowed like a sweet gentle spring shower.

This was a special moment. My dad didn't have to be a big star of baseball; some high profile citizen; nor a man of wealth; or any kind of celebrity in the eyes of men. At that moment I glimpsed the greatness of his life's work and faith- And what he had been about all of his life.

Then I realized the special place I shared in being a P. K.. In youth the seed of eternity was nurtured, but like some seeds it may take years of care and pruning to become the fruit that it is to be. At that moment I was proud to be a P. K. and at that moment I possibly glimpsed eternity?

**NOTE: Mike Myers is married living in Kansas City, MO- son of Dr. S. S. Myers, Sr.- Mike is a former civic employee and business man; now a free-lance writer.**

**Relations Day-**

*from Page 1*

relationship with God..."

The assembly was held in rapt attention as the Hispanic American said "In order to share America's dreams, race relations between us must be real; have to be honest like sunlight, humble like water which just naturally levels off flexible like green willow, invincible like the tide."

The African American quoted both Martin Luther King, Jr's and the late Adlai Stevenson, "On this shrunken globe," said Adlai, "men can no longer live as strangers. Our prayer is that men (and women) everywhere will learn finally, to live as brothers (and sisters), to respect each other's differences, to heal each other's wounds, to promote each other's progress, and to benefit from each other's knowledge."

Finally, it was the Native American who brought very persons present to solemn recommitment when he declared: "People of the world are not things to be manipulated, but persons to know; not heathen to be converted but persons to be heard; not enemies to be hated, but persons to be encountered; not brothers and sisters to be kept but brothers and sisters to be brothers and sisters. A new world theme song is needed if we are to share America's dreams together."

**Confessions of A  
Retired Minister's  
Wife- by Kay McKay\***

**B**ill Fox suggested I write an article with this title. I'm not sure what he meant, but I recently read, "Life is All About Serving and Giving. There is nothing else in life that's greater than that." And I said AMEN!

I'm pleased to have been a wife of a minister who literally gave his life in service to others and died at the age of 60 in 1972. We were married for almost 34 years and I was happy to serve with him those years as a minister's wife. My main concern was to support and love him as we sought to care for our family (two children) and serve Christ in all areas of our life and the church.

My philosophy was (and is) different from many minister's wives. I believed that I should participate in all facets of the church, especially the women's work, but not be an officer or the local church we were serving- rather a supporter, helper to all.

Sometimes this got me in "hot water" with my fellow minister's wives- in the attendance of women's meetings (regions, districts,)

However, I believed I should not ask our members to do anything I was not willing to do, including working at kitchen duties and doing programs.

I thoroughly enjoyed my years in church as the minister's wife and never felt "hemmed in," "living in a glass house," but fortunate to have had so many opportunities, meeting so many wonderful people, challenges and proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ (even to the hours preparing and agonizing over Sunday School lessons, devotional meditations, Women's Day sermons. I grew in His wisdom and love.

Upon my husband's death I went to Woodhaven Learning Center, an NBA facility serving the mentally retarded, where I went for "a year or so" and stayed for 17 1/2 years, from which I retired in 1989. My CONFESSION concerning my tenure there was certainly in "LOVING AND SERVING THOSE SPECIAL PEOPLE" as another side of the ministry of Christ and His Church. My travels with the Woodhaven Handbell Choir, representing Woodhaven, NBA, and an arm of the Disciple Church, to all 50 states was the highlight of my service.

Now - in retirement at Foxwood Springs Living Center, I can share with others in memories, activities, maybe "picking and

choosing" those activities in which I participate, but continuing to volunteer in SERVING, GIVING, SHARING - as the writer said - "there's nothing greater than that."

Our son, David, is a minister, and daughter, Judas, is married to a minister. So praise the Lord for their dedication to SERVING AND GIVING.

In conclusion, I would remind you of what F. E. Davidson, one of our distinguished Disciple ministers wrote years ago: "If I had it to do all over (regarding his life and service) I would do it again!"

**\*NOTE: Kay lives in the Foxwood Living Center of Raymore, MO. She was married to Dr. McKay- a 1939 Drake graduate- in 1938. The McKay's served Disciple congregations in Chairton (4 years) and Albia, Iowa ( 7 years) before serving the 1st. Christian Church of Independence, MO (13 1/2 years) and Central Christian Church of Denver, CO (9 years). His untimely death at 60 years of age occurred while he was serving the 1st Christian Church of Leavenworth, KS. (2 years) Kay then moved to Columbus, MO where she served on the staff of the Woodhaven Learning Center from 1972 to 1989.**

◆ **Celebration Time!**

## High Praise from the Vineyard-

**E**llis Jordan of Chicago, IL- faithful senior elder and member of the Park Manor Christian Church- proudly reports movement of a Pentecostal nature in that congregation. There is a stirring of the Holy Spirit in the midst of those attending the annual Lenten Services every Friday at noon. This year the facilities of Park Manor Congregational Church are being used by the cooperating congregations.

Ten men of the Park Manor Christian Church attended the annual "Spring Jamboree Event for Illinois Men" with the theme: "Every Man Needs a Mentor."

As a member in attendance of the March 8, 1993 Board Meeting of the NBA sponsored Barton Stone Christian Home in Jacksonville, IL Ellis reports the administration of this institution as being "tip top." He was impressed by an exhibition of new rocking chairs just purchased for the Home. He feels they could be of good use of the seniors for which they are intended "took time to sit."

With parking at a premium in the Park Manor community where

Ellis' home church is located, the congregation's Board of Trustees is putting into place a much needed parking lot with new sewers, pavement, space markings, and fencing.

On a final note of real joy, Ellis reports a beautiful Sunday, March 7, 1993 program for all seniors over 65 years of age at Park Manor Christian Church under the sponsorship of the Senior Ushers Board. An outside speaker brought information on the improving the quality of life and activities for the maturing citizenry. Following the program everyone was treated to a Turkey Dinner complete with dressing, gravy, macaroni and cheese, cranberry sauce, rolls, cake, coffee and punch!

**\*Beatrice Goodwin- faithful parishioner in the United Christian Church of Los Angeles, CA-** is a testimony to the contemporary conception that "life really begins at ninety!" After baking 480 rolls for a recent congregational dinner, the ninety-one year old announced plans for attending a great-great grandson's high school graduation in northern California; a family reunion in Nashville, TN this July; and continuation further South to Jackson, MS (before returning West) to visit the slave home of her parents.

**\*Harry and Frances Parsons of the Foxwood Springs**

**Retirement Living Center, Raymore, MO,** were invited to launch the Centennial Celebration of the First Christian Church of Fort Collins, CO as the March 7, 1993 principal preacher in the morning worship. The Fort Collins Church was the first congregation served by Pastor Parsons. As its youngest pastor at 22 years of age he began his ministry there in 1930 a few days following graduation from seminary and marriage to his wife, Frances. Following the wedding ceremony he made the 400 mile auto trip from Lincoln, NE to Fort Collins, CO to preach a trial sermon. The next week he was called to be its minister. Beginning with a congregation of 400, Pastor Parsons served there until 1939 when the membership had reached 550.

**\*Daniel Webster Heath of Rockford, IL- Eighty-one year old retired pastor/educator and founder of the First Christian Church of this city in 1955,** has been honored by the City Council in having the two block Edwards Street where he resides changed to Heath Street. The veteran church/community leader is a graduate of Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS- formerly a home missions school under the direction of the United Christian Missionary Society of

*See HIGH PRAISE Page 5*

◆ Meritorious Transition-

FOR Whom the  
Bells Toll-

**R**uth Kuntz of Robin Run Retirement Living Center, Indianapolis, IN-

**February 27, 1993-** deceased while with daughter- Joan Barnette of Westland, MI- after an extended affliction with a malignant brain tumor. Memorial services were held at the Augusta Christian Church of Indianapolis, IN. (In the mid-1950's the (then) young families of Kenneth/Ruth Kuntz and the OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE editor's attended the first racially integrated church family camp in Missouri. They continued later as professional colleagues in general church ministerial service.) Notices of remembrance and concern can still be expressed via son, Steve at 2036 S. McCullough Place, West Terre Haute, IN and daughter- Joan Barnett, 734 Filbert, Westland, MI.

**\*Frank T. Garner, Jr. of Paducah, KY retired pastor who had served congregations in four states,** died February 22, 1993 after a long battle with cancer. He was an effective bivocational pastor for a number of years while employed in the U. S. Postal Service. In his latter years his wife- Mayme- joined him in the calling to become a clergy

pastor. Both were faithful attendants and leaders in the life and work of the National Convention of the Christian Churches as well as the National Convocation. (Frank and the OLDTIMERS' editor were part of the National Convention's leadership team of the minister's fellowship in the early 1950's which saw that organization serve as a catalyst for bringing key church and civic leaders to the national meetings.) Services memorializing Brother Garner were held at Clay Street Christian Church in Paducah- the congregation he served last before retirement. Another service followed on March 6 at United Christian Church in Cincinnati, OH where family and friends celebrated memory of his leadership in the establishment of the Bond Hill Christian Church in that city.

**\*George Earle Owen, pastor, administrator, and poet** died in Maplewood, N.J. February 18, 1993 after a long siege of illness. He served in a variety of administrative positions while employed by the United Christian Missionary Society of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He retired from the general church as one the assistants to the first General Minister and President of the Church- A. Dale Fiers. Having broad experiences as a missionary and seminary

**High Praise-** from  
Page 4

Indianapolis, IN. Before making his residence in Rockford and establishing the First Church, he had been pastor of congregations in Jackson, MS and Roanoke, VA. and leader in the National Christian Missionary Convention and National Convocation. His wife and two sons joined him in becoming highly respected citizens of this midwestern industrial town. The Rockford Ministers Fellowship originated the idea of having of the street named in his honor.

**\*Curtis Lloyd of Dayton, OH- the 86 year old former amateur golf champion and instructor** - recently informed OLDTIMERS' that while in Beverly Hills, CA visiting his daughter, a popular ballet dancer in the L. A. Area- he braved the downpour of rains and cold to played 9 holes of golf in 44- making three pars!

**\*Marian Cowan, resident of the Robin Run Retirement Living Community of Indianapolis, IN** recently presented the Faith United Christian Church of that city with a both colorful and useful PRAYER PILLOW from the Founders Memorial Church in South Africa. Marian- a retired

See VINEYARD PRAISE, P. 6

## ◆ More Transitions-

## The Bells Toll-

*from Page 5*

professor in Argentina and the Philippines, he developed refined skill in the ministry of reconciliation with the part of the Restoration Church Movement known as the Churches of Christ. He was once appointed to be a special goodwill minister from the church to the Protestant churches in Spain and Germany and was a delegate to the first assembly of the World Council of Churches. The OLDTIMERS' editor counts it a privilege to have been a colleague of George Earle's while we served on the staff of General Minister and President Fiers.

He was the widower of Margaret Richards Owen who died about a year and a half ago. Survivors are daughters, Mary Devon O'Brien, Dr. Anne Fountain, the Rev. Margaret E. Clark and the Rev. Deborah E. Owen and five grandchildren.

**\*Josie Williams of Wilson, NO-faithful wife of J. O. Williams, associate regional minister for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina,** died February 19, 1993. Memorial services were held in the St. Rose Church of Christ of Wilson. Josie was the wife of J. O. Williams, associate regional

minister for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina. She was a loyal and active member of the National Convocation's Ministers' Wives Fellowship. Memorials may be sent to the J. O. Williams Fund c/o the Regional Church Office, 509 NE Lee St., P. O. Box 1568, Wilson, NC 27894. The Fund has been set up to help the family defray medical expenses. Besides her husband, J. O., she leaves to mourn her loss several children, grandchildren and friends.

**\*Orval D. Peterson of Lenoir Homes in Columbus, MO-retired president of the National Benevolent Association-** died recently. His administration laid the background for NBA's expansion in meeting needs in the regions and restructuring to the position that it now holds as the social service arm of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

**\*Mrs. Robert Moseley of Nashville, TN-** wife of the manager of the Greenwood Cemeteries owned by the National Christian Missionary Convention- died February 23, 1993. Memorial services were held March 2 at Gay-Lea Christian Church where she was an active member. She was a regular attendant of biennial assemblies of the National Convocation of the Christian

## Vineyard

*Praise- from Page 5*

lay leader of the church and specialist in Christian education from Compton, CA - visited that vicinity in October of 1992.

**Fort Worth, TX-** As 1992 drew to a close Lenora Rolla, the retired school teacher and "Tarrant County African history first lady" had not only reached her ninetieth year of age, she was coming out of intensive care following major surgery in the John Peter Smith Hospital.

Moreover, as the faithful member of Community Christian Church thanked God for favorable divine providence, she longed to get back to leading the struggle of the Tarrant County Black Historical Genealogical Society, Inc. into a self-sufficient and community serving operation. Even though members of her family were instrumental in assembling much of the invaluable records, objects and other memorabilia for which the Society is the custodian- And even though Lenora has been the official director for more than a generation, the fate of this important historical organization is not certain.

Local columnist

*See VINEYARD PRAISE- P. 7*

**More Vineyard  
Praise- from Page 6**

Christopher Evans recently wrote that an "Ideal... arrangement would be whereby a grant could be procured for relocation of the materials in a safer... and TCBH had autonomous control over materials while at the same time enhancing the safe-curatorship and access elements as well as preserving the Mt Giliead parsonage, itself a local treasure."

Evans points out that those knowledgeable about the situation and leadership involved indicate that it is a very long road to any of this happening soon. Meantime, "the indefatigable Mizz Rolla" at 90 years of age is on the mend from surgery and narrow scrape with death. She is eager to get back in the exhausting struggle to find a resolution.

Friends of Lenora can send her your prayers and words of encouragement by writing her at 4751 Ramey Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76105. The OLDTIMERS' editor and his wife have fond memories of Lenora as colleagues on the faculty at SCI and travel-mates on tour of East and West Africa in 1979.

**SENIOR  
PASSAGES:**

**\*Spencer and Kitty Austin-** residents of the Robin Run Retirement Living Community of Indianapolis, IN- report that there are twenty-nine retirees from the International Headquarter's Building of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who are residents of this National Benevolent Association related senior citizen center. In addition, there are many clergy persons in residence. Robert Thomas, a former president of the division of overseas ministries of the denomination and his wife, Marge, recently moved to Robin Run from Seattle, WA.

**\*Rosa Page Welch's new mailing address is:**

Claiborne County  
Nursing Center  
P. O. Drawer 1018  
Port Gibson, MS 39150  
-PHone: (601) 437-8083

**\*Amy Hohman, formerly at Foxwood Springs, Raymore, MO- left with her son- John- for Kentucky February 27, 1993 to begin residence at the Louisville Campus for Older Adults (Related to the Christian Homes of Kentucky) as of March 1 - her mailing address: 945 S. 5th. St. - # 619, Louisville, KY**

**The Oldtimers' Grapevine**

Published six times a year via donations  
Send correspondence to:

William K. Fox, Sr. -  
Editor/Manager 500 Mott Dr. Apt.  
102-B  
Raymore, MO 64083  
Phone: (816) 331-7323

Wm. K. Fox, Jr. - Desktop  
Publishing  
Consultant - San Diego, CA

FIELD REPRESENTATIVES:

National - Ernest J. Newborn, Sr.  
Indianapolis, IN  
West Coast - Cornelius and Alpha  
Arnold, Enoch W. Henry  
Los Angeles, CA

**Bells Toll- from P. 6**

(Disciples of Christ) Church and a help-mate to her husband as he carried out responsibilities for the administration of the cemetery.

**\*Bernice Bannister of Martinsville, VA-** died in January 1993. She is remembered by many in the Piedmont Tri-State Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as a faithful member of the Fayette Street Christian Church and sister-in-law of the late Rev. Thomas W. Courts of Flint, MI.

## Senior Passages- from P. 7

on and family's gain. Amy was one of the incorporators of the OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE. Foxwood Springs Living Center, Raymore, MO will miss her!

**\*Lambrini Steriogipol of Indianapolis, IN** retired on disability in February 1993 from her position on the staff of the Church Finance Council of the Christian Church. At the time she was the principal office secretary for the Reconciliation. She touched the lives of many Disciple leaders over the past generation through her services as an administrative secretary for the department of ministry and for the office of the general assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

## DONATIONS SINCE LAST ISSUE OF OLDTIMERS'

\*Rube L. Washington;  
Teddy/Rosalie Tarr;  
Ellis/Jimmie L. Jordan;  
Doramai Allen, Chicago, IL;  
Harry/Frances L. Parsons; Kay McKay; Harry/Flo Kallenbach; Raymore, MO;  
Spencer/Kathleen B. Austin;  
Lorenzo J. Evans; Mabel Metz; Norwood/Wilma Tye, Indianapolis, IN; Donald O. Legg; Howard/Margaret Short, Samuel/Mildred Hylton, St. Louis, MO; Philandria P. Dickerson, Nashville, TN; Joseph/Rebecca Galloway, Chatham, VA; Jo Ellen Mapes, Leawood, KS; Buena Orene Cole, Tulsa, OK; Hattie E. Coleman, Kansas City, MO; Enoch W. Henry, Jr., Los Angeles, CA; James/Jean L. Dillinger, Oakland, CA; Eliza H. Cave, Bath, SC;

## Caribbean- from P. 1

Eliza, a retired public school educator after more than thirty years service, was a part of a twenty member WOMAN-TO-WOMAN CARIBBEAN delegation commissioned to make a November/December 1992 visitation to church women in Kingston, Jamaica; Puerto Rico, and and Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. The main purpose was to get an up-dating on the social and political conditions facing their Caribbean sisters and brothers and to find ways to strengthen communication and mutual support relationships.

Mrs. Cave is urging individuals Christians to work via ICWF Director Janice Newborn of Indianapolis to find ways to develop solidarity with Caribbean Christians.

**William K. Fox, Sr.-  
EDITOR**

**500 Mott Dr.- Apt. 102-B  
Raymore, MO 64083**



Mrs. ~~Mary~~ <sup>May</sup> F. Reed @  
1101 Nineteenth Avenue, South  
Nashville TN 37212

# The Oldtimers' Grapevine

An independent newsletter for "The Over 60" in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Vol. II No. 4

July August 1993

Raymore, Missouri

## Myers Challenges! Jarvis CC Honors!

### Bible Chair Proposed

**H**awkins, TX- Impressive commencement ceremonies at Jarvis Christian College May 8, 1993 were led by President Sebetha Jenkins, which included honoring Sere S, and Martha Myers, retired ministerial couple of Kansas City, MO.

A seminar which addressed the subject: "CHARTING A NEW COURSE: Defining The Past, Present and Future." was moderated by Oscar Haynes of Washington, D. C. Dr. Myers provided a background statement which prompted responses from panelists Effie Burford and Emmett J. Dickson both of Indianapolis, IN and Claude O. Maples, Romine CC-Dallas, TX

Myers reminded hearers of the "Dreamers" in Disciples of Christ tradition and proposed a special Bible Chair be established to underscore the church's continuing need for ministers.

Mrs. Martha Underwood Myers - the oldest active member of the 1923 graduation class from historic Southern Christian Institute, formerly in Edwards, MS, received a Lyric Award at a special luncheon. Melba Moore



Dr. S. S. Myers and Mrs. Martha Myers of KC, MO received special honors during 1993 May Commencement at Jarvis Christian College.

of New York City, a recording artist and actress, was also featured and honored. During Commencement Rev. Sere Stayce Myers received a "Doctor of Humane Letters" degree.

The Myer's were accompanied by a son- Dr. Sere Spaulding Myers, DD of Kansas City and a daughter, Mrs. Staycee Williams of Los Angeles, CA.

**E**xcerpts from Dr. S.S. Myer's Statement to the 1993 special Jarvis Christian College panel:

"I want to initiate a beginning dialogue on the establishment of a Bible Chair at Jarvis. Hopefully, (it will) lead to action and fulfillment of the tradition of the faith, sacrifices, and the

(See JARVIS PANEL, Page 2)

### Inside This Issue

1 *Osteopath Remembers When - P. 3*

2 *From the Vineyard - P. 4*

3 *Ret. Chaplain Still on Front - P.4*

4 *Study Finds Active Retirees - P. 6*

5 *Donors Since Last Issue - P. 8*

◆ Senior Insights -

Jarvis Panel -  
from Page 1

dreams of those men and women, who gave birth to Jarvis, and those who have served this institution over its unfoldment until the present day...

Our people are perishing!... Among the churches... there are just a few mature churches equipped to meet this demanding world. A mature church is one with a multiple trained staff, which will empower the church to evangelize, heal, and to make disciples of our people, and people as a whole.

A Bible Chair at Jarvis supported by the General Church would be

ment and training environment for much needed minority leadership for church development and ministries. Where there is no vision the people will perish. Our people perish not just from economic poverty, but from spiritual poverty..."

**NOTE:** The initiative for the special Jarvis seminar came from a sincerely concerned President Sebetha Jenkins.

**NEED FOR SEMINAR:**

\*The belief that creditable liberal arts education must include transmission of Christian moral and ethical values relevant to the human condition.

\*Critical socio-economic problems plague millions of

racially ethnic peoples throughout the world.

\*Spiritual stagnation and lack of meaningful Christian witness hamper the effectiveness of many African American churches (as well as Hispanic congregations) related to the Christian Church (D. of C.)

\*In spite of recruitment and scholarship programs like Short Term Employment Experiences in Ministry and the STAR SUPPORTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND, there is still an inadequate supply of "called," "committed" and professionally prepared racially ethnic ministers to meet the religious needs of a 21st century society!

W.K.F. SR.- EDITOR

(Please tear here and mail.)



**OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE GOOD FAITH FORM:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City-Town:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ENCLOSED IS MY DONATION OF: \$8 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_**

**MAKE CHECK OUT TO THE "OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE" and send to William K. Fox-  
Editor/Manager - 500 Mott Dr. - Apt. 102-B - Raymore, MO 64083**

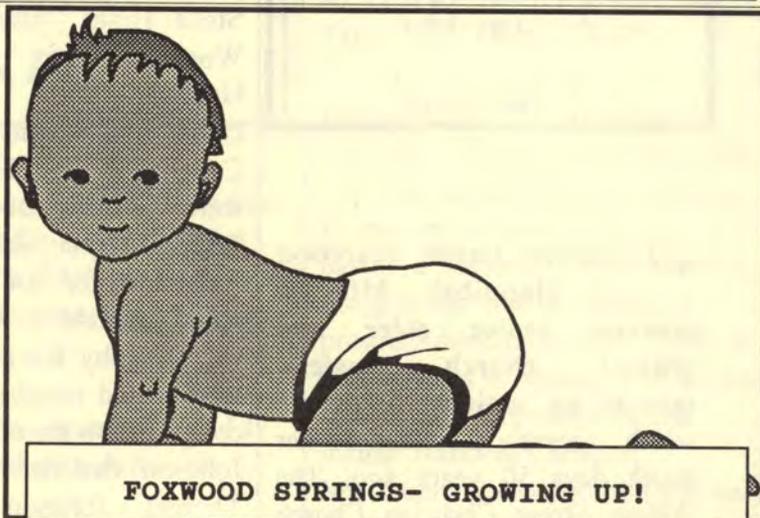
**DR. CLEO BILYEA- RETIRED OSTEOPATH- OF FOXWOOD SPRINGS  
RETIREMENT LIVING CENTER- REMEMBERS WHEN  
-1981- 1993**

**An Unstructured Conversation with William K. Fox, Sr. - No 1 in Series**

**R**aymore, MO- The Foxwood Springs Retirement Living Center-

**FOX-** Dr. Bilyea, during the informal conversation that took place in our Parish 4 fellowship meeting last month, I was fascinated to hear you share some of your early experiences as a resident at Foxwood Springs. Would you mind sharing a little more about them with me?

**DR. BILYEA-** *Why no, Bill, I would be delighted. When I first came to Foxwood Springs there were just...two wings standing...*



*I came to Foxwood Springs March 8, 1981. It was a far different place than it is now. .. First of all, ...Lot 2 of the parking lots was not a parking lot, really. It was a gravel area where they kept the steel for the "C" apartment wing...So it was not used as a parking lot.*

*And there was no "C" wing. There was no swimming pool. And at the other end the only thing was the health center... the part between the elevator lobby and the store was in the process of being built. The outside was there but the inside was just being built. And that winter- the fall of 1981- you had to put on your snuggies to go through that hall- because it was cold- there was no heat. At that time the Beauty Shop was in Apartment 104B.*

*The trees here were just little babies. Now they have grown up above the roof of the building. Many of the flowers and the beautiful things that we now possess,*

*The huge oak tree over by the marketing office was being "babied" at that time because the (building) of roads had cut back on its roots and it was having difficulty living. So they hitched a hose from my water and kept watering that tree to save its life. And now it is that beautiful, gorgeous tree... in 1981 and part of 1982 it looked pretty sick... Of course there were gardens but there was no green house... The dining room had different practices... First of all the dining room doors at that time were locked and we went down to lunch you had to stand in line until the doors were opened...*

**FOX-** That must have been difficult for some of the residents! How were some of the special needs of residents eventually met?

**BILYEA-** *Well, finally, they put the diabetics at the head of the line. But then you still had to stand. And on Sundays and days when there were guests, the line would be clear back past the Country Store...*

## Info on Action-

From the  
Vineyard

**O**ldtimer Lucille Morrison of Hannibal, MO- a gracious senior elder and general church hostess-reports an activity for youth which recently reminded of her youth days 50 years ago. The Willow Street Christian Church announced the sponsorship of a "Spiritual Weekend For Youth" May 21-22, 1993.

The event began on the church property Friday evening with "a sleep over" and adult supervision. The next day was filled with workshops, sing alongs, games and a talent show. Every youth was expected to participate in a skit, song, reading, "or some sort of

entertainment to be done as a group, pairs or solo." The youth were picked up from the church Saturday evening. The Rev. Anne Facen is the pastor of Willow Street Church.

**\*Oldtimers' reader Curtis Lloyd was proud when the senior women members of Summit Christian Church, Dayton, OH who had served the church "in leadership positions for fifteen years or more" were honored March 28, 1993. The Christian Women's Fellowship**

under the leadership of President Stella Hines used the annual Women's Day Program to highlight their achievements. Under the theme: "Women in Covenant," the following women were recognized: Rosetta Anderson (married to James R. Anderson for 34 years); Julia Hunt (married to Clell Hunt 46 years); Ruby Kavanaugh (school teacher and member/lay leader in congregation since 1960); Wanda Johnson (married to Pastor J. Thomas Johnson 27 years); Mattie Frost McCloria (member/lay leader in congregation 27 years); Dorothy E. Wilbert (widow of former Summit Pastor Eli Wilbert-married 45 years); and Helene Reed (married to Percy Reed 51 years). The seven women represents a total of 20 children; 44 grandchildren; 2 foster grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. The Rev. J. Thomas Johnson is pastor of the Summit Church. The seven women have served in sixty key church positions.

### "BEHOLD THE BIKER AND THE TURTLE!"

by Ernest J. Newborn, Sr.

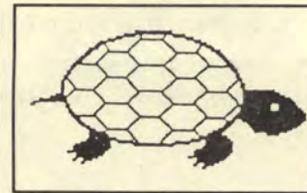
Since 1983 I have traveled more than 5000 miles by bicycle...The "Ride for Reconciliation" events were primarily to raise consciousness about concerns of race and poverty and to raise

funds for addressing those concerns.

During the past 20 years I have collected more than 400 turtles (from many countries) made from almost every conceivable material and ranging in size from a dime to two feet in diameter...

I began the turtle collection after seeing a small turtle on a friend's desk. Carved on one side of the turtle were the words: BEHOLD THE TURTLE. HE MAKES PROGRESS ONLY WHEN HE

STICKS HIS NECK OUT.



This is about

risk-taking, overcoming fear, venturing forward on faith.

During my early attempts at bicycling, I was told by an older brother: "You cannot learn to ride a bicycle by sitting still." I learned that you only get your balance on a bicycle when you began to venture forth and move. So it is in life. You only get your balance in faith when you move ahead with what you believe even at a risk.

As it is with the biker and the turtle, so it is with those who would be faithful to His church...

**\*A retired Disciples' minister serving Faith United Christian Church as interim minister.**

First in Series of Three-

Foxwood Springs- Osteopath  
Remembers When *from Page 3*

So there are many different things. Smell! Yes, I can tell you there were smells... when they started to do the proper thing for this parking lot, the smell of tar was something you lived with- you didn't get rid of- you just lived with! But we were so happy to see it, because there had been lots of dust...

...My parking lot was not covered- The dust in my apartment- and I suppose all on this side of "B" wing- were covered with dust.

And you would dust it off. But by the time you came back from dusting the bedroom, the living was again ready to be dusted. So it became a hopeless job... You just did it every now and then...

The food has not deteriorated; it's been good all the time. It's different and it's changed... You go in there and can sit down- But then you had to stand in line and wait... and that got monotonous!

So Foxwood Springs has been like a young child. It started out as a youngster and it has developed. And its getting pretty well into its adult stage. ...the Board has decided not to make it any bigger. And I think that was a noble idea.

**FOX- I guess you have always lived in this first floor "B" wing apartment. You have had a ground floor view of Foxwood's development!**

BILYEA- Yes, Bill, I've seen a lot of things change. There is the marketing office- It was not there when I came. ... And there is the growth of the Bradford pears- You know on Mott Drive. They didn't show up like they do now. However, they have been lighted ever since they started out-door lighting here...it's a beautiful sight. Of course, it has been improved every Christmas!

I'm proud to have been through the process of seeing Foxwood Springs grow up and get more ways to help people...

*(To be Continued in the Next Issue)*

**MILITARY CHAPLAIN EVANS-  
AFTER 59 YEARS: STILL ON  
THE "BATTLE FIELD"-**

**Indianapolis, IN-** This year Dr. Lorenzo J. Evans is celebrating his 59th year in the Christian ministry. He has served the church as a pastor; a chaplain in World War II rising to the rank of captain; a program director for the Y.M.C.A. Office based in Atlanta, GA; director of Christian Education for the former National Christian Missionary Convention for 13 years; on the staff of the department of Christian Education in the division of homeland ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for an additional 13 years- And now in his 20th year as the principal bible teacher for senior citizens served by the multi-cultural center in Indianapolis, IN.

**SENIORS ON MOVE!**

**\*Walter and Grace Giffin of Sun City, AZ-** on their way in June via Indianapolis, IN to visit daughter & family and Walter's six sisters in central Ohio. **(Both former General Church staff)**

**\*Ruth and Lewis Deer of Indianapolis, IN** moving from home residence on Butler Ave. in May to Robin Run- 5354 W. 62nd. St. -Apt. 310, Indianapolis 46268- **Retired church staff- Old neighbors (i. e. Editor's)**

## FOXWOOD 1993 PHYSICAL FITNESS SURVEY-

Seniors Found to  
be Active!

**Raymore, MO-** The Physical Fitness Committee of the NBA sponsored Foxwood Springs Retirement Living Center



recently conducted a community survey which showed that 45 percent of its housing units had persons with intense interest and involvement in some 22 physical activities.

A Committee Task Force led by Committee Chair William K. Fox, Sr. developed a questionnaire and sent it to 401 mailing points in the Foxwood community. Information on 183 residents (i. e. 113 women and 70 men.) was received. Here are the data:

	INTEREST:			EXPERIENCE:		
	Very	Some	No	Very	Some	No
Aerobic Exercise	9	29	77	4	31	0
Ball Room Dancing	14	28	75	54	3	47
Biking	11	21	85	7	45	50
Billiards	11	40	65	2	36	64
Bowling	18	28	38	5	54	42
Croquet	12	53	51	0	75	26
Dart Board	1	25	50	0	24	13
Fishing	13	28	74	10	52	28
Golf	17	15	82	11	14	55
Hiking	14	37	66	10	52	21
Horseshoes	2	33	81	0	14	49
Low-Impact Aerobics	2	16	0	0	1	0
Shuffleboard	17	54	48	5	55	44
Square Dancing	9	27	39	8	19	28
Stained Glass	11	18	65	5	21	78
Stair-walking	10	10	40	5	38	56
Stretching	4	35	71	1	30	63
Swimming	32	25	50	13	68	29
Table Tennis	7	41	69	3	55	42
Tennis	7	22	51	2	19	37
Walking	58	51	14	28	78	14
Water Exercise	44	42	47	11	51	46

	MEN:		WOMEN:	
	Yes-	No-	Yes-	No-
WILL LEAD	4	36	2	58
WANT INSTRUCTION	17	28	13	47
PROMOTE VIA PARISH	15	23	16	36
HELP SECURE PARTNERS	17	19	24	32

Physical Fitness Committee task group leaders are contacting many of the respondents to ensure that their personal interests are met within the Foxwood Springs Retirement community. Among the new groups being developed are Dart Board, Square Dancing, Ball Room Dancing, Croquet and Table Tennis.

Seven new group leaders have stepped forward to start new groups and strengthen existing physical fitness activities at Foxwood.

◆ Letters Etc.-

Special Communications

○ OPS! BLOOPERS IN THE LAST ISSUE!

\*Page 1- The "Human Relations Day" article continues on Page 2 headed "Relations"

\*Page 1- The Caribbean Christian in Crisis" article continues on Page 8 headed "Caribbean"

\*Page 3- Kay McKay's daughter's name in column three should not be "Judas" but JUDY!

\*Page 3- Same article in column three- Kay moved to COLUMBIA, MO- NOT Columbus- after her husband's death.

\*Page 5- "For Whom the Bells Toll"- column two continues at top of Page 6 and

\*Page 6- "The Bells Toll" continues at the bottom of Page 7, third column

\*Page 7- "Senior Passages" continues at top of Page 8- Column one.

**SORRY ABOUT THESE!**

**Family and Secret Pals-**

Dear Brother Fox:

I always enjoy reading the OLD-TIMER'S GRAPEVINE. Really helps you to keep in touch with old friends.

The Christian Education Committee which I am chairman (i.e. United C.C.) sponsored a unique observance of FAMILY WEEK. Theme: "God's Families: Alive With Faith and Hope."

It began May 2 with a "Family Secret Pals "activity. Families pulled each others names and during the week acts of love and friendship were expressed via notes (hand-writing disguised of course) fruit; and etc. The activity climaxed in the fellowship hall of the church Sunday, May 9 with a Salad Fiesta. Names of Secret Pals were revealed...

**Ruth P. Jackson, Jackson, MS  
Retired School Teacher**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mouthpiece Needed?**

Dear Brother Fox:

Enclosed is a check...Since we

are on your staff we feel that you ought to receive something... We need a mouthpiece for the little people in our little churches...

**Cornelius & Alpha Arnold, Los Angeles, CA- Retired Ministers**

\*\*\*\*

**Happy Memories Return**

Dear Brother Fox:

It was a real joy to receive the last issue of "OLDTIMERS" It brought happy memories of friends with whom I have not kept in touch...

Each year brings changes- some losses...Your sharing them is lovely...

**Mildred E. Webb, Harvy, IL-  
(Had eye surgery June 14, 1993)**

\*\*\*\*

**Unexpected Hospitalization!**

Dear Brother Fox:

Just a note to indicate our appreciation of the OLDTIMER'S GRAPEVINE... I ... fell victim to spinal stinosis, whatever that means. The doctor says it means "spurs on the spine" which pinch the exiting nerves to the lower extremities. I know this- something pinched my nerves and on May 3rd I was subjected to major surgery. I have been keeping quiet. This is my first letter.

**Earl W. Rand, Marshall, TX**

## THANKS DONORS

**We Appreciate-** Lesly Smith; Harvey R./Sybel A. Thomas, Chicago, IL; Lucille Morrison, Hannibal, MO; C.W./Alpha Arnold, Los Angeles, CA; Earl W/Verbie Rand, Marshall, TX; Ruth P. Hobbs, Jackson, MS; Walter/Grace Giffin, Sun City, AZ; Mildred E. Webb, Harvey, IL; Lorraine P. Dudley, St. Louis, MO;

### More Vineyard Echoes:

**St. Louis, MO-** Lorraine P. Dudley, a resident of the Centennial Plaza Apartments at Sarah and McPherson Streets and ardent lay worker in the

Centennial Christian Church, was selected to be "Queen for the Year" of 1992 at the Centennial Plaza Apartments. Mrs. Dudley has been a zealous volunteer in the residence with a variety of task force responsibilities. Her "crown of honor" will be recognized by her colleagues throughout 1993.

## "CALL ME TILLIE"



*Foxwood Springs' Flo Palsey Kallenbach's first-person narrative book covering her early life in NBA Booth St. Louis General Assembly. \$10!*

*A Sales Benefit Project for FELLOWSHIP OF JOHN!*

## The Oldtimers' Grapevine

Published six times a year via donations

Send correspondence to:

William K. Fox, Sr. -  
Editor/Manager 500 Mott Dr. Apt.  
102-B  
Raymore, MO 64083  
Phone: (816) 331-7323

Wm. K. Fox, Jr. - Desktop  
Publishing  
Consultant - San Diego, CA

### FIELD REPRESENTATIVES:

National - Ernest J. Newborn, Sr.  
Indianapolis, IN  
West Coast - Cornelius and Alpha  
Arnold, Enoch W. Henry

CALL ME TILLIE will be  
featured in next OLDTIMERS'.

**William K. Fox, Sr.- EDITOR**  
**500 Mott Dr.- Apt. 102-B**  
**Raymore, MO 64083**



Mrs. ~~Mary~~ <sup>May</sup> F. Reed @  
1101 Nineteenth Avenue, South  
Nashville TN 37212

# The Oldtimers' Grapevine

An independent newsletter for "The Over 60" in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Vol. III No. 5

September - October 1993

Raymore, Missouri

## Bearing The "Torch" in St. Louis & Elsewhere!

### St. Louis Assembly/Synod Had Torchbearer Symbols

**S**t. Louis, MO- "Torchbearers" are those who courageously face difficult challenges and shoulder responsibilities for carrying the burning light of Christ and human progress forward. There were hundreds present in St. Louis, MO July 15-20, 1993 for the historic General Assembly/Synod event of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ. Here are a few. Add your own.

**\*Jeanean Fulton of Indianapolis, IN** with her prized cameras and notebook in diligent coverage of principals and activities as she once did so effectively in the company of her deceased husband, John.

**\*Karen Hylton of St. Louis, MO** singing delightfully under the inspiration of the Divine like a young Rosa Page Welch of yesteryears- carrying forward the torch given by Parents- Samuel and Mildred- veteran pastor and wife of Centennial Christian- one of the host congregations-

**\*General Church Director of Video Production Theodore J. Nottingham of Indianapolis, IN** guiding the miracles of audio-visual technology in the huge



Mjchelle V. Agins/The New York Times

**Principal Carol Beck - before retirement-** rehearses her Spring 1993 graduation class at Brooklyn, NY's Thomas Jefferson High.

plenary auditorium- As he holds the torch passed on by father-William J. Nottingham- soon to retire as the tireless president of the division of overseas ministries.

**\*Alvin Jackson, of Memphis, TN.** preaching with with Spiritual power to nearly 600 worshippers that Sunday morning at Centennial. He's caught the torch passed on by a faithful mother and father- who more than 40 years ago were devote student leaders at Southern Christian Institute and Jarvis College!

**\*Hazel S. Moore of New Orleans, LA-** retired school teacher and S.C.I./Tougloo College honor graduate- given a major U.C.C. church leadership award during the Synod.

### Beck: Torchbearing in Brooklyn, NY!

**S**t. Louis, MO- While we attended the General Assembly/Synod of the Church here we renewed a long-standing friendship with retired public school teacher Valeska Williams of St. Louis. She shared a priceless article about her daughter with us which appeared in the June 27, 1993 issue of the Brooklyn (NY) Daily News. NY. Here are some excerpts:

**Jefferson Bids Adieu to a Special Principal by Joyce Young-** Daily News staff writer

See - **BECK-TORCH-BEARER** - Page 5

**DR. CLEO BILYEA- RETIRED OSTEOPATH- CONTINUES TO REMEMBER  
FOXWOOD SPRINGS- 1981-1993  
And Unstructured Conversation with William K. Fox, Sr.- No. 2 in Series**

**R**aymore, MO- The Foxwood Springs apartment neighbors continue their conversation-

**FOX-** During the first part of our chat, Dr. Bilyea, you indicated that you had seen many changes at Foxwood. Tell me more about some of those changes.

**BILYEA-** Yes, Bill, I'm now the only one of the "B" wing, first floor residents, that was here in 1981. A few who were here with me are now in the Health Center-. So I have seen many changes in the people living in these apartments. And they have all been wonderful people and good friends. We had lots of good times. I felt that the main thing is the old slogan- "What we do best is care." And if the people of the parishes care about each other, then you're fulfilling part of your obligation.

I am proud to have been through the process of seeing Foxwood Springs grow up and provide more programs and services to help people. The Residential Care Unit, the Alzheimer's Unit and CDC (Child Development Center) are all brand new. Each has been the result of new construction plans. And I think one of the greatest things is the CDC which tries to meet the daily needs of families and children. And of course, we continue to sponsor the Intergenerational Academy that meets here annually in July. The academy is only five years old.

**FOX-** You are very faithful in attending our Parish No. 4 meetings. You must have been a supporter of the Parish idea for a long time?

**BILYEA-** Yes- and our parish relationships have greatly improved. The people of the "B" wing are my special pride and joy. They do things and they try to take part. When they first started the parish idea, this wing thought that there was not enough of us to do anything. And the first parish leaders just didn't do much. But once they persuaded me to become the parish leader...And they said, O we can't have meetings. And I said, "O yes that is what we are going to do. And we met in our laundry which is a difficult place because of the wall construction necessary for the installation of machinery. They said, we can't all get in there. But I said, O yes we can, we will sit on each others laps if we have to.

So that is what we did. But when we started, the ones who said they couldn't come came. And after while practically all of them came ...The old saying is- 'Where there is a will, there is a way.' We always had a good time. Sometimes we had guests to give programs. Sometimes we lead them ourselves. We had little games. We always sang a song at the end- "The more we get together, the happier we'll be." And it all worked out pretty well!

But you know, people and things get old. And sometimes some of us can't do what we used to do. But it was interesting to follow Foxwood's new construction and see how beautiful and fast these adjuncts were built. For example, the swimming pool is as beautiful a facility as I have ever seen. It's only been there six years. Originally there was plenty of protest to the Board. People said that we didn't need that swimming pool.

(See DR. CLEO BILYEA- Page 4)

**Stellar Leaders  
Join OG Board**

**R**aymore, MO- S. S. Myers and Flo S. Kallenbach of Metro Kansas City have been selected as president and vice-president of an expanded board of directors to guide the operations of the OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE.

The following is a listing of the board membership and a reference to aspects of their background which relate to the underlying purposes of our newsletter:

**\*Sere S. Myers, Kansas City, MO- President-** Pioneering pastor and national leader- giving foundational leadership to the National church structures and one of the first African American Disciples elected to be an International Convention officer.

**\*Flo Kallenbach, Raymore, MO- Vice-President-** retired professor at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO- devout Christian leader in First Christian Church of that city and now a leader in Raymore Christian Church; free-lance writer and author of CALL ME TILLIE.

**\*George Lakes, Kansas City, MO- Secretary-** Veteran pastor

in Kansas and Missouri; 1990 NCCC Biennial recipient of the "Liberation Award;" now associate minister at Swope Park Christian Church.

**\*Reubena M. S. Fox, Raymore, MO- Treasurer-** retired public school teacher; former children's and adult leader in the Piedmont CC Area and a pioneer president of the National CMC Minister's Wives Fellowship.

**\*Cornelius W. Arnold, Los Angeles, CA-** Retired founding pastor of the former 92nd CC; veteran of personal endeavors to establish new congregations; ardent supporter of Jarvis Christian College and select mission programs. Former president of the Watts Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. during the 1960's.

**\*Kitty Austin, of Robin Run Indianapolis, IN-** Retired general church employee serving in Zaire, Africa and the USA; helpmate of Spencer (and the late Ray Havens) both having key relationships to the life and development of the National Christian Missionary Convention and Convocation.

**\*Ruth Hobbs, Jackson, MS-** retired public school teacher; devout member of United Christian Church and a pioneer leader in race relations among Mississippi Disciples of Christ; Formerly an effective officer for



state and national church bodies.

**\*Roland Huff. of Cypress Village, Jacksonville, FL-** Retired pastor, general church staff; a former member of the NCMC board. While president of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society he related to the first National Convocation Black Disciples History Task Force to produce the first chronicling of references on Black Disciples of Christ history.

**\*Ernest J. Newborn, Sr., Indianapolis, IN-** retired pastor serving in Ohio and Washington, D.C. and regional staff in Missouri. His ministry was highlighted as an effective administrative director of the church's Reconciliation Fund; currently interim pastor of Faith United Church, Indianapolis, IN.

**\*Harvey Thomas, Chicago, IL-** retired Internal Revenue Service employee- veteran lay elder and leader in Park Manor Christian Church; effective lay leader of men's work in the regional and general church; member of first general church Reconciliation Steering Committee; currently active in the Illinois-Wisconsin Region "Embrace the Future" drive.

**DR. CLEO BILYEA REMBERING FOXWOOD SPRINGS- 1981-1993-**

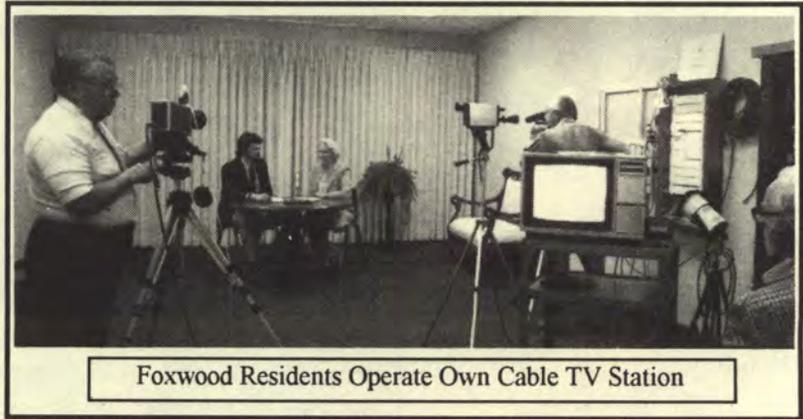
*from Page 2*

**O**f course, it is not a pool for diving or anything like that. It is a pool essentially for rehabilitation. And it has worked wonderfully for a lot of people. Exercise in the water is much easier. And of course, I was for it 'tooth and nail.' It was finally constructed.

When I first came here, we didn't have the Festival! Now it's wonderful to see everybody pulling together for many months to produce a "Fall Festival." Not for themselves- but for others- for money to be put into the Fellowship of John Fund to help those who need additional support!

**FOX-** You know a lot about the operations of Foxwood Springs, Cleo. Weren't you at one time a member of the Foxwood Board? Did you learn about Foxwood while you were on the Board and then decide to become a resident?

**BILYEA-** No, Bill. My son was on the Board and recently went off. He's the one that got me interested...He (George- the middle son) called me when there was just this one "A" wing built...and the Health Center. He was promoting Foxwood in his own church, which was Overland Park Christian... One day he called me and was giving me one of those lectures about the



Foxwood Residents Operate Own Cable TV Station

facility and how it was going to grow and how wonderful it was...I let him go on for a while, and I said: "How much do you want?" And he said, "Now mother, I didn't call you to ask you for money." And I said, "Now I know what the basis of this is, just tell me how much you want and I'll see that you get it!"

And then when I came, some of the people here said "Would you mind our getting your resume and submitting your name to be on the Board?" Of course then I was driving my own car and I was able to walk. And I said, "Well, I guess that's all right." I'd been on boards before...So I did. I was on for the three year term and then went off. By that time, I didn't feel that I should be on again. I didn't think I could do the work.

We had some things to decide as every Board does. But George has been a very faithful member of the Board. He's tried to give it his full attention. And I know a lot of people don't realize it, but coming to the Board meetings meant he had to miss a day of work. He had to have his assistants take over the veterinary clinic, because they have to have a registered vet on call. And when he was out here, he was a little too far away to be on call. But he did it willingly. He never would talk about it like I am. Anyway, that's kind of my history.

I am thankful to God every day that I came here because it has been wonderful for me. And especially since my walking has failed like it has, and things like that. I don't think being in a farm house five miles out of town would have exactly been the right "bag of tea.."

*(To be concluded in the next issue)*

Peer Appraises Book

"Call Me Tillie"

by

Flo Summers-Kallenbach

Perhaps each generation feels that its lifestyle was more normative than those which follow. Flo Kallenbach and I feel that way about ours, and it is a delight to read her stories which describe our life and times so entertainingly...

In *Call Me Tillie*, Flo Kallenbach has created the medium which conveys the message to persons of all ages. I find her stories charming, humorous, entertaining, and also instructive. Each story is descriptive of a family value system which elicits and rewards simple honesty, integrity, mutual trust and support- and especially being true to one's responsibilities.

My first reading was hurried, in anticipation of each story's ending. A second reading allowed me to reflect on the satisfying lessons they contain.

Flo Kallenbach has given the costs and all rights in this book to Foxwood Springs Living Center. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to The Fellowship of John, a fund that enables residents who have outlived their financial resources to continue living with dignity at Foxwood

Springs.

From the FOREWORD written by-Dr. William T. Gible-



Author Flo S. Kallenbach

*CALL ME TILLIE* can be purchased for \$10 plus \$2.00 for postage from the Foxwood Springs Living Center, 1500 Foxwood Drive, Raymore, MO 64083

**NOTE:** Dr. Gible who wrote this review lives in Cypress Village, Jacksonville, FL He is a retired Disciples of Christ minister who was Flo Kallenbach's pastor when they both were in First Christian Church of Jefferson City, MO. He retired as president of the National Benevolent Association, where he fostered affirmative action policy in relation to NBA and ethnic racial minorities. He received one of the first "Liberation Awards" awarded by the National Convocation of the Christian Church.

In Public Education

Beck-Torch-bearer- from Page 1

"...Thomas Jefferson HS in East New York is best known as the city's most troubled school. Three students were killed there in 1991 and 1992.

Carol Beck is known as the no-nonsense principal who brought order- as well as success to the school.

After six years of battling the odds, Beck will retire tomorrow.

At age 55 and after 33 years in the public school system, Beck said simply, "I'm tired."

...I've just one word to describe her and it's her favorite word: "phenomenal," said Marsha McKenzie, 15. I wish she wasn't leaving."

If Beck is worn out, it is understandable. She took over a school in chaos, with its staff demoralized, students feeling abandoned, and parents furious.

She threw herself into the job, and looking back six years later, she can boast:

**\*The four-year dropout rate plunged** from nearly 40% to 27.9%

**\*She added 67 new programs to the curriculum**, including courses in marine science, electronics and entrepreneurship.

See - PRINCIPAL BECK - Page 6

### Meritorious Transition

## For Whom the Bells Toll

**Blanche P. Hunter** of Soperton, GA- wife of Pastor Lawrence C. Hunter of Mercy Seat, Welcome and Bethesda Christian congregations, died from a heart attack July 15, 1993. David Troxler, senior minister of First Christian Church, Waycross, GA- a friend of the family- was among those assisting Pastor Hunter to perform the last burial rites.

Blanche Hunter joined her husband in serving small town and country Georgia African American congregations nearly 25 years ago after tireless clergy leader, William Brown, died. Her husband retired as a vocational agricultural agent in 1987.

Blanche left no children. She leaves her husband, Lawrence C., and a host of friends.

**Jonas Sneed of Vicksburg, MS-** native of Claibourne County, MS- faithful member of Christian Chapel Church, Port Gibson, MS, died in June 1993. He was an early graduate of Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS and room mate of C. W. Arnold. Eventually he became a successful restaurant owner and operator in Connecticut.

**Mary Goodyear of Indianapolis, IN-** a retired and faithful employee of the DHM, died in June 1993. Among her mourners are two daughters- Janice and Phillis.

**Martha Sykes of Indianapolis, IN-** retired employee of the General Church in 1990 after more than 35 years of service in mail room operations, died July 8. Among those mourning her loss are husband, Leroy Sykes, and sister, Elsie Blanchard, also a Missions Building retiree.

**Jeremiah E. B. James, beloved 11 year old son of Rev. Titus and Avalene James, Sr. - pastor of the North Heights Christian Church in Wichita, KS- died July 30, 1993 after an heroic struggle with a heart condition. He is mourned by parents, a younger brother, Titus, Jr. and a host of relatives.** Eugene James, Jr. of Detroit, MI gave the eulogy. Out-of-state Disciples of Christ joining more than 1000 persons at the memorial service August 5 in the Broadway Christian Church in support of the James Family were DHM Pres. Ann Updegraff Spleth (IN.), NBA Pres. Richard Lance N.R Twitty, Patricia Clark; Clergy: Delores Turner, Laurice Valentine, Geo. Lakes, K. D. Cole, W. K. Fox- all of MO- Willie Sims (OK), and Raymond Brown (IN).

### Torch in the Inner City

## Principal Beck-

*Continued from Page 5*

**\*The school has its own garden and its own restaurant.**  
**\*Order and stability have been restored.**  
**\*The building is "clean as a whistle," Beck said..**  
**\*She established a "grieving room" for students whose friends had been killed.**  
 And after a month in the school, she expelled more than 50 students in one day...  
 A contralto, Beck also was a public school music teacher. She plays 23 instruments. Keyboards are her favorites. She and her husband, a retired teacher, who just wrote a text book, share a brownstone in Ft. Greene with their ... adult son.  
 As the school year ended, one of Beck's most enjoyable tasks was rehearsing her 290 seniors for graduation...Says Jefferson High teacher colleague Antoinette Martin, "She was a wonderful principal, second to none. It's sad to see her leave but if she has effected change anywhere, it has been here at Thomas Jefferson."

**\*Carol was nurtured as a youth in Centennial Christian Church of St. Louis, MO. She is part of a devoute family rooted in the Disciples Church and the Chi Rho and Christian Youth Fellowship programs.**

**Old GMP's Never Die-**

**They Just Keep Rolling Along!**

**I**ndianapolis, IN- C. William and Claudine Nichols more than proved that senior church leaders can provide invaluable bridge-building ministries as well as inspire forward movement of mission throughout the church. During the latter days of Bill's service as our General Minister and President, a Missions Building colleague wrote a poem of tribute to him entitled: A TRIBUTE TO THE GMP- (Great Motorcycle Preacher). The following are some excerpts:

"There's hardly a place that he has not been,  
Since GMP'd in Tulsa by God's will.

But now that his term is winding down,  
He looks forward to standing still.

We know being still will not be too long,  
For he was made with active stuff.  
And in a few days, he'll be at it again,  
Preaching- he can't get enough...

Claudine's been supportive, most of the time,  
She's gone with him to places, wherever.  
She did draw a line when given the chance,  
To ride double on a Harley, No Never!

We can't say "Thank You" in a way that says,  
What's in our heart and in our head.  
A gift of a motorcycle crossed our minds,  
But we opted for this picture

*from A TRIBUTE TO THE GMP*



instead.

We will miss you both. You have been a joy.  
Of our gratitude you can be assured.  
Go with God's speed, but ride with care  
For it's with our health care you're insured." - LDP

*(Please tear here and mail.)*

**OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE GOOD FAITH FORM:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City-Town:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ENCLOSED IS MY DONATION OF: \$8 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$**

**MAKE CHECK OUT TO THE "OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE" and send to William K. Fox-  
Editor/Manager - 500 Mott Dr. - Apt. 102-B - Raymore, MO 64083**

**THANKS! DONORS  
SINCE LAST ISSUE.**

**E** rnest/Janice Newborn,  
Geneva Griffin, Marjorie C.  
Parker, Indianapolis, IN;  
Eddie E. Griffin, May/Harvey  
Lord, Chicago, IL; W. E./Mar-  
garet Starn, Columbia, MO;  
Thomas/Virginia Liggett, Clare-  
mont, CA; Roland/Kathryn Huff,  
Jacksonville, FL; Mayme C.  
Garner, Paducah, KY

**CORRECTIONS- In  
the last Issue-**

\*Page 7- "Special communica-  
tions"- Last name of Ruth P. is

**William K. Fox, Sr.-  
EDITOR  
500 Mott Dr.- Apt.**

**HOBBS-** not "Jackson."

\*Page 7- Add to Earl W. Rand-  
**EMERITUS PRESIDENT OF  
JARVIS COLLEGE**

**Offer Special  
Prayers For:**

**W** illie Green, Jefferson City,  
**MO-** widow of the late  
William Martin- pioneer  
Midwest evangelist- conva-  
lescing from severe burns  
received during an accident at her  
home (1123 E. Dunklin St.,  
Jefferson City, MO 65101)

**R** ichard L. Hamm, Indian-  
**apolis, IN-** success in first  
term as General Minister and

**The Oldtimers' Grapevine**

Published six times a year via  
donations  
Send correspondence to:  
William K. Fox, Sr. - Editor/Manager  
500 Mott Dr. Apt. 102-B  
Raymore, MO 64083  
Phone: (816) 331-7323  
  
Sere S. Myers  
Board Chairman  
Kansas City, MO  
  
Wm. K. Fox, Jr. - Desktop Publishing  
Consultant - San Diego, CA  
  
FIELD REPRESENTATIVES:  
  
National - Ernest J. Newborn, Sr.  
Indianapolis, IN  
West Coast - Cornelius and Alpha  
Arnold, Enoch W. Henry  
Los Angeles, CA



Rev. Norman Reed  
2422 Alameda St.  
Nashville TN 37208

# The Oldtimers' Grapevine

An independent newsletter for "The Over 60" in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Vol. III No. 6

November - December 1993

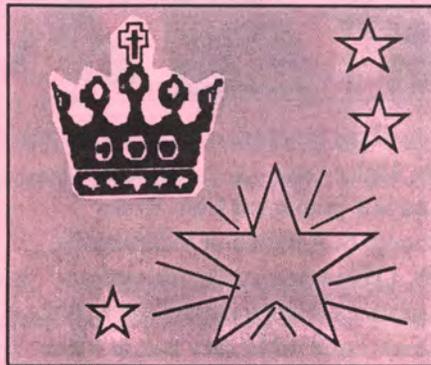
Raymore, Missouri

## AS YEAR ENDS- Challenged to Grow "tall enough to wear... the crown."

"T here must always remain in every man's life some place for the singing of angels- some place for that which in itself is breathlessly beautiful and by an inherent prerogative, throwing all the rest of life into a new and creative relatedness- something that gathers up in itself all the freshets of experience from drab commonplace areas of living and glows in one bright white light of penetrating beauty and meaning- then passes. The commonplace is shot through with new glory- old burdens become lighter, deep and ancient wounds lose much of their old hurting. A crown is placed over our heads that for the rest of our lives we are trying to grow tall enough to wear. Despite all the crassness of life, despite all of the harsh discords of life, life is saved by the singing of angels."

So wrote the late Howard Thurman in a book of fifty essays called *MEDITATIONS FOR APOSTLES OF SENSITIVENESS*.-1947. Thurman was a renown Christian spiritualist, chapel minister at Boston and Howard Universities and a most sought after speaker on university campuses all over the world.

He left the university setting during World War II to establish a model koinonea community by organizing



*"A crown is placed over our heads that for the rest of our lives we are trying to grow tall enough to wear." - H.T.*

the Fellowship of All Peoples Church in San Francisco, CA.

Many college students at that time fell under the tremendous spiritual and personal impact of Thurman and became committed to full-time Christian service. This meditation seems most appropriate as we contemplate the birth of Jesus and the new year of 1994.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*Wedding Anniversaries - Page-2*

*Final Bilyea Interview- page 3*

*Boys to Men by T.G. Benjamin- page 4*

*In Memorium- Page 6*

*Pray For: and Rejoice- Page 6*

## Wedding Anniversaries Lift Up New Horizons!

W edding anniversaries at this time highlight the celebrations of Thanksgiving, Christmas and the dawn of a new year.

Charles and Christine Holmes- of the Foxwood Springs Living Center, Raymore, MO celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary August 20, 1993. The college sweethearts of Southwest State University, Springfield, MO have gone hand in hand as Charles pursued graduate work at Arkansas and Montana universities plus two years of dentistry before putting thirteen years into teaching high school in Crane, MO, and Harlem, Montana.

Thus , both were prepared to move to

*See ANNIVERSARIES, Page 2*



## Wedding Anniversaries Highlight Love/Hope-

*Continued from Page 1*

citizenship. While Charles directed the Windsor Christian Church choir for 30 years, served as an elder and deacon, Christine taught the junior girls in Sunday School for 12 years and held offices in the Christian Women's Fellowship.

Christine also kept the home fires burning while Charles was involved in the Lions Club International; a past master of Masons Lodge No. 29, and a key board member and leader in Windsor's town bank, library, Chamber of Commerce, March of Dimes and school boards.

They continue their lives of liberal sharing of God's blessings as loyal residents of Foxwood Springs in Raymore where "What they do best is care."



Christian Missionary Convention led by Alpha Penn- a young lady who had just graduated from Butler School of Religion in Indianapolis, IN. (This was a rarity for women-especially African American at that time). Later when they met at water barrel for a drink of water. That encounter started a brief courtship which led to their marriage a few months later in Covington, KY. Hand in hand they have been serving congregations in Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, Oklahoma, New York, Washington, D. C. , Pennsylvania

and California, and Virginia.

During World War II years Alpha became a competent public school teacher in California while joining her husband in the ownership and operation of restaurants in Los Angeles, CA and Brooklyn, NY.

As church leaders the Arnolds have always been independent cooperatives who have moved largely under the direction of the Holy Spirit. At the same time, they have given full and selective support to larger church efforts and attended most major church-wide events. After they founded the served the 92nd Street Christian Church for 42 years, they became catalysts for the establishment of five new congregations in the Los Angeles area. Nov. 14, 1993 friends honored them with a Reception and "money tree." For 60 years-whether in church or community-they have walked hand in hand, side by side. God has been a daily companion.

### Hand in hand, Side by Side.

**C**ornelius and Alpha Penn Arnold of Los Angeles, CA, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary November 19, 1993.

Cornelius was ordained to the Christian ministry on Christmas Day in 1929. He had completed school at Southern Christian Institute (MS) and Jarvis Christian College (TX) and was continuing preparation at Chapman Christian College (CA).

He attended a workshop for ministers during the 1933 Cincinnati, OH annual meeting of the National

### A Golden Anniversary in the Midwest

**F**ifty-one years ago church meetings brought a petite young lady school teacher from Martinsville, VA named **Reubena Mae Stultz** in contact with a struggling seminarian from Milwaukee, WI. named **William Kappen Artist Fox** during the 1942 session of the National Christian Missionary Convention in Nashville, TN. Later while involved in a young people's meeting in Kansas City, MO they were engaged. Reubena did have a job but all William had was a fraternity pin and the vague hope that one day he might be employed by a church. But following a brief courtship they got married in Martinsville, VA December 30, 1943. William had just received his Bachelor of Divinity degree while in the Disciples Divinity House at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. Divine providence provided him with employment at Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, MS and led Reubena to join him as a teacher in the Community School. She worked on her liberal art degree program at Bluefield State Teachers (W.VA.), Atlanta (GA) and Washington universities until its completion

*See LOOK BACK Page 8*

## DR. CLEO BILYEA- SUSTAINED BY FOND MEMORIES

**F** *OX- Before we end our chat, Dr. Bilyea, please tell me a little more about yourself. You must have entered Foxwood Springs after your husband's death?*

**BILYEA-** Yes, Bill. My husband died about a year before I came. I hadn't been practicing for some time- that is actively. I just helped him when necessary. When my boys got up to eight or ten years old, I told my husband ...I know that there are people who probably can bring them up as well or better than I can, but I have a yen to do it myself. So I quit active practice- and only stepped in when an emergency arose- and raised them. And I'm proud of the three boys- not that I did that much- but they've turned out well. One was a cardiologist surgeon; one is a veterinarian; one had full-time work with the airlines. They all made something of themselves and belong to church.

Today so many think they have to do this and that. But when I first came we thought we were lucky just to be here. I had just left a big yard, and a water system that was my own- and a sewage system that was my own- and the furnace. And between one thing or the other something was always wrong. Once in Foxwood Springs I was free from all of that.

I read a little gem the other day which said, 'You know you're getting older when nothing works or it leaks and when you can't get it done as fast as you used to.' So I thought that filled the bill pretty well.

*FOX- When my wife and I came to Foxwood Springs you seem to have been involved with the Spiritual Life Committee- You might have been its chairperson?*

**BILYEA-** No, I have never been its chair but have been a member. I have helped with bible study in the Health Center. I went a lot when Grace Siegmund was teaching. When she had to be gone, I would take it... I've tried to help wherever I could... And of course, I've played cards some of the time. You get to know other people and you get to express yourself in a different way...

When we were first here we hardly ever saw or knew people in the houses. And you know, with these parishes and various exchanges it has bettered considerably. Card night was a big help. Many came to that. Now we come to activities sponsored by the Social Committee. That was not true originally...

One time when I was parish leader during the Fourth of July we had our parish meeting in my apartment. We were out there on my patio and took pictures. We just had snacks and I pushed my table over and put a cloth on it and put the snacks on that. We ran back and forth for ice tea and stuff. But we had a good time!

*FOX- Dr. Bilyea, you have learned how to adapt to change. That is a challenge which is always before us, isn't it?*

**BILYEA-** Yes, I've been confronting life realities all along ... It was getting too intense for me so I gave my car to my third son. I said this is silly, I don't have to do this. And I said that's the end of it!... And I think there's a time to know when you should let go. To hang on beyond your capability is foolish, in my estimation.



### A Senior's Christmas Gift to Young Parents?

#### Mission Objectives of THE OLDTIMER'S

**T**HE OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE is an independent senior citizens newsletter created...for seniors belonging to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination. It is pointed toward those seniors who are sixty years of age- or older- who have an interest in lifting casual to long-standing friendships to the level of a caring and sharing senior citizen network.

The managing editor mobilized the initial core of ...readers...who he felt had a long-standing interest in the realization of the goals for an organization in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) known as the National Convocation and it's parent corporation- The National Christian Missionary Convention.

This body...has an abiding interest in encouraging ethnic cultural diversity- especially as it has to do with raising the understanding and appreciation of the contributions of African Americans to the general church and society. Many of the persons reading THE OLDTIMER'S GRAPEVINE have had a long personal interest in fostering this concern...

Thus from an editorial and operational standpoint, we tend to mirror our commitment to a multicultural community- with particular reference to an appreciation of African Americans to the church and society. The contents of copy is always multicultural and composed of both sexes. (From statement accompanying Oldtimer's Grapevine's application to IRS for recognition of exemption under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code)

## BOYS to MEN



A Handbook for Survival

Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr.

**"B**oys to Men" a handbook for Survival," may be an excellent choice as a Christmas gift to young parents from seniors having grandchildren. Author Benjamin is the Senior Pastor of the 3,000 member Light of the World Christian Church of Indianapolis, IN which provides a varied enrichment program for children and youth in the church and community.

The Children's Mercy Hospital of Kansas City, MO recently did a year's long study of juvenile violence in Jackson County and discovered that 1 out of every 40 Kansas City black males

16 years old was shot in 1992. Benjamin's book deals with topics like "Respect Breeds Respect," and "Stand Tall, Black Man!" Issues include: "Racism: an Equal Opportunity Destroyer; "Boom Boxes vs. Computers," "No More Mamma's Boys," "You Are What You Think... and What You Read," "25 Things Real Men Do." "Five Keys to Turning it Around," and "The Model of the Master."

It is a special challenge for black boys to become men. A national study prepared last year for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supports the data found in the Kansas City Children's Mercy Hospital study.

Teenagers in your family may confront this contemporary challenge. A copy of BOYS TO MEN can be purchased from the Light of the World Church book store at 5640 E. 38th. St., Indianapolis, IN 46218. Phone: (317) 547-2273. Write or call today!

\*\*\*\*\*

(Please tear here and mail.)

#### OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE GOOD FAITH FORM:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED IS MY DONATION OF \$10 \_\_ \$15 \_\_ \$20 \_\_ Other \_\_

Make check out to OLDTIMERS' GRAPEVINE and send to William K. Fox, Editor/Manager - 500 Mott Dr. - Apt 102-, Raymore, MO 64083

## Confronting Life's Changes- *from Page 3*

**B**ILYEA- It wasn't easy for me... I've been the state president of the Rebekah Assembly of Missouri and the secretary for 24 years. I had been the head of every possible group in the church... I belonged to civic clubs. I had been a member of the Eastern Star- You know- My life had been just full doing community things along with being a doctor.

I was even president of the International Rebekah Assembly Secretaries Association.... I told my group when I came back from an assembly they could introduce me once with all the titles, and then I said if you do that again, I'm going to shoot you! I said, goodness gracious, everybody knows what I've done... But there comes a time when that's a happy memory. And why not accept it and be happy?

I got as much kick out of a Red Bird that came out and sat on that wall the other day. I got a thrill out of seeing that Red Bird! I thought it was only God's beauty! It's hard to be with people who are very negative. And it wears on you. You have to be careful. It's not good for people who do that. I think the "Me first and everybody else last the hindmost" attitude bills that up.

*FOX- How did your husband fit into all of this?*

BILYEA- After I had been the president of the Assembly, my husband became grand master of the Odd Fellows. He was also a Mason- he was a Shriner. He belonged to the militant unit of the Odd Fellows. They weren't war like, but they wore a special uniform... He was kept extremely busy as a leader in the lodge movement.

I was president of the Louisiana Civic Club way back when it was in its infancy. I was a member of the distinguished Century Club. This was a woman's federated club. Louisiana, MO was one of the oldest places in the state. It was one of the big cities on the Mississippi when this was just a territory and therefore quite an historic place. ..Belonging to the Century Club back then was something else! I think the "Dr" in front of my name was what did it... .. I'm still a member of the Rebekah Lodges and I'm a member of the Past President's Association. I'm committed to the program and will always be associated.

*FOX- By the way, Cleo, where were you born and how did you make contact with your husband?*

BILYEA- I was born in Anderson, IN. My family moved around a lot... We were in IL, N. DA, MN. Dad was a rail-roader. The Great Northern had a Round House in Crocston, Minnesota and I went to high school there and I taught school there in Minnesota for a couple of years. I went from there to Kirksville to get my degree.

My husband came from Ontario, Canada to Kirksville, MO. And I came from Minnesota to Kirksville, MO- And of course, we were both in the same class. I had a girl friend- May- who had come from my home town and was in the nursing division.

One Sunday we were going to church-- to an evening service. Presently two boys came up behind us and they began to ask where were going. And May said, "Well I'll go on." And I said, "You will not!, We're going to church and if these boys want to go along that's their business. If they don't want to they can stay!" That kind of struck my husband. He felt most girls wouldn't have said that. So they came right along with us.

Sometime later, he said to his friend, "I think that's the girl I'm going to marry." He said, "You're crazy, you don't know her." He said, "I know her well enough." Well, it wound up that way. We got married the next year.... and went through school together.

*Continued on page 7 Content to Retire*



## **In Memorium:**



**R**ex Alexander Bicks of Clearwater, FL- born in Mullingar, Westmeath, Ireland February 11, 1912 and educated at Liverpool Collegiate and the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, England- died July 8, 1993.

He was a dedicated lay church leader who spent a major part of his life in special services in India. Following service in India with the Royal Army- and a brief stint with Chrysler Corporation in Canada- he married the late Dorothy Menzies in 1938- who was then a missionary in India under the sponsorship of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Recognizing his special administrative skills and knowledge of India, the United Christian Missionary Society of the Disciples employed him as field treasurer in India. He was responsible for all financial matters. He served from 1961-1968 before returning to the States to serve the General Church in several capacities before retirement. His work proved helpful in the process by which Disciples' institutions in India entered the Church of North India when it was formed. He is survived by three daughters- Dorothy, Barbara, and Carolyn.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Calvin Townsend of Indianapolis, IN-** charter member of Faith United Church and founder of its usher's board, died August 14, 1993. He and surviving wife- Mamie, allowed their child center facilities to be used for first formal gathering of Faith United Christian Church.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mildred Willis Griffin of St. Louis, MO-** born October 18, 1923 in Kirkwood, MO- died August 19, 1993 in her home. She was the widow of Edward R. Griffin. Mrs. Griffin expressed her devotion to Jesus Christ through faithful service in the Ushers Board of Centennial Christian Church. She left to mourn her loss a step-daughter, Brenda Jean Bailey and devoted friends like Joe Howard and Ernestine Dumka. Centennial Pastor Samuel W. Hylton, Jr. officiated at memorial services held August 24, 1993 in Centennial Church.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Minnie Belle Hart of St. Louis, MO-** faithful wife of the late Addison Hart - both devoted members and lay leaders in the Centennial Christian Church for more than 60 years, died September 8, 1993. She had been a member of that congregation 65 years. Mourning her loss were one sister- Madie Hart; two sisters-in law and two brothers-in-law. Centennial Church Pastor S. W. Hylton, Jr. officiated at the memorial services held September 12, 1993.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Raymond Johnson- 86- of Los Angeles, CA-** carpenter, school teacher, relator- veteran lay leader in the United Christian Church- died in September 1993.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Ruth Anderson Walker of Indianapolis, IN-** Fisk and Butler universities graduate and public school teacher in Georgia, Florida, and Indiana. Lay leader for more than 25 years in Second (now Light of World) and Faith United churches. died October 1, 1993.

## **PRAY FOR:**

**Ralph Rohrbach of San Diego, CA-** former director of the Board of Church Extension- a retired electrical contractor- suffered a heart attack with some muscle damage October 15, 1993.

**Rosa Page Welch of Port Gibson, MS-** dealing with the rigors of old age. Accessible via Phone: (601) 437-8084.

**Russell F. Harrison of Indianapolis, IN-** retired general church field worker- confronting an inoperable malignant tumor in the throat area- Striving to maintain normal activities.

## **REJOICE!**

**Geneva Griffin of Indianapolis, IN-** member of Faith United Christian Church- was selected by the Indianapolis Opera directorship to sing in three of this season's operas- "Samson's Delilah," "Tosia," and "Elixir of Love." The Griffin Family was given a plaque this summer by the Indiana Black Expo during the Annual Soulfest Celebration for their outstanding contribution to the musical community.

**The Sere and Martha Myer's Family, the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren** sponsored a community-wide reception at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, Kansas City, MO September 19, 1993 to celebrate their ninety-fifth and ninety-first birthdays. Testimonies and awards were given to them by the city, state and church/community leaders.

## Content to Retire- *from Page 5*

..... I was an only child. It was wonderful for me to think that anybody had eight brothers and sisters. So I got along with them...His oldest sister and I became such buddies. When I came to Canada, if I didn't stay with her for a while, I was in the dog house. I never regretted that move...

*FOX- I don't believe I know the school you refer to in Kirksville, MO- the school where you and your husband attended together. How did you ever decide you wanted to be an osteopath?*

**BILYEA-** Well, the school in Kirksville is now called the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. Back then it was called Kirksville College of Osteopathy. We had 169 freshman in my year- only 16 were women. We were the first class in this K.C.O.S...It was a first school. But today there are several throughout the states.

My family was Methodist and I had been sprinkled in the Methodist faith... But while in Minnesota going to high school I decided I wanted to go to this little Christian Church that was new. I started going to the Sunday School. The teacher of the class was an osteopath- she and her husband were the osteopaths in Crockton- and... were good ones. She was a marvelous Christian and a good Sunday School teacher. She became a role model for me and inspired me to follow in her footsteps...

We were trained to watch the color of skin; the type of eye- whether it was dull or listless... I know that they have more refined techniques today that are wonderful... But people are people. They can have the same disease and it doesn't work the same in every person by any means.

*FOX- Dr. Bilyea, if you had few well chosen words you would like to share with your associates and friends at Foxwood in regard to the future?*

**BILYEA-** Well, the best words I can think of are these- "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." I truly think that if we would be grateful for what we have and always remember the good things instead of thinking well, the meat was tough today- or the bread was stale. Really think what advantages you have in your life style. And I don't know of any better way to express it.

### Ex-Disciple Minister James Blair Retires

**Kansas City, MO-** A community-wide retirement celebration for the Rev. James L. Blair, Sr. was held at the St. Paul Presbyterian Church September 26, 1993. His retirement on September 30 ended his nine years as St. Paul's pastor. Blair was a former pastor of Central Christian Church and had served Disciple congregations in Cleveland, OH and Kansas City, KS; was on the general board; a student of Disciples history. He had been a staff member of the former Kansas City Disciples and a leader in metro ecumenical church witness.

Published six times a year via donations

William K. Fox, Sr. - Editor/Manager  
Raymore, MO

Wm. K. Fox, Jr- Design  
Consultant - San Diego, CA

Sere S. Myers Board Chair  
Kansas City, MO

Flo Kallenbach, Vice Chair  
Raymore, MO

George Lakes, Secretary  
Kansas City, MO

Reubena M. S. Fox,  
Treasurer- Raymore, MO

Cornelius W. Arnold

Los Angeles, CA

Kitty Austin

Indianapolis, IN

Ruth Hobbs

Jackson, MS

Roland Huff

Jacksonville, FL

Ernest J. Newborn

Indianapolis, IN

Harvey Thomas

### THANKS! DONORS SINCE LAST ISSUE:

Russell/Rosemary Lane; Robert/Mary F Watson, Kansas City, MO; Louise W. McConnell, Charles/Virginia Holmes; Flo Summers Kallenbach, Raymore, MO.

### 91ST BRINGS HONORS!

\*Lesly Smith- retired financial clerk of the Park Manor Christian Church of Chicago, IL was recently honored by co-workers with verbal tributes, gifts and a specially decorated cake on her 91st birthday. She observed the milestone in her life by paying her sister- Rosa Page Welch a brief visit in Mississippi.

Look "back over hills of joy and valleys of heartache in between..."

at Harris Teachers College in St. Louis, MO.

Reubena was born in Martinsville, VA . She grew up to be a public school teacher in Bassett and Ridgeway Va. William was born in Milwaukee, W. He grew up and became a Christian Church minister. How they were joined together in Christian service; lived in seven states; traveled in the USA and parts of the world; is the story of a remarkable 50 year faith journey. Help came from a gracious and merciful God.

The journey includes two children- William, Jr. born in Jackson, MS- service in the Navy- college in Chicago and San Diego-an electrical contractor & computer technician



in San Diego, CA married to Judy an office administrator; Katherine, born in Nashville, TN- Indiana U. graduate- married to general church staffer Rev. Gerald Cunningham and

now a free lance housing constultant in Indianapolis, IN. It involves service and relationships with ten colleges and universities. It contains work as minister, director, teacher and administrator in mission, state, and public schools- in congregations, councils of churches, general church, and community organizations.

Reubena's quiet spirit has sustained the union as she assumed roles of mother, wife, worker with children, public school teacher and ever present counselor to, nine grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. They look back over the hills of joy and valleys of heartache in between to their relatively quiet and pleasant abode in Raymore, Mo. AMEN!

The Oldtimers' Grapevine

William K. Fox, Editor/Manager  
500 Mott Dr. - Apt. 102-B  
Raymore,



Mrs. Mary F. Reed @  
1101 Nineteenth Avenue, South  
Nashville TN 37212

