

AYReports

Santa Baby



See pages 6 and 7 for more holiday chapter photographs.

January/February 2012 • Volume 83 Number 1

YOUR OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF YMCA RETIREES

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

New Team, New Ideas, New Year

By Len Wilson

The start of a new year seems an appropriate time to reflect on events and decisions concerning AYR that have occurred since the San Diego Reunion in September. I am most pleased with the individuals who have agreed to be part of your AYR Executive Leadership Team.



Len

You can meet them all by clicking to our AYR website (www.Yretiree.org). The team reflects a great deal of experience and comes from all parts of the country. Ralph Christian in the east, David Bast in the center, and Jack Tillman in the west will be providing close support for our chapters and leading chapter officer-training events scheduled during the first half of this year.

Bill Cameron, Ralph Christian, and I traveled to Springfield College this fall to visit the

new Stitzer YMCA Center which houses the YMCA Hall of Fame, significant YMCA archives, AYP offices, and the YMCA student careers center headed by Harry Rock. We met with students interested in Y careers and received information on ways the Center and the entire campus can support AYR activities and conferences in the future.

A highlight of the visit was time with AYP National Executive Director Donna Dunn, and her very talented team. Their



(Left to right) Harry Rock, Director of YMCA Relations for Springfield College, provided a tour of the campus and meeting with students for Len, Ralph, and Bill.

What's In Our Names?

Who is David Willard Lyon, namesake of a chapter of retirees in the greater Los Angeles area of California? Here's the story.



David

David, who lived from 1870 to 1949, was born in China, the son of missionaries. Although he eventually was

educated in the United States and ordained in the Presbyterian Church, his early informal contacts with the YMCA led him to returning to Tientsin, China to develop the Chinese YMCA from that city.

He felt called to this assignment by remarking, "If He calls, I dare not say 'No!'" indicating God had a plan for his life. David recruited and trained young men from key locations throughout China and they, in turn, returned to their homes to introduce the YMCA program and philosophy to others in their community.

He then pushed the U.S. International Committee to recruit and send other YMCA secretaries for expanded work in China. John

PRESIDENT

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OUR NAME

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Chapter Check-In

Members of the **Marston Chapter** launched the Christmas season with their annual luncheon meeting held at Town & Country Resort Trellises Restaurant. **Julie Rose** organized the event that included music, prizes, games, and gift exchange. **Bill Parkhurst** helped keep focus on the true meaning of Christmas with a reading from Luke, Chapter 2. **Oscar Escalada** will deliver our chapter's \$100 gift to the Tijuana YMCA...

... Holiday time at the **McBurney-Morse Chapter Christmas** was enjoyed and reported to us by **Bonnie Mairs**. **Ronnie Christian**, teacher **Harriet Savitz**. The children of PS 1 entertained and were terrific. They reminded everyone about the reason for the Y. **Art Griffa** was a great emcee. **Dick Batchelder** ran table talk and gave his treasurer's report. **Brigitte Cappelli** helped with name tags. **Ralph Christian** brought party favors. **Len Wilson**, our AYR national president, and his wife Joyce, came from Philadelphia. The chapter sends thanks to **Patricia Solo** and **Paul Custer** for organizational help and to N.Y. YMCA CEO



Weatherford members at Blue Ridge in October 2011.

Jack Lund for hosting us ...

... This year's Spring Fling for **Weatherford Chapter** members will be held in Chattanooga, Tenn. from April 30 to May 2. The conference will be based at the historic Sheraton Read House, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is on the Chattanooga Free Electric Shuttle Route, and just blocks away from the Tennessee Aquarium, the Chattanooga Choo Choo, the Chattanooga Downtown YMCA, restaurants, shopping, and other attractions.

Guest speaker will be an expert on the Civil War ("the war of Northern Aggression"). We'll hear about the Chattanooga YMCA, before visiting the city's major attractions. Registration is \$170 per couple or \$85 per individual ...

... The **Messer Christmas Party** was a delightful day of holiday fun and great fellowship, says **David Bast**. The 40 members attending included three new members and first-time retirees **Barb Johnson**, **Wray Howard**, and **Dennis**

Mohrman. The chapter also recognized the long service and careers of **Bill** and **Mary Glenn** by awarding them a Lifetime Membership. **Paul** and **Judy Brouillette** joined in for the day. Paul retired from the computer technology programs of the Y-USA and is now

afflicted with liver failure and awaiting the opportunity of a liver transplant ...

... Donations were sent by the **Central Atlantic Chapter** to support the efforts of the **Sioux Indian YMCA** in Dupree, S.D., and **Frost Valley YMCA** in the N.Y. Catskills. The Sioux YMCA works on a small budget to help improve the quality of life of Native Americans from job training to childcare. Frost Valley was hit hard by Hurricane Irene and forced to close for two weeks...

... **YMCA Camp Fitch** on the shores of Lake Erie was the scene of the **Chambers Chapter** fall reunion. The weather tried to get in the way, but the rain held off. **Dick Bennett** planned the event. Members took a hayride tour of the camp, led by **Greg Donahue**, assistant camp director. Camp Director **Brian Rupe** presented an in-depth look at the "Past, Present, and Future of Camping." He was introduced by Youngstown YMCA CEO **Tim Hilk**. Our Retiree of the Year award went to **Chuck Zech** and True Grit award to **Tom Patten**. Those members who have left us were remembered: **Jeff Sadowsky**, **Fred Fuerst**, and **Wayne Farrar**...

... The Honeysuckle Inn in Branson, Mo., will be the site of the **Greater Ozark Chapter's** event April 25-27. The inn is close to Branson's shows, attractions, and theme parks. The chapter is proud of **Dick Stoll**, who received the John R. Mott Passion Award, and **Harold "Gil" Gillispie**, who won the Harold Keltner Mentoring and Communication awards at the AYR Reunion in San Diego...

... **Hoosier-Buell** members are enjoying their annual winter retreat at the Potawatomi Inn in Pokagon State Park, Mich., as this edition of *AYReports* makes its way to you. They are eating home-cooked meals and pies, doing a little hiking, and enjoying the beauty of winter ...

... Mark your calendars for **Allen-Stone Chapter** events coming up. There's Coast Getaway Feb. 29; Ashland Shakespeare Festival April 17-20 with the **McCoy Chapter**; Hawaii Getaway May 16-18; and the annual meeting at Sebeck Conference Center Sept. 4-6 ...

... Here are some upcoming dates to hold for the **McCoy Chapter**: St. Patrick's gathering at the Jelly Belly in Fairfield March 15, and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland with the **Allen-Stone Chapter** ...

... The Dali Museum's new 20,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art gallery provides a complete viewing of all 96 oil paintings for the first time, plus a selection of fine prints, drawings, photograph, videos, and surreal objects. Dali had the full attention of members of the **C.B. Willis Chapter** in November, some trying hard to acquire the taste. Members also visited the Raymond James international headquarters and the St. Petersburg History Museum. The chapter turned over 75 years of archives to the museum.



(Top) Descendents of Willis Chapter Founder C.B. Willis and spouses from left to right: Great, great-grandson Patrick Willis; Karly Willis and spouse; great, great-grandson Warren Willis; Susan Willis and spouse, great-grandson Waite Willis; Chapter Archivist Doug McLeod; Museum Archivist Ann Wikoff; and Chapter President John Shepherd. The Willis Chapter archives were presented to the St. Petersburg Museum of History.

(Bottom) From left to right: Dr. Waite Willis, great-grandson of chapter founder C.B. Willis; Ann Wikoff; and John Shepherd.

Liebling, lunch at O'Learys, and another dinner at Primo's Italian. Home base is the Best Western-Midtown...

... Save the dates for the **Grand Canyon Chapter** reunion in beautiful Durango, Colo., Oct. 15-18. Members of the chapter hail from Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado, and should consider car-pooling opportunities. **Stew Brown** says he'd love to have some volunteers for different parts of the event ...

... **Schreiner Chapter** members met in October at a brand new Hampton Inn in Corsicana, Texas. Hosts were **Clyde** and **Gene Bullard**. The Corsicana YMCA hosted a chicken dinner and presented a 125th anniversary slide show. Antique dealer **Jon Ingham** offered tips on evaluating, buying, and selling treasures. Devotionals were given by **Wanda Tucker** and **Clyde Buller**, and a memorial for departed members was led

... Next up for **Willis** members is a gathering in Sarasota, Fla., Feb. 15-16. It includes the Circus Sarasota under the Big Top, the Ringling Museum of Art (hey, they've already done Dali), a dinner at the home of **Carol** and **Larry**

... by **Janie Turner**. A World Service auction was led by **Reeder Huddleston** and **Bob Fuller** and raised \$1,200. Next up is an April meeting in Oklahoma City...

... Be sure to send chapter news and newsletters to Editor **Craig Altschul** so we can excerpt and pass on news to all of you. Send to caltschul@earthlink.net

YRF YMCA RETIREMENT FUND
SAVINGS FOR LIFE

AYR appreciates the ongoing support of the YMCA Retirement Fund.



(Left to right) Ralph, Len, and Bill spent time meeting and working with the AYP staff including Lauren Anderson, CEO Donna Dunn, and Lindsey Lerit.

offices in Stitzer Center are the new, official home for AYR, where we held our first Executive Cabinet meeting via a phone conference from the boardroom. We discussed AYR needs and the skill sets of the AYP staff. We expect to function at a higher level for our financial and membership requirements in the coming year with their support.

Time spent with a number of AYR friends recently in chapter and reunion events was particularly enjoyable, including two chapter Christmas parties. I came away each time renewed with enthusiasm and optimism for the goals of AYR.

I recently attended the annual Harold C. Smith Award Dinner in

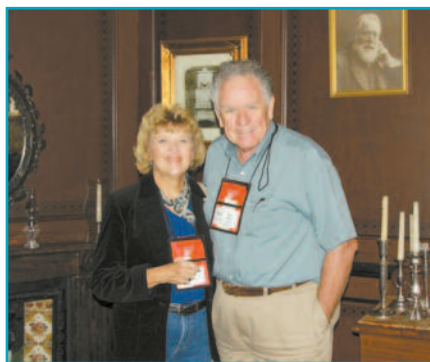


Bonnie Mairs receives the AYR Passion Award.

New York City hosted by John Pries and the board members of the YMCA Retirement Fund. Their overwhelming support for AYR and our two major campaigns, EAF and World Service, mirrors the generosity of our retirees as we make our annual gifts.

We are told that every day for the next 18 years, 10,000 Americans will turn 65. I hope most of us are around for each of those years so we can marvel at the changes to our society and our neighborhoods. I firmly believe the relationships AYR can provide will become even more important as we all transition into a more senior-oriented environment.

My experiences this fall led me to reflect on our YMCA history. Joyce and I visited the Lake Geneva campus and its replicated office of George Williams during the Messer



Joyce and Len Wilson visit the replicated office of George Williams at Lake Geneva during the Messer Chapter reunion.

Chapter reunion. I was reminded in that room of the value of our YMCA memories and how much of the history of the YMCA for the past 50 years resides in our AYR membership.

We now can share our stories and our local archival materials on a wider scale. The YMCA Retirement

Fund has offered to scan historical data and materials from any of our chapters if it can be assembled and mailed to their offices. Perhaps this year we can begin collecting and recording our history from the chapter levels as well as gathering individual stories from our members. We are the recorders of the YMCA legacy for those who follow us.

I look forward to hearing from you on ways we can make our chapter meetings and services of AYR more meaningful for each of you.

Hopefully, I will get to meet many of you in the coming years. ♦

*Len Wilson is President of AYR.
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OUR NAME *Continued from page 1*

R. Mott made a visit to China, was impressed with the potential development, and helped recruit and prepare three additional dynamic secretaries to accept assignment in China.

There was a rapid expansion of YMCA work, and by 1913 there were 66 foreign and 68 Chinese secretaries working together throughout China. A half million American dollars were invested in developing Y buildings. Vision, commitment, and leadership marked the career of David Willard Lyon and the Los Angeles area chapter proudly carries his name.

—Stew Brown

EAF: ON MY MIND

Grants In The Works

By Dale Ventres

At deadline, I am in constant contact with Chambers Chapter President Dale Packer and EAF Rep Bill Foster, having just opened an EAF file, which should translate to a grant around mid-December. More information in the next issue.



Dale

I have received a grateful letter of appreciation from Charlotte Tacy, daughter of Bob and June Tacy of the McCoy Chapter, for a maximum grant that was awarded to them in

October. Theirs was the classic example of excellent retirement planning which totally collapsed under the weight of sudden ill health, for both, and the added need for surgeries and rehabilitation. This could have happened to any of us.

New, exciting experiences are in the works for EAF this year and I am pleased to share some directions we believe will benefit our AYR efforts in 2012.

AYR President Len Wilson, along with Bill Cameron, and Ralph Christian, met at the AYP office with CEO Donna Dunn in November. They determined that AYR can manage our EAF campaign, with her office providing mailing and record-keeping services.

EAF will have its own board of directors and AYR may appoint one member to it. Stew Brown will be our board appointee.

Our annual EAF Support Campaign is scheduled to kick-off this month with a letter from Stew and me. This request will clearly identify our Association of YMCA Retirees, using our letterhead.

Please respond as generously and as soon as possible after you receive your letter and pledge form. I'll ask

our EAF Representatives to monitor gifts and production from their chapters.

We must do much better in 2012 than we did last year. That letter will share further details on grants awarded to retirees and the extra need we have for support this year. Some of us take advantage of the bank draft plan having monthly withdrawals. This results in a larger gift and is convenient and easy. Please consider this opportunity. ♦

Dale Ventres is AYR EAF Chair.

Email: dventres@aol.com

Majestic Surroundings Forever

By Courtney Hill

The YMCA of the Rockies has the honor of providing an ideal location for all who wish to have the majestic Rocky Mountains serve as their final resting place.



Courtney

The Legett Legacy Garden Columbarium, located on the grounds of the 860-acre Estes Park Center, provides beautiful niches in a tranquil setting designed for services, mediation, and reflection. We've designed the Columbarium to provide a sacred and beautiful environment in which family and friends may gather for remembrance and prayer.

Many people include final arrangements in their estate planning process. This spares the family from making decisions at a time of stress and assures that one's wishes are enacted. The Legett Legacy Garden Columbarium program supports this advance decision-making and those who purchase space in advance are assured their final resting place will be maintained in perpetuity.

The YMCA of the Rockies has been a special place for generations of families and Y professionals and many already have chosen The Legett Legacy Garden as their final resting place.

Cost is a consideration in making these advance decisions and here, too, the YMCA of the Rockies has been careful. Of the \$1,500 one-time charge for a two-urn niche, \$1,100 is a tax-deductible contribution.

Please contact me for more information. ♦

Courtney Hill is Director of Financial Development at the YMCA of the Rockies. Email: chill@ymcarockies.org, or call 877-686-6869.

We Had Ourselves A Merry Little Christmas



MESSER



MARSTON





McBURNY-MORSE



LYON



CENTRAL ATLANTIC



McCoy



Living With Gratitude

By Bruce Tamlyn

This is a story about two men and their respective experiences with the concept of gratitude.



Bruce

The first man lives in a beautiful home on a mountain overlooking a lake. This idyllic setting offers panoramic views and stunning sunsets. One could only imagine a more perfect setting. He and his wife have lived there for some years and have continued to enhance their home.

He was very successful in business, a real hard driver, who knew how to maximize profits and cut expenses. This enabled him to retire early affording the opportunity for he and his wife to travel. They have been to some of the most luxurious resorts in the world in search of the perfect vacation. They are regular church attendees and enjoy sitting in "their pew" each week.

Life seems so perfect, but the truth is, he is never quite satisfied. Never quite content with life. The view isn't quite pretty enough, the home not quite big enough, the trips not quite exciting enough. Nothing is quite "enough." He is in an endless pursuit of more, better, or nicer.

Something is missing. His lack of contentment has been obvious to his wife for years now, and she quietly

suffers with his ever-demanding demeanor. For all that he has, he seems to focus on what he doesn't have. He doesn't seem to be grateful for the abundance that surrounds him. Gratitude just isn't part of his life experience.

The second man has a very different story. He is in prison. At the age of 28, he committed armed burglary and is serving a 15-year sentence. He most certainly doesn't have a panoramic view from his cell. There is no view at all. His life in prison is very regimented with the two major components being cell time and time spent at his prison job, assistant in the laundry.

The 11 years he already has served have been very transformative for him. He came into prison angry, self-centered, and belligerent. Solitary prison life has offered an immense amount of time for self-reflection and soul searching.

This, coupled with support from the prison chaplain, has provided a foundation for inner growth and transformation. The result of this has changed the man from one of anger and hate to one of acceptance and gratitude. He is grateful for the food he will receive today which will sustain him. He is grateful for the care his friends are offering his family on the outside. He is grateful, too, for the 14 fellow prisoners who will participate today in his reading class.

Three years ago he began a reading class for inmates who couldn't read. Only one man attended the first class, but since then 13 others have joined and now the class is an active learning environment. He is also grateful for his wife who has stood beside him all these years, and who visits him regularly. His deep sense of gratitude has been a part of his transformation. Gratitude is a constant for him.

The question is, which one of these men is in prison and which one is free? The second man is physically in prison, but is living a life filled with gratitude. He is psychologically free to experience the blessings and wholeness of each day. He will eventually be released from the physical confines.

The first man, on the other hand, has all the freedom in the world, but is in a psychological prison. His lack of gratitude robs him each day of his life of the joy and beauty that surround him. He is trapped in the prison called "it's never enough", and he may never get out.

The word gratitude comes from the same Latin root that the word grace comes from. May gratitude be a part of each of our lives. ♦

Rev. Bruce Tamlyn is chaplain of the Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks. Email: btamlyn@silverbay.org

A New Year Means Change

By Bob Hastedt

The new year brings many changes to all of our lives. For those of us in the area of retirement planning, it also brings changes in Social Security and Medicare.



Bob

2012 will be a better year in many ways than the past two for individuals receiving Social Security benefits and paying Medicare premiums. Social Security payments will increase by 3.6 percent after two years of no increases. This increase takes effect for payments issued in January 2012. This means the average worker's benefit under Social Security will rise to \$1,229 per month.

The Social Security tax reverts to its 2010 level of 6.4 percent of wages for those still working (there was a 2 percent tax holiday in 2011), up to a new ceiling of \$110,100. Medicare continues at a rate of 1.45 percent of all wages. For those self-employed (which includes income from consulting) and earning more than \$400 for the year, your tax rate for 2012 returns to its 2010 level of 15.3 percent.

You are restricted in how much you can make before you have to give back benefits, if you are receiving Social Security benefits but have not yet reached your full retirement age. The earnings ceiling on wages rises

to \$14,640 for 2012. For every \$2 of wages above that amount, you give back \$1 in benefits.

Medicare Part B premiums are based on your income and filing status. These premiums actually decline a bit for 2012.

Be aware of the changes that are coming and plan to use them to your best advantage. ♦

Bob Hastedt is Education Director of the YMCA Retirement Fund. Email: hastedt@ymca.org

GOLDEN TREASURES JANUARY/FEBRUARY

- 70 years Olive and Everette Skarin, No. Palm Beach, Fla., Jan. 24
- 66 years Maxine and Louis Vanevenhoven, Kaukauna, Wis., Jan. 19
Anne and Don Coe, York, Pa., Jan. 21
- 65 years Dorothy and Bill Foster, Kettering, Ohio, Feb. 8
Olive and Jim Anderson, Winona, Minn., Feb. 14
- 63 years Kay and Hugh Wagner, Redmond, Wash., Jan. 2
Mary Ann and Clarence Jones, Corpus Christi, Texas, Jan. 15
- 61 years Vera and Don Leitzke, Wausau, Wis., Jan. 1
Noralee and Walter Lobb, Marlton, N.J., Jan. 12
Catherine and Jack Wheeler, San Jose, Calif., Jan. 20
- 60 years Marguerite and Bill Sinder, Marietta, Ga., Feb. 23
- 59 years Marilyn and Clark Howard, Odessa, Texas, Jan. 27
- 57 years Jackie and LeRoy Anderson, Winona, Minn., Jan. 19
Dorothy and Bill Lewis, Dallas, Texas, Jan. 23
Gail and Frank Rossi, Dover, Ohio, Feb. 19
- 56 years Connie and Ben Haines, Florence, Ky., Feb. 11
- 55 years Carol and Doug McLeod, St. Augustine, Fla., Jan. 19
Wanda and Gerald Tucker, Yukon, Okla., Jan. 26
- 54 years Eva and Jim Knight, Kansas City, Kan., Jan. 19
Hilda and Wolfgang Beckman, Leesburg, Fla., Jan. 25
Carol and Don Tallman, Albuquerque, N.M., Feb. 28
- 53 years Sandra and Cameron McCain, Green Bay, Wis., Feb. 19
Christina and James Brouse, West Chester, Pa., Feb. 21
- 52 years Ellen and Greg Firebend, Shelton, Ct., Jan. 30
Emiko and Tatsuo Honma, Glen Ridge, N.J., Feb. 14

Send your Golden Treasure listing to Clark Koechel, 606 Sarah Drive, Fond du Lac, Wis. 54935. Email: ick2@charter.net.
Deadline for March listing is February 1.

International Retirees Grateful For Secours Speciaux

By Bonnie Mairs

Secours Speciaux is the World Alliance of YMCA's fund providing emergency assistance to YMCA staff and retirees worldwide.



Bonnie

The fund is managed by an international committee including Don Anderson, Bonnie Mairs, and Jerry Prado Shaw, USA; Laurie Bourne, Canada; Reg Wake, UK; John Rhule, Ghana; Eckard Geisler, Germany; Mireille Gilles, Uruguay; PM John, India; and Yukio Yamasaki, Japan.

We raise funds from YMCA retiree groups in wealthier countries, YMCAs, and individuals. Grants are made to people facing emergency situations or personal crises.

Many U.S. retirees have allocated part of their World Service donations to support Secours Speciaux. Here is a report of your donations at work in the Philippines.

The committee received a request earlier this year from the Philippines to assist four Y retirees and a Y widow. All are over 70, have been living close to the poverty level, and have medical issues. The YMCA of the Philippines has a retirement plan, but it was unable to pay the retirement benefits owed to these five persons. The committee determined that their need was great, and we sent a grant to assist them.

Committee member Don Anderson, who lives in Hawaii, recently returned from attending the Philippines YMCA's 100th Anniversary Celebration. He met with retirees there.

"You can not believe how much our recent grants have meant to and inspired the people there," Don reports. "Cris Caparose, chair of their Y retiree group, told me one of the recipients has called him three



Don Anderson (Left) and Chris Caparose (Right) at Philippine YMCA's 100th Anniversary.

times to express deep appreciation for the help after years of struggling and not hearing anything from the YMCA.

"The expressions of gratitude were quite sincere and large. Now comes the good part. The retirees in the Philippines have worked to raise and contribute funds to support Secours Speciaux. They had a table set up to sell treats at the Centennial Celebration to raise funds. They handed me a check for \$1,000 USD contribution, saying they felt they should do their part to help retirees in need," Don said.

Isn't that a great story? Please join our supporters if you can. Retirees and AYR chapters may send donations to Mary Tikalsky at YMCA of the USA, or contribute online at <http://www.ymca.net/worldservice>. Be sure to designate your gift to Secours Speciaux.

Bonnie Mairs is a committee member of Secours Speciaux. Email: bonnie1673@earthlink.net

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO... YMCA Archives?

By Ryan Bean

Rather than my usual "Whatever Happened To," piece, I thought I would share a story about what "is happening now" at the archives.



Ryan

The archives, along with the National History Day program last summer, piloted a program where 10 first generation college students and non-native speaking high school students from the Twin Cities participated in an intensive research program.

The program set out with the goal of having the students accomplish in two weeks what normally would

BEAN

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'A Bunch Of Hooley'

By Bill Cameron

“I can't stand the thought of retirement,” my 60-something friend announces. “I like to be busy, on the go. Just sitting around all day would drive me crazy.”



Bill

Despite years of attempts to portray retirement in a positive light, the image of the sedentary, bored-to-tears retiree still has a hold on people's imaginations.

Particularly on the imaginations of workers inching toward retirement.

Here sits poor old Dad, on his front-porch rocker, staring off into the distance and waiting for — what? Lunch time? The mail carrier? Sunset? The Grim Reaper? Perhaps he dozes off for a bit, dreaming of the days when he was an important guy in the office. The days when he had projects to complete, meetings to attend, phone messages to answer.

But now the days crawl by, empty, formless, tedious.

As my father would have said, what a bunch of hooley.

Dad showed me what retirement could be. He was happy in his job, but also happy to surrender it. He and my mom had always enjoyed travel. Now, they headed out on trips short and long, unconcerned about having to get back to the office.

Dad had always enjoyed fishing. Now, he actually got good at it and his freezer always held some succulent trout awaiting the fry pan.

Dad had always tried to help others. Now, he volunteered at a residential center for disabled adults, eventually setting a record for volunteer hours.

Dad had always been a reader. Now, he started catching up with those books he hadn't had time to tackle. He had been a baseball fan. Now, he could walk from their retirement apartment to the stadium where the (free) American Legion games were played.

Dad knew how to retire.

And, I'd like to think, so do I.

At my own retirement party, more than one friend said, “You'll find you're busier than ever.” That wasn't really all that far off the mark. My appointment book did indeed thin. But other adventures magically popped up to fill the void.

I tell my 60-something buddy, “If you end up sitting on the porch, it'll be because that's all you want to do. You'll find you can be as busy, as engaged, as active you want.”

Retirement a tedious void? What a bunch of hooley. ♦

Bill Cameron is a member-of-large of the AYP National Board. Email: billcameron@comcast.net

BEAN

Continued from page 10

take six or more months. They conducted original research, using YMCA archival material, on an unfamiliar topic, and developed sufficient understanding to allow them to construct a display board that showcases a sophisticated understanding of the topic and the materials used.

Embedded within the explicit goal of successfully producing the history board was to have the students experience a college immersion program that increased their desire to attend college when they graduate high school. It was designed to give them working knowledge of the process of applying to and succeeding in a college environment.

It was wonderful to see the students discover a voice in the archives and learn that the YMCA has been addressing the immigration, labor, and class issues they face today for generations. To see a short video about the program, please visit (<http://goo.gl/Ji2xY>). ♦

Ryan Bean is Research and Outreach Archivist at the Kautz Family YMCA Archives. Send along ideas to him about “whatever happened to” Y programs or subjects you like to see him report on. Email: benx029@umn.edu



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AYREPORTS

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And We Quote...

Difficult situations make us strong, more sensitive to others, and humble. We recognize our vulnerability and temporary existence, while providing the opportunity to exalt our role as YMCA leaders and faithful Christian servants. We comfort others, keep involved, and make our fellowship strong and relevant."

— Jerry Prado Shaw, in November 2011 issue of Bridges