

The Academy Perspective

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Vada Lee Barkley, Editor

TWO TEAMS: TWO PHILOSOPHIES

by Vada Lee Barkley

As you know, I've been one of the most ardent supporters of senior housing since 1990. How do I feel about it now? I'm glad you asked. I owe you a response.

This issue drew more of us into the Academy than did any other. After our organization in October 1990, I appointed a senior housing committee. Enthusiasm ran so high that sometimes the tail wagged the dog. We all wanted a first class, affordable facility near BFC and SNU.

Property owners near SNU were eager to donate or sell sufficient land. Monetary and professional services donations were offered. I have no doubt that we could have built what we wanted, with all profits going to SNU. It could have been affordable. And it would not have taken seven or eight years to do it.

On July 1, 1991, committee chairman James Falkner called a community meeting. Eighty people signed the list of those interested. Some, however, envisioned a different location. "If you build it on the north side of 39th," we were told, "You'll kill downtown Bethany." "If you get it," another threatened, "It will be on the south side." Obviously that was no idle threat.

That fall, with the approval of our committee, Falkner and Co-chairman Shural Knippers met with Dr. Loren Gresham. Dr. Gresham agreed to their request that SNU build the facility. In 1992 Dr. Gresham asked us to conduct a survey. The survey produced enough prospects to fill 92 units. We raised a lot of hopes.

Of those surveyed, 65% who responded to the question about how much they could afford to pay checked "\$1,000 or less per month." "Less than \$500"--17%; "\$500-\$750"--23%, and "\$750-\$1,000"--35%.

I have no idea what problems Dr. Gresham encountered. I know the project hit a snag and lay in limbo for years. I don't know who's to blame. But I think I know what's to blame.

Finally we heard about Southern Senior Services (SSS). They proposed to build above one of three parking lot locations. Some of them insisted they had no alternative to the lot behind downtown Bethany businesses. That's when I realized just how far priorities had shifted. Seniors, I felt, had become a means to

an end. After some of us protested against the "asphalt jungle," SSS "found" a nice corner lot--we'd known about it from the start--south of 39th, of course.

We're told that all profits from this venture will go to SNU. If so, I wonder why people are asking, "How can I get in on this investment?" And why 65% of those responding to our 1992 survey can not afford the cheapest unit in the facility. That grieves me.

As Americans, we express our views. As professionals, we exercise tolerance. As Christians, we practice the Golden Rule, Let's beware lest the very issue that brought us together tear us apart. We have too much going for the Academy. This situation demands that we dwell--together or apart--in harmony.

MARCH PROGRAM

The program for the March 10th luncheon will be presented by Dr. Rex Tullis, Chairman of the SNU School of Education. He has a very interesting and challenging presentation on the various perspectives one can take on current societal changes. He presents these perspectives from the standpoint of persons in various generations. You will find it intriguing to place yourself in the spectrum and then decide what to do about it. Don't miss it!

MINUTES OF AVAC'S FIRST MEETING by Gladys Snell

The Academy Volunteers Activities Corps (AVAC) held its first meeting on February 10, 1997 at 10:00 a.m. in the SNU Commons Conference Room.

Those attending included: Vada Lee Barkley, Bea and Lyle Flinner, Myrtle Greer, Dale McClafflin, Elbert Overholt, Helen Silvey, Lawrence and Gladys Snell, and Milton Sonnevik.

Presiding--Vada Lee Barkley
Invocation--Milton Sonnevik

Aspects of Volunteerism:

--Survive and Thrive After Fifty-Five by Vada Lee Barkley. (Vada Lee gave a copy of her book to those who didn't have one).

--Current timing--To be done at the time of need.

--Costly--In time invested and in occasional spending of money. Example: "The Good Samaritan".

--Compensatory--More blessed to give than to receive.

--Needs acknowledged:

Greater than Medicare provides
Need for volunteers within ASP dis
cussed.

Need for data bank of human and other
resources.

Four-fold purpose of the meeting:

--To ascertain the need for organized volunteerism and to determine community interest. (Possibly to be called AVAC).

--To consider areas of current involvement

--To explore additional possibilities for aiding seniors in independent living

--To select a steering committee

Presentation of persons who volunteer regularly:

--Lawrence Snell: described his duties at the Traveler's Aid desk at the Well Rogers World Airport. He thoroughly enjoys the work and feels that it is an investment in humanity.

--Lyle Flinner: serves as one of eight people who constitute the Bethany Planning Commission. The Commission serves as a recommending body for the Bethany City Council. He also serves on a weekly basis as a counselor for Contact, an organization what serves any caller needing crisis intervention.

--Helen Silvey: described her volunteerism in Birthtrol, an organization which primarily serves girls in pregnancy and in times of crisis after delivery.

--Myrtle Greer: has volunteered at Deaconess Hospital more than thirty years and has worked over 5,000 hours. She is still volunteering and no longer counts hours or years.

The four purposes of the meeting were accomplished except for the fourth one--no chairman was selected for the volunteers. (Note: Dale McClafflin will chair the group and Bea Flinner will verve on a steering committee)

RESEARCH INTEREST GROUP (RIG) MEETING SCHEDULED

This group will meet Monday, March 10, 9:30 - 11:15 a.m., in Conference Room 130 of the Royce Brown Building. Paul Gray will be a presenter (see page 2). The group will discuss additional topics of interest for research and possibly choose individual research projects to pursue.

PAUL GRAY PRESENTS PAPER TO RIG

by Jack Arnold

"Can American Democracy Survive? is the provocative question that will be raised by Dr. C. Paul Gray in his unpublished paper at the March 10 meeting of the Research Interest Group (RIG). After some preliminary remarks, he will read the paper, and then invite questions and comments from the RIG members and guests.

Dr. Gray has recently published an important autobiographical and historical book entitled Journey Into Faith which should be read by all persons interested in church history, especially those interested in "the spirit, the thinking, the customs, and the activities of the early days of the Church of the Nazarene." Dr. Gray's careful research and personal knowledge of the historical period from the 1920's to the 1990's in the Wesleyan holiness movement in America make this book a reliable historical document which not only enlightens and inspires us today but will help future scholars of church history to understand and appreciate the people and events of the twentieth-century holiness movement.

Dr. Gray's presentation at 10:30 a.m. on March 10 will be preceded by a business meeting, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in Conference Room 130 of the Royce Brown Building. Guests and members are urged to attend this most important meeting and to hear this intellectually stimulating presentation.

SPRING LECTURE SERIES

Division of Social/Behavioral Sciences--SNU

"Juvenile Delinquency in the Next Millennium: Has American Justice System Succeeded or Failed?" -- Judge Reta Struhbar, Okla. Court of Criminal Appeals -- March 11, 7:00 p.m., Lecture Hall 136, Royce Brown Bldg.

"A Government by the People, for the People...Why It's Important to Get Involved." -- Lt. Governor of Okla., Mary Fallin -- March 27, 7:00 p.m., Heritage Room, University Commons.

(All lectures are free and open to the public. For more information call 789-6400 x 6851)

Most of us spend too much time running from something that isn't even after us.

SAINT SIMON'S ISLAND

by Bob Griffin

Today St. Simon's Island on the Atlantic coast of Georgia is connected by a causeway, about seven miles to the east of Brunswick.

Eugenia Price in a series of historical fictional novels brings life to the early inhabitants of the island. But let's go back beyond fiction to fact. The year is 1736 and General James Oglethorpe had been commissioned to build a fort on the Island at Fredrica to protect the southern English colonies from the Spaniards to the south at St. Augustine. (The foundations of the fort and the village still stands. Frederica was declared a national monument in 1945). When the Spanish attacked St. Simons in 1742 General Oglethorpe led his troops through the marshes that nearly surround the Island. In a surprise attack he vanquished the foe, leaving the colonies safe from Spanish domination and secure in its English/American destiny.

Out trip to the Island, in early November as part of Sam's Tour to St. Simon's Niroga at Epworth by the Sea, was an exhilarating experience. We visited the Wesley sites, where John and Charles Wesley preached. We enjoyed the Museum which highlights the influence of the Southern Methodists after the Civil War and the ultimate union of Methodism. Of particular interest to me was the memorabilia associated with Bishop Arthur Moore.

Bishop Moore, who crossed the Atlantic several times, said he was born and raised in the interior of Georgia where the largest body of water he had ever seen was the pond on his father's farm. Out on the Atlantic, with nothing but water as far as the eye could see, he wrote, "There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea."

The Stearmans, the Griffins, the Sonneviks, Lawanna Isaacs, Kathleen Sodowsky and Eva May Harper, all from the Association of Senior Professionals, have tucked away in their memories the experiences of St. Simons early settlers, the lighthouse, Frederica, the Arthur Moore Museum, the Episcopal Church and Cemetery where Eugenia Price is buried, the Marshes of Glynn, and the beautiful Epworth by the Sea. It was a great experience.

ART'S CHUCKLES

By the time you find out what makes the world go 'round, you are too busy to care.

EXCERPTS FROM "THE REALITY OF THE RESURRECTION," IN THE GLORIOUS GALILEAN -by Arthur E. Barkley

On Easter morning the women went to the sepulcher, not to meet the risen Christ, but to finish embalming His dead body; and their greatest worry was who would roll away the stone from the door of the tomb. And when they found it rolled away they did not think of His resurrection, but only a shameful theft of the body. The message of the angel did not at first inspire them with hope and faith, but rather with fear and horror. And when the women returning, announced the resurrection, instead of the others being impressed, regarded their words as "Idle tales and believed them not."

If Jesus did not rise from the grave, then the tomb far away under Palestinian skies was the grave of a man, and there was no Son of God ever born in to the world; If He did not rise, then He did not atone for sin, and in all the world never a single guilty stain has been washed from a single human soul. If He did not rise from the dead then our faith and our preaching is in vain. Christianity could not have survived a month with a dead Christ.

The followers of Jesus were so far from the dead of seeing Him upset the human conception of Death that when they first saw Him there after they thought they had seen a ghost; Mary Magdalene thought He was the gardener; and the disciples on the Emmaus road did not recognize Him until the breaking of bread, and when they told the others their story they were not believed. When Jesus appeared in Galilee, Matthew tells us, some doubted; and some of His disciples would not believe their own eyes until they saw Him eating, and Thomas would not be convinced until he had put his finger in the print of the nails and seen the mark of the spear on Jesus' side. If the followers of Jesus had been expecting Him to rise they would have believed at once, but they had to be convinced, and **THEY WERE CONVINCED!** The weight of eternal evidence was too strong to resist. Christ was not dead, but alive!

Some people, like hens, can never find anything where they laid it yesterday.

A smile adds a great deal to one's face value.

As soon as you begin loving your fellow man, he comes along and tries to borrow 10 dollars from you.