

# The Academy Perspective

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Vada Lee Barkley, Editor

## LOOKING AHEAD: ANNUAL MEETING -- April 14 by Vada Lee Barkley

The agenda for the annual meeting includes the following:

- I. Lunch
- II. Invocation
- III. Introduction of guests
- IV. Introduction of Speaker
- V. Speaker--Dr. Jack Arnold  
"Age Discrimination"
- VI. President's Report
- VII. Election of Officers
- VIII. Announcements

Throughout the meeting, the membership committee will receive dues, issue receipts, and update Ids. According to our Bylaws, Art. VII, Sec. 2a, "Annual dues shall be paid by the close of the annual meeting of the Assembly." The only exception is Lawana Isaacs, who joined after January 1, 1997; thus her dues are covered for this year.

Dues are \$10 per person.

New members may submit a completed membership application form and a fifteen-dollar initiation fee to the committee. Photos will be made and ID cards issued.

Copies of the treasurer's report will be available at each table.

### May 12 MEETING:

Our Plans and Programs Committee chairman will arrange for some "local talent" numbers for our entertainment.

Elbert Overholt has asked Dr. Loren Gresham to meet with us and address some of our concerns regarding the senior housing issue.

## ART'S CHUCKLES by Art Barkley

*The one who never makes a mistake must get tired of doing nothing.*

*Most automobiles keep owners pretty well strapped even without seat belts.*

*A fool and his money are soon invited places.*

*Experience is what you have left after you've pulled the boner.*

## REPORT OF THE MARCH RIG MEETING by Bea Flinner

At the March 10th meeting of the Research Interest Group (RIG), Jack Arnold shared some recent information from the Internet concerning The National Council of Senior Citizens. Along the same line of interest, Bea Flinner distributed handouts listing topics that may possibly be of importance to anyone who may anticipate moving into a senior citizen complex. These items apply to housing facilities.

Discussion ensued relative to the feasibility of the RIG Survey Committee forming a survey sheet until the results of the data from the Covenant Group Survey are available. However, the committee will continue their work on the project, which will research social issues confronting senior citizens.

Possible research topics may include Social Security, Medicare versus HMO plans, Affordable Housing and others. A form will be compiled and presented to the RIG Committee at a later meeting. When it is ready for distribution, the academy members will be asked to participate.

Following the business meeting, Paul Gray presented a paper entitled "Can American Democracy Survive?" This was thought-provoking, and it inspired serious comments. Several guests were present for the reading of the paper.

For the RIG meeting on Monday, May 12, Shirley Pelley has invited Susan Baker, Director of SNU Academic Computing, to direct a "hands on" Internet session for RIG members. The business meeting will convene at 9:30 a.m. in Room 129 of the Royce Brown Building, with further instruction to be given at that time.

## SITE-SEEING AND SIGHTSEEING by Anna Belle Laughbaum

I came back from South America with my mind opened and my ears closed. The latter was the result of fourteen flights from the Atlantic to the Pacific and back again. Make it fifteen, for a return flight to Lima, Peru, after we had left a half hour before for Miami should definitely be counted. "For your security," the pilot announced as he turned back. "Instrument trouble," muttered an attendant later.

The tour was a mind-opener. When I was asked to summarize it during our farewell meeting, I did so by reading a long rhyme I called "The Fast, Fitful Flight of the Fearless Fifteen." As a kind of refrain I wrote about paying our water bills. Buying water represented the mind-openers -- the surprises -- we encountered on our trip, both in site-seeing, especially those of our mission work, and sightseeing.

Meeting and talking with missionaries who were only names before; visiting churches, pastored by nationals, that ranged from a shed with a dirt floor and crude benches to one with stained glass windows and a congregation of 1400; sitting in the chapels of seminaries in Brazil, Argentina, and Peru, and hearing the directors tell about their graduates ministering throughout South America -- these were among the mind-openers.

In Sao Paulo, Brazil, Stephen and Brenda Heap, whom I taught at Bethany Nazarene College, met us and hurried us to a Saturday morning baptismal service already under way. Following the service Stephen had our group introduce ourselves. When it was my turn, he talked about my having been his English professor and that he had waited 29 years to pay me for the red pencils I had used up on his themes, etc. He presented me a red pen with Snoopy sitting on top of it. A surprise more than a mind-opener!

Our sight seeing brought surprises, too. The 100 ft. statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro:

On top of Corcovado Mountain  
In white, regal splendor Christ stands;  
His arms are outstretched toward the city  
And also stretched out to all lands.  
The Iguassu Falls between Brazil and Argentina:

The third largest falls in the world.  
We see them first from the air.  
On our walk they're tumbling and gushing  
And coming down everywhere.  
Macchu Picchu in the Andes Mountains of Peru:

This city of mystery defied description,  
I would be foolish even to try.  
For centuries it has baffled historians,  
This Inca fortress eight thousand feet high.  
Going into a fourth country was not supposed to be a part of our itinerary:  
Paraguay came as another surprise,  
We had not expected to be where  
Our guide told us the only reason for going  
Was to be able to say, "I have been there!"

## ENGLAND, 1995

by Maurine Dickerson

"Oh, to be in England/Now that April's there...." This line from Robert Browning's poem, "Home Thoughts, From Abroad," had always intrigued me. I had wondered why April in England was so wonderful. Finally, I had the privilege to know. It was in April, 1995, that I could see for myself why the poet wrote from Italy about his longing to be in England in April. I wasn't disappointed. Everywhere I looked there were daffodils: daffodils in the park, daffodils in private yards, daffodils in the fields - daffodils, golden-yellow daffodils. Not only were there daffodils, but also there were beautiful trees in bloom; even the campus at Nazarene Theological College was ablaze with color!

Patience Strong expressed the sentiment more beautifully than I when she wrote: "Only God with a loving heart could have made us a world like this...as if He repeated the Genesis fiat and said again, "Let there be light...."

In addition to working with the Archival collection at NTC, I had some memorable "off-duty" fun times. Not only when I'm reminiscing now, but also when I look at my photographs, I relive some unforgettable moments. So, use your imagination and take a peek at my photos too.

On Saturdays I would walk to a tearoom in Didsbury for a breakfast treat of scones, jam and coffee. All along the walk I was embracing the miracle of life, admiring Patience Strong's "wealth of golden dust." Outside the tearoom, many tables full of used books were there to tempt the reader. Browse, I did; buy, I didn't. No space in my luggage for books!

One rainy, cloudy day, some friends and I visited the village of Eyam where the Great Plague came in 1664. Germs of the disease were brought into Eyam in a bolt of cloth from London and within days the local inhabitants were dying in large numbers. The people of Eyam stayed in their village and confined the disease to their own families and friends. The Plaque Register in the church names a partial list of the hundreds of victims and shows that many entire families were completely wiped out. The nursery rhyme "Ring Around the Roses" is thought to refer to the bubonic plague; roses, the purple patches on one's shin; the posies, the nosegays of flowers carried to ward off the plague; eventually, "We all fall down."

It was a nostalgic visit to Banbury Cross in Banbury. An old nursery-rhyme book which I had as a child taught me: "Ride a cock-horse atop Banbury Cross/ To see a fine lady upon a white horse; With rings on her fingers and bells on her toes/ She shall have music wherever she goes." My imagination as a child didn't coincide with reality! In the middle of the town of Banbury stands an historical monument with

a cross on top. Supposedly, the rhyme has been passed down from one generation to the next until it appeared in print in the 18th century. Today there are 5 or 6 variations of the original.

Friends knew that I, an American, would enjoy a trip to the ancestral home of the George Washington Family, called Sulgrave Manor. The home was built in 1539 by Lawrence Washington, whose great grandson, Colonel John Washington emigrated to Virginia in 1656 and was George's great grandfather. The home, surrounded by spacious landscaped grounds, has been kept in its 16th century decor.

A trip to Olney and the parish church where John Newton, author of the hymn "Amazing Grace" was the Curate in 1764 was a spiritual journey. A plaque on the wall in the entry of the 14th century church reads: "Completed in 1325 A.D., this church is associated with Wm Cowper, the poet, and John Newton, Curate in charge, and one time slave trader: these two wrote The Olney Hymns." For me it was a sacred moment. Also, on the wall is a plaque listing the Vicars from the year 1640!

A highlight was a trip to Cliff College to attend the Wesley Fellowship. It was the 10th anniversary conference - where the lecturers and listeners enjoyed three unforgettable days together. The lectures, singing, preaching and fellowship warmed my heart and brought tears to my eyes and memories of earlier days to my mind--all because of the spiritual fervor I enjoyed during those days of fellowship together.

The above events took place from April through the 3rd week of June, 1995. Then Jim and Shirley Posey joined a Swiss friend and me for a 10 day auto trip covering more of England, eastern Scotland, and northern Wales. The British Isles is a small country!

## MORE CHUCKLES

*Believe it or not. Opportunity will look for you if you are worth finding.*

*A diplomat is one who can tell you to jump in the lake so tactfully that you look forward to the trip.*

*Happiness is not a station you arrive at, but a manner traveling.*

## EXCERPTS FROM "VOLUNTEERISM"

by Sadie Bounds

Why Have Volunteers?

1. People want to feel useful and needed--a part of society.

2. Others need what volunteers can give.

Areas to Consider in Working With Volunteers

I. Recruitment

Do not recruit before you have a placement. Make the volunteer to see his worth and solicit his skills and "know how." . . . Be specific in the types of volunteer opportunities.

II. Placement

1. Be sure the assignment is meaningful.

2. Give a choice in assignment

3. Keep the volunteer busy, but do not give assignment above capabilities.

4. Avoid assignments where there are steps to climb if volunteer has health problems.

5. Never say "no" to a person who wishes to serve. Find a place within your agency or refer to another agency.

VIII. Qualifications of Volunteers Who Work With People

1. Be a good listener.

2. Accept people as they are.

3. Respect the convictions and beliefs of others.

4. Be friendly and responsive.

5. Provide a supportive and encouraging climate.

6. Keep confidences.

7. Be flexible.

8. Be dependable.

IX. Benefits

Can be two-fold benefiting one serving and one being served.

## QUOTES:

Jean Gunnerson, Chairman of Voluntary Action Center Advisory Committee said: "Volunteers do make the difference--they are the frosting on the cake and the sunshine in each day. Volunteering is not the privilege of the few--but the right and privilege of all! Everyone has something to give."

Sir James Matthew Barrie said: "Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."

Eleanor Roosevelt said: "When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die--therefore, I think it is a necessity to be doing something which you feel is helpful in order to grow old gracefully and contentedly."

(Sadie prepared this material for seminars which she conducted as a part of her work as Director of Volunteer Services in Oklahoma. After a successful career with DHS, she accepted this assignment with the federally-supported RSVP--Retired Senior Volunteer Program).