

The Academy Perspective

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Vada Lee Barkley, Editor

VOLUNTEER TALENT BANK SURVEY

by Vada Lee Barkley

Last month's program, featuring volunteers Betty Knutson, Lawrence Snell, and Helen Silvey, stirred our hearts. Someone said, "I got a blessing out of their stories." We all admire what they are doing.

Five talent survey reports were returned. All five respondents will make outstanding contributions if we use them.

Gene Chambers (495-8863)

Money mgt: Insurance, car, home, life.

Gladys Snell (942-3826)

Social/Physical, Daytime

Bobbie Neighbors (421-7225)

Social/Physical

Neta Jones (745-4759)

Doctor's appts; grocery shopping

Sam & B.Kaye Stearman (787-6063)

Tours; local/statewide/foilage,etc:gratis

Others offering services:

Dr. Lyle Tullis: Tour state capitol

Juanita Knippers: "Whatever I can do."

Dorothy Griffin: Tutor-Bethany Gd. Sch.

Thanks to each of these. Let's make use of these offers.

Had I not known this group better, I would think the rest of us were army veterans. But I know most of us are like Wini Howard, already involved in all we have time and energy for. Your annual volunteer activities reports reflect that. I appreciate all you are doing and trust that the Lord will reward you for your service.

LOOKING AHEAD

At our October 13 meeting, John G. Gillespie will speak to us about new tax laws. Gillespie is president of Access Financial Group, Inc., of Bethany. Charles and Billie Harrison are the facilitators for this program.

ART'S CHUCKLES

Anybody who thinks a word to the wise is sufficient isn't doing the talking.

Fall is the season when you find out who won, the moth or the moth balls.

If you don't think you have any friends, just rent a cottage at the lake.

RIG SURVEY WILL PROVIDE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON SENIOR ISSUES AND OPINIONS

By Jack Arnold

The Research Interest Group (RIG) has sent out its Survey on Senior Issues and Opinions to members of the Academy with a request that questionnaires be completed this month. Bea Flinner, Chair of the RIG Survey Committee, who has shown outstanding leadership in developing the survey, comments: "The RIG Survey is in keeping with the purpose of the RIG by providing opportunity and encouragement to the members of the ASP to become active researchers."

The survey will provide the following benefits: (1) guide both group and individual researchers in future projects on senior issues and opinions; (2) provide important information to members of the Academy and the community through seminars and presentations; and (3) encourage publications in print and/or the electronic media.

The survey has eleven major categories: Medicare, Social Security, Legal Matters, Health Care, Physical Problems, Life Support, Elder Abuse, Insurance, Recreation/Travel, Education, and Cultural Aspects of Aging. Respondents may show their degrees of interest on issues by encircling a number on a scale from high interest (3) to no-interest (0); a space has also been provided under each category for open-ended comments.

Chair Flinner and her committee members request your cooperation by completing the questionnaire by Friday, October 31, 1997. You may bring the questionnaire to the October 13th Academy meeting or mail it to:

Bea Flinner, Chair

RIG Survey Committee

4309 N. College Ave.

Bethany, OK 73008-2658

(405) 789-7643

e-mail: <flinner@ionet.net >

CRUISING THE INSIDE PASSAGE

(Part 2)

by Maurine Dickerson

.....The Fourth of July celebration in the dining room of the Crown Princess. Flags and red, white and blue balloons at every table created a festive atmosphere. Lending class to the occasion was the parade of waiters carrying Baked Alaska throughout the dining area.

.....The trip from Anchorage to Denali National Park and to Fairbanks aboard the magnificent Midnight Sun Express, a luxurious Ultra Domed train which rolled through some of the most spectacular scenery in the world.

.....In Fairbanks, it was a cruise aboard the sternwheeler riverboat Discovery which took us along the shores of the Chena and Tanana Rivers where we witnessed a "bush" plane take off, a "dogmusher" with her dogs, and native guides giving tours of the Chena Indian village.

.....Entering a gold mine, and later panning for gold. All of us caught a serious case of gold fever when we saw those flecks of "color" in our own gold pans. My panning resulted in \$8.00 worth; Kathleen was luckier with \$12.00 worth.

.....A Salmon Bake the last evening in Fairbanks at the park. We had all the King Salmon and deep-fried halibut we could eat!

.....The Inside Passage is famous for its spectacular scenery, and nothing is more awe-inspiring than glaciers. They seem to hang from mountains and thunder as chunks break off and plunge into the water below, the marvels of nature! On our 7th day we enjoyed a full day of scenic cruising as we sailed across Prince William Sound to College Fjord, an area which is home to 16 sparkling glaciers - simply awe-inspiring!

.....Adventures ashore with Princess buses:

.....Disembarkation at Ketchikan, known as Alaska's "First City" because it's the first major community travelers see as they journey North. Its rich Indian heritage is shown through the world's largest collector of totem poles at Saxman Village. It's also known as the Salmon Capital of the World.

.....A port call at Juneau, the Capital of Alaska, founded by two gold miners. Breathtakingly beautiful glaciers and stunning views of both water and mountains. Along the Inside Passage and Glacier Route the Mendenhall Glacier flows for 12 miles down the Mendenhall Valley, at an average rate of two feet per day. Its width is 1.5 miles.

.....Disembarkation at Skagway, built in the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898. Its boardwalks and colorful buildings line Broadway, the main street through town.

.....Also in Juneau a three-hour, 40 mile round-trip train excursion through Gold Rush history. There's no railroad quite like it! It runs along sheer rock cliffs,

over sky-high wooden trestles, and through tunnels of solid granite.

All good things must come to an end and we had to say "Good-Bye" to Alaska on July 11 when we boarded Alaska Airlines to Seattle.

CAN "AMERICAN DEMOCRACY" SURVIVE?
by C. Paul Gray

Strange things are happening in America these days. Things that puzzle and frighten us. We still have America the Beautiful. The mountains rear their snow-capped heads to the skies, the prairie lands still ripple with waves of maturing grain, great cities still hum with powerful industries, but something is tragically wrong! It is seen in such things as the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City, in gangs that kill each other, the drive-by shootings, 11 and 12 year old girls becoming mothers, the rottenness of pornography, the drug addicts on the streets and in our schools, rape and murder are common place occurrences, the AIDS epidemic filling graves, while lying, cheating, and dishonesty, are rampant in high places and low. Restraint and self-control are a thing of the past. This is not the America that many of us grew up in. From what we see and hear, it seems sometimes that hell is overflowing in the streets.

It is evident from the above, that America has lost her guidelines. For the general public, each person is a law to him/her self. There is no standard of conduct. There is nothing with which to measure our actions, our thinking, or our attitudes. We have no one to whom we are really accountable. The 7th grader in public school says, "There is nothing right or wrong, unless you get caught." The ordinary laws of the land are flouted, for criminals know that even if convicted, they will soon be back on the street again. Consequently, the nation as a whole is confused, uncertain, and fragmented in a dozen different ways. There is no chart or compass. America is drifting with no definite goal in view. **THIS WAS NOT ALWAYS THE CASE.**

.....(To be continued)

VIRTUOUS LIVING

by James R. (Bob) Emmel

Virtue in our American society often seems like a lost art and quality of living. The word is one that is difficult to define, but we know what it is when it is practiced in our society, our homes, our political and economic world. For this reason the writer will abstain from giving a direct definition or explanation of virtue. Perhaps one of the most noted human beings who exuded virtue was Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln tells about an old soldier who was

always boasting of his bravery until the day his company actually saw battle and he retreated without orders. When he was forced to explain his conduct to his commanding officer, he said, "I have as brave a heart as Julius Caesar ever had, but, somehow or other, whenever danger approaches, my cowardly legs run away with it."

There is no doubt that Americans possess brave, caring hearts. But when it comes time for us to act virtuously and to insist that others do the same, we find our cowardly legs running away with our brave, caring hearts.

So we end up looking at the ills of society and making blanket accusations like "big business creates social injustice", or "the rich get rich off the backs of the poor", or "television causes all the violence and cruelty in the world". While blaming others for the seeming lack of virtue in society might give us temporary inner soul relief, we fail to find the real solutions to our problems, and we do not carry out our own virtuous responsibilities. Sometimes we attend charity dinners and donate money to worthy causes, but when we look in the mirror each morning can we honestly say that we are shining examples of virtue? Do we make the effort to spend more time with our young people who so desperately need to learn from our examples? Do we take to the streets to spread virtue in our own neighborhoods and communities?

Early in the 1900's, playwright and social critic George Bernard Shaw wrote, "Virtue and liberty mean responsibility. That is why most men dread it." Jesus Christ, all through His teachings in the Sermon on the Mount, emulates and creates an aura about Himself that demonstrates the world's greatest example of virtue. He did not need to say a word about virtue; it constantly flowed in all that He said and did. It appears that in all of His teachings and commands to His disciples, the challenge was virtue, and when they caught His spirit, their virtue became eminent to others. So, let us become involved in emulating virtue and make it the cornerstone of our living.

As the horizon of the 21st century and next millennium loom before us, it falls upon us as Americans and New Testament Christians--the heirs to the greatest experiment in self-governance ever known--to prove that we do not dread responsibility, that freedom is not an ebbing tide, and the VIRTUE is the wellspring of all that is good in us and our nation.

ART'S CHUCKLES

Don't drop the ball and you won't have to complain about the way the ball bounces.

Marriage is like vitamins. We supplement each other's minimum daily requirements.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Good character is more to be praised than outstanding talent. Most talents are, to some extent, a gift. Good character, by contrast, is not given to us. We have to build it piece by piece--by thought, choice, courage and determination.

--John Luther

All of us are born for a reason, but all of us don't discover why. Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others.

--Danny Thomas

A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes.

--Hugh Downs

The difference between a friend and an acquaintance is that a friend helps; an acquaintance merely advises.

--"Calgary Bob" Edwards

BEST OF ALL

He doest well who doeth good
To those of his own brotherhood;
He doeth better who doth bless
The stranger in his wretchedness;
Yet best, oh! best of all doth he
Who helps a fallen enemy.

--Anon

TROUBLE

Better never trouble Trouble
Until Trouble troubles you;
For you only make your trouble
Double-trouble when you do;
And the trouble--like a bubble--
That you're troubling about,
May be nothing but a cipher
With its rim rubbed out.

--David Keppel