

The Academy Perspective

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February 1992

Vada Lee Barkley, Editor

THE ACADEMY AND SENIOR HOUSING

Shortly after the Academy of Senior Professionals at SNU was organized in October, 1990, we appointed a senior housing committee. Within a few weeks, Shural Knippers, co-chairman, went to Nashville, at his own expense to tour Trevecca Towers and to interview Dr. T.E. Jones, Executive Director and founder of Trevecca Towers.

Someone said Shural was ready to start laying brick the next day. After his enthusiastic report to the Academy, several of us were ready to join him. Unfortunately, however, brick, trowels, and unskilled labor do not a retirement home make.

Much more is required. We are, nevertheless, making--slow, but steady--progress toward realizing our dream.

We have met with success in enlisting support. Several committee members met with the Bethany City Manager and the Mayor and received their endorsement. A July meeting drew eighty people who signed an interest survey. A hundred prospective tenants have asked us to put their names on a waiting list for an apartment. Another hundred would sign up tomorrow no doubt if asked to do so. One has requested space for a business on the first floor. Several have offered financial assistance. Scores stand ready to serve on boards and committees upon request.

Naturally, a host of who? what? when? where? how? questions confront us. No one knows the answers to any of these yet. Nor was the Academy committee designed to find all these answers. As a catalyst, we hope to inspire a non-profit corporation to carry the facility to its completion.

The majority of our committee prefer a site near the SNU campus. Only a fool, however, announces exactly where he will build until he has the deed to the property.

Plans are under investigation for private funding, with intent of making SNU the beneficiary after the mortgage is paid off. This procedure would not require a sponsor.

From its beginning, Dr. Loren Gresham has supported the project. He will share his ideas with us at our February 24th meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

Mabel Sonnevik, chairman of the membership committee, is planning a membership drive for April. In the meantime, those who wish to join are asked to complete the application forms and return them to one of the officers. They are welcome to attend meetings in the meantime.

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

Milton Sonnevik is on a tour of the Holy Land. He should be back in time for the next meeting.

Ethel Dickerman's book is selling well.

Elbert Overholt is getting around much better.

Dick Howard will be holding a revival in Elyria, Ohio--near his old stomping grounds--the weekend of February 23.

DRIVER EDUCATION FOR SENIORS

If enough people are interested, Milton Sonnevik will schedule a seminar in March. He will have a sign-up sheet at the February meeting for those interested. Cost: \$12.

Check with your insurance company for discount rates for participants.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

February 24: Dr. Loren Gresham "Senior Housing"

March 23:

April 26: Annual Meeting

May 11:

June 22:

These will be luncheon meetings at 12 noon in the Heritage Room. Cost--\$5.00 per person.

R.S.V.P. no later than Friday noon before the meeting.

Call Elbert Overholt--789-6400, xt. 6578 or 789-7645 or Vada Lee Barkley--787-4351

A Valentine Thought
February, 1992
By
Wini Howard

Love at seventeen . . . what did it mean back there? I had had a few dates (should I call them that?) with a young man in our church. College was still ahead of me. I was planning to meet "Mr. Right," fall in love and live happily ever after. He would love me unconditionally and meet my every "need,"--maybe the word should have been "demand." As I try to remember, love was at least a glamorous concept, and I was at the center of it. I would be loved!

Did all my dreams about love come true? You know they didn't. (Did yours?) I am now looking back and wishing I knew then what I've since learned. My obligation is to love, then perhaps love will be returned. My duty is to do my best to understand others, not just to be understood. My responsibility is to console others, not to be always seeking consolation for myself. (Thank you, St. Francis).

The meaning of the word "love," certainly has not changed that much during my lifetime, but my understanding of it surely has. It still is great to be loved and appreciated by one's family and friends, but more than ever I want to reach out in love to those around me.

How do I love thee? . . .
I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life!--
and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better
after death.

Love's not Time's fool, though
rosy lips and cheeks
Within his bending sickle's
compass come;
Love alters not with his
brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out even to
the edge of doom.

Life's morn will soon be waning,
And mine eyes shall dimmer grow,
I would lean upon some loved one,
Through the valley as I go.
I would claim of you a promise,
Worth to me a world of gold;
It is only this, my darling,
That you'll love me when I'm old.

LOVE NEVER FAILS
Be My Valentine
By
Vada Lee Barkley

While looking for a valentine
For a very special guy,
I must have read a dozen cards
But not one caught my eye.

Because, you see, those fancy cards
Are written with a flair
For young romantic guys and gals
With all their teeth and hair.

No dentures, wrinkles, wigs, or canes
Are featured in their hearts,
Just lovely ladies or their beaux
With perfect body parts.

I searched the market high and low
Till both my legs got cramps,
But couldn't find one valentine
Designed for Grands and Gramps.

I went back home and thought awhile.
Then shelves and tiny nooks
Revealed what I was looking for
In some old familiar books.

'Liz Browning and Will Shakespeare knew
What love was all about.
'Anonymous" and Paul chimed in.
Now these all had some clout.

They knew that love could outlast youth.
That romance need not die
Just because we're not so young
And pleasing to the eye.

So I made up a special card
Just for my Valentine;
At least it makes a lot more sense
Than, "Darling, please be mine."

