



## 45 & Better News Great Information for Great Decisions ASP President Reports

By Shirley Mears

Most new businesses begin like the old Ford Motor Company commercial, "There must be a better idea." It seems that some people just like the thrill of creating a new business. Like other companies, *45 and Better News* was created from the concept of striving for a new way to serve others. March, 2003, was celebrated as our second anniversary. Although our paper is young, we have accomplished much more than we ever expected.



Shirley Mears

We have a team of devoted people, who strive to think of better ways to get things done. The name *45 & Better News* comes from the concept of a newspaper serving Baby Boomers, who have birth dates between 1945 and 1964. Our focus is to provide great information to help make great decisions. Just as children are encouraged to prepare for college, Baby Boomers have to prepare for their senior years and that requires a lot of information.

One great way to prepare is by following the paths of folks who have been fighting the good fight in life. The fine people of the Academy of Senior Professionals are tremendous role models for families, friends and neighbors of all ages.

As I share the story of *45 & Better News*, I hope to find many new friends who may recognize an opportunity to share their stories of overcoming challenges to reach great goals.

We will also have Dr. Jack Arnold's Annual Report to the ASP Assembly, followed by ASP business and the election of officers for 2003-2004.



Dr. Jack Arnold



## Poet's Corner

### SPRING

By Jack Pischel

I love the spring; the tang of smoke  
That's carried on the breeze;  
The smell of grass, the sight of buds  
A-swellin' on the trees.

A robin comes all brisk and bright,  
On pair of dusky wings,  
He sets his feet on mother earth  
And lifts his head and sings.

A phoebe calls; from top-most branch  
Its cheery note is given;  
No thought it has of winter's blast  
By which 'twas lately driven.

I see a quail, she's slipping there  
Beneath the old rail gate;  
Without a sound, and unannounced,  
From somewhere comes her mate.

I love the birds, the trees, the flowers,  
My heart with joy o'erflows;  
I feel like singing all the day  
With every wind that blows.

I love the spring; its smells, its sights,  
Do permeate my soul:

I see the dead earth raised to life;  
The incomplete made whole.





**Your president's point of view:**  
by Jack David Arnold

## Wisely Improving the Present

Look not mournfully into the past.

It come not back again.

Wisely improve the Present. It is thine.

Go forth to meet the shadowy future without fear.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

When **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow** reached what he called “**the western side of life,**” he revealed in two works, **Christus** and **Michael Angelo**, that the deeper inward currents of his life had by no means flowed so smoothly and even blandly as the conventional image of the aged poet would imply.

His purely private world had never been perfectly tranquil, and during the years of this last decade (1860-1869), Longfellow doubtless underwent his due allotment of grief, of dread, and even, in moments, of bitterness. His old age, however, can certainly not be described as embittered, as fury-haunted, in the way Mark Twain's old age was, or as bleak and inconsolable as Henry Adams's.

Whatever his spiritual uncertainties may have been, and whatever his disappointments in the direction things were going, Longfellow had long since come to terms, in his own way, with the frustrations of existence, to be merely resentful of them **now** or soured by them.

Longfellow's reputation among critics declined sharply after his death, but he was the most widely published and most famous American poet of the 1800's. Critics may think what they may of his “way,” but like Emerson's and Whitman's, it insured that Longfellow's old age would be, if not tranquil, then at least **outwardly serene and inwardly self-possessed.**

The “**sweet mellowing of his old age**” was not a mere mask; it was, in part, the moral and psychological ripeness his nature manifested at the end, and, in part, the product of deliberate preference. Because of these reasons, Longfellow was able to pen these words in old age: “**Wisely improve the Present. It is thine.**”

As readers move from a nineteenth century poet to a twenty-first century author, they see **Eckart Tolle's** new book *The Power of Now*, on bookshelves around the world.

Out of the many spiritual books that cross my desk, Tolle's book stands out from the flock. He has discovered an inner vein and explored its magnificence through his own personal experience.

Continued on Page 6—Arnold



## “Sharing a Continuous Flight”

### *The Academy Perspective*

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Mail to: Roy Dorris, Treasurer

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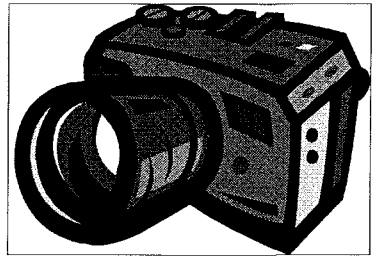
## Humor in Taxes?

- Ever wonder why the IRS calls it Form 1040? Because for every \$50 that you earn, you get 10 and they get 40.
- Why does a slight tax increase cost you two hundred dollars and a substantial tax cut save you 30 cents?
- Death and taxes may be the only certainties of life, but nowhere is it written that we have to tax ourselves to death.



# ASP PICS

PICTURES BY EDITH SONNEVIK PAYNE



(back, l-r) Director Elbert Overhold, President Jack Arnold and Membership Chairperson Darlene Graves welcome new Academy members (front, l-r) Glorene Brown, Audette Knutson, Gerald Knutson, Ruth Franklin, Roy Franklin and Jeff Maddox. New members were issued certificates and pins as symbols of their membership.

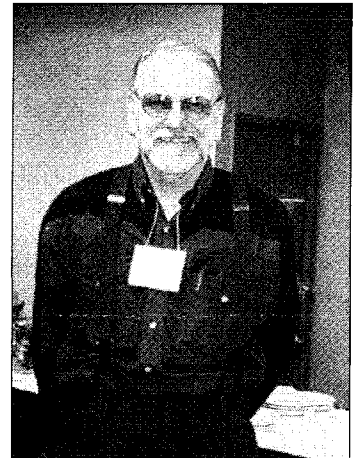
(below) Jack Arnold, dressed as a pilgrim, added a touch of realism as he led the March Book Discussion Group's review of *Pilgrim's Progress*.



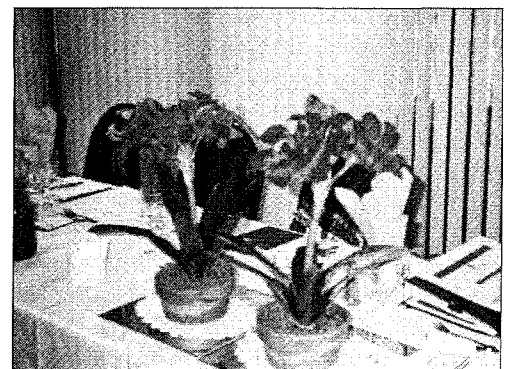
(above) Luncheon speaker, Tom Hill, emphasized "Character First." He was accompanied by his wife, Kay (below).



(right) Harold Dozier introduced the new Computer Users Group at the March luncheon.



(below) Table decorations suggested the arrival of spring.





## Bear Bryant

By Mary Louise Smith\*



I knew Bear Bryant. I did not know him well, personally, but I met him a few times. I knew his parents, especially his mother, well. In fact, his parents were "Cousin Ida and Cousin Monroe" to me, because that is what Mother called them. She called them "cousin" because that's what they were to her; or at least, Cousin Monroe was. Therefore, Bear Bryant was my cousin.

Even though Bear was the famous one in that family I want to write more about his parents, especially his mother. His father died when I was in my teens, so I didn't know him as well as I knew his mother. I did know that both were very religious and members of the Anderson Branch of the Church of God. In fact, Cousin Ida was for some time the pastor of that little country church and well-respected in the community.

Ida Bryant was a beautiful woman, even in her later years when I knew her. She was from an aristocratic family, the Kilgores, in the little town of Fordyce, Arkansas. Monroe Bryant was a good man from a good family in the Smith Chapel community. I do not remember hearing that he was the dominant member of the family, but I do remember observing the grief of his nine children and the community at large when he died. Maybe it was my young imagination, but that humble little frame home seemed almost hallowed on the day of his funeral.

Ida Bryant was a praying woman. She spent hours in prayer over many things, but especially about her children. She prayed for their salvation, most of all. Of course, included in those prayers was her famous son, Paul, who later became known as "Bear".

Ida never saw her son play football. To her it would have been a sin to go to a football game, as much as, say, a movie theater. Paul did not seem to mind, explaining to some inquiring reporter that his mother was very religious, and left it at that.

Bear Bryant's life as a football legend, both in playing and coaching, went far afield from the teachings of his early life. He did things (smoked and drank, for instance) that his mother would have considered gross sins. I do not know just how much she knew about Paul's habits, or his life as a celebrity for that matter, but I'm sure that she recognized that her son was not a "Christian" in her understanding of the term. And I'm guessing that Bear did not look upon himself in that light either, given his mother's early religious training.

The time came, as it inevitably would, that Ida Bryant died. Her prayers for her son had not been answered. He was still living the "high" life of a celebrity, a football legend. Were his mother's prayers in vain? Let's see.

I happened to be watching "The Hour of Power" one night, with Robert Schuller as the preacher. I do not remember his topic, but toward the end of his message he related an incident that had just happened. On an airplane trip he found himself sitting by none other than Bear Bryant. Bear had just retired. They at first discussed trivial things but then the conversation

turned to, as you might suspect, whether or not Bear Bryant knew God. Bear admitted that he didn't, and that he thought he was too "bad" for God to forgive him. Of course Schuller didn't accept that. He "preached" his version of salvation and he said that Bear Bryant prayed and asked God to forgive him. In fact, Reverend Schuller said, what seemed to work best was his drawing up a "contract," which Bear signed. Schuller, in relating the story to his TV audience, seemed to be convinced that he had led his famous seatmate to faith in God, and forgiveness for his sins.

Two weeks later Bear Bryant died. Was it a fantastic coincidence that he happened to be seated by Robert Schuller on what was probably his last plane ride? Or was it something else? Maybe the prayers of his mother being answered at this late date in his life? I know what I think. What do you think?

*\*Read by Mary Smith for the February meeting of the ASP Writing Workshop, which will meet again on April 14. Check the Calendar on page 6 for time and place.*



## Library Resources

By Bea Flinger

**Callen, Barry L. Authentic Spirituality: Moving Beyond Mere Religion. Michigan: Baker Academic, 2001.**

James Earl Massey, dean emeritus, Anderson University, said, "Barry L. Callen has placed us in his debt by this fresh treatment that clarifies the subject and illumines the path to the experience to which we are summoned in the New Testament. Here is a timely and helpful manual on the truly Christian experience of God through the Spirit."

"Insightfully, Dr. Callen has drawn from the best of Christian thinkers and saints from every Christian century in presenting the framework of Christian spirituality. His organizing principle, founded on the Bible, the Apostles' Creed, and the Christian tradition, presents a safe home for believers lost in the post-modern swirl of any-thing-goes pluralistic spirituality," wrote Wesley D. Tracy, *Herald of Holiness*.

The book is in the R.T. Williams Learning Resources Center. BV 4501.3 .C35 2001

Following are two links for those who search the internet:

<[www.aarp.com](http://www.aarp.com)> AARP is the nation's leading organization for people age 50 or older.

<[www.50plus.org](http://www.50plus.org)> International organization that provides information about how rewarding and critical exercise and an active lifestyle can be in determining length and quality of life.

Note: Dr. Callen lost Arlene, his beloved wife, to cancer on March 1, 2003. (She was my niece). Her funeral was March 5. She left a victorious testimony!



### "If you ask me"

By Vada Lee Barkley



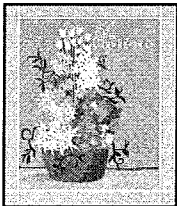
### A look at a book

By Wini Howard

My fondest memories involve experiences at SNU.

1. Associating with professors and classmates who shared my faith.
2. Gospel Team and the privilege of going with friends to various churches for weekend revivals.
3. Graduation and beginning my teaching career. That first year my annual salary was half of what my monthly income is not. But then, you could buy a cup of coffee for a nickel or a postage stamp for 3 cents.
4. Four years of teaching English and French at my alma mater.
5. Sponsor of Gospel Team and making lifelong friends with students.
6. Meeting my dream man in front of Bresee Hall one rainy fall day. That day was the beginning of a romance that lasted more than fifty years.
7. The shock of being appointed as the first president of the Academy of Senior Professionals at SNU in the fall of 1990.
8. The joy of serving as president of this prestigious organization for the first eight years. I consider that the greatest honor of my career.

As I look back over my life, I am amazed at how God has led me every step of the way. And I'm especially glad He led me to Bethany Peniel College.



### Obituary Dawn Tullis

By Billie Harrison

**Dawn Tullis** was born September 1, 1920, the second of thirteen children, to Rev. S. I. and Lelia Emery. She passed from this life on February 17, 2003, which was also her sixty first wedding anniversary.

In her early years the Emery family moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, where her father was President of Colorado Springs Bible Training School, now Oklahoma Wesleyan University.

As soon as they arrived on Colorado Springs campus she caught the eye of a handsome ministerial student, Lyle Tullis. They were married in 1942 and Lyle received a call to pastor the church in Newkirk, Oklahoma. Those were the World War II years, however, and Lyle was inducted into the Army, leaving Dawn to raise a young son.

Dawn also pursued her education and became a gifted teacher. She taught first grade at Lake Park elementary school until her retirement.

Dawn was an active member of the Academy of Senior Professionals and was involved especially in preparing decorations for the Academy luncheons. We will miss her bright smile and warm spirit.

### IMMORTAL WIFE

By Irving Stone

Immortal Wife is an outstanding story from at least three different viewpoints.

First, it gives an interesting picture of at least some of the circumstances related to the Civil War, especially dealing with the causes of the war. Second, the book is basically a biography of a very fascinating character, John Charles Freemont's "Immortal Wife." Her concept of what their marriage was to be is well worth learning about. Third, it is a great love story. Jessie makes clear that she is not just a loving wife—she is a partner in all that John accomplished.

John Freemont was one of the great explorers of the West, along with Lewis and Clark. At least some would say this. Freemont had great successes and equally great failures. In both, Jessie's devotion to him and patience with him are beyond any normal expectations. Her concern and support for him always came before any of her own needs. She believed that the protection and support of her marriage were her basic concerns. They came from observing her parent's marriage, which had been far from ideal. The irony of the whole story is that her only daughter decided that marriage was not for her. Her mother's example was not one she wished to follow. She felt that no other human being deserved all the love and attention her mother gave her father.

Immortal Wife is a moving story; Stone, a master in telling it.

This book is available at the SNU library.



### What's That Again?

- Wear short sleeves! Support your right to bare arms!
- I poured Spot remover on my dog. Now he's gone.
- OK, so what's the speed of dark?
- Laughing stock: cattle with a sense of humor.
- Shin: a device for finding furniture in the dark.
- Black holes are where God divided by zero.

Arnold—Continued from page 2

Tolle, who is not aligned with any particular religion or tradition, is a sincere seeker of truth and beauty. He explains in clear, unfolding words:

**Being** is the eternal, **ever-present One** beyond the myriad forms of life that are subject to birth and death.... When you are **present**, when your attention is fully in the **Now**, **Being** can be felt, but it can never be understood mentally. To regain awareness of Being and to abide and in that state of “feeling realization” is enlightenment (p. 10).

In the Sermon on the Mount, **Jesus of Nazareth** taught his followers to “live **one day** at a time.” (Matthew 6:34, *TLB*). The **Apostle Paul** told the believers in Corinth, “The hour of favour has **now** come. **Now**...has the day of deliverance dawned” (II Corinthians 6:2, *NEB*).

If Christ were to return tomorrow in some externalized form, what could He possibly say to us other than this? “I am the **Truth**. I am **Divine Presence**. I am **Eternal Life**. I am **Now**” Tolle, P. 87).

In this editorial, I have cited Jesus of Nazareth, the Apostle Paul, Eckhart Tolle, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow as spiritual teachers, who invite all human beings to live in the **Now**.

As members and friends of the Academy of Senior Professionals at Southern Nazarene University, we have a unique opportunity to be connected with other mature professionals, who **wisely improve the present**, by daily increasing spiritual awareness, by continuing to learn, and by serving others.

The **Now** is the key. When we **surrender** to what is and so become fully **present**, we realize that we are here on the surface of Mother Earth to enable **the Divine purpose of the universe** to unfold. That is how **blessed** we are!

### Something to Live By (Author Unknown)

See to it that you learn something new every day. Never stop growing. Associate with people who make you bigger than your little world.

If tomorrow is to be better than today, learn to work with patience. O. Henry wrote for years before he ever could sell a single line.

Greet each day with a deep sense of gratitude for being alive.

Expect some trouble, disappointment, or difficulty to come, but it will pass. Every trial endured and every disappointment accepted in the right spirit makes your soul nobler and stronger than it was before.

Be so strong in the Lord that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

Think only of the best, work only for the best, and expect only the best.

Give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

Live each day with the thought that the best is yet to be. Not in the future, nor in the past, but today.”



### ASP Calendar

#### Monday: April 14

9:30-11:00	am	Writer's Workshop-General Conf. Rm.
10:30-11:00	am	Shuttle: West BFC Parking Lot to Commons
11:15am-1:00	pm	Luncheon meeting-Heritage Room
1:00-1:30	pm	Shuttle: Commons to West BFC Parking Lot
1:15-2:00	pm	Administrative Council-Faculty Lounge



### News Briefs

- **Bylaws Committee:**

The recommendations of the Bylaws Committee, under the leadership of Bob Emmel, were unanimously approved by the members on Monday, March 10. The main change is that officers will be elected on an annual basis, rather than bi-annually.

- **ASP Annual Assembly:**

At the Annual Assembly, President Jack Arnold will review his Annual Report, and Director Elbert Overholt will present a ballot for the election of the 2003-04 officers. All members are encouraged to be present for this important meeting and to cast their votes. After the election, as time permits, the floor will be open for discussion and debate. Copies of the Annual Report will be distributed at the Assembly.

- **Membership Dues:**

If you have not paid your 2003 membership dues, please make it a priority to pay them by the April 14 meeting and obtain your ASP ID card. Margaret Dawson is the dues-collector.

- **Leadership Opportunities:**

Members, who are interested in “wisely improving the Present,” by serving in a leadership position should contact Director Elbert Overholt (405-789-2036 or overez1@msn.com) or President Jack Arnold (972.406.8627 or jackarmold@aol.com). In the next academic year, chairpersons are needed for the Book Discussion Group, Membership Committee, Program Committee, Research Interest Group, and Strategic Planning Committee. Member-at-Large June Phillips said the following about service, “We are saved to serve.”

- **New ID's:**

Many of you received your new ID at our March Meeting. If you didn't get your ID you will need to take your receipt for current dues to Ron Wilson's office on the lower floor of The Commons Building to obtain your new ID.