

## PERSPECTIVE

Vol. 9 No. 6

George Miller

March 2000

## George Miller to Speak to Academy Luncheon

By Virjeane Bayles

George Miller, our speaker for the March meeting of the Acad-

emy, has worn many hats in his career.

Miller, a graduate in engineering from Oklahoma State University, is best known for his knowledge and skills in the Department of Human Services. In 1974 he moved to Bethany to become Assistant

Director of the D.H.S. He served in additional areas of leadership and in 1994 was selected as Director of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services which affects more peoples' lives than nearly any other office in Oklahoma. Miller is recognized for his outstanding leadership in D. H.S., not only in the state of Oklahoma but throughout the nation.

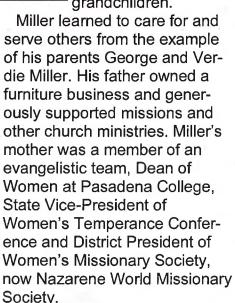
Miller served ten years in the Oklahoma State Senate. There he was chairman of the Senate Commission on Education, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Higher Education, Commissioner for the Education Commission of the States and had other leadership responsibilities.

Before his years in the Oklahoma legislature, Miller was Chief Engineer for the K.A.D.A. Broadcasting Inc. He was the

television newsman and director for the Eastern Oklahoma Television Inc. for ten years in his hometown, Ada, Oklahoma.

In 1948 Miller was married to Mary Evelyn Cox in Ada, Okla-

homa with Dr. B. J. Neely performing the marriage ceremony. (The Millers were active members of the Nazarene church in Ada.) They are the parents of three sons and one daughter and grandparents to 13 grandchildren.



Miller has earned many awards including Oklahoma Higher Education Alumni Council Hall of Honor, University of Oklahoma School of Social Work Service Award, Oklahoma Child Support Enforcement Association Appreciation Award, and listing in Who's Who in the South and Southwest.

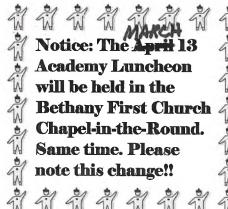
### Memoir Writing Workshop Premieres March 13

Turning memories into memoirs will be the main purpose of the new Memoir Writing Workshop (MWW). The first meeting will be held Monday, March 13, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. in Rm. 135 of the Royce Brown Business Building.

At the first meeting, the participants will select a chairperson and Carol Spencer, a new ASP member, will read from her memoirs. Mary Smith and Jack Armold have already signed up for the group.

Armold, who participated in a similar group at the Institute for Retired Persons at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale in January, writes, "This memoir workshop gives you the chance to share your writing with others and to hear your work discussed in a trusting and friendly atmosphere. The most important rule governing the group is: The Golden Rule—"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

All ASP members and guests are welcome to attend the MWW Premiere!





Your president's point of view:
By Jack David Armold

### **HERO-WATCHING**

The Greeks had a saying about everything, including heroes:

"A people are known by the heroes they crown."

The choosing of heroes, therefore, is very important because by that choice the character of a people and a nation can often be determined.

In these days of large, impersonal institutions where all behavior can be classified through statistical projection and scientific analysis, we sometimes forget that, at the core, all that comprises any society is a network of *individ*ual action.

There seems to be a shortage of heroes for our day, and those who stand are on very tenuous pedestals.

To fill our need for heroes, we have created substitutes, whom I choose to call "synthetic heroes" and "celebrity heroes," of whom we expect little and who often deliver less.

These "sponsored" celebrities, who are here today and gone tomorrow, are part of our consumer culture. They belong to the "tell-me-what-you-wear, tell-me-what-kind-of-car-you-drive, tell-me-what-cards-you-carry, and I'll-tell-you-who-you-are" culture.

But that is not what this editorial is about. My heroes were not chosen because they were perfect models of human potential, or because their actions were admirable in all respects, but because, in the final analysis, they made a *positive difference* in my life.

They were able to humanize institutions, such as governments, schools, colleges, universities, and churches, which we use to regulate our society.

Institutions become entrenched, and, in their self-absorption, lose their underlying common sense, their human origins. All too often we feel overwhelmed by the system in place and lose the impetus to act from our personal convictions. We forget that things can change for the better by the *power of the individual*.

My heroes:

- Have a faith that miracles can happen—a quiet, clear understanding of what can be.
- Possess extraordinary abilities—men and women with an added dimension and an excess of talents.
- Are obsessed by goodness and by God—individuals who use mortal means to create their masterpieces and shape their environments..
- Are filled with *unconditional love*—an unabashed love that translates into active service above self.

Here are *my legendary heroes*, who lived prior to the twentieth century, but who continually motivate and Continued page 6—Armold



"Sharing a Continuous Flight"

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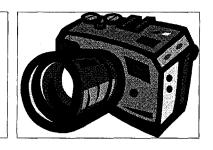


## Art's Chuckles

- If at first you don't succeed you are running about average.
- Most people can keep a secret; it's the folks they tell it to who can't.
- It's a mark of intelligence, no matter what it is you're doing to have a good time doing it.
- Progress always involves risks. You can't steal second base if you keep your foot on first.

# ASP

PICTURES BY EDITH SONNEVIK PAYNE



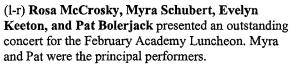


New members Park and Wynona (Nona) Burkart have spent 42+ years pastoring 8 Nazarene churches in central U.S. and Florida. Park has held numerous church offices. Nona has taught piano and worked as a church and college secretary. She has also served as Council Member and President of the NWMS. Welcome to the Burkharts!!



Morris Neal was a visitor to the Academy at the February meeting and a potential member. Morris is one of the Bethany "old timers" having spent his early years here.







James and Violet Weeks are new members of the Academy, James has been an accountant for the Nazarene International Headquarters and Near East Director for the American Bible Society. Also founder of In Christ Fellowship International and inventor of the speed keypad. Violet has worked as a secretary for offices at Trevecca Nazarene University. They both attended college in Beirut, Lebanon.



Glorene Brown, shown here in the Royce Brown conference room presented a genealogy workshop for the Research Interest Group February 14. See article, p. 5 by Bea Flinner for more information.

## Emmels Cruise the Empires of the Black Sea (Final Part 3)

By James R. (Bob) Emmel

Romania seems to be one of the former Soviet blocs making some noticeable progress since becoming an independent Russian state. More that 27 centuries ago the

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March

the pleasures of sunny beaches and the poetry of majestic ruins. This Black Sea port has been reigning over this celebrated "riviera" for 2500 years. Ovid square offers a look at the famous statue of Ovid, the Archaeological Museum—a wonderful mosaic monument to the Byzantine emperors—Roman Baths, a slim minaret of the Great Mosque, and a wonderful lighthouse. It is easy to feel the progressiveness and solemnity of the nicely-featured Romanians.

Our final jewel of the Black Sea was Bulgaria's city of Nessebur with its imposing sea coast. Here the old ways meet very little of the new in the world. The streets are all studded with large cobble stones throughout the city. One notices immediately the ravages of destruction of the old houses of worship and cathedrals. The Communist domination for many years tried to erase the love of religion from the minds and emotions of the people by turning all that was spiritual to naught, and thus houses of worship were gutted of anything sacred and used for storage sheds and other purposes. It was an attempt by the communists to annihilate the worship of the Christian God and turn the populous to Godless communist philosophies. A few sacred places have now been turned into museums and art galleries.

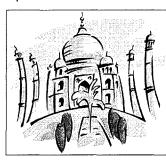
Bulgarians have a warmth and delight of personality that is contagious; it would be easy to love them. We noted that their ambition and hard work make them appreciative of every little bit they have in life. They are desperately pursuing a return to pre-communist days. It is heartbreaking to see the older people, who once were proud and prosperous citizens, now trying to sell their humble wares and prized possessions in order to have a semblance of a better life. In the midst of all of this, these earth-loving people have a sense of discernible pride. Their young adults are handsome and beautiful and have a look of real determination.

This awe-inspiring cruise culminated in the spectacular city of Istanbul, Turkey. The inadequacy of words makes it difficult to describe this amazing city. Istanbul from the sea offers an awesome skyline—curving domes rise in layers with

minarets soaring upward and a patchwork of architecture with no discernible open space. So dense is the population that it appears that people are all living on top of one another. Separated by the Galata Bridge, the old city, founded more than 2500 years ago, and the modern city of Istanbul are obviously different. It is where East meets West, having its foot on two continents—Europe and Asia, For a thousand years it was the intellectual center of the Western World. The history of this great city is staggering, having changed its name four times: first it was Byzantium, then Nova Roma, then Constantinople, and in more recent years Istanbul. There are so many points of interest that it staggers the mind to comprehend them in a short visit. There are mosques by the dozens—with the super wealthy men through the years building them in their own honor. There are market places by the hundreds but a few stand out. There is the wonderful spice market. The Grand Bazaar (an indescribable experience) along with many smaller bazaars. We had visited Istanbul previously and experienced many of these bazaars but took in only a few on this trip. Those who revel in shopping would think they have gone to heaven-on-earth to experience shopping in this Mecca of merchants.

To give more detail of the points of interest is beyond the scope of this presentation. Perhaps the most thrilling experience was to experience the world-renowned Blue Mosque.

The interior in an azure blue sults of 21,403 where hyations, tulips and ageless, styl-Four gigantic of marble suppola. Superb pets cover the



seems to swim haze, the receramic tiles 
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magnificence which cannot be described. (The number of carpets one owns in Turkey usually determines one's wealth.) The Blue Mosque holds a particular place in the Islamic world. From here an annual caravan sets out to Mecca to celebrate Mohammed's birthday. Hundreds of people come to say their daily prayers, meditate and hold meaningful, confidential communion with each other as they kneel and/or sit on their prayer rugs. This is an awesome experience that one must be privy to in order to

appreciate the people, their religion, their philosophy, their culture and their world views.

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And now we bring the curtain down on this almost unreal experience, which gives us a greater appreciation of variance in all facets of a world view and how great and complex the make-up of all cultures seems to be. So, we wing our way back to our American scene, which in the end is unsurpassed.



## "If you ask me" By Vada Lee Barkley

"We have run across some absolutely irrefutable statistics that show exactly why you are tired, and, Brother, it's no wonder you are tired either.

"There aren't as many people actually working as you may have thought. At least not according to the survey recently made.

"The population of this country is 200 million—84 million over 60 years of age, which leaves 116 million to do the work. Those under 20 years of age total 75 million, which leave 41 million to do the work.

"There are 22 million who are employed by the government, which leaves 19 million to do the work. Four million are in the armed forces, which leaves 15 million to do the work. Deduct 14,800,000, the number in state and city offices, leaving 200,000 to do the work. There are 180,000 in hospitals, insane asylums, etc. So that leaves 20,000 to do the work. Now since there are 19,998 people in jail, that leaves just 2 people to carry the load. That's you and me, and I'm getting tired of doing everything myself!"

[I have no idea where this came from. I found it in Art's dresser drawer. We thought you'd like it.—VLB]



## "Genealogy -- and More" **RIG Meeting Highly Informative**

By Bea Flinner

The February meeting of RIG (Research Interest Group) was devoted to a topic of interest to everyone in attendance. In order to allow the speaker adequate time for the presentation, the chair dispensed with the order of business.

RIG's special guest was Glorene Brown, a retired public school teacher. One of the special activities in her life is an intense interest in tracing her family history. Untold hours and days have been devoted to the project, and possibly innumerable miles have been traveled in the quest for information.

Glorene presented her methodology of how the process of tracing one's heritage can begin, and she enhanced her talk with charts relating to the numerous aspects of searching. This gave much credibility to her work, leaving no doubt in anyone's mind that she is a serious, devoted, and highly successful "searcher" of her ancestry.

The time allotted by the RIG schedule was insufficient for our speaker to present all of her data. It was quickly decided to invite her back to conduct a workshop in which she will have adequate time to present all of her information, including additional handouts. The time and date for the workshop will be: Monday, April 10, 1:15 p.m., Rm. 201 N, SNU Library. The invitation is extended to all who are interested in pursuing genealogical research, or who simply wish to listen to the presentation. It will be worth your time.

Next RIG Meeting: Monday, April 10, 9:30-10:45 a.m., RB 135. Speaker—Dr. Elbert Overholt. Topic— "Learning From the Polls." YOU are invited!



The Academy Perspective

### A look at a book By Wini Howard

Billy Graham: God's Ambassador by Russ Busby— A Lifelong Mission of Giving Hope to the World As Witnessed by Photographer Russ Busby.

Books are wonderful gifts! We were recently given "Billy Graham: God's Ambassador." It's a beautiful "coffee table" book (10 1/2 in. by 12 in.) If you appreciate Billy Graham and his ministry, you will undoubtedly enjoy this outstanding picture book of his life.

Russ Busby is the photographer responsible for this book. He was hired by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in the early days as staff photographer. He has kept a marvelous picture record of Billy Graham's travels throughout the world. There are also photos of his early life that must have been supplied by his family, as well as some pictures by other photographers.

The pictures are identified and often commented upon. There are frequent written paragraphs related to the pictures, written by Billy Graham himself. Also there are short well-written essays introducing various areas of his ministry, written by Busby.

Although I've read "Just As I Am" and other books about Billy Graham and his family, I believe this book makes an outstanding contribution to hi supporters because of the many great pictures taken of him, his family, his co-workers, and his friends around the world.

We were a part of a Billy Graham crusade in Boston in the 50's. There is a picture of the crowd has spoke to on the Boston Commons. I think I'm in there somewhere!

Note: The title of the book reviewed in the February issue of The Perspective was inadvertently omitted. It is Parish Papers by George McDonald. Apologies to Wini Howard

## bloopers Found in Church Bulletins

- Low Self-esteem Support Group will meet Thursday from 7 to 8 pm. Please use backdoor.
- Ushers will eat latecomers.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it. we have a nursery downstairs.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to at-\_\_\_000PS tend this tragedy.

### Armold (Continued)

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inspire me, serve as paradigms of virtue and excellence, help in times of crisis, and lead me out of the onrushing night which so threateningly descends:

- Aristotle (384-22 B.C.), the Greek philosopher and the author of *The Rhetoric* and *the Poetics*;
- John Bunyan (1628-88), author of the greatest allegory written in the English language, The Pilgrim's Progress;
- William Shakespeare (1564-1616), English playwright and poet, who bewitches me with his language; and
- John Wesley (1703-91), British reformer and founder of Methodism, who said to his nephew, a new convert to Roman Catholicism, "I care not who is Head of the Church, provided you be a good Christian... What is spoken in love will be taken in love."

My twentieth-century heroes are *visionaries*. No, they were not mystics. They were much more worldly than that. My five visionaries were teachers of mine who squinted through the veil of the shadowy future and saw a bright, promising road ahead for me while many of their contemporaries said that I, "this little stick from a broken home," would never amount to much. My destiny was defined by their heroic vision.

My quintet of twentieth-century, visionary heroes are: the late Maybelle Conger, speech teacher, Central High School, Oklahoma City; the late Carol Spruce Lundy, English professor at Bethany-Peniel College (BPC); Anna Belle Laughbaum, BPC English professor; James Robert Emmel, BPC speech professor; and the late Marie Hochmuth Nichols, Professor of rhetoric and public address, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

What set these visionary heroes apart from others was their conviction that a greater reality than the present or past would be eventually realized for me.

Even in the midst of false hero worship, it is incumbent on each of us to remember that no one is infallible, and no one deserves our blind or uncritical allegiance. This is the balancing, the ebb and flow between individuals and institutions, that makes for a healthy society. It is a difficult balance to achieve.

On the one hand, our society can be justly criticized for relying on individual initiative to solve problems best handled collectively and for depending exclusively on the image of the hero.

On the other hand, if we feel helpless, we should be challenged if we never attempt to make a difference or to be suspicious of those who would try to prevent others from having a chance to matter.

## Academy to Vote on By-law Changes at April Meeting

The By-laws Committee of the Academy, led by Chairman Bob Griffin, met on February 14 and considered changes in the Academy By-laws recommended by the Publication Board.

The recommendation called for the addition of a fifth standing committee with the title, Committee on Publications, currently identified as the Publications (or Editorial) Board.

Rationale for the changes included the suggestion that using the name "Committee" would be consistent with existing nomenclature for groups with administrative responsibility, and including it with other "standing" committees would better define the responsibility level.

The By-laws Committee voted to approve the recommendation and send it to the Administrative Council for consideration. The Administrative Council approved the recommendation and voted to submit it to a vote by the Academy at the April meeting.

The following changes in the By-laws will be considered by the Academy:

#### **Article III**

Section 2 Standing committees

The Assembly shall have 5 (replacing 4) committees designated as follows:

- (e) (to be added) Committee on Publications Section 4 Powers and Duties
- (e) (to be added) Committee on Publications: The Committee on Publications shall be responsible for guiding the development and publication of the Academy publication **The Academy Perspective.** (Note: These responsibilities could be expanded as the need becomes apparent.)



Mark Your Calendar

#### March 13

9:00-10:15 a.m. Strategic Planning Com., Royce Brown 135 10:30-11:15 a.m. Memoir Writing Workshop, Royce Brn 135 11:00 a.m. No shuttle

11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. ASP Luncheon Meeting, BFC Chapel In the Round\*

1:00 p.m. No shuttle

1:15-2:30 p.m. Administrative Council, Royce Brown 135

\*For reservations, call 405/789-2036 or 405/942-5305

### Remaining ASP luncheon dates for 1999-2000:

March 13, 2000 Ar

April 10, 2000

May 8, 2000