

Menno Remembers... An Incredible Lady

Our dearly beloved Phyllis Anne Franz was called to the Lord from her earthly home, surrounded by friends and family at her home in Moses Lake, Washington on July 28, 2009 after a long brave fight with brain cancer.

Phyllis was born March 13, 1930 to Martine and Gilbert Tucker. She attended Seattle Public Schools, graduating from Queen Anne High School and went on to attend the University of Washington.

Phyllis and her husband, Victor Franz, were introduced by mutual friends, and were married February 16, 1951. The city girl had to learn to be a farmer's wife. When they were first married they lived in Lind, Washington. Phyllis and Vic then watched as their new home on the family farm was built in 1952. Here they raised their three children. They retired from farming in 1985 and moved to Moses Lake, Washington.

Vic taught Phyllis to drive and passed on his love of flying to her as well and she went on to get her private pilot's license. They were long time members of the International Flying Farmers and flew in their Cessnas extensively throughout Canada, the United States, Mexico and Central America. With Phyllis's gift for gab, they made friends wherever they went. Phyllis served as the Washington Flying Farmer "Queen," wrote many prize winning newsletters and was honored as "Woman of the Year" at both the state and national levels. How she managed to do this with three small children in tow is a testament to her organizational skills.



Phyllis was very active in the Menno Mennonite Church. She was affirmed as a member in 1953 and was re-baptized in May of 1962 by Pastor Lester Janzen. Phyllis served in many capacities such as teaching Sunday School, choir, running the Children's Christmas Program and acting as publicity spokesperson for the Mennonite Country Auction for many years. No one knows for sure how many years she served as President of Women in Mission.

One of Phyllis's favorite pastimes was wheat weaving. She was a member of the National Association of Wheat Weavers and enjoyed going to their conferences to visit with fellow weavers and learn new techniques. Phyllis enjoyed sharing her craft through demonstrations at the Mennonite Country Auction and by teaching various women's groups and many grade school students in Moses Lake. Her wheat weaving booth at the Mennonite Country Auction was always crowded and usually sold out. One of her wheat weavings even graced a White House Christmas tree.

Phyllis is survived by her sister Shirley and her husband Bill; her husband Victor of 58 years; her three children; Randall, Pamela and Curtis; her daughter-in-laws Barb and Sarah; five grandchildren; Peter, Anna, Renea, Amber and Michelle; and one delightful great grandson Gabriel who brought smiles to her face even to the end.

A memorial service was held for Phyllis Franz on August 8, 2009, at Menno Mennonite Church.

Editor's Note: This was the obituary read by Charlotte Hardt at the memorial service. See page 7 for more on Phyllis.

A Note from the Pastor



This summer Jerilee and I traveled by car to the Mennonite Convention in Columbus, OH. I enjoy traveling by car as one can see the variety and beauty of the country's landscape and stop at points of interest. In eastern Wyoming we saw a sign promoting the Devils Tower. I had seen the Devils Tower from a distance a number of times before when I had passed through that part of Wyoming. I had always wanted to go see it but had never taken the time. This time we decided to stop and find out more about it.

The Devils Tower is a solid volcanic rock tower that rises 1262 feet above the surrounding plain. It looks like a giant tree stump. The top of the tower is the size of a football field, and its sides are vertical grooved rock walls. It's impossible to climb without climbing gear. Why would I want to stop and see a place called the "Devils Tower"? It has such an unsavory name. It sounds like

an evil place. Maybe it was a place where the devil had been worshipped, or where human sacrifices were offered to the devil. Was this any place for a Christian to visit? But I was curious as to how this rock tower got its name.

The Devils Tower was a landmark known by the American Indians for centuries. It was a sacred place to them. They have legend about how it came to exist. The legend tells about some Indians being chased by a giant bear. They ran to this tree stump, jumped on it, and asked their god to save them from the bear. The tree stump began to grow, carrying them higher and higher out of the bears reach. The bear tried to climb the tower to get them, but failed. His claws left grooves on the tower's sides showing his efforts to climb it. The Indians on the tower couldn't get down, but they spouted wings and flew off. The tower was then called Bear Tower or Bear Lodge by the Indians.

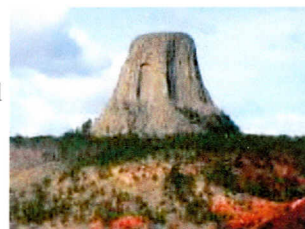
In 1875 a US military expedition came across this tower and decided to put in on the map as a landmark. When they went to write down the name for it, the military interpreter misinterpreted the Indian words for Bear

Tower, thinking they said Bad God Tower. So that's what they put on the map.

Later this title was shortened to Devils Tower and that became the official name for it. But its correct name, its Indian name, is Bear Tower or Bear Lodge.

So the Devils Tower has nothing to do with the devil. It was just a mistranslation that caused it to be called the Devils Tower. The Devils Tower is not an evil place. It's a beautiful, magnificent place and a geological wonder of God's creation. I wonder how many other names given to places or persons or groups are misleading, giving us wrong assumptions and attitudes about them? I know now that when the name of a particular place or person or group has a negative connotation, I want to check it out more closely. For what sounds like a bad thing just might really be something misunderstood.

Pastor Terry



PACIFIC
NORTHWEST
MENNONITE
CONFERENCE

PNMC Annual Conference this year was held at Nampa, ID on June 18-20. Menno Church delegates were Happy and Forrest Hardt, Jerilee and Terry Rediger. Jerilee and I attended a Pastor Spouse Dinner before the conference began. It just so happened that we got to sit at the same table with our next conference minister, Iris de Leon Hartshorn. So we had an early chance to get acquainted.

PNMC annual conferences are now focusing more on worship and fellowship than business. So there were only 2 delegate sessions, but 4 worship services and lots of fellowship. The new conference by-laws were given a test run this past year and were approved as our permanent bylaws. The new bylaws restructure conference leadership giving the conference board more leadership authority. There were some concerns about the board having greater authority, but most delegates seemed to support it.

Other effects of the structure change include moving from having three conference ministers to one executive conference minister and 12 volunteer district pastors. Each district pastor will oversee and give local support to 2-4 congregations and pastors. The district pastor for Menno and Warden Churches is Jeryl Hollinger. Jeryl is pastor of Mountain View Mennonite Church at Kalispell, MT. He will be in touch with us several times a year.

A new congregation was welcomed into the PNMC conference. It is a Congolese immigrant congregation in Portland, OR, called International Bethel City Church. They have an interesting outreach through the internet, where their worship services go out to people around the world live.

The next PNMC annual conference will be in Anchorage, Alaska on June 24-27, 2010. It will be hosted by Prince of Peace Mennonite Church in Anchorage. You won't want to miss this one, so put it on your calendars and start making plans!

By Pastor Terry

Menno's Mission statement
Menno Mennonite Church, a Christian
Anabaptist Community, equips believers
through Worship and Study, and ex-
presses God's love to others through Stew-
ardship and Service.

The *Menno Beacon* is published at the whim of the editor (tries for at least four times per year or more). Any address corrections, additions, or deletions can be sent to: **Menno Mennonite Church – 1378 N. Damon Rd. – Ritzville, WA 99169**, phone 509-659-0926. Web site: menno.wa.us.mennonite.net. If you wish to help with mailing costs of the *Beacon*, donations can be sent to the above address. Terry Rediger, pastor, email: menno@centurytel.net, Sharon Meyer, publisher, and Bill Dyck, editor. You can contact Bill at: 509-677-3616 or email at: blsdyck@ritzcom.net or postal mail at: 379 W. Harder Rd. – Ritzville, WA 99169. If you have something for the *Beacon*, the next *Beacon* news is due November 1, 2009. Thanks to Joan Smith, Charlotte Hardt, Vic Franz, Cleon Claassen, & Kay Schrag for pictures for this issue. Bill

Warden Mennonite Church

720 S. Pine, Warden, WA 98857 (509)349-2444



The season of harvest and fairs continues in our congregation even as the heat of summer draws to a close. Warden youth traveled to Columbus, OH for the MCUSA biennial convention. The youth report being particularly challenged by Shane Claiborne's call to radical following after Jesus. They enjoyed worship shared among thousands of other Mennonite believers. Over the last weekend of August, our youth were joined by Michelle Slate of Menno and Elsa Jewell of Spring Valley to travel to Seattle. Together with the Seattle Mennonite Church youth group, our young people spent several days building relationships together. They painted and did other maintenance work at God's Lil Acre—a homeless outreach of SMC—and joined other volunteers to serve some 600 families at a food bank near the church. For fun, the group went to a Seattle Mariners game on Friday evening.

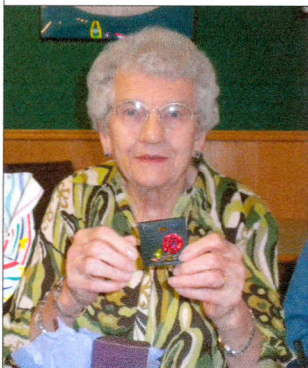
Pastor Brad traveled to Paraguay with Rob Shelly for Mennonite World Conference. Nearly 6,000 Mennonites from across the globe came together to worship and learn. At the end of the trip, Brad and Rob took a tour of the Paraguayan Chaco and learned something of the history of Mennonite suffering, striving, and eventually thriving in that harsh landscape. Pastor Brad notes similarities between the Paraguayan Mennonite struggle to find their place and identity within the larger Paraguayan society and ongoing American Mennonite questions about peace, prosperity, and acculturation. Within recent years, particularly under the previous administration, Paraguayan Mennonites have become more involved in government—sometimes at high levels where decisions that impact millions are involved. Can a Christian faith that has historically emphasized separateness, humility, and a servant's heart remain intact in the presence of such power? This is a question Mennonites in Paraguay have only begun to ask.

Palmer Becker, author of the recent pamphlet: *What is an Anabaptist Christian?* will join us for our Harvest Festival on November 22. On Saturday the 21, Palmer will lead us in an afternoon workshop aimed at equipping us to better share our faith. During the Sunday School hour he will share stories from his recent time teaching at Bethlehem Bible College in Israel.

Pastor Brad

Warden's Calender of Events

September 20	Simon Rendon and Mardel Ruiz share
September 22 @ 9:00 AM	Women gather to make peppernuts. Bring dough ready to bake and baking pans.
September 25-26	Portland Menno. Peace Lecture
October 3	Mennonite Country Auction
October 4, 10:00 AM	Worship held at Menno
October 9-11	Annual Retreat @ Camp Camrec
Nov 8	Menno's Harvest Fest
November 21-22	Warden Harvest Fest with Palmer Becker



In place of their regular monthly meeting, the ladies of Menno met for lunch in Moses Lake on September 10th to say a formal farewell to long-time Women in Mission member Clara Reimer. (Clara and Walt will be leaving for their new home in Kansas October 15th.) Thirteen Menno ladies plus Colleen and Deana Long of Ephrata were in attendance. Many cards plus a flower brooch were given to Clara as tokens of appreciation for her leadership and many years of service. By Charlotte Hardt

Editor's Note: A farewell potluck, for Walt and Clara Reimer, will be held at Menno Church October 11, 2009.

32nd Annual Mennonite Country Auction & Relief Sale

On Saturday, October 3, the Menno Mennonite Church grounds will be filled with people who come to enjoy the food, booths and auction of the 32nd annual Mennonite Country Auction, and help raise funds to support the programs of the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC).

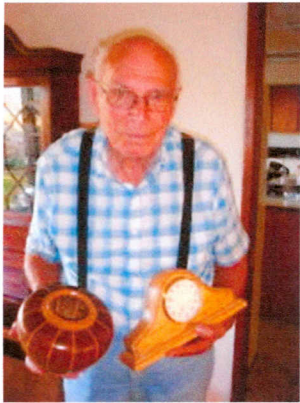
As usual, there is a lot to do before the sale. We are thankful for the many volunteers, members of the Washington Mennonite Fellowship churches, and non members who pitch in and help 'just because'....

In the last week before the sale, the Menno Church grounds will be alive with activity

as the big tent is set up and other equipment is moved into place. Food and supplies will appear in the Fellowship hall. Quilts and comforters will be delivered. On Friday, the booths will be set up, the dining tables and chairs lined up, the auction stage, chairs and raisers put into place, poster and signs will be hung and the PA system will be set up and tested. Items will be sorted and priced, and pies will be cut.

Friday evening workers and visitors will gather with their donations for a supper which will 'kick off' the sale. The auction committee will prepare the auction lists, and all those last minute decisions will be made.

Early on Saturday (7:00 – 9:00 am) Dennis Swinger, Howard Reimer, Greg Reimer and Randy Franz will be serving breakfast – Pancakes with 100% pure Canadian Maple Syrup! Then everyone will get the booths ready for the official opening of the sale at 10:00 am.



Walt Reimer with vase & clock

The 'Penny Power' project is back! Please bring your loose change to help fill the container. This program has been established to connect children with MCC programs, encourage them while still young to save and share their allowance money and raise funds to support MCC. This is a fun activity for both young and old.

Ten Thousand Villages (international crafts) continues to be an important part of the sale. Art-quality traditional crafts include baskets, wall hangings, jewelry, musical instruments, nativity sets and much more!

Quilters' Corner Plus will again entice those who love to collect fabric and sewing items. Great Gatherings is assembling a variety of antique, unique and collectibles. Other booths include the Etcetera Shop, Crafts, and Baked Goods.

Demonstrations will include the Apple Butter and Apple Cider Booths, and Ice Cream, where you can watch it being made before buying it to take home.

Kids will be invited to assemble supplies into "School Kits and More" while they enjoy short stories, music and videos. And – Food! From Sausage Sandwiches to African Groundnut Stew, Green Bean Soup to Hamburgers and BBQ Chicken, with homemade pies for dessert, there is a great variety to choose from.

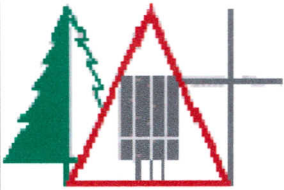
Please be a part of this MCC relief effort by attending and inviting others to attend the sale, by donating saleable items for the auction or one of the booths, by serving as a volunteer, and by bidding generously at the auction or making a cash donation. Contact persons are Pastor Terry Rediger at (509) 659-0926, or Publicity Chair Wanda Dorsing at (509) 346-1083. Mennonite Country Auction official web site is: www.mennonitecountryauction.mennonite.net. Reset your bookmark or favorites.



Amish boy & girl in wood



Black & White Spin quilt



A larger group than normal came in June to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Senior Adult Retreat. Registration for Saturday was 32 plus 5 more that came just for Sunday.

Charts on the walls of the chapel listed all 48 who attended 40 years ago, plus staff. Rose Bauer, cook & Clara Reimer, business manager have attended faithfully through the years as campers. Charts also listed program chairpersons, special speakers, special trips & activities, plus many pictures.



Saturday morning was a drama – Jerusalem Market Place. The morning began with scripture & devotions by the rabbis. Booths were set up and campers visited a carpenter shop, bakery, pottery shop & library. The drama told the story of the excitement of one person who had seen Jesus and discovered that He was the Messiah. She was anxious that her husband would also go see & hear Him. The second drama was the excitement after the resurrection that Jesus was truly alive. All activity in the market place stopped as people listened to her Good News.

Saturday afternoon was a time of rest, relaxation, Bocce Ball and ended with antiphonal (echo) singing. The evening meal was family style with tables beautifully decorated with lavender table cloths, vases of roses, the oil lamps made in the morning at the pottery shop and scrolls from the library.

The highlight of Sunday was a concert by CommonBond 5, a men's gospel singing group from Wenatchee, followed by a lavish buffet brunch.

The business meeting on Saturday was a time of mixed feelings and decisions. After much discussion two motions were passed. 1- This is the last Senior Adult Retreat. It is good to end in a "blaze of glory". (Attendance has been between 20 and 25. However, it is becoming more difficult for many, especially those with handicaps, to drive the long distance.)

2. The dates of June 18, 19 & 20, 2010 are to be reserved on Camrec's schedule for anyone interested in starting a retreat.

The balance in the Senior's account would be available for the next two years as start up monies to the new planners.

Many have been blessed in these 40 years with spiritual insights and a relaxing time with old and new friends. As we "pass the torch" we pray that there will be others to take up a call to continue to have the same blessings that we have received.

By Marge Dyck

Our theme this summer was "*Catch the Spirit! Join God's Work in the World!*" - Stories from Acts will bring kids face-to-face with the power of the Holy Spirit as they learn how to get involved, speak up, and join God's work in the world.

Pre-Junior Camp (Entering Grades 1-3) July 10-12 – There were seventeen staff and counselors and fifteen campers. Directors were Juli van Pelt and Morlin Elias. The pastors used skits, stories, and scripture to show the kids how the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives.

Junior Camp (Entering Grades 4-6) July 14-18- There were seventeen staff and counselors (not the same as the Pre-Junior camp) and fourteen campers. Director was Barb Mayfield. With the weather hot, the group cooled off at Lake Wenatchee and had water games on Friday.

Junior/Senior High Camp (Entering Grades 7-12) July 20-25- There were twelve staff and counselors and twenty-two campers. Co-directors were Anita Stokes and Robbin O'Leary. They also cooled off at Lake Wenatchee and tubed down the Icicle River. Anita Stokes served as the program director for all the camps and Maurice and Joyce Briggs were the Camp managers.



Conference Reflections

Attending the “Breathe And be Filled” Columbus 2009 Mennonite Church USA as a delegate member of the Executive Board gave me an interesting perspective on the assembly. The “behind the scenes” view, interwoven with the comments from the Menno Mennonite Church delegates, youth and other attendees gave me a whole different picture than attending as a conference or congregational delegate.

Like any conference, what looks like a smoothly run, well-oiled machine on the surface, is often a sea of controlled chaos underneath. Along with all of the usual worries about numbers of attendees, food, too warm or too cool rooms, speakers, etc., were concerns about H1N1 flu, Pink Mennos, and the choice of the new Executive Director. The Executive Board met on Monday afternoon just before the first worship service which officially opened the Assembly. We said farewell to the four members of the Board whose terms were up and welcomed the four new members. We were visited by the three leaders of the “Open Letter” who shared their hopes for the conference. We spent some time going over the “communication plan” developed by staff that covered potential responses to various kinds of situations – including fires, flu, accidents, protests, etc.

During the Assembly, Board members prayed and agonized with the members of the Resolutions Committee which had been presented with two diametrically opposing resolutions about human sexuality. In what they described as “a God moment,” the Committee members drafted their own resolution calling the church to “agree and disagree” in love. A verbal “war at the microphones” was averted by passage of the new resolution which recognized both the official teaching position of the church and the desire of many to be an inclusive church.

Until we actually came on stage and described the still ongoing process of the Search Committee for the new Executive Director, I think almost everyone thought that we were being coy and truly expected that a name would be announced at Assembly.

After attending the PNMC meetings in Idaho and seeing how Spanish was seamlessly interwoven in our conference proceedings, my colleague Iris de Leon Hartshorn joined me in giving an enthusiastic report to the denomination’s delegates on Mennonite Church USA’s Spanish Language Initiative. (There was a TV monitor placed just below the podium which I had not noticed. As I was speaking, I glanced down and was startled to see myself – I almost lost my place in the report!)

My lasting memories of the 2009 conference? The sound of 7000+ voice raised in worship and song; the number of delegates under the age of 30 at our tables; the many hugs from friends and colleagues; the incredible and challenging speakers; and most of all, the presence of the Holy Spirit!

By Charlotte Hardt

Roughly one third of my life’s summers have been spent attending a Mennonite conference – eleven in all. Six conferences were as a youth or youth sponsor. This summer’s conference in Columbus, Ohio, was my first adult conference. I was pleasantly surprised. It was also my 3-year-old son’s very first conference. He loved it so much he called it “play group.”

Before conference I had my doubts. How would conference be as an adult with my child in tow? Could I in good conscience drop Andrew off at glorified babysitting while I attended sessions with people sometimes twice my age? I was afraid I would be bored by the adult conferences’ worship and sessions after experiencing years of animated, passionate, worship with teenagers. I’m so glad we tried. Andrew LOVED his programming and was asking how soon he could go back after lunch the first day. I found breakout sessions for parents of young children as well as sessions to nurture my spiritual walk. Adult worship was filled with a balanced mix of contemporary and traditional. Some of these “old folks” had more energy than me. Being an adult wasn’t too bad...

How exciting it was to introduce my son to the amazing experience of worshipping with thousands of other Mennonites. How fascinating it was to watch him begin to play his own basic version of the “Mennonite Game.” (“Mom, that’s one of my friends,” he would loudly whisper as another child from his sessions walked by in the sea of fellowshiping Mennos.) How touching and humorous it was when Andrew sensed the “electricity” and excitement in the air during the joint all-ages worship service. Wanting to react to the energy in the large arena, he stood up, hammered his fist in the air and chanted “GO KU!” as if he was at a sporting event. Ahhhh – worship so filled with energy that it rivals a college level tournament basketball game. AMEN!

Churches often think of conference as a place to send delegates for church work as well as send youth. No doubt these are important. However, they are not the only groups that can attend. Conference can be for all ages and is actually quite family friendly. If you haven’t, take the opportunity to attend a Mennonite convention. If being a delegate or youth sponsor is not for you, consider going just for fun. Just for rejuvenation. Just to re-connect with God.

By Melissa Claassen

Did You Know?



Ever since Roger Reimer moved to Kansas, Menno Mennonite Church's website hasn't been much (Roger was the webmaster for Menno Church). Recently Bill Dyck has been trying to establish a website for Menno Church again. There is now on the home page some general information, but selecting one of the tabs; Bulletins, Newsletter, Links, you can get more information than before. As Bill learns more about website creating, there will be other features too. As of this month, the *Menno Beacon* will be on the website under the newsletter tab. Having the *Beacon* on the website will allow those a distance from Menno to get the *Beacon* earlier, plus **it is in color!** The printed *Beacon* will still be mailed out.

One of the features with Mennonite.net, is that there is a way to track who is looking at Menno's website. For the past several months, there have been approximately 370 hits per month, and it's still under construction! Some of those hits have been from Europe and Australia. This information will be useful not only to Bill, but to the Pastor as well.

Bill has also been asked to work on the Mennonite Country Auction (MCA) website as well. He has enlisted Pastor Brad Roth for help setting up both websites, Menno and MCA. As the sale approaches there will be more information on the MCA site. On the home page is general information, but on the tabs you will find pictures of the auction items as well as pictures of the quilts to be auctioned. Reset your bookmarks or favorites for these websites.

Menno Church website: <http://menno.wa.us.mennonite.net>

Mennonite Country Auction website: www.mennonitecountryauction.mennonite.net

Warden Mennonite Church website: www.wardenmennonite.org

Phyllis Franz started working on the *Menno Beacon* in 1972, with Charlotte Hardt, as part of the new editorial staff, as Pastor Harris Waltner ended his time being the editor. This arrangement lasted till December 1977, when Judy Dorsing and Judy Kagele (Williams) took over. Phyllis then served as editor from January 1990 through December 1994.

It was during this time that Vic helped Phyllis and developed the address file on the computer that is currently being used. Also during this time, the *Beacon* changed how it was printed. In the past it was printed on 8-1/2x11 copier paper, Vic came up with the idea to use 11 x 17 copier paper and folding it cutting the times the copier had to pass over the master sheet by one half. Phyllis expanded the *Beacon* to 12 and even up to 18 pages per issue. With the larger paper, it didn't cost any more to bulk mail the *Beacon*. This method is still being used.

In her closing comments in the Nov/Dec 1994 issue was: "Thank you to all those that have expressed their appreciation of the *Beacon*. It will be exciting to see what new format and style the new editor (or editorial team) will bring to our *Beacon*. I am looking forward to my "retirement" and having "back" the 24 to 30 work days (and late evenings) it took me each year to get the *Beacon* out!"

Phyllis helped me a lot in getting news and articles for the *Beacon*. She would be sending me things even before the deadline was announced. She would always ask me if I was going to have something on The last time Phyllis came and helped fold *Beacon*'s, I asked her what the best part of the *Beacon* was, when she was editor, and she replied, "getting it done"! While Vic and family has suffered a great loss, I have lost a good friend to help me on the *Menno Beacon*. I really miss her a lot this issue.

By Bill Dyck



The Menno
Beacon

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1993

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 1

Phyllis's last Menno Beacon

Menno Remembers...

Clarence C. Schrag passed away June 25, 2009, at the age of 91. He was born April 12, 1918, at the family farm near Odessa, Washington, to Jonathan and Fannie Schrag. He graduated from Odessa High School in 1935, and from Washington State College in 1939 with a degree in Sociology. He completed an M.A. in Sociology in 1944 and a Ph.D. in Sociology in 1950, both at the University of Washington. Much of his career was spent as a professor at the University of Washington in the Sociology Department, which he chaired at the time of his retirement in 1983. The focus of his research was in the field of criminology, and he also worked several years in the Washington State Dept. of Corrections. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Alvie and Leslie, and his sisters Eva Jantz and Iva Jantz. He is survived by his wife of 66 years Elissa (Lee) Schrag and several nieces and nephews. A celebration of his life was held on July 2.



Menno Remembers...

Philip Z. Whitman of Vancouver, WA, passed away on August 16, 2009. He was born March 11, 1921 in Rosalia, WA, the third son of Hubert T. and Mabel V. Whitman. He grew up in a family of eight boys and two girls on the family farm. He graduated from Rosalia High School in 1940 where he excelled at playing the sousaphone in spite of his brothers filling it with apples.

After graduation he attended NYA school in Seattle, WA, training to be a machinist. While waiting for the WW II draft, he drove bus for the Burns Stage line, and was the youngest driver in the State. In 1942 he scored high enough to be called into the Army Air Corps. Because five brothers and two brothers-in-law were in the service at the same time, the Sullivan Act did not allow him to be shipped overseas, so he served stateside until discharged in 1945.

On January 24, 1945 he came home on furlough and married Marilyn Squires. After the service, he worked in the farm machinery business for the next 27 years in Eastern Washington. During this time he was very active in the Mennonite Church and served four terms as President of the Washington Mennonite Fellowship.

In 1972 he moved to Vancouver, WA where he took a position as Claims Investigator for the State investigating industrial injuries. He excelled in his work and eventually became the head investigator for Southwest Washington. He was also very proud that he hired and trained the first female investigator in the state.

After retirement in 1986, he began volunteering for Neighbors-In-Deed, a Christian volunteer agency. He used his building skills to create 214 wheelchair ramps and 172 chair risers over 12 years.

Woodworking was his chief hobby and he crafted much of the furniture for several homes, along with building his own house in Ritzville. He delighted in building special gifts for his granddaughter. Other hobbies included golf, reading, and tending his bountiful garden which he shared with neighbors, friends, and the food bank.

Hundreds of kids have personalized nicknames because they were a big part of his life. He was a dedicated father to his children, Phyllis and Hal and made every effort to attend and support their activities. He and his wife also opened their home to three foster children. He had a wonderful relationship with his son-in-law, Jack, and thoroughly enjoyed his granddaughter, Cydney.

His greatest joy was his wife, Marilyn, and their lifelong relationship. They were each other's best friend,

(Continued on page 9)



News & Notes:

Happy Hardt spent July 14-18 at Camp Camrec serving as camp nurse for the Junior camp.

Scott Andrews hosted a front yard barbecue (complete with belly dancer!) to celebrate Mary Mae's Hardt's 50th birthday at their home in Mount Vernon the afternoon and evening of August 2nd. Forry and Happy drove over two days early to assist Scott with preparations and to celebrate granddaughter Claire's 8th birthday.

Mary Mae Hardt and Scott Andrews, with their children Varick and Claire of Mount Vernon, Washington and Dawn and Todd Lehman with their children Havela, Kyra Anne, and Micah of Hubbard, Oregon traveled to Menno for the Phyllis Franz Memorial Service on August 8th. The two families pitched their tents near Forrest and Happy's motorhome which is parked at Tree Heart Ranch, to spend the night.

Happy Hardt flew to Chicago August 9-10 for what turned out to be the final meeting of the Search Committee for the new Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA. The Search Committee's unanimous recommendation of Ervin Stutzman, Dean, Eastern Mennonite University, was unanimously approved by the Mennonite Church Executive Board on August 24. Stutzman will begin his new duties with the Mennonite Church in January, 2010

In July the Menno and Friends motorcycle group consisting of Terry, Jerilee, Gary and Jeff Jantz went to Grand Coulee Dam for the day. In August Terry, Gary Jantz, Jeff Jantz, Gary Goodwin, Maurice Root, and Stan Streeter rode through the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge near Cheney and then to Steptoe Butte.

Earl Franz joined grandson Tony Redelfs recently, for a two week trip to Johannesburg, South Africa. The highlight being the Safari in six hour/day guided open-air Land Rover tours thru the "brush", seeing so many wild animals. We had to have a great faith in the vehicle and the driver to come so close to lions, panthers, cheetah, rhinos, elephants, water buffalo, zebra, giraffe, and some other wild beasts at a distance.

In "A note from the Pastor" I already talked about our trip to Glacier National Park. The second part of that trip was to a Rediger family reunion in Helena, MT. The memorable moment of the reunion was when I met a second cousin for the first time. This second cousin grew up near the same town as I, had the same last name as I, went to the same small high school as I, was only a year ahead of me in high school, and yet we had never met. What an unusual thing!

Jerilee and I went on another trip this summer. This trip took us to Iowa where I officiated at a wedding in my former church for one of my daughter's friends. From there we went to Indiana to see Jerilee's mother and visit other friends. While there we went to Menno-Hoff, the Mennonite visitor center that tells all about the Anabaptists and Mennonites. Two interesting rooms there were the Dungeon Room and the Tornado Room. Ask me about them! On the way back home we stopped in Colorado Springs to see our daughter Amber and her husband Aaron and celebrate their birthdays. We also got to see their new home. By the time we got back home we had traveled over 5500 miles. It was time to stay in one place for awhile.

The Alvie and Blanche Schrag family held their annual picnic in Carnation, WA this year, with a field trip to Monroe to see the house that Alvie and Blanche retired to, as well as find the pond/lake that all of us grandchildren remember walking to with them. Attending were Loren & Rosalie Schrag, Beth (Schrag) & Dick Stucky, Kay Schrag, Tim & Roberta Schrag, Barry & Dawn Schrag (Katarina & Kennan), Ken & Yasuko Schrag, Donna (Stucky) & Cody Hostick (Dean & Paula), Pam Stucky, Timara (Schrag) & Brian Shindehite (H.D., Brett, & Harley), and Ty Schrag.

On Sunday, September 27, at Spring Valley Mennonite Church, New Port, WA., Pastor Gary Jewell will be preaching and Pastor Meg Lumsdaine and family will be there as well as a transition Sunday. Pastor Meg will step in as Spring Valley's new Pastor on October 1st. .

(Continued from page 8)

greatest support, and only love. He adored her from the time he heard her, at age three, singing "Strawberry Roan" while she was standing on the dining room table.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Marilyn; son, Hal of Tekoa; daughter and son-in-law, Phyllis and Jack Heims of Portland; granddaughter, Cydney Heims of Portland; brother, Don Whitman of Spokane; brother, Dale Whitman of Spokane; and sister, Kaye White of Clinton, Montana.

Services were held at 3:00 p.m., Friday, August 21, 2009 at Evergreen Memorial Gardens, 1101 NE 112th Ave., Vancouver, WA.

Remembrances may be given to: Ray Hickey Hospice House, 2112 E. Mill Plain, Vancouver, WA 98661 or Mennonite Disaster Service, 1378 N. Damon Road, Ritzville, WA 99169.

Menno Mennonite Church
1378 N. Damon Rd.
Ritzville, WA 99169

Non-profit organization
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32nd Annual Mennonite Country Auction & Relief Sale

Breakfast 7:00—9:00 AM

Booths Open 10:00 AM

Auction Starts at 12:00 Noon

**Pies, Homemade Ice Cream,
Sausage, BBQ Chicken, Amish Cheese
Canadian Pure Maple Syrup**

For More Information

www.mennonitecountryauction.mennonite.net

Menno Mennonite Church 509-659-0926

Calender of Events

SEPTEMBER

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|---|
| 15 | 1:00 p.m.
6:30-8:00 p.m. | Ritzville Ministerial Association meets
Women's Bible Study/Beth Moore— <i>LIVING BEYOND YOURSELF: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit</i> |
| 17 | 11 a.m. | Washington Pastors' Cluster Meeting—Vantage |
| 20 | | Guest Speaker: Simon Rendon, Hispanic Mennonite pastor |
| 23 | 6:30-8:00 p.m. | Women's Bible Study |
| 27 | 2:30 p.m. | Ritzville Jail Bible Study |

OCTOBER

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| 3 | | Mennonite Country Auction & Relief Sale |
| 4 | | MCA Sunday—worship at Menno
Premiere showing of <i>LONG ROAD BACK: EX-OFFENDERS STRUGGLE FOR ACCEPTANCE</i> , Mennonite Media documentary, on NBC-TV |
| 11 | | A FAREWELL POTLUCK meal will be held for Walt and Clara Reimer on Sunday, who will be moving to Newton, KS on October 15 th . |

NOVEMBER

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|---|---------------|---|
| 3 | 11 a.m. | District Pastors meet |
| 5 | 9 a.m.-2 p.m. | Menno Women in Mission meet |
| 8 | | Harvest Fest—Resource: Charles & Thirawer Duplessis |