



Oak Leaves

Newsletter of the ELS Historical Society

Volume 17

May 2013

Issue 1

Annual Meeting Moves From Saturday to Synod Sunday!

Something New in 2013

by Mark O. Harstad

The June, 2013 Annual Meeting of the ELS Historical Society will feature innovation in both format and content.

First of all, **we are moving to a new day and time**. For the past 16 sixteen years our annual meeting has taken place on the Saturday before Synod Sunday and the beginning of the Synod Convention. This year **we are moving our activities to Synod Sunday**. The move was made possible by the fact that Seminary Graduation, which had taken place on Synod Sunday evening for many years, has moved to a new time. It is our hope that holding the Historical Society Annual Meeting in the vacated time slot will make it possible for many who come for the Synod Sunday service to attend our event as well.

The Schedule for Synod Sunday, June 16, 2013, lines up as follows:

3:00 pm Synod Sunday Service, Trinity Chapel.

4:15 pm Supper in the college dining facility.

4:30 to 5:30 pm Play tickets and memberships on sale at the picnic and in the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center lobby.

5:30 pm Historical Society Business meeting and historical introduction to the play.
Lee Theater, Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center.

6:30 pm *The Oak Trees Still Stand*, a play by Michael Lilienthal.

Lee Theater, Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center.

7:45 pm Intermission: Lemonade, cookies, and conversation in the YFAC lobby.

8:00 pm Discussion of the play with the playwright, members of the cast, and others.
Lee Theater, Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center.



Michael and Sarah Lilienthal

The Historical Society has tried over the years to provide variety in its programs. Formats have included lectures of an academic style and nature, demonstrations based on items of historical interest, story telling based on the diaries and memoirs of various people, and illustrated reviews of the careers of personalities in our history.

This year the program will feature the presentation of a play which will bring to life the story of the origins of our church body. The play was commissioned by the



Michael Lilienthal as Hamlet,
BLC, April 2013

Historical Society, and was written by Mr. Michael Lilienthal, a student at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, and also a member of the Historical Society Board.

The “jumping-off point” of the play is a court case which occurred in Worth County, Iowa, in the spring of 1919. The pastor of the Norwegian Synod congregation in Northwood, Iowa, county seat of Worth County, was Pastor A. J. Torgerson. When the merger of Norwegian Lutheran church bodies took place in 1917, Pastor Torgerson was among that handful of pastors who could not go along with the merger for reasons of doctrine and conscience. He was present at the Lime Creek Church in June, 1918, when the formal action was taken to form our present church body.

Pastor Torgerson found himself in a difficult situation. The majority of his congregation had decided to go into the church body produced by the merger, but he had joined the tiny minority group, and there was no fellowship between the groups. He continued to live in the church parsonage where he had resided before all the events of 1917–1918. His right to do so was contested by members of the merger group. The case ended up in court.

The members of the merger church body argued that “the majority rules” principle should determine who has the right to the church property. Pastor Torgerson and his

supporters argued that they were the party which had remained faithful to the doctrine and principles of the Old Synod. It was the other group who had deviated from what the Norwegian Synod had always stood for in forming a new church body; therefore, they represented continuity with the past, and had every right to the property.

A word for word transcript of the entire court proceeding is found among the documents preserved in the Synod Archives. This material provided the playwright with a place to start in the telling of his story. He uses primarily the court testimony of Pastor Bjug Harstad, first president of the reorganized Synod, who traveled all the way from Tacoma, Washington, to Northwood, Iowa, to testify in support of Pastor Torgerson. Among others who also came to testify were Pastor John Moldstad, Sr., and the Missouri Synod theologian Dr. W. H. T. Dau.

While the court case is fascinating in itself, its function in the play is to provide a framework for a review of the events that led up to the larger developments of 1917 and 1918. Through the use of flashbacks interjected into the courtroom testimony, the playwright allows the story to unfold. He weaves into the narrative the words of prominent participants in the theological controversies of the 19th century: Dr. F. A. Schmidt, Dr. C. F. W. Walther, and Dr. U. V. Koren. He also features the role of the Norwegian Synod leader H. G. Stub, colleague and personal friend of Bjug Harstad, whose words and actions paved the way for the coming merger of 1917.

The play will provide an engaging and entertaining way of getting into the basics of Synod history. The session before the play will furnish helpful introductions to the dramatis personae and significant events. The discussion session following the play will allow for further interpretation.

The cast of the play will be made up of Bethany College and Seminary students and alumni, members of the Historical Society Board, and their families. ■

From the *Lake Mills Graphic*, May 2012

101 Years Ago
May 22, 1912

Rev. and Mrs. Ingebritson were tendered a big surprise last Friday, May 17th, the day serving to celebrate a double event—the anniversary of Mrs. Ingebritson's birth and Norway's Natal Day. A big crowd was present, and the dinner of "Rumme Grodt" and "Lefse" was much enjoyed, and before the self-invited guests departed, a purse of over \$100 was presented Rev. Ingebritson and his wife. ■

Photo from a pastor's funeral.

Do you know who he is?

Please let Becky DeGarmeaux at the Ottesen Museum know if you can help identify this photo.



Becky notes that it is very hard to read the name of the photography studio. It's either Walling or Wulling studio in Gowrie, IA.

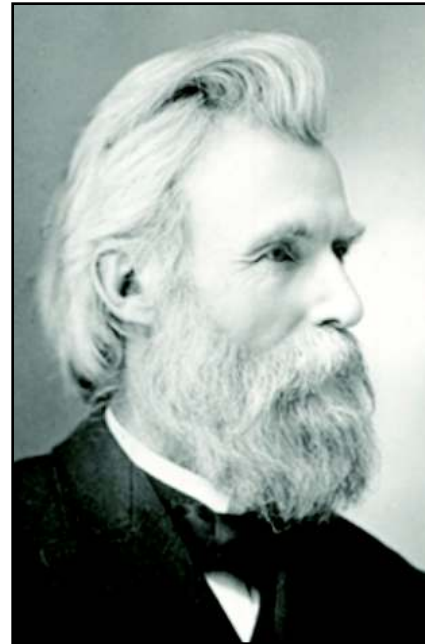
It was in a collection of Iler Iverson articles donated by Frank and Genie Selvey.

Becky showed this photo at our Historical Society meeting on Feb. 9, 2013. ■

Bjug Harstad Display

by Becky DeGarmeaux

In connection with this year's ELS Historical Society's annual meeting, the Ottesen Museum will feature a special display on the life and work of Rev. Bjug Harstad.



Harstad is a main character in the play being performed at this year's Historical Society annual meeting.

The display will chronicle Bjug's life from his birth in Valle, Setesdal, Norway, to his death, at the age of 84, in Parkland, Washington. It will include pictures, stories, and artifacts from various periods of his life. This display will open at the beginning of June and stay up for one year.

As usual, the Museum will have a display in the "street" of the Sports and Fitness Center during Synod Convention. New artifacts donated in the last year will be highlighted.

The Ottesen Museum's regular hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 1:30 - 4:30 or by appointment. These will also be the hours during Synod Convention. Please feel free to stop by and see these new displays. ■

(Written by Rev. Bjug Harstad. His grandson Mark O. Harstad found the following "Frank Statement" in a book that once belonged to Bjug and which now is in the library at Bethany Seminary.)

A Frank Statement for Better Mutual Understanding

I take it that we all agree in this general statement that whatever we are as to our faith, mind, and feeling, we are so as a consequence of the grind of events that we have lived through and experienced.

With this idea I take liberty to lay my heart and mind bare to you, that you may judge for yourselves whether I really belong in your boat, or you in mine. To do this I will have to turn up a few pages of our church history that are not pleasing to any of us, but, I assure you, that to the best of my efforts, I will avoid attacking any one, trying only to show you what impression and conviction of mind, to this day, I have received from actual experiences in my life. Now then!

Only a few weeks after entering my mission field in Dak. Ter. [Dakota Territory] in 1874 I was summoned by an able minister of the Norw. Danish Conference to meet him on a certain date at a pioneer's loghouse on Goose River, ca 20 miles from where I dwelt, and about 10 miles from the nearest pastor of our Synod. We were to discuss the differences between the Synod and the Conference. This filled me with anxiety and doubt. I knew my challenger to be a valiant fighter who had troubled our pastors in Ottertail Co. [County] trouble.

My host, Ingebret Larson, advised that I must meet the summons. So we, with my horse and a homemade cutter, long before daylight left our warm dugout in a sidehill, on that windy and cold November morning that I can never forget, and arrived at the meeting

place about on time, some after 9 a.m. and found my opponent with a fine long beard standing by the stove warming himself.

The meeting was soon organized and the discussion started and continued, without interruption, all day until it began to get dark. My Synod's doctrine on Absolution, as confessed in 1861, was attacked as false; also the doctrine of Christ's vicarious obedience, suffering and death for the redemption of all mankind.

I professed that Absolution in our churches was the short sum and substance of the gospel message that for Christ's sake God offers and gives forgiveness of all their sins to all who hear, and invites all to believe what is promised in the word and pledged unto us in the sacraments, and that this was true whether one believes it or not. By believing, a person enjoys its blessings, but by doubt and unbelief he has rejected them and thereby sins against God. Different objections were raised against the free and unconditional gospel, even declared to be a soul-destroying gospel of the flesh. Only where repentance and faith are present is there forgiveness. To the others only the word of man is spoken, not God's absolution.

Also our doctrine that Christ's resurrection was a virtual justification of all men was denied by the opposing organization among us; also the teaching of the Augsburg Confession concerning Sunday and laymen's preaching and the Scriptural teaching about slavery, and many other things.

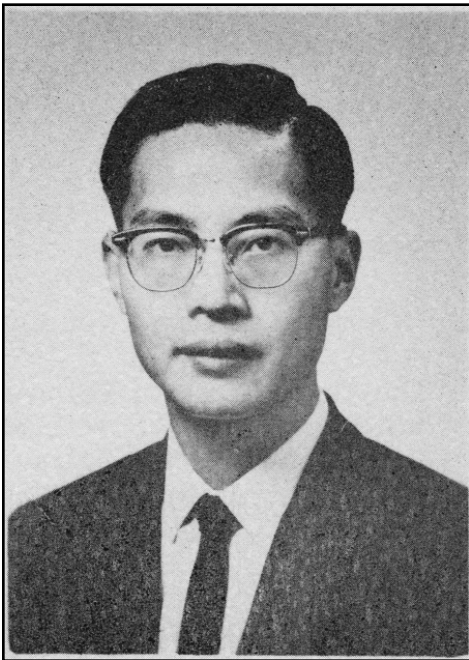
Later on one of our professors, C. Asperheim, objected to the teaching of the Missouri Synod, and this gained its worse form when Prof. F. A. Schmidt in 1880 began to accuse them of Calvinism. That caused the division of the Synod and the organization of the Anti-Missourian Brotherhood. ■



Synod Mission Work in Hong Kong

by Rev. Craig A. Ferkenstad

The synod had no more heard the sound of the closing door at the mission field in Cornwall in 1959 when another door was opened for the gospel in Hong Kong. In March 1961 Mr. Peter Chang came to Mankato, Minnesota seeking admission to the seminary. He previously had established two congregations and schools in Hong Kong.



After Peter Chang graduated from the seminary, on the basis of a call from the two congregations in Hong Kong, he was ordained at a service conducted on May 30, 1962 at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Mankato. The Foreign Mission Board made no financial commitment to the field, but was concerned that “the opportunities afforded in Hong Kong for a foreign mission field ought not to be lost.”

Following his return to Hong Kong the synod maintained contact with Pastor Chang even though there were concerns about some of the practices in the mission. In September of 1962, a typhoon struck Hong Kong and the ELS made a \$1,000 emergency grant to the Christian Chinese Lutheran Church (CCLC). Earlier that year, the synod convention resolved to make appeals for the support of this mission outside of the synod budget.

In an open letter, dated November 5, 1962, addressed “To all ELS pastors” the Rev. Stuart Dorr wrote on behalf of the Mission Board:

... And we should like to make it very clear that the first use to which sufficient of these gifts will be put is to send a commission to Hong Kong for investigating the whole matter. Much as we would like to escape the burden and expense of such a thing, we do not believe that we can make long-range plans, can say “yes” or “no” to the idea of making this mission our own, without an on-the-spot investigation. Our proposal, then, is to send investigators, probably two men, to Hong Kong as soon as feasible after your contributions make it possible. We say this with complete awareness of the fact that this course of action puts the matter squarely up to you and the people in your spiritual care. Simply put: No receipts, no investigation, no commitment to Hong Kong.

You will note that we are seeking to proceed carefully, even cautiously, for we wish to make no beginning which we cannot hope to complete; we also wish to consult properly with brethren, etc. But if you should ask our personal feelings, they're like this: Let's move! Consider: We did not seek Rev. Chang and his mission; they came unsought and in a manner that would make us unfaithful stewards if we failed to investigate thoroughly the opportunity that seems to be there; we must do that much. Consider this, too: Rev. Chang is a man whose work has already begun; he has a great deal of 'know-how'; he is a Chinese on the inside, not a white man trying to find his way inside. Consider this also: Our synod has no foreign mission of its own: you cannot help being optimistic as to the probable effects on all of our synod's work which such a mission would have. We judge that if we do not even look through this open door to see what is there, we are unfaithful stewards. May the Lord's will be done. [emphasis in original].

The Foreign Mission Board Field Secretary Stuart Dorr along with Prof. Milton Otto visited Hong Kong for two weeks in 1963 and filed a detailed report about many matters facing the mission. Before leaving Hong Kong, an agreement was made that the ELS would provide limited financial support for the mission and also send a worker to serve both as an advisor and also as the head of the religion department of the schools. While the Board for Missions was preparing such a

favorable report for the synod convention, Peter Chang informed the board that the agreement was not acceptable. ELS involvement in Hong Kong came to a conclusion. At that time the field consisted of 896 souls and 381 students in the schools.

In 1964 the WELS sent a “Friendly Counselor” to Hong Kong to assist Pastor Chang. Eight years later Pastor Chang left Hong Kong to enter private business in San Francisco. Today this is the South Asian Lutheran Evangelical Mission Limited and consists of 820 souls with three national pastors, two missionaries (WELS), and one teacher (WELS).■

The above is selected and condensed from “A Half-Century of Mission Involvement: ELS Foreign Mission Work prior to 1968” which was printed in the December 2012 issue of *The Lutheran Synod Quarterly*.



(The above is on the back of a folder promoting “The Gospel Work in Hong Kong,” May 1964.)

Landscaping at Bethany Lutheran College — Past and Present

Editor’s Note: Displayed at the Vesterheim Norwegian–American Museum in Decorah, Iowa, are pages from the Bethany Lutheran College Bulletin (Bulletin), June 1931. An article about the lack of campus landscaping caught my interest. Following are excerpts from the Bulletin and the Bethany Scroll and an article by Dan Johnson about his history on campus and his recent landscaping projects are the result of that trip to Decorah.

Bulletin, June 1931

...June 2, the Alumni Association resolved to lend its whole-hearted support toward the improvement of the college campus. A spirited discussion took place, in which it was brought out that the campus presented fine possibilities for landscaping; that much of this could be accomplished without great expense; and that this project would naturally appeal to former students... . The alumni will make it a point to gather what contributions they can in the form of free-will offerings, but no one is to be assessed any definite amount. ... And at the meeting next year it can be decided whether to begin by planting vines around the old foundation or to remove it altogether or to build a nice road around the main building or start building a stone stairway leading up the hill to the main building or some other pleasing prospect.

Bethany Scroll, October 1931

Students Observe Autumn Campus Day --
At noon on October 20, Dr. Ylvisaker announced that the faculty had decided, since it was a fine day, to have “campus day.”

At 1:15 everyone went out and was assigned a definite piece of work by either Prof. Natvig or Miss Hagen, who were acting overseers. Some were set to work raking or pulling weeds. The numerous leaves which formerly lay on the ground between the boys’ dormitory and the power house were carefully raked by several ambitious girls. Some of the boys were set to work cleaning the hillside south of the old foundation and others sawed the dead limbs from the trees

in front of the buildings. "Rudy" and "Gig" the "Parkland Gravies," set up new miniature bleachers on the west side of the tennis court. Dr. Ylvisaker and Miss Madson bought ivy vines which were planted at intervals along the walls of the building. The grounds showed great improvement after the students had completed their work. ...

Bulletin, July 1932

...we would mention: a most enthusiastic meeting of the Alumni Association in June at which further steps were taken toward the project of beautifying the campus. ...

Bulletin, October 1932, (This was also in the Bethany Scroll, October 1932, with the same wording)

Probably no bit of improvement on the Bethany campus reflects more the spirit of individual interest in the school than do the retaining wall and the steps recently constructed by Dr. J. T. Schlesselmann, prominent Mankato physician, and for many years a staunch Bethany supporter. Dr. Schlesselmann's home, facing west, is located on Sixth Street, directly below the college building. On the vacant Bethany lot next to his property, Dr. Schlesselmann has built a retaining wall, thirty feet long, and is now building steps leading from this wall up to Seventh Street. Constructed from gray flagstone, the retaining wall and steps are of a very rustic as well as artistic appearance. At the very foot of the steps, two pillars, also of flagstone, have been erected, thus giving the aspect of an inviting portal. It is hoped that in the near future this undertaking of Dr. Schlesselmann will be supplemented by a substantial stairway from Sixth Street directly up to the college building.

Bulletin, October 1933

The power lawn mower, a special project of the Alumni Association, has now become an actuality, the purchase having been made from money on hand collected for this purpose...we naturally ask, What next?

Bethany Scroll, April 1934

Landscaping Visits --

Saturday, April 28, Mr. Arnold Jacobson and Mr. Kroen of Fairview congregation in Minneapolis, came to Bethany with a trailer load of shrubs. They planted about thirty lilac bushes of different

varieties along the driveway east of the building. The shrubs are a gift of Mr. Jacobson, a landscape gardener. These improvements are great assets and the school is grateful to Mr. Maass and Mr. Jacobson.

Bethany Scroll, April 1935

Senior Class Funds to Be Used to Begin Campus Improvement Project --

As its chief memorial, the Class of '35 is going to begin improving the campus by filling in and landscaping the plot of ground lying between the dining hall and the girls' dormitory.

Landscaping Outlined --

Truckloads of black soil are now being hauled to this plot to be banked and leveled. Grass will be seeded, flower beds designed, and shrubbery planted. An attractive stone curbing will be built along the driveway bordering the plot, the material for which will come from the stone foundation now standing south of the building. On one of the largest stones in the curbing, the words "Class of '35" will be engraved. For a time the area within the foundation will be converted into a parking lot.

... As further development of the project, if funds are not exhausted, the south entrance of the building will be improved by a stone facing around the doorway.

Bethany Scroll, September 1935



Bethany steps, April 2013

Bethany Campus Greatly Improved -- An imposing stairway up the hill, new sidewalk, the covering up of an old road, the gradual disappearance of the rustic old foundation--all these pleasant improvements greeted the students on their return to Bethany this fall.

The building of the new steps, perhaps the most appreciated improvement, was made possible by the donations of the faculty members. There are on[e] hundred thirty-six steps up the hill now, in place of the old rugged trail. ...the steps are arranged in irregular groups, at the end of each of which is a small landing place affording a resting place. ...A new sidewalk leading to the front entrance affords a dry walk in wet weather.

Some of the stones from the old foundation were used as curbing for the Senior Class projects last spring. The remaining stone[s] are being removed and the space which this affords is to be turned into a parkway. ...

Bethany Scroll, October 1936

Alumni Meeting Held --

...former "Bethanites"... met... October 18,... it was decided to continue the work ..., namely, the laying of a sidewalk from the front of the building to the top of the stairway going down the front hill and putting up a railing alongside this cement stairway...after getting one more glimpse of the old Alma Mater, all left with a feeling of satisfaction.

Bethany Scroll, May 1937

Class Day Exercises Held Monday A. M. --
At 10 o'clock on the morning of June 7, the Class Day exercises began with the marching of the class of '37 into the chapel...the assembly sang "High Among the Trees You Stand", the school song, accompanied by Dr. Ylvisaker. On the campus the class memorial tree, a maple, was planted near the head of the steps with the class will, the class prophecy, and a list of the seniors' names buried beneath.

Bulletin, July 1938

...the class of 1938 sponsored the erection of a stone entrance to the college grounds. By using stone largely from the "old foundation," and by securing substantial donations from business firms in the city and other friends, the gate has become a rather pretentious one, about which much of the future landscaping naturally will center. The nine-foot pilasters on either side will hold lights, to serve at the same time as street lights for the city and to light up this whole section of the campus. Solid cast bronze plates have also

been set in these pilasters, bearing the name of the school. ...

The entrance was formally dedicated in connection with the class-day exercises and in the following words spoken by the president: "In the name and on behalf of our Synod and of Bethany Lutheran College I accept this memorial of the Senior Class of 1938 and by resolution of the Class I dedicate it solemnly to the memory of two departed friends of our school, the Rev. G. A. Gullixson and Mrs. Frieda Schanke. The entrance is opened from within, symbolizing the welcome we extend to the youth of our church to come and enjoy the blessings this institution has to offer. It is massive, to symbolize that these blessings are lasting and a solid foundation on which to build in life. It is lighted, to remind us of the light of the Gospel and of Christian faith pointing a sure way. It is a thing of beauty, to symbolize the beauty of Christian character as the goal of our every endeavor here. And may God bless this memorial in the name of His dear Son."

Bulletin, July 1939

...The Alumni have caused a railing to be built along the stairway approach to the college. ...

...two friends of the college have contracted for the building of a drive extending from the stone entrance to the grounds, across the campus to the south of the proposed music hall and around to the front of the administration building and the recitation hall, with a complete turn at the north-west point. The drive will finally make it possible for cars to reach the main entrance to the college and will thus fill a long-felt need. To complete the project much fill has been added in front of the main entrance, and with this start we expect that future landscaping of this part of the grounds will be simplified ..., ...this drive will undoubtedly become a favorite one with visitors because of the beautiful view it affords over the city and valley below. Bethany extends sincere thanks to these kind donors who in this manner have proved again their interest in our work.

...Gradually our campus is taking on a very attractive appearance also at this important approach to the grounds, a section which only a few years ago was most uninviting. ■

Landscaping Projects at Bethany

by Dan Johnson



I am the Groundskeeper at Bethany Lutheran College and I was asked to write an article for *Oak Leaves* about the landscaping at the college. I will include the history of my position at BLC, a little about two designs created to hide “problem spots,” and give you a quick tour around the landscape of the new Honsey Hall building.

It was 1993 when a position opened for a Groundskeeper/Gym Cleaner. I was attending the seminary and my wife Emily and I were the men’s dorm managers. I heard about the position and thought this was something I would enjoy so I applied and was hired.

The first years of my groundskeeping consisted mostly of mowing the lawn. I had a summer helper and we would mow, mow, mow. The summer helper often was a college student who would become a seminary student and would work during the summers at



Bethany for many years. Before the Groundskeeper position, Kurt Kluge and Mike Madson and others worked their way through college and seminary that way. Later, workers for many summers include Rob Lawson, Pete Faugstad, and Paul Webber.

The lawn mower we used at first was a certain joystick style that could “buck” you off if you didn’t handle it just right so the person mowing would put a broom across the seat and into the frame of the lawn mower to hold himself in while mowing on the hillsides. Pat Meyer, the President’s wife, would plant red geraniums in little black circles between the crab apple trees the Monday before graduation and that was the landscape plan for the year. Later in the summer, when the grass stopped growing, we would prune shrubs. That was groundskeeping my first five years. Then school would start and I would go back to work in the Sports and Fitness Center.

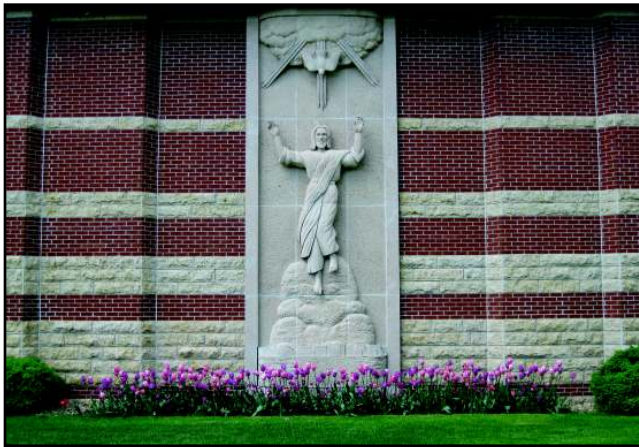
In 1994 the chapel was being built and the cafeteria was being remodeled so the older gym was used as a gym, chapel, and cafeteria. I would set up for breakfast, then take breakfast tables down, set up for chapel, then take chapel down, set up for lunch, then take lunch tables down, set up for gym classes, clear the gym, and then set up for supper. There was not much time to be groundskeeper. So, after two years of this, the college decided it would be good to have the groundskeeper be a groundskeeper and I focused on that. The extra time was nice because campus was growing quickly and every other year we would add a building and all the landscaping and snow removal that went with it. Now I had a little time to learn how to do more than just mow the lawn. After a few years I started feeling confident enough to add annual flowerbeds, fix trouble areas, and design new areas.

Look at the swing at the Sports and Fitness

Center—you will see behind it some brick that is a different color than the rest of the brick. I designed that area to hide the mismatched brick that was used



to build a wall where the front doors once were. The swing is angled to look toward Trinity Chapel and the ascending Jesus carving. Clematis grow over the trellis on the swing and provide wonderful purple flowers and shade in the summer.



Another landscape area added to cover a newly-exposed part of a building was on the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center. After Honsey Hall was built two years ago, what used to be the hidden side of the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center was now the first thing one saw. So when Art Westphal asked me what we could do with some donated money, we came up with the design of a raised mound of dirt with beautiful plantings in it and a river running through it to cover an area that looked like too much brick and to have a landscape that people could enjoy. It also tied all of that side of campus together so as you drive in to BLC from the front gates you immediately see beautiful landscaping.



Since Honsey Hall is a large building, my designs are large scale all around the building. Sitting rocks were picked out at the quarry (each rock is about 2000 pounds), large planters were planted with annuals to give Honsey Hall a new look every year, and perennial beds have large plants. The design goal was to be unique and beautiful, while trying to soften the building.

Much time and effort went into designing the south side of Honsey Hall to be unique and eye catching from the road, but not so large as to cover up the building. The three “beauty bumps”

with river birches in them are my design. I raised the three areas about a foot, mulched around the bumps to contrast them from the grass, and



put large trees, dwarf blue spruces, and Kasota stone boulders in them. A very tall grass in the center island that grows to ten feet tall is the focal point of the design, and seven-foot-tall grasses in the side bumps give the plantings some balance.



Traveling west past the hospital, the first part of Honsey Hall one sees are steps leading up to it and the main feature of the

Hall, one of the lanterns. The lanterns are big window areas looking out from the building toward the Mankato community on one side and toward the BLC community on the other side. The landscaped “arms” around the steps of the Mankato side of the building are meant to invite people in. The plant material used matches the plants at the front gates to tie both sides of the building together. I plan to add prickly pear cactus to the sedum garden left of the steps. Did you know Minnesota has



a native cactus? Prickly Pear cactus grows in southwest Minnesota by Blue Mounds State Park and in northwest Minnesota in the northwest

angle.

The backside of the building, the north side, is a windowless wall with few architectural extras. I moved three large Black Hills Spruce from another site on campus to hide the wall and give that side instant gratification. Walking along this side of the building leads into the campus side of Bethany. I added



spot!" This area was inspired by a trip taken with my family to visit friends in Arizona. In Lake Havasu, Arizona it is too dry to have grass, so landscaping is making unique areas with rock. Looking down the west side of Honsey Hall toward the street you see the same plant material that is in the front gates close by (catmint and a red-leafed weigela). That brings us back to the Marsh street side of campus.

sitting boulders along the sidewalk to stretch out the building and tie it to the rest of campus. Many landscaped areas are visible from the north lantern including the riverbed and the ascending Jesus sculpture on Trinity Chapel. Much of my design kept in mind what things looked like from above.



The summer we were landscaping Honsey Hall, every time it rained it looked like a river in an area by the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center. So I said to myself, "Why fight it—let's design a river in this

If you haven't been to campus lately please come and enjoy it from a landscape point of view. Go up in the Honsey Hall lantern on the campus side of Bethany and look at the landscaping from above and then take a tour of the campus flowerbeds. Hopefully the landscape gets better every year and for many years to come. ■

Oak Leaves
ELS Historical Society
6 Browns Court
Mankato, MN 56001

Renew your membership!

ELS Historical Society

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Send completed form and check (see box below right
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Oak Leaves is published periodically by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Historical Society, 6 Browns Court — Mankato, MN 56001; www.els-history.org

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Oak Leaves welcomes articles of both Synodical and local significance for publication. Articles may be edited for style, clarity, or length to allow for publication. Each issue will be deposited in the archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

MEMBERSHIP

All membership renewals are due **June 1**

Voting Membership:

\$10/year: individual

\$15/year: husband & wife

Associate Membership:

\$15/year: individual

\$25/year: institutional

\$5/year: student

Lifetime Membership: \$200