



Celebrating the Campus School at Western, 1899-1967

# The Campus Schooler

Issue 14  
2010

[www.thecampusschool.com](http://www.thecampusschool.com)

## Do You Know Me?



See p. 2

## Calling All Junior Stained Glass Artists

Did you help design the stained glass windows created for the Campus School Building, or do you know who did? John Morey is known to have designed the second grade window, but the names of other junior designers are presently lost to history. If you can help, please contact Florence Winsor Helliessen at 206-285-1755 or send her an email at [fhelliessen@msn.com](mailto:fhelliessen@msn.com). Florence is also looking for information about the themes of the windows and, especially, the colors. So far, no color photos of the windows have turned up; if you have any, or know someone who has, please let Florence know.

To see pictures of the windows, access the Campus School website and use Select-a-Search to locate the term "Stained Glass." Then, click on Search.

Thanks for your help! ■

## *New Life for an Old Pal*

### The Campus School Building: Treasured Past, Dynamic Future

On Feb. 10, 2010, Campus School alumni from across the years gathered at the invitation of the Dean's office of WWU's Woodring College of Education to discuss the upcoming changes to the building known since 1968 as Miller Hall. In the hearts of Schoolers, of course, this structure was and remains the Campus School, purpose-built just for them in the early 1940s. During the renovation of the building after closure of the School, much of the original interior detail was sadly lost. Now, with the latest, even more extensive remodel in progress, ways are being discussed and ideas sought to preserve the special feeling of the Campus School within the spaces it originally occupied.



*Ruby Smith, Earl Cilley, Sherry Miller, and Mary King enjoy sharing ideas about commemorating the Campus School in Miller Hall*

After a nostalgic hot lunch (lasagna and green beans!), Mike Henniger, Woodring's associate dean, led the group in a round of reminiscing and visioning. Several attendees urged recreation of the stained glass windows that enlivened the reading alcoves. Others suggested dedicated display cases or murals highlighting the Campus School experience. The idea of saving a piece of the (soon to be destroyed) ramps struck a chord with many, along with the notion of a sideline in selling or auctioning off small bits to the truly ramp-wistful. Naming a walkway near the building to honor the School, creating a sculpture evoking the School's past, building a square ball game court nearby, even starting a new campus school—all these ideas drew appreciative nods from the assembled alumni.

Mike, along with Carole Morris of Woodring's administrative staff, then marshaled participants for a walking tour of Miller Hall, pointing out areas once used by the School. After this, the group decamped to Wilson Library to tour the new Special Collections area on the 6th floor, where the Campus School Collection is safely housed. A hard hat tour of some of the under-construction interior areas of Miller Hall followed.

When the massive project concludes in 2011, the "new," new Miller Hall will offer updated classrooms, computer labs, and instructional spaces, as

well as offices and support facilities for both Woodring and its co-inhabitant, the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. The renovation will also replace aging building systems and provide improved access for the disabled. Overall, it will be a far more flexible, more dynamic place for learning and teaching, just as the original Campus School building was in its day.

For more about the Miller Hall renovation, visit the WWU Facilities Management website at <http://www.wvu.edu/depts/fm/Services/FDCA/PublicWorks/Projects/PW465/index.html>. To access photographs and videos showing the project in progress, visit Woodring's "News and Events" page at <http://www.wce.wvu.edu/Announcements> and scroll down to "Miller Hall Renovation in Progress." ■

**Our Debate.** After studying the harvester and the telephone, the eight B debated on the question; Resolved: the McCormick harvester is more beneficial to mankind than the telephone. The debate was held on December 1 and was judged by Miss Korthauer, Miss Nelson, and Miss Reed, who decided in favor of the affirmative which upheld the value of the harvester. The reason given for this decision was that the affirmative team had covered more material, and the delivery of speech had been better than that of the opposing team. — *The Junior Viking*, February 1929 ■

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## Surprise! Meet the Unknown Ruth Weythman

As this lovely image taken in 1932 demonstrates, "Miss Weythman" was not always the stern, sometimes fearsome person that many Schoolers remember from their physical education and swimming sessions. Read on, though, to learn how this lady definitely earned the right to be tough.

Born on Oct. 12, 1899, in Monitor, Wash., a small town near Cashmere, Ruth Weythman came from a family with deep roots in the Wenatchee Valley. After earning a BS at the University of Washington in 1922, she was hired by Western in 1924, to establish a swimming program for women students. After two years, she left Bellingham, initially to teach during 1926/27 at Ohio State University. She then headed to New York, where she earned her MA at Teachers College Columbia University in 1929. Back again at Western, she returned to teaching, served in administrative roles, including as chair of the Women's Physical Education Dept., and was very active in and much honored by regional and national organizations dedicated to physical education, particularly physical education for women.

After 1929, Miss Weythman's longest absence from Western extended from 1943 through 1945, when she served with the American Red Cross in northern India as a volunteer recreation worker at the 14th Evacuation Hospital. Situated on the infamous Ledo Road in Assam, the hospital treated not only the war-wounded but also soldiers devastated by typhus and malaria. Its patients included Indian, Chinese, and American troops, perhaps most famously men from the U. S. Army's special forces unit known as "Merrill's Marauders."

Under the command of General Frank Merrill, the mission of the Marauders was to harass Japanese communications and supply lines in Burma. Their actions included deliberate provocations such as the shooting of patrols, in aid of allied troops attacking from the north. Due in large part to their heroic efforts, northern Burma was eventually reclaimed, but the toll on the unit was terrible. At one time, half the patients at the 14th Evacuation Hospital were members of the Marauders. The Red Cross workers did what they could to ease distress. George Korson's *At His Side: the Story of the American Red Cross Overseas in World War II* (available online) preserves a report written by Miss Weythman in May 1944: "With the help of two able-bodied Marauders, we had a bingo game for an hour one evening. Nesde's chocolate bars made very acceptable prizes. This is the nearest we have come so far to having a party. They enjoyed that activity enough to do it again." In 1945, the War Dept. awarded a Meritorious Service Unit Plaque to the hospital and its personnel.

Following deactivation of the hospital in December 1945, Miss Weythman resumed teaching at Western in January 1946. During 1948/49, she served as a visiting professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. After stepping down as PE department chair in 1963, she retired in July 1966. Later that year, she married James Van Wickle of Bellingham where they continued to reside; he died in 1974.

Ruth Weythman Van Wickle eventually returned to her native Wenatchee Valley, where she died in Cashmere on June 19, 1977. A doll collector for many years, she bequeathed her collection of more than 300 dolls to Western. With the permission of her family, the collection was auctioned in 1978 and 1979 and the proceeds used to fund scholarships, including the Ruth Weythman Van Wickle Student Scholarship. ■



In uniform, 1944

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