

Kickoff Luncheon attracts more than 250

Purdue retirees and their guests gathered Sept. 10 at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in West Lafayette for the annual fall Kickoff Luncheon. Entertained with music by Jeris Eikenberry on the keyboard, more than 250 attendees shared conversation, laughter, lunch, and door prizes from 29 generous donors.

After the meal, acting President Tim Sands provided an update on recent campus news and events as well as a look at the upcoming transition to a new administration. He shared newly released enrollment statistics for the fall semester, the success of freshman orientation Boiler Gold Rush, Purdue's improved national rankings, and recent achievements of faculty, staff and students.

Two important awards were presented at the luncheon. The Betty M. Nelson Award was given to Kate LaMar. The Arthur G. Hansen Award, given to a department or unit at Purdue that works closely with its retirees, was presented to the Department of Nutrition Science in the College of Health and Human Sciences. Professor and Department Head Connie Weaver accepted the award for the Department of Nutrition Science. Nutrition Science invites retirees to annual



(left to right) Sue Hiser, president of PURA; honoree Connie Weaver; acting President Tim Sands

lectureships held in honor of retired faculty and to other major celebrations for awards and professional honors and social events; it maintains a retiree email list and sends a semiannual newsletter to inform retirees of department educational and social events; and it honors retirees by inducting them into the Department of Nutrition Science

Hall of Fame in recognition of their contributions in the field.

The success of the luncheon was reflected in the positive comments shared by attendees. It was a great beginning for a new season of monthly PURA lunches and other events!



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Kate LaMar honored at Kickoff Luncheon as recipient of 2012 Betty M. Nelson Award

The Betty M. Nelson Special Recognition Award was presented to Kate LaMar at the annual Kickoff Luncheon, held at the Four Seasons by Sheraton Hotel on Sept. 10.

LaMar has been the Purdue face and voice of our Purdue retiree health plans for the past seven years. She has worked tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to help retirees navigate the complex world of health care insurance. She has worked with providers, insurers and the Purdue Retiree Benefits Committee to ensure that every benefit agreed upon is provided in a timely, accurate and effective manner. She regularly holds helpful, useful educational sessions for pre-retirees as well as retirees. She has worked closely with many of our elderly, homebound or institution-bound retirees and their families to solve insurance issues. Time and time again, LaMar has been the go-to person for retiree health benefit issues, going above and beyond the call of duty to help make sure that each retiree is well served. We congratulate her and thank her immensely for a job well done.



(left to right) Sue Hiser, president of PURA; honoree Kate LaMar; acting President Tim Sands

Topics, speakers, and coordinators set for 2012-13 PURA luncheons

Dec. 3	Topic: Global Women's Health Initiative Speaker: Connie Weaver Coordinator: Olivia Wood	Apr. 1	Topic: A View of the Indiana Statehouse Speaker: Sue Scholer Coordinator: Betty Suddarth
Jan. 7	Topic: Oakland School Speaker: Clare Lutgen Coordinator: Ann Hunt	May 6	Topic: Food Finders Speaker: Amy Gaulke Coordinator: Eldon Ortman
Feb. 4	Topic: Cancer Research Speaker: Phil Low Coordinator: Dale Margerum	June 3	Topic: Identity Theft Protection Speaker: Bob Falk Coordinator: John Trott
Mar. 4	Topic: Health and Human Sciences: New Endeavors Speaker: Christine Ladisch Coordinator: Doug Sprengle	July 1	Topic: Energy Issues Speaker: Wally Tyner Coordinator: Don Jones
		Aug. 5	Topic: Juvenile Justice System Speaker: Judge Loretta Rush Coordinator: Marilyn Ziemer



Purdue University Retirees Association

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The *Purdue University Retirees Association Newsletter* is published for official retirees of Purdue University by the Office of Marketing and Media. For change of address, please use the form on the back page of this newsletter or email julie1@purdue.edu.

Any suggestions or ideas for PURA should be referred to Office of Retiree Affairs, 401 S. Grant St., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2024. Telephone 765-494-1779 or 877-725-0222. Email masalla@purdue.edu.

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PURA goes to the zoo

On an unseasonably hot September day, PURA members and their guests stepped into the brand-new Education Station of the Columbian Park Zoo. After a brief welcome and orientation by the zoo's education staff, some of the zoo's residents were introduced.

First up was Nico, a blazingly white cockatoo with a gorgeous topknot. We were informed that Nico is a dancer. Encouraged by applause, he bobbed with great spirit. The educators explained that the white powder he leaves as he rubs his head against them enables him to fly. Next, we were introduced to Susie the Sloth, who was no dancer but was equally friendly. After slowly transferring herself to a bunch of branches as she climbed from her self-contained carrier, she munched a snack and ignored the audience members who were invited to gather round and touch her fur. A cantaloupe-size armadillo born in the San Diego Zoo was our next guest. Shy at first, she frantically started waving her legs to be put down. Once on the floor, she scooted around like a tiny vacuum.

The educators explained that most of the Lafayette zoo animals are on loan from zoos in the United States rather than moving from their native habitat. PURA learned that like most nonprofits,



PURA members gather around Susie to watch her eat a favorite snack while they pet her.

the Lafayette zoo depends on volunteers and explained that volunteering can be as simple as cutting up food or as involved as training and becoming a docent or working

with marketing. PURA members who are interested in working at the zoo should contact Courtney Nave at cnave@lafayette.in.gov.

TIAA-CREF announces individual counseling sessions

PURA members can obtain individual counseling at no cost and discuss personal financial plans with an experienced TIAA-CREF financial consultant on a confidential basis. These sessions are available for discussion of financial goals achieved by investing in financial programs such as mutual funds, brokerage, life insurance and annuities. Meetings are personalized, and they provide objective advice. A detailed evaluation will answer these questions for participants:

- What retirement income options best fit your situation?
- Are you setting realistic goals for key life events and retirement?
- What investment mix and strategy is best for you to increase your portfolio's potential, including protecting against cost-of-living increases?

To register for an individual counseling session, call Erin Robertson at 317-706-6209 or 877-267-4507 ext. 25-6209 or email Erin at erobertson@tiaa-cref.org.

Sessions are available at sites on the following dates:

Purdue West Lafayette campus:
Nov. 14, Dec. 5

Purdue Calumet campus: Nov.
8, Dec. 12

Purdue North Central campus:
Nov. 22

Indiana University-Purdue
University Fort Wayne campus:
Nov. 7

Health insurance plans renewed for 2013

PURcare health insurance premium falls

The Benefits Committee of the Purdue University Retirees Association has renewed the PURcare and Medicare Advantage PPO Health Insurance Plans with UnitedHealthcare for 2013 and has negotiated an overall lower premium for the PURcare plan and a very low 1 percent increase in the premium for the Medicare Advantage or PPO plan.

PURcare, the Purdue-sponsored Medicare Supplement health plan participated in by over 2,200 Purdue Retirees, will continue for 2013 with the same medical, vision and prescription drug benefits as in 2012, but for a lower premium than paid in 2012. The PPO plan will have the same benefits and co-pays as in 2012 with only a premium increase of 1 percent.

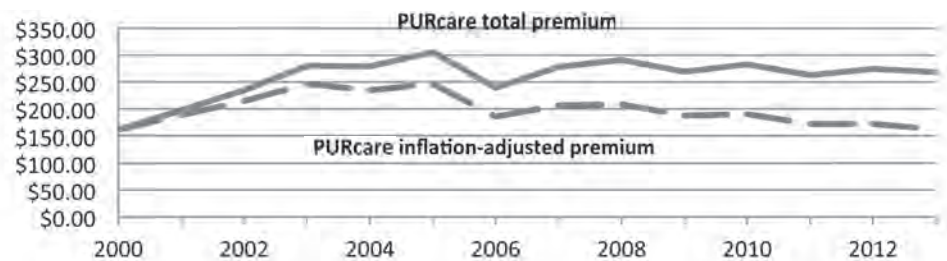
Through the expertise of the AonHewitt Consulting, paid for by Purdue University; the desire of United Healthcare to continue to serve our members; and the hard work of the Benefits Committee members; our premiums are set at very competitive rates as compared with other health insurance plans. Sponsored plans across the nation are seeing large premium increases. Over the past several months the Benefits Committee reviewed plans from many other health insurance companies and received health care utilization information on our plans from UnitedHealthcare. This background and information was used to negotiate our continued coverage with UHC at very good premium rates.

If you are currently a member of one of our plans and do not want to make a change, your coverage will continue for 2013 without re-enrollment.

PURcare for 2013

- The PURcare medical plan (UnitedHealthcare Senior Supplement), including vision care, will continue with the same benefits as 2012 but with a lower premium of \$191.02 per member per month. This premium is down from \$199.47 for 2012, a rate change below what many senior plans are expected to cost.

Fig. 1 PURcare Medical and Drug Premium, 2000-2013



- The PURcare Prescription Drug coverage (Part D) continues with open formulary, no step therapy, and no “donut hole” for a rate of \$77.30 per month per member. This is up about 3 percent from \$75.05 in 2012. Our increased usage of generic drugs helped us stay within the industry standard expected increase of 3-4 percent.
- In 2013 your share of prescription drug costs will remain at 50 percent for local pharmacies and 45 percent for mail orders. True-out-of-pocket maximum costs will be \$4,750, which represents the Medicare-determined amount for the Standard Medicare Part D catastrophic threshold. Once this threshold is reached, prescription drugs are covered at 100 percent for the remainder of the year.
- Annual deductible for hospital/medical treatments will continue to be \$300. After this level is reached, all Medicare-approved costs, including hospitalization, outpatient services, skilled nursing facility, home health care, and other benefits, will be covered at 100 percent for the remainder of the year, plus up to \$150 per year for vision care.
- PURcare members must continue to be enrolled in both the medical and prescription drug plans to be eligible to participate in this plan. An exception is made for members with VA benefits for prescription coverage.
- Per person total premium for medical and prescription drugs for 2013 will be \$268.32, down from \$274.52 for 2012.

The graph above depicts the changes in PURcare benefits through the years, with the solid line representing the PURcare medical and drug premium and the dotted line inflation-adjusted premium costs.

Special notes from the Benefits Committee on frequently asked questions:

- 1.) Medicare does not cover medical costs when you travel outside the U.S., but PURcare does. Please read information on this coverage in materials that you will receive from UnitedHealthcare.
- 2.) Most providers of vision care services do not file for insurance payments, so it is up to the member to file, utilizing the form provided by UnitedHealthcare. If you have questions, contact Kate LaMar.
- 3.) While Medicare pays for many home health care services, PURcare coverage provides an additional \$5,000 per year for coverage of doctor-prescribed services. Please read the UHC material for more information or call Kate LaMar in Purdue Human Resources for assistance.
- 4.) Females: Screening for cervical and vaginal cancers, including Pap tests and pelvic exams, are covered by Medicare Part B once every 24 months. Bone density tests are also covered by Medicare Part B once every 24 months, and mammograms are covered once every 12 months. Males: PSA blood tests and digital rectal exams are covered by Medicare Part B once every 12 months. In each case, participants should make sure their doctors code the test correctly.

Veterans Affairs eligible members

For 2013, the PURcare medical-only premium will be \$191.02.

Medicare Advantage PPO plan

The Purdue-sponsored Medicare Advantage plan, UnitedHealthcare Group Medicare Advantage (PPO) was also renewed for 2013 with no plan changes. For 2013, monthly premiums will be \$185.96 with no change in covered benefits or co-pays from 2012, an increase of only 1 percent. This premium covers a combined medical and drug plan.

Health insurance consultant continued for PURA by Purdue

In consultation with PURA, Purdue University continued the services of a consultant to assist the Benefits Committee in negotiations and in obtaining information needed to renew the insurance coverage. Aon Hewitt and Associates, Chicago, was of great assistance with the process. We appreciate the support of Purdue Human Resources in making this service available.

Purdue Human Resources support continues

PURA members continue to receive outstanding support from Purdue Human Resources, and we thank them. We specifically rely on secretarial help from Michele Salla. Our full-time support person for health insurance is Kate LaMar. Please phone or contact Kate with questions at klamar@purdue.edu or 765-494-1694.

PURA is hoping that you have had a unique experience you will share with us. Has anyone served in the Korean or Vietnam wars? Did you own an unusual business before you came to Purdue? Were you in the Peace Corps? Did you have some hair-raising experience as a youth? Send your memories to Jo Thomas, column coordinator, at mjo13@frontier.com for consideration.

The impact of retiree giving

By Robert A. Ford, PURA liaison advisor

The Purdue faculty and staff are known for their fierce loyalty, passion for their profession, excellence in research and teaching, and the list goes on and on. These words, and many more flowery descriptions, define those who provide support, teach and perform research at this grand university, and it does not change at retirement. One has to look no further than philanthropy at Purdue to see that same loyalty, passion and willingness to share their knowledge as well as their treasure.

Over the past 12, years Purdue retirees have contributed gifts totaling more than \$51 million. Those gifts have touched every college on campus, as well as all of the regional campuses, supporting scholarships, fellowships, professorships, student study abroad, libraries, student clubs and organizations, leading-edge research, athletics, new equipment, convocations, new construction, a number of awards and prizes, and numerous other programs and units.

Because of this loyal support, Purdue students will study and do research in world-class facilities. Purdue professors and researchers will have leading-edge laboratories in which to perform their work. Purdue will prepare and graduate the next generation of leaders, and those students will be better prepared to meet the challenges of tomorrow and do it with less student debt.

A large thank you to each and every Purdue retiree who has gone the extra mile as a teacher, mentor, supporter and donor to make Purdue what it is today and will be in the coming years.

PURA member recognized

On April 2, 2012, Purdue Chef Emeritus Hubert Schmieder received the ACF Lifetime Achievement Award from the Indianapolis Chapter of the American Culinary Federation (ACF).

Meeting on the Purdue West Lafayette campus in Marriott Hall, ACF honored Hubert Schmieder, now in his seventh year on the PURA Hospitality Committee, and in his 57th year of cooking, starting as a boy growing up in southwest Germany during World War II. In 1943, at the age of 14, he began a three-year apprenticeship under Herman Beck, a German master chef. After the war ended, Hubert got a job cooking for the U.S. military, where he made friends with some German-speaking American soldiers.

Hubert worked in different hotels and restaurants in the United States upon his arrival in the U.S. and continually competed at the IKA in Germany, winning several gold medals. As an active member of the American Culinary Federation (ACF), Hubert served as president for three different chapters, and he remains a member of the ACF Indianapolis chapter. Hubert's gifts for cookery, networking, teamwork and competition were recognized by Purdue in 1989, when he was hired as a chef-instructor

– the first professional chef to work in the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Now in his 80s, Hubert is often seen at the MCL Cafeteria PURA luncheons, greeting people and helping them find places to sit. Next time you see him, congratulate him on his ACF Lifetime Achievement Award!

This new column has been designed to recognize PURA members who have won awards or honors since their retirement. If you have received recognition from a professional group or from a local organization, please inform the Hospitality Committee or alert Jo Thomas, editor of the column, at mjo13@frontier.com.



THOSE WERE THE DAYS

The Long Ride

By Lynn Nelson

The long ride to Wisconsin from Mount Prospect, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, began on a spring vacation morning in 1958. I had been riding my beautiful red Schwinn Traveler three-speed racer since Santa left it near the tree three years earlier. In those three years my adventures had lengthened to the point where I regularly commuted to my grandmother's apartment in Des Plaines, the next town east, and Prospect Heights to the north.

The majority of my bike rides were solos; an extension of my rides to visit my grandmother was the exploration of the Des Plaines River and the adjoining forest preserves. As a 10- and 11-year-old, I explored the horse trails bordering the river. I can still see the rainbow of butterflies hovering above a small lake that I "discovered." Only once did I run into a horse and rider on these paths; the rider informed me the trails were for horses and riders. I thanked him and rode on. After all, my 11-year-old mind concluded that it was a shame to waste the adventure of these trails on a single horse and rider.

A brief description of the cherry-red Schwinn Traveler is necessary to my story. I first gazed on the beautiful machine in the showroom of C. Bade Bikes in downtown Des Plaines in December 1954. My father and mother taught me to ride on a small bike by the time I was in kindergarten or first grade. This first bike got a good deal of use; at the time we lived in a house on a section of Forest Avenue in Des Plaines that was cut off by Soo Line tracks. It was perfect; no through traffic to interrupt my riding.

The bright red bike with the chrome fenders triggered my first experience of consumer passion. I had to have this ride, but would Santa or my parents buy it? I already had my doubts about Santa. As Christmas approached once again I grew even more apprehensive regarding the red bike. Would my parents believe I was big enough for a 26-inch English racer with the three-speed Sturmey Archer shifting mechanism? I could no longer endure the

doubt, so one late afternoon I hopped onto my small bike to see if the red beauty was still in the bike shop. I had not considered the possibility there might be a number of these bikes for sale. I was driven by the horrible fear the bike might be sold before Santa or my parents could pick it up. I still vividly remember pedaling up the sidewalk on Center Street through crunchy snow to look into the window of the bike shop. To my great relief, my bike was still there.

A day or two prior to Christmas, I encountered relief and revelation. Our house on Forest Avenue was ideal for exploration; it had two stories, but most importantly, the spaces provided by a huge yard and garden, nooks and crannies that were part of sun porches on the front and another on the back of the house, and a fruit cellar under the back sun porch. I loved to search for riches outside and inside of our house and, since it was December, I did a great deal of interior exploration. Our basement housed treasures – I was sure of that. Beside the great beast of a coal furnace there was a crawl space filled with exciting objects and a fruit cellar where my family canned and stored our annual harvest from the garden. On a day just prior to Christmas, I was playing in the basement ... and I found it! Still beautiful in the dim light of our fruit cellar stood the Schwinn Traveler resting on its kick stand. I was thrilled with the bike but confronted with the implication that Santa did not exist. I did not tell my parents about finding the bike; I felt the simultaneous joy of knowing that the bike would be mine and the guilt of finding it before Christmas.

Needless to say, Christmas was joyous. I received the magic carpet that would fly me to so many locations. The 26-inch English racer was just a smidge too large for my legs. I was a tall boy for third grade, but not quite tall enough. My dad and I solved the temporary problems using the sun porch stairs next to our driveway. These steps were located on the side of the front of our house and by standing on the bottom step, I could throw my left leg over the bike and start off. Stopping was no problem; I could simply reverse this process and stand on the right pedal. I quickly outgrew the need for the stairs, but I never outgrew the habit of getting on the "wrong side" of a bike.

My long-distance riding began when

we moved three miles to Mount Prospect the following spring while my grandmother moved into an apartment in Des Plaines. My parents were married in 1927, but they had never owned a home. The agricultural depression following World War I claimed the Nelson farm in southeastern South Dakota, and bank failures in the early years of their marriage claimed their savings. Our house in Des Plaines was shared with my twice-widowed grandmother and her son, my Uncle Glen. This extended family, along with my parents' stories of their lives as children, provided me with the need to explore the world beyond my home.

A Memorable Day

I am not sure of the exact date of the ride in the spring of 1958. I remember that it was reasonably cool. The date was chosen because my mother, who was teaching in East Maine District #63, did not have the day off. It was probably a spring break day. My grandmother was in charge, but she was accustomed to my bike rides. I know she did not believe me when my response to her inquiry regarding my plans was: "I'm riding to Wisconsin; I will be home late."

My neighbor, Ricky Smosna, and I had been planning this ride for a week or more. In the 1950s anyone could walk into a gas station and take a road map. Ricky and I had been riding together for a year or more and our rides had ranged progressively further from our homes. That spring we looked at a map and concluded that "we can take 83 to 45 and ride to Wisconsin." We knew the trip was approximately 80 miles round-trip and would take eight hours if we did not have any trouble.

The ride would be more difficult for Ricky; he had a balloon tire Monarch bike with two top tubes and a cover between those tubes holding a horn and a battery for the horn. He also had a headlight attached to the top of the front fender. The bike looked cool, but it was a heavy one-speed. In contrast, I had grown into my red English racer, and the three-speed came in handy in scaling the hills beyond Mundelein.

Ricky and I had taken several rides north of Mount Prospect to visit his relatives in Prospect Heights. I believe this is one reason we viewed the Wisconsin border as a logical next step. In the 1950s Route 83 was not heavily traveled, and we guessed the

same would be true of Route 45, the final leg of our Wisconsin adventure. I was years away from understanding the reasons for suburban development along railroad lines, but our rides taught us that north was a direction we could ride and encounter fewer cars than east, west, or south.

I packed up a sandwich and a container of water and put them into my stylish small leather case hung behind the saddle. I told grandmother that Ricky and I were riding to Wisconsin and not to worry. I am sure that she did not believe me. Anyway, this was a long time before cell phones, and grandmother would not bother my mother while she was teaching. My father had left the house by 6:00 that morning to ride the Northwestern train to his job in the Loop.

To be honest, I do not remember if Ricky or I checked the tire pressure before we left for Wisconsin. I know neither of us had any way of patching a flat tire. After all, we had not had flat tires on prior rides, why should we have one now! Oh, the blissful ignorance of youth. Ricky lived only two houses from me, so I rode down, and he was ready. We rode through the side streets of Mount Prospect to the intersection of Route 83 and Central Road. At that point we headed north on 83 to Prospect Heights. This was familiar territory.

New Terrain

North of Prospect Heights we were in a foreign territory. My parents frequently drove to South Dakota, but they traveled northwest via Route 14, Northwest Highway, and then on to roads through southern Wisconsin and Minnesota. I had never traveled this route and neither had Ricky, if my memory is correct.

We crossed the last intersection with a stop light in Prospect Heights. We rode on Route 83 to Route 45, just south of Mundelein, and encountered very little traffic. I remember one thoughtful man pulled up alongside of us somewhere between Mundelein and Libertyville and told us that we should not ride on such a busy road. Ricky and I considered his suggestion with the same depth of thought I had given the horseman's suggestion to stay off the forest preserve bridle paths. We continued on.

The remaining part of the ride is pretty much a blur. We encountered some fairly steep climbs in the northern part of our ride, but the physical stamina of our 12-year-old legs far exceeded our awareness of possible pitfalls in the

adventure. Ricky and I finished the 40 miles to Wisconsin sometime between noon and 1 in the afternoon. Only the "Welcome to Wisconsin" sign marked the turn-around point. I remember parking our bikes at the side of the road and eating the sandwich I had made that morning. For the life of me, I cannot remember if I had the good sense to make a peanut butter sandwich or carried a ham or salami sandwich.

Luckily, our return trip was completely uneventful. We traversed the same hills from the opposite direction. Ricky stopped off at his relatives' house while I pushed on for home. I arrived home before dark just as we planned. Ricky and I had been extremely lucky – no flat tires and no hostile people. Now I had to answer to my parents. Strangely, my father and mother were not angry. I vaguely remember some words to the effect of being careful, not riding so far from home, and not worrying my grandmother.

Looking Back

In the past several years, I have given a good deal of thought to two questions: Why did I spend so many hours of my youth on a bicycle? Why did my parents not stop or curtail my wanderings? I have come to understand the answers to these key questions are intertwined.

I was born into a historically rich family. My father grew up on a South Dakota farm a few miles west of the Minnesota border. As a boy, he and four brothers rode an Indian motorcycle, the kind you see at the Smithsonian museum, at breakneck speeds on the unpaved rural roads surrounding their farm. My dad vividly described his thrill in jumping the motorcycle from one wagon rut to the other as it sped along. Numerous other stories enchanted me, with pheasant hunts where the hunters were bound by rules that they must only shoot from the running boards of a vehicle when it was moving and the bird was in the air. In his teens, my father signed on with the crew of a thrashing machine to harvest wheat in South Dakota. My mother's family history was not as clear, but she shared my father's sense of adventure and a love for the rural life of her youth.

My parents were married in Clear Lake, South Dakota, in June 1927, but the economic blow of the agricultural depression was followed by the economic devastation of the Great Depression of the 1930s. My parents very reluctantly moved to Chicago where my father took up the

trade of a watchmaker in Chicago's Loop. Commuter train rides six days a week replaced pheasant hunts and motorcycle rides. My mother was a gifted teacher. She was one of two teachers in a two-room school providing education to the children of District #63 in Maine Township just east of Des Plaines. She taught until she retired in 1970 and was honored by having a school named after her in 1959.

My parents coped with the Depression. They even supported my grandmother and Uncle Glen, but they carried the sadness of being displaced persons, and this was especially true of my father. Even a good-sized garden (as a child it appeared huge) could not replace the farm and the horses. Mom and Dad compensated for their urban exile with the annual vacation to South Dakota and, twice in my childhood, trips to California to visit my Uncle Cliff. While my memory fails me about many events, including my activities yesterday, these trips, including the preparation and especially my parents' joy in traveling west, are motion pictures in my memory.

Family Fun

We often packed the '51 Mercury and later the '57 Ford the night before so we could escape Chicago early in the darkness at 4 a.m. I remember one Friday evening in 1952 when Dad arrived home at 5 p.m. We jumped in the car for the first California trip I can remember.

I learned a great deal from these annual adventures – the wonders of the Rocky Mountains and beauty of northern California; I also came to understand my parents' moral compass. Travel was a treasure that moved Mom and Dad from the confines of Chicago to the family freedom and joy of South Dakota and California. Wonders were encountered as we glided west on those predecessors of the interstate highway system, Routes 14 and 16, through southern Wisconsin and Minnesota. Further west many two-lane roads unfolded the majesty of the Rocky Mountains and the Tetons.

Ricky Smosna and I were far from alone on that bike ride to Wisconsin in 1958. My parents' hopes, loss and joy rode with us. I had gradually grown around my parents' joy in moving beyond the confines of Chicago. North and west were not simply compass points, they were moral directions. Movement in these directions involved time

continued on back page

Check and approve your address information

The Purdue University Retirees Association is working hard to keep up-to-date with addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for retirees.

Please make any changes on the form below and mail to the address indicated or email to julie1@purdue.edu. Thank you.

“The Long Ride” continued from page 7

travel – it carried us to the freedom, family and community of my parents’ childhoods.

My bike rides were extensions of parental worldviews. The Wisconsin trip was in the right direction. I wonder if my parents’ reactions would have been the same if I rode east into Chicago. I will never know; none of my rides were to the east or south.

I was very lucky; I was born at a time when children were not imprisoned by the bars of cell phones, or texting. I never had the responsibility to communicate my daily digestive status or appraisal of the “lameness” of others to my 217 “best friends.” I rode behind handlebars or looked through the windows of our car.

Today, a red bike weathered to gold rests on a kickstand in my basement. We have moved a number of times, but I cannot part with it. The rubber hand grips are still as red as they were that December so long ago. It continues to transport me to the 1950s rides through forest preserves and on back roads; more importantly, it carries my mother, father and I to the American West of the 50s and onto gravel and dirt roads of my father’s youth where I have to pedal fast to keep up with “the Indian.”

Purdue University Retirees

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