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BGSURA NEWSLETTER



Bowling Green State University
Retirees Association
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Editor of *The Blade* to speak Sept. 22

THOMAS W. WALTON, editor of *The Blade*, Toledo, and a 1965 graduate of BGSU's School of Journalism, will speak in Olscamp Hall Wednesday, Sept. 22, at the opening convocation of the BGSU Retirees Association. Walton, a Tiffin native, returned to *The Blade* in 1988 after serving at *The Herald*, Monterey, Calif., as managing editor, editor and vice president of the newspaper, then owned by Blade Communications. • *continued on page 2*



• *Stern taskmaster Tom Walton, in the center, or "slot," of The BG News copy desk as issue editor in 1964. The next year, Walton, a senior, was managing editor of The News.*

Programs for the year

PRESENTATIONS for the 1999-2000 season luncheon gatherings have been announced:

NOV. 17 - Speaker will be the Hon. Wesley Hoffman, mayor of Bowling Green.

JAN. 26, 2000 - Bowling Green High School Madrigal Singers, directed by James Brown, conductor.

MARCH 22, 2000 - David Newell, speaker. He is "Mr. McFeeley," delivery man on the *Mister Rogers* TV show. Newell has been with the show since its inception and is currently Fred Rogers' business manager.

MAY 24, 2000 - Edward Reiter, senior chairman of Sky Financial Group, Inc. He, too, is a BGSU alumnus.

○ Reservation form for 5th Annual BGSURA Convocation and luncheon ○

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 22

Olscamp Hall, BGSU Campus. 11:30-Noon: Check in and socializing. Noon: Luncheon.

Please make reservations at \$10 per person by **FRIDAY, Sept. 17.**

Your Name _____

Name(s) of Your Guest(s) _____

_____ Total Number of Reservations

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$_____. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO BGSURA.

**SEND FORM AND CHECK TO DON BRIGHT, 1209 CLARK ST., BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402,
NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPT. 17.** Telephone 352-8360.



• *The Mayfield house on Thurstin Avenue, October 1958. Writer Charles Rich retired in 1990.*

There goes the neighborhood...

BY CHARLES RICH, Professor Emeritus of Geology

DO YOU recognize this house? The address was 225 Thurstin Ave. in October 1958, when the picture was taken. It was the home of geology Prof. Samuel Mayfield, who joined the faculty of the Department of Geography and Geology in 1936 and must have built the house in the late 30s or early 40s.

Prof. Mayfield retired from BGSU in June 1958 and needed a few quarters of credit to be eligible for full Social Security benefits. So he taught the 1958-59 and 1959-60 academic years at two small colleges in California and I rented his house for those two years.

At the time Thurstin Avenue went straight south, without the curve, to Wooster Street. On the southwest corner at that intersection was a large two-story brick building opposite the north end of Manville Avenue, known as the "egg factory," although it was used in the early 1950s as a dormitory for women students and called officially "Ivy Hall."

North of the egg factory, on the west side of Thurstin where the Fire Station now is located, was a small variety store owned by Ben Segall (later of Segall's Sanitary Dry Cleaners on North Maple Street). It had several concrete steps leading down to the street level on the east end of Court Street.

ON THE NORTHEAST corner of Court and Thurstin stood the old Gate Theater, well-known for its gradually sinking and therefore sloping floors. This configuration resulted from the fact that the building was constructed on debris that filled a small quarry at that site, and this quarry fill was still settling.

North of the Gate Theater was Prof. Mayfield's house, the backyard of which extended west down to the railroad, at that time the New York Central. On the other side of the tracks is

the University power plant which had smoke stacks only a couple of stories high. So every west wind brought acid-bearing smoke and black particulates over the west side of campus. As a result, the screens on Mayfield's house kept rusting to pieces. Retirees may recall the signs in parking lots warning that the University accepted no responsibility for any damage the acid particulates might do to the finish on cars.

Subsequently, the University alleviated this situation by constructing the present tall smokestack so the wind would disperse the pollutants over the countryside.

WITH THE ARRIVAL of warm weather in the spring of 1959, I was surprised to answer the door to several attractive young women students who wanted to know if I'd give them permission to "lay" (their word) in my backyard. It seems that students were not permitted to sunbathe on campus during the

McDonald administration years. So Sam Mayfield had invited some of his women students to use his backyard for sunning themselves. Of course, I was pleased to extend this same courtesy to these young women.

Between the Mayfield house and the intersection of Pike Street and Thurstin Avenue were a couple of frame houses. One belonged to the mother of Doyt Perry, and I rented a spare bedroom from her one summer when the Mayfields returned from California and I had to move out of their house.

Then progress arrived in the form of construction of the "great curve" in front of the Administration Building. This involved razing all of the buildings mentioned above except the Power Plant. So all those buildings and their history disappeared even before the advent of *This Old House* on television. □



• *Dr. Samuel M. Mayfield became the first chairman of the Geology Department when it became a separate department in 1952, as did Geography.*

President's Message

WELCOME to the 1999-2000 academic year and BGSURA's fifth year of existence. This year we have much in store for you. The program committee under the leadership of Bill Fichthorn has planned an exciting and entertaining program for us, which will be highlighted in September by our convocation speaker, Thomas W. Walton, editor of *The Blade*. Other luncheon programs will feature Wesley Hoffman, mayor of Bowling Green; the Bowling Green High School Madrigal Singers led by James Brown; David Newell, who is "Mr. McFeeley" on the *Mister Rogers* TV show; and Ed Reiter, of Sky Financial.



• Dr. Cormier

The major function of this particular newsletter, which is mailed to all BGSU retirees, is to solicit 1999-2000 members for BGSURA. Please fill out the membership form enclosed in this newsletter and send it along with your dues to Don Bright, BGSURA secretary, 1209 Clark St., Bowling Green, OH 43402. Any University retiree, administrative or classified staff or faculty may be a member. First year retirees receive a free one-year membership.

Please encourage your friends and neighbors who are BGSU retirees and their spouses to join. Only paid-up members receive the newsletter.

BGSURA'S Board of Directors and I look forward to serving you in this last year of the millennium and first year of the next.

Wright State regional meeting

We have received an invitation from Marlene Bireley, president of the Wright State Retirees Association, to visit Wright State on Wednesday, Oct. 13. The day's events will begin with a visit to the Wright State University archives, which houses many of the Wright Brothers memorabilia. Dawne Dewey, the University archivist, will explain the collection. This presentation will be followed by lunch and then by either a tour of the campus or a visit to the Air Force Museum or a return to Bowling Green.

Please call the BGSURA office (372-9696) to let us know if you are interested in attending. We will arrange automobile transportation. Cost of the luncheon is \$10.

Mentors needed

The Literacy Serve and Learn Project needs mentors. How can you serve? The project is designed to help BGSU undergraduates provide tutorial support to elementary students in the Toledo Public Schools (TPS). Experienced faculty are needed to serve as mentors via E-mail to small groups of five to 10 BGSU undergraduates during the fall semester.

Each mentor will spend approximately two to three hours per week online to help undergraduates think about the meaning of their services to the TPS student, to the Toledo community, and very importantly, to the individual BGSU student's growth and development.

Contact Dr. Sallye McKee at smckee@bgnet.bgsu.edu for additional information.

Ramona Cormier

Tom Walton

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Walton covered a variety of beats and assignments for *The Blade*, winning awards for his news and feature writing. He moved to

Columbus in 1972 to become chief of the Columbus Bureau of *The Blade*, returning to Toledo in the fall of 1974 as an editorial writer. Elected to the board of directors of the Toledo Blade Co. in 1995, he was named a vice president of *The Blade* in 1996.

Meeting Sept. 8 to plan 2nd-trip possibilities for France itinerary

WE HAD such a wonderful time with this year's group that we've decided to do it again! If you're interested in joining us, please come to a preliminary meeting at Michael and Lenita Locey's house, 830 E. Wooster St., at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8.

We would like to discuss the possibilities for Spring 2000 on what parts of France to visit and what types of visits you'd like to see included in the itinerary.

Since we went north in 1999, we were thinking that a trip either to the Perigord-Dordogne area in the Southwest or to Provence in the Southeast might be fun. A small group worked well for us this past time, so we will probably limit the numbers to six or eight again next Spring.

— Lenita Locey

Xi'an Foreign Languages University exchange planned

THE coordinator of the BGSU-XFLU exchange, Prof. Timothy Pogacar, is seeking emeriti faculty interested in teaching at the Xi'an Foreign Languages University in 1999-2000 or the following year. The Xi'an administration has affirmed its interest in receiving BGSU emeriti faculty. For details, please call Prof. Pogacar, (419) 372-2269.

BGSURA Executive Committee

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He serves as host of the weekly television program, *The Editors*, on Friday evening on WGTE-TV, Toledo, and Sunday afternoon on WBGU-TV in Bowling Green.

He lives near Grand Rapids with his wife Diane. □