



Ozark Trails

Newsletter of the Greater Ozark Chapter
of the YMCA Alumni
Serving Missouri, North Central Arkansas,
Kansas from Wichita eastward

Dave Rogers, President

Special Addition

Spring 2021 (2)

Mary Ching, Newsletter Editor

The mission of the YMCA Alumni: "to enable members to promote a nurturing worldwide Christian Fellowship that provides educational, social, service and charitable opportunities. "



Greater Ozark Trails, 2021 Special Addition!!!

Check it out! This month we have two Ozark Newsletters! We have had such great news from our members plus a great article written by the children of Conrad Fassold that we are publishing #1 and #2 a week apart. This will make it easier for your Wi-Fi carrier to put in your mailbox as the size will be split between the two newsletters.



David Rogers is inviting you to a scheduled [Zoom meeting](#).

Topic: Y Alumni Ozark Chapter-wide Zoom Meeting

Time: Mar 10, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81799766569>

Meeting ID: 817 9976 6569

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,81799766569# US (New York)

+13017158592,,81799766569# US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 817 9976 6569

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcOPWcYERh>



Set your clocks and calendars!! **March 10th, 7:00 pm** is the Spring Greater Ozark Chapter Zoom meeting. Shoes are not required but you may want to get your computer, laptop, Ipad or phone ready to receive the link to the meeting. Come and join all your YMCA Alumni friends that you haven't seen all year! We have missed getting together!

Be sure to check out all the travel opportunities for YMCA Alumni members and friends. Check the travel website for specific trips and information. Plan now for 2021 and 2022- the demand will be great due to the lack of travel in 2020. <https://ymcaalumnitravelclub.org/>



YMCA Alumni serve across the globe.



International Service Corps (ISC) is a program of YMCA Alumni. Members volunteer for short or relatively longer service stints and use their expertise to help YMCAs and their staffs and volunteers in other nations better serve their communities. Ken Wold is the Greater Ozark Chapter representative to this program. Stay tuned for more news of service opportunity.



Betsy Stoll

Mary Reid received a call from John Stoll on Tues, March 2 and she asked that we pass the news that Betsy had fallen and has not responded as quickly as they had hoped. She also has some confusion, so she has been moved to a new location in the facility where she lives. The new address is The Glen Aberdeen Heights. Prayers and cards would be appreciated at this time. 505 Couch Ave Room #37
Kirkwood, Mo 63112

In Remembrance:

Remembering those who go before...



Conrad Fassold 1927-2021

Conrad L. Fassold, 93, passed away on February 2nd, 2021 at Lakeview Village Care Center in Lenexa. Conrad was born on February 23rd, 1927 to Eda and Louis Fassold in St. Louis, Missouri. He grew up in St. Louis and met his future wife Marjorie Baker in church and high school activities. He enlisted into the Navy near the end of World War II at the age of 17, and Marjorie and Conrad exchanged letters to one another. After his honorable discharge from the Navy, Conrad used the G.I. Bill to enroll at George Williams College in Chicago, Illinois and earned his bachelor's degree.

In March of 1948, he married his sweetheart Marjorie. He began a lifelong career with the YMCA as an executive in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. While there he and Marjorie had a set of twins, Cathy and Carol. They then moved to Omaha, Nebraska where they had their son, Randy. After Omaha, they relocated to the Seattle, Washington area and had their final child, Barbara. An opportunity brought him to Johnson County, Kansas, where he was instrumental in the growth and building of the Johnson County YMCA. He later accepted positions with the YMCA that took him to the Chicago area, Beaumont, Texas, and then retired to Johnson County, Kansas.

In his time outside of work, Conrad was very active in the Lutheran church, and he also participated in the Rotary Club for much of his life, including the Shawnee Mission Rotary Club. He enjoyed swimming, playing tennis, playing bridge and games with family, and was a big fan of baseball—especially the Cardinals and Royals. In retirement, Conrad became skilled at woodworking, even taking classes at Johnson County Community College to better his skills. He created tables, chairs, a crib, and many toys for his grandchildren.

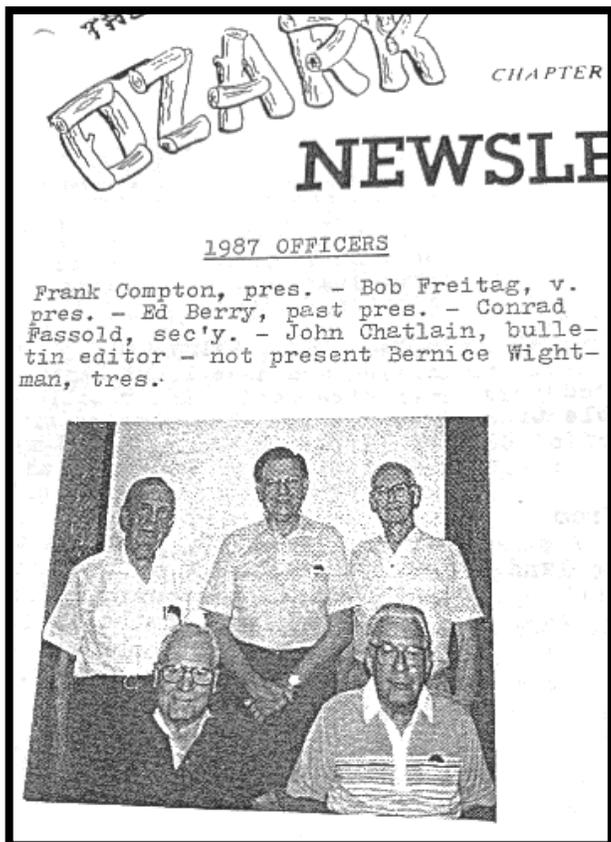
Conrad was preceded in death by his parents and his wife of 70 years, and a son-in-law, Larry Geiger. He is survived by his children Carol Geiger, Cathy (Hank) Hanusch, Randy (Marsha) Fassold, and Barbara (Don) Pinkston; grandchildren Christopher Geiger, Timothy Geiger, Carroll Smith, Paul Hanusch, Brian Fassold, Colin Fassold, Erik Pinkston, Emily Pinkston, Jennifer Pinkston, and Halina Pinkston; and 12 great-grandchildren.



Marjorie B. Fassold

Marjorie B. Fassold, 91, of Lenexa, KS passed away on December 4th, 2018. She was born on August 30th, 1927 in St. Louis, MO to Dr. Cecil and Mabel Baker. Marjorie was a woman of strong faith and very active at Trinity Lutheran Church. She was blessed to celebrate 70 years of marriage in March of 2018 with Conrad. Marjorie was a huge sports fan, especially when family was involved or her favorite teams including the Cardinals, Royals, Chiefs and KU. For many years, Marjorie was a registered nurse and worked with psychiatric patients and newborns. In her free time, Marjorie loved to read, play cards, bowl and do crossword puzzles. Her family was most important to her and she loved spending time with them. Marjorie is preceded in death by her parents; and

brother, Dr. Cecil Baker. She is survived by her husband, Conrad Fassold; daughter Carol (Larry) Geiger of Cocoa, FL; daughter, Cathy (Hank) Hanusch of Shawnee, KS; son, Randy (Marsha) Fassold of Olathe, KS; daughter Barbara (Don) Pinkston of Overland Park, KS; ten grandchildren, Christopher and Timothy Geiger, Carroll (Hanusch) Smith, Paul Hanusch, Brian and Colin Fassold, Erik, Emily, Jennifer and Halina Pinkston; eleven great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.



Greater Ozark Newsletter 1987. Conrad is the tallest one in the group.

Conrad and Marjorie joined the YMCA Alumni (called International Association of Retired YMCA Directors) in 1987. Conrad served as secretary, song leader and treasurer of the organization. They remained members as Senior members until his death in 2021.

Conrad Fassold stays busy taking a working course and is currently building a 4 drawer dresser for his daughter, Barbara. He delivers Meals-on-Wheels to shut-ins, is active in Rotary Club and bowls in their league. He's taking care of his health with M-W-F exercise on the 1 mile Parcourse routine or indoors during inclement weather. He & Marj play a lot of bridge and pinochle, too. They both share the newsletter editing job of The Overland Trailblazers, an active group of senior citizens. And he is our secretary, too. Busy! Busy!

Greater Ozark Newsletter 1988

When Bruce Wands contacted Barbara Pinkston, Conrad's daughter, to find the obituary, they had a nice conversation about old YMCA times. She sent these memories to Bruce for us all to enjoy.

A YMCA Family's Memories



Carol:

I remember selling Christmas Trees, going as a camper to YMCA Camp Gravois and then being a Camp Counselor at both YMCA Camp Gravois and YMCA Camp Santosage (Independence, Missouri).

Cathy and I sold Taffy Candy for Halloween (World Service?) and later in the year we sold Thin Mint Candy for the YMCA. We worked in the Concession stands at the Soccer Fields (Kansas) and collected money from people coming into the Basketball Games at the schools (Kansas).

The Kirkland, WA YMCA had a large Gymnasium with a stage on one side. There was a large trampoline on the stage, and we would get to jump on it whenever we got to visit the East Side YMCA. We loved that trampoline!



My favorite memory is about the YMCA Day Camp at Lake Sammamish near Bellevue, Washington. It was in a very rustic part of the Park and you had to cross over a swinging rope bridge to get into that area. Dad kept the paths cleared with some big hedge clippers. When we moved away from Washington, they gave him a large plaque with the clippers spray painted gold in a wooden frame.

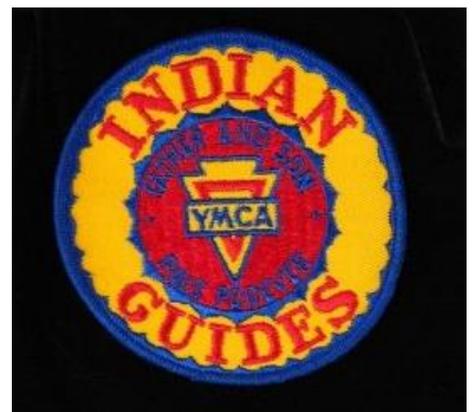
A memory from the Kansas YMCA was when Cathy and I took swimming lessons in their Olympic sized pool so that we could get our Senior Lifesaving Card which we needed to become counselors at Camp Gravois. It was very difficult! We took swimming lessons through the YMCA every summer for years. We enjoyed the lessons and looked forward to them.

Cathy:

I remember going on the "Y" ski trip while in high school. We skied at Estes Park, in Colorado. We had a great time. We also took skating lessons at the new King Louie Bowling/Ice Skating facility in Overland Park, KS. I think that the lessons were offered through the "Y".

For several summers, while we were college age, Carol and I worked at YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly. This is a wonderful conference center located near Asheville, NC. While working at various jobs during the summer conferences we were able to work with and get to know other young adults from all across the southern states. Carol met her future husband, Larry, while working there. I'm sure that we would have missed this great experience if not for Dad seeing information about the various "Y" conference centers. Our dad knew the man who ran Blue Ridge Assembly, Scotty Washburn, from when they both worked for the "Y" in the Seattle, Washington. area. He knew that we would be safe working so far from home then.

Another way the "Y" touched my life was through the "Y" Indian Guides program. My husband, Hank, and our son, Paul, had a great experience with this program. It really built a stronger bond between them while working on projects and goals. The program helped build the moral character of youths and encouraged the enjoyment of crafts, games, songs, and the out of doors.



Randy:

We moved to the Seattle area when I was 6 months old, about August or September 1955. The East Side Y: Big Gym, Trampoline(s)(?), Exercise/Weight room (I still have and use 10-pound hand weights from there). This building also had a local Radio station at the top of a long narrow staircase.

I remember going to at least one, and maybe two, Carnival nights at this Y. There were various stations to win/get small cheap toys. Fun evenings! Unfortunately, this building burned down a few years after we left there.



I also remember going to Day Camp at Lake Sammamish, where we would go sometimes to swim when it was at least 60 degrees. The one craft I remember making at this camp was, from a kit, making a wooden Hydroplane. Hydroplane races on Washington Lake were exciting to watch. I would attach a string to it and pull it behind my bike. I also recall that they had various themes for the Day Camps, like Horsemanship week.

I also recall the famous Hedge Clippers. I remember being part of Indian Guides, "Pals forever Dad/Son".

I learned to swim at a Downtown Y's pool, that Dad helped to teach.

We moved to Johnson County, KS in October 1963, when Dad became Director of the Johnson County Y in November 1963. I remember the small, converted home on 75th St., just west of Metcalf Ave.: that was the office. I recall that it had a miniature mock-up of Camp Red Cedar Forrest on a table. I also recall the short walks to get our root beer.

During the 1st week or two that Dad was on the job I remember one day after school getting to ride with Dad and another person, in that person's pickup truck, to go see/checkout Camp Red Cedar Forest (maybe about 205th and Old Metcalf area). Such a fun area. The old barn in the parking lot was at the top of the hill. The old, BAD, road/trail went down into the valley. Overtime a swimming pool was put in. The fun rope swing over the creek. Hiking around a large pond. Many Day Camp weeks and Indian Guide overnights spent there.

The "New" Johnson County Y facility at 79th and Delmar in Prairie Village, KS, was first occupied in November 1965. It was a big pool that we could enjoy, as well as invite friends to swim with us there on occasion. I also had a swim Birthday party with multiple friends one time.

Other Y activities included Baseball, with good basic, fundamental instruction, with low competition environment. Basketball with moderate competition environment was offered. The Y taught the sports, with fun as the main emphasis. The Johnson County Y youth Football Programs were the best around, for several years. Many strong Shawnee Mission High School football teams had most of their players developed in Y youth football. I was never encouraged to play, which was OK with me, as my 1st sports love was baseball during those years. I also went on two ski trips and worked one summer at Blue Ridge Assembly.



Although I do not recall the timing of all of Dad's moves for Y jobs, I know that they moved up to the Chicago area in late 1976 or early 1977. I visited them there in March 1977 on my Spring Break from KU my Senior year.

It was great to grow up in a Y family and enjoy the many programs and facilities that were available.

Barbara:

I loved all the YMCA camp experiences. Camp Red Cedar forest for Day camp, Camp Santosage and Camp Gravois for residence camp. The highlights of my youth! I enjoyed the swimming, canoeing, archery, hiking in the creek and trying to catch crawdads, campfires, storytelling, mess hall, crafts, horseback riding and fishing... So many wonderful experiences!

I was a camp counselor at Camp Douglas in Michigan one summer. I played Y softball throughout most of my youth. My dad helped coach. I learned to swim in the Y pool. I took various classes through the Johnson County Y including trampoline, baton, felt painting, and dance. It allowed me to try various things. I sold Christmas trees. I remember huddling in the trailer sipping hot chocolate trying to get warm.

I was a cheerleader through the YMCA program cheering at the Y youth basketball and football games.



A Moment of Reflection

An editorial by Mary Ching

Now that winter is ending and Covid vaccines are coming out, perhaps it is time to reflect on the past year or so to remember what is good about a bad situation.



Things I enjoyed about Covid confinement days:

- Talking with friends and family on the phone or Zoom
- Quietly reading a hard, nonfiction book without social demands on my time
- Trying new recipes and throwing out the batch if it's bad
- Having less traffic everywhere
- Seeing cleaner restaurants and dr offices (none of those scuzzy magazines!)
- Having time to enjoy the snowflakes and rain drops
- Getting takeout food from organized restaurants and taking the lunch to one of our county's parks on a sunny day. We didn't know there were so many parks!
- Learning new things on YouTube. Whether it was quilt binding, poach egg making, fixing my clothes dryer, or learning mysterious computer codes, YouTube was there!
- Watching "Anne with an E" on Netflix
- Happy hour with Bill each afternoon, regardless of our schedules
- Not wearing shoes!

What is on your list?

