

# Whitewater Public Library

402 West Main Street  
Telephone (414) 473-3906

Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190  
Virginia Follstad, Director

January 30, 1987

Mrs. Fern Young  
President, Irvin L. Young Foundation  
Route 1 Box 239  
Palmyra, Wisconsin 53156

Dear Mrs. Young:

It has been a pleasure discussing the Whitewater Public Library building project with you on the phone recently. We are very appreciative of your interest and consideration.

The Whitewater Public Library serves the city of Whitewater and surrounding townships out of a building that has not changed since its construction in 1904. Consultants Robert Rohlf and Lester Stoffel termed the building "one of the most crowded inadequate buildings we have seen. It is not possible to render modern library service in the building as it exists today." Moreover, growth and development of collection and services has necessarily come to a virtual standstill.

A feasibility study done in 1986 revealed the lowest cost solution to be a new public library building of 15,000 square feet to be constructed on city-owned land on S. Fremont St. at Cravath Lake. The proposal for a new lakeside library was met with overwhelming enthusiasm by the public when it was introduced in November. The cost is estimated at \$1.387 million while the pricetag on an addition to the present library was much higher when land acquisition for parking and the high costs of remodelling were taken into consideration.

It would be an honor to name this building the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library. We would like to request a pledge of \$500,000, which we are certain will be the critical factor in influencing the Whitewater Common Council to appropriate funds for the balance of the project. We will apply for a federal grant of \$125,000, and will accept gifts to the building fund, although there are no plans to hire a professional fund-raiser for this purpose.

The above-mentioned studies provide detailed information on need and feasibility and are available at your request.

Let us know if we can be of service in any way. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Your sincerely,

Mary Mills  
President, Whitewater Public  
Library Board

Virginia Coburn  
Chair, Building Study Committee



MEMBER OF  
MID-WISCONSIN FEDERATED LIBRARY SYSTEM



IRVIN L. YOUNG FOUNDATION  
PALMYRA, WIS. 53156  
TELEPHONE 414-495-2485

DIRECTORS:  
FERN D. YOUNG, PRESIDENT  
MARY LONGBRAKE, VICE PRESIDENT  
JAMES VANCE, SECRETARY  
RUTH WILLIAMS, TREASURER  
DR. ARDEN ALMQUIST  
DR. GWILYM DAVIES  
DAVID FISHER

May 11, 1987

Mary Mills  
Pres. , Whitewater Public Library Board  
147 S. Prince St.  
Whitewater, WI 53190

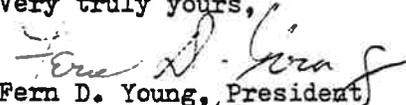
Dear Mary Mills,

The Board of Directors of the Irvin L. Young Foundation have agreed to donate \$500,000.00 toward the construction of a Library in Whitewater, Wisconsin to be named The Irvin L. Young Memorial Library.

These funds will be released when the total funding is shown to be available for the project, the plans are completed, the construction contracts executed and construction has been started.

This pledge is subject to cancellation in the event the conditions set forth above for turning over the funds to the Whitewater Library Board have not been met within three years.

Very truly yours,

  
Fern D. Young, President  
Irvin L. Young Foundation

FDY:vf

cc:

Virginia Coburn Chair,  
Building Studt Committee

# Whitewater Public Library

402 West Main Street  
Telephone (414) 473-3906

Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190  
Virginia Follstad, Director

May 14, 1987

Fern D. Young, President  
Irvin L. Young Foundation  
P.O. Box 239  
Palmyra, Wisconsin 53156

Dear Mrs. Young:

Your letter notifying the Whitewater Public Library Board of a \$500,000 pledge from the Young Foundation has been gratefully received.

The Library Board will accept the challenge at its meeting next week, and prepare a recommendation to the Common Council for immediate action toward the construction of a new library building.

We are so grateful for this generous expression of support for our project. We promise to give our very best efforts toward a building that will be a worthy and lasting memorial to Mr. Young.

Sincerely,

Virginia H. Coburn  
Chair, Building Study Committee



MEMBER OF  
MID-WISCONSIN FEDERATED LIBRARY SYSTEM



**IRVIN L. YOUNG FOUNDATION**  
**PALMYRA, WIS. 53156**  
**TELEPHONE 414-495-2485**

October 9, 1987

**DIRECTORS:**

**FERN D. YOUNG, PRESIDENT**  
**MARY LONGBRAKE, VICE PRESIDENT**  
**JAMES VANCE, SECRETARY**  
**RUTH WILLIAMS, TREASURER**  
**DR. ARDEN ALMQUIST**  
**DR. GWILYM DAVIES**  
**DAVID FISHER**

Virginia Coburn  
President, Whitewater Public Library Board  
402 West Main Street  
Whitewater Wisconsin 53190

Dear Mrs. Coburn:

We are writing to you at the request of several people to clarify our gift toward the construction of a new library in Whitewater.

The request for the funding came from you for a new public library building to be constructed on city owned land on south Fremont Street at Cravath Lake. The building was to be approximately 15,000 square feet in size.

It was for this sight that the pledge was made.

Please be advised that the pledge applies only to the Library Board recommended sight and plan.

Sincerely yours,



James Bird  
Assistant treasurer,  
IRVIN L YOUNG FOUNDATION

CC: Whitewater Register  
Jim Fisher, Common Council President

IRVIN L. YOUNG FOUNDATION

PALMYRA, WIS. 53156

TELEPHONE 414-495-2485

December 8, 1988

DIRECTORS:

FERN D. YOUNG, PRESIDENT  
MARY LONGBRAKE, VICE PRESIDENT  
JAMES VANCE, SECRETARY  
RUTH WILLIAMS, TREASURER  
DR. ARDEN ALMQUIST  
DR. GWILYM DAVIES  
DAVID FISHER

Dr. Charles Morpew  
President, Whitewater Public Library Board  
402 West Main  
Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190

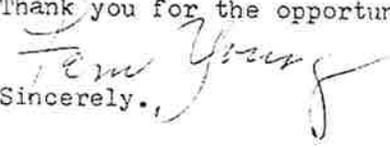
Dear Dr. Morpew:

Thank you for discussing library issues with me last week.

Please advise the Whitewater Common Council that the Irvin L. Young Foundation grant is and will continue to be applicable to the Cravath Lake Site library plan as per the original request. The grant will not apply to an addition to the present library.

The Foundation will, however, consider allowing the grant for a new public library building on an alternative site if and only if the request comes from the Whitewater Public Library Board, the reasons are found to have merit, and the plan is in conformance with the Building Program Statement developed by Library Consultants Stoffel & Rohlf.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify the situation.

  
Sincerely,

Fern Young,  
President, Irvin L. Young Foundation

**IRVIN L. YOUNG FOUNDATION, INC.**

R.R. SNOW VALLEY, BOX 239  
PALMYRA, WISCONSIN 53156

2425

May 26 19 90

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PAY TO THE  
ORDER OF

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IRVIN L. YOUNG  
FOUNDATION, INC.

DETACH AND RETAIN THIS STATEMENT  
THE ATTACHED CHECK IS THE PAYMENT OF ITEMS DESCRIBED BELOW.  
IF NOT CORRECT PLEASE NOTIFY US PROMPTLY. NO RECEIPT DESIRED.

DELUXE - FORM DVO-2 V-2

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
5/26/90	Toward the construction of a Library in Whitewater, Wisconsin to be named the Irvin L. Young Library	\$500,000.00

# WHITEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY

WHITEWATER, WISCONSIN 53190

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 17, 1987

## YOUNG FOUNDATION GRANT FOR LAKE SITE LIBRARY

In response to a request for clarification from the Whitewater Public Library Board, a spokesman for the Irvin L. Young Foundation has confirmed that the \$500,000 grant for a new library building was awarded for the project on the Cravath Lake site recommended by the Library Board. It was not awarded for any alternate or other proposed site.

This information is based on the original letter of request dated January 30, 1987, in which Mary Mills, then President of the Whitewater Public Library Board and Virginia Coburn, Chair of the Building Study Committee, ask for the grant for a "new public library building of 15,000 square feet to be constructed on city-owned land on South Fremont St. at Cravath Lake . . . The cost is estimated at \$1.387 million." The letter also refers to the Stoffel and Rohlf study completed late in 1985, "Facilities Needs and Library Building Program" which describes the features and space requirements of the new building.

A letter dated May 11, 1987 states the Young Foundation's agreement to donate \$500,000 to this project, provided that the building is named the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library and that construction will have begun three years from the date of the letter.

"We are very pleased to put this issue to rest," stated Library Board President Coburn. "The Cravath Lake site has had great appeal to the community since its introduction and this news confirms the judgments of the Library Board, the Plan Commission and the Landmarks Commission."

\* \* \* \* \*

TO editor: Mr. Jim Bird, a director of the Young Foundation, may be contacted for confirmation at 495-2568

V. Coburn

# Library Receives \$500,000 Young Foundation Donation

A \$500,000 donation towards the construction of a new Whitewater Public Library has been made by the Board of Directors of the Irvin L. Young Foundation of Palmyra, it was announced this week.

Library Board members and staff of the public library expressed great excitement over the announcement of the largest grant from an individual in the city's history. The Young Foundation has also donated \$1 million towards the construction of the new auditorium for the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Stipulations to the grant are that the new library be designated the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library and that the donation will be released when all funds for the project are secured, the plans are completed, construction contracts executed and construction has started.

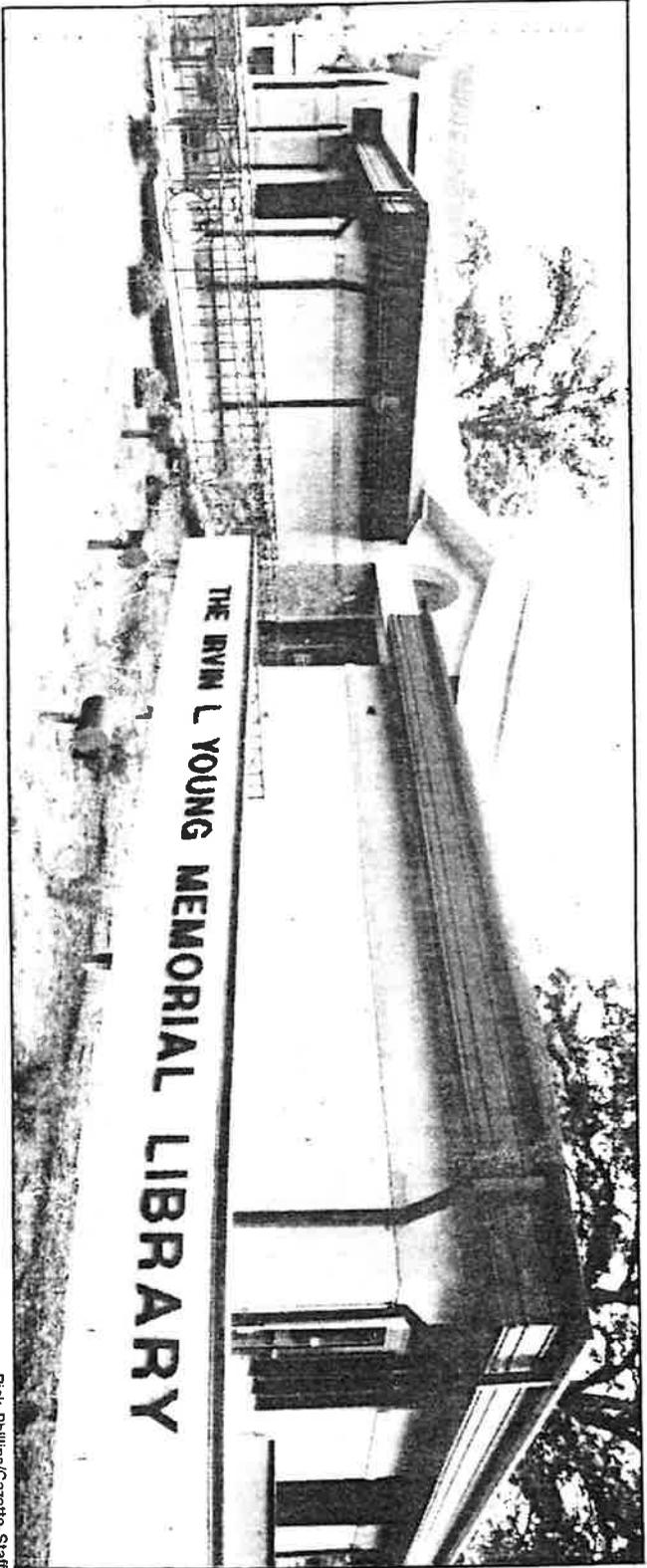
The announcement of the donation was

made to Library Board President Mary Mills early this week. Library Board Building Study Committee Chairman Virginia Coburn noted the donation also contains the stipulation that construction of the new library must begin in the next three years. She explained the donation does not specify a site for the new library, however.

Last fall the Library Board presented a proposal to the City Council for a new library

on a downtown site adjacent to Cravath Lake near South Fremont Street. The estimated cost of that project was \$1.4 million. Thus the Young Foundation donation is just over one-third of the project cost. The Library Board has established a building fund. This spring the Friends of the Whitewater Library formed as an organization to assist the Library Board in whatever way possible.

**WHITWATER, WISCONSIN THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1987**



Rick Phillips/Gazette Staff

When asked in 1987, Fern Young made a \$500,000 challenge offer within three days to fund Whitewater's new library.

# Widow carries on Young's legacy

## Past business ventures aid causes

By Jocelyn Bowie  
Gazette Correspondent

**PALMYRA**—Fern Young describes herself as lucky.

"I guess I'm the luckiest person I know. Wonderful things are always happening to me," said the widow of artist, businessman and inventor Irvin L. Young.

At 80, she drives herself to all her appointments, answers her own phone, and came to a recent lunch dressed in a purple suit, high heels, and with her wire-rimmed glasses on a cord around her neck.

"My husband used to say I reminded people of their first-grade teacher," she said with a

religious man who began and ended every day on his knees in prayer, she said. Although they did not belong to a particular church, they attended a Christian church every Sunday.

"Except Easter Sunday," she said. "My husband said we should let our seats go to people who only went once a year."

Instead, they made a habit of planting day lilies and wild irises along roadways every Easter.

"My husband did everything at top speed. He was a genius," she said. "He even slept efficiently."



**About herself:** "I guess I'm the luckiest person I know. Wonderful things are always happening to me."  
**About her travels:** "I just can't believe that at 80 I can do everything. You can't imagine the scenery in Pakistan."  
"Always..."

### FERN YOUNG QUOTES

Fern Young, 80, is the widow of artist, businessman and inventor Irvin L. Young. She is president of the board of directors of the Irvin L. Young Foundation, a charitable organization funded entirely by proceeds from her late husband's business ventures. Here are some quotes by her.

# UW-Whi chance for oth

Associated Press

MADISON—UW-Whitewater might have lost its new chancellor, H. Gaylon Greenhill, to Oshkosh or LaCrosse.

Greenhill's name was on a University of Wisconsin list of candidates, disclosed Wednesday by UW under an agreement with newspapers. Several times in the past, the university has refused to identify job applicants publicly.

Greenhill, who took over as chancellor at UW-Whitewater last summer, was on lists of candidates for chancellorships of both Oshkosh and UW-La Crosse.

Katharine Lyall, acting president of the UW since Kenneth Shaw vacated the presidency earlier this year, was listed among the candidates for chancellor at UW-Oshkosh, a job that eventually went to John Kerrigan.

The lists showed Brig. Gen. Richard Milnes, who served Andrews Air Force Base in Md.

## Dozens arrested at abortion clinic

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE—More than 20 anti-abortionists demonstrated Saturday outside an east-side clinic, and most of them were arrested, police said.

The clinic is visited every Saturday by protesters. Authorities said the latest

She is president of the board of directors of the Irvin L. Young Foundation, a charitable organization funded entirely by proceeds from her late husband's business ventures.

She recently returned from Pakistan where she took a trip along the ancient Chinese Silk Road.

"I just can't believe that at 80 I can do everything," she said, a huge smile lighting her face. "You can't imagine the scenery in Pakistan."

Her five trips in the past year include one to Antarctica and a rafting trip down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, the sixth time she has done that. "It's the Grand Canyon that makes the difference," she said. "The Grand Canyon is almost a religious experience."

Young rode a burro to Phantom Ranch at the bottom of the Grand Canyon to get to the river. This, she admitted, was a concession to age—on earlier trips she hiked down Bright Angel trail.

She pitched her own tent every night, although she said she accepted help when it was offered. Shooting the rapids is "what the trip is all about," she said.

"I had a wonderful mother. So much is due to her," Young said. "I was raised without fears. You take precautions, but you should never have fears (if) you have all the facts. And that's given me such freedom."

The foundation's original purpose was to give money for medical and educational missionary work in Africa.

Young and her husband traveled to Africa frequently for three years to get to know the missionaries and to see how the foundation's money was being spent. Young still goes about every three years.

Apart from that, they did very little traveling together, she said.

"He had too much to accomplish in the short time he had left to live, he used to say. But he knew I had to get away so he would plan trips for me. I don't always go on five trips a year. I just go when there's something I want to see."

overnight. I was officer of all the companies. Overnight I was president.

"I was having such fun running the Atlas Tag Co."

Eventually, because of new federal laws governing charitable foundations, all the businesses were sold.

The Young family, which includes three sons, moved to Palmyra in 1956, fulfilling a boyhood dream of Irvin Young's to own land in this area.

The family owned as much as 1,200 acres, Young said, nearly all of which has been given either to the foundation or to the state.

An exciting moment for her was when a Department of Natural Resources officer found 52 acres of virgin prairie on their land, home to several species of endangered plants. The prairie was donated to the state and is now protected land.

Over the years, the Youngs developed a close relationship with UW-Whitewater. The first friendship grew out of Irvin Young's relationship with the art department staff.

Fern Young has taken classes at UW-Whitewater and regularly attends plays and performances on campus.

She serves on several volunteer boards at the university, including the Foundation and Visitors boards.

"Some people are members in name only," said Michael Spellman, assistant chancellor for university relations. "Mrs. Young attends and participates in every meeting, and committee meet-



Fern Young

much is due to her. I was raised without fears. You take precautions, but you should never have fears (if) you have all the facts. And that's given me such freedom."

**About her husband:** "My husband did everything at top speed. He was a genius. He even slept efficiently."

ings, too, not just board meetings. She is a working member of these boards. We'd like to clone her."

The Young foundation has endowed a scholarship fund for UW-Whitewater and a chair in the business school and has pledged \$1 million plus more than \$400,000 in interest for a multipurpose auditorium.

When the foundation was approached by Whitewater's library board in 1987 about private funding for a new library, Young responded with a \$500,000 challenge offer within three days, according to then-president of the board Virginia Coburn.

The new library faced a good deal of opposition, and it took nearly three years before ground was broken on what eventually became the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library.

"We had a lot of political machinations we had to go through," Coburn said. "My feeling through-

working with her that way is that she is the kind of person who, when she's given you her word, you can absolutely depend on her. She had put her trust in the library board, and she didn't sway. It was very important to us."

For her part, Young is delighted with the new library.

"It's so much more than I ever imagined it would be," she said of the 16,000-square-foot library that opened this summer.

Although she never graduated from college, Young has an honorary degree from Lake Forest College in Illinois.

She was with her husband when he died, very unexpectedly, of a heart attack one winter morning.

"He had such an expression of exultation and joy on his face," she said. "Something wonderful must have happened to him at the time of his death. It was years later that I wondered who was waiting for him."

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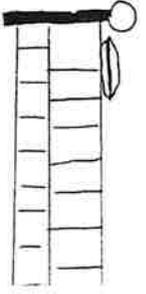
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# Irvin Young Left Legacy Of Helping

By Bob Burrows

Whitewater's new public library has been named for Irvin L. Young (1897-1976), a humanitarian and philanthropist whose inventive genius and business talents led to the establishment of a considerable fortune which has been largely dedicated to the establishing and support of mission hospitals and clinics throughout central Africa.

A man with a clear sense of purpose, the dedication of his life to Christian missions in Africa, his ability to make money so impressed faculty members at McCormick Theological Seminary and Dr. John Timothy Stone, pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, that he was encouraged to devote his energies to his business enterprises in the United States in order to send the bulk of the profits to the mission work in Africa, serving, Dr. Stone urged, a "substantial stewardship."

Irvin Young's lifelong dedication to that work was remarkable. Born in Milwaukee, he was one of six children in a family with little income because the father, a railroad workman, was afflicted with poor health. Beginning work as a newsboy at age 7, he dropped out of high school because he didn't have shoes. But his desire for education was so strong that he eventually attended Lake Forest College, Northwestern University, and McCormick Seminary. Though he took no degrees, his appreciation for these institutions led him eventually to give generously to all of them, especially Lake Forest, where he endowed a professorship, and at both Lake Forest and McCormick he created significant endowed scholarships.

His wealth came from his inventions and the companies which he established to develop and use them. Among the first undertakings was the creation of sophisticated printing presses capable of one color print on one side and multicolor on the opposite in a single operation. Then came the development of machines for making tags and labels, widely used in the meat packing industry, and machines for affixing wires to bags. He developed the machines for mounting slides in cardboard cases, Eastman Kodak in Rochester, New York being his largest customer.

By the early forties he had established the Atlas Tag Company and the American Label Company, with factories in Chicago, Necedah, and in Canada and Mexico. Machines which he invented turned out tags, tickets, bottle caps, matches, match books, seals, and manifold systems. While his companies were turned over to others for active management, he concentrated on the work he found most engaging — the development of new machines in the workshop of the Young Engraving Company which he moved to Palmyra in the early sixties.



Fern and Irvin Young in a 1972 photo.

life and in later years, from the mid-fifties on he was assisted by his wife, Fern, who has continued the work since his death. These visits, made in small planes, because the distances between stations is often great and the road system primitive, have been a highlight of Fern Young's central role in continuing the work of the foundation of Africa.

A devout man who began and ended each day on his knees in prayer, he was ecumenical in spirit. Although the Youngs regularly attended church, they belonged to none for they preferred to visit various churches in the area and they contributed to many. Among his notes for talks made to groups in Africa, one of his statements summarizes his faith: "God's purpose is to reveal his eternal spirit of truth, beauty, and goodness through his image, man, so that man will live in his spirit and seek the transforming power of love which will give him liberty, wisdom, and strength."

In the last years of his life, Irvin Young devoted much of his time to creating a center of meditation for people of all faiths. Located just outside of Palmyra, he hoped it would be a place of solace and inspiration.

Among the tributes to Irvin Young made at the time of his death, two stand out. Dr. Marshall Scott, then president of McCormick

Seminary and a resident of Whitewater, said: "He had a deep commitment to the church, and his particular interest was missions — especially in Africa." And his friend of half a century, Dr. Alexander Sharp, said: "Thousands of blacks in Africa, who have been healed by the doctors and dentists he supported in the hospitals and clinics he built...loved this big man who worked so many miracles from so far away."

When Jimmy Coburn, then president of the Whitewater Public Library Board, approached the Young Foundation for a significant grant, she proposed that the library be named in his honor. "Wouldn't 'The Irvin L. Young Memorial Library' sound good?" she asked. Little did she know how appropriate the naming of a public library would seem to Fern Young because Fern recalled that whenever Irvin Young was stumped in his efforts to develop a new machine, he would plunge into one of the major research libraries in Chicago or Milwaukee to research his problem. Throughout his career, libraries had been of the greatest importance to him. And because of the appropriateness of such a building, the foundation made its grant of \$500,000 to the library, that grant providing the impetus for the decision to build.

machines, he designed and developed an interaction chamber for use in laser research in arthritis and dermatology. This machine, along with a gift of \$75,000, was donated to UW-Stevens Point for use by their researchers.

But throughout his career, Irvin Young never lost sight of his primary interest—the development and support of Christian medical mission activities in Africa. He had spent three years there in the late 20's, going out to Cameroon to set up a printing plant for mission activities. He returned home only when convinced that he could be of greater assistance through his ability to finance mission operations.

He gave himself single-mindedly to that mission, living a spartan life, devoting 60 hours a week to his work, and never taking a vacation. Early he set up the Irvin L. Young Foundation and to that foundation the bulk of his income was given, year by year.

The foundation gave the money to founding hospitals and hospital schools, to building for hospital staff, to provide salary support for medical missionaries, to purchase small planes needed for flying supplies to mission stations, and to finance programs of TB examinations, dental clinics, maternity clinics, and to support the work of visiting nurses.

In 1955, for example, through the foundation, Mr. Young was supporting six researchers in Africa working on leprosy and setting up two new hospitals and two new dental clinics in Cameroon. In the same year 3,500,000 francs were sent to the medical mission at Bataouie and 1,000,000 francs to the Norwegian mission hospital at Ngaoundere.

During the more than half a century when he was personally involved in this work, through the foundation he was able to establish mission hospitals not only in Cameroon, the main center of the foundation's work, but also in Chad, Zaire, Tanzania, Kenya and the Central African Republic.

Very much an individualist, he was wary of mission boards, though the foundation contributed generously to some of them. He preferred to work directly with mission stations so that every dollar contributed by the foundation would go directly to the work in Africa. Therefore he made periodic trips to Africa to discover the needs and to inspect the work which the foundation was supporting. These visits he continued through most of his

IRVIN L. YOUNG

Irvin L. Young, 78, died suddenly at his home at Snow Valley, Palmyra, on Saturday, February 21, where he had suffered an apparent heart attack.

He was born December 10, 1897, in Milwaukee the son of Luther and Amelia Newman Young. He was an alumnus of McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and Lake Forest College of Lake Forest, Illinois.

In 1964 he married Fern Drummond Jones of Chicago. Irvin had started the Snow Valley plant of Young Engineering in Palmyra in 1940 while living in Chicago. After the marriage he moved to the present farm and maintained homes both here and in Chicago.

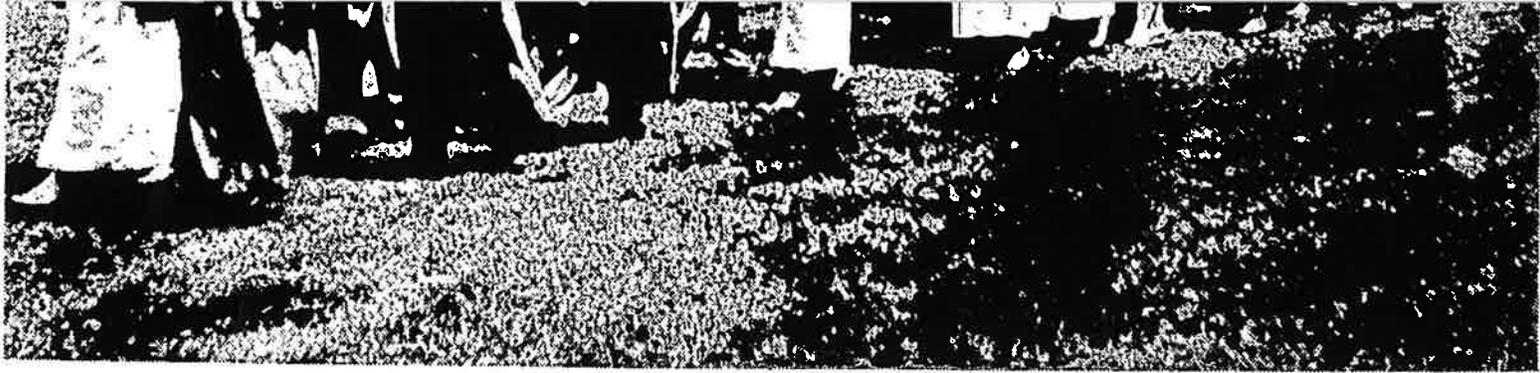
He dedicated his life and income to the Irvin L. Young Foundation, a charitable foundation concerned mainly with the support of medical missionary work in Africa, working through the boards of 15 different denominations. Many hospitals, maternity clinics and medical schools were built from the foundation funds.

Contributions were also made to many churches and other causes in the United States. Untold thousands of lives have been affected by the life and work of this one man. He was also

president of Young Engineering of Chicago and Palmyra, Atlas Tag Company of Neenah and Atlas Tag Company of Aitz, Ontario, Canada.

Survivors include his wife, Fern; one daughter, Mrs. Helen Sclair of Chicago; one granddaughter, Lu Helen Sclair of Chicago; two brothers, George Young and Rueben Young of Chicago; one sister, Flora Plien of Arizona.

Gravelside services were held Monday, February 23, at Skoposong Cemetery south of Palmyra, at 2 p.m. with Dr. Marshall Scott of Chicago officiating.



**WHS GRADUATION** — *Fantastic summer weather greeted the Whitewater High School Class of 1989 in Warhawk Stadium on Sunday afternoon as 138 seniors received their diplomas. District Administrator John Negley gave the opening remarks to those in attendance, while Salutatorian Jim Min welcomed the large crowd*

*that had assembled for the commencement exercises. Class valedictorians giving their thoughts included Mike Aleckson, Kristi Coleman, Kuang-Hao Huang and Errol Neider. WHS Principal Pat Brooks then presented the class, while School Board President Kathy Clumpner and Negley passed out the long-awaited diplomas.*

# Library Compromise Proposed

A compromise proposal of a smaller scale new library on Main Street near the White Memorial Library was presented at a joint meeting of the Library Board and City Council last Thursday night.

An attempt was to have been made to contact the Irvin L. Young Foundation of Palmyra to determine if the \$500,000 grant by the foundation would still apply if the compromise proposal were accepted. Rather than

meet with representatives of the Library Board and City Council, Foundation president Fern Young issued a statement to the editor of the Register in response to the questions raised at the meeting. The statement appears next to this article.

Council president Jim Fischer had proposed the compromise of a new library along Main Street as a means of ending the deadlock over the library issue. "I will support a new structure on Main Street, perhaps in the wide part of the triangle," Fischer stated. "I see that as a compromise. It gives both sides something; one gets the site and the other gets a new building. I realize this may be more expensive but I would go for it."

"The city has a number of goals," Fischer pointed out. "Main Street has been a focal point that addresses other issues in the community. I propose that we study this option, see if we can keep the grant and also consider less space. I would propose a smaller structure on Main Street."

Responses to Fischer's suggestion indicated Library Board members were willing to review his proposal and ask Mrs. Young if the foundation's grant would apply to such a plan. "It is a very constructive suggestion," Library Board member John Negley said. "We proposed Main Street as one of five alternatives back in February. We hesitated at that time because of the cost. But now the goal is to have the library have more space. I would be willing to look at it. I worry about the Main Street widening and if that enters into it 20 or 30 years down the road."

"I will consider the proposal seriously," Library Board treasurer Al Kolmos said. "My only concern is that I am not sure we can get by with less space."

Fischer presented his compromise proposal  
(Continued on page 8)

## Foundation Statement

In response to the request from the recent meeting of the Whitewater Library Board and the Common Council that I meet with Donna Nosek and Jim Fischer, I am writing to you instead to clarify for ALL the position of the Irvin L. Young Foundation regarding the new library.

Following is a quote from the January 30, 1987 request for \$500,000 from the Library Board to the Irvin L. Young Foundation:

"The Whitewater Public Library serves the city of Whitewater and surrounding townships out of a building that has not changed since its construction in 1904. Consultants Robert Rohlf and Lester Stoffel termed the building 'one of the most crowded, inadequate buildings we have seen. It is not possible to render modern library service in the building as it exists today.'" "A feasibility study done in 1986 revealed the lowest cost solution to be a new public library building of 15,000 square feet to be constructed on city-owned land on South Fremont Street at Cravath Lake. The cost is estimated at \$1.387 million while the price tag on an addition to the present library was much higher when land acquisition for parking and the high cost of remodeling were taken into consideration."

"It would be an honor to name this building the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library."

Following is a quote from a letter of December 8, 1988 to Dr. Morpew to present to the Common Council:

"Please advise the Whitewater Common Council that the Irvin L. Young Foundation grant is and will continue to be applicable to the Cravath Lake site library as per the original request. The grant will not apply to an addition to the present library."

"The Foundation, will, however, consider allowing for a new public library building on an alternative site if and only if the request comes from the Whitewater Public Library Board, the reasons are found to have merit, and the plan is in concurrence with the Building Program Statement developed

# Library Compromise Proposal . . .

(Continued from page 1)

midway through a meeting that saw much rehashing of the library controversy that has divided the community during the past several years. Council members and Library Board members repeated their views of the controversy and what should be done to resolve it.

New council member Edna Grinstead called on council members and Library Board members to explain their opinions. In speaking about an addition to the White building, she said, "Whitewater is too nice to have a patched up building that looks like a pregnant mongoose. Don't be stuck in the muds. The council voted for a new library back in '87. Why didn't it start? Why did the council stick out its feet?" Mrs. Grinstead urged the two groups to find a way to build a facility that will serve the community well into the future.

Councilman Christopher Ruditys said he didn't feel the city should have "a Cadillac program." Library Board chairman Charles Morphew took exception to that remark and also to a comment from a member of the large audience.

Morphew got up and told the group he was resigning from the board effective immediately. He noted he had been involved in the library facilities issue for six years and had seen delays cost the taxpayers \$835,000. He said the Young Foundation grant had been lost, the potential for a \$125,000 Library Construction Services Act grant had been lost and \$210,000 in interest charges would have to be paid in lieu of those grants.

Morphew also said the White Trust should clear up the matter of ownership of the White building. In departing, he said, "God bless you. God bless the Library Board. And God bless the taxpayers for being nearly \$1 million short."

The library board chairman's departure did not stop the discussion, which ultimately led to Fischer's proposal.

John Newhouse told the assembled group about an organization of citizens who had entered into a fund drive for an addition to the

White building. The group had received pledges totalling \$130,000, he said.

Newhouse said the reason the library issue remains alive is that citizens made it clear they did not support the proposals made to the council. He said while some people don't want anything done about the library's space needs, a majority want something to be done.

Mrs. Grinstead noted the law says the Library Board is to determine the site for a new facility. She asked why the council was unwilling to allow the board to use the land near Cravath Lake they had requested. "Who wants to use that land? Why did the council ignore the experts' studies? She suggested the council consider releasing the money for a new library to the Library Board and let that group take any criticism that may result.

Councilman Russell Lasch pointed out that as elected officials, council members answer to their constituents while the Library Board does not.

Councilman and Library Board representative Jim Leaver said he was not opposed to the Fischer compromise in theory but wondered about the acquisition of land delaying grant opportunities. He suggested giving consideration to the Center Street site.

When it was pointed out acquiring properties along Main Street would add to the tax burden, Fischer said, "I said my alternative would cost more but I am willing to do it. The division that clouds the city costs us even more."

Kolmos was curious if the council would support the Cravath Lake site if the Library Board were able to get enough money to build the facility without city expense.

"I will never support the lake site," Lasch replied. He explained that the city had a valuable resource in its two lakes that had been neglected for years. He noted once something is built on the shoreline, then public access is gone. He said that is a spot which must be kept open.

Council member Jean Truesdale agreed with the idea of enhancing the lakes but won-

dered if what Lasch was proposing would be extremely expensive. She said the city should not consider a downsized library facility. Before Mrs. Truesdale would consider Fischer's proposal, she said she would need a guarantee the Young grant would apply. Mrs. Truesdale was skeptical the Young Foundation would embrace a downsized project.

Vi Skindingsrude noted the White Library is a memorial to Judge Samuel White, who brought the Normal School to Whitewater. She said she had heard nothing about the use of the White building, which she indicated could not be used for anything other than a library.

Expressing appreciation for the White donation back in the early 1900's, Kolmos asked if the city should be held captive for centuries by the gift. He noted provisions of White's will were not adhered to, because the building was built on another parcel of land than that indicated and it was also built of brick different than that specified.

Mrs. Nosek reported that at a meeting with the White Foundation, it was clearly understood the intent of the trust was for money to be made available for library services in Whitewater. She said the money will follow the library wherever it goes. Research is being done on the deed for the building, Mrs. Nosek observed.

Several people said that it was important to make contact with the Young Foundation and have the group respond in writing to the proposal of a downsized Main Street new library. While Fischer said he felt the Library Board should make the contact, he agreed with a suggestion to have a member of the council go along to a meeting and agreed to accompany Mrs. Nosek.

## NOTICE

The town of Whitewater Board will meet on Wednesday, June 14 at 8 p.m. at the Town Hall on Willis Ray Road.

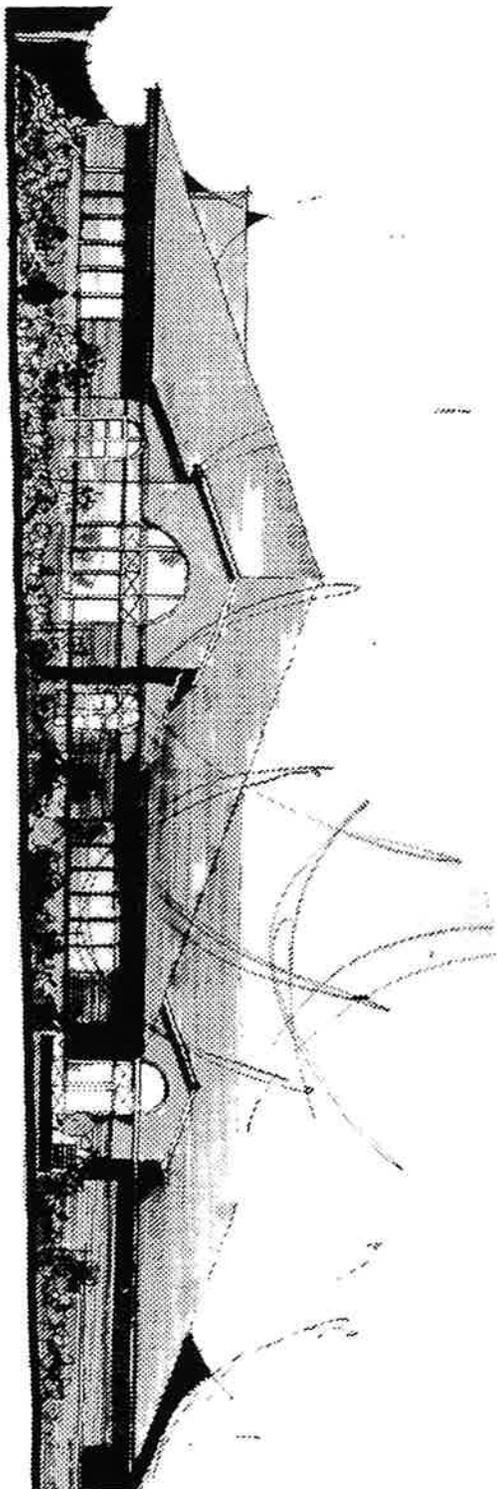
The agenda will include the usual reports, Townline Road maintenance presentation by supervisor Kraus, approval of cigarette and soda licenses, discussion of donation request from Walworth County Towns Association, designation of constable and safety patrol officer assignments, Luchini cleanup/zoning update by supervisor Kienbaum, Rice Lake slalom disposition, other town business, public input and payment of bills.

## ANIMAL CONTROLS AND REGULATIONS

City Ordinance 9.08.030 Annoyances. (a) No person shall harbor or keep any dog or any other animal which would be a public nuisance as defined in Section 9.08.010(h);

(b) Or by failure of the owner, caretaker, or custodian to maintain in a clean and sanitary condition and free from objectionable odor all structures, pens, yards and areas adjacent thereto wherein any dog or animal is kept.

# THE LIBRARY FUND DRIVE ENTERS ITS FINAL PHASE



**With 90% of its final goal met, the final phase of the Library Fund Drive will be to raise money for two major sections of the new building:**

## **1. THE CHILDREN'S AREA**

**"Dedicated to all the children of the Whitewater area—that they might discover the joy of reading."**

Experts are generally agreed that the earliest years of a child's development of reading skills are crucial.

Consider these statements of Whitewater elementary teachers and our children's librarian:

"Reading is the most important skill that a child will ever learn. It is a skill that children will use almost every day of their lives. Children who excel in reading often find success in other areas of their curriculum. Besides academic excellence, there are other reasons children should be encouraged to read. Reading opens up a world of ideas, thought and experiences that they normally wouldn't encounter."

Ann Fridl  
Youth Services Librarian  
Whitewater Public Library

"We see the joy of reading in our students as they progress from a few words to sentences, and then stories. Through the joy of reading, students are opening up a new world to be enjoyed."

Florence Bennis, Pamela Olson, and Ruby Schroeder  
First Grade Teachers at Lincoln School

"Our students find joy in reading when they can enjoy books of every kind to stretch their imaginations and increase their knowledge."

Dona Lundin, Mary Kay Fisher, and Mary Rutowski  
Second Grade Teachers at Lincoln School

"As a kindergarten teacher, one of my goals is to get the children excited about wanting to read! This is an extremely important attitude to establish if children are to succeed in the primary grades as they grapple with the difficult task of learning to read."

Carol Hollford  
Kindergarten Teacher  
Washington School

"It's exciting and amazing each time I see the 'light bulb' go on when witnessing the personal thrill that kids feel when they discover they are

"No accolade can equal that of being a teacher of reading. Seeing

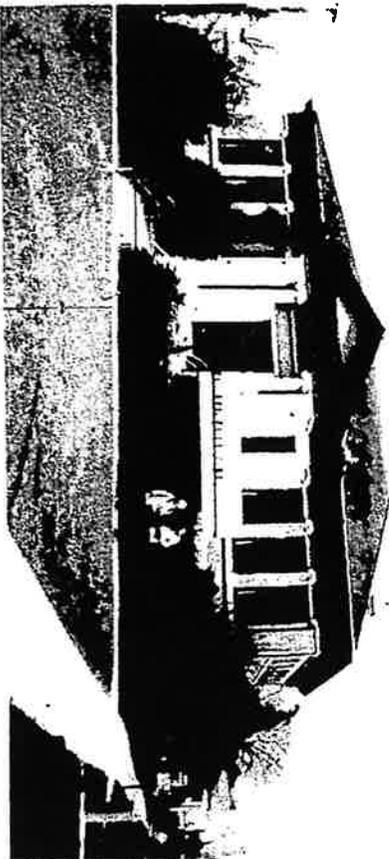
The faces of children fill with pride and pleasure as they begin to read is one of the joys of being a teacher. Knowing that you are teaching a skill that will touch children with knowledge and pleasure for a lifetime is a source of great satisfaction to me as a teacher of reading."

Susan Mealy  
Second Grade Teacher  
Washington School

"The joy of learning how to read is a thrill to behold. Faces of first graders light up when they have blended sounds together to read a word. They have succeeded in unlocking a door to discover a world they did not know existed before. This is the joy of reading."

Hannah Greenhall  
First Grade Teacher  
Washington School

## 2. THE WHITE MEMORIAL ROOM



THE WHITE MEMORIAL ROOM

The name of Whitewater's fine old library will be preserved in the White Memorial Room. The memorial plaque to Judge White and other White Library mentorees will be mounted in this room.

All those who loved the White Memorial Library, especially long-time Whitewater citizens, are encouraged to give memorial gifts to dedicate the White Memorial Room. The names of all who give \$100 or more for this purpose will be preserved on a permanent plaque in the room.

# "Building a Better, More Beautiful Whitewater"

Kathy Pieper  
First Grade Teacher  
Lakeview School

"It gives me great pleasure to hear a child say, 'Read it again!' when I have just finished reading a book to my class. It is even more rewarding when that child checks out that same book from the library to enjoy again by him/herself or with a parent. Then how exciting to hear him/her say, 'Guess what? That author wrote some other books, too, and I checked out some of them.'"

Doris McQuillin  
Second Grade Teacher  
Washington School

All those who give \$100 or more for this purpose will be recognized as the donors making possible the children's area—listed by the following categories: Grandparents, Parents, Teachers, Friends.

Persons who have already donated \$100 or more to the Fund Drive may have their gift designated for this purpose (or for the White Memorial Room, as noted below right) by informing the librarian before June 1st.

### GIFT/PLEDGE COUPON

I/we give/pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Whitewater Public Library Building Fund to be used to help defray the cost of (1) the Children's Area or (2) the White Memorial Room (strike out one).

(If this is a pledge, please indicate how you wish to pay it: \_\_\_\_\_)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ \* \* \* \* \*

Mail to: Whitewater Public Library, 402 West Main, Whitewater, Wisconsin



#### on Two Sections of the Library

In the final phase of its campaign, the Library Fund Drive Committee is soliciting gifts for two major sections of the new library--the Children's Area and the White Memorial Room.

#### The Children's Area

One of the busiest sections of the present library is the children's area. With the significant increase in space for this section and the attractive design planned for it in the new building, children should find their visits to the library memorable experiences.

What better gift can we give to the children of Whitewater than a contribution towards furnishing and equipping it well? Most children have plenty of toys. Of more lasting importance to them will be a gift that helps to provide a children's area in the library that will introduce them to the joy of reading and help start them on the important growth in intellect and spirit that we covet for all of them.

Every gift to the Children's Area of \$100 or more will be acknowledged on a special plaque there which will list donors by these groupings: Grandparents, Parents, Teachers, Friends. The plaque will remind library users of the value which the donors place on the educational development of our children. All serious commentators on our society agree that never has the need to stress the importance of the development of language skills been greater than it is today.

#### The White Memorial Room

One of the most frequently used parts of the new library will be the conference room to be designated The White Memorial Room. The name will honor the handsome gift made by the White family to the City of Whitewater of the old library that served the citizens of the area so well throughout most of the twentieth century.

Many people urged the Library Board to make a significant provision for carrying the White name into the new building, and it is in response to those requests that this room will be called The White Memorial Room. Mementoes of Judge White will be displayed there.

Gifts and pledges are solicited for the proper furnishing and decoration of this room. The names of all who contribute \$100 or more for this purpose will be mounted on a plaque in the room. All long-time residents of Whitewater, especially those for whom the White Library was an important source of pleasure and intellectual stimulation, are urged to consider contributing to this important link with Whitewater's past.

A coupon is provided on the facing page to facilitate the designation of a gift or pledge to either of these major sections of the new library.

