

**Spokane's YMCA:
125 Years of Building
Strong Kids, Strong
Families, and Strong
Communities**



“Welcome to the Celebration”

This tribute to our YMCA's 125th Anniversary tells the story of our rich history and of the dedication of so many that has resulted in the proud tradition in which today's YMCA flourishes. The YMCA has provided significant programs and services over the past 125 years and has become an integral part of the fabric of the Spokane community. Throughout its history, our YMCA has remained flexible enough to embrace change and try new ideas, while staying true to our mission of putting Christian principles into practice.

Our YMCA is well-positioned to address the challenges, and maximize the opportunities, presented to us in the future, thanks to the exceptional leadership of our strong volunteer-staff partnership. Our steadfast commitment of impacting and changing lives remains paramount as we ensure that our YMCA will be accessible to people regardless of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, or income through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.



Jim Higgins

President & CEO, YMCA of the Inland Northwest
www.ymcaspokane.org

Spokane's YMCA: 125 Years of Building Strong Kids, Strong Families, and Strong Communities



Saving Young Men The First Era, 1880s-1920s

YMCA Building on Lincoln & 1st.
Sign on building reads:

"About Oct 1st the YMCA will occupy this building which will offer to all men at low fees the following features: Gymnasium 52x96ft, Swimming Pool - Shower Baths, Roof Hand Ball Courts, Suspended Running Track, Private Steel Lockers, Business Men's Club Rooms, Reading Room - Library, Lobby & Social Rooms, Recreation Rooms, Banquet Rooms, Assembly Parlors, Restaurant and Spa. Bachelor Apartments for Rent - Single, Double or Suite with Bath - Apply Now"



"As near I recall, it was early November of 1912. I was nineteen, self-supporting and out of school. A few years of labor as a farm hand and factory worker followed [in New York], and then I was on my way West with an older brother. It was first Fargo, North Dakota, and the wheat harvest; then Bozeman, Montana, where an early snow had delayed the harvest indefinitely. Then, with funds very low, luggage was forwarded collect to Spokane. Then, it was West on foot with the formidable Rocky Mountains and the Continental Divide looming up in the distance. A few days later, without the benefit of any lifts along the rails, we were over the Divide and in the mining town of Butte. A walk along the rails the next morning on tired legs and empty stomachs brought us to a waiting freight train. An open door of a boxcar was an invitation and our opportunity. We climbed aboard....It was mid-afternoon and we were on our way, we hoped, to Spokane. Then it was "clickety-clack" over the rails the rest of that day and night....Scenes of city life soon came into view; there was a slow-down of speed, a grinding of brakes, a sudden stop.

We found our way readily to the clear waters of the Spokane River nearby, washed hurriedly and made our way into the city. Grain harvesting in the area appeared to be over. Someone found it amusing to suggest that we might find employment in the cherry-picking harvest going on up Latah Creek Valley. We made our way, soon to be disillusioned about the matter of cherry-picking....We returned to Spokane, still unemployed. There in the bewilderment of strange places and people we "panhandled," as they say; for awhile with some success for a few more meals in advance—an entirely new and most embarrassing experience for me.

I was listlessly walking alone, I hardly knew where. But now I know I wasn't alone, and my steps were not undirected; for there before me above an open door, I read the most welcome words: Young Men's Christian Association....A feeling of hope immediately came over me. I walked through that open door and approached a man at a desk with a sign over it saying: Employment Department. A secretary by the name of Burt Stant extended a hand of welcome to me and I remember as he did so, I apologetically mumbled, "I guess I'm all in, down and out." To which he tactfully replied, "You may be all in, you may be down, but you're surely not out. Sit down and tell me your story."

It was a job I needed and wanted and it was a job I got through the Employment Department of the Y. The next day I was in the employ of the Western Electric Company....I was also soon located in a family-style boarding house with a most generous, good cook, and motherly Christian woman and her family. I was on my feet again and in Spokane. Thanks to the Spokane YMCA for its guidance and inspiration given in the early and somewhat critical years of my life."

—from Pastor George F. Orloff, testimonial, 1959

For 125 years, the lives of men, women, and children have been shaped and supported by the YMCA of the Inland Northwest. They would agree with one of the Y's first capital campaign chairman, W.H. Acuff, who believed that, "No city is complete without a Young Men's Christian Association to render efficient service to the young men of a growing and prosperous community such as we believe Spokane to be."

The YMCA was founded in London, England in 1844, in response to unhealthy social conditions arising in the big cities at the end of the Industrial Revolution. The Association quickly spread in popularity to North America, arriving first in Boston in 1851.

In 1884, a handful of prominent businessmen established the Spokane YMCA charter with a conviction that they had an obligation "to preserve and strengthen the moral and religious life of the young men."

Indeed, these local founding fathers were keenly aware of the enticements of city life for young boys at the dawn of a new century. Similar to the industrialization taking place in Britain, Spokane's railroads had brought growth to the city: the centralization of commerce lured young men off the farms and into the rough-and-ready urban scene. If they found jobs, they worked long hours; many needed a room to rent, or slept in crowded employer-provided housing. Away from family and friends, young men welcomed the YMCA's commitment to a refined culture that was in stark contrast to the saloons and brothels competing for their attention.

How to Become a Member:

"It is as simple and easy as buying a hat...There is no red tape, no delay, no election or initiation..."

Excerpt from 'The Young Men's Christian Association' brochure

The Young Men's Christian Association

MEMBERSHIP

WHO MAY JOIN.

Practically any young man over 17 years of age. The only men ever barred are those of known immoral character or engaged in immoral lines of business, and these rarely apply. The basis of membership is neither religious, social, political or financial—it is simply character, such as would be required by any business house.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER.

It is as simple and easy as buying a hat. Apply to the clerk at the office for an application blank, fill it in with your name, address and the other information it calls for, hand it back to the clerk with the first year's dues, as stated below, and he will at once fill out your membership card and hand it to you. There is no red tape, no delay, no election or initiation and you are a member from that time on until you serve notice upon the Association, at the end of any yearly period of your membership, that you wish to withdraw. You don't "rejoin" or "renew" each year; you simply pay up your annual dues and your membership continues right along year after year until you of your own choice withdraw.

WHAT IT COSTS.

The Annual Dues in the Men's Department, paid by all members at the time of joining, are \$7.00. These Annual Dues are to be paid each year on the same recurring date and if paid promptly within fifteen days of the date due, a rebate of \$2.00 is allowed, so that after the first year the annual dues are only \$5.00.

The Regular Membership in the Association gives the following privileges: Affiliation with all Associations in the United States and Canada and visiting privileges in their rooms and club houses. Visiting privileges in all Associations in foreign countries. Care and attention in case of sudden illness, accident or death while among strangers, these being called for by the membership card when carried upon the person. The use of all social privileges of the Association Building, the Parlors, Reading Rooms, Library, Correspondence facilities, Social Entertainments, Registration in Employment Bureau, use of Camera Room, Bicycle Room, etc. Admission to Association Clubs and Sub-Organizations and, upon payment of scheduled additional charges, the extra privileges of the various Departments, Bowling Alleys, Billiard and Pool Tables and the rental of rooms in the Association Men's Apartments.

THE DEPARTMENT FEES.

In addition to the Annual Dues, paid by all members, special fees are charged for certain features of various departments, each member paying thus for what he wishes to use and enabling the Association to install a wider range of privileges. These Department Fees are as follows:

THE PHYSICAL DEPARTMENT.

Full privileges, including the Gymnasium, admission to classes and individual exercise, free medical and physical examinations, showers and pool, Handball Courts, Run-

What Is It?

The Sunday Club has been formed to further the purpose of the Association in getting lots of good cheer into Sunday afternoons—in many, especially run away from home—the dullest time of the whole week.

From two o'clock till six there will be something doing all the time, and you will find scores of the best kind of fellows present. The Sunday Club is more of a rallying name than anything else; there is nothing to join—no dues or fees—simply come and enjoy yourself. All men are truly and cordially welcome.

"Pleasant Sunday Afternoons for Men"

That is the slogan of the Sunday Club, and this is how we do it:

From Two until Three

"The Social Hour." An hour of social chat, greetings, lounging in the pleasant lobby, reading in the library, etc., together with selections from the Orchestra and Glee Club in the parlors.

From Three until Four

THE MEN'S ASSEMBLY

which is the central feature of the afternoon, and so two afternoon talks—sometimes in the parlors, sometimes in the big gymnasium, always attractive musical features, both vocal and instrumental, and always the bright, snappy, stimulating discussion of some live topic of real interest by practical men who know how to say much in a brief time—a rare accomplishment. You'll like the topics—usually unusual—and you'll like the freedom of discussion.

Then a Quarter Hour: "Get next to your neighbor," when all get acquainted.

At Four Fifteen

"The Life Topic Club" made up of groups of men who gather in various parts of the building, under the leadership of well known business and professional men, and discuss the application of the teachings of Jesus Christ to present day problems of life. To most men the most popular and stimulating feature of the afternoon. Nothing at all like a sermon. Drop into a group.

At Five O'clock

"The Fellowship Lunch." A fifteen cent "ditch treat," when there is forty-five minutes of the best of good cheer and fellowship. Men from many states and countries meet here in delightful social acquaintance.

Then the "Social Sag" in the parlors. Does it sound attractive? Come around Sunday and try it.

The Young Men's Christian Association

THE BOYS' DEPARTMENT.

This is the age of "The Boy," and all kinds of good things are being done for his benefit on the principle that if you take care of the boy the young man will not be found wrong. We have made unusual provision for the boys of Spokane. A fine suite of rooms has been provided for them in the new building, including a reading room, game room, play room, club rooms, special locker rooms, special shower baths, special gymnasium classes, etc. A trained expert will be in charge of this department and a special booklet giving more complete particulars will be issued soon. Meantime, the fees for this department are given elsewhere on this circular and if you have a boy or know of a boy that wants to join this department, bring him or send him around.

There will be several sections in this important department—The Schoolboys' Club, intended for boys between the ages of 12 and 16, with dues of \$6 the first year and \$5 each year thereafter, admitting to the Boys' Department rooms, to the special gymnasium classes and to the Baths, with all other privileges which may be offered in this department.

The Employed Boys' Club, designed for boys up to 18 years of age who may be employed during the day and who will have the use of the Boys' Department Rooms evenings with the use of the Baths, Pool and special gymnasium classes at specified hours. The fees will be \$6 the first year and \$5 each year thereafter. Special education classes for employed boys will also be offered.

The Intermediates will be made up of older boys, from the Grammar and High Schools, between the ages of 15 and 18, who will have full privileges under certain restrictions as to hours with special gymnasium classes. The fees will be \$7 the first year and \$6 each year thereafter, which entitles to all privileges.

In 1887, noted evangelist Dwight Moody held a series of evangelistic meetings in Spokane. One was a fundraiser that collected \$2,500, enough to enable the Young Men's Christian Association, in 1899, to secure a meeting place in the Blake Building at the northwest corner of Riverside and Post. After five years in the Blake Building successfully meeting the physical, social, and emotional needs of nearly 10,000 young men living in Spokane, YMCA trustees voted to raise \$100,000 toward a new building in honor of Spokane youth.

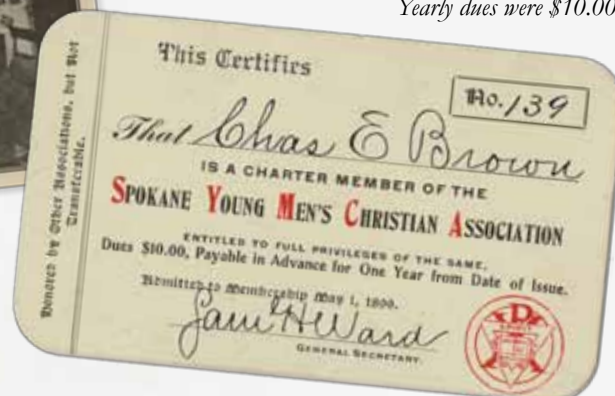
In 1906, 2,000 supporters joined a celebration to commemorate the new YMCA on the southeast corner of First and Lincoln. It contained a gymnasium, pool, craft shop, cafeteria, coffee shop, billiard rooms, youth department, adult lounge, three floors of dormitories, and many meeting rooms. The facility cost \$75,000. Before the cornerstone was laid, W.S. Gilbert, on behalf of the YMCA board declared, "I am proud to live in a town where there are men with foresight to see this obligation and the courage and manhood to meet it by supplying such a building as this."

In those early years, the Association focused on physical education, businessmen's activities, and technical training schools. The Aquatics program was established early on and became an integral of the Y. Over the years, thousands of people have learned to swim through the Spokane YMCA.

On its literature, the local Y embraced the popular symbol of the international organization: a triangle representing the threefold purpose of spirit, mind, and body.



Charter Member Card, 1899
Yearly dues were \$10.00



Father's Day Founded In Spokane

Listening to a special Mother's day sermon, Sonora Louise Smart Dodd got an idea: why not have a day celebrating fathers as well? Acknowledging her own father who raised her and her siblings, Dodd set off to create what is now simply known as Father's Day.

Reflecting back on that sermon, Dodd told The Spokesman-Review in 1959, "It was full of adulation for motherhood. The preacher was very eloquent though he didn't even mention the word 'father'. I began thinking of my mother who passed away in 1898 while I was yet a child. My thoughts naturally turned to my father, William J. Smart, who was left with the responsibility of rearing six children."

When Dodd was sixteen, her mother died in childbirth. Slowly, her mother faded into memory. Taking up the role of both father and mother, William Smart would evoke in his young daughter a deep appreciation for all he did.

Thinking it would be nice to have a day honoring her father and others like him, Dodd took her idea to the preacher. Because William Smart's birthday was in June, Dodd naturally picked that month for her celebration of her father and fathers everywhere. The Spokane YMCA, along with the Spokane Minister's Alliance, endorsed Dodd's idea and helped it spread by celebrating the first Father's Day in 1910. Dodd's dream of a Father's Day was well on its way to becoming a national holiday.

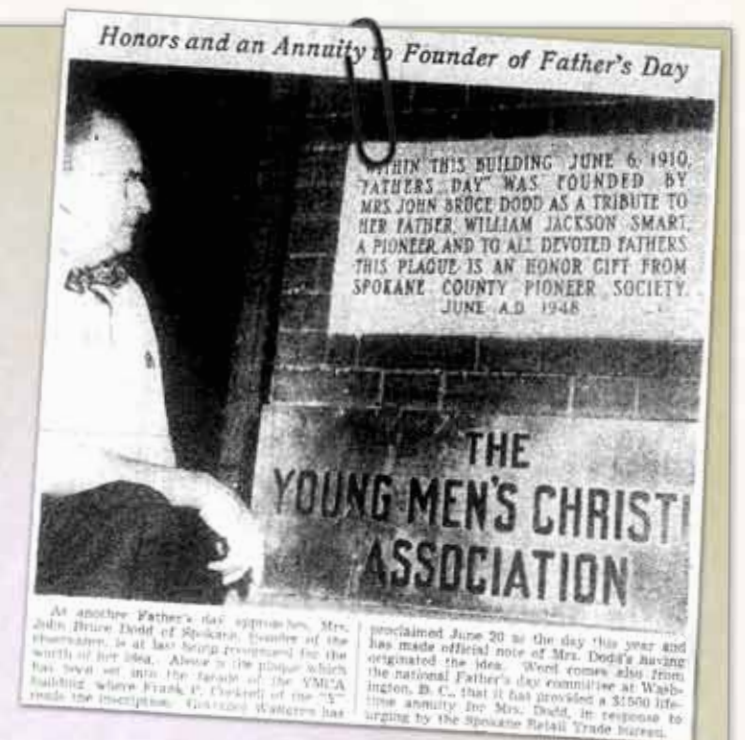
Dodd intended Father's Day to be celebrated by a special church service and the wearing of roses. In her petition to enact such a day, Dodd pointed out that a Father's Day would emphasize the father's place in the home, the training of children, the safeguarding of marriage, and the protection of womanhood and childhood. "The meaning of this," she said "whether in the light of religion or of patriotism, is so apparent as to need no argument in behalf of such a day."

Convincing others to sign a petition to make the day a national holiday was a different story. A group of men didn't take her idea seriously and laughed at the notion of such a day altogether. The men joked that a day dedicated to fishing would be more useful than a Father's Day, but Dodd didn't let their remarks get her down. A Spokane attorney, C.C. Dill, took Dodd's petition to President Woodrow Wilson who officially set the day to be observed locally. Less than ten years later, the day went national. "I watched Father's Day grow from the vague plan I brought to my minister into the national observance President Coolidge proclaimed in 1924," Dodd wrote in a 1961 issue of Parade.

Soon, a National Father's Day Committee would shape the way the country observed the day. Creating themes and designing posters to dress up the holiday, an annual Ten Commandments for Father's Day followed. In 1948, the theme was "good citizenship begins at home." The campaign sought to help build a strong America through wholesome upbringing, a news release said. The commandments cited ways in which fathers could bring along their children. "He is never blinded by love to his child's faults—he knows he serves his child best by recognizing and correcting weakness," commandment five affirms.

Although Dodd has since passed away, her legacy firmly remains woven in America's fabric. Writing of modern responsibilities that fathers everywhere face, Dodd admitted in Parade that now the father's duties are varied and confusing. "I don't think he has changed much inside, though. And that's where it counts."

—Veronica Lamb





Boys on the Dock at Camp Reed, 1922

Spirit

In 1915, Frank Reed, a banker in Deer Park, donated fifteen acres of land on Fan Lake for a permanent YMCA summer camp. The first session of Camp Reed began on July 1, 1915, when Mr. A. H. Schnetzky drove an automobile load of twelve Spokane boys to Fan Lake for two weeks of camping. Five days later, another twenty boys arrived to join them for athletics, swimming, and fishing. The main emphasis for starting Camp Reed was to develop leadership abilities in young people, a goal that has remained its backbone to this day. Steeped in tradition and lore, the camp has impacted thousands of youth, some of whom have risen to prominent positions in government, commerce, and education in their communities and country.

Camp Reed

Every summer, young people continue to venture out of their usual routine to indulge in the childhood tradition of camp. For Spokane area residents, this often means heading up to YMCA's Camp Reed on Fan Lake.

The camp had its start in 1915, when the first car-load of young boys made their way up to Fan Lake. That May, Frank Reed and his wife Emma donated a bit over fifteen acres to the YMCA to be used as a permanent boy's summer camp. Until then, campers used to hike from Spokane to Loon Lake to enjoy a more rugged summer of camping.

In May 1915, the boy's division secretary, A.D. Brewer told the Deer Park Union, "It is something of which we have long felt a need, and Fan Lake is an ideal place. It is far enough from town that our boys will be by themselves."

Reed also donated timber needed to construct cabins. Richard Weatherford, grandson of the Reeds, described his grandparents as, "very generous and caring people who were interested in the welfare of children." Those first early campers dubbed it Camp Reed in honor of the Reeds.

An early brochure for the camp had a section addressed to the parents of potential campers. "There are two traits that exist in the life of every normal boy," the brochure stated. "First, his desire to get away from the conventionalities of his usual mode of living, and second, his desire to be with fellows of his own kind."

Organizers believed the beginning of spring should stir in young boys a desire for outside activities like fishing, swimming, boating, hiking, and sleeping out in the open. The brochure explained, "The desire cannot be satisfied in the vacant lot, the back alley, or any other place but God's great out-of-doors, near some lake or stream."

—Veronica Lamb

Mind

By the turn of the century, as young people flocked from the farms to Spokane and were untrained for jobs in the city, the YMCA became a pioneer educator in the fields of clerical, secretarial, and mechanical work, helping high school dropouts earn their diplomas and others prepare for college entrance.

In 1907, Col. David Jenkins, a Spokane pioneer and philanthropist, earmarked \$50,000 in funds for the Young Men's Christian Association to establish an industrial school and education department, dubbed the Jenkins Institute. Jenkins wrote in the founding agreement that the school would teach "what is most sought by young men to learn, whether it be blacksmithing, philosophy, chemistry, electricity, finance... or any other branch of learning that will best fit the young man for the calling, trade, profession, or work he wishes to pursue."

By 1918, young women were also admitted to the Institute, though the classes were kept separate. The course offerings represented all the needs of Spokane at the time; the instructors were educators with advanced degrees as well as practical men engaged in local trades and professions. Following World

War I, the Jenkins Institute trained many ex-servicemen to prepare for civilian life. During the Great Depression, it cooperated with the federal government in sponsoring a Teacher Unemployment Program to help pay teachers' salaries. Though the date of its closure is unknown, the Institute, at its peak enrollment, educated more than 1,000 students.



*Young men studying
in a classroom
at the Jenkins Institute*



Body

As the 19th century ended, the national YMCA is credited with inventing basketball (Springfield College, MA, 1891), volleyball (Holyoke, MA, 1895), and racquetball (Greenwich, CT, 1950).

In Eastern Washington during those early years, the YMCA was known primarily for its prowess in physical education. "One of the first and finest basketball teams in the West Coast was formed at the Spokane YMCA," one historical account stated. They were so good, in fact, that they beat WSU. In 1901, Washington Agricultural College and School of Science—now Washington State University—didn't have a gymnasium (until 1902), but they did have a men's basketball team eager to play at a competitive level.

"They played the Spokane YMCA in 1901 and lost—would you believe 31-0!" noted one historical document on WSU's web site. The loss must have been an important motivator: the WSU basketball team went on to win the NCAA National Championship in 1917.

The YMCA members demonstrated their athletic abilities in exhibitions such as one, in 1928, held in the Davenport Hotel's Hall of the Doges during a weekly meeting of the Lions club. On Jan. 2, 1928, a Spokane Chronicle article described the event: "After leading [Lions] club members in a calisthenics drill, Mr. A.B. Prindle, athletic director of the Y.M.C.A., gave a ten-minute talk on 'Exercising for Health' and illustrated the four fundamental types of exercises particularly adapted to business men."

YMCA Invents Basketball, Spokane's Iconic Sport

If you're a Cougs, Zags, Eagles, or Pirates basketball fan—or a Hoopfest enthusiast—you have the YMCA to thank for inventing the game of basketball.

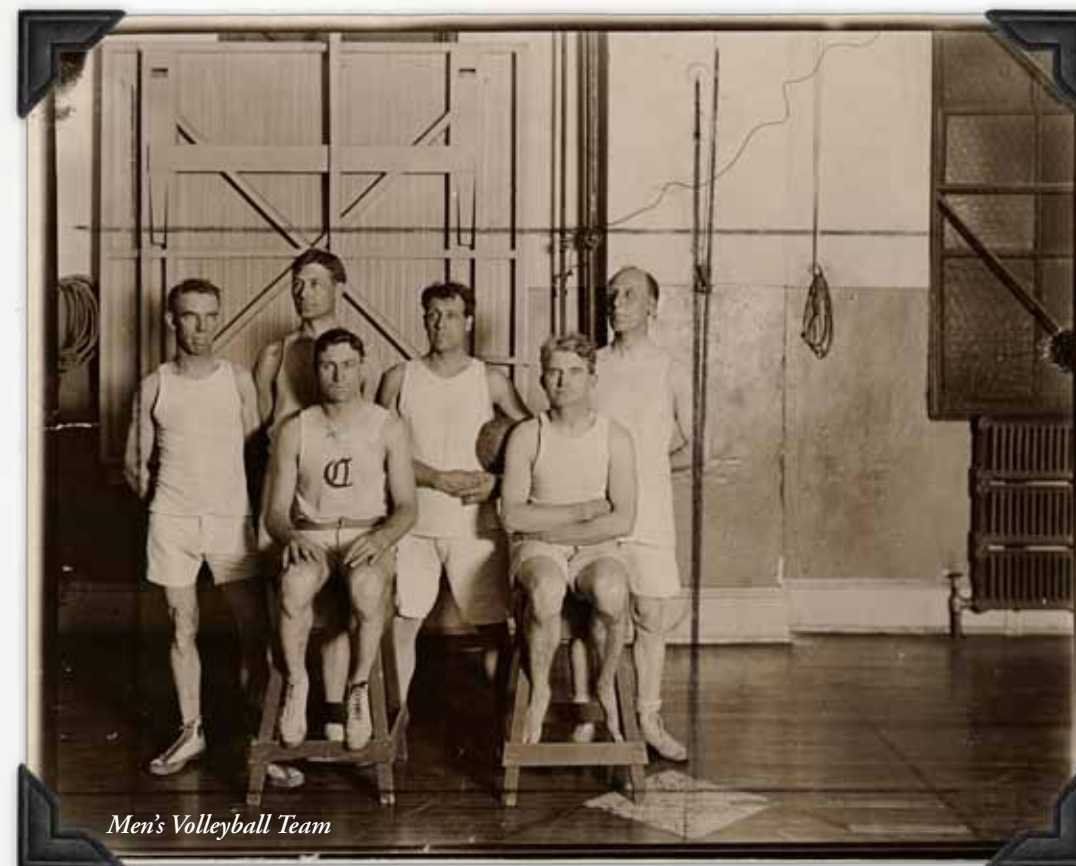
It was at the International YMCA Training School, in December 1891, that James Naismith invented the game out of sheer necessity.

Luther Gulick, the director of the school, needed a game to occupy a class of incorrigibles—eighteen future YMCA directors who, more interested in football and rugby, didn't care for leapfrog, tumbling, and other activities they were forced to do during the winter.

Gulick, short on patience with the group, gave Naismith two weeks to come up with a game to occupy them. Naismith decided the new game had to be physically active and simple to understand. It could not be rough, so no contact could be allowed. The ball could be passed, but not carried. Goals at each end of the court would lend a degree of difficulty—and give skill and science a role in the sport. Elevating the goal would eliminate rushes that could injure players, a problem in football and rugby.

Meeting Gulick's deadline, Naismith introduced his game of basketball at the next gym class. He posted thirteen rules on the wall and taught the game to the incorrigibles. The men loved it and proceeded to introduce basketball to their home towns over Christmas break. Naismith's invention spread like wildfire and the rest, they say, is history.

—Lynn Gibson



Men's Volleyball Team



Men's Basketball Team, 1901-1902

When the United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, John Mott, a leader of the YMCA movement in America, involved the Y in running military canteens (called post exchanges today). At its national meeting that year, a YMCA featured speaker reported that "in the European war the Y is doing work that the churches could not do." He spoke of YMCA workers serving among the prison camps in England, France, Germany, Russia, and Mesopotamia, "bringing cheer and comfort to hundreds of thousands of men languishing in these camps" (The Spokesman-Review, March 22, 1917). The YMCA was also appointed as the official agency to serve the soldiers and sailors in the training camps in France.

Here at home, the Association was rendering excellent service to men in the Armed Forces. The Spokane YMCA organized a "Y War Council" of 100 members, according to historical documents dated from 1917. "The YMCA locally threw its entire strength behind the war effort," noted one unsigned document.

Following the war, Spokane fell in line with the national Y: "We are mobilizing for peace just the same as we mobilized for war," said General Secretary A.D. Brewer. "The experiences of war have taught us that we must cooperate with the boys just the same as we did at the Front. It is our job to make the boys welcome."

The Spokane YMCA gave six months of free membership to all returning servicemen as part of a national "Mobilizing for Peace" program to help servicemen readjust to civilian life.



YMCA Posters from World War I

Serving Families

The Second Era, 1930s-1960s



"Gentlemen of the Young Men's Christian Association: In appreciation of the great inspiration you people have been to my son, Stanley, I am enclosing a check for ten dollars and wishing with all my heart that I could make it ten times as much."

-- a letter from Hazel (Mrs. George F.) McClure of Greenacres, 1956



1953 Camp Reed Float

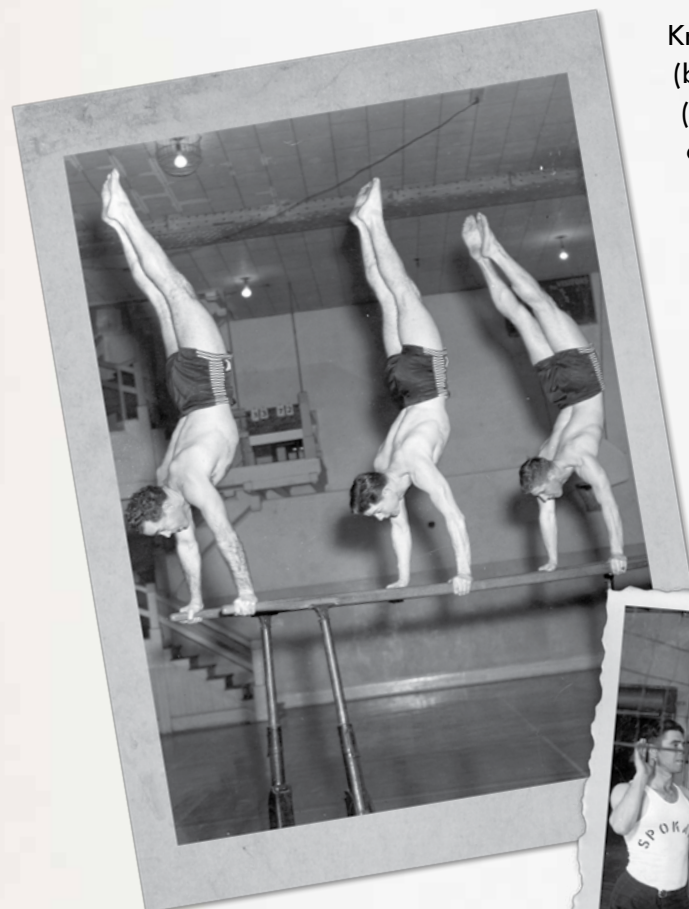


Mrs. B Serving Sodas, 1955

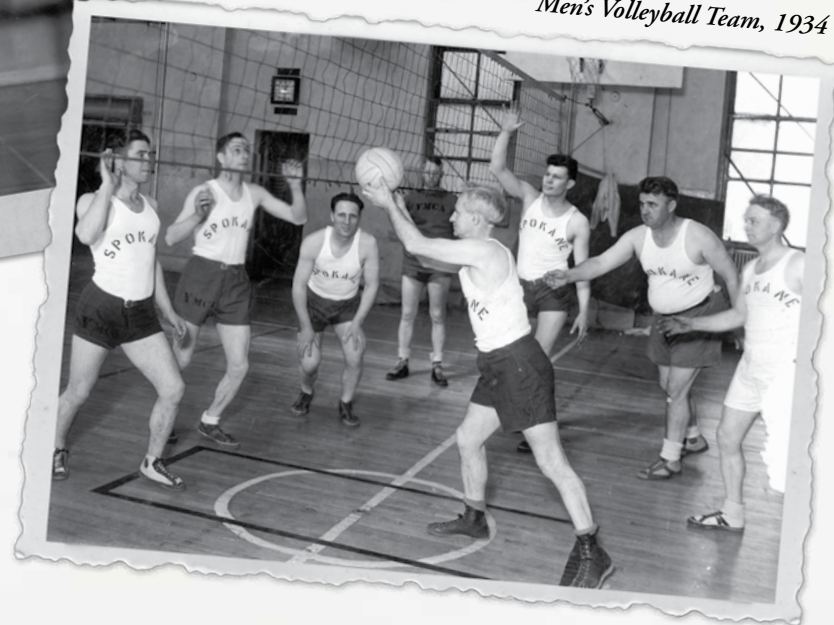
From 1932 to 1938, in the midst of the Great Depression—with soup lines in downtown Spokane sharpening the reality of the nation's twenty-five percent unemployment rate—the Spokane YMCA undertook many programs to benefit the unemployed. Under the leadership of the new general director, Lawrence Knisley, the YMCA focused its efforts on improving the morale of unemployed young men and finding them profitable activity for their leisure hours. "The need for such service is urgent and the Y is in the position to give it," Knisley said in an article in the Spokane Chronicle on September 16, 1933. In that same story, General Secretary Knisley delivered a "Call to Action" to Spokane's unemployed young men:

"I offer a plan of escaping the hideous boredom of having nothing to do, to the unemployed young men of Spokane between the ages of sixteen to thirty. Briefly, the plan is to organize a 'Spokane Leisure Time League' which would be a self-help organization conducted by unemployed young men for the [benefit of] unemployed young men....Many of us have read so many 'no help wanted signs' and filled out so many applications and heard nothing more from them that we have become discouraged. But times will not always be like this and it behooves every one of us to prepare ourselves for the future. And there is no better time to begin than now, while we have so much enforced leisure on our hands."

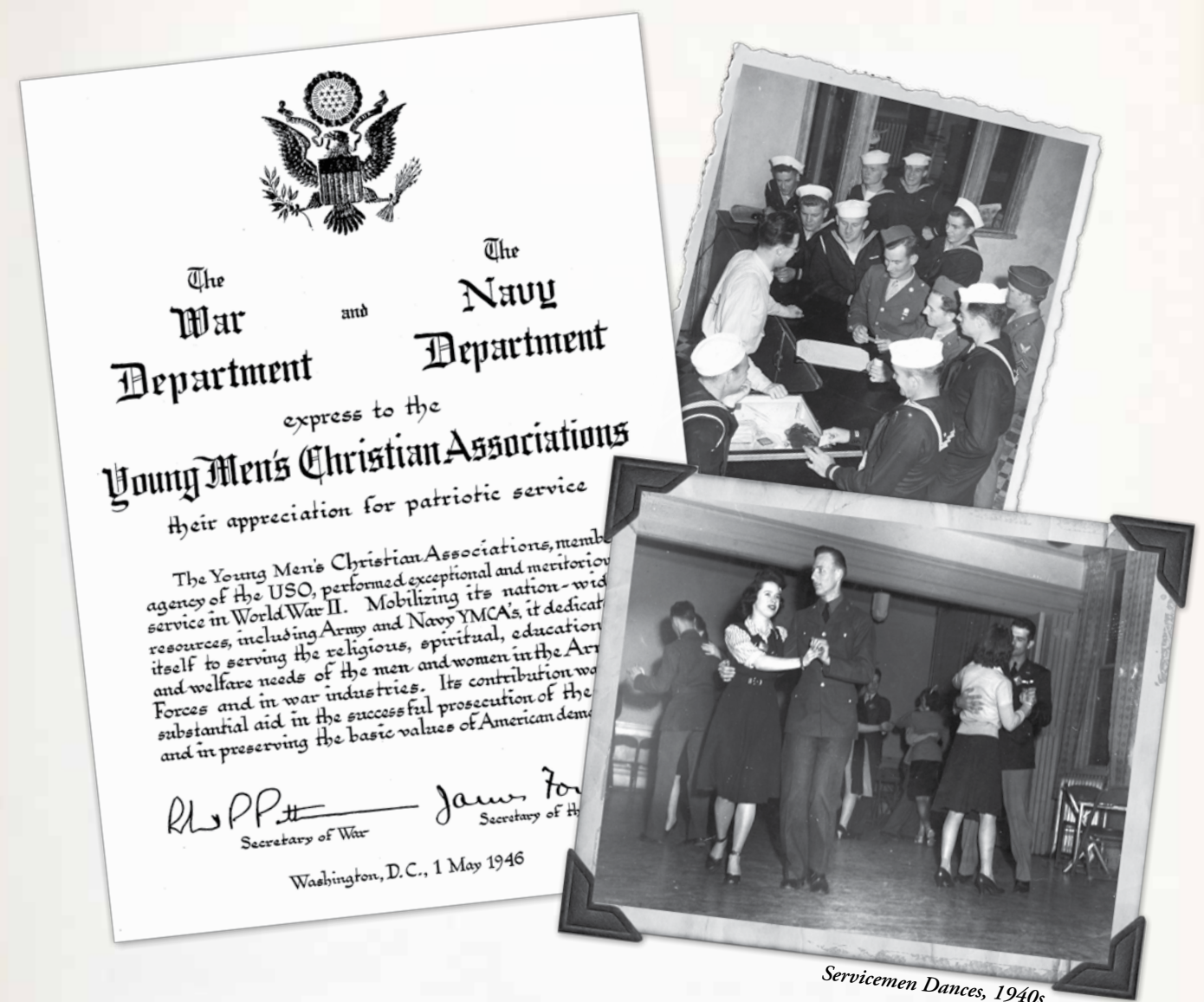
Knisley's vision included recreational activities (boxing, wrestling, gymnastics), educational classes (bookkeeping, typing, public speaking), and cultural offerings (band, dramatic club, glee club) - "wholesome, self-improving activities according to an individual's interests and desires," he said.



Men's Gymnastics



Men's Volleyball Team, 1934



Servicemen Dances, 1940s

During World War II, the National Council of YMCAs joined with Ys around the world to assist prisoners of war in thirty-six nations. It also helped form the United Service Organization (USO), which ran drop-in centers for service people and sent performers abroad to entertain the troops. The Spokane YMCA worked with the local USO to provide temporary lodging for sailors and soldiers on weekend furloughs. Early on Sunday mornings just after midnight, 300 cots provided by the Army were placed in every available square inch of the Y facility including the boys' department, the second floor meeting rooms, and the gymnasium. The Association's offices became large check rooms for overcoats and luggage. Men arrived throughout the night to catch some sleep. By 10 a.m. Sunday morning, all the rooms were cleared, the cots were stored, and the week's regular programming began.

"This service seems to be greatly appreciated by the individual service man," General Secretary Knisley wrote in a report. "We make a definite attempt to have the fellows feel at home and try to keep the service on a friendly rather than a business basis."

After years of planning for soldiers, the end of the war ushered in new programs in the athletic department. "We have a new staff from that of war years," YMCA officials announced to its 350 members during an annual meeting in 1946. "Now that the boys have returned home, they are more eager than ever to participate in a body-building program."

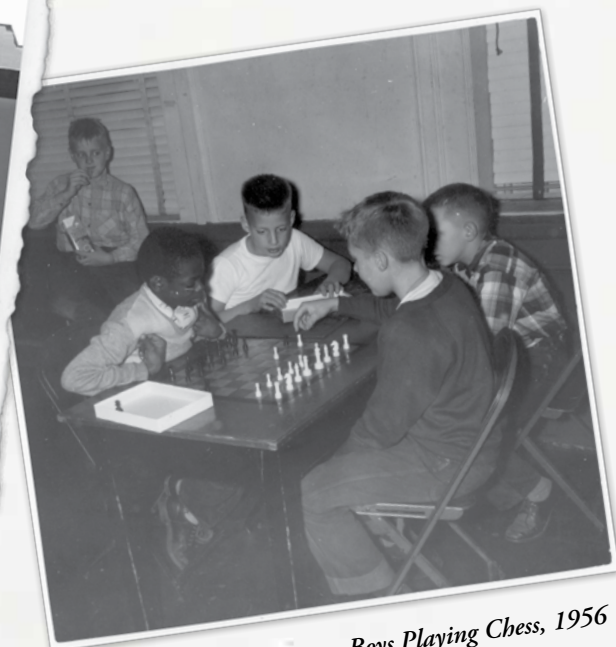
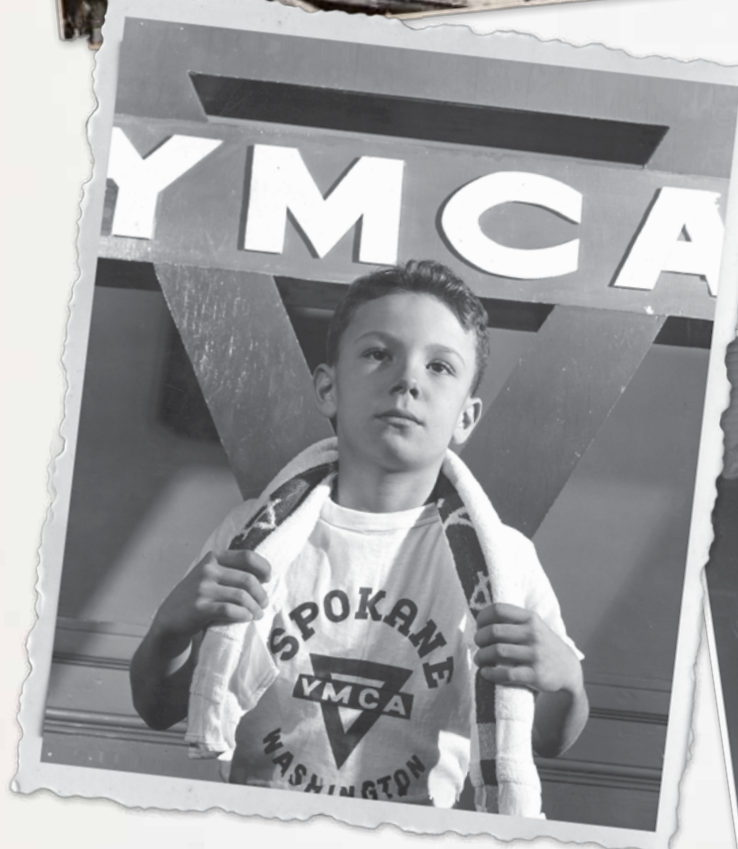
Boy's Trampoline



In addition to weight-lifting, the full-scale athletic program also included classes in lifesaving, fencing, gymnastics, diving, trampoline, and badminton. A new "Play to Health" plan was introduced to offer classes to men interested in social sports such as folk dancing and square-dancing.

"Our sports program must continue to be a fine one," said a Y director in a 1946 story in The Spokesman-Review. "Spirit, mind, and body still form the three points of the YMCA triangle, but more weight is being placed on the mind and body phases."

In 1949, the Spokane YMCA's athletic facilities were completely renovated in preparation for the most extensive fall and winter program in the history of the organization. Equipment rooms were refurbished, the gym was repainted, and the floors resurfaced. Age limits on exercise classes were lowered to include high school boys who learned tumbling, gymnastics, and self-defense.



Boys Playing Chess, 1956

Y Basketball Engages Thousands of Youth

Since inventing basketball in 1891, the YMCA has always incorporated the popular sport into its men's programming. In the 1960s, competitive Y basketball for youth came of age and, ever since, the YMCA of the Inland Northwest has provided league play for thousands of grade-school and middle-school kids.

Dale Soden, professor of history at Whitworth University, and a long-time Y basketball enthusiast, has fond memories of his years coaching Y basketball.

"It was about character-building," said Soden who played Y basketball as a child in the early '60s and, as an adult, coached several boys and girls teams from 1990 to '95.

"I've appreciated the consistent commitment to a certain set of principles," said Soden. "The Y philosophy is not: 'Winning is most important,' but rather 'Everybody gets to play equal time.' The Y makes a special point of emphasizing that basketball is a means for developing stronger character in young people."



YMCA boy's basketball team - the early years

coached by Doris Popple. They are participating in the YMCA program. Left to right, back row, Miss Popple, Barbara Deeman, Beverly Spencer, Leonna Davis, Mary Irwin, Marianne Thomofhrde, Jo An Ennis, Joy Thrailkill and Merle Corrin; front row, Caryle Pence, Nancy Murrow, Helen Ehtee, Ruth Sumihoro, Teddy Bryan, Madelyn Graybill and Virginia Haag.

NORMAL GAINS REVENGE
TIPPING RICKS, 19 TO 6
DILLON, Mont., Nov. 6. (AP)—Montana normal colleges' Bulldogs gained revenge on Ricks College last night, winding up their six-game season with a 19-to-6 victory over the Rexburg, Idaho, outfit. The Montanans lost to Ricks, 23-to-6, in a game at Rexburg, October 22. Today's win was the second of the season for the Bulldogs. They also tied two and lost two.

LONGHORNS LICK BAYLOR, 13 TO 10
WACO, Texas, Nov. 6. (AP)—The Texas Longhorns hit the comeback trail today, coming from behind to hand Baylor its first defeat, 13 to 10, before 20,000 at Municipal stadium. In the final analysis it was Texas' proved passing arm that turned the trick for the Longhorns after it appeared the Bears had the game in the bag. Baylor drew blood first in the second period with a 10-to-0 lead at the point after Texas' first drive.

SOONERS STORM TIGERS, 41 TO 7
NORMAN, Okla., Nov. 6. (AP)—The Oklahoma Sooners dominated the Texas A&M Tigers in a 41-to-7 rout today at the indoor football game at the Municipal stadium.

Intramural Bouts at Alumni Meet
Intramural championship boxing bouts will be the sports feature of the Gonzaga university alumni annual fall meeting in the student union building at 7:30 o'clock Tuesday night, Dr. Edward N. Hamacher, president, said yesterday. After a short business meeting in the student union building, members of the Spokane chapter of the Gonzaga University alumni association will meet at 8 p.m.

SPARTANS SNOW AVALANCHE, 47-0
EAST LANSING, Nov. 6. (AP)—Michigan State powered effortlessly to a 47-to-0 shutout over Marquette in the 18th game of the traditional series before 36,436 fans. It was the most impressive score the Spartans have run up since they plastered the Marquette team 56-0 in 1958.

Indian Guides...Pals Forever

The Indian Guides program originally started out as a father-and-son program.

"The father and son Y-Indian Guide program was developed in 1926 to support the father's vital family role as teacher, counselor, and friend to his son," the YMCA's web site explains. The program then branched out to include a mother-daughter program called Y-Indian Maidens. Next was the father-daughter program called the Y-Indian Princesses. Then, in 1980, a mother-son program was established called Y-Indian Braves.

Every parent-child pair in the program met regularly with other parents and children in each others' houses, in what was known as a circle. These groups participated in activities like camping, games, crafts, story-telling and hiking. This was the core of the program.

As well as having fun, the program was designed to open up conversation between parents and their children. "The program helped to bring a balance to the parenting responsibility," said former member Cajer Neely.

"Our daughters gained a respect for me doing more traditional roles of a mother. It gave me, and us, an increased understanding of the Native American culture," Neely said. Important aspects of the program for Neely were developing relationships between fathers and their sons and daughters. For these reasons, the Indian Guides program was beneficial.

A staple in Native American culture is dancing. One of the fondest memories for Neely was attending a dance with his daughter, Brooke, provided by the Medicine Man from the Spokane Tribe. Other fond moments Neely has of the program included craft projects with his daughter, Megan, and a "lion hunt" at a campout at Camp Reed.

"It was a great program to build and improve relationships between parents and their children," Neely said. "It was in an atmosphere with less pressure than many of our activities (for both children and adults). The stories, games, tricks, and crafts are far more relaxing than our work or the pressure to have a 4.0 GPA or 20 points a game."

The Indian Guides program changed its name to the YMCA Adventure Guides in the early 2000s in order to be more culturally sensitive to the Native American community.

Neely hopes his daughters took away from the program a respect for Indian culture. "I wish it still had more a Native American approach because the historical part of the program was very important," said Neely.

The Spokane YMCA no longer offers the Adventure Guides program, yet the importance of building strong relationships between parents and their children still remains. As for Neely's daughters, he said, "I believe they improved their ability to have fun in a group atmosphere, while enjoying and respecting their friends."

—Veronica Lamb

Postwar families looked to the YMCA to help them raise their children. Over the next decade, the Y responded with family-oriented programs such as Indian Guides. In Spokane, the club for dads and sons (and later, an accompanying program, Indian Princesses, for dads and daughters) grew in popularity as a way to nurture the relationship between fathers and children while teaching and celebrating the native cultures of our region.

"The program is based on the traditionally high standards of the relationship between Indian fathers and their sons," reported the Spokane Chronicle on December 25, 1972. About twenty "tribes" were active around Spokane; the decision to expand the program was based on a desire to support the family unit. Other family programs thrived at this time including Leaders Club, Y basketball, Gra-Y Club (for grade school children) and Hi-Y Club (for high school students).



Fathers and sons enjoy spending time together with Y Indian Guides, 1972



Havermale Island Facility

From 1930 to 1955, the YMCA repeatedly tried to secure land to build a new downtown facility, yet the operational deficit problems that had plagued the Association from 1900 to 1925, and continued through the Great Depression, made raising funds difficult. One of Mr. Knisley's first tasks, in 1932, was to form a Men's Club to spearhead the fundraising of \$25,000 to erase the deficit and complete various projects for Camp Reed.

In 1957, a permanent site for a downtown facility was purchased on Havermale Island—home of Spokane's current Riverfront Park—with half the property's cost donated by the Washington Water Power Co. and the other half a gift from auto dealer Ray Barton. The overall cost of the completed building was estimated at \$1.4 million.



During a capital campaign meeting of fifty businessmen, the Rev. T.E. Dorpat emphasized the need for a new building saying the old downtown Y "is worn out, overcrowded, inefficient and unattractive." It was built in 1906, he noted, to serve a community of 36,000. "Spokane shows a growth of 600 percent since that time, but the Y has not changed" (The Spokesman-Review, May 23, 1962).

Ground-breaking ceremonies were held on October 17, 1962. "This is the first time a

shovelful of earth has been turned for the beginning of a cultural center for downtown Spokane," said David Rodgers, YMCA president. "It is part of an orderly development of this downtown area."

In 1965 and 1966, the Association board successfully raised \$480,000 for Operation Move, an all-out attempt to finish the interior of the Havermale Island facility. On January 23, 1967, the downtown branch of the YMCA of the Inland Empire was established—the site of the downtown YMCA until presently—ushering in new programming which included 98 hours of instructed activities per week.

In the late '50s, interested Y members formed both a North Spokane branch and a Valley branch. This decentralized approach to programming was deemed the best way to meet the needs of the growing Inland Empire community.

In the late '60s, Camp Reed came of age with strong leadership that set the stage for the next era of summer camp programming.

Camp Reed Comes of Age

At Camp Reed, one outdoor activity that was enjoyed by campers and counselors alike was a turtle hunt, which was inevitably followed by turtle races. "Kids loved diving after turtles and coming up covered in mud and seaweed. So did most of the counselors," said Don Kardong, former Camp Reed counselor and founder of Spokane Bloomsday.

Kardong was a camp counselor in 1970, 1971, and 1973. Other camps may have had turtle races, Kardong admits, but he's never heard of one. Perhaps special to Camp Reed, "the kids also learned about protecting the environment in the process, as the turtles were always returned to their habitat when the races were over."

As fun as racing turtles was, it was the stick ceremony at the final campfire that stuck with Kardong. "It amazed me some of the deeply personal things kids shared at that gathering. A lot of it had to do with the impact of that week at camp. It convinced me that a week at Camp Reed was something that could have a profound influence on a child's life," Kardong said.

Another counselor to come out of Camp Reed is former U.S. Congress Speaker of the House, Tom Foley. The 1983 issue of the YMCA Quarterly has Foley talking of his experiences as a camp counselor. Foley told the YMCA Quarterly, "The memory of helping youth to live cooperatively in a secluded outdoor setting is one which I shall always cherish. The experience gained by each of the campers is something I wish every young boy and girl could have in the years to come."

What Steve Jones remembers most about his time as a Camp Reed counselor was the leadership of director Tracy Walters. When Jones arrived at Camp Reed in the early 1970s, camp spirit, as well as enrollment, seemed to be dwindling. Jones remembers Walters and his wife, Leta, reviving the camp spirit. "[They] created a family and an atmosphere where young people could learn the important things in life," Jones said.

Even now, it seems Camp Reed still has its lasting effect on Jones. "It's a spirit you can't shake," Jones said. The friendships made at camp are still going strong, as Jones and other former counselors still get together from time to time.

It was the counselors that made all the difference, according to Tracy Walters, former camp director. "We were so blessed to have tremendous counselors," Walters said. The counselors' zest for life made a big impact on both the campers and Walters.

Tracy and Leta were involved in Camp Reed for five years from 1968 until 1972. The Walters still head up to Camp Reed a few times every year. These days it's their grandkids' turn at camp counseling.

What the Walters enjoyed most about Camp Reed was seeing just how much the campers changed in one week of camp. They came out of there different kids, Walters said. That became clear at the weekly Stick Ceremony. At the end of camp, the kids would put a stick to the campfire and dedicate that stick to the experience of camp. "The kids really felt a deep connection with camp and with the counselors," Walters said.

Traditions at Camp Reed remain important. Former counselors still go by their camp names: Ducky and Dingy can still be heard around town. These camp names were given at orientation. The counselors received the names in order for campers to feel at more of the same level as the counselors, Walters said. It also made for a special camp experience.

This is the essence of a Camp Reed experience. Walters set out to create memories that would last a lifetime. Whether it was unusual camp names or ghost stories about the ridge runner or Graves castle told by the campfire on a dark night, it is tradition that keeps the Camp Reed spirit alive.

And as Walters said, "The tradition continues."

—Veronica Lamb



Camp Reed Cafeteria



Peeling potatoes at Camp Reed



"Of all the people I have met at the Y through the years, none is more memorable than Gaylord Thomson. "Sitting Duck," as he was known by those who participated in the Indian Guide/Princess program, embodied the mission of the Y like no other. He loved kids and supported the dads. He was famous for his song-leading up at Camp Reed, particularly the "Music-Master." I loved having my kids get to know Gaylord."

-- Dale Soden, Professor of History, Whitworth University

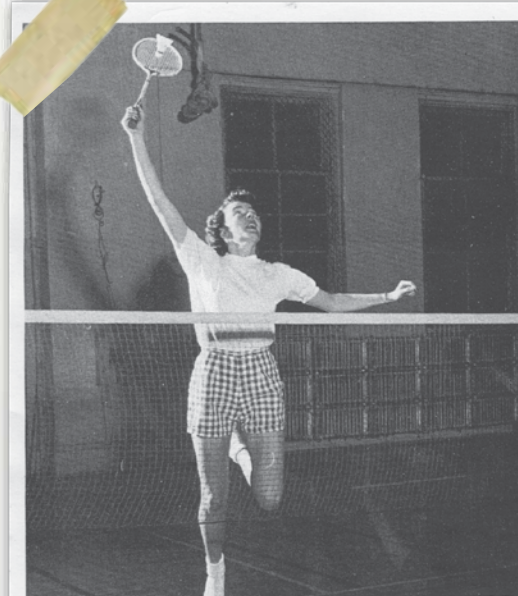
Supporting Women

The Third Era, 1970s-1990s



"Latchkey is an after-school program for children 6-12 years and their parents, designed to provide a warm, accepting, well-supervised environment in which the child can be associated with positive adult models and develop peer relationships. Latchkey is a service for families, especially low-income families, to help maintain employment, strengthen the family unit and provide parents with avenues for increasing their parenting skills."

-- YMCA brochure, 1972



"Kill shot" . . . Young adult participation in badminton has enjoyed a tremendous increase in recent



"Touche" . . . Girl member of "Y" fencing club really gets her man.

When the wartime effort ended, Rosie the Riveter may have returned to her domestic duties back home, but when the daughters of her generation entered the workforce, they never looked back. Spokane's YMCA proactively responded to this important cultural shift and became an example of an organization that was transformational in responding to the needs of the working woman.

Since the organization's inception, the question of whether or not to admit women into the YMCA "became the movement's eternal question," observed historian Howard Hopkins. Yet, even at the turn of the century, YMCA supporter Dwight Moody threatened to go on the "warpath with his tomahawk" against those who would exclude women.

And wherever you find young men, you find



Mixed swimming, square dancing and hay rides are but a few of the many co-ed "Y" activities.

In 1953, Merle Corrin, Spokane YMCA director of health and physical education, stated "The Spokane Young Men's Christian Association's fall program [marks] a radical departure from activities of the past. Cooperative body building and classes where both men and women can participate are being stressed....And the public belief that a woman should never darken the doors of a YMCA will be dispelled through various 'mixed' classes." That year, the Spokane Association's list of 1,950 members included many young women.

By 1971, the Spokane YMCA was completely coeducational. "Families who can't communicate over the breakfast table have no problem on a volleyball court," said Mrs. Paula Mendenhall, speaking for the Y in a Spokesman-Review article that same year. "Our powder puff [volleyball league] has allowed women to learn to play so that they can [join] their husbands."

While women were celebrating their athletic opportunities, they also were clamoring for childcare. Childcare for working parents, an extension of what YMCAs had done informally for years, came rushing to the forefront of Y activities in the late '70s and '80s and quickly joined health and fitness, and camping as a major source of the organization's income.

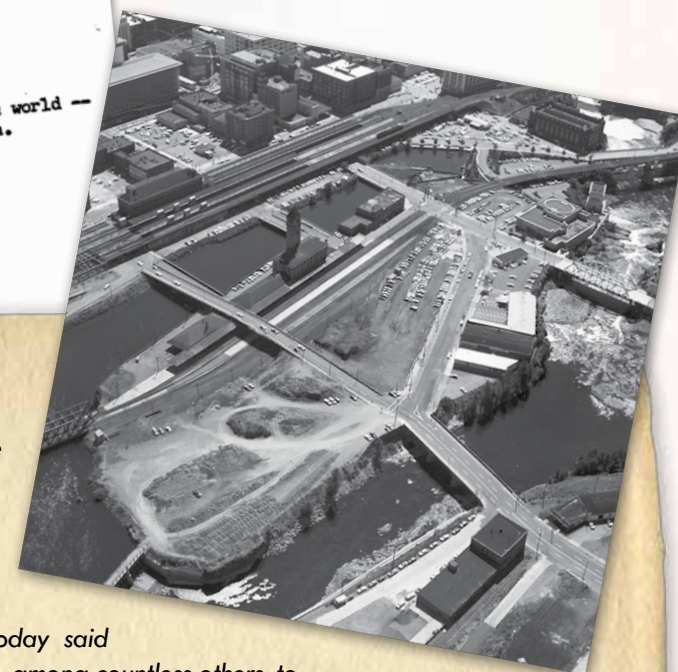
In addition to childcare programs, the Spokane Y wanted to be at the forefront of serving youth. In keeping with this mission, the downtown YMCA agreed to play an integral part in the 1974 World's Fair that came to Spokane. Expo '74 administrative offices were housed in a portion of the downtown Y building situated just inside the main gate of the ecology exposition. YMCA offices were renovated to accommodate organizers of the six-month fair and some of the remodeling became a permanent asset of the Y's facility.

One enthusiastic Y member wrote in a February 1974 correspondence: "Spokane is the small city that has never put on a World's Fair and I marvel at the way the local promoters have been able to secure many millions of dollars from the state of Washington, the Federal government, foreign countries and large commercial enterprises in the country....Much of the development will be left on the island for a permanent park of which the Y.M.C.A. will be located in a strategic position."

May 6, 1974

TO: King Cole and the whole Expo staff
From: Fred Hanna and the Y M C A staff

What a beautiful, beautiful job you have all done!
Coming onto the Fair site Saturday was like entering a magic world -- totally different from Friday's hurly-burly of final preparation.
99 and 44/100% finished -- it floats! And HOW it floats!
Congratulations for a fantastic and inspirational job.



Expo '74

The year was 1974 and Spokane was hopping with the hustle and bustle of hosting the much anticipated Expo '74. With such an excited atmosphere rising from the city, many people were understandably lured in, especially young travelers.

One article in the 1974 spring issue of YMCA Today said Spokane was expecting around 50,000 young people, among countless others, to visit the fair. Anticipating backpacking young hippies with little money and a sense of adventure to fill the city's hot summer streets, the Spokane Y wanted to be ready.

After a series of meetings with city officials, YMCA administrators got the funding they needed to staff this once in a lifetime event. The YMCA Outreach Staff was created with the purpose of looking after a park specifically designated by the city to accommodate travelers who would satisfy their curiosity about a world's fair. The park had been set up, and the staff was gearing up to oversee the eccentric happenings that were about to take place.

The Y drew up a plan for visiting youth, which described how young people would likely arrive in town—by thumb, bike, motorbike and even by car. "Many will be testing their wings," the plan stated, "...with a minority that will be running away from something."

The community ablaze with enthusiasm for the fair, the YMCA secured \$19,000 from the city government for Y activities. Kudos from around the community had been made to YMCA officials who attained the necessary funding to accommodate bounds of drifting young men and women, and work was to be done.

The YMCA's Outreach Staff plan was to act as a third party intervener in order to handle situations between travelers that might surface. The staff was to be briefed by the National Center for Youth Outreach Workers who were experienced with gaining acceptance by the counter-culture.

The city designated Highbridge Park for the incoming travelers. Three sides of the park were bordered along both the Latah Creek and the Spokane River, with the YMCA Outreach Staff setting up camp in the park to serve as headquarters.

A report written by members of the Outreach Staff recalls the park culture as a melting pot with much diversity. "This was a unique experience, the first of its kind," the report stated. "And there was nothing with which to compare. Some people lived there, called it home." A sign that someone posted at the gate to the park read, "You are now leaving the USA—This is People's Park."

It was here in the People's Park that the counter-culture set up their temporary lives while visiting—or in some cases protesting—Expo '74. The YMCA was there, much like it is today, serving the needs of adventurous young people and reaching out, as always, to help the Spokane community.

—Veronica Lamb

“Your name doesn’t fit you anymore.”

By the late ‘70s, Fred Hanna, YMCA general director, had heard this statement often and was ready with a response:

“The Y is not only for Youth, the M is not only for Men, the C is not only for Christians, the Association is for All,” he stated in an annual report. “Change is inevitable; it’s direction that counts.” Hanna said the organization had the largest senior citizens program in Eastern Washington and a female membership of forty percent. “The Y has gone through a major change in focus and a major change in image,” he said. He credited flexibility brought about by the organization’s commitment to community needs (rather than programs) for the YMCA’s ability to adapt to changing uses.

By this time, more than 1,300 campers were enrolled at Camp Reed and day camps. In fitness programs, the Fitness Appraisal was introduced to assess one’s cardiovascular condition to determine an individual exercise program. Day care centers, a nursery, and preschool classes were flourishing. The Y worked with runaways and truants in its “Status Offender” program; its “Latch Key” program provided after-school child care.

The building, in the center of Riverfront Park, was shared among the YMCA, United Way, Big Brothers, Volunteers of America, and several other community agencies. In 1975, the Spokane YMCA became the sponsoring organization for Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). The national program, founded in 1969 as part of the Older Americans Act, encourages people 55 and older to use their time and talents to benefit others by joining the RSVP volunteer network and serving with numerous local organizations. (Today, approximately 800 volunteers annually contribute 200,000 hours of volunteer time to non-profits and public agencies in Spokane County).

That same year, the Association received national recognition for its combination of high-need “people services” (senior citizens, child care, juvenile justice), high-quality traditional Y activities (health and fitness, camping, youth leagues), and the extensive multi-agency joint housing.

“[The Spokane] YMCA is referred to as the model of the future by many national organizational officials,” Hanna remarked that year in The Spokesman-Review.



Girls at Camp Reed



Kids having fun in childcare, 1990s

Activate America

As obesity rates in the United States have increased by sixty percent in the last decade, the YMCA has responded with Activate America, a national program to engage communities in supporting “health seekers;” that is, Americans of all ages who are struggling to achieve and maintain well-being of spirit, mind and body.

The vision of Activate America is being incorporated into the broader work of the YMCA. For example, child care sites are being transformed into environments where physical activity, healthy eating, and improved interpersonal connections are the norm.

In September 2007, the Spokane Y participated in America On the Move Week, an annual drive to motivate people to increase their daily level of activity in small, incremental steps.

Each spring, the YMCA hosts Healthy Kids Day, a free interactive event to encourage children and families to adopt behaviors that support healthy lifestyles.

The Spokane YMCA was selected by the YMCA of the USA as a Pioneering Healthier Community. The Spokane YMCA looks at innovative ways to collaborate with Spokane Public Schools and other local organizations to improve the health and well-being of our community.

More than one dozen corporations and foundations have provided funding for the program which counts nearly 400 YMCAs across the country as participants.

—Lynn Gibson

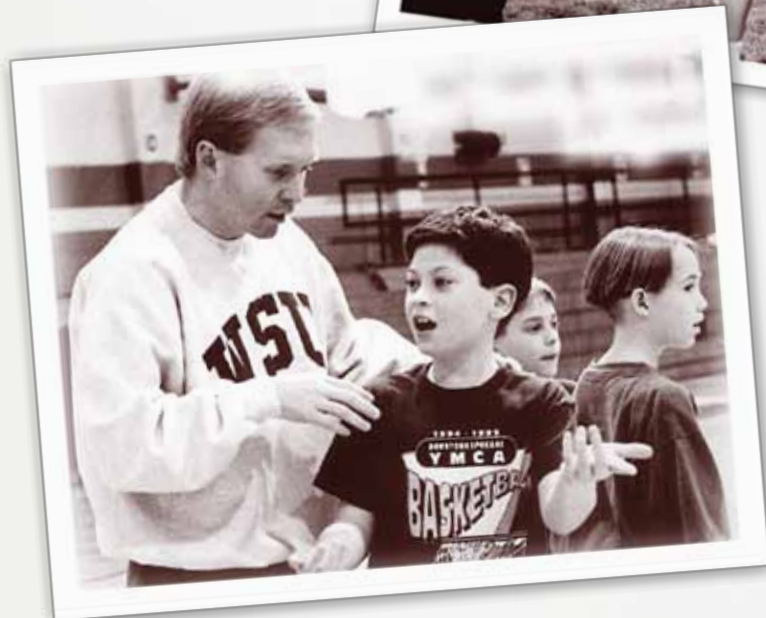


As the 1980s and ‘90s unfolded, the Baby Boomer generation was increasingly looking to the Y to help raise its children with programs to develop character. The YMCA developed four “core values”—caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility—that it would incorporate into all of its programs and services in an intentional way. As the organization continued to focus on what contributes to healthy youth, the Y’s tagline became familiar: “We build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities.”

With this definitive statement in place, leaders focused on reaffirming the Association’s mission, identifying key areas of programming: camping, family, adolescent youth, seniors, leadership development, and community outreach.

In 1992, under the leadership of Bob Robideaux, the Association established an Endowment Fund to ensure Y programs would go on in perpetuity. With leadership oversight from an Endowment board, and initial gifts totaling \$382,000, the fund has grown to more than a million dollars and offers opportunities for estate planning through the Heritage Club and the Charitable Gift Annuity Program, licensed by the states of Washington and Idaho.

“We want Y programs to last,” said Rig Riggins, President and CEO of the YMCA of the Inland Northwest. “We want to establish enough endowment funds so that the interest earnings can support Y programs and enable them to weather the ups and downs of economic conditions.”



Youth Sports, 1990s

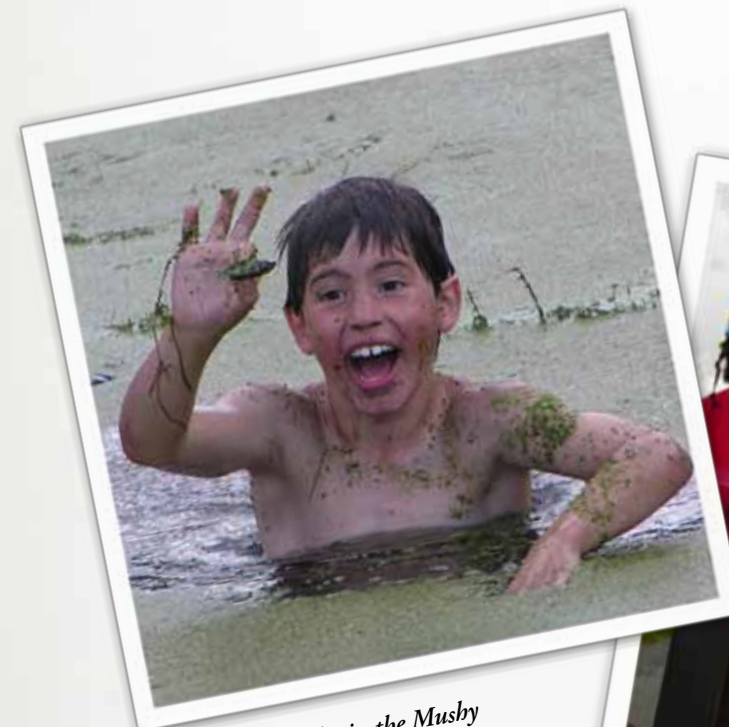
Sustaining the Community

The Fourth Era, 2000-present



"In my work as an elementary school counselor, I have witnessed firsthand the positive effects on our students who have been able to attend Camp Reed. I have seen tremendous joy in their eyes when they tell me about their camp experience, and when they describe relationships with their camp counselors and new friendships fostered at camp. I also recognize an increase in self confidence, and Gage is just one example of such a student. He has been a child in crisis, and last summer, Camp Reed was the one bright spot in his life. He is now in a wonderful long-term foster care setting and he continually talks to his foster mom about Camp Reed. They are both delighted and grateful that he can have that opportunity again this summer."

-- Laurie, school counselor, 2007



Hunting for turtles in the Mushy Pancake at Camp Reed, 2006



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Valley YMCA Skate Park, June 2004



"I love Camp Reed. My friends go, and it rocks," wrote Christian, age 10. Another camper, Jackie, age 15, added: "Camp Reed is the best place on earth, where you are free to be yourself, express yourself, challenge yourself, learn more about yourself and others."

For almost a decade, Camp Reed directors Tom and Lisa Vogt (more commonly known as Bucky and Loco, respectively) have undertaken the challenge of bringing the rich history of camp to today's campers and families. There is continued emphasis on the belief that "camp should be fun."

"Camp Reed is a place that allows a 'kid to be a kid' while experiencing life in the beautiful outdoors," said Lisa Vogt, Camp Reed executive director.



Current studies estimate that, nationwide, children spend only thirty minutes per week in unstructured outdoor play, which amounts to just over one percent of their free time. In contrast, it is estimated that children spend up to six hours per day in front of some type of screen. "It's no wonder that children love Camp Reed today more than ever," Lisa Vogt said.

Camp Reed is governed by an advisory board that has been supportive of recent program development and facility improvements. Camp Reed currently owns close to 600 acres and all the private property around Fan Lake. There are over forty buildings on the property that serve traditional camp as well as pre- and post-season rental and challenge-course groups.

Another primary goal of the Vogts has been to increase accessibility for low-income children to attend Camp Reed. Healthy collaborations with the YWCA Homeless program, Pride Cup Golf tournament, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Cancer Care Northwest, St. Margaret's Shelter, Morning Star Boys Ranch, Boys and Girls Club, and other community organizations have allowed camp to double the amount of scholarship dollars they extend to children in our community.

These scholarships allow children who have never had the opportunity to experience the outdoors and traditional camp activities to attend Camp Reed. "Children are changed," said Vogt, by the opportunity to participate in lake swimming, boating, arts and crafts, archery, mountain biking, canoeing, and hiking.

"It is not uncommon to have children come to camp on scholarship that have never hiked in the woods, slept out under the stars, or learned how to build healthy relationships with peers and adults," Vogt noted. In addition to fun, the camp staff seeks to instill in campers such lifetime values as an appreciation for the outdoors and the confidence that comes from trying new activities and adventures.

Camp Reed Rocks

The vision of Camp Reed directors Tom and Lisa Vogt is that Camp Reed would continue to focus on relationships and a culture that affirms the potential of each child. Camp counselors make an intentional effort to value children for who they are on the inside and to support character-building. They stress the importance of a good attitude and good choices. Their goal is that each child would have "the best week of their lives."

Through teaching by example, camp staff encourages practice of the YMCA core values of honesty, respect, responsibility, and caring. This focus on positive character development values builds confidence and a sense of community that lasts well beyond a camper's week at Camp Reed.

Highlights from Camp Reed's recent history include American Camp Association accreditation (2002 – present); Camp Reed Gourmet Dinner & Auction at The Davenport Hotel (2003 – present); "Best Camp for Kids Award" by Inlander Magazine Readers poll (2004 – present); and completely sold out traditional camp programs during the summers of 2007 and 2008.

Areas of recent program expansion include introduction of Camp Reed Experience Teen Leadership & Outdoor Ed (2009); Family Camp (2008); Lakeview year round lodging (2008); Frem's Place Store & Commons (2007); Pride Cup Collaboration to send low income children to camp (2003 – present); Camp Reed Clothing Bank (2004); and Camp Reed Library (2003).

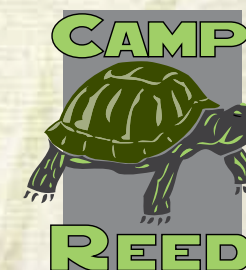
The Counselor In Training Program, which consists of a work week followed by a 300-mile bike trip, has grown from two to four groups each summer. The Junior Counselor volunteer staff program now reaches over 130 teens each summer.

In 2015, Camp Reed is set to celebrate its 100th birthday. Tom and Lisa Vogt look forward to celebrating with treasured alumni and current camp families in grand style. They hope that by continuing to focus on the Camp Reed mission—and always asking the question, "What's best for camp?" before making any decision—such principles will lead them strongly into the future, and the next 100 years at Fan Lake.

—Lisa Vogt, Camp Reed Executive Director



Lisa "Loco" Vogt
Grave's Castle - Camp Reed



*Valley YMCA grand opening, May 2000
Rendering of building exterior*



Spokane Valley YMCA Opens

In May 2000, the Spokane Valley YMCA opened its state of the art facility, offering a teen center, climbing wall, drop-in day care center, gym, fitness center, birthday party rooms, and year 'round swimming lessons in two indoor pools.

The vision for the Valley facility started with a phone call.

"We got a call from Denny Ashlock, a community activist in the Spokane Valley," recalled Rich Wallis, Senior Resource Director with the YMCA of the USA. Wallis served as President and CEO of the YMCA of the Inland Northwest from 1985 to 2001.

"Denny had this vision for the land that was Walk in the Wild Zoo," said Wallis. "He had a vision of what this property could be: The heart of the Spokane Valley."

Ashlock approached the Y about the idea of establishing itself in Mirabeau Point as an "anchor tenant," of sorts, said Wallis. Ashlock envisioned social services, a park and natural trails, and other community amenities developed around the YMCA.

"At that time, there was nothing out there," said Wallis. "We weren't that excited about it to begin with, other than the donated land."

The land was donated to the YMCA by Inland Empire Paper Co., which is owned by Cowles Publishing Co.

"Over time, Denny involved other organizations, and brought about county roads and utilities to come out there. The vision began to be formed," said Wallis. "We began to see the potential of the site."

In an effort to secure public confidence, the YMCA tested the Mirabeau site, and two other potential sites, in a market study. "The Mirabeau site was the number one site in peoples' minds," said Wallis. "They said, 'Yes, that's where the Y belongs.'"

Wallis gives credit for the genesis of Spokane Valley YMCA to Ashlock, Wayne Andresen (of the Inland Empire Paper Co.), and Greg Bever, chairman of Mirabeau Point Inc. and publisher of the Journal of Business.

"In my mind, Denny, Wayne, and Greg [are the] three who really made it happen," Wallis said.

The new \$5 million YMCA opened May 1 on about ten acres of land within the Mirabeau Point development.

"From the time it opened its doors, it kept growing and growing," said Wallis. "It exceeded our expectations in terms of projected membership."

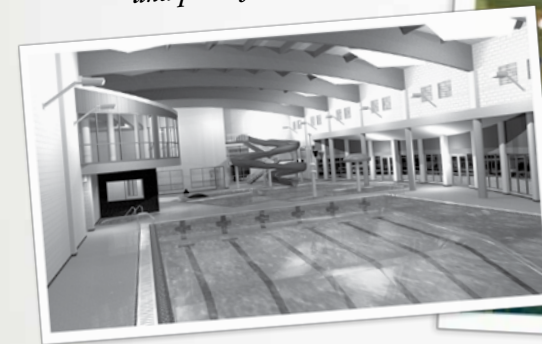
By 2001, family membership at the Valley Y grew by forty-four percent translating into nearly 1,000 visits per day to the Mirabeau Point site. As visitors increased traffic to the YMCA, the Association's annual fund-raising campaign, Partners for Youth, strengthened the Y's mission to ensure that thousands of area children unable to pay are included in programs that will teach them values and positively impact their lives.

June 2004 marked the grand opening of the Spokane Valley YMCA's new skate board park, the only supervised park in the Inland Northwest. During that first summer, more than 1,500 skaters enjoyed the park's bowls and rails.

That same year, the Association became a major leader in Spokane's efforts to prevent youth obesity, creating its Fitness for Youth program, called Y-FY. With \$40,000 in grant funding for family nutrition classes and fitness activities, the program was piloted at the YMCA and three school locations.

Riding on the success of its already phenomenal youth basketball program from the '60s (boasting thousands of participants), the Y's youth sports program expanded with Grid-Kids Contact Football League. In 2004, the YMCA offered its first Grid-Kids football camp to serve more than 600 kids participating in the fall league. With funds shrinking for physical education in the public schools, the Y partnered with East Valley School District to offer after-school sports at their district's elementary schools. Such programs continued to grow into 2006 when the Y entered a partnership with Spokane Youth Sports to serve middle-school children interested in playing football. At the Valley branch that year, the swim team grew by nearly forty-five percent, from 335 swimmers to 481. Senior programming grew by fifty percent, offering seniors monthly trips and social events.

*Rendering of Valley YMCA pools
and photo from opening day*



After the successful opening of the Spokane Valley YMCA, Association executives decided “it’s time to go north,” said Riggins. “One of the high priorities of the board at that time was to make sure we could develop a North Spokane branch.”

In 2003, the board created an overall strategic plan which was condensed into a concise one-page road map. Its mission was to “put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.” To accomplish this, the Association created an ambitious vision, to “be known as a leading youth and family-serving organization in the Inland Northwest by involving one out of every ten people from our community in membership and programs by 2010.”

The strategic plan set into motion a flurry of activity. The Y formed a North Advancement Committee which conducted a feasibility study to see if funds could be raised to build a North Y. “Out of the feasibility study came the suggestion that we ‘focus on infrastructure’ and take time to ‘tell our story,’” said Riggins. As part of that two-year process, committee members decided it was important to secure land. They needed a minimum of fifteen acres; they wanted to be on a high traffic route; and they hoped to get it for free.

After looking at a dozen potential sites, they found sixteen acres of pristine land on Highway 2. Duane and Donna Nelson and family donated the land to the YMCA at half its market value. In January 2004, the land purchase was finalized.

After securing land, a formal market research study answered the question: “If they build it, will they come?” Riggins explained. “The results said the North branch would be every bit as successful as the Valley operation.”

To build momentum for a North branch, the committee distributed a postcard to families currently involved in YMCA programs with the caption, “Let’s Start Something.”

“We’ve got this land,” the card stated. “Would you be interested in seeing a North Y in your community?” More than 2,600 families took the time to fill out and return the cards. Their answer: a resounding “yes.”



Central Ground Breaking, November 2007



Teens take part - North Ground Breaking, August 2008

The advancement committee started looking at financial implications: Would building a North branch be detrimental to the downtown branch? The concern was that the downtown branch might be financially exposed if a percentage of childcare and youth sports revenues would be diverted to a North branch.

“We began to look at the future of the downtown branch,” said Riggins. “Being in the park was an asset, but also had some negatives.” The biggest stumbling block in developing the downtown Y (in its current location in Riverfront Park) was limited parking, a problem that appeared to have no easy solution.

“Even if we poured money into the downtown branch, we still couldn’t expand our services. It wasn’t allowing us to reach the vision of our strategic plan,” explained Riggins. “That is when we decided that the downtown Y doesn’t need to be on the river.”

Soon a new idea took shape: It would be a more compelling capital campaign case to talk about two new Y branches encompassing one expanded vision.

At the same time, the YWCA was facing a similar situation with its facility. Built in the early ‘60s, the YWCA’s facility was becoming too expensive to operate and refurbish, and its board was debating what to do.

“As I talked with Monica Walters, executive director of the YWCA, we played the ‘what if’ game,” said Riggins. “What if we collaborated?”

They took the idea back to their respective boards, developed the idea further, and decided to sell their buildings. It was a historic decision: It was the first time in the country that something like this had been done, where two organizations well over 100 years old would come together in a strategic vision to do collaborative service in a community; to join in a single capital campaign; and to co-locate the organizations and take advantage of program synergies.

“It is not a merger,” explained Riggins. “We each maintain our own separate entities. The uniqueness is that we took it way down the track in terms of a joint capital campaign. It brought life to the campaign and set it apart.”

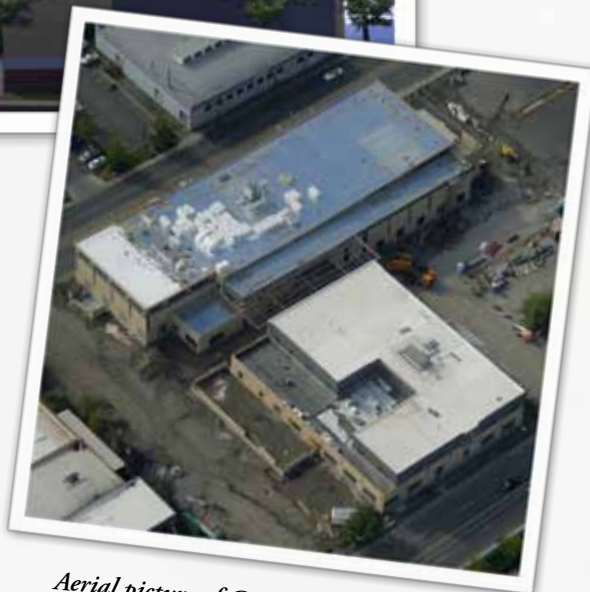
“It’s about time” was the community’s primary response to the collaboration idea when the capital campaigners began making their calls. The second response was: “I had no idea of the depth and breadth of the program you are offering.”

Slightly north of downtown, the Central Y property was purchased in the summer of 2006; a ground-breaking ceremony was held in November 2007. The YMCA and YWCA will remain true to their separate visions, yet be complementary to each other.





Rendering of Central YMCA



Aerial picture of Central YMCA, August 2008



Future entrance sign to North YMCA



Rendering of North YMCA

Celebrating the Future

With 125 candles illuminating its future, the YMCA of the Inland Northwest looks ahead with programs and services that continue to be relevant to families in our community. As a result of its \$40.5 million joint capital campaign, the YMCA celebrates the launching of two new facilities.

The new **Central Spokane Y**, located south of Boone between Lincoln and Monroe, houses both the YMCA and the YWCA. The new 80,000 square-foot facility includes an aquatic center, gymnasium, and teen center. Its fitness center features windows overlooking program areas and two aerobic rooms. In addition to new classrooms and play spaces, there is ample space for childcare and community gathering areas.

The **North Spokane YMCA**, slated to open this summer, completes the trio of Inland Northwest facilities. Located on Highway 2 at Nevada, the 52,000 square-foot facility sits on sixteen acres of wooded property that will feature walking and jogging paths, a gymnasium, and teen center. The fitness center will have floor-to-ceiling windows looking out upon natural vistas. Its aquatic center will include a large lap pool, recreation pool, spa, and lazy river. The facility will also house a YWCA satellite office.

The three Y facilities will expand by forty percent the reach of people the Association serves, increasing its program population from 50,000 to 70,000. Between the YMCA and the YWCA, one of every six people in the Spokane County will be served.

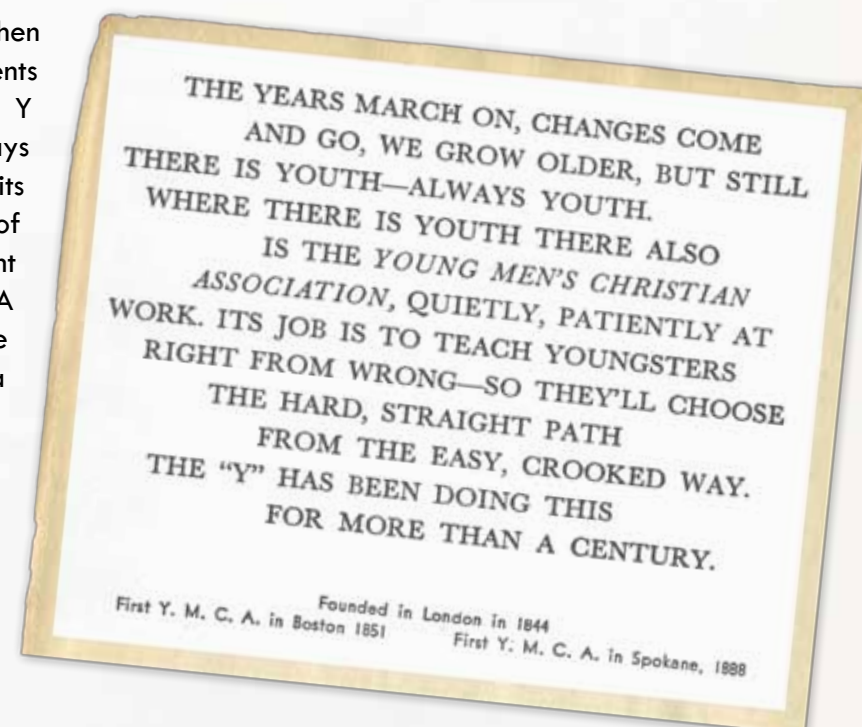
"In this difficult economic time, we are adding 200 jobs," said Riggins. "We'll go from a staff of 450 to 650 overnight. The fact that we're hiring in times like this is exciting."

With its mission intact and a compelling history propelling it forward, the YMCA of the Inland Northwest continues to reinvent itself as the premier regional organization serving the changing needs of the family.

Our YMCA is a community of parents and civic leaders, students and athletes, infants and kids, teens and young adults, adults and seniors, business people and educators.

This year marks a milestone when thousands of Inland Northwest residents will enjoy the amenities of two new Y facilities, yet the YMCA has always focused more on the relevance of its programs than the resplendence of its buildings. Rustin Hall, president of ALSC Architects, states it best: "A building can't love someone; it's the people inside that make it a place a family will come to and enjoy."

Happy 125th to the
YMCA of the Inland Northwest.



In Appreciation:

The YMCA of the Inland Northwest continues to help my family make lasting memories. I joined the Valley YMCA Advisory Board several years ago and had the privilege of helping make the YMCA Skate Park a reality. My husband and I have spent numerous Friday nights at the Warehouse (Athletic Facility) watching our kids play Y basketball. The YMCA taught my children—now teenagers—how to swim and, later, how to belay in rock-climbing. My kids have taken babysitting classes, hip-hop courses, and lifesaving programs. The Valley Y has hosted our birthday parties, school dances, and Boy Scout events. Each week of every year, the fitness center is helping keep our family active and, even better, enabling us to spend time together. So it was with great enthusiasm that I agreed to write this YMCA history to commemorate its 125th anniversary. It is an honor to be part of something so significant that has endured for so long in our region.

-- *Lynn Gibson, author*

With gratitude, I would like to thank many individuals who have contributed to this project:

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Interviews: Tracy and Leta Walters, Don Kardong, Cajer Neely, Steve Jones

**HISTORY OF YMCA
BOARD CHAIRS & CEOS**

Board Chairs

1884-1887	M.H. Whitehouse
1888-1889	C.E. Reeves
1890-1897	none identified
1898-1899	G.W. Giboney
1899-1902	E.M. Heyburn
1903-1907	J.C. Barline
1908-1912	R.B. Paterson
1913-1914	W.S. Gilbert
1915-1916	R.O. McClintock
1917-1919	F.E. Elmendorf
1920	R.H. Brewer
1921	A.T. Amos
1922-1923	Dr. X.L. Anthony
1924-1925	R.K. Tiffany
1926-1927	Dr. Arthur C. Johnson
1928-1930	William L. McEachran
1931-1933	John B. Hazen
1934-1937	Edward E. Saunders
1938	H.C.G. Fry
1939-1940	A.G. Mohn
1941-1943	W.M. Clist
1944	Herbert M. Hamblen
1945-1947	Richard Ellingwood, Sr.
1948-1949	Allender S. Brown
1950-1951	Charles H. Frazier
1952-1953	Fred W. Gilbert
1954-1955	E.W. van Tyne
1956-1961	Nelson Repsold
1962-1963	David Rodgers
1964-1966	Vern Johnson, Sr.
1967-1968	Robert Rutherford, Sr.
1969-1970	Richard Ellingwood, Jr.
1971	Dr. Albert Ayars
1972	Robert Goebel
1973	Donald A. Ericson

1974-1975	Dr. Edward Lindaman
1976-1977	Wm. Fremming Nielsen
1978	George Cole
1979-1980	Robert W. Robideaux
1981-1982	Allison S. Cowles
1983-1984	Terry Dobson
1985-1986	Dale F. Stedman
1987-1988	Donald A. O'Neill
1989-1990	Harriet J. Fix
1991-1992	Don Kardong
1993-1994	Michael D. Wilson
1995-1996	Heidi Stanley
1997-1998	Bill Wrigglesworth
1999-2000	Larry Kissler
2001-2002	Kristianne Blake
2003-2004	Cajer Neely
2005-2008	Scott McQuilkin
2008-2010	Larry Soehren

CEOs

1884-1889	Fillmore Tanner
1890-1897	none identified
1898-1906	Samuel H. Ward
1906	Reno Hutchinson
1907-1912	F.O. Hopkins
1913-1919	George A. Forbes
1919-1924	A.D. Brewer
1925-1933	W.W. Dillon
1933-1965	Lawrence B. Knisley
1965-1971	Orlin L. Donhowe
1972-1977	Fred Hanna, Jr.
1978-1981	Donald A. Leak
1981-1985	Robert Bendl
1985-2001	Richard Wallis
2001-present	Rig Riggins





YMCA

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

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507 N. Howard | PO Box 208
Spokane, WA 99210

CENTRAL SPOKANE
930 N. Monroe
Spokane, WA 99201

SPOKANE VALLEY
2421 N Discovery Place
Spokane Valley, WA 99216

NORTH SPOKANE
10727 N. Newport Hwy.
Spokane, WA 99218