



Archive Articles

Why We Need the BC Archives..... 1

Special Thanks..... 2

The Time Is Right..... 1-2

Ralph Proctor..... 2-3

Where Are They Now 3

Do You Remember the
"Move To The Hill?" 4

Professor Naso Contributes to
the BC Archives 4

The Bakersfield College Archives Association

bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Phone: (661) 395-4949

- Dr. Greg Goodwin, Chair
- Ms. Anna Agenjo, Library Director
- Dr. Robert Allison
- Dr. Greg Chamberlain
- Dr. John Collins
- Mr. Robert Covey
- Ms. Carol Cunningham
- Ms. Mary Kay Ezell
- Ms. Jerry Ludeke
- Mr. Ken Meier
- Mr. Robert Parsons
- Ms. Gayle Richardson
- Dr. David Scott
- Mr. Bob Tuttle

Why We Need the BC Archives Bakersfield College President, Bill Andrews

During my career in education, I have served as an administrator at seven different community colleges in four different states. Bakersfield College, over 90 years old, is by far the oldest institution that I have experienced. Moreover, Bakersfield College is the only one of these seven that has had the foresight to maintain the history of the institution by establishing archives. Credit is due to the very hard-working individuals who have struggled over the years to keep records with very little money or support from the administration. Given its "mature" age, BC has played a national role in defining the mission of the community college in its 100 year tradition. We should be exceedingly proud that BC is the oldest continuously operating community college in California. Additionally, I think we should applaud the accomplishment of our BC historians. It is my sincere hope that we can offer them better support in the future years.

The Bakersfield College Archives are a must in maintaining our history. Maintaining records can relate to a wide variety of subjects: historical accomplishments, physical changes in the campus, shifts in administration and organization, the political issues and obstacles; recognition of outstanding faculty and staff who have dedicated their careers to BC; the multitude of athletic and cultural events; and the community events that interface with the college. In other words, there are countless groups of people who are counting on us to keep careful historical records. We can be proud of BC's heritage.

Special Thanks

Dr. Randall Beeman, the first and only Director of the BC Archives, resigned his position in June of this year to pursue his many other interests, including being President of the Kern County Historical Society. We thank Randy for all the hard work he did over the past three years. He did much to promote awareness of the Archives, appearing on radio and television and appearing before numerous groups. The Archives collection of photos, documents, and other materials now consists of over 100,000 items. With the help of student workers, Randy catalogued and properly stored all of the archival material in the Archives Room of the Library. Thanks, Randy, and good luck with your future projects.

-- BC Archives Steering Committee

The Time Is Right!

"I'll tell you a story..." says Professor Emeritus and former Chairman of Applied Science and Technology Bob Tuttle, leaning forward to better explain. "When the new library was being built, Walt Koch and I thought about getting the old American Jewelers' clock for the Library entrance to the campus. Unfortunately, it went to a private collector back east. But the idea of building a BC clock never left our minds."

Bob and Walt Koch were the major figures behind the Fox Theatre's clock restoration, helped by Dick Janeway, who had been a student in one of Bob's machine shop classes; their two-year experience in restoring the Fox clock was substantial. So when the Applied Science and Technology building remodel was planned, and included replacing the present parking lot between the AST and



"BC Clockworks"
(Photo: B. Tuttle)

(Continued See page 2)



“Clock Collage” (Photo: B. Allison)

Science and Engineering Buildings with a patio and landscaped garden, the clock idea struck again. “What could be a more perfect symbol of the tie between both discipline areas than the careful science and skill which go into making a clock?” Bob smiles. Walt Koch had two clock movements available at the time; Bob chose a hundred-year-old Howard movement – “a beautiful piece of craftsmanship” – from Long Beach. Its chime-less timekeeping wouldn’t interfere with the carillon already on campus. In addition, it was almost the exact age of Bakersfield College!

Prof. Tuttle made the presentation to then-President Sandra Serrano, assuring her that he and the others “had some serious clock experience behind us” and were ready for the project. With her approval, he next made arrangements with the architects, who promised to provide a pit (for the clock weights) and the electrical connections needed. Plans were underway.

Originally, Bob had envisioned a masonry clock tower, but after research, the team decided on a steel globe with four clock faces; in that way, the AST unit “could do it all with the help of local people; in fact, we can do 90% of the work ourselves,” Bob says with obvious pride in his department. Finding the steel ball that would become the four clock dials’ home was another project achieved with friends’ and community support. After investigating all the ways in which a globe could be manufactured, from ships’ buoys to steel petals welded into a ball, and worrying about the expense involved, Bob got a phone call from Walt Koch. One of Bob’s Model T restoring colleagues, the late Norman Knight, had seen a steel ball that might work out in an industrial yard on Rosedale Highway. Checking in the office of the petroleum testing facility, Bob met James (Jimmy) Leal, of Pacific Process Systems; Mr. Leal told Bob that the Superior Tank and Construction Co. had built the 5-foot diameter ball in 1957 to ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) standards. Bob noticed that the year was the same one in which BC moved up to the hill, and thought that another good sign. Indeed, after a half-hour’s conversation in which Bob told him what the globe

was for, Jimmy said, “I’ll make you a very good deal on the price: I’ll donate it to you.” Actually, he not only had it cut off the testing trailer where it had been installed; when Bob and coworkers came out to measure the ball to transport it to the campus, Jimmy had Pacific Process Systems workers deliver it!

Bob expects the work of building the clock to take about two years from the time he gets a structural engineer’s approval of the plans. Students in AST – especially those in welding and machine shop classes – will be closely involved in the project. The vision, however, is Bob’s: glass panels on all four sides of the clock’s base so that students can see the movement in action; small 8-inch street dials on each base face set to four major time zones. Each of the four main clock faces in the globe will be 3 feet across; and finally, atop the globe itself, a brass Renegade knight (scanned from a 1941 Raconteur) will ride his charging steed atop the globe.

Bob’s time teaching at BC may be over, but his clock will be there for some time to come.

-- By Carol Cunningham

Ralph Prator 1907-2005

Ralph Prator, former President of Bakersfield College, and Founding President of California State University, Northridge, died on July 25, 2005. He was active with his many interests right up to the time of his death. Dr. Prator succeeded Grace Bird as President of Bakersfield College in August, 1950 and continued in that position until 1958 when he was appointed Founding President of what was then called San Fernando State College. Grace Bird had been the Director of Bakersfield Junior College for 30 years during the time that the College was located on the Bakersfield High School campus.

Ralph Prator’s tenure as President was definitely a time of transition. When he arrived on the scene, he found a small college on a high school campus mainly preparing students for transfer to a four-year college or university. When he left in 1958 the College had moved to its present campus on Panorama Drive, had grown to a student body of 4,000, established a large evening division serving hundreds of people in the community, and had moved aggressively into vocational training while still maintaining its exemplary efforts of preparing students for transfer.

It was Ralph Prator who spearheaded the move to a new campus, played an important role in the design and building of the campus, and provided leadership for the development of a comprehensive curriculum that moved the college from being a junior college to the status of a

community college. To accomplish these changes, he worked effectively with the faculty, the student body, people in the community, and the decision-makers of the old Kern County High School and Junior College District.

Bakersfield College, as it came to be called during Ralph Prator's tenure, moved to its new quarters in April, 1956 – nearly 50 years ago. The faculty and staff of that year and the immediate succeeding ones came to think of themselves as pioneers in re-establishing a college with its beautiful new home and a fresh approach to serving the community. Ralph Prator's time as President of BC was a busy, creative, and productive era.

Ed Simonsen, former President of Bakersfield College, and first Chancellor of the Kern Community College District, was Prator's right-hand-man during those days, serving as Vice President of the College, and he has nothing but praise for Ralph Prator. In a recent interview, Dr. Simonsen noted that Ralph Prator was the right man at the right time for Bakersfield College. He said that Dr. Prator "did a masterful job of working with the decision makers of the community, as well as state-wide educational leaders, and even national figures." Dr. Simonsen went on to point out that Prator played a major role in the successful bond issue that followed the earthquake of 1952, which provided the funds to build the "beautiful college on the hill, that became a model for many community colleges state-wide."

According to Dr. Simonsen, who was a close observer of the work of Ralph Prator, he was a great believer in involving the various stakeholders. The buildings had to be designed to meet the needs of the faculty and the students, and they were all invited to be full participants in the planning. The result was a campus that is exceptionally functional fifty years later. Prator was at his very best, according to Simonsen, interfacing with the District officers who were strongly and effectively oriented to meeting high school needs. Diplomatically, but persistently, Prator convinced the District leaders of that era that Bakersfield College had to transcend its old roles, and become a state-wide leader as a comprehensive community college.

Ralph Prator was extremely active in the community, and beyond the community he was influential in Sacramento. He became President of the Downtown Rotary Club, and also President of the California Junior College Association. He was very active in the American Association of Community Colleges, and kept in close touch with the University of California, and the California State College and University Systems. He was, according to Ed Simonsen "...precisely the kind of leader needed by Bakersfield College at that time. He expected the best from everyone, and usually they came through."

The people who worked with Ralph Prator fifty years ago, helping to move Bakersfield College onto a larger stage, remember him fondly and with respect. Ed Simonsen calls him "top notch in all respects." He left his mark on Bakersfield College, and to this day the College benefits from his leadership.

-- John Collins, President Emeritus Bakersfield College



Ralph Prator (BC Archives)

Where Are They Now? Keeping It in the Family: The Hagemans

Ed and Carol Hageman have been on the move since Ed's retirement from the Industrial Technology Department in 1989. After living 30 years in a house close to BC, they moved to Bear Valley Springs, then to Cayucos, and later to Cambria. They returned to Bakersfield for a while a few years ago but apparently they found the coastal climate preferable. They are now living in Gig Harbor, Washington. Ed has had back surgeries that have prevented his golfing and fishing for the time being, but he and Carol and friends enjoy outings in his boat.

Ed started dating Carol while attending BC, graduating in 1950. The connection to BC continued with their two sons, Greg (1973-1975) and Steve (1974-1976). Greg went on to a Ph. D. degree from USC and now is Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Iowa. He has made headlines recently for directing breakthrough studies on macular degeneration (AMD). Steve is following Ed's footsteps by returning as a full-time teacher at BC in the Applied Science & Technology Department. Interestingly the name of the department is soon scheduled to return to Industrial Technology as it was called during Ed's tenure.

The family connection goes further. Steve's wife, Tracy, who was the top honor graduate from BC in 1977, is the sister of Gary Cox who retired in 2002 from BC, after 28 years of teaching, from . . . (you guessed it) . . . the Applied Science & Technology Department. Gary is also a BC Alumnus whose mentor was Ed Hageman. Gary's wife Charlotte (Laski) Cox is also an alumna who retired in 2000 from work as an executive secretary at the college.

Steve and Tracy Hageman's oldest daughter graduated from BC where she played tennis, and their younger daughter, Ashly, is currently enrolled. That's three generations of Hagemans at BC, and actually it would be five counting Carol's grandfather, Louis Davey, who taught at BC way back when.

For further information on the Hagemans, contact Steve at shageman@bakersfieldcollege.edu.

-- By Greg Goodwin

Do You Remember The “Move To The Hill?”

During Spring Break of 1955, Bakersfield College moved from the campus of East High School, where it had been for several years, to “the hill” – its newly-constructed site opposite the Panorama bluffs. We’ll take part in the celebration of that move in our next issue. If you remember that time and have any interesting details you’d like to share, please phone us at 395-4949 or email us at bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu. We’d love to include your reminiscences in our next issue.

Professor Naso Contributes to the BC Archives

Thirty-seven years ago, in the summer of 1968, Al Naso came west to teach art, industrial drawing, and design as well as use of technology (“audio-visual aids” as they were known then) at Bakersfield College. It was only one trip in a lifetime of travels and art, which would benefit his students in the Art Department, and now, the BC Archives.

Although Professor Naso was best known at the college for his wonderful variety of pen-and-ink drawings, since his retirement in summer of 2000 he has continued to experiment in media, including adding color by computer to some of his original black and white drawings. Professor Naso’s special interest was in the art of the southern and middle Americas, especially Peru. He spent several sabbaticals and shorter travels visiting and photographing sites important to art and culture in the Americas, and at one point developed a special class, The Art of Peru. Al took thousands of photographs on his trips, and these enriched his classes tremendously.

This September, Professor Naso contributed a selection of several hundred fine reproductions (which he photographed and printed in his extensive home computer center) of his life work in pen and ink, oils, and other media to the BC Archives Association. In addition, he included a bound collection of photographs and articles recording his years at the college, major travels influencing his teaching, and finally, a “philosophical statement” of his principles in a lifetime of teaching art.

The Archives are tremendously grateful for Professor Naso’s contribution to its collection.

Do you Have a Hidden Treasure?

Pirates are not the only sources of loot. You, too, might have a hidden treasure, at least as far as the BC Archives are concerned. We are looking for Raconteurs, Class schedules, and other publications that record the history of Bakersfield College. If you have such a treasure and would be willing to donate it to the Archives, please contact Greg Goodwin at gregorygoodwin@earthlink.net. You’ll be helping to write our history!

Interested in Helping Us?

We are looking for volunteers who would like to help with the BC Archives. If you can give some time to help us file materials, transcribe interview tapes, or otherwise lend a hand, please contact Greg Goodwin (gregorygoodwin@earthlink.net) or Jerry Ludeke (jludeke@earthlink.net). We will train you!

Bakersfield College

Archives Association
1801 Panorama Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93305-9979

