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Archives Acquires Bill Thomas Papers

The William M. Thomas Special Collection *by Greg Goodwin*

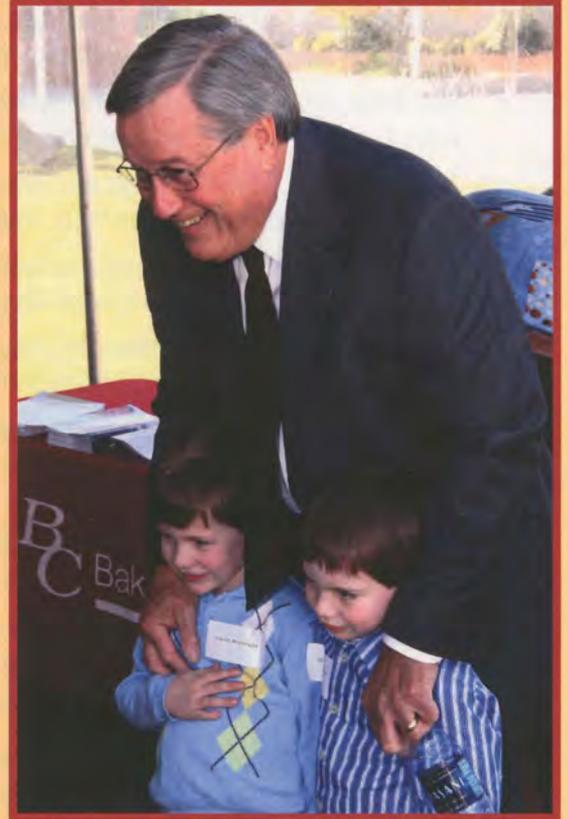
The distinguished tradition of BC continues with the addition of the William M. Thomas papers to the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library. To our knowledge, no other community college in the nation has been so honored. Many universities would have liked the collection and must be envious of Bakersfield College. For its part, Bakersfield College has the responsibility to house and manage the papers in a professional manner. To this end the college will create a new Special Collections Room in the library and an archival specialist will be called in to process donated materials.

It will be several months before the papers are accessible, and for ten years the permission of Bill Thomas is required to research the collection. But Bill has already told us that he wants the materials to be widely available and he would seldom deny permission, if at all.

Why did Bill decide to donate his papers to a community college? In addition to the fact that he taught political science at the college from 1965 to 1974, Bill started his higher education in a community college – Santa Ana. Bill states:

"Too many successful people hide the fact that they started in a junior college and only mention the university they transferred to. I have always been proud of the role community colleges have played in helping thousands of people, like me, who would not have been able to go to college at all without a tuition-free local college. Of course, there are tuitions charged now, but they are a fraction of the costs of four-year schools."

"Bakersfield College in particular has been important to the development of Bakersfield and Kern County, going back to its origin in 1913. My papers contain a lot of information about issues affecting this area, and it is only fitting that they be available at an institution committed to open access in higher education."



Bill Thomas with grandsons Sebastien and William.

(See BILL THOMAS PAPERS, page 2)

BILL THOMAS PAPERS, cont.

Nearly 130 banker boxes of paper materials have arrived at Bakersfield College, as well as over twenty crates containing bulkier items like plaques and framed photographs. Staff members in both Washington and Bakersfield spent nearly four months assembling and transferring the materials. None of the boxes or crates will be opened until an archival consultant is brought in to insure proper processing.

Here is a sampling of the materials:

- Eighteen boxes of Health and Medicare papers from 1995 on, including committee and subcommittee reports, legislation, and various administration proposals. Bill was the key player in Medicare reform.
- Five boxes from the House Administration Committee that Bill chaired, including House reforms, handbooks on rules and new member orientations, and campaign finance reform.
- Eighteen boxes from the Ways and Means Committee that Bill Thomas chaired, covering a wide range of issues including pension reform, tax relief, trade, health and energy policy.
- Twelve boxes of Congressional publications, including Deschler's precedents, constitutional analysis, Congressional Biographies (1774-2005), Pictorial Directories from the 98th to the 103rd Congress, and House Journals.
- Eighteen boxes of press materials, including reports on foreign trips, articles from national, state and local magazines and newspapers, and numerous photographs and press releases.
- Thirty-four boxes of legislative issue files, including bills sponsored or co-sponsored by Bill Thomas and his official voting records. The legislation covers a vast array of issues including defense, water, energy, and agricultural topics.
- Fifteen boxes of plaques and awards, including "Watchdog of the Treasury" for various years, "Legislator of the Year, 1999-2000," and even a 1st Place award in California's Chili Cook-off!
- Twenty-two boxes of about 600 videos and audiotapes, including a 16mm film of Bill's first swearing in ceremony from 1979, and his appearances on the floor of Congress and the Ways and Means Committee are included, as well as national, state, and local TV programs in which he appeared.
- Twelve boxes of Congressional Documents, mostly from the Committee on Ways and Means, many of which may not be available online.

A number of the people assembling the historic materials have worked with Bill Thomas from early in his career. Washington staff member Mary Sue Englund, who has worked for Bill since 1982, told us that it was a lot of fun reading memos and seeing photographs from years ago. "There are these great 1979 press releases written by Allan Krauter, then Bill's press secretary (now Legislative Analyst for the County of Kern) that capture the mood in Washington as well as Kern County.

"One really interesting thing about this collection," she noted, "is the breadth of national, state, and local issues. It's like having two prisms, one that can be viewed from a Kern County perspective and the other from the nation's capital."

There are a number of original items in the collection that have immense historical significance. One is the official vote tally sheet of the contested 2000 presidential election signed by Al Gore. And there are framed pieces of legislation that Bill authored that became law, coupled with the presidential signing pen.

The legacy of Bill Thomas to Bakersfield College will not end with the donation of his Congressional Papers. Bill and his wife Sharon (also a community college graduate at the College of the Sequoias) plan to remain in Kern County and play an active role in the life of Bakersfield College. 🐾



Chancellor Ed Simonsen, Prof. Bill Thomas, Affirmative Action Officer Victor Garcia, and Assistant to the Chancellor Jim Young.

Chancellor Sandra Serrano's Response To Donation

Chancellor Sandra Serrano states "It is fitting that William "Bill" Thomas, retired Congressman and former professor of history and political science at Bakersfield College, is donating to the Bakersfield College Library and Archives a collection of his documents and materials created during his service in the US House of Representatives. The donation . . . is a valuable contribution to the study of public policy and the preservation of history. . . . Researchers seeking insight to public policy such as social security, Medicare, or income tax law will have access to the thoughts and actions of one of the most influential members of Congress. The Kern Community College District is honored that Congressman Thomas elected to make this gift to Bakersfield College." 🐾



Chancellor Sandra Serrano

Brief History of the Bakersfield College Library

By Claire J. Larsen (Associated with the BC Library from 1967-2000)

The origins of the Bakersfield College Library, as with the College itself, are traced to Bakersfield High School (first founded in 1893 as Kern County High School). No documents were found dealing with the 1913 to 1935 period. Possibly the reserve collection for "junior college" students increased until its use justified a basement room seating less than 100 students around 1936. Goldie Ingles, Librarian from 1935-1963, would have been in charge.

The "new" College Library on the hill opened in September, 1956 with facilities and space for 400 students. "The same ratio prevail[ed] in shelving space, workroom, and audio-visual accommodations." The 36,000 square foot building listed construction cost as \$14.13 per square foot which may be compared to a 2007 average cost per sq. ft. for college buildings of about \$400.

The delighted librarians reported, "Our first inclination was to 'tell the world' about our wonderful new building, but we have purposely refrain[ed] from doing so until we had lived in it. Now, after several months of intensive use, we are content – content and very pleased because all our hopes and expectations have been fulfilled. We know that we have one of the most functional and beautiful junior college libraries in California. The location of the building in the center of the campus makes it the heart of the institution in fact as well as in theory."

At that time the "Audio-visual aids department" was located on the lower level of the library with one of the librarians being the director. Included were two preview rooms, four listening booths, a workroom, and a general office. Later, AV was moved to the Language Arts building when the LA building was built and remained there until the present library was occupied.

The Learning Center is another derivative of the library. Its genesis came from a happy combination of a need by Claire Larsen for a "professional improvement project" to fulfill a requirement of an EdD program; a sympathetic administration; an under-utilized library reading room; and concepts provided by two gifted individuals, James Johnston and Jerry Ludeke. (See LIBRARY, page 4)



Christian Torres

Archives' New Assistant

We welcome Christian Torres as Archival Assistant of the Bakersfield College Archives. A resident of Delano, Christian has an AA degree from West Hills Community College and a BRE in Biblical Studies from West Coast Baptist College in Lancaster. He is currently working on a Master's degree. He has had library experience in Palmdale and served as Hospital Corpsman Petty Officer in the U. S. Navy from 1996 to 2002. Christian is at the Archives 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and looks forward to assisting visitors. We look forward to a long association with Christian and give him our best wishes for his upcoming marriage to Brittany Reisner in July.

LIBRARY, cont.

Head librarians with significant tenure in the 1956 building included: John Wetzler (1964-1975), Claire Larsen (1975-1988) Janis Jordan (1988-91) and Fred Jacobs (1992-1996). The 1956 building, including an addition made in the 1970s, was re-purposed and designated the Student Services building in 1996.

When funding was promised in the early 1990s for a new library building, a flurry of activity commenced to turn the dream into reality. The concept was for a college-wide information and technology hub containing the library, AV, distance learning facilities, TV studio, and information technology. Committees were formed and educational specifications for each space in the building were developed along with relationships between spaces. A site was selected. Library automation software was selected. Following the advice of the Library Advisory Committee, a conversion from Dewey Decimal System to the Library of Congress classification was implemented. Construction began, the framing rose – only to be halted as the effects of the Northridge Quake were studied. Upgraded steel fastenings were designed and construction resumed.

Construction of a tunnel extension to the new building disrupted the normal flow of foot traffic in the north-west part of campus. Equipment was purchased and additional staff hired.

At length the furnishings were installed, and from July 12-18, 1996 the dean, librarians, library classified staff and a cadre of student workers used book carts to move the collection from its old location to the new library. Since that time the librarians, led by Anna Agenjo, library director, have developed the new multimillion dollar library building, its automation, and the expansion of its role as the information center of the college for the 21st century. ☞



Mrs. Goldie Ingles and Miss Bernice Braddon surveying some of the 1952 earthquake damage to the old BC Library

Remembering A Man of History *By Greg Goodwin*

Eminent historian and Whitehouse insider during the Kennedy Administration Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. died recently at age 89. Schlesinger was one of many notables who spoke at Bakersfield College in the 1970s, back in the days when a special tax provision (now long gone) allowed funds for such visits.

I had the honor of introducing Dr. Schlesinger and dining with him before the lecture. I remember him lighting up a cigar after dinner and commenting that “no one minds the smell of a really good cigar.” My wife agreed with him.

One of the books I used in my history classes then was Conflict and Consensus in American History where Schlesinger was grouped with the conflict historians who believed American democracy advanced unevenly through periods of liberal advance followed by conservative retreat. The consensus historians, on the other hand, saw gradual advances and argued conservative presidents were not so conservative and liberal presidents were not so liberal as the conflict historians portrayed them.

I asked Professor Schlesinger if he agreed with this assessment. He replied “but of course conflict is the engine of history.” At that point he took out a small notebook and recorded these words of wisdom. For years afterward I looked in his writings for this idea that came from our conversation to appear in print but never saw it. So I guess I get to be the one to proclaim that “conflict is the engine of history.” ☞

Editor's Farewell *This is my last edition of the BC Archives Newsletter. After two years working with great colleagues and writers and a superb layout person, Eric Carrillo, in the efficient BC Graphics Department run by Debbie Moberg, it's time to pass the editorial blue pencil over to my former English Department colleague Don Stansbury. I know Don will be a fine editor, and I hope he'll have as much fun as I have had turning out this link in words and pictures with emeriti, BC graduates, and all the Archives supporters. My thanks to all of you!*

Sincerely, Carol Cunningham

BC Archives To Receive Prestigious Award

The Bakersfield College Archives has been chosen to receive the “2007 Archives Appreciation Award” from the Society of California Archivists. The award, sponsored by Metal Edge, Inc., is designed to recognize organizations or institutions that have made a significant contribution to the preservation of archival material. “Bakersfield College and the dedicated members of the Bakersfield College Archives Association are to be congratulated for an outstanding achievement,” stated Chuck Wilson, the SCA Awards Chair. Members of the Archives Association, including Acting Director Jerry Ludeke and Board Member Charlotte Cox, will accept the award at the Annual Meeting of the Society in Long Beach on May 19.

“This is especially gratifying,” said Archives Chair Goodwin, “since the achievements of the Archives have been accomplished mainly by the volunteer efforts of retired faculty and staff. It’s nice to feel appreciated. We also are thankful for the support we have received from Bakersfield College, the BC Foundation, and the hundreds of contributions from friends of the Archives.”

Other BC Grads In Public Service

by Greg Goodwin

William M. Thomas is the most famous elected political leader affiliated with Bakersfield College, but BC can boast of many others at the state, county, and local levels.

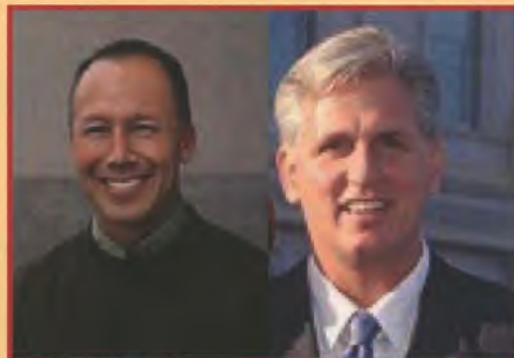
The California State Assembly has been well represented by BC people since the 1960s when History Professor Jack T. Casey served three terms. BC Professor and Bakersfield native Ray Gonzales served one term and was unseated in 1974 by none other than Bill Thomas.

Kevin McCarthy, Bill Thomas’s aide who followed Bill’s footsteps into the State Assembly and then into the U. S. House of Representatives, attended BC (1984-1985), and served on its Board of Trustees (2000-2002). Kevin offered us this memory of BC:

“My fondest memory of Bakersfield College was the faculty who took a deep interest in the students’ well being. For instance, Professor Marquez not only taught me accounting fundamentals in the classroom, like auditing the books, but he also took the time to provide me with real world advice and encouragement on opening a small business, which I eventually did. As an Assemblyman and Congressman, I have been using those accounting lessons to help push for fiscal responsibility and accountability by fighting against waste, fraud and abuse.”

Representing the 16th District of the California State Senate is Dean Florez, a BC student (1981-1983) before transferring to UCLA. His mother Fran Florez, a member of the Shafter City Council, also attended BC (1961-1962) and is currently on the BC Foundation Board. Fran told us “I was very happy that Dean attended BC as well. We (all four members of the Florez family) attended many football games at BC and were season ticket holders for over 12 years. We watched our children (Dean & sister Kris) and our friend’s children grow up watching football and track meets year after year. We had great family times at BC.”

There are many other elected officials who attended BC and we were unable to contact all of them. Known to us are Mayor Harvey Hall, State Assemblywoman Jean Fuller (who was a student of Bill Thomas), and Supervisor Michael Maggard. If there are others to add to our list, please contact the Archives Office at 661-395-4949 or email bcarchives@bakersfieldcollge.edu.



(From left) State Senator Dean Florez and Congressman Kevin McCarthy

A Special Thanks For These Gifts

The Leo Pierucci Endowment for the Archives established by his wife Janet Pierucci and contributors. Dr. Richard Wright kindly transferred assets of his foundation to the Archives.

Robert C. "Bob" Young

1936 Olympic Games Silver Medalist *By Bob Covey*

Robert C. "Bob" Young competed with the Renegade track and field team for the spring season of 1934 where he set a school record in the long jump. The following spring he competed in track and field for the UCLA Bruins. In 1936, he competed in the Olympic games held in Germany and walked away with a silver medal. Upon graduation from UCLA in 1937, he ended his career in track and field. He will be remembered as an Olympic Games silver medalist, one of the finest track athletes ever to compete for UCLA and lives the short list of Renegade greats in all sports.



1936 Olympics: 4x100 meter Relay

Born January 15, 1916, in Weedpatch, CA, he showed little interest in

organized sports, but during the spring of his junior year at Kern County Union High School, he was discovered in a gym class by Driller track coach J.B. "Cap" Haralson, who saw Bob broad jumping barefooted. The coach told Young to get some track shoes and report out for the Driller track team. Young bought spiked track shoes at Roux & Kensel Sporting Goods in downtown Bakersfield and in his first meet, the Kern County Track Meet, he jumped 20' 6" to break the meet record. In the spring of 1933, his senior year, his best broad jump was 22' 4", a KC high school record.

Young continued his education at Bakersfield Junior College. In the spring of 1934, he reported to Renegade coach Percy Bliss to broad jump. He improved his best jump to 23' 8", a BJC record that stood for twenty-seven years. What changed his life, however, was running on the Renegade mile relay team. At the West Coast Relays he ran a 49.7 leg on the relay which gained the interest of UCLA track coach Harry Trotter, who offered Young an athletic scholarship to attend UCLA.

At UCLA, Young fell under the tutelage of "Ducky" Drake who conditioned him for the mile relay. Young was placed at the third position, passing the baton to anchorman, Jimmie LuValle, one of the best 440 dash runners in the world. This Bruin mile relay unit went on to eventually win at the famed Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa.

The summer U.S. Olympic Team Trials neared and were to be held on Randall's Island, New York City. Young's best chance for qualifying for the U.S. Olympic team was at 400 meters. Seven men from that event would travel to the Berlin games but only three would go in the 800 meters. Young ran the 400 and placed a qualifying fifth place.

The U.S. Olympic Team traveled by ship to Germany and stayed in the Olympic Village ten miles outside Berlin. Despite all the press about Hitler's Fascist showcase and his disdain for all things non-Aryan, Young remembers none of that or any problems at all with the Olympics. His memories included the spectacle of the great and well-organized competition in Berlin's new Olympic Stadium and the capacity 110,000 spectators who came each day. He remembers his teammates and the friendships made, getting to know the US team's oldest athlete, Kansan Glenn Cunningham, as well as Jesse Owens and Pasadena's Mack Robinson, among others.

Young and his 4 x 400 relay teammates prepared for their event but problems were to occur that dramatically affected the team and some of the history written about the Olympics. First, the US 400 meter champion, Harold Smallwood, suffered from an appendicitis attack and could not compete in Berlin. UC Berkeley's Archie Williams won the 400 gold medal in 46.5 followed closely by UCLA's Jimmie LuValle's third place finish in 46.8 seconds. Both Williams and LuValle found it difficult to sufficiently recover to run the relay and were replaced for

the final in the relay. So it was up to Harold Cagle, Bob Young, Edward O'Brien, and Alfred Fitch to represent their country. The team ran and ran well with Cagle opening in 48.7 and Young following in 47.6 to bring the Americans into second place closely behind the leading British team. O'Brien ran a great 46.7 race to keep the American team close behind the Brits, but Fitch's anchor of 48.1 could not win the gold. Great Britain's winning time was 3:09.0, and the Americans ran a creditable 3:11.0 for the silver medal. Germany beat Canada for the bronze medal by a yard even though both were given the same time of 3:11.8, and Sweden ran fifth in 3:13.0 with Hungary at sixth in 3:14.8.

Some years later, Marty Glickman told a story to a writer that found its way into many Olympic history books. As reported in Mel Watman's *Olympic Track & Field History*, the United State Olympic Committee president Avery Brundage, and assistant head track coach Dean Cromwell, were asked by Hitler not to run Marty Glickman and Sam Stoller, the only two Jewish athletes on the American team. Both had made the U.S. team as two of the seven-man spring squad from the Randall's Island 100 meter dash. As it turned out, neither Stoller or Glickman ran in Berlin although both had expected to run on the 4 x 100 relay team.

According to Watman, both Brundage and Cromwell were "American Firsters," a group sympathetic to the Fascist cause in Germany and distinctly anti-Semitic. As Watman's account states, three days before the 4 x 100 relay it was announced by the US coaches that the 4 x 100 relay team would be Sam Stoller, Marty Glickman, Foy Draper, and Frank Wykoff. But on the day of the final, Cromwell told Owens and Metcalf they would run the first two legs on the team with Draper and Wykoff at numbers three and four.

According to Watman, Owens didn't care if he ran the relay because he already had three gold medals. Ralph Metcalf, however, very likely wanted to run because he had yet to win an Olympic gold medal in his two Olympic Games. He had placed second in the 100 and 200 meters in 1932 at Los Angeles and both races had been clouded with controversy. In 1936, Metcalf again placed second in the 100 meters, this time behind Owens.

It is doubtful that Coach Cromwell would not want Metcalf and Owens, the two fastest runners in the world, to run the relay final. For certain, it had become the practice by the U.S. coaches in 1928 and 1932 to not run their best sprinters in the relay if it looked certain the U.S. team could win without them. In Berlin, it was obvious that with Owens and Metcalf on the relay team, the gold medal and very likely a new world record were distinct possibilities. And, a fourth gold medal for Owens would place him into a preeminent place in Olympic history. Finally, it is doubtful that Coach Cromwell would relent to any such request by either Hitler or Brundage.

We do not know if Glickman and Stoller ran in a preliminary relay race before the final at Berlin, and, without corroborating evidence to the contrary, it seems unlikely that any team of U.S. sprinters could have run better than the Americans did on that day. Owens to Metcalf to Draper to Wykoff won the 4 x 100 relay in the new world record time of 39.8 and Italy was second twelve meters back in 41.1.

When asked about the U.S. women's team, Young related he was not very aware of them because Brundage did not permit the women's team to travel with or be housed near the men's team. Brundage was very straight-laced and a dominating personality. He removed one outstanding female swimmer from the U.S. team prior to the Olympic competition for sipping champagne in public.

A week following the Olympics, the US team was scheduled to compete in a U.S.A. versus Great Britain dual meet in London. One of the featured events was to be a 4 x 880 relay race, but the Americans had brought only three half-milers to Europe. Dean Cromwell remembered Bob Young running the 880 and beating his USC Trojans in their 1936 dual meet with UCLA and suggested to Coach Robertson that Young could run a very creditable leg for the U.S. Young ran the second leg of the 4 x 880 relay, receiving the baton from Indiana University's Charlie Hornbostel and handing it off to the third runner, Harry Williams. The anchor leg was the Olympic 800 meters champion, John Woodruff. The US team won the race in the new world record time of 7:35.8.

In the fall of 1936, Young returned to UCLA for his senior year, completed his eligibility in the 1937 track season and graduated with a degree in Economics. He was permitted to run some 220 races for the Bruins during this final year of eligibility. He remembers being timed in one straightaway 220 in 20.6 seconds. After graduation from UCLA, Young competed for the San Francisco Olympic Club. During that summer of 1937, he placed second in the 400 meters at the National AAU Championships in Milwaukee. With that race he qualified

(See BOB YOUNG, page 8)

BOB YOUNG, cont.

to represent the U.S. in the Pan American Games to be held in Dallas where he placed second also at 400 meters. After the Pan Am Games he competed as a member of a fifteen-man U.S. team in Japan.

After Japan, he considered his running career to be complete, so he turned his attention to the rest of his life. When asked, he remembers his best 400 meter time in a relay race being timed in 46.9. He returned to Bakersfield and found a job as an accountant. During the winter of 1938 at a dance held in the old Granada Ball Room behind the old Bakersfield City Court House, he again met by chance the beautiful Alice Gyder. They had met for the first time in 1934 in the Executive Offices of Kern County Union High School. Bob had come into the office to ask another girl for a date and was introduced to Alice for the first time. She was two years his junior, but both well remember those two chance meetings.

At their second meeting at the Granada, Bob asked Alice to accompany him to the Bakersfield Junior College Christmas Dance and that was their first date. It was the start of their life together and they were married in 1939. They raised two sons, Michael, born in 1940, and Gary, born in 1943. As of 2006, Mike lives in Bakersfield and Gary just bought a home in Sequim, Washington.

With the start of World War II in 1941, Bob became a civilian accountant for the Navy. After the war, Bob and his family returned to Bakersfield and he went to work again as an accountant. By 1955, Bob and Alice decided to try their luck at farming. Bob and his brother John purchased 320 acres of land in Shandon from Gil Bishop and his sister, Glenna. It had been the childhood home of Gil and Glenna in a small community twenty miles east of Paso Robles. Bishop had been named the head basketball coach at Bakersfield College in 1954 and Director of Athletics in 1955. Bob and John bought the land for \$35,000.

Bob and Alice moved their family to Shandon and invested \$50,000 toward the installation of an irrigation system for 215 acres. They planned to grow alfalfa and other field crops, but after five years it was clear those crops would not provide the income they needed. In 1960, Bob and Alice drove to the campus of the University of California, Davis, to speak with a professor of viticulture. They were encouraged by him to grow grapes for wine production. They next turned to Louie Martini at his Martini Winery in the Napa Valley to purchase grape clippings. They planted those clippings on 140 acres of the irrigated land. It takes four years before a new grape crop comes to yield, but when the grapes were ready for harvest, they were sold to Paul Masson who gave the Youngs the same price he was offering for Napa Valley grapes.

Bob and Alice started with Zinfandel grapes and gradually expanded to grow Barbera, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chenin Blanc, and French Columbard, all purchased as Napa Valley clippings. They quickly learned that their own annual clippings could be either discarded or sold, so they sold thousands of those vine clippings to Paso Robles nurseries. They had started the first irrigated grape crop to be used for wine in the Paso Robles area, a region now famous for dozens of wineries and some of the best wines produced anywhere.

In 1972, Bob bought his brother's share and kept the farm until 1977. In that year, after twenty-two years in Shandon, they sold their property to two New York brothers for \$1.1 million dollars and retired to Bakersfield. As of 2006, they live in Bakersfield and recently celebrated their sixty-seventh wedding anniversary. ☞

Archives Gain Some Interesting Acquisitions *By Jerry Ludeke*

Here are some great addition to the Archives as of March 31, 2007:

- Dan O'Neill's collection of BC football programs from 1938 to 1986 was donated by his nephew Michael O'Neill. Also included was a Commencement program for the KCUHS and BJC class of 1935 of which Danny was a member. Danny was the long time Sports Information Director for Bakersfield College.
- Barbara Thomas, who has been confined to a wheelchair with MS for many years and lives in Reedley, sent her autobiography which she published with many photos and stories about her time at BC. Barbara taught in the FACE (Family and Consumer Education Department) from 1967 to 1988.

(See ACQUISITIONS, page 9)

ACQUISITIONS, cont.

- Judy Robinson Cooke sent her Board of Representatives pin (ASB) and pictures of dorm life when she was a student in 1958-1961.
- Rebecca Mooney, English Department, donated two original scripts of plays written by Fred Rue Jacobs, Head Librarian, in the 70s: *And So It Goes* and *Extreme Prejudice*.
- Carol Paschal, Library Tech Services, donated that well known, much used cookbook called *Faculty Wives Favorites* published in 1963.
- Greg Chamberlain, KCCD Educational Services, donated a set of BC Renegades Football Collectible Cards from 2001.
- Nan Gomez-Heitzberg, Office of Student Learning, sent a portfolio of drawings by Al Naso entitled *The Trees*.
- Anna Agenjo, Library Director, found photos from Goldie Ingles collection. Goldie was the librarian on the old campus and, after the move, on the new campus. The photos show Grace Bird in the old library, the effects of the 1952 earthquake, and the process of packing to move to the new campus. One 1947 photo shows Miss Bird holding the 10,000th book in the library collection. (Today the library has around 70,000 books.) ☺



KBCC DJ Colleen Cool

KBCC-FM: Our Campus Radio Station *by Ron Dethlefsen*

KBCC-FM began as a student body project in 1971 operating from two small rooms near Vic St. Marie's office in the campus center. Most of the station's equipment was borrowed or begged from local radio stations. KCHJ in Delano was a main donor of equipment, as was KGEE in Bakersfield. Some equipment was purchased with student body funds. The station came together rather quickly and soon its signal was broadcast or, more accurately, wired into the campus center's public address system. The programming was basically popular music from LP albums (remember those?).

In a year or so a staff of disc jockeys had grown to such a degree that Vic St. Marie sensed that being a radio station manager was a role he'd rather not play. As I recall, Don Rodewald was buttonholed for the job, but he preferred to do public relations work for Bakersfield College. And so John Collins asked me to manage KBCC as part of

my Speech Department class load. At about the same time, in 1972, KBCC's disc jockeys wanted to gain class credit for their work at the station. And so some sort of activity credit was arranged for them.

The next step was to reach out into the community via a cable link with Warner Communications. This was done because to actually broadcast over the air waves in the 1970s would have required each disc jockey to hold a 3rd Class FCC broadcasting license. There was no such requirement for broadcasting by wire. After yet another year, KBCC-FM also began to broadcast on Cox Cable. The station was lucky because it had a frequency of 106 at the middle of the FM dial, unlike most college radio stations that were down in the mud at the bottom of the

(See KBCC, page 10)

KBCC, cont.

FM dial. Tuning down the cable FM dial, listeners easily ran into KBCC. And as the cable systems expanded, KBCC went along. I recall that by the 1980s, KBCC could be heard via cable from Tehachapi to Delano and all valley points in between. By the mid-1970s, the station had moved to the Language Arts Building and broadcaster Richard Kelley had been lured away from KWSO in Wasco to help manage the station, which had become a part of the Communications Department's class offerings.

Sometime near the end of my 13 years at KBCC. Richard Kelley and I figured out that approximately 1200 students had completed broadcasting classes at Bakersfield College. Still more would have completed classes by the time KBCC went silent in 1992. In the 1980s, our students regularly interned at every radio and TV station in Bakersfield.

Broadcasting students always were an interesting group. KBCC evolved into a "block programmed" station, which meant that instead of broadcasting all news, jazz or rock music the students could expose their audience to some of their special interests. For instance, in the early Campus Center years of the station there was a Gay Liberation Hour, Feminine Rights Hour, United Farm Workers Hour as well as various types of music such as classical, jazz, rock, sea music (sounds of waves crashing which actually sounded like an hour of static). This latter hour was programmed by a disc jockey who curtained off the studio windows and broadcast in subdued light. There was also a disc jockey who always wore an overcoat no matter what the season. We never found out what was under it. Some disc Jockeys broadcast barefoot for some reason. Some of our broadcasters may have used talent-enhancing substances, but I'm only aware of one such instance and the student was just sounding silly, not obnoxious.

BC instructors also had programs. Jim Carden broadcast classical music for several semesters and another instructor broadcast a French language hour with cooking recipes and poetry. In our news programming, we tried to get interviews with entertainers and political figures, especially those who appeared on campus. Sen. Gary Hart gave a long interview to KBCC and RIP students while keeping reporters from other local stations waiting and unhappy. Comedian George Carlin was generous with his time and waited for our KBCC students who were delayed by car trouble on the way to interview him in LA. We tried to interview Ricky Nelson who appeared in the BC outdoor theater. Sadly, he was too stoned to make sense and we never ran the tape. One of our students wanted to know what President Jimmy Carter's music tastes were like. And so the student phoned the White House and cajoled one of the President's secretaries into giving him the information (country and classical). We also were United Press International correspondents through our UPI teletype and regularly fed BC related stories to the UPI's Valley and California new services. Several Teletype copies of the stories are in the archives.

In short, the broadcasting students were a great group who participated in realistic broadcasting activities and likely some unrealistic ones too. Our students improved their self-confidence and communication skills and were a positive force in presenting Bakersfield College to the community during KBCC-FM's 20 years of broadcasting. 🐾

Planning to Visit Us?

The BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE ARCHIVES has photos and memorabilia on display and a wealth of fascinating old documents on BC's history. We are located on the 2nd floor of the new Grace Van Dyke Bird Library.

Our Hours for Spring 2007 are:

Monday -Thursday 9 AM to 12 noon and 1 PM to 3 PM
Closed on Friday

Acting Director: Jerry Ludeke 871-6737; jludeke@earthlink.net

Archives Assistant: Christian Torres

Archives Student Assistants:

Juliet Fox, Camille Fernandez,
Alexis Cabral, and Jessica Portillo

Trivia Question Answers: 1) Bill came to BC in 1966 with a B.A. and M.A. from San Francisco State University in Political Science. 2) Sylvia Gilger, in 1967. Her photo portrait is in the 1967 Raconteur. 3) Don Poole. He taught mathematics and physics and was a tenor for the Far Western District Champions, the Thermal-Aires of the SPEBSQSA, Inc., the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. 4) The Bakersfield College choir. In 1966 under Joe Huszti's direction they presented a concert at Castlegondolfo, the Pope's summer home in Italy. On the same trip they won first place at the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen, Wales, and sang before President Lyndon Johnson at the White House.



Dr. Jack Hernandez

TO BE OR NOT TO BE ARCHIVED

By Jack Hernandez

I never thought I'd be archived.

My hope, a long shot to be sure, was to be beautified. After all, there is something upbeat and peppy about having eternal bliss. And then there are all those saints to hang around with, all those gospel sing-alongs, and day trips on gossamer wings. Sort of cool, in a heavenly way.

But archived? For me, the word has too many unfortunate associations, like being chopped up for a salad, as in "endived." Then there are all those "arch" words: "archeology," "archaic," and "archosaur." Something ancient, musty, preserved clings to them. Like being discovered in a dig. Then there are the end of the word "archived" associations: "calcified," "codified," "fossilized," and "ossified." Same result, perhaps not as old, but definitely not flexible, forward-looking, youthfully with it. And, then, "autoclaved," seeps to mind, since I'm always being asked by my computer

if I want to autoclave my old e-mails. Is that my destiny? To be autoclaved like an old meeting announcement?

When I came to Bakersfield College, lo those many years ago, the library was the center of campus—geographically as well as intellectually. A library, even our new space age one, should be the academic hum and pulse of the college. As I approached BC from Mount Vernon, I saw first Memorial Stadium thrusting up like Rome's coliseum dominating the bluffs, the oil fields, and Oildale. Using my college logic course, I deduced that football must be very important. Had I taken a job at a junior University of Oklahoma? Well, I confess I do love football, having played in high school as a ferocious 155 pound defensive back, but since I couldn't make the Michigan team, I fell back on my love of academics, of arts and ideas.

BC did not disappoint. The library, along with the staff dining room, was where ideas were bandied about, along with, of course, tasty campus gossip. Another confession: I love to hang out in libraries, as I do cathedrals—they uplift my spirit. In a day when more and more students hang out on line—my space, your space, and cyberspace—I like the sensual feel of a real space, with real architecture, and real people to talk to. And the heft of books. And dust. Of course, that marks me as a person who, perhaps, should be archived, but I'm not quite ready to toss in the flesh and blood towel for the cyber towel.

So, if my choice is to be etherized on line or archived in the Library, I'll take archived, where my real effects can rest in a temperature-controlled room, fussed over by an archivist who will handle with care what's left of me.

Yet, a voice nags. Don't be hasty. Before I'm archived, I think I'll work on getting raptured. ☺

SPRING CLEANING?

The Archives is looking for the following publications, which you may find tucked away somewhere. We also welcome most other publications, brochures, or items connected with the College which you might find. Don't be hasty about throwing things out; please send them to the BC Archives in the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library and let us choose what we would like to keep. REMEMBER THE ARCHIVES! ~Thanks, Jerry Ludeke, Acting Director.

Oracles: from 1913 thru 1922, 1930 One copy needed (1923 thru 1927)

Raconteurs: From 1934, 1936, 1940, 1941, 1943, 1972, 1973, and any years after 1997

Reneguides: From 1938-47, 1952-53, 1953-54, 1968, 1995-96, and any years after 1997

BC Catalogues: From 1928-1936, 1940-45, 1971-72, 1975-76, 1981-82, 1987-88, and 1994-95 (regular binding)

BC Class Schedules: Our collection starts at Spring 1979 (We welcome any ones from 1979-96.

We have the more recent ones.)

Honor Brunch Programs: For: 1957-61, 1966-67, 1969, 1973-75, 1993, 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2005.

Campus Arts magazine: From: 1963, 1968, and 1979.

Commencement programs: From 1913-1926, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1934, 1936, 1938, 1946, 1962, 1963, and all after 1965.

BC PEOPLE WE WILL MISS

Margaret Annis. Reedley native, Professor in the Business Department for 11 years in the 1970's.

V. Dean Close. Faculty leader who taught business law. A tough negotiator for faculty rights with a soft spot for helping students

Donald Hammons. BC grad and member of the 1953 Renegade team that won the first Jr. Rose Bowl National Championship. (Their team photo proudly hangs at Luigi's, highlighting "The Slaughter House Seven" and their coach, Homer Beatty.)

LeCostel Hailey. BC grad who later taught history and fire technology. Deputy Fire Chief and active in numerous school, community and church organizations.

Dolores "Lo" Macias. Always an ear to lend and a smile to give.

Dr. Reese McClenny. A dedicated Kern County dentist who was a pioneer in dental implants; he was an instructor at BC for nine years.

Leo Pierucci. Outstanding community leader and great friend of Bakersfield College; he was also a most generous contributor to the Archives.

Jonathan Regier. Despite progressive multiple sclerosis, he taught as an adjunct at BC and Porterville.

Vivian Tucker. BC student and Kern County Teacher turned television journalist. She loved local history and produced a program on the BC Archives.

Trivia Questions: Do You Remember? (Taken from 1966-67 *Raconteur*):

1. What year did William M. "Bill" Thomas join the Bakersfield College faculty and from where had he graduated?
2. The first female state president of the California Junior College Student Government Association was a BC student in 1967. Can you name her?
3. What faculty member in the 1960s was known as a barbershop quartet singer?
4. What BC student group was presented with a silver congratulatory medal by Pope Paul VI?

(Answers on page 10)



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Archives Association
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