



The Bakersfield College Archives Newsletter

FALL 2012

Volume 11, Issue 2

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AN OLYMPIC WORLD RECORD

By Dr. Ken Fahsbender

Among the many historical treasures in the BC Archives, a recording of the 1961-62 Renegade Band has stirred memories and questions. After a summer Olympics of world records in London and an upcoming celebration of BC's 100 years, it seems timely to share the details of this event which occurred in the 50th year.

Vic Halling, instructor of psychology during the 60s, had recording equipment which he used to assist local school bands and choirs in recording their programs. Although it was a hobby, I accepted his offer to record the marching band in the fall of 1961. This was the third band since my arrival in 1959, and it seemed to be worthy of recording.

Events proved that the band was worthy. They marched in the Band Competition parade down Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena prior to the 1961 Junior Rose Bowl. Winning this national competition led to an invitation to perform at the 1962 Seattle World's Fair.

Raising funds for the event included a benefit concert at Harvey Auditorium, appearances of the band and jazz band at local service clubs and sales of a record of the band which Vic Halling agreed to complete.

The World's Fair Recording included the music played at the JRB, music in the concert

at Harvey, and the jazz band. Of course, Cal Mueller's Renegade Fight Song, the entrance Fanfare from Quo Vadis, and the BC Alma Mater were included. Professor Halling's hobby produced this large 33 1/3 record which helped fund the band's flight to the Fair from Meadows Field. It has been converted to a digital DVD which may be heard during the Centennial events at Bakersfield College.

Record Cover Back Notes:

THE WORLD'S FAIR STORY

The fall of 1961 saw many events that seemed to shape the destiny of the BC Band. One October morning, a student in the band approached Mr. Fahsbender with a recent ad seen in a music magazine. It told of the interest of the performing arts division of the Seattle World's Fair in obtaining outstanding musical groups to be considered "Band of the Day" during the 1962 Century 21 Exposition. Correspondence followed that included pictures of the Renegade Band in their new uniforms as well as tape recordings of this and past band performances. Permission from all involved authorities was obtained and places were soon underway for "operation giant step" as the band sought to raise the necessary funds needed to undertake such a venture through several projects that included the band as a community project. Gil Bishop and the

The Bakersfield College Archives Association

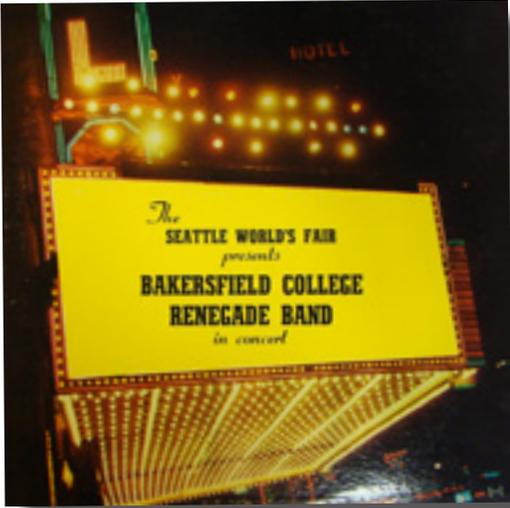
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RENEGADE BAND continued

athletic department staged a benefit basketball game that also included the band in performances and the funds began to roll in. Community service organizations got behind the venture and helped push the sales of this recording and the gigantic concert to be staged April 28th at Harvey Auditorium. This seemed a fitting climax to a year that had already seen the Bakersfield College Marching Band receive the Sweepstakes Award in the Junior Rose Bowl Competition. This award was symbolic of being considered the finest junior college band in the nation, as the top JC bands from the state were in competition on both music and marching. The band also had the opportunity to perform both pre-game and halftime in the Junior Rose Bowl Game as the Renegade football team won the right to represent the West in this annual classic. The opportunity to represent Bakersfield College and their community at the Seattle World's Fair on May 19th, 1962, is one that the bandsmen will treasure for years to come and as evidence of past performances they will be a credit to their school and their community. ☞

CHUCK WALL CARRIES THE OLYMPIC TORCH

By Dr. Chuck Wall

I've been fortunate to have had a number of once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Carrying the Olympic Torch as it made its way to Salt Lake City in 2002 was definitely one of them. Initially, I did not know I had been considered for that honor. Darlene Stewart, a local woman I barely knew, had contacted my wife, Di, about submitting my name and the reason I should carry the Torch. Di promised to help with the project and Darlene asked her not to tell me, as she didn't want me to be disappointed if I wasn't selected. Di agreed and several months went by with no response. In fact, those who would carry the Torch in different parts of the country had already been identified. Since we had heard nothing, Di asked Darlene if she could tell me what the two of them had done, along with the news that I had not been selected to carry the Torch. Darlene agreed, and Di told me everything. Well, I was not disappointed. Instead, I was extremely honored just to have been nominated to carry this incredible symbol of international cooperation.

Before I had time to mention that wonderful nomination to anyone, a knock at our front door brought a package via Federal Express. It was from the Olympic Selection Committee, congratulating me on having been selected to carry the Torch. What a rollercoaster of emotions! I went from the cellar to the penthouse in a matter of minutes.

My area of Torch-bearing was in Oxnard near Ventura. For a man with no vision, it was a bit of a frightening experience. A bus loaded all of us who were carrying the Torch and dropped us off at about one-mile intervals. As I stepped off the bus holding the Olympic Torch, I tuned into the sounds around me...nothing more than a very loud, "Zoom...zoom...zoom." When I asked the security guard where we were, he said, "You will be carrying your Torch right down the middle of Highway 101." He then took me by the arm and said, "Let's get out to the middle of the highway."



Again, all I heard was, "Zoom...zoom...zoom."

At this point, I dug my heels in just a bit. "Is anyone planning to halt traffic?" I asked. "Or is this just how you get rid of blind guys?" Suddenly, the traffic stopped, several helicopters arrived overhead, a camera truck with about ten cameras mounted across its back pulled into place, and numerous motorcycle officers lined up behind me. Behind the motorcycle officers were an entire fleet of Chevrolet Corvettes and the caldron holding the reserve torch—in case I did something really bad and they had to substitute the official torch I was carrying with a back-up. You need to know the Torch was not just a gentle little flame. This thing was huge! I had to carry it at arm's length in front of me to keep from being torched myself. The run was a great experience, and after which the official torch I carried was punctured as the next torch was lit. The purpose of puncturing each torch was to symbolize that at that moment the Torch which was afire was the actual Olympic Torch and the previously lit one could never be used again.

The Torch I carried is now on display in the Bakersfield College Library Archives Department. ☞

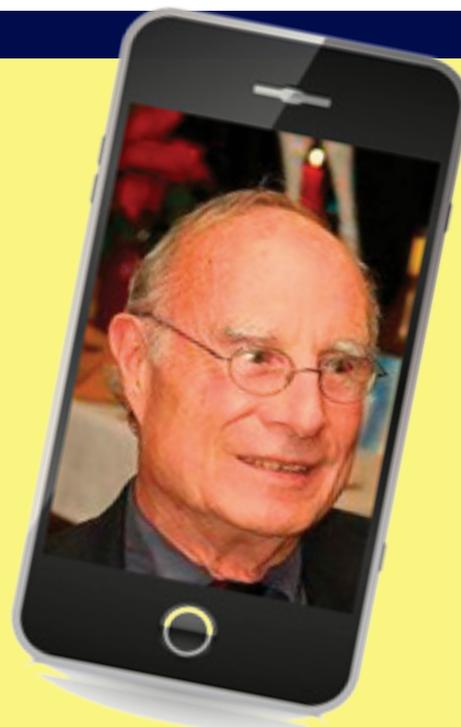
GOING APP

By Jack Hernandez

“Groovy” and “Cool” come to mind (from my 60s app) as I contemplate (yes, there is a contemplation app, not recommended while driving, wooing, or hitting a backhand) the brave new world (the Huxley app, of course) of apps.

Rank app beginners use simple apps like map apps (like where the nearest bathroom is in the theater after a very long movie), but app sophisticates use advance apps like Social Discovery, Gourmet Gluttony, and Cyber Lust apps. Apps that use fancy algorithms (use your Google app) to get us closer to Edenic experiences (beware the serpent app, though, that looks like a dark chocolate apple).

Social Discovery apps locate kindred souls, like Adam finding Eve, Eve Eve, et. al. (there is a Hallelujah app for biblical references). These apps like Hooked Up use the data from Facebook, LinkedIn, medical and dental records, Pet Smart and Taco Bell purchases, hair color preferences, and charitable and uncharitable donations to find souls with like interests. For example, say that on Facebook you “liked” a retirement party with an accordion band; Hooked Up will find someone who also likes accordion bands, maybe with a kazoo thrown in. So let’s also say you are hanging around LAX waiting for a flight to Paris, having a non-fat Wolfgang Puck five-cheese pizza with a 16 ounce Stella Artois lager, and your smart phone starts buzzing—whoa! That means there is someone within twenty feet who also likes these retirement parties, has dyed red hair, and straight teeth. And speaking of retirement, the Mad Men of apps is Retirement Recycled, which matches retirees who, let’s say, own Pit Bulls, and desire serial flings with afternoon martinis by the pool.



The Gourmet Gluttony app is not for everyone. Only for those who consider food to be totally Edenic, and not just fruit hanging from trees. This app is a matter of taste, however, not pocketbook only. You can use the Cheap Gourmet Gluttony feature, the Middlebrow Gourmet Gluttony feature, or the Ritzzy Gourmet Gluttony feature. Say you just landed in Paris after a fling with the simpatico accordion retirement soul, but during the flight you were so busy looking at each other’s apps that you forgot to pay twenty bucks for a Velveeta cheese sandwich on Wonder bread. You are now starving, and as you head out of the air terminal, having few Euros, you check your Cheap Gourmet Gluttony app, and three blocks away is the Camus Cafeteria, known only to despairing but cheap, gourmet existentialists.

Finally, and out of restraint and coyness we’ll not spend too much time on this one, the latest app is the Cyber Lust app run by Fifty Shades of Red, the newest Silicon Valley start up, which is about to go public. You would use this app if on your flight to Paris you were alone, your Hooked Up app having failed to locate even a kazoo aficionado. ☺



WE’RE ON FACEBOOK!

Have you heard? The Archives has a new face...yes, we do! We are now on FACEBOOK! In BC’s 99th year, we have finally entered the 21st century!

Go to your FACEBOOK page. In “search” type in Bakersfield College Archives Association and then be sure to click LIKE. Don’t forget to SHARE us too. Our main purpose for a

FACEBOOK presence is to enlist your help in identifying photos in our collection.

Weekly we will be posting photos that we cannot identify completely with names, place, dates, and event. Any detail you give us is helpful. A date, for instance, may lead us to the Raconteur where we can find further identification. Now you will be able to “volunteer” from the comfort of your home/office. (Don’t let that stop you from coming into the office and helping out; we can keep you busy here too.)

Also feel free to submit any interesting tidbits or stories about BC. Send them via email to bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu. Subject line: Rosalee

THE HISTORY OF THE BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

By Professor DeAnn Sampley

It doesn't seem that long ago, (who am I kidding, it was 1972) when I was an 18 year old BC student desperate for academic direction. I sat in my first sign language course with eight other original students. Sign Language was a "godsend" class for me, a young and naive student looking for a passion and a major. I had a deaf cousin in my family that no one could communicate with, and I wanted to be the first to do so. Among those original students and professionals in the first sign language course were Rod Marshall (BC academic counselor) and Jerry Ludeke (head of BC Tutoring). There was the captain of the fire dept. Jim Diffenbaugh and his wife Val wanting to learn to communicate with their deaf daughter, Mary. The instructors were Mr. Terry Sproul and Joyce Gonzales, both pioneers in the establishment of one of the finest ASL/ Deaf Studies programs in the community college system today.

Since my employment as an ASL instructor in 1979 I have seen the popularity of sign language grow. In the 80s and 90s ASL became a sought after course for hundreds of students wanting to meet a special education/humanities requirement. One classroom of 8 students quickly became several sections of beginning, intermediate and advanced levels of ASL with capped size enrollments.

Fast forward to 1996 when Professors Joyce Porter and Sampley met with linguistic specialists confirming the validity of ASL as a true and distinct language, separate from English. With the help of advocates Dr. Mary Copelin (Dept. Chair of Fine and Performing Arts) and Caroline Willard, Professor/ Department Chair of ESL, spearheading the committee and initiating some serious dialogue, the BC Administration became convinced that ASL truly belonged in the foreign language department.

Students successfully completing an ASL course would now receive foreign language units. And while we were at it, let's add an AA degree in ASL for those students wanting to major in Deaf Education/ASL.

Bakersfield College was one of the first community colleges to offer ASL as a foreign language in the mid 90s. As one colleague stated, "It's an honor to lead the pack and set the standard for other institutions, that they might emulate Bakersfield College by accepting ASL into their foreign language departments as well."

Since the inception of sign language forty years ago and the overall development and growth of the Bakersfield College ASL program, hundreds of students have reaped the benefit of the hard work and foresight of the previous professionals. Numerous students have completed AA degrees in ASL. They have become professional interpreters, teachers of deaf children, signing nurses, firefighters, psychologists, social workers, and counselors. Students have realized the usefulness of ASL as an employment tool. The success of those BC students is the fruit of the early vision of the many professionals that went before us. They believed that BC could set the standard for other foreign language/ASL programs across the country, and we did.

Today in 2012 the Bakersfield College ASL program demonstrates what the New York Times newspaper stated in its December 2010 edition: "Colleges See 16% Increase in Study of Sign Language. American Sign Language is the fourth most taught language in the United States, more that 90,000 students enrolled in sign language classes last year, compared with only 4,304 in 1995."

Sign language professors suggested various reasons for the rise. They said it reflected the growing acceptance of American Sign Language to meet foreign-language requirements, and its usefulness as an employment credential. But of course the visionaries and forward thinking professionals of Bakersfield College already knew that, didn't they?

Oh yes, and remember this 18 year old BC student who took one of the first sign language classes offered in 1972? She now communicates fluently with her deaf cousin and has just completed her 30th year as a BC professor in the Foreign Language/ASL Department thanks to those that believed in her. ☺



DeAnn Sampley (left) and Carolyn "C.J." Borso (right), Head Interpreter

DR. DAVE: A Notable BC Alum

In February of 2012 I was privileged to lecture at Bakersfield College forum Youth Drugs and the '60s, based on my experience on the founding of the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic in 1967 during the turbulent "Summer of Love" in San Francisco.

As the architect of "Health Care is a Right Not a Privilege," which was the founding slogan of the HAFC, I reflected on the growth of Free Clinics, the current Health Care reform debate, the development of Addiction Medicine as a specialty, the current drug problem sweeping the country, and the importance of my two years at Bakersfield College (1956-58). Those two years were a stepping stone to my medical education at UC Berkeley and UC San Francisco Medical School, where I graduated with an M.D. in 1964.

The Levan Center forum was organized by Dr. Jack Hernandez of the BC humanities department, whom I first met in Bakersfield in 1969 soon after I started the HAFC. The lecture was attended by many old Bakersfield friends I grew up with attending East Bakersfield High School and graduating in 1956: Dennis Dewalt, Tom Alexander, and Bob Jackson.

The paper I presented is available through Jack and BC Archives for those who wish to read more, but subsequent to its publication I was asked to discuss the Bakersfield College phase of my life journey in more detail. I also had the privilege of being interviewed by Bob Price of the Bakersfield Californian who wrote an article for his newspaper.

This period of my life is also chronicled by Clark Sturges, editor of the EBHS Yearbook in his book, "Dr. Dave." I feel that BC played such an important part in my life that I wouldn't be where I am today, plus the HAFC would not exist. The clinic has treated over 1 million clients in 45 years of operation saving many lives and millions of dollars for San Francisco, while training thousands of Health care professionals for community medicine and addiction treatment.

My life in Bakersfield began on February 7, 1939 at Mercy Hospital, which has birthed many generations of Bakersfieldians. My father's family moved to Bakersfield from Oklahoma for the oil industry in 1904 ("There Will Be

Blood"), and my mother's side moved from Oklahoma to the central Valley in 1930, where they worked as farm workers during the great Oklahoma migration of the dust bowl years ("Grapes of Wrath"). It is a family history in Bakersfield that has classic roots familiar to so many who settled here. I attended Horace Mann Grammar School, Washington Junior High, and East Bakersfield School all within virtual walking distance of my home at 2228 Oregon Street.

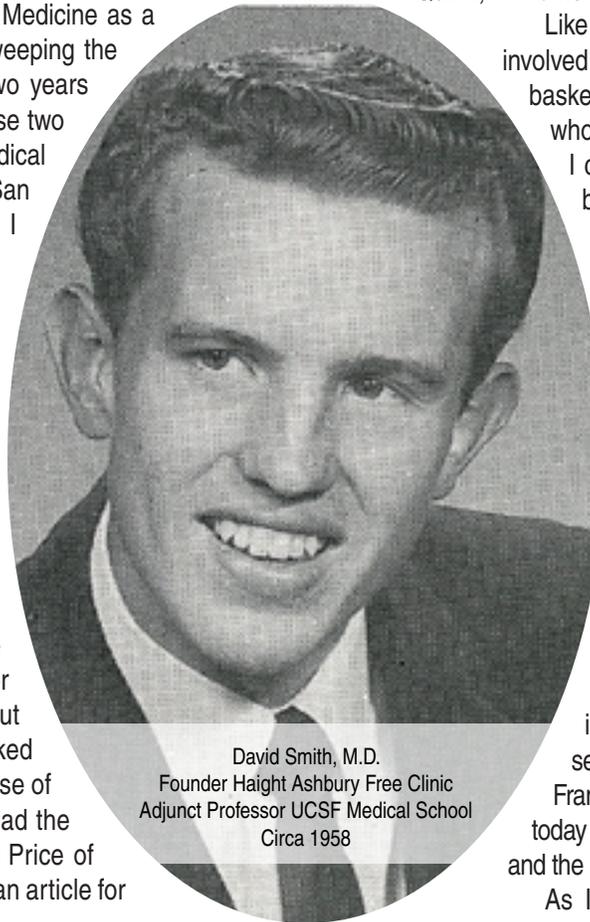
While at East Bakersfield High School, I first became acquainted with Bakersfield Junior College in 1950 when my father took me to football games on the BHS campus. There I watched the great Wally Triplett run for touchdowns. I would go to Sam Lynn Ball Park and watch my favorite player, Wimpy Quinn, hit home runs for the Bakersfield Indians.

Like most Bakersfield boys I was very involved in sports and played on the varsity basketball team. I was inspired by my mother who stressed the importance of education so I could be "somebody like a doctor," and I became a hard-working student. In 1956 my mother died of cancer and both my father and I were devastated. I was clearly unprepared emotionally to go to a four year school, and Bakersfield College provided me with the next step in my education. I managed to make the Bakersfield Renegade Basketball team and did much better as a student.

This was the era of the GI bill and there were a lot of older student on campus. I received an affordable and outstanding education at BC that prepared me to move on to UC Berkeley in Pre-med and then to UCSF Med school settling in the Haight Ashbury district of San Francisco which is near UCSF where I live today within walking distance of both the campus and the Haight Ashbury Free Clinics.

As I reflect on the BC period of my life, I am struck by the challenge to public education today. Because of the state financial crisis, San Francisco City College, the largest community college in the state, is threatened with closure! We must do more to support public education or people with my family background will be left behind. Education should not be just for the wealthy and entitled, but also for the qualified who are willing to work hard and improve themselves no matter what their financial backgrounds.

Thanks to my Education at Bakersfield College and the public education system in California during its golden era, I and may others were able to achieve success. Lets hope that this golden era of public education can be reborn in California. ☺



David Smith, M.D.
Founder Haight Ashbury Free Clinic
Adjunct Professor UCSF Medical School
Circa 1958



RENEGADE KNIGHT RECEPTION HONORS RIPPEY

By BC Professor Rob Parsons

This past fall, after more than fifty years of campus residency, our beloved Renegade Knight mosaic and pylon received long overdue cleaning, restoration and a new bronze plaque recognizing its creator, art Professor Emeritus Clayton Rippey. We cleaned the mosaic and repaired or replaced more than 100 tiles, using illustrated instructions and tiles provided by Rippey. Campus staff repaired and repainted the pylon, and prepared it for subsequent plaque installation.

A reception and show honoring Rippey was held on November 14, 2011 in the Levan Center. The reception was presented by BC President Greg Chamberlain and the BC Foundation, aided by the BC Archives Association. Food provided by BC culinary artists was accompanied by wines selected by BC's own resident master wine expert, Foundation Director Mike Stepanovich. President Chamberlain unveiled the plaque reading "Clayton Rippey 1956," which was later mounted on the base of the pylon to the right of the mosaic. On display was the full color model of the final mosaic design, newly framed to show the early sketch of the Guardian on the back. This piece,

featured in the Dec. 2009 Archives Newsletter, now hangs in the entry to the President's office.

The show featured thirteen of Rippey's outstanding acrylic and watercolor paintings assembled from the BC collection and several private collections. Four of the pieces were from the collection of David and Catherine Gay. David Gay serves on the BC Foundation Board and is the son of Dean and Ada Gay, generous benefactors to BC for many years. At the reception the Gays donated an acrylic painting titled *Seagull* to the college to be displayed in the Dean and Ada Gay Reading Room in the Library Building.

Other paintings shown at the reception included *The Days of Wine and Roses* from the collection of Rippey's student and BC Archives benefactor Marge Lindsey, and works from the collections of Pat Parsons, Ann and Dave Danforth, Rob Parsons and Janet Davis.

Clayton Rippey and Libby Hedden came to town from their home in Las Vegas for the BC reception and for the reception opening his forty-fourth annual show at Cezanne Gallery. They brought a recent Rippey painting, which they generously donated to the college. Titled *Until I Can No Longer Walk Or Talk . . .*, the humorous abstract is from a series depicting his response to the question of how long Rippey will continue painting. 🐾

Additional pictures can be viewed on the BC Archives Website

Archive Items We Need

This is BC's 99th year so we are looking forward to our centennial in 2013. We are interested in acquiring anything from the past with a connection to Bakersfield College.....papers, photos, programs, memorabilia, etc. Please contact us if you have something to donate.

SPECIFIC ITEMS:

- Write YOUR story of BC memories (we want them all!)
- A red and white rooter's cap. In 1955 red and white corduroy rooter's caps sold for \$1.20 in the bookstore. (They still sold the Frosh dinks for \$.50.) Since 1955 was the first year for football in Memorial Stadium, they were pushing rooter items.
- A rooter sweater used by many in the card section. It was white orlon with a small BC red pennant, sold "only at Weill's" for \$8.95.

Interesting Acquisitions

By the end of August in 2012 the Archives had received fifty-eight new acquisitions. All items are good additions, but not all items lend themselves to photographs. For example, Barbara Walters donated a box of CSEA records, including the CSEA agreements from 1987-1990 and a New Employee packet from 1988. We are eager to fill out our files of this type of official documents.

Memorabilia items shown in the photo.

- A red sweat shirt with front neck zipper and Renegades written on the back in white. The tag shows it came from Coffee's. Donated by Kathy Rosellini.
- Pete Lango's grey coach's sport coat from the 80s with the BC logo on the pocket. Inside is a label from Casper's Men's Store indicating it was made for Pete. It reached us through John Giertz.
- A Potato Bowl t-shirt from the game with Fullerton in 1988. (The Gades won in literally a last minute thriller, 30-24!) Donated by Kathy Rosellini.



WAR TIME ADJUSTMENTS, 1944

An article in The Bakersfield Californian on December 2, 1944, reported that the Gardner Field basketball team beat the Renegades, 77 to 22, in a game played at the Bakersfield High School boys' gym. The Gardner quintet was made up of former college players who were in the military service and stationed at Gardner Field. Plans were in progress to form a basketball league of Minter Field, Gardner Field, Bakersfield Airport, the Renegades, and several other teams in the vicinity. *Note: Does any reader have more information or photos from this era?*

MYSTERY? PHOTO

This photograph shows the 320 foot mosaic on the Science and Engineering building. According to the 1964 *Raconteur*, it was designed and created by Patricia O'Connor, who was assisted by about twenty other art students. WE WOULD LIKE THE NAMES OF STUDENTS WHO WORKED ON THIS, AND WOULD REALLY ENJOY RECEIVING THEIR MEMORIES OF THE PROJECT. A MOSAIC WAS ALSO CREATED IN THE HUMANITIES COURTYARD. WE HAVE NO PHOTOGRAPH OR INFORMATION ABOUT IT. CAN YOU HELP US OUT?



Identification Of The Mystery Photo In Spring 2011 Edition

Suzanne Cholet, class of 1960, identified the two students who were meeting with Margaret Levinson, Dean of Students, and John Collins, Director of Student Activities. They are Frank Fabri and Gerald(Gerry) Beckwick. Thank you, Suzanne.

OLD PHOTOS NEEDED

Bakersfield College is looking forward to its Centennial in 2013...and the BC Archives is looking for your old photographs of people, buildings, events, papers, school activities, in short anything pertaining to Bakersfield College's history!

We will scan the photos and return them to you. You do not need to donate the photos unless you would like to. We appreciate as much identification of the pictures as you can provide. We also appreciate receiving stories and memories of your Renegade days.

Give us a call or send us an email! Go Gades!

Note: Can anyone identify these two ladies?



There are a lot of unfilled hours in the week, so what's a retiree to do with too much time on his hands? Ah! Become a computer addict! While away the time writing letters to the editor, debating a fellow addict on some topic, composing an autobiography, or engaging in a flight of fancy as illustrated by the following exchange of e-mails.

Robert Schiffman (a fellow retiree from BC Anthropology and Geology and now living in exile in North Carolina) e-mailed me a joke one day:

David: Thanks, but that joke is soooo old!!

Robert: I guess I am not OLD enough to remember it.

David: Perhaps you're old enough to have a fading memory. I remember 20 years ago on the 15th hole at Bakersfield CC when you used that foot wedge because your ball was behind a tree. You thought I didn't see it.

Robert: The foot wedge is a legal maneuver according to the Polish Rules of Golf. A player is allowed one per nine, except in tournaments where only one per 18 is permitted. On the day in question I had a polish sausage for lunch, which then qualified me to take the foot wedge.

David: Good news and bad news: The bad news -- I recall that the Polish sausage wasn't kosher, so as a Jew eating a non-kosher Polish sausage you are penalized two strokes. The good news--you are now an honorary Pole and are required to attend Polka parties in Raleigh every Saturday evening.

Robert: Ah, but, Polish sausage in its generic form can be made of beef and prior to WWII there were millions of Jews in Poland making Kosher sausage. I also get the two-stroke penalty waived because Jewish Poles invented the bagel, which neutralizes the pork used in Kielbasa.

David: But you forgot that the bagel you ate with the sausage had poppy seeds on it, so you tested positive for drugs. Penalty: two strokes and loss of putter. More bad news: according to the Polish Golf Rules Book, anyone testing positive for drugs

must undergo the usual therapy, which is to take a series of 24 lessons on the accordion..

Robert: Actually, it is a result of the accordion lessons that I met Marissa. She heard me playing and fell madly in love with me. She then forced me to give up the accordion, not wanting me to attract other women.

David: By the way, I contacted Interpol and you are wanted in Poland for non-payment of fees for your accordion lessons. I assume you still haven't paid your debt of 27,345 Zlotys (\$1.37) to the Polish Golf and Accordion Association.

Robert: I was going to pay my Zloty debt, but unfortunately the fall of the dollar affected the exchange rate and vastly increased the debt, so I decided to default. Hopefully, Poland's stimulus plan will compensate my former accordion teacher.

David: Poland's stimulus plan was a sausage in every pot, so I don't think that will help your former accordion teacher's plight very much. Wasn't your great-great uncle, the Count, the person that invented night-time golf in Transylvania? I seem to remember reading years ago about a group from the Polish Golf and Accordion Association that disappeared in Transylvania on a night-time golf outing there. The only trace that could be found of the Polish golfers was golf clubs and accordions scattered about the course.

It has been a mystery not fully explained. (Apologies to Andrew Lloyd Webber). 🐾

Archives

FUNDRAISER CAMPAIGN

Before the year's end, the Archives will send out its annual fundraising letter to all of you who receive our newsletter. Please keep in mind that the Archives receives no funds whatsoever from the college or the district. We are entirely dependent upon our supporters - alumni, faculty and staff (current and retired), and friends in the community and around the country.

We operate very efficiently and are grateful for our many volunteers, but we do employ two part-time office staff and have the need for some contract help, including our web page consultant. Valuable student help, once provided through federal work-study, has been cut steadily over the past five years, and may not be available at all without coming out of our budget. We also purchase our own office equipment and supplies. We hope to find a larger space for our growing collection and will need to tailor it to our needs.

So when our letter arrives, please send in your tax-deductible contribution right away. We promise to use it wisely and with much gratitude.



JOIN A **DISCOVERY** QUEST

The Archives is regularly asked to research topics. Occasionally we are stumped and cannot find a definitive answer within our resources. At those times we will turn to you, our alums and readers. We will share with you what we have discovered and ask you if you can shed further light on the topic.

Here is the current quest: IN MEMORIAL STADIUM IN 1955, WHY WAS THE SIDE OPPOSITE THE PRESS BOX CHOSEN AS THE “HOME” SIDE?

Background information: Apparently traditionally throughout the country, the Press Box side of a football stadium is considered the “home” side. Beginning with the first Memorial Stadium game in 1955, the Renegade “home” side has been the campus side (opposite the Press Box.) So far we have found nothing to explain why the choice was made to go against tradition in the records of the four men who would probably have been responsible: Ralph Prator, president; Ed Simonsen, vice-president in charge of developing the new campus; “Cap” Haralson, specifically charged with designing the new athletic facilities; and Gil Bishop, the first full-time Athletic Director. During those early years, high schools playing games in Memorial used the Press Box side as the “home” side.

Here is the information we have gathered so far. What can you add?

DR. BOB SHELDON, played for the Renegades in 1936. Bob’s immediate answer was that it was a shorter walk to the locker room.

HARVEL POLLARD, played on the Renegades in the fall of 1955, and was later a BC Coach. Harvel remembers that the chain crew changed sides at half-time, so each team, only had the visual and physical interference of the chains and the official half of the game. Later the rule was changed to have the chain crew always opposite the Press Box, the assumed visitor’s side, so the team across from the Press Box had to live with that inconvenience the whole game. Since the field house had not yet been built, the BC team (on the campus side) only had to walk from the campus side to the men’s locker room in the gym at half time; meanwhile the visitor’s on the Press Box side had to walk all the way across the field AND all the way through the gym to the girls’ locker room, giving them less of a rest during the halftime.

BOB COVEY, former BC track coach. Bob remembers being surprised when he arrived from the middle-west that the Press side was not the home team side and is sorry he never asked Gil Bishop about it. Bob conjectures that, since the stadium would be full of townspeople, they were given the side that had a completed, large parking lot and the team and students were given the side closest to campus. (The campus side was still pretty dusty and muddy and the Mt. Vernon-University parking lot was the only one finished.) Students would be living in the dorms and attending dances on campus afterwards and the band would be gathering up on campus, so the campus side was more convenient for the “home” side. He also noted that Prator was emphatic that BC have a good band and the townspeople on the Press Box side could be impressed as they watched the band march down into the stadium.

Now, what can YOU add? 📝



Called (Teaser) By Jack Hernandez
“Called,” a chapter from Jack Hernandez’ book *Walking With Socrates: Reflections on Teaching in a Public Community College*, has been accepted to be part of Valley Public Radio’s 2013 Valley Writers Read series. This is the introductory paragraph.

Over the Tehachapi Mountains, down into the San Joaquin Valley, and along Edison Highway I came to Bakersfield and its community college. That was 1961. That was the end of one journey and the beginning of another still continuing. That was also the road the Joads in Steinbeck’s *Grapes of Wrath* took, with apprehension and exhilaration over a new beginning. As Tom Joad said as they descended into the great valley, “Jesus, are we gonna start clean! We sure ain’t bringin’ nothin’ with us.” My feelings, exactly. I had traveled a long way from home with all my young life’s belongings (some useless, horse-blanket thick wool sport coats, sweaters, and boxes of books) loaded into a station wagon I was to deliver to an LA car dealer; I had left family, friends, and an exciting college town, Ann Arbor, with its intellectual and cultural ferment and liberal politics. I had left behind the landscape of boyhood, its tangy, leaf-colored autumns; bracing, sometimes icy, sometimes soft white-flaked and snow-drifted winters; its rejuvenating, warm, rain-breezed, green-scented springs; and its lush, canopy-leafed, thunder and lightning summers.



LETTER FROM A READER

Excerpts from a letter sent by John Wittig, alum, now associated with JKW Engineering Ltd, consulting engineers, in Calgary, Canada:

I see a couple of names on the Archives letterhead. I think Rob Parsons preceded Ben Casey as ASB President. Also Jack Hernandez seems familiar. If it’s the same person, he was an assistant to Mrs. Cahoon at the men’s residence. At that time he was quite a bit younger. If it’s the same person, he encountered a new freshman in the hall one night. The neophyte had a six pack of beer with him (forbidden fruit). Jack apparently said, “I’ll take that”. To which our young bright light replied, “No! It’s mine. Go get your own.” Jack was lenient and let him go without the beer. You might ask Jack about that. *[Editor’s note: That was 1961 and, it was Jack Hernandez’ first year at Bakersfield College.]*

It is sad to see that the residences have gone. We were really like family and the memories of that time in my life are very near and dear. Life does move on however. ~John Wittig

John also referred to the Baby Alligator Race sponsored by Circle K Renegade Knights. If you can tell us more about the Baby Alligator Race, please do.

Come See The Archives

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.

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Office Manager: Rosalee Pogue

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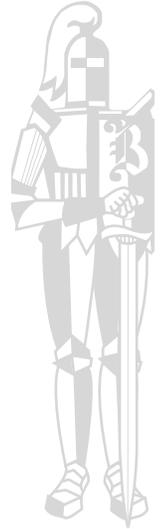
HOURS FOR FALL 2012: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday • 8:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. Other hours available by appointment. **CLOSED FOR WINTER RECESS FROM DECEMBER 21 TO JANUARY 8.**



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Newsletter Announcement:

If you are receiving the BC Archives Newsletter by U.S. Postal Service mail and would rather receive it digitally, please send an email to bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu with the subject line: Please send My Archives Newsletter Digitally. If you do not want to receive the newsletter at all, please so indicate.

People We Will Miss

Edgar Hageman went to BHS and was on the BC tennis team as a student from 1947 to 1949. After four years in the US Air Force and four years attending Fresno State University, he began teaching at BC in the Trades and Industry Department. He taught a variety of classes with woodworking as his specialty. From around 1974 to 1987 he was the Department Chair of Trades and Industries, later Industrial Education. For the last two years before his retirement in 1989 he was the Director of the Evening Division. His son, Steve, is now an Professor at BC in Engineering and Industrial Technology. Ed was an admired, capable man who led the department into many innovative and cooperative programs. He died Sunday, September 9th in Montana.

Beverly Stansbury, the lovely wife of our Newsletter Editor Don Stansbury, was an active member of the Bakersfield College Faculty Wives and Women for many years.

Wendy Wayne was much beloved and admired in the entire BC community. Wendy was the creative director of the Community Connection for Child Care, a successful program originally affiliated with the Kern Community College Campus and part of the Family and Consumer Education department at Bakersfield College.

Readers Please Note: Send information about former BC people to bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu