



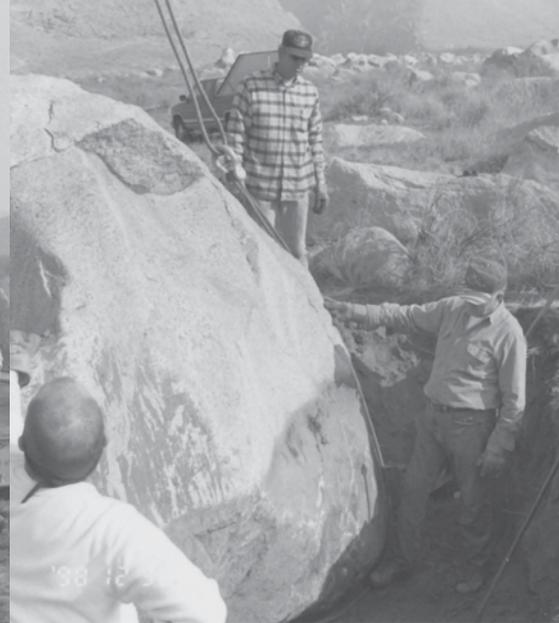
The Bakersfield College Archives Newsletter

Archive Articles

Fall 2014

Volume 13, Issue 2

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BC's CAMPUS BOULDERS

From the Renegade Rip on December 11, 1998

Volunteers Add Boulders to BC to Enhance Campus Landscape

By Mary Helen Barro
Rip Staff Writer

Even though I'm a rock lover, when folks began commenting about the new crop of boulders that recently appeared on campus, I must confess, I didn't pay enough attention. Then one day I got in my car and drove around to check them out. The boulders look good. But to my pleasant surprise, there's much more to this than meets the eye. Here's what I found out.

It seems that the Chancellor, Dr. Jim Young, thought that the new BC landscaping efforts looked nice but lacked pizzazz, so he got together with Chris Addington of The Addington Partnership, the BC campus architects. "I thought that the boulders would add dimension and make the landscaping look nicer," said Young. But big rocks are

expensive, so he set out to get them donated.

Young approached Jim Nickel of the Rio Bravo Ranch Nickel family. The Nickels have a stockpile of boulders near the mouth of the Kern River Canyon left over from a hydroelectric project: "We're pleased to donate them to worthy causes like BC's landscaping project," said Nickel.

So over a weekend last month [Nov., 1998], Young and some volunteers rolled up their sleeves, rented a crane, and hauled eight truckloads of boulders from the Rio Bravo Ranch to the perimeter of the campus. In addition to beautifying the BC campus, some of the rocks also were placed at the Weill Institute.

Who were those mighty warriors? Jan Stuebbe of BC, Luis Miro, Ignacio Azevedo and Raul Gonzales of Cerro Coso College, along with Bob Varner, Darrell Hickey and Jose Vargas of the Addington Partnership. It took them three days, working from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to get the job done. All that hard work saved the college a ton of money. According to The Addington Partnership, boulders run from \$700 to \$1,000 each on the open market, plus \$10 to \$12 an hour for labor and transportation costs.

See **BOULDERS**, page 2



BOULDERS cont'

During the first phase of the big rock project, Young and his volunteers moved about 120 Boulders. In total, about 260 boulders are in the plans. That's a potential saving of some \$250,000 to \$400,000 for BC, not to mention the aesthetic benefits those big puppies bring to the campus. The other 140 boulders are scheduled for the next phase of the BC landscape enhancement project. Some of these boulders are slated to enhance the area between the Student Services and Science & Engineering buildings and other places where students like to gather.

Young is looking for more volunteers for the next time. "We're hoping to have a volunteer boulder-moving day," said Young,

"since some of the boulders will be partially buried, we'll need a lot of extra hands."

Our thanks to Young, the Nickel family, The Addington Partnership and other volunteers who have worked on getting us the boulders. Keep an eye out. The *Renegade Rip* will publish the next "boulder-moving day" date.

Like Martha Stewart says, "It's a good thing."

Editor's Note:

*From: Former BC Chancellor
James (Jim) Young, July 15, 2013*

These photos (taken December 1998) show the excavation of the boulders that were placed at Bakersfield College. They were taken

from the property of George Nickel east of Bakersfield along the Kern River. George's son Jim worked along with Jim Young on this project.

Luis Miro, of Ridgecrest was the designer/architect on the project. The placement of the rocks on the BC campus began January 1999. At that time, Chris Addington was the official Architect for the Kern Community College. "Louie" [Miro] was the person in charge of the actual project along with the Chancellor, Jim Young.

There are 243 boulders located on the BC campus. Of the boulders taken for the project, one was taken to Cerro Coso College and a couple of others were placed at the Downtown Center and located in the back parking lot area. [Ed: The boulder placed outside the Collins Campus Center weighs 70 tons.]

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.

Director: Jerry Ludeke

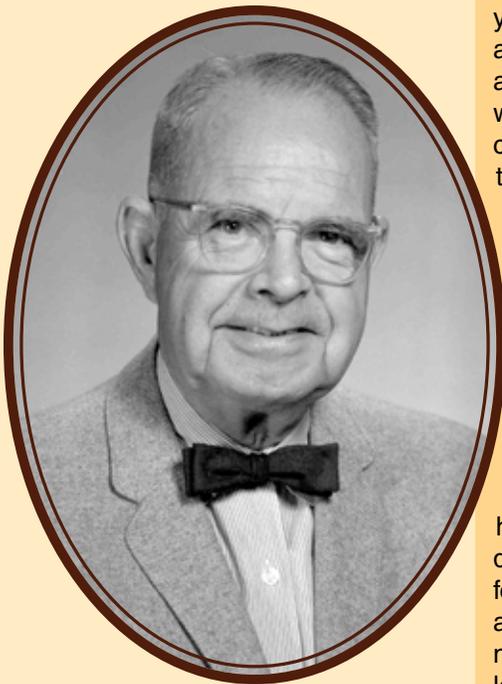
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HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday • 8:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
Available by appointment on Mondays and Fridays.



Wylie Jones

by Don Stansbury
BC English, Emeritus

After my discharge from the United States Air Force in the summer of 1954, I returned home to Bakersfield and re-enrolled at Bakersfield Junior College which was still at the BHS campus. I say re-enrolled because after my graduation from BHS in 1947, I immediately merged from the high school to the junior college which I attended for almost two semesters. They were not, however, successful semesters. Like many other young fellas at the time I was burned out from the twelve years of schooling and wanted some adventure. And adventure I got serving in the USAF for four years, including one in Korea.

After I arrived home just before the start of the school year in August, I and a date went to the Harvey Auditorium little theatre to see a travel presentation. As we came up to the entrance, a portly gentleman resembling Edward G. Robinson, was standing just inside greeting people as they entered. As I got to the door, the man stuck out his hand and said, "Well, hello there Mr. Stansbury." Wow! I was flabbergasted to see Wylie Jones, my old Accounting 1A professor. I could hardly speak since I was so shocked that he remembered me. I had not seen him in over four

years from that time when I, a timid, almost-failing student in his class and an eventual drop-out, had hoped he would never remember me. But later I came to find that his remarkable ability to remember his students was just one of the amazing talents of Professor Wylie Jones.

Since I was a Business Administration Major, I had to repeat Accounting 1A-B to improve my grades. Since Wylie Jones was the only one who taught accounting, I saw quite a lot of him over the next two years. During that time I came to respect and even like him, even though he was as tough and demanding as a drill sergeant. In class most students feared his tumultuous tirades directed at those who were lazy or who were not putting forth maximum effort to learn accounting concepts, or who hadn't done the homework. However, if you were eager and tried hard and did the assignments, you made it, not with maximum praise, but with a nod from God and a sigh of relief.

Mr. Jones had some peculiar teaching methods. He did not do lectures, as I recall. Certainly not what is meant as a boring explanation in what might be called "the college lecture." Instead, the classes were more like a fitness class where you grew your accounting muscles by doing, or a science lab where you got your fingers dirty. Under his direction we worked accounting problems and learned key concepts as if we were apprentices. We learned bookkeeping and how it related to finance—money. We considered every accounting problem as dealing in "widgeits," Mr. Jones' favorite product. As a result we always had debit and credit widgeits running out of our brains in every class. I even began to dream in widgeit products. In class we were randomly called upon to explain the solution of a problem aloud for the class, and we feared Mr. Jones' fierce look under bulging eyebrows if we hadn't done the homework and couldn't come up with an answer of some kind.

Another peculiar habit was that he would lock the door to the classroom at the exact time when class time began. If you were one minute late, you didn't get in. If you didn't get in, you were not able to turn in the class assignment, and you got an F both for attendance and an F for the assignment. All of us students

resented this practice, but needless to say we broke our necks to arrive there and sit quietly before class began.

Ultimately I came to learn that Mr. Jones was an absolutely fantastic teacher of both economics and statistics. If you took one of his classes and survived, you knew the material forwards and backwards. You also learned that in spite of his tough guy image, he was a real softy and a nice guy. I took every class I could from him in accounting, economics, and statistics because I needed, not just good grades, I needed to know the subjects well. And that is what happened. His classes were always no nonsense and difficult and were held to the highest of standards. After I transferred as a junior to UCLA, a professor in advanced accounting told me that Wylie's students were the best he had ever seen from any school. I came back by his office while at UCLA to pass on that compliment. He was very touched and appreciative.

Though he was as charming as an English bulldog and just as tenacious in preparing his students, not only in the subjects he taught, but also in the vagaries of life through his clever and serious homilies, outside of class he was warm and friendly.

He was a lover of the arts, and ultimately for many years the host and director of art and travel programs presented in the Bakersfield High School Little Theatre. With his wife, May Louise, he donated art and money to BC so that the Art Gallery in the BC Library ground floor is in their names. If there ever has been a true and deserving legend and a great teacher at Bakersfield College, Wylie Jones is one. 🐾



A Letter From Gil Bishop Regarding Memorial Stadium

Editor's note: the 2014 football season marks the 60th year the Renegades have been meeting competitors on the playing field of Memorial Stadium. We would like to note this milestone in this issue of The Archives Newsletter by showing the importance of Memorial Stadium as what Gil Bishop referred to as "Bakersfield and Kern County's most noted structure" in a letter to James Young, Chancellor of the Kern Community College District in 1993.



December 13, 1993

To: Dr. James Young, Chancellor
Kern Community College District

Since the subject of renovating Memorial Stadium is a current and pressing topic both from the viewpoint of the community and the District, it seems pertinent to clarify some of the media information which is being circulated as well as correct and add to that material. You are aware of my aggravation whenever something that is inaccurate makes the rounds. Having been associated with the Stadium since the original committee was formed in the early '50s to make plans for construction of the Stadium and the gymnasium and with events held in both structures for the next twenty years, mis-statements are taken by me with some irritation.

The cost of the Stadium was normally lumped in with the gymnasium when the new campus was built and it was common practice on the part of the committee and the architects to use "3 million" as a figure used to encompass both structures. Undoubtedly, there is a more accurate break-down in the archives.

Various lists of events held in the Stadium are being used to identify the import of the structure insofar as community, national and even international significance are concerned. One which irks me is that of the "1958 Olympic Trials." Inasmuch as the AAU was the recognized United States representative internationally, these were really the USA National Championships.

To make clear where Bakersfield stood in the national track and field scheme of things, it might be well to point out that National Men's Track and Field Championships were held in Memorial Stadium in 1956, 1958, 1960, 1967, 1970 and 1973. Newcomer to the picture was the National Women's Track and Field Championships and they were held in Bakersfield in 1971 and 1973. Since they were coordinated with the National Girls Championships, these were actually five day meets.

Bakersfield held more National Championships between 1956 and 1974 than any other community in the United States. All with outstanding success and during that period Track and Field News, the bible of the sports, rated Memorial Stadium and the community among the top three locations in which to hold the Nationals, the others being Eugene, Oregon (University of Oregon) and Berkeley (University of California). This was based upon facilities, weather, hospitality, organization of the meet, and, of course, treatment of the press.

It was with all the above in mind that it became apparent after the 1970 championships and the turn to the all-weather track nationally that future meets of national and international caliber could not be awarded to Bakersfield. A community group was formed to work jointly with the Kern Community College District to fund a new surface of "Tartan", a 3M product. Such a track reduced the size of the crew needed for upkeep and therefore cut the cost to the District. From a community standpoint, the chances of obtaining track meets of national significance in the future rested upon the new installation. Having been in a position on the national Track and Field Committee to have some

influence, I secured assurance that such meets would be forthcoming if the new surface was obtained.

The collaboration of the two groups (District and community) brought about the new track, which was dedicated May 15, 1971, with the first Bakersfield Classic. The National Committee kept its word and the result was the holding of the Women's Nationals in 1971 and 1974 and the Men's Nationals in 1973.

The emphasis on track relative to the present renovation project is deliberate in that in 1970, figures furnished by the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce showed that over \$4 million (double the cost of the Stadium) was brought into Bakersfield by visitors who came to view these major meets.

While I have made no attempt to upgrade that estimate, certainly it is not out of line to assume that amount has been at least doubled in the last 20 years with all of the out-of-area visitors who have come to see Renegade football, Potato Bowl games, several California State High School Track Championships, several State Community College Track Championships, the USA-USSR Junior Track and Field Meet, and other events too numerous to mention.

It might be well to mention that the additional 2800 seats added to the Stadium in the 1960's, which brought the capacity to just under 19,500, were funded out of gate receipts from Renegade football, entailing no District nor tax money.

The local high schools have benefited greatly by the use of the Stadium for both track and football and should be given credit for contributing to certain maintenance of equipment such as hurdles, high jump and vaulting pits. Based on an agreement made in 1955 when the Stadium was opened, the high schools have retained first hold on availability of the structure barring any conflict with the Bakersfield College program. The largest football crowds in the history of the Kern High School District were recorded in Memorial Stadium.

While there are too many interesting events that would not have been held had there been no Memorial Stadium, a few bear mentioning:

1. The Shrine Potato Bowl game, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for crippled children, including several from Kern County, would not have existed.
2. A professional football game, featuring the Dallas Cowboys (and starred Jim Stiger an ex-Renegade that night) raised \$15,000 for the Child Guidance Clinic.
3. The annual 4th of July Fireworks, a Fire Department fund-raiser is a Stadium project.
4. The first race run on the Stadium track was by a group of handicapped children, now called the "Special Olympics" and Dick Fosbury, USA Olympian, flew in from Oregon that day to present ribbons to the excited contestants.
5. The first actual race, run on the original 220 yard straightaway on the press box side of the Stadium, resulted in a world record 20.1 by Mike Agostini, Jamaican Olympian, enrolled at Fresno State. There have been 10 world records set in Memorial.
6. The event which has stayed with the memories of all Memorial Stadium followers was the 3.51.1 world record mile run by Jim Ryun at 8:45 p.m. Friday night June 23, 1967. What most do not know is that six of the seven fastest miles run in the world in 1967 were run in that race. Or that Paul Wilson of USC broke the world record in the pole vault the same night.

Thus it becomes obvious that to outline the history of Bakersfield's Memorial Stadium would take reams of paper but just what we've touched upon emphasizes the need to preserve what well might be Bakersfield and Kern County's most noted structure. Standing where it does overlooking the city, it must always reflect the pride that has caused more than one proud citizen's first words to a visitor to be "COME AND SEE OUR STADIUM!"

GIL BISHOP

Ralph Prator and the \$80k Pool

As told by Ralph Prator in an Oral Interview, 2001

The possibilities [for the new Bakersfield College location] were its current location and over in the southwest. So I said in light of the possibility that a four year institution is coming, let's get the highest spot we can get on the premise that you go up to the college and [to get to] the four year institution coming they are going to have to go down to the college (lots of laughter from all... hey, I like that!). So, the sessions that we had, and they were numerous between all of us at this particular time (that is [between] me and the Board of Trustees). Now, one of the blessings that I had was the kind of support I got from McCuen and Taber. There was no contention, you see, in this category. They were very supportive. When the decision

was made to purchase the area where the college is, immediately Woody Woodworth who was the chairman of the board, said, "Are you happy with this?" He wanted to be sure that this upper end, the acreage and so on was right. And then we got into the process of letting out the contracts and getting the bids back. I had insisted that one of the things we must have is a swimming pool. The high schools didn't have a swimming pool. We've got to get these things which are distinctive from the high schools and a swimming pool is a must in this category. Well the bids came in and they were \$80,000 short and Woody turned to me and said, "Ralph, there goes your swimming pool." I said, "Woody, I would rather lose



the gymnasium than the swimming pool." Well, a quiet settled over the group in this session and he turned to the board and he said, "What he is telling us, gentlemen, is go out and raise \$80,000," and that is what they did. This was a very compatible situation all along for me. ☺

HUMAN HORSEPOWER

By Rob Parsons

In 1975, Rob Parsons and Gaylen Lewis joined disciplines to teach a Social Science 1 class titled: Science, Technology, and Human Values. It was described in *The Californian*, August 4, 1975:

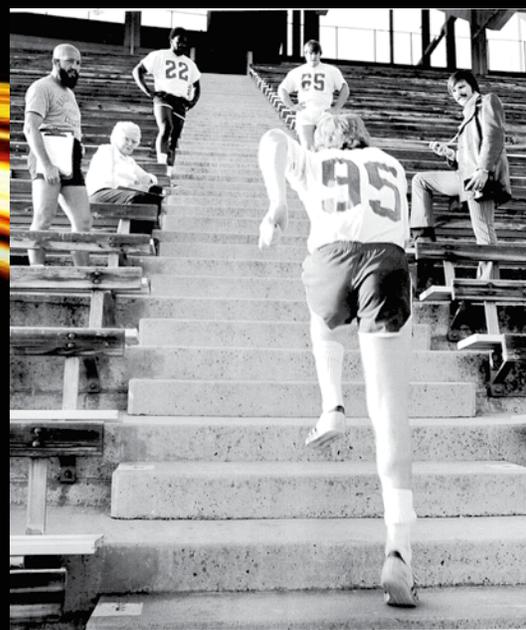
"Bakersfield College physics instructor Rob Parsons will discuss the scientific perspective, while history instructor Gaylen Lewis will present the point of view of the social scientist.

"The instructors said they will explore the past, present and future effects of science and technology on various cultures, especially our own. 'We'll go into questions such

as: Should science be permitted to do everything it is capable of doing?' Parsons said. [He referred to cloning and the atom bomb.] 'But simply because it is possible to do it, should it be done?'"

Rob recently rediscovered the accompanying photograph. It illustrates a class project whose objective was to demonstrate a scientific measure of a human value....in this case, horsepower. They did this by first computing the horsepower needed to raise an object from the bottom of the stadium steps to the top. "As part of this course we measured the horsepower of football players. Junior College All-American David "Deacon" Turner (#22) generated about 4 hp (I think), about 2 hp more than the other two measured!"

Shown in the photograph are Gaylen Lewis, student Rowena



Harvey, #22 Deacon Turner, #65 Jeff Turman, #95 Brant Tunget, and Rob Parsons. ☺



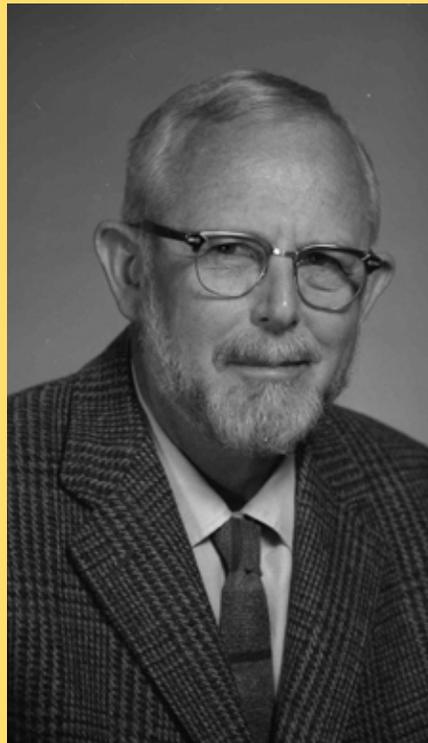
VICE PRESIDENT
Paul Gomez

Beginning of the Lambda Alpha Club at BC

The Lambda Alpha Club (Latin American Club), a group of Mexican American students, got together to request that the Bakersfield College administration offer ethnic studies classes in history, art, music, etc. In developing a strategy to proceed, our esteemed advisor, Dr. Jack Hernandez, offered wise counsel.

We “marched” to meet with the college president, Mr. Burns Finlinson, to present our petition. The meeting was very positive. As a result several classes were offered. I lost track but I remember several years ago noting that the college catalogue still included the classes that our student activism had initiated. The student group was an older, mature one that chose its name carefully to ensure that the campus community did not become overly alarmed.

Personally, my BC story includes the fact that one year I was elected ASBC student body vice-president. A lot of my support came from the Lambda Alpha Club, the Veteran’s Club (in which, as a returning Vietnam veteran, I was as an active member), and the Young Democrat Club (Advisor, Mr. Clifton Garrett). Anyway, I chose to run the second semester against the incumbent president, Tim Revell, a controversial move to say the least. My memory



Paul Gordon: Model and Mentor by John Collins, May 2008

Paul Gordon was for many years a model teacher for the new professors in the English Department and a master teacher for the students who enrolled in his classes. Without being assigned to the task, he mentored the young and less experienced teachers who joined the staff, and he made himself very available to students in his literature classes as well as those who were struggling to write a decent paragraph. For his students, and also for colleagues, figuratively he opened doors and invited people to enter.

Paul was also influential with the administration. When the college moved from the high school campus to its own beautiful facility “up on the hill” he wanted to see the college environment change with the physical location. His vision was a true college where students came to open their minds to the acquisition of new views, and new skills, and faculty were free to examine the great works of literature, science, history, and technology. To him, the climate on campus should be stimulating, demanding of excellence, and open to challenge by students and faculty. He kept an eye on the administration, frequently conferring about supporting academic freedom for both faculty and students.

He was looked upon as a quiet, but effective leader as the college developed its own spirit and traditions. Paul Gordon was an intellectual who was also committed to the importance of how teachers would go about engaging students. For him, it was not enough for a professor to be able to go deep in the subject matter of the course; also required was the technique for getting students interested in this subject matter, and to help them find a way to bring into their own understanding how it fit in the larger scheme of things. ☺

says that I lost by less than 5 votes. Although I was encouraged by some to request a re-count, I elected not to do so. Anyway that was the end of my political career at BC. The silver lining from this experience is that later on I was elected to serve on the Chaffey College Governing Board. I have the distinction of serving on the board longer than any other trustee namely, 1990 to present.

I enjoy receiving *The Archives Newsletter*. I have a question. Has any consideration been given to “digitizing” the newsletter?

Paul J. Gomez
BC, Class of 1970

[Editor’s note: We’re glad you enjoy the Newsletter! They are digitized! You can access it via the Archives website, www2.bakersfieldcollege.edu/bcarchive, or by visiting the Bakersfield College website, www.bakersfieldcollege.edu, clicking on Library in the Student Links section, then clicking on BC Archives tab on the left side of the page, and then clicking on the tab toward the right hand side of the BC Archives home page entitled News, Newsletters, and Events. You will also find access there to lots of photos we hope all readers will help identify.]

New Acquisition: Hisey Football

Mrs. Deane Hisey donated two footballs given to her only child Mike Hisey (age 14) while he was in the hospital. Both are signed by the coaches and the BC players. One was dated the 1959 Junior Rose Bowl Champs and the other is from the 1961 team.

Margaret Mahon, Mrs. Hisey's niece, wrote the following story behind the footballs:

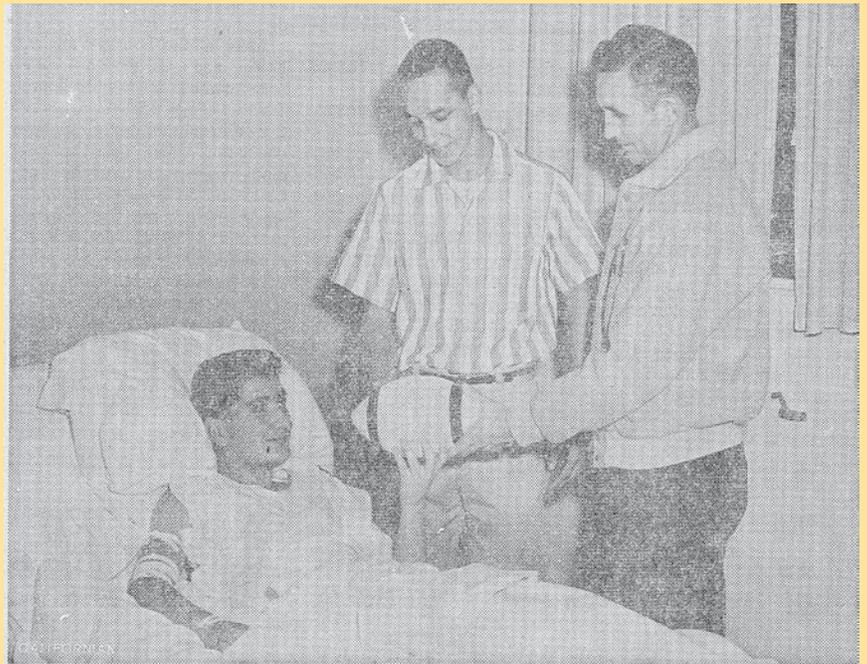
My cousin Mike Hisey, contracted Valley Fever about Halloween in 1958, his freshman year at Garces. He was playing football, a sport he loved. His long time goal was to play football for Notre Dame.

Valley Fever was what put him in the hospital (the newspaper photo) off and on for many years. He lived with the disease for almost 10 years when he passed, after living with the disease longer than anyone had at that time. He was treated by Dr. Hans Einstein, the Valley Fever pioneer in Kern County. Mike was the test case for the drug they still use to treat the illness today.

Mike and his parents were friends of the Don Lake family (Rain for Rent) and Don was a good friend with Coach Newman. Don suggested that the coach have the balls signed for Mike and present them to him during one of the long hospital stays. So that is where and how the balls came into their possession.

Mike was able to graduate from Garces and was occasionally well enough to practice with the Garces team again over the years, and hoped to be the kicker during his illness. That did not happen due to the illness. He attended Bakersfield College off and on as well, before he died.

He was part of the Newman Club and I think is pictured in the 1968 yearbook. ☺



GEE, THANKS, COACH—Bakersfield College coach Ray Newman, right, and halfback Joey Hernandez present team autographed football to 14-year-old Mike Hisey at Memorial Hospital. Hisey is a freshman at Garces High, where "Jackrabbit Joey" first gained athletic fame.





Memories of Ed Simonsen

Upon the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary on "the Hill"

by Don Rodewald

He was "Si" to his friends, and he had many. As I came to East High School in 1941, he was the Band Director. After Pearl Harbor, he joined the Marines and served as a pilot flying the C-47 and C-46 cargo planes over the Hump between China and Burma.

After graduating from high school in 1944, I joined the Navy as a Combat Air Crewman. I didn't realize it at the time, but I was following Ed Simonsen and would through my life.

When I returned to Bakersfield in 1946, I enrolled into Bakersfield College on California Avenue. I discovered (Simonsen) was the Dean of Men and that's when we first became acquainted. I had known of him at East High, but I was not in direct contact with him because I was not in the band or any of his classes.

When I graduated from B.C., I selected College of the Pacific in Stockton for my final two years. There I learned that Simonsen was a graduate of the school. After graduating from school, I used the last of my G.I. Bill earnings and my F.C.C., First Class Engineering License and started a career in radio broadcasting. Television came to Bakersfield in 1953 with KERO, Channel 10 and LDYD, Channel 29. I was an Announcer/Director for KERO in 1956 and for the next seventeen years. Then I decided to leave television and started working on a teaching credential.

Once again, Ed Simonsen entered my life. Simonsen told me B.C. had received some video money taping equipment but had no one on staff who knew how to use it. He asked if I could help. That conversation resulted in my working at Bakersfield

College part time while still working on my credential and working a daily two hour television show on KERO.

When I completed the credential, Simonsen had become the Chancellor of the District. He called me with an offer to join the B.C. Faculty full time in the Speech Department, assisting in the News and Publicity Department, and also making some video and slide/sound programs for the other teachers. I continued with that assignment for the next thirteen years then completed my final five years at B.C. as an administrator as the News and Publicity Director.

An interesting note about Ed Simonsen that many people didn't know was his background in music. In junior high school he heard that the school would provide instruments and teach students how to play them. He was late getting to the music teacher to select a clarinet, trumpet, saxophone, or violin, the choice instruments. There was only one instrument left, the oboe. Ed took it and not only learned how to play it but became proficient enough to play in quartets, full orchestras, and symphonies. He was still playing the oboe when he was ninety years old.

So, upon the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of B.C. on the new campus when Simonsen was honored with a building named after him, I was asked to emcee the affair. I related this about my experience with Dr. Simonsen: "Si, after following you into the Navy from East High, then to B.C., then to College of the Pacific where you graduated with honors, then I joined the faculty of Bakersfield College when you were the President and later District Chancellor, the only thing left for me to do is to follow you to the grave.

"Si, will it be Greenlawn, Hillcrest, or Union Cemetery? Your choice." ☹

Editor's note: "Si" passed on first. Both men were cremated and their ashes scattered in favorite spots. --- They did it again!

From Our Readers

Several months ago Peter Newell drove from out of town to Bakersfield specifically to look up a former teacher in order to thank him. Curiously we could find no information to show that Paul O’Gorman had been a teacher at BC. Recently the Archives received a donation of old class schedules which happened to include 1956-57, the one year that O’Gorman had taught here, and there he was....teaching English XA, XB and English 1A and 1B. We were so touched by Peter’s effort to contact Mr. O’Gorman that we suggested he write a tribute to his former teacher and mentor, which we knew would warm the hearts of all of us who were teachers. Dr. Newell’s letter is below.

A Letter of Thanks

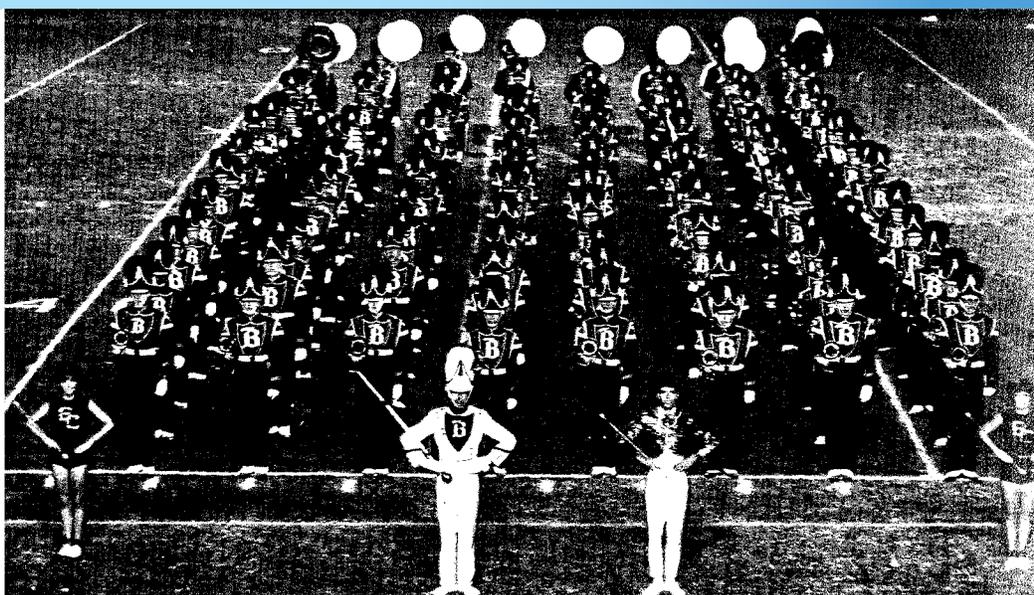
I guess I’m 76. Anyway, I attended Bakersfield College 1956-57 academic year. A C and D high school student and naïve, I had applied to Dartmouth and Occidental College and was soundly rejected- waiting for my frontal lobes to catch up. I had laissez faire parents who loved me well but let me bumble along (I thank them now.) I now see that year as my first serious educational experience and memorable to this day. Dear to me and often in my thoughts was my experience in English and my acquaintance with Paul O’Gorman who it seems was on his first teaching venture out of graduate school (I believe UC system.) Where I had come to love words and stories through my dear mother and father, that year I became entranced by language and literature. He so loved language and so expressed it that I was inspired. There was utter truth and passion in his teaching and he has lived as one of my mentors. Now looking back and even then he seemed to carry some pain and often I have thought him kindly and well. Of course I am remiss in never finding and thanking him soon after that year. Still, as one sees less years ahead, the urge to give thanks and make amends become stronger and finally I act. I have sought him through the Registrar and the Archives and through University of California yet to no avail. I am hoping that someone reading this might know of him and I shall continue elsewhere. Thank you Paul O’Gorman.

--- Peter Newell, M.D. BC ’56-57

The Renegade Band

By Jim Azparren

The Renegade Band would make their entrance every game at the south end of the stadium by the score board. The band would split in half, come into the stadium from both sides of the track, marching slowly as they played Fanfare For the Common Man by Aaron Copland. When they reached the 50 yard line they would turn toward the center of the field and then start a new line in five yard increments until the band filled the



width of the field. After the applause of the crowd ended they would play the National Anthem and then leave the field playing the Renegade fight song. The student body section would go nuts and rise to their feet in applause. Those were the days when

game attendance was consistently 16,000 to 18,000 fans. Those were the “good ole days” when the Renegade Band was a show piece for BC. The band was just as much an attraction as the football team in those days. ☺



f ortune

By Dr. Jack

It was a cold and dreary day in Ann Arbor as I trudged to the stoic-looking building where Bakersfield College was interviewing for teaching positions. I was in the Ph.D. program in English and was out of money and enthusiasm. About ten of us interviewed with Ed Simonsen, known as Si, and as I left I thought glumly that my chances in an impersonal interview were fairly low.

After the interview, I went next door to the red brick student union, something I almost never did, and happened to run into Si, who asked me, "Weren't you just in the interview?" I said "yes," and he replied, "Well, how about having lunch with me?" So I did, upstairs in the cafeteria with Si and John Eckhart, from the high school district, both of whom were deeply tanned, which in the midst of a bleak Michigan winter impressed me like a bright summer sun. I knew nothing about Bakersfield...but, hey, it was in California, sunny, beach-fun California!

Our lunch conversation, its memory faded, was my real interview, and I'm guessing that I didn't mumble, have a brain freeze, or dump water on myself

as I gestured enthusiastically about commas and semicolons. I'll always remember how fortunate I was and how gracious Si was on that life-changing January day. After I came to BC, I got to know Si as an avid tennis player, thus the tan, as a musician, and most of all as a great college president and colleague, who began my journey to BC.

Beyond nostalgia and gratitude this tale has an important point about life, one which, as I look back at mine, illustrates the crucial and important role luck, chance, fate, and fortune play in our lives, determining the road taken and not taken. As Machiavelli notes about successful endeavors, "...and it requires good fortune as well as great industriousness to hold on to them..." That chance encounter with Si was for me good fortune, my coming to BC a successful endeavor.

As a nation and culture, so focused on the individual, we tend to emphasize the importance of "great industriousness" more than good luck and fortune. Our myth is that if one works hard anything is possible: anyone can be President, found

Facebook, win an Oscar, live in a gated community, shop at Whole Foods. Yet a moment's reflection reveals that fortune, especially good, has played a crucial role in our lives, beginning with our genetic package, place, family, circumstances, and country of birth to those incidents of happenstance that gave us wonderful opportunities to craft good lives. Of course, the opposite is also true: that of bad luck or fortune. But while we seem to acknowledge that play of fortune, we tend to play down the role of good fortune in scripting our stories. That teacher we had, that coach we had, that colleague, that friend, that mentor, that face across a crowded room, that chance encounter.

After high school I was going to college to be a preacher, going to attend Bob Jones University; you would have seen me holding forth on TBN with my wife, under a plume of pink hair and Picasso makeup, but, no, another bit of fortune intervened and, instead, I went to Wheaton College, which prepared me for and nudged me to the University of Michigan. And then came Si... ☺



Welcome!

The Executive Board is pleased to welcome our new Archives Newsletter editor, TRACIE GRIMES (BC '82). Coming from a Renegade family, she has contributed to many local publications. Tracie's most recent production is *The Bakersfield College Century 1913-2013*, which she wrote and edited.

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People We Will Miss

GLORIA GRANADO PEREZ loved working with children. She was a preschool teacher with the Bakersfield College Head Start Program.

BILL FINCH played on Jack Frost's outstanding 1948 BJC football team with Frank Gifford. Playing football, basketball, and water polo, in 1949 he was named a "Junior College All America" athlete, the first for Bakersfield College. He graduated from San Jose State, was 9th in the national diving championship, and was named to the San Jose State College Athletics Hall of Fame in 1953. In 1960 he became Bakersfield College's gymnastics coach after which he served as both the diving coach and water polo coach for 29 years. He announced the BC home basketball games for 17 years.

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



Newsletter Announcement:

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