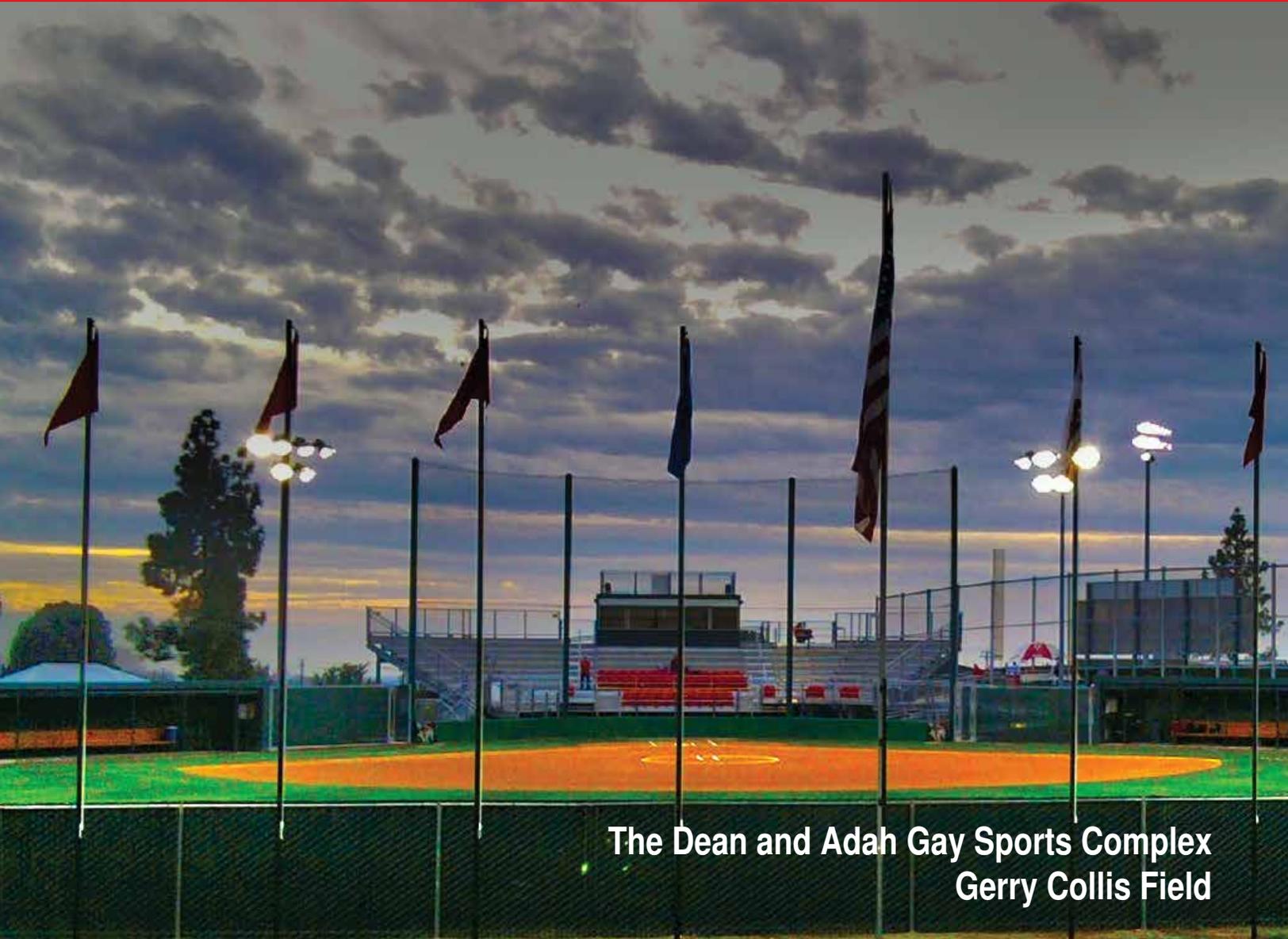




The Bakersfield College *Archives Newsletter*

FALL 2016

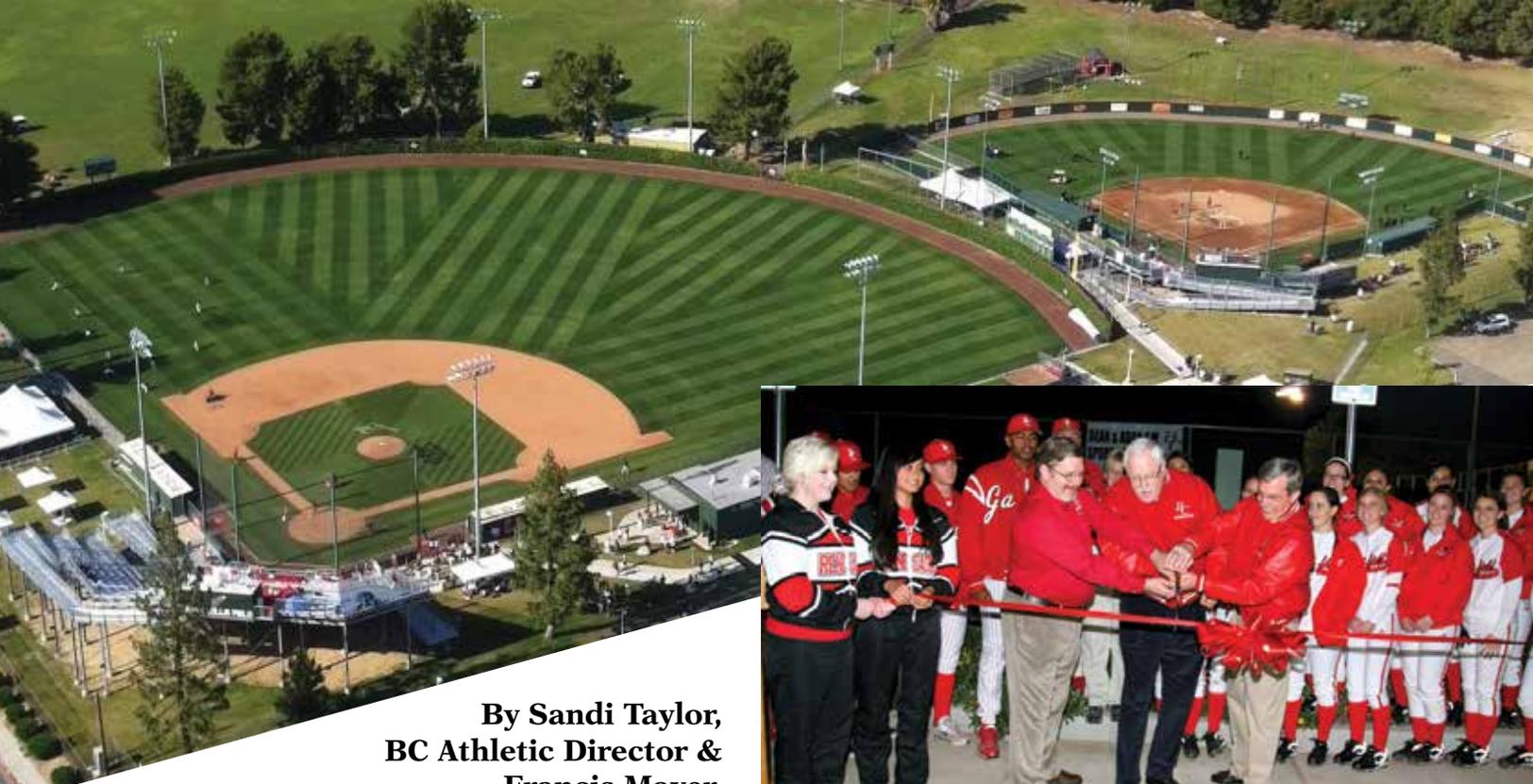
Volume 15, Issue 2



The Dean and Adah Gay Sports Complex
Gerry Collis Field

In This Issue

A Tale of Two Diamonds.....	2-3	Calling All BC Retirees.....	7
New Acquisitions.....	3	From Our Readers, Part 2.....	8
An Early Version of Jack Frost Football.....	4	People We Will Miss.....	9
Gone, Dr Jack.....	5	The Queens Corrected: A Letter and Reply.....	9
From Our Readers, Part 1.....	5	The Iconic BHS Water Tower and The Renegades.....	10
Bakersfield Classical Guitar Society.....	6-7	Building Dedications: McCuen Hall.....	11



**By Sandi Taylor,
BC Athletic Director &
Francis Mayer,
Sports Information Director**



President Greg Chamberlain, Mayor Harvey Hall, Benefactor David Gay, February 4, 2010.

A Tale of Two Diamonds

The Dean and Adah Gay Sports Complex

The two diamond sports fields that sit on the southwest corner of the Panorama Campus of Bakersfield College were not built in a day, nor were they built in a year.

Like many institutions, traditions, and buildings that are part of the Bakersfield College tradition, they bear many fingerprints...and many drops of sweat.

The original Bakersfield College baseball park was built in 1956, and thus began the "approach by committee" that gives us the modern-day Gerry Collis Field.

Appropriately, the tale begins with Coach Collis; in 1962, he decided to put the ivy on the outfield fence to add character to the ballpark. Coach Walt Johnson added the first restrooms and the first dugouts sometime later in the sixties, marking the last significant alteration to the park until a new vanguard entered the picture.

This new vanguard came in the form of North High Alumnus and Bakersfield College star George Culver. Culver had pitched in the big leagues and returned

home to Bakersfield, where he became committed to guiding the next generation of Kern County prospects find their way to the Big Leagues.

One way he offered this guidance was through his Light Brigade.

"When John Moncier took over the baseball program in 86 or 87, they tore out the infield grass and completely renovated it," current Bakersfield College Baseball Coach Tim Painton said.

Painton explained that the infield renovation was a massive undertaking involving many layers of soil and very specific treatments; a project light years beyond a residential re-sodding.

"And he did that with the help of George Culver," Painton added.

The Light Brigade's namesake project-lights for night games at Gerry Collis Field would go up in 1993, and the fundraising continued to provide a scoreboard in 1995.

"Before our dugouts were redone in 2001, they were sunken into the ground,

and you were head-high to foul balls, so the renovation brought them up to ground level which increased safety in a big way because we didn't have a lot of foul territory, so it wasn't safe," Painton said.

Culver and the Light Brigade would go on to raise about one million to one and a half million dollars in a 25 to 30 year period, Painton estimates.

Those donations would pay for the state of the art clubhouse that bears Culver's name, and would help jumpstart the seating renovation project that came to involve softball, and the fingerprints and sweat of another vanguard of facility rehabilitation.

Current Athletic Director Sandi Taylor came to Bakersfield College in 1990 after a successful playing career at Fresno State where her team finished 2nd at the First ever NCAA Women's College World Series. Taylor began her coaching career at Tulare Western High School where her team won four East Yosemite League titles in eight years.

New Acquisitions

But when she came to BC, the softball field had yet to become worthy of the name “complex”, which it now bears with the names of generous benefactors Dean and Adah Gay preceding. The field had received donations of lights and a scoreboard when the city used the field for slow pitch leagues in the early 80’s. With seating for about 50 spectators, no bull pens for pitchers to warm up or outfield fencing, Taylor began renovating the facility through fundraising activities.

“The college district ponied up funds, and we were able to bring both the baseball and softball fields into the 21st century in terms of both comfort and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance,” Taylor explained.

With funds from the KCCD and generous community members, the fields share a modern restroom facility, and are standards by which other facilities in the state are measured.

While the monetary donations were critical to the project, the passions of a few folks were key; Culver was bound and determined to do what he could to ensure that the next young person with a blessed pitching arm would have every benefit possible to send him to the next level and so he raised funds with the same passion that propelled him to the big leagues.

Taylor was determined to have facilities that proved the spirit of Title Nine, and that women’s sports would compete on the same footing as their male counterparts; something she didn’t have as youth competitor; and so she dug at the ground with her own two hands on weekends and evenings, removing large boulders and hewing the ground with the same passion that she gave to batting practice with her father in Tulare, long before she had any idea that she’d be among the first women to compete in a College World Series.

Thanks to the very personal efforts of folks like Taylor and Culver and the incredible generosity of community members who believed in a better future for their children, there will be more big-leaguers and women’s College World Series stars.

That’s the power of passing it on. ☺

Archives acquisitions often lead to the discovery of interesting interrelated information. That occurred with the donation of Oracles from Mary K Shell. (The Oracle is the yearbook of Kern County High School/Bakersfield High School.) It all began when retired Bakersfield College track coach Bob Covey noted that in 1913 a Mr. E.J. Jaynes was the Kern County High School girls’ basketball coach. Recognizing that Mary K Shell’s maiden name was Jaynes, Bob felt they must be related. An inquiry to Mary K followed. After consulting her old Oracles, she realized that the E. J. Jaynes may have been a Miss instead of a Mister. From her 1914 Oracle, she found that her aunt Elsie Jaynes graduated that year. However, it seems improbable that, as a junior in high school, Elsie would have been the girls’ basketball coach. Another possibility is that Elsie’s mother, Eliza Jaynes, helped out with the basketball team in 1913 when Elsie was a junior. We have no indication of that or that Elsie participated in sports. Neither one had a middle initial of J. The mystery goes on.

Meanwhile, in figuring out what to do with her old Oracles, Mary K realized that the Bakersfield College Archives would welcome them. Many people who attended old KC (Kern County High School) forget that Bakersfield College shared that campus from 1913 to 1956 and the BC Archives welcomes memorabilia from those years when what was happening on that KC campus was also part of BC’s history.

For you newcomers, Mary K Shell attended Bakersfield College from 1945-1947, married Joe Shell (a Republican leader and former minority leader of California State Assembly), became the first woman mayor of Bakersfield, and later the 2nd woman Kern County Supervisor. She has been a loyal, supportive BC alum, has served as a



member of the BC Foundation Board, and was named one of the 100 stars of Bakersfield College history during BC’s centennial year.

Mary K donated Oracles from the years 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1925, and 1928. These are real treasures to us in the Archives. They each contain a section devoted to the Junior College, a tradition which continued until the college started its own yearbook, *The Raconteur*, in 1931.

We still need Oracles from 1913, 1919 through 1924, 1926-1927, 1929-1930. ☺

Photo Captions: (Top) Mary K. Shell receiving her 100 Stars award from BC president Sonya Christian, 2013.

(Bottom) Mary K “Miki” as seen in the 1946 *Raconteur*.



An Early Version of Jack Frost Football

By Jerry Kirkland

Only later would it occur to me that, intended or not, this class had little to do with football and a great deal to do with self-direction and the development of organizational skills.

A typical class period went something like this: We changed into P.E. togs in the locker room under the main seating area at Griffith Stadium, then lined up on the 50 yard line, shoulder to shoulder facing Coach Frost. Equipment required for the class was minimal. He had arrived carrying two footballs and his attendance book. Small in stature, the coach nonetheless had a commanding presence and the class remained relatively quiet and orderly while he took roll. That being accomplished, he had us count off by fours, admonishing all to remember their number. Then it was, "OK, all you ones take three steps forward, twos take two steps forward, threes take one step forward and fours remain where you are. Today the twos play the threes and the ones play the fours." He then threw out the balls and added, "Each group select a captain who will have the final word in all disputes. This is not tackle football. We're playing two hand touch above the waist and no rough stuff. Alright, let's get started."

And that was that. YOYO. Coach Frost then strolled over and took a seat in the first row of the bleachers.

Games were played across the big field, east to west, with yard lines

marking the sideline boundaries. Before long, everyone - or almost everyone - was heavily involved. It was fun being unencumbered by a lot of rules and that first class period went by rather quickly.

After a couple of class sessions, we had figured out who could pass, who could hike the ball, who could catch it and who could run fast. Those who were slow of foot and/or devoid of enthusiasm for the task were, of course, blockers. The potential for complete chaos was always close at hand but, in fact, there were few disputes and even the noisy disagreements were settled amiably.

Fortunately, Coach Frost never had to intervene. I say fortunately since we soon noticed that his stay in the bleachers was short. He was apparently confident that we would finish the period without serious injury or a fatality and so he disappeared. Had he gone to review some game film? Or maybe confer with his assistant coaches? We didn't have long to wonder.

When the bell rang to end the period we changed back into street clothes and began our trek over toward the J.C. building. On most days, as we passed the grassy area between the science building and the gymnasium, there would be coach, a clutch of little white balls at his feet and a pitching wedge in his hands, practicing his short game. ☺

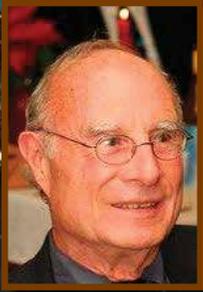
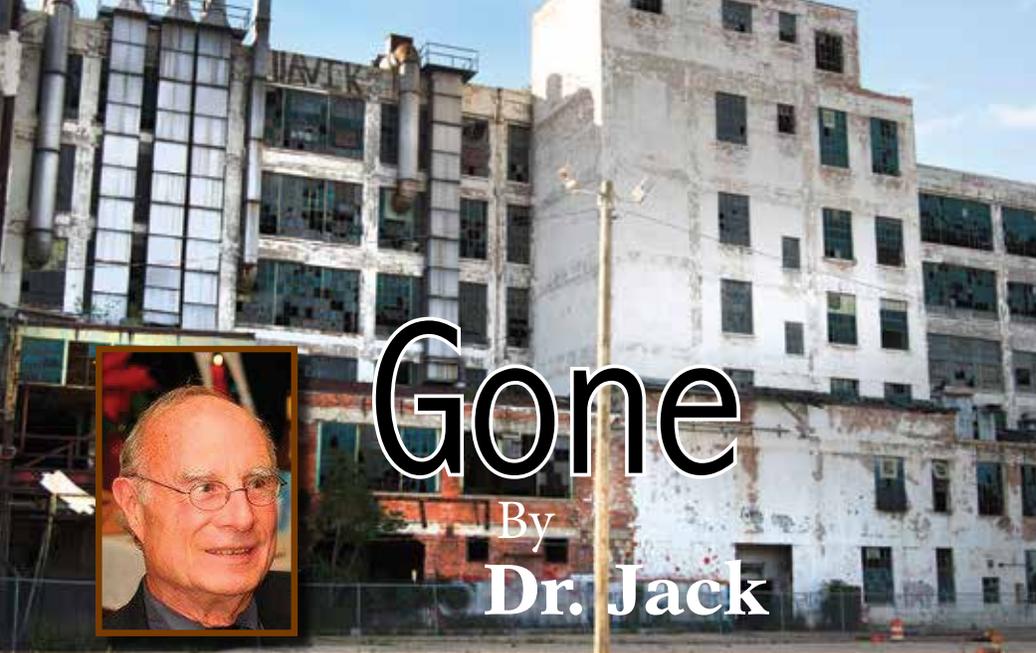
Following the earthquake of 1952, some buildings on the high school and junior college campus were rendered unsafe for occupancy, at least temporarily. That included the two gymnasiums, and as a consequence, some adjustments had to be made in scheduling activities that normally were conducted in those facilities. With the nice warm gymnasium unavailable, fall semester P.E. for many of us was a football class on Griffith Field under the tutelage of Renegade coach Jack Frost.

The actual course name and number have been lost to memory, probably something like "Football Activities 101". It was simply a physical education class with Coach Frost listed as the instructor, a descriptor that we soon discovered greatly overstated his actual role. It was a large class, some forty or fifty students, who arrived with varying levels of enthusiasm, interest and physical ability. But the focus here was not on the development of football skills. It was obvious to all involved that no attempt would be made to teach anyone anything about football.

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.

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday • 8:30 A.M. — 12:30 P.M. • Other hours available by appointment.



Gone

By
Dr. Jack

Jack Hernandez, Director of
the Levan Center for the Humanities

I grew up in Detroit. In a working-class neighborhood. When there were trees shading our street in the hot, humid summers. When my father, who worked for the Ford Motor Tractor division, earned a good wage. Good enough to provide a nice home for us and help me attend college.

Four years ago my high school was torn down. Mackenzie High, where I played football—Go Stags!—and wrote for our magazine and discovered that college was a possibility for a blue-collar kid like me. All this in a large three-story red brick building, with an indoor pool, track, and large auditorium where I gave our commencement address. Gone, like the Detroit I knew.

Gone. You can't go home again. How true for my Detroit.

But not just for me. During my summer breaks in college, I worked on assembly lines in factories. Made good money, enough to pay much of my college expenses with my parents' help. I worked next to men whose livelihood was a job on the assembly line. A job that didn't require a college degree, only the responsibility of coming to work for eight hours each day and doing a good job on the line.

Gone. Those jobs are gone. And with automation more will go. Self-driving trucks and cars may soon eliminate thousands of good-paying jobs for truck and taxi drivers. And who knows how many other good-paying jobs for hard working men and women will be gone in the next few years.

I was fortunate to be able to go college—go Michigan!—and to have a wonderful time teaching at Bakersfield College for many years, to be part of our wonderful BC community that gives so many opportunities to the students from our city and county. Opportunities to gain understanding of themselves and their world through the humanities, arts, and sciences. Opportunities to transfer to a four-year college or university. Opportunities to find good careers through our vocational programs. Opportunities for good lives.

Yet when I remember those I worked with on the assembly line in a Detroit now gone, I wonder how we will provide the same kind of jobs for those who don't go to college. For those who want to have good lives provided by their work. For those who are our neighbors in this community.

We are admonished to care about our neighbors. I don't have the answers, but I know that they are not minimum wage jobs or no jobs.

We can't go home again...but we can build new homes. ☹

FROM OUR READERS



May 21, 2016 from KELLIE VAN WESTEN
(retired Administrative Assistant to the
Chancellor, now living in Camarillo):

Let everyone in Archives know that this latest Newsletter is fantastic; I read every word of every article. The move to the hill was very interesting history, and the Kinoshita family was really interesting. I knew quite a few Kinoshita family members from Curran Jr. High and West High.

Letters from readers regarding previous issues were interesting, and especially the letter from Mrs. Richard Miles (Dick.)

Phil Feldman will always be Phil Feldman and Jack Hernandez will always be Jack, but very interesting story how he came to Bakersfield and the College. It is always sad to see the names of those members of the Bakersfield College community who have passed on.

Ahhhhh, yes, the football coaches. I remember them exactly as they are in the photo; they never got old in my mind. Remember, I grew up on BC Football, sitting at the top of the Stadium on the 50 yard line beginning at age three with my mom and my aunt and uncle (Vernon Oldershaw) who played for BC when located at BHS.

Kudos to all; makes me a little homesick.

Bakersfield Classical Guitar Society

Archives Donated to Bakersfield College

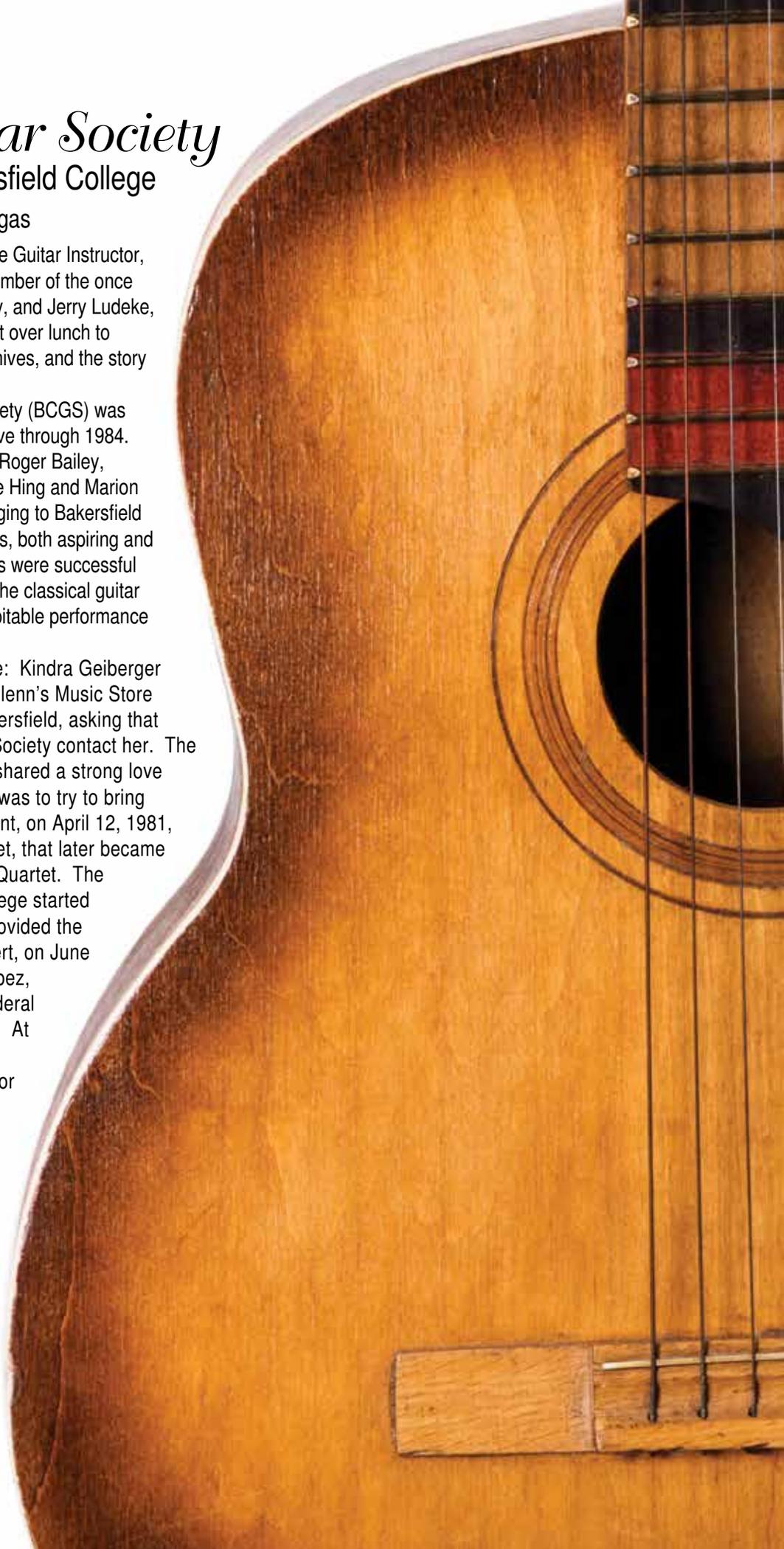
Story by Marion Vargas

On April 26, 2016, Bakersfield College Guitar Instructor, Roger Cope, Marion Vargas, founding member of the once active Bakersfield Classical Guitar Society, and Jerry Ludeke, Bakersfield College Archives Director, met over lunch to discuss the donation of the Society's archives, and the story behind it.

The Bakersfield Classical Guitar Society (BCGS) was formed in the spring of 1981 and was active through 1984. Despite having only six official members (Roger Bailey, Craig Bransfield, Kindra Geiberger, Arlene Hing and Marion Vargas), the group was successful in bringing to Bakersfield a remarkable number of classical guitarists, both aspiring and well-established performers. The concerts were successful in raising awareness and appreciation of the classical guitar in Bakersfield, while providing a very hospitable performance environment.

The BCGS beginnings were humble: Kindra Geiberger posted a note on the bulletin board at Glenn's Music Store on 19th and F Streets in downtown Bakersfield, asking that persons interested in forming a Guitar Society contact her. The core group was only six members who shared a strong love for classical guitar. The focus early on was to try to bring performers to Bakersfield. The first event, on April 12, 1981, was a concert by the USC Guitar Quartet, that later became the very renowned Los Angeles Guitar Quartet. The BCGS association with Bakersfield College started with that first concert, as the College provided the venue, Fine Arts 30. The second concert, on June 2 was by Mexican Guitarist, Antonio Lopez, at the Community Room of the First Federal Savings on Ming Avenue in Bakersfield. At that concert, attendees were given the opportunity to sign up for a mailing list for future BCGS events.

Initially, mailings and publicity were done independently by BCGS members. However, as ties with Bakersfield College grew thru contacts with Music Department Chair, Jim Mason, Community Services Director, Ron McMasters and Delano College Center Dean, Jess Nieto, the College's co-sponsorship eventually included not only providing the concert venue, but also assistance with designing and printing programs, concert announcement mailings and even



publicity on Don Rodewald's weekly Bakersfield College radio program.

BCSG members would staff the concerts. Typically, Roger Bailey introduced the performers, Craig Bransfield handled the lighting and recorded the concerts on reel to reel taps. Kindra Geiberger, Roger Bailey and Marion Vargas handled the contacts with guest artists and concert arrangements. Although, on several occasions, we did have some sponsorship from individuals and local businesses, generally payment to the performers was whatever money was taken in with ticket sales. The guitarists knew that and still were eager to have the opportunity to perform in an excellent venue for the enthusiastically appreciative Bakersfield audiences. There was always a reception after the concerts for audience members to meet the guitarists. These were usually held off campus at community locations or in homes. The food and camaraderie were always good.

A total of 26 concerts were presented by the BCGS in a period of four years, six in 1981, thirteen in 1982, five in 1983 and two in 1984. On at least three occasions, on the day following the concert, we were fortunate to have a workshop for local guitarists, which was a great educational experience.

This was a deliriously happy period of time for classical guitar enthusiasts in Bakersfield. In a spring of 1982 newsletter announcing scheduled events, Kindra Geiberger wrote:



"Dear Friend of the Bakersfield Classical Guitar Society:

The coming month offers an unprecedented number of opportunities to hear classical guitar music in Bakersfield.

(She then listed the five upcoming concerts and continued...)

We will not pass up the opportunity to hear fine music today simply because we heard fine music yesterday. In that spirit, we invite you to join us at each of these events. We wish there could be this much good music available every month."

BCGS activity began to slow down in 1984, as members' lives took them in different directions. However, the contacts established were certainly a factor in classical guitarists continuing to perform in Bakersfield in following years.

The materials being given to the Bakersfield College Archives include documentation of the BCGS activities from 1981-84, as well as information about subsequent guitar concerts at Bakersfield College.

There is a listing of concerts and

workshops held, including dates and locations. Materials include notes, correspondence, publicity information and photos, newspaper articles/clippings from the Bakersfield Californian, the Renegade Rip and El Mexicalo, concert programs and announcements, original sign up sheets for the initial mailing lists, bank statements and two scrapbooks with concert programs, as well as two stamps used for concert tickets. For some concerts, there are multiple programs and announcement fliers. ☺



Calling All BC Retirees!

Tom Kimler suggested that we develop a directory of contact information of and for all Bakersfield College retirees. We like the idea. President Sonya Christian likes the idea. Every retiree we have asked likes the idea. Let's do it!

This is sponsored by and will be maintained by the President's office as new people retire. It is the Archives' responsibility to capture the information from all who have previously retired. We have a list of about 300 retirees, with email addresses for maybe half of you. However we never asked your permission to share that information, so we don't share it. This means **IF YOU WANT YOUR**

CONTACT INFORMATION PRINTED IN THE BC RETIREE DIRECTORY, YOU MUST PROVIDE IT TO US. Here is the URL which is the easiest way to register: <https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/RetireeDirectory> Other options are that you may call us: 661-395-4949; you may email us: bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu; or you may write us: Bakersfield College Archives, 1801 Panorama Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93305. Please tell us: name (include maiden name if applicable), spouse's name, address, phone numbers, email address, positions at BC, dates of service.

Only individuals whose contact information is in the directory will receive a

copy of the directory. (A printed copy if you don't have an email address; otherwise as an attachment for you to download.) It will be your responsibility to up-date us if any of your information changes. The directory will be updated annually. It is also your responsibility to protect the privacy of those listed as you want your own privacy respected.

Register yourself and pass the word around to all BC retirees you know. The more people who are included, the more useful the directory will be. Thanks for your participation. (I'm really looking forward to having this directory. Thank you, Tom, for the suggestion! Jerry Ludeke)

~The Archives crew

Arlene Friedman's mother Pearl Hoffman was a BC alumna. Arlene recently contacted Jack Hernandez:

Dear Dr. Hernandez:

... Enclosed herein please find the paper Mom wrote about you. This was an assignment for one of her writing classes and, according to the date on the fax line, she composed this in 2003 ... Mom took your class in 1963 when she was 42 years old. As you can see, she still remembered you fondly 40 years later!

You encouraged her, appreciated her work, and gave her incentive to do her best. She ultimately was published 189 times, the last article being accepted the month after she passed away. ...

I want you to know about the positive and lasting influence you had on her life. Thank you – from both of us. ...

Sincerely, Arlene Friedman

Less Is More, More Or Less By Pearl Hoffman

In 1961 fate offered my husband an opportunity he couldn't refuse and, with the aid of Allied Van Lines, we moved from Providence, Rhode Island to Bakersfield, California.

My first impression of Bakersfield was less than impassioned, and day by day, as the outdoor temperature rose, my enthusiasm plunged. Even if one endured the heat, there was no way to salve the boredom, for Bakersfield offered next to nothing to feed the soul. But of course, there was a movie theater, a bowling alley and a library; "who could ask for anything more?" Who, indeed? Me!

At first there was the brief chore of setting up house, but after the first push of "busy," I found myself physically, emotionally and intellectually at loose ends. Before those loose ends unraveled completely, I enrolled in the local college, and took classes in Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology and English Composition. I have always enjoyed writing, toying with words, phrases and ideas. I was sure that, somewhere deep inside, there was a novel of monumental importance, just waiting to be set free. So, although the "ologies" were enlightening, English composition was the cherry on top of the banana split.

The English class instructor, Professor Hernandez, was a young man with a waggish wit; a dedication to his chosen profession and a slew of published work in prestigious periodicals. At the first class meeting he assigned an essay in any subject of our choice, to be presented at the next session. This work would be used solely as an aid to determine our writing capabilities.

I researched. I wrote. I researched, again. I added information. Then added some more. I edited. I edited my editing. I left no word unturned and finally I created a 5 page monument of minutia. The paper was submitted, and when it was returned, the critique Professor Hernandez had written set my heart thumping. In bold script, his exact words were "Reminiscent of James Michener."

I was elated. I had been validated. Professor Hernandez recognized my potential, and, from somewhere in my soul, there rang out the voice of my yet unwritten novel, "I told you so!"

Thirty seconds after class ended I was at his desk, thanking him profusely for his kind words. He asked to see the paper to refresh his memory, he read his comments, then looked at me with amazement.

"You took this as a compliment?" he asked. "Obviously you haven't read Michener's work."

I was stunned: couldn't utter a word. It is difficult to speak when your mouth is full of foot.

In a daze, I listened as he explained: "Michener goes on and on and on, and so do you. But don't worry. By the time the semester is over, you will learn the art of brevity."

From that point on, no matter how I edited, chopped, severed and removed, he found passages that were superfluous to the story; a sentence here, a word or two there, biff, boom, bang. He prodded and provoked and challenged me at every turn, week after week, until I became adept at trimming the text as close to the bone as possible, still leaving enough meat to feed the idea. As Professor Hernandez promised, I had learned the art of brevity.

As for the book within me, I'd like to think it's still there, waiting for its cue to appear, center stage, but along with brevity, I've learned that having a pen and a ream of paper doesn't make me a writer any more than having a long neck makes me a swan.

[A partial list of 39 places Pearl Hoffman was published includes Saturday Evening Post, Ladies Home Journal, Highlights for Children, Jack & Jill, and The National Library of Poets.]

People We Will Miss

MARGOT ALLSMAN, wife of science professor Ron Allsman, was an active leader in Faculty Wives from 1962 until Ron retired 43 years later. As a pharmacist, she briefly taught classes for BC. They were the parents of Russell and Don Allsman, both of whom were BC Student Body presidents.

VIENNA BATTISTONI served over thirty years in the Child Development faculty of the Family and Consumer Education Department where she was much loved by her students.

JACK BRIGHAM was described in *The Californian* as professor, philanthropist, labor leader, and social activist. He taught history at BC from 1990 to 2007, was voted the Sam McCall Award winner by students in 1992, and received the Shirley Trembley Distinguished Teacher Award in 2005.

RUTH FREED was an adjunct English teacher at BC for many years. In those days a married couple could not both be hired as full time teachers in the district, and her husband Paul had been hired in 1938 to teach Botany, Chemistry, and Zoology. She was also active in Faculty Wives.

DON JOHNSON served at BC from 1973 to 1996, first as Director of Veteran Affairs and then as Director of Supportive Services. He taught classes in cultural anthropology, Chicano history, and woodworking and received the Margaret Levinson Faculty Leadership Award in 1995.

JOHN BOYDSTUN • TOM LARWOOD • T.H. LOCKARD Three who were not staff members at BC but had special connections are John Boydston, Tom Larwood, and T.H. Lockard. JOHN, a cheer leader as a student in 1938, attended all the BC football games since, distributed his famous red pinch-purses with the BC football schedule yearly, and founded the BC Alumni Association. TOM served as the doctor in the BC Health Center when needed, supported BC's mission, and supported his wife Pauline as she served 16 years on the college District Board of Trustees. T H, who served on the Bakersfield College Foundation, quarterbacked the Renegades to a National Championship with a win in the 1953 Junior Rose Bowl game.

Readers Please Note: Send information about former BC faculty and staff members to bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu

The Queens Correction: A Letter and Replies



Corrected Photo ID: Sharon Gadberry, top;
Thelma Rapp, bottom.

LETTER:

Dear Archives,

The photos of "The Queens" on page 9 of the Spring 2016 Archives Newsletter are labeled incorrectly. Yes, that is Sharon Gadberry in the top photo holding the roses. She and I graduated from EB in 1957) but the photo inserted with that photo is NOT Sharon. At the bottom of the page, the photo of the blond with the East Bakersfield shirt IS Sharon Gadberry.

Sharon Gadberry, like Thelma Rapp, was also Betty Blade at East High in her senior year. She went on to Stanford after BC and today is Dr. Sharon Gadberry and has had a successful business for many years and lives in SF.

Sincerely, Ann Gordon Bigler.

ARCHIVES REPLY: Mea Culpa! I'm the one who mixed up the photos. How embarrassing! My apologies. At least this will probably generate lots of response. ~Jerry Ludeke

Sharon Gadberry replies: Hi Jerry,

so it was you! Well, life could be much worse than to be confused with the still beautiful Thelma Rapp!

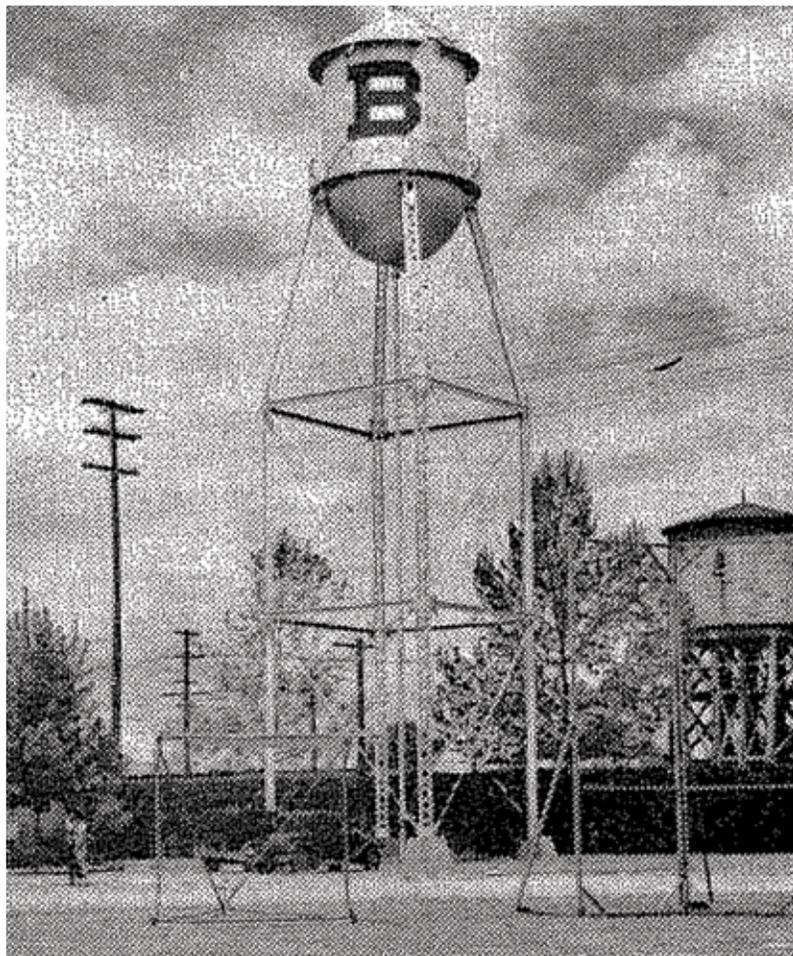
Thanks ... for the really wonderful article by Leslie Wilbur, who was a widely admired teacher there when I attended. While I enjoyed a great education at Stanford, most of the teachers I had at BC were just as, and sometimes more inspiring, knowledgeable, and creative as my Stanford professors.

That photo (of me) is from our latest annual "Bay Area Bakersfield Ex-Pat reunion" in July, 2015. Gerry Haslam started the reunions about 30 years ago at his home in Petaluma and we still carry them on at my house in San Francisco, swapping Bakersfield stories, some of the same ones every year. ~Sharon

Gerald Haslam wrote: Hey Jerry, Sharon Gadberry of whom you wrote was my steady girlfriend in 1957. She eventually wised up and moved on. Sharon lives in San Francisco now, and Jan and I see her often. She's still a champ. Best, Gerry

The Iconic BHS Water Tower & The Renegades

By Jerry Ludeke



“Iconic BHS Water Tower Comes Down” was a headline in the August 16, 2016 printing of *The Bakersfield Californian*. What wasn’t mentioned in the story was that it was the RENEGADES, not the Drillers, who initiated the water tower as an iconic landmark and shared it for eighteen years.

According to the article, the water tower was built 83 football seasons ago, which translates to 1933. John Besone, the very active Chairman of Activities for Bakersfield Junior College (now known as Bakersfield College) which shared the campus with Kern County Union High School (now known as Bakersfield High School) was the one who made it happen. Here is the story as reported in the *Renegade Rip* (BJC college newspaper) on

September 23, 1937:
**“BESONE’S BRAIN-CHILD
BECOMES BIG “B”**

“By the end of the month, at least, and to the tune of \$45.00, which has been appropriated by the long-suffering student body council, the water tank at the northwest corner of the football field will bear upon its humble sides a twelve-foot symbol of the Renegade spirit.

“This symbol which will be a huge maroon letter “B”, according to John Besone, chairman of activities, will be painted on the southeast side of the aforementioned tank. [Ed: Maroon, not red, was the BJC Renegade color at that time.]

“Mr. Besone inferred that all has not been a bed of roses in the matter of this “B” on the tower. The original plan was

to have the letters “B.J.C.” painted on the southeast side, but the powers that be of the high school promptly raised a howl of protest. The J.C., they said, could have its “B.J.C.” monogram on the south side [Ed: facing the BJC practice area]; but would have to be contented with a single “B” on the southeast side [Ed: facing the main stadium]. A compromise was made ---the J.C. agreed to the single letter on the southeast side.

“Mr. Besone, however, added a ray of sunshine. He further infers that Mr. Spindt, principal of the high school, will be personally responsible for the addition of the letters “J” and “C” to the gleaming “B”, should any of the uninitiated or uninformed mistake its maroon expanse for anything but a Renegade emblem.”

A later *Renegade Rip* article, November 4, 1937, shows that the maroon “B” on the water tank did become reality. The article tells of the big bonfire rally planned before the football game with arch-rival Taft, the “Cougars”:

“ BONFIRE RALLY PLANS MADE. Clubs To Do Part In Staging of Big Event. The A.M.S. (Associated Men Students) will be in charge of building and guarding the bonfire, the Varsity Club will see that the big “B” on the water tower remains a big “B”, and the Lifers will have the honor of killing, skinning, cremating the appropriate symbol of B.J.C.’s worst ‘enemy.’”

We do not know when the water tank’s iconic status was transferred from the B.C. Renegades to the B.H.S. Drillers. Was it at the time when the Renegades left the B.H.S. campus eighteen years later in 1956 or before that time? We’ll leave it to B.H.S. Archivist Ken Hooper and his archiving students to document that. As the water tower is moved to Pioneer Village, we want Kern County to remember that Renegades and Drillers happily share that landmark in their traditions. ☺

Building Dedications: McCuen Hall



Theron McCuen

Memories written by John J. Collins
in January 2010

I first met Theron McCuen at Berkeley in 1947. In those days almost all decisions for employment were made by administrators, with very little participation of faculty or anyone else. Theron interviewed me for a job at BC, and called me later that evening to offer me the job. He was managing a large enterprise, and his focus was on the high schools. Grace Bird, Ralph Prator, and Ed Simonsen were left to run the college, but Theron had the last word. He used to assemble the entire faculties and administrators of the college and the high

schools every September to get everyone revved up for the new year. Roll was taken, and we dared not miss out. Wagers were made regarding the length of Mr. McCuen's (as he was called by all of us) speech, and it was always close to one hour.

"Mac", as the chiefs called him, was thought of as the czar of the operation and happily for him, he did not have to deal with unions or other forms of sharing power. The system worked well for him, and also for the employees, since our salaries were close to the top, state-wide. I welcomed the \$3,600 annual salary that was offered and taken by me in 1947. It was about \$500 better than any other school job that I knew about. Toward the end of Theron McCuen's time as the leader of the high school and college operations, the Kern County Community College District was formed, and the colleges of the District had their own entity, giving them a chance to move to a college type organization, leaving the high school model behind. This was in 1968 when Ed Simonsen, the President of Bakersfield College was chosen to be the first Chancellor of the KCCD. Ed served as Chancellor for ten years, and during that time the colleges definitely moved in the direction of participatory governance.

Theron McCuen was of the old school of governance, but fortunately for all of us who toiled in that vineyard, his heart was

in the right place. McCuen Hall, as the administration building is now called, was so named because Theron McCuen was an effective leader during the post-WWII years when money was plentiful, and he was determined to see to it that the schools and colleges under his direction were a first class operation.

Editor: It was under Superintendent Theron McCuen's administration that the land for the Bakersfield College Panorama campus was purchased.

1997 STANFORD ALUMNI MAGAZINE: (in an obituary for Theron McCuen) In 1993, on the 100th anniversary of the Bakersfield High School District, he was named "Most Notable Staff Member of the Century." After retiring, he served as a private consultant to more than 70 school districts and served on 17 boards charged with selecting new school superintendents.

GRACE BIRD ON THERON McCUEN

(in Bancroft Oral History, v.1, p.55): Theron McCuen was appointed district superintendent ... about 1945. He was the kind of man one finds in the term "gentleman." As I observed him over the next few years, I became certain that he was one of the two or three outstanding school administrators in the state. ☺



Superintendent Theron McCuen, Dean of Women Margaret Levinson, Director of BC Grace Bird, and Social Science teacher Dorothy Albaugh, c 1948



BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

Bakersfield College Archives Association
1801 Panorama Drive • Bakersfield, CA 93305

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bakersfield, CA
Permit 402



The Bakersfield College Archives Association

bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Phone: (661) 395-4949

Dr. Robert Allison, Archives Chair*
Jerry Ludeke, Archives Director*
Anna Agenjo, Library Director
Tom Gelder, Foundation Director
Rosalee Pogue, Archives Assistant
Helen Harp, Archives Assistant
Daniel Anderson, Archives Assistant
Tracie Grimes, Newsletter Editor
Eric Carrillo, Graphic Designer

Steering/Executive Committee

John Ackland
Dr. Greg Chamberlain*
Bob Covey*
Charlotte Cox*
Dr. Nancy Edwards
Dr. Matthew Garrett
Dr. Greg Goodwin*
Dr. Jack Hernandez*
Chris Hitchcock-Maranda
Mary Jones
Margaret Lyman
Rob Parsons*
Susan Pinza
Gayle Richardson*
Dr. Oliver Rosales
Don Stansbury
Becki Whitson
Ann Wiederrecht*
Dr. Rick Wright*

** Also on Executive Board*



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.