



The Bakersfield College *Archives Newsletter*

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Attendees at the cornerstone laying ceremony gathered inside the entry area of the new Administration Building on a rainy day.

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60th Anniversary

OF THE BIG MOVE TO THE HILL

Although the 1955 football season games were played at the newly constructed Memorial Stadium, it was in April of 1956 during spring vacation that Bakersfield College moved from its forty three year home on the Bakersfield High School campus to its new home on Panorama Drive. The April 2006 Archives Newsletter was devoted to the fiftieth anniversary of the Big Move. (You can view it at the Archives website: www2.bakersfieldcollege.edu/bcarchive). On this sixtieth anniversary we want to focus on students' anticipation, experiences, and reactions to that Move to the Hill as recorded in these quotations, mostly in the *Renegade Rips*.

Rip Headline, March 22, 1956- 'M-DAY' ON WAY:

An air of expectation hung over Bakersfield College today as faculty and students made final preparations for the move to the new campus, scheduled for one week from Monday but already in progress.

Five major buildings and parts of the gym will be occupied on the April 2 deadline. The Business-Administration, Home Economics, Humanities, Science and Engineering, and Trades and Industries buildings will be ready for occupancy.

Most moving is being done with school trucks, though some instructors are using their own pickups. One of the

most difficult moving jobs will be that of the Grace Van Dyke Byrd [sic.] Library. Rather than being packed in boxes, the books will be left on the shelves, with the shelves themselves bolted in tiers on flat bed trucks. The library will be forced to move again next fall when it occupies [sic.] its permanent quarters. [The temporary location was in the Business-Administration building.]

The BC bookstore will be located in a corrective physical education room in the gym, but the temporary site will still be larger than the present space the bookstore occupies.

The nearest to the new campus that city busses [sic.] will run is about one mile. (District buses would be provided from the high school campus.)

Hot food will be prepared at East Bakersfield High School and trucked to the new campus.

The some 1700 parking places should be enough in spite of women parkers.

There will be no bell system.

Assemblies will be held in the stadium.

Renegade Rip, April 12, 1956

BC's athletes are currently "getting into condition" by dodging lunch trays, mambo dancers and budding musicians in BC's bulging gym.

Even though the gym isn't finished it is already overworked with the many temporary activities competing for

space with the regular ones. . . . The Health Center is located to one's left as he enters the gym from the north entrance. Here there is a nurse who is employed by the college and an area where the students now pick up their excuse (yellow slips) for classes.

Upstairs, on the second floor is the Coral Room (dance studio) which houses all of the dancing classes in the P.E. department and the choral and music classes of the music department. This room overlooks the swimming pool.

Since the campus center isn't finished, areas have been designated throughout the campus to house the facilities that will go into the Campus Center when the building is finished. One of these areas is the gym. Here one will find the bookstore, the cafeteria and snackbar.

The cafeteria serving area is in the farthest east room on the south side, but the eating area is scattered throughout the wide hall areas on the first floor of the gym. Eating areas include the wide hallway at the east end of the building, the wide space near the south entrance and the swimming pool patio. Here in these areas have been placed regular dining tables, chairs and containers to put in all of the garbage.

The snackbar is located in the southwest corner under a stairway. Here one may grab a sandwich on his way to class (if the class either before or after the eight-minute break is in the gym.)

The spacious well-stocked

bookstore is located in the northwest corner. Just west of the bookstore is the band headquarters.

The first day at the new campus many humorous events occurred. At the flag dedication a rabbit was seen running wildly around stealing the scene. It seems that a cement truck had parked over his burrow.

Lance and Shield did a fine job of directing students whose classrooms were lost. One such student reportedly approached a guide and asked where he could find the Romanities Building. Clarence Cullimore, architecture and engineering instructor, was showing his young grandson the new campus when he was asked, "What do they teach in the Humilities Building?" Cullimore's answer, which fully satisfied the boy, was, "That's where they teach how not to be boastful."

A photograph showing two men in mountaineering clothing with ropes and a pick ax climbing up a hill shows "a rather drastic solution to the problem of getting from one place to the next on this hilly campus. Shows what can happen when you believe those 'Approved Short Cut' signs."

Renegade Rip, April 26, 1956

Chivalry is dead. It died on the muddy field surrounding Bakersfield College two weeks ago. The rains came. And then soon the beautiful parking lot was a vast sea of mud. Many unsuspecting students drove their rods (most of them Cadillacs) into this sea of mud, singing their "rock and roll" songs without a thought of the great disaster that awaited them when they stepped out.

Charlie Mae Abrams Littlejohn, class of 1956, Archives Newsletter, April 2006

Everyone was full of excitement that came with the move from limited and crowded conditions on the high school campus. The only drawback that I remember was the new campus was not completely landscaped. This condition was certainly not good for the "white buck shoes," one of the shoe styles at the time.

Gerald Haslam, class of 1957, Archives Newsletter, April 2006

My earliest distinct memory of the new setting is of traipsing through mud during the first real rain after the move; slipping and sliding, I found myself laughing with students whom I hadn't previously met. One attractive coed lost her ballerina slipper when her foot plunged into mud next to a plank sidewalk. Hoping to impress her, two of my buddies from Garces wrestled one another for the privilege of recovering the maiden's shoe and only succeeded in shoving it so deeply into the muck that it was never recovered. Along with their aspirations, that ballerina slipper remains buried there today, a monument to love unfulfilled.

The 1956 Raconteur

It isn't completed; there is wind, dust, noise, and lots of space between buildings, but the campus is ours. ☺

New. Acquisitions

We delight in receiving memorabilia from current events. You may not think that they are archival, but by the day following the event they are part of BC's archival history. Please remember the Archives as you are closing up after an event.

We received memorabilia from two reunions. *The Renegade Rip*, which has been publishing a remarkable ninety three years, held an all staff reunion on May 10, 2014. This was headed up by Bona Dillon Press, a past advisor, and Danny Edwards, the current advisor. The cups made for the occasion are really a bright true red (which our camera couldn't capture.)

Tote bags were prepared for the Bakersfield College Choir 50th European Tour Reunion held in 2015. This was the group led by Joe Huszti which won the International Eisteddfod Music Festival in Llangollen, Wales, the first choir in the Western Hemisphere to do so. As a result they sang for Pope Paul VI at the summer residence Castel Gondolfo, Italy, and for President Lyndon Johnson in the Rose Garden of the White House. The tote bag carries the quotation by T. Gwynn Jones that appears on the trophy: "Blessed is a world that sings. Gentle are its songs." The reunion choir sang a performance.



Where Else But In America...!

Mary Kinoshita Higashi is one of the students who was taken to a Japanese internment camp in 1942, just before she graduated from B.C. [see Archives Newsletter, Spring 2011 at www2.bakersfieldcollege.edu/bcarchive].

In 2014 she was honored at graduation, receiving her diploma in a long delayed ceremony. Mary's brothers who also attended BJC were John, Fred, Dave, Ted, and Robert. Brother Robert attended BC on the GI Bill of Rights following his service. During World War II brother George, who was recently honored in Hawaii, was in the Poston, Arizona Relocation Center with Mary and her family. Then George was drafted on June 19, 1946 so he missed attending Bakersfield Junior College, as it was known at the time.

Here is Mary's note telling of the honor recently received by George and the Kinoshita family:

November 23, 2015

The years are passing by too quickly for me, but I've been blessed with good health, having turned 93 and looking forward to more good years. My years at Bakersfield Junior College were the best until Pearl Harbor. However, despite all that my family went through after the war, we have come full circle, and we are now a very proud Kinoshita family. Perhaps you saw the article about my brother, George Kinoshita, in the Veterans Day Edition of the Bakersfield Californian.



George made the US Army life his career, serving in counter intelligence, and in the Investigation Division for almost 30 years. He retired in Hawaii and then went to work for the State Consumer Affairs Division. What an honor, when he was admitted posthumously to the US Army Investigation Division Hall of Fame in 2008. George passed away of a massive heart attack in 1997.

In June 2015, my brother Robert and I went to Hawaii to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony dedicating the newly constructed US Army investigation Division building on the Schofield Barracks Site on the Island of Oahu. The building was to be named Kinoshita Hall in honor of George. There is a huge plaque with the words KINOSHITA HALL, his picture, and his accomplishments mounted at the entrance of the new building.

I thought where else but in America, could a Japanese American (Nisei), be subjected to all the hatred and prejudice that he suffered and then be honored in such a way. George was always a loyal American and never gave up on his country and proved his loyalty without a doubt. He always wanted to be at the top of his class in school and made it even in his career.

I am a proud sister, but feel that the community of Bakersfield was a wonderful place to grow up in and George had wonderful friends growing up. Although George did not attend Bakersfield College, because of the war he attended college in Hawaii, you will find many Kinoshita names on the roster of graduates of Bakersfield Junior College (which is now called Bakersfield College). ☺

Mary Kinoshita Higashi



WHO IS OUR MYSTERY MAN?

When several areas on campus were cleaned out, the Archives happily fell heir to important and interesting documents. One mystery is this very heavy, metal bust. It may have been from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, but we do not know that for sure. Can anyone tell us about him? Who he is, why he is important, and where on campus he has been living. Thanks for any clues.

Hey Jerry,

It's always a pleasure to receive the BC Archives Newsletter, and I look forward to receiving it for the next thirty years or so (Granny checked out at age 102, so I expect to be here for a few more years).

The lead story in the [Spring 2015] issue, "LeMoyné College V. BC" was particularly interesting. Lardy, Lardy, what questions that article conjured up, given that the article covered an intercollegiate debate in which the topic was, "Congress should have the power to override Supreme Court decisions." Which debate team was declared the winner? [Ed: it was a non-judged, demonstration debate.]

Of course, the debate was only a college exercise that had no real effect on how our country operates. While the "supremacy" of the court is not written into the constitution – it was "established" in the Marbury vs. Madison decision. Unfortunately or not, it stuck! If in reality, congress indeed had the authority to override – how might our history have been changed – or distorted – for the gooder or the badder?

The Slide Rule article conjured up my introduction to that marvelous tool – which was indispensable in Chem Class. (Strangely, a coupla classmates couldn't handle that marvelous "New Technology," and, instead, dogged on with pencil and paper.)

Of particular interest was Dick Jones' contribution. In my final year at BC when I decided to combine my army and Mr. Flint's electronics classes, with a class in journalism in order to prepare for a career in technical writing, Mr. Jones' instruction was a major help in launching a very satisfying Silicon Valley tech writing career in Palo Alto, where, arguably, much of today's technology was birthed.

The on-&-off nature of my experience of Bakersfield College (Going to war, etc., etc.) left me with a disconnected feeling for BC. Now, the Archives Newsletter is slowly bringing the pieces together.

Please continue sending hard copies of The BC Archives – but – I'm willing to scope out ALL the back issues of the archives in digital form, regardless of how far back they go. (Is there a particular file name to call up in order to call up the Archive Backlog files?) [Ed: go to the Archives website: www2.bakersfieldcollege.edu/bcarchive. The Newsletter link appears on the right hand side of the menu.]

Regards to all,
Ruben Contreras '61, Palo Alto

Dear Jerry,

The article "When Bowling Was a Contact Sport" in the recent Archives Newsletter (Vol 14, Issue 2) had a picture of a golf class at BC in the early 1950's. It reminded me vividly of my first BC gym class, golf, in September 1958. I have to confess that I already knew how to play golf and was looking for a not-too-strenuous, easy A, gym class -- and I loved playing golf. On that first day of class, I was practicing my swing with a golf club, a number seven iron. As I pulled the club on the back-swing, I heard a sickening thud. I turned around and saw that I had smacked some guy, an unknown fellow-classmate, in the jaw with my club. I felt horrible. That evening when I told my father (also a lover of golf) that I had hit some guy in the face with my club, my father said, "Don't have anything to do with anyone who is so stupid as to stand behind someone swinging a golf club." That 'stupid someone' and I have been married for over 55 years now -- it was Dick. Dick claims that he was trying to get a look at my legs and the next thing he saw was stars and knew it was love. I claim it was just a concussion. But anyway, a week after we both graduated from BC, June 1960, we were married -- and we owe it all to taking a golf class at BC.

Warm regards,
Sharon O'Brien aka Mrs. Richard Miles (Dick is a retired U.S. Ambassador)

People We Will Miss

FRANS WILLIAMS COLLEY retired in 2000 after 21 ½ years of service. She last served as the Executive Secretary in the Office of Instruction.

JERRY GAMBILL trained many students and firefighters at BC as a Fire Tech Instructor, having received a California Master Instructor Certificate during his 23 years with the fire department.

JOAN COREASE GRAINGER was the secretary for Bakersfield High School and Bakersfield College Math and Science Departments back in the days when the junior college was on the high school campus and the departments overlapped with some faculty shared.

LOUIS GAMINO, an alumnus of Bakersfield College, taught Small Engine Motorcycle Repair at BC while working for the Kern High School District for 37 years.

MARJORIE LINDSEY was not on the staff at Bakersfield College so would not normally appear here. Marge was however the loving, generous benefactress for the Archives for ten years and is continuing on through her estate. The Lindsey Grove, benches, and plaque in front of the Library were dedicated by the Archives to Marge and her husband James "Bud" Lindsey in 2009, recognizing their generosity to the Archives and to Bakersfield College.

PETER McKAY spent his entire teaching career at Bakersfield College teaching History, Economics, and Computer Science. An adventuresome person, he climbed and skied mountains, built his own home in Mammoth Lakes, sailed round trip to Tahiti, and retired to live on his sailboat at Monterey.

HOWARD QUILLING was a successful, prolific, internationally acclaimed classical composer with over 250 compositions to his credit. He taught theory in the BC Music Department for nine years. Howard then earned an MA in teaching reading and happily joined the Learning Center for his last sixteen years.

WES SANDERSON (James Wesley) was the Clinical Psychologist at Bakersfield College for many years, while also maintaining a private practice. A member of Kiwanis and Sierra Club, he enjoyed backpacking, mountaineering, and travel.

ALICE SEEGER was the coordinator of veterans attending BC on the GI Bill near the end of the VA on campus era. She was at BC 20 years.

DEAN SEMPLE was an esteemed choral conductor in the region and state. His Porterville College and Bakersfield College choirs performed nationally. The American Choral Directors Association honored him for his lifetime achievements.

WILLIAM WALKER reached 100 before he passed away in November. An accomplished photojournalist, author, and traveler, Bill worked for the Los Angeles Herald-Express before teaching journalism and photography for twelve years at Bakersfield College, where he was also the advisor to the yearbooks.

CATHERINE WHITE worked for over twenty years as a Teaching Assistant in the Learning Center of Bakersfield College.

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

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.

HOURS FOR SPRING 2016: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday • 8:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Other hours available by appointment.

TRADITIONS TRADITIONS!

The Student Government Association is trying to find all the traditions of the past (and present) at Bakersfield College. The best primary resource is a person who has experienced that tradition, so your memories are what will help us the most.

Please send us your description of any B.C. traditions you remember--- in the classroom, outside the classroom, on campus, off campus, in a club, on a team, associated with specific events or specific instructors, administrators, or staff members.

Webster says a tradition is "a handing down of statements, beliefs, legends, customs, etc, from generation to generation, especially by word of mouth or by practice." Remember that at BC a "generation" may be only two years.

My grandson declared it a "tradition" after the first time we stopped for ice cream after shopping. Sometimes the tradition is even in the intent!

Let us hear from you, Jerry Ludeke



HAMMING IT UP is student activities director Phil Feldman (left), winner of Phi-Rho Pi's "Ugliest man on Campus" competition. He didn't get to keep the pig.



1981 *Renegade Rip* photo (left), 2016 Archives Photo (right)

When PIGS FLY

By Phil Feldman

The odds I'd kiss a pig? When pigs fly. But my 15 minutes of BC fame, when dormies and student body officers rallied students to vote for me as the person they'd most like to see kiss a pig, flew onto my monitor two weeks ago--from 35 years ago! Kiss a pig again?

Nearly 44 years ago, recently returned to Bakersfield, degree completed, living with my parents, and my dad accepting a company transfer, I needed a home to continue working my local jobs. The odds BC would have dorms? Not good. The odds my Foothill High Vice Principal, then working at BC, would share about an open Resident Advisor position in the BC men's dorm? Good. Thus began my BC career (1972-73).

The odds my first BC boss would visit me (a Rotary International Fellow) the following year in Innsbruck, Austria, to recruit me to replace him as Head Resident of the men's dorm beginning in 1974?

And the odds I'd still be spending time with my Foothill mentor and friend, Vonnie, over Thanksgiving 2015?

How many folks have legitimately claimed 1801 Panorama Drive as their permanent residence address? Not many—just the few

staffers who lived in and supervised the BC dorms, now nonexistent, as I did spanning 9 years in the men's dorm, Prator Hall, a mirror image of Levinson Hall, the former women's dorm; Prator was later demolished to build BC's current library building.

While moving through Student Services positions coordinating/directing campus housing and student activities for 10 years, what were the odds I'd be able to teach a leadership class for student body presidents and other officers I still see around town these days and also be hired to teach math part time alongside my former high school teachers who had moved to BC's math department?

After those Student Services years, the odds of starting my full-time faculty years as Delano Center Director in 1984, and two years later taking on a main campus Learning Center special project?

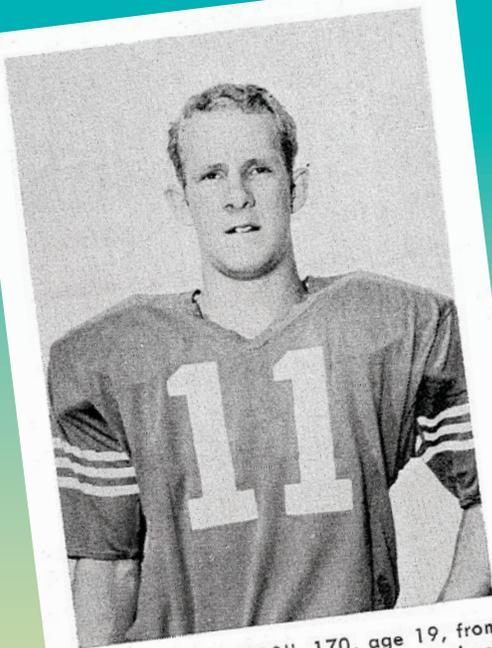
Following Learning Center Coordinator/Director and Academic Development Department Chair positions, the odds I'd still be a Learning Center Professor in 2016?

The odds a dormie from 40 years ago would appear in my office unexpectedly two weeks ago?

And the odds 16 years after high school graduation I'd run into on the BC campus a classmate who had also never married, marry 3 years later, and anticipate celebrating this spring our 30th anniversary and also the BC graduation of the second of our two children (daughter, music, 2012, and son, digital arts, 2016)? Did I find a home at BC? You bet!

Before responding with "when pigs fly," beware what's deemed impossible!





SMITH, CARL—5'10", 170, age 19, from Wasco High. Was starting quarterback last year until injured in East LA game. Was all-everything in high school. Was a member of Renegade basketball and baseball teams. Wants to be a coach.

1967 Football Program photo



The four horsemen and a clydesdale

Walt Johnson, Duane Damron (The Clydesdale), Gerry Collis, Carl Bowser, Harvel Pollard

CARL SMITH:

Former Renegade and current Seattle Seahawks quarterbacks coach

*Condensed from an article by Stephen Lynch, published in the July 2014 edition of **Bakersfield Life Magazine**, which can be found at www.bakersfieldlife.com.*

Carl Smith has great memories of playing football with his neighborhood friends as a youngster growing up in Wasco. Those were the good old days for the 66-year-old former Wasco High, Bakersfield College and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo standout.

Not that things haven't gone well for Smith lately. Earlier this year (2014), Smith reached the pinnacle of pro football success, winning a Super Bowl as the quarterbacks coach for the Seattle Seahawks.

Smith, whose parents were both teachers, was a three-sport athlete ---football, baseball and basketball --- in high

school and at BC. But he began his foray into sports well before that. "My neighbors, Dick Permenter and Ned Permenter, they were my earliest influences," Smith said. "We played sports every day from the time I was 5 years old."

Smith quarterbacked BC to an undefeated regular season and spot in the state playoffs in 1967. During his time with the Renegades, Smith began thinking about his long term future in football, inspired by Gerry Collis and his staff, including Harvel Pollard, Carl Bowser, Walt Johnson, and Duane Damron.

"Just watching those guys interact with us; that's when I decided I wanted to coach," Smith said. "What I remember the most about those guys was how happy they were to coach and how committed they were. And how invested they were in all of us."

Smith has held several different assistant coaching positions during his long, successful career. "I've always just tried to do the best job at whatever job I've got at the time," Smith said.

Busy with his coaching career and family obligations, Smith hasn't been back to his hometown in several years. "My wife is from Louisiana, and so when we get off in the summer, we usually head back to there," Smith said. "She gets her time back with her family. I don't get back (to Kern County) much."

Regardless of where he spends his time these days, Smith will always have a special place in his heart for Wasco. "My whole life was there," Smith said. "It was all very positive. It's a terrific place to grow up." ☺

THE QUEENS OF BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

Story by Jerry Ludeke

Homecoming is usually associated with football, but at Bakersfield College the Football Queen has not always been the Homecoming Queen.

This came to light in 2013 when an alert Marty Lakin sent an email: "The first BC Homecoming Queen is still alive and lives in Bakersfield. She was recently featured as the oldest present Betty Blade 1946 (Homecoming Queen) for EBHS's (East Bakersfield High School) 75th Anniversary. Her name is Thelmagene Hopper. She goes by T.G. Maiden name was Rapp."

A search of the *Renegade Rips* and *Raconteur* yearbooks and information from Kitty Hays, East High Activities Director, uncovered the following information.

An article on November 1, 1946 stated, "Reviving an old JC tradition since historic December 7, 1941, BJC's male population will elect a football queen who will be crowned at the AMS dance, after the Santa Monica-BJC game, Nov. 8." At that dance, Thelmagene Rapp, a freshman from East Bakersfield High was crowned Bakersfield Junior College's Football Queen.

One problem: How could she be homecoming queen at both a high school and junior college in the same year? Named Betty Blade at the East High homecoming in the fall of 1945, T.G. was probably considered the Betty Blade for the 1946 class that graduated in the spring. Then in the fall of 1946, she enrolled at BJC and was elected Football Queen there. This was the first post-war season of football; there had been no team during the war.

A second question arises from that November 1946 *Rip* article. It refers to an "old JC tradition" of electing a football queen until the tradition was interrupted by Pearl Harbor. A search of *Rips* and *Raconteurs* from the ten years before 1941, unearthed no mention of any football queens. We would welcome information from any reader who knows otherwise. Barring further information, it would seem appropriate to recognize Thelmagene Rapp as BJC's FIRST Football Queen. The football queen tradition continued through 1956.

What about Homecoming Queen? It is important to remember that, in 1946, the BJC was still located on the Kern County Union High School campus (now Bakersfield High School). Any homecomings were part of the high school activities.

Not until the Bakersfield College (no longer BJC) moved onto its own campus did the question of college homecoming activities emerge. The Renegades played their first football games in Memorial Stadium in the fall of 1955. The rest of the college made its move to the hill in April of 1956. The first graduating class at the Panorama location was the class of 1956. So, in the football season of 1957, the first Homecoming was held. Sharon Gadberry was elected the first Homecoming Queen. In the game program, Sharon is referred to as both the Homecoming Queen and the Football Queen. After that, it seems that the Football Queen tradition disappears and the Homecoming Queen flourishes. Thelmagene and Sharon both represent firsts at Bakersfield College. ☺





Welcome to

BAKER

Story by Leslie Wilbur

Bakersfield, California?

You must be kidding. Why would anyone move to Bakersfield? Those were typical reactions from other UC Berkeley teachers-to-be when I announced my next destination. Of course I recognized that such comments and questions were really a disguised statement: "Nothing could persuade me to move to Bakersfield." Nevertheless my wife, my son, and I were leaving Berkeley in the summer of 1950 headed for Bakersfield College, where my first teaching job was awaiting me.

Bakersfield, three hundred miles south of the Bay Area on Highway 99, was often described as very hot and dry in the summer and very cold and damp in the winter. Its economy was heavily dependent on cotton and sugar beet farms and especially on its oil fields. Many Northern Californians dismissed it as a cultural wasteland. Some of those prejudices may have been justified, but for me they were aside from the main point: For me Bakersfield was the location of the only junior college that had offered what I wanted.

I began to prepare for my role as a college instructor. As a new member of the department, I was scheduled to teach basic writing classes for entering freshmen. I began to scramble to assemble information from other faculty who had been teaching those classes. I learned that their methods varied, but that they worked toward the common goal of increasing students' "writing skills." I was given a large amount of freedom in my classes to devise my own best methods to work toward that goal. My first year as a college instructor was essentially an on-the-job training program.

I took advantage of my summers off to work in the oilfields, which gave me more money. Some local employers

would hire teachers for a limited time on a temporary basis, and the wages were substantially more persuasive than white collar compensation. The oilfields gave me more than money; I was put in daily contact with men who earned a living through manual labor. When asked what I taught at the college my answer was always "communications".

My most perilous part-time job was on weekends during the regular school year. On Friday and Saturday nights I worked for Richfield Oil as a relief truck driver, filling in for the five nights a week driver. From midnight until seven in the morning I would drive from lease to lease in order to pick up and deliver mail, reports, and parts, new or repaired. The total distance was around 170 miles, ranging from Taft to The Grapevine on Highway 99.

It soon became painfully clear to me that the knowledge of English and American literature I had amassed in my master's program at Berkeley was irrelevant to my teaching responsibilities. Having written numerous papers of various sorts during those two years at UC, I now had to do my best to transfer my writing skills to my students. I was an "English" teacher teaching "English."

However I found "English" to be an ambiguous word. And for many students it had painful connotations as well. The word "math" also had painful connotations for some students, including me. Both words were often associated with painful rather than pleasant experiences in school. Consequently I preferred to use "communication skills" instead whenever possible and appropriate. I began to question the relevance to my students' future needs of the contents and goals of what I was teaching. However it would

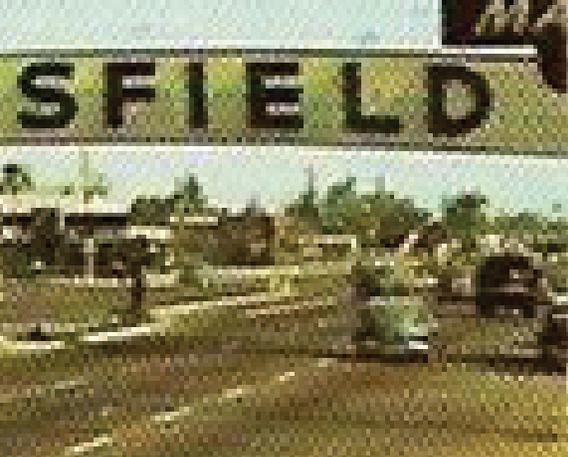
be several years before my doubts would lead to my inviting a colleague to join me in writing my first textbook.

In 1950 when I began teaching at Bakersfield College, my wife and I decided that we would only be there one year, but after five years we were still at Bakersfield College. Not only were we still there, we were enjoying our professional lives and our social lives as well. Nevertheless, we both felt ready for a change, and the college itself underwent major changes.

After sharing its site with Kern County Union High School for many years, Bakersfield College finally moved in 1956 to its own campus on the river bluffs. The adjacent property became a residential development. The developer offered faculty members the chance to purchase lots or houses that would be ideally convenient at prices that were scaled according to campus proximity. It was an opportunity we couldn't resist.

The new campus provided another first for me. Instead of at the old campus a desk among desks in a large room at the top of the high school study hall, I shared an office with only one other English teacher. Our enhanced academic setting turned out to attract textbook salesmen, who were eager to sell us textbooks for our classes. However, none of them offered a textbook that was suitable for the two semester course in language skills that I had designed for non-transfer students. One suggested that I should write such a textbook and invited me to prepare a proposal that he could submit to his publisher.

I described my proposed book to a colleague, Lowell Dabbs, and invited him to join me in the project. We had worked well together before, so we both

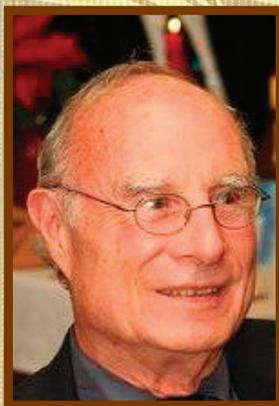


felt comfortable committing ourselves to sharing the tasks we would face. We submitted our proposal; it was accepted, and we contracted to produce a draft of our first textbook, *Improving College English Skills*, which turned out to be much more demanding and took far more time than we imagined. Yet it received enough adoptions to merit a second edition. Later, after I had moved on from Bakersfield College, we invited Don Stansbury to join us and to provide the talent and assistance we needed for the revision.

At that time Dr. Ralph Prator, began a program that demanded my attention. He began to work his way methodically through a series of individual, get-better-acquainted meetings with faculty. When my turn came, I sat down in his office, and we began to chat. One question caught me off guard: “Where do you plan to get your doctorate?”

I had reached the decision that my field would not be English, having discovered that I preferred my activities as a college administrator. My doctoral degree studies would have to be in education. I learned that both UCLA and USC had strong, appealing graduate programs in their schools of education. A decisive difference for me was that USC arranged their classes to be convenient for employed teachers and administrators.

During our first few years we had learned more about Bakersfield. It had earned its reputation as a rough, tough town in the booming years of oil discovery. However in subsequent years since that period it had changed and had become more sophisticated. Bakersfield College has been and continues to be a major change agent in that direction. ☺



Jack Hernandez, Director of the Levan Center for the Humanities

Minding Our Mindfulness

By **Dr. Jack**

We love fads. We are raised to chase fads, snag fads, and dump them for the next fad. Our economy is consumer driven so the more fads we consume the better off we are. There are fashion fads, thus to be uber-trendy we follow the latest color, fabric, and cut, drive the coolest, Siri-voiced car. There are music fads, such that folks who don't know rap from ragtime are, well, behind the fad. There are diet fads, which whisper “better health,” like low carb, Mediterranean, and Paleo, neo-Paleo, and beyond the Paleo.

We believe, however, that some areas of life like love, friendship, and spirituality are beyond the faddish superficial and ephemeral. But, woe unto us, that is not the case. Meditation and now mindfulness have joined the walk of fads.

Mindfulness is supposed to lead to greater awareness and spiritual awakening, a detachment from daily noise, to less ego and care for others. Yet it's now in the air pitched as the latest, dare I say it, fad. More, it has been connected to another fad, technology's app fad.

Yes, now with mindful-meditation apps like Headspace, Buddhify, Omvana, Smiling Mind, and Dharma Seed those too busy to find a quiet time and place (so retro!) can, with their earbuds, listen for a few minutes while they rush about their daily business. Imagine BC students, earbuds on and staring at their phones, being mindful in lectures, walking across campus, and at Renegade football games. Go mindful Gades!

As one mindful app enthusiast says, these apps “give people an edge, not only in their personal lives, but in the hypercompetitive workplaces, too.” Ah, mindfulness as winning, getting ahead. Another claims that a mindful app is like “a Nike+fitness tracker for meditation.” Wow, now with a mindful Fitbit we can know when we've been mindful for 10 minutes a day! Only a minute to go!

Okay, call me a dated, techie Luddite, but there is something not right about a spiritual practice marketed like deodorant or wrinkle cream—yes, marketed, sold like another other fashionable product in our consumer society. “Freshen up with daily Zen! Only \$\$\$ per month for this mindfulness app!”

This past fall, the Levan Center for the Humanities book discussion group, for BC staff and retirees, read Michael Sandel's book, *What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets*. As we talked about the book, it seemed clear to us that there are some things that money can't and shouldn't buy. Now, it seems, money can buy anything, including spirituality.

Yet, I must confess that I can't wait for the charisma app! ☺



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