Trivia Answers

1. John Boydstun was the first president of the BC Alumni Association when it formed in December 1945.

2. Grace Bird, then Dean of Bakersfield Junior College, made the suggestion to David Fanucchi and Virginia Burriss Mosconi who approached her in the fall of 1945 for help in contacting old BJC friends after World War II. Miss Bird said there was only one Junior College Alumni Association in the United States at that time. Doyle Miller, attorney and later a judge, wrote the Bylaws.

3. The Renegades were referred to as the Rambling Renegades, J.C.’s and Jaysee, the fighting Maroon and White, and the Maroons.

4. The 1937-1938 Rally Committee seems to be the first to push the Knight. The Knight appeared on the cover of the 1938 Raconteur, the Rally Committee distributed Renegade Knight emblem stickers, and the student handbook speaks thus of the Renegade emblem: Along with our colors goes our emblem — a Renegade Knight with a black, crestless shield. During the Crusades of the Middle Ages, the legendary Black Knight typified courage and defiance. He stood thus, alone and feared by all. So we have taken him as our emblem and made the Renegade of B.J.C. a Renegade Knight — whose shield without crest or device indicates our servitude to no man. Independent and rugged, the Renegades of the stage and the gridiron stand alone and defiant. Rally round Renegades all — loyal and true to our colors maroon and white!

5. While the northern wing of the Junior College Building withstood the earthquake, the southern wing underwent extensive repair work. The offices were moved to the former office building of the Hayward Lumber Company at 14th and H Streets.

John J. Collins, An Incomparable Individual and Former BC President

By Bob Covey

John J. Collins was born on September 26, 1917 in Braman, Oklahoma. He attended the public schools in Coalinga, California and graduated from high school in 1935. He loved sports and was a good track athlete, but he stood only 5’5” tall at graduation. He attended Coalinga Junior College and continued growing and training for track and field. He grew to 5’11” tall and won the high jump and pole vault events at the 1937 Central Valley Conference Championships hosted by the Renegades at Griffith Field. He was the first all-league athlete in track to later become a teacher/coach at BC.

Collins then entered the University of California at Berkeley and went out for the Bear’s track team. After one year, he dropped track and turned his attention to academics. He graduated from Cal in December, 1939, and completed his General Secondary Teaching Credential a year later. He took his first job in that spring semester of 1941 at Lodi High School. He taught history and was the head coach of varsity track and “lightweight” football.

His draft board was closing in so he volunteered for the Army just before the start of World War II. He trained at Fort Benning, Georgia, in Officers Training School. As the war began, he was made a company commander of an infantry unit. John and Patricia Ann Wright were married on July 2, 1943, and he soon found himself heading for the Pacific theatre.

In 1944 John’s unit was involved in the battle of Makin Island but saw little action. The unit was sent to Saipan and fought in a month-long battle that cost 3,400 American lives and 27,000 Japanese. His next action came on April 1, 1945, at Okinawa. The soldiers called that day “April Fools Day” as the Japanese defenders permitted the Americans to reach the beaches before opening fire on them and their naval support. It was the bloodiest battle of the Pacific and lasted three months with 80,000 American casualties including 12,500 killed. The Japanese lost 60,000 killed. Collins came through without a scratch. Then on August 6 and 9, 1945 American planes dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki killing nearly 200,000 civilians. Within days the Japanese surrendered. (See JOHN COLLINS, page 2)
JOHN COLLINS continued

Back in California, Collins found the pay better with the Veterans Administration than with teaching, so he worked one year for the V.A. Then in 1947 he accepted a job at Bakersfield High School in Bakersfield. His assignment was social science, Veterans Counselor, and assistant track coach for the Renegades. Later, after encouragement from BC’s President Ralph Prator, John accepted a Ford Foundation Grant to attend Harvard in Sociology for the 1951-1952 school year. John and Pat had started their family with the births of John Marshall on October 17, 1946 and Margaret Ann on December 1, 1949. Charles Frederick was delivered December 14, 1952.

As the new BC campus on the bluffs was being completed, President Prator offered John a full-time position with BC. So, starting in the fall of 1955, he taught sociology, started the school’s first cross country program, and in the spring of 1956 he became BC’s fourth head track coach. BC remained on the BHS campus until April, 1956, so John’s track team was the first to use Memorial Stadium’s red, crushed brick track made from the courthouse knocked down in the 1952 earthquake.

John Collins showed remarkable recruiting, coaching, and motivational skills with his teams. From his four cross country teams came three Metropolitan Conference titles, and the team was named “National JC Cross Country Champions,” the first Renegade team to be so honored. From his four track teams came two league titles and the 1958 Southern Cal title in John’s final season of coaching.

In 1958, President Prator resigned and Dr. Edward Simonsen became his successor, with John Collins moving up to Director of Student Activities. In 1961, Collins was named BC’s Dean of Students and started working on a doctorate in administration. For four years he drove to UCLA Saturdays and two evenings a week, completing the degree in 1965.

In the summer of 1966 he was hired as the first president of Moorpark College, where he remained until he returned to BC in 1972 as President. Known for his work habits, preparation, charm, and willingness to make hard decisions quickly, he was a popular President for eleven years, retiring in 1983.

Retire? As he turns ninety this September, he can still be found working most mornings at his office. He feels his great energy today likely comes from his jogging or walking two miles each day for the past forty years. Regardless, he’s been a BC icon and inspiration as a counselor, teacher, coach, and administrator for over six decades. —

Remembering The Weekly Blatt at BC, 1960-62

By Warren Coats, Ph.D.

For two years, starting with the Nixon-JFK debates in 1960, some friends and I envlivened campus journalism, and hopefully political discussion, at Bakersfield College with The Weekly Blatt, an underground conservative newspaper. My hardcore co-conspirators were William (Bill) Hulsey, Mike Burnaugh (the only gifted writer among us), and Chris Bailess. Several other students lent a helping hand. We were “right wing” a la Barry Goldwater in his “Conscience of a Conservative”—pro small, limited government and maximum individual freedom, and very anti-communist.

In 1960, the dominant intellectual political sentiment favored large government to solve society’s problems. Having just returned from a year as an exchange student in a village on the East West German border, I had experienced the Iron Curtain and the effects of Communism first hand. So I vowed to fight back.

Bill, Mike, Chris and I, outraged that the Renegade Rip declared Kennedy the winner of the first Nixon-Kennedy debate, expressed our conservative views in a letter to the editor. The RIP chose not to publish it, so we launched our underground

BC PEOPLE WE WILL MISS

Milzy Bennett: Employed as a classified staff member in 1974 and retired in 1983. Following retirement, she continued to work part-time until 1989. She is remembered by many as being friendly, outgoing and dedicated to her areas of interest—her family, friends, BC, and the field of education.

Nadine Boynton: A lifelong supporter of BC starting with graduation from Kern County Community College in the 1930s and continuing through the 1990s as a volunteer server at the BC Barbecues. Nadine was the first woman president of the Bakersfield College Alumni Association and a 1987 inductee to the BC Hall of Fame—a very special friend to BC!

Fred Coon: Having been a designer for Ford Motor Company in Detroit, Fred came to BC in 1965 as an Industrial Drawing Professor. Because of his design background in a highly competitive field, he expected excellence from his students, and many of these students have gone on to become successful members of the industrial and architectural community. Fred retired from BC in 1994.

Dean Gay: An outstanding member of Bakersfield’s Business Community and an avid and generous supporter of Bakersfield College. (Please see other articles in this newsletter.)

Barbara Hoyt: After serving in the Army, Barbara joined the BC faculty in 1956 as a member of the Home Economics Department. She was a pioneer in the field of Child Development at BC and as a Department Chair, was revered by all members of her staff. She retired in 1976.

Coral Jim E. Mosher: As a BC student, he played football and lettered in wrestling. He was a dedicated countryman who served in both the Navy and the Marines earning the highest awards possible including the Purple Heart and Gold Star. Though he lost his life in Vietnam in 1967, his remains were only recently identified.

Milton Sanden: Closed his 17-year career in education as the Assistant Chancellor of the Kern Community College District. Dr. Sanden was a visionary and a planner who will be remembered for his integrity, sharp mind and great sense of humor as well as his love for his family and friends.

Barbara Thomas: Began her BC career in 1966 in the Home Economics Department and later became an outstanding Counselor with a genuine desire to guide students toward meeting their goals. She was an interested and involved faculty member who demonstrated her love for BC and her fellow employees in so many ways in spite of her own ongoing battle with MS. She retired in 1999.

Publications We Need

Every time we publish a list of publications and papers we know we need, a few more come in to us. Here is the updated list. We can often use a second copy of an item and there are many items, reports, and brochures not listed here, so please let us check before you throw out any BC item. REMEMBER THE ARCHIVES!

The Blatt: any copies of this 1960s “underground” newspaper.


Oracles: 1913 thru 1922, (one more copy needed 1923 thru 1927, 1930)


BC Class Schedules: any before 1996.


Campus Arts Magazine: 1965, 1979, (one more copy 1957 thru 1980)

1. When was the Bakersfield College Alumni Association formed and who was its first president?
2. Who provided the initial impetus to form an Alumni Association?
3. Before the Renegades were dubbed Knights, what other names were used to describe them?
4. When is the term Knights first applied to the Renegades?
5. The 1952 earthquake shook the college administration out of its housing on the Bakersfield High School Campus. Where were the offices moved until repairs could be made?

Volunteer Opportunities

We have many volunteer opportunities. These are just a few. Call us at (661)395-4949 or send us an email at barchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu. We will arrange for a time that is convenient for you and see that you get a parking permit.

- Identify photos. We have nine 4-inch thick binders with photos that need identification. They are in sheets which are easy to handle and are partly organized by interest area.
- Conduct Oral interviews. We have a list of people we would like interviewed. It is great fun to talk over old BC days as you are recording them. (You can tape your own BC memories while you are at it.)
- Transcribe oral interviews. This is a humongous job that only a few people are trained to do. We really want to get these interviews into the printed word.
- Help organize and reorganize our files. Some of this is best done by those who have been around BC for many years and recognize names in print and faces in photos.
- Make lists. These are great fun to do if you like thumbing through old yearbooks and doing research. We want lists of outside speakers and performers on campus, alumni activities, faculty wives programs, active clubs through the years, BC history by events, Trustee members, etc. If you have a favorite topic, you can pursue that.

Trivia Questions

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(b)answers on page 12(b)
The Weekly Blatt
By John J. Collins, President Emeritus

The passage of over 45 years has dimmed my memory of what was going on at Bakersfield College in 1960-62. That was before the revolution that took place on college campuses in the mid-60’s following the Free Speech Movement on the Berkeley campus of the University of California. The Cold War had heated up, communists were looked upon by almost everybody as the major enemy, John Kennedy was in the White House, and liberal was not yet a dirty word. College campuses were in general liberal, but college administrations were still quite authoritarian. The fifties were history, and with Kennedy’s election there seemed to be a new spirit calling for full participation by the people, and perhaps particularly by students. A sort of awakening!

On the B.C. campus a cadre of conservative students, piqued by the Renegade Rip’s more liberal writings, decided to put out their own weekly newspaper which they called The Weekly Blatt. Without so much as a nod in the direction of the administration, this underground paper showed up on campus. My recollection is that the Blatt set out to get everyone’s attention by blatantly challenging the administration’s position that the publication of student newspapers had to be approved by what was then called The Board of Publications. This Board had student membership, but also faculty and administration representatives who probably dominated the Board. So—the Blatt did not even apply for approval for publication, hence the appellation of “underground newspaper”.

I can’t remember specifically the pieces that appeared in the Blatt, some written by students, and others excerpts from the writings of some well-known conservative historian or literary figure. I haven’t been able to locate even a single copy of a Blatt issue, so this is being written from memory 45 years later. Suffice it to say that no punches were pulled, everyone was “fair game”, and the Blatt sort of fed on controversy. The offerings became more and more accusatory of power with power, including college administrators, and finally even some of the more liberal faculty. When the Blatt started criticizing faculty, that sort of awakened the sleeping giant. Professors responded with letters to the Blatt and the Renegade Rip, the administration took heart from this, and became more-and-more repressive of this newspaper. I seemed to be the “point man” for the administration from my not so lofty perch as Assistant Dean of Students. One day, as the Blatt was distributed on campus, I had all of the copies confiscated, followed by an uproar of protests.

I can’t remember what finally led to the demise of the Blatt, but it probably folded when Warren Coats and Bill Hulsy graduated and went on to greener pastures. These two young men were the prime movers. Both of them were able and energetic as confirmed by their later successes academically and in the real world. They were Goldwater Republicans, anti-communists, not impressed with authority, and somewhat arrogant. They were doing what colleges all say they stand for, i.e., expressing their intellectual interests and positions, openly and freely. I may not have told them this when I had to rip, the administration took heart from this, and became more-and-more repressive of this newspaper. I seemed to be the “point man” for the administration from my not so lofty perch as Assistant Dean of Students. One day, as the Blatt was distributed on campus, I had all of the copies confiscated, followed by an uproar of protests.

Looking back, I recognize that the era of the Blatt taught all of us that academic freedom is also for students, whether administrators like it or not. Hopefully, it also taught the students involved that freedom of speech and press have limits, even in a society whose most sacred documents extol those rights.

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.

Our Hours for Fall 2007 are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Closed Wednesday and Friday
We will open for you at other hours by arrangement.

Contact us at (661) 395-4949 or bcaarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu

KBCC: Campus Radio Station Follow-Up
By Ronald Dethlefson

A key element in keeping KBCC-FM on the air (or cable) for 20 years was the George Day Fund. The Fund was the result of a local golf tournament and fund raiser dedicated to the memory of the late George Day, a popular Bakersfield broadcaster in the 1950s and 1960s. The money which was raised from advertising fees, green fees, and raffle tickets generated something like $20,000 in 20th century dollars during the years from 1976 through 1985 that I was associated with KBCC. KBCC-FM was its sole beneficiary.

The generosity of the George Day Fund, which was headed for quite awhile by local estate man Kenny Blanton, provided not only broadcasting scholarships, but also paid for equipping two broadcasting studios at KBCC-FM and purchasing other related broadcasting equipment which enriched the educational experience of our broadcasting students greatly. George Day would have been proud of what his friends did in his memory.

Note from the editor: Reader of the Spring ‘07 Newsletter, Mark Luttrell, a former student news director at KBCC in 1977-78 responded to the original article on KBCC in an email with many interesting details and memories about the station. His comments will be added as addenda to Ron Dethlefson’s original story that will appear on the Archives website.

Interesting Acquisitions
[Fifty-two counts of papers and memorabilia have been accessioned in 2007 as of August 31.]

Dr. John Collins, president emeritus of Bakersfield College, donated a monograph entitled “The Case for the Community College” by Dr. Charles C. Collins and Dr. John J. Collins. The attached note says, “My brother (since deceased) and I wrote this monograph in 1968. At that time he was Dean of Instruction at Grossmont College, and I was President of Moorpark College. It is a very idle task and caked, long before Prop 13 and collective bargaining.”

David Willard donated “The Whole Ten Yards,” written by Frank Gifford, a BC alum. [We like copies of any books written by an alumnus, faculty member or staff member]

Mellanie Wheeler-Hayes donated several boxes of papers which included the KCCD classified holiday schedules going back to 1977, KCCD Board Action reports from 1965 through 2007, and a BC Bomb Threat Procedures booklet from 1968.

Gil Bishop’s widow, Betty, donated a framed needlepoint, 11x14, in red and white. It says Bakersfield College Renegades and has a knight’s head. “Does anyone know the width or date of this needlepoint?”

Don Stansbury brought in printed copies of two plays written by faculty members: Henry Horenweg’s, Tweedle Cheeswits and Fred Rue Jacobs’, Every Woman is a Virgin Somewhere.

Congratulations

BC Archives Committee members traveled to Long Beach on May 19, 2007 to accept the Archives Appreciation Award for the BC Archives. Left: Chuck Wilson, Awards Chairman Society of California Archivists; Jerry Ludeke; Charlotte Cox: Larry Gates, President of Metal Edge, Inc. who sponsored the award. The story about the award appeared in the May 2007 Archives Newsletter.
BC Bowlers Anonymous  By Dr. Jack Hernandez

“Hi, I’m Jack and I’m a BC bowler.”

I’ve tried to kick the habit but can’t seem to escape the pull of the lanes every Thursday afternoon. There is something about the smell of sweaty bowling shoes mingled with fresh oil on the alleys that has enthralled my pleasure neurons. And joyful laughs and high fives with colleague BC bowlers when they break a hundred. And the weekly raffle to which I haplessly give a dollar, losing money but gaining altruism points.

A confession: I’m really not a bowler, at least not one with a nifty two-bowling-ball carrier on shiny wheels, precision-drilled thumb holes, and real aim with a special spare ball. Let’s just say, I bowl. Bowl with a different, scarred house ball each week, my cheap, faux-leather, made-in-China Kmart shoes, my faithful, long-suffering bowling partner, and a hope and a prayer. Did I say prayer?

You bet, and it’s indispensable if you’re a BC bowler. So I wrote a bowling prayer for my bowling friends. Here it is…

A BOWLER’S PRAYER

When I have a bad bowling day,
My balls like sheep all gone astray,
Let me not in anger smolder,
But look to the Bowler On My Shoulder.

When all I throw lands in the gutter,
And I’m tempted to curse and mutter,
Let me gird my soul to be bolder,
And look to the Bowler On My Shoulder.

When I’m behind in life’s tenth frame,
And seem to got no more game,
Let me onward march like a faithful soldier,
Yea, look to the Bowler On My Shoulder.

© Jack Hernandez
BC Bowling League
Poet Laureate

Dr. Ed Simonsen, On the Passing of Dean Gay:

I first met Dean Gay in 1938. He and his brother David were attending Bakersfield Junior College and playing football for the Renegades. They each had a part-time job as evening janitors at East Bakersfield High School, where I was in my first year of teaching. We became friends, and I was able to help Dean and David get scholarships to my alma mater, College of the Pacific.

They were outstanding football players at BJC, under Jack Frost, [and] they also excelled at [COP] under Amos Alonzo Stagg. Not only were they outstanding athletes, they also were strong students. Each earned a bachelor’s degree at Pacific. After World War II, Dean was involved in a variety of occupations, including being a partner in the Carlson Gay jewelry store. He was then recruited by John Boydston to enter real estate, and for over fifty years he was one of Bakersfield’s foremost realtors. He supported his two alma maters, [COP] and BJC very well but gave his most substantial support to his local alma mater, Bakersfield College.

Over the years I have had the good fortune to know and appreciate Dean’s mother and her family, the Williamsons’, as well as Dean’s father, Dean’s brother and sisters and the other members of their extended family. Dean will be missed by all who had the privilege to know him.

Dr. John Collins Comments on Dean Gay

Dean Gay was a great friend of Bakersfield College. He and his wife, Adah, both attended BJC back in the mid-30s, and they never forgot their roots. When the College was building its new Library in the late 1990’s, Dean and Adah made a substantial contribution by funding the Dean and Adah Gay Reading Room near the entrance to the Library. Dean served as a Director on the Foundation Board for many years, later succeeded by his son David, now President-elect of the Foundation. More recently Dean has contributed in a major way to the construction of a new facility for women’s softball. Although Adah Gay passed away a few years back as a result of a tragic automobile accident, Adah would be very proud to see that the BC women are going to have an attractive and useful facility for softball.

All through the years Dean and Adah were both supporters of Bakersfield College and participants in its activities. They not only supported the Alumni Association, they were officers in it, and there was not a single ballot issue that affected BC that they did not support. Long term residents of Bakersfield, they were both considered “heavy hitters” in the realm of community activities, and in support of the entire area of Kern County.

Dean and Adah were part of the Bakersfield College Family, and they will be sorely missed as friends, supporters, and alumni members of the College.
Terror Fleeny—oops—Terry Fleenor was the founder of BC Faculty & Friends Bowling League in its present form. I’m unaware of any earlier incarnation, probably because of the gritty, blue collar image of the sport. I probably began in the late 70s or early 80s. Terry recruited many of the early members from Fine Arts, English and Humanities, and Language Arts buildings. Among the bowlers were such luminaries as Mary Copelin, Alexa (Martinez) Butler, Terry Fleenor and his wife, Carol, also Peggy Buckley, David Willard, A.B. Silver, John Lyman, Carol Cunningham, Merriam Palitz, Bob Schiffman, Gene Wieber, Jim Gunn, Sally Hill, (maybe even David Rhea), Helen (and husband Cliff) Gordon, Al Nosi, Al Davis, Fred Jacobs, Cliff Garrett, and others.

We bowled at Freddie’s Top of the Hill on Mt. Vernon where the on-ramp to Highway 178 is today. We began promptly every Thursday at 4:00 p.m. with Terry as the dynamo. He recruited new members, paired up bowlers for two person teams, dished out encouragement to beginners, and introduced the custom of collecting more than the amount charged by the Bowling Alley for awards and prizes at season’s end. Originally the prizes were trophies but soon that changed to money. After each week’s bowling, most of the members retired to the bar for a drink or two, the bar being the venue for our earliest award ceremonies.

As we grew larger we began to invite spouses, so we had to look for places that could accommodate us for the banquet. These became one of the livelier social occasions of each semester. I remember the Pyrenees and Noriega’s, though I know there were others. Freddie’s was not automated bowling then, so we kept score ourselves on the score sheets provided. Terry provided tutoring for those who were novice bowlers, since adding up strikes and spares could be confusing for the inexperienced. Terry tallied them, calculated the averages and handicaps of every bowler, and kept track of the standings.

When Freddie’s closed, we moved to the new East Hills Lanes, which is no longer in existence, on Niles. When Terry became Chair of the English Department, he asked me to assume the role of Bowling Commissioner. Fortunately the new East Hills Lanes where we bowled were completely automated, which cut the record keeping chores by two-thirds. Over time new bowlers appeared with each season, as others dropped out. The task of recruiting new members became easier as our team grew and recruited bowlers from new disciplines.

The bowling begins around 4 PM so we can be finished before the “real” leagues come in at 6 PM. The teams consist of two players, and the cost has risen since 1999 when it was $71.00 each for 15 weeks to the present $120.00 for 13 weeks. Presently we have 32 bowlers with representatives from English, the Library, Academic Development, Counseling, Music, Adaptive P.E., Math, Philosophy, Business, Geology, Industrial Tech, and Speech Communication. Occasionally students have bowled with us, since everyone is welcome, whether competitive or not.

Dinner follows each bowling session, and for these we have been ably led by restaurant guru Richard Marquez and diva Gail Richardson for many years. Naturally, events stemming from our meals together have become fodder for humor and jokes. One such incident involved the most memorable appetizer BC Bowling has probably ever had when went to the sports bar, Goose Loonies. Steve and Karen Eso ordered flaming goat cheese to share with the group, and the smell made quite an impression on Richard, the ultimate food critic, who wrote in an email:

“IT IS with great sadness that I ask you all to take a moment and reflect on the passing of Goose Loonies. No more will we be able to watch Steve inhale that ghastly culinary delight. Flaming Goat Cheese. I don’t know whether to shed a tear or dance a jig.”

Later Kathy Freeman in her characteristically mischievous style ordered flaming goat cheese to be delivered to Richard at the Pyrenees banquet. Steven laughed and Richard almost cried. We have played other jokes on each other, and one involved a muscle-man calendar with John Liccardo’s head plastered on the body of the model. The next year the calendar was recycled with Jack Hernandez’s head on the same model. We also helped Jack figure out what he should do in retirement and had business cards made for him that read: Jack Hernandez, Boy Preacher, Gigolo, Poet. Everyone got another laugh when John Liccardo named his two-person team “Bow Movements.”

At the end of each semester we have banquets at various local restaurants and peoples’ homes, where awards and prizes are presented to the winners. What I absolutely love about BC Bowling is the camaraderie that develops inside and outside the bowling alley. We have an opportunity to know others in a relaxed, carefree environment. There has been no other event on or off campus quite like The BC Bowling League.

BC Bowling League Today  By Susan Pinza

After Anna Agenjo gave it up, Karen Tepfer and Steve Eso became the head czars/royals/whatever of the BC Bowling League. I replaced them in the spring of 2000, and Nancy Walters from Nursing helped me for a year. We have been bowling at Regency Lanes on California near Highway 99 since I have been at BC (1998). The bowling begins around 4 PM so we can be finished before the “real” leagues come in at 6 P.M. The teams consist of two players, and the cost has risen since 1999 when it was $71.00 each for 15 weeks to the present $120.00 for 13 weeks. Presently we have 32 bowlers with representatives from English, the Library, Academic Development, Counseling,
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After a few years East Hills Lanes had to close, so I negotiated a move to the Regency Lanes, where we were not only welcomed but admitted to a comfortable glimpse of the more serious bowling world. When I retired Anna Agenjo became Commissioner and then later others took on the role of Leader. But Susan Pinza would know about that.

BC Bowling League
By Clif Garret

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We bowled at Freddie’s Top of the Hill on Mt. Vernon where the on-ramp to Highway 178 is today. We began promptly every Thursday at 4:00 p.m. with Terry as the dynamo. He recruited new members, paired up bowlers for two person teams, dished out encouragement to beginners, and introduced the custom of collecting more than the amount charged by the Bowling Alley for awards and prizes at season’s end. Originally the prizes were trophies but soon that changed to money. After each week’s bowling, most of the members retired to the bar for a drink or two, the bar being the venue for our earliest award ceremonies.

As we grew larger we began to invite spouses, so we had to look for places that could accommodate us for the banquets. These became one of the livelier social occasions of each semester. I remember the Pyrenees and Noriga’s, though I know there were others. Freddie’s was not automated bowling then, so we kept score ourselves on the score sheets provided. Terry provided tutoring for those who were novice bowlers, since adding up strikes and spares could be confusing for the inexperienced, Terry tallied them, calculated the averages and handicaps of every bowler, and kept track of the standings.

When Freddie’s closed, we moved to the new East Hills Lanes, which is no longer in existence, on Niles. When Terry became Chair of the English Department, he asked me to assume the role of Bowling Commissioner. Fortunately the new East Hills Lanes where we bowled were completely automated, which cut the record keeping chores by two-thirds. Over time new bowlers appeared with each season, as others dropped out. The task of recruiting new members became easier as our reputation for good fun and clean exercise became known. Among the new members from this epoch were Anna Agenjo, Jack Hernandez, and others.

After a few years East Hills Lanes had to close, so I negotiated a move to the Regency Lanes, where we were not only welcomed but admitted to a comfortable glimpse of the more serious bowling world. When I retired Anna Agenjo became Commissioner and then later others took on the role of Leader. But Susan Pinza would know about that.

BC Bowling League Today
By Susan Pinza

After Anna Agenjo gave it up, Karen Topfer and Steve Eso became the head czars/royals/whatever of the BC Bowling League. I replaced them in the spring of 2000, and Nancy Walters from Nursing helped me for a year. We have been bowling at Regency Lanes on California near Highway 99 since I have been at BC (1998).

The bowling begins around 4 P.M. so we can be finished before the “real” leagues come in at 6 P.M. The teams consist of two players, and the cost has risen since 1999 when it was $71.00 each for 15 weeks to the present $120.00 for 13 weeks. Presently we have 32 bowlers with representatives from English, the Library, Academic Development, Counseling, Music, Adaptive P.E., Math, Philosophy, Business, Geology, Industrial Tech, and Speech Communication. Occasionally students have bowled with us, since everyone is welcome, whether competitive or not.

Dinner follows each bowling session, and for these we have been ably led by restaurant guru Richard Marquez and diva Gail Richardson for many years. Naturally, events stemming from our meals together have become fodder for humor and jokes. One such incident involved the most memorable appetizer BC Bowling has probably ever had when we went to the sports bar, Goose Loonies. Steve and Karen Eso ordered flaming goat cheese to share with the group, and the smell made quite an impression on Richard, the ultimate food critic, who wrote in an email:

“It is with great sadness that I ask you all to take a moment and reflect on the passing of Goose Loonies. No more will we be able to watch Steve inhale that Ghastly culinary delight. Flaming Goat Cheese. I don’t know whether to shed a tear or dance a jig.”

Later Kathy Freeman in her characteristically mischievous style ordered flaming goat cheese to be delivered to Richard at the Pyrenees banquet. Steve laughed and Richard almost cried. We have played other jokes on each other, and one involved a muscle-man calendar with John Liccardo’s head plastered on the body of the model. The next year the calendar was recycled with Jack Hernandez’s head on the same model. We also helped Jack figure out what he should do in retirement and had business cards made for him that read: Jack Hernandez, Boy Preacher, Gigolo, Poet. Everyone got another laugh when John Liccardo named his two-person team “Bowl Movements.”

At the end of each semester we have banquets at various local restaurants and peoples’ homes, where awards and prizes are presented to the winners. What I absolutely love about BC Bowling is the camaraderie that develops inside and outside the bowling alley. We have an opportunity to know others in a relaxed, carefree environment. There has been no other event on or off campus quite like The BC Bowling League.
BC Bowlers Anonymous  By Dr. Jack Hernandez

“Hi, I’m Jack and I’m a BC bowler.”

I’ve tried to kick the habit but can’t seem to escape the pull of the lanes every Thursday afternoon. There is something about the smell of sweaty bowling shoes mingled with fresh oil on the alleys that has enthralled my pleasure neurons. And joyful laughs and high fives with colleague BC bowlers when they break a hundred. And the weekly raffle to which I haplessly give a dollar, losing money but gaining altruism points.

A confession: I’m really not a bowler, at least not one with a nifty two-bowling-ball carrier on shiny wheels, precision-drilled thumb holes, and real aim with a special spare ball. Let’s just say, I bowl. Bowl with a different, scarred house ball each week, my cheap, faux-leather, made-in-China Kmart shoes, my faithful, long-suffering bowling partner, and a hope and a prayer. Did I say prayer?

You bet, and it’s indispensable if you’re a BC bowler. So I wrote a bowling prayer for my bowling friends. Here it is…

A BOWLER’S PRAYER

When I have a bad bowling day,
My balls like sheep all gone astray,
Let me not in anger smolder,
But look to the Bowler On My Shoulder.

When all I throw lands in the gutter,
And I’m tempted to curse and mutter,
Let me gird my soul to be bolder,
And look to the Bowler On My Shoulder.

When I’m behind in life’s tenth frame,
And seem to got no more game,
Let me onward march like a faithful soldier,
Yea, look to the Bowler On My Shoulder.

© Jack Hernandez
BC Bowling League
Poet Laureate

Dr. Ed Simonsen, On the Passing of Dean Gay:

I first met Dean Gay in 1938. He and his brother David were attending Bakersfield Junior College and playing football for the Renegades. They each had a part-time job as evening janitors at East Bakersfield High School, where I was in my first year of teaching. We became friends, and I was able to help Dean and David get scholarships to my alma mater, College of the Pacific.

They were outstanding football players at BJC, under Jack Frost, [and] they also excelled at [CP] under Amos Alonzo Stagg. Not only were they outstanding athletes, they were also strong students. Each earned a bachelor’s degree at Pacific. After World War II, Dean was involved in a variety of occupations, including being a partner in the Carlson Gay jewelry store. He was then recruited by John Boydstun to enter real estate, and for over fifty years he was one of Bakersfield’s foremost realtors. He supported his two alma maters, [CP] and [BJC] very well but gave his most substantial support to his local alma mater, Bakersfield College.

Over the years I have had the good fortune to know and appreciate Dean’s mother and her family, the Williams’ sons, as well as Dean’s father, Dean’s brother and sisters and the other members of their extended family.

Dean will be missed by all who had the privilege to know him.

Dr. John Collins Comments on Dean Gay

Dean Gay was a great friend of Bakersfield College. He and his wife, Adah, both attended BJC back in the mid-30s, and they never forgot their roots. When the College was building its new Library in the late 1990’s, Dean and Adah made a substantial contribution by funding the Dean and Adah Gay Reading Room near the entrance to the Library. Dean served as a Director on the Foundation Board for many years, later succeeded by his son David, now President-elect of the Foundation. More recently Dean has contributed in a major way to the construction of a new facility for women’s softball. Although Adah Gay passed away a few years back as a result of a tragic automobile accident, Adah would be very proud to see that the BC women are going to have an attractive and useful facility for softball.

All through the years Dean and Adah were both supporters of Bakersfield College and participants in its activities. They not only supported the Alumni Association, they were officers in it, and there was not a single ballot issue that affected BC that they did not support. Long term residents of Bakersfield, they were both considered “heavy hitters” in the realm of community activities, and in support of the entire area of Kern County.

Dean and Adah were part of the Bakersfield College Family, and they will be sorely missed as friends, supporters, and alumni members of the College.
The Weekly Blatt

By John J. Collins, President Emeritus

The passage of over 45 years has dimmed my memory of what was going on at Bakersfield College in 1960-62. That was before the revolution that took place on college campuses in the mid-60’s following the Free Speech Movement on the Berkeley campus of the University of California. The Cold War had heated up, communists were looked upon by almost everybody as the major enemy, John Kennedy was in the White House, and liberal was not yet a dirty word. College campuses were in general liberal, but college administrations were still quite authoritarian. The fifties were history, and with Kennedy’s election there seemed to be a new spirit calling for full participation by the people, and perhaps particularly by students. A sort of awakening!

On the B.C. campus a cadre of conservative students, piqued by the Renegade Rip’s more liberal writings, decided to put out their own weekly newspaper which they called The Weekly Blatt. Without so much as a nod in the direction of the administration, this underground paper showed up on campus. My recollection is that the Blatt set out to get everyone’s attention by blatantly challenging the administration’s position that the publication of student newspapers had to be approved by what was then called The Board of Publications. This Board had student membership, but also faculty and administration representatives who probably dominated the Board. So—the Blatt did not even apply for approval for publication, hence the appellation of “underground newspaper”.

I can’t remember specifically the pieces that appeared in the Blatt, some written by students, and others excerpts from the writings of some well-known conservative historian or literary figure. I haven’t been able to locate even a single copy of a Blatt issue, so this is being written from memory 45 years later. Suffice it to say that no punches were pulled, everyone was “fair game”, and the Blatt sort of fed on controversy. The offerings became more and more accusatory of people with power, including college administrators, and finally even some of the more liberal faculty. When the Blatt started criticizing faculty, that sort of awakened the sleeping giant. Professors responded with letters to the Blatt and the Renegade Rip, the administration took heart from this, and became more-and-more repressive of this newspaper. I seemed to be the “point man” for the administration from my not so lofty perch as Assistant Dean of Students. One day, as the Blatt was distributed on campus, I had all of the copies confiscated, followed by an uproar of protests.

I can’t remember what finally led to the demise of the Blatt, but it probably folded when Warren Coats and Bill Hulsy graduated and went on to greener pastures. These two young men were the prime movers. Both of them were able and energetic as confirmed by their later successes academically and in the real world. They were Goldwater Republicans, and perhaps particularly by students. A sort of awakening!

The generosity of the George Day Fund, which was headed for quite awhile by local real estate man Kenny Blanton, provided not only broadcasting scholarships, but also paid for equipping two broadcasting studios at KBCC-FM and purchasing other related broadcasting equipment which enriched the educational experience of our broadcasting students greatly. George Day would have been proud of what his friends did in his memory.

Note from the editor: Reader of the Spring ‘07 Newsletter, Mark Luttrell, a former student news director at KBCC in 1977-78 responded to the original article on KBCC in an email with many interesting details and memories about the station. His comments will be added as addenda to Ron Dethlefson’s original story that will appear on the Archives website.

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. Our Hours for Fall 2007 are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Closed Wednesday and Friday We will open for you at other hours by arrangement.
Contact us at (661) 395-4949 or bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu

KBCC: Campus Radio Station Follow-Up

By Ronald Dethlefson

A key element in keeping KBCC-FM on the air (or cable) for 20 years was the George Day Fund. The Fund was the result of a local golf tournament and fund raiser dedicated to the memory of the late George Day, a popular Bakersfield broadcaster in the 1950s and 1960s. The money which was raised from advertising fees, green fees, and raffle tickets generated something like $20,000 in 20th century dollars during the years from 1976 through 1985 that I was associated with KBCC. KBCC-FM was its sole beneficiary.

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Interesting Acquisitions

[Fifty two donations of papers and memorabilia have been accessioned in 2007 as of August 31.]

Dr. John Collins, president emeritus of Bakersfield College, donated a monograph entitled “The Case for the Community College” by Dr. Charles C. Collins and Dr. John J. Collins. The attached note says, “My brother, a once deceased, donated this monograph in 1968. At that time he was Dean of Instruction at Grossmont College and I was President of Moorpark College. It is a very dead side and dated, long before Prop 13 and collective bargaining.”

David Willard donated “The Whole Ten Yards,” written by Frank Gifford, a BC alumnus. [We like copies of any books written by an alumnus, faculty member, or staff member.]

Melanie Wheeler-Hayes donated several boxes of papers which included the KCOD archives, student station schedules going back to 1977, KCCD Board Action reports from 1965 through 2007, and a BC Bomb Threat Procedures booklet from 1998.

Gil Bishop’s widow, Bette, donated a framed needlepoint, “11x14, in red and white. It says Bakersfield College Renegades and has a knight’s head. Does anyone know the weight or date of this needlepoint?”

Don Stambaugh brought in printed copies of two plays written by faculty members: Henry Huneke’s, Teweh’s Ghosts and Free Rue Jacobis, Every Woman is a Virgin Somewhere.

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Congratulations

BC Archives Committee members traveled to Long Beach on May 19, 2007 to accept the Archives Appreciation Award for the BC Archives. Left: Chuck Wilson, Awards Chairman Society of California Archivists; Jerry Ludeke; Charlotte Cox: Larry Gates, President of Metal Edge, Inc. who sponsored the award. The story about the award appeared in the May 2007 Archives Newsletter.
Renegade Knight Needlepoint

GIL BISHOP NEEDLEPOINT BANNER: This Renegade Knight was created in needlepoint by someone who presented it to Gil Bishop. It has a narrow chrome frame with a black mat and is behind glass. The frame is approximately 11 x 14 inches. Gil’s widow Bottie gave it to the Archives. The Archives would like to know the background of this creation. Who stitched it? When was it made? Was there a special occasion on which it was presented to Gil? If you can solve the mystery, please let the Archives know.

Volunteer Opportunities

We have many volunteer opportunities. These are just a few. Call us at (661) 395-4949 or send us an email at barchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu. We will arrange for a time that is convenient for you and see that you get a parking permit.

• Identify photos. We have nine 4-inch thick binders with photos that need identification. They are in sheets which are easy to handle and are partly organized by interest area.

• Conduct Oral interviews. We have a list of people we would like interviewed. It is great fun to talk over old BC days as you are recording them. (You can tape your own BC memories while you are at it.)

• Transcribe oral interviews. This is a humongous job that only a few people are trained to do. We really want to get these interviews into the printed word.

• Help organize and reorganize our files. Some of this is best done by those who have been around BC for many years and recognize names in print and faces in photos.

• Make lists. These are great fun to do if you like thumbing through old yearbooks and doing research. We want lists of outside speakers and performers on campus, alumni activities, faculty wives programs, active clubs through the years, BC history by events, Trustee members, etc. If you have a favorite topic, you can pursue that.

Trivia Questions

1. When was the Bakersfield College Alumni Association formed and who was its first president?
2. Who provided the initial impetus to form an Alumni Association?
3. Before the Renegades were dubbed Knights, what other names were used to describe them?
4. When is the term Knights first applied to the Renegades?
5. Who was the Alumni Association formed and who was its first president?

(Answers on page 12)

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE FOUNDATION PIERUCCI ARCHIVES ENDOWMENT FUND

The Leo Pierucci Archives Endowment Fund of the Bakersfield College Foundation remains open to contributions from those who wish to recognize Leo’s role in the Bakersfield community. Please send tax-deductible donations to:

Leo Pierucci Archives Endowment Fund
Bakersfield College Foundation
1801 Panorama Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93305

Warren Coats was a student at BC in 1962-64 and published The Weekly Blatt, an alternative campus conservative newspaper. He received his undergraduate degree at U.C. Berkeley and his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. Currently advisor to central banks in four countries, he has led technical assistance missions to more than twenty countries, including China, Israel, Egypt, Iraq and the Czech Republic. For 26 years he held various positions at the International Monetary Fund. His book, One Currency for Bosnia: Creating the Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina, will be published November 1, 2007.
JOHN COLLINS continued

Back in California, Collins found the pay better with the Veterans’ Administration than with teaching, so he worked one year for the V.A. Then in 1947 he accepted a job at Bakersfield High School in Bakersfield. His assignment was social science, Veterans Counselor, and assistant track coach for the Renegades. Later, after encouragement from BC’s President Ralph Prator, John accepted a Ford Foundation Grant to attend Harvard in Sociology for the 1951-1952 school year. John and Pat had started their family with the births of John Marshall on October 17, 1946 and Margaret Ann on December 1, 1949. Charles Frederick was delivered December 14, 1952.

As the new BC campus on the bluffs was being completed, President Prator offered John a full-time position with BC. So, starting in the fall of 1955, he taught sociology, started the school’s first cross country program, and in the spring of 1956 he became BC’s fourth head track coach. BC remained on the BHS campus until April, 1956, so John’s track team was the first to use Memorial Stadium’s red, crushed brick track made from the courthouse knocked down in the 1952 earthquake.

John Collins showed remarkable recruiting, coaching, and motivational skills with his teams. From his four cross country teams came three Metropolitan Conference titles, and the team was named “National JC Cross Country Champions,” the first Renegade team to be so honored. From his four track teams came two league titles and the 1958 Southern Cal title in John’s final season of coaching.

In 1958, President Prator resigned and Dr. Edward Simonsen became his successor, with John Collins moving up to Director of Student Activities. In 1961, Collins was named BC’s Dean of Students and started working on a doctorate in administration. For four years he drove to UCLA Saturdays and two evenings a week, completing the degree in 1965. In the summer of 1966 he was hired as the first president of Moorpark College, where he remained until he returned to BC in 1972 as President. Known for his work habits, preparation, charm, and willingness to make hard decisions quickly, he was a popular President for eleven years, retiring in 1983.

Retire? As he turns ninety this September, he can still be found working most mornings at his office. He feels his great energy today likely comes from his jogging or walking two miles each day for the past forty years. Regardless, he’s been a BC icon and inspiration as a counselor, teacher, coach, and administrator for over six decades.

Remembering The Weekly Blatt at BC, 1960-62

By Warren Coats, Ph.D.

For two years, starting with the Nixon-JFK debates in 1960, some friends and I enrolled campus journalism, and hopefully political discussion, at Bakersfield College with The Weekly Blatt, an underground conservative newspaper. My hardcore co-conspirators were William (Bill) Hulsey, Mike Burnaugh (the only gifted writer among us), and Chris Baille. Several other students lent a helping hand. We were “right wing” a la Barry Goldwater in his “Conscience of a Conservative” — pro small, limited government and maximum individual freedom, and very anti-communist.

In 1960, the dominant intellectual political sentiment favored large government to solve society’s problems. Having just returned from a year as an exchange student in a village on the East West German border, I had experienced the Iron Curtain and the effects of Communism first hand. So I vowed to fight back.

Bill, Mike, Chris and I, outraged that the Renegade Rip declared Kennedy the winner of the first Nixon-Kennedy debate, expressed our conservative views in a letter to the editor. The Rip chose not to publish it, so we launched our underground
Trivia Answers

1. John Boydstun was the first president of the BC Alumni Association when it formed in December 1945.

2. Grace Bird, then Dean of Bakersfield Junior College, made the suggestion to David Fanucchi and Virginia Burriss Mosconi who approached her in the fall of 1945 for help in contacting old BJC friends after World War II. Miss Bird said there was only one Junior College Alumni Association in the United States at that time. Doyle Miller, attorney and later a judge, wrote the Bylaws.

3. The Renegades were referred to as the Rambling Renegades, J.C.’s and Jaysee, the fighting Maroon and White, and the Maroons.

4. The 1937-1938 Rally Committee seems to be the first to push the Knight. The Knight appeared on the cover of the 1938 Raconteur, the Rally Committee distributed Renegade Knight emblem stickers, and the student handbook speaks thus of the Renegade emblem: Along with our colors goes our emblem — a Renegade Knight with a black, crestless shield. During the Crusades of the Middle Ages, the legendary Black Knight typified courage and defiance. He stood thus, alone and feared by all. So we have taken him as our emblem and made the Renegade of B.J.C. a Renegade Knight — whose shield without crest or device indicates our servitude to no man. Independent and rugged, the Renegades of the stage and the gridiron stand alone and defiant. Rally round Renegades all — loyal and true to our colors maroon and white!

5. While the northern wing of the Junior College Building withstood the earthquake, the southern wing underwent extensive repair work. The offices were moved to the former office building of the Hayward Lumber Company at 14th and H Streets.

Have a trivia question of your own? Send it on in to bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu.

John J. Collins

An Incomparable Individual and Former BC President

By Bob Covey

John J. Collins was born on September 26, 1917 in Braman, Oklahoma. He attended the public schools in Coalinga, California and graduated from high school in 1935. He loved sports and was a good track athlete, but he stood only 5’5” tall at graduation. He attended Coalinga Junior College and continued growing and training for track and field. He grew to 5’11” tall and won the high jump and pole vault events at the 1937 Central Valley Conference Championships hosted by the Renegades at Griffith Field. He was the first all-league athlete in track to later become a teacher/coach at BC.

Collins then entered the University of California at Berkeley and went out for the Bear’s track team. After one year, he dropped track and turned his attention to academics. He graduated from Cal in December, 1939, and completed his General Secondary Teaching Credential a year later. He took his first job in that spring semester of 1941 at Lodi High School.

He taught history and was the head coach of varsity track and “lightweight” football. His draft board was closing in so he volunteered for the Army just before the start of World War II. He trained at Fort Benning, Georgia, in Officers Training School. As the war began, he was made a company commander of an infantry unit. John and Patricia Ann Wright were married on July 2, 1943, and he soon found himself heading for the Pacific theatre.

In 1944 John’s unit was involved in the battle of Makin Island but saw little action. The unit was sent to Saipan and fought in a month-long battle that cost 3,400 American lives and 27,000 Japanese. His next action came on April 1, 1945, at Okinawa. The soldiers called that day “April Fools Day” as the Japanese defenders permitted the Americans to reach the beaches before opening fire on them and their naval support. It was the bloodiest battle of the Pacific and lasted three months with 80,000 American casualties including 12,500 killed. The Japanese lost 60,000 killed. Collins came through without a scratch. Then on August 6 and 9, 1945 American planes dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki killing nearly 200,000 civilians. Within days the Japanese surrendered. (See JOHN COLLINS, page 2)