# Archive Articles

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**HARRY DRENNAN** By his son, Jim Drennan

My father Harry Drennan spent most of his life in the Kern County Union High School District, first as a student, then as a mechanic in the transportation department, then from 1929 until 1968, as a teacher. After the end of World War II, he also served as head of the shop department at Bakersfield High School, then took on the same duties with Bakersfield College and, when the college moved to its new campus in 1956, moved with it to become head of its trades and industries department.

Harry was born in Licking, Missouri in 1904, the son of Charles and Margaret Drennan; he was the oldest of four children. The family made its living in farming, but in 1910 his father heard of the oil boom in Kern County and eventually moved the family to the oilfields north of Bakersfield.

In 1916, his father’s boss in the oilfields purchased a new automobile. “This automobile rated top priority in my interests,” remembered Harry in an autobiography he wrote for a night school class in 1949, “and I really felt I was on top when he would let me tinker with it.” His dad bought a brand new Model T in 1917, and Harry was in love…a love affair with the automobile that would last the rest of his life. Two years later, the family was off to Missouri for a visit with 13-year-old Harry at the wheel of the Model T as it navigated the unpaved Santa Fe Trail. “The trip required 28 days driving time, and I was in the height of my glory since I did all of the driving, packed and unpacked the luggage, and kept the old Ford in running order,” he recalled.

In 1918 Harry entered Kern County Union High School, and he enrolled in shop, drawing, and math courses. “I did not participate in athletics, since I weighed only 130, with most of the school athletes being returned service men from the first world war. Most of my leisure time was spent in mechanical work, anyway,” he recalled. “In addition to shop work in school, I had a workshop built at home and this was where I could usually be found after school, and on weekends.”

See **HARRY DRENNAN**, page 2
HARRY DRENNAN continued

At the beginning of his junior year in high school he got a job driving school buses and upon graduation took a position in the KC High transportation department. He held that job for seven years, but then high school principal Herman Spindt offered him a teaching position as soon as he met the teacher training requirements. He did, and began his teaching career in 1929.

Following World War II Harry became head of the shop department at KC High (now Bakersfield High) while also teaching auto shop. He soon began double duty heading the Trades and Industries Department at Bakersfield Junior College (now BC). When BC moved to its new campus in 1956, Harry and many of his colleagues moved with it as he became full-time head of its brand-new, state of the art T&I Department. Under his leadership the T&I department covered a wide range of subjects, from wood shop to automotive trades, from metal shop to electronics. The department maintained close relations with industries in Kern County and tailored many of its programs to the needs of those industries. The result: a high rate of students being hired once they completed their college years.

For Harry and his wife Pearl, Bakersfield High School and then Bakersfield College were more than a place to earn a living. They were also the centers of their social life. Harry didn't just make acquaintances with the people he worked with. He made friends, and Pearl made friends with the teachers' wives, and those friendships lasted throughout their long lives.

Harry was a hard worker, and he expected the people he supervised to work hard too. “We had a good group of people, and we worked well together,” recalls retired electronics professor Phillip Rosson. “And Harry made it easy for us to do so.” The fact that Harry socialized with his department didn’t mean he was unable or unwilling to apply discipline when necessary. “He was the Dad, and we were his family,” adds Rosson.

Those friendships stood Harry in good stead after his retirement in 1968 right up until his death in 1992. Although he was active in the Oildale Lions Club and had many friends there, his oldest friendships were the ones he made at BHS and BC. He also made friends with many of his students who came to visit Harry and Pearl when they were in town.

As his number one “student,” I didn't inherit his mechanical ability, but I did inherit his curiosity, his love of people, and his way with words. And when I decided at age 12 that I wanted to pursue a career in journalism, he shared with my mother the role of my biggest cheerleader.

Harry’s overriding motto in life was, “Anything worth doing is worth doing well.” It was a motto he put into practice all his life and...although I often find myself falling short... one that has followed me all the days of mine.
BC Presents began in 1960 as an outgrowth of the Bureau of Concerts and Lectures, but groundwork was laid for it when Bakersfield College moved to its present Panorama campus in April, 1956.

Operating under a limited Student Body budget, the Bureau brought attractions which were to supplement the Kern County Musical Association and the Kern Philharmonic. These events consisted of films and modest musical events designed for small audiences.

The Bureau could afford only two programs a year, and although these were sometimes of high entertainment value, they did not gross enough money to allow for expansion. In the fall of 1956 Stan Kenton performed, and in the spring of 1957 Bakersfield audiences saw "A Jazz Spectacular," and the Mozart String Quartet. Spanish dancers and a ballet were also offered by the Bureau, but it was not until the fall of 1958 that a chance for growth came about. That event was a series of scenes from the Lincoln-Douglas debates called, "The Rivalry," starring Agnes Moorehead, Martin Gabel, and Raymond Massey. It was sold out both nights of its presentation. When the smoke cleared, the Bureau of Concerts and Lectures was capable of a more complete schedule, further growth, and greater impact.

The following year in 1960, the Associated Students took a more active interest in this type of activity and formed the BC Presents series. The current form of BC Presents was established, the program grew, was combined with the Assembly Committee, and thus for the first time the day-time assemblies and the night-time entertainment were placed under the same heading.

In 1962 BC Presents brought to the BC campus attractions that included the Brothers Four, Vincent Price, and the San Francisco Ballet. In 1963 the San Francisco Ballet returned once more; Joan Baez performed, as well as "La Boheme," and Jose Molina. Seven widely diversified performances in 1964 included folk singers Ian and Sylvia, harpist Susan McDonald, news reporter Sander Vanocur, two chamber music groups, the Danzi Woodwind Quintet, and the Societa Corelli, the Caledonia folk dancers, guitarists Presti and Lagoya.

The calendar for the 1965-66 Season consisted of: The Lettermen, Marilyn Neeley, The San Diego Ballet performing the "Nutcracker Suite," the Lee Evans Trio, The Bakersfield College Chamber Ensemble, and the Iowa String Quartet. The attractions yet to come are The Modern Jazz Quartet, the Lennox Quartet, and David Abel.

David Willard comments:
I remember being the page turner. Bob Oliviera talked me into it at the last minute and said he couldn’t find anybody else, so... There was one glitch: I brushed the pianist’s sleeve at one point, and he murmured something I don’t remember what, but we got through the piece without any major calamities, thank goodness. Then the musicians came to an after-concert party at our house and enjoyed themselves I think.

Picture Caption: Suk Trio from Prague; David Willard next to Pianist
The annual 2011 Spring Reception honoring current and previous retiring faculty and staff in the BC Fireside Room attracted an excellent mix of older and younger BC faculty. The reception featured outstanding piano music, delicious finger food, drinks, and lots of meeting and greeting with conversation and laughter. All current BC faculty members and staff are encouraged to attend the 2012 Reception on May 2 from 11:30-1:00 P.M. in the Bakersfield College Fireside Room.
The roaring twenties had begun, Prohibition had started in January of 1920 and in August the same year American women finally won the right to vote with the passing of the 19th Amendment. In June of 1920 Miss Eldora De Mots graduated from the Fresno State Normal School with a degree in Physical Education. She was immediately offered a position with the Oakland School District and one with the Kern County Union High School (KCUHS). Eldora chose to come to Bakersfield in the fall of 1921.

As with all teachers her first year at KCUHS, her days were long with planning, teaching, and running the Girls Athletic Association (GAA) programs. In the spring of 1922, Eldora began the first girls’ track and field program at the high school. Track events for girls included the 50-yard dash, the high jump, the 60-yard low hurdles, the broad jump, hop-step-and-jump, and the baseball and basketball throws. Several of her girls were seniors and would stay to attend Bakersfield Junior College right there on the KC campus.

In the spring of 1923, records show that De Mots started the first girls’ track and field teams that included the high school and junior college girls. Her athletes produced some impressive performances, even though most of their competitions were interclass meets between KC High and BJC. Sometimes De Mots joined telegraphic competitions, where she exchanged results of her athletes via telegraph with other schools. For actual competitions she chaperoned a few trips out of town for her best athletes to places like Pasadena and Los Angeles.

The performances of some of her girls in several events were remarkable and compared favorably to some of the best marks in the world of women’s track and field, and many were listed at or near State, national, or world records. A few of her girls qualified to compete at the 1924 regional Olympic trials in Los Angeles, which was a competition to potentially help select the U.S. women’s team for the 1924 Paris Olympic Games. As it turned out no track and field events for women were held at the Paris Games, but that did not minimize the abilities of the girls from Kern County.

On May 6, 1923, tragedy struck Eldora’s family. She was notified in Bakersfield by telegram the next day that her parents, John and Louisa, her aunt and uncle, and two siblings were killed near Sanger when a train hit their automobile at a railroad crossing. Nevertheless, Miss De Mots completed her teaching and coaching responsibilities for the remainder of the school year and on through the 1929-1930 school year.

In 1930, De Mots was offered a position by the National Camp Fire Girls Association. She accepted the job offer and moved to New York City to work in their national offices. She traveled the country for many years recruiting and mentoring young girls and speaking of the health benefits and vitality to be found by living an active lifestyle and pursuing outdoor interests.

De Mots’ contributions have been hidden in time, but it is obvious that she should be remembered as the “mother” of girls track & field for both KC High and BJC. Unfortunately, until Title IX was passed in 1972 mandating equality for girls in education, there were only occasional athletic opportunities for girls and then only in some high schools and only a few states. At that time the sports available for women were usually tennis, softball, and six-girl basketball, with three defenders on offense and three on defense. Girls, then, were not permitted to play full-court.

Once Eldora left Bakersfield in 1930, women’s track and field did not continue and would resume only after 1972 when Title IX mandated equality in the nation for girls and women in all educational areas. Eldora often returned to Bakersfield to visit her sister, Miss Tina De Mots, who was reportedly a career schoolteacher at KCUHS. Eldora retired from the Camp Fire Girls in 1964 and passed away in Livermore, California, on December 2, 1997. She was ninety-nine years old.
Standing 65 feet tall and stemming from a set-up worth over a quarter of a million dollars, BC’s new oil derrick and rig dominates the northeast corner of the BC campus.

In this oil-rich county of Kern, BC can now play a part in developing bonafied rig workers thus improving the caliber of help available to the oil companies.

BC now has a class, which started last spring, where students work seven hours a day on the rig, spanning a three-week period and totaling 102 class hours.

“The drilling industries were impressed with the difference of people they were hiring,” says Ed Hageman, industrial education chairman concerning students who have taken the BC petroleum classes. “Workers are now aware of what they are now going into when they go out to a rig.”

The recently erected derrick currently stands over a 500 foot hole drilled and cased. BC, however, doesn’t have the mineral rights to anything over 500 feet thus nullifying any chances of striking some “black gold.” Yet if BC can utilize it the Tenneco Corporation has given the college permission to drill another 500 feet.

The idea for a petroleum rig apparently branched off an orientation class BC has offered for 3½ years, where students sat in a class for nearly three hours a day learning the ins and outs of the drilling business. Now of course students can learn the trade “on the spot.”

Although it stands in a rather peculiar location, Hageman says the noise the project may generate, “will be held to a minimum.”

We looked all over campus for an appropriate place to put it (the rig),” says Hageman, who worked with various members of the administration on the location procedures. “We didn’t want to take up any of the parking lot for different reasons,” added Hageman, who also sees an advantage in the rig’s “closeness to the residence.” [sic]

Instructors Jim Thomas and Jim Yost supervise the on-the-spot operations daily and teach the class as well. Students can learn such chores as fire prevention, cementing and pump work, as well as how to “operate the tongs,” and “set up the mud tanks.” All equipment in the operations [have] been donated generously to BC.
Ed Hageman remembers the oil derrick: An interview with Edgar Hageman

Ed Hageman: ...the other interesting program we were talking about when we were talking about involvement with industry we got very involved with, the, in fact, Jerry, I think you were involved with some of this too, with the oil companies when we did the roughneck training for the oil industry. We had classes come from all over the country, actually, and came through the Indian Reservations up in Montana, for heaven sakes.

The various oil companies sent students here to take this course. They called it “floorman training.” It sounded more official than roughneck program. So we started out basically a classroom with that one, the first week to ten days, something like that, a program eight hours a day, full day, until we built an oil well [derrick] up in the water tank area up there, and I think caused a lot of stir.

Jerry Ludeke: You never dug a hole though?

Hageman: Yes we did. We had a 1000 foot hole that we drilled. We got permission to drill a 1000 foot hole. We got together with the Maintenance Director, I won’t mention his name, and they got all the plans out, and everything that had ever taken place here on campus, water lines, electrical lines, and what have you, and located everything for us so that we could drill a 1000 foot hole down there. So we could put up the derrick and everything. Oh, that was a big day. Talk about a show; we had cars stopping. .

Ludeke: This was the corner of Panorama and Mt. Vernon?

Hageman: Right...out where everybody saw that BC was drilling a well. But the oil well was donated. I mean the derrick and apparatus was donated by the oil companies. So we did, we put it in, it was operational. We started drilling that hole...we got only probably less than ten feet deep, and we blew all the power on the whole campus. Shut everything down. We checked the plans and those cables were not supposed to be there. They were supposed to be ten feet over from where we drilled the hole.

That created a bit of a serious problem, but it got fixed—the air conditioning—the whole works went out. Anyway we did get that settled and straightened out and we had these classes. They had classroom times, and they had field trips, and then they worked on that rig putting pipe down and drawing pipe out, and throwing the chain, just finding out that, by golly, it wasn’t the cleanest work in town like a surgery room, and it was dangerous.

So those people were basically all hired, [and] went out into the market. There was only one—maybe I shouldn’t say anything—I won’t say that. The group that came from Montana because they had, the tribe had a political problem; so they had to send the young fellows. And then we had to send one or two of those home in the middle of the program. They couldn’t quite handle the program and the busy-ness, the lights and the noise here.

Ludeke: Now, were you actually pumping oil?

Hageman: No

Ludeke: That was dismantled a while back. How long was that up there?

Hageman: I don’t know. It was up there quite a while, maybe two years. They dismantled it after I retired sometime [1989]. There were always a few people who objected to that thing up there. I don’t know why. I thought it was kind of a neat deal, the symbol of Kern County...but anyway they did, they took it down

Comment by Chuck Palmgren, Director of Maintenance and Facilities: As I remember it the hole was to be 500 feet deep at first, and we examined all the plans of the architectural firm for the campus on where all the underground lines were to be placed. There was absolutely nothing where the hole was to be drilled. So it was okayed to drill. Once they started drilling they hit a 12,000 volt cable, and knocked out power on the whole campus. There was a lot of embarrassment over that.
The Archives maintains a wall display in the anteroom of the President’s office. The original display featured Grace Van Dyke Bird but this display honors Renegade football. Stop by the President’s office to view it and say hello. Then when you are out that way, stop past the Archives office in the library.

Interesting Acquisitions

The Archives maintains a wall display in the anteroom of the President’s office. The original display featured Grace Van Dyke Bird but this display honors Renegade football. Stop by the President’s office to view it and say hello. Then when you are out that way, stop past the Archives office in the library.

Memorabilia items shown in the photo.

- The stainless football is inscribed to JOHN COLLINS, B.C. Hall of Fame, 10-13-93, donated by John’s sons and daughter.
- Jerry Kirkland donated the pencil with the football on the end. Printed on it are the address of Perry’s Casa de Licores at 1900 21st Street and the 1955 Bakersfield College football schedule, the first year games were played in Memorial Stadium.
- John Wittig donated the miniature cotton bale with the Circle K insignia on it. These were given to the Renegade Knights by the Kiwanis Club in 1962.
- Barbara Loughridge donated twenty four of the red football shape coin purses which have been produced and passed out by Boydstun Realty for many years, showing the BC football schedule for that year. Our collection ranges from 1971 to 2009. John Boydstun was the first president of the BC Alumni Association. (We are missing 1976, 1977, 1981-1985, 1987, 1990-91, 1994-97, 1999-2001, 2003-2004, 2006-2007, 2010 on. Does anyone have one of those dates to share?)

I can’t pinpoint exactly (I know, I know, English Department, a stylistic redundancy) when I first realized I was unfriended (I know, I know that on Facebook to “unfriend” means to cut loose, chop off, etc., but I use harsher “defriend” for that, i.e. once you were friended then zap), meaning that while I had friends in the flesh (and you know who you are) I was not truly connected, didn’t fully exist, at least not in the “friended” Facebook way.

I had just mastered texting (R U TR? LOL), was moving on to Tweeting (Wow, love the rain!!!), but only when I walked (Yes, actually walked) across the courtyard to the President’s Office on whose door was the sign “Keep Up With Me on Facebook” did I know (Yes, actually know) that, well, I was stranded on my little island of unfriendedness.

So, I joined the Facebook crowd with only three friends at first (and you know who you are!) with the goal of having 8,000 friends from all over the globe and eventually outer space and the Biology Department. I knew (yes, yes) I was connected when immediately I read from Friend One that “Hey, I had grapefruit for breakfast but had to scoop it out with my fingers because I couldn’t find my sterling silver grapefruit spoon with serrated edges”; this was accompanied with a picture of the mangled grapefruit. So I clicked on “like” so Friend One would know we were connected and wouldn’t defriend me.

That afternoon Friend Two posted a picture of me tagged at a faculty reception looking philosophically at a glass of red wine, so I again clicked “like” then “unlike” because I decided to comment, which I did saying, “That’s me, wow!” I needed to do this because Friend Two has 72 friends and some might, based on my comment, actually “friend” me.

Pleased with my Facebook progress, growing proficiency, and existential connectedness, I saw before dinner, “You have notifications” on my email, so I went on Facebook to note that Friend Three had posted an inspirational saying, “To see is not to be blind—Swami Goto,” to which I enthusiastically commented, “Wow, now I know!”

I now have 14 friends, some from as far away as Texas and the Psychology Department, and, every day feel more and more connected and can say tipping my latest Facebook post to John Donne that I’m no longer an island (to which I had 5 likes and 3 comments).

Wow…
All during high school I was led to believe that an education at a community college was inferior to an education offered at a four-year university. That is absolutely not true! Fresh out of Delano High School, I attended UCLA. At that age, I did not possess the perspicacity to weigh my educational options. I was told that since I was an honor student and a top ten graduate, that I belonged at a prestigious California university.

While UCLA is a very prestigious university, I found my educational experience to be very impersonal. Basically, I felt as if I were just a number. I found myself attending lectures in large stadiums with hundreds of students. The discussion groups that supplemented the lectures were not taught by the professors but by teaching assistants who were completing graduate work at the university. The only time I was truly able to engage with the professor was during his or her office hours. I did not feel a sense of community or belonging at UCLA, and it was not from a lack of trying. After about a year and a half, I withdrew from the university, moved back home to Delano, and enrolled at Bakersfield College (BC).

My experience at BC was phenomenal. To my surprise, I found myself in smaller classrooms at BC. Due to the smaller classroom size, the professors were able to effectively engage with the students. During my first semester at BC, I took Comparative Government, which was taught by Dr. Greg Goodwin. What was interesting was that Dr. Goodwin would break up the class in small groups to compete in a group quiz. He then treated the winning group to lunch. I never experienced anything like this at UCLA. This is when I realized that my professors at BC truly cared about the students.

BC’s professors are not the only great aspect of Bakersfield College. The course offerings were also remarkable. At that time, I was taking courses for $11 a unit, which was a steal! Students could take a wide array courses such as Intro to Psychology, Works of Shakespeare, Bible as Literature, Chemistry, and Calculus to name a few. These same transferable courses would have cost me hundreds of dollars to complete at a four-year university. Therefore, I was receiving the same education at a fraction of the price.

Besides the core curriculum, students had the opportunity to take elective courses in Dance, Tennis, Piano, and Archery. These courses allowed the students to become more well-rounded. Not only did BC offer courses in the liberal arts, but it also offered certificates of achievements, job skills certifications and apprenticeship in a number of disciplines. Subsequently, students could choose to obtain their Associates in Arts, transfer to a four-year university, or obtain a certificate to complete vocational training.

I am proud to say that I will probably be a lifelong BC student. Although I officially graduated from BC in 2002, I still take courses at BC for personal enrichment. What keeps me coming back is the quality of the courses, the affordable tuition, and the passionate professors. Even after 10 years, I still stay in touch with some of my professors. Many of them have written letters of recommendations for scholarships, college admissions and job opportunities. BC not only provided me with a stellar education, but it also provided me with one thing I desperately desired: a sense of belonging. As a BC student and now a BC alumna, I never felt as if I were just a number. Instead, I felt as if I was an important part of the BC community. Because of this, I will always cherish my experience at BC.

Sumeet Batth received her Associates in Arts in Political Science with an emphasis in International Relations and History from Bakersfield College in 2002. As a BC student, she served as the Associated Student Body President and a member of the All-USA Academic Team. She currently works for the City of Delano as an Economic Development Specialist. She can be reached at missbath@yahoo.com for comments or feedback.
The Spring 2010 Newsletter carried a heading “ENTER OUR NAMING CONTEST!” In a fit of creative enthusiasm initiated by Don Stansbury, the Executive Board had decided that maybe we needed a name with a bit more pizzazz than simply Archives Newsletter, something “more suitable that reflects what we do in preserving Bakersfield College memorabilia and events.” Quite a few good responses came in, very clever and appropriate.

John Collins wrote editor Don: “It is true that your publication is more than a newsletter. I guess ‘news’ implies something that is current and up-to-date. Our publication digs into history, but does not limit itself to history, sometimes including ‘news’. I have thought of this, and the best I can come up with is the Bakersfield College Archives Journal. Journals usually provide wide latitude, which you use. Journal comes close since journals usually have the back-up research to prove their points. We do that within the staffing situation we have.”

Don Stansbury suggested The Bakersfield College Archivist. Greg Goodwin said, “How about Spotlight? Too theatrical? I hope the contest winner is someone outside the Archives activists - may look rigged.” Janna Oldham weighed in with Renegade Recollections or The Renegade Flashback


Tom Moran submitted an annotated list of his six suggestions, listed in the order of his preference. “1. Recollector. I like this name for three reasons: it recalls ‘raconteur,’ it sounds like an old-time newspaper, and is not, strictly speaking, a word. 2. Reminiscence. Could be pluralized. It’s what the newsletter does. 3. The BC Record. Well, it is. 4. Memories from the Hill. Or recollections. Or some other synonym. The “hill” seems our strongest geographic metaphor. 5. Archives Annals. Clunky but alliterative. 6. Archives Showcase. Less clunky and non-alliterative.”

Bob Allison took several suggestions and, with minor changes, made them into a compound name: “RECOLLECTOR, The Journal of the Bakersfield College Archives.”

The choices were overwhelming! As we pondered them however we began to ask ourselves why we thought we needed to change and ended up convincing ourselves that we do indeed produce a “newsletter,” albeit an exceptionally interesting and colorful one.

In our eagerness for a new name we had promised a “dinner for two, with wine, at the Renegade Room” as the prize. (We were surprised at ourselves when we saw that in print as we realized the “with wine” part wasn’t going to happen in the Renegade Room.) In the long run, we couldn’t deal with the decision. As a result, you hold in your hand the Spring 2012 edition of “The Bakersfield College Archives Newsletter.” ENJOY IT! A rose by any other name…….

(Submitters will be given an Archives memento)
The Archives Needs Volunteers

These volunteers are our off-campus angels! At Bakersfield High School, history teacher Ken Hooper runs a Career Educational Opportunities Academy in Archiving which has received much recognition for its community projects. BHS’s CEO Academy archiving classes are two senior level lab classes that conduct and assist in research for businesses, authors, reunion committees, genealogists, news organizations, schools, and historians while maintaining the history of the school. Ken also initiated a California Partnership Academy which includes the Bakersfield College Archives. It is through this partnership that the BC Archives, which is understaffed, can receive “volunteer” help from the many students in the popular BHS Archiving Academy. The large box is filled with many BC photographs which the students scanned. That is a huge timesaver for us, and we are grateful for their help.

NOW...THIS IS WHERE YOU, DEAR READER, COME IN! Many of the photos need identification. You alums can probably identify quite a few people, events, locations, and probable dates. As we get photos posted on line, you too can be a volunteer in the comfort of your own home. Of course, we also welcome you here in the Archives office. Give us a call or send us an email to express interest.

COME SEE THE Archives!

The BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE ARCHIVES has photos and memorabilia on display and a wealth of fascinating old documents on BC history. We are located on the 2nd floor of the new Grace Van Dyke Bird Library.

HOURS FOR SPRING 2012: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday • 8:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. Other hours available by appointment. CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER BEGINNING MAY 12.

Director: Jerry Ludeke
Office Manager: Rosalee Pogue
Email: bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Phone: 661-395-4949

Picture identification:
Students who worked on scanning all the BC photos in the box are Jessica Leiva, Bijan Manuel, Selene Zamora, Ernesto Juarez, Salina Gomez, and Nalleli Mendez. Kneeling in front are Ken Hooper and Jerry Ludeke, directors respectively of the Bakersfield High School and Bakersfield College Archives.
William “Bill” Andrews was the eighth president of Bakersfield College, serving from 2005 to 2008. Growing up on the family farm in Iowa, he attended a community college and went on to two master’s degrees from UNI and later a Ph.D. in educational management from the University of New Mexico. Before coming to BC, he was president of Porterville for five years. After retiring from BC, he returned to the family farm in Iowa.

James Bostick was on the tennis team of the community college and active in the drama and speech debate clubs. He periodically taught Speech Communication classes at Bakersfield College.

Mary Hodges graduated from Bakersfield College and volunteered for the BC Alumni Association. Later in her career in personnel management, she took a long term consultant assignment as the Human Resource Director at BC. (She also owned Country Tea Room and Mary Hodges Gifts and Antiques.)

John Kolstad as a Navy man participated in the invasions of Guadalcanal, Sicily, and D-Day. A BC alumnus, he worked for the Kern High School District as a machinery repairman for 35 years and taught machine shop for 15 years at Bakersfield College, Evening Division.

Albert “Chub” O’Connor was born in Montana and raised in Kansas. After training at Purdue University, he taught the Plumbers and Steamfitters Apprenticeship program at Bakersfield College for seventeen years.

Debby Moberg was the head of the Graphics Department and the Publications Coordinator for 14 years who, with great artistic talent and computer expertise, produced many beautiful flyers, posters, and announcements always delivered with a smile.

Mary Ethelene Ward was a smiling face in the Financial Aid office for twenty years from 1986 to 2006.

Vernon Valenzuela first arrived at BC in 1971 and became president of the Vet’s Club, followed by being vice-president and then president of the Associated Student Body. After graduating from CSUB, he returned to BC as counselor for the CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) Program. In an interview, he stated: “When I was at BC is when I first learned I had the power to accept the responsibility for myself and that I also had the power to change myself.”

Readers Please Note: Send information about former BC people to Charlotte Cox at ccox@bak.rr.com