State Track Meet Circa 1979 – BC Runner
Ed Burns running the mile relay.
By Francis Mayer, BC Sports Information Director

Bakersfield College's Memorial Stadium was the first structure completed on the new Panorama Campus "on the hill", but that doesn't mean it was the easiest to build!

Strong opinions were expressed in letters exchanged during the planning phase of the stadium.

"Because of the sharply developed issue over the inclusion of the track in the football stadium," began then Bakersfield College President Ralph Prator in a letter to Theron McCuen, Superintendent of the Kern County Union High School and Junior College District, and its Board of Trustees, "...the implications (of whether or not to include a track in the new stadium) are far more serious than would permit the justifying of a conclusion on a premise of 'I prefer it this way.'"

Prator was hired by McCuen and the District's Board of Trustees specifically to build the shining new campus on Panorama, and he wasn't taking the duties lightly.

In the three-page letter dated December 4, 1941, Prator made several points and counter-points for including a competition track in the stadium, after clearly weighing the matter against educational service, logistics, and finally cost.

"If excluding the track...means a lack of emphasis on track, then we probably are doing a considerable injustice to the fifty or more boys in each of several of the schools comprising the Kern County Union High School District," Prator said.

It's notable that Prator said 'boys' in the preceding quote; he probably didn't imagine that women and girls would have an equal footing in track and field before the end of the century!

Prator felt the solution of the problem would be finding the balance between benefiting educational programs and the expense to Kern County taxpayers.

But his own preference may have spoken to his desire to please all parties: "If expense were no item, I would favor two and separate stadiums—one for track and one for football."

According to a planning document dated May 2nd, 1952, the decision was made to include a track in the football stadium.

A preliminary cost analysis dated December 1, 1954 estimated the total cost of the stadium to be $1,161,000.00. In today’s dollars, that's about 10.3 million dollars.

The decision to include the track seems like a fine one in hindsight: Jim Ryun would set a world record in the mile just 12 years after Memorial Stadium's grand opening (a 36-0 win over Pasadena College in front of 14,483 fans), and five editions of the California Interscholastic Federation Track and Field Championships in 1959, 1965, 1974, 1978, and 1983 were held there. Indeed much of Memorial Stadium’s legacy is tied to events outside of football.

But as the stadium celebrates its 60th birthday in 2015, the stadium plays host to much more than football and track.

2015 marks the first season in stadium history where an intercollegiate soccer team plays all of its home games on the football field-turned-soccer pitch. Maintenance and Operations Painter Mitchell Barter stripes the field during the week for soccer games. These markings fade as the field is mowed, and the turf is repainted on Friday. The transformation back into a football field is completed in time for Saturday’s contests.

In 60 years, many events have been held in Memorial Stadium thanks to the flexibility of its custodians. That flexibility seems to have been born into the stadium since it’s conception, thanks to compromises struck between the President and the Trustees.

May that flexibility and compromise continue to benefit both students and fans for another 60 years.
A Bakersfield College tradition that is at least 52 years old is the brainchild and annual gift to the community from John Boydstun.....his BC football pinch coin-purses. Shaped like a deflated football, the red plastic purses have painted “stitching” on the front side along with “GO RENEGADES”, “Always On The Ball”, and Boydstun Realty Co., Inc. The back side always features the Bakersfield College football schedule of the current year and “Compliments of Boydstun Realty Co., Inc.”

Before football season begins, John starts passing out the current year’s coin-purse so they are distributed widely in the Kern County Community. The BC Archives has acquired an almost complete collection of these purses starting with the year 1963. Recently John generously donated over 23 purses to fill holes in our collection. We are still missing the following years: 1964, 1976, 1977, 1990, 1991, 1999, 2000, 2001. Look at the dates on ones you have to see if you can fill a gap for us.

John Boydstun is one of our oldest (maybe the oldest) living BC graduate at 95. He graduated in 1939 with the following activities listed in the Raconteur: Yell Leader, Varsity Debate, Activity Board, Rally Committee, RIP Staff, Y.M.C.A. Vice-president, International Relations Club, Executive Council, and Phi Rho Pi President (national speech fraternity). He was one of the founders of the Alumni Association in 1946 and served as its first president.

John Boydstun is the epitome of a loyal, enthusiastic BC Renegade! Go Gades!

Who Reigns As Our Oldest Alum?

In the past few months, we have lost our two known oldest alumni. Ross Thornton, our oldest Renegade athlete, died at age 102. Most recently Priscilla Willard Spencer, our oldest known alumna died at age 103.

Help us locate the ones who are now the oldest alum and the oldest athlete. (It could be the same person.) Send in names and ages with birthdates of possible honorees. Feel free to send in your own name and age. Let’s keep track of all our alumni who are over the age of 90. Telephone: 661-395-4949; email: barchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu; US mail: Bakersfield College Archives, 1801 Panorama Dr, Bakersfield, California 93305. Thanks for your help.

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 FALL 2015: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday • 8:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. Other hours available by appointment.
In the fall of 1958, I entered the University of Kansas located in Lawrence, Kansas. I was nineteen years old and was recruited by Kansas coach Bill Easton as a sprinter to run mostly the 220 and 440 races in college, plus sprint relays. I understood the N.C.A.A. rules at the time, which did not permit any freshmen in any sport to compete on a varsity team until his/her sophomore year in school. My varsity teammates included Olympic discus throw champion Al Oerter, national spring and low hurdles champion Charlie Tidwell, national long jump champion Ernie Shelby, basketball star Wilt Chamberlain (who high jumped for the team), Cliff Cushman (a high school teammate who would in 1960 win an Olympic silver medal in the 400-meter hurdles in Rome), and the Kansas State high school 1-mile run champion, Billy Mills. Mills, in 1964, would win the Olympic Games’ 10,000 meters contest (setting a meet record) and was the first and only American to win that event at that Olympics.

At the end of that freshman year and still nineteen, I was hungry for a race - any race. When I got back to Ames for summer vacation, I learned the Iowa A.A.U. Meet was three days later at Iowa State University in Ames. I entered, ran the 440, and won running something like 48.4 seconds. I then learned that as a regional winner I was eligible to enter and run in the National A.A.U. Meet. That year it was scheduled to be held on June 20 and 21 at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Bakersfield College.

I drove the four miles to my home and asked my father if I could go run in the meet and he said he had no money for such a trip. Then I asked if I could hitchhike. I had never hitchhiked anywhere, but I had grown up with my track coach father attending a number of N.C.A.A. and A.A.U. championship meets and knew this opportunity might never come again. I also knew hitchhiking in 1958 was still considered a safe way to travel the U.S. Dad agreed.

I called a teammate, Hal Long, who was still at K.U. working on an architecture project but lived in Van Nuys, and asked when he was leaving for home and if I might bum a ride. He said I could if I could be in Lawrence in two days. I packed a duffle bag with my running gear - sweat suit, shorts, singlet, warm-up shoes, and my Adidas spring shoes and, early the next morning, Dad drove me to the south edge of Ames on Highway 69, dropped me off, wished me well, and there I was standing with my thumb out hoping for a ride. Six hours later I was in Lawrence at my friend’s apartment and the next day we headed west to California. After two, very long days of shared driving, we were in Van Nuys.

The track meet was still a week away. I stayed at the home of his parents for five days, was given the use of a car, and took the opportunity to see some of Los Angeles, saw an ocean for the first time, and I trained every day hard at the Burbank High School track. Two days before the first day of competition, I caught the Greyhound Bus to Bakersfield, found the K.U. team at the Sands Motel on Union Avenue, discovered there was an empty bed, asked assistant track coach Rex Grossart if I could use it, and he let me move in with steeplechase runner Barry Crawford.

I ran the 440-Yard Dash Prelims on Friday night and placed third in my heat running 47.8 seconds. I learned from the Meet Announcer Gil Bishop that I had the ninth and final qualifying spot in the finals. I walked up to Coach Grossart sitting halfway up in the north stands directly across from the finish line and sat down. He asked if I was going to start home the next day and then I told him I had qualified for the finals the next night. He smiled his big, “That’s great!” smile and we sat together watching the rest of the meet.

In a few minutes he told me that morning he had interviewed with Bakersfield College Athletic Director Gil Bishop and had been offered a teaching and coaching job at BC. The job would start for him in the fall of 1959 and he would be teaching classes and be the assistant football and head track coach. Grossart asked, “Bob, what do you think of this place?” I had seen the campus and the stadium, all still sparkling new and I answered, “Coach, if I ever had a job at a place like this, I might never leave.”

The next night I ran the 440 final out of lane 9, ran another 47.8 seconds, placed ninth as the winner equaled the World Record of 45.8 seconds and the Olympic Champion finished second. I was happy with the experience. The next day I started my 1900 mile hitchhiking trip north and east back to Ames and four days later I was home never expecting to return to California for more than a vacation.

In the fall of 1959, Rex Grossart did take that job as a teacher, assistant football coach, and head track coach at Bakersfield College and stayed for four years. He had to leave Bakersfield then because he had contracted Valley Fever. He asked if I might apply for his job, and I said, “Rex, who would hire a twenty-four year old with no coaching experience?” He told me I should still apply, and I did.

That is how I came to Bakersfield and stayed for forty-two years as a teacher of Health Education and the head cross country and track coach.
The humanities are on the defensive. By some they are considered irrelevant to the practical skills needed for work, for others they are considered too vague to measure, and for others they are seen as too ideological and as threats to established beliefs. As a result, enrollments have fallen, budgets have been cut, faculty reduced. After all, who needs poetry to succeed in a job interview? Who needs history to master technology? Who needs philosophy to make money? Who needs the arts to teach us artful conversation?

Dr. Levan lived life on his terms, as he put it in his autobiography. He was an accomplished physician, medical researcher, and he knew and loved science. But he didn’t stop there because he was also a lover of the humanities, an avid reader of great literature and history. He understood that a complete life had to include the humanities, that without them it was a limited life, an impoverished life.

After he died, his good friend Carmen asked me if I would like a book from his impressive library. As I looked I found a well-used, underlined paperback copy of The Stranger by the French existentialist Albert Camus. What a marvelous coincidence! Recently, I had been reading Camus, including works I had read before and some of his lyrical essays I had just discovered. Existentialism tells us that to exist is to be free and that we must choose our life, the life we wish to live. We cannot escape freedom; it is both our burden and our glory.

The question that confronts us in our freedom is how to use it wisely, how to choose a truly good life. Obviously, we need practical skills to live a good life, but, more, we need wisdom to choose a life that nurtures our ethical selves, that expands our understanding of our world. Such a choice, such a life can only be created with the help of the humanities. Science and technology give us facts and know-how; the humanities give us wisdom.

Dr. Levan understood this. He understood it for his own life, and he understood it for the life of his community. For our community he endowed the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities at Bakersfield College, with its lectures, seminars, informal conversations, panel discussions, visiting scholars, humanities essay scholarships, summer faculty grants, and Levan Humanities Review. He did this so that others in this community of Bakersfield, where he spent so many of his years, would be enriched by the humanities as they had enriched his life.

Personally, he read and reflected on great literature daily until the end of his life, and he knew its great value as expressed by one of his favorite authors, Montaigne: “In books I only look for the pleasure of honest entertainment; or if I study, the only learning I look for is that which tells me how to know myself, and teaches me how to die well and live well.”

Dr. Levan lived life on his terms. For ninety eight years, he relished life, enjoyed it to the fullest, and understood that he could do that only with the wisdom of the humanities. He knew that the humanities are always relevant and needed for us to live a truly good life, and that is his legacy for us.

Jack Hernandez
Director of the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities
Bakersfield College
**From Our Readers**

The following note is excerpted from President Sonya Christian’s September 17 blog (bcpresidentblog.com):

**President Sonya:** We lost a true dyed-in-the-wool Renegade earlier this month. Thomas Nery, a BC grad and member of the storied 1961 Renegade football team that played in the historic Junior Rose Bowl against Cameron University, passed away a few weeks ago.

**Kim Drndarski:** Hello, Sonya. I wanted to share the news of the passing of my father, Thomas Nery, a former BC Renegade from 1961. At last year’s homecoming, you interviewed him and me during the game. You really made him feel special that afternoon, the hero he is to his family.

My Dad passed on 9/1/15, after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. It takes the worst cancer to bring down a Renegade. He will be placed at Greenlawn on River Blvd, on 10/3/15 at 11am. He worked there when he was attending BC. I made sure that his niche faces the school and asked if he could hear the game from where he is on Saturday nights. :0)

Thank you again, from the bottom of my heart, for making him feel so special that day.

Blessings, Kim Drndarski.

“Kudos on your latest edition of the BC Archives Newsletter! What a treat to read about “the good old days”. It warmed my heart to read about Bill Finch ---so much so that I called Gwen and we had a great time recalling the days when we were involved as young faculty wives. Wiley & May Louise Jones —I remember them as such charming hosts to the new faculty coming aboard. Joe Huszti, a young enthusiastic newlywed joining the faculty. My husband and I went to the premier of the Gladiator in LA with them. He did Bakersfield College proud!

I look forward to his coming to Bakersfield. I could go on and on as I have enjoyed ALL editions of the newsletter. Thank you to all who have kept the history of our beloved college alive.

Sincerely, Rita Loken

---

**Welcome**

We welcome our new Archives Assistant, Daniel Anderson, shown in front of the display window in the foyer of the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library. He has been assisting in the CSUB Archives while finishing his M.A. in History. BC Football past & present is the focus of the display, which was conceived and built by Rosalee Pogue and Helen Harp, Archives Assistants, with help from newly arrived Daniel.

---

**New Acquisitions**

Becki Whitson was given this air horn, shown here by our student worker Jadine Gonzalez. Then Rosalee found the photo with 2 BC football players and a rig that looked much like the air horn. What can you tell us about either photo? Was the air horn used at games? By whom? What years? Help us out, if you can, please.
Ten years ago I was a thirty-something transplant from Salinas working towards an Associates Degree in Digital Art at Bakersfield College. For one of my classes I needed a poster printed for a final. I skiddooded over to the Graphics Center where I met a wonderful woman by the name of Debby Moberg who was overseeing the department at the time. Little did I know how much of a blessing she would be and the important role she would play in my life but that’s a story I’m not ready to share yet. I also met the man we all know and love, Bill Parker. He would jokingly give me a hard time every time I came in to print. Ten years later and I still get an occasional razzing from Bill.

One day Debby offered me a job. I put it off for about a month for no other reason than pure idiocy. Back then I would have put off procrastination for another day if given the chance! But, I was a starving student with a diet that included beans, rice, and ramen noodles and after one too many ramen dinners I decided to go get the job.

As a student worker I didn’t believe I possessed any design sense, but Debby continued to feed me work as if she was Mrs. Miyagi and I was the Karate Kid. When the Archives came to her to design a new newsletter she believed in me enough to give me the task of designing it. It was either Jerry Ludeke or Carol Cunningham whom I met with to discuss the job’s parameters. I’m not going to lie, I felt important! I was a mere student getting real world work.

This experience was extremely valuable to me because I knew it meant gaining hands-on knowledge and experience. Anyone can get book-smart, but having a real-world application where you can challenge your skills can really allow one to grow.

Ten years ago, to this week, I was designing my first Archives Newsletter. I look at it now and I cringe. It doesn’t look like much thought was put into it even though it took me about a week to produce back then. Today, the same design would take about 10 minutes to create. I didn’t use any columns or styling on the type so it was about as exciting as an insurance seminar. I was still learning, so I give myself a pass.

Over the years the newsletter has evolved. I have made major changes to the design about four times. This issue will be the fourth major change with no story on the cover. In addition, Tracy Grimes had changed the order of stories a bit so it made way for other changes.

As I reflect on the past decade, I have to stop and thank everyone who has contributed to the Archives. I have learned so much about BC’s rich history. You are all such interesting people with great stories and amazing fellowship. There is so much pride that keeps the spirit of the past alive. I never really saw myself as more than a BC student success story, but as I help perpetuate the past within these pages, I have come to terms that I am not just the silent designer tucked away in darkness, I am one of you. I am a Renegade! 😊

**How I Met Your Newsletter**

* A Brief Account by Eric Carrillo

**People We Will Miss**

**PHYLLIS SELBY DABBS** served BC for 30 years as speech and debate instructor, Associate Dean of Instruction, and Dean of Certificated Personnel and Staff Development. She was known for her Scotties and for being an advocate of workplace equality for all.

**BILL DUNCAN** taught computer classes at BC for 20 years in the 70s and 80s, while also working for Bechtel Petroleum at Elk Hills as a system analyst and database administrator.

**FRANK GIFFORD,** the legendary figure of NFL fame as player and TV sportscaster, played for the BC Renegades in 1948 while establishing his academic eligibility for USC.

**MANUEL GONZALES, JR.** graduated from BC. After a B.A. from San Jose State and an M.A. at CSUB, he spent 37 years as a much beloved counselor and Director of EOP&S at Bakersfield College.

**WARREN HELMSTEDTER,** his wife, and his children all graduated from BC. Warren spent 25 years teaching at BC in business, industrial technology, and Cooperative Work Experience (as Director.) His auto mechanics for women was a popular class.

**JO LANGSTON** effectively served 11 years as the Senior Department Assistant in Technical Science.

**GARY MATULEF** taught mathematics at Cerro Coso from 1973 to 2001. He started teaching at BC’s Desert Division around 1964, before it became Cerro Coso.

**HAZEL REES** was a champion debater when she attended BC. After a career as English and speech instructor at Highland High, in retirement Hazel taught English classes at BC part time for many years.

**Readers Please Note:** Send information about former BC faculty and staff members to bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Somaly Boles and Mason Perry at the 2015 Student Involvement Festival
Make new friends but keep the old, one is silver and the other's gold. Thus begin lyrics from a charming traditional folk song. The BC Alumni Association, with its glorious history, is certainly solid-gold when it comes to supporting our beloved alumni. From its inception under the care of then President John Boydstun in 1946 to its current leadership under President Becki Whitson, the organization has stayed true to its mission to raise funds for student scholarships and campus initiatives, recognize student and alumni achievements, and provide a platform for former students to continue to interact with their BC family.

With a nod and kudos to the Alumni Association, a new entity has launched this fall to complement their spirited work. The BC Student Alumni NEXUS (NEXUS) is a student-based group designed to foster personal and professional relationships between current students and alumni. The NEXUS hopes to link the past to the present through student-alumni networking experiences, career-development presentations featuring our alumni, community and campus volunteering efforts with alumni, and philanthropy projects organized by students for students.

“The current trend in college alumni relations is to establish student-based organizations as a way to cultivate active alumni for the future,” said Angela Paquette, BC Alumni and Donor Relations Manager and NEXUS Advisor.

The overarching mission of the student-based alumni organization is to foster personal and professional relationships in a manner that cultivates community mindedness, philanthropic giving, and a spirit of volunteerism. “It is our hope that the next wave of BC alumni in our community will be as civic minded and generous with their time and resources as our current alumni,” stated Paquette.

The Alumni Career Series is one of the organization's premier initiatives. Alumni currently working in the community are invited to share their BC-to-the-workforce stories during lunch-and-learn style presentation in the Fireside room each month.

NEXUS President Tracy Hall, explained, “Our Career Series is a great example of how NEXUS will help engage our alumni in a meaningful way with current students. We (students) are excited to hear from successful alums who have launched their careers from BC.”

This fall, the Career Series will feature iHeart Radio Regional President Jeremy Price and KGET/Telemundo/CW VP Derek Jeffery on September 17, retired RN Sandi Schwartz will speak on October 15th, and former RIP editor and Mission Bank VP Bob Meadows on November 19th. The organization anticipates hosting both students as well as interested alums at these free lectures starting at noon in the Fireside Room.

The NEXUS has also kicked off its first student-to-student scholarship campaign. “We are calling it our #BC NEXUS Giving Rocks! campaign. For every contribution, donors receive a bright red guitar keyring with the Giving Rocks slogan as a thank you,” said Tarina Perry, NEXUS Secretary. Alumni who are inclined to support the effort may certainly do so.

One unique feature of the NEXUS is the fact that both current students as well as any alums with 6 or more units may join. For more information about how you might get involved, please reach out to Angela at angela.paquette@bakersfieldcollege.edu or call 395-4885.
When Bowling Was a Contact Sport
by Jerry Kirkland

Well aware that hundreds before me had followed this same path, it nonetheless seemed odd to me that one could graduate from high school in the spring and merely walk across the street the following fall to enter college. But it was 1952 and Bakersfield Junior College, still four years away from moving to its new campus, remained perched on the corner of California Avenue and F Street, in a building it had occupied since 1931. The fact that it was 1952 was of considerable significance and those of us who took that walk could not have imagined what a unique (“unusual” and “outrageous” would also work here) college experience awaited us.

The earthquake in August of that year damaged a number of buildings on the combined campus, and several of them had been rendered unusable until repairs could be made. The J.C. Building had suffered some damage but was, according to inspectors, “safe for occupancy.” Still, small tremors occurred almost daily, calling into question its structural integrity. But after a couple of weeks with no one being bonked by a falling brick, everyone began to relax and settle into the college routine.

Classes were only just underway when we experienced a major invasion, set upon by what could be termed “the hard hat army,” a host of construction workers come to begin the repairs on the broken buildings. Indeed they did resemble an army in many respects: all were dressed in bib overalls or similar work garb, wore hard hats and work boots and carried lunchboxes. They wasted little time in getting down to their assigned task and we soon found it impossible to ignore their presence. Having not realized that repairing broken buildings was a noisy and dusty operation, everyone from Miss Bird on down seemed ill-prepared for the disruptions that were about to occur.

Undaunted, even after the repair work was fully underway, professors continued trying to lecture and conduct discussions. Those with powerful voices were moderately successful in speaking over the cacophony and jarring rhythm of jack hammers, skip loaders and dump trucks. The quiet talkers - Don Franz and George Lawrence - were often forced to communicate via the chalkboard. This was surely maddening to professors who had spent hours preparing material for the new academic year, anxious to share their knowledge of Chaucer - or quadratic equations - or the disastrous military blunders associated with the two Georges: Pickett and Custer.

And equally frustrating, of course, for the serious student hoping to gain new knowledge and insights associated with the college experience.

Now you may have begun to wonder at this point just where I’m going with this story, but I had to tell you that so I could tell you this: The two high school gymnasiums, heavily used by the physical education programs, were deemed “Unsafe for occupancy” and were closed for an extended period while repairs were made. That presented some scheduling problems. Would all physical education activities be outdoors for the entire year? That was okay for those guys who had signed up for Coach Frost’s football class. They were a little crazy. But not everyone was enamored with football and, besides, what about the women students?

The folks in charge of scheduling were faced with limited options and must have checked the Yellow Pages for community resources. Within just a couple of days there was an announcement that the P.E. activity for those not enrolled in that early version of Jack Frost football would be a bowling class. Georgene Bihlman, a world class skier and a real put-together, in-charge kind of lady was the instructor. Twice a week for an hour or so we would hop on a bus (or you could take your car if you had one) for a trip to the San Joaquin Bowling Center on 18th Street, a block or two east of Union Avenue, for an hour or so of bowling.

Now, this particular bowling alley was kind of an evening hangout for some of us and since we actually bowled there on occasion we were not unfamiliar with the routine. But when we bowled, we had to drink beer. It was kind of a rule and no one seemed concerned that we were underage. It was, unfortunately, not a rule Ms. Bihlman subscribed to, and, since we could not convince her otherwise, we were forced to suffer through withdrawals every Tuesday and Thursday.

Because it is germane to this tale, it bears noting here that until about 1950 bowling pins were set up by hand. The very first automatic pin setters had been introduced back in the 1920s but being both expensive and unreliable they were soon abandoned. It wasn’t until the early 1950s that really efficient and reliable automatic pin setters came on the market and those quickly gained widespread use across the U.S. That widespread use did not extend to
Bakersfield, California however, and in 1952 the bowling alleys here were still using human pin setters, an element of the game which would become all too familiar to some of us.

When we arrived at the bowling alley for our first session, it was discovered that the agreement between the college and the San Joaquin Bowling Center did not provide pin setters for our P.E. class. Not a problem in Ms. Bihlman’s mind. She announced that the male members of the class would, on a rotating basis, serve as pin setters, not exactly an academic activity. Had there been a syllabus for this class, it seems unlikely that this information would have been included.

Nevertheless, all class members of the male persuasion found themselves from time to time at the wrong end of the alley, not throwing but catching! We weren’t assigned that duty every class session but often enough to know that, given the opportunity, we would not choose it as our life’s work. Were we happy with this arrangement? Of course not. Did we make our displeasure known to Ms. Bihlman? Of course not.

There was no “on the job training” for pin setters. Learning the mechanics took only a few minutes but learning to do so while preserving one’s physical well-being was another matter entirely. There were precious few barriers to hide behind so as to shield oneself from flying pins, and fly they did when the bowler was some hotdog trying to impress his girlfriend with how hard he could sling that ball. We began to think that P.E. should, in this instance, stand for “physical endangerment.”

But we managed to get through the semester with no serious injuries and left with a tale we have all probably shared with our grandchildren and that I now share with you.

On those rare occasions when I visit a modern bowling alley today and see the automatic pin setters, automatic ball return, even automatic scorekeepers, I can’t help but think back to those days sixty plus years ago and a bowling experience where the object for some was to try for strikes while the object for others was to avoid being struck! 😊
The Bakersfield College Archives Association
bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Phone: (661) 395-4949

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

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

* Also on Executive Board

Newsletter Announcement:
If you are receiving the BC Archives Newsletter by U.S. Postal Service mail and would rather receive it digitally, please send an email to bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu with the subject line: Please send My Archives Newsletter Digitally. If you do not want to receive the newsletter at all, please so indicate.