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Pasadena, December 12, 1953. It is the last minute of the Junior Rose Bowl before more than 50,000 screaming fans. With BC leading 13-6, Northeastern Oklahoma black-goggled halfback Lonnie “Lone Ranger” Graham takes the ball on fourth and goal from inside the one yard line and soars over BC’s defensive line dubbed the “Slaughterhouse Seven”. While the Oklahoma team and fans believe Graham has scored, the Renegade faithful believe he was stopped inches away from the goal. Now more than 60 years later you can watch the whole game including this exciting final play thanks to the BC Archives athletic film preservation project. (Spoiler Alert: The referees agreed with the Renegades.) Or go to “football jr rose bowl—YouTube” and see highlights of this film in a video by BC’s Manuel de los Santos of a 2015 reunion with interviews of six members of the team. You will understand the importance of this game which was broadcast nationwide on CBS Radio and worldwide on Armed Forces Radio, and established the attendance record for any junior/community college event.

In 2010 the Archives was made aware of the existence of a treasure trove of 16 mm films and VHS tapes in a storage closet in the Athletic Department offices. During the next two years we attempted to organize, catalog and assess this collection for content, condition and quantity. Though the films have been stored in a dry, uniform temperature closet, some of the oldest cans gave off the acrid odor indicative of chemical deterioration when they were opened. An old hand-operated film editor was used to look at the first few feet of some of the films to determine their photographic quality. There are approximately 965 rolls (nearly 400,000 feet) of film covering events from the 1940s through 1980s. A few of these were commercially produced in color with sound, but most are black-and-white silent films produced in-house by BC. Most of the films are of BC football games, but there are a few of basketball, track, and other (non-BC) events.

By the end of 2012 it was clear that the cost of digitizing all of the films would be prohibitive. So we started to consider prioritizing and digitizing a few films at a time. Highest priority was the oldest championship football films. BC played for four national championships in the Junior Rose Bowl in Pasadena, winning in 1953, 1959 and 1976. While film of the 1961 loss has not been found, the other three films were digitized in 2014. All three of these films were commercially produced in color with sound, although the 1959 is of poor picture quality and missing the first quarter. The 1953 and 1976 films include pregame “pageantry” (banquets and parades down Colorado Boulevard with dignitaries, queens, bands, etc.) and edited game highlights.

Three small film cans of 1976 JRB play-by-play (in color) have not yet been digitized. In 1988 BC won its fourth football national championship in the Potato Bowl at Memorial Stadium. Three different VHS tapes have been found, two of highlights of the 1988 season including the Potato Bowl, and one of just the PB. These will be digitized at BC soon.

In 2016 eagle-eyed Tom Gelder, BC Foundation Director, found a Foundation account labeled Jack Frost Memorial Golf Tournament. Some readers may remember that this golf tournament was
put on by BC Alumni Association Executive Secretary (and former Athletic Director) Herb Loken as a fund raiser for the Alumni Association, and a fun way to remember BC’s longest tenured head football coach from 1934 through 1952. Since the golf tournament has not happened in more than fifteen years, the Alumni Association was convinced to grant some of this fund toward the digitization of the surviving films from the Jack Frost era. We have just successfully digitized films for 1942 BJC vs Minter Field Army Air Corps Cadets, 1949 BC vs San Diego and Hartnell, 1950 BC vs Taft and Sequoias, and 1952 BC vs Fresno JC, BC’s first Potato Bowl win and last game under legendary Jack Frost. At the same time we digitized film from what we believe to be the first basketball game in the current gymnasium in December 1956, and from a 1951 track meet at Griffith Field.

The 1942 film is particularly significant not only as the oldest film in the collection but also because the first two thirds is on color film, rare during World War II. The first few frames include a BJC Renegade logo we had not seen before. There are sideline shots of the BJC cheer leaders and uniformed band, halftime featuring the Army band marching down the field, and presentations between Army and BJC dignitaries. Our efforts to learn more about this event are stymied by the fact that there was no 1943 yearbook and the ‘42 and ‘44 yearbooks were greatly reduced. There were no football games in 1943-45. We have only one program from a later game in 1942 from which we may be able to identify some of BJC’s players. If any of our readers know anything more about this game please contact the Archives office, so we can celebrate its 75th anniversary at Homecoming 2017!

Also please pass along any reminiscences of the other events mentioned above. For example: I was selling programs at the 1952 Potato Bowl and so have been scrutinizing that DVD for my nine year-old selfie. We hope to make the films available through our website or by DVD purchase in the future, but until then you can view the DVDs in the Archives Office. You can also contribute toward a fund to digitize other films and make special requests. (It costs almost $500 to digitize each game.) Please help us preserve this precious record of BC history!

Editor’s note: We want to give a big shout out to Manuel De Los Santos for pulling the photos accompanying this article from single frames of the 1942 film (which has been digitized). Thank you, Manuel!

[Rob Parsons graduated from BC in 1962. He taught Physical Science, Engineering and Mathematics at BC from 1967 to 2005. He now serves on the Executive Board of the Archives Association.]
**BC Archives Film Preservation Project** We would love to keep the digitizing process going, so if you would like to help us out by sponsoring a particular film, we’d love to hear from you. Here is a list of the films in the collection showing which have been digitized and which have not:

**Phase I (Completed 2014)**
- 1953 Junior Rose Bowl, Pasadena – BC vs NE Oklahoma
- 1959 Junior Rose Bowl, Pasadena – BC vs Del Mar Texas
- 1976 Junior Rose Bowl, Pasadena – BC vs Ellsworth Iowa

**Phase II (Completed 2016)**
- 1942 BC vs Minter Field Army Air Corps Cadets (football) – oldest film.
- 1949 BC vs Santa Monica, San Diego, Hartnell (football)
- 1952 Potato Bowl, BC vs Fresno JC – first BC Potato Bowl win and last game under legendary (16 yr) coach, Jack Frost
- 1951 BC vs ? (track) – Only track film, Griffith Field

**Future Phases**
In 1988 BC won its fourth football national championship in the Potato Bowl at Memorial Stadium. Three different VHS tapes have been found, two of highlights of the 1988 season including the Potato Bowl, and one of just the PB.

The films listed below are black/white football game films by BC:
- 1953 BC vs Santa Monica (First season of coach Homer Beatty): Second largest win margin 74-2 (First, 91-6 over Dixie Utah in 1948 was not filmed.)
- 1953 BC vs NE Oklahoma – First JRB win
- 1955 BC vs Pasadena – First game in Memorial Stadium
- 1955 BC vs Wenatchee WA – Potato Bowl victory no. 2
- 1957 BC vs Boise ID – Potato Bowl victory no. 3 – may not be available
- 1958 BC vs Riverside – Potato Bowl victory no. 4
- 1959 BC vs El Camino – Last regular season win to get to JRB
- 1960 BC vs Cerritos – Potato Bowl victory no. 5
- 1961 BC vs Santa Monica – Last regular season win to get to JRB
- 1963 BC vs Glendale – Potato Bowl victory no. 6
- 1965 BC vs Univ. of Mexico – Only game against international opponent
- 1967 BC vs El Camino – Last regular season win to get to State Playoffs, televised game, third largest attendance in Memorial stadium, 19,968
- 1969 BC vs Santa Barbara – State quarter-final, year of largest average attendance in Memorial Stadium, 17,064

1970 BC vs Fullerton – State semi-final (So-Cal championship) in Anaheim Stadium
   BC lost infamous “mud bowl” 0-6
1971 BC @ LA Pierce – BC worst “modern” defeat, at hands of Mark Harmon
1975 BC vs El Camino – Last home game of JC All-American David “Deacon” Turner
1976 BC vs Sequoias – Potato Bowl victory no. 7, largest Memorial Stadium Attendance, 21,035 – 3 cans
1976 BC vs Ellsworth IA – Junior Rose Bowl victory no. 3
1979 BC vs Taft – Potato Bowl victory no. 8
1981 BC vs Taft – Potato Bowl victory no. 9
1988 BC vs Fullerton – Potato Bowl victory no. 10, 4th National Championship
1987 BC vs Sequoias – Potato Bowl, narrow loss
In 1945, World War II ended and the veterans returned to Bakersfield College. Mr. Burns Finlinson, then the head administrator of a junior college in St. George, Utah, accepted the invitation of the Kern County Union High School and Junior College District to start a Veterans Guidance Center for the college, which at that time was still on the high school campus. When the veteran load decreased in 1948, the Veterans Center was closed and Burns became the first Dean of Records at Bakersfield College. At the same time, Ed Simonsen, a returning veteran, became the Dean of Men. John Collins had been hired in 1947 to work under Burns as a counselor in the Veterans Center. The fact that all three of these men appointed by Grace Bird and Superintendent Theron McCuen later became president of Bakersfield College attests to the wise personnel choices of Bird and McCuen.

In retrospect Grace Bird, the first president of BC, described Finlinson’s new office thus: “Dean of Records – his responsibility would embrace all educational accounting (attendance records, academic records, eligibility records, admissions, registration) and research based on any of these when indicated or needed; Burns Finlinson held this position and improved it with innovations and sensitive understanding.”

In a 1978 interview, Burns describes the challenge of this new position Dean of Records: “In 1951 the student records were voluminous, having started in 1913. We were convinced that student records should be put on microfilm. This was in 1954-55. A project was developed and Board approval was secured. We started to collect and arrange the various student records. The first student records were in one of those old fashioned notebooks stitched together with string. This record was, I believe, in Mr. VanderEike’s hand. Students’ names were listed according to class. When Miss Bird took over, here were lists of the students in Grace’s hand. At first she did not delegate this work. Shortly, she adapted regular forms, eight by eleven cardboard. She made up the form, and sure enough, all of those were in her handwriting for many years. She entered the grades and she completed permanent records, and there were hundreds…. it was a small school, but nonetheless it was unusual. This likely helped her to know the students so well… She took materials home by the briefcase. She was a prodigious worker.

Finlinson became vice president in 1958 and president in 1968. John Collins, who worked under Finlinson and then followed him as sixth president, said of Burns’ presidency: “He was president during the four most difficult years the college had. He had to deal with the problems that came about as a result of the Vietnam War.” Margaret Levinson, Dean of Students when Burns was vice president, said Burns was a “man of tremendous academic integrity, a man of great respect for his fellow man.”

Finlinson himself described his tenure as a turbulent time; “My presidency spanned the tumultuous years 1968-1972. It was a time when the sword was the word, and when the grapes of wrath were tasted. Debate among the conservatives and the liberals became engulfed in mass passion. Conservatives were demoralized by a war which became a retreat, and liberals were paralyzed by the failure of much of what they had designed. There was a head-long retreat from responsibility.”

“The President of the College was reminded by mean and vicious letters and meetings where he was expected to right all of the alleged wrongs put forth by dissenting students as well as faculty. Academic freedom was questioned; it was demanded that books be removed from the college bookstore and the library. I hope that students and faculty came to learn that I treasured and defended liberty and freedom and that my actions were appropriate to my intellectual and philosophical convictions.”

He was able to move beyond the intensity of the changing world by turning to his love of the arts. He served as president of the Kern County Music association, was admired as a well-known grower of beautiful camellias, and he used his artistic insights to develop and expand the BC campus. “During my time as Vice President and later President of Bakersfield College a most exciting and satisfying responsibility was the development of the campus. Included were planning and building two Residence Halls, the Math Science Building, Language Arts, the Home Economics addition including the Renegade Room, Library addition, the new Fine Arts Center, the Forums, and may I proudly add what is now the Finlinson Conference Center. Each building with special equipment such as the planetarium made for improved programs. But my joy and love reached its pinnacle in the completion of the new Fine Arts Center, for I knew then and I know now that the ‘beautiful’ needs our understanding and support. The arts are fragile. They are as a tender child in this materialistic world. They are essential to the very nature of our civilization. They are the sine qua non of the beautiful in life.”

PEOPLE WE WILL MISS

MARGARET ARAKELIAN died suddenly in December. She had retired after many years as a professor in the Vocational Nursing Department.

VICTOR BRACKE taught pottery from 1965 to 1987/8 and was the Art Department Chair and the Art Gallery Coordinator. Vic was 91.

WALLY CORY, 86, retired in 1996 after teaching in the Social Studies department for 34 years.

TOM DAVIS III was on the Social Science faculty from 1965 to 1996 and was known for his hearty laugh.

NANCY EDWARDS taught English from 1968 to 2009 and was a leader in poetry circles in Kern County and beyond.

JANICE JOY KIRKLAND was the wife of Olen Kirkland, of the Social Studies and Computer Studies departments.

RALPH KRAFVE coached basketball from 1973-1985 and led the 1977-78 team to BC's only basketball state championship. He entered the Bob Elias Kern County Sports Hall of Fame in 1994.

ELLERY RALPH LITTERAL was an adjunct instructor in the Math Department for many years. He was 95.

CAROL MARSHALL worked in the Learning Center while her husband Rod ran the Supportive Services program.

GLENN McWILLIAMS was the walk-on volunteer assistant coach under Jeff Chudy. He was quarterback for BC in 1952.

DARRELL MEADERS after a career at West High taught math as a BC adjunct teacher. He was 92.

RAY NEWMAN was the head football coach at BC from 1959 through 1966 and led the team to two Junior Rose Bowl games and three Potato Bowl games. He was 92.

DAN NYSTROM was a Bakersfield College zoology professor from 1958 until 1984. He was 88.

DALENE OSTERKAMP was a distinguished BC artist and art professor with national recognition. She was also a counselor and worked with the Women's Studies Department.

SUE PFUTZENREUTER was the Secretary for the Faculty Wives and Women in 1971. Her husband is Bruce Pfutzenreuter, a counselor and wrestling coach.

MITCHELL JULES REEP taught philosophy at the Delano Center and received the first Instructor of the Year award at that campus.

RUTH RILES taught anthropology for forty years in the Delano Center.

ROSEMARY SCHOENBORN and her bright, friendly smile could be seen at her work station in the Bakersfield College Coffee Shop for 14 years. She was 96.

A B SILVER moved from teaching in Arvin to Bakersfield College in 1965 where he taught English and psychology for around thirty years.

RONDA VALDEZ, a member of the classified staff, served in several departments at BC between 1969 and 1997, ending in the Public Information Office.

CLYDE VERHINE, known for his cheerful greetings and demeanor, taught Social Studies and Economics. He was active in campus activities and served as Academic Senate president. He was 95.

EDDIE WARD retired in 2008 after 34 years as Grounds Supervisor at Bakersfield College.

ALEJANDRA “Nicki” WILKERSON served 25 years in M&O, first at Bakersfield College and then at the District.
To focus on a tennis ball completely requires the brain to stop frame the world, halt the spin, tilt and whirl, feeling only the mind’s tight grip on silence the instant before the explosive release.

After three sets happy in our bodies and a good forehand or two, we drink beer from a cooler in Jastro Park ringed by joggers. At first our talk is tennis, fellowships, and summer plans, then as imperceptively as the cooling down of our muscles, we mention Muriel’s recent death and the world stops again, the joggers, the late afternoon yellow valley sun, all are frozen on a photograph of us centered in light and park shadows, a group that has played together for years, suddenly aware of life’s rush to the edge and our need to hold moments motionless like a tennis ball stopped in flight.

Hand written note from Joyce Bayless. Her husband, Max Bayless, directed the Max Bayless’ Jaysee Band which was a popular dance band at BJC from 1937-1939.

Dear Jerry, In your latest issue you had an article about the water tower at Bakersfield High. The John Besone in the story was involved with Max and I. John’s older sister, Rose, was married to Max’s uncle, Charles Brunk. When Max was in Primary training at Tulsa, Oklahoma, John was there also. I and a coworker at Lockheed flew back there in January of 1942. It wasn’t legal for cadets to be married, but we decided to do it anyway. Max borrowed John’s car and we drove to Kansas. John later was flying cargo over the hump (the Himalayas) to the Chinese under Chiang Kai Shek. On one of his trips he was killed in an accident. I don’t know if it was the weather or plane trouble. I believe it happened while we were stationed in South Carolina (1944-45?) Thought you might find this interesting. As ever, Joyce Bayless

Hand written note from Mary K. Shell. She attended BC from 1945-1947 and later became the first woman mayor of Bakersfield and the 2nd woman Kern County Supervisor.

Dear Jerry, Thank you for your nice note which arrived today in the same mail as the Archives Newsletter. I was surprised with the attention you gave to my small donation of the Oracles. I don’t recall ever seeing that 1946 photo in the Raconteur. I was 19 and really too old to be wearing pig tails! Thanks. Brings back happy memories. Mary K.

Letter from Martha McCuen Miller, formerly a Trustee for the Kern High School District and daughter of Theron McCuen, the Superintendent who supervised the building of the BC Panorama campus.

Dear Jerry, I enjoy reading The Bakersfield College Archives Newsletter so much and appreciate all the hard work that goes into the publication. I have known many of the people (and their children) who are mentioned in each issue and it brings back such fond memories. The magazine reminds us of the important role BC has played in our community since its inception and the need to continue to support the college for future generations. I was especially moved by the article in the Fall 2016 issue regarding Theron McCuen, my dad. I loved the article by John Collins and the pictures! ... Thank you for all you do to keep BC history alive! Very sincerely, Martha McCuen Miller
Dear Jerry:

On your website, I found a photo of the 1956, Hall-of-Fame cross-country team that needed names. I provided those, then thought you might like a little of the backstory (the tattoo part really tickles me). When the team was inducted into the Hall of Fame 2007 -- 51 years after their great season -- every member, including Coach Collins, was present. It was a wonderful moment.

Go ‘Gades, Gerry Haslam

Renegade Cross-Country, 1955 - ’56 by Gerry Haslam

In a two-season period, 1955 and 1956, Renegade cross country teams under the tutelage of John Collins, went from an athletic afterthought to mythical national champions. Collins accomplished that with a group of local kids most of whom had never run a cross country race until they reached B.C. Cross country wasn’t then an important, or even a common, prep sport locally.

In 1955, a group of runners, most of whom had been high-school football players -- Jerry Strong (Maricopa), Jim Wren (Arvin), Bill Hearn (Shafter), Gerry Haslam (Garces), Ken Napier (Bakersfield), Vernon Crawford and Jack Nevarov (Wasco) – joined a strong core of returning Renegade harriers: Cruz Ybanez, Morris Kyle, Willie Warren, Jim Eskeen, and Bob Grossman.

In 1955, classes were still held on the old downtown campus, which was flat; Crawford, who became conference 2-mile champion, recalls, “Coach ran us up and down oilfield hills north of Oildale several times a week. We raced jackrabbits.”

But there was controversy: Strong and Napier were “old men,” military veterans. Each had a tattoo -- shady stuff in those years. Rumor was that they almost weren’t allowed to compete for B.C. Eventually, they were, and that 1955 team finished second in the Metropolitan Conference.

The next year one of the greatest Renegade athletes of his era, Miles Eisenman from Tehachapi High School, future conference and state champion and later an All-American at Oklahoma State, joined the team, as did Dennis Dumble from Bakersfield High and Coyt Davis from East Bakersfield High. The team was so deep that even when Davis, conference champion in the 880, had to leave it for a job, the ‘Gades still completed an undefeated, conference-and-SoCal championship season, highlighted by a 28-32 victory over previously unbeaten Santa Monica City College.

Track & Field News dubbed the ‘Gades mythical national champions, and they were inducted as a squad into the BC Track & Field/ Cross-Country Hall of Fame in 2007. Without the tattooed Jerry and Ken, two of the top finishers, there’d have been no championship and no Hall of Fame.
One of the fun aspects of working in the Archives occurs when someone opens the door and walks in holding a box of goodies. Our goodies are not doughnuts (at least not at the office) but consist of a wide variety of BC memorabilia. Often these are found by staff members who are cleaning out offices in preparation for retirement, or going through long neglected cabinets, or coming in as new teachers and cleaning out desk drawers. Kathy Rosellini is an about-to-be retiree who found some real gems to share with the Archives.

Kathy worked with Student Government (then called ASB, Associated Student Body, or ASBC, Associated Students of Bakersfield College). Those were the days when letter sweaters and jackets were worn and many student clubs had pins of their own design, often in the shape of the “keys” worn at the large universities. In the box (see photo) you can see three “keys”, two of which say Executive Council and depict the plumed head of the knight with his right hand holding a sword across the BC shield. The third one says Bakersfield College Knights around the edge of the red enamel. However, the gold metal design in the middle is an enigma. The bottom layer is a long upright sword placed like a standing cross. Below the cross bar is what looks like the Greek comedy/tragedy masks. Diagonally on top of the masks is a banner that reads 1001. The pin has to be later than 1947 which is when the name changed from Bakersfield Junior College to Bakersfield College. However, the theater (possibly represented by the masks) is not one of the activities of the Knights honorary service club. Can any reader shed light on this?

Another item that Kathy gave to the Archives is a 16 x 18 silk-screen print of an original design by Louis Chavez to be printed on T-shirts. The occasion was the Shrine Potato Bowl of December 2, 1989 when Bakersfield College (WSC champs) was playing Taft (CVC champs) at Memorial Stadium. It has a big ‘ole grinning potato head type of man holding a BC banner in one hand and a Taft banner in the other. (Neutral….so it would be good for sales to all fans.) It was a project of the ASBC and produced by Paul Pavletich’s Spankey Enterprises. Does anyone know if they were ever printed up as T-shirts and sold? Does anyone have a potato head T-shirt to offer the Archives?
Retiree Directory On The Way

Most of us have wanted to contact one of our former colleagues and found that we didn’t have their updated information. Help is on the way. A directory of contact information for all Bakersfield College retirees is being developed by the President’s office. While they can easily collect the information from newly retiring persons, they have no way of gathering information for all of us “old retirees” unless each of us provides our own information. This is not limited to those who have an email address. Whatever contact you want to share will be included… phone numbers, addresses, email address.

Only individuals whose contact information is in the directory will receive a copy of the directory (A printed copy, if you don’t have an email address, otherwise as an attachment for you to download). The directory will be updated annually as new people retire. If you have changes in your information during the year, it is your responsibility to submit the new information. It is also the responsibility of each of us to protect the privacy of those listed as you want your own privacy respected.

If you have a computer with Internet access, the easiest way to register is to visit BakersfieldCollege. Edu/retiredirectory. The other way to register is by contacting the Archives. You can call (661)395-4949, email bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu, or write to us at Bakersfield College Archives, 1801 Panorama Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93305. Please tell us: your name (include maiden name if applicable), spouse’s name, address, phone numbers, email address, positions at BC, and dates of service. We will submit the information to the President’s office which is sponsoring the directory and will maintain it.

Only around twenty of us “old retirees” have signed up at this point. There are twenty eight new retirees this year. That is the beginning of the first retiree directory. Pass the word around to others you know who may not receive the newsletter or have email. The more people who are included, the more useful the directory will be. This is for ALL retirees: classified, certificated, confidential management, and administration.

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.
1907
(110 years ago) Amendment to the California State Political code: Chapter 69 provides for establishment of local junior colleges as two year extensions of local high schools offering courses equivalent to collegiate curriculum at the University of California and providing for transfer as juniors to UC.

1917
(100 years ago) The junior college course at KCUHS gets its own name: Kern County Junior College. JC enrollment in California expands as over 800 students are enrolled in 24 junior colleges. Miss Grace Bird and Herman Spindt are hired.

1942
(75 years ago) Male students are going off to war. Ruby Baldwin becomes the first female president of the Associated Student Body.

1957
(50 years ago) Bakersfield College has been on its new campus for a year. Graduation on June 15, 1957 is the first of 38 commencements held in the Outdoor Theater. There are 280 graduates. Walter Stiern, BC alumnus and veterinarian, is elected to the California Senate.

1992
(25 years ago) The first Gender Training and Workshops are held.
Can You ID This Photo

We’d love to know the names of these four people. Please send information to bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu.