



# The Bakersfield College Archives Newsletter

Spring 2019

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## Honoring Jerry Ludeke: 6 Decades of Service



BC Time Capsule Opened

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# MID-CENTURY NOT SO MODERN

## 1955 BC time capsule opened

Before demolition began on the Campus Center early this year to make way for the first of the many new Measure J construction projects, Bakersfield College administrators, faculty and students opened the time capsule placed in the cornerstone at the April 30, 1955 dedication of the Administration Building for the new BC campus.

"We are leaving the home of a close relative with whom we have resided since 1913," BC President Ralph Prator wrote in the *Renegade Rip* published two days before the ceremony. "On April 30th, we shall not be looking back but rather we shall look ahead to a new and different life. We feel like a relative who has at last established himself. We are creating a home of our own."

Among the time capsule contents lent by the President's office to the Archives were a 1954-55 Renegade student handbook, a 1954-55 student directory, a 1954 Raconteur, a 1953-55 BC course catalogue, a 1955 BC Band Concert program, Masonic literature, and several newspapers including the *Renegade Rip*, the *Bakersfield Californian* and a feisty daily, the *East Bakersfield Press*.

The newspapers painted an interesting portrait of mid-20th Century Bakersfield that, unlike the era's Danish modern furniture and clean-lined architecture, seems quaint. Speedboat races drew big crowds to Hart Park while the local minor league baseball club, the Indians, struggled to draw fans to Sam Lynn Ballpark.

The *Press*, whose motto was "Growing With Greater Bakersfield", apparently thought Bakersfield had grown great enough without needing a freeway. A front-page headline shouted **Freeway Monster Threatens**, condemning the State Department of Transportation's plan to construct the Bakersfield segments of what would become the 99 and 58 freeways. The lead story warned "the state wants the almost numberless automobiles traversing Highway 99 to go right through Bakersfield." An editorial below the masthead titled **Only Militant Citizens Can Stop Bureaucrats** called for "militant mass protest" against the freeways.

The *Californian* expressed its support for the state Feather River Project, which would bring millions of acre feet of water to Kern County a decade later via the California Aqueduct. A banner headline also announced Albert Einstein's death.

Fourteen movie theaters advertised in the April 29 *Californian*. The Fox Theater's special "midnite" feature, "Dr. Jekyll and His Weird Show," promised "monsters grab girls from audience" and "He brings the dead back" but assured "ambulances and nurses on call at all times." The Rainbow Gardens on South Union Avenue was still enjoying its country music heyday, advertising a "big western dance tomorrow night" featuring Bob Wills and All His Texas Playboys.

"Don't rent - buy. Own a typewriter. Pay for it like rent," urged

an ad for Jack Davenport's typewriter company. J.C. Penney offered washable slacks in a fabric called "butcher rayon." Food prices were minuscule: eggs 41 cents a dozen, lamb less than a dollar a pound, Bisquick at 37 cents a box. But wages were tiny, too: the help wanted ads offered a waitress job for 90 cents an hour, a housekeeping job for \$30 a week, and a bookkeeping position for \$300 a month.

Perhaps the most beloved of many people's newspaper memories are the comics, and in 1955, "Mark Trail" puffed his pipe through outdoor dramas at the bottom of the front Sports page. Two mainstay single panel cartoons in the *Californian* were "Our Boarding House" and "Out Our Way," and "Dick Tracy," "Gasoline Alley," and "Alley Oop" anchored the strips. All are long gone from the *Californian*.

If the College follows tradition and includes a time capsule within the walls of its current construction boom, what will future generations find inside? What would Archives Newsletter readers put into a BC time capsule today and why? Tell us what you think. ☺



**BAND SOLOIST**—A Renegade bandsman will be the featured soloist when the Bakersfield College Renegade Band presents its annual spring concert in Harvey Auditorium Monday evening, April 25, at 8:15 o'clock. Larry Thornton, who is a returning veteran and who performed with the Army band at Ft. Ord, will play the Third Movement from the violin concerto of Felix Mendelssohn. Tickets are being sold at Booth's, Tracy's and Parlier's music shops and will also be available at the box office the evening of the concert.

From the Bakersfield Californian, April 1955

**\$50 Million Booby Trap**

# Freeway Monster Threatens

**The PRESS**

**GROWING WITH GREATER BAKERSFIELD**

Bakersfield is just about to be presented with a fifty million dollar booby trap.

The State Division of Highways is about set to start building a very intricate system of freeways and grade separations, North and South and East and West, right through the heart of this city.

The state wants the almost numberless automobiles traversing Highway 99 (Main Street of California) to go right through

## BC PRESIDENT SPEAKS:

# Cornerstone Laying Will Be Milestone

On Saturday, April 30th, the Masonic Lodge is laying the cornerstone for the new campus of the college. It is an event of great historical significance to Bakersfield College. It causes us to reflect on the solemnity of our move to a new residence and many thoughts come to mind. We are leaving the home of a close relative with whom we have resided since 1913. We have come to feel that we are a part of that home so we leave our close kin, Bakersfield High School, with pleasant memories and achievements which we've experienced during the years we have shared the same corridors, rooms and Elm Grove. The treasures of thought we shall take with us; we have, however, a feeling of some concern at severing ties we have come to respect and enjoy.

On April 30th we shall not be looking back but rather we shall look ahead to a new and different life. We feel like a relative who has at last established himself. We are creating a home of our own. It offers much in the way of a fruitful realization of a long-time dream. Although we shall file in the cornerstone of a building on that campus the records of this year, we shall be thinking about the day that record will be opened. I hope you will be able to say when that time comes, "I was there."

It is indeed a most challenging thought that you who write the history of the Bakersfield College of today may be a party to the opening up of this cornerstone at some future time among those who will be writing the history of tomorrow. I hope many of you will be present for this ceremony.

RALPH PRATOR



ABOVE: SGA President Ashley Harp waits to see what the 1955 time capsule holds. LEFT: BC President Ralph Prator's farewell to the BHS campus in 1955 also anticipated the future opening of the time capsule.

# Simply Sterling

## Jerry Ludeke Honored For Six Decades of Service to BC

On March 23 at the Bakersfield College Sterling Silver dinner, Archives Director Jerry Ludeke received the 2019 Bakersfield College Foundation Service Medal for the 60

years she has devoted to BC. This richly deserved honor recognizes Jerry's lengthy career of teaching, leadership, and scholarship, which most recently includes 14 years as a volunteer director of the Bakersfield College Archives.

Jerry Ludeke has been to BC what in baseball is a "utility player," someone who can be trusted to fill in ably at any position. But she has taken each of the many roles she has filled to another level, using her broad education, compassion, and common sense to improve higher learning for BC students who did not get an equal start in life.

And in retirement as Archives Director, Jerry's organizational skills and her

scholar's natural curiosity have built a collection of publications and materials that preserve and rekindle memories of BC's past. As a utility player, she is an MVP.

Jerry is from a generation of teachers who came to California during its post-World War II growth spurt, although she spanned the globe to get here. An Indiana University double major in art and English, she taught art to an all-boys class in a disadvantaged area of Ft. Wayne, her hometown.

After earning an MFA in design from Tulane University, Jerry taught at Beirut College for Women until civil unrest between Christian and Muslim factions turned Beirut into a potential war zone. In 1958, she boarded a ship in Port Said, Egypt and sailed to Hong Kong, then to San Francisco after hurriedly applying to graduate schools using a typewriter at the U.S. consulate in Port Said.

Jerry had earned an M.A. in counseling from Stanford when she and her fiancé, John Ludeke, were recruited by Kern High School District talent scouts John Eckhardt and Ed Simonsen (then BC President-elect). "John and I were a package deal, because we both needed teaching jobs wherever we decided to go," Jerry said.

As Jerry recalls, Simonsen's and Eckhardt's tennis tans (somewhat of a legend among BC faculty who were recruited during this era) and their glowing accounts of life in Bakersfield – which included the highest teaching salaries in California – persuaded John and Jerry to come to Kern County. "We intended to come to Bakersfield for a few years, then move on, but we never left," Jerry said.

Jerry preceded John to the BC faculty, serving in her first two years as director of residence halls, counselor for BC's Opportunity Program for disadvantaged students, remedial English instructor, and as a fill-in drawing instructor for Clayton Rippey, who was on leave. John taught and coached at Bakersfield High School while earning an M.A. in history during summer terms at the University of Oregon. After two years at BC, Jerry "dropped out" from teaching, as she puts it, to raise their children. John joined the BC history faculty in 1965.



Photo by Susan Pinza



Jerry came back to BC in 1965 as a volunteer, helping Peg Levinson by starting the College's first tutoring program to serve foreign students and underprepared students, chiefly from disadvantaged backgrounds. Her tutoring of deaf and blind students would later form the core of BC's Special Education courses (and she reports that she is still available for tutoring on demand).

Jerry also taught basic math, English and pre-employment skills to minority workers, job-training students and auto shop students, and remedial English to those for whom English was not their first language. She worked with Registered Nurse Program students to coach them in test-taking skills. For one shy nursing student whom Jerry remembers, the obstacle was simple: she wasn't pressing her pencil hard enough for the Scantron machine to read her answers.

"For many years, the word was 'Call Jerry if you need tutoring help,'" she said.

Jerry hit her teaching stride in 1975 as a full-time faculty member and founding instructor of the BC Learning Center, now the Jerry Ludeke Learning Center, where for 20 years she distilled her hands-on tutoring experience into a center offering for-credit courses and tutoring programs aimed at BC's

growing enrollment of underprepared students. She also worked with faculty to make assignments and tests more readable for students.

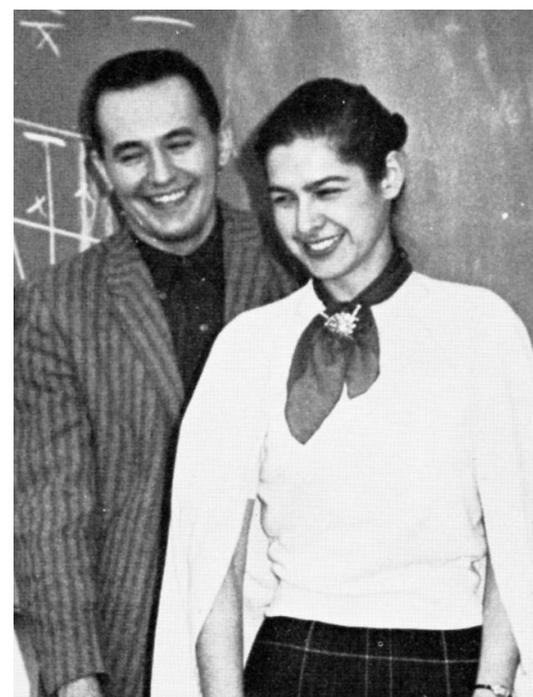
Jerry's BC colleagues honored her with the Margaret Levinson Award for Faculty Leadership, Shirley Trembley Award for Excellence in Teaching, and Levan Institute Colloquium. After she retired in 1994, Jerry was president of the Kern County Historical Society, edited and co-authored a book on the Chinese in Kern County, and tutored Bakersfield City Schools students.

In 2003, Jerry was recruited to help organize BC Archives volunteers, a job which soon evolved into the directorship. She was strictly a volunteer until the Archives Association realized that since she was signing checks, work orders and Archives correspondence, she ought to become an official employee again, if only for a small stipend. For Jerry, though, the true reward has always been uncovering and sharing the history of Bakersfield College, a great deal of which she carries in her head.

"It's so fun to receive an artifact or come across an old photo or news account that triggers a search for more information," Jerry said. "And usually that extra fact or name or date can be found in the Archives. It's the hunt that is so intriguing and fulfilling." ☺



ABOVE LEFT: Jerry Ludeke with her family at the Sterling Silver dinner. ABOVE: Indiana University graduate Jerry Dreisbach in 1954. BELOW: New Faculty members Jerry Ludeke and BC Choir Director Joseph Huszti in 1959.



## From Wales to Yorkshire to Bakersfield

Audio tape of BC Choir's 1965 triumphant concert in Wales enters archives

In 1965, the Bakersfield College Choir launched a summer tour of Europe in the British Isles. At the Eisteddfod Music Festival in Wales, the choir brought fame and honor to the College by winning an international choral competition before an audience of 10,000. The Eisteddfod was (and is) a prestigious festival that had hosted budding opera singers Luciano Pavarotti and Joan Sutherland in 1955, and Placido Domingo made his debut there only three years after the Choir's visit.

One Eisteddfod judge noted that the BC choir "gave the feeling that behind the sound of their music was the sound of the human heart." That extra bit of feeling carried the day as Bakersfield College won the mixed-choir competition over 15 other groups by a single point. The grand prize was a 25-pound solid bronze statue of a winged lion, the symbol of Wales – and £450 sterling.

In 2015, the choir held a 50th anniversary reunion that included a performance directed by Joseph Huszti, who had directed the choir in 1965. The Spring 2015 Archives Newsletter also published a memoir of the triumph by choir member Dan Sniffin, who wrote, "Other than the wonderful memories of the 1965 Bakersfield College Choir, the only physical evidence of this accomplishment is the trophy itself."

The Archives is happy to report that today, the physical record of the choir's triumph also includes a rare treasure: a reel-to-reel audio tape of the choir's Eisteddfod concert.

In 2018, Dave Teal of Yorkshire, England emailed Archives Director Jerry Ludeke, writing that he had come across a tape of the Bakersfield College Choir's Eisteddfod's July 8, 1965 concert that included an interview with Joseph Huszti. Mr. Teal attached a digital copy of the concert tape, which he had inherited from a neighbor who had recorded the concert directly from a BBC radio broadcast using an early magnetic tape recorder.

Mr. Teal said he believed the box of reel-to-reel tapes that included the concert "was destined for the trash had I not expressed an interest in them." He noted that he is a member of the Historical Society of Barwick in Elmet where he lives, adding, "It is always a delight when presented with material for our archives. I guess even more for you when it covers your own story."

The Archives has forwarded a digital copy of the concert music to choir members. We are fortunate and grateful that a fellow archivist from across the Atlantic was looking out for Bakersfield College and rescued a vital piece of our history from oblivion. ☺



# The 'Blizzard' of '99

On January 25, 1999, people in Bakersfield awoke to find their homes and yards covered in 4 to 6 inches of snow (!!!), an extremely rare and delightful surprise. Most government agencies and schools, including Bakersfield College, closed for the day. Front yards sprouted snowmen, families sledged in Heritage Park and at BC, and some of the more adventurous snow-lovers even skied down the Panorama Bluffs.

The wet and heavy snowpack buckled poles beneath the outdoor canopies in the Campus Center, and as the February 5 *Renegade Rip* reported, BC also closed on January 26 when a power outage crippled the campus. Maintenance staff believed the outage was caused by snow runoff. Ironically, the outage forced Food Services staff to shut down refrigerators and freezers and buy 1,250 pounds of dry ice to keep food cold just one day after the snow had fallen.

These photos from the BC Archives show what the campus looked like in the wake of the "blizzard" of '99. We also asked BC people about that memorable day. ☺



I woke up at 4:00 a.m. and it seemed unusually bright, so I looked outside and was surprised to see snow everywhere! We knew no one was going anywhere with snow that deep on the roads, but one of our neighbors was determined to go to work at a local high school, and she promptly got her car stuck in the middle of our street.

~Mike Gutierrez, retired counselor

I was home from work because my colleague, Ralph Cazares, called me from BC around 6:00 a.m. to tell me the school was closed due to the snow. So I got out of bed to find the outside blanketed with snow. I threw on a ski jacket over my pajamas, tugged on my après-ski boots, and started walking around the streets. But halfway around the neighborhood, I realized that my feet were absolutely freezing, and I looked down to see that my boots -- which were very old and intended for indoor use -- had disintegrated. I ended up soaked and soggy up to my waist by the time I trudged home.

~Becki Whitson, retired Psychology faculty

Christy Morgan was interning in one of my English 1A classes for her MA in English. That day was the day she was going to teach for the first time -- and I remember having to call her to tell her that school was cancelled. Then I remember calling her again since water pipes (I think) broke that delayed classes.

~Marci Lingo, retired English and Library faculty

I had been in San Diego on some sort of accreditation business, and I was expecting to fly back to Bakersfield on that Sunday night. But when I checked in for my flight, they told me that the Bakersfield airport was closed. Closed? Perhaps because of fog? No, it was snowing in Bakersfield! After I got back into town the next day, I remember walking around on Monday evening on campus and in the neighborhood, with plenty of snow still on the ground.

~ Jack Hernandez, retired faculty member and administrator



We heard a loud crack from the front yard in the early morning. We looked out to see that a large snow-covered pine branch from the tree in our front yard had broken off. It was snowing! After the kids woke, we all bundled up and went for a drive to campus. We wanted to look around as we told the kids this was probably a once in a lifetime opportunity to see the campus and city covered in snow! We drove to campus and to the BC circle at McCuen Hall. What a sight! BC covered in glistening white! Back to the house where the kids played in the snow as we began to think about what to do about the aluminum awning over the back patio that had collapsed under the weight of the snow...

~Greg Chamberlain, retired BC President



# BC Bushwackers and the Marble Cone Fire of 1977

By Jerry Ludeke

The recent years of drought have brought many dramatic wildfires to the West. The largest in California history is the Mendocino Complex Fire, which started this past summer in July 2018 and ravaged around 459,123 acres. The most destructive, and also the deadliest, fire was the 2018 Camp Fire which covered “only” 153,336 acres but destroyed 18,804 structures and caused 85 deaths.

Back in 1977, 41 years ago, the largest ever California fire was the Marble Cone Fire. (In 2018 it now ranks as the 11th largest.) It burned for three weeks in the Big Sur area, specifically in the Ventana Wilderness of the Santa Lucia Mountains. With thousands of dead trees for fuel, it destroyed 177,866 acres, but no structures or lives were lost.

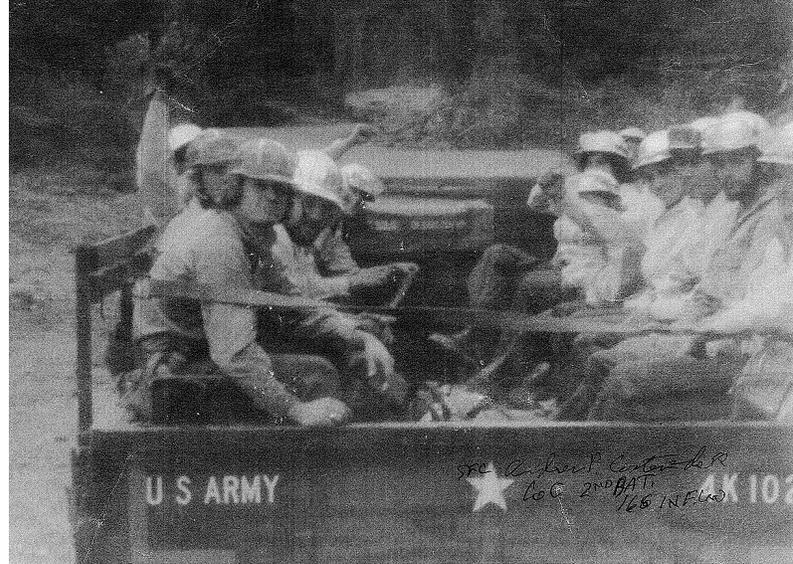
There is an unusual Bakersfield College connection to the Marble Cone Fire. In big fires, locally stationed armed forces are often deployed to support firefighters. In 1977 a unique crew of Bakersfield College students joined together as a volunteer group, calling themselves the BC Bushwackers, and went to join the fight.

We were alerted to this by Andres Castaneda, Sr, a Bakersfield resident. Andres’ grandfather was Spanish and his grandmother was Apache. He retired after 22 years with the Department of Water Resources, having previously served 34 years in the U.S. Army.

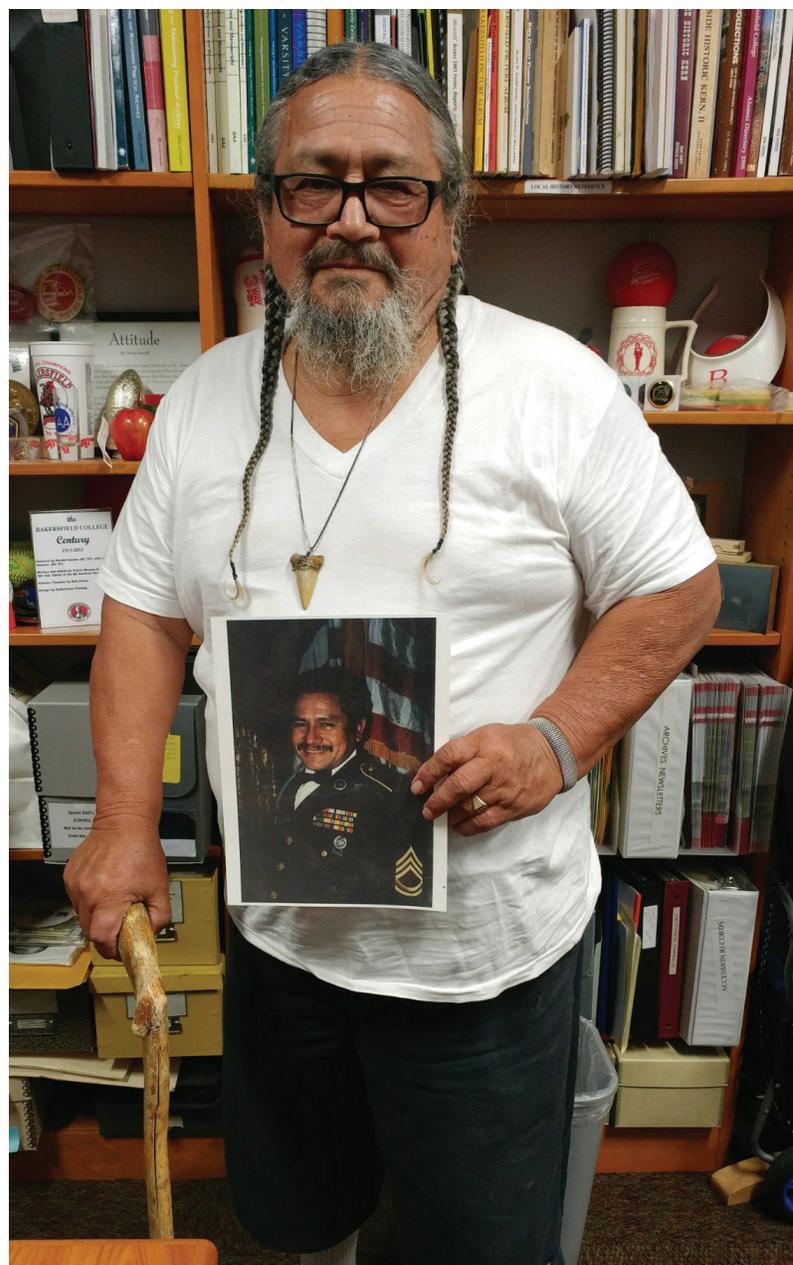
At the time of the Marble Cone Fire in 1977, Andres was a platoon sergeant in the 2nd battalion in charge of 25 men and 20 US. Army trucks. Their job was to support the firefighters at Marble Cone by transporting men and supplies. At one point he had 10 to 12 trucks primed to rescue firefighters at the top of a big hill. Knowing there was no place to turn around, the trucks backed their way up the hill for three hours, finally meeting up with the firefighters who had already been walking out for three hours!

One day his Army truck was paused in line behind an open pickup truck filled with a bunch of young fellows sitting on the sides and displaying a “BC Bushwackers” sign. Andres got out to talk with them and they were a bunch of volunteers from Bakersfield College. Andres took the accompanying photo which he brought to the Archives.

[The Archives would love to hear more about the Bushwackers. Were you on that truck, or do you know someone who was, or is this story in your family lore? Let us know, please.....and our thanks to Andres for sharing it with us.]



ABOVE: BC Bushwackers BELOW: Andres Castaneda



# The Three Wizards and the Magic of Chemistry

By Wizards Bob Allison and Ray Ward

How does a chemistry teacher make this seemingly abstract subject real to students? We professors talk about atoms and molecules and, to us, they are as real and concrete as chairs and tables. Unfortunately, our students generally do not share that attitude. There is one way to make chemistry “real,” however: the demonstration. When we can show how mixing chemicals can make things happen -- gases form, colors change, and better yet, explosions occur -- that gets students’ attention and, we hope, results in some understanding, too. Since we professors are all performers at heart anyway, the demonstration is something we love to do. Back in the 1970s, two of us, Ray Ward and Bob Allison, team taught a chemistry class to a very large audience and regularly did demonstrations for that group. In 1980, BC held its first annual Open House. The idea was to invite the community, including prospective students, to see BC, and have departments do presentations of their programs. Phyllis Mallory was in charge of the program.

Since chemical demonstrations were so successful in our classes, the two of us, along with our late colleague, Bob Wickey, decided to put on a chemical magic show. We would



be the Three Wizards and dress as alchemists. Our costumes were made by our late colleague Professor Pat Lee, and we were assisted by our then laboratory assistants.

The show was a huge success. We packed Science and Engineering 56 (capacity 110) with a sellout crowd at every performance. We even scheduled extra performances and received great reviews in the *Renegade Rip* as well as the *Bakersfield Californian*. The *Californian* article referred to us as “physics teachers,” but we forgave the reporter for that. And the *Rip* gave us a lot of hype:

“By popular demand, the now famous and most talked about ‘Chemical Magic Show’, shown at BC’s Open House, will again be performed Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in SE-56. Come see Wizards Wickey, Ward, and Allison in action!”

We can’t recall all the details of

the shows from almost 40 years ago, but do remember that Bob Allison always began with a balloon filled with hydrogen gas. The balloon was attached with a string to the demonstration table at the front of the room, about six feet above the table. After everyone was seated, he would light a candle attached to a stick and touch it to the balloon, which would then explode in a flash of flame and a very loud concussion. It immediately got everyone’s attention, quieted the room, and the show would then proceed.

The show always ended with Bob Wickey (Wizard Wickey) performing a demonstration which produced a cloud of nontoxic smoke.

We repeated this every year for as long as we did the open house - and always had a great time. ☺

## Chemical ‘magic’ at BC open house

Magical potions will be brewing in the physical science department Saturday at Bakersfield College.

Physics teachers and students have cooked up a chemical magic show to dazzle campus visitors during BC’s first Annual Open House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

“It’s really magic used in the figurative sense,” said Robert Allison, chairman of the physical science department.

“It may seem magical, but only because of the illusions which chemistry can create.”

Professors Allison, Bob Wickey and Ray Ward will perform their “magic” show every hour from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Between shows, visitors and students can watch a solar popcorn cooker in action, learn how a seismograph works and actually see the sound waves of their voices.

And that’s just in the physical science department.

There will be a wide variety of activities throughout the campus — something for all ages and interests.

Other departmental activities include a glass-blowing demonstration, student art show, sign language performances, cooking demonstrations, karate and gymnastics demonstration.

For drama lovers there will be the Reader’s Theater and a French language play.

Golfers or would-be golfers can get some tips at a golf clinic on campus.

There will be botany and biology displays, lectures on China and the Middle East and information sessions on fire safety at home and how to protect against burglary.

There will be pony cart rides for the young, a

dunking booth, belly and disco dancers, mimes, a fortune-telling booth and a kissing booth.

Spectators of the “mashed potato theater” will be able to buy mashed potatoes to throw at the villain of a play.

One highlight of the day will be the annual student art sale. A portion of the proceeds will go toward art scholarships.

Handicap Awareness Day is being held in conjunction with the Open House. Clayton Turner, internationally known mouth artist from Fresno, will demonstrate his art.

There is no charge for admission to the open house.

Free parking will be available in any of the student parking lots and parking for the handicapped will be open in the lot in front of the BC Administration Building. Trams will bus visitors from parking lots to the main areas of activities.

# People We Will Miss

**DAVID BESST** was an adjunct teacher in the English Department before he became a full time staff member in 2001. Fellow English professor Richard Marquez described him as “the professor students respected and genuinely liked.” He was still an active teacher at the time of his death.

**MARGARET (PEGGY) BUCKLEY** was BC’s Irish lassie. Starting at BC in 1960 as the school nurse RN, Peggy kept getting more education. She completed her 34-year BC career in 1994 as a Ph.D and Chairperson of the Allied Health Division and Director of the Associate Degree RN Program. She served as Academic Senate President for three years.

**EMMA VALENTINA CANDELARIA** passed away at the age of 91 having retired from more than 10 years working in the Bakersfield College cafeteria. Her name is familiar because both her daughter, Gloria Candelaria-Palinsky, and her son-in-law, David Palinsky, were also on the staff, first at Bakersfield College and then at the District.

**BETTY COOK** was a world traveler, historian, and artist who taught art and art history at Bakersfield College as an adjunct professor.

**MARY HIMMELHOCH COPELIN** grew up in Bakersfield and eventually ended up with a Ph.D from UCLA. She was an admired teacher of legal argumentation, speech, and communication for more than thirty years at BC. Animals (especially horses and dogs) and golf were her favorite hobbies.

**DR. JESS DIAMOND**, who lived to be one hundred, gave lectures at the Bakersfield College Schools of Nursing on the topic of child abuse, his recognized area of expertise.

**MARGARET (PEGGY) HAIGHT**, while not a staff member, was a fixture on campus, walking from her nearby home to attend many campus events and to support BC students and programs. Her “Paper Bag Donation” was notorious: in 2008 she walked into the Foundation Office to drop off a grocery bag filled with \$100,000 to add to the \$200,000 previously donated. Over the years, Peggy Haight donated more than one million dollars in support of BC and the students.

**GERALD (GERRY) MAGUIRE** retired in 1987 after twenty-nine and a half years. Early in his employment he was Lead Custodian in the Indoor Theatre. He was the Operations Superintendent in Maintenance and Operations at the time of his retirement. Gerry and his wife Dessa were great Renegade football fans.

## 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 in Room 216 on the 2nd floor of the new Grace Van Dyke Bird Library, next to the newly named “Bill Thomas Room,” formerly known as the Trustees Room.

Our basic OFFICE HOURS are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with other hours available by appointment. During the summer, our hours are more erratic. Please call 395-4949 to see if we are in when you want to visit and deliver articles or papers related to Bakersfield College history. Donation articles may also be left at the main Library checkout desk. (Please include your name and contact information so we can thank you.) You may also email us at [bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu](mailto:bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu).

### We Need Fireside Room Photos

With the Fireside Room passing into memory as new construction begins to transform the literal and figurative heart of the campus, we have searched the Archives for photos of this communal space -- and we have found our records wanting.

Readers, please send us your photos and written memories of events that happened in the Fireside Room. We plan to share your visual and written memories in the next newsletter as a sendoff to this iconic BC gathering place, and we promise to take good care of your images, whether you lend or donate them.

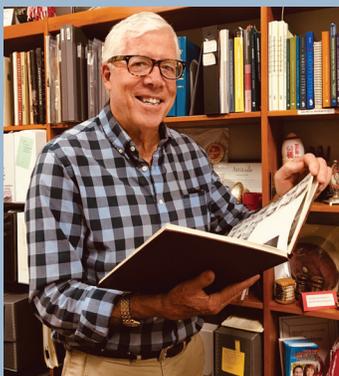


As retired and older we often reflect on our lives and life. We do this at times with humor as we realize, for example, that we are somewhat outdated with our vocabulary of “cool” and “groovy” and our wardrobe of jeans without holes. We also think seriously of how we should live after our careers have ended. This poem came from one of those times when I realized how difficult doing this can be and how being open to others was one possible answer as we walk this road.

# Want

A Poem by Dr. Jack Hernandez

*When I left ambition  
I was unaware  
the road less traveled  
would be dim and bare,  
that reaching a place  
where I might repair  
my soul disfigured  
from daily grasping  
would be a nightly dream  
under veiled stars,  
then I heard a refrain  
“I shall not want”  
and awake I turned  
to prepare table  
for those wandering  
with empty hands.*



## From the new editor by Allan Krauter

When Jerry Ludeke asked if I would take over editing the Archives newsletter, I was excited but also a little intimidated. Bakersfield College is beloved by so many people, both those like me who were once BC students and others who have poured their lives into the College. BC has rightly been a source of pride to our community for a very long time: one of California’s oldest community colleges with more than a century of academic excellence, innovative teaching, athletic triumphs, and lectures by distinguished scholars and international leaders. Preserving that public history and sharing people’s personal BC experience renews the collective memory of the College and strengthens its deep community ties.

Bakersfield College is certainly woven into my own history. As a boy, I thrilled to the spectacle of Renegade football and the awesome marching band in Memorial Stadium. I dove into the wrong lane at a swim meet at BC (finishing next to last in my heat), and I got to play football once under Memorial Stadium’s lights as an Arvin High School JV because East High School played their home games there. I studied at BC before transferring to Berkeley, where only a few of my professors matched the excellence of BC’s faculty. In 1977 I came back to BC as Ann Gutcher’s assistant public information officer, left in 1979 to be a press aide to former BC faculty member Bill Thomas when he was elected to Congress, and became a faculty spouse when my wife and I returned to Bakersfield in 1990 and Anna became a BC librarian.

Bakersfield College continues to yield wonderful stories that deserve retelling and others that need to be told. I look forward to the task, and I invite every reader to bring us your tales of the heroic, outrageous, endearing, and otherwise interesting life and times of Bakersfield College. GO GADES! ☺

**Bakersfield College Archives Association**  
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