



Kadet Newsletter

Peacock Military Academy

Alumni Association, Inc.

(830) 816-5013

Address of Record: 113 Emery Lane, Boerne, Texas

78006

Michael A. (Mike) Vlieger, '62, Editor

May, 2010

Vol. XXX, No.

1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Brother Kadets –

You might be thinking why I did not use the words “Brother Ex-Cadets” like I always do. Well, Brother Gene Hughs, Class of 1960, wrote me to say he still felt like he was a Cadet because, since we are not making anymore new ones, he still feels like one! I thought to myself, well we still have to hold that old gray line like we have done since 1973 when Peacock Military Academy closed its doors and graduated the last Cadet, who by the way is on your Board of Directors (Arthur Wolf, Class of 1973) and who, along with his classmates, have been instructed to turn off the lights when the last party is over. So I said why not Brother Cadets? But, do not fear that is still a very long way from now – turning out the lights!! Just think, we have Director and Past-President of the Board Brother Ben Sutton, Class of 1942 and that is 68 years since he graduated if my math still works. So Brother Cadet Gene Hughs, Class of 1960, we are thinking (just thinking) we might give you a promotion if you and your classmates have a good participation at our next Reunion this October. The Class of 1960 will be celebrating their 50-graduation anniversary. Let's see how many show up for the Reunion? I'll bet we will see many of them coming together after 50 years! I sure would like to see many of my classmates. Make it a challenge for your classmates to come for such a historic occasion and see how everyone is doing and catch up on old times and have a good laugh on things that happened to us when we were young and full of p... and vinegar at Peacock. Remember that we Brothers do not care if you are very rich or a millionaire or are very important. The most important thing is that you are one of us and are with us on these special occasions and we hope that you are in good health and can still laugh at your experiences at Peacock. Because being one of us makes you very special in our book. If you have succeeded and have become someone of notoriety and importance in life, good for you. We wish you the best. Besides the good will of God and your parents, you owe some of that success to Peacock for the education and foundation you received there.

So there is the challenge to all classes, to get as many of your classmates to attend the 2010 Reunion at the Marriott Plaza Hotel next to Hemisfair Plaza, very close to the Alamo and Downtown San Antonio this October. We Board members had an evening dinner at the Hotel and I have to tell you that it was a

good choice to hold our Reunion there. The place is really nice and the food and service is very good.

That also goes for the Classes of 1950 and 1970 who will be celebrating memorable anniversaries. Let's see if you can beat the Class of 1962 who always has the best participation at our Reunions. Well, come on Class of 1963, which is my class, let's see if we can beat them all this year!

Now to business! Your Board of Directors met Saturday, April 10th at our old Headquarters Building with 18 out of 25 Board members present. Most of the members present were from out of San Antonio. We also welcomed Brother Edmund Valdes, Class of 1969 (who also wants to serve on the Board) and Coach Joe Cortez, faculty member from 1955 – 1960, who congratulated the Board for keeping the Spirit of Peacock going with the enthusiasm that we have since the Association's founding. Did you know that Colonel

Don did not think that the Alumni Association would exist for as long as it has? That is why he created PAR or Peacock Academy Records separate from the Alumni Association. That just goes to prove that we enjoy our fellowship and our love and respect for where a lot of us grew up to become men. Even, if we might not have liked it when we were there.

Let me tell you Brothers, our meetings are very lively, not boring by any means. Coach Cortez told us about some of his experiences at Peacock and how much that experience helped him in his later years at other schools where he taught. We also invited him as our guest to attend our Reunion in October so he can talk to the membership and bring back some memories. He has retired from teaching, but is still very active and looks great. He was recently inducted into the San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame.

I hope to see you all at our next Reunion to elect new Board Members and Officers and maybe you can become one. All we ask is that you make two Board Meetings during the year-the first weekend in April and October and attend the Reunion which will be the best fun you will have in a long time, I guarantee it! Until then, God Bless and keep the light burning for your old Alma Mater.

PMA Alumni Association President,
Frank R. Torres
“Pancho”
Class of 1963



Kadets of Peacock,

It's been a long time since I contributed a letter for my bothers and that's too long. If Coaches Bingham and Collins taught me math well, I graduated from PMA 57 years ago. Colonel Don was proud of the Alumni Association and would embarrass me (in a loving manner) by making so much of me starting this lasting brotherhood. Just as important a by-product was our ladies, for they have become a "sisterhood," since they only have "us" in common...this is phenomenal. Kadets, realize that we are unique. We bonded through our grades, sports, and living together in rather "austere" conditions (that of a warrior). Everything we did develops the extraordinary traits of a warrior. We could not have learned these things anywhere else! Has anyone wondered why the Alumni Association not only has lasted this long, but also has flourished? I did not start it for the "Peacocks"...but for the thousands of the Peacock family...the Kadets. Our strength is not just in Battalion Commanders, the officers, but those that formed the battalion. Brothers, we are getting older, and the excitement of seeing old comrades is just as true today as the graduation line of Seniors with tears in their eyes as the Corps slowly files past! Do not let another two years go by without honoring the battalion by coming to see old friends, old family, and old Kadets!

Rudy Johnson
Class of 1953

Welcome new LIFE MEMBERS to the
Alumni Association!

Earl Burton Adams, '62
Eddie Alexander, '61
Steven B. Schechter, '72

The Association thanks you for your
support!!



TAPS

R. Dick Childers, III, '54
Terry Lance Royall, '57
Ed H. Barnett, '59

Peacock Kadet Medals presented in 2010

Dalton Banks at San Antonio Academy
Presented by Edmund Valdes, '69

Spencer Romo at Texas Military Institute
Presented by Michael A. Vlieger, '62

Zachary (Zach) T. Middleton at San Marcos Academy
Presented by Raul Gonzalez, '68

William A. Hasbrook at Marine Military Academy
Presented by Earl B. Adams, '62

How to Contact PMA

- Mike's Home Telephone 830-816-5013
- gingervlieger@aol.com Best Choice
- jabonero@aol.com Next Best Choice

WebSite and Emails

- The PMA WebSite is
www.PeacockMilitaryAcademy.com
- This Newsletter will be posted on the Website.
- We need your email address for our records!!

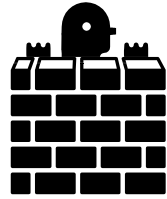
Marriott Reservations

1-800-266-9432

Must call this number before
August 17, 2010, to guarantee
Alumni room rate for the
October 1-3, 2010 REUNION!!



“Something there is that doesn’t love



a wall....”

“Please, don’t whip me anymore! I’ll shine my shoes, I promise! The teenage boy screams while dangling from his ankles out a second-story window. The screaming intensifies as he is quickly dragged back inside. Then piercing cries from an adjacent one-story structure: “Help! Let me out! Help!” followed by muffled sounds, the scratching and shaking of screened windows, and a body falling from the window to the ground.

Just yards away, passengers--their mouths agape--sit in non-air-conditioned, open-window busses—an audience held captive at the stop light and by the proximity of the crime scenes. Johnston and McKinnon Halls are in easy view of the city bus stop at the corner of Cincinnati Avenue and Wilson Boulevard and immediately behind Lee House.

Terrible drama. Great fun, too – especially with a fellow student stationed nearby with pen and paper to record the passenger-reactions. Did they realize that the desperate prisoners, these incarcerated victims of 1951 simply could have climbed out the windows and walked on to the campus or across or even left it, altogether?

Ed Ford (Class of 1962) said that’s why he chose Peacock over other schools he visited with his uncle. “There were no walls.”

Cannons, yes, and uniforms. Guards, too: the Corporal of the Guard with a sheathed bayonet hanging from his belt; the Sergeant of the Guard with a holstered unloaded pistol; the Officer of the Day and his ornamental saber. But nothing to keep cadets from sneaking out, after Taps or whenever-- unauthorized visits to Woodlawn Lake to meet a girlfriend; up the block to Grace’s Drug Store for a soda or a phone call, or over to Culebra and Bandera streets for hamburgers. Ed Sebera (Class of 1949) regularly caught a bus all the way to Five Points, near downtown, to pick up late night meals. These off and back on to the campus ‘escapes’ to somewhere had been going on ever since the school was founded in 1894. No watch towers or armed sentries. No walls. Mike Vlieger (Class of 1962) stated: “No need for walls.”

Vlieger continued. “Of course, not everyone realized it at the time, but most of us didn’t want to leave. The school and the campus were our lives, our homes. We had shelter, food, companionship, family, and *order*. Everything was black and white: if we were good, we were rewarded; if we were bad, we were disciplined. It was so much simpler then. For so many of us, it was a time when things were in perfect order.”

No need for walls. Except one.

It stood at the back of the parade field—almost smack dab in the middle: a few feet wide and ten feet high: a free-standing tiny section of castle wall, built of large stones, like a ruin from medieval times. But a closer look revealed the painted stones and the wooden brace structures which supported it from the back. It was, in effect, a scenery flat, as for a stage or movie set, that was sturdy enough to last from 1940 until 1973. And, at spring Sunday dress parades, Zouave Drill Team members scaled it in thirty seconds or less.

1890’s student Charles Rabe remembered sitting by his barrack window in the Brick (Johnston Hall), looking at the “ominously forbidding walls” of the San Antonio Female College then four blocks away: “a fierce giant’s castle in which there languished a prisoner fair,” hoping to be the “romantic deliverer” of her freedom.

There was nothing to stop him from his end.

Well, all right. A dozen walking tours. But next week....

Donna Peacock

“A boundary is not that which something stops, but that from which something begins.”
--Martin Heidegger

*from “Mending Walls” by poet Robert Frost

PMA Board of Directors' Meeting
October 3, 2009
12:00 Noon
The Wesley Peacock House

Meeting Called to Order

Frank Torres, President, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Frank Torres, President, held a roll call. There being twenty (20) members present constituted a quorum, therefore the meeting continued.

Reading of the Minutes

William Whitfield, Secretary, read the minutes of the last meeting, April 4, 2009. The Minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was read by Mike Vlieger for Ed Ford and the report was approved as read. Mike then brought up the subject of moving the Association's account from Wachovia to Jefferson State Bank, which did not charge fees. Next, a motion was made by Rudy Johnson and seconded by Bill Morse to accept the recommendation, which passed.

PAR Report

Mike Vlieger, CEO, reported on the condition of PAR. The report was approved. Mike next said the Association needed to wind down PAR by next October, and combine it with the bank account, and also invite Bill Hudnell, formerly with Frost Bank and now with Jefferson State Bank, to the meeting. A motion was made by Buddy Bell and seconded by Bill Morse to table for further research. The motion passed.

Other Business

Rudy Johnson talked about the PMA medals and having had Worth McDonald serve San Antonio Academy. Because of Worth's passing, another volunteer will be sought.

Arthur Wolf is to check with Urbane Elementary School, Dallas Independent School District, concerning any future disposition of the Peacock Emblem located there.

Motion to Adjourn

Butch Daughtry made a motion and Ed Sebera seconded to adjourn. The motion passed.

Frank R. Torres

Frank R. Torres
President

William L. Whitfield

William L. Whitfield
Secretary