

"The Kadet"

Peacock Military Academy Alumni Ass'n. Newsletter

Rudolph M. Johnson, Treasurer and Editor

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Kadets, it's been a year since the last Newsletter! Anybody out there care? I've gotten five telephone calls, that's from among over seven hundred fifty alumni that we mail out to! I just thought that our family meant more to you than that. . . . I guess I was wrong. There are probably one hundred men that really do care but what of the rest? There are maybe a dozen that could and would support financially the rebuilding of a P.M.A. Is it enough? As I informed the Board of Directors during our last meeting, P.M.A. is going to happen - it's just a matter of time and money! I'm dedicated to the project, and I need more people who feel as I do! Anything that detracts from that goal is a total waste! Several of us are in the process of looking for land - we need at least three hundred fifty acres, and it should be close to San Antonio (within 50 miles) and have a river or lake in conjunction with the property. Gentlemen, I have a plan, and it is reasonable, obtainable, logical and necessary. It has flexibility built in (growth) and covers everything needed for a school and community. It shall be home for all of us, a place for pleasant memories, a place for tears of comradeship, discipline and character, where spirit is just as important to develop as morals. Where the control of one's mind is just as important as martial arts to the body, and education is second to nothing! A superior education combined with perfect military precision cannot be beaten, and when you combine them both with proper character building and morals you have a young man unmatched by today's standards.

Gustave Heye '58, has drawn a basic ground layout with some detailed sketches of the admin. office and a dormitory. It is a perfect ground plan for everything we need with room for expansion. I will take the plans and spend time with Frank Van Delden '46, in order to get some cost estimates on the structures needed to start. If we get the particular land that we want, I believe that we could commence our fund raising and at the end of four to five years - start construction! If the fund raising goes faster than expected, we might begin sooner. T.M.I. has given me the benefit of their research and canvassing, and as a result of their \$100,000.00 study: they are relocating, and increasing their enrollment to 500 students. In 4 years of soliciting funds they accepted 12.6 million that is presently in the Bank drawing interest until they start breaking ground outside the Camp Bullis area. The cost of starting up with the first graduating class is around twenty-six million (with four million in endowments drawing interest in the Bank)!

I see no reason as to why we cannot do it better and more efficiently for less money - with our alumni doing the construction, architectural work, materials, etc. We have folks that can do it all - from construction to furnishing materials, insurance, teaching, managing, maintaining; etc.

Our lawyer, Robert Lynn Powell '66, tells me that within the next thirty days we shall have our I.R.S. tax exempt status - there are NO MORE questions from them to answer - there is nothing else for them to do - just grant us our exempt status! I am praying for this to work! We need this status for us to accept land that will be donated to us, for the money to be written off, literally for our credentials as a "NON-PROFIT SCHOOL". So I am standing by - in a holding pattern - waiting..., hoping nothing will go wrong ... please Lord ... "over". I have turned it over to Him, and if He wants us to do it, if we have paid our dues to earn it, by His grace it shall happen. Amen.

Until then I want your letters telling me what you can and will do when the time comes. I must know how strongly each one of you is committed to this project! When you finish this Newsletter - sit down and write me what your capability is: financial help that you can afford, time and skill you can give, materials you can help with, you are a coach, a doctor, a nurse, a teacher, a builder, a surveyor, a concrete man - whatever, we want you and need for you to be a part of this undertaking. If you can pay for a dormitory, a dispensary, a Mess Hall, a Library, an admin. office - it will bear your name with your history listed on the dedication plaque!! We will find a way to perpetuate your name if you give your support! I've got a long memory - I love you all, I shall never forget...

I require that the Faculty live on campus with their families, we will even have our own Cemetery for those that would want to be buried with us. Under the protection of the young gray line ... with taps playing, being taken care of - being

honored always - at home to rest until He calls ...

Some of the letters I've received would break your heart, Of "ours" that are in Nursing Homes, and they are full of joy when they receive our Newsletter. They are no longer with us, but we made their last years a little more joyful, a little less painful, somewhat bearable Thank God... not mine - but Your Will be done Lord

Gentlemen, brothers, now is the time to stand up to be counted, if you feel you don't know where I'm coming from, then come to the next Reunion - August 1987 and see for yourself. It's hard for me not to feel sad when I look back and remember the Kadets that only came to one Reunion - loved it - said they didn't know why they hadn't been before - wanted and promised to be back for the next one ... and then died. Wyatt Myers '53, Tim Russell '50, Jim Caddell '66, Charlie Ritchie '48... how many others ... never made it at all.

We are not producing anymore brothers, we are dinosaurs ... but we don't have to be ... it is up to each and every one of you - not just one class - we will build this school as a family or not at all! I cannot do it alone, nor with ten or fifteen people - so I pray for your help, your input, your guidance, your commitment!

So be it, if you have got guts enough to be part of something great ... I wait for your answers!

REUNION 1985

Reunion '85 was a success for me when I saw Sheldon Anisman '51, Charlie Ritchie '48, Chito Longoria '50, Leon Lenox '51, Tommy Wright '50, Happy Donaldson '51, Bob Mobley '50, and the many others for the first time since school These men mean a lot to me, but I've found new brothers from other years from John Viles '28 to Jim Cumby '12, to Big Jake French '64 and Mike Vlieger '62, Bob Powell '66, our Directors, all of you ... you are part of my life

Well, we had the finest Reunion yet, at the new Wyndham Hotel, a super dinner, and a great dance with a top variety band - Mr. Ramiro Cervera. The Directors had a meeting to conduct business, and the General Membership met to discuss the next Reunion for 1987. We elected several new Directors as terms for others was over, the newly elected Directors are: Edgar Fischel '50, Donald Gretzer '56, Doug Ham '54, Jim Ingram '56, Ben Sutton '42 and Frank Van Delden '46. These men replaced the following Directors whose terms expired: Pablo Andrade '41, Robert Crancer '54, Miguel Guajardo '45, L.B. Hennessy '36, Richard Hoefs '46, and W. Kay Pickering '47.

Our Retreat Parade was a crowning success! Wallace Morgan '50, and Skip Elliott '48 formed our mounted group - in uniform, with guidon! We had over seventy men in formation, many in their uniforms (that still fit) and yours truly finally got to be Battalion Commander for one formation! Happy Donaldson '51 gave me a brass 'A' for the completion of my parade white uniform with saber. Gentlemen, to see those men after all those years, tears of joy in their eyes, the love of brother for brother - it was a feeling and a sight I shall take with me to my grave! And then "To the Colors" followed by "Retreat", not a man moved, salutes were perfect, like the old days - proud, tall, the best! Brothers, you missed a special time if you weren't there, but you have another chance - August 1987. Start getting your "grab blazer" ready or dig out that uniform and FIT IT, we'll enjoy our Retreat Parade again. This time it will be bigger and better - a troop of a dozen horses, a color guard, two full companies, a staff, and for reviewing officers - the Peacock family. Wouldn't that be "special"?

We finished off the Reunion with an Open House at the Campus, hosted by the Peacocks with coffee, punch, cookies, finger food, etc. There were movies of past cadet parades, and a look at all our memorabilia that the Peacocks have maintained for us. They have established a special endowment for the maintenance of The Wesley Peacock House that houses our records, flags, pictures, etc. Several of our Kadets have made donations to P.M.A. Records, Inc. and it is certainly appreciated!

In closing our Newsletter for this issue, I ask you to forgive me for not putting out a single letter for the last year - it has been a very challenging year: the death of a loving, wonderful mother-in-law, we shall miss her, then our Church split and the challenge of finding a Pastor that God wanted us to have, then Lois and I are in the process of building an underground home and I'm planning to go into a new business venture after our home is complete ... see what I mean? I'm sure that most of you have had similar experiences, but it's nice to know we are not alone. Robert Walls '49, had a time - spent a year with his wife as missionaries in Africa helping distribute food and spread the Gospel. Praise God for brothers and sisters like these, of yours. I'll try to do better in the coming year, and let's all rededicate ourselves

Richard M. Johnson