



Kadet Newsletter

Peacock Military Academy

Alumni Association

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MICHAEL A. VLIEGER '62, CEO

MARCH, 1991

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Your Board of Directors met January 19th. One order of business was to have the good sense to appoint Donna Peacock an Honorary Alumni member.

I want to share a portion of the letter I received from Donna. In her letter she said, "I hope you will share with all of the PMA Alumni my very deep appreciation for their warm response to Parade Rest, Book One...". "Most special of all, however, is my honorary membership in the Alumni Association which allows me to be an official part of your love and support for the school. I grew up at the school and knew it from the perspective of one of the 'Commandants' daughters', but now the bonds are complete."

If you haven't read Donna's book, Parade Rest, do yourself a favor, buy it and read it. It is very good and informative. I didn't want to put it down once started and my sons have both asked to borrow it as has my daughter. Guess they want to read for themselves about where Ole Dad went to school.

Book 2 is in the works and it is anticipated to be made available early next year. I am most anxious for its release. Order forms have been included in previous newsletters but if you have misplaced or otherwise lost it a short note or phone call to Mike Vlieger will put the book in your hands.

I think each of you will be glad you have the book and proud of the traditions that were a part of

the school and remain in our association today.

Lights out!! Wayne Spivey '51

"MISS DOROTHY" PEACOCK DIES

Alumni who attended Peacock during its last 40 years of operation will be saddened to learn of the death of "Miss Dorothy" Peacock, who passed away on February 4, 1991 following a long illness. She had suffered a stroke nearly two years ago.

The sister of Col. Wesley and Col. Don, she was the school Finance Officer and Head Librarian. "Miss Dorothy" attended The University of Texas at Austin, received her Bachelor's degree from Trinity University, her Master's degree in Education from Southwest Texas State University, and her Library Science degree from Our Lady of the Lake University.

REUNION 1991

The Alumni Reunion Committee, headed by Frank VanDelden, has decided on the Hyatt Hotel as the Reunion headquarters. The Hyatt is steps from Alamo Plaza and is located on the River. The dates for the Reunion are August 2nd, 3rd, and 4th with Open House at the Peacock House on Sunday. The Committee is making plans for several functions that will be enjoyed by all Alumni and their families. So plan to attend. A complete reunion package will be mailed in a few weeks for you to make your reservations.

LETTER FROM ELAINE AUSTIN
Co-Curator, Wesley Peacock House

Dear Mike -

I'd like to thank the Alumni for including me in their recent activities during the Board meeting. Taking the ladies to the McNay Art Museum was a real treat and I only hope they had as good a time as I did!

Bringing the Alumni up-to-date on what's been going on with the Peacock House Restoration and Parade Rest collector's edition, I'd like to pass on the following information:

Parade Rest collector's edition is at the bookbinders now and the limited edition of 50 copies should be ready for delivery June 1st. Twenty-four copies have already been reserved, so this leaves only 26 copies available to others. The cost will be \$30.00 each.

It's going to be beautiful. Donna and I selected a dark Peacock green leatherette binding with gold for the cover design.

The Auxiliary House Committee purchased two Victorian double globe lamps for the Parlor. We raised \$600.00 at a Garage Sale we had last August and used all the money to buy these beautiful lamps. They really add to the decor. Dorothy Peacock left one antique table to the house from her estate. We also have Col. Don's first doll (1908) being repaired and several other Peacock family items. Drop by and see these new acquisitions.

I've been in contact with the San Antonio Historical Society regarding exterior restoration. Frank VanDelden is working on drawings and layouts to develop a dollar cost on restoring the exterior similar to the 1890 appearance. It may take a bit of doing to raise the funds and get through the Historical Review Board, but I believe its doable and we continue to work on this project.

PARADE REST BIG SUCCESS

Over 275 copies of Donna Peacock's book Parade Rest have been sold to date and the response has been great.

Some of the Book Reviews are as follows:

San Antonio Express-News

"The book reads easily with the ups and downs of the venerable institute carefully noted. It is a solid piece of San Antonio history that should be in every school and public library in the city."

North San Antonio Times

"Illustrated with a trove of old black and white photographs, the nostalgic narrative transcends mere alumni appeal and is a welcome addition to the annals of San Antonio social history."

University of Texas Institute of Texas Cultures

"This book is an important addition to our library. Fascinating and well written it will continue to be of interest to scholars for many years to come. A valuable addition to our collection of history and Texana."

Wylie Evans, Class of '72

"Congratulations to Donna Peacock on her book! The school and family history is fascinating."

Sebert Pate, Class of '45

"What a wonderful delight--- Donna---your history of Peacock titled Parade Rest was to me. You certainly captured the spirit of Peacock throughout it and oh how many delightful memories it brought back. PMA was a very special place, not only to me, but to my brother. Can't tell you how much I look forward to Book Two."

You will recall that Donna gave the rights to the book to the Alumni Association. After publication costs, etc., we now have a profit of over \$2,000.00.

DIRECTOR'S MEETING JANUARY 19

The Alumni Board of Directors met on January 19, 1991 in the Wesley Peacock House with 13 of the 25 directors present, plus Col. Don. Peacock family representative. President Wayne Spivey '51, presided.

Highlights of the meeting include the following:

All profit from Parade Rest book sales to be placed in an escrow account to defray cost of printing Book Two.

Proposal to enter a horse drawn carriage in the Battle of Flowers parade was tabled.

Alumni Association to cooperate with the University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures in assembling a collection of Peacock memorabilia for display from April 15 to June 15 as part of the Centennial of Fiesta Week in San Antonio.

Voted to have the upcoming Reunion the weekend of August 2, 1991 in San Antonio. Frank VanDelden '48 as Chairman of the Reunion Committee, which includes Mike Vlieger '62, Rudy Johnson '53, and Edward Sebera '49. A special packet will be sent to all Alumni soon.

A \$10.00 registration fee will be charge to help pay miscellaneous expenses, including a "hospitality room".

By unanimous vote Donna Peacock was elected an honorary member of the association. She was guest of honor at a dinner that night during which she was presented with a framed copy of the book review of Parade Rest which had appeared in the San Antonio Express News.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 1991?

If you have not yet paid your dues for 1991 please do so for the Association needs your support in order to meet expenses and to fulfill our mission to preserve the history, records, archives, and memorabilia of the Academy.

ZOUAVE FEZ

Rudy Johnson has located a source that can make available Zouave Fez's which would be a replica of the original. Our longterm goal is to interest a local school in a Zouave type marching unit complete with uniform. If you would like a Fez, send \$20.00 and your hat size to the Alumni Association at the address of record.

SUGGESTIONS INVITED

Our readers are invited to make suggestions that would make the Newsletter more interesting. We welcome your ideas!

MEMORABILIA DONATED

Since our last Newsletter Edwin Ford, Class of '62, has donated for display in the Wesley Peacock House his Peacock Athletic Jacket and his West Point Sword.

Glenn Marshall, Class of '72, has donated his complete dress uniform with dress cap. He has loaned us a large scrap book covering his 4 years at Peacock. It contained chevrons and other insignia of all kinds, a copy of the Cadet Handbook of Rules and Regulations, copies of letters written to parents during the 4 years, and many other interesting items.

SPECIAL GIFT

Considerable space in Parade Rest is devoted to Cadet James Cumby, Class of '12, now deceased. His son, James Cumby, Jr., of Dallas, has donated a large 2 x 3 foot framed color photograph of his father in his Peacock uniform as First Captain; also the gold medal he won for scholastic honors at Graduation in 1912.

TAPS

Arthur Barton Wright, Jr., Class of '41. His widow writes "He had very fond memories of Peacock and enjoyed the Newsletters so much."

LETTER FROM JOHN M. SMITH, '48

Dear Col. Don -

The time I spent with you was the "high-point" of my recent visit to San Antonio. Your hospitality was so warm and friendly I literally felt I was home again and could have easily taken my place in Johnston Hall for an English class with Major Adams or a grueling exam with Col. Richardson, to say nothing of waiting anxiously for you to arrive at "Amen" part of the noon prayer so I could put a hefty dent in Hattie Savage's good old home cooking.

Please give my best regards to all the ex-cadets. I'm looking forward to being a part of the next Alumni Reunion.

KADET UPDATE

Pat Boscamp, '60 writes "I received the book Parade Rest and have already read it twice. I simply can't wait for Book Two.

Pat says he has talked to or corresponded with the following alumni since the last Newsletter: Donald Gretzer, Andy Anderson, Bob Meuth, Paul Weston, Bobby Butler, George Alpert, C. D. Grissom, James Womack, and Galo Garcia. Pat continues to recover from his stroke. His phone number is (915) 584-8008; address 6738 Westwind, El Paso, Texas 79912.

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ALUMNI UPDATES

Charles Jagou, '57 writes: "Received the 'Kadet Newsletter' today. As always, it is good to hear some news from some former classmates. I would like to correspond with some of my former classmates at Peacock. Contact me at 18006 Echobend Lane, Spring, Texas 77379. Phone (713) 327-2947.

Henry J. Victor, '47. His wife writes as follows: "He was drafted during the Korean conflict. Due to his military training at Peacock they sent him to O.C.S. at El Paso. He was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant and assigned to the 1st Division Armored Corps at Ft. Hood. He then attended Flight School and became a Pilot in the Army Air Corps. After service in Korea, Vietnam and Europe he retired as a Lt. Colonel." He and his wife live in Uvalde, Texas.

WANTED --- MOVIES OF PEACOCK

If you have any 8mm or 16mm movies taken during your days at Peacock, please loan them to the Association long enough for us to have them transferred to video cassette. We especially need pictures of the Zouaves, Dress Parades, etc.