



Kadet Newsletter

Peacock Military Academy

Alumni Association

11.

Phone (512) 733-7766 Address of Record: 2811 West Ashby Place, San Antonio, Texas 78201
MICHAEL A. VLIEGER '62, CEO NOVEMBER 1991 VOL. X, NO. 2

RESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a GREAT reunion we had! Some timers joined us and it was super to renew friendships. Wish all of you could have attended and had the opportunity to share your experiences with us since you left the academy.

The memorabilia we have on display in Peacock House is growing. We have the kings of one darn good and interesting museum going. I want you to look through our keepsake items relating to the academy. If you have something you would like to donate for display contact, Mike Vlieger at (512) 733-6666. We ask your help in making the display one of the finest and most complete of it's kind. With your help, we can and will do it!

Your assistance locating classmates is very important and is requested. If you know how or where to contact someone not listed with an address in the directory, please send the information to Mike, c/o the Peacock House, 2811 W. Ashby Place, San Antonio, Texas 78201.

Lights Out!

Wayne C. Spivey '51

EIGHTH REUNION ELECTIONS

Officers Re-elected. The following officers were elected for 3-year terms until the next Reunion:

President	Wayne Spivey '51
1st Vice President	Frank Van Delden '46
2nd Vice President	Ben Sutton '42
3rd Vice President	Rudy Johnson '53
Secretary	Lynn Powell '66
Treasurer	Ed Sebera '49
Legal Advisor	Lynn Powell '66
CEO	Mike Vlieger '62

New Directors Elected were the following:

Duane Adams	'51
Lloyd Bell	'52
Chris Byrnes	'57
Robert Good	'67
Wm. T. Hooper	'44
Jerry Houston	'52
George Slaughter	'47

Old Directors Re-elected were as follows:

Joe Centeno III	'70
Edgar Fichel	'50
Edwin Ford	'62
Rudy Johnson	'53
Leon Lenox	'51
Robert Meuth	'72
W.D. "Bill" Morse	'54
Robt. Lynn Powell	'66
Real Ransom	'58
Edward Sebera	'49
Wayne Spivey	'51
Ben Sutton	'42
Jack Turner	'51
Frank Van Delden	'46
Mike Vlieger	'62
Julian Weslow	'51
Eddie Wise	'69

EIGHTH ALUMNI REUNION

FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT PARTIES

The 1991 Alumni Reunion turned out to be a big success with many new faces attending for the first time. The Reunion began on Friday August 2nd with a hospitality suite at the Hyatt Hotel. Later that evening chartered trolleys carried the Alumni from the hotel to the La Margarita Restaurant. Many old acquaintances were renewed over an excellent dinner complete with Mariachi music.

The dinner on Saturday night took us on a different theme with a western style Bar-B-Que dinner, prepared by the hotel. At this dinner, Alumni Special Recognition Plaques were awarded to Frank Van Delden, Elaine Austin and Bill Morse. Special audio tapes of Peacock were presented to Paul Calvo for having traveled the farthest to attend the Reunion. Paul made the trip from Agana, Guam to San Antonio to attend the Reunion. Two runner-up awards were presented to Arthur Wolf from Costa Rica and to Sue Ellen Hains from Suffern, New York.

Honored guests at both social affairs included Donna Peacock, who has been elected an Honorary Member of the Alumni Association in recognition of her book "Parade Rest", an invaluable addition to the history and archives of the Academy; and Sue Ellen Peacock Hains. Also honored was Mrs. Reginald (Elaine) Austin, 1st Vice President of the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary (Custodians of the Peacock House), who did all the planning for the renovation and interior decoration of the Wesley Peacock House.

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY

Approximately 150 alumni, spouses, and friends attended the Open House at the Wesley Peacock House on Sunday morning, August 4th. This has been the closing highlight of each Reunion and this one was outstanding for two reasons: It was sponsored by the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary, Custodians of the House, and was the first Alumni Open House since the \$60,000.00 renovation of the house made possible by "PAR", Alumni Association, the Women's Auxiliary, and the Salvation Army.

MOVIES DURING 1973 NEEDED

For our video cassette library we need movies taken during 1973, especially movies of the last graduation exercises. If you will loan your 8mm or 16mm film to us we will transfer to video cassette and return the original to you. We will make a video cassette of the film for you in appreciation.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEEKEND OF MARCH 7, 1992

Members will meet at the Wesley Peacock House at 12 noon for a light lunch and Board meeting. Wives will also meet at the Peacock House at 1 noon for lunch and some afternoon activity not yet finalized.

That evening members and their wives will get together (dutch treat) for drinks, dinner and socializing.

A return reservation form will be mailed to all Directors early in January so we will know how many to expect.

DIRECTORS TO MEET TWICE YEARLY

Commencing in 1992, regular meetings of the Board of Directors will be held at 12:00 noon on the first Saturday of March and October, at the Wesley Peacock House in San Antonio.

1931 FOOTBALL TROPHY RETURNED

When Peacock closed in 1973, Col. Wesley gave Olegario Losoya of Del Rio the 1931 Championship Football Trophy and the original football used in winning the game against TMI. Losoya was the captain of the 1931 team and graduated that year as First Captain & Battalion Commander. When he learned that we were seeking memorabilia for the Peacock House he generously returned the trophy and football to the Alumni Association and these items are now on permanent display. His two sons also graduates of Peacock – Cadet Lt. Oligario Losoya, Jr., Class of 1960; and Cadet Capt. Jose Losoya, Class of 1963.

—The story of this 1931 championship team is told on page 89 of "Parade Rest".

ANTIQUE PISTOL DISPLAYED

One of the display cabinets in the Peacock House now contains an antique pistol made in 1855 at the Harper's Ferry Arsenal. It was property of Col. Wesley Peacock, Jr. and he left it to the Alumni Association.

VIDEO CASSETTE FILM OF PEACOCK

Thanks to the widow of Bobby Bell Edwards '47 we now have movies of parades and other school activities during the years 1946-1947, inclusive. Thanks to Paul Weston '51 we have movies of the graduation parade and final exercises of 1952. Thanks to Steve Copenhaver '66, our film library now contains movies of the various drill teams and other activities during the four years 1963-1966 inclusive. The 8mm and 16mm films were loaned to us and we had them transferred to video cassette.

NEW DISPLAY CASE PURCHASED

Our collection of memorabilia is growing so fast—thanks to members of the Association—that we had a \$400 dollar display specially created. The Association paid half of the cost while "PAR" paid the other half. The new case now contains a Eisenhower type dress coat with all his medals and Captain's chevrons donated by Billy Ray Hindt '55; an athletic award jacket and West Point Type sword donated by Edwin Ford, Class of '62; another sword donated by Bill Hudell, Class of '65; and many other interesting items.

COLONEL BERT BOOKOUT, USAF (Ret) *Battalion Commander - 1946*

We recently received an interesting letter from Bertram Bookout '46, now retired as a Colonel in the Air Force and living with his wife and four children in Fort Walton, Beach Florida.

After graduating from Peacock, Bert attended and graduated from the "Citadel", was commissioned a Lt. in the Air Force and went on to become a fighter pilot, and won several decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Five Commendation Medals, and four Air Medals, retiring as a full Colonel.

THANKS TO EDDIE WISE '69

Again we are indebted to Dr. Eddie Wise, Class of '69, for printing and donating the ID name tags for the Alumni Reunions. Eddie, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri, is Publisher/Owner of several newspapers in Louisiana. He is a Charter Member of the Alumni Association and is a member of the Board of Directors.

LETTER FROM DONALD YUST '71

Donald Yust '71 writes, "I regret I will miss another Reunion as it would be 20 years since I graduated. I am a petty officer in the Navy Reserve and our annual two week active duty aboard the USS Kitty Hawk prevents my attending. Of all the memories I have in my entire life, the time at PMA is still the best and most vivid. I would love to hear from some of my old classmates." Address: P.O. Box 5381, Katy, TX 77491

JERRY HOUSTON '52 RETIRES

Jerry Houston '52, who was First Captain and Battalion Commander during his senior year at Peacock, recently retired as a Captain (same as Colonel) in the U.S. Navy. A graduate of both the Navy and Army War Colleges, Jerry was a Navy Fighter Pilot with over 6,000 flight hours and shot down a Mig - 17 in Vietnam. During his Navy career he commanded two different fighter squadrons and was Captain-Commander of his own ship. His last assignment was as Naval Attache in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He and his wife Shirley, attended the recent Reunion and was elected to the Alumni Board of Directors. They now live in Fort Worth.

FOND MEMORY OF COL. WESLEY PEACOCK, JR.

Lynn Powell '65 writes on May 1, 1991 as follows: "On the occasion of Col. Wesley's death I would like to express my condolences to the Peacock family. Although I attended Peacock six years I recall only a few direct dealings with him. One, however, is vivid in my memory.

Cadet Reymond Leal invited me to his home in Laredo over the Easter weekend. It was my first trip to the border and Leal promised me an 'unforgettable' spring vacation. No doubt it was the 'unforgettable' nature of the activities Leal had planned for us that caused Col. Wesley to summon us to his office for a lecture on the 'evils of bordertowns'. When he concluded, Leal and I both expressed tight-lipped appreciation for his advice, saluted smartly and then proceeded to stumble over each other in our scramble for the doorway. As I crossed the threshold, Col. Wesley bellowed this parting admonishment, 'Cadet Powell, keep your zipper up!'

I cherish this and the many other fond memories I have of my years at Peacock. Col. Wesley will be missed, but his legacy will never be forgotten by those of us whose lives he greatly influenced."

THANKS TO BILL DUNN '68

Lt. Colonel Wm. M. "Bill" Dunn, '68, and his wife Debbie, have donated a beautiful walnut display case in which to keep the American flag placed on the casket at Col. Wesley's funeral. Bill is now stationed with the Military Police in Germany.

PMA Alumni Association, Inc.

2811 West Ashby Place
San Antonio, Texas 78201



Address Change
Requested

DONNA PEACOCK HONORED

Wins \$1,000.00 Award

Donna Peacock, who teaches the gifted and talented English classes at Churchill High School in San Antonio, was selected to receive one of the six 1991 Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award. The six winners were selected from a total of 255 exceptionally qualified nominees throughout the State. The award included a stipend of \$1,000.00.

Donna is now working on Parade Rest Book Two, continuing the story of Peacock from 1941 through 1973, with a epilogue concerning the Alumni Association's growth and many activities.

COPIES OF "PARADE REST" STILL AVAILABLE

If you do not have a copy of "Parade Rest" BOOK ONE you are missing a most interesting and valuable history of Peacock from 1894 until 1941. To receive a copy, send us your check for \$18.00 and we will send your copy by return mail. On your check indicate "Parade Rest".

-THREE BROTHERS - PEACOCK GRADUATES

Robert Means Taylor '46 lives in Houston. Daniel V. Taylor '56 is with the FDIC and lives in San Antonio. The youngest of the three brothers is Robert Keith Taylor '64, but we don't have his address.

ALUMNI NEWSBRIEFS

Edward W. Woodruff '61 visited the Peacock House recently. He is an engineer with The Boeing Company and lives in Seattle, Washington. He graduated from Texas A&M after leaving Peacock.

DUANE ADAMS NEW LIFE MEMBER

Duane Adams '51 is our newest Life Member of the Association. He is Chairman and CEO of the Acacia Mutual Life Insurance Group with headquarters in Washington D.C. Duane graduated from University of Houston. He and his wife, Edie, attended the recent Reunion, during which he was elected to the Board of Directors. They live in Livingston, TX.

John T. Siemens '60 writes from Belgium that he enjoyed reading "Parade Rest" and says "Donna must have really put out a lot of effort into the project. It will be interesting to see how she portrays the really historic times since 1941 in BOOK TWO." He goes on to say "Please pass on my greetings to any fellow classmates with whom you are in touch. I enjoy the opportunity to catch up with their activities through your Newsletter. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

Robert Reese '48 graduated from the University of Houston (B.S.) and South Texas School of Law (BBA), and qualified for Pi Beta Kappa. He is engaged in ranching and investments and lives in Houston.

Alden Erikson '45 who now lives in Mill Valley, California, has sent a demerit list dated April 13, 1944, which he took off the bulletin board – he is listed thereon 2 demerits for "making noise in ranks" reported by Cpl. Blankinship. This is a valuable addition to the archives and memorabilia displayed in the Peacock House.

TAPS

William Edward "Billy" Sellers '47

His sister, Mrs. Jane Keese of Three Rivers, Texas, advised us of his death on March 11, 1991, and wrote as follows: "I am enclosing a check for \$200.00 in his memory to help defray some of the cost of operating the Alumni Association".

Mike Simpson '66 visited the Peacock House recently. He is a Captain in the U.S. Air Force at the present time, serving as a Computer Systems Officer at Lackland AFB. During the Vietnam War he was with U.S. Army Special Forces, serving three separate tours in Vietnam. He is a Master Parachutist with 2,645 jumps total and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, 2 purple hearts, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and other honors.

W.L. (Bill) Autry '47, now living in Amarillo, recently sent a check for \$100.00 to cover \$25.00 for Alumni dues, \$18.00 for a copy of "Parade Rest", and the balance of \$57.00 to go to "PAR" - Peacock Academy Records Fund to help maintain the Peacock House, the school archives, memorabilia, etc. Many thanks Bill!

Nelson Prida '71 REALLY made us happy recently when he donated \$500.00 to "PAR". Nelson is married and has three daughters. He is head of South Texas Traffic Co., Inc. (International Freight Forwarding), Laredo, TX. Many thanks Nelson!

Gordon Billings '34 is a retired rancher living in Huntsville, TX. He served as a First Lt. with the 90th Division Overseas, and participated in the Normandy Invasion. He remembers when Col. Don and Miss Ellen were married on March 30, 1934, the year he graduated from Peacock.

Dan Boone '45 and his wife of 41 years, Elenore, operate the Hill Top Ranch and Dan Boone Realty at Carthage, TX. He is a breeder of Arabian Horses.

Colonel John E. Gill, USAF (Ret.), Class of 1932 added to our archives by sending a picture of the famous 1931 Southwest Academic League Championship team, of which he was a member, other photos, and letters mailed to parents of cadets during 1932. This was during the depression, and he writes he still has his game jersey; that in lieu of award jackets, team members were given their jerseys at the end of the season.

EXTRACTS FROM SCHOOL PAPER "PEACOCK REVIEW", APRIL 1948.

"The McKinnon Rifles crack drill team made a grand entrance Sunday, April 11, 1948 at their first public exhibition of the year. Lt. Charles Ritchie of Eagle Pass is the commander, Sgt. Roy Starnes of Austin is guidon carrier, and Sgt. Robert Ray of Dallas is guide. Leaders of the four squads are Sgts. Buzzini, Sims E., Gill, and Gibson. Major Dick Thiesen is the team Sponsor.

"The wide-open space bounded by Birkhead Hall, the Auditorium, and Wilson Hall has been officially designated as the "Senior Terrace". It is becoming almost "sure death" for an underclassman to be caught on what has become "sacred soil" for seniors only"

Thanks to Sheldon Anisman '51 for sending us the copy of "Peacock Review" of April 1948, from which the above was extracted. Sheldon also donated his dress uniform. He graduated from the University of Texas and is an attorney, living in Fort Worth.

LETTER FROM JOHN BURROWS '47

It was with great pleasure I learned that there is an Alumni Association. I thought that all contacts with PMA were a thing of the past.

I will never forget how homesick I was for the first few weeks and the talk with Col. Wesley about going home. He convinced me I should stay and have always been thankful for that. I have always been thankful for the things I learned there. It took a few years to realize just how helpful the three years I spent there would be. I have stayed in touch with Hank Victor and Abie Mowad down through the years. Several years ago while on a fishing trip to Canada I ran into Col. Olson under whom I studied physics and preflight aeronautics at Peacock. It was great visiting with him. Enclosed is my check for a copy of "Parade Rest".

John Burrows
17980 S. Savarona Way,
Carson, CA 90746

DONNA NEEDS HELP

Donna Peacock is making one last general call for specific memories from PMA cadets so that she can complete Book Two of "Parade Rest". Although many alumns have been a tremendous help, there's still need for some missing details to help finish the story. The key word here is 'details', not simply names or quick allusions to an incident. **All contributions are valuable.**

If you can find a few minutes, fill out questionnaire on the adjoining page, noting that most questions are divided by decades (the 1940's, etc.), and send it back for forwarding to Donna. Your biggest thank you will be the book which you will have helped to make possible. Add to the questionnaire anything you think of that would be helpful.

MESSAGE FROM COL. DICK THIESEN

One of the 'perks' associated with living in San Antonio, and membership on the Salvation Army Advisory Board is access to the alumni office in the Wesley Peacock House. This affords an opportunity to learn the whereabouts of former cadets, with special interest those from 1946-1952 while I was PMST at the Academy.

I also am able to keep up with alumni membership and realize how important the association has become. A great number of friendships are being maintained and new ones formed. Alumns seem to have experienced pretty much the same problems and successes they find when they get together at Reunions. Peacock made and continues to make a real difference in the lives of its former cadets. I urge you to continue to support the Association.

THANKS TO JOE CENTENO!

Joe Centeno III, Class of '70 who operates Centeno Supermarkets in San Antonio, very thoughtfully donated the many types of cookies that were served during the Open House including the recent Reunion. Many thanks Joe!

PEACOCK MILITARY ACADEMY MEMORIES

FOR USE WITH PARADE REST, BOOK TWO

Name (printed): _____

PMA graduate, class of _____ PMA student, but not graduate _____

Specific years during which you attended PMA: _____

Present Occupation: _____

Firm: _____ Title: _____

Home Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

College: _____

Did you serve in the Armed Forces? If so, please briefly describe service:

I COULD USE SOME SPECIFIC RESPONSES TO ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY HELP:

FOR STUDENTS OF THE 1940's

1. There were certain times that we cadets were much aware that a World War was going on, like. . .

2. I remember VE DAY (OR VJ DAY) because:

3. Some of the PMA boys that did combat duty during WWII or who died or were injured in combat (or those who distinguished themselves in some way) were:

4. The hardest thing for me to get used to about barracks life:

FOR STUDENTS OF THE 1950's

1. There were times when we were much aware that the Korean War was going on, like. . .
2. I remember the night that the stables burned: (some details, please)

FOR STUDENTS OF THE 1960's

3. I remember the last year of the Monkey Drill Team (some details, please):
4. The 1960's were rebellious years for society: longer hair, beards, hippies, draft-dodging, etc. Did the nature of the 'times' affect the way you felt about being at a military school, wearing uniforms, short hair, etc.? (Please explain)

FOR STUDENTS OF THE 1970's

1. The 1970's were years of self-doubt, moral short comings (Watergate, the first lost war, etc.) What was the attitude among cadets about the military and military school?