



Kadet Newsletter

Peacock Military Academy

Alumni Association

Phone (210) 733-7766

Address of Record: 2811 West Ashby Place, San Antonio, Texas 78201

MICHAEL A. VLIEGER '62, CEO

November, 1992

Vol. XI, No. 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer's gone and cool weather is on the way. Now is a good time of the year to reach out to your classmates and ask them to join the Association if they don't already belong. Plans are already underway for the BIG Reunion in '94. This will be the 100th year anniversary of the school and we want to have every alum possible to be there. I remember when the last graduation exercise was held, what a grand and glorious time we that attended had. It was the first time many of us had seen one another since our own graduation and it was one of the highlights of our lives.

So, get on those phones, take a few minutes to write a note, do whatever needs doing to make contact and let's get as many to join us in our, your, Association as possible.

Also, check your directories and if you have an address or phone number of a friend or classmate that is not listed, send it to Mike Vlieger at the Association Office. We are missing quite a bunch and need them very badly.

LIGHTS OUT!

Wayne C. Spivey, '51

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULED

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for January 16th at 12:00 Noon at the Wesley Peacock House. More details later.

MANY THANKS TO

GEORGE SLAUGHTER, '47 for his gift of two solid brass paperweights, one with a Zouave medal superimposed thereon and the other with a Monkey Drill medal.

KEN SCOGGINS, '66 for donating his 5-year collection of medals, insignia, ribbons, Captain's gold chevrons, and WEST POINT SWORD to our collection of memorabilia.

STEVE COPENHAVER, '66 for donating his dress uniform, Lieutenant chevrons, and insignia thereon.

WORTH McDONALD, '55 for his gift of pictures, commencement invitations, and other pertinent papers.

COLONEL DONALD HONORED

At a luncheon for over 500 people on July 9th sponsored by the San Antonio Association of Life Underwriters, Colonel Donald Peacock was the recipient of the 1992 Schnabel Memorial Public Service Award in recognition of his contributions to The Salvation Army and to community service.

PEACOCK KADET MEDAL FOR 1992

At San Antonio Academy's graduation parade last May the Alumni's Kadet Medal was presented to Cadet Nick Visel, top seventh grade cadet of the year. He will wear it proudly during his senior (8th grade) year.

Lt. Colonel Rudy Johnson, '53, wearing full dress uniform, made the presentation on behalf of the Alumni Association. He was accompanied by Mike Vlieger, '62.



MEMORABILIA
ROOM
LASTING
MEMORIAL
TO ALUMNI
AND PEACOCK
MILITARY
ACADEMY

MEMORABILIA ROOM INTERESTING ATTRACTION

Was formerly Headmaster's Office

The Memorabilia Room in the Wesley Peacock House is becoming the chief attraction to the rapidly growing number of visitors to this one hundred year historic house which is now the home of the Alumni Association and The Salvation Army's Women's Auxiliary----the official Custodians. The two pictures on this page were taken recently and will give you an idea of the interesting collection of memorabilia donated by former "Kadets".

DISPLAYS INCLUDE
OLD PICTURES
DATING BACK
TO EARLY DAYS
OF THE ACADEMY,
UNIFORMS,
INSIGNIA,
MEDALS,
ATHLETIC
TROPHIES,
AND AN OLD
PISTOL
MADE AT
HARPER'S FERRY
IN 1855.



ALUMNI BRIEFS

JOE EARLY, '68 who was Battalion Commander during his senior year, is owner of Linden Automotive, retail auto parts store in Linden, Texas. Joe and his wife, Donna, have two children, Shane and Shawna.

LAWRENCE Warburton, Jr., '44 graduated from the University of Texas after leaving Peacock. He is an attorney and lives in Alice, Texas.

JACK PALMER, '40 graduated from West Point after leaving Peacock, Class of '47. He is a retired engineer and lives in San Antonio. He served 20 years as a pilot in the USAF.

TONY MARTINEZ, '63 graduated from the University of Texas and received his law degree from St. Mary's University in San Antonio. He lives in Brownsville, Texas.

ROBERT B. WRIGHT, JR., '65 served in the U.S. Navy from 1967 to 1973, including two years in South Vietnam. He is regional sales manager of Orix Credit Alliance, Inc., Houston, Texas.

GORDON REX BILLINGS, '34 is now a retired rancher living in Huntsville. He was a 1st Lt. in the 90th Division from 1942 to 1946, and participated in the Normandy invasion.

STEPHEN LEE VICTOR, '72 is with Dimensional Oilfield Services in Houma, Louisiana. He and his wife, Denise, have four children. He writes, "My memories of Peacock get fonder as I get older."

GARY BACON, '49 Colonel-USA(Retired) attended and graduated from West Point after leaving Peacock. His military decorations include the Silver Star Medal, Legion of Merit, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star and Air Medals. Gary now lives in Irving, Texas, and is Chairman of the Business Division of North Lake College. His younger brother, BOB BACON also graduated from Peacock ('51) and West Point, and also retired as a full colonel from the Army. His picture, when a captain in Vietnam, appeared on the cover of *Life Magazine*.

EXTRACT FROM "PARADE REST" BOOK TWO

"Both audiences and cadets loved the excitement and the color of the Sunday afternoon parades: First, the formal Retreat Ceremony complete with the field band's Trooping of the Line, the Officers and Colors Front and Center, and the Pass in Review.

Then spectators clapped and car horns honked in appreciation as the distinctively uniformed Zouaves unit performed its fast cadence precision drill. The crack drill team was only in its second year of existence and its novelty had solved a minor problem for the school's Commandant and Headmaster the past summer.

Don and Ellen Peacock and Lawson and Vera Richardson were vacationing in Monterrey, Mexico, when the uncle of cadet Frank Rodriguez ('42) invited them to attend a large costume ball at a prestigious private club. To solve the costume problem they telephoned Wesley Peacock Jr. in San Antonio to ship two complete Zouave outfits via the next bus. That evening two gentlemen in white shirts, white pants with leggings, green vest, tie, and sash, and topped with green fezzes impersonated Zouaves in a far less strenuous way than the fit young men at the spring dress parades who delighted audiences with their 280-300 steps per minute and their fast-paced wall scaling feats."

Donna Peacock is still researching and working on Book Two, but it will be several months before it is completed and ready for distribution. If you do not have a copy of "Parade Rest Book One" send \$18.00 to Alumni Headquarters and a copy will be mailed to you.

Frank VanDelden, 1st VP of the Alumni Association, underwent bypass surgery on October 19th. Frank is doing well and will be recovering at home: 9675 Rochelle, San Antonio, 78240.



TAPS

JOE COTTEN, Cadet Captain,
President, Class of 1943.
SERVANDO BENEVIDES, III,
Class of 1955.
LESLIE STONER, Class of 1947.

KADET UP-DATE

Hello Kadets of PMA!! I have heard from ED WOODRIFF, '61, BOBBY BUTLER, '61, RICHARD CHRISTIE, '61, C. D. GRISSOM, '55, PAUL WESTON, '52, RONNIE RICHARDSON, '47, CARL BARTO, '65, BOB MEUTH, '74, TONY NIETO, '60, and JOSE GANCZ, '60. Let me hear from more PMA grads.

I am still struggling daily to get better as I am walking more and more each day as it is very hard on me and very tiresome too. I wish there was another way out, but I don't know it or I would try it.

When Mike informed me last month of the death of Joe Cotten, '43, I immediately sent a letter to his wife Charlene in Robstown expressing my sorrow and I received a nice card back from her. Joe had Cotten's BBQ restaurant in Robstown where he served fine food. Charlene was so nice to write back. Pat Boscamp, 6738 Westwind, El Paso, 79912

PMA Alumni Association, Inc.

2811 West Ashby Place
San Antonio, Texas 78201



Address Change
Requested

RIVER PARADE MEMORIES

By Dick Thiesen

Many of us remember the River Parade on Monday night during Fiesta Week. I wonder how many remember that for the first few years barges used for the parade were operated by Peacock Cadets.

One Cadet steered the barge while another stood in the prow with a long pole to keep the barge from running into the river bank or just to help out as needed.

I remember taking the Cadets to the river and "sweating out" their safe return to the debarkation point. The entire Corps took part, some as Ushers, the Gun Crew that fired the 21-gun salute, and the Field Band that played ruffles and flourishes for King Antonio when he arrived at the head of the parade at the Arneson River Theater.

PMA was important and necessary in the early days for a successful parade. I must admit, I was, as always, proud of the Corps.

NOTE: Colonel Dick Thiesen participated in the D-Day Landing in Normandy, and after World War II was Professor of Military Science and Tactics at Peacock Military Academy for five years. He is an Honorary Member of the Alumni Association.