



Kadet Newsletter

Peacock Military Academy

Alumni Association

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

MICHAEL A. VLIEGER '62, CEO

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FOR "R"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It doesn't seem possible that Spring has sprung as we, here in South Texas, had not one hard freeze. Spring, that reminds me that each of us need to "spring" with finding every one of our friends and classmates so that they too can be at the BIG Reunion. Sure, I know it's a ways off but I know that we have lots of people to find and get active. Won't each of you make a special effort to find just one of the missing?

Your Board of Directors, at their meeting in January, appointed committees to begin the planning for the reunion. Hotel accommodations, lots of entertainment, transportation to and from are just some of the things that must be put on the front burner and they are working on those things for you. Make your plans now to be there. It's going to be the biggest and best reunion to date and that's really saying something!! Sure hope to see you there.

LIGHTS OUT!

Wayne C. Spivey, '51

**THIS YEAR IS THE 20TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
LAST GRADUATING CLASS.**

"Some of us began our studies at Peacock in the seventh grade under the guidance of Mrs. Lawson H. Richardson. The rest of us felt free to turn to Mrs. Richardson when we felt the need of a friend. Her frank, sincere advice and understanding have made those of us who sought it come away with the feeling that there is much in life that is fine and good, and well worth striving for."

The 1957 **KADET** began with this dedication to Vera Richardson and the words were accompanied by a snapshot of a large, smiling woman gently holding her little poodle "General Beauregarde." Mrs. Richardson died on March 3, 1993 after a long illness. But this dedication and this photograph frame the way most of us will remember her: as an optimistic, positive, accessible person who touched our lives with her wisdom, sincere interest, and inspiration.

She told me more than once how much Peacock meant to her: it was 'family'--a place she and her husband, Headmaster Lawson H. Richardson, were at home for over thirty years. Like him, she taught for all that time, and to three decades of the school's youngest cadets, she was the nurturing female: a stern mother-figure when discipline was needed ("Yes, sir. Peacock boys stood up straight and had good discipline," she told me. If they didn't, she knew how to use the stick pad.); a nurse when immediate 'minor' situations arose ("I pulled several baby teeth when we had the real little boys in school," she once laughed.); academic educator in the varied

style of elementary and middle-school teachers ("That stern, great teacher--the greatest teacher," remembered George Elliott, '48)' kind, sensitive friend ("She had a heart of gold").

She loved being a part of the school: the dress parades, sitting in the Mess Hall at the head of her table of youngest cadets, socializing with faculty and staff; her classroom on the first floor of McKinnon Hall; celebrating her boys' birthday parties with pinatas, cake and cookies; accompanying them on Christmas caroling outings. Even in the years after her stroke, her mind was always sharp with Peacock memories. I could mention a cadet's name--from any decade--and she'd smile and recall in vivid detail ("Yes, he never could get his times-tables right" or "He had a cowlick which stood up on his head" or "He was the cutest little boy, but I had to make him stop biting his fingernails...").

For my sisters and me, she was always--simply--"R" (As children, Richardson was just too long and difficult a name). She was the wonderful, big laughing lady who lived in the house not far behind ours, who helped us with our math homework, who loved Chinese food, who played "The Daughter of Rosie O'Grady" on her piano, and who had snapshots of everyone's children under the glass of her television room coffee table. She was for us, too, teacher, friend, and nurturer.

George (Skip) Elliott, class of 1948 wrote me: "Sorry I never took the time to tell Mrs. Richardson how many Kadets were indebted to her." During the early days of her illness, I read that statement to her. Even then she laughed that big, contagious laugh and then quieted suddenly: "Well, that's mighty nice. I loved those boys."

I'm glad she knew they loved her too.

Donna Peacock

EXTRACTS FROM "THE SENTINEL" SCHOOL NEWSPAPER, dated November, 1968.

The new dining hall built during the summer was completed just before the opening of school. It has large plate glass windows on the east side overlooking the many trees on the campus and stained glass Peacock colored windows on the west side. A stereo tape deck player and AM-FM radio donated by the Class of 1968 provide music over the eight recessed ceiling speakers during meals. Large photographic murals depicting various drill teams and school activities--donated by Colonel George M. Cole--are an added attractive feature.

Members of the varsity football team are Steve Allen, Fred Ary, Kyle Briscoe, Raymond Buck, James Henry, George Johnson, Robert Jones, David Lewis, James McDonough, Michael Nash, Dale O'Quin, Michael Ragsdale, Michael Range, Mark Sinko, Charles Snowden, George Taussing, Alberto Volio, Edmund Valdes, David Webb, and Edmund Wise.

"PAR" CONTRIBUTES \$2,000.00 FOR PEACOCK HOUSE MAINTENANCE

To help pay for much-needed exterior work on the Wesley Peacock House, home of the Alumni Association, Peacock Academy Records, Inc. (PAR) has contributed \$2,000.00, matching \$2,000.00 allocated by the Salvation Army and \$1,700.00 contributed by the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary, for a grand total of \$5,700.00.

Included was painting all exterior trim, purchase and painting of new custom made screen windows and doors, and related work to improve the exterior of the building.

ALUMNI VISITORS

MANUEL GONZALEZ, '63, visited the Peacock House on April 29th and was taken on a personal tour of the historic home of the Alumni by Colonel Don. Manuel is President of the Odessa Tortilla Factory. On page 118 of the 1963 Yearbook is a picture of Manuel (center couple) at the Christmas dance with his date Evelyn Tellz. They were married 4 years later and have two children, Manuel IV and Bobby. He was Captain of Ordnance during his senior year. Manuel's younger brother, SAMUEL GONZALEZ, '67, a five year cadet, was First Captain and Battalion Commander during his senior year. He also lives in Odessa and is owner of a very popular restaurant. (Obviously, he buys his tortillas from his brother, Manuel!)

LARRY HARRIS, '55, who now lives in Yakima, Washington, visited the Wesley Peacock House on April 21st. He was accompanied by his wife, Alma, his daughter, Lorraine, and son, Jeffrey. He said they are planning to return to San Antonio for the Big Reunion in August, 1994.

EVERETT WRIGHTSMAN, '65, visited the Wesley Peacock House on March 4th with his daughter, "Mandy", and son, "Nick", talking over old times with Colonel Don. Everett was First Captain and Battalion Commander during his senior year. He is a graduate of the University of Pacific School of Law and is Senior Vice President of Shearson Lehman Brothers in Atlanta, Georgia.

TOM PERINI, '62, made a special trip to San Antonio on September 11th to visit with Colonel Don, to see the Wesley Peacock House with its growing collection of memorabilia, to pay his dues in advance for 1993, and to make a generous donation to "PAR" (Peacock Academy Records,

Inc.). Tom is owner of Perini Steak House in Buffalo Gap, Texas (near Abilene). He also operates a very successful ranch style catering service in Texas and adjacent states. Last January Tom and his wife, Nanci, and staff catered several affairs in Japan sponsored by the U.S. Meat Export Federation. Tom's picture (in color) appears on page 14 of the May, 1993, issue of TEXAS HIGHWAYS magazine.

NEWS BRIEFS

NICOLAS FERRARA, '55, who is in the export business in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, writes "after reading 'Parade Rest' I was so impressed with the Peacock Family Story which touched so many lives, making so many boys into men of character, principles and assets to their respective communities."

PAT BOSCAW, '60, who is still recovering from his stroke a few years back, is carrying on a great deal of correspondence with alumni, especially with those in his Class of 1960 and others he knew during his years at Peacock. He keeps us up-to-date on address changes, etc. If you knew Pat, drop him a note. His address is 6738 Westwind, El Paso, TX 79912; phone (915)584-8008.

ARTHUR WEINTRAUB, '30, and wife visited the Peacock House last January and talked over old times with Colonel Don. Now a retired mechanical engineer, living in Bethany, Delaware, he is one of the oldest living members of the Alumni Association.

BOBBY DWIGHT BUTLER, '61, who was Captain of Company A during his senior year, is owner of Butler Advertising and Specialties in Houston, Texas. He and his wife, Mary Jo, also operate a fast-food restaurant.

ANTIQUE PISTOL ON DISPLAY

The display cabinets in the Peacock House Memorabilia room not related to PMA but of interest include a cap and ball pistol 138 years old. It is in excellent condition and has stamped thereon the following: "HARPER'S FERRY - 1855."

Also on display are six silver buttons from the dress uniform of Colonel Don's grandfather, a Captain in the Union Army during the Civil War (his Peacock grandfather was a 3rd Lieutenant in the Confederate Army) Colonel Don tells visitors that his two grandfathers shot at each other during the Battle of Gettysburg but fortunately they were both poor marksmen and missed!

Other items of interest are a powder horn and flint case from the American Revolution, two buttons from the uniform of one of Napoleon's "Garde Nationale", a Bowie Knife, a straight edge razor, and a pair of eye glasses over 100 years old.

Two items that belonged to Professor Wesley Peacock, Sr. are his hunting knife, Phi Beta Kappa key, and gold pocket watch engraved thereon "In Loving Memory of PMC Cadet Corps of 1919 to our Best Friend---Wesley Peacock."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Reunion Planning

The Board of Directors held its semi-annual meeting in the Wesley Peacock House at 12 Noon on Saturday, January 16, 1993, with 15 of the 25 Directors present.

During the meeting the wives met for lunch at "Los Patios." That evening husbands and wives met for a (dutch treat) cocktail party and dinner at Holiday Inn West.

Principal business was planning for the big 1994 REUNION observing the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Peacock Military Academy in 1894.

President Wayne Spivey, '51, appointed Frank VanDelden, '46, Ed Ford, '62, and Ed Sebera, '49, to serve as a reunion site committee, the preference of the Directors present being the St. Anthony Hotel.

Lynn Powell, '66, Mike Vlieger, '62, and Rudy Johnson, '53, will coordinate all plans.

By the time the next Newsletter is published we will announce all details of the Reunion, including the exact weekend in August, the site, agenda, and entertainment.

PMA Alumni Association, Inc.

2811 West Ashby Place
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Address Change
Requested