



Kadet Newsletter

Peacock Military Academy

Alumni Association

(210) 733-7766

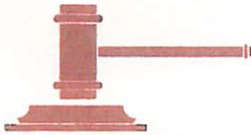
Address of Record: 2811 West Ashby Place, San Antonio, Texas 78201

Mike Vlieger, '62 Editor

December, 2001

Vol. XX, No. 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



At the October Board of Directors Meeting, it was decided to schedule the Alumni Reunion 2002 on the first or second weekend of October, 2002. Ed Ford did a great job of searching out available hotels having personally visited many downtown locations.

The Hotel selected will be the newly remodeled St. Anthony. The weekend selected is October 4th, 5th, and 6th, 2002. The 2002 Reunion makes the 108th year since the founding of Peacock Military Academy. Help keep the memories alive by planning to attend. Mark your calendar now with the dates! Additional Reunion information will follow in the Spring of 2002.

Bob Meuth, '72

DUES 2002

If you have not paid your dues for 2002, please use the enclosed form. By remaining an active member of the Alumni Association, you help make possible the Reunions, Newsletters, Kadet Medal Awards, and the MEMORIES!

CONDENSED MINUTES Board of Directors Meeting October 6, 2001

The Meeting was called to order by First Vice President Ben Sutton and he invited all present to join him in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Sixteen Directors were present, a quorum for conducting business. Lynn Powell stopped by for a short visit. After he left, it was agreed that he should be offered a seat on the Board before the next meeting. Ed Ford will extend the invitation.

Copies of *Parade Rest, Volume One*, have been placed in 85 libraries. Many "thank you" letters have been received and were read at the Meeting.

The Board authorized the purchase of the "Kadet Medal" from Simmangs, the owner of the original mold. Rudy Johnson will follow up on this purchase.

The next Board of Directors Meeting will be 12:00 Noon, Saturday, April 6, 2002, at The Wesley Peacock House.



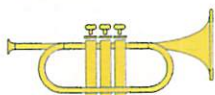
PMA TIDBIT

BILL MORSE, '54, of Houston, took out the first \$500.00 Life Membership when the Alumni Association was first incorporated. EDDIE WISE, '69, was the second to do so.

TAPS

Glen Barnard, Class of 1957, recently passed away while living in Harlingen, Texas. Barnard was a Captain and Battalion Adjutant, a four year Cadet who was voted Most Military in 1957. He was also active in Varsity Football, Track, McKinnon Rifles and the Zouaves. Glen was well liked by his classmates and will be missed.

A special thanks to Thomas Dalton, Class of 1955, for making us aware of Glen Barnard's passing.



I'm sad to inform you and the other Cadets of the death, on May 28, 2001, of my brother, Carroll L. Womack, II, a four year Cadet and Battalion Commander, Class of 1948. He died at his family home in Silver City, New Mexico of long-time heart problems. He was a retired rancher, heavy equipment maintenance technician and gunsmith. Thought he wasn't an active alumni participant, he never forgot his years and experiences at Peacock. Please pass this sad news to Colonel Don and others who knew and will remember him.

Thank You,
James E. "Jim" Womack
Class of '50

POTTER-SALIDO

Gene Potter and Frank Salido were both seniors during the 1944-1945 school year. Both played on the 1944 football team, of which Gene was the Captain.

Gene was Battalion Commander and Frank was Battalion Adjutant.

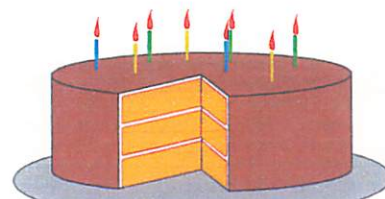
World War II was drafting eighteen-year-olds and Gene was old enough. Having more credits than needed, he was allowed to graduate at the mid-term and immediately entered the Army. Frank succeeded him as Battalion Commander.

Now both men are working together again, this time as members of the Peacock Military Academy Association Board of Directors.

COLONEL DON'S BIRTHDAY

Colonel Don will be 95 on
December 15th! Birthday greetings
may be sent to:

Colonel Donald W. Peacock
311 West Nottingham, #120
San Antonio, Texas 78209



*****CADET GRABS THIEF*****

At the time Phelps Hall was built and first occupied in January, 1965, it was standard procedure for the Corporal of the Guard to eat his meals ahead of time and then patrol the grounds while the rest of the corps was eating.

During lunch on this particular day, the cadet on duty observed a car parked in front of Phelps Hall. Entering the building to investigate, he discovered a man, woman, and a girl loaded down with portable radios and other loot.

When the thieves saw the cadet, they dropped everything and ran past him to escape. As they went by, he grabbed the girl and held her until the police arrived. She proved to be older than she appeared and had drug addict needle marks on both arms.

The cadet's name has been forgotten, but, at the time, he was commended at an assembly of the entire cadet corps.

PMA TIDBIT

On November 6, 1982, in a ceremony at Camp Mabry in Austin, **COLONEL DON** was installed in the Texas National Guard Hall of Honor.





COLONEL GEORGE M. COLE

GOOGIE AND SCHMALTZY

The boys called him "Googie," but not to his face. A brilliantly eccentric man, Colonel George M. Cole, West Point honor graduate and retired Army officer, came to Peacock in 1950 as instructor in math and science, subject in which he held a Master's Degree from Trinity University. Alumni who attended the academy during the last twenty-three years of its existence remember him with deep affection.

The 1960 yearbook, dedicated to Cole, pictures him holding his little dachshund "Schmaltzy" on his lap with the following inscription underneath:

"As a small token of our gratitude for his untiring service as a teacher of military science and the science of mathematics, for his superb example of an educated man and a gentleman, for his undying support of the varsity teams, and for being such a true friend to every cadet, we, the annual staff, humbly dedicated the 1960 KADET to Colonel George M. Cole, PMS/T."

Cole's peculiarities and intellect made him a living legend and the stories about him abound. Former cadets may remember some of the following favorites.

After Taps one night, a group of cadets moved his car from its regular parking space. The next morning Cole located it sitting on the Zouave platform in the middle of the Parade Ground. Ten years later, this same prank re-surfaced. Another time, someone stuck a potato in his car muffler, resulting in some bewildered and amusing reactions.

The cadets enjoyed playing pranks on the colonel while his physics class was underway, too. On one occasion, the boys all feigned talking—their mouths in action but no sound. Poor "Googie" fooled with his hearing aid, trying to make adjustments, until the 'sound' returned.

Every night after Taps, Colonel Cole took his dachshund for a walk. On one particular evening, he was walking by Johnston Hall just when cadet Mark Barrow was relieving himself through the window of his second floor room. As Cole passed beneath the window, he said, "Schmaltzy, it must be starting to rain."

Colonel Cole seldom left the campus, but always visited Karam's Mexican Restaurant on weekends, usually taking a student with him as his guest. He enjoyed playing bridge, working scientific crossword puzzles, and reading scientific articles. They were a foreign language to the average person.

At the last commencement exercises in 1973, when his name was called to come forward and receive a plaque commemorating his twenty-three years at PMA, the entire cadet corps gave him a standing ovation.

That was twenty-eight years ago, but at the reunion every two years, alumni still reminisce and remember "Googie with warm memories.



SENIOR TERRACE: ORIGINAL SITE OF NORTH HALL

North Hall has an interesting history. Built in 1924, a wood frame building on cedar posts, it was located where the Senior Terrace was dedicated twenty-four years later in 1948.

Another identical building, with all inside walls removed, was located next door where Wilson Hall was built years later. This was adapted for use as a small size indoor basketball practice court during inclement weather. Newspaper sports writers referred to it as "Peacock's Cracker Box Gym."

Over the years, the "gym" was replaced by Wilson Hall, and Birkhead Hall was built on the opposite side. Later, a multi-purpose building was constructed—running west and east in back of North Hall. The auditorium was in the center, with a breezeway—the military term for "Sally Port"—at the west end with two doors, one leading to the Armory; the other, to the Supply Room.

The east end, facing the football field across the street, was an athletic locker dressing room and showerbaths.

The left North Hall sitting in the center with modern white buildings on each side and in the rear. Completely different in construction and appearance. So it was decided to move North Hall to a new location back of the auditorium.

To do this, a moving contractor was engaged and a great deal of discussion followed as to how the move would take place. This is what happened.

Jacked up and placed on dollies, the building was pulled by a tractor at an angle across the street a few feet on to the main campus, then moved down the middle of Ashby Street toward Woodlawn Lake to a point even with the far side of the football field. Next, it was moved at an angle across the football field to its new locations. Now that the front entrance faced the football field, the back entrance became the most used entrance and exit.

The new open space vacated by the move became the site of the Senior Terrace, but there is still more to the history of North Hall.

In 1966, when the school finally got its MI-ROTC Unit, North Hall was no longer a barracks. Half of the building was used for miscellaneous storage and the four rooms at the rear left vacant. These rooms were allocated to the ROTC for office and military classroom space.

The government furnished, without expense to the school, a full time active duty major and staff sergeant to conduct the ROTC program of instruction.



PHELPS HALL RAZED

PHELPS HALL, OPENED IN JANUARY, 1965, IS GONE FOREVER. AN UNDISCOVERED WATER LEAK OF MANY YEARS UNDER THE CONCRETE FOUNDATION CAUSED THE BUILDING TO MOVE ABOUT — RESULTING IN CRACKS IN THE FLOORING, THE INTERIOR WALLS, AND EVEN IN THE EXTERIOR BRICK WALLS.

THE BUILDING HAS NOW BEEN DEMOLISHED, THE GROUND LEVELED, AND ENCLOSED WITH A SIX FOOT CYCLONE FENCE. FUTURE USE OF THE SITE HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED.

EDITOR NEEDS HELP

I need your help in publishing a regularly interesting newsletter. You can help by writing me a letter telling me a little about yourself—what you are now doing; whether you are retired or still in business; what your interests and activities are, what alumni you still see and what they are doing, etc.

Another way you can help is to write a short item about yourself or others—perhaps a memory from your days at Peacock—that would be of interest to our readers—to be reproduced with your name or anonymously, as you wish.

Mail, email, or fax your letter or short article directly to my home address, please, as follows:

MIKE VLIENER, '62
10702 Mossbank
San Antonio, Texas 78230

Email: mike.vliener@ecolab.com
Fax: (210) 696-0082

CANNON REPORT

On the first day of a new school year, upper classmen kept the new cadets busy looking for the key to the flagpole, reveille oil, and the cannon report.

By supper time, the new boys realized that none of these things existed and that the cannon report referred to the noise made when the cannon was fired.

A 75mm World War I obsolete cannon was displayed on the campus for years. It had wooden wheels with metal treads, and—attached to a caisson—was pulled by mules. During World War II, when the government called for iron and metal of all kinds, the cannon was contributed to the cause.

After the war ended, the government gave the school a large 87mm anti-aircraft cannon which was displayed on the main campus directly across the street from the Peacock House (the then office and headquarters). The new addition had rubber tires. It had been towed, when moved, by a tractor or armored tank.

The government also contributed two 37mm anti-tank cannons which were placed on each side of the walk leading up to headquarters. These also had rubber tires and were pulled by jeeps for fast deployment.

Fortunately, the jeep assigned to the school's State Guard Unit (later disbanded) was obtained at a small handling charge, so it was available to move one of the 37mm cannons to

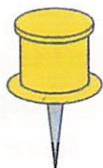
Alamo for the Texas Cavalier's ceremony installing the new King Antonio, and at the Arneson River Theatre during the Fiesta River Parade. This cooperation with the Texas Cavaliers continued for the next five years.

A Ceremonial Dress Parade honoring King Antonio on Thursday afternoon of Fiesta Week was an official Fiesta Event and continued as such until the school closed in 1973. The little cannon saw lots of action during these years for the King's traditional 21-gun salute.

The final "Cannon Report": the large cannon and the two small guns were given to San Antonio Academy where they are displayed with a bronze plaque on a concrete base. The inscription reads:

**A TRIBUTE TO
PEACOCK MILITARY ACADEMY
AND TO ITS STUDENTS,
FACULTY
AND THE PEACOCK FAMILY
1894-1973**

*We regret the loss of this
institution which was both
friend and rival for so many
years. May the light which it
has cast on the world grow
stronger through the years and
may all who knew it keep the
ideals for which it so diligently
strived safe for mankind.
(The San Antonio Academy of
Texas)*



MORE PMA TIDBITS

- The Parade Ground is now the site of a three million dollar apartment complex for senior citizens. It was built and is operated by The Salvation Army.
- In one of the display cabinets in the Peacock House is a 146-year-old pistol made at Harper's Ferry Arsenal before the Civil War. It was donated to the Association by **COLONEL WESLEY PEACOCK, JR.**
- **JERRY HOUSTON, '52**, shot down a MIG-17 jet fighter during four different deployments to Vietnam as a Navy fighter pilot flying F4B Phantom jets. During thirty years in the service, he was credited with over 6,000 flight hours and 725 carrier landings, 200 of them at night.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Mike Vlieger, '62
Editor

Email:
mike.vlieger@ecolab.com
Fax: (210) 696-0082

Jerry Houston, '52
Special Articles

Ed Ford, '62
Computer Adaptation

PMA Alumni Association, Inc.
2811 West Ashby Place
San Antonio, Texas 78201



Address Change
Requested