

Kadet Newsletter

Peacock Military Academy

Alumni Association

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Mike Vlieger, '62, Editor

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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 11th, 12th, and 13th, 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

COLONEL DON'S FINAL SALUTE

It is with deep regret that I inform the Alumni Association of the passing of Colonel Donald W. Peacock. Colonel Don passed away on Thanksgiving Day after a brief stay in the hospital. His mind was sharp right up to the end. The last words I had with the Colonel involved this Newsletter. Colonel Don was three weeks short of his 95th birthday. The Colonel always had a great interest in the Association and kept me fully supplied with enthusiasm and guidance. I will miss him every day as I know many of you will. The Colonel touched a lot of lives; cadets, family and friends. I know we are all better for having known him.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Memorial Service for Colonel Don was held at The Salvation Army Citadel across the street from the Peacock House. The picture of the Colonel in this Newsletter was in the program used at the Service. It shows Colonel Don on "Lancer" at Fort Clark, Texas, while assigned to the 5th US Cavalry.

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

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. Though 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 Alumni Association Board of Directors.

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!

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.
- **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.



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.

That 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 location. 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.





COLONEL DONALD W. PEACOCK

Born in San Antonio, Texas, December 15, 1906, Colonel Peacock was the son of Edith Wing and Wesley Peacock, Sr., who founded the Peacock Military Academy in 1894. After graduating from the Academy and attending Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1928, he became associated with his father and brother, Colonel Wesley Peacock, Jr., in the operation of the Academy. He served as Commandant of Cadets (except for active duty periods of military service) until June of 1973—when the Peacock family closed the Academy and deeded the 20-acre facility to The Salvation Army, to be known as the "Peacock Center."

When asked why The Salvation Army was selected for the gift, he replied that the gift is "based on its reputation and our confidence that they would use the property for service to God, and the good of mankind." Colonel Peacock was instrumental in setting up a "McGimsey-Peacock Endowment Fund" and to this day the earnings from those funds go toward the Peacock Home for Girls.

During World War II, he served on the Staff of the Adjutant General of Texas as an instructor and training officer with the State Guard. After the war, he served as Chief of Staff of the State Guard from 1948 until his retirement from the Guard in 1963, at which time he was promoted to Brigadier General. He never adopted the title of General, preferring to be known as Colonel, the rank he had held for so many years.

Upon his retirement in 1963, he was awarded the ***Texas Medal of Merit*** for outstanding service in the Military Forces of Texas, and in the same year received the ***Texas National Guard's Minute Man Award*** for Meritorious Service. In 1982 he was inducted into the National Guard Hall of Honor. He was also the first President of the State Guard Association in 1942, a member and past Commander of the Texas Cavaliers, and a member of the Laurel Heights Methodist Church.

Colonel Peacock was a life member of The Salvation Army Advisory Board, having served on the Executive Committee for many years, and was a recipient of the Army's ***Distinguished Service Medal***, the highest honor conferred on a non-Salvationist.

Among his numerous other honors, Colonel Peacock was presented with a Department of the Army Citation for Patriotic Service, as well as citations from the City of San Antonio and the Governor of Texas for his many years of service to his city, state, and nation. **His greatest tribute, however, endures in a family who loves, treasures, and respects him, and in the thousands of boys who learned to become men of honor pursuing excellence under his dignified and dedicated guidance.**

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 an 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:

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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

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Special Articles

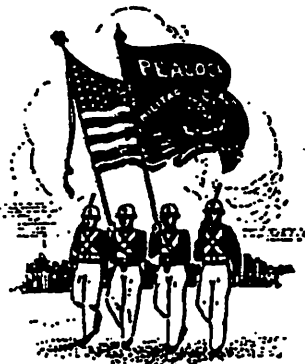
Ed Ford, '62

Computer Adaptation

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Address Change