



Kadet Newsletter

Peacock Military Academy Alumni Association

(210) 733-7766

Michael A. Vlieger, '62, CEO

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

February, 2003

Volume XXII, No. 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Alumni!

Hope this finds everyone well.

Those that attended the Reunion the second weekend in October had a great time. Ed Ford, '62, is to be commended for making the arrangements for all our events held at the St. Anthony Hotel. Gerald Ragsdale, '71, was our entertainment following dinner on Saturday evening. He and his talented songstress made our evening and dancing more enjoyable! Next Reunion will be October, 2004.

Hope to see you at the next Board Meeting on Saturday, April 5, 2003.

Bob Meuth, '72



BOARD OF DIRECTORS PMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

2002 - 2004

Bob Meuth, '72	President
Ben Sutton, '42	First Vice President
Frank Torres, '63	Second Vice President
Don Yust, '71	Third Vice President
Lynn Powell, '66	Secretary
Ed Ford, '62	Treasurer
Tony Martinez, '63	Paralegal
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Gary Blum, '62	Bill Morse, '56
Dickie Dixon, '62	Gene Potter, '45
Russ Doty, '53	Gerald Ragsdale, '71
Edgar Fischel, '50	Bob Ray, '48
Kirk Johnson, '54	Frank Salido, '45
Rudy Johnson, '53	Ed Sebera, '49
Earl Lacy, '54	Eddie Wise, '69
Colonel Dick G. Thiesen	

WANTED!

Please send any newspaper clippings, photos, etc., to the Newsletter Editor. Contact Mike Vlieger, 10702 Mossbank, San Antonio, Texas 78230, Phone (210) 696-8292, Fax (210) 696-0082, or e-mail: mike.vlieger@ecolab.com.

Your memories help others remember the KADET good times and make the Newsletter worth reading! Help!!

DUES FOR 2003

Help keep the memories alive! Support the Alumni Association by returning the dues form enclosed with this Newsletter. (If you have already renewed your membership, please disregard this request.)

THANKS!

PEACOCK KADET MEDALS

San Antonio Academy

1990	Jeremy Leibowitz
1991	Marshall Lasswell
1992	Nick Visel
1993	Justin Blanchard
1994	James Bitter, Jr.
1995	George Spencer
1996	Pedro Martinez
1997	William Stephen Hausser, Jr.
1998	Jacob Leibowitz
1999	Lukas Green
2000	Jason Gancarczyk
2001	Chandra Vemvlapalli
2002	Jacob Oppenheimer and Charles Thaddeus

Texas Military Institute

1996	Andrew Yang
1997	Michael W. Palmer
1998	Damon Highsmith
1999	Jonathan Burns
2000	Sebastian Padron
2001	Paige Cooper
2002	Vaughn Villarreal

San Marcos Academy

1996	Reid McCoy
1997	David Ferdows
1998	Jorge Gonzalez
1999	Yuichurio Kondo
2000	Edward Lai
2001	Timothy R. Moffett
2002	Tory Lacy

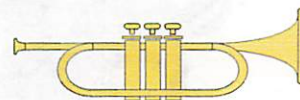
BOARD MEETING

Saturday, April 5, 2003

The Wesley Peacock House

12:00 Noon

JAKE FRENCH, '64



The following e-mail was received from Manuel Gonzalez, '63, on 12/19/02:

It is my sad duty to report that Jacob P. French, Jr., died December 18th. Burial will be Saturday, December 21, 2002.

You may have been aware that Jake had many health issues over the years due to diabetes. If you have a way of contacting Coach Middleton, I am sure that he would appreciate knowing of Jake's passing.

He wanted to leave some items which were dear to him to the Peacock House and I will bring them to San Antonio on my next trip.

Sincerely,

Manuel E. Gonzalez, III

Big Jake was 1st Captain and Battalion Commander in 1964. Jake and I would talk at least once a year. He had the best memories of Peacock and it was always great to talk with him. He will be missed.

Mike Vlieger, '62

REUNION, 2002

- THE ALUMNI REUNION, HELD AT THE ST. ANTHONY HOTEL IN OCTOBER, 2002, WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. OUR THANKS TO ED AND REGINA FORD FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK!





COLONEL GEORGE M. COLE



ALUMNI CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Mike:

I was very sorry to learn of Col. Don's passing. One thing we all know is that he lived a life that we all would aspire to emulate. I imagine his stature touched everyone he met through the year, but especially fortunate are guys like us, who were lucky enough to have daily contact with him while attending Peacock. Col. Wesley, in my opinion, was of that same stature, both of whom will always be remembered by me as instrumental in shaping my values towards adulthood.

Joshua Tilton, '52

Dear Mike:

Hope you are doing great, and had a good holiday season. I did not see the death notice of Mark Frank Perryman, '62, in the Taps note of our last Newsletter. Also, what about Russell Fredrick Gustke, Jr., '63? I think he was killed in a motorcycle accident. Please put them in next time, because some of the members might want to know of their passing. Thanks with kind regards --

Frank R. Torres, '63

P. S. Thanks for the North Hall "info"! I spent many a night in that windy and cold barracks. I also was sent from North Hall to Phelps Hall right after it was completed and that was my senior year, the second semester. It was January of 1963 when it was first occupied not 1965. My roommate there was Ben Nathan Nurick, '63. Just thought I would let you know. Bye...





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, subjects 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 Colonel 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 dedicate the 1960 KADET to Colonel George M. Cole, PMS/T."

Colonel 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.

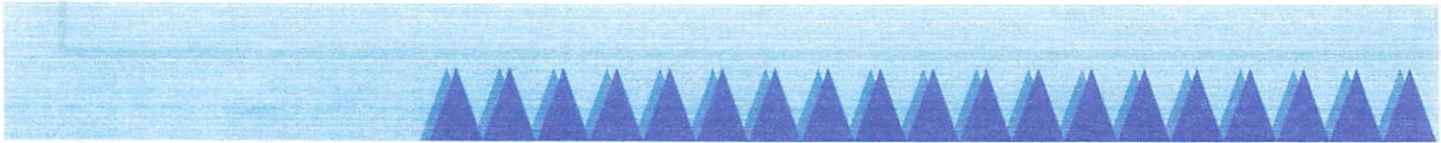
After Taps one night, a group of cadets moved his car from its regular parking space. The next morning Colonel Cole located it sitting on the Zouave platform in the middle of the Parade Ground. Ten years later, this same prank re-surfaced. Another time, someone stuck a potato in his car muffler, resulting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





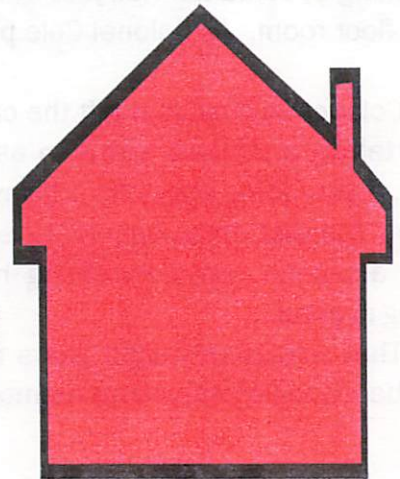
FAMILY TIES

THE PICTURE OF CADET COLLIER MOORE, CLASS OF 1915, WAS SUPPLIED BY BOB RAY, CLASS OF 1948. COLLIER MOORE WAS BOB RAY'S UNCLE WHO LIVED MOST OF HIS LIFE IN ALBANY, TEXAS. COLLIER MOORE WAS ENROLLED IN PEACOCK BECAUSE TWO OF HIS BROTHERS-IN-LAW HAD ATTENDED THE PEACOCK SCHOOL FOR BOYS. BOB IS A MEMBER OF THE ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND PROVIDES US WITH MUCH WISDOM.

THANKS, BOB!

PEACOCK HOUSE UPDATES

The next time you come by The Wesley Peacock House, be sure to check out our new roof (no more leaks!) The old concrete sidewalks on the east side of the House have also been replaced. Nice job! Also, we have new furniture in the conference room. Looking good!!



TAPS

This is the first time I ever saw the words to Taps. I had never heard or read the story before. It sure is a beautiful story. Taps is the song that touches our hearts and brings tears to our eyes. Here's the story behind the song (as sent to me):

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, Captain Ellicombe decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gun fire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and pulled him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier but the soldier was already dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the south when war broke out. Without telling his parents the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heart broken, the father asked permission of his superior to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was partially granted. Captain Ellicombe had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper on the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody we now know as "Taps", used at military funerals and at the end of each day on U.S. military bases, was born.

Taps

Day is done...Gone the sun...From the lakes...From the hills...
From the sky...All is well...God is nigh...Fading light...Dims the sky...
And a star...Gems the sky...Gleaming bright...From afar...Drawing nigh...
Falls the night...Thanks and praise...For our days...Neath the sun...Neath
the stars...Neath the sky...As we go...This we know...God is nigh.

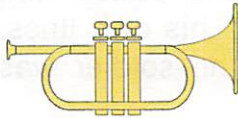
Submitted by Gene Potter, '45



ORDER YOUR VIDEOS TODAY!

TAPS

Jacob P. French, Jr., '64
Paul Gore, '52
Russell F. Gustke, Jr., '63
John Burt Kountz, III, '62
Hugh W. Lampman, '51
Alan Henry Lawler, '55
Paul Smith Liner, '56
Larry Eugene McCarrell, '59
Mark Frank Perryman, '62
Robert D. Scoggins, '59



- Centennial Reunion, August 6/7, 1994
- Dedication of Alumni Memorial, 1998
- Peacock Military Academy Activities, Football - 1963
- Peacock Military Academy Memories - 1952 and 1960's
- Peacock Remembered, KLRN, 1997
- The Wesley Peacock House Restoration and Peacock Alumni Reunion, 1990
- Peacock Military Academy, 1940's

\$10.00 each + \$2.00 mailing charges

Please make checks to
PMA Alumni Association

Mail request to:

Mike Vlieger, CEO
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2811 West Ashby Place
San Antonio, Texas 78201

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