



THE PACRA PACER

San Marcos, CA

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A RESTORED FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Palomar's oldest support organization, The Patrons of Palomar College, is planning to restore one of the oldest recreation corners of the campus. Shortly after the College moved to the present San Marcos site in 1951, The Patrons established a Friendship Garden between the first administration building and the Business Building. It was an attractive rose garden, backed with some privet specimens, with a few benches for visitors. In a very short time it developed into a beautiful area with the roses donated by members of the community. But in the late 1950's the garden was lost to the bulldozers when the second set of permanent buildings was started. The idea did not die; it was placed on the shelf for about forty years. Several rose bushes, propagated by slipping this early rose of Palomar, have been planted in the northwestern corner of the Arboretum. An extensive rose garden was developed in the midst of the front parking lots in the early 1970's, but this garden is no longer attractive.

The Patrons' Board has accepted a project which will return an idea of restful tranquility to the front of the campus. Using the site of the old rose garden, the motorcycle parking area, and the green park just above it, plans have been approved to make this the most attractive area of the lower campus.

But it will not happen quickly. The trees and grass will remain largely as they are now, but a wooden structure symbolizing unity will be built. The land level of the motorcycle lot and old rose garden will be changed by transporting soil from the other parts of the campus. There will be walkways, benches, and varied plantings. The key idea is to develop a restful spot, pleasing to the mind and soul, with selected plantings and small trees which will provide a bit of color at any month of the year. Much use will be made of the natural rocks of the campus, a very abundant commodity.

The wooden structure will be a tower pavilion, about 20 feet high, open on all sides and overhead. It will be constructed without the use of metal. Instead,

the older form of constructing using pegs and holes will be adapted to the location. The design has been made by Mr. Harry Bliss, Director of the Boehm Gallery of Palomar College, with construction supervised by Mr. Chris Feddersohn, woodshop instructor of the College Trade and Industry Department. This will actually be a class project under Mr. Feddersohn, with all labor contributed in-house.

We hope members of PACRA, the College staff, and students of Palomar will find moments to enjoy the renamed Friendship Garden.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The PACRA Board of Directors met on March 17, 1999, at the Escondido Center of Palomar College from 1 PM to 2:30 PM, a quorum being present. Dr. Fred Huber, President of PACRA, has provided these highlights of the meeting:

A. Discussion regarding a complete retiree list which will include all who had completed 10 years or more prior to 1974. After 1974, designation will be made between those retiring and those resigning;

B. Treasurer reported balance on hand as of January 1999 to be \$4,006.25 (this includes a \$1,500 CD); Bills for flowers for Bergman memorial and postage were approved;

C. Discussion was held on the PACRA scholarship. It was determined that there be no change in the current requirements;

D. Discussion was held on members who have not renewed their memberships. The Board agreed that the By-laws are quite clear as to the status of a PACRA member so does not pay dues. It was further noted that members who do not renew will be dropped from the Directory, but will be included in the complete retiree issue when it is issued by the College;

E. The Annual Business Meeting will be held on May 15, 1999. The program will include election officers (President, Vice-President, and one member-at-large.) Location is expected to be at the College. There will be an official notice sent out in April.

ENROLLMENT AT A NEW HIGH

At the end of the fall semester of this year, December, 1998, Palomar reached an enrollment of 27,670, more than 400 over the count in the fall of 1997. This makes it the second largest institution of higher education in San Diego County, exceeded only by San Diego State University. The state funds about \$3,500 for each full time student at Palomar and other community colleges, lower than the national average of \$5,000 to \$6,000. The California State University system receives \$7,000 for each of its students, while the University of California receives \$13,000.

BUILDING PLANS

At the present time, the College has not identified funds to build an amphitheater on the San Marcos campus. Construction on the related playing fields is expected to begin this summer. When funds for the entire project become available, the \$16 million project will include a 4,500 seat lighted stadium, two city playing fields, new softball and baseball fields, and a 1,500-seat amphitheater which could be expanded to 3,500 seats. The project includes \$2 million in redevelopment funds from the City of San Marcos.

First priority is to be the new baseball fields near the Borden Road entrance of the campus, after which the fields along Mission Road will be turned into softball fields.

LOSSES WITHIN OUR STAFF

Recent losses due to death include Richard Noble, formerly associate professor in the Earth Sciences Department; Bobby James, a Financial Aids assistant; Alan Krichman, a former member of the Governing Board of the College from 1977 to 1985; Louise Wade See, formerly of the Library staff; and Virgil Bergman, former vice-president and assistant superintendent for instruction.

Louise Wade See, former assistant librarian and former president of The Patrons of Palomar College, died in Ft. Worth, Texas on March 16, 1999. She and her husband, Charles, were great leaders of the Patrons about fifteen years ago. In 1991, she published a book of poetry.

We must give additional thought to Virgil Bergman who was, and remains, a very important personage in setting the goals and style of Palomar's instructional program. He joined Palomar in 1955, just at the beginning of the great growth period of the college. He was chairman of the Speech/Theatre department until 1957 when he became Dean of the Humanities Division, later Dean of Instruction/Vice President for Instruction until his retirement in 1979. As chief

administrator for instruction, he served as chairman of the Curriculum Committee, a position which permitted him to set standards which affected every department. But he is best remembered for his long-time service as speech teacher and debate coach. His debate and speech teams from Palomar College persistently rated honors of all kinds in regional, state, and national tournaments. One of the first of their great successes was winning sweepstakes in the National Conference held in Hutchinson, Kansas. Palomar, still housed in its early barracks room architecture, outrated teams from all over the nation.

He was most proud of the influence he had on students, causing them to challenge themselves to greater and higher levels. After retirement from Palomar, he served as president of the University of Nairobi in Kenya. Later he became deeply involved in community affairs such as president of the Escondido Historical society, president and trustee of the Escondido Library Board, president of the Escondido Republican Club, and was an avid patron of the California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

In October 1998, he and Natalie celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary and in February they moved from their 100-year old Victorian home to a two-bedroom apartment.

Donations to his memory may be made to the Virgil Bergman Scholarship Fund under the Palomar College Foundation.

BOOKSTORE PROBLEMS

The Palomar College Bookstore has had financial reversals and is exploring several ideas to help pull it out of the red. One proposal is to join a major bookstore chain. This seems to be a nationwide trend. In this county, Follett operates the MiraCosta Bookstore while Barnes and Noble have taken over the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Colleges Bookstores.

A NEW BOARD MEMBER

Elections last fall brought a new trustee to the Governing Board. Dr. Michele T. Nelson, an administrator in the Grossmont District now finds herself looking at college issues from another angle.

BITS OF NEWS FROM OUR FRIENDS

Bessie Heyne reported at Christmas season that her health remains reasonable sound, with only occasional side effects of the radiation treatment. Most of her family, children and grandchildren, are involved in education work from high schools to universities.

Mildred Ayers was able to find trouble without looking for it. She stepped on one of those round

toothpicks which had lodged in the carpet. It went straight up her heel and broke off. After some surgery, she was able again to put on a shoe four weeks later.

Donna Reiser broke her right shoulder ball in five places in February and had to have a complete metal shoulder replacement. The surgery was long and the physical therapy was painful, but by the 4th of July she was able to drive again. Their orchards bore heavy crops of apples, apricots, and pecans last year.

Russell Jackson reported that he retired again in 1998, this time from active radio work at a news-talk station in Santa Maria. Then they moved even further northward to Vacaville, California. He feels proud of Dana's NATAS award.

Margaret Parry—oh, Margaret, where are you? We've lost contact with you. Our letters to you have been returned by Postal Service.

Robby Robinson, a Palomar student, was selected as the Scholar/Leader/Athlete of the Year by the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame.

Janice Jennings, whom you may remember as the wife of Ted Jennings, our head gardener for many years, rejoices that their three children attended Palomar. "We were proud to have the children lucky enough to have a college close enough for them to attend. Diana teaches first grade in Morena Valley, Jeff teaches at the same school, while Angela is a principal of a school in Murrieta." A son-in-law also went to Palomar, and a grandchild teaches computers in Iceland and England.

Donna Casey reports that traveling to family gatherings has allowed her to visit most of the United States, coast to coast, and north to south.

Helen and Warren Donahue are still back-packing and hiking; recently it was the Grand Canyon. She helped Warren by carrying his nearly-empty backpack uphill. Her reply to the stares of other hikers was, "Me squaw."

Robert Burton pointed out that he had his 87th birthday this year, on April Fool's Day as always. His card read, "Ancient Wisdom tells us that a positive attitude may not always solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort."

Mr. Charles Milham, husband of PACRA member Gretchen, passed away on April 9 at his home. He was a cabinet maker and furniture repairman and a past president of the Ramona Kiwanis Club.

E-MAIL

We suspect that some of our members have joined the E-mail system. Your editor did so recently, pushed into it by his three daughters. You can reach me at jdschettler@juno.com

Remember—no capital letters and no spaces between letters. Let me know your E-mail address and we'll print it in our next publication.

POSSIBLE FORUM

Have you ever wished you had some new activity, one not too far from your previous experiences Abe Gruber suggests that we establish a Forum of a few or many who would want to meet periodically and talk and listen, perhaps even eat. That's about as far as the plan has gone, but he is anxious to get a small group to start the Forum. You are encouraged to contact Abe at 16140 Avenida Venusto #1, San Diego, CA, 92128, telephone (619) 673-4163. Sounds like a new door in life might be opening.

A COALITION

The trustees of Palomar College are considering joining a coalition of community colleges from Imperial Valley to Los Angeles. This would enable the districts to operate independently, but also to coordinate programs with other members to avoid duplication and to take advantage of shared resources.

MATH REQUIREMENTS

The Board of Trustees voted in March to increase the mathematics requirement for the associate degrees. This would mean that such students would be required to take or test out of intermediate algebra, Mathematics 60. Previously, the requirement covered beginning algebra, Mathematics 50.

THE COMETS

The Comets won their third national title in this decade when USA Today named them co-champion with the Butler County College Grizzlies of El Dorado, Kansas, last week (Feb.).—courtesy of The Telescope, Feb. 8.

REACCREDITATION

Palomar College is currently taking the necessary steps to prepare documents for review by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges to renew its accreditation under that organization. Palomar has been accredited since it opened in 1946 and is in no immediate danger of losing the accreditation. The last visit by an accreditation team was in October 1996 which praised the college and awarded a renewal of accreditation in January 1997.

continued page 4

Important developments which have taken place since then include a completed technology plan, linking budget decisions to strategic planning, on-line classes, and purchase of the People-Soft computer program to avoid year 2000 software problems.

FROM ALL DIRECTIONS

Palomar's large student body now includes 307 students from 50 different countries. Such non-resident students pay the full cost of instruction which is \$125 per unit this year. For the fall semester,

43 of the international students achieved a 4.0 grade point average; 70 students were on the Dean's List with an average G.P.A. above 3.5. The G.P.A. for the entire group was 2.995.

CORRECTION

Deceased member Jerry Hankins is listed incorrectly in the Directory as Jerry Hawkins. We regret the error and extend our apology to his wife, Clarise.

EVENTS FOR MAY 1999

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| <p>1-2 Drama: "Angel City" by Sam Shepard
8 pm Saturday; 2 pm Sunday</p> <p>7 Palomar Youth Chorale: "Sing for Joy"
8 pm - Calif. Center for the Arts, Escondido</p> <p>7-8 President's Concert - Baseball:
songs and music of Gershwin,
Palomar Symphony and Chorale
8 pm - Howard Brubeck Theatre</p> <p>14-16 Dance Performance: "Whole Lotta Dancin"
Friday and Saturday, 8 pm; Sunday, 2 pm
& 7 PM - Howard Brubeck Theatre</p> | <p>19 Palomar Jazz Ensemble:
"Jazz Master Minds" Concert
8 pm - Howard Brubeck Theatre</p> <p>20 Palomar Concert Band:
"Strike Up the Band" Concert
8 pm Howard Brubeck Theatre</p> <p>21 COMMENCEMENT:
6 pm on the Football Field.
Public Welcome</p> <p>31 HOLIDAY: Memorial Day</p> |
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Palomar College Retirees' Association - PACRA

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