

Boxer's Rebellion: A Dog's Da

When a Bankrupt Chinese Parted With Family Idol in '96, Pacific Was Doomed for Decades of Good-Natured Brawling

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BOXER, STUDENT-PRIZED bronze idol of Pacific university at Fores Grove, returned to the college campus recently almost as mysteriously as he disappeared. For over 40 years the idol has been the object of student search, owned by whoever was able to find and keep him. And it has been just over a year, on January 2, 1941 that someone still unknown, "swiped" him from his present owner's home at 524 N.

That has been bitter medicine, too, for Pacific students are fiercely proud of their mascot—have dubbed him the "Spirit of Pacific."

Years of battling have taken their toll on Boxer: his tail is missing and various parts of his body have been torn off in the struggles. Close examination will show the scars of various student owners carved into him. Antique authorities estimate his value at anywhere from \$1500 on up.

For the last 47 years the idol has been the property of Pacific university students, who all clamor for the honor of owning the "dog," as he is familiarly called, at least once during their college years.

When the late William Jennings Bryant made a speaking tour to the west coast some 20 years ago, he requested an in-

roduction to the famous mascot. His owners brought the dog and placed it on the platform. The temptation was too great for several Pacific students present, for suddenly the platform was unceremoniously stamped, the bunting ripped to shreds. Boxer was snatched, and Mr. Bryant had to postpone his speech to the following day.

His owners last year were Bob Woodward, Earl Gipe and Maurice Drum, who are all in the service now. They flashed the dog only a few times, with his last escapade on December 13—of all places—in the Benson hotel. That was the night the Associated Women Students held their annual winter formal dance in Portland and at the Benson hotel. The dance was in full swing, students and faculty were nodding and smiling decorously, when suddenly Lettermen Gipe, Drum and Bill Lee appeared in the doorway of the ballroom and yelled "Here's Boxer!"—holding the metal hound up in plain view. Hotel attendants were horrified to see a mob of tuxedo-clad men tear through the lobby after the three lettermen. The Boxer flashers were halted momentarily in the lobby when little five-foot co-ed Madeline DuPuis got excited and tackled six-foot Gipe, who was carrying the idol. A first-class brawl in the lobby of one of Portland's larg-

est hotels was beginning, as more and more fellows reached the scene and leaped into the fray. Then Gipe tossed the idol to Lee and the trio made their getaway through the side door and into a waiting car. Back in the hotel ballroom, the orchestra stopped in bewilderment as all of the dancers swept out of the ballroom and the girls stood partnerless.

SNATCHER:

Took Boxer to Home of Klickitat Girl

Then Woodward took the dog to the home of his fiancée Zada Magee at Klickitat, Wash., for the Christmas holidays, only to have the dog mysteriously stolen from them there. Fearing student body wrath, they kept it a secret, searching frantically for Boxer's whereabouts. However by March 4, students and the Index, the college newspaper, were vociferously demanding a Boxer flash, so Woodward stood up in student assembly that day and announced that he had lost the idol.

The hunt was on. Rival schools were suspected of secreting the mascot, and P. U. students eyed Reed college, Linfield college, and—most of all—Portland university. The latter school was the object of much Pacific suspicion, while Portland U. lettermen declared innocently they couldn't imagine what had happened to the idol.

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May 30, 1943

Days at College



Weighing 18 pounds, "Boxer" metal. He has enormous tail, spines, and c

Another great indignation the college authorities set out to track down the dog. The student newspaper, the Index of January 7, 1906, states: "This matter will be pushed to a successful conclusion. No means will be spared to root out once and for all the grafting evil which has permeated the college." One time the idol was for months hidden in the Willamette river, swathed in gunny-sacks and suspended in the depths with a cable by which he could be hauled up when the occasion warranted.

In 1911 he was placed back in the chapel but remained only two hours. In the fight that followed, he was broken into three pieces. It was not until the fall of 1914 after many nights of stealthy research, that his neck, leg and body were reworked together.

BASEMENT:

Escapes Attention Of Intruders

Once he was suspected of being in a chicken coop—and the boys hunting him were held up with a shotgun for stealing an irate farmer's poultry.

In the summer of '26 student Harold Hughes had the precious dog buried in his basement. One night he returned home to find the whole house ransacked—all but the basement. He dug up Boxer and put him in his mother's sewing machine. The next day the mud floor of the

whole basement was full of holes—and the sewing machine was undisturbed.

Three years ago, however, on the morning of October 24, 1939, three co-eds announced their capture of the sacred idol. The snatchers, Donna Kesner, Katherine Ninemire and Bessie Howell, all of Forest Grove, had filed the dog away for their own future reference, while its owners, members of Phi Beta Tau fraternity, snored snugly in their beds.

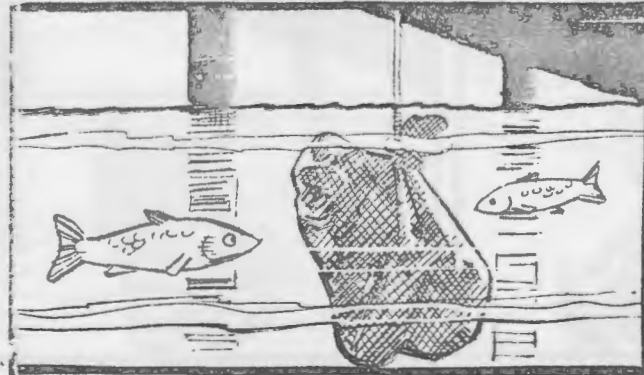
Tiring of the responsibility of owning the sought-after idol, the co-eds found a popular solution to the problem. On March 29, 1940, it was announced that Boxer would be thrown out on the campus in front of the gymnasium at 2:15 that afternoon. Literally, the whole student body, faculty members and a sizeable crowd of townspeople gathered to watch that fight. When the girls drove onto the campus a general rush started toward their car, until Edwin Ingles, then school comptroller, shouted "Boxer," and drew the dog out of the trunk of his own car.

The ensuing battle for possession lasted over two hours and

Then just recently the dog was returned to Zada by Tony Diklich, former Pacific student now attending the University of Portland, and two unidentified men. None would give any information as to where they got the dog.

The history of the "oriental noodle" dates back to China where he spent the first 300 years of his life as an incense burner, one of the two household gods of a family of apothecaries at Szechow, Fucin, China. Falling upon less prosperous times, the descendant sold him to Dr. E. Walker, a missionary Pacific graduate of 1812. He is supposed to have been in his alma mater in 1800.

The source of his name is not known exactly, but one story is that it arose from the fact that its American owner acquired it during the Boxer rebellion. An "in, re, in, re, in, re, in, re" puppy" resided in Brighton escape until the night in 1902 when some members of the senior class spirited him away. There had been a speaker in chapel that morning, who had told of a foreign image being the college spirit of one of the eastern colleges. In the course of his remarks, he pointed freely at Boxer sitting peacefully on his pedestal. That same night Boxer disappeared.



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Escape Attempt Of Intruders

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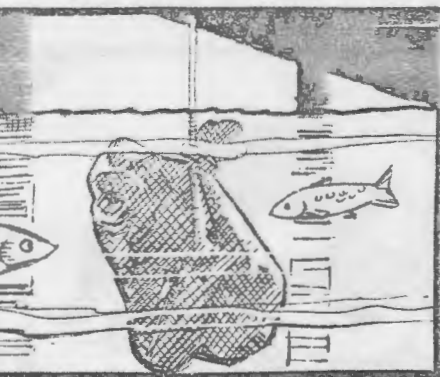
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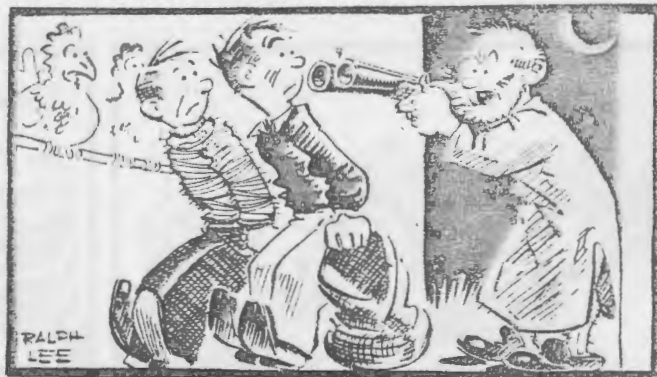
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a half. It had to be moved by police off of the Pacific highway, where it stopped traffic and Oregon Motor stages had to be rerouted, and off of an enraged citizen's newly-sown front lawn. All of this in a pouring rain. A peculiar feature of the fight was the entire good-naturedness of it. Students went home to change clothes nearly torn off their backs, and ruined by the mud and rain. It is said that one fellow ever stopped fighting long enough to go down town and get a haircut, returning again to battle. Ignition wires were yanked out of nearby automobiles so that none of them would start in a collision with the dog. Finally, six of the fellows managed to escape in a car driven up by Bill Rockwood of Forest Grove.

So runs the saga of the little bronze idol of Pacific university. Just about anybody who ever attended the university, or lived in Forest Grove, can tell of a chapter in the famous mascot's history. What a story the little dog himself would tell, if he could only talk!



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