

OREGONIAN - NOV 1950

Pacific U. Lucky 13 Gains Control Of Boxer, Battle-Scarred School Mascot

Another Boxer tail tale.

Jan Stricklin visited an alumnus last week, Oct 26, 2012 and met with Norm Larabee (center back...the fella with the glasses) and he told her more tales about Boxer...and gave her a copy of this Oregonian article.

The stories continue.

Jan also knows the gentelman on the far left.

Bernie Cooper ▶



The Lucky 13 of Pacific university, currently possessors of the school's inanimate mascot, a 300-year-old Chinese idol whom they call Boxer, keep a restraining hand on his much-welded hide, damaged in a half century of figs for traditional glory of possession.

Boxer, Pacific university's fabulous Chinese idol responsible for more black eyes and bruised shins than even the school's football games, has new custodians.

Secure in the hands (some skinned knuckles) of 13 students who call themselves the Lucky 13, a group from the Phi Beta Tau fraternity, the 22-pound antique—scarred, battered, welded and minus his plumed tail—was flaunted on downtown streets in Portland last week.

As they get braver the Lucky 13 will show him in Forest Grove, historically and peren-

nially the free-for-all battle scene for possession of the bronze dog.

He's a strange tradition and the spirit of Pacific. He's their mascot, their emblem, the love of their life. The Lucky 13 won him in a magnificent, good-natured campus brawl a week ago Sunday and will keep him until they in turn decide to "flash him." That's what the Gamma Sigma fraternity did October 31 after a year's possession. It's an honor to have held him.

Boxer, a much-welded (they frequently pull him apart) bronze Chinese prayer god and

now valuable as an antique, came to the university a half century ago. He is many hundred years old, was once a Chinese household god. He was presented to Pacific in 1896.

Currently the Lucky 13 are looking for his tail. They think they know who has possession of it.

Poor little Oriental poodle—the scramble for him, a passionate undertaking always for so many years of Pacific tradition, will doom him to many masters. He has already traveled to several points in this country and Europe and once was suspended many months in a gunny sack in the Willamette river.