

SPECIAL NEWS LETTER

Dear Alumnus:

BOXER HAS BECOME THE OFFICIAL MASCOT OF PACIFIC UNIVERSITY!
And rightly so, since Boxer is perhaps the oldest tradition and is, indeed, the "fighting" spirit of Pacific University.

The change was made by amending the ASPU constitution to include the designation of Boxer as the school's mascot, as well as naming red and black to be the official school colors. The amendment was felt to be necessary because Boxer would seem to be more representative of school spirit and tradition than Benny Badger. Tradition has it that the Badger got its start as the mascot when a "little old lady" at some unknown time in the past said something to the effect that, "They're fighting like Badgers", while watching a football game.

The story of Boxer goes back to the year 1580.

On a stand facing the main entrance of the house is a bronze unicorn. A black-robed figure who bears the proud and ancient name of Laing shuffles up to the stand and stops long enough to cast a respectful glance at the bright red animal -- the family coat-of-arms. It is China -- the Ming Dynasty -- and the year is 1580.

Dr. J. E. Walker, China missionary and Pacific University graduate of 1867, clutches a reddish-brown figurine recently acquired at the cost of \$5. It rests heavily in the lap of the doctor, for it weighs nearly twenty pounds. There are triangle horns on its head, spikes above its spine and it has a large bushy tail.

Many thoughts are running through Dr. Walker's mind as he sits in the small, crowded train coach. He has already determined that the dog he holds is a product of the Ming Dynasty, which lasted from A. D. to 1644 and that it appeared in Shaowu, China, around 1580, which he believes is the birth date of his newly acquired prize. The man sitting beside Dr. Walker is a Chinese of average stature and he does not wear the look of a happy man, for he is running from the rebels who are tearing up his country. The Boxer Rebellion has already taken the lives of many of his friends and he is leaving family and business to seek refuge at the Christian mission on the coast.

In the late 1880's Dr. Walker sent the figurine to the United States as a present to his mother. With it he sent a note of explanation:

"Boxer was an heirloom in the Laing family and when his owner had to flee from the Long Haired Rebels, he took Boxer with him as one of the especially valuable possessions of the family . . . When we were coming home in 1881 he wished to make me some present, but was hard up, so he sold Boxer to me for about \$5. I would not undertake to replace it for many times this amount. No doubt there are collectors who would pay \$100 or more for it. Take good care of him, for folk of this tribe are very rare. I have never seen another bronze unicorn of his size."

It is believed that the name of Boxer was derived from the nickname given "The Iheckuan, Righteous League of Fists" by the Europeans in China at the time of the League's uprising. "Boxer" became the name of both the League and the Rebellion.

In 1896, Dr. Walker's mother presented the dragon to her son's alma mater, Pacific University. When it arrived at P.U., it was placed in a special position at the front of the chapel, but did not stay there long. A chapel speaker one morning in 1900 told of an eastern university which had a foreign idol as its mascot. That same day Boxer was spirited away by Richard Faulkner, Class of 1902, beginning what is considered by many as the oldest tradition in the history of Pacific University.

Since the beginning of the Boxer tradition, this "little old temple Dog" has changed hands hundreds of times, created much excitement, and stirred the imagination of many of Pacific's alumni.

* WATCH FOR COMING ISSUE OF PACIFIC TODAY *

PACIFIC UNIVERSITY OFFERS NEW SERVICE TO ALUMNI. In the fall of 1967, the Alumni Office received the responsibility of organizing an effective Placement Service. This service will be handled under the auspices of the Alumni-Placement Office! Two general purposes of the Alumni-Placement Office are: (1) to assist students in securing part-time and/or full-time jobs while attending the University; and (2) to aid students and alumni in acquiring career positions.

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To fulfill the purpose of assisting students in securing part-time and/or full-time jobs, two files have been set up: (1) files comprised of student applications for work, and (2) files of job opportunities available in the local community. To obtain more job opportunities, letters of explanation have been sent to local businesses.

The second purpose of the Alumni-Placement Office, that of aiding graduating students and alumni in acquiring career positions, is a much needed service. A "placement packet" has been developed which will become the basis for an individual's permanent placement record. These papers will include a resume, letters of recommendation, and academic course work received. When kept up-to-date, these papers will be valuable to the alumnus when faced with a change of employer or new career opportunity. This service, although originally designed for graduating seniors, is being extended to all alumni of Pacific University. The Alumni-Placement Office will be most happy to work with you in setting up your permanent placement file. For additional information contact the Alumni-Placement Office.

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By the way, does anyone really know how Benny Badger came into being? If you have any information regarding Benny, contact the Alumni Office immediately. You see, Benny should be retired with dignity . . . and the more we know of Benny, the more dignified his retirement. (I hope!)

Gordon W. Bolton
Alumni Director