

A flea market or rummage sale was very successful last weekend. We raised \$1,000. Thought you too bad

schools

Students reviving

By R. DUANE McKINNEY
Argus Staff Writer

FOREST GROVE—A third-year preoptometry student at Pacific University in Forest Grove has become concerned about the lack of school spirit and decided something had to be done.

That decision came one week prior to homecoming in early October from Janet Leasher—along with fellow students Linda Parker and Kim Smith.

The three women began to wonder what could be done to unify school spirit.

"Because there was a loss of spirit on campus, the students didn't seem to have anything to direct them," Leasher said.

She said they felt the one thing that could make a difference would be the reappearance of Boxer—the school mascot.

"The new students don't know anything about it since it's been so long since the the old Boxer disappeared," Leasher said.

Boxer was spirited off in 1969 and has never returned. Boxer, explains PU Public Information Director Charlotte Filer, was a 400-year-old Chinese idol—often called a unicorn—from the Ming Dynasty.

An early Pacific alumnus, Dr. Joseph E. Walker, class of 1867, brought the idol home from his Chinese missionary days. In 1896 his mother, Mary Richardson Walker, an early missionary to the Oregon Territory who lived in Forest Grove, gave it to Pacific.

It sat on a place of honor in old Brighton Chapel of Marsh Hall, until one day a chapel speaker told of an Eastern university which had a foreign idol as its mascot.

This gave ideas to Pacific students. A member of the class of 1902 spirited Boxer away and a long tradition started. From then until its last disappearance in 1969, Boxer has been sought after by classes, organizations and individuals.

The group which had Boxer in its possession often would "flash" it at various campus gatherings or "throw it out" in an announced or surprise "toss" so the campus was involved in

a struggle over its possession.

BOXER WENT to France with a World War I doughboy and to the University of Michigan Medical School with another alumnus in the 1940s. He has been buried in a cemetery and hidden in a flour bin of a Forest Grove kitchen. Most Pacific alumni have some tale to tell about Boxer.

Through it all he lost some of his appendages and had to have major surgery more than once. But his spirit grew and became the symbol of Pacific University spirit.

In 1967-68 Boxer became the official mascot for Pacific when alumni and students decided to change from Badger to Boxer. After a 1969 "throw out", Boxer left the campus and has not been seen since.

Efforts are still under way to locate Boxer, but Leasher decided something else had to be done.

"We decided we would get a new Boxer."

So the three students formed their own committee to raise funds for a new bronze Boxer.

"We didn't realize it would cost so much," Leasher said. "It's going to take about \$2,000. Bronze is really expensive!"

The women have held several fundraising events which have been supported by students, alumni and the administration. They held an ice cream social, a dance, a pie-in-the-face contest—and have planned a box lunch social as part of the May festival.

The fund for a new Boxer is growing.

More than \$800 has been collected, she said. Of the funds raised, some \$350 has come from alumni and the rest from student and faculty donations and participation in school events.

"There are only two foundries around here and we thought the prices quoted were high. I wish we could find something cheaper," she said.

Art teacher Jan Shield has been asked to do a mold for the project. Leasher said the new Boxer probably will not look exactly like the missing one, but should be pretty similar. She said it will be about 18 inches high, but they have not decided whether it will

ols

*Thought you might like this -
and we raised \$7000 for a Palo Alto Beer Counseling
scholarship fund -
Too bad He is gone -
all items donated -
Vern Verduhn '47*

Tuesday, April 27, 1982

Hillsboro Argus

8A

ts reviving Boxer spirits

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THE "OLD" university's mascot Boxer may soon have a replacement because of three students' concerns.

be sitting or standing. The old Boxer was in a sitting position.

"WE HAVEN'T decided on all the details yet," Leasher said. "But one thing is certain—we'll hold on to the mold in case anything happens again."

When asked whether she feared another disappearance, Leasher said, "This time we're going to set some guidelines that I hope will prevent its loss again."

She added the alumni hope a new Boxer will spirit whoever took the original to return it.

"There are all kinds of rumors about what happened to it and where it might be, but no one knows for sure."

Thirteen years of waiting, Leasher feels, is long enough. "We just said, 'We've got to do something now.'"

"This is a small college and we don't have a lot of extracurricular activities to bring about spirit and devotion to the school."

She said the drive is already having an effect.

"People are really getting excited about it," she said.