

## Boxer

**O**UTSTANDING of the traditions of the university is Boxer, "The Spirit of Pacific." He has gained this singular distinction by enduring innumerable hardships, by suffering for the institution, and by glorifying Pacific University. Boxer was named from the Boxer Rebellion at the time he was taken from China and brought to the United States. He has fought with the expeditionary force in France during the World War, he has lain in the ooze on the bottom of the Willamette River with a wire attached to his neck for safe keeping, he has been the center of countless riots and melees on the Pacific campus, and what he has been through on his many mysterious disappearances no one knows.

Although somewhat battered and broken, patched and scarred, he still remains the most sought after thing at Pacific University. Boxer was given to Pacific in 1896 by J. E. Walker, a missionary to China and Pacific graduate, who obtained him from a family of apothecaries where the little Chinese dog had served as incense-burner and idol through generation to generation for about three hundred years. Boxer was then placed on a pedestal in Brighton Chapel and for twelve years watched the students as they came and departed. Then, in the year 1908, some unidentified seniors removed the vigilant chapel guardian from his resting place and hid him. Despite frantic searches and angry threats, Boxer never again graced the halls of Pacific. From then on he has led a very wandering, mysterious existence. Underclassmen finally succeeded in luring him from the seniors, only to lose him

again in a fierce battle. Since that time Boxer has been flashed occasionally. An excited cry of "Boxer! Boxer!" causes instant turmoil on the campus. Every student feels a sensation similar to an electric shock, all activity ceases on the campus, and everyone runs to get a glimpse of the idol and attempts to capture him from his possessors.

Known in poem and song throughout the United States, the mascot caused a riot some twenty years ago because of his fame. Having heard of Pacific's unusual tradition, William Jennings Bryan, on a visit to our New England College of the West, asked that he might see him. This request was granted, and as a special honor, Boxer was placed on the speaking platform when Mr. Bryan was about to give his address. Upon discovering the mascot before the talk, however, a group of students snatched the idol from the platform, tearing the bunting, and in the end the scheduled speech was a rout. It was necessary for Mr. Bryan, on seeing the assembled crowd follow in the wake of Boxer in a body, to postpone his address until the next day.

Weighing twenty-eight pounds, with triangular horns on his head, spikes projecting from his spine, and with a very vicious-looking countenance, Boxer presents an exceedingly formidable appearance. Many underclassmen have never seen him, but they all cherish a hope of some day having him in their care. Juniors and Seniors have kept him in the past few years.

[ 21 ]

H E A R T O F O A K

