

# Homecoming Boxer Flash Reminds Alums, Students of Story Behind Pacific's Symbol; Freshmen Soon To Learn Old Tradition

By MINDY COTTRELL

It began as a routine antic of Benny Badger, but before the Homecoming crowd of students and alums realized what had happened Benny's head disappeared, Boxer was flashed in the air, and the white sports car speeded through the goal posts and out the open gate.

A stunned crowd, with the possible exception of some inexperienced frosh realized what had just happened. BOXER FLASH!

## Started In 1900

This cry which added sparkle to an exciting 1962 Homecoming has thrilled students since the first flash in Marsh Hall in 1900. The ugly, but immensely popular Boxer, then referred to as "our College Spirit", was presented to the University in 1896 by Dr. J. E. Walker, a China missionary and Pacific graduate of 1867.

The INDEX of 1900 explains that Boxer, believed to date back to 1580, was once a coat of arms in an old family of druggists living in Foo Chow. The family treasured it as a good luck symbol but the druggist sold it when struck with bankruptcy. The old druggist was ostracized by the rest of the family who feared something dreadful would befall them without their coat of arms.

## Students Fight For Possession

Recurring riots for Boxer possession show that such ancient devotion and superstition is paralleled by Pacific students of today. Fresh in the minds of upperclassmen is the Boxer toss-out of last spring which lasted nearly 4 hours.

This oldest of Pacific traditions was revived in the last week of school, spring semester, 1962. Paul Thompson, Alpha Zeta and possessor of Boxer since the 1960 toss-out brawl, drove in front of Warner at 9 a.m. before a tense awaiting crowd clad in grubbies. He pointed to a nearby clump of trees and mad, frantic digging soon uncovered a buried Boxer. The fight was on!

## They Watch or Flight



**BOXER FLASH!** When Boxer is thrown out, such as last spring the men fight for him. In this flash, which lasted most of the day, the scrambling was done in front of Warner Hall, then shifted slowly across the campus toward College Way.

ed Boxer in Herrick Hall much to their beaus' surprise!

Boxer has been flashed in a variety of places since his debut in 1900. He has appeared in nearly every campus building plus Forest Grove Congregational Church, a pool hall, Multnomah Hotel in Portland, class parties and picnics and Greek dinner dances.

According to legend, enthusiasm for Boxer even outshaded William Jennings Bryant, appearing for an assembly on campus when Boxer was flashed. Bedlam reigned and Bryant spoke the following day instead. Later Boxer journeyed to France and the World War I battlefield.

Where is Boxer now? Will he be tossed-out this year? Who really has him? These questions, eagerly asked every year, may or may not be answered this year. But students remain constantly alert to that cry — BOXER FLASH — in hopes of witnessing tradition in action.

## Boxer



**INTRODUCING BOXER.** This is the bronze dog which causes so much excitement when flashed.

## They Watch or Fight

Few classes met on that memorable day as all students watched or participated in the frenzied fight. A break was made in early afternoon by some Phi Betes who carried the battered Boxer to an awaiting car. He was sped off to destination unknown.

This Boxer episode was entirely a man's game but it hasn't always been so. In 1932 and 1933 coeds provided the get-away devices, once a car, once a shopping bag. The graveyard incident of 1937 is the most famous, however. Girl friends of three men with Boxer witnessed his burial in a rented graveyard plot. Later, with the aid of the Dean of Students, they returned to dig up the dog and move him to a new hiding place. A week later they flash-