

Mascot 'replaced' by carved replica



BOXER PAIR — Pacific University's long-missing mascot, (left), has been replaced in replica by a carved Boxer, donated by Peter Miller, Longview, Wash, a graduate of 1930. The original bronze mascot was given to the school in 1896 and was last seen in 1969.

Pacific University once more has a mascot, a wooden imitation of the real thing, which is a bronze idol in the shape of a dog, nearly 400 years old.

Boxer, the idol, so named because it was a refugee from the Boxer Rebellion in China, was purchased by a Pacific alumnus for \$5. It made one of its periodic disappearances in 1969 and hasn't been heard from since.

Boxer disappeared many times since its arrival at Pacific in 1896, but always came back, until now. Longest previous absence was five years, 1906 to 1911.

Boxer was an ornament in the university chapel until a speaker mentioned that some eastern university had an idol for a mascot. Shortly after that

Boxer disappeared, swiped by students. Thenceforth, it would be "flashed", that is, shown briefly on the campus. This usually resulted in a clash between students for possession, a battle which sometimes lasted for hours, often continuing off campus.

During these ruckuses, Boxer had legs and tail torn off, but they subsequently were welded back on, several times.

That Boxer is gone for good is not yet accepted. But to fill the void while he is gone, Peter Miller, an alumnus at Longview Wash., has given to the university a wooden replica, which was a gift to him from his daughter.

The original is considered quite valuable now as a collector's item.