

WHAT IS BOXER?

It--more familiarly he--is 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, Mrs. 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. 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 Pacific 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 would often "flash" it at various campus gatherings or "throw it out" in an announced or surprise "toss" so that the campus was involved in a struggle over its possession. Alumni would often have Boxer, too. Boxer went to France with a World War I dough boy and to the University of Michigan Medical School with another alumnus in the 1940's. 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 both alumni and students decided to change from Badger to Boxer. After a 1969 "throw out", Boxer left the campus and has not returned. In 1980 students and the Alumni Office mounted a renewed effort to find Boxer, physically. We know he exists in campus spirit.