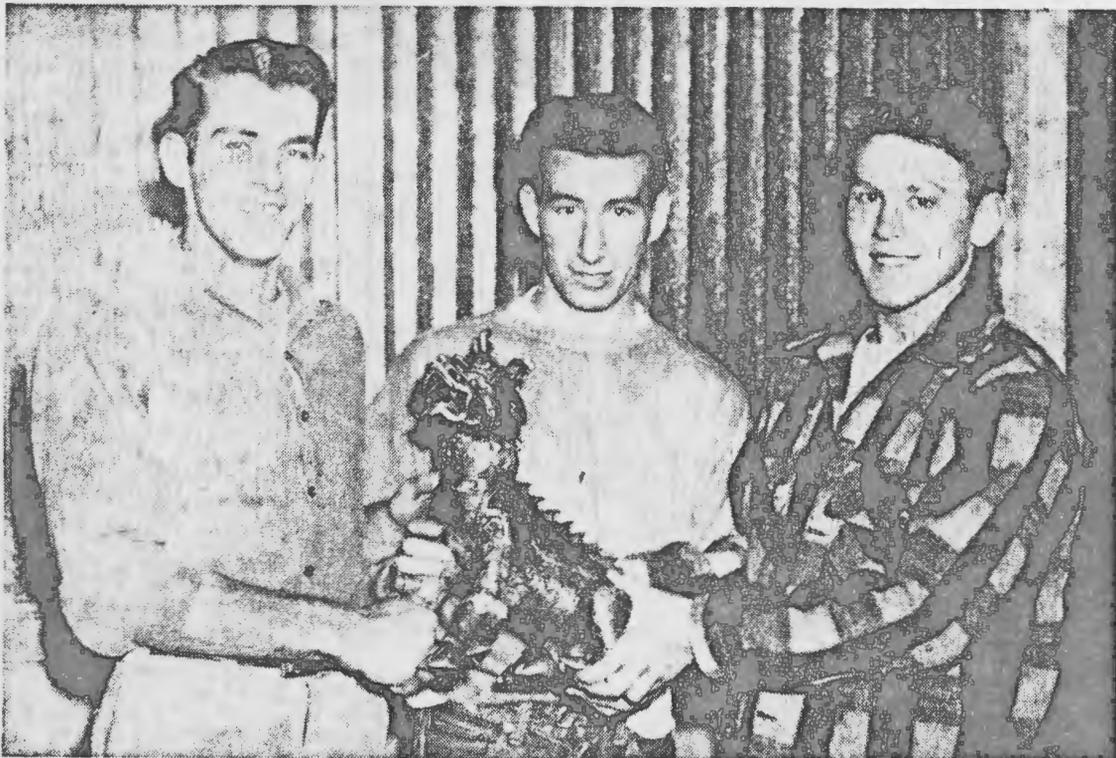


Long Way from Home



These three Pacific university students, members of a group that wrested the university mascot "Boxer" from more than 100 colleagues at the annual, traditional fight for the mascot Sunday, exhibit it in the Astorian-Budget office following a flight here with the trophy Sunday night. They are, from left, Ronald Wika, Puget Island; George Radich Jr., Astoria, and Harley Kelley, Ontario. (A-B Photo)

Pacific U.'s Famous Brass Mascot Was Here But Not Now

"Boxer," Pacific university's famous brass Chinese dog mascot, appeared briefly in Astoria Sunday night following the annual, traditional battle among students of the Forest Grove school for its possession.

Monday, Boxer was gone again to some obscure hiding place.

The brass dog has spent most of the past half century of his career hidden somewhere—at the bottom of both the Willamette and Yalu rivers, in graveyards, under bridges, in the cockpit of a bombing plane during World War II, and other strange spots.

Several Knocked Down

In Forest Grove, several Pacific university students were recovering Monday from effects of a free-for-all battle on the grounds of the college museum Sunday.

Several students were knocked down and many others were less seriously hurt Sunday afternoon in the latest installment of a traditional campus ceremony known as "Boxer flash." Approximately 150 students grappled for an hour or more over possession of the ancient bronze incense burner, constructed in the form of a Chinese prayer dog.

The metal dog has for 50 years

been the reward of those hardy enough to capture him. It is customary for students lucky enough to possess Boxer to hide him for several months and then bring him back into circulation again for a short while during another battle for the honor of protecting him.

Call to Battle

Sunday afternoon a group of anonymous students called the "Blind Nine" brought Boxer to the museum grounds and shouted in loud voices the word "Boxer," the time-honored call to battle.

From the conflict some 20 students finally secured "Boxer" and raced away in a black sedan to secret him until they should choose to give him up.

"Boxer" was given to the college 50 years ago by a missionary, and is said to be worth \$1500.

Head for Coast

The students who won Boxer in Sunday's battle included several from this neck of the woods. After loading the brass dog into their car, they took off towards Astoria.

They shook off pursuit before they got to Seaside and arrived safely late Sunday evening.

Lower Columbia students in the group that won possession of Boxer included Ronald Wika, Puget Island; George Radich Jr., Astoria; Don Kumpula and Jon Westerholm, both of Knappa.

They exhibited Boxer triumphantly to friends and relatives here, then left again to secrete him in some secret hideaway until time comes to "flash" him again next year.

"We had quite a fight getting him," the victorious students reported here Sunday night. "Organization did it, however. Some of us got Boxer, the rest ran interference, and we fought our way 200 yards to a car we had ready."

When Boxer was "flashed" Sunday, he was frozen in a cake of ice, a common practice when the time comes to release the dog for the annual free-for-all. When he got here, he was still dripping with melting ice.

Other students who were in the gang that captured Boxer included Clint Agee, Jack Pardon, Harley Kelly, Gary Connors, Al Shoemaker, Bob Clemens, Ron Little, Larry Chung, Ed Cullifson, Harold Davis, Dan Hess, Jim Shurte, Bill Van Horn, Clark Smith, Dick Shaw, Jim Roberson, John Baker.