

# Historic Bear

## Now Mascot

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By Betty Ball

George Fox College will no longer be represented by the fox. Instead, a bear, originally known as Bruin will be the school's mascot.

The recent decision to change from "Quakers" and the fox to "Bruins" and the bear was based on a tradition begun in 1891 when George Fox College was Pacific Academy.

Bruin was captured by Pacific Academy student, Reuben Frank in 1887, on a hunting trip. Frank kept the bear at home making him a pet until the bear's size made it impossible to allow it to run at large any longer.

Bruin was given to Pacific Academy Professor, George Hartley. Professor Hartley had built a house east of Wynooski Creek canyon. He also had constructed a foot-bridge about 12 to 15 feet above the ravine.

Professor Hartley made for Bruin a bear pit in the ravine to the side of the bridge. Students were able to feed Bruin who was adept at catching peanuts and apples with either his paws or mouth.

Even though Bruin had excellent care he still became restless. He managed to escape two or three times from his pen. Each time he was easily found and led back to his home, but the last time he escaped he did do considerable damage to a neighbor's chicken house.

Professor Hartley was leaving Pacific Academy the next year and he thought it was a good time to get rid of Bruin. The Portland Zoo had all the bears it could care for and the problem became a serious one.

Finally, Nate Stanley, owner of a local meat market, suggested that the meat market take care of the edible portions and Professor Hartley could have the skin for a rug.

The plan was adopted with the change, that the skin be preserved and mounted as an addition to the very meager museum that had been started.

A frame was constructed of iron rods and heavy wire. The skin after chemical treatment, was fitted to the frame.

Bruin was placed in the museum when Pacific College opened on September 9, 1891. The Academy buildings had been moved to the new college campus site and it appears that Bruin traveled in one of the buildings.

After several years, moths and other agencies caused Bruin to lose his gentleman charm. He was discarded to the basement to be cremated. However, the iron frame caused a problem and he was put in a corner and forgotten.

Eventually, Bruin became the object of class encounters as we know today. But before these, he made one more public appearance. One Halloween some students took Bruin from his nook in the basement.

Bruin was stationed in front of a lodge hall door where a meeting was in progress. A string attached to the door caused him to move forward to meet the person coming out. It was reported that the yell that greeted him could have been heard the length of Main Street.

Bruin returned to his corner in the furnace room until he became the center of "flashes" similar to those at GFC today.