

'I was never bored,' says Lindbloom



by Tim Hyatt

After 30 years in the education field, 18 of which have been here at Green River College, Dr. Mel Lindbloom is nearing completion of his duties.

He has nursed this college and its philosophies from birth. With an open minded policy known and recognized by many, he has helped the struggling child to its feet.

Under his leadership an institution has been created which will stand as a monument to his perseverance for years to come.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed it," commented Lindbloom. "It's a unique opportunity when one can help start a college. I have had an exciting 18 years, it has never been boring."



The Inauguration of a President

The inauguration of Dr. Melvin R. Lindbloom as President of Green River Community College marked the realization of a dream and the culmination of long years of hard work.

The inaugural ceremony took place on Wednesday, October 19, 1966 at 2:30 p.m. in the college library. Distinguished representatives from other institutions of higher learning in the state of Washington participated in the program. The inaugural address was given by Dr. Paul Woodring, professor at Western Washington State College.

Mrs. Janice Cramp, representing the Green River faculty and John Jones of the student body, offered a warm welcome and congratulations to a good friend and new president, Dr. Lindbloom.

In the beginning . . .



*there was mud and mudpuddles
and tall trees that kept out the
sun. The forest had stood for
centuries and haunted the
shrouds of solitude*

*Then pieces of intrigue
caught man's attention and
teased his imagination. Man
surveyed the bleak and windy
hill and recognized its potential.*



*A conception of the imagination
gave way to the birth of an idea:
a school—a big school—Green
River College was born*

In the light of progress Green River College grew . . .



. . . and imposed itself on the land and waited for it's debut



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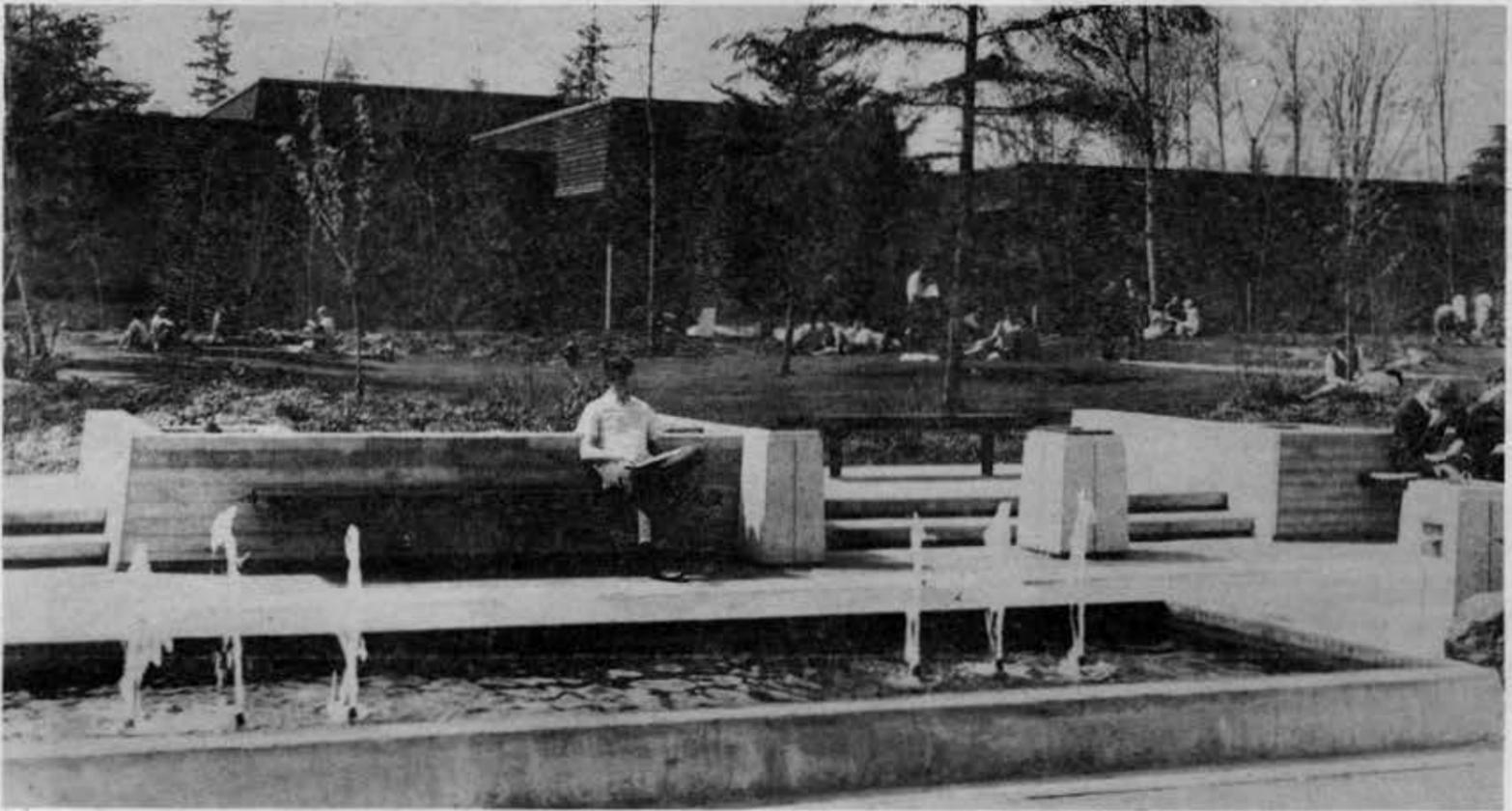
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Finally the shadow broke, the soul awoke and the doors swung open to invite the young and ambitious



Books opened—minds opened the rest followed naturally enough



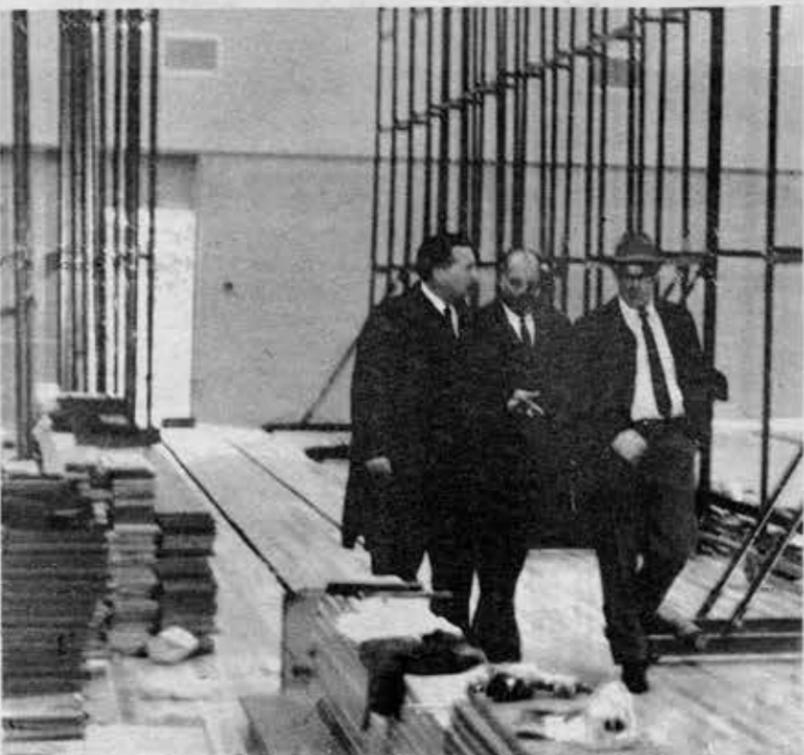
And here is Green River born of the mind—for the minds of many



(Editor's note: Some of the words and pictures courtesy of KNONAH magazine.)



Memories of another day





"His major accomplishments has been to add the personal touch to everything he does, both for the students, faculty and community.

For example, how many school presidents are still advising students? And yet Dr. Lindbloom still does and requires his administration staff to do the same.

Also as tennis coach for the last ten years, he had made a point to send a personal note to the teams to congratulate them. (Steve Sauers—Business Administration and Tennis Coach)



"I have always really admired Lindbloom because he has been very open and honest with all his comments and dealings with me. I may not have always liked what he said or agreed with him, but I always know where I stand. I can handle that without always wondering if I was going to get stabbed in the back." (Doug Carr, Division Chairman—Physical Education)

"Mel's major accomplishments at GRCC have been to establish the college in the first place and then to lead it through all its growing pains of the last 15 years. The latter was easier, during the first few years. When the staff was small and funds were relatively available, but it must have been more difficult during the last few years."

"Dr. Lindbloom has been responsible for creating an atmosphere to allow vocational education to grow to high levels of achievement. We have one of the most prominent voc. ed. program and faculty in the entire state.

He has allowed educators not just to exist, but to work co-operatively toward a common goal."



(Roy Watson, Associate Dean of Instruction—Vocational Educator)



"I have always appreciated Dr. Lindbloom because he has not attempted to dictate teaching techniques or philosophies. He has given his faculty freedom and not intruded. I have also really liked his accessibility. He has had an open door and has hung out the 'welcome shingle.'" (William Merifield, Psychology Instructor)



"We have had a leader that has been able to work in co-operation with other community college leaders on legislative issues because he has been highly respected. That has been of benefit to our school." (Don Alexander—Mathematics Instructor)



Photo not available



(Dr. Earl Norman, Dean for Students)

"One of the chief strengths of Dr. Lindbloom has been his openness to faculty and students. He has allowed student and staff alike to introduce new programs. The Artist and Speaker series was one of those programs which has been extremely successful over the past few years.

He has always had a special way of working with the community as is indicated by his recognition by many state leaders. Dr. Lindbloom has worked very close with the state to get new programs concerning education under way.

Dr. Lindbloom has also done much in the area of helping students of low academic achievements. He has never closed the doors of Green River to anyone who wanted an education.



Gator saga is now just history

by Ed Eaton

What ever happened to the live mascot its keeper used to bring to Green River basketball games? That's right. A live alligator named Grcc. That's pronounced Grcc.

Actually, the Grcc that attended Green River games was the third alligator the college had for a mascot. The first one was given to the school in the summer of 1965 by one of the nursing students.

Her son in Florida sent her a baby alligator because he "always wanted to get his mother a pair of alligator shoes or an alligator purse." But since he couldn't afford those items, he sent her the alligator.

She immediately donated it to the school since the student body had just chosen Gators as the official nickname of the school. (They felt Green River Gators had a nice ring to it.)

A makeshift facility was set-up to house the reptile in the student center in a room in the Government Services Administration that housed the Green River Institute that first year.

There were some problems. Every once in a while, especially at night, Grcc got out and we had to conduct a search for him. He was usually found, huddled near a baseboard heater behind one of the chairs. Then we had to find so-

meone brave enough to pick up the gator and put back in his homemade aquarium. (I wouldn't do it.)

Also, Grcc wouldn't eat. Someone had to grab him behind the head and squeeze his jaws open trying not to get fingers pinched by Grcc while shoving a piece of meat down his throat with a pencil. (I wouldn't do that either.)

The day came when most of the students moved to the brand new campus on the hill and left behind were the automotive students whose new facilities would not be finished until Spring Quarter . . . and Grcc.

When new students started enrolling many of them complained and many still do today about why we were nicknamed Gators when this is not gator country at all. Grcc was practically ignored, except by the auto students who were left to take care of the forgotten mascot.

They decided to call attention to the plight of the little gator and "gatomapped" him. Aquarium and all, Grcc suddenly came up missing.

"Who stole our alligator," went the cry, ringing through the campus. The forgotten alligator was suddenly a martyr and revenge minded students immediately developed a plan of action.

Revenge? Who do you hit to get even? The answer was obvious: Highline. Who else would steal the gator?

So off went a resourceful troop of students, disguised as workmen in white coveralls, who strode into the Highline gym in broad daylight, took the Thunderbird (a small totem pole) to be "repaired."

The "birdnapped" mascot from Highline was stored in the Lea Hill fire station where one of the Green River culprits served as a volunteer fire fighter.

But as the outlaws returned to campus. To their shock and amazement, they found Grcc had been returned by the automotive students who confessed they were just trying to call attention to the plight of the gator. It worked.

But what about the Thunderbird? Highline officials, checking for a work order on their Thunderbird that had been hauled off by "reparimen," discovered their mascot was the victim of foul play.

Who did it? Obviously it was Green River.

The difference between Highline and Green River assumptions were that when we thought they were thieves we were wrong. At any rate, one of the coaches got on the phone to Bob Aubert, the basketball coach, and said they needed the Thunderbird for an athletic banquet coming up and if he could find out who took it and get them to return it, there would be no questions asked.

I'm not sure how Bob found out who had the bird because it wasn't his students. As I recall, at least one of them was mine. The Thunderbird was returned quietly and Green River (until now) was never exposed for its bold adventure.

Meanwhile, down in Tacoma, the staff of Tacoma Community College Challenge, the school paper, had heard the Gator was stolen and sent for a new one which they presented to our editor. Suddenly the college had two alligators. Then some student won one in some kind of contest and donated it to the school on the condition it be called "Kegger" instead of "Grcc."

The editor took care of the one alligator and it died within a few days. She really felt bad about it.

One of the other ones died and finally the one remaining alligator was put in the new greenhouse the biology department had built and it died the first day in its new environment.

The gator has never really been replaced and those who have had a considerable part in the care and upkeep of the mascot—such as Earl Nor and I—have never campaigned for the revival of the idea.

So today students are left to ask, "What ever happened to the live mascot?" Now you know.

It started with Holman

The idea of building a community college in the Auburn area began when the state legislature legalized an extended secondary school concept which allowed 13th & 14th year secondary education within a school district.

Auburn School district opened Green River College for 13th & 14th year. The term community college was not used because they were not allowed to be built near universities.

When Hayes Holman came to Auburn in 1954, he started to discuss the possibility of a junior college in the area. By this time the school district had a fairly extensive adult education program which had almost 1,000 students enrolled in night school.

In 1961, the law was changed to permit community colleges in counties with colleges and universities and in high population areas.

During this time, there was a heated competition among communities to get a community college in their district and Auburn was one of the first to submit an application. The legislature permitted two—Highline and Big Bend.

After losing its bid, the Auburn District got a group together from Buckley, Sumner, Enumclaw, and Kent and discussed the possibility of a regional college. The College's present site, which was being leased from the state by the Kent schools, was chosen as the best one.

Lindbloom came from Washington State University in 1962.

By now, the concept of a comprehensive college which included vocational/technical, a transfer program and adult education, in the Auburn area was going full bore.

Twelve school districts made applications 1963 and Auburn's was approved

and given the designation to open in 1965.

The most difficult program to start was the vocational/technical one because there were no set guidelines. An advisory committee was selected to visit the other community college programs to make sure Green River's was good.

In 1964, faculty members were hired and the college opened its doors at the General Services Administration Building. The school's formal title was Green River Technical Institute and the original faculty member belonged to the GRCC "stock yard gang."

The next year, the college moved to its present location. The Holman Library was the sole building and housed the business program and student center. Science classes were located at Lea Hills Elementary and the nursing and vocational programs remained at the GSA.

The campus expanded rapidly. By Spring, the Trades, Humanities and Science Technology complexes were finished. They were followed in later years by the gym, performing arts building, the occupational education, social science, business and industry buildings, student center, and finally the administration and welding complexes.

"Green River is fortunate to have our facilities almost complete. It's going to be difficult to get buildings in the future because of a change in attitude."

"When the college's plans were being formed, we envisioned having an institution which would save the community on all levels of ability. We did this at a cost level which would permit family members to go to college without economic strain."

"Our open door and equal opportunity philosophies were integral parts of the concept from the start."

Party to honor Lindbloom, June 21

by Donna Bieber

A red, white and blue "Farewell Salute" to Dr. Melvin Lindbloom is slated for June 21. The dinner-dance will mark his retirement after 30 years in education, 15 of which were spent serving GRCC.

Dr. Lindbloom, considered by many faculty and staff as being the Father of Green River Community College was the key person involved in the creation of the college. He was named president of GRCC in October 1964, prior to the schools, opening in September 1965.

Dr. Lindbloom announced his retirement effective June 30, several months

ago. The Board of Trustees accepted Lindbloom's letter of resignation, "with extreme regret." Dr. Lindbloom has not yet made his future plans public.

The Alumni Relations Department will sponsor the "Farewell Salute" to begin with a social hour at 7 p.m., dinner follows at 8 in the Lindbloom Student Center. The big band sound of "Accent", a local group, starts at 9:30 p.m.

Tickets for the dinner-dance are \$20 per person and may be purchased in advance before May 27. Checks may be made payable to the Green River Community College Foundation, in care of the Alumni Relations Department, or by contacting the college, extension 318.

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20 rafts
race down
Green
in annual
water fest

The raft 'Gator Aid' (pictured below) piloted by Stacy Simpson, Andre Letourneau, Mike Pederson, and Greg Shulene; crossed the finish line in first place in last weeks annual GRCC raft race.



Photos by Graeme Gowin

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