

Morton's 18 year tenure ends

by Alberta Roper
Reporting I Class

The Industrial Division's most senior member will be retiring after 18 years as instructor of the Auto Body program.

Bob Morton's tenure at Clackamas Community College spans almost as many years as the college itself. He came on staff the second year after the college opened.

Morton looked back at those earlier years and recalled the "at the first staff meeting there were only 33 people there, and that included the president, the deans and the custodians." He added with pride, "I attended the first commencement which was held in the Clairmont parking lot—complete with caps and gown."

He talked about his first body shop building here on campus. "I started in the 'Old Fish Cannery Building' made of corrugated metal. Someone had to come in early to start the fire."

Times have changed since then. Today, the Body Shop, which is located in a wing of Barlow Hall, consists of a securely locked building with warehouse-sized rooms. The rooms house modern equipment, large tool boxes, and student projects at various stages of completion.

When asked about retiring,

Morton answered, "I'm ready to leave everything except the students." In his office there's a log book of the many students he has had over the years. He is obviously proud of the successes of former students. Some have established businesses locally. His students have come from many different walks of life. Among the students he has had over the years, Morton recalls "three doc-

related to preparation for war. For awhile he was in Seattle working at Boeing, wiring Douglas bomber noses. Then he went to welding school and welded for the shipyard.

"I was in the war effort before it even happened," Morton reflected. "I was welding on a mine-layer ship named the USS Catskill at the time of Pearl Harbor."

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tors (medical and otherwise), several millionaires, and students over 70 years old (one in his present class)"

Most of his life Morton has been involved with mechanics in one way or another. In 1940 he worked in a service station and auto mechanic shop before going into the armed services. He related that ironically five years later he went back. It was called the Westmoreland Motor Service.

During those years away from the shop, Morton was involved with a number of jobs that

For two of the years away from the shop Morton became involved directly with that which he had already been involved indirectly—the military. More specifically, the Air Force. He graduated as a bombardier navigator on June 13, 1945, and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant.

A week later he got a commission of another kind—marriage. On June 20, 1945 he tied the knot on a love relationship that has lasted these 41 years since. He has two sons. One is an electronics engineer at Tektronix,

and the other is an industrial maintenance machinist for the Portland School District.

Once back at the old automotive shop, Morton and his partner began to expand their business which "evolved into buying and selling war surplus." They also added three more partners.

Morton tells of the time they "bought a HD-14 Cat. When we sold it may partner used the crate it come in for an automotive garage for his car.

Then there was the time they bought 10,000 ball bearings (he still has a few of them), and weisels which operated on water as well as land, and jeeps with only 3000 miles on them which cost just \$150 a piece.

Usually they had a market in mind for the things they bought, so they made money on the venture. But Morton recalls a time when things just didn't all go as planned.

"We bought a mine sweeper. It was 110 feet long with quarters for 55 officers and men. We spent \$20 a day to moor it." The buyer, who had been planning to convert it into a tuna ship, backed out when the market turned bad. Morton said they only lost a couple thousand dollars on it, though.

In the early 1960's Morton

began teaching auto mechanics at Mt. Hood Community College. He and Arnie Heuchert developed the program themselves. Heuchert taught days and Morton taught a grueling three hour theory class on Monday nights, which stretched both students and teacher. In time he was also teaching electrical theory and auto mechanics parttime there.

The teaching was parttime work. At that same period in 1966 Morton was working full-time as an insurance adjuster for Allstate. When asked if he enjoyed that job, Morton said, "No, there was too much pressure all the time—a three way squeeze between the owner, the boss and the body shops."

Morton earned some educational requirement credits after attending a Vocational Instructor Recruitment program put on by the State Department of Education. Dick Bass, who headed up the program, was the one who recommended Morton for the job at Clackamas Community College.

What is Morton going to do after retirement? He said that he plans to work on a few mechanical devices, which he may market, work on his beach house, and catch up with his "was gonnas."

Lee leaves lifelong love: Literature

by Heleen Veenstra
Reporting I Class

"I have taught for my 36th year," Jim Lee, retiring English teacher, stated to express that he has decided it is time to leave Clackamas Community College.

Lee has taught at Clackamas for 19 years. Before that, he taught grade school for two years, for four years junior high school, and 12 years high school. All the subjects he taught were English.

At this stage of his life Lee likes teaching college the best, but he enjoyed it all, he said. "I liked teaching each of them while I was

doing it. I'm glad I taught at other schools in my life.

"After my first year in college I switched to teaching," Lee pointed out. He said he started in business and took many business courses, but after his freshman year he put the emphasis on education.

Lee said that he has seen the college change throughout the years. He saw constructional changes like constant building, but also changes with the students.

"The last two years I noticed a change in attitudes," he said. Lee noted that before, the students

were more self conscious. He said he sees that students are getting

more proud of the college, which is a "nice feeling."

About the way students changed through those 18 years, Lee singled out that it is a constant cycle. Everything comes back after a few years; but "styles and behavior patterns change,"



Jim Lee leaves CCC to spend time with hobbies and to travel.

Lee graduated from Pendleton High School. Then he went to Eastern Oregon State University and he graduated from the University of Oregon. He also went to the University of Chicago for one year. He got a fellowship there for a year. According to Lee it was quite different studying in Chicago because the courses were harder and it was a "tough neighborhood."

Lee lives in West Linn. About his hobbies he stated, "I like to play golf." He said he started to go back into fishing too. He wants to continue his hobbies

when he is retired. He also would like to travel later. Lee said he wants to go to Ireland because his family is from there and he still has relatives living there. He would like to visit other European countries, too.

Answering the question what he would miss most about Clackamas Community College, Lee concluded, "the students and the people I work with."

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