

# Coronado

## American Academy of fills Coronado with famous

*From Burt Reynolds*

BY  
JOURNAL PUBLISHER  
LARRY WADE

Coronado is a town accustomed to celebrities. Our nation's president, the Vice President and the Queen of England have been visitors to our unique island during the past 12 months.

High ranking military officers and captains of industry visit the Del, the Navy installations here or call on the flotilla of retired admirals and corporation presidents who call Coronado home.

The streets of Coronado are a constant walking who's who of the world.

It takes a great deal to stir the attention of a community already as blessed as ours with human resources.

Last week it was stirred.

The same question was heard in stores, barber shops and wherever Coronadans gathered:

"What are all these famous people doing in town at one time?"

The answer was that this was the 22nd annual Academy of Achievement weekend, held this year at the Del Coronado.

Founder of the organization is Brian Reynolds of Palm Springs. Host chairman this year was developer Ernest Hahn of San Diego.

Something over 800 people assembled in the Hotel Del Coronado Grande Ball Room for

the finale. Honorees and students were guests. The dinner was \$1,000 per plate for others, by invitation only.

The proceeds make possible the nationwide student participation in three days of discussion among American adults and students of high achievement.

Forty super-achievers were in town to be honored and to discuss for three days how to pursue individual personal dream-goals with 400 top high school students selected from across the United States.

Another 25 or so previous honorees here to help make the presentations and lead discussion groups swelled the ranks of VIPs overflowing the Del Coronado grounds.

Called a "gathering of greats" by the sponsoring organization, the public and the students attending agreed that those present more than lived up to the title.

General Bernard Rogers, NATO Supreme Commander and this nation's highest ranking military officer was on hand to present the Golden Plate Award to Brig. Gen. Peter Dawkins, this country's youngest general, a former Heismann trophy winner and Rhodes Scholar.

In his advice to the young people present Dawkins quoted two presidents. He quoted

President Ronald Reagan as saying that "each of us is a hero when we are striving to achieve what we believe in."

He also quoted President John F. Kennedy's statement "I see what could be, and ask 'why not?'"

The nation's oldest commissioned officer was on hand to be honored also.

Capt. Grace Murray Hopper, 76, has been the Navy's reigning computer expert for three decades.

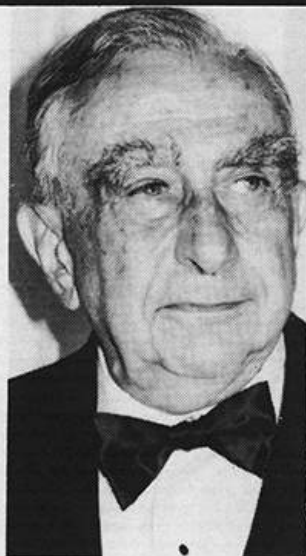
Her advice to the students was, "if I ever hear any of you ever say 'but we never did it that way before,' I'll immediately haunt you for 48 hours."

Crowds lined up outside the Grande Hall for autographs of the celebrities.

But there were lines inside, too, of movie stars, authors, and scientists asking for autographs from financial tycoons and Nobel prize winners, military heroes and athletes, and being asked for the same thing in return.

Each person there seemed to be more impressed with the work of many others than with his own achievements.

It was an amazing personal experience to be able to discuss the future of space exploration with Gen. Lew Allen, head of the Jet



DR. EDWARD TELLER  
Nuclear Physics



ERMA BOMBECK  
Syndicated Humorist  
Best-Selling Author



GENERAL CHARLES E. YEAGER  
First Man to Break the  
Sound Barrier

## Achievement names

to Edward Teller

Propulsion laboratory and then turn to Hobart (Hobie) Alter, inventor of the Hobie Cat Catamaran.

When we mentioned that we were hoping to see him at the Hobie national competition in Coronado three weeks ago, he said he'd been showing his new boat on the French Riviera then but had hoped (and would have preferred) to be in Coronado.

It was like being a kid again for this paragraphist to get an autograph and a conversation with Gene Autry. Each author, Nobel prizewinner, athlete or actor was friendly, informative and enthusiastic about the people they were encountering here.

Actors Burt Reynolds and John Forsythe were most widely recognized and in the greatest demand for visiting or autographs.

Mathematical genius and 1982 winner of the Nobel prize in physics Kenneth G. Wilson reported that he had counted 65 women who had asked (and received) a kiss with the autograph from Burt Reynolds while they were seated together on Saturday evening.

Another of the most popular among the group of honorees was Sister Antonia Brenner who was recognized for her work with prisoners in La Mesa Prison, in Tijuana.

Pulitzer prizewinning biographer Robert K. Massie (Peter the Great) and western novelist Louis L'amour had big followings, as did Rep. Claude Pepper of Florida who was honored for his work for the senior citizens of America.

He received a standing ovation from the crowd when he praised the weekend program and its participants.

He said "I have seen and received enormous amounts of kindness, consideration and concern from youth and adults alike. And I wonder if you were surprised to find there wasn't a stuffed shirt in the place."



JOE PATERNO  
Collegiate Football's  
"Coach of the Year"



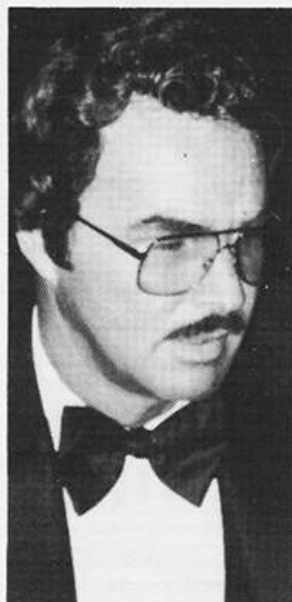
JOE THEISMANN  
Super Bowl champion quarterback



GENE AUTRY  
Golden West Broadcasters



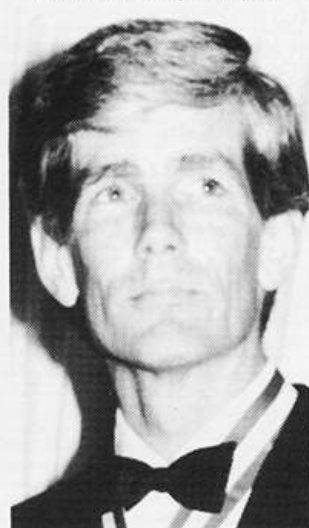
WAYNE GRETZKY  
Hockey's Scoring Champion



BURT REYNOLDS  
"America's Favorite Actor"



HERSCHEL WALKER  
Football All-American



WILLIAM C. DeVRIES, M.D.  
artificial heart pioneer surgeon