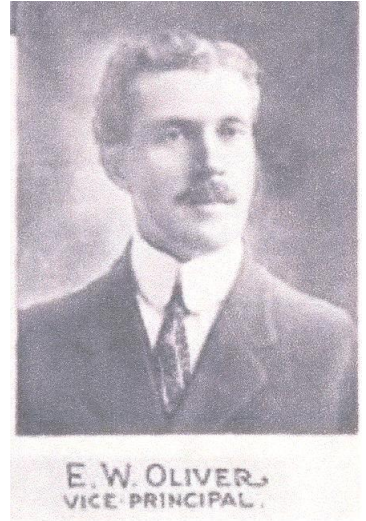


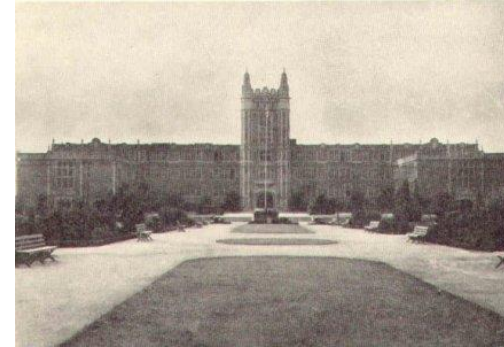
HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION SOUTHERN SECTION (CIFSS)



20th historical “tidbit.”

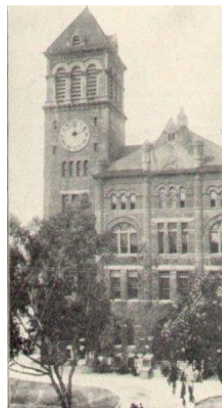
E. W. (Ernest Warren) OLIVER

THE FATHER OF THE CIF-SS
and
Where it all began

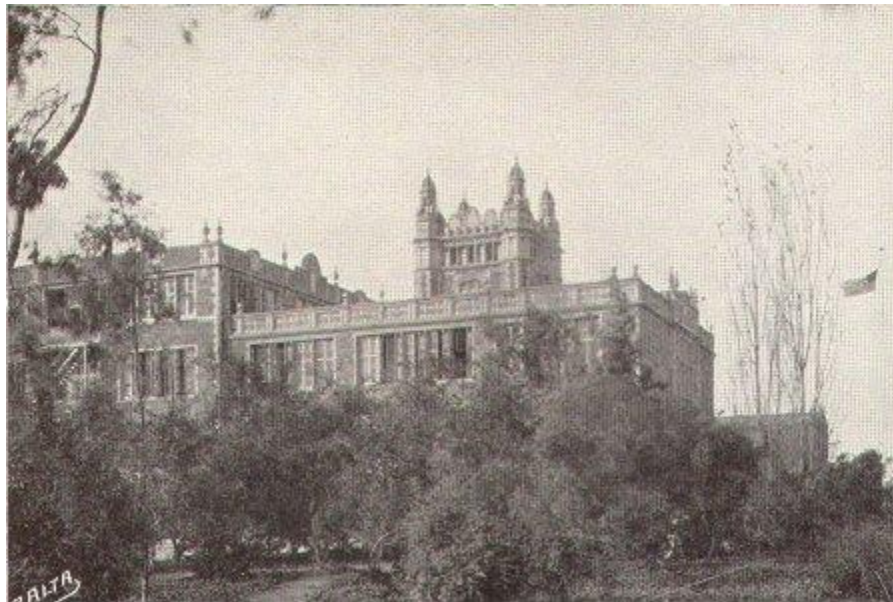


The founding date of the CIFSS has been established as Saturday, March 29, 1913, when a group of League Presidents meet at noon, after the prelims and prior to the finals, of the first high school sponsored track meet held at the YMCA field. Later, on May 15, 1913, at 4:30 p.m., the elected officials met at Los Angeles High School and established the formal rules for the organization that was founded at the track meet. The name of the organization was the Southern California Interscholastic Athletic Council (SCIAC). After the founding of State CIF (March 28, 1914), this same group decided to change their name to the California Interscholastic Federation, Southern Section (CIFSS) on September 26, 1914. Present at that meeting on May 15, 1913, to set up eligibility rules, were J. E. McKown, from the Citrus league who was the first Secretary and Treasurer. He was replaced by L.L. Beeman, Principal of San Bernardino and also representing the Citrus League, at the second meeting. Present at that very first meeting were W.R. Moberly, Principal of Compton High School representing the Los Angeles County League, F. L. Thurston, Principal of Pasadena High School representing the Los Angeles County League, W. A. Hall, Principal of Santa Ana High School, representing the Orange County League, and Earnest W. Oliver, Assistant Principal of Los Angeles High School representing the Los Angeles City League.

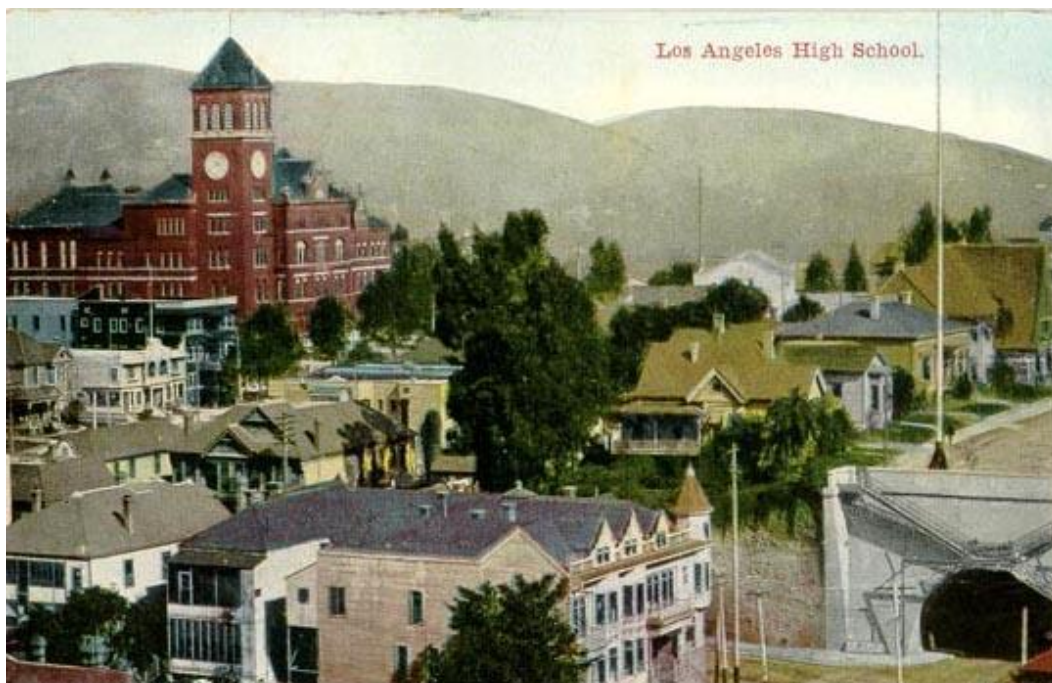
Mr. Oliver assumed the duties as the first President of the SCIAC Council (later CIFSS) and was also the Chairman of the Delegates at the Los Angeles



Athletic Convention that met on March 28, 1914. That convention developed a “Plan for State-wide Control” which was submitted to the Principals of California High Schools by the Commissioner of Secondary Schools. Many of the same rules codified in the first constitution of the SCIAC were the basis for the first State CIF Constitution.



E. W. Oliver



It is interesting to note that the first controversy over the formation of the CIF Southern Section and the State CIF was the definition of what an amateur should be.

Mr. Oliver had some very "unique" ideals on LET "AMATEURS" PLAY FOR COIN as can be seen in this "Los Angeles Times" article dated April 22, 1914:

Gosh!

LET "AMATEURS" PLAY FOR COIN.

*High Schools May Let Boys
Become "Pros."*

*E. W. Oliver Suggests Some
Radical Moves.*

*Eligibility Rules Are Very
Strict Now.*

Sweeping changes in the rules governing high school athletics are anticipated and urged by E. W. Oliver, head of the Southern California High School Athletic Council. Yesterday he gave his reasons for wanting to see these changes and just how they are likely to come about.

"When the State-wide high school athletic union is formed, I expect to see the old strict amateur rules dropped and a new broad-minded policy adopted," said Oliver.

"At present a high school athlete is declared a professional if he accepts money for playing a game of ball. If he runs in a race for a little prize or plays on any team with a professional on it he is immediately barred from amateur athletics. This is all wrong and a change is bound to come."

WHY NOT?

"If a boy can go out and play a game of ball on Sunday, why not let him? If a student is a good clerk he can work for a salary after schools and on holidays, and nothing is said about it. Baseball is a good clean game, and if a young fellow is a good

ball player and can make a few honest dollars by playing ball, he is certainly entitled to do so as much as the fellow that acts as a clerk and without being declared a professional.

"The old plea of amateur organizations has been that schools would hire professional players; that boys would go to school just to play ball, making their money on the side, and so on.

"With the present strict rules of eligibility for high school athletes, the boy who is not a good student has no chance to compete on the athletic field. Any boy competing in athletics must be passing in fifteen hours' work every week, he must be under 21 years of age, and can only play four years. If he is in school over four years he will not be allowed to enter athletics, because the fact that he is there an extra year shows that he needs to put more time on his studies.

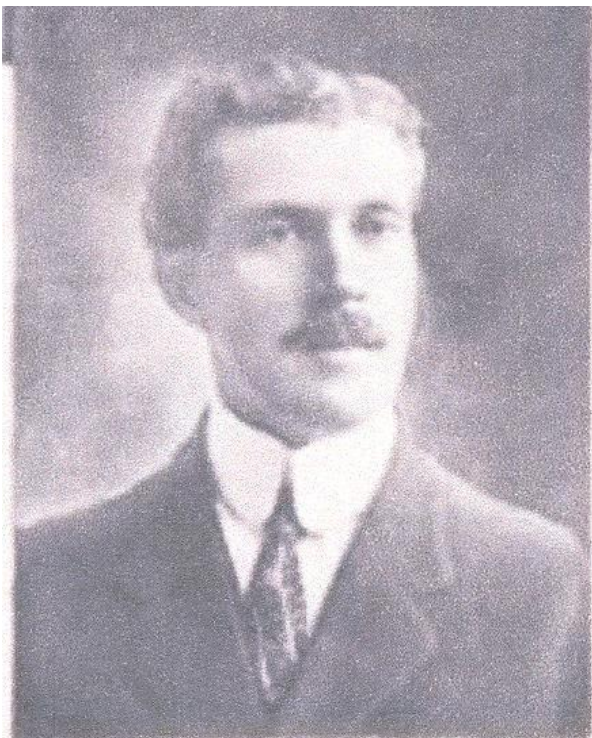
NO TRAMPS

"Another new rule, which does away with the tramp athlete, is the clause which requires a student to be in school the semester preceding. In other words, no student can play football next fall that is not in school the last half of this year unless he enters from the grammar schools or was kept out for some good reason, and it has got to be a very good one. With these rules strictly enforced, it is impossible for any but a regular student in good standing to compete.

"Letters will soon be circulating throughout the high schools of the State for ratification of the State athletic union, and as soon as enough have taken favorable action delegates will be selected from all parts of the State to meet in Berkeley on July 1 to complete the organization.

"At that meeting I firmly believe that the State organization will pass rules allowing high school athletes in good standing to play ball for money providing they are not connected with a league team or professional organization.

"Track men will probably be given a chance to run in picnic and lodge races for prizes and in many other ways will the life of an amateur athlete be made free from narrow-minded rules of amateur standing originated in the days of the Civil War."



E. W. OLIVER,
VICE-PRINCIPAL.



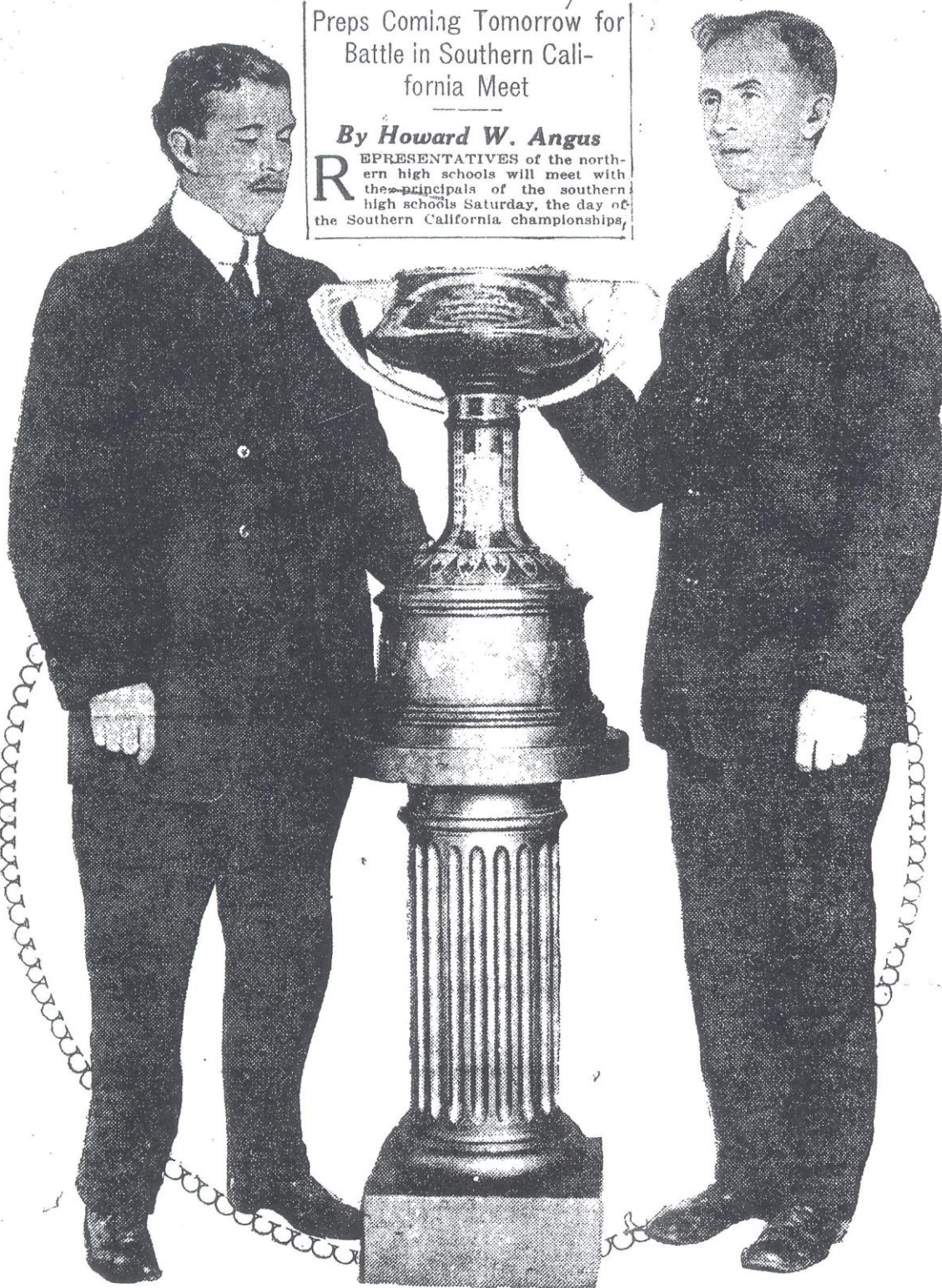
State Prep Union Is to Be Formed

Principals to Meet Saturday Night

Preps Coming Tomorrow for
Battle in Southern Cali-
fornia Meet

By Howard W. Angus

REPRESENTATIVES of the north-
ern high schools will meet with
the principals of the southern
high schools Saturday, the day of
the Southern California championships,



The Tribune Trophy and the two men behind the Southern California championship meet. Vice Principal Oliver of Los Angeles high school (who is on the left) has been instrumental in making the meet possible. Van Patten has personal charge of it. This picture gives an idea of the size of the Tribune Trophy.

ERNEST WARREN OLIVER

by Nancy Dunn, S'45

It has been said that behind any great institution there lies the shadow of a great man. Such is the case in our own Los Angeles High School. Renowned throughout all of Southern California as one of the finest high schools in the state, and beloved by students and faculty, both past and present, L. A. High rightfully takes its place as a great institution. And behind all this lies the quiet unpretentious, yet dominating shadow of one great man, Ernest Warren Oliver. True, the names of numerous men and women are connected with the founding and development of L. A. High, but all agree that the name of Oliver heads the list.

When asked why Mr. Oliver ranks first among those who have made L. A. High the school it is today, a person might give one of two reasons. He might say because L. A. grew to be the school of

the present under his principalship. But, more likely, he would say, because Mr. Oliver is the personification of L. A. High. His knowledge, his friendliness, his courtesy and kindness, his keen understanding, his imposing manner, are those of his beloved "Rome."

Just as the history of Los Angeles High is a vastly interesting and varied one, so is that of Mr. Oliver. Again, the two run in a parallel line, that of childhood, youth, and maturity. L. A. progressed from a little brick schoolhouse, to a larger one on top of the hill, and finally to the impressive building we know today. Mr. Oliver progressed from a child roaming the fields of California, to a youth attending L. A. High and the University of California, and finally to a grown man teaching and becoming principal of his alma mater.

Ernest Oliver is of the truest American pioneer stock. There were Olivers fighting in the Revolutionary War, and in the Civil War, and in the westward development of their country. In the sudden surge of westward movement during the Gold Rush, Mr. Oliver's grandfather arrived in California in the year 1849. He and his wife settled down in their new home where they found the peace, security, and true happiness they had dreamed of. To this young couple was born a son, a son who grew to be the father of Ernest Oliver.

DREAMS OF DRIVING STAGE

In May of the year 1876, Ernest Warren Oliver was born. He was the youngest of four and the only boy. Perhaps this aided him in the keen understanding of people he became so famous for in later years! At the tender age of three he dreamed fondly and hopefully of becoming a stage coach driver. He pictured himself seated on a stage, whipping his horses into his hometown of Lakeport. This ambition was gradually replaced by the desire to play the pipe

organ. Quite a contrast, but this stands as early evidence of another of his fine characteristics, his great love of music.

All his childhood dreams were rudely awakened upon the death of his father in a railroad accident. The Oliver family moved to Los Angeles where Ernest entered Los Angeles High School, which had just moved into the red schoolhouse on Fort Moore Hill. His was the first class to spend all four years in the new building. He soon became known on the athletic field, not only for his skill, but for his ever present smile and cheerfulness. "You see, our side has to win," he earnestly explained to his mother one time. And win it did, for he was a member of the famed team that levelled a U.S.C. gridiron squad and defeated the teams of Oxy and Pasadena in a pair of seasons never to be forgotten by Roman fans back in 1893 and '94. In his senior year in 1895, Ernest Oliver was elected Star and Crescent president, the equivalent of our present day



STAR & CRESCENT PRESIDENT
forerunner of student body president.

student body president; recognized then, as in later years, as a true leader for L. A. High.

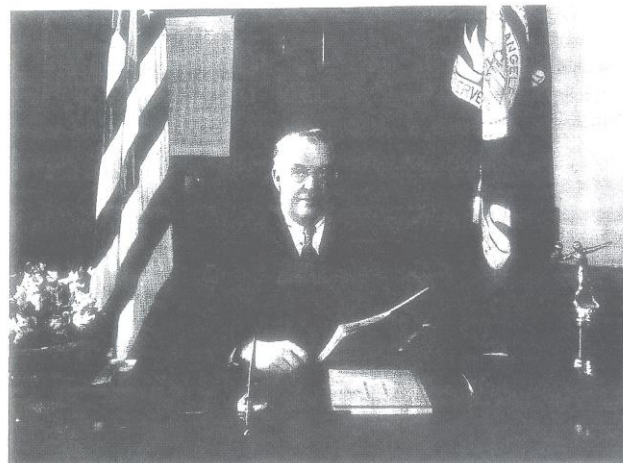
After graduation he worked for a year and a half in the tile setting trade. He entered the University of California at Berkeley in S'96. Again his leadership qualities were evidenced as he became Senior Captain of the University's Battalion. Upon his graduation in 1900, Ernest Oliver began eight of the most interesting years in his life.

work in the establishment of the American principle of democracy throughout the islands. Mr. Oliver returned home again, traveling by way of Singapore, India, Egypt, Italy, Switzerland, France, and England.

Though he was a youth when he left for the islands, he was a full grown man in all respects upon his return. Only three months after his return he was engaged by Mr. Housh, then principal of L.A., to teach at his alma mater. For

age; but he volunteered and was sent to Camp Lewis to take charge of the Y.M.C.A. Hut. A few months later, with the drafting of older men, he enlisted in the heavy artillery in the regular army. He was ready to be commissioned as a lieutenant when the armistice was signed, and he returned to L. A. High.

Mr. Oliver was one of the committee who selected the present site of our school, and it is largely through him that we have the spacious grounds sur-



AS PRINCIPAL a familiar figure beloved by all.

He became a teacher in the Philippines, first at the Nautical Academy, later becoming principal in an American day and night school. In his spare time he taught the natives the great American game of baseball, and the words "strike" and "out" soon became part of the standard vocabulary throughout his section of the island. He traveled through China, Japan, and India during

his vacations. After seven years of hard the next three years Mr. Oliver was active as a mathematics and history teacher, baseball coach, and commandant of the L.A.H.S. Cadets, a group founded by him during his years as a student there. Then, in 1911, Mr. Oliver became vice-principal and met with immediate success in his relationship with the students and faculty.

At the time of the outbreak of World

War I, Mr. Oliver was not of fighting rounding L. A. High. In 1925, at the death of Mr. Housh, Mr. Oliver succeeded him as principal. Since that time Los Angeles High School has had the most progressive and inspiring program of its entire history. In 1926 the beautiful Housh stairs were built, and in 1929 the now famous chimes were installed in the lofty tower. In 1930 his fondest

Continued on Page 11

Ernest Warren Oliver

Continued from Page 5

dream of a library across from the school was realized in the opening of Memorial Library and Park. In 1932 Oliver swimming pool was built as a lasting tribute to his love of athletics. In 1937 L. A. had the largest enrollment of all times, one of 4060, and in 1938 the semi-annual won national honors.

During his eighteen years as principal at his beloved school, he became a living symbol for all that L. A. stands for. He was a friend to all, both faculty and student; no problem was too small for his concern. His statement, "Los Angeles High will carry on as a school that believes in young people, a school that has a genuine desire to build up the character and citizenship, to give them happiness but, above everything else, a feeling of responsibility," sums up his ideals that he build into L. A. High.

TRUE FRIEND TO ALL

The eve of Mr. Oliver's retirement was a sad one, not only for himself, but for all students and faculty who counted him as a true friend. But his career at L. A. did not cease. From that time on to the present day he has always carried an active interest in the school. Many is the time he has sat on the bench and cheered a team on to victory, and he has taken an active part in the Alumni Association.

This is only a brief account of the life of this great man who will always stand foremost in the history of Los Angeles High. There is an old saying that goes, "Blessed is the man who has found his work: let him ask no other blessedness," which seems to fit into the pattern of Mr. Oliver's life. He found his work, and all those attending L. A. High throughout the years will stand as we, those who have graduated, humbly grateful for all he has done. As long as the tower of Los Angeles High School casts a shadow upon the ground, the shadow of a great man will live beside it, the shadow of Ernest Warren Oliver.

ERNEST W. OLIVER
at three years old.



Original correspondence by Earnest W. Oliver
Principal of Los Angeles High School
First President and Founding Father of the CIFSS

Los Angeles High School
LOS ANGELES CITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL

March 10, 1915.

To Principals and Track Managers
of
Southern California High Schools:

You will receive in a few days detailed information regarding
the State Track and Field Meet to be held in Fresno April 2 and 3, 1915.

Every one in the South who is interested in Track and Field
work is anxious to have Southern California make the best showing possi-
ble, at this, the first State Meet, managed by the schools themselves.
In all probability the State Tennis Meet, both boys and girls, will be
held at the same time.

You are urged to enter your team if possible, and do all you can
to make the affair a great success.

Yours very truly,



OLIVER TO STAND PAT

Says Chances Are Small of Switching State Meet to Stadium

"There is scarcely any possibility at all that the State interscholastic track and field championship meet will be held any place but at Occidental College," said Vice-Principal E. W. Oliver of Los Angeles High School, who, with Principal W. E. Moore of Long Beach guides the destinies of the California Interscholastic Federation in these parts.

"The meet was awarded to Occidental College several weeks ago. Occidental College admittedly has the fastest track in Southern California, probably in the State. This track is being put in the finest possible condition for the meet next Saturday," continued Mr. Oliver.

DUTY BOUND

"I personally feel that our first duty is to these young athletes who are coming from all parts of the State to participate. The records made in the sectional meets indicate that a large number of the State records can be broken on a track as fast as that at Occidental and it would seem to me to be a sorry thing to do to deny to these athletes the opportunity to make new records for the sake of the few additional dollars which might be attracted to the splendid new stadium."

"If, as seems likely," concluded Mr. Oliver, "a change in the plans for the use of the stadium by the Motion-Picture Exposition people makes it possible for the Community Development Association

to offer us the use of the stadium for the meet we will select an unbiased committee of experts to test out the track and see if it is fast enough to warrant our switching the meet back there. In view of the length of time ordinarily necessary to put a track in shape, however, the possibility of transferring the meet to the new stadium is very remote."

Quite a tremor of excitement went the rounds yesterday when it was rumored that the State track and field meet scheduled for the fast Occidental College track on Saturday, had been switched to the new Exposition Park stadium.

SWITCH UNLIKELY

Mr. Oliver, however, when interviewed on the subject said that there was little chance of the meet being switched at this late date.

Experts who have looked the Exposition Park track over report that while it has been carefully laid out and built of the finest materials, it is still really an unknown quantity and that it would be nothing short of a miracle for the track to be anywhere near as fast as the famous Occidental oval.

LETTERS TO The Times

E. W. OLIVER

Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File); Jun 30, 1924; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1923)
pg. A4



Educator Approves

LCS ANGELES, June 24.—[To the Editor of The Times:] Not only the editorial on "Educating Moral Idiots," but many other editorials in The Times of recent date, have called forth profound favorable comment on the part of the members of the faculty and student body.

An author of a book entitled "The Four R's" has very well expressed the idea of many of us when he strongly emphasizes his profound belief that to the original three, "Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic," there should be added the fourth "R"—Righteousness. As you have so well stated in many of your editorials, the development of character is the first aim of all real education.

It is the consensus among our leading educators that the twentieth century will be known in the world's history as the century in which youth was given most careful consideration and study commensurate with their importance to the future human race.

As a school man I wish to thank you and The Times for the support that you have given to high ideals and to righteousness in your many editorials. Very truly yours,

E. W. OLIVER,

Vice-principal Los Angeles High School.

LEADERS IN SCHOOL HOME-COMING PREPARATIONS

Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File); May 22, 1937; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1985)
pg. A3



LEADERS IN SCHOOL HOME-COMING PREPARATIONS

Plans for the Los Angeles High School alumni reunion June 5 were made yesterday by the group pictured here. Left to right: Principal E. W. Oliver, Betta Lou Hogg, girls' president; Bill Henry, alumni president; Franklin Lee, class '12, and Mrs. C. W. Halton, class of '87.

Times photo