



HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
SOUTHERN SECTION
CIFSS



60th historical “tidbit.”
Dr. John S. Dahlem

1909 POLE VAULT GOLD MEDAL
Interscholastic Athletic Association of Stanford University
The State Track Championship before the creation of the CIF
A. GIBSON – VENTURA HIGH SCHOOL

High school athletics prior to the formation of the State CIF in 1914, lacked a formal structure or codified rules. The one sport that was organized and held regular competitions was track and field which became very popular in high schools founded prior to the turn of the century. **The Interscholastic Athletic Association of Stanford University began** in 1906 to hold a yearly track and field championship open to all schools in California and it became the precursor of the current State CIF Track Championship. Rules regarding age, amateur status, etc., were still not formulated. It is interesting to note that one could not belong to a school fraternity and compete.

Robert Summers (Hemet High School) has a very nice collection of old track medals including one from the 1909 Stanford Interscholastic Track and Field Meet. On the back of the gold medal is imprinted, “Pole Vault – A. Gibson.” Researching the “Los Angeles Times” historical collection we find that the winner was from Ventura High School. His full name was **Albert Floyd Gibson** whose parents were farmers. Albert graduated from Ventura High School and later relocated to Los Angeles. Another athlete from Ventura High School, Argabrite, was referred to in the newspaper as, “...the little Ventura youth who recently set a new Southern California Interscholastic record of 6’1” in the high jump.” Argabrite won the Stanford high jump event. Thanks to David Hess, Ventura High School Athletic Director and Susan Adamich, Librarian, for their assistance in researching the background of this 1909 medal.





Photos from Ventura High School Yearbook – 1910

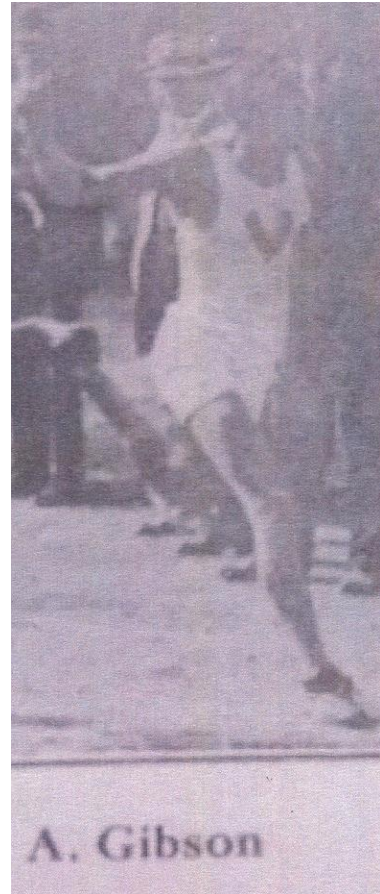


Gibson back row second from left



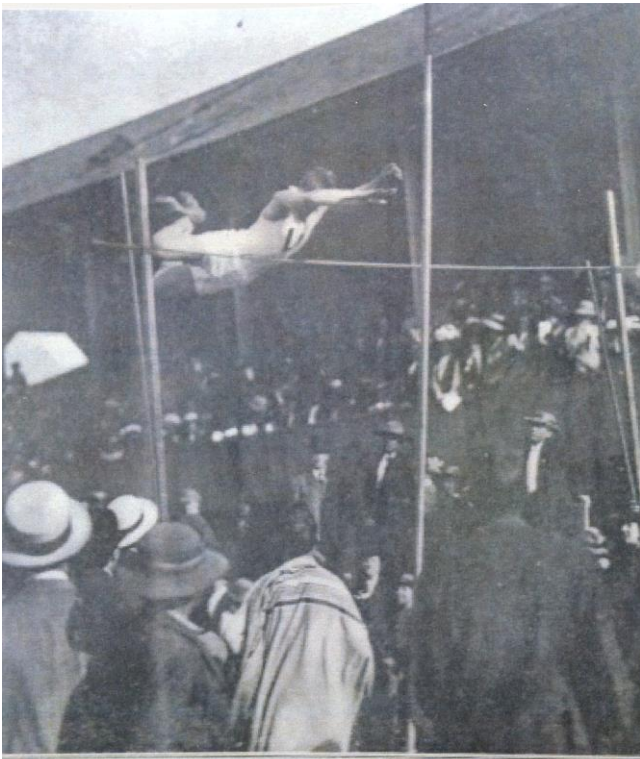
Gibson in the Pole Vault (11 feet 6 inches)

Argabrite

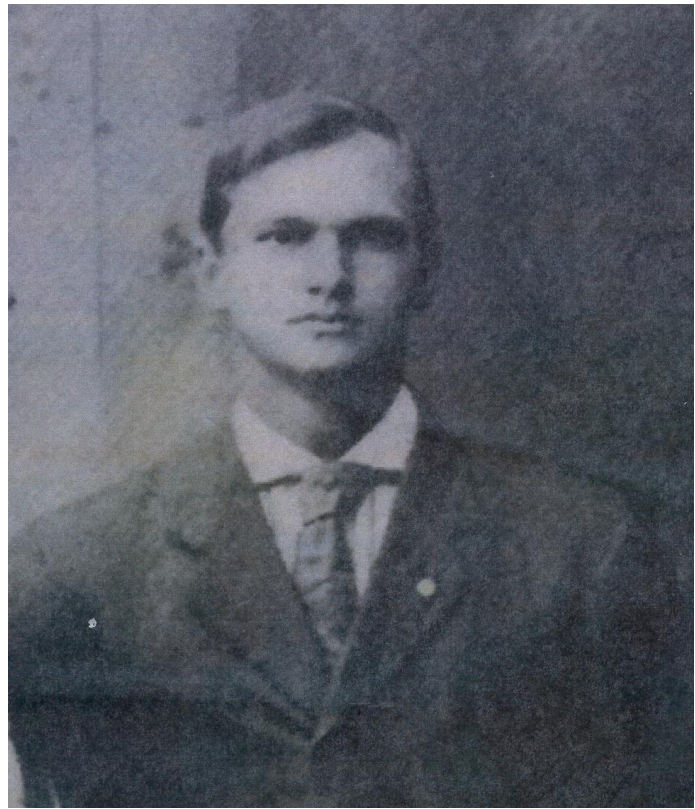


In the "Los Angeles Times" coverage of the 1909 Southern California Academic Union meet held at Baer Park (prior to the Stanford Championships) it stated:

"Gibson of Ventura, a hungry county lad with lots of grit, gave Giffin a close race for the pole vault honors. Gibson would trot slowly back to the starting line, lean his head against the pole in a reverent attitude, as if seeing a vision of the home folks and farm pets waving encouragement, then ramble down the lane and leave the ground with a terrible pull."



Gibson Taking First Place in the Y. M. C. A. Meet



R. Burson	Gibson	Parker	M. Barlow	Cole
Mickel (Mgr.)	Neel	Pringle (Coach)	Argabrite (Capt.)	Dimmick
				C. Burson



Myers.	Argabrite, Capt.	Pringle, Coach.	Cole,	R. Burson.	Parker.	Gibson.
		Dimmick.	Neel.			
		Mickel, Mgr	Isham	C. Burson		