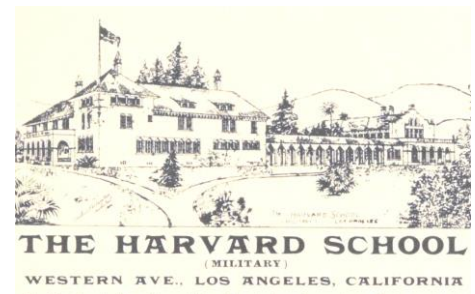




CALIFORNIA

**INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION**  
**SOUTHERN SECTION**  
**(CIF-SS)**

66<sup>th</sup> historical “tidbit.”  
Dr. John S. Dahlem



*Mr. Hamilton*

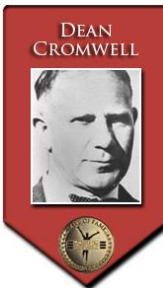


**KINTER HAMILTON – HARVARD SCHOOL**  
**(“K.H.” as he was familiarly called)**

**The Voice for Private Schools in the CIF-SS**

Kinter Hamilton was born in Western Pennsylvania in 1877. He attended Grove City College and was an outstanding athlete as a track sprinter. He continued his education at the University of Pennsylvania Law School where he played football and ran track. He transferred to the University of Michigan and received his law degree. He married Emma and they would have three girls and two boys (Emma passed away in 1937). He moved to California at the beginning of the 1900’s and was employed by the Harvard School for Boys in 1902. Harvard was established in 1900 as a military school located near Western Avenue and Venice Boulevard in Los Angeles. In 1911, Harvard became a non-profit corporation under the direction of the Episcopal Church.

Kinter began as a teacher of Latin, economics and history. He received his Teaching Certificate from the Los Angeles County Board of Education in 1903. He immediately became a coach at Harvard with success in both track and football. He personally tried out for the 1904 St. Louis Olympic Games in the sprint relay. He continued to run for the Los Angeles Y.M.C.A. track team and often ran with Dean Cromwell, the famous coach at USC.



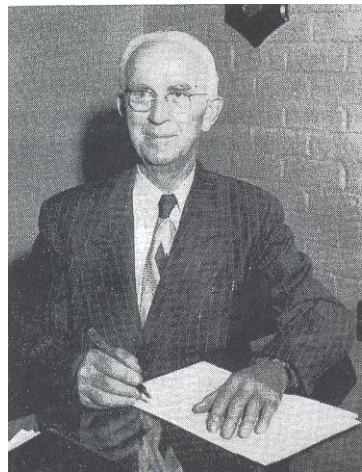
Championship track team in the early 1900's (center: Coach Kinter Hamilton).

In 1906, his Harvard School football team tied USC 6 – 6. In 1907, he helped organize one of the first high school athletic leagues in California. He was elected President of the Los Angeles County League in 1908 which consisted of two sections. The City Section of:

- Los Angeles High School
- Los Angeles Poly High School
- Pasadena High School
- South Pasadena High School
- Harvard School
- Whittier High School
- Hollywood High School
- Long Beach High School

and the Suburban Section consisting of:

- San Pedro High School
- Glendale High School
- Monrovia High School
- Compton High School
- Azusa High School
- Alhambra High School
- Santa Monica High School
- Bonita High School
- Downey High School



*The Grand Old  
Man of the  
C. I. F.*



*Seth Van Patten*

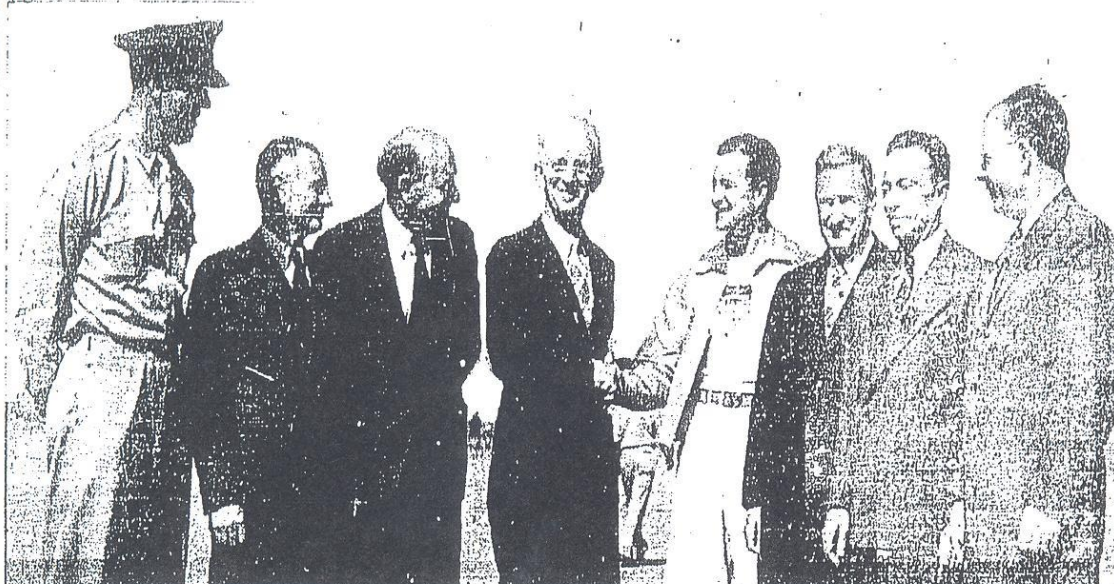
It was during this time that he formed a life-long relationship with Seth Van Patten, the “Founding Father” of the CIF-SS. This relationship, along with their love for track and field, initiated the idea of a sports organization of high schools, run by high schools and for the benefit of the student-athlete. On March 29, 1913, the CIF-SS was founded during the Southern California Track Meet at the Y.M.C.A. Field in Boyle Heights. One of the first champions at that meet was Harvard’s hurdler Nourse.



The 120-yard hurdle race was made in fairly good time, Nourse winning in 16 2-5 seconds, after a hard race.

Kinter Hamilton was a strong advocate of the CIF-SS and his school was the only private school included in the first competitions although Harvard School was not a member of any specific league in the early history of the CIF-SS (except when they were assigned to the football Suburban League in 1915). Harvard often competed as an "at-large" school and was very successful in individual sports like track, swimming, cross country, golf and gymnastics. Kinter's association with the CIF-SS lasted from 1914 to 1951. He was a member of the CIF-SS Executive Committee from 1935 to 1951 and was the President of that committee from 1941 to 1951. In 1927, he helped form the first "Private League" which became the "Preparatory (Prep) League" in 1928 with Hamilton as the League Representative to the CIF-SS Council until 1951. The first members of that Prep League were Cathedral, El Segundo High School, Pacific Military and Harvard. Throughout his entire career with the CIF-SS he was a strong voice along with Van Patten (often referred to as the "Czar" because of his adherence to rules) in maintaining control of all high school sports and his legal training served him well. He was a buffer between those that wanted to separate the private and public schools athletically and fought hard for the inclusion of all private schools in the CIF-SS. He is the fourth individual in CIF-SS history to receive the Life Pass (1956). The following is part of a hand written letter (later typed and placed in the CIF-SS "Monthly Bulletin" of May, 1951) by Seth Van Patten upon Hamilton's announcement of his retirement in 1951:

Kinter Hamilton  
The story of high school athletics in Southern California is indelibly associated with the C. D. F. Southern Section. The story of the C. D. F. Southern Section, in much the same way, is associated with the name of Kinter Hamilton. Mr Hamilton <sup>has been</sup> ~~is~~ so much a part of the high school athletic ~~part~~ <sup>get-up</sup> of Southern California ~~that~~ for almost fifty years that we will always think of him as an integral part <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ picture. ... to the Harvard



**CO-OPERATION**—C.I.F. Commissioner Seth Van Patten shakes hands with Carson Conrad, civilian director of Army Air Corps physical program at Santa Ana, after adopting Conrad's program for schools this fall. Looking

on are members of the C.I.F. executive committee and Lieut. Lloyd Harper. Left to right, Lieut. Harper, Normal Hayhurst, Ernest Fischer, Van Patten, Conrad, Kinter Hamilton, Bernard Bergstrom, Ralph Barnright.

Kinter Hamilton was very active in the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) and for years served as the President of the Southern Pacific Association of the AAU. He was instrumental in having the 1932 Olympic Games track and field trials in Los Angeles and was a Chief Clerk at those Olympic Games and could always be seen in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum during track competition in his red Olympic coat. He was one of the premier track starters in the United States and served in that function for almost his entire life.

X<sup>TH</sup> OLYMPIAD  
LOS ANGELES  
1932



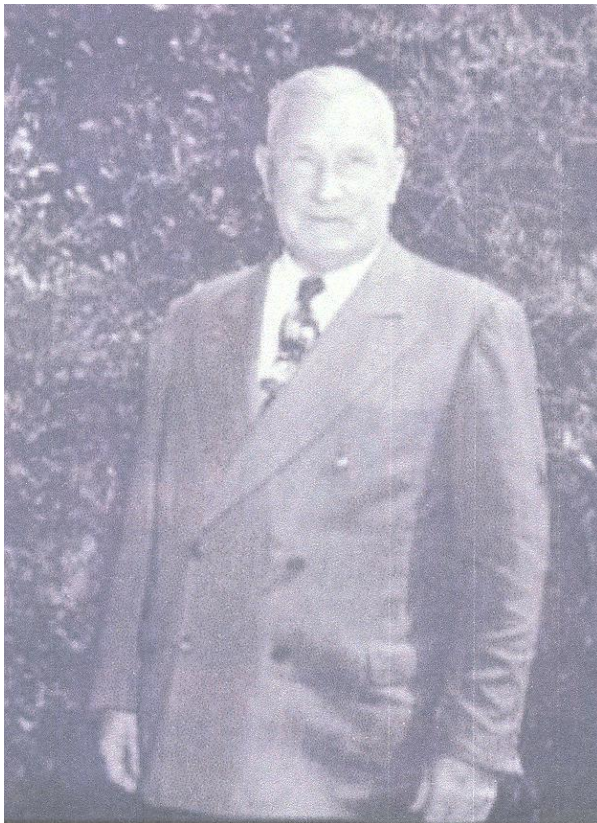
Kinter became involved in the leadership of the Harvard School after his teaching and coaching career and became known to his public administrator friends as the Principal of the Harvard School. In actuality, he was the Associate Headmaster with many of the duties of a high school public Principal. It was a difficult because although he had most of the responsibilities of a Headmaster, he had little authority. He rarely saw things the same as the Bishop of the school who was quite academic and Hunter was more practical minded. Kinter Hamilton loved Harvard School and regardless of his official position was responsible for the school becoming one of the best private schools in Southern California. One of the more prominent moves Hamilton was involved with was the purchase of the defunct Hollywood Country Club on Coldwater Canyon in 1937 thanks to his friendship with Donald Douglas, founder of Douglas Aircraft. Harvard School eventually moved away from the boarding school/Military Institution in the late 1960's and merged with Westlake Girls School in 1989. Hunter retired from Harvard School in 1949 and worked briefly at McDonald Douglas Aircraft Company.

On Harvard Day - June 11, 1942, the school dedicated the *Kinter Hamilton Field House* which today remains as a practice and testing facility.



**HARVARD DAY**—Mrs. Percy M. Pike, president of the Mothers Club of Harvard Military Academy, and Kinter Hamilton of the school are looking over plans for the new field house to be dedicated on June 11 at the school's annual Harvard Day celebration. •

Times photo



# C. I. F., SOUTHERN SECTION MONTHLY BULLETIN

Vol. 14

MAY, 1951

No. 9

## KINTER HAMILTON ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

The story of high school athletics, in Southern California, is indelibly associated with the C.I.F., Southern Section. The story of the C.I.F., Southern Section, in much the same way, is associated with the name of Kinter Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton was a prime mover in the C.I.F. when it started, and has been the chairman of the Executive Committee since it was first established. Mr. Hamilton has been so much a part of the high school athletic set up in Southern California, for almost fifty years, that we will always think of him as an integral part of the picture.

Kinter Hamilton came to the Harvard School (North Hollywood) as a teacher of Latin, in 1902. At first he coached football and track, and he continued to coach track for some ten years. His interest in boys brought him in contact with the C.I.F., Southern Section, as it was organized in 1914. Mr. Hamilton's experience and abilities well qualified him for his great share in directing the growth and development of high school athletics in Southern California. When the Executive Committee was organized in 1930, Mr. Hamilton was elected a Charter Member of the body. He has served continuously from that time until the present date. His annual election to this all-important committee shows the regard in which he is held by the high school men of our area. This is especially noteworthy when you consider that the bulk of member schools are public high schools and Mr. Hamilton was from a small private boys' school. His service on the Executive Committee always reflected his interest in boy's athletics as it concerned all high schools in Southern California.

Kinter Hamilton grew up in Western Pennsylvania and graduated from Grove City College where he played quarterback and ran the sprints. He went on to law school at the University of Pennsylvania where he also competed in football and track. He transferred to the University of Michigan Law School and received his degree in law from that University. His legal training was of great value to the C.I.F. since Mr. Hamilton was able to understand both sides of a case and work towards a solution acceptable to both parties.

He has always been an active worker in A.A.U. circles and was President of the Southern Pacific Association of the A.A.U. as well as a member of the National Track and Field Committee. In 1932, he made a trip to Chicago and won

a memorable battle to bring the final A.A.U. tryouts for the 1932 Olympic Games, to Los Angeles. He has always been interested in improving the caliber of officiating at track meets. Recently he has assisted the C.I.F. Office in publishing a manual on instructions for track starters and referees.

Kinter Hamilton has announced his retirement from the C.I.F., to be effective at the end of this school year. He will be associated with the Douglas Aircraft Association, working in their welfare department in the field of recreation. Certainly his talents and experience qualify him to organize the thousands of men and women of the Douglas Aircraft Association into recreational groups for their own benefit.

Without Mr. Hamilton's knowledge the Executive Committee, by unanimous vote, authorized the presentation of the "Certificate of Appreciation" to Kinter Hamilton "for Distinctive Service in the Field of Athletics in the High Schools of Southern California." This certificate, suitably framed, was signed by Mr. B. L. Bergstrom of the Executive Committee, and William Russell, Commissioner of Athletics. The certificate was presented by Mr. Russell to Mr. Hamilton, April 18th, 1951, at a meeting of the Preparatory League, held in his honor that night.

The best wishes of the C.I.F., Southern Section will follow Kinter Hamilton wherever he may go.

**Obituary 2 -- No Title**

*Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File)*; May 2, 1966;  
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times (1881-1990)  
pg. B7

## **Track Official Hamilton Dies of Heart Attack**

Kinter Hamilton, 89, long-time track official and member of the AAU and Olympic Committee for Southern California, died late Saturday of a heart attack.

Hamilton, of 12009 W. Beacon Ave., Anaheim, was an official at the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles and officiated at USC-UCLA track meets until 1950. He was formerly headmaster and principal at Harvard School from 1902-1915.

He leaves his daughters, Kendra McComb, Alice McReady, Helen McCloskey and Margaret Conant and sons, James and John.

Funeral services will be conducted at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Church of the Hills, Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills. Daly and Bartel Mortuary of Anaheim are in charge of arrangements.