



Anaheim Halloween Festival - 1928



**HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
SOUTHERN SECTION
(CIFSS)**

**GREAT THRONG
WATCHES GRID
GAME IN PARK**

Coach Demaree's Eleven
Trims Game Little Team
31 to 0 Before 5000

101st historical "tidbit."
Dr. John S. Dahlem

FIRST NIGHT FOOTBALL GAME IN THE CIF-SS
October 31, 1928...Wednesday...Celebrating the Anaheim Halloween Festival
Anaheim High School vs. Downey High School
"C" Teams – The "Midgets
Anaheim City Park (today Pearson Park)
"GHOST BALL"

One of the most popular events in early Anaheim was the annual Halloween Festival presented by the Merchants and Manufacturers Association which was witnessed by over 25,000 people each year. The city was decorated with carnival colors, witches, black cats and pumpkins. A parade was held that was over one mile long with six divisions each headed by a drum and bugle corps. The gala affair ended in the City Park with a big dance. In 1928, the organizers decided to make the 5th annual festival special by adding what many believed to be the first night football game in Southern California which was played by the "C" teams of Anaheim High School and Downey High School (members of the Orange League). The "C" classification of athletes in the early days of the CIF-SS was often referred to as the "Midget Division."

The game was played on the Anaheim City Park baseball field lighted by a battery of 1000 watt lights laid out east and west. The field was policed by regular officers and a squad of Legionnaires.

A white **"Ghost Ball"** was used so the fans could better follow the action with the lights, which were strung over the field, getting in the way of the flying pigskin.

Anaheim High School was victorious by a score of 31 to 0 with an estimated crowd of 700. Downey High School was nice enough to play the game and the next year there were no schools who wanted play. Later the festival sponsored a "Pumpkin Bowl" football game.

Anaheim City Park (today Pearson Park) baseball field where game was played

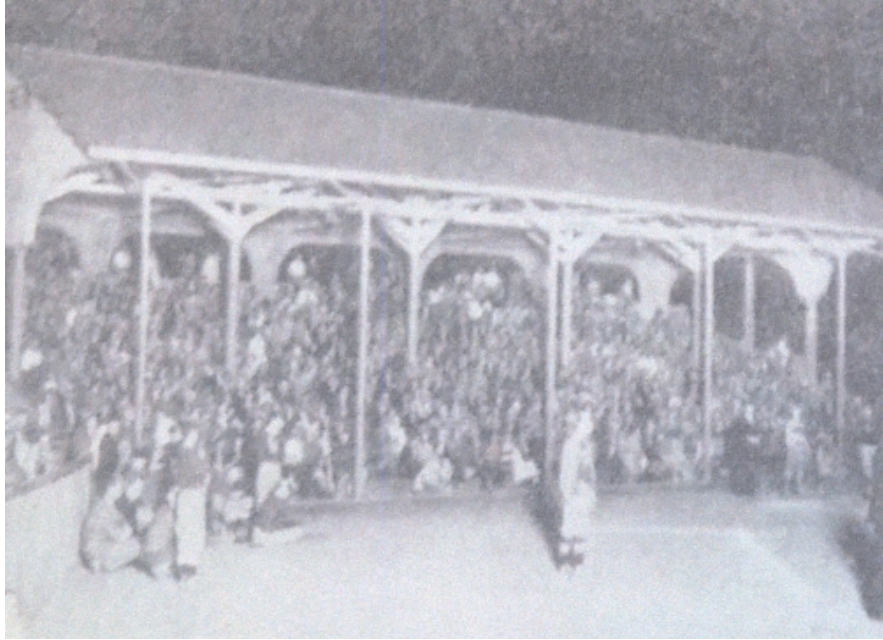
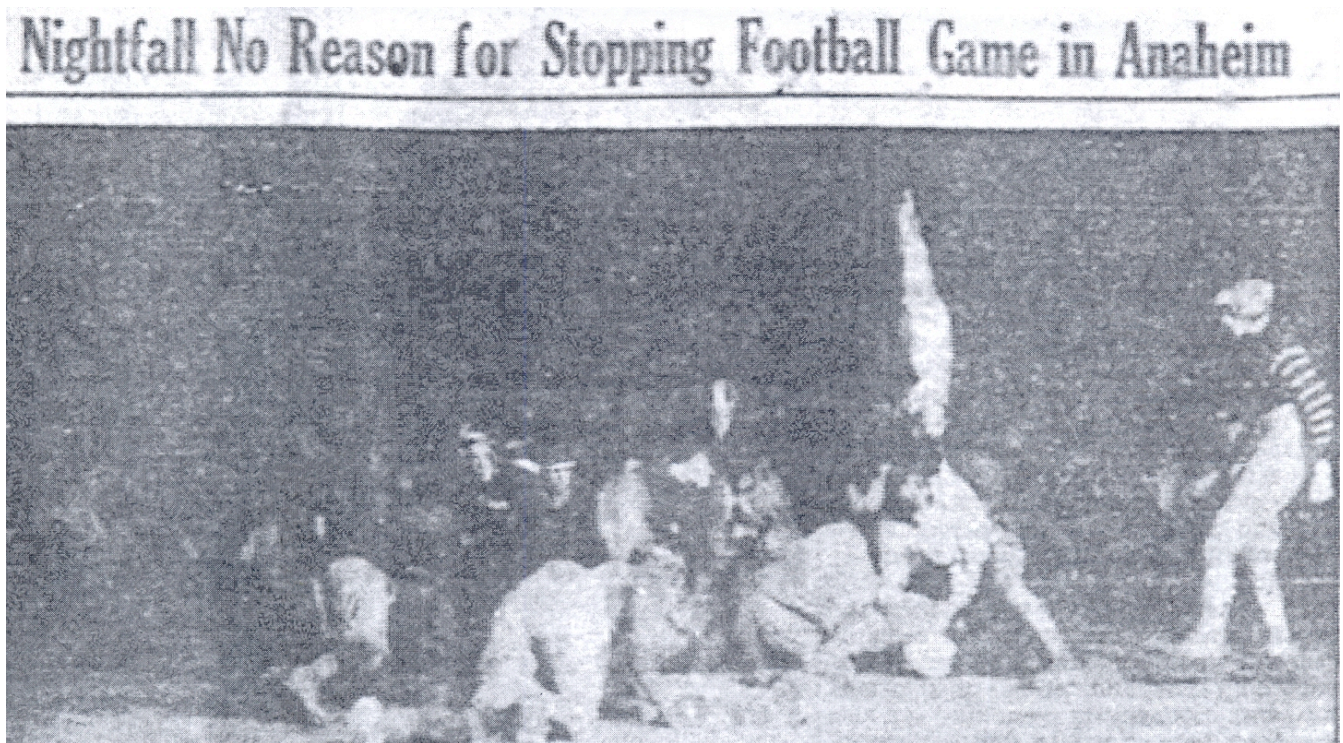


Photo from "Anaheim Bulletin" showing game action - you can see the "Ghost Ball" bottom right-October 31, 1928



Newspaper article from the "San Diego Union" – October 28, 1928 (thanks to Rick Smith)

HIGH SCHOOLS TO PLAY NIGHT FOOTBALL TILT

ANAHEIM, Calif., Oct. 28.—
What is said to be the first foot-
ball game ever played at night in
southern California in a regularly
scheduled league match will be
staged here Wednesday night as
part of a unique Halloween cele-
bration, it was announced today.

The gridiron contest will be be-
tween teams of the Downey and
Anaheim high schools and will be
played in the city's public park
under scores of electric lights.

Anaheim High School 1928 "Midget Team" – score is wrong, should be 31 - 0



CLASS "C" FOOTBALL

Coach Paul Demaree had some very good material this year for his class "C" football team. There were sixteen regulars who received their letters. These are: Captain Marshall Beebe, quarter; Carver Walker, fullback; Bud Scott, half; Jack Van Vorst, half; Frank Bath, quarter; Roland Myers, end; Urban Peltzer, end; Leroy Cline, end; Russel Fitzpatrick, tackle; Augustine Munoz, tackle; Hugh Taylor, guard; C. Peterson, guard; L. Faust, guard; E. Dougan, center; V. Backs, center.

These men played football as a team. It is hard to pick the stars, as they are all stars. We will however give special mention to a few of the ball packers. The team was run by its captain, Marshall Beebe. This youngster deserves a lot of credit for his cool-headedness and his ability to call the right plays. Husky Carver Walker has the makings of a future varsity man. He has a real football head, lots of fight and determination. The opposition was constantly well aware of Jack Van Vorst's presence, as he always got his man. He was, perhaps, the hardest tackler on the team. At the other half was Frank Bath. He is rather small, but that did not hinder his football packing ability in the least. Anaheim is very proud of her class "C" team.

Woodrow Wilson	14	Anaheim	12
Garden Grove	0	Anaheim	0
Fullerton	24	Anaheim	65
Excelsior	0	Anaheim	6
Julia Lathrop	13	Anaheim	7
Orange	13	Anaheim	18
Downey	0	Anaheim	13
Brea-Olinda	6	Anaheim	25
Huntington Beach	13	Anaheim	6

