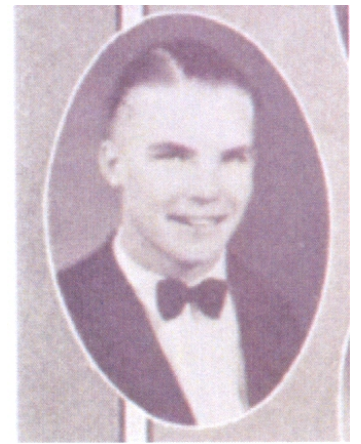




USC – 1934

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



Chaffey H.S. - 1927

106th historical “tidbit.”  
Dr. John S. Dahlem

**RANDALL BRYDEN  
THE “ALMOST” 1932 OLYMPIAN  
CHAFFEY HIGH SCHOOL – 1927**

Randall Bryden, a native of Upland, California set a world record in the rope climb prior to the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1932. He never got a chance to compete in the Olympics as the United States Olympic officials barred all handicap contestants from qualifying for the American team. They felt strongly that ***handicapped contestants had an “unfair advantage”*** and they were referred to in the media as “cripples.” Bryden had been stricken by a polio attack (infantile paralysis) when he was eight years old and was forced to use his arms as a method of mobility. The disqualification came five minutes before he was to compete in the qualifying event, yet he went on to set a record of 6.7 seconds in the 27 foot rope climb which the AAU accepted that night. His sponsors, the Los Angeles Athletic Club, protested along with his mother, but to no avail. This was a unique attitude compared to the universal acceptance of handicapped athletes and the growth of the Paralympics today.

On the night of July 21, 1933, the City of Upland put on a “Randall Bryden Night,” and he was presented a watch chain to mark his athletic achievements while overcoming his physical disabilities.

Randall was a 1927 graduate of Chaffey High School and attended USC. His son said he had 19 inch arms, a 51 inch chest and continued to compete setting world records until 1935. He started teaching at Santa Paula High School and coached gymnastics there from 1935 to 1957. He passed away in 1983 at the age of 76. His wife Maxine also taught at Santa Paula.

# ONTARIO YOUTH OFF U. S. TEAM

## Randall Bryden Sets Record in Rope Climb at Olympiad Tests but Is Barred

(Special Staff Correspondence)  
UPLAND, July 26.—Considerable indignation was felt in the West End today over the last-minute decision of Olympic officials barring all handicapped contestants, irrespective of their standing in the A. A. U. finals last night at the Los Angeles Athletic club, from being on the United States team.

Randall Bryden, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bryden, 269 G street, last night set a new world record for the rope climb of 6.7 seconds, but, according to the announcement made by the Olympic officials five minutes before the contestants went to the floor, he will not be a member of the United States team. Norman Perrich, former holder of the world title, was second in the event and he also was disqualified by the Olympic leaders for the same reason.

## Plan Special Fete For Randall Bryden

(Special Staff Correspondence)  
UPLAND, July 19.—In honor of Randall Bryden, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bryden, 268 G street, a "Randall Bryden night" will be observed Friday evening at the night ball grounds.

Plans for the program are not yet complete, but the young man is to be given a token for his athletic performance. Handicapped after an attack of infantile paralysis a number of years ago, the young man became interested in rope climbing in 1931 and twice this summer within a few weeks set new world's records in the event. He won the national American Athletic union event in Chicago late in June, when he climbed the 25 foot distance in 5.5 seconds, and set an even lower mark to win the California state meet earlier.

He won the national title in 1932, but was not permitted to represent the United States on the Olympic team because of a rule forbidding the appearance of handicapped athletes. Mr. Bryden is a senior student this fall at the University of Southern California.

## BARRED GYMNASTS PROTEST

Norman Parrish and Randall Bryden, two Los Angeles boys among nine athletes fired off the the American Olympic gymnastic team because of a new rule by the International Athletic Federation barring "cripples," will petition the I.A.F. to reconsider its action. Through their coaches, A. J. Shauttner and Ben Price, the two boys are hoping to get a hearing before the committee today.



# RANDALL BRYDEN

## Ventura County Hall of Fame

High School Coach & AAU Official

Randall Bryden was an outstanding gymnast.

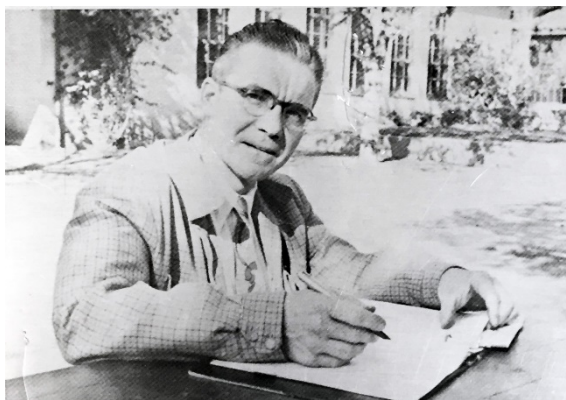
He was the National AAU Rope Climb Champion 1932.

In 1932 he set the world record for the rope climb.

Mr. Bryden taught at Santa Paula High School for 37 years, 1935-1972.

He was the Gymnastic coach from 1935-57.

During his Santa Paula coaching career, his teams ***won six CIF-SS Gymnastics Championships*** (1941, 1948, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1953) and placed second four times (1940, 1950, 1954, 1955)



Santa Paula High School gymnastic team – 1947. Coach Dryden front right.

