



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

110th historical “tidbit.”
Dr. John S. Dahlem

**BRUCE McINTOSH
Sports Historian
1929-2017**



Bruce McIntosh tended to be very secretive about his past but was proud of his love of Southern California and Hawaii. He was born in 1930 and said he was part Scottish and Irish. He graduated on February 3, 1949, as a mid-term graduate from South Pasadena High School (he was listed as being camera shy in the 1949 yearbook). He immediately became interested in the sports history of South Pasadena High School and Alhambra High School. Bruce began collecting scores from researching local newspapers. He also loved Notre Dame and researched the Irish as much as he could. His collection of scores, track times and other sports statistics would cover much of California, Hawaii and Pennsylvania.

Bruce said he worked on Kwajalein Atoll prior to the nuclear tests on Bikini Atoll. He moved to San Pedro and began researching the sports of that high school as athletes would walk to school past his home at 424 Obispo Street. He fell in love with Long Beach Poly having lived in that area and is one of the foremost historians on that fabled school. All of his historical research was original source right from the papers and talking with local coaches. He wanted to write a history of high school sports with emphasis on scores and he felt there would be a market for that information. He had several jobs in construction, a rubber company, etc., and often worked the night shift so he could do his research during the day.



He became friends with Bill Schroeder, curator of the Helms Bakery Collection, and even lived in the chauffeur's quarters of the First Interstate Bank (who took over the Helms Collection) where his room quickly filled up with sports information. When the old Helms collection started to be moved around and even thrown away, Bruce would jump into the trash bins and keep all the discards in his home. Needless to say, wherever he lived you could barely find his bed or a chair. Every inch of his abodes was filled with his collections.

He became close friends with Nelson Tennis as pen pals and they shared collections of sports information. He also was close to Bill Barnett and they cleaned a tremendous amount of high school sports information together. Until he passed away, Bruce was very active with Cal-Hi Sports and worked closely with Mark Tennis and Ronnie Flores. Bruce collaborated with historians Bill Peck and Rick Obrand (whom he was very close) to craft several record books on track and cross country. He was helped in his later years by a caregiver Jeannie Mathews and his close Rio Vista neighbors Melisa Pennington, Candy Dotson and Priscilla Zaro. Mark Tennis was "always there for him" as Bruce passed away on December 1, 2017. Mark, along with Ronnie, organized the many boxes of lifelong work.

Bruce had an incredible mind and loved finding out the most miscue detail on a score and correct the "official records!" If you mentioned a high school star athlete or coach in California he would immediately begin a discourse on the school's "corrects record" or the athlete's resume. He loved music and would have been a Champion on "Jeopardy"...both for sports and common intellect.

Bruce McIntosh's "opus" is his *card collection* of every high school in California and their football scores from 1892 to 2007. All of these scores are typed on 3 X 5 cards with his beloved typewriter. Mark Tennis believes they number close to 300,000 scores. Bruce was very frugal and some of the 3 X 5 cards are typed on old envelopes or the back of local mail advertisements. He knew by heart over 1,500 California high schools chronicling their athletic scores to include finding out all the mascots, leagues, dates schools opened, etc.

I became friends with Bruce in his later years, enjoyed visiting with him and appreciated his help with old league scores, etc., for the CIF-SS Historical Collection. It was neat to see him inducted into the CIF-SS Distinguished Service Hall of Fame in 2016. Without his work and the endeavors of men like Nelson Tennis, Bob Barnett, Rick Obrand, San Diego's Rick Smith and others, the old scores, names, and events would be lost forever as many of the original records were gone or destroyed.



BRUCE McINTOSH LEFT A LEGACY THAT WILL LAST FOREVER!

I have lots of stories, photos, etc., covering Bruce which are currently in the CIF-SS Historical Library and available to be viewed anytime.



Famous Card Collection



League Records

