

Deschutes Pioneers' Gazette

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Redmond's one-man track team won state



Art Tuck, a Redmond Union High School senior, breaks the tape in the 200-yard dash at the 1919 Oregon State High School Track and Field Championships, one of the seven events he won that day.

By Jim Crowell, *Gazette* Editor

Back in 1952, Bend High School won the Oregon State High School track and field championship to go with its first-place trophies of 1937, 1938, and 1946. What made this 1952 championship different was that it only took three Lava Bear athletes... Dean Benson, Jack Sheffold, and Alan Burmeister...to accomplish that feat.

Yet that notable achievement pales into insignificance in Deschutes County track and field history because 30 years before, Redmond Union High School

also won the Oregon State track and field championship...with a ONE-man team! In fact, Art Tuck, a 6-1, 185 pound Hercules of his time, not only brought home the team championship to little Redmond, he won seven of the 12 events staged at the annual prep meet and finished second in another. At the end of a long day in Eugene, it was Art Tuck/Redmond High School with 38 points and Jefferson High School of Portland was a distant second with 28 points.

The Eugene Register-Guard headlines the next day, May 11, 1919 read:

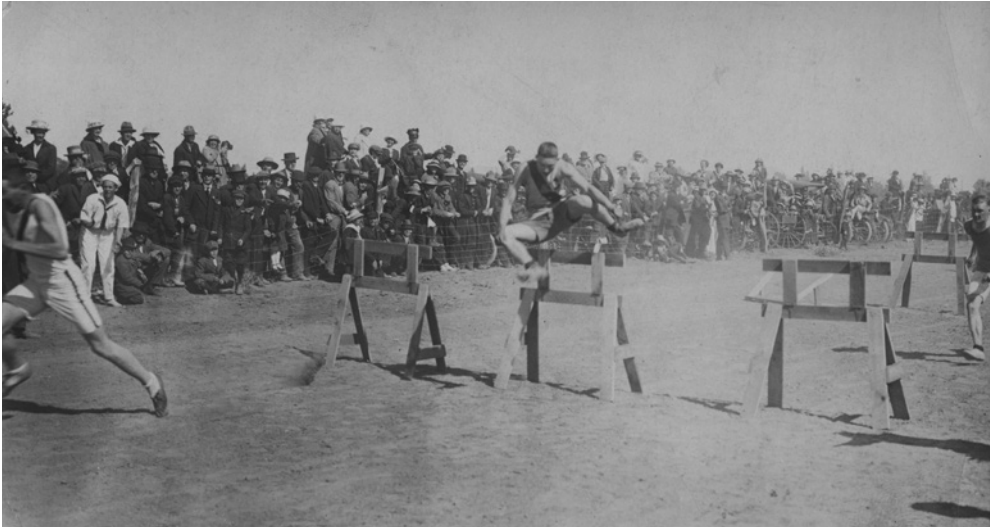
TUCK, REDMOND HIGH MARVEL WINS MEET

Wonderful Athlete Rumps Off
With 38 Points at Eugene

The lead paragraph in the Portland Oregonian story was: "The greatest exhibition of a one-man track and field team ever shown on Kincaid Field (University of Oregon) was performed here today when Arthur Tuck, a lanky 17-year-old from Redmond High School won the annual Oregon State Interscholastic Meet single

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Tuck Acclaimed as Greatest Prep Runner/Thrower



Tuck, at the extreme left, wins the high hurdle event. Note the almost primitive construction of the hurdles.

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handed. Not content with placing first in seven events and taking second in the broad jump, he broke three state records in doing so."

And a columnist for the Portland Journal also wrote of Tuck's remarkable ability: "The history of interscholastic athletics in Oregon fails to reveal a single athlete who has accomplished the feat of Arthur Tuck... Tuck is, without a doubt, the greatest athlete ever developed in the high school circles of the Northwest. He is a sprinter, a hurdler, a jumper, and a weight man. A great future is predicted for him and his work in college next season, whether he attends Oregon Agricultural College or the University of Oregon."

Consider Tuck's times and distances that day:

| <u>Event</u> | <u>Place</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 100-dash | 1 st | 10.0 |
| 220-dash | 1 st | 23.4 |
| Hurdles | 1 st | 16.6 |
| Shot put | 1 st | 45-4 |
| Discus | 1 st | 123-10 |
| Javelin | 1 st | 174-8 |
| High jump | 1 st | 5-8 |
| Long jump | 2 nd | 18-0 |

Almost 100 years later, those marks require a comparison with today's track and field standards. First, instead of running on

a modern, urethane track in state-of-the-art, lightweight track shoes, Tuck ran on an UO track that was composed of loose cinders, churned up in a day-long meet. He ran in heavy shoes that bear little resemblance to today's featherweight footwear. His 10.0 time in the 100-yard dash set a new state record and in a 1975 Redmond Spokesman newspaper interview, Tuck claimed "I got chiseled by the timers. Four of them had me in 9.8 and one had me in 10.3. So, they rounded it off to 10.0 after debating for a half an hour. I still got the state record but..."

In the discus competition, the high school athletes had to use a heavier college discus and Tuck always maintained that the javelins that were used in 1919 were much harder to throw than the modern equipment. Even so, his javelin throw of 174-8 broke the old Oregon high school record by more than 30 feet. He also pointed out that shot putters were not allowed to use a spin motion as they do now. High jumpers of the day used an awkward "scissors" style that eventually gave way to the "straddle" or "western role" which in turn was made obsolete by the Fosbury Flop, named for the 1968 Olympic gold medal winner, Dick Fosbury of Medford, Oregon and Oregon State University.

Another big difference between today's two-day meet in Eugene and the 1919 meet was the number of heats an athlete had to compete in a single day to win a

championship. On that single Saturday, the meet format forced Tuck to run in 13 races to win his events. "Instead of qualifying by time, you had to run against everyone in the field... all 120 of them," Tuck said. He ran five heats in the 100, four in the 220, and four in the high hurdles... all in the same day... plus he competed in five field events.

"I would have gone higher in the high jump (he had a best jump that season of 6-2) but I was so busy doing other things I only got one jump. I also only got one jump in the broad jump and so I didn't figure my takeoff well enough. I could do around 22 feet but I missed the takeoff line by about three feet."

Tuck also related his feelings at the end of the meet in a privately recorded interview before his death in 1979. "After that last race I ran that day in Eugene... the 220... a guy ran out and yelled, 'You won it. You won it. They can't beat you now.' So I thought to myself, 'How the hell are they going to beat you after the race is over?' I knew I had won it. But he said, 'look at the scoreboard... they can't beat you now!' And I looked at the scoreboard and I'd won the meet. That's what he was talking about and I thought he was talking about the last race."

Still, that magnificent, one-day effort in Eugene proved to be only a small part of the remarkable Art Tuck's little-remembered track legend. It included college javelin championships, a trip to the Olympic Games, and, sadly, a needless injury that ended his chances at what many considered his ultimate event... the decathlon.

His description of his last high school competition... the annual Tri-County Meet staged in Madras a week after the state meet... says as much about overall track and field conditions in Central Oregon in 1919 as it does about Tuck's athletic gifts.

"I had only one more meet in high school after the state meet, that was the Central Oregon District which was held in Madras on the Fair Grounds; of course, they had no irrigation then and that day was the worst dust storm I ever saw in that country. You couldn't see across the opposite side of the track. I was in 10 events that day... the 100 started at 12:30 and the relay at 7:30. I got beat a couple of times because I was so doggone tired I couldn't stand up. I

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In History of NW Interscholastic Track & Field

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had driven all the way there in a Model T. I couldn't get to a restaurant to eat for lunch so I went without." No matter, Tuck won eight events that day and placed second in the other two.

All of these 1919 achievements brought Art Tuck to the attention of college track coaches across the Northwest. The Redmond Spokesman on May 22 reported on Tuck's performance at the Madras meet and also commented on his probable future in track and field. "William Hayward, athletic coach at the U of O was here to attend the track meet at Madras Saturday and to observe the work of our famous athlete, Arthur Tuck. It is understood that Arthur will be a student at Eugene next year and will be under Mr. Hayward's supervision."

According to Tuck, "Several colleges heard about the state meet so there were scouts there (Madras) from Washington State, OAC, the University of Washington and also Hayward. They made me all kinds of offers, which I found later were bogus."

Eleven days later, the Northwest recruitment battle over Tuck was in full scale. A Seattle newspaper printed big headlines about what was to become a tug of war between OAC (later to become Oregon State College and then Oregon State University) and the University of Oregon:

BIG SCHOOLS TANGLE IN RIVALRY FOR TUCK

Oregon Aggies Accuse Oregon
With Improper Methods

Charge Stirs Conference

Corvallis School Alleges
Redmond Boy offered \$1,200 Job
to go to Eugene Institution

Newspaper stories trailed Tuck's trips to both Eugene and Corvallis... he was hosted by fraternity men at both campuses...but in the end, he chose Oregon. Not only did Tuck apparently never work for the Eugene car dealer, he stated in one newspaper interview late in life that Hayward never came through with the promised scholarship once he suffered an injury to both knees.

Ironically the injuries that ended Tuck's decathlon career and diminished his

college javelin career before it began, were caused...according to Tuck...by his coach, Bill Hayward.

In two separate newspaper interviews and in his private recollections recorded in the 1970s, the still bitter Tuck tells basically the same story about his relationship with Coach Hayward.

"The Pacific Coast AAU meet was coming up in Tacoma a couple of weeks after the Madras meet. Hayward wanted to enter me in it so I went to Portland and trained with him at the Multnomah Athletic Club. A few days before the meet, Hayward took a couple of athletic trainers and me out for a drive in his new car. He liked to show off his 7-passenger touring car that had a jump seat. He thought he was quite a ladies man and he said he knew some Portland girls from the M.A.C. who were swimming at a Meier and Frank picnic up near Estacada.

"So we went up there and at the end of that day, he picked up four of them to give them a ride back to Portland with us. Coming out of Estacada, he drove like a crazy man.

"I was riding in the jump seat because all of the other seats were full. He went into the headwall of a culvert and wrecked the car and it threw me across the back of the front seat and busted up my knees. One of the girls had a broken back and they had to send an ambulance out for her."

According to Tuck, Hayward told him, 'Now, let's not tell anybody that your knees are hurt.' I didn't know that old cuss was trying to keep me from suing him at the time. But, I found out afterwards that was

what it was. He said, 'Let's not let anybody know because if the other schools find this out, they'll have an advantage over us.' So, stupid like I was, I went for it. Hayward left me a scholarship at the University of Oregon, which at the time was fair...not as good as they get now but it was pretty good then. I thought he was sincere about it and I thought he had the authority to make it. Found out afterwards that he didn't. He had no authority at all to make that and they never came through with it."

Even so, after the accident (according to Tuck), Hayward insisted that Tuck participate in a Amateur Athletic Union meet in Tacoma in June. Tuck said that as a condition of his UO scholarship (which, according to Tuck, was never granted to him by Hayward) Tuck had to represent the Multnomah Athletic Club of Portland in the "Pacific Coast Open" meet. Despite his bad knees, he won the javelin with a throw of 181 feet, 15 feet ahead of the second place thrower, was third in the 220-yard dash, and third in the discus. The Oregon Journal newspaper said, "Arthur Tuck of Redmond, Oregon, high school wonder around whom Coach Bill Hayward of the University of Oregon expects to develop a world beater within the next two or three years, made a throw of 181 feet with the javelin, second place being taken with 164 feet and not only throwing the javelin but also running the 220."

"They called him a trainer," Tuck said of Hayward, "but as far as I am concerned, he was for the birds."

Then on September 18, 1919, Tuck, just

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Tuck leads the field in the 100-meter final, setting a new state record.

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- 1913**, Laurene Boardman, Ruby Moore Ost
1917, Neil Farnham
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1920, Jack Grant Brinson (President 1986), Vadabelle Dodson Brumblay, Arline Hufstader Mathney, Leona McFadden Osmundson, Connie E. Tyson
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1922, Hope L. Clark, Mahlon Couch, Gerogia Edgington Gallagher, (Queen 2008), J. Pat Metke, Ursula (Polly) Metke
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1937, Bruno B. Baer, Charlene Chopp Blahnik, James A. Burleigh, Vivian E. Harrison Campbell, Robert O. Dunlap, Jim Fowler, Gerald Grissom, Merrillyn M. Rose Mastrud, Paul Reynolds, Donna Gumpert Rustand, William E. Snider, James E. Staples (President 2009), Anne McKay Welch, Elwin D. 'Jake' Woerner
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1942, Gary Cecil. Greta Skjersaa Cecil, Michael M. Daly, Ben Graffenberger, Russell Kiel (President 1995), Richard D. Nelson, Robert Osborn, Joyce Williams Peters, Gail Hamby Phillips, Kathryn 'Kitty' Rutherford
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1950, Shirley Boyd, William J. Brennan, Muriel Finley, Dennis L. Gallagher, Aloha M. Hammond Harris, Robert A. Jensen, Carol Pedersen Jensen, Gordon Lehto, Ceil McNamee, Kenneth H. Miltenberger, Ronald A. Moffitt, Evelyn Ritter Pence, Stephen J. Pence, William Robeck
1951, David R. Burleigh, Randy Cantrell, Marcia Clark-McKitrick, Kenneth B. Holden, David J. Kremers, Gloria Loraine Kunerth, Linda Fread Marteny, Sheila Myers, Michael D. Reif, Emma M. Humbert Roseberry, Barbara J. Lindsey Watters, Susie Fagan Wirges
1952, Anthony Arbow, Linda S. Bach, Marilyn Moffitt Constable, Greg Fulton, John C. Diehl, Steven Landers, Daryl McMeen, Robert Orr, Sharon Boesch Phillips, Leeann Smith Scott, Ralph P. Thomas, Marilyn Marker Yates
1953, Mark Carlton, Joyce D. Rohrback Dunlap, Craig A. Gribskov, Michael Jensen, Jennifer L. Valley Kremers, Polly Gribskov Lisle, Marilyn Miltenberger McFarlane, Hugh C. Quinn, Clifford Rose, Betty L. Young
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| 1952 | Anna Thompson | 1985 | Helen Tweet Evans |
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| 1954 | Luella Griffin | 1987 | Edna Ogle Skjersaa |
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| 1963 | Rose Gibson | 1996 | LaVerne Gove Hanshew |
| 1964 | Florence Pitman Stout | 1997 | Lena Freeman Myers |
| 1965 | Viola Logan | 1998 | Donna Werner Clark |
| 1966 | Carrie Stevens | 1999 | Catherine Hellmann |
| 1967 | Georgia Thom | 2000 | Maude Compton Monical |
| 1968 | Minnie Helfrich | 2001 | Leatha Harrington Huettl |
| 1969 | Gracie Evans Grimes | 2002 | Doris D. Sholes |
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| 1972 | Dorothy Vandevent | 2005 | Alice Bishop |
| 1973 | Eva Slack | 2006 | Eva Dodson Gassner |
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| 1976 | Vi Mayne Franks | 2009 | Shirley Gribskov Ray |
| 1977 | Martha Conklin | 2010 | Phoebe Hafstad DeGree |
| 1978 | Martha Long | 2011 | Phyllis Coe Long |
| 1979 | Elnora Dodson | 2012 | Barbara Skinner Buxton |
| 1980 | Sophia Gibson | | |

Takla

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2006, Joe Stidham

2010, Georgiale Baker Huettl

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Billie M. Majnarich

Cheryl D. Nelson

Ron Peters

Glen Seidler

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2010 November—William Fretwell

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March – Clarence V. Bells, Jr., Michael James Ward

April – Calvin 'Bud' Gerrish Boyd, Mary Ellyn Putnam Davis

May – Mary Jo Hunt, Beatrice J. Dewhurst Moen, Helen Emily Couch Ivie

June – Ronald Edward Hall, Samuel Dale Moyer

July - Dorothy Cundell Crocker, Max F. Mills

August – Lewis R. Constable

September – Leland Conley Landers, Pamela Overman Moffitt

November – Panzy Carter Hawes

December – Lena Myers (Queen 1997), Betty J. Taylor, Paul Stanley Schultz, Ivan Cady

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*Dues may be paid
at the Winter Dinner
or mailed to:*

*Barbara Buxton
2861 N.W. Polarstar Avenue,
Bend, OR 97701*

Coast Conference Championships, UO Records,

(Continued from page 3)



Tuck poses for a photo at the U of O with Coach Bill Hayward and sprinter Hank Foster (Photo courtesy of UO).

18, journeyed all the way across the United States and set a new national junior record of 178 feet in the javelin throw in the National Amateur Athletic Union's track and field meet in Philadelphia, again representing the Multnomah Athletic Club of Portland. He was the only athlete to set a new national record that weekend and the old javelin record had been set back in 1909.

An examination of the program for the Philadelphia meet shows that one of the boys Tuck beat in the javelin was an African-American lad who also competed that day in the shot put and discus. The boy later enrolled at Rutgers where he was a first team selection for Walter Camp's All-American football team as an end in both his junior and senior years and the class valedictorian. While at Rutgers, he earned 12 varsity letters in three sports. He later played in the National Football League while attending the Columbia University law school. Ultimately, he became an internationally-acclaimed civil rights activist and Broadway/film actor and singer. His name was Paul Robeson.

In April of 1920, Tuck set a new University of Oregon record in the javelin with a throw of 198 feet, won the 220 dash, put the shot (college weight) 42 feet and the discus 148 feet in a dual meet with the University of Washington. By now, he was 6-2 and an even 200 pounds although there were published reports that he was 6-3 and 230. In May, he won the Pacific Coast Conference javelin championship and established a new conference meet record. He was also fourth in the shot put, fourth in

the high hurdles, and second in the discus... all, according to Tuck, on bum knees.

Still only 18 years old, Tuck traveled to Pasadena, California in June for the 1920 U.S. Olympic trials and placed second in the javelin, earning him a trip to the finals in Boston. He was only fourth at Boston but he was still named to the U.S. team because in those years, each nation competing could send four athletes to compete in each event.

The 1920 Olympic Games were held in Antwerp, Belgium to honor that city's war dead from World War I. The 1920 games were originally scheduled for Budapest, Hungary but Hungary, Germany, Bulgaria, Austria, and Turkey were not sent invitations because of their roles in World War I.

According to an interview Tuck gave to Bob Welch, a reporter for the Bend Bulletin in the 1970s, Tuck's bad leg failed him in the Olympic finals. "The night before the competition, my coach came in and told me that I was the only one who had chance to break up the Finns' dominance of the javelin (the Finnish javelin throwers were renown throughout the world and placed 1-2-3-4 at the 1920 Games). I'd been losing about 30 feet a throw because my knees were so bad and I couldn't stop quickly so I had to throw from way behind the line and just slow down (instead of running at full speed, then planting his forward foot just behind the foul line) before throwing.

"My coach told me to take a gamble and try running hard toward the line, hoping that I could stop. I tried it on my first throw but my knee popped out and I wound up spending four days in the hospital in

Antwerp." In the end, he placed 11th overall (third among the four Americans).

Tuck's bad luck with leg injuries got worse during his second year at Oregon. "I got blood poison in the winter, running on an indoor track. I got gangrene in my leg and they were going to cut it off! I woke up just in time in the University infirmary to hear what they said. I said 'Wait a minute. If that leg goes, I'll go with it.' So, I got some friends to call a taxi for me and they took me out of the infirmary and down to a doctor in downtown Eugene. He fixed it up as best he could and so I got on the train and came home (to Redmond). Dr. Hosch was the doctor here then. I never heard or seen him so mad in my life. He called that doctor down there everything he could think of. I had drain tubes put in my leg and ankle and I was down for 13 weeks."

His career at Oregon ended a year later when he placed second in the javelin in Chicago at the very first NCAA track and field championships ever held. He transferred to Gonzaga for his senior year but his legs had never healed and so he returned to his hometown of Redmond.

In an oral history that he had recorded in the 1970s, Tuck said that he was born in Arkansas in 1901 and surprisingly weighed only 2 ½ pounds. "They said that when I was born, they could put a tea cup over my head, I was so small." His later growth might be traced to the fact that his grandfather stood 6-6 and weighed 333 pounds.

His father, John, was a small rancher and school teacher when the family settled in Redmond...moving from Salem. In 1907, John, taught in the first public school in Redmond and later became a school administrator in Redmond. A grade school...John Tuck School...was named in his honor in the 1940s.

When young Arthur returned to Redmond in 1921, and went into the construction business with his brother, building highways, bridges, and market roads in Central Oregon. Later, he became an Oregon state game warden.

Tuck later moved from the state game warden job to become an Oregon State trooper, based in Redmond. Tuck was involved in a number of chases and arrests but the one that seemed to get the most local

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Trip to 1920 Olympics Highlight Tuck's Career

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attention was the robbery of the Dairymen's Bank of Redmond and the taking of three Redmond residents as hostages in May of 1935. The headlines in the Bend Bulletin read:

REDMOND BANK IS ROBBED, TWO MEN CAPTURED

Sergeant Tuck Catches
Fleeing Pair

According to a *Bend Bulletin* story 42 years later, the Redmond bank robbery began at noon when two men, waving revolvers, came into the bank and ordered the customers to lie down on the floor while they scooped up money from the cashier's till and then escaped through the back door with their three hostages... Ruth Roberts Chinook, 22; the bank vice president, George C. Rice, and his daughter, Henrietta.

The robbers and hostages then got into a Ford sedan that had been stolen from a Bend car lot and drove west from Redmond towards Sisters. About five miles from Redmond, the robbers allowed the hostages to get out of the escape car. The robbers then continued on to Cline Falls Road, where they then turned south.

"They had a good plan," said Tuck after apprehending the robbers, but two things

went wrong for them. "First, they hadn't counted on a light drizzle that day. When they turned off onto the Cline Falls Road to switch cars, their tracks were easy to follow in the dusty road."

Tuck and his partner, Joe Miller, tracked the robbers south to Tumalo and then east on Nichols Market Road to the Deschutes Junction on Highway 97.

According to the Bulletin, Sgt. Tuck followed the tire treads to the ranch and found the getaway car in the garage, its radiator still hot.

"I told Joe to stay on the running board of my car and to go for help if anything happened to me," Tuck said.

"I went into the house and they were upstairs, counting the money," Tuck told the *Bulletin*. "I called up to them and said, 'You'd better get down here before I start blowing this floor up in your face!'" Tuck was equipped with a 351 Winchester automatic rifle and so the robbers came down stairs with their hands up.

The two men gave their names as Frank Watson, 38, and Earl Davis, 33. But they turned out to be the Tennyson brothers of Waco, Texas, according to Tuck, and the Redmond bank robbery wasn't the first they had pulled off. Halbrook, the Redmond

rancher and the alleged mastermind behind the robbery, was later arrested when he returned to his home.

Tuck, who lived in Redmond almost his entire life, died there in 1979 at the age of 77. His grandchildren, Lisa Nelson, and John Susac also live in Redmond and recently allowed the Deschutes Historical Museum to copy and catalogue their grandfather's scrapbooks, photos, and other memorabilia.

One of the saddest ironies of the Art Tuck story is that Bend's Ashton Eaton, the current world record holder in track and field's most demanding competition... the 10-event decathlon... grew up just 16 miles from Art Tuck's life-long home. Any objective examination of Tuck's times and distances in the same 10 events as a Redmond teenager (in most cases competing against college age and older athletes) gives almost automatic rise to the thought that had Tuck not suffered his tragic knee injuries in the summer of 1919, he might also have been a medal winner in an Olympic decathlon.

Queen Barbara Buxton Attended Bend High School

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skiing at Hoodoo Bowl on the Santiam Pass. The Lodge was just off the highway and we could stay there for 50 cents a night. The only access to the ski area was a mile or so south of the highway so we skied in an out.

When I attended Bend High School, I was active in Torch Honor, Lettergirls, Acapella Choir, and the Tumbling Team (it's now called "gymnastics"). In the summer, I worked at the Tower Theatre in downtown Bend as an usherette and cashier. There were the years of serpentine pep parades and car rallies down Wall and Bond streets. In those days, Wall and Bond Streets were two-way streets and Wall Street was U.S. 97. There were three theatres in town then... The Tower, the Liberty, and the Capitol, plus a roller rink on Bond Street.

After I graduated from Bend High School, I signed up with the American Red Cross to be trained as a swimming

instructor and they sent me to a school in Benbow Lakes, Washington for two weeks. In return, I taught their swimming classes that summer... which were held in Redmond because Bend had no pool at that time. That fall, I enrolled at the University of Oregon where I met and married my first husband. My first job after that was for Pacific Telephone and Telegraph in Eugene. I then worked with West Coast Telephone in Reedsport and Pacific Telephone and Telegraph in Bend... in both traffic and the business office. After a move to California, I worked as a Sales Accounting Supervisor for a snack food company. When I moved back to Bend in 1974, I worked for an accounting firm as office administrator.

I'm a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Telephone Pioneers Association, the Ladies of the Elks (president in 1989-1991) and was Lady Elk of the Year in 1996-97. I am also a

life member of the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers, I served on the Campfire Girls and Board of directors for 13 years, and I currently serve on the Deschutes Historical Society Board of Directors, on the board of the Deschutes Pioneers' Association and have been its membership chair for the past 18 years. I've also enjoyed being in the SMART Readers program for the past three years.

My first marriage produced four children, John, Kerry, Linda, and Kathie. I have nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. In 1988, I met the love of my life, Ken Buxton. We were married in 1992 and lived very happily until he passed away in 2005.

The most dramatic changes in Bend since my younger years are growth, the loss of the "small town" feeling of belonging, and the growing crime element.

Bend Native Reigned as 2012 Queen



Queen Barbara Buxton was honored at the annual Bend Christmas parade, riding in an auto driven by longtime Bend resident, Harry Fagen.

By Barbara Buxton

I was born in Bend on November 15, 1929, in the little old 24-bed “hospital on the hill” on Franklin Boulevard to Dr. Grant and Margaret Skinner. I joined five-year-old sister, Patricia.

My dad was born in South Dakota as one of 13 children and migrated with his family at the age of 4 to Hermiston where his father was one of the founders of the town. An older sister became a school teacher in a one-room schoolhouse and one year there were 12 students in the school, 10 which were her brothers and sisters. Dad came to Bend straight out of Pacific Dental College (now the dental school is at the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland) in 1919. He and one other dentist were the only ones in Bend and both had offices on the second floor of the O’Kane Building. In September, 1921, Dad was the first of a group of 14 to climb to the summit of Mt. Jefferson. He and my mother married in 1923. Mother was born in Silverton, Oregon, the daughter of George Robert Gilmour, who had migrated west by covered wagon in 1851. My mother passed away in 1931 when I was 13 months old and my father raised my sister and me alone.

We lived on Newport Avenue and so I

went to Kenwood Elementary School before going to Bend High School.

During the Depression years, my friends and I spent most of our summer days at the Kirtsis Swimming Pool, located just downstream from Pioneer Park. There’s a plaque there now with a photo of the pool and a large crowd of kids and adults swimming. At the time, it was thought to be the largest swimming pool in Oregon. At 10 cents a day for admission, my dad thought it was cheap babysitting.

We didn’t have a lot of money in the family during the Depression but we always had food on the table. Many of Dad’s patients were farmers and would pay their dental bills with meat and produce. We also had live-in housekeepers who basically worked for room and board and maybe a small wage. This stopped when my sister and I became old enough to clean and cook.

When World War II broke out, it seemed all boys of service age joined a service....some were 17 and lied about their age. Then, the rationing started on almost everything but we all got by. I remember these years as being so patriotic, the whole country pulling together.

Camp Abbot was built where Sunriver is now and a USO was opened in the Sather Building on Wall Street. It’s now occupied by Joolz Restaurant and Bend d’Vine. The USO wasn’t using the second floor so they arranged for it to be used by the teens who were not allowed in the USO. This was our first Teen Center. When the USO closed, we moved (with the help from a teacher) to the basement of the U.S. Bank Building at the corner of Bond Street and Oregon Avenue. This was called the “Bear’s Den.” With the help of many parents, we fixed that basement up really nice. We had great times there, hanging out and having fun. And of course, across the street was Kessler’s Ice Cream Parlor, another place to meet friends. After some time, the bank building’s owner moved us out and the space became the first Copper Room bar and dining room.

Also, during the war, the Kirtsis Pool closed so we did our swimming at the park by the Newport Bridge and in the river at the swimming hole north of town. In the winters, we ice skated by the Newport Bridge when the river froze over and on the ponds that were beyond the city limits. After the war, weekends were often spent

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