

*Joseph W. Walt, *The Era of Levere*, p. 304.

flat-chested, hipless flapper. She was the girl with the bobbed hair, two strings of beads, bangled wrists, and ever-shorter skirt. His manners were atrocious, apparently calculated to shock his elders, and his semiliterate speech, punctuated by such inanities as “Oh, you kid!” and “23 Skiddoo,” could turn the air blue with profanity. He was a young hedonist whose life was one great round of fun. He never studied. . . . He was in full glory at the homecoming football game, all furry in his raccoon coat, one hand waving his college pennant, the other reaching for his hip flask.*

ANDY SMITH AND FOOTBALL

Following World War I, the era of Andy Smith (1883–1926) and the “golden years” of California football and of the Cal Beta chapter began. John Stroud '13, an alumnus of the chapter, was the Athletic Director of the ASUC. It was he who brought Andy Smith to California as the head coach in 1916. Andy Smith was a ΣAE from Pennsylvania and during his years as football coach at Berkeley he was a very active supporter of the chapter and took part in many of its activities. Upon his death, he left part of his estate to the chapter, which allowed it to build the new chapter house at 2722 Bancroft Way.

According to sources, Andy Smith could be gregarious, on occasion the life of the party. He was an accomplished story teller, a humorist in the western manner he so readily affected. Yet, according to those who knew him best, he could be withdrawn and surprisingly vulnerable to criticism and subject to occasional bouts of depression. He was, wrote Ed Hughes of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, “a man of peculiar temperament and he was really known to but a few. He had the frame of a giant, the fighting heart of a lion yet he was as sentimental as a woman. I have seen him cry for joy when his boys were winning.”

Being the winningest coach in football with his “Wonder Teams,” Smith became a hot coaching commodity and was recruited by universities in the East at a greater salary. But Andy Smith liked it in Berkeley. His turbulent soul found peace in the rolling landscape of the campus, its olive groves and eucalyptus. He enjoyed strolling the banks of Strawberry Canyon. He made good friends among the faculty, for he thought of himself first and foremost as a teacher. He was proud that his best players were outstanding students. He took pride also in knowing that his team, more than any other, had raised West Coast football out of obscurity. He supposed it was true, as he was told so often, that he was married to his team and the university. If so, he sometimes joked, he hoped it was a marriage that would last until death did them part. And that is exactly what happened. His death came when he was still the Cal coach.

Smith was the winningest football coach in Cal history, amassing a record of 74 wins, 16 losses, and 7 ties. His overall career college coaching record was



Andrew L. Smith, fullback
at the University of
Pennsylvania in 1903.

116 wins, 32 losses, and 13 ties. His “Wonder Teams” won five Pacific Coast titles and three national championships. In 1951 he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. His record of team wins at Cal was finally surpassed in 2011 by Coach Jeff Tedford, who, however, had had a longer tenure as Cal coach.

Smith’s philosophy of clean living and good sportsmanship carried him through some of the great early college football programs. During an incredible five-season span from 1920 to 1924, the Golden Bears went undefeated, running up a record of 44-0-2. Although during this period there were no college football polls, during the Roaring Twenties, Smith’s “Wonder Teams” were considered to rival Knute Rockne and Notre Dame in terms of success, though these two top teams never met on the field.

The 1920 Cal team might have been one of the best college football teams ever. They went unbeaten and untied for the season with 9 victories, outscored their opponents by 510 points to 14, and capped off the season by defeating Ohio State in the Tournament of Roses East-West Game (now known as the Rose Bowl) 28-0. In a retroactive research poll, the Helms Athletic Foundation determined this team to be national champions that year, a conclusion recognized by the NCAA. Cal finished undefeated the following year and was again invited to play in the Rose Bowl, which ended in the only scoreless tie in the history of the game. The Bears turned down invitations from the Tournament of Roses in 1922 and 1923, unhappy that their 1921 opponents, the Washington and Jefferson Presidents, were much older than most college players and not subject to the same eligibility requirements. Cal scheduled its own bowl game on January 1, 1925, defeating Pennsylvania at California Memorial Stadium.

In 1925 the captain of the football team was ΣAE brother Talma “Tut” Imlay. As *The Record* reported in 1925,

“Yes, the football captain for next year is an S. A. E.” Have you ever noticed how the maker of this little speech, and there have been many of them, swells up with pride and justified egotism as he delivers it to brothers and others? I don’t believe that there is any campus honor which brings as much pleasure to both alumni and actives as a football captain in his chapter.*

Though Smith’s death in 1926 sent the University, the Bay Area, and the world of college football into mourning, he is now a misty figure from an increasingly distant past. For many years it was the tradition at the bonfire rally held in the Greek Theatre the night before the Big Game to have the reading of the “Andy Smith Eulogy,” a tradition that has unfortunately lapsed.

J. Russell Knowland, Jr., authored a lengthy article about Smith in *The Record*, which appears on pages 46-52.

*Louis F. Garrard, Jr.,
The Record, 1925.



*Talma W. Imlay,
captain of the U.C.
football team in
1925, on right, with
Gordon S. Cranmer.*



*California Beta was proud of Talma W. Imlay,
second from left in front row and above right.*



1200 Eastmont Ave. Apt. # 39
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February 15, 1982

Mr. Paul G. Manolis
235 Monterey St.
Suite 1020
San Francisco, Ca. 94104

Dear Mr. Manolis,

I am very happy to receive your letter and to know that some one is taking care of the interests of Cal Beta Chapter of SAE. It has been fifty four years since I have visited the house. I've been up here since 1927 and although I have been to California many times, it has been mostly in the Los Angeles or the desert areas.

Your question # 1 -- When Andy Smith died about 1922 or 1923 he left a will with \$ 10,000 or so donated to the SAE house. A chapter alumni by the name of West was Cal Beta SAE house corporation member. He did most of the work, and I am sure that with some help, he attended to the construction of the new house. (He should be remembered in the 100th anniversary) A few years prior to 1921 the Chapter had purchased 2722 Bancroft. I do not know just when, but the County records would show it. When we decided to build we rented a house a block away, across from the KKG house, or in back of us. The following year we moved back to 2722 Bancroft. I will enclose a picture of the old house with its members which shows 2722. Some of the other pictures were taken in front of the rented house.

Question # 2 -- As a delegate to the SAE convention in Atlanta, Georgia in 1924, I had arranged with one of the boys from the Reno, Nevada chapter to make the trip with me. We roomed together in Atlanta. It was an outstanding convention. William C. Levere was there and very active in promotion for SAE. He was an outstanding individual with a great love for the betterment of SAE. Many of us were selected by a drawing to play golf with Bobbie Jones. Each man was allowed one stroke. There were two Governors at the convention and both gave the delegates half dollars representing their State anniversary. I think it was Georgia and Louisiana. (I am not really sure) The Coca Cola company of Atlanta seemed to be interested in the convention as one of their top officials was an SAE and the company contributed to the convention. Outside of attending the meetings and voting for the new chapters, all I can say is that it was a wonderful convention and I was very impressed with SAE.

For three years I was the chapter House Manager--from the fall of '23 to the spring of '26. We had a very active chapter during those years, with an active membership of 40 to 50. Two of the members, Telma "Tut" Imlay was captain of the football team, and Gordon Cranmer was captain of the crew. Irving Phillips was active in football and later on I think he was captain of the team. George Richardson was cox ^{on} the crew, and Rucker was on the '28 basketball team. Mize (Fritz) was on the football team. Mr. Knowlands (I think the father of Joe. Knowlands) was very active in the house. Jim Spaulding and Gordon Cranmer's brother had been on the football varsity team when we won all the games.

"Tut" Imlay was an outstanding individual and a good leader of men. He was elected as a delegate to the convention in Atlanta, but the football team had lined up a game over the Christmas holidays so he chose me to go.

I have memories of the house which are all good, and a fondness for all the Brothers that shared the chapter with me. I only regret that I was not in a position to contribute more.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. McKoin'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'E' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Thomas E. McKoin



Andy Smith, whose fame as a great football coach was nation-wide. Brother Smith was initiated into Sigma Alpha Epsilon at Pennsylvania State College by Pennsylvania Alpha-Zeta. He later affiliated with Pennsylvania Theta at the University of Pennsylvania, and during his great career at the University of California was always the big brother to California Beta, to which chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon he bequeathed \$10,000 in his will.

The Passing of Andy Smith

by J. Russell Knowland, Jr.

California Beta ['24]



Head of academic procession wending its way to Memorial Stadium where services were held for Brother Smith. Directly behind flag and escort of honor are (left to right): Rev. O. W. S. McCall, President W. W. Campbell (silk hat) and Judge Milton Farmer, executor of Brother Smith's will. Behind them are members of the 1925 football varsity.

Berkeley, Jan. 15—Over the California Memorial Stadium, within sight of the new Berkeley chapter house of the fraternity he loved so well, the ashes of Brother Andrew Latham (Andy) Smith, for the past nine years head football coach at the University of California, were scattered to the four winds today.

As the speeding army airplane piloted by Lieutenant J. R. Glasscock, an old friend of Brother Smith's, flew past the stadium and disappeared into the mist hovering over San Francisco bay, thousands of persons, including fraternity brothers of the late coach from throughout the country, bowed their heads in silence.

Brother Andy Smith had gone to his final resting place.

Brother Smith died at the University of Pennsylvania hospital, Philadelphia, early on the morning of Friday, January 8. His death followed a battle of several weeks against pneumonia contracted toward the close of the 1925 football season.

At the north gate of California stadium, under the memorial arch dedicated to sons of the university who died in the World War, officers, students and alumni gathered to honor an adopted son who gave his all to bring glory and fame to western football.



President W. W. Campbell of the University of California, delivering official tribute at memorial services in front of Memorial Stadium. Seated directly behind him on stage, from top of picture to bottom, are: Brother Talma Imlay, Rev. O. W. S. McCall, Dean Frank Probert and Brother John A. Stroud. Standing directly in front of President Campbell are members of the 1925 football varsity, while behind them are faculty and members of former teams.

The stadium itself, the scene of some of Brother Smith's greatest gridiron triumphs, was empty of all spectators. The descent of his ashes onto the green turf of the playing field was witnessed by one person only, Lieut. Glasscock.

As the memorial services were being held, Richard Smith, brother of the famous coach, was speeding eastward to his home in Dubois, Pa. Overcome by grief, Smith collapsed Thursday just before funeral services were held for his brother by the Berkeley Elks. On the advice of a physician he gave up plans to attend the rites and returned east.

He was to have walked in the academic procession today with Brother John A. Stroud, former graduate manager of the University of California and the man who was responsible for bringing Brother Andy Smith to Berkeley in 1916.

Led by President William W. Campbell, regents and faculty of the university, members of football teams trained by Brother Smith, members and alumni of Berkeley chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and of the Skull and Key honor society, marched in solemn procession from the base of the Campanile through the memorial gardens to the stadium. Representatives of other colleges in the state, captains of bay city football teams, men of the Olympic club, of which Brother Smith was a member, and others, joined in the procession.

Floral tributes were banked about the stadium entrance and a large blue flag bearing a golden "C" hung from the archway in the background.

Frank H. Probert, dean of the college of mining, and a member of the memorial service committee which was headed by Brother Talma "Tut" Imlay, captain of the 1925 California



Rev. Dr. McCall, President Campbell and Judge Farmer.

football varsity and a member of California Beta chapter, S.A.E., presided. In opening the program Dean Probert lauded the clean, manly life of Brother Smith and praised the high ideals which he inspired in the youth of the university.

A prayer by Rev. Oswald W. S. McCall, pastor of the First Berkeley Congregational church, followed.

From President Campbell came the official tribute of the university. "Hail to California" was sung by members of the California glee club.

Dr. Campbell said in part:

"Andrew Latham Smith was a manly man. He spoke with quiet force. He was unpretending. Clearly, he knew his subject and he could teach it with authority. He realized the proper place of football in the university and cooperated with the administration of the university at all times. On several occasions I have heard him say to members of the football squad that their classroom obligations came first.

"Andrew Smith stood the test of victory and defeat. In five years of undefeated teams he did not puff himself up with pride; he did not boast; he was considerate of his defeated opponents. But his exemplary conduct last October and November did more to establish himself in the affections of the general public, I am told, than did all his victories combined.

"Life is not one long series of successes. Many of the students here today are going to meet competition in the affairs of the world. They will suffer some defeats. Fortunate is the man who learns in his more impressionable years how to take defeat, how to respect the man on the other side who surpassed him under conditions of fair competition. Long live the spirit of fair play, of intensive endeavor, as here so skillfully taught and so persistently exemplified by Andrew Latham Smith."

His voice breaking with emotion, Brother "Tut" Imlay spoke on behalf of the Associated Students.

"It is a loss we can never fill," he said.

"He wanted men, not merely football players," Brother Imlay continued. "We do not only mourn our football coach today, but all who knew him are mourning for a good friend. How good a friend he was we did not realize until now."

Following Brother Imlay's talk the university hymn, "O God Our Help in Ages Past," was sung.

Brother Stroud, speaking as representative of the alumni association, told of Brother Smith's coming to Berkeley, his achievements and the empty place he will leave in campus life.



Brother John A. Stroud, representing alumni association, telling of the part Brother Smith held in campus life.

"This was home for Andy Smith," said Brother Stroud. "His last thought was of this university and despite the fact that he was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, Andy Smith loved this university above all."

As the hum of the airplane which dropped Brother Smith's ashes in the stadium gradually faded into the distance, Dr. McCall pronounced the benediction.

* * *

Funeral services for Brother Smith were held Thursday afternoon, January 14, under auspices of the Berkeley lodge of Elks. The service was the simple, impressive ritual of the Elks, presided over by the exalted ruler of Berkeley lodge, Luther A. Dunlap.

Rev. Herbert R. Powell, state chaplain of the Elks, opened the rites with prayer. Twelve members of the University of California glee club stepped forward to sing the songs which Brother Smith heard countless times, "Hail to California" and "All Hail Blue and Gold," the refrain which ends every California classic.

Judge Milton Farmer, regent of the Univer-

sity of California and executor of the coach's last will and testament, pronounced the eulogy, at the same time giving an outline of Brother Smith's history.

Members of Berkeley chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon acted as ushers, assisted by members of the Skull and Key honor society.

At the conclusion of the services the casket bearing the dead coach was borne from the club by six of the men who had captained teams under Smith. These were preceded by six honorary pall bearers chosen from among Brother Smith's close friends in the Elks' lodge.

Active pall bearers were Brother Imlay, Edwin Horrell, Donald Nichols, Charles Erb, George Latham and Cort Majors. Honorary pall bearers were C. R. Morse, C. M. Price, A. B. Leslie, George Oulton, Louis E. Scheussler and Porter L. Howe.

To allow the public to pay tribute, the Elks' club doors were opened from 9 to 12 o'clock the morning of the funeral. Hundreds of friends of the former coach passed before the open casket.

Expressions of esteem for Brother Smith, in



Dean Frank Probert, presiding officer at university memorial services, praising Brother Smith's work. Standing left to right behind him are Brother John A. Stroud, President William W. Campbell, Rev. O. W. S. McCall and Brother Talma Imlay (with hand in pocket).

the form of floral pieces, filled the lodge rooms and covered the mahogany casket in which the body was sent from Philadelphia. Accompanying Brother Smith's body were twelve boxes of flowers sent from the services held in Philadelphia and in these the red and blue of the University of Pennsylvania, Brother Smith's alma mater, mingled with the blue and gold of California.

A pall of purple heather and red roses which covered the casket was the gift of Brother Smith's "boys" of football teams from 1920 to 1925. "In loving memory of our leader, Andy Smith, from his devoted players" was the last message of these men.

The night preceding the Elks' funeral services, members of the Skull and Key held a silent ritual at the organization's "tomb" in Berkeley. The silent ritual was followed by a memorial address by Brother Stroud in which he stressed the high ideals Brother Smith held throughout his life.

"Those of us who knew him," Brother Stroud said, "will remember Smith more because he was a friend and leader than because of his success as a coach."

* * *

Brother Smith's death was tragic.

Following the annual "Big Game" between California and Stanford, Brother Smith, on November 23, left Berkeley to attend the annual game between Pennsylvania and Cornell at Philadelphia. Accompanying him was Glenn "Pop" Warner, head football coach at Stanford. After the Cornell game Brother Smith attended the Army-Navy classic at New York, then returning to Philadelphia to enjoy a visit with friends at the University of Pennsylvania.

While east, Brother Smith accepted a renewal of his contract as head coach for the California varsity team for a term of five years. The acceptance brought much rejoicing on the campus where, despite reverses of the past season, California students felt confident that "Andy" would stage a comeback next year.

On December 20, Brother Smith was stricken with pneumonia at his hotel in Philadelphia. For several weeks he fought in his characteristic way against the ravages of the disease. He rallied slightly after being removed to the University of Pennsylvania hospital and his recovery was taken as a matter of course by those who knew him as a gridiron star and the tireless leader of the Golden Bears.

On January 7, however, he suffered a relapse and died the following morning at six o'clock. With him at the hour of his death were Dr. Robert G. Torrey and Bill Hollenback, close friends.

By a codicil to his will, sent to Judge Farmer in San Francisco shortly before his death, Brother Smith disposed of his property as follows: \$10,000 for establishment of two football scholarships for upper classmen at the University of California; \$2,000 to the Berkeley lodge of Elks, the remainder of his estate, \$18,000, to be divided equally between California Beta of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and the Skull and Key society.

Smith also requested that in event of his death his body be shipped to the Berkeley Elks for funeral services and that his ashes be scattered over the California stadium where he led his teams in victory and defeat.

* * *

Brother Smith was 43 years old and a native of Dubois, Pa. He first attended Pennsylvania State College where he played fullback on the varsity team in 1901. It was while here he was initiated into S.A.E. by Penn. Alpha-Zeta. He then transferred to Pennsylvania where he starred in 1903 and 1904, being named on Walter Camp's mythical All American team both years.

Brother Smith studied chemistry in college but soon abandoned the idea of becoming a chemist and entered the real estate business.

Brother Smith was called from his real estate business in 1905 to coach the Pennsylvania freshman team and carried on this work also in 1906. Then he was made varsity backfield coach

until 1909, when he was appointed Pennsylvania's head coach.

He continued in that position until 1913, when he went to Purdue University in similar capacity. After coaching at Purdue for three years he accepted an offer to become head coach at California, taking up his duties in 1916, the year after rugby was abandoned by the Berkeley college.

Upon arriving in Berkeley Brother Smith found a difficult task confronting him. It was necessary to build from the ground up and re-educate many rugby players. It was said of him during the next few seasons that "he wore out a path of turf walking over to extend congratulations to rival coaches after contests."

The qualities which have marked the last five years of his efforts as coach of the Golden Bears began to be manifest in 1920 when the "wonder team" suddenly attracted attention of the football world. From that year to the defeat of the Bruins early this season by the Olympic club of San Francisco, the California varsity had not been defeated.

* * *

[Brother Knowland, in addition to the preceding descriptive article, has written the following "tribute" to Brother Smith. —Editor.]

Time out for Brother Andy Smith!

Answering the call of the great Referee, Brother Andrew Latham Smith, former All-American backfield star at Pennsylvania, and for the past nine years head football coach at the University of California, doffed his cleats and moleskins for the last time early on the morning of Friday, January 8.

Almost within sight of the field where he helped make football history for his alma mater, Brother Smith succumbed to the ravages of pneumonia, said to have been contracted during the latter part of the 1925 football season. His death at the University of Pennsylvania hospital concluded a valiant fight of several weeks.

Beloved and respected by the general pub-

lic and football fans the nation over, news of Brother Smith's death shocked millions.

To his brothers in Sigma Alpha Epsilon the world over, and especially to active members and alumni of California Beta, word of his passing meant more than the mere death of a football coach who had gained national prominence because of his success. Smith's death was the loss of a brother and as such, we mourn him.

During the hardest part of a football season when things appeared blackest, Brother Andy would often stroll into the Berkeley chapter house, seat himself one leg across the other on the sofa before the fire, light a cigarette and say, in his characteristic drawl:

"Well, boys, how are things going?"

Never a word was said about his own difficulties or troubles; his chief concern seemed centered in the welfare of the chapter and its members. Though willing to give his energy and advice whenever needed, Andy, as he was called by every brother, never offered unsolicited criticism.

Interested in athletics as he naturally was, Brother Smith's chief concern about members of the chapter as well as candidates for the football squad, was in their scholarship standing.

"If he isn't a student, we don't want him," were Brother Smith's words, and they were meant for possible initiates into S.A.E. as well as football players.

The life philosophy of the great coach and loyal brother are summed up in the words with which he once addressed a class of freshmen at the University of California. They were:

"We don't want men who can die bravely; we want men who will fight like hell to live."

Andy "fought like hell to live" and to us he is not dead. Andy's faith, courage and brotherly spirit were so strong and far reaching that to members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon he can never "die." The great Referee has merely ordered:

"Time out for Andy Smith!"

FRATERNITIES

