

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 processional.

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.

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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."

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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.

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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.

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[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!"