

Guy Shellenbarger Memorial Scholarship



Guy Shellenbarger was always a very sports-minded person and especially enjoyed playing baseball, in high school and college. He also played “sandlot” baseball in Marshfield aka Coos Bay. In gymnastics he performed on the horse and the rings and was a pole vaulter in track and field. In later years he watched with interest as the pole-vaulting heights kept going up and didn’t think it was fair that vaulters got to land so gently on all that foam when all he had to land on in the late 1920s was a pile of coats.

To add to his income in the early years, Guy refereed basketball games, driving to distant places where he always remembered to get paid after the third quarter because he didn’t want to face a bunch of angry fans from the losing team. The very second the final buzzer rang, he was out the door and into his car, money in hand – no time for a shower!

Sometimes Guy would get up early and play tennis at the Mingus Park courts with Bruce Hoffine and others. While at Marshfield he joined the Coos Country Club and loved the game of golf, along with belonging to the Bird Watchers Society.

Guy was very proud to be a representative of Marshfield Senior High. He especially enjoyed going to Oregon Principals Association Meetings and know how well his P.E. Department compared to others ... all those football championships! Being principal of Marshfield was a strong source of pride.



In 1965 Guy was asked to set up the Job Corps Program in Astoria, Oregon with the understanding that he would move to the University of Oregon and become a professor in the School of Education when he was through. He was in charge of helping students plan for their master’s degree and taught an “Activities” class with subtitles such as: “How to Help Spanish Club Earn Money by Selling Popcorn at Games.” He sometimes remarked that the real way to earn club money was to turn off all the water fountains and salt the popcorn heavily so people would have buy to soft drinks.



Guy was always quietly amazed at how he’d progressed up the ladder of academia. One of his favorite statements was, “I was never an academic – I was just a jockstrap that got lucky.” He was very proud of being a “Full Professor” with tenure at a major university. Since Full Professors almost always have a doctorate, when asked if any of his students ever called him Dr. Shellenbarger, he’d say, “Yes.” And did you correct them? “No,” he would say with a laugh.

Guy often said that the first job he ever had was being the P.E. teacher at Marshfield Junior High. Sports meant a great deal to him. He was inducted into the Marshfield High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006.