

Parker Faller Field History

On the Occasion of the Renaming of Parker Field to Parker Faller Field

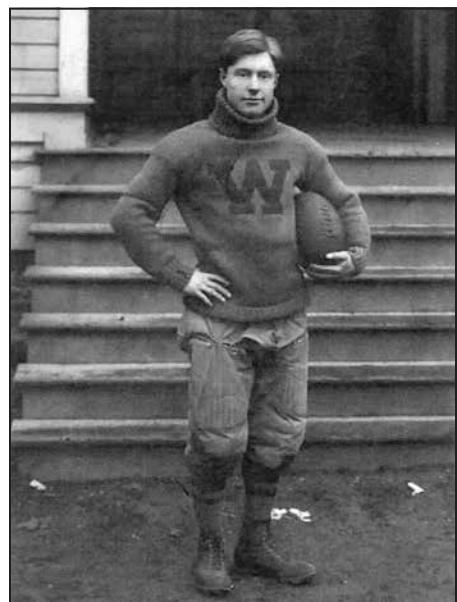
April 18, 2015

We encourage all Parker Partners, and especially you locals, to keep Saturday, April 18, free on your calendar in order to attend the dedication ceremonies for the re-naming of Parker Field to the Parker Faller Field. Ceremonies will begin at approximately 2:30 PM, taking place after the first game of YVCC's scheduled doubleheader with Treasure Valley Community College. A reception will follow the field dedication in Hopf Union building.

The living legacy of Bill Faller will be a most appropriate addition to the long history and legacy of Parker Field, first built by Shirley D. Parker in 1937. Daryl Parker, son of Shirley Parker and current Parker Youth & Sports Foundation board member, initiated the proposal for the name change which was approved by the Yakima Valley Community College Board of Trustees in July of 2014.



"Old" Parker Field, built in 1937, grandstands destroyed in a 1962 fire.



Shirley Parker as a young UW Husky, about 1916.



Daryl and Sherrie Parker. Avid sponsors of the High Hopes Golf Tournament and Legends Reunion.



Bill Faller as a young WSU Cougar, 1947-48.



The Pippins: Shirley Parker's team in 1938. Bob Garretson, Sr., front row, third from left.

History of Parker Field

Much of the history about Parker Field is oral and anecdotal in nature, passed down from generation to generation. However, our primary resource has been from a manuscript written by Raymond R. Glenn and Harold Hoeglund, entitled "Our Yesterdays, 1885-1956," which is written in a style quite equivalent to an oral history "story" as to their personal recollections about the Yakima School District and the Yakima Junior College. In 2001, Jim Scoggins, now retired sports editor of the Yakima Herald Republic, researched and wrote a lengthy column on the history of Parker Field, which we have extensively used herein. Scott Wilson has been a valuable anecdotal resource relative to the history of the Yakima Valley, always getting us "into the church" if not always "in the correct pew"!

Parker Field had its beginning in 1937 as a home for professional baseball, built by businessman/attorney Shirley D. Parker for his new team, the Pippins, named for a type of apple. The 4,400 seat stadium was built at a cost of \$50,000, according to reports at the time in the Yakima Herald and Republic newspapers. The grandstand, located near what was then Lenox Avenue (now Nob Hill Boulevard), was an impressive edifice. At its opening, a Yakima Herald article described the new ballpark as "almost a duplicate of the Chicago Cubs' park."

Shirley and Eleanor Lindsley Parker

Mr. Parker (1888-1950) was the son of Rose Hawkins and Orlando Parker, and was the step-son of A. E. Larson. Not much is known about Orlando Parker except he was no longer "in the picture" when Adelbert and Rose were married in 1897. Sometime in the 1930's, Shirley married Eleanor Lindsley, a graduate of Bellingham Teachers College.

Shirley was raised in Yakima, graduated from Yakima High School and was a football quarterback and record setting half-miler in track at the University of Washington. A very old newspaper clipping from

the 1930's includes a statement by a friend of Shirley's that notes, "Shirley and I grew up together in Yakima, and he was wilder than a Tieton jack rabbit and the elderly ladies used to comment how sorry they felt for his mother." This youthful description is a far cry from a story written a few years later. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, and his career was briefly summarized in a 1940 publication, The Magazine of Sigma Chi:

Shirley D. Parker, if you visit Montana or Colorado and ask about him, you will hear that he's interested in gold mines....if you go to Idaho, you'll hear he's a big stockholder in the Sunshine Silver Mine...if you go to Spokane, they'll describe him as the man who organized the Class B Baseball League in the Pacific Northwestif you go to Yakima, you'll hear he owns the hotel and the Pippins baseball team.... in Seattle, you'll hear that Shirley Parker is a bank director; member of several clubs, but remembered as the fellow who was captain of the track team two years in a row,

he set a record in the half-mile and he was quarterback on the football team..... and drop down to Oregon and you'll find Shirley Parker, an outstanding young trial lawyer and a fellow who owns some farms in Oregon.....head to New York City where you will find his record at Alexander Hamilton Institute as an ace salesman; in fact Parker, in his seven years with the Institute was a leader of sales production in what is recognized as a potent international sales organization....he met and married Eleanor Lindsley of Bellingham in the Jade room of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.... and come back to Chicago and you'll learn that Parker lectured for the University of Chicago in 1925 on his pet subjects...marketing methods and creative selling.

A.E. and Rose Larson

Parker Field's existence has been closely tied to Yakima Valley College and the American Legion baseball program in Yakima. As written by Harold Hoeglund, "with rare vision Shirley Parker and Rose Larson saw

Mr. and Mrs.
S.D. Parker Wed
in New York City



Mr. and Mrs. Shirley D. Parker (Eleanor Lindsley), newlyweds, who will reside in Seattle and Yakima upon return from a stay through the winter in Southern California, surprised relatives and friends with the telegraphic announcement of their marriage on December 16 in New York City. A group of eastern relatives and friends were present at the wedding within the Jade room of the Waldorf-Astoria hotel of the metropolis.

Mr. and Mrs. Parker will arrive here to spend Christmas with the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. Lindsley, and continue their travels to California, where they will attend the New Year's day Rose Bowl football classic in Pasadena, and sojourn in Palm Springs before flying to Mexico City. They will return in March. Mrs. Parker is a graduate of the Bellingham Teacher's college and she has attended the University of Washington, since being a member of the Seattle city schools' teaching staff for a few years. Mr. Parker is a University of Washington alumnus and he is a well known business man and lawyer of Yakima and Seattle.

the need for an educational, cultural, and recreational center in the city of Yakima. With this idea in mind they acquired a forty acre tract of land bounded on the West by 16th Avenue, on the East by South 12th Avenue, on the North by Washington Street (Arlington today), and on the South by Lenox (now Nob Hill Boulevard)." When the ball park was constructed (1937), Mr. Parker donated the 10 acres west of the field to the school district to build the college campus. To memorialize her late husband, A. E. Larson (1862-1934), Rose donated the northern 20 acres to the city for what became Larson Park in the mid 1940s. In addition to the park, the A. E. Larson legacy includes the Larson Building in downtown Yakima, the Rosedell Mansion, and the Larson Art Gallery.

What about this forty acre tract of land that in 2015 is the current site of a modern college campus, art gallery, theatre, baseball, softball, soccer fields and a community park? In a 1956 Herald sports column written by Harry Sharpe, at the time when the college was about to build their new gymnasium, he noted, "twenty five years ago (1931),



A. E. and Rose Larson, mother and step father of Shirley Parker.

when Johnson's corner was a patch of lonely sagebrush and coyotes howled every night, it would have taken a dreamer with a terrific imagination to visualize the development which is about to take place on this acreage at Sixteenth and Lenox. Shirley Parker broke the ice by constructing a modern baseball plant which in time will go to

the city. The Yakima Tennis club plans to construct its new tennis courts there. And now along comes Yakima Valley Junior College with its new building and gymnasium." Anecdotal at best, and a possible reason for the howling of coyotes; we have heard that Johnson's Corner was the site of a rather large chicken ranch.



First YVC Baseball Team, 1947. First row: Wally Mogren, Glen Blackburn, Chuck Cole, Jack Parmalee, Jack Carey, Dave Yaden, Bill Brackett, Manager, Jim McGee. Second row: Herman "Bim" Hopf, first coach, Bob Rabung, Bill Andring, Vic Valicoff, Bob Carey, Vaile Bryant, Lloyd Mullins, Walt Lange, Harold Sorstokke, Matt Miller. Over exposed picture acknowledged, purpose is to remember the "First boys of Summer".

Yakima Youth Baseball and the Bears

Although Parker Field was primarily a professional ballpark for its first 30 years, it was also a football stadium for Yakima Junior College (starting in 1947) and the Yakima School district's high school teams. The Pippins, for which the field was constructed, saw the Western International League fold around 1941. The field became the home ballpark for the Yakima Bears minor league team from 1945 until 1967. The field has hosted three American Legion World Series (1954, 1978, and 2001) and was the conference baseball tournament site for the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges throughout the 1960's, 70's, and early 80's, hosting the tournament on an "every other year basis".

A fire, whose origin was never

determined, destroyed most of the Parker Field grandstand on March 12, 1962, shortly before the baseball season opened. The school district, which just months earlier had given the baseball team a three-year notice that the stadium would be torn down to make room for campus expansion, refused to rebuild the stadium, using the insurance money to construct a football stadium two miles away (Zaepfel Stadium). Nevertheless, the ball club rebuilt the grandstand and wrangled two years of extensions before the college razed the stadium in 1967, ending pro baseball in Yakima for 23 years. Ironically, state funding fell through and the health sciences building planned for the old stadium site was never built.

The Parker Field location of today was designed by the college in 1967. In

1973 local American Legion baseball supporters formed the Yakima Youth Baseball organization as part of a strategy to reinvigorate the Legion baseball program. With the leadership of first President, Ron Pearson and volunteers Mike Lovering, Del Edler, and Bob Garretson, Sr., the group reached an agreement with the college for the summer use of the field. Lights and new seating were installed for the 1973 Legion baseball season. Yakima Youth Baseball and its supporters secured a sponsor, the Al Lundgren Volkswagen dealership that no longer exists but gave the team an enduring nickname (the Beetles), and with a small army of volunteer labor, led by transplanted Englishman Stan Fox, set about building up the stadium around the raw college diamond. Yakima Youth Baseball has continued improvements since 1973 and has had

1975 American Legion Baseball World Champions



Yakima Beetles: front, l to r: Dale Ehler, assist. Coach, Dan Tesch, Mark Lombardi, trainer, Jerry Hammermeister, Brian Davison, Bob Garretson, Jr., Coach. Second Row: Jamie Allen, Dave Iraola, Doug Edler, Chris Girard, Steve Wilkie, Ron Gregson, Dave Schmits. Third Row: Greg McDonald, Dave Edler, Mike Moore, Randy May, Don Crow, Scott Morris. Not pictured, George Perry, Asst. Coach.

an ongoing/renewable lease with the college to use the field. A memorable highlight in 1990 was hosting the Pac-10 North baseball playoffs at Parker Field as Washington State, University of Washington, Eastern Washington, Oregon State, University of Portland, Portland State, and Gonzaga competed for a “spot” to the college world series. Nancy Leahy chaired the hosting committee for the tournament with assistance from Yakima Youth Baseball officials Max Vincent, Mel Moore, Conrad Dumler and many others. In 1990, pro baseball returned in the form of the Yakima Bears and they shared the field with the Beetles during the summers of 1990-1992 before moving to the new County Stadium.

Notables:

The list is virtually endless, but to recall a few legends and memories that continue to be coffee conversations with the Yakima Monday Morning Quarterback Club which was formed by the legendary Babe Hollingbery in 1949 to support Yakima Junior College athletics.

- Parker Field has been the home to such baseball greats as Hub Kittle, John Zaepfel, Chuck ‘Bobo’ Brayton, Bill Faller, Bob Garretson, Sr. and Bob Garretson, Jr., the Stottlemyres, Mel, Todd, Mel, Jr. and Jeff, Scott Hatteberg, and many championship teams for the college as well as the Beetles.
- First round draft pick in 1965, Scott McDonald

- Dan Nyssen hitting what looked like a one iron lazar homerun over the Blue Monster in center field
- Phil Hinrichs, YVCC Hall of Fame pitcher for the 1976 and ’77 teams chalked up a 19-1 record and two championship game wins
- Brothers Chuck and Don Rabung were 1950s pitchers of note
- Great stat guys Dave Cook, Rich Austin, and Jeff Garretson worked from the press box
- Matt Meyers once hit three home runs in a double header
- Hall of Fame umpires C. J Mitchell and Dan Burke
- Win or lose the most tolerant of athletic department secretaries, Jane Black.

Football memories include:

- The first city championship in 1958 when Eisenhower defeated Marquette 20-6 in front of 3,000 “packed” fans.
- YJC players, such as a future boxing Olympic Gold Medalist Pete Rademacher and All-American at Utah State, Bob Winters
- Wayne Purdom,

star linebacker on the only YVC championship football team before returning as a teacher, football coach and assistant baseball coach

- Future award-winning western artist Don Crook
- Future U.S. Congressman Sid Morrison
- Star running back Ted Stone who played on the first YJC team in 1947
- Triple-letter-winners at Yakima Junior College Mel Lewis in football, basketball, baseball and Eric Beardsley in football basketball and track

And since 2001, Parker Field has been the site of one of the largest and grandest community college graduation ceremonies in the Northwest. Mel Stottlemyre was the graduation speaker in 2012 with more than 3,000 in the “bleachers.”



Dodie Forrest, YVCC English instructor receiving the first Sherrie & Daryl Parker Faculty Award at the 2012 graduation ceremonies at Parker Field.

Mel Stottlemyre delivering the YVCC Commencement Address at the 2012 graduation ceremonies at Parker Field.

Bill Faller

Readers of High Hopes are familiar with Bill Faller. He has been instrumental in helping build the Parker Youth & Sports Foundation, serving as our first president from 2005 to 2008, he is still an active member of the current Board, and he has been a fixture at our annual golf tournament and Legends Reunion, especially since so many of his former players support the tournament and their Old Coach! The PY&SF Bill Faller and Bobo Brayton Endowment fund has grown to more than \$250,000 in just six years.

Bill was raised in Milltown and attended Mount Vernon High School, where he was a varsity athlete in baseball, basketball and tennis. He continued his athletic success at Western Washington College in 1942-43, where he played basketball and tennis (no baseball at WWC at that time). He joined the Air Force to serve in World War II. He is a decorated veteran as a navigator with a B-17 crew that was shot down over Germany in 1945. After the war, he went to WSU, where he teamed up with his lifelong



Bill Faller on Western Washington basketball team in 1942.

friend and teammate Chuck ‘Bobo’ Brayton to play for the legendary Buck Bailey. Their 1947 and ’48 teams were the Pacific Coast Conference Northern Division champions. Bill met his wife Nancy Putney at WSU, and they were married in 1949 when Bill took a year “off” to earn his master’s degree at the University of Illinois.

Bill’s teaching and coaching career began in 1950 at Prosser High School followed by a move to Wapato High in 1952, where he became head football coach. His 1958, ’59, and ’60 teams, all led by future University of Washington quarterback Bill Douglas, lost just one game (at Ellensburg) in those three seasons. Coach Faller was hired at Yakima Valley College in 1961 as football and baseball coach to replace Bobo Brayton, who had

coached at the college since 1951 with great success, winning nine state and ten league baseball championships. Coach Brayton was hired as head baseball coach at WSU at that time.

During Bill’s twenty-six year career at YVCC, he served as a physical education instructor, head baseball and football coach, athletic director and chairman of the physical education department, and served on the Executive Board of the Faculty Union, including two terms as President. From 1972 until his retirement, Bill served on the athletic commissions for the Washington and Oregon community college associations, which is the Northwest Athletic Conference today. His baseball teams won 664 games, 11 conference championships and 18 league titles, ranking him as the most



One of Coach Faller’s ‘teaching’ moments in 1963.

successful baseball coach in Northwest Athletic Association history. His 1964 football team, which finished 7-1, won the college's only conference championship in football. Upon his retirement in 1986, the NWAC named the conference baseball championship trophy in honor of Coach Faller. He has been inducted into the YVCC, NWAC, Central Washington Sports and Washington State University Athletic Halls of Fame. Bill and Nancy raised their five children in Yakima (Virginia, Elizabeth, Matt, Janet, and Will).

Seventeen years after Bill's retirement, he accepted the position as first president of the newly formed Parker Youth & Sports Foundation, serving in this capacity for three years and is still an active member of the Board of Directors. It was at this time (2004) that Daryl and Sherrie Parker became involved with PY&SF. Daryl still serves on the current Board of the PY&SF. Starting from ground zero, the PY&SF has grown from a fledgling organization advocating for the support and preservation of youth sports programs and facilities to a dynamic financial contributor to these programs today. PY&SF would not be where it is today without the support and leadership of Bill Faller, and Daryl and Sherrie Parker.

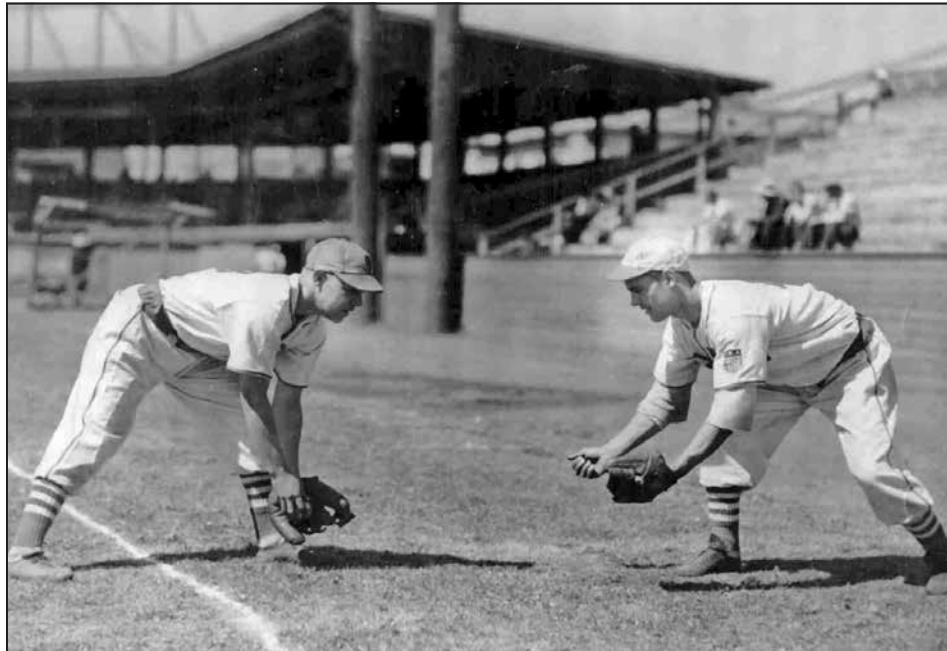
Coach Faller Joins the Legends and Memories

Buildings, facilities and several rooms at YVCC have been named in honor of those individuals who have been instrumental in the development and growth of the college, which started in 1928 at the "old" Columbia School, located on Fourth Avenue. In 1949, classes began in Prior Hall, the first building constructed on the campus named in honor of Elizabeth Prior, the first Dean and Principal of Yakima Junior College, serving from 1928 to 1946. The Faller name will now join such YVCC legends as Glen Sherar, Sis Anthon, Bim and Julia Hopf, Raymond R. Glenn, Jean Raymond,

A.E. and Rose Larson, Frank Palmer, Milt Martin, Ralph Sundquist, Weston D. Brown, Alex Deccio, Charles R. Lyon, Jane Huntzicker, Helen Jewett, Wesley H. McCullough, Elaine Sundquist, Yoshio Hata, Richard Marvin, Ellwood Crosier, and, of course, Shirley Parker, all of whom have been memorialized on some of

the YVCC buildings and halls.

The new Parker Faller Field will be a living and active tribute to the legacies of the Parker and Faller families while all youth sports programs in the Valley benefit from the support of the Parker Youth & Sports Foundation.



Bill and Bobo on the Bellingham Bells in 1943. Namesakes of the PY&SF Faller-Brayton Endowment.



YVC Champs: back, Coach Faller, R.J. Williams, Rick Boone, Glen Babcock, Gary Leach, Rocky Jackson, Norm Caig, Roger Crow, Steve Evert, Coach Purdom. Front, Jim Gulbransen, Tom Briskey, Jim Thompson, Craig Caskey, Charlie Smith, Bill Taylor, Warren Tudor, Ron Wilbourn, Bill Adkison.

Parker Field Memories from the Foundation

No rhyme to the following list, but there is 'reason'. These folks have not only carried some dirt around from Parker Field, but are also on the Parker Youth & Sports Foundation mailing list as donors, supporters, and alumni.

From the Board and the office:

"Thanks for the Memories"

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Kevin Abramson | Dale Ehler | Rocky Jackson | Harry Rainford |
| Bill Adkison | Steve Evert | Tom Kallas | Rip Ramsey |
| Terry Anderson | Matt Faller | Brent Kinney | Stan Renecker |
| Rich Austin | Ken Ferguson | Mark Knight | Bill Rich |
| Jim Baba | Buddy Fish | Kirk Komstadius | Barry Sayler |
| Jeff Beck | Pat Fitterer | Mark Kramer | Butch Schlagel |
| Gary Bedlington | Mike Flanagan | Ed Labissonaire | Walt Schlagel |
| Dave Benedict | Greg Fugate | Walter Lange | Bernard Schultheis |
| Pete Blanksma | Kekoa Gabriel | Don Lariza | Rod Sebold |
| Larry Book | Murray Gage-Cole | Gary Leach | Ron Shepard |
| Ron Briskey | Jim Gallagher | Nancy Leahy | Dick Smith |
| Tom Briskey | Bob Garretson, Jr. | Mel Lewis | Randy Snyder |
| Rick Britt | Jeff Garretson | Bob Lowe | Tim Speer |
| Merl Brothers | Mike Garretson | Ron Malnar | Ted Stone |
| Gerald Busey | Jay Gilbertson | Bill Mashburn | Mel Stottlemyre |
| Mike Carlon | Bob Girard | Bob Masterman | Todd Stottlemyre |
| Mike Carnahan | Jeff Girard | Mike Meseberg | Ted Taylor |
| Gary Carnavali | Keith Gradwohl | Matt Meyer | Rich Tevis |
| Craig Caskey | Mike Hagan | Mike Meyer | John Thacker |
| Jim Caton | Jim Hatzenbihler | C. J. Mitchell | Kirk Tourillotte |
| Randy Cline | Mike Havnaer | Scott Morris | Kayo Trapanier |
| Dave Cook | Doug Headley | Ken Mortenson | Jeff Ward |
| Kelly Crook | Scott Hinrichs | Steve Myers | Geoff Wells |
| Don Crook | Phil Hinrichs | Pete Orgill | Ken Weyrick |
| John Davidson | Mike Hobbs | Jim Parker | Randy White |
| Lonnie Davis | Dan Hopper | Tom Parry | Bob Willer |
| Dave Dillon | Joe Hoptowit | James Pelander | Scott Wilson |
| Ron Dillon | Joe Hornstein | Pat Phelan | Bob Winters |
| Greg Dunn | Al Hubert | Lane Phillips | Dave Yaden |
| Doug Edler | Bruce Hunter | Ken Pleasant | Don Zimmer |
| Dave Edler | Steve Hunter | Pete Rademacher | |

He Hits Hard for Pippins



Here's Bobby Garretson, heavy-hitting outfielder for the Yakima Pippins, who open a three-game series against the league leading Maple Leafs at Con Jones Park tomorrow night at 8:30 p.m. Garretson, has been hitting at a merry clip lately and his bat has been responsible for a lot of Yakima's wins.

In tonight's game at 8:30 p.m. the Leafs close their present series with the Lewiston Indians.

Bob Garretson, Sr., spanning six decades as a player, Legion World Championship Coach, and groundskeeper at Parker Field.



1947 Yakima Valley Junior College 1st Football Team — Left to right, first row: W. Baumgartner, Frandle, Patch, Akers, T. Stone, E. Lindsey, Alderson, Bailie. Second row: Savage, Sullivan, Beardsley, Agost, Vannice, H. Wilson, Archer, Dunbar, Pratt. Third row: Livermore, Huston, Tegen, Hogan, Robinson, Hall, Sadlick, Bagley, Fry, Schmitt, Pierce, Coach Eubank.