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The Unitor

Exchange Club of Tuscaloosa

Chartered February 9, 1923 • Affiliated with the National Exchange Club

www.tuscaloosaexchangeclub.org

Thursdays at Noon • Indian Hills Country Club • In service to community, state, and nation

October 3, 2019

TODAY: Eddie Conyers, Crimson Tide football practice referee

(Whit Whitfield, Program Chair)



Eddie Conyers, above with Coach Saban at the Crimson Tide practice field, began officiating at football practices for Coach Bear Bryant in the early 1960's. Now past his 90th birthday, he has never stopped showing up. And he has plenty of

stories to tell! You can find many online. But he will, no doubt, tell us those stories himself today!

Last week's speaker Rick Karle called Eddie "an Alabama legend," adding: "He, perhaps, does not possess the name recognition of a Joe Namath or a Julio Jones, but those Bama greats certainly know and love Eddie." Karle's Fox 6 interview with him is one of many on *YouTube* along with numerous others.



Glen Smith sends this memoir on noteworthy football relatives: "I can't claim a relative in the College Football Hall of Fame - see previous *Unitor* - but the late Cullen Sugg (pictured) is my cousin once removed. He played for the Crimson Tide, a Rose Bowling Tide, at that..."

"Cullen, a guard, played from 1936 to 1939. In 1937, Bama played in its 5th Rose Bowl, losing to Cal - the Tide's only Rose Bowl loss. A NYT article covering the game did not list Sugg as having played in that game. My father, however, told us that Cullen had made the trip (as a sophomore). The game was witnessed by 90,000 in attendance. *Continued on page 2.*



Cullen Sugg

Coming in October

- 10/10 **Firefighter of the Year Awards**
(Sydney Cook, Program Chair)
- 10/17 **UA Honors Program**
Jacqueline Morgan, Director
(Bev Leigh, III, Program Chair)
- 10/24 **Human Trafficking Task Force**
Lt. Darren Beams, West Alabama
Human Trafficking Task Force
(Chief Swindoll, Program Chair)
- 10/31 **Defending Against Fraud**
Joseph Borg, Director
Alabama Securities Commission
(Whit Whitfield, Program Chair)

Tuscaloosa History Celebrated in Special Premiere

A premiere of "Tuscaloosa," an episode of the TV show *Discovering Alabama*, will be presented at 6:30 p.m. this **Tuesday, October 1**, at the University of Alabama Bryant Center. We are invited to attend by UA's College of Continuing Studies and Alabama's Bicentennial Committee.

The program "celebrates Tuscaloosa from its settlement as a frontier town to its emergence as a cosmopolitan city," says the promotional flyer.

Send member news & pictures to Linda Jackson, Editor: ljackson@ua.edu



Happy Birthday in October

<i>Courtney LeCroy</i>	<i>Oct 6</i>
<i>Gerald Hudson</i>	<i>Oct 8</i>
<i>Libby Cochran</i>	<i>Oct 16</i>
<i>Bernard Harwood</i>	<i>Oct 17</i>
<i>Bill Goodwin</i>	<i>Oct 31</i>



Norman Vincent Peale, an American minister and author known for popularizing the concept of positive thinking, wrote the best-selling book *The*



Power of Positive Thinking. He was the pastor at Marble Collegiate Church, New York, from 1932 until his death. Peale was a personal friend of President Richard Nixon. Donald Trump attended Peale's church while growing up, as well as marrying his first wife Ivana there. Peale's ideas and techniques were controversial, and he received frequent criticism both from church figures and from the psychiatric profession.

Cullen Sugg (continued from page 1...)

"In 1939, Sugg, as a senior, was one of just 19 Alabama players to letter. Two of his teammates were Charley Boswell and Holt Rast, well known to the Bama Faithful. His head coach, Frank Thomas, had served as president of the Exchange Club in Tuscaloosa; and Paul Bryant was one of his assistant coaches. Sugg said that Bryant was "always pushing ol' Sugg along." Cullen was #26, which had been Bryant's number.

"Cullen Sugg had played high school ball at Russellville and was good enough to attract attention from colleges. His high school coach was an Alabama alum, so when Auburn came recruiting, the coach called Coach Hank Crisp at Alabama, and Coach Crisp said: put him on a bus to Tuscaloosa. So that's how Cullen Sugg ended up at Alabama.

"My paternal grandmother was a Sugg. It was also the middle name of my father's brother, Uncle Paul S. Smith. When we were young, we frequently attended family reunions in North Alabama and met members of the Sugg family - and also the Suggs family. And it was not unusual to find a Sugg married to a Suggs. Can't make this stuff up, I'm telling you.

"Sugg was in advanced ROTC at UA. He said he was not hot to go into the Army, he just needed the extra money provided by ROTC. But go into the Army he did and was soon on his way to WWII. As a captain, he was commander of an air defense artillery unit.

"On D-Day, his artillery pieces were set up on the cliffs of Dover (England) to shoot down incoming German buzz bombs. He went ashore at Normandy on D-Day +6. Captain Sugg fought in a lot of hot spots in France, Belgium and Germany - including the Battle of the Bulge - as a member of Patton's 3rd Army. When Germany surrendered, he was in the Bavarian Alps; but he couldn't celebrate, because his unit was beginning to train for the invasion of Japan.

"Noted journalist/author, Delbert Reed of Tuscaloosa (Northport) wrote a book, *When Winning was Everything*, which pays tribute to 50 or so of the Alabama football players - including Cullen Sugg - who, fought in WWII. There were over 300 Bama players who fought. Reed has written five books about such subjects as Mike Denny, Paul Bryant, etc. *Winning* was published by the Bryant Museum and has a foreword by Paul Bryant, Jr whose father, Lt. Commander Paul Bryant, served overseas and on a Navy ship during WWII.

"The *Winning* title came from the slogan, "Winning isn't Everything, but it sure beats anything that comes in second." A few years back, Bryant Museum - and Director, Ken Gaddy - which had published and was promoting *Winning*, entered a team in the Exchange Club's annual Chili Cookoff. Their resourceful theme was: "When winning the Chili Cookoff was Everything!" " -Glen Smith



You're never as good as everyone tells you when you win, and you're never as bad as they say when you lose. -Lou Holtz