

Dedication

We would like to dedicate this book to the Marshall County I Club whose hard work, heart and desire make the Ben Trickey Scholarship a reality. The Marshall County I Club provides tremendous financial support resulting in the continuation of this scholarship in addition to providing one of the most perfect settings for the presentation every year.

Ben Trickey Memorial Scholarship

The Ben Trickey Memorial Scholarship was established in 1975. The award is to be used to cover some portion or the entire cost of academic expenses for one year.

The scholarship is to be awarded to a student/athlete in any sport who has been a walk-on and has distinguished himself both on and off the field. Preference is to be given to Iowa residents.

The recipient is to be chosen each spring by a committee consisting of a representative of the Ben Trickey family, the Director of Men's Intercollegiate Athletics at Iowa and an additional person selected by these two committee members. The winner is to be announced at the spring Marshall County I Club meeting.

BEN'S
BIOGRAPHY

Ben Trickey "was considered too light for football, too short for basketball, an unorthodox baseball player and, in his freshman year, University of Iowa coaches labeled him as one of those great high school athletes that would find Big Ten competition too fast and too tough". Weighing 170 pounds and standing barely five feet, nine inches, Ben wrote himself into the history of University of Iowa athletics as a three-sport letterman. Through hard work and a belief in himself, this walk-on athlete earned eight varsity letters. His achievements are a testimony to his character and his story an inspiration.

Benjamin (Ben) Himmel Trickey was born on September 17, 1921. Ben's father, Benjamin John Trickey, served as a Congregational minister so Ben's upbringing centered around church activities and athletics. The family moved from Spencer to Marshalltown when Ben was 14 years old and had already launched on his athletic career.

Paul Norris, who was writing the Sports Knothole section of the Marshalltown Times Republican newspaper, did a little prognosticating: "Bobcat football fans of the future may see in action a halfback named Trickey who appears destined to live up to his name. He is Ben Trickey, and although only a ninth grader, has already been transferred from the junior high to the varsity squad. Although only 14 years old, he can hit the line hard and is already a good punter. Bobcat coaches are teaching him how to throw, in an attempt to make a triple threat out of him. He is likely to see action on the varsity before the season is over".

Ben did play on the varsity football team throughout his high school years. In his senior year he was chosen as co-captain and selected on an All-State team.

He earned letters in basketball in 1937-38-39. In 1938 Marshalltown was runnerup in the state tournament and Ben was selected to be on the 3rd All-State team. In 1939 Marshalltown won 3rd place in the state tournament. Ben was the leading tournament scorer (37) and was placed on the All-State 1st team.

He was instrumental in getting baseball started in Marshalltown High School his senior year. He played short stop and earned a letter in the sport.

Marshalltown's Junior Chamber of Commerce baseball team kept him active in sports during the summer. The team won the 1939 Iowa Open baseball championship and Ben was selected for the All-State Semi-Pro Baseball Team.

After graduating in May of 1939, Ben was determined to become an Iowa Hawkeye. He had heard inspiring stories about his Uncle Jim, who was the first All-American

football player at the University of Iowa in 1912. He also felt he would get the best education and be getting the toughest competition in the country through the Big Ten Conference. Although many colleges recruited Ben he waited for the University to show interest. Prior to letters of intent and NCAA marshalling he enrolled at the University of Iowa with a verbal commitment of a scholarship. After enrolling, he discovered his name was not on the scholarship rolls. He quickly realized he would need to support himself. He did this by finding four part-time jobs, went to school, and participated as a walk-on in three sports: football, basketball and baseball. These things he did as he did most others - very well! He won freshman letters in each of these sports.

Such hard work and determination did not go unnoticed. Rollie Williams, head basketball coach at Iowa, recognized Ben's potential and offered him a basketball scholarship for the ensuing years. Some of Ben's basketball career highlights at Iowa include being a three year starter as a forward on the basketball team. He held the single game scoring record for Iowa (27 points), was co-captain of the 1942-43 team, set Iowa Fieldhouse and Big Ten scoring record (161 points) and was voted the MVP of the Iowa team.

Ben opted to sit out of football his sophomore year to give more attention to his studies. His father expressed disappointment in this decision because he and his 6 brothers had all played football and as did, of course, his Uncle Jim at Iowa U. Ben asked Coach Eddie Anderson, the head football coach, for permission to join the squad his junior year. His request was granted and soon Dr. Anderson became interested in Ben's competitive spirit. The added encouragement he needed came from his friend and fraternity brother Nile Kinnick, who was a graduate assistant to Coach Anderson. By the second game, with Michigan, Ben was playing as a semi-regular quarterback and this continued for the remainder of the season.

The end of the basketball season didn't mean the end of sports activities for Ben. He felt no sport was his favorite, and each sport came into a position of top interest in its own season. So when he left the field house he stuck a glove on his hand, put on his spiked shoes and started working out with the baseball team. He played third base for Coach Otto Vogel. In Ben's sophomore year they were second and in his junior year they tied for first place in the Big Ten.

Ben graduated from the University of Iowa Easter Sunday April 25, 1943. That night at 8:30 The Rev. B.J. Trickey and the Rev. Ross Mills married Ben and Vivian Shipton.

Ben received a letter from Arch Ward inviting him to play in the All-Star football game. What an honor! An honor, however, that seemed very unimportant to the Marine Corps, so the invitation had to be declined on May 6th Ben reported to Parris Island for boot camp. After Officer's Training in Quantico, Virginia, he was sent to Col. Hanley's Radar training at Camp Pendleton in California. When he was transferred to the base in San Diego he became the player-coach of the Marine basketball team. In March of 1944 he left to serve in the South Pacific. During the following 18 months he received two Purple Hearts for injuries sustained during battles on Guam and Okinawa. He ended his military term with the rank of Captain.

After the war years and a brief stay in Marshalltown, Ben received an opportunity to try out for the Detroit Lions Football Team. In early August of 1946, Ben joined the squad of 60 football players in Amherst Michigan for tryouts. He made the squad and played in the first exhibition game of the season in Buffalo, New York. However, his leg, which was wounded, proved too much of a handicap. Gus Dorais, a Lion's coach who had thrown the first forward pass in football, asked Ben to be a player-coach of Detroit's Canadian team until his leg could heal and he could re-join the Detroit Lions. Ben had been offered a teaching job at Marshalltown Jr. College and when he weighed the prospects of traveling with the football team vs. living in his home town and not traveling he decided on the teaching job.

His contract was to teach biology in junior college and high school, with no coaching assignment included.

He was asked to play basketball for Lynk Bros. and Baird Seed Corn Company of Green Mountain. They were champions of the Central Iowa Independent League. They also won the state A.A.U. tournament and represented Iowa at the National A.A.U. in Denver, Colorado.

The next contract included coaching Marshalltown Junior College Basketball Team. They ended the season with a 16-4 record. They were one of Iowa's three representatives to play in the regional tournament held in Fort Scott, Kansas.

He was also playing for the Lynk Bros. and Baird team and when it came time for the state A.A.U. tournament he was expected to play. He said he was ineligible because of his coaching duties. Although school authorities said Ben was not hired to coach but was hired to teach, Ben felt coaching was an integral part of his teaching, and would not play.

Ben started playing baseball for the Marshalltown Anson Semi-Pro Team and then became the player manager. They won two Iowa Open Tournament titles.

The 1948 school year started and Ben became the basketball coach at Marshalltown High School. He was very excited about the new challenge and determined in his optimistic way of what his hard work could produce for the future Bobcats. The next seven years were good and bad, exciting and disappointing, gratifying and frustrating, teaching, planning, encouraging, observing, listening, implementing, laughing, crying, sleepless nights and yes, winning and losing. These seven years were filled with memories of students and athletes and friends and four Central Iowa Conference championships. The town became more interested and supportive every year due to the dedication of each player to the basketball program. Marshalltown did have the year it so richly deserved---a basketball season of 25 wins and 0 defeats! This season started in Marshalltown in November of 1955 and ended in winning the State Tournament in March of 1956. To say that a town is ecstatic is perhaps an odd description but it seems the only word that comes to my mind that fully explains Marshalltown at that time. Everyone wanted to do something for the team and the next two weeks were a continuous celebration culminating in a banquet with over 1200 people attending.

These same wonderful exciting years brought four sons: B.J. was born in 1949, Tob in 1951, Brad in 1952 and Tim in 1956.

Going to work for Lennox Furnace Corporation meant an opportunity to test his skills in the business world. He was hired to write and put into operation a suggestion system. When this was completed he was transferred to public relations and traveled through eleven states. After four years at Lennox, Ben decided to go into business for himself. He opened May City Bowling Lanes in Cedar Rapids, Iowa which he ran just as a coach would run his team. Employees may have gotten little direction in those first few months but boy, were they motivated!! Ben learned the bowling business the old fashioned way-hard work. His dedication and personality were a perfect match for the business world. His main qualities for success in business were the same qualities shown in athletics-teamwork, strong work ethics, leadership and a tremendous desire to succeed. Ben seemed to flourish under critics which said he was too small for athletics, did not possess enough talent to win as a coach, and was not experienced enough to own a business. His motivation and character were formed around proving people wrong. The entire message of the "Ben Trickey Memorial Scholarship" centers around individuals in all walks of life who don't give up on their dreams no matter what the critics say!

In addition to running a successful bowling center Ben was always interested in community affairs. He served on the Cedar Rapids school board as well as the city's Planning and

Zoning committee. He was active in the Y.M.C.A. program both in Marshalltown and Cedar Rapids, was chairman of the West Side Civic Club and was instrumental in bringing the Minnesota Vikings and Chicago Bears to Cedar Rapids. He served on the State Bowling Proprietors Board and represented Iowa at several National Conventions.

Ben Trickey was a firm believer in hard work, dedication and a can-do attitude. His philosophy was one of no limitations, but only if one has determination and a strong work ethic. He tackled high goals and adversity as well as he tackled the opposition in his grid-iron years at the University of Iowa. His belief of "feet on the ground, head in the clouds" was a strong example and motivator to his teams, family and business associates. His is a story that is inspiring. He repeatedly proved that the hard-working underdog comes out on top. We share some of his life with you in an attempt to help other walk-on recipients feel as if they have a partner in the daily struggle-as they keep their "heads in the clouds".

Family viewpoints-the boys. Growing up and living with Dad was not always easy for us or him. Dad could have his moments of being stubborn, head-strong and demanding. If one of us boys were having difficulty with a curve ball, you could bet the next day Dad would be throwing you curve balls until you saw them in your sleep. He took mental notes during each game and afterwards you might spend hours discussing how to improve "your game". No matter where we played we could always expect to see him. His total love for athletics, friends and family made a clear impression on all of us. There was no way you could grow up in our family without being involved in some worthwhile activity. You weren't going to grow up as a spectator nor would a poor attitude last very long around Dad. His emphasis was always on team work and winning, versus individual performance. Dad had an uncanny ability in motivating us. When we were down he'd smother us with affection and positive encouragement. When our noses were a little too high in the air he'd get that terrible look in his eyes, usually followed with a swat on the gluteus maximus. When we felt we were the best in the neighborhood he would tell us about other neighborhoods. He did all of this as a loving father and he was always our biggest supporter-win or lose. Growing up in the Trickey household was never dull. With four active boys we were always on the go. Our home, to outsiders, must have looked like a sporting goods store with every ball imaginable, sports equipment, and a supply of jocks and socks that would have choked a mule. There was more than one occasion that Dad's athletic philosophies were questioned by us. We always expressed our feelings openly, but as we stated earlier, if Dad had a certain thought in his mind, he could be the most stubborn, unyielding man around---Gosh, we sure do miss him.

Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER



TRIBUNE TOWER • CHICAGO
May 10, 1943.

Mr. Ben Trickey,
212 North 7th Street,
Marshalltown, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Trickey:

The Chicago Tribune Charities, Inc. now is planning its tenth annual football game in Chicago on August 25th between the college All-Star players and the Washington Redskins, champions of the National Football League. You are one of the players now in service who normally would be available to represent the universities.

Although you are in service, you may be able to arrange with your commanding officer for a furlough for the training period at Northwestern University prior to August 25th. Will you please investigate this possibility?

All of your transportation expenses and all expenses during the training period will be paid. In addition, each player also will receive \$150.00.

The profits of the game last year, approximately \$155,000., were given by the Chicago Tribune Charities, Inc. to the army and navy relief organizations. The profits of this year's game also will be given to war charity.

I would like to hear from you within the next two weeks whether or not you believe you can arrange to join the All-Star football squad for the game August 25th.

Will you also please send me your service address so that I may correspond directly with you in completing arrangements?

Sincerely,

Arch Ward

Arch Ward
Sports Editor
Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

AW:AF

Wounded Again



LT. BEN H. TRICKEY.

First Lt. Ben H. Trickey, Marshalltown marine officer, was wounded in action July 5 on Okinawa, according to word received by his parents, Rev. and Mrs. B. J. Trickey, 212 North Seventh street. The parents received an official message from their son's commanding officer, which gave no details, and later the lieutenant wrote his wife, the former Vivian Shipton, something of his injuries and revealed that he was in the First marine hospital on Okinawa.

This was the second time that Lieutenant Trickey was wounded in action against the Japs in the Pacific. He participated in the liberation of Guam and was wounded on that island in July, 1944, suffering a bullet wound in the thigh. This kept him off duty only about six weeks, but later he suffered an attack of dengue fever which kept him out of action until October.

His latest wound was the result of a Jap. shell bursting near him, the lieutenant wrote. The explosion ruptured an ear drum and injured one leg, tho how severely, Lieutenant Trickey did not reveal. The day before, July 4, he had written his family that he was in charge of a detached platoon engaged in mopping up remaining Japanese resistance on Okinawa.

Lieutenant Trickey has been overseas about 16 months and was in action on Okinawa from the opening of the invasion on Easter Sunday until he was wounded.

RAISE FLAG ON GUAM.

By Al Dopking.

(Associated Press War Correspondent Representing the Combined American Press.)

GUAM, MARIANAS ISLANDS (AP) (Via Navy Radio) — The American flag was raised Saturday over the marine barracks on Guam for the first time in two and one-half years by unshaven marines whose battle uniforms were caked with red clay of this United States island.

The bodies of Japanese strewn among the battered pillboxes and revetments along Orote peninsula airfield and in the smoldering ruins of Sumay told the story of the bloody battle waged by the marines to recapture the soil so closely related to marine tradition.

[In a dispatch dated Friday, William L. Worden on the Orote peninsula said some marine units have been depleted by half, and many have only a fraction of their early fighting strength.]

Capture of the 3¼-mile-long peninsula gave the Americans control of all three sides of Apra harbor. Gunboats patrolled its waters to pick off any live Japanese remaining.

The American flag was raised over the wrecked and smoldering barracks as a marine brigade wiped out the last pockets of resistance at the narrow tip of the peninsula.

Other marine and army patrols fanned out far beyond the 10-mile front running down the western shore of Guam from Adelup point in the north to Anae island. Patrols reported little enemy activity, indicating the Japanese may have fallen back to defensive positions where they are awaiting attack.

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One group of marines on Guam is being led by Lieut. Ben. Trickey, Marshalltown, Ia. A dispatch Saturday from John R. Henry on Orote peninsula said Lieutenant Trickey commanded a small band of marines deploying against a Japanese dugout hidden in a hillside amid thick underbrush. Lieutenant Trickey is a former state University of Iowa three-sport athlete who was graduated in 1943.



LIEUT. BEN TRICKEY.

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Lt. Trickey Leads Capture Of Japs In Dugout On Guam

Lieut. Ben Trickey, son of Rev. and Mrs. B. J. Trickey of Marshalltown, commanded a small band of marines against a Japanese dugout hidden in a hillside amid thick underbrush during a recent thrust on Orte peninsula, Guam, and captured the occupants, according to an Associated Press dispatch from Guam Monday.

Lieutenant Trickey planned to outflank the pillbox and attack from the rear with the hope of capturing its occupants. He told the men to hold their fire.

Thru an interpreter the Japanese in the pillbox were given a chance to surrender. Receiving no answer, Lieutenant Trickey was ready to order the place grenaded when a Japanese helmet poked out of the entrance.

Three enemy soldiers came out with hands up.

Investigation proved there were no more Nippons in the cave-like dugout.

Lieutenant Trickey was a 1943 graduate of the University of Iowa where he was a football, basketball and baseball player. He was also a star athlete at Marshalltown high school. His wife is the former Vivin Shipton of Green Mountain and Marshalltown.

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308 Central National Building
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February 23, 1948

Mr. Ben Trickey
Marshalltown Junior College
Marshalltown, Iowa

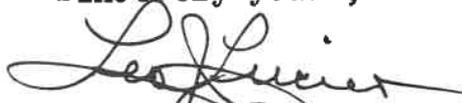
Dear Mr. Trickey:

The recent decision that you made not to attempt to register with the Iowa Association of the A.A.U., in order to compete in the Iowa Basketball Championship at Marshalltown, even though school officials were willing to certify that you received no compensation, has been brought to the attention of the officials of the A.A.U.

We want to commend you and let you know the high regard we have for you for your action. We join with such fellow townsmen of yours as Paul Norris, Jr. and Arly Wilson, A.A.U. Commissioner, in proclaiming it as an outstanding example of good sportsmanship and fair play. If a sportsmanship trophy were being awarded at the tournament, we think that you should be the one to receive it, even though you did not compete in the tournament.

It is men like you through such action as yours that make some of us feel that our efforts in the encouragement of amateur athletics in Iowa are being well repaid.

Sincerely yours,


Secretary-Treasurer

LJL:VP



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY BOB LONG.

Marshalltown Brings Home 'Bacon'

The top six players on Marshalltown's Class A state champion basketball team pose with the trophy in Marshalltown Sunday. Clockwise, starting in lower left: Bill Garrington, Bill McClintock, Lee Abrahamson, Joe Austin, Dale Johnson and Roger Lowe.

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IN TRIBUTE TO BEN TRICKEY

AT THIS, THE START OF THE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SEASON, I WOULD LIKE TO REFLECT ON THE IMPACT THE LATE BEN TRICKEY HAD ON JEFFERSON, CITY AND STATE ATHLETICS. HIS WAS ONE OF TOTAL INVOLVEMENT... FROM HIS IOWA PLAYING AND COACHING DAYS... HIS MARINE DAYS... HIS MOMENTS WITH ME IN THE BROADCAST BOOTH... TO THOSE OF A FATHER AND FAN IN THE STANDS.

I WAS OF THE OPINION, THAT BEN TRICKEY WAS THE BEST JUDGE OF ATHLETIC TALENT THAT I HAVE EVER KNOWN... IN FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, AND BASEBALL. THE YEARS AND THE HONORS ARE IMPORTANT, BUT HIS TOTAL INVOLVEMENT WAS, TO ME, THE IMPORTANT THING. THE HELPING OF THE ATHLETE BEHIND THE SCENES... THE EXTRA ENCOURAGEMENT... THE HELP FOR THE PROGRAM NO MATTER WHO'S AT THE SCHOOL BOARD LEVEL.

BEN TRICKEY WAS LUCKY THAT HE COULD TOUCH SO MANY PEOPLE IN A POSITIVE WAY. HIS LEGACY IS ONE OF A CHALLENGE FOR OTHERS TO DO AS MUCH. HIS CALLING, TO A HIGHER LEVEL, BECAUSE THE MAN UPSTAIRS NEEDED A GOOD COACH.

Bob Brooks
KCRG



Ben
Trickey

Sports Knothole

By JOHN RICHARDS
(Sports Editor)



Trickey At Top Of List

(Editor's note: Warren Robeson, Times-Republican city editor, and sports editor of the T-R during the years Ben Trickey coached in Marshalltown, contributes today's Knothole, remembering the former city sports figure who died last Saturday.)

By WARREN ROBESON

Ben Trickey was buried earlier this week in Cedar Rapids.

Here is a name that belongs at the very top of that niche reserved for all-time greats in Marshalltown athletics.

Not just because he was without question one of the best all-around athletes in Marshalltown High School history, but also because of his later accomplishments and the manner in which they were achieved.

- Outstanding college athlete at the University of Iowa.

- War hero.

- Successful coach.

- Outstanding semipro baseball player and manager.

- Successful businessman.

- And loved and respected husband and father of four fine boys, outstanding athletes in their own right.

Ben Trickey was undeniably all of these things.

Actually I did not know Ben until after World War II, but as conductor of this column in the late 1940s and early '50s, I came to know him well and respect him not only as an athlete and coach, but as a man.

We were contemporaries really — Ben being only a couple of years older — and I vaguely recall watching as a Tama High School sophomore when the nearby big city team of Marshalltown "led by Trickey" almost won the state basketball championship at Drake Fieldhouse in 1939.

A look at the records underlines his greatness as a prep athlete. He starred in football, basketball and baseball (the junior legion variety until MHS started the diamond sport in his senior year). Twice he was all-state in basketball and led the state tournament scoring in 1939.

Corps the day that game was played.

Lt. Ben Trickey was cited for capturing a Japanese pillbox on Guam, was later wounded in the left thigh in that island battle, receiving the Purple Heart.

The wound was later to cost him a chance to play professional football. Signed by the Detroit Lions, the leg troubled him in his tryout opportunity.

So Ben returned to Marshalltown and that's when I came to know him. As a T-R sports writer, I first remember marveling at his strong arm and determination at the plate for the Marshalltown American Legion baseball team of 1946 — forerunner of the semipro Ansons. In February of 1947 I saw his basketball ability for the first time since high school days, watching his amazing quickness and sharp basket eye lead Lynk Bros. & Baird of Green Mountain to the Iowa AAU title.

Ben's Marshalltown coaching career started in 1947 at the junior college with his Tigers compiling a 16-4 record. The next year he moved into the Marshalltown High School head basketball post, assisting also in football and track, and continuing with the Marshalltown Ansons baseball organization. By coincidence I became T-R sports editor and author of this column about the same time.

It wasn't all roses for Coach Trickey. His early MHS basketball teams had their problems, but as his players learned his style the victories came — four Central Iowa Conference titles and the unforgettable climax of an unbeaten state championship team in 1956.

His eight-year record was 109-54 which combined with his 16-4 MJC year and a 13-1 season as coach of a Marine team at Camp Elliott, Calif., makes his total basketball coaching mark 138-59, a .700 winning percentage.

On to the University of Iowa, he was one of those rare young men able to make it in three sports at the major college level. Twice he earned Hawkeye letters in football and baseball and three times in basketball. He set Iowa Fieldhouse and Big Ten scoring records as a cager.

His football prowess earned him selection for the college all-star team slated to play the National Football League champions in 1943, but that honor had to be foregone because of the war. He became Lieutenant Trickey of the Marine

I think I learned even more of this remarkable man as he starred with and later managed the Marshalltown Ansons semipro baseball team and helped conduct the boys baseball school for the organization. He had the ability to convey his knowledge of the game to young players quietly, but convincingly and could see latent talent at an early stage.

Ben could, and did, play any infield position and hit with authority. His quick reflexes gave him excellent range and made him a tough out at the plate. He was always among the team leaders in hitting, runs batted in and home runs. At the demise of the semipro program he held Anson records for batting (.418 in 1950), RBI's (51 in 1951), hits (61 in '50) and runs (55 in '50).

For five years Ben managed the Anson. He wasn't the flamboyant type—in fact one of the few critical columns I typed concerning the Ansons cited a lack of color, a criticism which drew a customary mild response from the manager. He just went on doing the things which brought victories. His five-year record as field boss was 144-50 (.742) with two Iowa Open tournament titles.

Well I recall the night a major league scout — on hand to look over a young Anson catcher — said to me, "The guy who's ready for triple A ball is your second baseman." It was 30-year old Ben Trickey, by then past the age when pros were willing to start a player through the farm system. Maybe it was such a remark reaching him which planted the dream of having one of his sons make the major leagues.

The Trickey boys have demonstrated rightly inherited athletic ability and maybe one will fulfill their father's dream. Certainly he was proud of them and if he had to be struck down so early in life, how characteristic that it came as he followed his third son (Brad), outstanding Iowa third baseman, as the Hawkeyes played at Northwestern.

Remember future Knotholers, when you write of Marshalltown athletic greats, Ben Trickey belongs right up at the top.