

## Oregon Tennis Historical Committee

### WHERE ARE THEY NOW: Hugh Findlay

Hugh Graham Findlay was born in 1928. He grew up in NE Portland near the corner of 16th and Thompson.

He had a fun childhood as is evident by his participation in the Irvington Club sponsored Children's Parade in 1934 with his brother Alex. This is documented with a picture in the book *The Club that Roared*. In the book it's written that Dad was 13 when he took his first lesson from Kurt Berndt at the Irvington Club. He loved tennis from that moment on.

I think one of his first big wins was the 1945 Portland City Championships. He won the Jr. Singles event at the age of 17. He was attending Grant High School at the time. They had a very good team.

Dad actually taught science at Grant in the 50's along with his good friend Clyde Knox who also taught there. Clyde rented a room from my grandmother for many years on 17th off Knott.

Later on he attended Oregon State University and played at the top of the men's team for until he graduated in 1949. I think that may have been the year Don Megale arrived and Dad helped coach the young team.

In 1950, dad married my mom Tootie and in 1952 they moved into the upstairs apartment at the Irvington Club with their first son Stephen when Dad became manager of the club. That lasted a couple of years but then he came back to teach as the pro of the club in 58 and 59.

Throughout the 50's and into the 1960's, Dad taught tennis at the Mac Club, the Racquet Club and Waverly Country Club too.

Mom was a good player too. Dad and mom won the Portland Parks mixed doubles tournament 3 times in 5 years starting in 1951. I think she was pregnant the other times! They got to keep the trophy in 1955.

In 1955, he lost in the finals of the Oregon State Tournament to Sam Lee and Emory Neale. In 1951, he beat Clyde Knox in the Portland City Singles Championship. Between 1948 and 1955, he won the Portland City Doubles Championships 3 times playing with Fred Fisher, and Jim Flynn.

In 1967, dad packed up the family and moved us all to 160 acres about 8 miles northeast of Bend and he built his dream. The Around the Bend Tennis Ranch. 4 tennis courts were built, a swimming hole and 8 horses became an amazing place for kids to come for 2 weeks at time to learn tennis and experience a county ranch adventure. This was the first tennis camp of its kind in the NW. We even hosted some junior tournaments there. It was a family business where we all had jobs to do. The camp ran until the mid 70's.

Dad had a side hustle that I helped him with when I was a teenager. He built tennis courts around Central Oregon. Once he arranged to have the asphalt put down, we would mix and spread several layers of Laykold to smooth the surface. Then we would jackhammer in the net posts, paint the courts and measure out and paint the lines and voila! A tennis court. We built the first courts at Black Butte

Ranch, Donna Gills Guest Ranch and Bend's first indoor courts in an old crane warehouse on the old Brooks Scanlan Mill property on the edge of downtown Bend. Now it's all shopping and restaurants.

In the 80's Dad and Mom retired to Hawaii and enjoyed the sun, fun, golf and lots of tennis! They joined the Kailua Tennis Club and also played around the various parks in Kailua. Dad continued to compete as a member of various USTA teams (usually as the more "senior" member of the team. He was one of the top players around his age group and younger in many local tournaments and events there for many years. I believe one year his team did go to nationals in USTA but I'm not sure of the year. It could have been 1999. In 1999 he was the men's doubles champion of the USTA/HPS JR/SR Vets Sectional. In the year 2000, Dad and his doubles partner were the points leader in the Hawaii City Services Invitational 70's.

He continues playing tennis until his early 80's. He is currently 93 and living at;

- The Springs at Carmen Oaks
- 3800 Carmen Dr. Apt. 230 C
- Lake Oswego, OR 97035

I'm sure he would love mail and to see visitors although his memory is fading a bit. Folks could always call me and I can let Dad know they may drop by or possible call him. That might work too.

Tim Findlay

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***Hugh & Tootie Findlay***

8/17/2021