

A Man Called Dutch

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Oregon Daily Emerald

Landmarks come in various shapes and sizes and are important to the public in differing ways. The site of a fierce battle. The place where a famous individual once lived. The site where two individuals fell in love.

Only a discriminating eye can spot the memorial of the two young lovers who met on a special site 48 years ago.

Brushing away the leaves that have come to rest on a patch of sidewalk not more than 20 feet in front of the east entrance to Deady Hall, a weathered bronze plaque is unveiled. Its message simply: "It is here we met and here we will always be."

Below the inscription are the names of the two fateful soulmates who fell in love on the University campus in the late 1940s. The plaque continues: Gloria Schiewe — '46, Norman M. Van Brocklin — '49.

The memorial was contributed by the Van Brocklins' children, honoring the commitment and love the two exhibited throughout their remaining 36 years together.

"They were totally committed to each other," Karen Vanderyt, the Van Brocklins' eldest daughter who was born in Eugene in 1950, told *The Register-Guard*. "They were totally supportive of each other. We can't think of one without the other."

"They loved each other. They tried to be each other's strengths throughout their whole lives together."

Norm Van Brocklin's tributes are on display in trophy cases



COURTESY PHOTO
Norm Van Brocklin achieved a 16-5 record while being the strong-willed leader of the Ducks from 1947-48.

and exhibition halls, telling the story of one of the greatest quarterbacks to step behind a center at the University of Oregon and was to later become a legend among National Football League quarterbacks.

It is under a far-reaching maple tree and next to a lonely bench where you can find the true story of the man Van Brocklin was.

The two literally bumped into one another underneath the maple tree in 1946. Van Brocklin, a post-war freshman, and Schiewe, a teaching assistant, could not have known at the time that their opportunistic meeting would be memorialized years later.

Said Vanderyt, "He said, 'I'm trying to find my way to this darn

hall, can you help me?' And my mom said, 'I happen to be going that way, I'll take you there.'"

As it turns out, Schiewe was his lab teacher in biology.

"He tried to date the instructor after class," wrote Murray Olderman in a book on NFL quarterbacks. "She handed him a test with a flunking grade. When Van Brocklin got his work up to a C-minus, she went out with him. 'I fell in love with the big stiff,'" she said, "because he was so helpless."

Another version is that Gloria was handing out papers and Norm pinched her.

"That would be in keeping with dad's personality," Vanderyt told *The Register-Guard*.

The two soulmates married the following year. The couple had three children and adopted the three children of friends killed in an auto accident.

Like the lone bench underneath the maple tree, the duo weathered gracefully over the years, exhibiting a few scars and wrinkles from the limelight of Norm's career but remaining sturdy under the shelter of their love.

The Van Brocklins' marriage took them through Norm's football career at Oregon, his professional playing career with the Los Angeles Rams and Philadelphia Eagles and also his NFL coaching career with the Minnesota Vikings and Atlanta Falcons.

Synonymous with Oregon football is passing and, since it perfected the air attack, Oregon has had four All-American quarterbacks — Bob Berry, George Shaw,

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