

Nicholas John Busch

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NICHOLAS JOHN BUSCH BIOGRAPHY

IN THE BEGINNING

This biography of Nicholas John Busch is being written by his son Michael Busch for the express purpose of enlightening his grandchildren as to the multifaceted and exemplary life he led. He was born on July 26, 1898 at 4:00 PM at his parent's home on a wheat farm in Colton Washington. His father was Peter Jacob Busch, born in Fleringen Germany on February 7, 1863. Fleringen is a small farming and dairy village in the Eifel Mountains in Westernmost Germany near the borders of Luxemburg and Belgium. He immigrated to the USA from Germany through the nearby port of Antwerp Belgium in 1885. NJB's mother was Mary Fahey Busch born in Walla Walla, Washington on July 31, 1873. His parents were married at the Catholic church in Uniontown Washington (St. Boniface) on June 15, 1891. NJB was preceded by older siblings Christopher Mathias (b- 1892), Margaret Susanna (b-1894), and Michael Theodore (b-1896) all born at a prior farm home near Genesse Idaho.

NJB had a life long fondness and loyalty to the state of Idaho and would joke that he was not sure if he was born in Idaho or Washington. Apparently, the summer of his birth (1898), the Peter Busch family moved from the Thorn Creek area near Genesse ID to Colton WA. Mary Fahey Busch's step father had died that summer and left his farm in Colton in bankruptcy and his stepson-in-law Peter Busch was able to purchase the farm out of bankruptcy and eventually turned it into a very prosperous farm. NJB was followed by 3 more siblings. Peter Jacob (b-1901), Mary Magdalene (b-1903), and Anna Techla (b-1905).

NJB's parents continue to prosper on the Colton farm raising wheat and horses. Tragically, his father on October 24, 1906 at the age of only 43 was kicked in the abdomen by a horse. After two days he was taken by train, accompanied by his brother Mathias and his doctor, to Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane for emergency surgery. The surgery was not helpful and he died on the operating table of intestinal hemorrhage and obstruction. Peter Busch must have recognized the end was near as he wrote his will on the train ride to Spokane. NJB was only eight years old at the time. His mother was left with a large farm to run and seven children ages 14 years to 13 months! She never remarried.

An excerpt of Peter Busch's 1906 obituary from the Colton weekly News-Letter: "The funeral was held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the Catholic church, conducted by Rev. Father Frei. The large room was filled with people, every seat being occupied and most of the standing room being taken. Every one in Colton and the surrounding country was there to pay last tribute of respect to the man they knew so well. It is estimated that fully a thousand people attended the funeral." Amazing for a town of about 200 people.

The obituary continues: "A year ago last spring at the annual school election he was the choice of the people of this district and became a member of the Colton School Board, and was a

member of the Building Committee of the new Catholic church here. He died fortified by the last rites of the Church of which he had been a life long member. The News-Letter voices the sentiment of all when it tenders to the unfortunate widow and the fatherless children the heartfelt sympathy of all who knew him."

GONZAGA

Not much of NJB's life as a child after his father's death is known other than under his mother's leadership the farm continued to prosper and a large two story farmhouse with a unique four gabled roof (similar to a phillips head screw-driver) was built about 1907. Apparently, Peter and Mary already had plans drawn for the house before his untimely death and she went ahead with the build.

After graduation from Colton High School in 1917, he spent a year helping on the family farm and then entered Gonzaga University in Spokane Washington during the fall of 1918. After arrival at Gonzaga, not only did he do well in all of his classes he also developed a great talent for football. By his senior year, he was elected captain of the very successful Gonzaga football team. Gonzaga played the other northwest collegiate teams of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. On Christmas day 1922, the Gonzaga Bulldogs lead by their Captain Nick Busch were invited to play the U of West Virginia Mountaineers in San Diego in one of the earliest Bowl games ever.

The San Diego Union headlines reported "the largest crowd ever assembled in San Diego Stadium for an athletic event will cheer men of West and East in football classic contest for supremacy. Both schools have sent their champions thousands of miles to decide."

While at Gonzaga, the large Crosby family, to help ends meet, would take in football players for their room and board and be reimbursed by the university. NJB was one of the football players at the Crosby home. Ted Crosby was a classmate and close friend of NJB, The soon to be famous Bing Crosby was two years younger and already a musical talent. They sang in the Gonzaga Glee Club together.

During summer vacations from Gonzaga, he worked in the hay fields of eastern Washington, as a lumberjack in northern Idaho, in addition to helping on the family farm in Colton. Interestingly, NJB seemed to be the only one of his brothers and sisters to pursue a college career although his older brother Mike attended at least one year at Gonzaga and played on the 1919 football team with NJB. The Gonzaga coach at the time was Gus Dorais who formerly played at Notre Dame as quarterback and with his end Knute Rockne helped develop the forward pass as a new offensive weapon.

He graduated from Gonzaga in the spring of 1922 with a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree. Apparently, he still had some football eligibility and stayed on as Captain of the fall 1922 team. After leaving Gonzaga his next academic pursuit was to enter the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown in Washington D.C.

NJB always took pride in saying he played 60 minutes of every game and never needed substitution. I think this also included his football playing at Georgetown as well as his professional football career. In the 1920s, the rules did not allow for free substitution and the entire defensive or offensive teams would not take the field with a change of possession of the ball as is currently played.

Because of his football stardom at Gonzaga he was named to the "All-Time All-Gonzaga Football Team" in 1935 as the Left Guard. On December 19, 1943 he was also chosen Left Guard for the All-Time All-Inland Empire Football Team. This would have included players from Universities of Montana and Idaho plus Whitworth, Washington State College and Gonzaga. Gonzaga discontinued football in 1943 during World War II and never fielded a team again.

The All Time All-Gonzaga Football Team	
QUARTERBACK Francis "Fanny" Hunting '30	
FULLBACK Jack Garrity '25	
CENTER Art Dussault '26	
LEFT HALFBACK Houston Stockton '26	RIGHT HALFBACK Kenneth "Hiking Ike" Petersen
LEFT END Ray Flaherty '29	RIGHT END John Louis Barrett '15
LEFT TACKLE Hector Cyre '23	RIGHT TACKLE Ivan "Tiny" Cahoon '25
LEFT GUARD Nick Busch '22	RIGHT GUARD Francis Walterskirchen '29

The article explaining the All-Time choices appeared in the 10/25/35 Gonzaga Bulletin and in part reads as follows:"LEFT GUARD Nick Busch, '22. Right in the position that takes the toughest beating during the course of a game, Nick Busch was constantly in the thick of it, and not purely through accidental circumstances. Nick gets the call through fight ability to take an ample helping of punishment and dish out more. No doubt about his merits as an All Time guard. Men such as Busch are the backbone of a team.

Houston Stockton played with NJB as a freshman halfback in 1922 as well as having a pro football career. He was the grandfather of John Stockton a famous Gonzaga and Utah Jazz basketball player and is probably Gonzaga's most famous alumnus in the modern era.

Ray Flaherty also played with NJB at Gonzaga as well as with the Wilsons Western Wildcat pro team and went on to have a stellar career with the New York Yankee/Giants Pro football team and was named first string all pro end in 1928, 29 & 32. He was coach of the Washington Redskins 1936-1942 with his team winning division titles in 1936, 37, 40, & 42 and NFL titles in 1937 & 42. He is credited with inventing the "screen pass" as an offensive weapon. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1976.

With Bing Crosby being the most famous alumnus during the pre-modern era and John Stockton in the modern era, it is interesting NJB had a connection to both.

GEORGETOWN

By this time NJB must have had an interest in travel; maybe started by all the travel involved with attending "away" football games. He was anxious to further his academic career and chose Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Why Georgetown? I am not sure except that it was a fellow Jesuit University and also had a good football team. He went there not sure whether to pursue a career in foreign service or law. He chose foreign service as this was a night school and would not interfere with football. Law school was apparently a day school. He also felt he had some more college football eligibility as he tried out for the 1923 Georgetown team and was selected as a first string tackle. Apparently, while starring in the early season, the football gods in the East ruled him ineligible and he became a coach instead of a player. By the next season (1924) he got his eligibility straightened out and he was again a first string tackle.

During the summers, while not attending classes at Georgetown, he would hire on as an able bodied seaman to work on steamships learning the foreign trade business from the bottom up. He would hope to get hired aboard a freighter plying across the Atlantic to Europe trade. Sadly, because he had no seniority in the seaman's union, he would have to settle for ships going to and from South America. He mentioned how surprised he was to see so many German immigrant shops in Brazil and Argentina after World War I with "Deutsch Gesprechen" written on their shop windows. NJB received his PhD in Foreign Service at Georgetown on June 8, 1926.

The following is an excerpt from a 1926 article from the Washington (D.C.) Star newspaper:

NICK BUSCH IS COLORFUL COLLEGE ATHLETE

By R. D. Thomas

America's most colorful college student was revealed today. If he isn't that, he has few rivals. At the age of 20 he saw for the first time a town of 10,000 population—born and reared in the Snake River hill country of Idaho and Washington. Today we find Nick Busch of Georgetown University, crack football player and a tough hombre with boxing mitts. For at this time, when the college athlete is being plastered as a dolt and classroom sluggard and the phrase "over-

emphasis on college football" is heard often, Nick Busch stands out as a striking figure in contrast to all that. He is a brilliant, hard-working student and football helped to make him that way. "To play football a student must be up to snuff in the classroom and in the first class condition necessary to play football keeps the brain healthy and energetic for study" is the way Nick reasons.

But it was Father Vincent McDonough, disciplinarian and faculty advisor of Georgetown, who gave the lowdown on Nick Busch as a modest young man of prismatic make-up. "Busch has two degrees, a strangle hold on a couple more and his college records reveals 200 credits without a flunk or a condition on an examination. He has just finished a 50,000 word treatise on the sheep and wool industry of the world as part of the work by which he is expected to acquire the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in June. He reads Latin and French and speaks Spanish and German fluently. All of his time since leaving the Snake River hills has not been spent in book knowledge, Otherwise Nick Busch would not have been mentioned here as possibly the most colorful chap now in college.

In his life has been crammed experience as well as the printed word, for Nick Busch is a rover. Powerful of physique, daring by nature and quick of intellect, at 20 he struck out boldly in the stream of life and has paddled in some strange currants. According to Father McDonough, Nick Busch at various times has earned his way as a rancher, woodsman, bronco buster, waiter, sailor, elevator operator, mail juggler, assistant college professor and prep school teacher. It is said, he has found corners of existence where might of fist was a compelling argument if not law. Nobody would guess these things by talking to Nick Busch.

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

After graduation from Georgetown in June 1926, NJB signed a contract 2 months later to play professional football with a team lead by George Wilson an All-American Half-back from the University of Washington. That original contract is still in the NJB scrapbook. The team was the Wilson's Western Wildcats (also called Los Angeles Wildcats) and was a member of the American League Professional Football Clubs. His salary was \$110.00 per game which were played 2 or 3 times a week. A princely sum in the middle twenties. The Wilson Western Wildcats would play teams such as New York Yankees with Red Grange, The Brooklyn Dodgers with the former Four Horseman of Notre Dame, Chicago Bulls, Philadelphia Quakers, and the Boston Bulldogs. Apparently there were about 10 teams at the time in this league and it was the precursor of the National Football League. I am aware of NJB playing only the 1926 season with the Wilson Western Wildcats. A more complete history of the 1926 American Football League from a Wikipedia computer search follows:

Los Angeles Wildcats

Los Angeles Wildcats	
Founded	1926
Folded	1926
Based in	Chicago, Illinois, United States
League	American Football League (1926)
Team History	Los Angeles Wildcats (1926)
Team Colors	Light Brown, White
Head coaches	Jim Clark
Owner(s)	C. C. Pyle, Red Grange and George "Wildcat" Wilson
Named for	George "Wildcat" Wilson
Home field(s)	Traveling Team

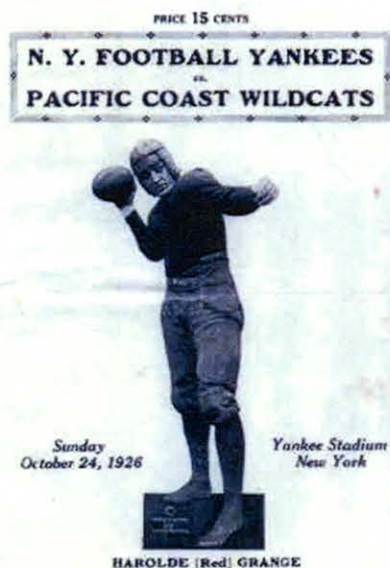
The **Los Angeles Wildcats** (also reported in various media as **Pacific Coast Wildcats**, **Los Angeles Wilson Wildcats** and **Wilson's Wildcats**) was a traveling team of the first American Football League that was not based in its nominal home city but in Chicago, Illinois (it trained in Rock Island). Coached by Jim Clark, the team was designed to be a showcase for University of Washington star back George "Wildcat" Wilson. Compared to most traveling teams in professional football, the Wildcats were successful, compiling a 6-6-2 record in the only season of the team's – and the league's – existence.

Origin

The existence of the Wildcats began with the 1926 formation of the American Football League by C. C. Pyle, a sports agent who represented star back Red Grange. Pyle's application for a National Football League franchise in New York was rejected as Tim Mara, owner of the New York Giants objected to Pyle proposed intrusion into the Giants' territory. Armed with a five-year lease at Yankee Stadium, Pyle subsequently announced the formation of the American Football League as a showcase for his client.

The league was also a showcase for another Pyle client who was an All-American on the West Coast: Wilson. Because of the limitations of train (or bus) travel, the National Football League extended only from the Atlantic coast westward to Kansas City, Missouri, and Pyle wanted to tap the talent of college football players along the Pacific. His solution was novel (and one that the more established NFL would copy quickly): establish a traveling team nominally representing Los Angeles and headed by Wilson. The team would be based in Moline, Illinois (home of the Rock Island Independents, which jumped from the NFL to the AFL) and would have no home stadium. Virtually all of the players of the team attended colleges sited west of the Rocky Mountains.

The team was owned by C. C. Pyle and Red Grange, who also owned another AFL team (the New York Yankees) and had stock in a third (the Chicago Bulls). The three teams and league champion Philadelphia Quakers were the only four teams (of the original nine) still in existence at the end of league play on December 12, 1926. Upon the completion of a barnstorming tour, the Wildcats closed up shop after only one year of existence.



PACIFIC COAST WILDCATS

Top row, left to right: J. Lawson, D. Carey, H. Shipley, W. Ericson, T. Bucklin.
 2d Row: A. Wilson, C. Johnston, E. Clark, L. de Wolf, D. Morrison, T. Ilman.
 3d Row: B. Reed, R. Stephens, R. Flaherty, J. Vester, N. Busch, G. Wilson.
 Bottom Row: R. Morrison, M. Bross, E. McRae, J. Bradshaw, C. Walters.

Program and Team Photo from 1926

American Football League Play

As the team began league play, it became evident that Wilson was not the only weapon that the Wildcats had. Coach Jim Clark had the versatile Mal Bross for either rushing and receiving duties; ends Ray Flaherty and Jim Lawson dutifully caught passes from Wilson, while Duke Morrison ran when Wilson didn't take the ball. Furthermore, no fewer than four Wildcats handled the kicking job at one time or another.

Originally scheduled to play only 10 games, the Wildcats played additional contests as last-minute "fill-in" opponents as one team after another in the American Football League folded or otherwise left the league. Immediately after tying the Chicago Bulls in Comiskey Park, the team trekked to Toronto's Maple Leaf Stadium for a game with the New York Yankees, which also played games on back-to-back days. The Yankees won, 29-0.^{[1] [2]} It was not the first weekend in which the Wildcats played on consecutive days (they actually did so on three other weekends); their Thanksgiving Day contest with the Bulls (a scoreless tie) was their third in a five day stretch.^{[1] [2]}

By the end of October, the Cleveland Panthers and Newark Bears have closed up shop; the Brooklyn Horsemen merged with their NFL cousins, the Brooklyn Lions in early November, and the Boston Shamrocks, a team that was subsidized by Pyle's money dropped out. In the four weeks from the departure of Cleveland and the exit of Boston, scheduling "holes" were filled by the two traveling teams of the AFL: the Wildcats and the Rock Island Independents... that is, until November 21, when the Independents – charter members of both the NFL and the AFL – joined the exodus from the younger league by calling it quits after a 3-0 loss to the Bulls. With only two weeks remaining in the season, the Wildcats, Yankees, and Bulls – three teams owned (or co-owned) by Pyle and Grange – and the Philadelphia Quakers were the last teams remaining, with only the Quakers reporting a profit.

Only two official AFL games were left to play in December 1926. On the 5th, the Wildcats shut out the Bulls 5-0 on a frozen field in Comiskey Park, while the Bulls hosted the Yankees the following Sunday as the visiting team wrapped up the 1926 season of the American Football League with a 7-3 victory. At the same time, in a snowstorm at the Polo Grounds, the league champion Quakers were crushed, 31-0, by the New York Giants in a game that marked the end of the American Football League, December 12, 1926.

Year	W	L	T	Finish	Coach
1926	6	6	2	4th	Jim Clark

After the first AFL

Two days after the end of the 1926 season (and of the AFL), the Wildcats and the New York Yankees started a series of exhibition games as the two Pyle-owned teams went on a barnstorming tour of the American South and West. The two teams competed in Atlanta (a 7-7 draw), Birmingham, Alabama (a 14-3 Yankees win), Beaumont, Texas (a 34-0 Wildcats win), and San Antonio (a 20-14 Yankees win) before traveling to California for games against the independent Hollywood Generals (whom the Wildcats defeated, 26-7, in Wrigley Field of Los Angeles) and the NFL's traveling team, the Los Angeles Buccaneers (the Wildcats won, 17-0, in a game played in San Francisco).^[2]

With the dissolution of the American Football League (Pyle's Yankees were preparing to join the NFL under an arrangement with New York Giants owner Tim Mara, who acquired the assets of the defunct Brooklyn Horsemen), the Wildcats ceased to exist after the game in San Francisco. Wildcat Wilson joined the Providence Steam Roller for the 1927 NFL season. Wilson was not the only 1926 Wildcat to join a NFL roster for the 1927 season.^[3]

Mal Bross – Green Bay Packers

Ted Bucklin – Chicago Cardinals

Walden Erickson – Pottsville Maroons

Ray Flaherty - New York Yankees

Ted Illman – Chicago Cardinals

Jim Lawson – New York Yankees

Ray Stephens – New York Yankees

John Vesser – Chicago Cardinals

Flaherty continued to play until 1935 (taking 1930 off to teach college football), then became head coach of the Washington Redskins in 1937. He became a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1976.

References

- [1] 1926 American Football League from Elias Sports Bureau and Pro Football Research Association Linescore Committee (<http://afhistory.net/linescores/pdf/1926a.pdf>)
- [2] Schedules and scores of the teams in the 1926 American Football League (http://home.comcast.net/~ghostsofthegridiron/Quakers_1926_Wildcats.txt) – "Ghosts of the Gridiron"
- [3] David S. Neft, Richard M. Cohen, and Rick Korch, *The Football Encyclopedia: The Complete History of Professional Football, From 1892 to the Present* (St. Martin's Press 1994), ISBN 0-312-11435-4

SAN FRANCISCO

The period after professional football in 1926 and before his getting established in San Francisco is not well known. He abhorred braggadocio and his scrap book is silent during this period. We know he took a trip in 1927 to see his father's relatives in Flerigen Germany. He spoke fondly of his first cousin Mectilde whom he visited in nearby Munstereifel Germany. Her son Everard has saved letters to Mechtilde from NJB from 1927. Everard has also traced the Busch family back to 1594 and has produced a wonderful family tree chart.

We know he became a resident of San Francisco probably during 1927 or 1928 and with his foreign trade training he became a "Special Representative" of the Foreign Trade Association of San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. About this time he also became a Professor of Foreign Trade at the University of San Francisco School of Law and Commerce.

Downtown San Francisco has a very prestigious athletic club called the Olympic Club. This club had a football team which played local colleges, e.g. Cal Berkeley and U of Santa Clara as well as military teams. NJB played on the Olympic Club team during the '27 and '28 seasons.

During this time leading up and after the "Great Depression" he was obviously very busy. But he still had time to meet and court a lady from a pioneer San Francisco family named Elizabeth Alma Dierssen. Her grandmother, Elizabeth McElhinny at the age of two, came around Cape Horn on a sailing ship from Boston in 1852 with her family. They were Irish bricklayers and helped build early San Francisco soon after the 49ers. After Nick and Elizabeth had been dating for about six weeks EAB was aware that NJB's birthday was very soon and she asked him what he wanted for his birthday. NJB replied "To marry you". They were married at the St. Ignatius chapel on the campus of U of San Francisco by the Dean of the School of Law and Commerce Fr. Charles Carroll SJ on July 26, 1932 on his 34th birthday.

During the 1932 and 33 seasons he was asked to serve as the head coach of the Olympic Club football team which generated considerable coverage in the San Francisco newspapers which EAB enjoyed clipping and placing in NJB's scrapbook. EAB always loved a party, and she loved her new life because of her new husband's position with the Foreign Trade Commission in SF. The commission would frequently host parties for ships arriving in San Francisco. EAB would truly enjoy serving as hostess at these events.

During the summer of 1933, EAB was well along with her pregnancy and NJB wanted to take her to Colton for the annual 4th of July celebrations and with the approval of her obstetrician they were off to Colton. EAB was square-dancing the night of the 4th, goes into labor, goes to nearby (20miles) Lewiston Idaho St. Joseph's Hospital where her first born Frederick Michael was born the next day. NJB's mother -in-law, Frances Dierssen, never forgave him as she was confident he engaged in a sinister plot to get EAB out of SF so I would be born in God forsaken Idaho instead of being my being a 5th generation San Franciscan. Grandma Dierssen finally got her wish as 16 months later Peter Martin (after the 2 grandfathers) was born in St. Mary's Hospital in San Francisco on November 19, 1934.

During the '34 through '37 seasons, along with being a new father, working at the Foreign Trade Commission, and teaching at USF, NJB was also refereeing college and professional level football games in San Francisco Bay area. Also during this period of time he somehow earns a Masters of Education degree from U of California Berkeley. His thesis was on the Status of Indian Education.

On 11/26/1936 he was commissioned a Captain in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve by a Colonel Holland M. Smith (Howling Mad Smith--more of later). In 1939 I have the impression that NJB was getting burned out with all his activities in SF and this farm boy needed some fresh air. He accepted an active duty position with Marine Corps to become a commanding officer of a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp along the Salmon River. The closest town was tiny Riggins Idaho 17 miles away. This CCC camp's assignment was to improve the one lane gravel road following the mountainside canyon along the Salmon River. So with dynamite, pick and shovel and later dump trucks, bull-dozers, steam shovels and graders, he led 100 men building a road into the Idaho Salmon River wilderness. What a change! His coaching experience with young men certainly prepared him for this new life's adventure. He left for the CCC camp in early 1939 and EAB with her 4&5 year old boys joined him during the summer vacation that year. Since women were not allowed in CCC camps, NJB had to find a place for his family. A nearby cattle rancher had a very rustic 1 1/2 room cabin about 3-4 miles away he was willing to rent. It had no plumbing, no electricity, no telephone, so his city girl wife has to deal with dipping buckets of water out of a nearby creek, using a wood stove to heat the house and cooking, baking her own bread, kerosene lamps, and outhouse. NJB and the kids loved it and I never remember a complaint from EAB. A station wagon brought us kids in the area the 17 miles one way to attend the Riggins two room schoolhouse.

Sometime during the early 1940s, NJB realized that the State of Idaho had a completely nonsensical auto license numbering system. At that time the letters A, P, H, K, and R were used along with numerals 1 through 9 as county prefixes. For example Nez Perce County was 7K. He submitted an auto licensing system whereby the counties were given an alphabetical prefix e.g. 1A for Ada, 2A for Adams, 6C for Clearwater, N for Nez Perce etc. In Idaho, people are so insular that not only do we wonder which state a car is from but also which county. Idaho has 45 counties. His system was adopted by the State of Idaho in 1945 and continues on to the present.

By late 1940 our country started to mobilize for WWII and the draft was instituted and the CCC men were soon in the military. NJB returned with his family to San Francisco where he continued on active duty attached to the Marine Corps Fleet Marine Force Pacific (FMFPAC) whose headquarters was fortunately also in SF.

Although our country was mobilizing for war, the attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941 as a complete surprise! I can vividly remember coming home from my first communion at St. Bridget's Church that Sunday and my parents turning on the radio to hear that the "Japs were bombing Pearl Harbor". Serious air raid drills soon started. San Franciscans were obviously worried that we could be the next target after Pearl Harbor.

By February '42 NJB was ordered to Bremerton Washington to be the Commanding Officer of the Marine Corps guard detachment at the Naval Ammunition Depot there. The commanding officers home was a two story true log cabin and we all loved it there. EAB and the boys arrived by train into Seattle on Easter Sunday. NJB met us at the train station and we all took the ferry to

Bremerton. When we arrived at our new home NJB had prepositioned chocolate Easter eggs in the fireplace. Another wonderful surprise was a beautiful 1941 Pontiac parked in the garage. This car is still in the family. On November 29, 1943 daughter Elizabeth Ann (Betze) joined our little family. She was born at the Bremerton Naval Hospital.

NJB next orders were in 1944 to be the Commanding Officer of the Marine Guard detachment at the Naval Ammunition Depot Hawthorne Nevada. A promotion in responsibility but in the middle of nowhere. By January 1945 NJB was ordered to rejoin now Lt. General Howling Mad Smith's staff at the new Fleet Marine Force Pacific headquarters on Maui Hawaii and had to leave in ten days! His choice was to find us a place to stay near his extended family in the Lewiston Idaho area or return us to join his still wary mother-in-law in San Francisco. Lewiston won out so we drove to Lewiston at once and they found a very nice 1905 Craftsman style home near the St. Stanislaus School and Church within a week—703 Sixth Avenue. NJB was off to war and EAB and the kids started to keep the home fires burning in Lewiston.

PACIFIC THEATER

Upon NJB's arrival in Maui in January 1945, the our war effort in the Pacific was still in the middle of recapturing the Philippines and the Marines had yet to capture Iwo Jima and Okinawa. The Navy was plagued by Japanese suicide Kamikaze attacks. After arrival in Maui he was assigned to the logistics staff of FMFPAC in the Special Services division. I understand this meant that after the combat was over, entertainment was made available to the marines such as movies, musical and athletic equipment etc. NJB joked he was flying pianos all over the Pacific. While on Maui he met up with a childhood friend from Colton WA, a Navy chaplain Fr. Frank Druffel. Some Benedictine nuns had a mission school for Maui children. The two of them would visit the school and accidentally leave some beer behind for these German ancestry nuns.

On July 20, 1944 the Marines had made an amphibious landing on the island of Guam. By August 10 the Marines wiped out the last of the Japanese resistance, there where less than 100 Japanese captured alive and 10,000 dead! The Marines had lost 1300. After the island was secured, it became an important air base as well as the new forward headquarters for FMFPAC including NJB. Small groups of Japanese hold outs hiding in the jungle were still surrendering until 1972! The war in the Pacific was over August 15, 1945 with surrender of Japan.

A clipping in the NJB scrapbook dated 12/24/45 in the "Navy Times" noted that he was the chairman of a committee of five USN and USMC officers to develop a sports championship for the entire Pacific theater. Competition was scheduled for 13 sports including teams for volleyball, basketball, and touch football. Individual sports included boxing, swimming, track and field, handball, tennis, horseshoes, golf and table tennis.

NJB returned to Lewiston from active duty in the Marine Corps in April 1946. He had been promoted to Major and was anxious to stay with the Marine Corps on active duty but President Truman was trying to eliminate the Corps at that time and only marine officers who were Annapolis Naval Academy graduates were being retained on active duty so he continued in the USMC reserves. He established and became Commanding Officer of the Lewiston-Clarkston area unit of the Marine Corps Reserves. He retired with the rank of Lt. Colonel

LEWISTON

After the war when NJB returned to Lewiston, there was no job waiting for him. He had decided to stay in Lewiston rather than returning to San Francisco as he was convinced the city life was not the place to raise his family. Of course, Lewiston had no job openings for a man with an advanced degree in Foreign Service. Shortly after his return, a man named Swede Nelson died. He owned a band of a thousand sheep. NJB's brother Mike had done very well with the sheep ranching business so why not Nick? So NJB bought out Swede Nelson's band of sheep and all the equipment including sheep dogs, camp wagons etc. and we were now in the sheep business. NJB's only ranching experience had been as a child and certainly his wife and kids had none. But with some good hired hands, we made a go of it. The winter range for the sheep was along the Washington side of the Snake River 10 to 16 miles South of Lewiston on canyon land too steep to be suitable for cattle. This area became too hot for grass to grow during the summer and the sheep were trailed about 120 miles north to high mountain pastures in the St. Joe national forest near Clarkia Idaho. In the fall, after the lambs were sold, the sheep were trailed back to the Snake River canyon winter range. This bi-annual trailing of sheep through Lewiston would always draw lots of attention with onlookers, photographers and newspaper articles. With a police escort, traffic would be delayed while the sheep would stroll by. Lewiston likes to keep an old west image and sheep being trailed through would certainly enhance this image. This sheep drive through Lewiston typically was on Easter Sunday morning in the spring and Thanksgiving morning in the fall in hopes of minimal traffic. The sheep would cross both the Clearwater Bridge as well as the Interstate Snake River Bridge the same day.

On March 16, 1947, Pete and I asked our dad if we could go fishing along the river. Instead of the usual harangue of where, when, how long, who with, do you have all your chores done etc., etc. it was an immediate okay and we were out of the house like a shot. When we returned we found out we had a new little brother Nicholas Joseph "Joe". We knew our mother was pregnant but were not aware of her being in labor!

Sheep ranching is certainly a 365 days a year business, and except for a rare 3-4 day Marine Corps meeting in California, NJB never seemed to take a vacation or trip. This also meant the rest of the family did not seem to take family trips or vacations together. The boys were active with the boy scouts and rarely missed a summer scout camp. Our father took a great interest in

our scout activities and made sure we were working on our merit badges on weekends instead of hanging out on the streets with our friends. Another example of his fatherly oversight and instilling the motto "anything worth doing is worth doing well". All three of his sons became eagle scouts.

On the other weekends during the school year, he could always find chores for us to do on the ranch e.g. shoveling sheep manure, fixing fences or skinning dead sheep for their hides. Lambing time during the month of March when the entire lamb crop of about 1200 lambs were born was an especially intense period of time. Extra hands were hired, my mother would move to the ranch house from Lewiston to cook for the lambing crew and Pete and I were working 3 day weekends at the ranch. The size and success of the lamb crop, along with the sale of the wool shorn from the adult sheep, determined our income for the year. Sadly, times were changing with the sheep business. Because of refrigerated ships bringing cheap lamb and wool from New Zealand and Australia to the U.S., the price of wool and lamb here plummeted. The price of lamb and wool Uncle Mike enjoyed before and during World War II were not seen again. The newly discovered fibers such as nylon and polyester also affected wool prices.

Finances around the house were very tight but he still managed to put four kids through college or nursing school. EAB continued to teach full time and her salary was essential. As part of NJBs "idle hands are a devil's workshop" mentality, Pete and I were up at 5:30 every morning to deliver the Lewiston Morning Tribune until about age 13 or 14 when we became more valuable at the ranch on weekends.

NJB and his wife took great responsibility in raising their children right. This meant emphasizing honesty and respect for authority including the fourth commandment "Honor your father and mother ". It was a strict, hands on approach, male dominated household.

On Christmas day 1953 the Spokane Washington Spokesman-Review published an article under the title: Lewiston Sheepman Ponders on Philosophy of Shepherds. A portion of the article follows:

Neither the work nor the philosophy of the shepherd has changed since the night over 1900 years ago when the men tending their flocks became the first to hear the news of the birth of Christ.

Nick J. Busch, Lewiston sheepman, retains much of that outlook on life, and today he said of his work:

"We are out in open all year where we can see Mother Nature in full bloom. Our surroundings are in keeping with our best interests—away from the trials, tribulations and the temptations that are in more congested places, where they are tempted to give full reign to the unwholesome law that the end justifies the means. The whole peaceful tranquility of our work—of seeing the

miracle of birth and the mother instinct of the ewes with their lambs—are the things which keep the shepherd happy.”

Busch said that work of the sheepman today is not too divorced from that of the shepherd of 1900 years ago. “We have today problems over which we have no control. They are out of our realm in this mercenary, monetary world and today we must compete with growers in Australia and elsewhere and we are still looking for a price structure commensurate with our way of life. Imports have nearly depleted our profit making opportunities.”

To read that article, certainly sums up his determination to raise his family away from the city. To also read that article is to almost hear him talking.

He sold the sheep business to another area sheepman Hi Hood on 2/6/64 and retired. I believe that sheep ranching in northern Idaho is currently non-existent.

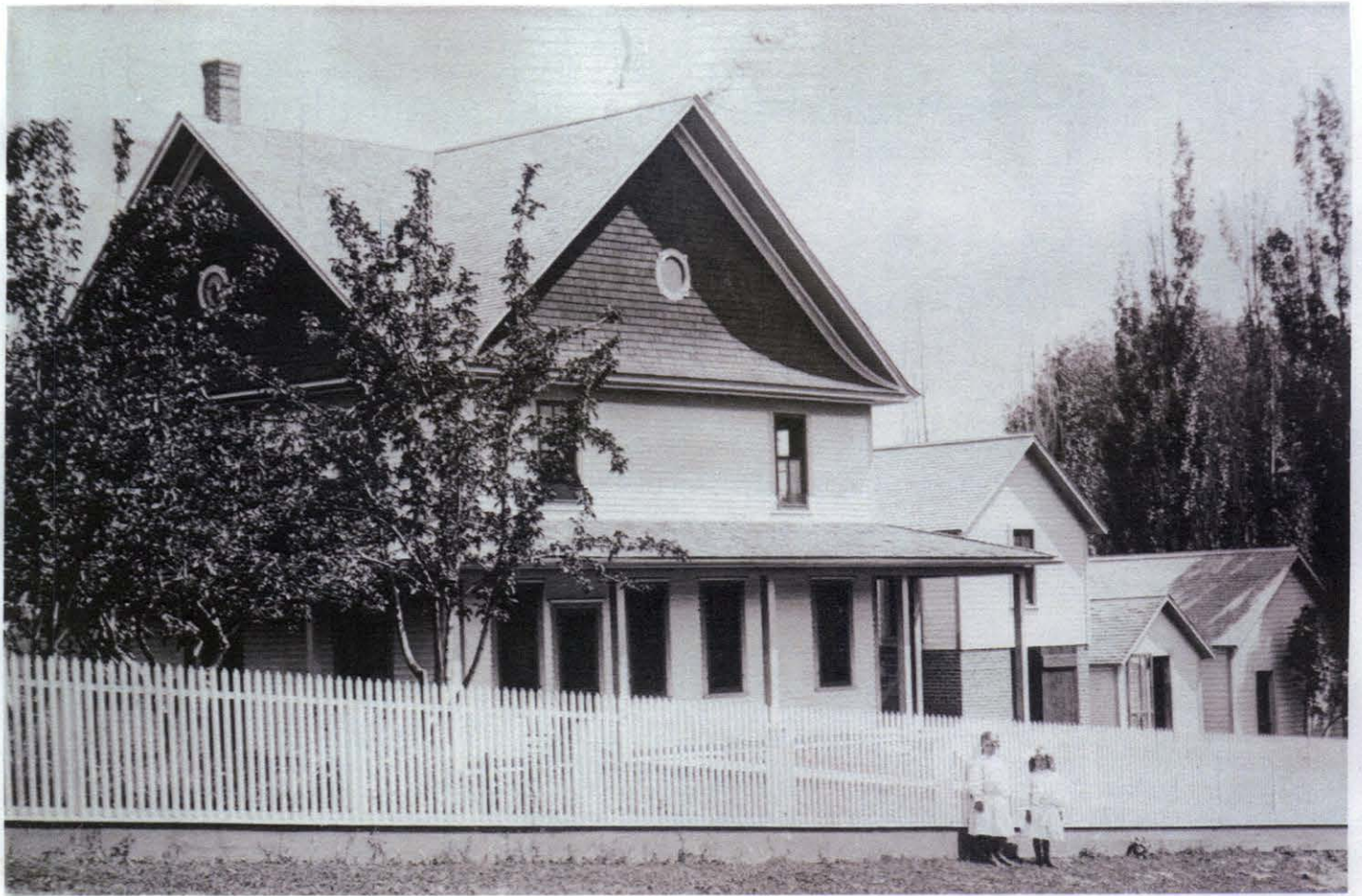
Upon retirement he had the time to become more active with Boy Scout leadership. In 1969 he was awarded the Saint George medal for Catholic scouters.

In 1965 the Surgeon General of the United States came out with the evidence that smoking may cause lung cancer. After over 50 years of smoking, he quit “cold turkey”. Never the less, 4 years later he developed pneumonia and went to the Naval Hospital in San Diego for treatment. This was a man who never took a pill or had an operation! Sadly when the pneumonia cleared, a lung cancer was noted on x-ray. Biopsies were done confirming the diagnosis and it was determined that the cancer was inoperable. Radiation therapy was given but was of no avail. He went home to Lewiston for a few months. He again worsened and returned to the San Diego Naval Hospital and after a few weeks he was given the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church and passed away peacefully looking forward to meeting his Maker on November 13, 1972—74 years, 3 months, 18 days old.

Profound gratitude to Gretchen and Katherine Matheson for their computer wizardry in publishing this biography.



NJB about age two with brother Chris and Mike, and sister Margaret.



Busch Family Home, Colton Washington built in 1907



Colton High School Graduation 1917



1922 Gonzaga Football Team #3 Nick Busch captain, #7 Houston Stockton, #14 Ray Flaherty



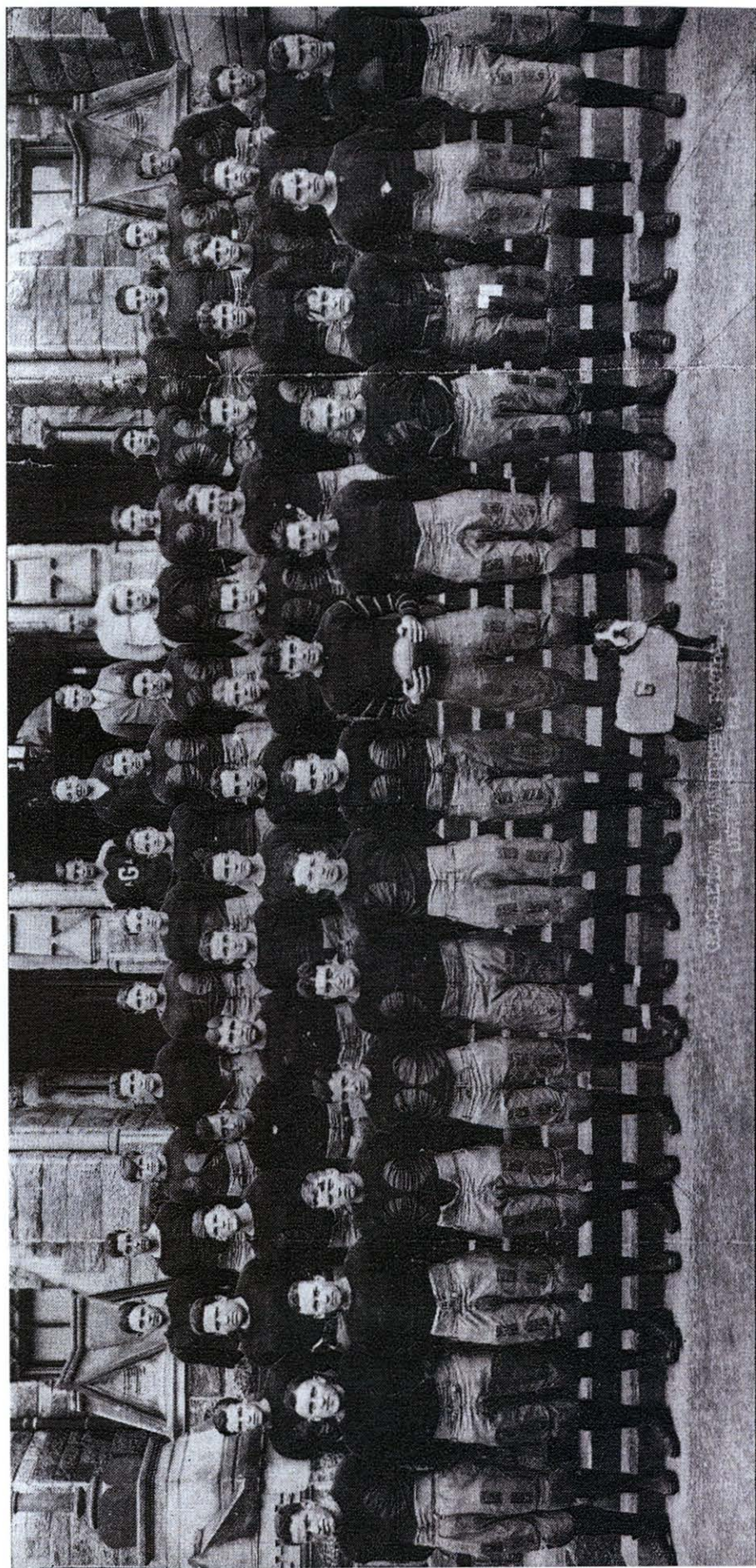
Nick Busch 1922 Football Team Captain



NJB riding through beautiful downtown Colton (right)



NJB Lumberjack summer during college



GEORGETOWN 1924 FOOTBALL SQUAD

1924 Georgetown Football Team, NJB 1 man left of man with football and dog

Mid-Week Pictorial, November 6, 1924

VICTORS AND VANQUISHED IN THRILLING GRIDIRON BATTLES



OVER THE TOP: EARL GOODWIN,
Bucknell Halfback, Hurdling the Line for a Short Gain in
the First Quarter of the Game With Georgetown, Won
by Bucknell, 14-6.

(Times Wide World Photos.)

Down but not out, Nick Busch pulling down Bucknell runner by his leg



NJB Georgetown PHD gown 1926



NJB 1926 with smile and moustache



Able-bodied seaman on Atlantic steamship
to South America during Georgetown
summer vacations



Wilson Western Wildcats 1926. Ray Flaherty 2nd row 3-L NJB 2nd row

PRICE 15 CENTS
N. Y. FOOTBALL YANKEES
 vs.
PACIFIC COAST WILDCATS



Sunday
 October 24, 1926

Yankee Stadium
 New York

HAROLDE [Red] GRANGE



PACIFIC COAST WILDCATS

Top row, left to right: J. Lawson, D. Carey, H. Shipkey, W. Ericson, T. Bucklin.
 2d Row: A. Wilson, C. Johnston, E. Clark, L. de Wolf, D. Morrison, T. Ilman.
 3d Row: R. Reed, R. Stephens, R. Flaherty, J. Vesser, N. Busch, G. Wilson.
 Bottom Row: R. Morrison, M. Bross, E. McRea, J. Bradshaw, C. Walters.



Busch 7 children and mother 1932, from left, Mary, Mike, Ann, Nick,
Chris, Maryann (mother), Margaret, Pete



NJB 1932



NJB and EAB newly weds 1932



NJB USMC Captain 1938

The All Time All-Gonzaga Football Team

QUARTERBACK

Francis "Fanny" Hunting '30

FULLBACK

Jack Garrity '25

CENTER

Art Dussault '26

LEFT HALFBACK

Houston Stockton '26

LEFT END

Ray Flaherty '29

LEFT TACKLE

Hector Cyre '23

LEFT GUARD

Nick Busch '22

RIGHT HALFBACK

Kenneth "Hiking Ike" Petersen

RIGHT END

John Louis Barrett '15

RIGHT TACKLE

Ivan "Tiny" Cahoon '25

RIGHT GUARD

Francis Walterskirchen '29