

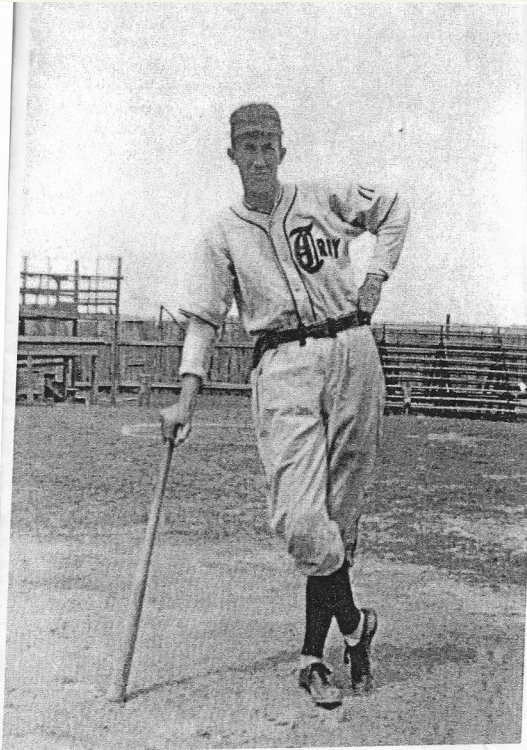
**VOL. 2, NO 1**

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# The Lee County Legend

KEEPING THE MEMORIES ALIVE

## TYE HARBER



**Christian**

**Son—Dad**

**Husband**

**Student—Teacher**

**Sportswriter**

**Ballplayer—Coach**

**Mentor**

**Soldier—Leader**

### A LEE COUNTY LEGEND

**Inside—The stories you may know about Tye's baseball career, but also stories you may not have known about during his high school days at Pennington High.**



**WHO'S TY HARBER?**

In the late '50's and early '60's, we played baseball whenever and wherever we could. Our days were filled searching for teammates and opponents to get a game started. One of my favorite teammates was Ty Harber. Ty would come up from Knoxville to spend most of the summers in Pennington. We became good friends because of baseball and the friendship has lasted.

My favorite memory playing with Ty was at a Sunday afternoon doubleheader at Dryden sometime in the summer of '62 or '63. Ty batted right in front of me and on 3 or 4 occasions that day, he and I ran the hit and run play perfectly. I will never forget getting a nod from him that he was going on the next pitch. Since I was usually late on my swing, what would have been a grounder to 2nd turned into a base hit for me, since the 2nd baseman would be over covering the base. Ty would end up on 3rd and I would proudly stand at 1st.

You know, if we were really that good, I should have waited two pitches to allow Ty to steal 2nd and 3rd, (he was certainly fast enough) then that weak ground ball of mine to 2nd would have scored a run.

Recently, Ty and I played golf. We spoke of the old days. However, it was not our sport's exploits that we discussed but rather, those of his Dad, Ty Harber, Senior.

Ty Harber, Sr. has been known for his professional baseball play and coaching, but my recent research has found so many stories of his play as an amateur in baseball and other sports. In addition, I have been able to uncover other interesting facts about Ty's life that I just had to get written up into a summary of Ty's sports life. I hope you enjoy the reading as much as I have enjoyed getting to know Ty Harber, Senior and Junior.

Though Ty, Jr. and I think we were legends. The older we get the better we were. His Dad, on the other hand, really was one of the best athletes and coaches to come from these parts and is truly a **LEE COUNTY LEGEND.**

**Tye Harber, Sr.**

- 1912 Born in Pennington Gap. Died 1999
- 1932 Graduated Pennington High School
- 1929-1932 Played football, basketball and baseball at Pennington High
- 1932-late 30's Played baseball, basketball and football in college
- 1932-? Attended Emory & Henry, Hiwassee before graduating from LMU. Earned Masters Degree from the University of Tennessee
- Coached at St. Charles High, leading the team to championships in both basketball and baseball
- Was Principal/Coach at Powell Valley, Tn. Coached boys basketball team to the State Tourney
- One of the few Lee County residents to coach and manage baseball teams in the professional ranks.
- Played for Panama City, Fl, and Troy, Ala in the professional Alabama-Florida Baseball League
- Played several seasons for the Pennington Miners, including the early 40's league Champs team
- Probably 1st white player to play for the all black Pennington Baseball team in the 30's when the first baseman couldn't play due to illness
- Coached another Lee County Legend, Ron Skeen while Ron was in high school
- After his sports days were over, Ty worked for the state of Tennessee, mostly in Knoxville.

**Quote from Ty Harber, Jr.**

“My best memory of Dad is that he always had time for me. When he came home from work, we didn't eat supper until we played ball. As a good Christian Father, he loved my sister Katie Frances and me.”

**SHORT STORIES**

**TYE'S OTHER ACTIVITIES AT PHS**

**FIREMAN** - As an athlete going to school early to work out in the basement one morning, Tye saved Pennington High from burning down when he doused a blaze that was burning out of control. PVN 1930

**REPORTER** - As a high school student, Tye wrote weekly Pennington High News for the Powell Valley News.

**FRIEND** - Tye was a friend to all. Even to the school principal, Professor William D. Bradbury. Tye spent Saturday, November 21, 1931 bird hunting with Professor Bradbury. PVN

**SOLDIER** - Tye was a member of Patton's 3rd Army during World War II.

**TYE HARBER—PENNINGTON HIGH SPORTS PIONEER AND STAR—1929-1932**

- **FOOTBALL -**
  - Played **Right Halfback** on the first Pennington High football team in 1929
  - In 1929, Coached by Leffler Herndon, and played with QB Pee Wee Herndon, FB Peeters, LH R Meyers, LT D Kelley, LE Curtis Creech, LG Lucas, C A. Pennington, RG Hoot Gibson, RT Meyers, & RE Lee Holt. This lineup played St Paul in 1st game ever.
  - Had the record for the longest punt in school history and record lasted many years until later days of the school.
  - Threw the first touchdown pass in school history, on halfback pass in 2nd game.
  - Played quarterback for 2 years after the graduation of Pee Wee Herndon.
  
- **BASEBALL**
  - Though he later settled in as a first baseman, Tye was the pitching star for the Pennington “Gladiators”.
  - Was a perfect 7-0 on the mound as the PHS baseball team won the Lee County championship in 1930 by going undefeated on the season.
  
- **BASKETBALL**
  - The newspaper reports of basketball are sparse during the 20’s and early 30’s but the few found indicate that the Pennington High team had faculty support and was organized to a certain degree. Tye certainly played as some articles reported him being a part of the team that traveled far and wide to find competition.

*1930-31 - The 7 accredited public high schools in Lee County included Dryden, Flatwoods, St. Charles, Rose Hill, Jonesville, Ewing and Pennington.*

*Editor’s note:           WEDDING BELLS ARE RINGING!  
On December 1, 2012, I was lucky enough to be married to Patricia Evans Scott at the Baptist Church in St. Charles. More than 100 of our families and friends joined us in this very happy and joyous occasion. It is so good to be living back here in Lee County. I have truly come home.  
Dave*

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**TYE'S IN PRO BASEBALL!!****Panama City, Fl, Troy, Ala. and Pennington Gap**

Edward Tye Harber was hired as player/coach of Panama City Base Ball Club in Alabama—Florida Professional Base Ball League. The following paragraphs hold a few highlights of Tye's years in this league.

Tye was mainly a first baseman with great hands and a steady high batting average. He consistently put the ball in play with few strikeouts. Midway through the season, according to the local news, Tye Harber was 2nd on his team and in the top 10 in the league with a .375 batting average.

Playing and coaching for the Panama City Pelicans, Tye helped the team to victory in the 4th game of the League Playoffs. In the 9th inning, Harber moved his teammate from 1st to third to enable the next batter to drive in the winning run.

A typical day was turned by Harber against Troy in 1938. He went 2 for 3 with a double and 2 RBI's to help Panama City win 6-2.

Later in his career, Harber had successful stints at Troy in the Alabama-Florida League then returned to Lee County to play for the Pennington Miners. See below some of Tye's play along with other local heroes:

Bristol Herald Courier—Tye Harber's single to left in the 9th, scoring Pee Wee Herndon from 2nd, broke up one of the fastest games of the season yesterday and gave the Pennington Miners a 2-1 decision over Bristol.

Continued next column.....

Harber's clout drove in the winning run and the masterful pitching of Rudy Parsons, dean of the Appalachian League slabsmen made this victory possible.

Bristol Herald Courier—The Pennington Gap Miners cuffed Elizabethton 10-5 tonight. Morris was 5-5 with a home run, Lockhart hit for the cycle, and Tye Harber went 3-4 with 3 runs batted in for the tilt.

Bristol Herald Courier—Pennington Gap Miners banged out an 8-1 victory tonight behind the effective pitching of Rudy Parsons! Tye Harber Steve Lockhart and Bill Albritton paced the 12 hit attack by the Miners.

Bristol Herald Courier-Pennington Gap and Erwin split a pair of swell games on Leeman Field today. In the opener, a home run by Tye Harber led the way for the Miners as Rudy Parsons scattered 6 hits to win.

Ala-Fla Base Ball League report—The Troy Trojans downed the Panama City Pelicans 7-4 here Wednesday. Tye Harber, Trojans first sacker, led the team with the bat, going 2-4 with a double and 2 RBI's.

Ala-Fla Baseball League report-Troy turned back Evergreen Sunday. Harber, Troy 1st baseman, had a perfect day at bat with 3 hits, 2 runs and 1 RBI.

**HARBER STARS IN FIRST PRO BASEBALL GAME AT LEEMAN FIELD**

The Pennington Miners slammed out a 9-4 victory over Kingsport here today (May 4) in the Appalachian League inaugural for Leeman Field. TY HARBER, with a double, single and RBI led the Miners.

*The Lee County Legend*  
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TO:

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