

# For OSU150, some famous and not-so-famous OSU firsts

Some of these images are familiar; some not so much. All are connected to Oregon State firsts. Without Googling, how many do you know? Answers on page 64.



1 Who is this, and what is he holding?



3 She achieved an interesting first for gender equity on campus, but one that didn't last all that long. What was it?



6 What's happening here?



2 This Corvallis home was called "The Nest in the West." Who lived here?



4 What was the significance of this Oregon State commencement?



7 One of these three people is connected to an important first and to a familiar piece of campus art. Who is it and what's the artwork in question?



5 How did these men get their nickname?

## ANSWERS (questions on page 9)



**1.** Forrest Smithson was born in Portland in 1884 and attended Oregon State (then Oregon Agricultural College). He competed in the 1908 Summer Olympics in London, where he won a gold medal (pictured) in the 110-meter hurdles on the final day with a world-record time of 15.0 seconds. He was a devout Christian, and in protest against having to compete on Sundays, he posed for a photo going over a hurdle with a Bible in his hand. A student of theology at OAC, he eventually became a Baptist minister.

**2.** Rev. William Asa Finley was appointed as the first president of Corvallis College in 1865 and was president when the college received its land grant charter in 1868. This home was his family's first in Corvallis, standing at Van Buren Avenue and 5th Street. In the photo on page 9, the Finleys are standing on the upper porch.

**3.** In 1932, Eileen Eason broke a gender barrier to become the first female member of the cadet band. However, by 1935, the band returned to its male-only status. Female students formed their own band in 1937, and it merged with the cadet band in 1946. Reportedly, OSU's basketball pep band did not allow women members until 1973.

**4.** The 2001 Commencement ceremony was the first to be held outdoors, although only partly so. Undergraduates picked up their diplomas in Reser Stadium but graduate students received theirs in the LaSells Stewart Center.



**5.** The 1933 Oregon State football team, known as the Iron Men, ended the 26-game winning streak of reigning champion University of Southern California with a 0-0 tie — and used no substitutes. This is the only time that a collegiate football team using only 11 players broke the winning streak of a defending national champion. The OSU Alumni Association's Ironman Award is named in honor of the team and Bill Tomscheck, pictured at left, its last surviving member, who created an endowment to support the award before he died in 2004. It helps juniors and seniors who show resilience and face extreme financial need as they strive to complete their degrees.

**6.** Fred Tonge, chairman of the Department of Computer Science, stands in front of a DEC PDP-11, the department's first research and instructional computer, in 1980. With its accessories (such as a tape drive for storing data) it was about the size of a refrigerator, but is considered one of the first and most successful mini-computers in history. The main processing unit could weigh in at more than 100 pounds.



**7.** The familiar image from the university's archives features the first graduating class — all three members — in 1870. Left to right are Robert M. Veatch, Alice E. Biddle and James K. P. Currin. A bronze statue of Biddle, 16 when she graduated, has become a campus landmark. Standing near the northwest corner of Strand Agricultural Hall, it's named "The Quest" and was created by Kirk St. Maur in 1983.