

# 75-Year Journey

Unveiling the Tapestry of BRC  
[bakersfieldracquetclub.com](http://bakersfieldracquetclub.com)

In the vibrant tapestry of our 75-year journey, we've witnessed the transformation of our courts and the evolution of tennis fashion. Today, our members sport bold and bright attire on the court, reflecting a vibrant spirit that defines our club.

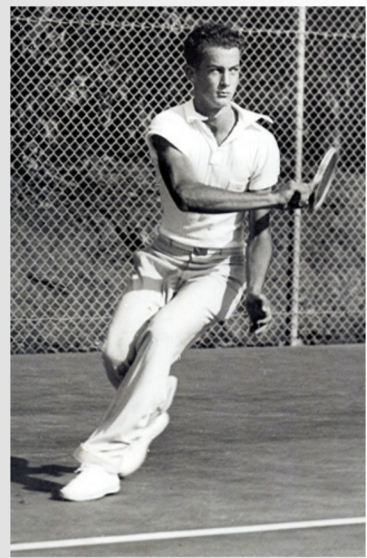


Marsha Glasser, Claudia Dodd, Brenda Splitt

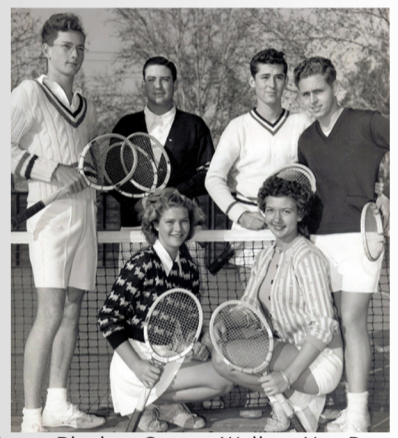
However, let's take a step back to the early 1900s when tennis fashion adhered strictly to the tradition of "Tennis Whites Only." This sartorial rule echoed across tennis courts worldwide.



At Jastro Park in the 1930s, sweltering summer days couldn't deter our players from wearing crisp long pants and collared shirts for men, while women gracefully played in calf-length dresses. Only a few dared to deviate with cream or off-white tints.



Fast forward to the '40s and '50s, when hemlines began to rise, and 'short pants' became acceptable for men. By the '60s, women confidently stepped onto the courts in shorts. Amidst the changing times, one thing remained constant - white attire was the prevailing trend.



Lynn, Bleeker, Cowan, Wallace Van Pate  
 Donna Rey Felter



Jack Kramer and Dennis Ralston with BRC juniors, including Steve Holloway (front & center)

The winds of change swept through tennis in 1972, marking the official replacement of the white tennis ball with the now-iconic yellow one. The world was transitioning to color TVs from black and white sets, and tennis dress codes took a cue. Colorful and casual court attire became the new norm.



Men's Singles Flex Tournament  
 2023 BRC

As we celebrate our 75th Anniversary, our courts are not just adorned with vibrant clothing, shoes, and rackets but also with the echoes of the past. One such echo is the remarkable journey of Alan Hodges, a true BRC legend.

Alan's roots are deep within our club; he played at Jastro and BRC. However, his impact extends far beyond the court. Alan was not merely a player but also BRC's Manager and Head Professional for an incredible 21 years. His dedication shines through in every corner of our club, from the meticulously planted bushes and hedges along the entire west side, a monumental task he undertook as a junior in 1948 when he was "hired" by Lake. Alan, we thank you for your unwavering commitment!



Andy Davidson, Alan Hodges, Teri Lynott



Billie Hodges

During Alan's tenure from 1972 to 1993, his wife Billie Jo also made her mark. She ran one of the best-stocked pro shops in the entire country, offering thousands of items each season. The pro shop became a cornerstone of our club, reflecting Billie's dedication and love for BRC.

Today, we are delighted to share that Billie and Alan remain cherished members of our community.

As we delve deeper into our club's rich history and celebrate the incredible individuals who have shaped it, let's also mark our calendars for our grand 75th celebration on Saturday, October 21st. It's a date you won't want to miss—an opportunity to connect, reminisce, and create new memories together.

## Event Timeline:

- 2:00-3:00: Tennis Live Ball
- 3:00-5:30: Tennis & Pickleball Randum Tandum (No Drop-ins)
- 5:30-7:00: Finals, Court-side Buffet, Dancing

*Registration for the 75th anniversary celebration opens on October 1, 2023*