The glory of the Harlem Renaissance was short-lived. In 1929, it was replaced by an economic depression. Dad was in junior high school at the time. He helped his family out by taking on odd jobs delivering newspapers, cutting the neighbors’ grass, and selling hot dogs during football games. Pasadena’s Rose Bowl. And he endured problems associated with being poor and fatherless.

When he was a teenager, Dad and his friends formed the Pepper Street gang. They didn’t use drugs, drink alcohol, or start fights. But they did throw clumps of dirt at passing cars, swipe hot dogs and sell them back to the owner, and steal fruit from the local grocers. Several key factors helped my dad avoid serious trouble. The first and most important was his devotion to his mother and the values she worked hard to instill in him. The second was his love of athletics. Most of Dad’s energy was put into playing sports. In 1935, he was star high school football quarterback at Tech, where he also played baseball, basketball, tennis, and held records in track. Older brothers were another big influence on him.
He really looked up to ________________, Frank, and Mack. Dad didn’t always delightfully repeatedly Edgar

______________ Edgar’s odd behavior, but he admired ________________ love of speed. swam smooth understand his my impulse

Edgar’s feats on ________________ skates and his bicycle were legendary. ________________

love carriage roller Stick It Thing

was said Edgar could outrace the ________________ from Pasadena to Santa Monica, a 30- bus frog sometimes

______________ trip!

year exuberant mile

Frank was my dad’s favorite ________________, but Mack became his idol. When secretary brother color

Dad was 13, he watched with pride as Mack won a place on the U.S. Olympic track-and-field team.
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