One of the five men who carried the major responsibility for the College of Puget Sound for more than thirty years was Mr. Dix Halsey Rowland. He and five other men - Dr. Edward H. Todd, Mr. Alfred Lister, Mr. E. L. Blaine, Mr. Charles Robbins, and Mr. Everill S. Collins had vision, gave inspiration and direction to the early development of the College of Puget Sound (as it was known then). With their devoted, unselfish, and enthusiastic effort, the College of Puget Sound was established as a strong institution of higher learning.

Mr. Dix Halsey Rowland was born in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania on July 31st, 1872, the last of eight children, only four of whom lived more than four years. He was the son of Henry and Harriet (Knapp) Rowland. He received his elementary education in Wellsboro and then entered Syracuse University. He considered it a very great University and valued very highly the education he received there. From Syracuse University he received a Bachelor of Philosophy degree in 1895 and his LLB in Law in 1897. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and was outstanding in scholarship and leadership in academic affairs. In 1897 he was admitted to the New York State Bar in Rochester and to the Washington State Bar in Tacoma in 1902. He was admitted and qualified to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, October 11, 1932.

He entered the practice of law in Syracuse, New York, and was a member of the firm of Rowland and Sadler from 1899 to 1902.

His older brother, Harry, who had graduated from Syracuse Law
School, had come to the West coast, and strongly urged his younger brother, Dix, to come West too and they would form a partnership in Puyallup. He moved to the Tacoma area in 1902 and practiced with his brother until 1934 after which he practiced in his own name. He was a Court Commissioner for Pierce County much of that time.

In 1913 he was elected to the Washington State Legislature from Pierce County, District 36. While there he was always a leader in all progressive legislation and he introduced laws dealing with the aid and the protection of dependent children, or, as it was known, "The Mothers' Pension Bill". He introduced legislation concerning the Workmen's Compensation Laws, the Inspection and Safeguards on Machinery, and Recall Amendments to the Constitution of the State. All of his life he tried to safeguard and care for the children and the aged. Dr. Thompson recalls talking with him on many occasions when he was an adjunct to the Court and he had the responsibility of committing people to Abiline House, to Western Washington State Hospital, and to nursing homes. He said it was one of his most difficult tasks because he felt very keenly that the children should help to support their parents, at least in part, as long as possible. He is known to have talked rather strongly to children who wanted to place their parents in homes without really trying to help to pay for their keep or take any responsibility for them.

For nearly a half century he was a Trustee for the College of Puget Sound and the University of Puget Sound, and he was the Treasurer for many, many years. The Finance Committee of the Board of
Trustees met at his office in the Puget Sound National Bank Building each Thursday from 11:00 to 12:00. Inasmuch as the Finance Committee was made up mostly of Rotarians, this was the hour prior to the meeting of the Rotary Club. The Finance Committee conducted its business with promptness and in time for the men to go to Rotary. Dr. Thompson recalls when he first came to the Committee's meetings as President of the College of Puget Sound in 1942 and found them one of the most interesting hours of the week. Such people as Mr. Norton Clapp, Mr. Norman Tenzler, Mr. Fred Karlen, Mr. Roe Shaub, Mr. Charles Robbins, Dr. Thompson, and a counselor by the name of Doyle Watt were Committee members. Mr. Watt was a salesman for the Pacific Northwest Investment Company and a counselor until the Insurance Exchange Commission passed a rule that no salesman could serve as counselor in investment procedures.

During the Depression of 1929 and 1930 the University found itself having many one-family houses on which they held the mortgage faced with foreclosure for inability to make their payments. Mr. Rowland and Mr. Robbins were a sub-committee of the Investment-Finance Committee who dealt with those having difficulty paying their mortgages. They worked with these people so that no one lost their house to the University, although there were some who very definitely would have, had it not been for the generous, considerate action of Mr. Rowland and Mr. Robbins. The University was able to get one or two percent more interest by having the single family houses than it would have by going into the market. Mr. Rowland was a very judicious member of the Finance Committee, conservative in many ways but always protecting the investment of the
College, and at the same time being fair to those who were indebted to the College.

Politically Mr. Rowland was a Republican although he was a man of liberal ideas particularly in his younger years. He had great admiration for Theodore Roosevelt and at one time joined the "Bull Moose" party because he thought Mr. Roosevelt put forth the most practical principles for government. At that time he was the leader of the newly organized Pierce County delegation of the Progressive Party. This was typical of Mr. Rowland. He was a man of liberal thinking, of judicious dedication to good government, and to education of the voter. His daughter recalls that at election time many friends, family and clients had such confidence in his judgment on issues and candidates that they would call on him for advice on "how to vote". He also was a great admirer of Abraham Lincoln, and on more than one occasion he was the principle speaker at Lincoln's birthday banquet of the Bar Association.

He was always eager to bring the best possible faculty to the University of Puget Sound, and to offer the best possible curriculum in order to stimulate the thinking and the development of the college students. He carried with him, throughout his life, his great love of learning, and his great love of reading. He was one of the best read men in the area, from the classics to current events, and had an extensive library of his own. He had a great love of the outdoors, and in his younger years enjoyed hiking on the slopes of Mt. Rainier and camping there, leasing land from the Government at Longmire Springs.
He devoted many hours to the betterment of his community. He was a Trustee of the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce for many years. This included many campaigns, which he headed, to raise funds for civic enterprises. He was forthright, honest and helpful, and was willing to devote long hours to soliciting funds until the goal was reached.

From 1916 to 1933 he was Chairman of the Washington State Board of Law Examiners, and, as vice-president in the National Conference on Uniform State Laws, he was a guiding force. He became acquainted with many outstanding lawyers throughout the United States who were working for more uniform laws between states. Through 27 years he gave the Bar Examinations to many young men who would practice law in the State of Washington. He was very proud of the young men who had passed the Bar Examination, and he often spoke with real admiration for the number and quality of these beginning young lawyers. It gave him great pleasure and satisfaction to be greeted by one of them as the years went along.

His varied interests included membership in the Washington Bar Association, the Pierce County Bar Association of which he was past president, the American Bar Association, the Academy of Political Science, the American Judicature Society, Delta Upsilon, Phi Beta Kappa, New York Kappa, and the Tacoma Masonic Lodge. He was a life-long member of the Methodist Church and a Trustee for 50 years of the First Methodist Church in Tacoma.

His influence in the Methodist Church was very far reaching.
As a young man he was active in the Methodist Church in Wellsboro, Pa., his birthplace, and in Syracuse, during his college days. He was one of the outstanding leaders in the building of the present Methodist Church in Tacoma, and throughout its construction he often talked to the contractor, Mr. Sherman Blair, who was his brother-in-law. He was elected by the Pacific Northwest Conference of the church in 1926. The first time he was elected it was held in Springfied, Massachusetts, and he and his wife attended the General Conference. In those days there were two conferences in the United States, the Methodist Church and the Methodist Church South. It was not until 1939, in a great moment in Methodist history, that the two churches united after they had been separated over the slavery issue. Mr. Rowland represented the laymen of this area and gave very outstanding leadership in the General Conference. In those days the Bishops were elected by the total General Conference and there was usually very great leadership in the episcopacy. After uniting the Conference in 1939, as one of the political compromises within the church, the election was in geographic areas called jurisdictional areas, so that each jurisdiction could elect its own bishop. In many ways it made it impossible for some of the very great leaders of the church to be elected.

Mr. Rowland, following the tenets of the Methodist Church was a very ardent prohibitionist. He was a member of the Anti-saloon League and gave strong leadership to that phase of the Methodist Church. He was a man who strongly opposed to any use of alcohol, deeply concerned for its effect on a man's mind and his ability to be a productive member of society.
He was married on October 30, 1907 to Georgina Clulow. She was a very great helpmate to him and was very dedicated to his basic philosophy in law, in religion, and in education. Miss Clulow was the daughter of a Methodist minister. Her father was ordained in the Methodist Church after he came from Ireland to America, and so was her mother who was one of the very early women to be ordained in the Methodist Church. Mr. Rowland's wife had gone to a private girls' school in St. Paul and had completed two years at Hamline University in St. Paul. At that point her father was sent by the church to the Pacific Northwest and she completed her last two years at the College of Puget Sound.

At first she thought it was a tragedy that she was uprooted from Hamline University and the area where she had gone to school, but she soon became accustomed to the work at the College of Puget Sound and was a very ardent alumnus. For many years she was the oldest living alumnus of the College. She turned her diploma back to the University and it is among the treasured articles in the archives. She was soft-spoken and a very precious person in every way. Her family was very talented musically, and she was a gifted pianist and accompanist, and for many years was the organist at the First Methodist Church. She was a gracious hostess and loyal in her support of the College activities, its social life and that of the community. They made an ideal team.

Mr. Rowland was devoted to his wife and two daughters, Ellen and Georgina, his four grandchildren, and being fond of children, he would have loved his ten great-grandchildren. His grandson, John Rowland Wilson, graduated from the University of Puget Sound in 1959.
At one time in his career Mr. Rowland was strongly urged by the Tacoma and Pierce County Bar Associations and his lawyer colleagues to run for the State Supreme Court. It is very probable he would have been elected had he done so. In counseling with his wife, she said very frankly she did not want to leave Tacoma and move the family to Olympia, and possibly after four years have to move back to Tacoma again. He would lose the sequence of his practice and there was a real question in its many aspects whether it was worth it. He decided that he would not run for the State Supreme Court even though he had great pressure put upon him to do so.

Along with all Mr. Rowland's community and professional responsibilities he was devoted to the College of Puget Sound from its earliest beginnings. He was instrumental in helping to bring Dr. Todd, who was vice-president of Willamette University, to the presidency of the College of Puget Sound, as it was known then. Inasmuch, as he lived only a few blocks from the campus of the College, which is now the location of the Jason Lee School, he often walked to Dr. Todd's home in the evening, and they would talk together about the College--its development, the campus needs, their hopes and aspirations for the College and their implementation. The College campus was moved to its present site in 1924, and Dr. Todd continued as president. When Dr. Todd resigned there were 150 different people whose names were submitted as his successor. Of that group 50 were seriously considered and Dr. Franklin Thompson was high on the list.

As Dr. Thompson relates: "I talked to Bishop Baxter, who had
been my president when he was at Willamette, and he said, 'I don't think I would count on it. In the first place you are too young, and secondly, it appears that Dr. Todd would like to have a man by the name of Nyles, who was president of Iowa Wesleyan, as his successor.' However, one Wednesday the phone rang and it was Mr. Rowland. He asked if Mrs. Thompson and I would be home that weekend. I said that we would be on Saturday and that I would be preaching in Corvallis on Sunday because the minister had been called up in the reserves during the war. He said that would be fine and that Mr. Blaine and he would like to come down and talk to Lucille and me. They said they would come down on Saturday, we would have them in our home that afternoon and take them to dinner and spend the evening with them. Then Mr. Rowland suggested that they ride over with us to Corvallis, attend the service there and then take them to the train in Portland so they could return to Tacoma on Sunday afternoon. They came down and we had a very interesting visit. They were friendly and congenial. They knew a great deal about Methodist higher education and seemingly asked the right questions. We enjoyed our association with them very much. About one half in the congregation of 500 that Sunday morning in Corvallis were University students. After the service we drove to Portland so they could take the train to Tacoma. It was most interesting because Mr. Blaine and Mr. Rowland got into some strong arguments, both of whom felt very keenly about the points they were making. It was an education to listen to them talk about the College of Puget Sound and Methodist education in general."

Dr. Thompson continues: "I learned a great deal from Mr. Rowland in my early years as president of the College of Puget Sound, and through
all the years of our association. I often went to talk with him about the history of the school, about the tremendous contribution Dr. Todd had made, and about potential sources of support we should call upon in the community. He told me with great jubilation about the time that Dr. Todd and he went to see Mrs. Frank Tobey Jones and she promised to give a quarter of a million dollars for the building of the C.H. Jones Memorial Hall on the campus. This was the beginning of the beautiful buildings which stand on the campus of the University of Puget Sound today. He continued to be surprised and tremendously encouraged when other gifts were forthcoming from wealthy, interested and outstanding citizens in the community."

Mr. Rowland was a great statesman, a great churchman, a great lawyer, and his influence on the life of the College of Puget Sound and the University of Puget Sound is far-reaching and on-going. He will always be remembered as one of the great builders of what we believe to be a very unusual, outstanding, and beloved University.

Mr. Rowland died June 1, 1959, in Tacoma, Washington and he is buried in the Tacoma Cemetery.