To me, Dr. Edward H. Todd was one of the great men of his era. Without doubt, he was a very outstanding administrator. He, with great dedication and tireless energy, took a very small and very ill-financed institution and gave it solidarity, quality and a great foundation on which to build.

Dr. Todd really belonged to an era of great university administrators. There was Daniel Marsh who took Boston University and built it into a great university. There was John Seaton of Albion College who, likewise, did a phenomenal job of administration and financial development. There was Arlo Ayers Brown who did the same for Drew University. There was Herbert Bergstahler who was president of Ohio Wesleyan. There was Chancellor Scheckengast at Nebraska Wesleyan University. There was John O. Gross who was executive secretary of the Methodist Board of Higher Education, a great historian of the Methodist movement and a distinguished leader.

Dr. Todd was one of the peers and was greatly respected and regarded. He was a colleague of Dr. Carl Dorney who was president of Willamette for many years.

Dr. Todd used to travel extensively through the State visiting churches and he always planned to arrive in time for Sunday School. At the Sunday School opening exercises, he would be introduced and he would tell the story of the College of Puget Sound and have all the students say, in unison, "Our college, our college," and many an older man has told me, "I always
thought it was our college because Dr. Todd taught us to say together 'our college' when he visited our Sunday School."

Dr. Todd was a very able minister and preacher. He had had a successful career as a pastor. He had also been a successful man as a field agent for the College in its early days. He was asked to be vice president of Willamette University in charge of development and he spent some years there doing very able work. While he was vice president at Willamette, he was invited to the presidency of the College of Puget Sound where he remained from 1913 until 1942.

In my discussions with him, he often said, "Always remember that you have a great calling; you have a great school; and always remember the dignity of the office." This was characteristic of him because he firmly believed in the dignity of the presidential office. He told me, "I always said to the men, 'Good morning, Sir,' or to a young lady, 'Good morning, Miss.' I wanted them to know that they were at the serious business of securing an education, and I always maintained the dignity of the office." This he did, and he preached in a Prince Albert coat in the early days when he visited the various churches, and this was a part of his dignity, both as a Methodist minister and as a university administrator.

He was a man of great vision. He could envision what might happen and what ought to happen and he could envision, very frankly, what his work was, particularly in building buildings and in raising money. The business of raising money was with him always.
I had a very sad experience and it almost broke my heart. I went to see a lady who had many resources and I asked her to help the University of Puget Sound. I learned she was a lady who had an unusual quality about her. She would use the "cat and mouse" tactic in dealing with me and sometimes I would get money and sometimes I wouldn't. Sometimes she would taunt, somewhat, and sometimes she would be very friendly.

One day she told me that when she was a little girl Dr. Todd used to park his Model T Ford out in front of their house and, in his swallow-tailed Prince Albert coat, he would then walk up and down in front of the house, evidently getting up enough courage to go in and talk to her father about a contribution to the University. She said, "My sister and I used to go to our father and say, 'Keep him out there awhile and let's watch him; then let him in but tease him before you give him money so we can listen and have the fun of watching you tease him.'" Dr. Todd would go in then and present the case of the College to this outstanding leader in the community and tell him about the College and its possibilities and they would discuss the various shortcomings and finally, usually, the man would give some money, not a lot but some money, to Dr. Todd for the development of the University.

I have often put myself in Dr. Todd's place, for I, too, have parked my car, sat there for a minute, prayed for courage to go in and talk to people, and, most often, I have been very nicely received, but on occasion I have been "teased".
This lady, in telling me about Dr. Todd, seemed to get great joy out of recalling how she and her sister used to hide behind the curtain and watch and giggle to each other when they thought Dr. Todd was being teased.

There is a good ending to the story, however. This lady used to do the same thing with me. Some years I would get $10,000 and some years $20,000; some years $5,000 and some years nothing. On occasion, she would tell me, "I'm going to give it all to PLU this year because I don't like what your professor said that was quoted in the paper." Ultimately, though, she gave about $400,000 to the University before her death. But, in a sense, I never quite forgave her for the fact that she had such glee over the way her father treated Dr. Todd.

Dr. Todd was recognized as an outstanding educator by the state universities, by Dr. Seig who was one of his colleague presidents, and by the other private universities. He had an M.S. degree, a Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree from Boston University, a Doctor of Divinity degree, a Doctor of Literature degree, and a Doctor of Humane Letters degree. His degrees were conferred by various institutions that held him in high regard and esteem, and in recognition of the quality of educational leadership which he espoused.

There was a warm, personal relationship between the two of us. When we arrived in Tacoma, he welcomed us with open arms, and I remember Lucille and I sat in his office and he gave us a very touching and warm welcome. He was 79 years old then.
He and Mrs. Todd lived in a house that was within a block of the campus. I used to joke with him and say that he could hit every building on the campus with a b-b gun from his back porch. He loved the college with all the kind of love that a person has who has given his entire life to it, and I often talked with him and conferred with him.

About three months after I had taken over the office of president, in August of 1942, I called him in one day and said, "You know, no one knows this school as you do--its joys, its sorrows, its achievements, its defeats, and I would like to have you write a history of the College of Puget Sound." There was a tremendous glow on his face and his eyes sparkled and he said, "Do you really want me to do that, Mr. President?" I told him, "I certainly do. Why don't you get yourself a secretary, we'll provide an office for you in Jones Hall, and you work two or three hours a day--as long as you like. If some days you don't want to work, don't work. Just let it seep out as a part of your development and your life."

With great joy, we shook hands and he accepted my offer. Within a week he had a secretary who had been a librarian downtown, approximately his own age but a very good research person, Miss Charlotte Reemer, and they started the arduous task of writing a history of the College of Puget Sound. The good Doctor did a very outstanding job of it and completed a 638 page history of the College. It, together with this material, will provide primary sources for a historian who later can write the definitive history
of the University.

From time to time, I conferred with him. I told him the problems of the University, the people who were giving me money, and he was always like a "firehorse ready to go to the fire" when I asked him about people who should be seen, the approach we should make and I always kept him informed on the progress of the campaign. He was most gracious and most appreciative of the fact that he was kept abreast of what was happening, of the aspirations, the hopes and the dreams of the University and its Board of Trustees.

About three months before he died, he came in one day and we sat and talked about the University and reminisced. I congratulated him on the wonderful foundation which he had prepared for my coming and for the development which was taking place, which was simply carrying on the kind of dedication and work that he had done.

He turned to me and said, "Well, Mr. President, I have finished the task. The history is completed and I want you to know about it. In a few days we will put a finished copy on your desk, when the secretary is finished typing it." I replied, "Now, my good Doctor, I have another task for you since you have done the history so ably and so well." With a look of anticipation, he said, "What is that, Sir?" And I told him I would like to have him write his own, personal memoirs. He said, "Oh, that would be wonderful. You really want my memoirs!" I told him it would be a valued addition to the college history. I found out that he had been writing his life history and memoirs while writing the history. We possess over 300 pages of valuable material concerning Dr. Todd, his life, his family, and his work.
great amount of travel necessary in those days when he traveled by train and by early automobile, he was away from his family a great deal which was a great sacrifice to his family life. However, the family was distinctly loyal and I am sure they contributed much to the development of the College through the years, too. I also know the wistfulness which must have been in the heart and mind of Dr. Todd when, Sunday after Sunday, he went to far places to talk about "our college".
Mrs. Todd was an outstanding person in her own right. She was a very strong person and gave much leadership to the College of Puget Sound. She and two or three other very outstanding women started the Women's College League. It began first as a service to make graduation dresses for the girls who were graduating as seniors. Then, as part of the Women's League, they established the Home Economics Department where young girls could be trained for marriage and as leaders.

Mrs. Todd was very much a part of the great strength which Dr. Todd had. Shortly after I arrived at the College, I went to the British Consul and said that because Mrs. Thompson and I had had such a wonderful time at Oxford and loved England so much if we could ever do anything for England in any way we were at his service.

Much to my surprise, a few months later, he approached me and said that because there was somewhat of an anti British feeling during the War in this area, they would like to bring Lord Halifax, Ambassador to the United States, to the Pacific Northwest. They wondered if we would have a convocation in his behalf. He would also speak to the 27,000 people who were working in the Todd shipyards building warships and at a meeting of the University community, However, the University would be the excuse for his coming.

We arranged for Lord and Lady Halifax and for his son and for the special convocation. The question of protocol was very much a part of our concern and we were told that Lord Halifax would speak for a short time at a sit-down luncheon.
to be held in the Student Center. His son, who had lost both legs in a campaign in Africa at Alamein, was sitting at his right side and Lady Halifax was sitting at my right at the head table. Dr. and Mrs. Todd were at the head table along with Mrs. Thompson, the Mayor and other dignitaries.

It was our first big function and, fortunately, it went very well. It was interesting because it was the first of many such visits by important people -- presidents, generals, artists, politicians, etc.

We had a perfect program. Lord Halifax gave the main address and his son spoke a few words and we were just ready to dismiss. At that moment, Mrs. Todd took her cane and rapped on the table and said, "Mr. President, all the ladies on this side want a better look at Mrs. Halifax. Won't you please ask her to stand up and have her say a few words?"

A sort of shudder went through the crowd because Mrs. Halifax was always referred to as Lady Halifax, and one of the stipulations of the English Embassy was that we would not call on Lady Halifax for any part of the program.

A bit perturbed, I stood up and said, "Dear Mrs. Todd, whom we love for your devotion and graciousness, we have been negotiating with Lady Halifax but she has not consented to our request to speak." Surprisingly, Lady Halifax relented and stood up and said a few words. It was an interesting moment, and it was typical of Mrs. Todd, because she said what she felt when she felt it, and we appreciated her very, very much!

Mrs. Todd was a great help to Dr. Todd. She stood back of him and together they made an ideal team for the development of the College of Puget
Sound through the years. I think their family suffered a great deal because of his dedication, because of his being away, because of the tremendous load which he carried. He always felt proud of the fact that his successor had followed in his footsteps as vice president of Willamette and that both of us had been at Willamette, both of us came to the College of Puget Sound because of the opportunities we thought it possessed.

***