Dr. Edward H. Todd was very proud of the fact that he was able to acquire the Brown's Point lighthouse bell which had been very much a part of the history of the Pacific Northwest for many years. It was a bell which was cast in 1855 by the S. Bernard Company, Bell-founders of Philadelphia. When it was acquired in 1933 by Dr. Todd for the College of Puget Sound, it was eighty years old. It is now over 125 years of age.

The bell was first used in the Dungeness Lighthouse and was transferred by the lighthouse tender, Heather from the Dungeness Lighthouse to a point between Seattle and Tacoma where it hung for many, many years. In approximately 1900 it was transferred from that point between Seattle and Tacoma to Brown's Point and there it carefully tolled in good weather and in fog, the passage ways for the various sea going traffic.

It was estimated by the Director of the Lighthouse Services, Mr. R. R. Tinkham, Superintendent of Lighthouses in the 17th U. S. District headquartered in Portland, that it rang over 300,000 times in its days in the various parts of the sea. He estimated that in one fog storm of 37 hours, it rang 3,721 times. This, of course, was prior to its association with the University of Puget Sound.

In 1933, Dr. Todd heard that there might be a possibility of its being for sale, inasmuch as its usefulness at Brown's Point was over. He was able to secure, from four different men who were never named and are not in the record, the amount of money for the purchase of the bell. These men purchased with the idea that they would be anonymous and that it
would be used on the campus of the University of Puget Sound. It was moved from Brown's Point with considerable difficulty because it weighed somewhere between 1,000 and 2,000 pounds. It was displayed inside Jones Hall from the 1st of November 1933 until Founder's Day in February of 1934.

At the Founder's Day in 1934, which was the third year of the Founder's Day organization, there was a special ceremony to dedicate the bell. The Brown's Point Lighthouse Keeper for 30 years, Mr. O. V. Brown, gave a history of the bell in the chapel at the College and Mr. R. R. Tinkham, Superintendent of Lighthouses for the 17th U. S. District, spoke on the lighthouse service in the United States. Mr. Blaine, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, gave a welcome to the group and also expressed the very great appreciation of the college for securing the bell. There was singing by the entire group. It was a special chapel which was called and at which attendance was required of the students. Mrs. Hunter Kennard, who was a very outstanding literary person and excellent poetess, wrote a special poem called, "The Old Bell at Brown's Point." Another lady by the name of Queenie Davis Miller also wrote a poem called, "To the Bell." The Poetry Association had had a contest and these two were deemed to be the best poems produced. Mrs. Kennard read hers personally and the other poem was read by one of the students.

Wilton Vincent, who was a sophomore, with a beautiful deep voice, sang "Asleep in the Deep". Then Mr. Tinkham of Portland turned the bell over
officially to the College of Puget Sound. Mr. E. L. Blaine accepted it. At this point, the chapel adjourned to the main foyer of Jones Hall and the students gathered around and pledged their loyalty to the College and to the bell. Then there were four cheers for the bell and after that Mr. Brown struck the first note, Mr. Blaine struck the second, Dr. Todd the third, and Mr. William Leveque, student body president, struck the forth note. The alma mater was sung and the bell was officially dedicated as a part of the tradition of the University of Puget Sound.

In 1942, when I came, one day I went through the warehouse and I saw this beautiful bell sitting in the corner. I asked the keeper of the buildings and grounds about the history of the bell and he told me a little bit about it but he did not know of the history. I then ask Dr. Todd and he told me of the history of the bell and that he thought it was a part of the unusual historic aspects of the Pacific Northwest and he thought it was good for the University to have it. Shortly after, the electrical system for the bell ringing for the class bells went awry and we could not get it repaired. In conference with Mr. Robbins, who was then bursar of the College, we decided to resurrect the bell and have one of the buildings and grounds men stike the end of the class period and the beginning of the new class period. Between Jones Hall and what was then the old Music Building, we built a platform about 5 feet off the ground - a very stong structure of 4 x 4's and hung the bell in a framework. We put it high enough so children could not ring it but low enough so it could be reached by a man with a hammer. In the meantime, the clapper for the bell had disappeared somewhere and was no longer a part of it. We then ask one of the buildings and ground men
to ring the bell 10 minutes before the classes were over and at the time when the new classes began.

The first man we had do this did not mind it at all and for several years everything went very well. Then there came a change in the personnel asked to strike the bell. We had a temperamental man who somehow or other did not like the bell and instead of telling us about it, he kept hitting it harder and harder with a heavier and heavier hammer and hitting it in exactly the same place until one day I was at my desk and I heard a strange sound when the bell was struck. I went out and found that the bell was cracked. I was very sorry because it had had a long history. I do not know if the crack was simply because of its age or whether the man had unduly abused it. His colleagues told me that he had said he was going to crack the damn thing sooner or later so I never knew whether this was true or whether it was rumor.

The bell was then again put in the basement of Unit A of the buildings and grounds area. It was put on a special frame and it is there today.

From time to time people ask about the bell and in 1980, there was a call from some phase of the Coast Guard asking if they could get the bell back. I think when they found the bell was cracked, they were not interested in it but I have never had a verification one way or the other.

The bell was a very fine tradition in the life of the College of Puget Sound and later the University of Puget Sound and was used for many years to call students to class and also to tell professors that the class was over.

It was followed by the memorial carillon honoring Howard Kilworth which
was given to the University by Mr. W. W. Kilworth, who was Chairman of the Board of Trustees. There was considerable change in attitude concerning the way in which classes started and stopped. We had a very formal professor from Cambridge, England who taught English for us and on one occasion he looked up and said to his students, "Tell me has the music box tinkled yet?" However, we are completely used to the carillon ending and starting classes now but for many generations the old Brown's Point Bell was the means for telling students their schedule for the day.