ALUMNI AND STUDENTS THROUGH THE AGES

It was my good fortune to know many of the outstanding alumni in the history of the College of Puget Sound and the University of Puget Sound. By means of this narration I hope to be able to put in focus some of the outstanding alumni traditions and aspects of the historical resources of the University.

One of the first persons whom I knew in the early relationship of the University of Puget Sound was Dr. Raymond Cook. Dr. Cook entered the Academy of the University of Puget Sound in 1901. He entered at the junior level and was almost immediately a leader. He was president of the last class of the Academy which was 1903. While in the Academy he was also a member of the college football team. In those days eligibility was not too carefully checked. On several occasions the coach actually played on the team in order to get the required number of men. I have often heard Dr. Cook mention this. He was small in stature and for that reason he was sometimes drafted by the team to carry the ball and the larger members of the team would pick him up, throw him and the ball over the line to make yardage. In those days there was no penalty for throwing a man and the ball over the line.

Dr. Cook was very much interested in the College for many years. One of the proudest aspects of his life was that
he was associated with it for nearly sixty years. Fifty of those years he was on the Board of Trustees. He often spoke of the fact that when the School went to Sixth and Sprague he was one of the men who helped grade the sites for some of the buildings. He was one of the men who went out and secured lumber by gifts for the gymnasium. He worked with Professor Bertram McProud, who by chance was my professor of education at Nebraska-Wessley when I was there 1926 to 1930. Dr. McProud spoke often of the fact that he started his educational teaching at the University of Puget Sound.

Dr. Cook was always dedicated to the University and constantly spoke in its behalf. He was an educator in his own right. He taught in Bremerton for ten to twelve years. He was superintendent of schools in Chehalis. Then he was principal of Lincoln High School and finished his career as superintendent of the schools in Everett. All the while, he attended the meetings of the Board of Trustees for the University. He prided himself on the fact that he visited Mr. Everill S. Collins and got fifty dollars from him as a gift for the building of the gymnasium when it was built at Sixth and Sprague.

Dr. Cook was on the Board of Trustees when I became president in 1942. He sought for long discussions concerning what he thought the University could be and ought to be, his relationship with the Methodist Church and what the church should do for the school. This was well-intentioned although often he would come forty-five minutes early for a Board of Trustees meeting
and come in and sit down and casually visit and make his recommendations when in reality I should have been going over the agenda with the Chairman of the Board. I found I had to be a little bit careful about this or otherwise he had a way of monopolizing one's time. He was a product of the tax-supported system. For that reason, never to the last day he lived did he really see the great problem which a non-tax supported system has. All through the years he voted with great enthusiasm for every faculty salary increase and voted consistently against every tuition raise. When I would talk to him about this he would say, "Well, the students can't afford it." I would ask how we could raise the faculty salaries, and he would say, "You'll just have to get out and raise more money so that the faculty can have this raise but don't raise tuition."

He was very sensitive about the relationships with some of his colleagues. There was a George McMasters who was also on the football team at that time and at the alumni meetings of the latter years, particularly the alumni picnic on the last Saturday of July, the people who belonged many, many years ago to the alumni association were introduced. I found that Dr. Cook had a little trick. I would say, "We have a very outstanding alumnus, who was also a member of the Board of Trustees, in Dr. Raymond Cook. He graduated in the class of 1906." Dr. Cook would stand up and say, "Well, Doctor, you have it about right. I graduated in the class of '07." I made a note of it and in the next year I introduced him as in the class of '07 and he got up and said, "Well, Doctor,
you're just about right, it is the class of '06." After that I'd say, "Now, Ray, with which class did you graduate?" His colleague, George McMaster was introduced as an alumnus, and every time afterward, Dr. Cook would seek me out and say, "Now, Doctor, that isn't right. You must not introduce him as an alumnus because of the fact that he actually went to Whitworth for one semester. That doesn't make him a bonafide alumnus of the School." At that time, Whitworth College was at the northend of Tacoma. In rather casually talking with Mr. McMaster, he said that they had offered him a very fine job if he would come and play football for them. It was so good he couldn't pass it up. I was surprised that that sensitivity had lasted over fifty years concerning their relationship. Mr. McMaster's son, William McMaster, graduated from the University of Puget Sound, met his wife there and his daughter has just graduated from the University of Puget Sound in the last year or two.

About 1913 there was a man who was student body president by the name of James Milligan. He was tall, red-haired and very good-looking. He had a wonderful following, was a young minister and liked by everyone. Evidently he was one of the most popular men on the campus. At that time there was serious discussion about whether or not the University of Puget Sound should be kept alive. It had grave financial difficulties and operated with a deficit. It had several presidents who came and went in two or three years because of the unusual financial difficulty and there appeared to be little or no support for the School.
At one time the Methodist Conference met to discuss whether or not to continue the University of Puget Sound. The minutes of the conference read that the president made a speech before the conference that was rather lackadaisical. The Chairman of the Board of Education also made a speech which was not necessarily enthusiastic. It is said that if the vote had been taken then, they would have voted to close the School. About this time, a tall, good-looking red-haired young man, James Milligan, got up and made a very powerful speech that the School should not be closed, that it was his alma mater, it was a great school and he had received a good education there. For those reasons he felt it should be continued and that the conference should assess each church a certain amount in order to underwrite the operational expense. There was good discussion about it which evidently went on very late, until midnight. When the vote was taken, Reverend Milligan's speech was sustained and it was voted to continue the School at least another year.

There is a rather interesting sidelight which came many years later in my various solicitations to support the University of Puget Sound. One Sunday I was preaching in the Sumner Methodist Church. I went out a little early to sit and talk with the minister and meet some of the people as I always did. The minister said, "There will be a man in our congregation this morning. He will act a little strangely and will without any doubt come up and try and argue with you about something you have said in the service. He was a Sunday school teacher here and we had to work him out because he was so contentious. He has been a Sunday
school teacher in the Presbyterian Church, the Baptist Church, and the Pentecostal Church. Actually he is one of the most contentious people I know but he is also an alumnus of the University of Puget Sound and he will be very eager to talk with you."

True to the suggestion of the minister, after the service was over this man who was quite long in years, dressed in not outstandingly good clothes, but clean work clothes, came up and said he would like to discuss the sermon with me. I listened to his questions for a little while and they were typical questions of a person who is very conservative and who believes that he is a great authority on the Bible. Finally he turned to me and said, "You owe me a great deal." I said, "Why?" He said, "Because I kept the University of Puget Sound alive." I said, "Who are you?" He said, "I am Jasper Noise." I said, "Well, I am very much interested in your story. Tell me how you kept that University of Puget Sound alive." He said, "In the days when the president decided to leave in the middle of the year, it appeared that the School could not survive because it did not have any money to pay its faculty. I collected the money from the students for board and room and parcelled it out to the faculty so they would have something to live on until the next year and the School could be kept alive." It was an interesting idea, and I thought I would go back and research it and find out if it were true. I never could find any facts concerning the kind of thing he said, but all through the years, at least fifty years, he had gone on the assumption that he was the one who had kept the University of Puget Sound alive, kept the faculty paid, and collected from
the students and therefore made it possible for the School to go on. I found that he owned a home in Sumner which had some value and he very readily invited me to come and see him. I went to see him because I thought he had some resources and might be able to help the University. He very quickly told me when I went to see him that he had a 640 acre farm in North Dakota which was very outstanding and one of the very valuable farms. Then he looked at me and said, "That will belong to the University of Puget Sound if you will do what I want done."

Naturally, I was interested to know what he wanted done. He said that he wanted to arrange a debate on the Bible between himself and James Milligan who: "thought he was so smart, tall, red-haired, good-looking and the girls all were interested in him and he could have dates with any one of them he wanted to and I couldn't get a date under any circumstances." He said, "I want the debate to be in front of all the students at the University of Puget Sound. I want it to be a compulsory Chapel. I want it to be several hours long and I will pin that man to the wall." He said, "I never could get him to debate the Bible when we were students because he was always busy. I studied the Bible for all these years with the idea that I would someday debate James Milligan and make him look as though he were unlettered."

I explained to him that it was not possible to do this because we did not have Chapel and I was sure that Dr. Milligan would not want to debate the Bible and that I didn't think it was a wise thing to do. He kept saying, "Well, in that case I guess I will have to give the farm to the Faith Temple in Seattle."
I found out that he listened to all the various conservative religious programs on the radio and one of the special ones that he liked was the Faith Temple in Seattle. I listened to see what kind of program it was and they were always having a great missionary crisis and always having orphans that needed to be fed and very emotional appeals for unusual crises.

Time went on and I stopped in to see him about once a year. His house was always clean. He had two freezers and raised a great amount of garden produce and froze it in his freezers. Always there was that business of "when are you going to get the debate with me and Milligan?" I had known Milligan because he was pastor of Salem Methodist Church when I first came to Willamette. After about three Sundays he invited me to fill the pulpit. I did and that was the start of my public speaking in the Pacific Northwest. I had great regard and affection for Dr. Milligan. He is on tape in one of the historical resources for the University.

I noticed in the paper that Jasper Noise had died. The next time I went to speak at Summer Rotary Club I dropped around to the attorney whom I thought would probably have his estate. I asked him if he had the estate and he said that yes he did. Then I asked him if it was of any size. He said that he had absolutely nothing. The house in which he lived had very little value. It was right between the railroad tracks and while it was in fairly good condition would only sell for five or six thousand dollars. Then I asked him what had happened to the 640 acres in North Dakota. He looked at me and said, "What 640 acres?" I said, "Jasper Noise told me
that he had a 640 acre farm in North Dakota and if the University did certain things it would come to the University." He said, "I've gone through all of his papers and there is absolutely no sign of any farm in North Dakota." It was a figment of his imagination and there was no reality to it at all.

Jasper Noise often spoke of the fact that he was critic for the Philomathean Literary Society. Raymond Cook had started one of the charter members of a fraternity called Sigma Tau Sigma. This later became the Owl Literary Society and this was combined to form the Philomathean Literary Society. This was a co-educational organization in which many students belonged. By that I mean that there were several literary societies and if you didn't belong to the Philomatheans you belonged to the H.C.S. or you belonged to one or two other literary societies.

These societies met usually once a week. During the year, each member had to prepare a paper or make a presentation before the entire group. Usually it was a paper on some current event, historical interpretation of Plato or Socrates, on rare occasion it could be a musical recital, or a poem which had been written by one of the students, or a song. There were many songs which were written and many of these are found in the early student paper which was called the Maroon. After the presentation had been made and there were usually several, the critic would stand up and make an appraisal of the performance. Usually it was a constructive evaluation although at the same time there was sometimes a critical evaluation somewhat
characteristic of the seminars of good graduate schools. Many of the faculty acted as critics. It was a very self-educating process. Many members of the Amphicteans, the Owls, the H.C.S., have told me that it was a very outstanding moment in their life when they made their presentation and they learned a great deal in the preparation and the presentation and the evaluation which they received from the literary societies.

The H.C.S. was a men's organization but most of the others were co-educational. They would have their outstanding social functions once each year. Usually it was a dress-up evening in which they went some special place.

The literary societies were very strong and to this day many of the people still talk about how outstandingly valuable they were. They gradually evolved into fraternities and sororities. The nationals evolved out of the locals and the roots of the contemporary fraternities and sororities go back to 1906, '07, '08 and 1913.

While this was happening the School was going through a very difficult adjustment because of the lack of financial backing. It had moved from four different locations and finally was at Sixth and Sprague. At this time, Dr. Todd was a member of the Board of Trustees in 1913. He was vice-president of Willamette University and was asked to be president of the College of Puget Sound. In this process there was a considerable relationship between the College and the Board of Education of the Methodist Church. In this relationship one of the men came out and counselled with the Board of Trustees. He said very
frankly that he thought they should change the name from University of Puget Sound to College of Puget Sound because it was not a university. A university is made up of schools and colleges and a college is one outstanding emphasis - the outstanding emphasis having been liberal arts. For that reason, in order to secure more support from the Methodist Board of Education on a national level and also locally, the name was changed from the University of Puget Sound to the College of Puget Sound. This remained until 1960 when at the motion of Mr. J. D. Shotwell, an alumnus and outstanding trustee, the name was changed to the University of Puget Sound. In the early days it had had financial difficulties and on several occasions changed its name because it actually ran out of financial resources. It was called the University of Puget Sound, Puget Sound University, and in 1913 it was called College of Puget Sound.

In the social life of the students once each year there was a very large university banquet. It was a dress-up affair, a date affair, and it was anticipated the whole year. It was a time when the students all got together as a big family, the faculty members were there, there was an unusual program and on occasion the governor spoke, the president of the University of Washington, the president of Washington State University. It was looked upon as the highlight of the year.

Another highlight of the year was when they played the University of Washington football team. There was great tension and build-up. "What will we do with the University of
Washington? We were sure we would hold them to a very low score." Quite often they did. There was one time when it appeared they would win but Washington won at the very last minute. Their schedule was unusual because they scheduled mill crews, high schools, etc. It was very slipshod but the people playing enjoyed it very much.

There were three very strong literary societies but there were also some who were not pledged or were not asked to join. This ended in a series of rather maverick organizations being born. A professor would get a few people around him and they would form another literary society and call it by his name. In the minutes of the student body and in the Maroon, there are four different literary societies which have unusual names but which endured only a year or so until the three literary societies became more democratic and practically anyone who wanted to could be a member of one of them.

There was a student paper which was called the Maroon which was the forerunner of what is now the Trail. The Maroon was published once a week. It was small in size, had a lot of gossipy things about individual students, what happened in the moonlight on Friday night with Don Smith... and why was Mary Brown late getting home the other night... It was evident that the student body was so small that everyone knew everyone else. They enjoyed the gossipy factor.

In 1913 there had been no set university colors. One of the first things Dr. Todd did when he came was to establish university colors. It was decided by the students and
the administration, and the Board of Trustees, that the official colors would be maroon and white. In the trustee minutes there is a sample about six inches long and two inches wide of the exact maroon color which was to be the official color of the University. This was why the paper was called the Maroon. It remained the Maroon until the School was called the Loggers. Then the Trail was to help the students find their way through the woods.

The maroon and white remained as the official colors of the University until the 1960's when there was a student body president, Clay Lodges, who was very inept and did little for the students or the University. When he came to the end of his term it suddenly dawned on him that nothing had been accomplished so he decided that he had to do something to make history. He therefore made an evaluation and questionnaire as to whether or not the students liked the school colors. He claimed that he received a certain number of answers to the questionnaire although no one ever saw the results and it was never evaluated by anyone except himself. He then decided that he would change the school colors. He talked to Doug MacArthur who was the director of athletics, and Doug said that gold and blue would be a better color for the athletic teams. Without saying anything to anyone about it, Clay Lodges proclaimed that the athletic colors would be blue and gold. It was never voted on by the student body or brought before the Board of Trustees. So the School has two sets of colors - the official academic colors are maroon and white and they are still used on the
honorary degree hoods and are really the official colors of the University. The athletic colors since the 1960's are gold and blue which are unofficial. The students were not particularly happy with Clay Lodges. He had a nickname of "Flaky Clay." He achieved very little and was one of the poorer student body presidents in the many years with which I was identified with the University.