The gymnasium was built in 1924 when the College of Puget Sound was moved up to the new campus. It was considered a very fine facility at that time for the size and enrollment which the college had. It is a two story brick veneer building and for many years was the seat of the complete athletic program - the women's athletic program, the men's program, the intermural program, and student functions were held there. Prior to the time when dances were allowed, there were parties held in the gymnasium. It was 110 by 70 feet. The main floor was 68 by 90 feet. It was a box-like construction.

Dr. Todd had a system of hoping to relate the college to its former locations and when one of the former college locations had a building that was torn down, Dr. Todd asked for and got the door which was to one of the old college buildings. This is incorporated in front of the gymnasium and is one of the original doors from one of the original buildings used by the college. It is very interesting that it also exemplifies the arch which came to be the most outstanding symbol in the college architecture.

In 1957, the Hugh Wallace Memorial swimming pool was added to the rear of the gymnasium and its cost was $243,000 including the building. The pool is 81 feet long and is four lanes wide and is said to be an Olympic sized pool.

I was asked by the boy scout leader in this area
to speak at an evening session of a boy scout rally at a
camp out beyond Purdy. It was a rainy cold night and I
lost my way several times on the way out. When I got out
there I found a very beautiful cabin with a very large
fireplace. They put a number of logs on the fire and the
boys sat around on the floor and I was introduced to speak.
The logs grew very warm and I would move out from them and
then would move back so that I wouldn't exactly be on the
feet of the young men. As I turned around to see how close
I was I noticed a plaque which said, "This cabin was built by
the High Wallace Memorial Foundation." On the way back I got
to musing about who Hugh Wallace was and what did the Foundation
do? I asked Mr. W. W. Kilworth, who was Chairman of the Board
of Trustees, who he was and he mentioned the fact that Mr. Hugh
Wallace was a local man, a railroad builder and former U. S.
Ambassador. When he died he left a modest amount of money in
a foundation which had three Trustees - one was Harold Long,
one was Reno Odlin, and one was the former president of the
Puget Sound National Bank.

Upon inquiry I found that they did a good many things
for the community. First I asked if they would help us and they
asked what we had in mind. I asked if they would buy a grand
piano for the music department. They said that if we could get
it at a special discount they would. So we bought a Steinway
for $8,000 and they paid the $8,000. One day I was dictating
and was looking outside the window in my office and saw the three
Trustees coming across the campus. I asked my secretary if they had set up an appointment and she said they had not. I watched and they went toward the music building. I intercepted them on the campus green. Mr. Odlin said, "Frank, we have come to see how the piano is."

I went in with them and very frankly I was very thrilled when I saw one of our very outstanding students studying piano sitting at the piano playing. We went in the back door of Jacobson Hall and she finished her lesson, then she turned around and said, "Oh, Mr. Odlin, come on up."

We went up and the piano was in perfect condition. There was no dust and no scratches. Reno Odlin sat down on the piano bench with her and she looked at him and said, "Let's play Chopsticks."

So he played Chopsticks with her and they had a wonderful time. As he left he said he was exceedingly pleased with the piano and the use that was being made of it and felt it was a good use of the resources.

Several years went by and he was President of the United Neighbors and I was one of the division leaders. We were supposed to have a meeting. When I went to the meeting I told him I had an afternoon appointment and if I could make my report early, I would appreciate it. Just before the meeting started he looked at me and said, "Frank, I wish you could wait until after the meeting because I have something to discuss with you."
I scrubbed my appointment and waited. When it was all over, he said, "Could you use an Olympic sized swimming pool?" I said that we certainly could. He said, "Well, you need it, the University needs it, and you could certainly make great use of it."

He said the assets of the Hugh Wallace Foundation have appreciated so much that we could make a sizable contribution toward an Olympic sized swimming pool at the University. They allocated $49,000 toward the swimming pool for us although it cost $200,000 to renovate the gymnasium and to put a building over the swimming pool. It was a very outstanding contribution and it was greatly appreciated.

A rather amusing incident happened at the time of the dedication. My student grapevine kept whispering to me that although the pool had not been officially accepted and that it probably wasn't absolutely clean, some of the students had been availing themselves of it almost every night. Mrs. T and I often drove around the campus, tenderly doing what we called "tucking in the campus", seeing that lights were out, sometimes we would find hungry students and feed them, or find lonesome students and talk with them in our rounds about the campus. On several occasions, I saw the lights on in the pool and I would go and see that the students were swimming and having a good time and there was no reason to question it or to raise any issue.

At the dedication, Mr. Robert Kinch and Tom Martin,
both of whom are now very fine members of the Pacific Northwest Methodist Conference, came to me and said, "Dr. T., this is not really the first use of the swimming pool. We have been using it at midnight for a good many nights."

I think they thought it would be a surprise to me and I said, "Well, Bob and Tom, I know that and I know that you have been swimming a la natural every evening for two or three weeks. Mrs. T and I have watched you diligently and we thought you were having a lot of fun so we didn't say anything about it." To this day when I see them we laugh about the early use of the Hugh Wallace swimming pool.

With the coming of the Field House, the men's intermural and the men's program was moved to the Field House and more by folklore than anything else, the gymnasium was designated as the "Women's Gymnasium." They had their women's offices there and it was concentrated primarily in women's P. E. and women's intermural. With the coming of the federal regulations and the renovation of the Field House, the women's facilities were moved over to the Field House and the gymnasium was used for intermural and other programs. There was a concerted effort to stop the name of "Women's Gymnasium" and it was called Warner Street Gymnasium and also various other names but none as yet have become commonly used.