HARRINGTON AND SCHIFF HALL

There was a very great need to add to the young women's housing facilities and a dormitory was built on the north side of the campus paralleling 18th Street in 1957-58. It was part of the dormitory complex for which we secured part of the money through the government bonding program at 3.3 percent interest to amortize over forty years.

The naming of Harrington Hall was a very interesting process. On several occasions, I had been interim minister for the University Congregational Church in Seattle. My mentor, Dr. Bruce Baxter, who was president of Willamette used to playfully say, "When you are speaking at a church, you must bring in some illustration from student life even if you have to bring them in 'by the hair of the head.'"

I always did this and it seemed to be very interesting to the congregation as well as meaningful to the University.

On one occasion, I referred to several instances where students had been trained and went out to serve ably and well and they did it in spite of the fact that they had financial difficulties. After one of the sermons, a very attractive lady stopped me as she was going out of the church and said, "I should like to wait until people have gone and then talk to you."

After everyone had gone, she sat down with me in the back of the University Congregational Church and said, "I would like to help students like the ones you mentioned in
your service this morning."

I found out her name was Mrs. Edward Harrington and that she was a lady very much interested in youth and helping people secure a Christian education. In our conversation, I said, "Do you have a target amount in your mind?"

She said she did and would start with $2,000. She gave us the $2,000 and we helped four very promising young people. I arranged for Mrs. Harrington to come to the President's residence and meet the people and she was very pleased with the help which she had given. Her daughter, Mrs. Helen Schiff, drove her to the tea and she listened during the conversation. Mrs. Harrington's interest in the University grew and when we were building the girl's dormitory on 18th Street, we had a conversation concerning the possibility of naming it. She said she would like to give the dormitory to the University or a major portion of it. She decided to give $100,000 at that time to the University and we would name the dormitory Harrington Hall. In all our negotiations, her daughter was a part of the discussion and when Mrs. Harrington decided she would like to have the Hall named for her, Mrs. Schiff asked what the name was going to be on the hall next to it which was being constructed at the same time. I told her it had not been named and she said, "I think I should do what mother has done."

So Mrs. Schiff gave $100,000 toward the construction
of the building that now bears her name. Mrs. Schiff was very much interested in the University and the students and she had on several occasions written books. On the last book she wrote she asked if we had an English professor who could consult with her and help her with the English construction. Dr. Hager performed that service for Mrs. Schiff.

I wondered about the assets that came to us through Mrs. Harrington and Mrs. Schiff and found it had a very interesting story. Mrs. Harrington's husband had been a chemical engineer in about the second decade of this century. He worked for DuPont Company in Maryland. In 1917 and 1918 during the first world war, the DuPont Company sold most of the black powder to the allies for their ammunition. The allies were in danger of running low on black powder. It looked as if they would have a shortage of ammunition. The problem was that it took two weeks to anneal black powder so that it could be cured and used for ammunition. Mr. Harrington, being a chemical engineer, and being very much involved in this worked out a process for DuPont whereby instead of two weeks for the production of black powder, he devised a plan so that it could be annealed overnight. This meant that the shortage of black powder would not be eminent and it also meant that DuPont was able to supply all the ammunition as it was needed. For this unusual procedure, DuPont gave Mr. Harrington a very large block of stock. The stock was kept and it grew in number of shares and also grew in value. It was out of these assets that Mrs. Harrington and her daughter, Mrs. Schiff gave us the monies to build Harrington Hall and Schiff Hall.
Mrs. Harrington was a very astute person and had a beautiful home on Lake Washington as did her daughter, Mrs. Schiff. The homes were side by side. Mrs. Schiff was very much interested in the Moral Rearmament Movement. She also helped students in the English Department at the University of Washington. She served on our Board of Trustees for many years until it was impossible for her to drive any longer and she is still a Trustee Emeritus.

Harrington Hall and Schiff Hall have proven to be most acceptable as dormitory facilities for women at the University of Puget Sound and the girls have often spoken to me about how much they appreciated the fine facilities.

Mrs. Harrington died and Mrs. Schiff is still living. Mrs. Schiff has a family and on several occasions I have baptized the grandchildren.
THE COMING OF HARRINGTON HALL AND SCHIFF HALL

After the War, it was apparent that the junior colleges would grow very rapidly throughout the State. It also became evident that the days of the commuter college, so far as private education was concerned, were largely over. In the long-range plans presented to the Board of Trustees, it was stated that the University needed to become a resident college as quickly as possible. This was the reason that Todd Hall was the first building built after the War and the Music Building was next because we needed classrooms, and this building was used not only for music but for other classes as well.

In developing the housing, we had Anderson Hall and Langdon Hall and there was need for more housing for women. Plans were made for three buildings— one was to be on the northwest corner of the women's quadrangle, one was to be at the southwest corner of the men's quadrangle, and later, one was to be on the northeast corner of the women's quadrangle. These were to be financed by three percent debentures with the Federal Government for housing for private schools, to be amortized over forty years. The one at the northwest corner of the women's quadrangle, which was to be called Harrington Hall, cost $343,630.89, the same as the one for men which became co-educational, ultimately, and was called Regester Hall. The one on the northeast corner of the women's quadrangle, which was to be called Schiff Hall, cost $416,000.00. Through the fine work of Richard Dale Smith, Assistant to the President, and W. Gerard Banks, Financial Vice President at that time, the details for the bonding with the Federal Government were worked out and these bonds were sold for the payment of three percent over forty years
to the University. At approximately the time that the building was in process, I was interim pastor for the University Congregational Church in Seattle. They were between ministers and I had three months as the interim pastor, largely the minister for Sunday morning preaching. Many years ago, while I was at Willamette University, Dr. Bruce Baxter, who was then President, said, "Franklin, when you preach, use at least three or four illustrations from your student body. If you can't work them in naturally, bring them in screaming by the hair of the head, but get across the fact that you are involved with youth and with Christian higher education." I followed his suggestion religiously in my illustrations in the sermons at University Congregational Church.

After the service one Sunday, a woman said to me that she would like to help my students. She said, "I will wait until the congregation is gone and you have finished greeting them--then I will talk with you about it." She was Mrs. Edward Harrington and when I talked with her, I used the phrase that I have used when people suggest they might be interested in helping, "Do you have a target amount in mind?" She said, "Yes, I would like to start with a check for $2,000.00." By some way or other, she had heard of a young man whose father was a German immigrant. The young man had unusual musical talent and his name was Jack Peters. She asked if some of her money could go to help him. He was an unusual young man because he was very musically talented, did not have a piano, did not have good clothes and needed considerable dental work done. She said she would like to subsidize his dental work, purchase some clothes for him and also see that he had proper lessons in piano. The young chap was some-
what erratic and we did help him and it seemed to do a great deal of good, although
I found out later that his father was not at all cooperative in his program. I also
found that the young man was not quite as stable as we thought he would be. At
my suggestion, he joined the Special Services in the army and, while he was a
very fine musician, it was not long before the army mustered him out because of
his instability.

This interest Mrs. Harrington had proved to be very genuine and sincere.
It was not long before Lucille and I were invited to Mrs. Harrington's home for
dinner where we met her daughter, Mrs. Schiff, who was also one of the key
members at University Congregational Church. Both of them were widows.
Mrs. Harrington said she would like to help in a major way with the University
and I suggested that she contribute the major portion of the cost of building one
of the dormitories for women. She decided that she would do this, and Harrington
Hall was dedicated on October 30, 1959. There is a very beautiful picture of
Mrs. Harrington in Harrington Hall, taken at the time when she dedicated it.
She was very pleased with the dedication and wrote me a letter on October 29,
1959, which reads, as follows:

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Thompson:

What a wonderfully happy day I had with you yesterday at the
College of Puget Sound and I thank you not once, but many times
for everything--the Dedication & luncheon, and later the Women's
meeting were beautifully arranged--but what I want to thank you two
dear people most of all for was for your kindly care of my comfort--
in taking me in your car to the different buildings and for that I
am most grateful. The lovely orchid the ladies presented me with
was beautiful and I know with care I can wear it many times. I hope
you are not too tired after your big day and with best of
good wishes to each of you, I am

Sincerely,

s/ MARGARET HARRINGTON
Her daughter, Mrs. Schiff, was very much interested in the dedication and attended it. She, too, wrote a letter, which I quote:

Dear Lucille and Franklin,

I want to get off a line to you today, to thank you for all the nice things you did for Mother and me yesterday. It was a perfect day and was so carefully worked out in every detail that only two good kindly persons like yourselves could have managed so well. Mother and I want to thank you both from the bottom of our hearts. You surely left no stone unturned that would add to our comfort or pleasure.

We also appreciate so much your including Mrs. Walkinshaw. She spoke several times on the way home, of how pleasant it had been to have shared in all the fun and excitement. You were indeed generous.

Mother may not get off a letter too promptly, but please overlook it. She really loved every minute of it. In the meantime, a million thanks for everything!

Greetings to you both.

Sincerely,

s/ HELEN

P.S. Mother is fine today.

Mrs. Schiff was very pleased over the fact that her Mother gave the major portion of the cost of the building. We were invited again to the Schiff home to dinner and met her children. They asked at that time if I would baptize one of the grandchildren, and the child was baptized in the special chapel in University Congregational Church which Mrs. Harrington had provided when the building was originally built. We had a very fine relationship and through these many years I have been invited to speak often at University Congregational Church.
One day, after the service, Mrs. Schiff asked if I could come to dinner and there she said, "I have been thinking a great deal about what Mother did and I would like to contribute the same amount, if you would like to have it, and name another dormitory." So we have Harrington Hall on the northwest corner of the girls' quadrangle and we have Schiff Hall on the northeast corner. Both of them came out of the Harrington-Schiff Trust.

I wondered how the assets came into the Harrington-Schiff Trust and found that Mr. Harrington had been an engineer with DuPont Company for many, many years. In World War 1, the annealing process for black powder took some two weeks from the time it was first started until it could be finished. The Allies were short on ammunition and part of the problem was the length of time for the annealing process in the creation of black powder. Mr. Harrington decided to experiment, and succeeded in reducing the process of annealing from two weeks to overnight. This quickly filled the needs of the Allies for black powder, and, of course, DuPont benefited a great deal by his experiment and his success. Because of this, they gave him a very large block of DuPont stock, and this stock on several occasions split one-for-one and became very, very valuable. They also had purchased other stock, such as General Motors, so the making of the fortune really came out of the wise and successful experimentation of Mr. Harrington. I never met him because he was gone long before my association with Mrs. Harrington. She was a most precious person and her help to the University was most meaningful.

Mrs. Schiff, likewise, has been a very precious person and served on the
Board of Trustees for a number of years until she could no longer drive, and was very loyal and very, very helpful. I still see her about once every three months and take her to lunch. We have an enjoyable time talking of the relationship which she has had with the University and of the current progress of the University.

Her daughter married a young engineer from Holland and they have four children, the first of whom I baptized in Harrington Chapel. The son has become a very successful architect and lives in Bellevue.

R. Franklin Thompson
February 17, 1978
March 19, 1958.

College of Puget Sound  
Tacoma, Washington  

Attention: Dr. R. Franklin Thompson  
President  

Gentlemen:  

This will confirm my verbal intention to give to the College for the building of the girls' dormitory the total sum of $100,000, $70,000 of which has already been paid. The remaining $30,000 will be paid to your institution in the month of January, 1959.  

Yours very truly  

[Signature]

Margaret J. Harrington