The history of the founding of the University of Puget Sound goes back many, many years. There was a very great tradition of education in the Methodist Church. It was reputed that when John Wesley took Francis Asbury and Dr. Coke up the gang plank at Bristol to send them as missionaries to America, he put his arm around them and said, "When you get there start schools and academies. Our people should be the best educated and, therefore, we should have an excellent educational program."

John Wesley did not realize how well he predicted because the Methodist Church has been very strongly involved in the education of America. The two men founded a college in Maryland which was called Cokesberry, taking a part of both of their names. Unfortunately it burned down within eighteen months to two years after it was built and the tragedy was discovered that it was not insured. It was rebuilt and burned down a second time. When it was discovered it was not insured a second time, one of the brethren said, "I guess the Lord does not want us to have an educational institution."

However, going back to the beginnings of education in this country when the Boston Latin School was started in 1635, it was to teach Greek and Latin primarily for those who were entering into the ministry. While the beginnings of Methodism were very sparse, most often the minister, if he
were settled in the community, gathered about him outstanding, promising young people and started a school or academy. Most often the parents took up a collection to pay the minister or school master to use a phrase they used, "for the youth that are with us." The curriculum was usually Latin and Greek and cultural subjects. Evolving out of this came some communities that actually paid for the schooling and charged a fee to all but the very poorest students. There was always only one or two teachers and it was highly selective. It was strongly religiously oriented because it was in the shadow of the church if not actually meeting in the church. The Congregational Church was very strong in starting academies as was the Methodists and the Jesuits who moved among the frontier communities.

By 1821 there was the first public high school in Boston. This was to help those who did not plan to go to college. The men who planned on going to college were largely in the private academies. In some instances they were co-educational. Their reasoning was that while girls had souls, they should only be taught to read because they could read holy writ and there was no further need for their education. Even the men who attended were carefully screened and highly selective. In some communities, the communities assessed themselves by private tax to pay for the school. By 1821, the first public school was organized in Boston and by 1825, the first public high school was organized in New York for boys. In 1826, the first one was organized for girls.
It was not until after the Civil War that there was free tuition. Prior to that time, the tuition had been expensive for the private academies. The colleges which were coming to the foreground by that time affected the curriculum of the academies and the high schools by determining what courses they would accept for credit when a student applied for entrance to the college. This had a great deal to do with broadening the curriculum in the high schools. By 1893, the famous Committee of Ten, declared that high schools should be for small groups only and particularly for those that wished to go into the professions. There was not much emphasis on anything except the so-called "academic subjects." By 1830 there were five-hundred academies throughout the United States. Most of them were church related and the outstanding person in the community was the "school master." Between 1850 and 1900, it is recorded that there were four-hundred-fifty to five-hundred colleges and universities established in the United States particularly as the frontier advanced, although some, like the Willamette University, had been established much earlier than that. The University of Puget Sound, having its antecedence in the Olympia Collegiate Institute, but was actually chartered in 1888. It is remarkable that the Trustees who established the University of Puget Sound (or as it was called in that day, Puget Sound University) said in their charter that no one should ever be denied admission because of race, color, or creed. It was likewise, co-educational from the very first. The University of Puget Sound, in its history since 1888, has had four campuses.
The first one was near the present site of the County-City Building; the second one was located where McCarver School is now located; the third was where Jason Lee is now located; and the fourth is the present location at North 15th and Warner. The campus was dedicated by Dr. Edwin H. Todd on June 8, 1921. The Trustees commissioned Mr. Sutton, who was the original architect for the University, to make a study of collegiate and university buildings on a trip he made around the world. He was to recommend the type of architecture which should be built on the present campus. He studied universities in each country which he visited and liked the modified Tudor architecture which we have. It is a very suitable type of architecture and does not go out of style nor is it ephemeral in its emphasis. It is the kind of architecture which grows in beauty with age, inasmuch as the University is more or less timeless in its use.

The first building was built in 1924 and was the Charles H. Jones Hall. It was built after the Board of Trustees had selected some forty acres from many different individuals. The largest piece of the campus was known as the old YMCA track. However, it was really purchased from the Acme Investment Company which had been a real estate holding company in Tacoma. The building was named for Mr. C. H. Jones who was a Tacoma lumberman and was one of the founders and officers of the St. Paul and Tacoma Lumber Company. He was also an owner of Gray's Harbor lumber mill. Mr. Jones was very much interested in the University and pledged twenty-five-thousand dollars toward the building in 1921 when the new campus was dedicated. However, he
died in November, 1922. In 1923, when the ground was being broken for the building, President Todd called on Mrs. Franke Jones (Mr. Jones widow). It was her 78th birthday and she offered fifty-thousand dollars in addition to her husband's gift, when Dr. Todd said the building was going to cost two-hundred-thousand dollars more than the funds in hand. Mrs. Jones then pledged an additional one-hundred-eighty thousand dollars and it was agreed that the Trustees would name the building for her husband.

Jones hall is two-hundred-seventy feet by fifty feet. It contains classrooms, offices, administrative offices, and in its early history, contained an auditorium with seven-hundred-fifty seats. For many years the University had its Chapel service in this auditorium and Chapel was compulsory. Usually there were two Chapels a week which were religious. There was one which was cultural and there was one which was a student provided program. It is interesting that the students usually used their program as a safety valve for releasing pressures, if there were pressures at that time. The library was located on the lower floor of Jones Hall for many, many years, and also on the lower floor, the sororities had their meeting rooms in the early days of moving to the campus. The President's office was then located to the right of the front door. In the latter years much of the space has been utilized in administrative expansion and new offices have been created. The building is as good today as it was on the day on which it was built and it has shown the good judgement of the Trustees in its design and in structure.
The size of the student body evolved in number so that it was no longer possible to have Chapel. Many, many of the classrooms have been utilized as new administrative offices in the unusual expansion in staff in the latter years.

During the war, the officers for the Army Specialized Training Unit were housed in the tower - it was their headquarters. For many years this was also the headquarters for the Tacoma Art League. They had their shows in their galleries on the top floor.

Through the years, the Dramatic Department has had its plays in Jones Hall and more recently has reduced the size of the seating to make it a more intimate theater. Now instead of having five or six hundred people at a play, they have the play three or four nights in a more intimate setting.