Mr. William W. Kilworth was born and reared in Kansas. He went to school in Kansas and to a normal school for the training of teachers at Emporia, Kansas. While in school, he carried papers for the famous Emporia Gazette Editor, Mr. William Allen White. Mr. White took a personal interest in Will Kilworth because he was fatherless, his father having died when he was very young. Mr. Kilworth appreciated that interest always. It was to engender a life-long desire to help others, especially boys through the Boy Scout movement.

After he had finished his schooling, he saw the work of Abby Williams Hill who had been commissioned by the railroads to paint pictures of the Pacific Northwest, its mountains, its trees, its rare beauty. These pictures were hung in the various depots with the idea that they would create interest in people to come West. This happened in the case of Mr. Kilworth and he had what was called an "immigrant's ticket" from Kansas to Seattle. I believe he told me he paid ten dollars for it, and he had to sit up for several days and provide his own food enroute.

He came to Seattle and there he engaged in business using his talents in real estate. He was exceedingly successful and accumulated considerable assets, ultimately in the neighborhood of seven million dollars.

Watching the lumber procedures here in the Pacific Northwest, he noticed that when the trees were cut there were very large slabs from the edge of the trees which were wasted or used for fuel to run the plants. He offered the mills a very minimum amount for these slabs and they were happy to
sell them because there was so much waste. He devised a plan for making broom handles from the slabs. Inasmuch as he was born on Washington's birthday and was named William Washington Kilworth, he said he followed the tradition of George Washington, and his handles had to be "straight and true" and every handle was guaranteed. He traveled a great deal selling his handles all over the United States. He was often away six or eight weeks. Finally, he had the major portion of the market and sold at least 75 per cent of all the handles in the United States.

Mr. Kilworth was one of the outstanding citizens of the City of Tacoma. He was looked upon as a financial leader as well as a civic leader and backed every good cause. He gave the W. W. Kilworth Camp to the Boy Scouts and was one of the leaders in saving Annie Wright Seminary when it appeared that it would go bankrupt. He was also very much interested in boys clubs, in Rotary, in Immanual Presbyterian Church and, really, in every good cause. While his gifts were modest, they were widespread and gave a solid foundation to the total community.

Mr. Kilworth joined the Board of Trustees of the College of Puget Sound in 1942 and served until his death in 1964. He was Chairman of the Board for many of those years, succeeding Mr. E. L. Blaine. Mr. Kilworth was followed by Mr. Roe Shaub as Chairman. Mr. Shaub was a graduate of Stanford and his sons and daughter went to various schools and were particularly interested in the development of the Greek system.
Mr. Kilworth was very dedicated to the University. He would often call me to say that he would spend the day with me in raising money for the University. Together, we would go to see various people about contributions, asking for certain amounts for certain projects. When they would begin to say that it was not possible, he had a rather droll way of saying, "Now, Tom--or John--or Bill--you know full well that you can take this as a tax deduction. You can afford to do it very well and the College needs it." Invariably, the power of his suggestion was such that we received generous gifts.

In his own giving, he was consistent and gave each year—not as much as I knew he could afford to give, but he gave what he thought was a generous amount. Frequently, one of his close friends (who knew his financial dealings) would take me to lunch and tell me that I definitely should get a major gift from Will Kilworth. I'd ask for a suggested amount and each time I was told that his assets were at least seven million dollars and that he should give consistently each year and that we should ask for a five million dollar bequest.

Several times a brief was taken to him suggesting a five million dollar gift out of his estate and, if necessary, his wife and stepdaughter could receive a portion of the income from the amount of money as long as they lived; and in this way the major portion of his estate would be free from inheritance taxes.

I recall one time taking three different briefs to him: One asking for one million dollars; one asking for three million dollars and one asking for five million dollars. He read them carefully there in his office and then looked at
me and said, "Franklin, I'll tell you. You have me pegged too high and really what my estate will be depends upon the price of plywood at the time of my death."

As the years went on, he grew more conservative in his attitude toward money and he felt that he did not have enough to last his lifetime for his kind of living, which was very modest!

However, many times, he said to me, "Now Franklin, do not worry. I will 'treat the University handsomely'!" I never could get a definition of what "handsomely" meant and I knew from our discussions that he wanted to help young people who could not get an education, particularly students who needed help at the high school level. (At his death, he did arrange for each high school in Tacoma to receive one William W. Kilworth Scholarship out of the Foundation.)

Mr. Kilworth had traveled a good deal, as I said, in his broom handle business and while on a trip to New England, he saw a beautiful white chapel on top of a green knoll and he told me many times it was one of the most beautiful sights he had ever seen. He often talked to me about such a chapel on the campus of the University of Puget Sound and many times we walked around the campus looking at various sites. Finally, he said, "I would like to have it right here," and he selected the site between the President's Residence and the girls' dormitory facing on 18th Street. He envisioned a white chapel of New England style architecture with white interior, white pulpit and white furnishings. He wanted the chapel set back among the trees on a high knoll, with a circular driveway at the front of the chapel. We discussed this at some length because
his plan would have taken the entire block for the chapel. We already had the Everell S. Collins Memorial Library and we knew that, eventually, it would need an addition. I talked to Mr. Kilworth about locating the chapel closer to the street so that we would have space for an addition to the Library. At first he was not amenable to this idea but when he realized the necessity of every square foot of the campus being utilized to the best use possible, he was much more amenable, although he still wanted a circular driveway in front of the chapel.

He told me he was anxious to get the most beautiful chapel possible for the amount of money he would leave. He also wanted the chapel designed in such a way that it could be used not only for religious services such as church, weddings, funerals, but also for special meetings, lectures, recitals, and other affairs common to university campuses.

Not knowing the amount he had in mind, I envisioned a chapel somewhat like the one at Oklahoma City University, which is a sister Methodist school. It is a very beautiful chapel named for Arthur Moore, the Bishop of Oklahoma. This chapel cost well over $600,000 and was designed in the shape of a cross with somewhat of a cathedral approach.

As it turned out, at the time of his death on January 4, 1964, Mr. Kilworth did have seven million dollars in his estate. When the will was read, we found that Mr. Kilworth stated that $200,000 was to be given out of his assets to the University of Puget Sound for the construction of the William W. Kilworth Memorial Chapel, which was to be a New England style chapel nestled in the trees between the President's residence and the girls dormitory; that the
building had to be completed within three years of his death or the bequest would revert to the residual estate. He also left $25,000 for scholarships at the University.

His Executor and Attorney, Mr. E. N. Eisenhower, told me that Mr. Kilworth had had $500,000 in the will for the chapel up until about two years prior to his death. Then growing more conservative with age, he decided he should not leave that much, so the bequest was changed to $200,000.

After I received a copy of the will, I went to see Mrs. Kilworth, whom I knew very well, and I said, "You know, Florence, I really was somewhat disappointed in Will's bequest to the University. He had told me he would treat the University 'handsomely' and I am sure he felt that when he left $200,000 for the chapel and $25,000 to endowed scholarships this was a 'handsome' action. However, in light of the total estate, he could have been much more generous to the University, if he had wished."

Much to my surprise, Mrs. Kilworth looked at me and said, "Well, Franklin, I must tell you that I, too, am very much disappointed in Will's will. I did not need his money and I suggested very strongly that he leave it to Babbie (her daughter, Elizabeth Morris) and her two children so that inheritance taxes for two generations could have been avoided."

However, Mr. Kilworth had told her that he wanted her to have it and she could do with it as she wished. I counseled with her on several occasions, when she asked me to do so, and we went through his stocks to determine which would be the best stocks for her to keep. He had been very partial all
through the years to J. C. Penney stock and to Southern Pacific stock and those were two that he especially wanted her to keep; she had the privilege of selecting about three million dollars worth of stock from his estate before the rest was used for payment of the various bequests and for inheritance taxes.

The Executor told me that there was well over a million and a half dollars in estate taxes which had to be paid in the first fifteen months. I always felt in my heart that these taxes could have been avoided had the money come to the University and the University could have received a tremendous lift at that time.

Immediately, upon hearing the terms of the will, we started to work to fulfill the requirements of the bequest. We talked to Mrs. Kilworth and I found that the person who was to be most prominent in the decision making would be Mr. Eisenhower, the attorney. We discussed with Mrs. Kilworth and with Mr. Eisenhower the possibility of the University adding certain monies which would be collected to help build a chapel larger than what could be built with a $200,000 bequest. After this proposal was discussed at some length, I received a letter from Mr. Eisenhower saying that Mr. Kilworth had envisioned a small chapel nestled among the trees and that they were not particularly interested in helping to build a larger chapel. I had hoped that we could have a chapel large enough to accommodate the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference of the Methodist Church but it was immediately determined that this would not be possible even with certain assets which would be added to the bequest, because
there would not be enough to pay for a chapel large enough to seat the 500-700 member Annual Conference.

We talked to Mr. Charles Lea about being the architect because Mr. Kilworth and Mr. Lea had been personal friends through the years and Mr. Kilworth had talked with Mr. Lea a great deal about what he desired in a chapel. Mr. Kilworth had suggested the Macdonald Building Company for the builders and that it be done without bids. Mr. L. B. Macdonald is an alumnus of the University of Puget Sound, having attended the Academy at the old location of 6th and Sprague. Mr. Macdonald has been a very ardent friend of the University and has been most generous in his contributions to its development through the years. Mr. Macdonald said he would take the contract for the chapel on a cost-plus basis and would make every effort possible to get the chapel completed in the three-year period.

Final approval on the total plans was given by Mrs. Kilworth and Mr. Eisenhower on January 31, 1966. A city-wide ground breaking ceremony was held on the 15th of May, 1966. The program included a dedication given by the President; an Old Testament lesson reading by student Alvin Aosved, Chairman of the University Chapel committee; Bishop Everett Palmer gave a prayer of consecration; a litany led by the President included Mr. Roe E. Shaub for the Board of Trustees, Dr. John Phillips for the faculty, Thomas Albright and John Ortmeyer for the students (both of whom later became Methodist ministers), Mrs. Willis S. Darrow for the community (she lived across the street from the chapel location), Bishop Palmer for the Church, and Dr. Clark J. Wood for the
alumni. The benediction was given by Dr. Robert G. Albertson who was Chaplain at the University and who assumed great responsibility for many of the details in connection with the design of the chapel and also leadership in some of the finances which had to be arranged to add to the bequest.

It became apparent almost immediately that we were in financial difficulty because the estate would not advance money until the chapel had been completed. We did not want to go to the bank and borrow money on money which really should have come to us and we appealed to Mr. Eisenhower for an advancement from the estate. He was exceedingly meticulous in this and said that he did not feel they could advance any money until they were absolutely positive the University would fulfill all the requirements of the will. Finally, I suggested to him that the estate advance us $100,000 and we would sign a note to pay 4% interest if the stipulations of the will were not fulfilled.

After considerable negotiation and very careful analysis of the relationship of the University to the bank, etc., we were advanced $100,000 on November 10, 1966, from the estate with the stipulation that if we defaulted on any of the stipulations in the will the note would immediately come due. This advance payment helped to pay the bills which came in at about the rate of $30,000 to $35,000 a month once ground was broken.

The construction of the chapel progressed very rapidly. Mr. Macdonald kept his crew going constantly because he wanted to fulfill the stipulations of completion within three years of the death of Mr. Kilworth. Everyone was very much interested in the chapel because it was such a beautiful building in such a strategic location.
One day the Architect called me to ask what we wanted on top of the steeple, which was sixty feet above the ground, and we decided to have a weathervane and a compass there to give the exact directions on the campus.

The last $100,000 payment was made on January 4, 1967, and the chapel was finally finished on January 7, 1967. Mr. Charles Lea, the architect, asked Mrs. Kilworth and Mr. Eisenhower to officially inspect the chapel, which they did, and subsequently, Mr. Eisenhower wrote a letter stating that the University had fulfilled all the stipulations of the bequest.

It appeared at that time that the cost would be considerably more than the $200,000 and knowing that there were several million dollars in the Kilworth Foundation in the Puget Sound National Bank, I wrote to Mrs. Kilworth stating the cost, as of that date, at $289,000 plus $31,000 for necessary furniture and furnishings. I received a letter from Mr. Eisenhower saying that he had heard by inference that the cost had overrun considerably and that the chapel was really bigger than Mr. Kilworth had in mind and he was concerned that the University had not stayed within the stipulations of the bequest. It was a rather technical letter and somewhat terse.

At no time had anything been said about the fact that the University could not raise money outside to make a more adequate chapel and a better chapel. After some discussion, Mr. Eisenhower was mollified and allowed us to raise the additional cost of the chapel from among friends of the University. The names of these donors are inscribed on a plaque which is mounted in the foyer of the chapel.
The total cost was ultimately $298,022.58 plus $31,000 for furnishings. The pews cost $6,395.80 and the pulpit $805.47. Some of the furnishings were donated by various people. The pulpit, lectern, altar and cross were memorials to Dr. Cyrus Albertson who had been a minister at First Methodist Church for many years and who was 49 years a Methodist minister. They were given by Dr. Robert Albertson, who was Chaplain at the University, and the other members of the Albertson family, all of whom graduated from the University of Puget Sound.

Mrs. Veldee who was a very good friend of the University gave several windows and the dossal cloth in honor of her father, mother and brother.

The baptismal font was given in memory of Fay Morris Nace by Marjorie and Roger Nace.

The pulpit Bible was given by Dr. and Mrs. Ray Powell. Dr. Powell had been Chairman of the Department of Education for many years and also had been Dean of Men.

A devotional room at the head of the stairs at the entrance of the chapel was named for Frances Regester, wife of Dr. John Regester. Dr. Regester came to the College of Puget Sound in the year 1924 as a professor of philosophy and then he became Dean of the University. He was a very outstanding and dedicated individual and his wife was a most outstanding person in the lives of the faculty at the University of Puget Sound.

The communion plate and goblet were given by Beth Ann Noyes and the sound system was given by the University of Puget Sound Knights, a sophomore service organization. The silver candlesticks and vases were donated by the
University of Puget Sound Wesley Fellowship which was active at that time, and the first volume of the Anchor Bible was given by Mr. and Mrs. James Green in memory of her brother who was a student planning on entering the ministry when he was killed.

The Colby painting was a product of Bill Colby of the Art Department and hangs in the foyer.

The first service in the chapel was held on December 14, 1966. It was a candlelight service, carols were sung and it opened the Christmas season on the campus of the University.

The first wedding was held in the chapel on January 26, 1967, when two students, Cahrleen Kay Anderson and Donald Robert Moffett, were married by Dr. Robert L. Albertson, Chaplain. The couple donated the silver knife for cutting the wedding cakes and it is still being used. The chapel is used very frequently for weddings, as was anticipated when it was designed, and the center aisle is very wide for this reason.

In later years, after the chapel was first completed, many other things were added, with the approval of Mrs. Kilworth. A bride's room was finished, the upper room was finished, and the cost was added to the total cost of the chapel.

The Women's University League were responsible for finishing many areas of the chapel. While Mrs. Ann Zittel, an alumnus, was President of the League, the women gave $10,000 to finish the lounge on the lower floor. It was dedicated on March 26, 1969, and it gave the League a permanent meeting
place for their meetings which are held four times during the academic year and for special committee meetings and Board meetings. Collapsible walls were put in the northeast corner for a board meeting room.

The League also provided the kitchen facilities on the lower floor which are necessary for the serving of refreshments at weddings, meetings, and receptions, such as those held after the Brown and Haley Lectures, the Palmer Lectures, League meetings, etc. This lounge is very popular because of the fact that no intoxicating beverages are served there.

Later, the League women also gave the spinet piano which is located in the lounge. In 1976, they installed men's and women's rest rooms in the lounge at a cost of $8,000. That completed the facilities for the lower floor of the chapel.

Heritage Piano Donated

When the chapel was first completed it had a very beautiful altar at the front but it did not have a pipe organ or any musical instrument. I had been talking to a man by the name of Clark Heritage. He was very much interested in educational institutions. He had been a very poor farm boy in Illinois and he had received a full scholarship to Illinois Technical Institute where he studied to become an engineer, a position he held most of his life for Weyerhaeuser Company.

When his wife died, I counseled with him during the time of his sorrow and he seemed to appreciate it very much. We went to lunch about every month or six weeks for several years. One day he said to me, "My wife was an accom-
plished musician and I have a lot of her music and I don't know what to do with it." I said, "Why don't you turn it over to the School of Music. They will be able to put it to good use." So he brought many pieces of music to my office and I took them over to Dr. Rodgers. He was very pleased and wrote a letter to Mr. Heritage telling him how much the music was appreciated by the students.

About six months later, Mr. Heritage said to me at lunch, "I have that beautiful Steinway piano and it sits there not being used. I don't know what to do with it. I want to sell my house and I am at a loss how this could be properly used." I suggested that he give it to the University for the chapel. He seemed to like this suggestion very much and a few weeks later he called and said he would have the piano delivered to the chapel. It was a beautiful large-sized Steinway and it has been a wonderful addition to the chapel through the years.

One day, after lunch, I suggested that we go out and see the Steinway in the chapel and see how beautiful it was there. As we entered the chapel, much to our surprise, one of our outstanding piano students was playing the piano with all the love and tender affection that an outstanding musician can have for an instrument. We paused at the back of the chapel and waited for the young lady to finish. She looked up, then, and saw us and said, "Dr. T, it's so good to see you here." We went up and I introduced her to Mr. Heritage and he said, with misty eyes, "Oh, my wife would've loved this. She would've loved this." He always seemed very happy that his Steinway was
in the chapel. When Mr. Heritage died, he left the University one-third of his estate, which amounted to over $350,000.

**Organ Given by Walter Heath**

Though we had the Steinway piano, the chapel needed a pipe organ very badly. I talked to Mr. Walter Heath, a neighbor whose son Robert had attended the University, and I asked him for a gift of a pipe organ. He was very much interested in this because he had had a most unusual financial development. One of his friends who had a surgical supply house in Seattle died and the widow asked him if he would like to buy the business because she didn't know how to run it. He bought the company and several years later sold it at great appreciation to the Will Ross Company in Chicago. He was given stock and the stock tripled in value in a very few months. Mr. Heath gave $100,000 to the Methodist Church, $100,000 to Kiwanis, $100,000 to the mission on Pacific Avenue and $100,000 to one other organization. He had hoped to be able to give $100,000 to the University of Puget Sound but because his assets changed considerably in a very short time he couldn't do it.

He did, however, give the pipe organ to the University. I asked him for $40,000 for the pipe organ and he said, "See if you can't get it for less than that." We asked Dr. Byard Fritts, who was professor of organ at Pacific Lutheran University and who also built organs as an avocation, about one and Dr. Fritts was able to build an organ for $33,235 plus state tax. The organ was dedicated at three different services: one for the academic community on November 20, 1968 at which time Dr. Alma Oncley, University Organist, gave
the organ concert; one for the University church on November 24, at which time Dr. R. Byard Fritts, the builder of the organ and organist and choirmaster at First United Methodist Church in Tacoma, played the concert on the organ; and one on November 25, 1968, when Dr. Edward A. Hansen, organist and choirmaster at Plymouth Congregational Church in Seattle and a member of the music faculty at the University, played a concert for the Tacoma community.

**Kilworth Carillon**

A sidelight connected with the Kilworth Chapel concerns the Carillon given by Mr. Kilworth while he was still living.

One of Mr. Kilworth's trips took him to Florida, and on a beautiful Sunday morning while he sat in a park, he heard the Bok Singing Tower, which is one of the most beautiful carillons in the world. It is a genuine carillon having very large bells at the top of the campanile tower. Mr. Kilworth envisioned the possibility of someday having a campanile tower honoring his father and mother and himself, although at that time he was not connected with any university or any other institution.

Mr. Kilworth had a younger brother, Howard. There was enough difference in age that Howard looked upon Will almost as a father or certainly as an older person to whom he could turn for counsel, advice and help. Howard was an interesting person because he had gone from Kansas into Wyoming and Montana and lived the life of a typical cowboy. As such, he had not necessarily created much of an estate for himself but he had enjoyed that kind of life.

After being very successful in his real estate ventures in Seattle, Will
known as the Washington Handle Co. came to Tacoma and established his broomhandle business; He felt he needed Howard to help secure the raw material to free himself for the responsibility of selling the finished product. Howard had a very fine way of getting along with the loggers and the people at the lumber mills and he was able to provide the raw material necessary to keep the handle company running smoothly.

When Will brought Howard into the company, he gave him half of the stock, which appreciated through the years. Neither of the Kilworths had any children.

After Howard's death, Will mentioned to me one day that he would like to have some memorial to Howard because he missed him so much and appreciated what he had done.

Remembering our discussion sometime earlier when he said he had a definite interest in a carillon and hoped that sometime we might be able to build a campanile on the campus such as the one in the Bok Park in Florida, I mentioned it again to Mr. Kilworth. When it appeared that it would cost over $200,000, however, Mr. Kilworth decided that was too much money for a building that would have little utilitarian value so far as the University was concerned.

About that time the Schulmerich Electronic Carillons became available and it was suggested that we might be able to compromise and have a Schulmerich set of bells on our campus. They had been very much in evidence at one of the World's Fairs. Will had heard them there and decided that this might be a possibility. He commissioned me to find out what the cost would be and it appeared that a set of bells that would be best suited for the campus would cost
in the neighborhood of $25,000, if we had a place for the console and for the timing mechanism.

Mr. Kilworth said that $25,000 was more than he had in mind for it and if I could get it for $20,000, he would go ahead. We discussed it with the salesman and he said the best he could do would be $22,000, so Will told us to go ahead and get it for that amount.

The big console was established in the top of the music building and there is also a keyboard there from which the bells can be played. For many years, on Sunday afternoon, we had a concert at 2:00 for approximately a half hour when the organist at the University would play pieces in keeping with the seasons—Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, etc. There is also an automatic player which can play these pieces and there are rolls, such as used on a player piano, to be used if there is no carilloneur available.

The bells were installed and dedicated on the 11th of July, 1954. We assembled on the front steps of the music building and listened to the concert which was exceedingly fine. We had a special carillonneur for the concert. A special banquet was held at the New York and the carillonneur spoke. He was a very unusual person—not only an unusual artist but an unusual speaker because he talked about when it is foggy and the bells play "you can feel them dance on the atmosphere", etc.

There is a plaque in the music building dedicating the carillon to Howard Kilworth, and Mr. William Kilworth was very pleased with this memorial, which is still very actively used in the life of the University.

We set the bells so they would ring ten minutes before the end of the class,
which is a signal to the professors that the class period is about up. We had a very fine young English teacher from Cambridge University in England and on occasion he would stop and say to the students, "Has the music box rung yet?" and there was some chuckling over his definition of the carillon, but through the years it has rendered outstanding service and it is a major influence and tradition in the life of the campus.

When the Kilworth Chapel was built, there was some discussion about whether the Carillon, given by Mr. Kilworth, should be located in the chapel. However, the electronic engineers suggested that it should stay in the music building because it was centrally located and it would be a considerable enterprise to move it from one building to another.

Chapel Bell

One of the interesting sidelights in conjunction with the chapel has to do with the historic bell which hangs in the belfry.

This bell was given to the College by the Vollmer family of Waitsburg, Washington. One time when I was going to Eastern Washington to raise money on behalf of the College, Mr. Dill Howell, an alumnus, told me that I ought to see Henry Vollmer at Waitsburg, because he had a bell that was in the Methodist Church there for many years and it was hanging on a post in his yard and was used to call the farm hands to meals.

It was an interesting suggestions and I went to Waitsburg and saw Mr. Vollmer. He was very friendly and said the bell hadn't been used for years
and he thought he would like to have it at the College of Puget Sound because
of the unusual Methodist tradition. The Vollmer Family gave me the following
brief history of the bell compiled from authentic church records by John R.
White of Waitsburg, Washington:

This bell was purchased by "Father" Rev. J. H. Wilbur from a
steamboat Captain who used the bell for a signal on the boat. This
bell was brought around Cape Horn from New York to Portland,
Oregon, where it was first used in the Taylor Street Methodist
Church of Portland, Oregon; this church was dedicated to the
services of God in 1850 and the last service was held in the church
April 11, 1868. It was later sold to the Trustees of the 1st M.E.
Church of Walla Walla, Wash., shipped by boat to Wallula via
the Columbia River, then by wagon to Walla Walla, Wash. It was
used here in the Methodist Church which was located on the
corner of 2nd and Popular Streets between the years of 1868
and 1878.

In the fall of 1878 the Trustees of the 1st M. E. Church of Waits-
burg purchased the bell from the M. E. Church of Walla Walla and
placed it in the little old wooden church here in Waitsburg where
it was used until around 1906; when the new brick building was
erected on Main Street, the old church building with the bell
was sold to Gustav Vollmer in 1907. The old church building
was torn down and the bell was used for many years by the
Vollmer family as a dinner bell, and finally the bell became in
possession of Henry Vollmer who moved it to his home near
Waitsburg.


There developed some debate as to whether or not this was the oldest
bell and whether it was the bell which originally hung in the first Methodist
Church in Portland. One time I received a letter from the minister in Portland
suggesting that our bell was not the original and I replied that all I knew about
it was what was written by Mr. John R. White. However, in reading the history
of Portland's first church, written by Mildred Nye and published in 1962, I
find the following material on page 14:

The bell which called the faithful to worship in the first church
is given a prominent place in the historical room of the new
First Methodist Church. The bell was purchased by General
Stephen Coffin and brought around Cape Horn to Portland in
1850. It may have been used for a few months to announce
school sessions. Father Wilbur, in November, 1850, purchased
the bell for one-hundred and twenty-five dollars. It was hung
in this first church. In 1867, when the new brick church was
built at Third and Taylor Streets, the bell was moved to its
belfry. In 1917, when the Taylor Street Church was torn down,
the bell was removed and taken to the First Methodist Church
(the Grace Church building) at Twelfth and Taylor Streets.
This bell probably replaced the bell which had been in the belfry
of Grace Church.

I have every reason to believe that the bell we received from Waits-
burg which hangs in Kilworth Chapel once hung in the first Methodist
Church in Portland.

Bell Hung In Chapel

The bell for the chapel was hung at a bell consecration service on
November 1, 1966. The Chapel Committee had charge of the service, which
included a history of the bell told by the President, an Epistle reading by
Tom Albright and a meditation by Chaplain Robert Albertson.

After the bell had been consecrated, the entire group went outside to
the west side of the chapel where the bell was mounted on a crane by the
contractor. A rope was tied to the bell and probably 50-75 students, together
with Chaplain Albertson and the President, held on to the rope to guide the bell as it was to be placed in the belfry. The contractor started the mechanism to raise the bell and found, much to his chagrin, that the crane was not tall enough to actually get the bell in the belfry. He lowered the bell to the ground again and it only took a few minutes to put another section on the arm of the crane. This time the bell was successfully put in place and it was rung for the first time at this consecration service.

A tradition developed that at each wedding the bell is rung to wish the newlyweds joy and happiness. Also, every time the football or basketball team won a game, the bell was rung for the victory.

Gail Day Chapel

Now located in Kilworth Chapel is the Gail Day Chapel. In 1977, it was decided by the new administration to move Gail Day Chapel from Jones Hall to the rear room of Kilworth Chapel. The donor, Mrs. V. E. Day, who was in her eighties at the time, was consulted and asked if she would be agreeable to this plan and she said she had been in many churches where there were small chapels and she thought this would be fine.

The new chaplain, James Davis, was very instrumental in helping to move Gail Day Chapel into Kilworth Chapel. This little, intimate chapel houses the famous Holman Hunt picture. It was rededicated at commencement time in 1977. (See Gail Day Chapel for complete story).
The William W. Kilworth Chapel is located where Mr. Kilworth wished it to be, it is the kind of memorial he had in mind, and it constantly reminds those of us at the University of the great dedication of Mr. Kilworth to the University and his life-long interest in its development.

R. Franklin Thompson
September 12, 1978