KITTREDGE HALL

Kittredge Hall was built as a Student Union Building and was opened for use in January of 1942.

Its history goes back to the fact that President Edward H. Todd secured a legacy from Miss Grace M. Kittredge of Vancouver, B. C. Miss Kittredge wanted to honor her father and she started this legacy which was to be kept in tact until it reached the sum of $20,000. After it had accumulated this amount, they were to build a building that would assist the students who had to work their way through college. By 1940, Mr. Dix Rowland, who was secretary on the Board of Trustees, advised the Trustees that the legacy had reached the $20,000. The Trustees agreed to build a $25,000 structure and name it in honor of John Kittredge - the father of the lady who left the legacy. It soon became apparent that this was not enough money and so the Trustees increased the funds to $40,000 and added $6,000 for furnishings. It was equipped at a cost of $90,000.

One of the interesting sidelights was the fact that the student body at that time canvassed the City of Tacoma and sold miniature bricks at fifty cents each to help raise funds so that the building could be constructed. The building was one-hundred feet by seventy feet and was opened in 1942. The main part of the building was a dining room. There was a lounge on the north end. There was a snack bar on the southeast corner and the sororities each rented rooms in the corners upstairs. Another interesting sidelight was that the
Trustees had a very difficult decision in determining the kind of heat it would have. The Trustee meeting minutes said that the Building and Grounds Committee headed by Mr. Richard Wasson would meet and discuss whether it should be hot air or hot water. They changed their minds on several occasions.

One of the interesting features about Kittredge Hall is that it was built just at the time when plywood was coming into the lumber industry. Mr. James Newbegin, former Mayor of Tacoma, who was on the Board of Trustees and on the Building Committee, suggested that they get the various lumber companies to donate plywood so it could be a showplace as to how plywood could be used. This was done and much of the plywood used in the building was donated by the various lumber companies. I went through it and I think I discovered eighteen different kinds of plywood used in the construction of the building.

We used to have sit-down dinners for the faculty, the Trustees, parents, and on several occasions we had outstanding public meetings for the City. During the war we had a special luncheon for Lord and Lady Halifax, who was the ambassador to the United States. We had a sit-down luncheon at which we had some two-hundred fifty people in Kittredge. That was the maximum number that could be seated. It was a very unusual building and would lend itself to almost any occasion.
With the growth of the student body, we outgrew it and the new student center was built. It was then determined that the Art Department should occupy Kittredge Hall. It was completely renovated with a gallery and an inside island for the hanging of pictures. The lounge was renovated, the classrooms were restructured and the art faculty all had their offices in Kittredge Hall. The lower floor was used for ceramics and the heating plant was taken away when the new heating plant came for the entire University. There was also a laboratory where they are making and creating jewelry as taught by Miss Lynn Wentworth who was a very outstanding teacher and head of the Art Department.

During the time the students used it, it housed the offices for the Trail, the Tamanawas, Public Relations, Alumni Secretary, the Dean of Women, and the College Book Store. It has rendered great service and has been a most outstanding building. During the time the college had the Army Specialized Training Unit, it was referred to by the cadets as the "Palace". The girls gym, where many cadets stayed, was called the "Barn."
KITTREDGE HALL

Dr. Edward H. Todd had secured from Miss Grace Kittredge of Vancouver, Washington, a sum of money as an annuity and upon the maturing of the annuity at her death, the money was to be invested and kept in a special fund until such time as $20,000 accumulated in it. At that time, it was to be used to build a building on the campus, particularly to help young women in their education.

In 1941, the college attorney, Mr. Dix Rowland, advised that the specifications of the annuity had been fulfilled and the money in the fund could be used. There had been some discussion for several years concerning the building of a library and also a student center. It was decided that the student center should be built, not to cost over $25,000.

Chairman Blaine of the Board of trustees set up a committee of three, consisting of Mr. Newbegin who was a former Mayor of the City of Tacoma, Henry Shaw and Richard Wasson. On October 16, 1940, at a meeting of the Board, the Chairman of the Subcommittee, Richard Wasson, brought in a report saying that in view of the importance of the work ahead the regular members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee should be added to the subcommittee. This committee met practically every week during the formative days in the plans concerning Kittredge Hall. They met for lunch at the Elks Club and the minutes of their meetings are most interesting and provocative.

This was just at the time when plywood was coming into its own and it was hoped that Kittredge Hall, which was to be the Student Union Building on the
Mr. Newbegin went to the Weyerhaeuser Company and other companies and persuaded the companies to contribute a considerable amount of plywood for the interior of the building. I recall going through one time and counting eighteen different types of plywood used in eighteen different ways in the structure of Kittredge Hall. There is stamped plywood, grained plywood, rough plywood, smooth plywood, and it certainly is a demonstration of how the new timber product could be used in construction.

The architectural firm was Sutton, Dugan and Whitney and the only person still remaining and active in the firm was Mr. Dugan. He was a very congenial man and had considerable experience and spent a great deal of time working with the committee in creating the details of the plans.

One of the very difficult questions which constantly seemed to haunt the committee in their deliberations was whether they should use warm air or hot water to heat the plant. On several occasions, they determined that they would use hot water and then they would consider it again and decide to use hot air. After about three or four changes in their decisions, they finally determined to use hot air, which was the system used. The heating plant was kept within the basement and continued to heat the building until such time as the major renovation of the heating plant for the whole campus was achieved.

The building was designed so that the kitchen was on the east side, there was a snack bar at the south end of the east side, and the dining facility itself was the entire lower floor except for one or two offices, the sanitary facilities, and a food storage area. The number of people who could be seated
in this dining area was limited, however, and on several occasions when we had formal luncheons we found that the maximum number we could serve was around 200.

On the second floor, which was an open balcony, there were various rooms which had been allocated to the sororities for their meeting rooms.

Kittredge Hall rendered a very great service at a very strategic time in the life of the University of Puget Sound, and it was used for housing the ASTP unit, as we mentioned previously. The Army Specialized Training Program unit was housed in Kittredge Hall and in the Women's Gymnasium. The men, themselves, referred to Kittredge as the "Palace" and to the Gym as the "Barn"! The sorority rooms had been made into bedrooms, and the special food service was geared to the needs of the Army unit at that time.

With the coming of the veterans after World War II, Kittredge proved to be completely inadequate and too small. In working with the Federal Government, it was possible to secure a major gift toward a new student center. Also, it was possible to borrow some moneys from the Federal Government at 3% to be amortized over forty years.

Renovation Plans

With the possibility of a new student center, the Board of Trustees set up a special committee to determine what should be done with Kittredge. The Art Department had grown by leaps and bounds and was located on the fourth floor of Jones Hall. The College had been the "home" of the Tacoma Art League for many years, and it had been a very great problem to carry refreshments
up to the fourth floor galleries of Jones Hall for the open houses. Also, we had a very dedicated teacher, Miss Frances Chubb, who had had polio and was on crutches. It was a major task for her to go up and down the stairs each day. I used to watch her and think, "Oh, Lord, let me live long enough to provide a classroom for her on the ground floor."

Again, the architects were called upon--this time, Mock and Morrison, to take a new look at Kittredge Hall and redesign it for an art building. The architects decided to close in the upper balcony and put flooring in that area, to make classrooms out of the rooms on the periphery, to make galleries on the lower floor which had been the dining room, to make a classroom out of the south end of the dining room, to make a jewelry laboratory out of what had been the kitchen and to make a ceramics room in the basement which could be used for the throwing of clay and the firing of pots for ceramics.

At the north end of what had been the lounge of the student center, a special lounge for receptions was made and one special room was designed as the Hill Gallery to house the paintings of Abby Williams Hill, which were donated to the College by her children who had become elderly and wished to find a permanent place for their mother's paintings, which are some of the best of the 1800 era.

The renovation of Kittredge cost $33,223, which was almost as much as the original cost of the building, $55,807.

Kittredge is still in very good condition. Different art shows are exhibited each month during the school year and there are special shows during the summertime.
With the arrival of Professor Carlton Ball, the Ceramics Department outgrew the basement of Kittredge, and the department was moved to the basement of Howarth Hall, which was renovated after the sciences moved to Thompson Hall. The area of Howarth Hall for ceramics proved to be a very difficult problem because of the tracking of clay, not only all through Howarth Hall but all over the campus, so it was decided that it was necessary to build a ceramics building, which will be covered in another section.

Kittredge Hall followed the modified Tudor architectural plan, although it is limited in its expression of architectural beauty. It goes into the practical aspect of being somewhat of a square box with the various arches and was built with the greatest possible economy. It has proven to be a very valuable addition to the total facilities of the University of Puget Sound.