LANGDON HALL

In the adjustment after the War and following the philosophy that we should be a resident school, it became apparent that we needed more housing for women. We had also been assigned an ROTC unit and under the stipulations of the Housing and Home Loan Fund, it was possible for us to borrow money at 3.01 percent.

At the suggestion of the Board of Trustees, I went to Washington, D.C., on January 9, 1952, and had an interview with Mr. L. R. Durkee and several others who were in the process of loaning money to universities for defense related housing.

I was assured that if we were to apply for a loan it would be favorably received. On November 10, 1952, we applied for a $250,000 loan for an addition to Anderson Hall to accommodate 145 students. The federal agency suggested that we have a dining room as a part of this unit and a tentative dining room, seating 250, was structured, although it was multiple use space so that it could be put to other use if the dining area did not materialize.

This building would be an addition to Anderson Hall which was dedicated in 1939 and the major gift came from Mrs. Agnes Healy Anderson. A letter to Mrs. Anderson from Dr. Todd, dated February 16, 1939, is a very interesting document, and I quote it here because it has unusual historical significance:

Mrs. Agnes H. Anderson
1012 White Building
Seattle, Washington

Dear Mrs. Anderson:

It was a great pleasure to have you and Miss Wilson with us yesterday. That pleasure was increased by the seeming
satisfaction and pleasure which you had in making the visit.
The expressions of the different speakers emphasized to all
of our minds the importance of the erection of the residence
hall. It is something which we have needed for a long time,
but we have not had the funds on hand to erect it. To you
must go the credit for giving the initial "push" in such a
substantial manner as to really put the enterprise on its
feet to go forward.

You will stand in my memory as one of three women who
have made substantial contributions at the proper time to
enable great accomplishments in producing the plant of the
College of Puget Sound. I shall always associate you with
Mrs. R. L. McCormick, who at a very critical moment made a
very substantial gift to the College. Her contribution, as I
said Wednesday, assured the successful meeting of the challenge
gift of Mr. James J. Hill of $50,000 on condition that we raise
an additional $200,000. The securing of $250,000 was a great
blessing to the College; but to me personally, Mrs. McCormick's
gift meant an answer to prayer and an assurance that He who
answers prayers was standing back of the enterprise.

The second lady was Mrs. C. H. Jones, who at a critical
time, when we were just about to begin the erection of the first
building on our present campus, made a contribution of $200,000
to erect a building in memory of her husband. Had she not done
so, we would have built a much smaller building which would
have been a handicap to the progress of the institution. Again
it was not simply her gift that made the material progress visible
to people generally; but there was a peculiar impulse of interest
which came to my own heart and gave me courage to go forward.
Those things are greatly needed by all of us at times.

Now, again, as I have said before, you entered into the
life of this college in a very substantial manner, which has made
possible to the public a demonstration that the institution has
friends who believe in it and who are willing to sacrifice for it.
The erection of the residence hall has been an evidence to the
general public that the College of Puget Sound has vitality to
carry forward the raising of high Christian ideals in education.
Without your initial gift I am very doubtful that I could have
persuaded the trustees to attempt the enterprise at this time.

Then when you came in with your second gift, you made it possible
for us to more than fulfill our promise to the banks which had made
us the necessary loans. But deeper still, Mrs. Anderson, your acts
and expressions of interest, and the seeming pleasure which you have
housing. Therefore, we amended the application to ask for $300,000. We assured the government that if it were more than that we would raise the money otherwise. The total cost was $232,900 for the building, $23,000 for the plumbing and $48,000 for the electrical installations.

We had some problems with the City Codes. I suggested that because there was a twelve inch wall on the north end of Anderson Hall we tie into this wall and save constructing another one. However, the City inspector said under no circumstances could we do this and we had to have a new, reinforced concrete wall, eighteen inches thick. So, really, there are two separate buildings and the wall between Anderson and Langdon is now thirty inches thick to prevent the possibility of any earthquake damage.

As we were completing the building, I was interim minister at the Plymouth Congregational Church in Seattle because their minister had resigned and they were selecting a replacement. I became acquainted with Mrs. Langdon, who lived in the Essex Apartments. She was very much interested in the College of Puget Sound and asked how she could help. I suggested that she make a major contribution to the dormitory which was being constructed and we would call it Langdon Hall. She did make this contribution and the annuity was confirmed.

I asked that she put the College in her will for a bequest, for she had considerable assets after she had taken the annuity. She was very reticent about ever revealing what would happen to her assets after she was gone. Though I conferred with her many times about it, she would never definitely make up her mind exactly how the assets should be distributed.

Her interests were Plymouth Congregational Church, the College of Puget
had in making investments in this college, have given me courage to work on and pray on in an attempt to come a little nearer to the goals which I have set before it is time for me to retire. I want you to know that I am strengthened in my assurance that "God lives and moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform." I do hope that you feel satisfied that your investment in young people through the College of Puget Sound is a good and proper one. If you are so satisfied, I assure you it will bring pleasure to me.

Mrs. Todd told me of your kind invitation for us to visit you sometime. We will do so. We hope you will feel free to visit not only the women's residence hall and the girls whenever you find the opportunity, but that you will also visit us in our home.

Sincerely yours,

President

EHT: OBS

The addition which came to be known as Langdon Hall because of a major gift from Mrs. Langdon was finally accepted on November 14, 1954. Miss Wilson, who was Mrs. Anderson's secretary and a Mr. Robert Bunn who was related to Mrs. Anderson were invited to be a part of the reception. However, it was not possible for them to attend.

The printed program stated that guests were received on November 14, 1954, at 2:30 by Mr. and Mrs. Kilworth, Dr. and Mrs. Thompson, Dean and Mrs. Regester, Mrs. Carolyn Schneider (who was affectionately called Mrs. "S." by the students in the dormitory), and by the president of the dormitory, Miss Evelyn Emert, who is now Mrs. Richard Ocheltree, Jr. Her husband is a Methodist minister in the Pacific Northwest Conference.

Receiving the money from the federal government was a long, involved process. The government said our application of $250,000 was not large enough because their national records showed that it took over $3,000 per student to build adequate
Sound, and the YWCA. When she died, we were surprised to find that she had set up a committee of three to determine where her money should go. Mr. Smith who was the executive officer at Plymouth Congregational Church, myself and a man who was a retired YMCA executive were the three people to determine the distribution of her assets. The YMCA man suggested that the major portion go to the international committee for the YMCA. Mr. Smith knew that her interests were in Plymouth Congregational Church and I knew, of course, of her interest in the College of Puget Sound and the YWCA. The YMCA representative was very adamant that the major portion of it should go for the YMCA International Fund.

We met initially and each one stated his preferences and his recommendations. The YMCA man was exceedingly adamant that, even though she was not interested in the International Fund, it should be the recipient of the major portion.

We met again and the same kind of argument ensued. I had suggested that one-third of the assets go to the YWCA (one of her major interests), one-third to Plymouth Congregational Church for the building fund which they had for their camp (and which ultimately named one of the cabins in the campground for her), and one-third come to the University of Puget Sound. After considerable discussion, I finally said if the YMCA representative did not acquiesce I would file a minority report with the Court stating that these were Mrs. Langdon's interests because of our many discussions. Mr. Smith concurred with me and the YMCA representative finally agreed. So one-third of her estate went to the Plymouth Congregational Church, one-third to the YWCA for the renovation of their building near the Olympic Hotel and to create solariums and other facets which they needed at that time, and the other third came to the College of Puget Sound to help pay for the addition to Anderson Hall, which is called Anderson-Langdon Hall, and has been used ever since.