NEW HALL (REGESTER)

In keeping with the tremendous increase in enrollment which followed World War II, it became very apparent that we needed to become a "dormitory" college as quickly as possible. Our enrollment went up 44 per cent in three years, and 25 per cent in 1955. This meant that every available room on the campus was taken and also all available housing all through the community. We had a very extensive advertising campaign to alert the neighbors of the college that we would like to know of any kind of rooms that they might make available in their homes for our students.

Along with the Long-Range Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees and the executive officers of the college, it was decided that the University should apply to the Federal Government Housing Program whereby we could borrow money at 3 per cent for forty years and amortize it out of the income from the dormitories. It appeared that the greatest need was for housing for freshmen men. It was the reasoned judgment of the executive officers of the College that we should apply for five dormitories at one time, which would mean approximately $1.5 million to be borrowed from the Government at the low interest rate.

The application was made and after the process of working with Mr. Durkee in the Seattle Office, and on to the San Francisco Office and then to the Washington office, the decision was made that we should not try to secure the money for five at one time but first two and then three. It was necessary for the President to fly to San Francisco and talk with the Regional Office personnel and then on to Washington, D.C., to talk with the men in the office there. We were able to convince them
that we needed the money for all the dormitories but that it could be allocated in two loans, the first for Harrington Hall and what was then called "New" Hall.

The buildings were started with the idea that we would be able to get into them by September, 1957. In the fall of 1957, it became very apparent that they would not be finished on time so there was a very great doubling up of students in areas we had not contemplated and also in the community. Also, it became apparent that there was a much greater need for women's housing than for men's housing, so "New" Hall was adapted so that women could use it the first year instead of men. The halls were designed for 78 men and 78 women and actually the crowding which was so necessary to take care of all the students who needed housing put the first occupancy near 100.

There was a great deal of negotiation back and forth concerning the bonds. Dr. Gerard Banks was very helpful in this, as was Dr. Richard Dale Smith, and also the office in Seattle was very cooperative in securing the money for the dormitories. The bonds were delivered to the Federal Government on the 7th of June, 1957, and "New" Hall was occupied in October 1957. Part of the delay was due to the fact that the stone used for decoration was very slow in arriving from the Wilkinson quarry. Most of the stone on the campus had come from the Wilkinson quarry, dating back to 1924 when it was used for Jones Hall. It is a very fine stone that wears well in this area and in this climate and does not deteriorate. This was part of the specifications in the plans.

The total cost of the dormitory, without furnishings, was $343,631.00. We entered into a contract with Art Norman and Company for furnishings and the bid
for furnishings was $37,614.99. It was a pleasure to work with Mr. Norman because he had such excellent taste and was so careful to see that his contracts were executed on time and properly done.

The dormitory is modified Tudor with dormers and was so constructed that there could be an archway from New Hall to an addition, which would come later and is now Seward Hall.

John D. Regester had been a very outstanding person in the academic life of the College. He came in 1924 to the College as professor of Philosophy, having graduated with a degree in Sacred Theology from Boston University and after a year in Europe. He was 26 years old when he came to the College of Puget Sound. Dr. Todd had talked to Dr. Brightman at a meeting of the National Board of Education of the Methodist Church, and Dr. Brightman recommended John Regester very highly. The Dean told me that he and his wife Frances, when they got the invitation to come to the College of Puget Sound, went out and sat on a bench overlooking the river in Basel, and discussed whether they should accept it or what they should do, and finally they decided to come here.

After serving as Professor of Philosophy, he was made Dean of the College and served in that capacity for many, many years. By popular acclaim, the "New" Dormitory was named Regester Hall on the 14th of May, 1966. The dormitory has been very highly sought after as an outstanding place of residence on the campus.

Regester Hall is a part of the five-dormitory complex which was built through money borrowed from the Federal Government at 3 per cent over forty years. It
adheres to the long-range plan of the College and also adheres to the modified
Tudor type of architecture which is known for its beauty and for which the University
is widely acclaimed and which is very much appreciated by the University
family.

R. Franklin Thompson
February 27, 1978
In the expansion for dormitories, there was always a great need for beds for both men and women. It was the reasoned judgment of the long-range planning committee that we add to our dormitory space. A dormitory was erected in 1957-58 to house seventy-seven men. For the want of a better name, we called it New Hall, remembering that New College in Oxford is now three-hundred years old and still has the same name. The building houses seventy-seven men. Its cost was $343,000. It was a part of the arrangement we had with the federal government to borrow money over a forty-year period at 3.3 percent interest.

As the enrollment developed in 1978-79, it appeared that we were in very great need for housing for women so the first year it was converted to a freshmen girl's dormitory and was used for emergency housing.

The dormitory was called New Hall for several years and then there was a desire to name it for Dean John D. Regester, who was rapidly coming to the time of his retirement. The name was recommended by faculty and students and was voted on by the Board of Trustees. I concurred whole-heartedly on it because John Regester was a most wonderful person with whom to work. He was most interested in high academic standards and in securing an excellent faculty and at the same time upholding the high ideals of the founders of the University. He was an excellent scholar in his own right, having been trained with a PhD. in philosophy. He was an ordained
Methodist clergyman. The dormitory is now called Regester Hall and is one of the fine living areas on the campus.