CLAPP CHALLENGE

Shortly after coming to the College, Mr. Norton Clapp, who was in the Service at the time, took me to lunch and it was a most interesting and exciting experience. He said, "It wasn't fair. When you came here, there was an indebtedness of some $40,000 on Kittredge Hall which should have been completely paid off before you arrived." As I recall, this was on the 16th of October, and he said further, "I'll tell you what I will do. I'll challenge you and match dollar-for-dollar every dollar you can raise between now and January 1, 1943, in order that we might raise enough to pay off the indebtedness on Kittredge Hall."

Kittredge Hall had been a problem for the Trustees because there was a question as to whether they should have hot air or hot water heat. One time they would decide on hot air and the next time they would decide on hot water and it caused a real problem. The minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees show the unusual discussion which they had.

I accepted Mr. Clapp's challenge with great appreciation and enthusiasm and started out to meet the challenge. I had not had time enough to really get into the money raising end of it, but I found that the experience I had had at Willamette, together with the new administration here and new possibilities, opened many doors. I shall never forget that I had unusual success and two or three rather large gifts.

On the last day of 1942, I took Mr. Clapp to lunch and I presented him with an auditor's report showing that I had raised $32,671.23. He looked at the auditor's report, he looked at me, and then with kind of a twinkle in his
eye, for he was only two years older than I, said, "Remind me, Franklin, never to do this again as long as I live!"

He wrote out a counter check for the exact amount, and the indebtedness on Kittredge Hall was completely paid off with a considerable amount in addition to be used to start on the landscaping and other developments of the campus.

Mr. Clapp has been one of the outstanding persons in the development of the College of Puget Sound through the years. I used to see him quite often when he was in the Navy and located in the Exchange Building in Seattle. Several floors below was Truman Collins who was also one of the outstanding people in the development of the College of Puget Sound, and I quite often went to see them both on the same day in the same building. There will be another section on Mr. Clapp dealing with his many years of support through financial contributions and wise counsel and advice.