LANDSCAPING ON CAMPUS

In 1942, when I came to the campus of the College of Puget Sound, the only landscaping that had been done was Sutton Quadrangle which is the quadrangle in front of Jones Hall and the area north of Howarth Hall named in honor of the architect who drew the original plans for the campus after he had made a tour of Europe to study the architect of Oxford and Cambridge and had determined that this campus could very well have the quadrangle effect of the historic universities in Great Britain. The only plant was a yucca plant which was in the center of Sutton Quadrangle and which we replaced, ultimately, with the Hilton Gardner Memorial Fountain.

As recorded previously, there was an 86 foot differential between the high point of Huckleberry Hill and the low point in front of Anderson Hall. Dr. Todd had hoped that there might be a lake created in the middle part of the girls' quadrangle and it might have been very feasible for there are many hidden springs in that area and also in many places of the campus. In the design of the campus, there is a sewer outlet between Anderson-Langdon Halls and Lawrence with the idea that it could be used to drain the lake. In 1942, we worked out a plan whereby we would determine the various levels of the so-called quadrangles—the men's quadrangles to the south and the women's quadrangles on the north. This was prior to the thought of buying the John S. Baker land and removing Huckleberry Hill so that the parking lot could be constructed in what was to be the area around the fieldhouse. Part of the long range plan included a plan to design the landscaping for the entire campus, inasmuch as there had been literally no landscaping done. To the west of Jones Hall, about 300 feet, was the original farmstead and the farm house was there. There was a swale
or ravine between Jones Hall and the farmhouse and when finally Huckleberry Hill was leveled, Mr. Shotwell moved about 300 loads of earth into that swale or ravine to level it off and to make it so that we could create the Campus Green. Also, so that ultimately there would be a location for the Everill S. Collins Memorial Library. This entailed some real problems, however, because many of those trees had been standing for forty or fifty years. The first suggestion was that these trees be cut down and be replanted. However, after conferring with some landscape gardeners, I suggested that we put a well around each one of the trees, guarding them with concrete blocks, so that they would be protected and so they would not have to be cut or so that they would not die. This proved to be very satisfactory and over the last fifteen or twenty years we have only lost one of the trees, and that one we immediately replanted with a tree in the same position and that tree is growing very nicely.

As a part of the landscaping procedure, I asked as many of the clubs who might be interested in helping us to assist with the planning and structure of the campus beautification. The Tacoma Garden Club took as a special project for two years and gave many of the trees and plants which are on the campus. This is particularly true of the islands on Lawrence and the Tacoma Garden Club, which was the largest garden club in Tacoma, gave the liquid amber trees, also known as sweet gum trees, which are on the islands on Lawrence. There was one left over and that was planted between the president's residence and the chapel, and it has grown better than the others because it seemingly had better care. The trees have been watched over by the Garden Club and from time to time we have
received word asking us to care for them. One tree appeared to be dying and we got a tree surgeon to look at it and he took the top out of it and the tree seems to have completely recovered, although it looks different than the other trees. Many of those trees have individual personalities. There are one or two that come out before all the rest; there are one or two that shed their leaves before all the rest and there are one or two with rugged personalities that keep their leaves until the very end. They are beautiful trees and they are growing very nicely. There is one very large tree of the evergreen nature which is near the bus shelter and it was placed there by the Garden Club many years ago, probably as many as forty. When we were building the bus shelter, the president of the Garden Club called me and asked me if that tree was to be damaged in any way and I said it would not, that we had moved the bus shelter far enough north so that the tree would never be encumbered and it would never be affected, and the tree to this day is one of the most beautiful trees in this area.

There are many varieties of rhododendrons on the campus. The first group of rhododendrons were put in at the southwest corner of the library by Dr. Charles Robbins and Dr. James Slater. They told me that they went out into the wilds and picked the very best bushes they could find and brought them in and planted them there. It is a very large bush, probably twenty feet in diameter now, and it is still growing strong after fifty years or more of growth. On three different occasions I have put plaques there giving credit to Dr. Robbins and Dr. Slater for planting them but each time, even though we anchored them in concrete, the plaques seemed to have disappeared. The Rhododendron Society said they would take a project of supplying rhododendrons to the College and many of the rhododendrons around
the president's residence came to us from the Rhododendron Society. Dr. Paul Hanawalt, who was one of our very fine alumni and trustee for many years, had a special hobby of growing rhododendrons and he gave us plants on many occasions. Dr. Herrick of Shelton who is a graduate in plant culture has had a hobby of rhododendrons and he has given many plants to the campus. This was a project of Dr. Robert Albertson and his students, and together with Dr. Herrick, they have probably planted fifty rhododendrons on the campus. The rhododendrons given to the College by the Rhododendron Society were hybrids and in some cases they have reverted back to their wild condition, although most often this has been pruned out and they have been very strong. Some of them are now as high as the second story on some of the buildings.

Mr. Sherman Engels was the architect who designed the master plan for the entire campus. He was very dedicated and did a very splendid job. He worked out the hedge for the president's residence and also the plantings around the library and the plantings around the other buildings. Shortly after he made the plan, I was at the Puget Sound Nurseries one day at about 80th and Pacific and Mr. McGuire who owned the Nursery came to me and said, "Doctor, you need a lot of work done, you need a lot of plants. I have a daughter, Sharon, who is going to attend the University of Puget Sound. Would it be possible for you to take out her tuition in plants and service in the landscaping of the College?" So many of the plants that Mr. Engels worked in his plan came to us through Mr. McGuire and the credit was given toward Sharon's tuition and she was a very fine student at the University. Art Poole, who was an
alumnus and was the owner of Poole's Nursery at Sixth and Union, said he would like to give the landscaping around the music building and he did this as a gift to the University. Dr. Gordon Alcorn was very helpful and made the landscaping plan for around Todd Hall, which was the first building built on the campus after the War. The Women's University League did the landscaping around Anderson Hall, Langdon Hall and paid for the concrete work which is part of the patio in front of Anderson Hall. It was their thought that Anderson Hall could use this as a place to hold patio dances, parties and other functions, and it was used that way for some time, although it hasn't been recently.

Mrs. Daniel Schneider, called Mrs. "S.", who was the housemother of Anderson Hall, and Lucille Thompson did very much to carry out the work of landscaping many areas of the campus; for instance, they went to Fife and got forsythia from Mr. Methkes and all the forsythia on the campus, together with the hawthorne trees, were selected and planted at the suggestion of these two people. The hawthorne trees have different colored blooms and this, too, was part of the work of Mrs. Schneider and Mrs. Thompson. They were also the people who selected the tulip trees in front of the president's residence and these trees have grown very beautiful. The blue spruce trees in front of the president's residence were planted in 1950. I used to tell Martha and Mary to help me lift the hose over them so that some day they could return with their grandchildren and say, "When I was a small girl, I lifted the hose over those trees." The trees now are probably forty feet high. One of the things about which I was very careful was to allow the trees to get a full width to the ground. I had somewhat of a running feud with some of the buildings and
grounds men because they wanted to cut the branches off so that they could go under the trees with their mowers and one of the first things, after my retirement, I noticed was that all the trees were cut at least three to four feet above the ground!

When we were finally able to get the determination of the football field and the practice football field, I wrote a memorandum to the Buildings and Grounds to plant poplar trees in front of the girls' gymnasium on the east side. I received a reply back saying that they were exceedingly dirty trees and for that reason they would like to plant evergreens instead. I acquiesced to this but I have always regretted it because I have such great love for the two poplar trees just at the east side the president's residence. Those trees are magnificently beautiful and they have grown through the years and add a distinct beauty to that area of the campus.

One time I asked Colonel A. H. Hooker, who was a trustee and very much interested in the College of Puget Sound, to give money to one of the building projects. He said, "Franklin, I can't give you money but I will give you trees." He called me a day or two later and said to send a truck down to the tree farm at Nisqually. The truck went down and the driver called me and said he had a real problem. When I asked him what it was, he said, "They want to give me 2000 trees two inches tall." I said, "We don't have any use for that many--ask him for 200 trees two feet tall." So we got a truckload of trees which were about two feet tall. We brought them back but because it wasn't strategic to plant them at that time, we heeled them in the nursery over by Unit A. One day when I was leaving for a presidents' meeting, I sent a memorandum to buildings and grounds to get some of the trees out. I did not intend to have all of them planted but when I re-
turned, I was amazed to discover they had been placed mostly between Thompson Hall and the president's residence, and for awhile the students called them "Franklin's Folly". However, it does add a very beautiful area to the campus.

There was a big cottonwood which has grown for over fifty years on the Union Street side of the campus. One time Dr. Slater and Dr. Alcorn came in and told me that the tree was very diseased and it looked as if it would die. They suggested that they go in and clean it out and put a concrete filling in the tree. They did this and Dr. Alcorn told me that they took as much out that a man could hide in the middle of the tree without any problem. The tree, full of concrete, still stands and has grown completely around the concrete patch so that it is not seen. Some day when the tree does fall, some man with his saw will find that it has a very unusual center!

When the students moved the things from the old campus at Sixth and Sprague, they brought the two holly trees which are now at the front gate and which are very beautiful. They also brought two beech trees which were planted in front of Jones Hall and which have been very beautiful through the years. About 1960, there was a very difficult silver thaw and it popped one of the trees in two. It was taken down but the other one still stands as a silent sentry for those students who carried it on their shoulders from Sixth and Sprague to Fifteenth and Lawrence.

After the president's residence had been in use for a number of years, the automatic sprinkling system went awry one night when it was very cold and we awakened the next morning to see that every limb of every tree was completely covered with ice. There was a special article in the paper about it and people drove by and
they also stopped to take pictures, as it was a most unusual sight. You could see just exactly where the sprinkling system ended by the trees where they had no ice on them. It was a very devastating sight but it was one of the most beautiful sights I ever saw.

Once, one of the sororities came and asked if they could put artificial flowers in one of the trees in back of the president's residence because they wanted to take pictures for a national magazine. They did this and it was a very unusual idea. Much to our surprise, we started getting telephone calls asking what kind of tree it was in the back yard that had such big flowers so early in the Spring and people wanted to see if they could get the same kind of tree!

Many people have called in from time to time and said they had gifts they would like to give to the University and in most cases we were very happy to accept them. I remember one time, however, when a man called in and said he had just the thing to add a great note to the landscaping of the University. I asked him what it was and he said that while he was digging his basement he had uncovered a rock that was ten to twenty tons and he thought it would be just wonderful if the University would come and move it out of his proposed basement and put it on the campus. I asked him what we would do with it on the campus and he said, "Can't you just see the students painting it and fighting over putting their initials and names on it?"

I told him I certainly appreciated his thoughtfulness but in the first place we didn't have the facilities to get the rock and secondly, we didn't particularly want anything that would be that kind of a contentious factor on the campus.

When the campus was purchased in 1922 and 1923, Dr. Todd and the Board
of Trustees thought the campus would face to the north. So they had a dedication ceremony in which they dedicated the campus and they had a very large stone which is still on the campus. A plaque was affixed to the stone with the wording, "This College is dedicated to Learning, Good Government and the Christian Religion." They put it on a brick platform and they put a time capsule underneath it and it was located between what is now Anderson Hall and the Collins Library. One of the first things that happened when I came in 1942 was a student wrecked his Model A Ford by hitting the stone and it tore away part of the brick structure. We had three of those accidents and finally we determined that inasmuch as there would be traffic in that area it would be much better if we moved the stone, so we picked it up, took away the brick foundation and opened the time capsule. This was about forty years after it had been placed in the ground. Unfortunately, water had seeped into the box and the material was all molded and not at all readable. The stone was placed at the south end of Jones Hall where it is now located, just to the left side of the walk as you approach the building. This was the only time I ever knew that I hurt Dr. Todd's feelings because he did not think this should have been done, although for the safety factor for our students and also for the fact that it was right in the middle of the entranceway to Jones Hall, Anderson Hall and the library it had to be done.

It became apparent to me, as I visited other campuses, that one of the things one has to watch is that you build up a slum around your campus. Absentee land-
lords buy up the houses, rent them to students, do not take care of them, and there
is a very grave deterioration in the area around the campus. This was true at
Syracuse; this was true at the University of Chicago, and it was true of many other
schools that I visited, so I determined that there should not be this problem around
the University of Puget Sound. I set up a system with the Board of Trustees so
that within a decent radius around the campus when a house came on the market
if it were within the real possible values it should be purchased by the University.
We found rather interestingly enough, as a sideline, that the students liked to live
in these houses more than they did the dormitories and inasmuch as we had 5000
students and only 1300 beds we always seemingly had a waiting list for dormitory
space. The students developed various kinds of houses—a German speaking house,
a French speaking house, a communications house, etc. Those who had kindred
interests determined to live together, which worked out very nicely. We could
charge the same rent as we did in the dormitories and this amortized the houses
over a reasonable length of time. In order to do this, we set up the meets and
bounds of the University campus, which was Washington Street on the west, Ninth
Street on the south, Alder Street on the east and we determined that 18th Street
on the north would be the boundary. I had second thoughts about this because
one of the houses that was to come to us through an annuity and two others were
to come to us by bequest, but after we discussed this at some length, it was determined
we still would hold to the 18th street on the north side as the boundary. This added
considerable acreage to the University. We had approximately 60 acres in the
original campus; then we added 12 acres through the John S. Baker addition,
and then the other acres which have been added since by the purchase of some thirty houses and there are approximately that many more to be purchased to get all the property in the meets and bounds of our long range plan.

In 1942, the only paving and sidewalks were found in Sutton Quadrangle as they led over to Kittredge Hall, which was the student center. In another part of this narration, I have mentioned the fact that Harry Brown once said to me, "What is the most onerous thing that needs to be done and that you would have great difficulty in funding." I told him I would like to get the students out of the mud and that we ought to get some paving, so he established the Harry Brown Family Roads and Paths Fund. This meant that Harry gave a part of his tithe to the University each year and we were able to make all the concrete sidewalks and all the paving through the fund established by Mr. Brown. There was a wooden walk which went diagonally from Jones Hall to the gymnasium. This was straightened out and all the paving has come to us through that fund. Mr. Brown was so pleased and so happy with it that he has created $100,000 in endowment for the campus beautification and the income from it each year can be used either for roads or paths or for some other beautification.

The Harry Brown Family also created a fund for the Brown Quadrangle which is the quadrangle in the center of the Thompson Science Building. This very beautiful fountain is designed after a fountain found not far from the University of Zurich. When I found that we could build the fountain, I wrote to the mayor of Zurich and said that I used to go by that fountain every day and it was one of the most beautiful ones. There was a jet of water that went up and hit another jet coming
back and then it fell into a saucer-like shape and this was so perfectly level that it flowed beautifully into a very large receiving area. The mayor of Zurich sent me a book which showed the 61 fountains in Zurich and our architect modified the fountain somewhat, made it somewhat larger than the one in Zurich, and this is the fountain that the Brown Family gave to the University.

In 1977 I visited Zurich again and went to see the fountain and I was so very pleased because our fountain is a modified reality of the one in Zurich.

When we came to dedicate the Brown Quadrangle, practically all the sons and daughters of Harry Brown, except Dr. Harry Brown, Jr., who was in Santa Barbara, came and they all had a part in unveiling the plaque which is there in tribute to the Harry Brown Family. I cannot speak too highly concerning Harry Brown and his family because they have been a constant source of inspiration and a great help in landscaping the campus, in creating the Brown Quadrangle, and in paving the walks and roads through the Roads and Paths Fund.

The yucca plant which had been placed in the center of the Sutton Quadrangle was replaced by a smaller fountain, again one which was copied from one in Zurich. This was named for Mr. Hilton Gardner who was on the Board of Trustees of the University and who had been the University attorney for many years before his early tragic death. His family provided the funds for the fountain, and it is a most beautiful sight when you first drive onto the campus. Mrs. Hilton Gardner, who was Miss Elizabeth Anderson, an alumnus of the University of Puget Sound, gave the fountain and her son, Bowdin, was also an alumnus of the University, and they
have been very much interested in the University through the years.

There were other people who helped the University in its landscaping. Dr. Paul Smith, who was a very fine ear, eye, nose and throat doctor, was a specialist in roses and rhododendrons, and he gave many roses to the University and these are still planted around the student center, and many of these roses and rhododendrons are from prize-winning plants. Mr. Arthur Thompson who owned Mountain View Memorial Park called me and said that he would be glad to give various sized oak trees to the University and all the oaks on the campus are from Mountain View Cemetery. We had a man in Buildings and Grounds who did not want trees to go very tall and he cut the tops out of them. I was very unhappy about this but he said that it made them spread and kept them from growing so tall. However, Dr. Alcorn and some of the others tell me that the crows, of which we have an unusual colony on the campus for some strange reason, cut the tops out of the trees and keep them from growing in their own natural way. I wanted to bring squirrels on the campus but they strongly recommended against it. The crows dominate the campus so far as ornithology is concerned and for this reason not too many other birds have come on the campus. The crows scold them and drive them away.

Mr. E. L. Blaine who was chairman of the Board of Trustees particularly liked mimosa trees and he gave us a mimosa tree which is planted in the back yard at the president’s residence. However, this tree has since been removed. There are two very beautiful wesalia trees that grow tall and strong and are more or less to be planted by doors to give special emphasis and beauty to them. These two trees were
planted near the patio by the French doors at the president's residence and were exceedingly admired by many people. A good many people asked if they could use part of them for their Christmas decoration. These two trees have since been removed.

Mr. G. R. Kirk of the G. R. Kirk Company was very much interested in the University and gave certain evergreen trees which have been planted from place to place. His grandson attended the University of Puget Sound and they have been very friendly to the University. Mr. Kirk left a bequest of $1,500 in his will to the University when he died.

When General Eisenhower was running for president, he visited the city of Tacoma and there was a city-wide dinner and reception for him. At each plate, there was a little dixy cup with a little tiny evergreen tree in it. We were invited and were very pleased to attend. The evergreens were supplied by Weyerhaeuser Company. We took our cups home with the little trees and Lucille and I talked about it and we decided we would plant them just outside of the president residence area, on what we called the "hangback". The trees sprouted and grew very nicely. Unfortunately, one of the buildings and grounds men ran over one of them with the lawn mower so it was considerably shorter than the other one, so in folklore fashion we named one of them "Ike" and the other "Mamie". They are now about thirty to forty feet high and are very much a part of the beauty of the campus.

In the landscaping of the campus, we had a student by the name of Charles Morrison whose father was a orchardist at Buena. I had asked the father for a contribution to help build the president's residence. He said, "I can't give you money
but I will send you fruit trees." So he sent two Italian prune trees, an apple tree that has five different kinds of apples grafted, a peach tree, two pear trees and there grew up a tradition in the University that you were not officially registered at the University of Puget Sound unless you had swiped an apple from the president's apple tree at midnight. This was a tradition that we liked very much and did every thing we could to foster. The Bellarmine high school boys used to go through and sit up in the tree and through apples at each other, and it was always fun to go out in the garage and turn the sprinkling system on and watch them come down out of the tree and escape the sprinkling. We didn't mind them taking apples but we didn't like to see the crop destroyed.
INTERVIEW WITH LUCILLE THOMPSON

CONCERNING LANDSCAPING AND TRADITIONS

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND

by R. Franklin Thompson

February 4, 1979

T: Lucille, when we came there was no landscaping except in Sutton Quadrangle.

L: I very well remember that when we first came there wasn't even grass, lawn that is, except in Sutton Quadrangle and the rest of the campus was in wild, long grass. After we arrived, the Board of Trustees authorized you to hire a landscape architect and we did make negotiation with Miss Edith Schryver of Salem, Oregon, who was a well-known landscape architect, to come and look over the campus. She immediately made some plantings around Kittredge Hall. That was the first landscaping project and then, in the meantime, they started to cut down the wild grass and plant seed and lay sod around the few buildings that were there at the time.

T: One of those buildings was Anderson Hall, a dormitory that took care of about 30 girls, as I remember.

L: It was supposed to take care of about thirty girls but before long we had 75 girls crammed into that dormitory. There was no landscaping around it, there were no cement sidewalks on campus, only old board sidewalks and when it rained they were so terribly slippery your life and limbs were in danger. So as you told in the Harry Brown Roads and Paths section, that was one of your first projects. The housemother at Anderson at that time
was a wonderful, wonderful woman whose name was Mrs. Daniel Schneider and she was very artistic and extremely interested in landscaping.

T: She was also very cultured and I recall that the girls all called her Mrs. "S." and they all had great love and affection for her.

L: Yes, always. Her first name was Carolyn. Carolyn Schneider and I started to do some landscaping around Anderson Hall. At that time, there was a gully in back of Anderson Hall and as you drove in to get there you drove on a road that went down by the back part, in the basement. That has been completely filled in now and it is all level and landscaped. The Women's University League was called the Women's College League at that time and it was (and is) an organization of town women and University faculty wives, etc. It was very much interested in this and that is a subject I want to talk about a little bit later--Women's University League. At different times, they would raise money and would give a certain amount of money to use in landscaping. They entrusted Carolyn and myself with the project. So, all of the plantings around Anderson and Langdon and all those halls in there were chosen by Carolyn and me; every hawthorne tree on campus we chose personally and had them planted; there was just nothing.

T: As I recall, those hawthorne, white and . . .

L: Red and pink.

T: I recall, too, that Teach Jones used to cut the limbs off and make the chains for May Day.

L: Yes.
T: We'll go into that later on. Didn't you and Carolyn go to various nurseries and select . . .

L: Yes, when we had money allocated to us, there was a very fine nursery out in Fife. It is not there any more. It was called Nethke's and Mr. Nethke was a wonderful, wonderful old gentleman. We used to get in our car and I would drive Carolyn out to Nethke's Nursery and we would, very often, fill the back of the car with shrubs to bring back and we would tell Buildings and Grounds where we wanted them planted. Those would be put around the dormitories. Various project. . . Dr. Alcorn, after Todd Hall was built, planned all of the landscaping around there. For each building, the landscaping was taken care of by some person or group of persons. I remember that Art Poole had Poole's Nursery and when the Music Building was completed you asked Art Poole, who was an alumnus of the University, if he would take it upon himself to do the landscaping around the building as a donation, which he did.

T: We had a landscape architect for the area around the house. Who was that, do you remember?

L: Yes, Engels--what was his first name?

T: E-n-g-e-l-s.

L: No, Ingels. Mr. Ingels had been the landscape gardener for Point Defiance Park and he had retired. We asked him and he did not all the plantings around the house, not all; but over the campus, then. Miss Schryver felt she couldn't keep coming up so -- wasn't his name Stuart Ingels?

T: No, but I'll get it.

L: He planned much of the plantings, like around the library and the new
buildings. The only thing he really did around the house was to prevail upon the Rhododendron Society to give all the rhododendrons that are in the front of the house. The ones in the back of the house. . . Dr. Paul Smith who was an eye, ear, nose and throat man was very much into roses and rhododendrons. He had a beautiful home up on the hill behind Annie Wright Seminary and it was a mass of beauty, really. He gave all of those rhododendrons that are planted at the back of the house. There was absolutely nothing around that house when it was built, because years ago that land had been scarified. Up by Union where the fruit trees are now was a hideaway and a little road in there with shrubs and overgrown trees and things where the students used to go and park.

T: You will recall that during the Depression there was a student who couldn't pay his tuition and he asked if he could do landscaping with a bulldozer in payment for his tuition. What he did was really scrape off all the top soil and leave it very uneven and it all had to be redone.

L: So there was absolutely nothing. The house was as naked as a jay bird. We started in landscaping it, and much of the shrubs around there we purchased and had planted, and the lawn we had put in. Mr. Ingels did suggest that we put in those beautiful evergreens out in front of the house. . .

T: Aren't they blue spruce?

L: No, they're not blue spruce. I just can't think what they are, but at any rate that's the way it all came about. Then you must remember that about that time the Puget Sound Nursery, out on South Pacific, was owned
by some people named McGuire. It was a beautiful nursery out there and they had a daughter who wanted to come to the University of Puget Sound and Mr. McGuire asked you if he could give us shrubs for the campus for her tuition and you agreed. That is how so many of those lovely, lovely things came. The birch trees out in front of the president's residence and all of the tulip trees on the parking; all of the sweet gum trees; the liquid ambers that are on the islands in front of Jones Hall on Lawrence, and the big birch trees out of the bay window at the end of the living room— that's the way a lot of the beautiful landscaping came around dormitories, too.

T: Let's go back and cover a little bit more. Ingels made a master plan of the campus.

L: Yes, he did.

T: He located every tree and its size and its type, etc. That was to be part of the master plan which has been used, because so many things had to be done. For instance, we put between 200 and 300 loads of earth between what is now the Music Building and Jones Hall. There was a swale there. Also, you will recall the islands on Lawrence Avenue and Union Avenue actually belonged to the City. We asked the City Park Department to landscape them and take care of them but the City Park Department would not do it unless the City Water Department would provide water for them free. The City Water Department said it could not do it until the City Park Department had landscaped the islands. Finally, in utter disgust, I said that if they wouldn't do it we would do it, so we landscaped them, put in the water and although they are city owned we maintain them, water them and cut them. Though it should
be the city responsibility, the city has always been very reluctant to have anything to do with it.

Also, in the landscaping, you will recall the big cottonwood tree which is over on Union.

L: Yes.

T: One time, Dr. Slater and Dr. Alcorn came and said the tree was going to fall because it's heart had rotted away. So through their own ability and volition, they filled the heart of the tree with cement and the tree has now grown completely around it and recovered from what looked like it was going to be its ultimate untimely death.

L: The beautiful oak trees over the campus were given: Art Thompson, wasn't it, who owned Mountain View Memorial Cemetery called you one day and said they were clearing some land and they had oak trees and asked if they could be used on the campus. They brought them in--they were good sized oak trees--and planted them where they are right now. And that is how those came. The Kiwanis Club volunteered when Union Avenue was being landscaped to plant trees on the islands. They tried to plant different varieties of trees in each block.

T: You remember Gordon Alcorn said that we always send away for exotic trees but we ought to have some that were indigenous and so each one of those blocks has trees that are indigenous to this area.

L: Right.

T: And in the archives there is the picture of the president of Kiwanis
and Tollefson, who was then Mayor, and Gordon Alcorn and myself and Ray Powell, who was in the Kiwanis Club, planting those trees.

L: And Roe Shaub, who was President of the Board.

T: That's right. Going back to the liquid ambers, as I recall there were certain number given . . .

L: By the Tacoma Garden Club.

T: You will remember that there was one more than was needed so we planted it between what is now Kilworth Chapel and the President's residence. It has grown much taller than the others because it was always watered and . . .

L: And fertilized and it didn't have the wear and tear because many of those on the islands were mutilated as students would break off branches as they went through, so they struggled along.

T: Some of them seemed to have died or just the tops died and they were trimmed out.

L: We replaced some of them.

T: The big tree by the bus shelter was given by the Garden Club, I think, before our time.

L: Yes, it was there when we came.

T: When we went to build the bus shelter, I remember Mrs. Erickson, I think it was, who was a member of the Garden Club, called me and was very anxious and upset because she thought we were going to cut the tree when we put the bus shelter there, but I assured her that it would not be molested
in any way. Tell us about the fruit trees.

L: Well, soon after we came into the house, you had a visit with Mr. Charles Morrison in Buena, Washington. He was a very successful orchardist over there and you had asked him for some money for the University. He said he could not give you any money but he would be very happy to give a gift of fruit trees to be planted up on the hill by the President's residence out toward Union. So all of those fruit trees came from Mr. Morrison in Buena and they were wonderful trees—two beautiful peach trees, an apple tree that had seven different varieties of apples that had been grafted, a pear tree and cherry trees—well, it was a lovely gift—oh yes, two plum trees, one yellow plum and one blue plum. They are still there and are still bearing fruit. The apple tree was one of the joys of students. They loved to come and steal the apples. It got to be a tradition.

T: Yes. You hadn't been a real freshman until you stole an apple from the President's apple tree at midnight.

L: But fortunately, the tree was a very heavy bearer and there were always apples enough for anybody who wanted them. The two sequoias, I think they are, at the back of the house came in an interesting fashion. When Eisenhower was running for the presidency, there was a fund raising dinner at the Winthrop Hotel and Weyerhaeuser gave these giant sequoia seedlings in little tin cans. They were just little tiny things and each one got one as a favor. We each brought home a tree. They were in dixy cups, that's right. We decided that we would plant them out back, not realizing how large they
would get. We did plant them and they were so small. About the second or third year, though they had grown some, the man who ran the mower came and didn't realize that they were there and he clipped the top off of one of them. So there is one that is quite tall and one a little shorter, so we named the taller one Ike and the smaller one Mamie. They are huge trees now and there is a lovely little silver birch close to those trees—it's large now—and that came because a friend of mine, Eva Kirkwood, had it in her flower bed—a bird had dropped a seed there and it had grown up to the bottom of her window. She said she had to pull it out and I said, "Oh, let me have it." I brought it home and we planted it there and it now is a big tree, and Eva Kirkwood has been long gone from this earth but I always called it my Little Eva tree.

T: Then, too, you recall that I asked Colonel Hooker one time for money and he said, "I can't give you any money but I can give you trees. Send your truck down to the Nisqually Tree Farm and I'll give you trees." I sent a truck down and the truck driver called me and said, "I've got problems. They want to give me 2000 trees that are two inches tall." I said, "That won't help us any. See if you can trade them for 200 trees two feet tall." So he was able to negotiate a trade whereby we got probably 200 trees two feet tall and we put them into the nursery which was over in front of the fieldhouse. One day when I was going east to the foundation meetings, I wrote a memorandum to the Buildings and Grounds men to put some of the trees out. I didn't mean
all of them but I was pleased when I returned to see that the trees had all been
transplanted and many of them were placed between what is now the Science
Building and the President's residence. There was an article in the Trail
about Franklin's Forest, but they are beautiful now. Colonel Hooker was a
trustee of the University and very much interested in it and his gifts were
unusual and novel. One time he gave a wrought iron gate and another time
he and his wife gave a . . . .
L: Chickering square piano.
T: Yes, and another time they gave a very famous painting. Do you
remember that?
L: I don't remember that, but the Chickering piano was a beautiful, old
mahogany square piano. It was given to the University and then given
to the Women's University League to sell. They did sell it and it is in-
teresting to know that the people to whom they sold it--well, it was the
foundation for the beautiful old home in Puyallup . . .
T: Ezra Meeker's home.
L: Yes, Ezra Meeker's home and they bought it and that lovely old piano
is now in the Ezra Meeker museum in Puyallup.
I should tell too about another project of the Women's University League.
After Langdon Hall was built and fastened on to the first little unit, Anderson,
it was decided that the girls needed a patio facing toward Lawrence and that it
should be landscaped, so the Women's University League raised all of the
money for that. The area had to be drained because there were natural
springs, out there. That was done and the patio was put in and landscaped. Around the patio was the little low U bushes, and that was a project for one year and I think it cost about $1500 at that time--would cost much more now.

T: As I recall, it was a very large patio because they thought there would be outside dances, etc.

L: Yes, and I'm not sure it was ever used for that but it was a pretty spot as you drive along Lawrence.

T: Dr. Todd had hoped that someday there would be an artificial lake in front of Anderson Hall because as you said there were springs, and in the sewer line there is a front to drain the artificial lake if it were ever built. But the trustees, in discussing it in the Buildings and Grounds Committee, thought it would be an attractive nuisance.

L: Well, it would have been a hazard to children.

T: So it was decided that we wouldn't make an artificial lake there, though it would have been beautiful. However, we find that on hot days the Brown fountain Quadrangle is used by children as a wading pool. When we came, a big yucca plant was in Sutton Quadrangle. I asked Mr. Robbins one time why it was there and he said it was the cheapest thing they could get to break the monotony of the quadrangle.

L: It was just an ugly, sticky plant, as I remember. That's where the Hilton Gardner Fountain is now. The yucca plant was removed when they put the grass in. After Hilton Gardner who was the University attorney after Dix Rowland and a very fine, outstanding attorney in Tacoma had a heart attack and passed
away as a fairly young man, his family wanted to do something as a memorial to him on the campus.

T: I talked to Mrs. Gardner about a fountain and she said she thought that would be very nice.

L: She had always liked fountains.

T: When we lived in Zurich, there were 70 or more fountains in the city, so I wrote to the mayor of Zurich and asked him for a picture of a certain fountain and he sent me a book with pictures of all the fountains in Zurich. The Gardner fountain is modeled after one I used to go past from our pension to the University of Zurich, and it has the basic design with the gargoyles and the saucer effect. Mrs. Gardner paid for it. When it was dedicated, her grandson, Gardner Bovingdon, was about three or four years old and he cut the ribbon and the water was started. Then we discussed that someone had put detergent pellets in it and the suds foamed up. We went ahead with the dedication anyway. An interesting by-play was the fact that Bo Gardner, an attorney, was invited to a dinner in Portland and the hostess said, "We fixed it--we put the detergent in the fountain," and was boasting about it, and Bo said, "You know that is a memorial to my father," and he said the subject was changed immediately and there was a very great silence. It was done by the Pi Phis and of course Mrs. Gardner was a Pi Phi and had done a great deal to bring the chapter on the campus.

L: Mrs. Gardner, Sr. was a Pi Phi.
T: The fountain has been a beautiful addition to the campus.

L: Both the Gardner fountain and the Brown fountain have been victims at various times of boxes of detergent, but you remember that you were able to take care of that. You remember the Diamond Brothers.

T: When I was in the Sun Drug Store, the Diamond Brothers who own the store and are alumni and were part of the Phalanx organization said that they could solve my problem of the detergent and I asked how and one of them gave me a bottle of nose drops and said, "If you squirt this on each one of the places where the water comes out, it will cut the detergent." I didn't believe him, so I waited until dusk and went over to the fountain and squirted each one of the openings and sure enough it cut the detergent. Just as I was doing it to the fourth one, I looked up and three professors in the physics lab were looking at me out of the window and one was making motions around his head, like I was not quite all there! I went back to the store and asked them what it was and they said they didn't know but gave me the name of the chemical company and I wrote to the company and then was referred to the Dow Chemical Company who wrote me, "Dear Dr. Thompson, Re: Tacoma's foaming fountain--Thank you for opening up a whole new marketing possibility to us. We did not realize that this would cut the foam..." and they sent us eight pounds of the ingredient that cut the foam. Since that time, there has been a whole market of anti-foaming detergent which is used in cleaning rugs, etc., which I suppose was a spinoff of the discovery. We
do still on occasion use it because every freshman class thinks its a great idea and we suddenly find we have foam on the fountains, but we have never let us bother us and I have passed the solution on to the city and they use it and also to Pacific First Federal for their use in their fountain.

In the landscaping procedures, on the road which goes from the Girls Gym down to Lawrence, there is a little indentation. This goes back to the first day I was in office. A woman called in and said her son had ridden off the wooden bridge across the little ravine in that area and he had hurt himself and had a bloody nose and scratched face. I suggested that she take him to a doctor and have the bill sent to us, which she did.

This ravine was filled in and paved over but evidently it was not compact enough and there is still a slight indentation on that road. The bridge, of course, is long since gone.

All the paving on the campus has been paid for by the Harry Brown family through the Roads and Paths Fund.

End of tape

3/13/79