POST WAR ATHLETICS

As a part of the post-war development when one could see it coming was what to do about athletics. In 1942 there were only two men members of the football team and I recall having them suit up and we took pictures so there could be at least two pictures of football players in the 1942 Tamanawas. I asked the Board of Trustees to set up a Committee to advise concerning the development of the Athletic program after the war. Dick Wasson was on the Committee, Mrs. Swayze was one of the members and Mr. Cochran and practically all the Alums who were on the Board of Trustees. We had had a kind of novel relationship in athletics prior to the war and Mr. Leo Frank was the football coach. He was also in the reserves in the army and he was also called up quite early which left us without any kind of athletic direction. It was the suggestion of the Committee that I go to Fort Ord, California and have a talk with Leo Frank to see whether or not he would be willing to relinquish his position as football coach and athletic director when finally he was out of the service. I found him in the hospital and had a rather long and fine conversation with him. We agreed that he should not come back as coach, largely because of his own health situation. I did not know at that time that he was under rather heavy sedation when we talked and he did not remember a considerable amount of our discussion. However, I put it in a memorandum and a letter to him and he subsequently agreed to it.

That meant that we needed to start to find a new coach. I went to a very fine Director of Athletics and a personal friend of mine - "Spec" Keene, who was coach at Willamette University
when I was there and more recently the Director of Athletics from Oregon State College. It was his strong recommendation that we should get a man by the name of Frank Patrick, who was just getting out of the Navy and who had had a very outstanding career both as a football player and as an assistant coach and as a coach. Patrick was anxious to come to the Pacific Northwest and I flew east to interview him and hire him. He showed great potential and also a very fine knowledge of football, of coaching, and of men. He was not as adept at recruiting as I had hoped. He came and we had a fairly good season. I made the mistake of going into the dressing room at half time during one of the games - the one in Spokane when we played Whitworth - and when I listened to him talk to the team and some of the language he used and some of the names he called the players who missed plays, I came back out very heavy hearted and said to Lucille, "The man will not last. We cannot afford to have that kind of man as head of our athletic program." He felt, as we did, that he did not fit into the College of Puget Sound and therefore asked to be relieved after a short season with us.