

BISHOP ODD HAGEN

Many of the men who came to the College of Puget Sound were ecclesiastic leaders from all over the world. One of the outstanding ones was Bishop Odd Hagen, who was Bishop of Scandinavia. It was interesting that Bishop Odd Hagen came to us because our professor, Christian Miller had visited his relatives in Scandinavia. Many of the Methodist ministers came to Professor Miller with letters saying that for from \$50 to \$150 and the submitting of a written sermon they could secure a Ph.D. from some of the schools in the United States. They were obviously diploma mills. Christian Miller was very much concerned about this because it was not true to the tradition of American education. Out of our discussion came the fact that we could send some of our professors to Scandinavia and accredit some of the work at the Theological school at Gothenburg. Professor Miller organized the first team and it was made up of himself, Dr. John Phillips and, I think, Dean Register (I am not sure if he was one of the first or not). Our men had a very outstanding and successful summer and it created an excellent relationship between the Theological School at Gothenburg and the College of Puget Sound. Bishop Odd Hagen was then one of the educational leaders of Scandinavia before his election as Bishop and it was suggested that we invite him to come over to be a part of the Pastors' School in the fall and also recognize him. So in 1956 he was invited to come to the College of Puget Sound to lecture to the Pastors' School on

(Bishop Odd Hagen)

-2-

International Methodism and to receive an honorary degree. We had a convocation in his honor as being recognized world wide as a foremost missionary and church leader. After his appearance here he was elected Bishop by the Scandinavian churches. He was the author of six books and was president of the Scandinavian School of Theology at Gothenburg and was in attendance at the United Methodist Church in this country.

Bishop Hagen was also a very outstanding leader in the World Methodist Council. It was through his coming and through the fine work which we had for many years as an affiliate of the Scandinavian School of Theology at Gothenburg that they made the President of the College of Puget Sound a Fellow at Gothenburg.