

MR W. W. KILWORTH

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee was Mr. Harry Brown who then nominated Mr. W. W. Kilworth as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Kilworth was a man who had been very successful in real estate in Seattle and who moved to Tacoma where he and his brother established the Washington Handle Company. Mr. Kilworth had been half orphan, his father died when he was very young and he lived in Kansas. While there as a small boy he carried newspapers for William Allen White who was the editor of the paper. Mr. White took a personal interest in Mr. Kilworth and talked with him on a good many occasions as a boy, suggested that he get the best possible education and gave him the idea that someday he should go to Princeton. Mr. Kilworth took the normal education in the Kansas town and then went to Princeton, where Woodrow Wilson was president at that time. Mr. Kilworth remembered seeing Mr. Wilson on a good many occasions and saw him when he returned from the International meeting in which the League of Nations was proposed but not adopted.

It is interesting that Mr. Kilworth saw some pictures in the depot in Kansas of the Pacific Northwest. These pictures had been painted by a Mrs. Hill, who had been hired by the railroad companies to paint the Pacific Northwest so that people would be intrigued and come. As a matter of fact, Mr. Kilworth bought a ticket which was called an immigrant's ticket and came from Kansas to Seattle. He told me he paid \$14.00 for the ticket. It was a case of sitting up three or four nights to come, having to provide your own food while on the train. He arrived in

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Seattle and soon was involved in business and as previously mentioned, he was very successful in his real estate ventures. When he moved to Tacoma he was interested in logging and went to the various log camps and noticed that the men in the mills threw away the outside of the tree. They cut off what they called a slab and these were either burned to get rid of them or to use for power for the mill. Mr. Kilworth decided that he would buy the slabs and process them into broom handles. And he did. He set up his mill on the tideflats in Tacoma. He had a motto which said, "Every handle tried and true," and of course, the name Washington came because his name was William Washington Kilworth and he was named that because he was born on Washington's birthday.

Mr. Kilworth went back to Kansas and Montana and secured his brother Howard, who was at that time a cowboy. He put Howard in charge of production in his factory and he was in charge of sales. This meant he was to travel all over the United States selling his broom handles and, at one time, he had 75 percent of the total market in the United States. This took him to Florida where he heard the carillon at the Bok Tower. He sat at the Bok Campus for a whole concert one Sunday morning. He decided that this was one of the most beautiful moments of his life. Later on it was to cause him to give us the Howarth Kilworth Memorial Carillon which still rings the hour every hour on the campus.

Likewise in his travels he went to New England and on a very beautiful morning after a snow he started on his sales rounds and looked up and saw on the top of a hill a very beautiful white chapel. He went into the chapel and it had wide aisles, white pews, and white altar furniture. This likewise meant that one day the Kilworth Chapel would come to us with certain specifications such as the architecture and the interior furnishings.

Mr. Kilworth was very proud of his degree in business from Princeton and also the fact that his diploma was signed by Woodrow Wilson. He was very much interested in the academic structure of the University although it was geared to what he knew of Princeton at that time.

On many occasions I strongly suggested that we get into a major financial campaign for the development of the College and later University of Puget Sound. He was always very reticent. He would say, "It isn't the proper time for a campaign at the moment." Then he would say, "You know, Franklin, you are doing such a beautiful job by yourself I don't think it could be bettered. I think what we would do might hinder the fact that people give to you each year and if they gave one major gift, you would not get as much in the long run as you do now." I tried on many occasions to get him interested in a general campaign but I was not successful. He always felt that the church should give more

money and he always felt there should be more solicitation of outstanding leaders in the community. On occasion he was happy to go with me to talk to people like Mr. Weyerhaeuser and others. Mr. Kilworth was very sensitive concerning the kind of public relations which the University developed. For instance, we had a monopoly paper in the City - the Tacoma News Tribune and he would measure the number of inches in the paper that the College of Puget Sound had over the weekend and then compare it to the number of inches of Pacific Luthern. I knew that if there was a Homecoming or something at Pacific Luthern which outranked us that I would get a telephone call which would say, "Now look we have to do something about this. They are stealing us blind." This was his common phrase. Most often it was an infinitesimal situation and one which did not merit too much concern but it was always a pressure on me.

It was a very difficult time in our relationship with Pacific Luthern. Pacific Luthern emphasized that it was it was genuinely evangelical, it was totally Christian and the College of Puget Sound was exceedingly liberal. They said we were not dedicated and parents should not send their children to UPS for Christian higher education.

Dr. Seth Eastvold was president of Pacific Luthern and he was the kind of person who constantly did everything possible to emphasize his so-called evangelical and Christian emphasis in education.

I recall going once to the editor of the News Tribune whom I knew very well and was a member of Rotary with me.

When I walked in he said, "Are you going to pound my desk this morning?" I said, "Good heaven, Elbert, what do you mean?" He said Dr. Eastvold was in yesterday and stood here and argued and pounded the desk and said, 'Thompson's picture has been in the paper three times since mine. You can't put his picture in again until you put mine in three times.' He said that the amount of space that the paper gave the College of Puget Sound was exorbitant and the paper must give Pacific Luthern that much or more in order to catch up. This was somewhat typical of the very great feeling of competition which Pacific Luthern had.

One New Year's Eve our student body had a New Year's Eve dance in the Student Center and Dr. Eastvold stated that while the University of Puget Sound students were dancing thigh to thigh, his students were praying on their knees in the Chapel for Christian leadership.

I always felt a sense of appreciation for the leadership which Dr. Eastvold gave because he had to comply with the wishes and desires of four different synods - the American Synod, the Luthern Synod, the Northwest Synod, and the American Luthern Synod. He had real restrictions. For instance if he gave an honorary degree to a man from one Synod, he had to give an honorary degree from the other three before he could have freedom in giving honorary degrees so his must have been a very difficult situation. He practically killed himself in the process of developing Pacific Luthern during his administration.

Mr. Kilworth was a man of unusual means. Reno Odlin, who was his closest friend and also president of Puget Sound Bank used to say to me, "For heaven's sake, Frank, get him to give you at least five million dollars in his estate." On three different occasions I took briefs to him and suggested that he give five million dollars to the University of Puget Sound - one million dollars for the Chapel, three million dollars for the Kilworth Restricted Endowment Fund, and one million dollars for scholarships. He would look at me and seemingly be very pleased and say, "Franklin, I am going to treat the College handsomely in my will. He had the University for one-half million dollars for the Chapel and a like amount for scholarships. However, in the latter days of his life he became very much concerned and seemed to lose touch with reality as far as his finances were concerned. He had his will redrawn and he made the University the recipient of \$200,000 for the Chapel and \$25,000 for the Endowment Fund. In my brief to him I said that he could still leave a million dollars to his wife and a million dollars in his foundation downtown as well as the five million to the University. His wife called me one day and said that he ought not to be Chairman of the Board any longer because he was diabetic and he had times when he went to sleep sitting up. On a good many occasions in the last meetings when he was Chairman of the Board, he would actually go to sleep in the Chair and Mr. Shaub used to say, "Will, we have the motion and it is seconded. I think it is time for you to call for it to be voted on." He would wake with a little start and say, "Oh, yes, that is right," and would call for a vote. Because he did not think he had as much

money as he really did, the University received only \$200,000 for the Chapel and \$25,000 for the Endowment fund. In the process of working out his estate, Mrs. Kilworth asked me if I would help her select the million dollars worth of stocks with which she was bequeathed. He liked J. C. Penney's stock and he liked Southern Pacific stock and a good many others. One day when we were in the Trust room of the bank going over stocks, I said, "You know Florence, I was very much disappointed in Will's estate because we had anticipated he was going to do so much more." She looked at me and said, "Franklin, I too am very displeased with the estate. He did not talk to me about it and he did many things in the final days of his life that I wished he had not. For instance, I did not want him to leave this money to me but to leave it to my daughter and to my grandchildren so that we could save estate taxes for two generations." One of the first things that the estate settlement was to do was to write a check for \$1,750,000 for Federal estate taxes because he had not used the opportunity which was his. Yet in all fairness and all honesty, he was completely dedicated to the University. He was most eager for its development. He was most helpful in every way possible and it was just unfortunate that in his latter days his business sense was not as acute as it had been in the earlier years.