

MRS. MARJORIE JENKINS MANN

Mrs. Mann was a professor of Physical Education for women. She came to us as Marjorie Jenkins and then married a young lawyer by the name of Earl Mann. She graduated from the University of Washington and got her Master's Degree from Mill's College. For awhile she was director of Health and Physical Education for Annie Wright Seminary. She then returned to Mill's College where she was director of Physical Education. She became instructor in Physical Education and director of Physical Education at the College of Puget Sound in 1936. In 1937 she was made an associate professor. Mrs. Mann was a very outstanding person on the faculty of the University of Puget Sound. She was very much interested in the development of the University. She was student oriented and very loyal to the University. She was the kind of person who would come in often and sit down and talk about the department, talk about its correlation with the Men's Physical Education Program and also talk about the development of the curriculum in general for the University. She was a very fine influence in the University.

I shall never forget one day she came in and said, "Dr. Thompson we ought to have a School of Occupational Therapy here at the University of Puget Sound." I said, "Well, Marjorie, that sounds very interesting. Tell me your thinking concerning this." She then outlined a plan by which we would cooperate with the Washington State Tuberculosis Association in establishing a School of Occupational Therapy. She had been on their Board and they were constantly talking about the fact that there was

a very great shortage of Occupational Therapists and there was no school in this area or on the West Coast. She had made a study and found that Milwaukee-Downer in Milwaukee was the outstanding school in the country. However, it was not a strong school but had a good curriculum and it was ultimately to be merged with the State University and then finally phased out. However, she had made some preliminary inquiries and had discovered that the director of the Washington State Tuberculosis Association, Mrs. Bethesda Buchanan was very much interested in the possibility of establishing a school at the College of Puget Sound. I told Marjorie we were very much interested in it, would she pursue her study of it, and keep me informed and if I could help any to let me know. We formed a committee to study the possibility with her as chairman and found out that the Tuberculosis Association was very much interested in the school coming to the College of Puget Sound. They wanted it here where it could have a flexibility to develop, to have congenial surroundings, and where there would be some support given to it. The Association decided it would subsidize the school for \$10,000 for equipment and also \$10,000 a year for five years for a total of \$60,000 if we were to start such a school. I asked Marjorie to construct a budget-which she did-and found that if the University were to put some money in, this would be a way in which we could start the school. We did actually start the School of Occupational Therapy with Marjorie as a guiding hand and guardian angel. Richard Dale Smith had been consulted about this and he said he was sure it would mean a great deal in the recruitment of students if we had such a school. It proved his recommendations and his judgement was

absolutely correct. The school has been most outstanding through the years and has proven to be one of the leading schools of Occupational Therapy in the country. We have had many students come to us from far away because of the unusual leadership which we have. We have had a good many heads of the school - Edna Ellen Bell was one who was an occupational therapist in her own right. She was an unusual person with lots of vitality and personality and yet at the same time was a good director. There were items that gave me some concern, for instance, when I discovered that the State was putting us under the hazardous occupation law which meant that we would have to pay high insurance rates. When I inquired why this was necessary they said it was because we had a school of Occupational Therapy and they had rip saws and cross cut saws there and people could get hurt. We protested vigerously and were delayed being put under the law for a good many years until all schools were under it.

At the same time we were talking about Occupational Therapy, Dick Smith kept talking about the fact that we should have a School of Physical Therapy as a companion school to Occupational Therapy. This school became a reality in the early 70's. They have both been outstanding in the history of the University and have been very fine.

I will always attribute the fact that Marjorie Mann was the person who had the insight, the vision, and who actually started the school and raised a good bit of the subsidy for it.

When the first five years were up in which the Washington State Tuberculosis Association had said they would subsidize us at the rate of \$10,000, they then said they would subsidize for the next five years, deducting \$500 each year until we could get the whole school into our budget. This was done and after 10 years from the starting of the school, the University was funding the entire project. However, we had a very fine enrollment which brought as much money in as we were subsidizing.

In the meantime, the various County Associations had become a part of the funding. Many of them had established endowed scholarships for people from their counties who wanted to study Occupational Therapy. These are all listed in the catalogs and are a part of the restricted endowment fund of the University.

Marjorie Mann taught for us a good many years and then came in one day and said that she and Earl had talked it over and she wanted to be relieved of her responsibility as the time had come for them to start their family and she would like to not have her contract renewed. Through the years she has been very loyal and dedicated. I always remember her friendly smile, her outstanding leadership, the influence she had on so many students and, at the same time, the fact that the School of Occupational Therapy is thriving today because of her foresight, leadership, and unusual ability.