

WILLIAM McCORMICK

It was most interesting to be associated with the various members of the Board of Trustees through the years from 1942 to 1973. In other places I have talked about the association with Mr. Blaine and Mr. Dix Rowland, as well as Mr. W. W. Kilworth, who was Chairman of the Board of Trustees for many years.

One of the interesting Trustees when I came as President of the College of Puget Sound was Mr. William McCormick. Mr. McCormick's mother is referred to in Dr. Todd's history as the person who gave the last \$25,000 to meet the challenge of the James Hill gift to the College of Puget Sound. It was a very major factor in the life of the College and Mrs. McCormick was made a member of the Founders and Patrons. Upon Mrs. McCormick's death or shortly previous to it, their son Mr. William McCormick became a member of the Board of Trustees of the College of Puget Sound. Shortly after I was elected President, he called me one day and asked me to come down to his office. I went down to the office and found that he was secretary to the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. He was a most congenial man and a person whom I liked very much. I think we had an excellent relationship. I used to ask him to help by contributing to the University and I shall never forget when Mr. Norton Clapp made a challenge that he would match dollar for dollar the amount of money that I raised from the 20th of October to the 31st of December, 1942, Mr. McCormick got a twinkle in his eye and said, "I had better be pretty generous if you are going to get matching money from my friend, Norton." I think that he gave us \$2,000 at that time.

He was very much interested in the philosophy back of my administration and, of course, he had been trained in one of the Ivy League schools of the east. He said frankly that he felt education was

not for everyone and that we should restrict our enrollment and raise our tuition to a very high amount and automatically restrict the size of the school in that way. On many occasions he said, "You ought to raise your tuition a thousand dollars or two and then restrict your school to three hundred, four hundred, or five hundred students at the most." This was not at all in keeping with the philosophy with which the College of Puget Sound was started nor in the Methodist tradition of the one hundred colleges under the aegis of the Methodist Church. He was never very critical about this nor was he very aggressive about suggesting that his philosophy be adopted by the College of Puget Sound.

Upon his death, his wife, who had been prominent in the weyerhaeuser circles, approached me and asked if the college would be interested in her very fine house on Tacoma Avenue. She had had the house up for sale for several years but it did not sell. It was a large house and had servant's quarters on the fourth floor and was built for the kind of gracious living of many years ago. Unfortunately the house was caught in a zoning situation. The zoning line actually ran through the house so that you could have multiple families on one side of the house and on the other side of the house you could not. The Zoning Committee ruled that the limiting factor caused it to be a one-family house.

Mrs. McCormick had hoped that the University could use it as a dormitory or as a President's house. We considered the possibility of using it as a domitory but at that time we did not need it and it would have been a very heavy financial burden to maintain it. We accepted the house and gave her what ever value she had placed on it and

then we listed it on the market and sold it. I am sure it sold under the value she had placed on it. I heard from one of our mutual friends that she was somewhat disturbed by the fact that we sold it rather than made use of it.

She had two children - Delinda and William. Delinda went to The Annie Wright Seminary and William was educated with a PhD in physics and is now living in the south. I had recommended that he be asked to come on the Board of Trustees and he did and is a very fine member of the Board of Trustees today. An interesting sidelight in relationship to Mr. McCormick, Sr. was the fact that Mr. Norton Clapp came on the Board in 1932 and has been on the Board ever since and has been Chairman of the Board for the last decade. Many years ago, I talked to Mr. Harry Brown who was then Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, to get some background on Mr. Clapp, whom we were recognizing in a very special way on the Board. Mr. Brown told me that he was president of the YMCA and he used to watch young business men as they came to the YMCA to play volleyball at noon. He saw Mr. Clapp play volleyball almost every noon and noticed that he was a congenial person and seemed to be a man of unusual ability. He talked to Dr. Todd about bringing Mr. Clapp on the Board and Dr. Todd liked the idea very much. I am quite sure that Dr. Todd went to see Mr. Clapp and invited him to come on the Board.

Some months ago in 1981, I was talking to Mr. Clapp and I said I was certainly very interested in the fact that he had come on the Board and he will have been on the Board fifty years this year. I said it was a great day when he came on the Board of Trustees. He said, "Well, I had a very good friend in Mr. William McCormick and he thought

I ought to come on the Board of Trustees and I have been very pleased that I followed his suggestion many years ago." This leads me to say that I think after Dr. Todd and Mr. Brown had talked with Mr. Clapp, that he must have gone to see the secretary of the Board of Directors of the Weyerhaeuser Company and that he had decided then to join the Board of Trustees because Mr. McCormick strongly recommended it.

I think Dr. William McCormick, who is now an active member of the Board of Trustees is the only **third** generation Trustess we have had in the history of the College of Puget Sound and the University of Puget Sound.