

CHRISTIAN MILLER

Christian Miller was a graduate of the University of Valparaiso in 1920 and received his Bachelor of Philosophy degree in education from the University of Chicago in 1928 and his Master's degree in 1929. He became assistant professor of German and Registrar at the College of Puget Sound in 1931.

Christian Miller was a tall Norwegian. He had a wonderful friendly smile, a twinkle in the eye and was a very dedicated and congenial person. He was a very good Registrar. He was careful about records and he was very helpful in structuring a meaningful and contemporary curriculum. He taught German as well as being one of the Administrators. I count it a great privilege that the College had him as one of the academic administrators at the College of Puget Sound. He was loyal to the school. He had a family and each one of his children graduated from the College of Puget Sound. He was an excellent member of the Epworth Methodist Church and took leadership in the Methodist Conference.

Professor Miller took his family often to Scandinavia to visit with his relatives there. One time after a trip he came back and asked for an interview in my office. He said that he was greatly concerned because many of the Methodist ministers in the Scandinavian countries came to him and said, "You are a Registrar of a school. We have these letters and we wonder what they mean." He read me a letter which said, "Dear Reverant..... I know that you want to advance in your career and we can help you by giving you a doctor's degree. If you will send a certain

amount of money and one or two of your written sermons, we can issue you a Doctor's Degree from our school." Of course, they were diploma mills and they came from ads in pulp magazines or by circulation by letters. Several of the ministers had asked him if they were bona fide degrees and if they would be acceptable in this country. From this conversation came a suggestion which he had that we accredit summer school in the Theological School in Gothenburg. We actually did this. I asked him if he would organize it and head it up which he did. He took Professor John Phillips over and at one time he took Dean Register over for a summer to teach and these credits were bona fide academic credits issued through the College of Puget Sound to these ministers in Scandanavia. As an adjunct to this, one of the professors in Scandinavia came over and taught at the University for one year. It was a very excellent exchange with the theological school at Gothenburg and the College of Puget Sound.

Christian Miller was a man who kept studying educational procedures and made a good many suggestions and additions to the development of the Registrar's office. It was a time when we were growing, when the competition for students was rather keen, and he, together with Richard Dale Smith, worked out a procedure of appealing to high school students and to the high school counselors in such a way that we were constantly attracting their best students. I have nothing but the greatest regard and affection for Christian Miller. He was one of the outstanding men in the life of the College of Puget Sound.