

WALTER SCOTT DAVIS

Walter Scott Davis received his Bachelor's Degree from DePauw University and his Master's from Cornell. He received a Doctor of Law from the College of Puget Sound in 1939 - it was an honorary degree. Dr. Davis, affectionately called "Senator" because he was in the Washington State Senate for many years, had a very great dedication to the University. I used to talk to him about the early days of the University and he had a great command of the University history. Each year he took his classes in history to the legislature and more than one alumnus has told me that he made his career to be a part of the outgrowth of the Senator's teaching and the Senator's very great interest in the Government. He was in the Washington State Senate from 1913 to 1929. He was also on the Washington State Historical Society Board of Curators.

The Senator made it a very real point to get to know his students personally. He called them by their first name, talked to them about the town in which they lived, and most often talked to them about their parents - what their father did and what the situation was at home. He was very much beloved even though he was considered a little bit eccentric.

Senator Davis had never married and his great interest, of course, was reading. He lived a bachelor's life and lived in what used to be the former music building when the college was located at 6th and Sprague. When it

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was sold to the church people there was a clause that the Senator would be allowed to live in the Music Building as long as he wished.

When I first came to the College of Puget Sound, I visited with him at his request and went into the building which was his home. There was a cot and a table and some chairs. Books were piled everywhere in the room. You sort of went sideways between the piles of books in what was kind of a maze. He knew where everything was and he knew what each book contained but he did not have room enough to adequately take care of his library.

It was always a great privilege to talk with him because he was so well versed and had such a perspective of history, and because he loved the College of Puget Sound so very much. He was one of the most beloved professors we ever had and certainly for a long time was the "Mr. Chips" of the College of Puget Sound.