

# The CHEMAWA AMERICAN

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## FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF CHEMAWA

This is the fortieth anniversary of the birthday of Chemawa, "Our Happy Home." During this span of years many events of world-wide significance have transpired and in a way Chemawa has played a larger part in affairs than would be noted by a casual observer. Those things or institutions which do not function properly or show good reason for existence fade from the face of the earth as quietly and naturally as the morning star passes from view in the greater light of the rising sun. It is great lights that shine on and on and are not dimmed by time. So it is with Chemawa—time but adds to the brilliance of her light and the glory of her achievement. The grand school has stood the test of time and is forty years old today.

The first five years of the school's life were passed at Forest Grove, but about the time its swaddling clothes were cast off it was brought to its present site—five miles north of Salem.

The following telegrams may be of interest, as they deal with our "genesis:"

Telegram

Washington, D. C.,  
Nov. 11, 1879.

M. C. Wilkinson

Forest Grove, Oregon,  
Mail Nearest Point.

Office grants you five thousand dollars for first year, but twenty-five children must be educated instead of twelve.

E. A. HAYT, Commissioner.

Telegram

Forest Grove via Portland, Oregon,  
February 25, 1880.

Secretary of Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

School under way. Eighteen girls and boys. More ready to come. Need balance appropriation this fiscal year.

M. C. WILKINSON.

Thus did we begin, with Lieut. M. C. Wilkinson, of

the 3rd U. S. Infantry, as superintendent. Lieut. Wilkinson's first report to Washington was on Feb. 29, 1880, and he stated that the eighteen pupils were all from the Puyallup reservation with the exception of one Nesqually boy. He reported: "Altogether, school opens encouragingly; the children are happy and contented, working and studying heartily."

Thus was school opened. It continues vigorously. It has the accomplishment of inestimable good to its credit. It shows no signs of senile decay. May it, like the little babbling brook, "go on forever!"

## LITERARY SOCIETIES

### Excelsior

A business meeting was held on Friday by the Excelsior Society. The method in which business was brought up, discussed and settled goes a long way to show the mettle of which the Excelsiors are made. The chief subject discussed was the question of wearing the Excelsior Honor Medal. The meeting was closed by singing the official society song.

### Nonpareil

The Nonpareil Society held their meeting in room 7 for the purpose of electing new officers. The following officers were elected: President, Elizabeth Montgomery; vice president, Marguerite Chamberlin; secretary, Miss Wilder; treasurer, Mary Ware; cheer leader, Margaret Lewis; sergeant-at-arms, Catherine Loftus; critic, Eleanor Hauk; reporter, Mary Motanic. After the election of officers a snappy program was rendered by the sophomores. Mrs. Loos and Mr. Henry Louis, an ex-student, were visitors.

### Winona

Marina Nelson and Ann Sexton sang a Washington song to open the Winona program of Friday evening. Nellie Braden, Irene Matt and Ann Sexton appeared in a sketch, Marina Nelson sang an old song with her guitar for accompaniment; Rose Fischer and Lillie Dixon gave a dialogue, a group of girls whistled popular airs, the Rose Orchestra played a number, Julia Gromoff started a thrilling story of bandits and a dozen girls helped in turn to finish it. Carrie Anderson gave a mandolin selection, Mabel Blodgett told some good jokes and after the business meeting the usual songs and yells were given before adjournment.

### Reliance

The Reliance Society met on Friday, February 20th, with President Nuckolls in the chair. Much business was brought before the house. A melody for the official society song was introduced. The program was opened by a song by the members, followed by a recitation by Peter Nelson. Eneas Hines talked on "what benefits I can receive from plumbing;" Emil Freeman gave Current Events; Isaac Patrick, an ex-service man, gave an interesting account of his experiences while on duty in Siberia; Charles Buchert gave some clever jokes; Allan Shepard and William Kennedy gave an instrumental duet and Kelly Shaw and Henry White Dog gave impromptu talks. After some helpful remarks by our advisory member, Miss McDowell, the society adjourned.