

3 MAY 8

COPY 1956

The Chemawa American

Printed at Chemawa, Oregon, and Devoted to the Interests of Indian Education

Vol. XXVII Wednesday, March 3, 1926 No. 23

DEAR OLD CHEMAWA

Still Vigorous and Going Forward Steadily Without Any Indication of Her Great Age

On last Thursday, Feb. 25, Chemawa was 46 years old. The school was established at Forest Grove on Feb. 25, 1880, by Lieut. M. C. Wilkinson of the Third Infantry. He was in charge of the school for almost three years. He later rose to the rank of major and it is sad to chronicle the fact that he was killed by a member of the race for which he had done so much and in whom he had so much faith. In 1889 he was ordered to quell a Chippewa Indian up-rising near Fort Snelling, Minnesota, and took a squad of soldiers with him for that purpose. During the melee a Chippewa Indian shot him. But we digress.

The first pupils were admitted to the school from Puyallup, Wash., Feb. 25, 1880, and were as follows: David Brewer, Henry Sicade, Jerry Meeker, Peter Stanup, Nugen Kautz, Augustus Kautz, Willie H. Wilton, Harry Taylor, Charles Ashue, Samuel McCaw, Julia Taylor, Katie James, Annie Porter, Emma Kalama, Peter Kalama (Nesqually), Edward Richard (Olympia) and Andrew Richard (Olympia).

School was continued at Forest Grove until 1885 and it grew to such proportions that it became apparent to those in authority that arrangements for larger quarters, with ample provisions for expansion, would have to be made. A number of propositions were taken under advisement, but the present site, made possible through the hearty co-operation and good will of the Salem citizens, was finally selected as the permanent home of the school.

On March 17, 1885, a party of young Indian boys in charge of the late David E. Brewer, for years a valued employe of the school, left Forest Grove for Chemawa to start clearing the present site of the school and to erect such crude buildings as were absolutely necessary. Numerous more or less temporary buildings were constructed during the spring and summer and some garden truck was raised. In the fall Forest Grove was abandoned and Chemawa became a reality. School opened here for the first time on October 1st, 1885.

It is proper at this time to state that the first class of graduates was turned out in 1885, so we conclude it

must have graduated at Forest Grove, and the class of 1886 must have been the first at Chemawa proper. And in the years that followed hundreds of Indians boys and girls have been graduated from our beloved school and have gone forth courageously into the great "outside" and have waged battle successfully—with credit to themselves and their great school. It is impossible to estimate the great good for our government that has accrued as interest on the investment of its dollars in Indian education. Looking at the matter from the proper angle it should be apparent to all that the government never made a better or wiser investment. It was a wise move in the start, and its continuous growth has proved this. Today it is growing rapidly and no-one can foretell to what great heights our splendid institution will yet rise.

Let us now look briefly at the earnest men who, each in his turn, were in charge of our school. In the infancy of the school, before its great value was apparent to our Indian fathers and mothers of the land, the superintendents were largely from necessity engaged in carrying the propaganda of the value of education to the Indians. At a later period the work of clearing land for tillage must have been uppermost in the minds of the superintendents. Then came the planting of orchards, of fencing, of putting up houses, etc. Little by little fine structures of a permanent character were added until today we can care for close to 1,000 pupils. Such a school as ours necessitates a considerable force of employes, whose qualifications should be of the highest.

Let us now give a table of the superintendents, in the order in which they were in charge and the period of their service:

Lieut. M. C. Wilkinson	-	Feb. 25, 1880, to Feb. 10, 1883
H. J. Minthorn	-	Feb. 11, 1883, to Nov. 20, 1884
W. V. Coffin	-	Nov. 21, 1884, to Sept. 30, 1885
John Lee	-	Oct. 1, 1885, to Mar. 20, 1889
Wm. H. H. Beadle	-	Mar. 21, 1889, to Aug. 5, 1889
G. M. Irwin	-	Aug. 6, 1889, to Mar. 31, 1892
C. W. Wasson	-	Apr. 1, 1892, to Feb. 15, 1894
Jas. G. Dickson (Special Agent)	-	Feb. 16, 1894, to June 12, 1894
O. H. Parker	-	June 13, 1894, to Sept. 14, 1894
Chas. R. Rakestraw (Supervisor)	-	Sept. 15, 1894, to Nov. 13, 1894
Edwin L. Chalcraft	-	Nov. 14, 1894, to Mar. 31, 1895
Chas. R. Rakestraw	-	Apr. 1, 1895, to Nov. 19, 1895
Thos. W. Potter	-	Nov. 20, 1895, to Sept. 30, 1904
Edwin L. Chalcraft	-	Oct. 1, 1904, to June 22, 1912
H. E. Wadsworth	-	June 23, 1912, to June 30, 1916
Harwood Hall	-	July 1, 1916, to present

There is one additional item that on account of its special interest we wish to include in this brief history of our school, and that is during the administration of President Harrison Chemawa was known for a short time as "Harrison Institute."