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CHEMAWA HAS 88 BIRTHDAYS

Chemawa is proud of its distinction of being the oldest continually operated boarding school in the Indian service.

On February 25, the school will celebrate its 88th anniversary. The event will be commemorated with an assembly program which will feature native dances and music, music by the school dance bands, and a drawing for door prizes. The event will be concluded with a candlelight buffet at the dining hall and anniversary dance at the gym.

However impressive all of this may be, no more fitting tribute could be paid, than the esteem and affection which it holds in memories of its students, both past and present.

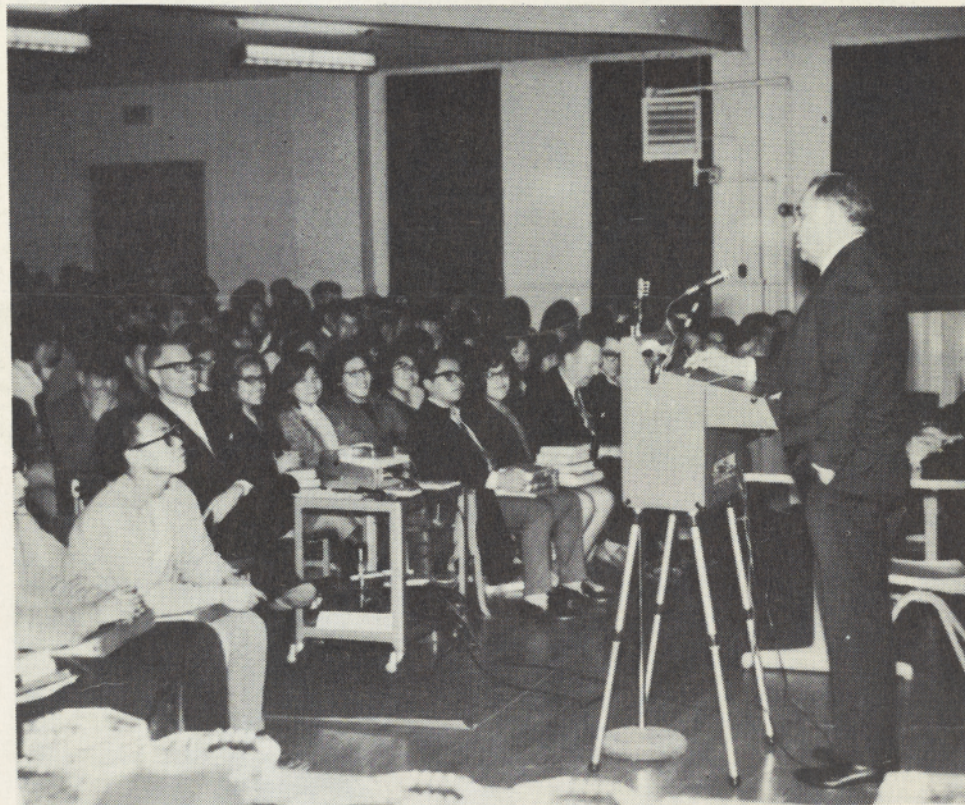
Founded in 1880 with an enrollment of 18 students, it has gradually grown until in recent years it has had an average of nearly 900 students each year. Over the span of years 17,056 Indian students are listed on the register. Of this, we find 2325 who have remained to get their names in the graduate book.

While currently only Alaskan and Navajo are attending, its history has seen students from nearly half the states in the Union. They have come from as far away as Atlantic Coastal States and from as near as our own local community.

In keeping pace with the times, the courses and subjects have been altered as the times and conditions changed. In the early days of the school, emphasis was placed on the learning of a craft or trade skill and such courses as agriculture, blacksmithing, painting, carpentry, and printing were vital parts of the school program. While students who do not intend going on beyond high school can still get some pre-vocational training in such areas as cooking, office practice, welding, auto shop, or small engine repair, the main emphasis today is on a fully academic high school program, with the hope that the student will seek training beyond high school.

Jack Abraham, a Umatilla from Pendleton, Oregon was Chemawa's first high school graduate in 1927.

COMMISSIONER VISITS



The rapt expression on the faces of the listeners testify to Commissioner Bennett's reception by the students.

Chemawa students were honored last month to have the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Mr. Robert L. Bennett, speak in an assembly. He was here in connection with a two-day conference on Indian problems, which was hosted by Chemawa.

As he spoke to the entire group, he delighted everyone with his keen sense of humor, his understanding of student problems, and his realistic approach to the whole problem that faces Indian education.

Mr. Bennett is the first person of Indian ancestry to hold the position of Commissioner.

At the conclusion of the program he delighted us further by taking time to favor us with a few lively jazz tunes on the auditorium piano.

Evan Polty

STURDY OLD BUILDING HOLDS FOND MEMORY

Possibly no other building is as close to the pulse beat of Chemawa as Academic Building I. One of the oldest on campus, it is still the busiest. Housing the English and mathematics classes as well as the principal's office, it has every student going through its halls at least once a day.

Little changed on the outside since the day it was built, it will no doubt bring back many memories to former students. The inside has through the joint efforts of the maintenance crews and the pride of the students, been kept in very good repair.

The brass bell, no longer in use but was once used to signal the beginning of classes, still hangs in the tower and is occasionally given an affectionate clang by one of the maintenance crewmen on a routine roof inspection.

