

University's First President Crossed Country by Ox-Cart

By PEGGY OVERLAND

While the 27-year-old Thomas Condon was still attending the Theological Seminary in New York, John Wesley Johnson, the leading member of the University's original five, was driving an ox team across the continent. He was 13 years old and his destination was the Willamette valley. That was in 1849; 27 years later, Johnson was to visit the valley as the president of the first University ever established there.

There are a lot of stories still being told about Johnson's implacable will and his encounters with students who tried to resist his plans. Perhaps that sternness and inability to overlook inferiority in any student was an inheritance of those long, rigorous months spent on the prairie, and the unusual responsibility which had been placed upon him. Whatever it was, it earned for President Johnson the reputation of a driver and a hard worker and one who instilled in his students either great respect or an equal amount of fear.

John W. Johnson was born into a typical frontier environment—Missouri in 1836—and he never left it until he began the trek to Oregon 13 years later. For nine years he tried to support himself and at the same time attend the half-developed academies of Oregon which were the only schools established during that early period. However, Johnson, in search of more rigorous learning broke away, went east by the Isthmus of Panama in 1858 and completed a college course at Yale in 1862.

Immediately after his graduation, Johnson did not enter the education field, but surprisingly enough, turned miner for a time in Idaho. Whether he liked it or not is uncertain but he eventually began to teach in a number of denominational foundations, including McMinnville of which he was president, and later settled down in Portland as principal of the Portland high school.

Johnson's career at the University was stormy, not only in relation to the students but also in connection with faculty measures. He was a classicist of the disciplinary school and he was a hard worker. He had so completely mastered the Latin classics that he seldom referred to the textbook in class. Naturally he had a strong contempt for shoddiness and laziness, and few were the pupils who did not tremble when his dry, sardonic humor was directed at them. They usually re-

taliated as best they could through occasional outbreaks but they were not many and were mostly the result of student restlessness for outside activity.

President Johnson's main trouble was with the board of regents. He was an ardent and active Democrat and the entire board was Republican. The clashes between this stern disciplinarian and Judge Deady, the head of the board and equally as strong willed, were wonderful to behold.

During his entire period here, Johnson favored and encouraged a classic schedule but changing times and public pressure gradually forced him to introduce more modern courses. Johnson was trained along the old college tradition of the middle 19th century and he never altered his opinion on what education should include.

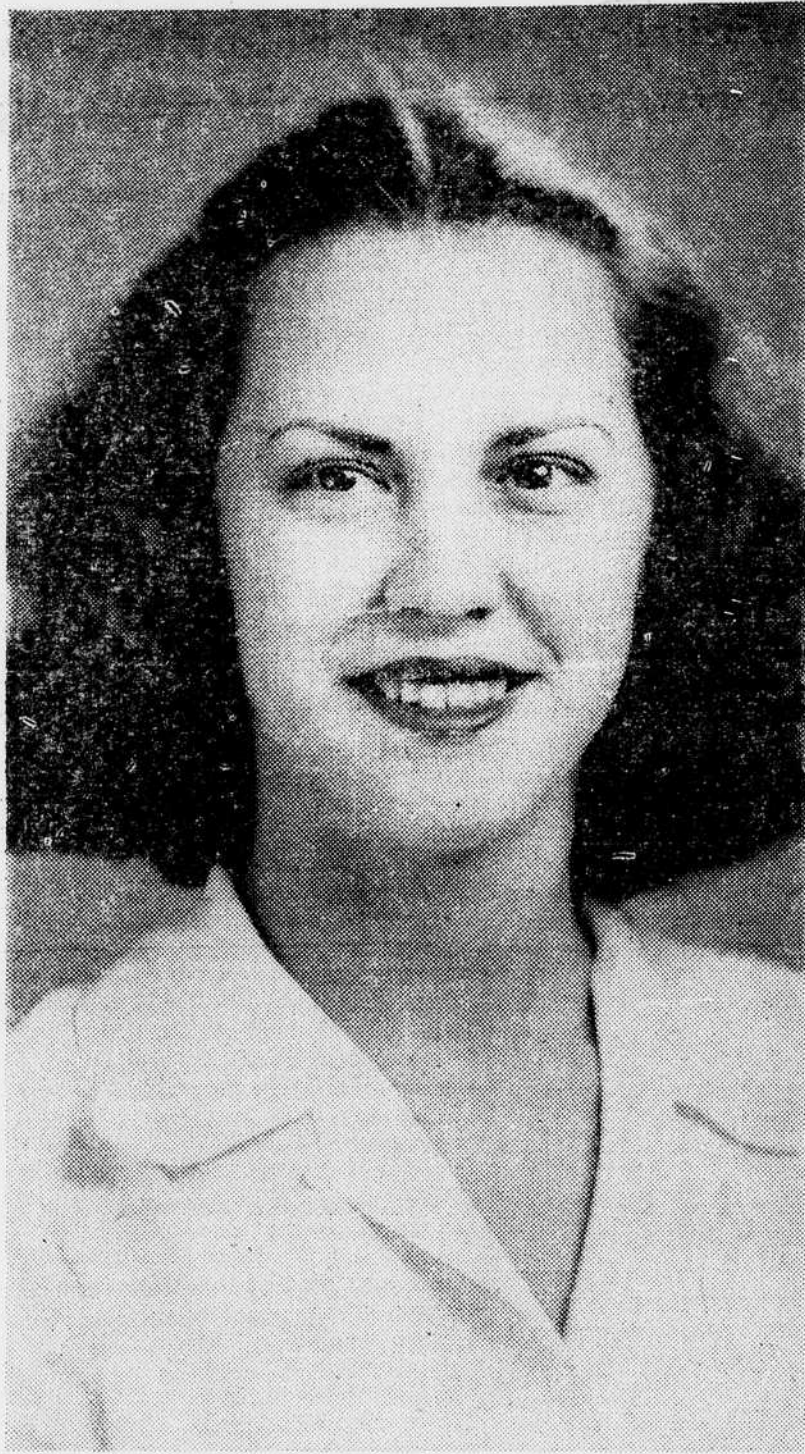
Some examples of his dealings with students through the faculty board are evident in the following cases: a future lumber king was called "to be examined for having boasted of the fact that he had been fined for disorder;" another student had to apologize for using bad language to the president concerning another tutor; and one unhappy young lady was required to make a public apology for having whispered in one of the tutor's exams during a class period.

President Johnson, in whose memory a fireproof structure was erected in 1914 as an administration building, was a terror to his pupils but he won respect, and quite probably this classic Romanist preferred it that way.

Sororities House Majority of Women

The majority of the women on the campus are living in sorority houses, figures from the dean of women's office show.

The dormitories are housing 317 girls, cooperatives 130, sororities 518, sorority girls living at home 41, unaffiliated girls living at home 200, and the number of girls from the Northwest Christian college total 14.



BOND GIRL . . .

. . . Irene Gresham was selected in a campus bond drive held this term. The drive, the most successful held on the campus, netted over \$260,000.

—Photo by Kennell-Ellis

Grad Students Offered Several New Awards

Many notices of scholarships for graduate work in college have been received at the dean of women's office. Those interested should investigate the ones concerning their particular field of work.

Among those received recently is that of Bryn Mawr college, which is offering graduate appointments in geology. A department fellowship will give one year of graduate work with \$860. The \$400 scholarships are for those who have their bachelor of arts degree. Information and application blanks are available at the office of the dean of the graduate school, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Applications must be in by March 1.

Alpha Phi international fraternity is awarding nursing scholarships at two graduate schools of nursing, Yale university and Western Reserve university, for study in the basic program of nursing leading to a M.A. degree. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or be prepared for early graduation. Information may be obtained by writing the Secretary, Alpha Phi International fraternity, 3310 Eaton Tower, Detroit 26, Michigan.

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Natators Plan Meet in East

The national telegraphic swimming meet will hold its tournament throughout the country in all colleges and universities on February 15. Oregon achieved first place in the western region last year and fourth nationally. As a result of this honor Oregon is the regional sponsor for the western division this year.

In order to keep this honor, Betty Bush, in charge of the telegraphic meet on this campus, stressed the fact that the best girls who participate in intramurals will be chosen for the telegraphic meet.

WAA intramural swimming is open to all girls attending the University. Teams may be entered from living organizations or independent groups. These meets will be held February 2 and February 9 at 7:45 p. m. in the Gerlinger pool. Entries must be in by 5 p. m. Monday, January 31. Details may be obtained from Miss Moore, 117 Gerlinger, or Betty Bush, University house.

Fashion Fellowships Offered for Seniors

The Tobe-Coburn School for Fashion Careers of New York city is offering three fashion fellowships to college seniors which will be awarded competitively and carry full tuition for the 1944-45 school year.

Those who are interested in attaining one of these fellowships should get a registration blank at the dean of women's office and mail it to the school by January 28. Test topics for the papers to be written will then be sent to all contestants.

Winners will enter the school on July 20 or September 22, take a course consisting of two periods of store experience alternating with three terms of class work, and graduate May 9, 1945.

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