

Early Liberal President Rouses Political Storm

By PEGGY OVERLAND

He was a young man who had just completed a brilliant career at John Hopkins university, and at the age of 33 was nominated and elected president of the University of Oregon, on the resignation of President John W. Johnson in 1893. But it wasn't this that left such a lasting impression on the minds of those who welcomed him to the University. Rather it was those famous

first words which he sent back to his home town, describing his first impression of the school as an institution that had the "atmosphere of a petty theological seminary manned by superannuated ministers."

Whether or not Chapman ever changed his opinion of the school and the faculty is not known but he certainly waded into the situation which he found and did his energetic best to alter it. His first move was the liberalization of the college curriculum, relaxing the compulsory subjects and allowing the students more headway in their choice of subjects. He also established the tradition of advisers which is still in effect.

With the courage of youth and inexperience, Dr. Chapman fought valiantly for more intensified courses in the classics and the pure sciences, and although he didn't succeed in every bill he presented to the faculty, many modern methods were added to the enrichment of the courses.

One of Chapman's most ambitious plans was to bring the University before the people of Oregon through a series of lecture campaigns. His wife founded the Women's Fortnightly club which has remained as one of the main cultural organizations of the city, and which was mainly responsible for the free public library in Eugene.

The fact that he spent so much of his time, presenting lectures in literature as a movement towards the education of the public brought down considerable criticism upon him. He was a popular speaker—frank, logical, and satirical. It was a habit of his to take the other side in order to arouse the audience to mental activity and he was often condemned for this.

The Oregon State Journal was greatly disturbed once over a speech in which he "shocked his hearers . . . by his ridicule of the

supernatural, going so far as to class hypnotism and religious revivals as forms or superstition repugnant to reason . . ."

From the first, as an exponent of progressive and modern education, Dr. Chapman was doomed to opposition. And he received it over his proposal for state supported education. The panic of 1893 had made the public tax-conscious, and they attacked the University on all counts. It was condemned for political intrigue, and inefficiency, while Dr. Chapman retorted that their remarks would "keep desirable settlers out of the state." It was a furious battle, mostly over the question of the University's influence in the political field, but Dr. Chapman weathered the storm and won the day.

However, there was much bitterness towards him because of a supposed partiality observed on his part in the choice of students entering the University. A flare-up came over the local election of the school superintendent for Eugene, with the present superintendent accusing Dr. Chapman of arbitrary decisions concerning the admission of Eugene students. The Eugene Guard, a strong opponent of Chapman's, threw off all restraints and attacked Dr. Chapman for "employing a Japanese house servant, for buying groceries in Portland, for keeping promising athletes off the teams, for opposing religion and slandering the character of women in general."

A petition signed by prominent Eugene professional and business men, and members of the graduating class was presented to the Regent board asking that Dr. Chapman be removed on the grounds that in the University "the person bearing the worst reputation for truth and veracity is Dr. Chapman, its president, who is a polished flatterer and adroit intriguer . . ."

The board dropped the charges, but his influence had been damaged, and notwithstanding his great energy, Dr. Chapman was thrown into a pessimism he never overcame. He lost interest from then on, and simply marked time until his resignation two years later in 1899.

For the first time in the history of Colby, N. H., junior college, students are being enrolled in nursing and pre-flight courses.

AMERICAN HEROES

BY LEFF



M. E. S. LEFF

Pouring out a steady stream of machine gun fire, Corp. Leroy Diamond, U. S. M. C., and just two buddies stemmed a Jap advance on a Pacific Isle recently. One of the men, Pvt. John Rivers, was killed. Diamond and the other man were saved.

These men are willing to give their lives. The least we can do is lend our money.

Gls, Civilians Divide Pallets of Pill Palace

More equal in numbers Tuesday were civilian and army patients in the infirmary. Out of a total of fifteen, eight were service men.

A health service nurse, Lou Vogel, is among civilian patients. Others are: Mary Bailey, Patricia Elliott, Dorothy McLane, Beverly Hopley, Virginia Alley and Jerry Bercovitz.

Trainees thus absent from their barracks include: George Reihmer, Frederick Taylor, Charles Bruneau, David McDonald, Albert Long, and Marion Rowland, Co. A; and Walter Olson, Co. B; and Michael Syslo, air corps.

Robert Hall, Douglass Sammak, and Helmar Swensen were released Tuesday.

A Slip of the Lip

(Continued from page two)

Dick Reingold, Carl Pride, and Gordon Andreason.

Seems that Terry Carroll and Jerry Robinson escorted Bobbie Pearson and Marge Covlin to the Kappa house dance! Something new! Also present were Barbara Carter with Jack Warrens and Shirley Neal with Cress Phipps.

And we were glad to hear that

Alpha Chi Marge Slater and Jim Campbell have patched everything up. Well, as Winchell would say, that's thirty-and-one-half for today, and we'll be back with more news on house dances and stuff next week.

Freshman Fireside

(Continued from page one)

Flora Kibler, adviser. Announcements concerning new projects to be sponsored by the Freshman girls will be made and plans for the forthcoming ice cream sale will be discussed.

All freshmen girls on the campus are invited to the fireside and asked to bring suggestions for better organization among the frosh coeds. According to Miss Browne, the officers of the Commission are eager to have the frosh women do things as a whole, rather than as small groups representing the living organizations.

Carey Woolfer, registrar at Clenville State college, West Virginia, has on display in his room a collection of more than 385 arrowheads, spearheads and tomahawks found along an old Indian trail in Calhoun and Gilmer counties.

Downey Reported Missing in Action

Captain J. Walter Downey, ex-'43, has been missing in action over Burma road since January 18, according to word received by the dean of men's office. Captain Downey, an army transport pilot, has received the distinguished flying cross with two oak leaf clusters, and the Chinese air medal.

On Christmas eve last year he was awarded a citation by President Roosevelt in recognition of having successfully completed 100 missions between China and India under hazardous conditions.

He has been in China for nearly two years and had his flight training at Pope Field, North Carolina, Stout Field, Indianapolis, and was at the army air forces advanced flying school in Stockton, California, just before being sent overseas.

Downey, who belonged to Kappa Sigma fraternity, was a social science major at the University from 1939 to 1941 and attended Linfield college for a short time prior to this.

Tri-Delts Gain Member

Jane Corkran, Portland, freshman in liberal arts, is a new pledge to Delta Delta Delta, according to word from the dean of women's office.

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