

John W. Johnson: From Pioneer To First University President

By JOE MEIER

A son of pioneers, John Wesley Johnson, first president of the University of Oregon and the man for whom the administration building is named, was a pioneer himself in the real sense of the word.

Born near the present site of Kansas City, Missouri March 22, 1836, Johnson, when 14, set out across the plains with an ox team for Oregon, the promised land. It was a long, hard journey for Johnson, filled with grief at the deaths of his mother and a sister who were buried in unmarked graves on the Nebraska plains.

Through courage and indomitable will, Charles Johnson and his nine children reached Oregon, where they took up a homestead within the limits of present-day Corvallis.

In the wilderness, they led the hard-working, strenuous lives of a pioneer family. Johnson early showed enthusiasm for learning, but in those days, educational facilities were crude. At the age of 17 he entered the primary class of his district school, but he soon outstripped all his fellow students, especially in mathematics. In 1858 he determined to obtain a college education and borrowed the money necessary to send him through Yale.

Yale Student

There were no transcontinental railroads then so he boarded a sailing vessel for the Isthmus of Panama, which he crossed on horseback. From Panama, to save money, he took steerage passage on a ship bound for New York City. Altogether, he spent six months in travel.

At the age of twenty-four he entered Yale college by grace of a faculty who could not refuse one who had come so far, however poorly prepared. While enrolled there Johnson was a diligent, self-disciplined student, working energetically to overcome his educational handicap. He graduated in 1862 with a standing surpassed by few in his class.

On his return to Oregon, Johnson became principal of the Baptist college at McMinnville, Oregon where he won a reputation for superior ability as instructor and administrator. Four years later, he accepted a position as principal of Central public school in Portland, the only fully-developed high school in Oregon at the time.

Pupils today are taught as part of the history of Portland public schools that "the Portland high school was founded by Professor John Wesley Johnson, afterward first president of the University of Oregon."

First President

When the university was founded in 1876, Professor Johnson was called to head its faculty. He was president for the following 17 years.

In the classroom, Johnson was a strict disciplinarian, with contempt for shoddiness and laziness, but he inspired his student with true ideals and worthy aims.

Johnson's contribution to Oregon's intellectual life is beyond calculation. He and a few others of like spirit laid the foundation of genuine scholarship and wholesome culture during the adverse period of pioneer development. Kinship, thoroughness, sympathy; in these forces lay the key of a career whose influences were all for the good.

President Johnson died of cerebralitis at his home in Eugene, September 14, 1898. The administration building, Johnson Hall, was completed in 1915.

Editor's Note

This is the third in a series of articles on the men for whom the University buildings were named. Preceding today's article on President Johnson, the Emerald has had articles on Henry Villard and Samuel H. Friendly.

Andrew Jackson was the first president to invoke the pocket veto.



Outing Club Plans Overnight Ski Trip

An overnight ski trip is scheduled by the Outing club for February 21 and 22. Girls interested are to sign up on the Gerlinger bulletin board by Tuesday. A 50-

Night Staff:

Barbara Dragoo
Joyce Good
Jim White
Bob Hemingway, editor

cents room deposit will be necessary, announced Jeanette Masihonis, adviser.

FOR SALE

Ice skates (8½ Fine leather shoes
Pre-war chromium, nickel
Phone 9883-R

Emerald Classifieds

FOR RENT, Room for single man, close to campus. \$18.00, 960½ Patterson. Call 1744-W. Evenings.

LOST: Brown, gold-top Eversharp pen. Name engraved Geo. C. Sutton. Phone 5060-W (70)

ROOM & BOARD: Men students \$45 a month. Cooperative management. 2477 Alder. Phone 6230. (77)

FOR SALE: Tuxedo, excellent condition; fine material; size 38 long; \$25.00. 2437 Columbia. Phone 1381W. (76)

BOARD for students. Call 6786-R. (77)

LOST: Black silver Shaffer pen. Finder call 2884.

Basketball Results

Richmond 71, Citadel 50
Allen Bradley 60, Akron Good-years 48
Texas Wesleyan 68, Kings Point 47
Virginia Union 54, Howard 34
New York University 70, Brooklyn College 46
Beloit 72, Colorado College 55
Stanford 45, College of Pacific 43

Dud Lands Job

MORGANTOWN, W. Va., Jan. 30.—West Virginia University tonight announced the appointment of Dudley Degroot as head football coach. The Los Angeles pro Dons pilot succeeds Bill Kern who resigned effective July 1.

Foreign countries have honored Roosevelt with 84 postage stamps.

HEAR DR. Wm. WARDAYER

Of New York City FEB. 8-22

11 a. m. "He Ascended into Heaven"

Broadcast over KASH

University Class—9:45 a. m. Fellowship—6:30 p. m.

7:30 p. m. "Drifting To and Fro"

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Brdw'y and High

D. H. Webster, Pastor.

You Get A GOOD DEAL

IN THE

CITIZEN MARINES

If you are an American citizen between the age of 17 to 32 (older if you are a veteran) it will pay you to join the Citizen Marine Corps (Reserve). This organization is the civilian branch of the famous U. S. Marine Corps, whose achievements are known to every American.

Membership in the Citizen Marines carries with it many concrete advantages, but no less important it also carries the tradition and prestige which over 170 years of faithful service have built.

WEAR THIS LAPEL EMBLEM



The Reserve is a spare-time activity. It does not interfere with your regular civilian occupation. A few of the more important opportunities in the organized reserve are

PAY — EDUCATION — TRAINING — PROMOTIONS
TRADE COURSES — TRAVEL — SPORTS

Why not get in touch with your local Marine Reserve Headquarters? There is a spot for you. You veterans should ask about regaining your old rank.

41 W. 8th Ave., Eugene
Or See LT. JACK L. BILLINGS, Rm. 3, Journalism

