

# Come With Us Into the Past--History of the University Is Reflected in the History of Old Villard Hall

By MARJORIE TRUCHON

Time was when the University was young. Villard hall was young. And along with it a lot of people who are no longer living. But of those few who are still with us, Mrs. Frank Chambers perhaps remembers most clearly the laying of the cornerstone for Villard.

By 1885 the young University had outgrown its original facilities, and the need for new buildings became urgent. On July 28, 1885, a procession of Masons led by the Eugene City (it was City then) cornet band marched to the campus and held a full Masonic ritual for the laying of the cornerstone of a new building named in honor of Henry Villard, wealthy patron of the University. Workers then "began construction of a building which will cost between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

### Has Entrances

"The new edifice is 116 by 72 feet, and has a large entrance in front and one on either side. From the

## Wesley House Opens Sunday

Fall program of Wesley foundation, Methodist student center, will begin Sunday evening with a meeting for old and new students, according to Kathy Dobson, president. Wesley foundation is located at 1347 Onyx street.

An open house will be held following today's football game.

The Sunday program will begin at 5 p.m. with a get-acquainted mixer and student supper. Feature of the evening will be a special musical program presented by Miss June Kelso, violinist; Millard Kenney, pianist; Mill Eleanor Culver, soprano; and James Kays, tenor.

Miss Dobson will welcome new students. The Rev. L. O. Griffith, pastor of the First Methodist church of Eugene, will extend the greetings of that organization.

## Aiken's Charges

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Ted Meland, tackles are Steve Dotur and Don Stanton, and at the other end will be Dan Garza.

### Best in History?

Aiken will have a team which most experts rate as one of the two top teams in the conference, with the only possible weakness listed at left half where someone or ones will have to be found to take the place of the departed Jacke Liecht.

Last year, Aiken's first here, the Webfoots finished in a tie with California's Golden Bears for second place in the Pacific Coast Conference with a season's record of seven wins and three losses. Aiken expects the team that takes on Santa Barbara to better his record and have one of the best years in Webfoot grid history.

## Co-op Houses Ask Members

Applications are being accepted for immediate residence in three women's cooperative houses. Membership Chairman Joan Kronsteiner has asked that interested women students contact her at 1335 Onyx street, or phone 3818.

Miss Kronsteiner explained that expenses in the cooperative houses are kept down by house jobs. Applications are accepted solely on the basis of need, scholarship, and character, with no other restrictions of any kind. The three houses are Highland, Rebec, and University.

ground to the top of the corners it is 75 feet. On the first floor are the offices of the president and five class rooms, while the second floor is devoted to one large hall, with a stage and two waiting rooms at the end. The ceiling of the hall is high and the roof is supported by iron trusses. The whole building will be heated by a furnace in the cellar. Both internally and externally the structure is ornamental and pleasing. The University is now worthy the pride of every citizen of the State." These were the glowing phrases used by a writer for West Shore, a magazine of the time.

That year the faculty was headed by Dr. John H. Johnson, who had been superintendent of the Portland schools. Working with him were Miss Louella Clay Carson, first dean of women, and head of the English department. One of her courses was elocution, forerunner to the speech department which is soon to be housed in the remodeled and rejuvenated Villard. Mary Putnam Spiller was the first woman faculty member. When a dormitory for women students was built in 1907 it was named in her honor.

### John Straub

John Straub was first dean of men and doubled as professor of German and Greek. George Collier taught chemistry and physics. Thomas Condon headed the departments of geology and natural science, and doubled in history, while Charles E. Lambert taught in the department of "mental sciences"—which included rhetoric and psychology.

At the time Mrs. Chambers enrolled (as Miss Edith Kerns) the University was more like an academy. Its six-year curriculum carried the student from the first year of high school through two years of college level work. But the entrance requirements were somewhat different from today's accepted standards.

### "Reputable"

If the student had graduated from a "reputable" school where the eighth grade branches were completed, or if he had a teaching certificate he was admitted without examination. But without these qualifications, he must submit to an entrance examination. It was comparatively simple. He need only know reading, writing, orthography (spelling wasn't good enough), English grammar, geography, history of the United States, Latin grammar, Latin reader, Sallust (you're right, neither the reporter nor the librarian had ever heard of him—he turned out to be a Roman historian—very dead), four books of Caesar, elementary algebra, plane geometry, higher algebra—one term, and elementary rhetoric.

Of course, if the student wanted to enroll in the classical course or the scientific course or the English course there were a few additional requirements such as Greek and German or a few years reading of Webster, Milton, Addison, and Shakespeare.

The catalog of 1885 lists fees as \$30 for the elementary English course and \$40 plus a \$10 incidental fee for a year. It had to be paid

quarterly in advance, and since there were no dormitories or commons on the campus, the students had to find living quarters with private families "in the city." The average cost was \$4 per week, but "clubs" could be formed in which the cost of living was less.

The new Villard hall with its spacious auditorium was not only the center of campus activity, but also the opera house, the concert hall, the place to be seen if you were somebody.

Since one of the stringently enforced rules of the University was an edict against dancing, the "flaming youth" of the decade staged "walk-arounds" to some saucy band music. But they weren't dancing.

### "Lowest Form"

That "lowest form of animal life," the graduate assistant, was not born (or evolved) until a later date. In 1885 there was a tutor listed on the faculty.

As the years passed, the young Villard aged a bit. The bare lawn around the buildings was shaded by evergreen trees that grew until they overshadowed the building which seemed rather high. It began to grey at the temples and gather moss around the corner towers. The once-grand steps which now overlook the Oregon seal began to sag. Those class rooms which the early reporter had termed "large" now seemed cramped and stuffy. Oregon was again straining at the seams. During the 90's some essential and minimum building was done, and as the years passed, the University grew—away from Villard.

Now once more Villard is the center of bustling activity. The speech department, separate from the English department, is to have a home of its own. The class rooms and offices will be remodeled, the "high" auditorium made into two floors, and a completely modern theater added as a wing to the west. Villard will house theater and radio studios, a large stage with scenery tracks and a ground-level entrance to the stage which will be large enough to admit trucks.

There has been talk now and then about tearing down Villard. "Modern-minded" ones think he should get out of the past and think of the future, but those who love Oregon because they have grown up with her are all for holding on to her treasured and proud past.

## Orchestra Lacks String Musicians

A call for string players for the University orchestra has been made by Edmund Cykler, associate professor of musicology and director of the university orchestra.

Applicants need not be music majors, Cykler said, adding that they should apply at room 106 in the Music building at 4 p.m. Monday and Friday, and at 7:30 on Friday.

## Yeomen to Meet

First Yeomen meeting of the year will be held next Monday at 7 p.m. on the Gerlingef sun porch. President Bob Henderson has asked that all members attend.

## Deadline Today For Faculty Music Tickets

Today is the deadline for faculty members to purchase memberships in the Eugene and University Civic Music association, according to G. E. Gaylord, president of the group.

He emphasized that no single admissions will be available for the concert series this year. Only membership or student body cards will admit listeners. Memberships may be obtained at the association's headquarters in the Osburn hotel or from Mrs. Robert Horn, board member.

Gaylord said the first concert will probably be presented in several weeks. Last year's series included Isaac Stern, violinist, the Philadelphia symphony orchestra, Miklos Gafni, tenor, and several other artists.

This year the name of the organization was changed from Eugene Civic Music association to Eugene and University Civic Music association.

With reorganization of the association, Art Johnson, Robert Allen, Dick Williams, and Mrs. Horn were added to the board of directors.

Film studios for years have avoided putting the complete wedding ceremony into a movie. An old tradition has it that it might constitute a real marriage.

## Former Student Student Voice

Mary Margaret Lucas, a student at University of Oregon in 1946 has just completed eight weeks of advanced vocal study under Mme. Povla Frijsch, famous concert artist under a scholarship at the Music and Arts Institute of San Francisco which was awarded at auditions judged by a board of music editors from bay area publications.

At University of Oregon Miss Lucas studied music theory, radio dramatics under Horace Robinson, and vocal music under Sigurd Nilsen. She will also sing this season with the San Francisco Opera Company.

## Free X-Rays Set For All Next Week

A mobile X-ray unit will be on the University campus through the week of Sept. 20 to 24, to give free x-rays to all students, faculty or staff members and employees. All food handlers in houses and dormitories are urged to have a chest x-ray picture taken next week.

Women will be x-rayed Monday from 9 to 12 p.m. and from 1 to 3 p.m. Men will be x-rayed Tuesday and Thursday from 9 to 12 a.m. and from 1 to 4 p.m.

To get up early for three mornings is equal to one day of time.

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