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Two Buildings New to Alums

SCIENCE, COMMONWEALTH PART OF EXTENSIVE PROGRAM

By Bill Gurney
Associate Editor

A \$1,500,000 Science building, and \$600,000 Commonwealth hall for business and social science classes are major campus changes returning alums are noting at the 1952 Homecoming.

These buildings are part of an extensive post-war building program which has cost close to \$9,000,000. Large-scale expansion is necessary to provide for the 8,600-student enrollment foreseen for the University by 1963, a figure which is roughly twice the present enrollment.

Features of the tan-colored Science building, completed last spring, include a 15-inch telescope on the roof for astronomy, a switchboard which can provide any type of experimental electric current to laboratories, complete steam, air, and gas piping and special animal rooms.

Bricks and Windows

Commonwealth hall, a many-windowed brick structure connected with Oregon and Commerce halls, provides a home for the bustling school of business administration, plus several social science departments.

The Science building and Commonwealth are only the most recent campus additions. The building process began in 1947 when work started on the \$400,000 physi-

cal plant shops and warehouse north of the millrace. This job was fully completed in the spring of 1950.

April 1948 saw work start on ultra-modern Carson hall, the \$1,600,000 women's dorm which houses 333 coeds. A campus showplace, completed in the fall of 1949, Carson features brick construction, clean modern lines, and facilities reminiscent of a plush hotel.

Next on the list was a \$195,000 addition to the Music building completed in the fall of 1949.

Oregon's speech and drama department boasts a new theater seating about 400 plus a remodeled and fireproofed Villard hall. The job cost about \$468,000, was completed in the fall of 1949. The uncluttered lines of the theater offer a strange contrast to Villard's Victorian facades; the two buildings are joined Siamese-twin fashion.

Campus Hub

Rapidly becoming the hub of campus activities is the Erb Memorial Student Union, the modernistic flat-planned giant which was opened in the fall of 1950. The building's brick construction harmonizes with Carson hall, and the two also have in common the fact that they were not built by taxpayers.

Student fees, alumni and friends' donations since 1923 made the long-time Student Union dream a \$2,130,000 campus reality. Carson is being paid for by dormitory living fees.

If a university is a community of scholars, Oregon has been better equipped to fill this role since the fall of 1950 when a \$755,000 library addition was completed. The addition increases studying space by 570 students, stack space by 130,000 volumes.

Providing heat and electric power for the campus is a \$1,140,000 unit completed in the summer of 1951. Steam generated here is put to double use. It passes through steam turbines and generates electric power for the campus, then enters pipes for heating.

\$9,000,000

Contracts for the above major buildings totaling around \$9,000,000 have all been let to companies in the Eugene and Portland areas. In addition, the University has spent about \$500,000 on rehabilitations and other smaller jobs which have been handled by the University Physical plant staff under the



E. G. EBBIGHAUSEN and TELESCOPE
(at right) Queen of the science building

The 15-inch reflecting telescope has been on campus for the past five years, but until last spring there was no place to put it. It was bought through private funds and is the largest one in the state system.

At present it is used for classes, E. G. Ebbighausen, associate professor of physics who is in charge of the instrument reported.

Very good views have been obtained of the moon, Jupiter, Saturn complete with the rings, a few nebulae and star clusters, Ebbighausen reported. The little three inch 'scope formerly used by classes and carted around the campus on the ground has been mounted on the bigger instrument for use as a view finder.

Ebbighausen said he was "quite happy" with the set-up for the telescope as it now stands.

direction of Superintendent I. I. Wright. Wright has been at Oregon since the expansion program began in 1947, and has seen his plant expand enormously.

Oregon, Commerce and Friendly halls were rehabilitated by the Physical plant department. Interiors were fireproofed, modernized and strengthened, while familiar exteriors remained unchanged.

Also, the old physical plant office and heating plant office were converted into the east wing of the architecture school. At the present, rehabilitation is in progress on Dady hall, the oldest campus building.

Other Changes

Other changes since 1947: Houses have been removed to make room for the Student Union and Carson, and the block between the two buildings has been cleared in

favor of grass and crosswalks.

New campus wide lighting has given uniform illumination to areas which were formerly pitch dark at night.

New bleachers for Hayward field have cost about \$100,000.

Next on the University expansion program is a new Journalism school building, the appropriation for which will be under consideration at the next state legislature session.

An addition to the architecture school is also on the list for the near future, but it too must be given legislative approval.

The job of University expansion is far from complete. University officials estimate that about ten million additional dollars will need to be spent by 1963 to prepare Oregon to serve most efficiently the ends of higher education.



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A Curtain of Confusion

More closely guarded than Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was the community that day. Although a thick fog shrouded the area, workers manned their appointed posts and began to work furiously toward the deadline.

Hammers beat rapidly, muffled in the fog, while tight-lipped men measured length of board. Everything was chaos. Bales of hay strewn from lawn to lawn, broke and scattered in the damp, swirling wind. Papers, some brisk and crumpled, some damp and soggy, rested against protecting corners where the wind had blown them.

Empty tin cans supported broken ladders which had been tossed down in haste by the harried crews. Rolls upon rolls of wire stood in readiness to be used on a moment's notice. As the deadline grew nearer the fog lifted slightly to let the sun peek through and urge on the workers for the cause. Revealed in the brighter light

were colors — bright red, yellow and chartreuse, oozing over the edge of brimming cans, or dripping from a brush flung hastily aside. The sun cast shadows on forms quite unreal, some animal, some human, but none quite either one. Groans of protest escaped many of the workers as they stepped back for one long look. A glance at the clock, however, spurred them back to work at a more feverish pace than before.

Higher and higher the structures mounted, some wavering with the top weight, but never quite falling. Dusk approached in a flurry of activity, for the deadline was at hand. As the clock struck five, all work abruptly ceased. Tools and debris disappeared in the hands of the gallant crew who closed doors behind them and settled down to wait for the end . . . the end of the judging for Oregon's homecoming sign contest.