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75TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED SUNDAY

(Continued from page 1.)

by Rev. Jason Lee, who followed this by performing the marriage ceremony of Charles I. Roe and Miss Nancy, an Indian maiden of the Calapooia tribe.

After the preaching of a powerful sermon, he then baptized, and received into the church, the young man, Charles I. Roe, just married, and Mr. Webley Hauksurst, who for 50 years thereafter proved a most worthy and useful citizen of the state.

But a few years ago a gray-bearded patriarch sought to ally himself, in a way, with the Pilgrims of 1820, by boasting that he had conversed with one, who in his turn, had conversed with one of the passengers of the Mayflower. In reading some-

one to prepare a historical sketch of Willamette university, the powers that be have selected one who bears a similarly familiar relation with the Pilgrim fathers of the Pacific, one whose favorite boyhood hunting companion was one of the half-breed sons of Webley Hauksurst, and one who remembers well the presence in the old Salem Methodist church of Charles I. Roe, attending service under guard while awaiting his execution, who remembers later reading on the wooden headboard at the grave of Nancy Roe, beneath her name the rude scrawl, "brutally murdered by her husband."

This, however, relates to one of the unpleasant, and therefore expurgated, chapters of the early missionary history of the northwest.

The task of preparing a historical sketch, suitable for such an occasion as this, is one that paradoxically calls for both fullness and brevity. It is suggestive of both Scylla and

Charybdis and of the devil and the deep blue sea.

The historian as a compiler is dependent upon the testimony of those who have gone before. The early history of Willamette is familiar as more than thrice told tale, and does not belong in the new column.

Very naturally, the proper place to begin is at the beginning.

The first thing to dissipate is a common impression that Willamette university, in its origin, was an Indian school. The Indian Mission Manual Labor school, founded in 1834, and for eight years located at what is known as "Mission Bottom", and during the last two years of its existence in the old "Oregon Institute" building in Salem, never, at any time, bore anything more than an incidental relation to Willamette.

An early Oregon writer has suggested that Willamette university was born on the good ship Lausanne on October 5, 1839, when the "Missionary Family", on that ship, celebrating the 100th anniversary of Methodism, took up a collection of \$400 for the range of kindred education in Oregon. That was a famous voyage of 22,000 miles, almost equalling the circumference of the globe, beginning, as it did, in the harbor of New York on the 9th day of October, 1839, rounding Cape Horn, touching at the Sandwich Islands and ending at Vancouver, June 1, 1840. The passengers of the Lausanne constituted what was known as "The Great Reinforcement," and gave wonderful encouragement to the small contingent that had preceded them. The combined forces were but a pitifully small army to face the giant task of bringing this great northwestern empire under the sway of Christian civilization. It was almost an unparalleled altruistic adventure that had its root in a faith and a religious enthusiasm that was little short of fanaticism. The marvel is not that the adventure did not wholly succeed, but that it did not wholly fail. The dominant thought and the dominant impulse was for the spread of Christian education. These, so far as directly related to Willamette, first took form in a meeting held January 17, 1842, at the home of Jason Lee at Chemska, North Salem, called for consultation on the subject of English education in Oregon and for the establishment of a literary institution. At this meeting Dr. J. L. Babcock, Rev. David Leslie and Gustavus Hines were appointed a committee to outline plans for future consideration. These were submitted at a meeting held at the "Old Mission" on February 1, 1842. To this meeting were invited "all English and American residents in the Willamette valley, with as many Canadians as the committee might think proper." The meeting was well attended, and, after a general survey of the ground, it was unanimously resolved to establish a collegiate in-

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stitution, and "that a log boarding house and school house be built of sufficient size to accommodate the teachers and pupils if teachers can be employed." On the motion of Gustavus Hines, seconded by Dr. Babcock, it was decided that the institution bear the name of Oregon institute. Jason Lee, David Leslie, Gustavus Hines, J. L. Parrish, George Abernethy, Alanson Beers, elected for the Indian mission school on what is now the site of the gymnasium on the university campus. In doing this an offer of \$8000 for the building, made by the Catholic church was turned down. This was a building three stories in height, 75 feet by 48 feet in dimensions. It was completed and first occupied in 1842 and was at that time rated as the most imposing building in the western half of the American continent, though some of the Catholic monasteries of Southern California should perhaps be excepted.

A few years later there arose a serious complication over the matter of securing government title to this property which was desired as the permanent home of the embryo university. It resulted in an unfortunate controversy between Dr. W. H. Willson and his wife and the trustees of the Oregon Institute. This was finally adjusted by the acceptance of a deed from Dr. Willis and his wife covering 60 acres of land of which the present campus is a part. The doctor and his wife were both actively identified with the early history of the university. She was a member of the great missionary family that came to Oregon on the ship "Lausanne," and she and her husband were the first white couple married in what is now the state of Washington.

Dr. Willson, who gave "Willson Avenue" to the city of Salem, was on the 26th day of May, 1846, named as general business agent of the Oregon Institute. It was in this year that the original townsite of Salem was laid out by the trustees of the Oregon Institute, and much of the work of Dr. Willson related to the sale of lots in this townsite. The Oregon Institute was finally opened as a school on the 16th day of August, 1844, with Mrs. Willson as the first and only teacher and with 20 pupils in attendance. Here was consummated the original plans that made Salem the pioneer educational center of the state, and that in later years made it Oregon's capital and political center. The building was named as the permanent capitol in June, 1864, by the narrow margin of 79 votes, and these were secured by the efforts of the pioneer students of Willamette scattered over the state, and by pioneer citizens who children were educated within her walls.

A committee on location of the prospective institution was named consisting of Lee, Leslie, Hines, Babcock and Harvey L. Clark, who has later been recognized as the real founder of Pacific university at Forest Grove. This committee reported in favor of a location at the upper end of French Prairie. At a meeting of the board of trustees held March 9, 1842, Messrs. L. H. Judson, Parrish and Hines were named as a committee to draw up a prospectus and report a constitution and by-laws. These were all reported March 15, 1842, at a meeting at the house of Judson in North Salem. This report, which was adopted, called for a change in the location of the school from French Prairie to a location "on Wallace Prairie, on an eminence about one mile south of the place occupied by Baptist Delcour, near a fountain of living water." This location is about two miles north of the existing north boundary line of Salem. The prospectus adopted provided that the school "should be placed in the hands of that society of Evangelical Protestant Christians which shall first pledge itself to sustain it." Article three of the constitution adopted set forth that "the primary object of the institution is to educate the children of white men, but no person shall be excluded on account of color." It was also provided that "anyone paying \$50 to the institution shall have a voice in all the business of the society relating to the institution during his natural life." No one, however, was to be "eligible to the office of trustee, steward, teacher or member of a visiting committee, who denies the authenticity of the sacred scriptures." The form of a subscription list submitted provided that all donations at least one-third should be "in cash orders

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In February, 1856, the Missionary Board of the Church pledged \$5000 for the Endowment fund of the University, upon the condition that the University first secure an additional fund of \$15,000. This imposed a heavy task upon the frontier community of a sparsely settled state, but Rev. A. F. Waller was named as the agent to secure the required funds and on August 5, 1859, he reported the amount fully pledged. After years of delay without redeeming their pledge, the Mission board in 1864 offered as a substitute gift, a deed for 80 acres of land adjoining the campus. This offer was accepted August 20, 1864, but the transfer was not consummated until 1867. It is an almost pathetic circumstance that less than 15 years later, under the stress of their existing conditions, the University felt compelled to sell 44 acres of this land, near the center of the city of Salem, for the sum of \$50 per acre.

In 1860 the board of trustees of the University was composed of 43 leading pioneer citizens of the state. General W. H. Odell, who will in a few months enter upon his 90th year, is the sole survivor of this group. On October 3rd of that year the erection of a new and substantial building for university purposes was determined upon, and a committee was named to prepare and submit plans. Final plans were not submitted until December 6, 1862. Father Waller was named as the agent to solicit funds and on May 20, 1862, reported \$12,000 subscribed. On February 22, 1864, final plans were adopted and ground was broken for the erection of the building in that month. Hamilton Campbell and J. L. Babcock were selected as the first board of trustees and Jason Lee was named president of the board. It is notable that one of these men, Alanson Beers, was one of the executive tribune who constituted the first provisional governorship of the state, that another, George Abernethy, was the first elected provisional governor of Oregon, that seven of them were passengers on the "Lausanne," and that six of them were present at the famous Champeog meeting of May 2, 1842, and cast their votes for the establishment of American sovereignty over the Oregon coun-

For the first two years Mrs. Willson constituted the entire faculty of the Oregon Institute, and she was in control in 1848. During 1848 Mr. Alanson Hinman was an assistant. He was succeeded in the following year by Joseph S. Smith, who later represented Oregon in congress. In 1848 Rev. J. H. Wilbur, Miss Wilbur, and Rev. St. J. M. Fackler, an Episcopal clergyman, served as teachers. During the next two years Rev. N. Doane and wife and Rev. M. Beebe and wife were in charge. In 1850 Rev. F. S. Hoyt was elected president and served for the ensuing ten years.

From October, 1842, until 1849, the school was under the control of an association of members of the M. E. Church. On September 5, 1849, the Oregon and California conference was organized under authority of the general conference. Its jurisdiction covered Oregon, California, Nevada, Washington and part of Montana. It comprised six members: Rev. William Roberts, who presided, and A. F. Waller, David Leslie, J. H. Wilbur, Isaac Owen and William Taylor, afterwards famous as a missionary bishop. At its first session held in the Oregon Institute building this conference formally assumed the patronage and control of the school. At its third annual session, held in the same building, a committee was appointed to procure from

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