

# 'Mr. Chips' Tells of Willamette Campus As He First Glimpsed it 50 Years Ago

By DR. JAMES T. MATTHEWS

September, early September, in the year 1883, I reached Salem by the mid-morning train from Portland, inquired of the agent at the station how to get to Willamette university, and set forth.

The campus was enclosed with a five-board fence. So I walked round to the front to find a gate. I had the feeling that it would be irreverent to climb a university fence. There was no gate, only a gap guarded with posts — reminders of an early culture, when even the cows had to be restrained from coming to college. The spaces between the posts looked encouraging, even inviting; so I passed through and stopped to look around.

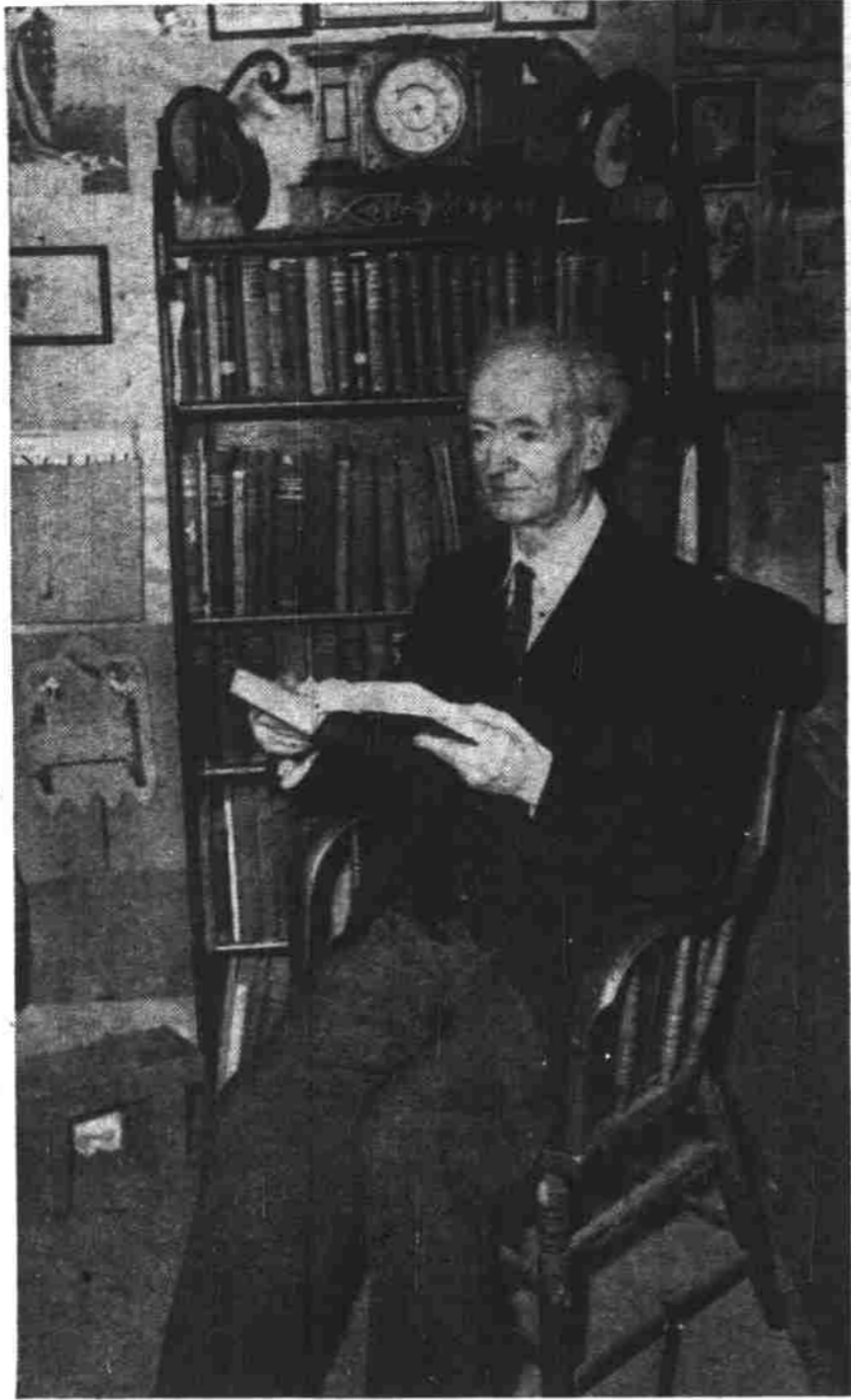
Only one building on the campus, the tall stately edifice that we now call Waller hall. The university year book for the academic season, 1882-1883, the catalogue that had bewitched me into coming to Willamette, showed two excellent cuts of this noble structure. One cut called it College of Liberal Arts, the other named it University hall. But I did not hold this against the university. You see I was used to plain and humble fare. This was the first college or university hall I had ever seen, and for all I knew the gods and goddesses of science and classics might hold sacred carnival there, drinking divine nectar and eating the ambrosia that confers immortality.

## Van Scoy Was Head

I found President Van Scoy in a little office on the west side of the first floor. (At that time the chapel had no east and west bays. President Doney caused them to be built. So this office would be just outside the chapel.) He took my tuition, asked me a few questions and then placed me in my studies. I was a Willamette university student.

And now I perceive that I must be careful to obey my pedagogical canons. Being a teacher and compelled by virtue of that office to speak topically, I shall try to discourse analytically with heads — as old-fashioned preachers used to say. Be it understood, at once, that I was to study at Willamette for the next six years, except two when I was absent, and my narrative will be an attempt to give a picture of conditions at Willamette during that time, as well as some account of customs and class procedures.

When I entered the university, the dormitory for young women stood on Court street. It was called Woman's college. In my time as student it was moved to the campus and fitted



One more year and Dr. James T. Matthews will have rounded out a half century as professor of mathematics at Willamette university, his alma mater. Shown here in the study at his home on South 12th street, Dr. Matthews is renowned among past and present Willamette students for his philosophical chapel talks. He was born in England and came to Oregon, an immigrant, in 1872.

with tower and basement. Still later it was glorified with the name Lausanne hall; and during the Doney regime was torn down to make way for the present elegant Lausanne.

But during all my student days here and through the first fifteen years of my teaching here, Waller hall continued to house all departments of our university except law (established the year I came), and music and medicine. That means that in this house, scarcely large enough for an administration building for a modern city high school, was space for a large chapel, two rooms for the literary societies, a fair sized library, and class rooms for the

year period of my story. Recitations in the languages and mathematics were very formal, so arranged and combined as by the consent of the faculty to leave students almost entirely to their own resources. Mostly, if a student's answer missed the mark, he could go back to his books to try again.

In ethics and psychology and the like opportunity for brief explanation and discussion was afforded. But never until the student had answered a question as best he could. Never. That unwritten law was inexorable. The student would be interrogated, must be, and if his reply revealed need of further help, that was promptly given.

How well do I remember this incident. In my senior year. Professor: "What is reasoning?" Student: "Oh, that is when you just get in and dig." Spontaneously the professor at his own length revealed the real nature of reasoning. Here is another incident that I recall. Lasted through two recitations. The problem concerned the possibility of dividing by zero. I smile every time I think of it.

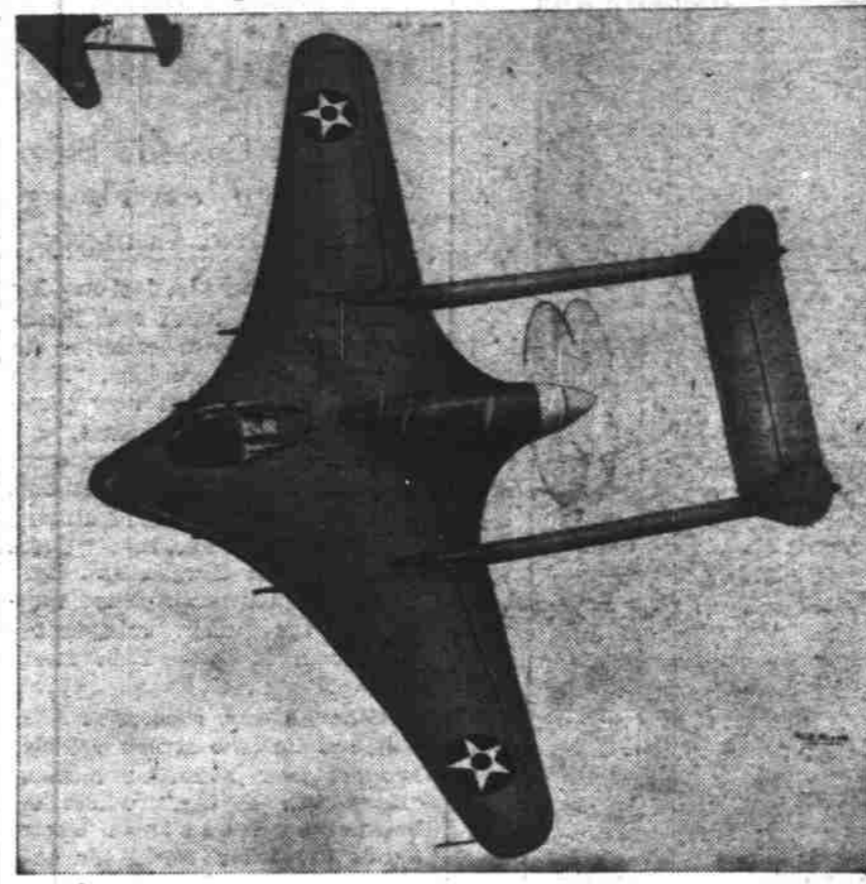
## Faculty Was Small

Faculty. A sonorous, resounding, majestic word. But ours was pitifully small. Those wonderful teachers taught many hours and many subjects. I wish now and have wished for a long time that there had been more professors — of equal caliber. But, after all, all education is self-education. Students learn by their own efforts, not by "being sprayed with ideas," and if an earnest learner is wisely directed to the great books and along the highways of science and philosophy, he cannot fail to gather knowledge and mental strength and a sense of values.

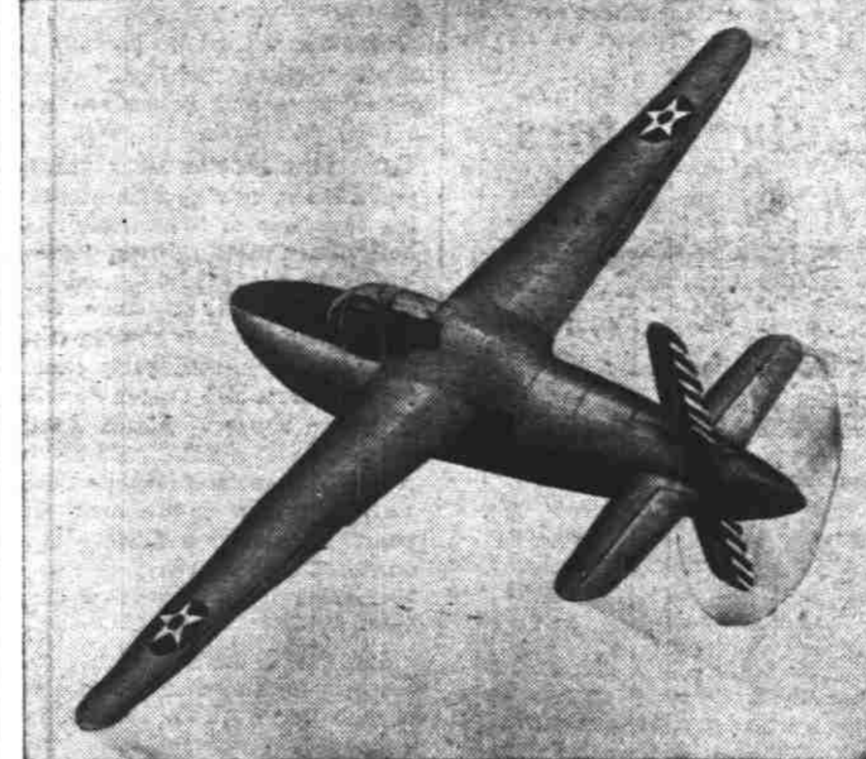
Let me mention a few odds and ends. I loved the chapel — compulsory and formal though it was. And I had one college year of dormitory life. President Van Scoy established a dormitory for men on or near the present site of the cider and vinegar works south of Waller hall. The place was popular from its beginning and was always filled in the college year.

President Van Scoy and his family lived here and ate in the common dining room. As I gaze with admiration and gratitude upon our present home for the presidents as they come and go, I reflect on the humble abode that President Van Scoy lived in. When I matriculated, he dwelt on Court street in a two-story box house. Later he carved out of Waller hall's unpromising basement a suite of rooms where our bookstore is now.

## Hints of Future Aircraft



This "bat" (above) is a single-engine airplane with the motor submerged and having the advantages of an enlarged center section wing with a relatively thin percentage characteristic. It is one of the trends being explored by American designers for war planes of the future.



Propeller at the extreme rear is a feature of this design which would eliminate turbulent or rough air over the entire airplane. The "windmill" is a single-engine design with a thin wing. (Official U.S. Army air corps photos.)

## Radical Air Models May Result From Experiments

WRIGHT FIELD, Dayton, Ohio—The turn of this year, Anno Domini 1942, presents one of the world's strangest paradoxes. On the one hand we have the whole automobile industry of the United States, not only the world's greatest but expanded many hundredfold under war pressure, swinging into mass production on the world's newest major automotive vehicle—the airplane; on the other, Air Corps Materiel division design engineers vying with the world's air laboratories and drafting rooms for the purpose of accomplishing the greatest aircraft advancement possible in a constantly changing picture.

Mass production and experimental design! Paradox indeed! The tendency of the first to freeze upon an approved form, that of the second to flout existing form for the purpose of obtaining results beyond anything in the existing picture. And both foremost air force objectives.

The production airplanes upon which the nation's factories are to concentrate at the rate of turning out an ever increasing number each year rank with the world's best. Not frozen models, they are constantly under the study of engineers and technical experts for the incorporation of improvements which are planned and arranged for sufficiently far in advance, "sneaked in" so to speak, so as not to interrupt the steady flow of the production line.

Nevertheless the United States dare not rest upon such laurels. For locked away in the laboratories of all leading nations, scrutinizing the production procession, their own and their neighbors', are groups of scientists, who look upon the most successful of current aircraft as already obsolete. Sound aerodynamicists, the whole field of modern design is to them finger-tip knowledge. Their job is to conceive and create from the apex of present design achievement the airplanes which are to fly higher, faster, farther, or more effectively, one, two, or five years hence.

It is a fascinating privilege to be permitted to peer into this airplane future as embodied in the advance designs of the design development unit. Many pusher-propeller types are noticeable. Pushers offer benefits in speed of climb. Likewise the pusher propeller does not have the limiting effect upon the speed of the airplane in the approach to the speed of sound possessed by the tractor.

There are "swelled" wings and very thin wings. There are bombers mounting eight engines, obviously for long range, whose gas tanks are virtually invisible. There are six and four-engine types with combinations of pusher and tractor propellers.

A tallest (Pterodactyl) lighter has wing tip rudders, and pilot and gunner seated back to back.

Fish, swallow and bat may be suggested in some of the shapes shown, but it should be recalled that man has far excelled nature in the speed, range, height and efficiency of flight. Man has often

# Features

Salem, Oregon, Sunday Morning, February 1, 1942 8

## Neglected Fruit Trees May Be Reclaimed by Pruning and Cleaning

By LILLIE L. MADSEN

"How old should a fruit tree be before it is discarded?" is a question that came to me during the past week.

I really do not know what the correct answer should be, but my guess would be that it would depend greatly upon the care the tree had been given.

Another questioner wants to know if there will be a shortage of fruit during the war-time and if one should "reclaim" an old family orchard.

Again my answer is that I do not know, but if an orchard is to be left at all it should be "reclaimed" if reclaiming means taken care of.

There is really no reason why trees, which have been neglected and so have failed to bear, should not be made to bear just as well as extra vegetables planted where there were no vegetables grown before.

Trees will live to great old ages is demonstrated in many of our pioneer orchards. At the Davenport home in the Waldo Hills is still the remains of an old fruit orchard which was originally planted from seeds brought across the plains. Here and there throughout the Willamette valley are such bits of old orchards.

## Spread Diseases

Because caring for home orchards has become somewhat of a chore in recent years when so much spraying for disease and pests has become necessary, orchards have not been cared for and now many a remnant of an old apple, pear or prune orchard stands around suburban homes, full of diseases and pests, scattering these to nearby trees which may have had better care. Now that work around the home is to some extent going to take the place of weekend trips during the war-time period, it might be well to look to these orchards or to the occasional fruit tree which has been left standing. If the tree is to continue to be neglected and if it is full of disease and pests then—disregarding sentiment—it should be removed. If, however, it can be saved to provide shade as well as fruit, it should be given care.

In reclaiming any tree, one of the first moves should be one for sanitation. All dead or sickly branches should be removed. Gather up all fallen branches and burn. If the trees have long been neglected there is likely much dead wood which should be removed. Also there is likely to be much brush-growth which will serve the tree better off than on.

If you cannot have the services of an experienced orchard or tree man, then do the best you can yourself. It is well to bear in mind the actual definition of pruning: "The methodical removal of parts of a plant with the object to improve it in some respect for the purposes of the cultivator." This may keep you from hit and miss cutting.

It is rather impossible to give any advice for pruning until one

That No. 13 Pops up Again

PONCA CITY, Okla. (AP)—The number 13 figured so prominently in the induction into the army of four boys from the National Youth Administration center at the 101 ranch near here it soon stopped being funny. The four, leaving for duty on the 13th of the month, were No. 13 in order and the figure 13 appeared four times on the sheet containing their instructions. The train on which they left had 13 cars.

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Maybe you've been going on the assumption that you are made of some sort of indestructible material. Well, "it ain't so." You have your physical limitations. Be sensible and admit it.

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Finally, Mr. Ames has sucked up into his narrative a good many historical incidents, and has integrated and employed for legitimate purposes the political and business framework of the time—even the Five Points gang, the fire companies, and such things. It gives the novel a feeling of solidarity and hides the fact that Young Ames himself is not, as the children say, "such a much."

There are moments, too, when the reader is reminded of Dickens. This is partly because the period is approximately that of which Dickens first wrote, but there are tangs and flavors in the writing of Mr. Edmonds that fit the comparison — Mr. McVitty, the chief clerk, has character out of Dickens if there ever was one. And Young Ames' beloved, whose name is Christine, has the likeable but vague outlines of some of Dickens' "good" women.

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## First 100 Years In the Making

- Feb. 1, 1942 — Willamette university, then known as Oregon Institute, came into being through a board of trustees. There is unbroken legal continuity from that day, four years before Oregon's allegiance was decided.
- Aug. 13, 1844 — Oregon Institute opened to students on the present campus in three-story frame structure.
- 1845 — University trustees laid out the city of Salem and started sale of lots.
- Jan. 12, 1853 — University chartered by the territorial legislature as "Wallamette University." Institute became the preparatory department.
- 1867 — Waller hall, then known as University hall, ready for use. Bricks made of clay excavated for the basement.
- 1867 — Medical college established, first in the northwest. Combined with University of Oregon medical school in 1913.
- 1883 — College of law organized.
- 1891 — Waller hall roof burned.
- 1905 — Medical college building erected. Now the music hall.
- 1906 — Kimball School of Theology organized and housed in Kimball hall. Continued until 1930.
- 1909 — Eaton hall completed.
- 1912 — Sweetland field was developed.
- 1913 — Half million dollar endowment campaign completed.
- 1916 — Willamette academy closed after continuous operation since 1844.
- 1919 — Interior of Waller hall destroyed by fire.
- 1920 — New, brick Lausanne hall replaced the frame building by the same name.
- 1923 — New gymnasium constructed to replace the one burned shortly before.
- 1930 — Million dollar endowment campaign completed.
- 1938 — Library building finished.
- 1939 — Former postoffice moved to campus to house college of law.
- 1941 — Collins hall completed to house all science departments.

War-End Prophecy, Not Guaranteed

SALISBURY, Md. (AP)—"When will the war end?" a truck driver asked a gypsy hitchhiker who offered to tell his fortune. "Nine months from the day you carry a dead man in this truck," was the reply.

A few days later, on January 9, the truck was commandeered by Delaware police to take an accident victim to the hospital. The victim died in the truck.

Two Things at a Time

NEW YORK (AP)—Manhattan Girl Scouts hike not only for health but to survey the borough these days. They're finding out how long it takes to get an injured person from specific areas to the nearest first aid station which can be a hospital, a clinic or an emergency first aid set-up.

## WISE... or Otherwise

By ETHAN GRANT

Something I can never understand is why people make pencil marks in library books. I read a book recently that had sentences and sometimes whole paragraphs underlined. I don't know who did it, and I wouldn't be at all interested in meeting

use my newly acquired talent was during an argument with a Boston, Mass., taxi driver. It turned out that he also had some talent — and half an hour later I had a black eye and some stitches in my face.

"The mind of man is an emergency organ, which relegates everything possible to other functions of the body as long as it is able. And when the old order is able. And when the old order gets the job." Like putting off writing the column till the very last minute. Or does it take a mind to write a column?

Be Your Self

"Be your own self with all people, whether they be prince or pauper." The best pal I ever had was like that: just his own self, always. I had some "influential friends," and was anxious to have them meet him, for he wanted a better job — as who doesn't. The boy had talents, and I thought they'd probably offer him some thing worth while. But he drank too much wine at dinner, and when we went in for a few hands of bridge, he said if we didn't mind he'd take a snooze on the lounge. When the guests left at 2 a. m. he was still snoozing.

One day he decided to take a trip to Europe. I took him to the station and asked if he'd remembered to have his baggage checked. "Baggage?" he said. "All the baggage I'm taking is this camera and my toothbrush." He was gone two months, and he hadn't even worn a hat.

"We learn practically nothing from 'victory,'" reads another passage I've underscored. "All we remember comes from defeat." And that, I think, explains the reason why I am endowed with what is called an "excellent memory."

Fifth Columnist With Fins, eh?

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—A chum salmon, bearing a Japanese-marked tag with the legible number 1847 and a string of Japanese characters, was caught in the Kobuk river last summer. It was the second such Japanese tag found in Alaska waters during the summer season.

## DOROTHY GRAY

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