

First Edition of Samuel Johnson Dictionary Recent Willamette University Library Addition

By Wendell Magee Keck
 "SOATS A grain, which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people."
 Of all definitions ever published in English dictionaries, this one is the most frequently quoted. It is from the famous "Dictionary of the English Language" by Dr. Samuel Johnson, who was literally a rare copy of the first edition of this important two-volume work was recently given to Willamette university by Charles E. McCulloch, Portland attorney, president of the university's board of trustees.

Worth Well Over \$1000
 Although it is difficult to estimate accurately the value of this copy existing in Europe before the war have undoubtedly been destroyed, and the number of copies in west coast libraries at present is probably fewer than a half-dozen. At present this copy is stored in the university's vault, where the library has no facilities for either the storage or exhibition of particularly valuable items.

The Johnson dictionary is a landmark in English lexicography just as the King James Bible and the first printed edition of Shakespeare's plays are landmarks in English literature. This work established Dr. Johnson's reputation as his own day. His quarrel with Lord Chesterfield over the matter of financial support marked the beginning of the breakdown of the system of patronage in British literature.

Reflects Johnson's Mind
 This dictionary has many features interesting to the student of linguistics and to the general literary scholar. It accurately reflects Johnson's own strong mind, and in large measure the thought of his age.

If ghosts chuckle, then the learned doctor's spirit must have been laughing up his spectral sleeve ever since this copy of his master's magnum opus came to rest on the local campus. The "great Cham" of British literature 200 years ago had considerable respect for the Rev. John Wesley; but for the Methodist organization then emerging so vigorously—that was another matter. Johnson only thinly veiled his attitude in his contemptuous definition of the term "Methodist": "One of a



The Johnson dictionary given by Charles McCulloch to Willamette university is a "genuine treasure to the lover of English literature, the student of the English language or anyone interested in books," declares Prof. Jerome C. Hixson (left) of DePaul university, guest professor at Willamette's summer school. With Dan Graves, WU librarian, the visiting savant enjoys reading the little-known as well as the famous definitions in the first edition volumes of the valuable book.—Statesman photo by Bill Scott.

new kind of puritans lately arisen, so called from their profession to live by rules and in constant method." As for "Puritan," he polishes that term off with: "A sectary pretending to eminent purity of religion."

Language History Given
 The strength of Johnson's mind is shown by his evident ability in planning and carrying out such an ambitious project. It was begun in 1747 and required unremitting effort of himself and several assistants for more than seven years. Besides definitions and illustrations of correct usage, the dictionary contains a history of the English language, with specimens of Anglo-Saxon and Middle English, and a rather complete grammar. Johnson anticipated by a full century the practice of editors of the great Oxford dictionary in using carefully selected literary quotations for examples of correct usage.

The two volumes, bound in dark brown half-leather, with the title stamped in gold, make an impressive appearance. They are printed in folio on pages 10 by

16 inches, and each volume is three inches thick.

Print Larger Than Usual

The title pages are printed in black and red, and bear the names of several firms long-prominent in the history of British publishing; namely, the Longmans, A. Millar, and the Doddsleys. Like other volumes of their age, when opened they give out a faintly musty odor, and the slightly browned paper clearly shows its chain and wire lines and its watermark. There are no page numbers. The print is much larger than that used in modern dictionaries, and there are no pictorial illustrations.

Probably most surprising is the absence of phonetic spelling or diacritical marks to show accent and pronunciation. The science of etymology as we know it today was hardly thought of, but Johnson wrote what he knew of word origins and was able to show the Latin and Greek origins of many English words.

Organization "Magnificent"
 Students seeking technical accuracy of definition common in modern dictionaries will be dis-

Beauty and the Bureaucrats, A-Bomb Pair

WASHINGTON, July 20.—(AP)—The prospect of a world peopled only by "Lana Turners" and "New Deal bureaucrats" was held out to the house by Rep. Claire Boothe Luce (R-Conn.)

It might be done with atomic energy radioactive elements, the blonde congresswoman said in a speech that had legislators rocking with laughter.

She referred to an earlier suggestion by Rep. Judd (R-Minn.) that radioactive elements might be used to "transmute the species."

If the atomic energy commission decided to transmute the female of the species, Mrs. Luce said, "they would make them all Lana Turners."

As for the males, she believed the commission might hit upon a creature with "a very large head, one eye, an ear bent permanently to receive a telephone call, one hand with only a thumb and forefinger so it can sign checks and documents, no legs, and a very large bottom to sit in a swivel chair."

In short, she concluded, it might turn all the men into "new deal bureaucrats."

Discharged

From the navy at Bremerton, Wash.:

Arben J. Steinmeyer, RDM 3/c, 323 S. Pine st., Albany

Franklin M. Dugger, S 1/c, route 3, Salem.

Jack W. Groves, S 1/c, 3900 E. State st., Salem.

From the army at Ft. Lewis, Wash.:

T. 5th Gr. James W. Stilson, route 2, Salem.

PFC William L. Berry, 2261 Hazel ave., Salem.

appointed. As a source of such information, the Johnson dictionary is no match for the 10-volume Oxford dictionary given to Willamette in 1933 by the Salem chapter of the American Association of University Women. What the modern student will find is a magnificent feat of organization, by a single mind, of extremely diverse materials.

In his biography of Dr. Johnson, Sir Leslie Stephen records that when the messenger returned from taking the last sheets of manuscript to the publisher, Millar, Dr. Johnson asked, "What did he say?"

"Sir," the messenger replied, "he said, 'Thank God I have done with him.'"

"I am glad," answered Johnson, "that he thanks God for anything."

HOMES FOR AMERICANS



A well balanced conventional design makes this house typical of the kind most Americans like. There are four full sized rooms, a small dinette and a strategically placed bathroom which brings plumbing lines near the kitchen. Cross ventilation is attained by having both bedrooms in corners of the house. Cost is estimated at \$7,000 to \$8,000.

Births

Wesley To Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Woolley, Vainett, a daughter, Pamela Diane, born July 9, Salem General hospital.

Chamberlain To Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Chamberlain, 2030 N. Capitol st., a son, Frank Eugene, born July 6, Salem General hospital.

Peterson To Mr. and Mrs. Keith Peterson, 919 Court st., Dallas, a daughter, Margreth Lynne, born July 8, Salem General hospital.

Randall To Mr. and Mrs. Terry L. Randall, 2025 N. Broadway, a daughter, Kathy Bee, born July 9, Salem General hospital.

Christopherson To Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth W. Christopherson, 445 S. 18th st., a son, William Kenneth, born July 8, Salem General hospital.

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Mrs. Harry Gulvin of Buckley, Wash., is visiting her brother,

W. F. Gulvin and Mrs. Gulvin. Mrs. Leo Mars and daughter Marilyn of Beaverton are visiting her brother Harry Wall. She formerly lived here.

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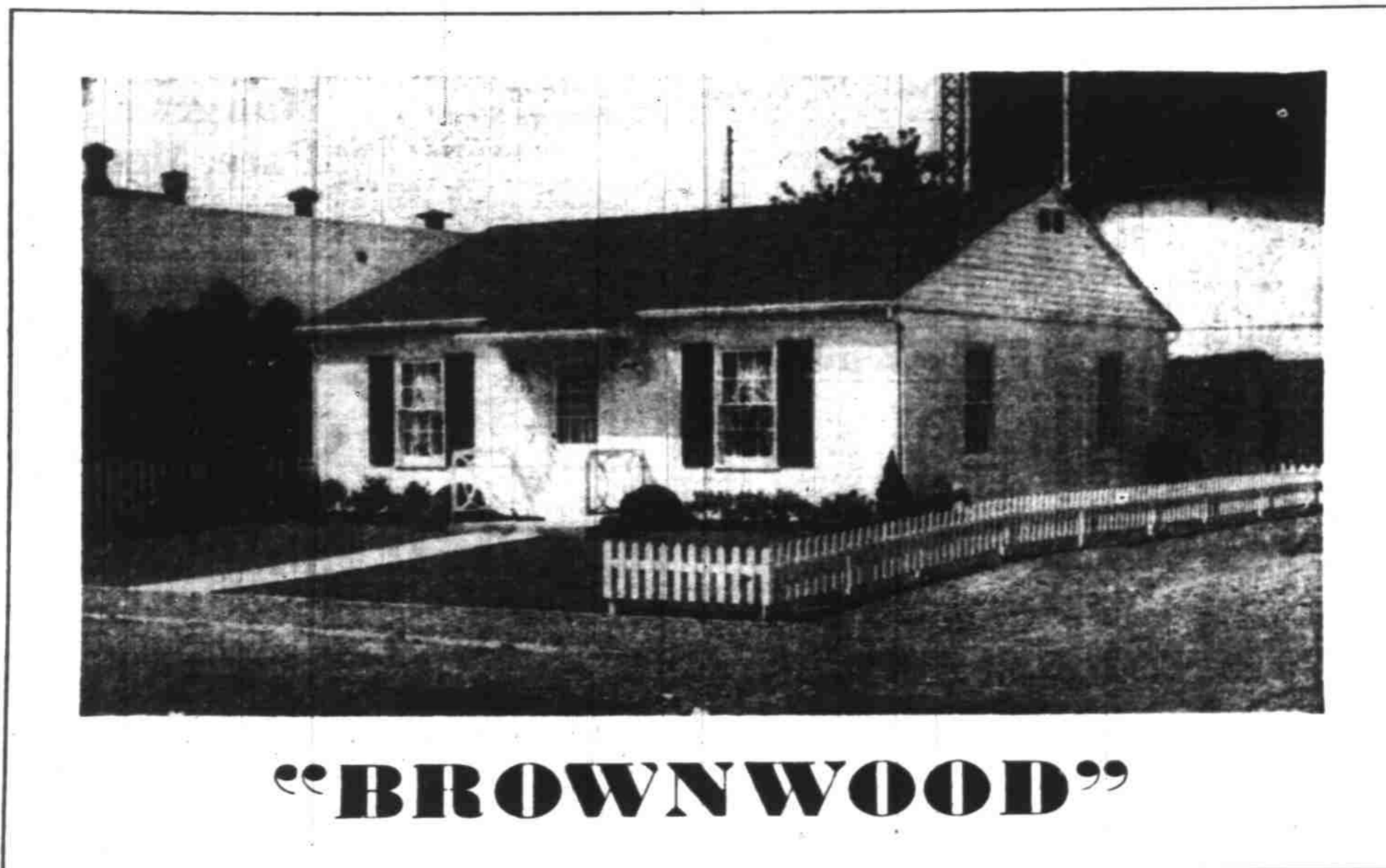
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