

**OREGON 47 YEARS AGO**

At an all-college dinner recently given in Condon Mrs. D. S. Brown was the principal speaker. Mr. and Mrs. Brown are "old timers" in the Condon country and are much esteemed by a host of friends. Mrs.

Brown's remarks are as follows: "The University of Oregon in the early seventies, as I knew it, was a far different institution than today. As you know, it was created by an act of the legislature in 1872. Oregon had been a state only 17 years and the Southern Pacific railroad had

just been completed to California. Lane county, by the act that located the university at Eugene was required to furnish a site for the university building, which was not to cost less than \$50,000.

"Through the efforts of Lane county citizens were laid the plans for the future educational institution of this state.

"The money was contributed to build Deady hall, the first building and it was presented to the board of regents in 1876. School began in September of the same year. At that time only one floor of the building was completed.

"Admission to the university was from the public schools, which were not then graded, and was by passing the teacher's examination and by paying \$20 tuition fees and a \$2.50 janitor fee.

"The first faculty consisted of President J. W. Johnson, languages; Prof. Mark Bailey, mathematics; Prof. Thomas Condon, state geologist; and Mrs. Boileau Shiller, preparatory departments who taught the students the subjects they had neglected in the public schools.

"It was decided by the faculty to hold commencement exercises at the close of the first year. The exercises consisted of recitations, essays and music. The first class was graduated the second year—in June, 1874. It consisted of grown men and not of boys, as today. The graduates were Judge Robert Bean, of Portland; Wallace, Wooley, Clay and Farmer Hill, lawyers and ministers; and Mrs. Nellie Condon McCornick, of San Francisco.

"A few other early students and graduates were Dr. E. P. Geary, of Portland; J. M. Jearcy, a prominent

lawyer of Portland; Cadet Powell, an outline clerk of Multnomah county; Miss Nellie Stevens, present superintendent of St. John's school, Portland; and many others I could mention.

I had the honor of being a charter member of the Young Women's club, known as the Mulvian Society which is still in existence, but no doubt now known as a club—not a society."

Mrs. Brown's father was J. J. Scott of Lane county. His donation land claim (homestead) was a part of what is now the city of Eugene. Mr. Scott was deeply interested in the success of the new educational institution and made the final contribution to the fund that enabled Lane county to furnish the site for the university building, thus making its location certain at Eugene. Globe-Times.

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One of the features at Hill Military academy recently was a patriotic ceremony in which the honored guests were prominent members of the Grand Army of the Republic. The tiniest cadets and the elderly heroes of the Civil war united in the service. These inspiring ceremonies are frequent occurrences at the academy in Portland. Among the juniors were three little lads whose mother passed away a few months ago. The father who lives in California could not leave his business to care for them and so sent them to the Hill Military academy saying, "Keep them through the grades and high school." The private schools of Oregon are carefully caring for many orphans and half orphans who would be most directly injured if the so-called compulsory educational measure should become a law. For that reason many taxpayers are working to defeat that measure. In addition if adopted the bill would cause a great increase in taxes as the private school children, numbering nearly 8,000, would have to be cared for in public institutions and schools.

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