

# GOLDEN JUBILEE OF BASKETBALL at OREGON STATE 1901-1951



OLD GYM

FROM THIS  
IN 1901  
TO THIS  
IN 1951



COLISEUM

WASHINGTON  
vs.  
OREGON STATE

JANUARY 12-13  
1951

*Souvenir Program*  
25¢

# Coliseum Dedication Program

Saturday, January 13th

1 to 4:00 P.M. .... Conducted Tours of the Coliseum

4 to 5:30 P.M. .... Golden Anniversary of Oregon State Basketball  
in Main Auditorium of Coliseum

MUSIC BY OREGON STATE BAND

Official Dedication of Coliseum

A tribute to the makers of OSC basketball history—introduction by Coach  
Slats Gill

Honoring Mrs. James Naismith, Delta Delta Delta housemother and wife of  
the man who originated the game of basketball in 1891

Introduction of the "campus co-ed and campus beau of 1901"

Simulated replay of Oregon State's first home basketball game of 50 years ago  
(Willamette university vs. Oregon Agricultural college) by the department of  
men's physical education

8:00 P.M. .... Intercollegiate Basketball—1951 Coliseum  
Oregon State vs. Washington

## What Would Grandpa Say Now?



Perhaps your memory of the pot-bellied stove and the open cracker barrel are dim, but fabulous changes have occurred since then . . . fabulous changes in the OSC basketball team and . . . fabulous changes in printing.



Like the Beavers, we employ the latest and finest in technique, plant and equipment.

## CASCADE PRINTING COMPANY

1555 Monroe St. . . . Phone 1369  
Corvallis, Oregon



OREGON STATE

vs.

WASHINGTON

January 12-13, 1951

***SPECIAL DEDICATION PROGRAM***

*Commemorating 50 Years*

OF

*Basketball at Oregon State*

IRWIN HARRIS, Editor

JOHN EGGERS, Assistant

# Fifty Years of Basketball

By JAMES C. HEARTWELL

Golden Jubilee! Semicentennial! Call it what you will, but this 1950-51 basketball season completes a half-century of the game at Oregon State College—and what a grand history it is!

While statistics may, in a somewhat cold manner, reveal many championships won by Oregon Agricultural College, as the school was known until 1927-28, and the succeeding Oregon State College quintets, the struggle through the years—both to establish the game as a major attraction and the team as a constant threat to every opponent—is a story that should warm the hearts of O.S.C. basketball fans.

Of the small basketball squad which journeyed to Salem in early February, 1902, to meet Willamette University in the first men's basketball game ever to be played by O.A.C., it is doubtful if any of the Aggies ever dreamed that the sport they were helping to pioneer in the Pacific Northwest would, in less than 50 years, find future teams of their Alma Mater flying in airplanes across our Nation to play to crowds of approximately 18,000 fans at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

Using for their home games the fine Armory, which in turn became the women's gym and the museum building and is now the Playhouse theatre, it is also unlikely that the 1901-02 players dipped into the future and visioned the new gymnasium, eventually erected for the 1914-15 season, and capable of holding over 2400 spec-

tators when every nook and corner—and rafter!—was filled. Nor by the wildest imagination could they have anticipated the necessity of a \$1,800,000 structure like Gill Coliseum which, used during the 1949-50 season, held 10,252 fans at an Oregon State-Oregon game last winter.

## Tremendous Changes Occur

There's no question that a basketball metamorphosis has taken place during the 50 years at O.S.C. For those who watched the game grow through the early years, it is not difficult to note the tremendous change which has occurred. For those, however, who are only acquainted with the game as it has been played during recent years, the difference seems almost incredible.

For a moment, picture the beginning of the game in the 1901-02 season with a physical director supervising a squad that played a brief schedule of less than a half-dozen games. A team performing in the old Armory which, when overflowing in later years, held no more than 1000 spectators. A mere handful of fans watching the first few games. A traveling distance of about 40 miles for games away from home. And a most decided handicap in that the rules of basketball—the game itself was only 10 years of age, Dr. James Naismith having originated it at Springfield (Mass.) Y.M.C.A. College in 1891-92—seemed ever changing while going through constant revision annually in an effort to improve and perfect the game which was increasing in popularity rapidly throughout the world.

To report that the 1901-02 O.A.C. team was



Oregon State Campus as it was in 1901

# At Oregon State College

## OSC's first basketball team



From left, standing: Garrow, "Ham" Bilyeu, Will Scott, and Patterson. Seated: Carl Rinehart, Skeeter Swann, and "Rat" Rinehart.

victorious in its first basketball game would be gratifying, but such was hardly the case. In fact, records fail to reveal a worse defeat than the first one, which Willamette University won, 63 to 11, on a court with no out-of-bounds and a wall at each end. Oddly enough, a week later in a re-

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Pames C. (Jimmie) Heartwell was a member of the Oregon State college basketball squad in the early thirties and a teammate of such OSC cage stalwarts as Ed Lewis. His hobby has been athletic statistics since his high school days. He has been accumulating Oregon State basketball information for years and is writing a book on the History of Basketball at OSC from its beginnings 50 years ago. He has more dope on the history of the sport here than any other person. He is also working on a complete history of basketball for the entire Pacific coast, which he plans to have published as soon as the OSC publication is out of the way. His home is at 341 Carroll Park West, Long Beach 14, Calif. He will welcome any information he can get on Pacific coast basketball. Jimmie returned to his alma mater this week especially for the Coliseum dedication.

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turn game the Oregon Aggies, playing in the Armory with no handicapping wall at either end of the court, displayed a reversal of form which likewise has never been equalled by Orangemen in a half-century, when they came back from a 52 point loss and defeated Willamette U., 14 to 11.

## Line Up Seldom Varies

Credit for that memorable win goes to Captain Marion "Pappy" Stokes and Claude Cate, forwards, center Merrill Moores and guards Karl Steiwer and Ralph Porterfield. With the exception of the late Dr. Harvey E. (Earl "Rat") Rinehart of Wheeler, who replaced Porterfield at guard in 1902-03, and the brilliant 116-pound midget, Claude "Skeeter" Swann, who played forward in 1903-04 and filled Claude Cate's spot the next season, the lineups for the first four years seldom varied from the one which scored that victory over Willamette.

From that first, surprising triumph, O.A.C. and O.S.C. championships, as well as team and individual honors, have been many through the years.

Most easily recollected are Coach Amory T. "Slats" Gill's 1946-47 and 1948-49 Pacific Coast Championship teams. The latter took fourth place in the N.C.A.A. National championship playoffs with All-American Cliff Crandall, ably assisted by Alex Petersen, sparking the Beavers. The 1946-47 Orangemen were the best of all Gill's champions even though they were nosed out in the N.C.A.A. Western playoffs. Tall "Red" Rocha and fast Lew Beck, two All-Americans, teamed with Crandall, Petersen and the speedy, clever Morrie Silver to give O.S.C. its greatest scoring machine. Between these two championships, the 1947-48 five, also led by Crandall and Petersen, surprised and tied for Northern Division honors.

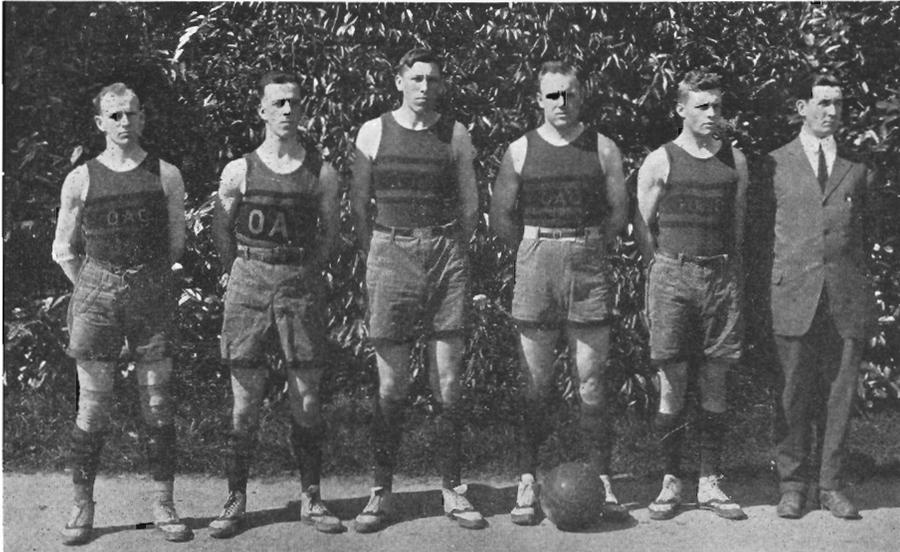
## 1906 Team Was Powerhouse

When grandfather was a youngster, O.A.C. produced strong teams during a non-conference era previous to the Pacific Northwest conference organization. Undefeated in 11 games, the 1906 team was composed of several of the school's greatest performers. "Skeet" Swann who later with Grover "Lengthy" Cate, '12, and Harry Cooper, '13, led the Los Angeles Athletic Club Blues to the National A.A.U. Championship in 1918-19, together with brilliant teammates Captain Nollie Reed, Walter "Shorty" Foster, Henry Rooper and Hamon Bilyeu, gave O.A.C. its first perfect season. One of the great Oregon Aggie teams, the 1906 quintet returned for 1907 intact, plus center Walter "Shorty" Foster. Foster teamed with the other four stars and sharp shooting Nollie Reed was captain. Cate and Cliff Benson completed the traveling squad. The season's record was 19 wins—including the first 18, which extended the previous year's winning streak to 28—and one defeat.

(Continued on page 21)

# Some Early Champions

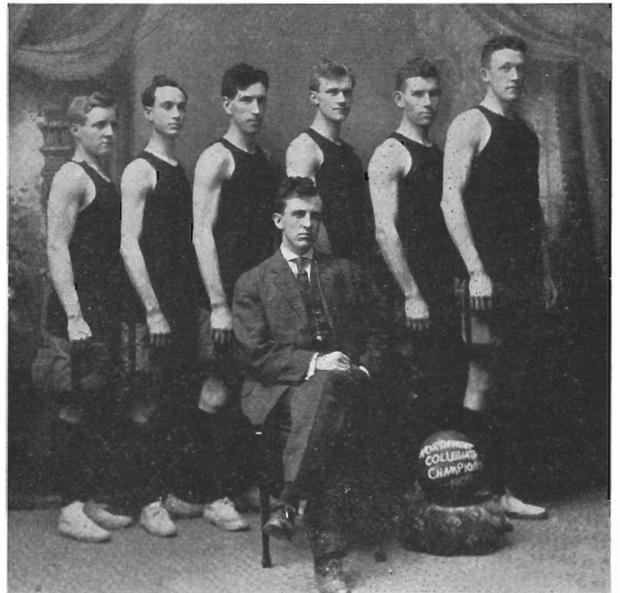
1916 PCC champions



From left, "Ad" Dewey, "Ade" Sieberts, Ira Mix, Everett May, "Billy" King and Coach E. J. Stewart.

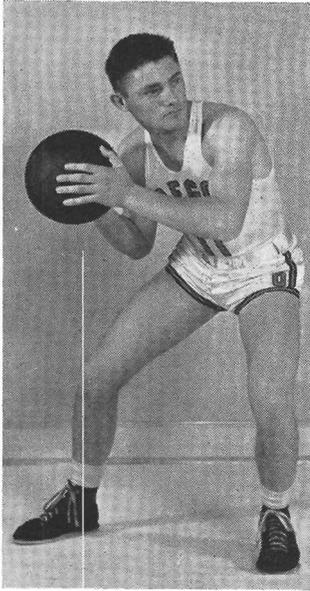


Ade Sieberts  
Captain 1916  
All-Coast forward two consecutive  
years.

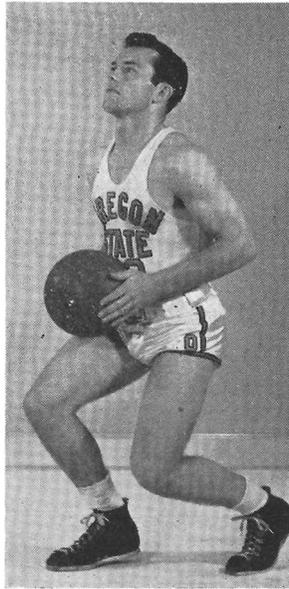


1909 NORTHWEST COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONS  
From left: Mervin Horton, Ted Reed, F. L. Spires, Harry  
Moore, Hal Pugh and R. Hamilton. Coach E. D. Angell is  
seated.

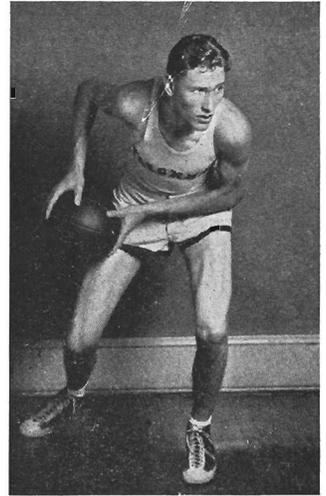
# Slats Gill's All-Americans



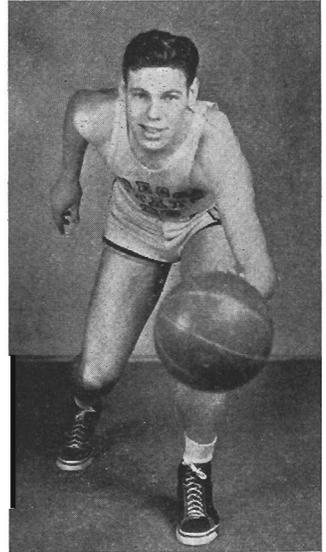
Lew Beck, '47



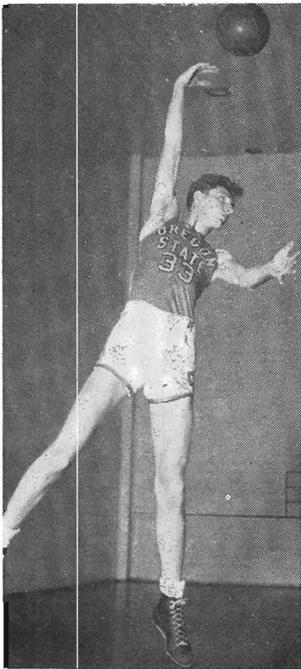
Don Durdan, '43



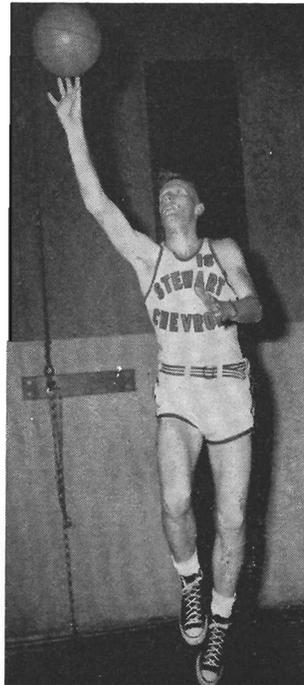
Ed Lewis, '33



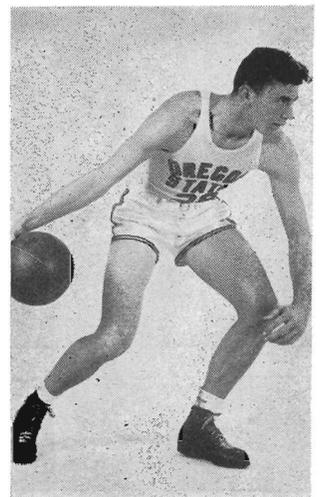
Wally Palmberg, '36



Red Rocha, '47



Cliff Crandall '49



John Mandic, '42

# Coliseum is a Dream That Came True

By IRWIN HARRIS

What had been a dream for years became a reality one stormy night in December 1949 when the first basketball game was played in the beautiful new Oregon State coliseum between the Beavers and Utah university.

The last step in making the popular sport big-time on the Corvallis campus had been achieved. Ever since 1933 when Coach Slat's Gill led the Beavers to their first Pacific Coast conference championship, the need for an adequate basketball pavilion had steadily grown until it reached a point where something had to be done.

The antiquated men's gym was erected back in 1915 when basketball was just beginning to climb above the stage of an intramural sport as far as spectator interest was concerned. Its 2600 seats then were ample to handle the fans. But as interest mounted in the sport and the Beavers became a top hoop power in PCC circles, the old gym became more and more inadequate.

## Situation Becomes Impossible

Right after the last war the situation reached the impossible state. Students had to take turns going on alternate nights and no tickets were sold to the general public. Thousands of avid fans and Oregon State supporters throughout the state

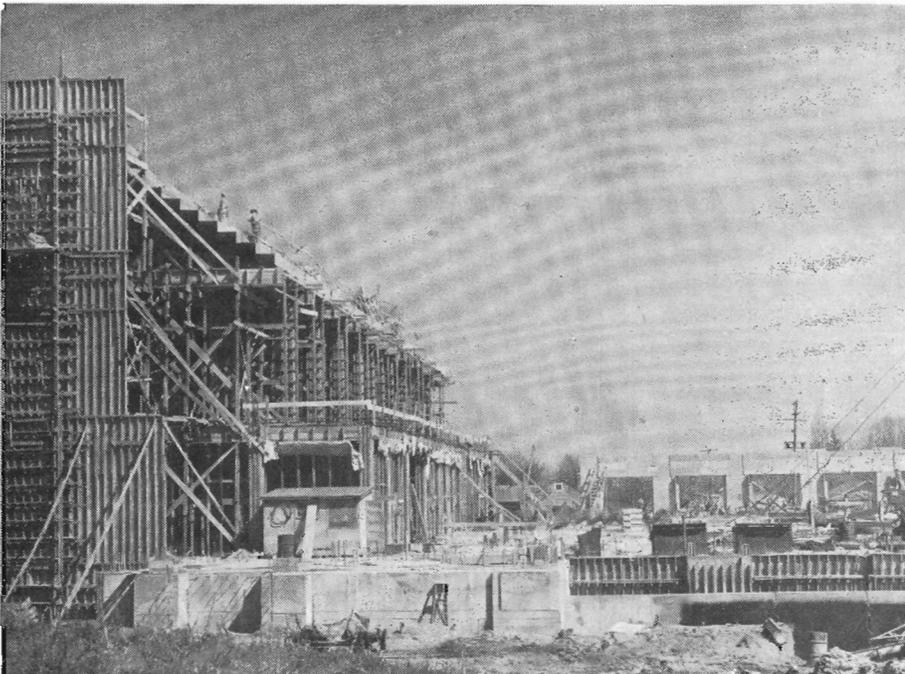
were denied the privilege of seeing two of Gill's greatest ball clubs—the 1947 and 1949 teams—in action.

In 1941, the legislature passed an act (Chapter 285) which gave the State Board of Higher Education authority to issue \$250,000 in revenue bonds for the purpose of erecting an "auditorium building" on the Oregon State college campus. The principal and interest was to be paid "from revenues of athletic contests and other events and activities." This proposed building was commonly referred to on the campus at that time as "The Pavilion." The architectural firm of Jones and Marsh, Portland, was engaged to draw up plans and specifications.

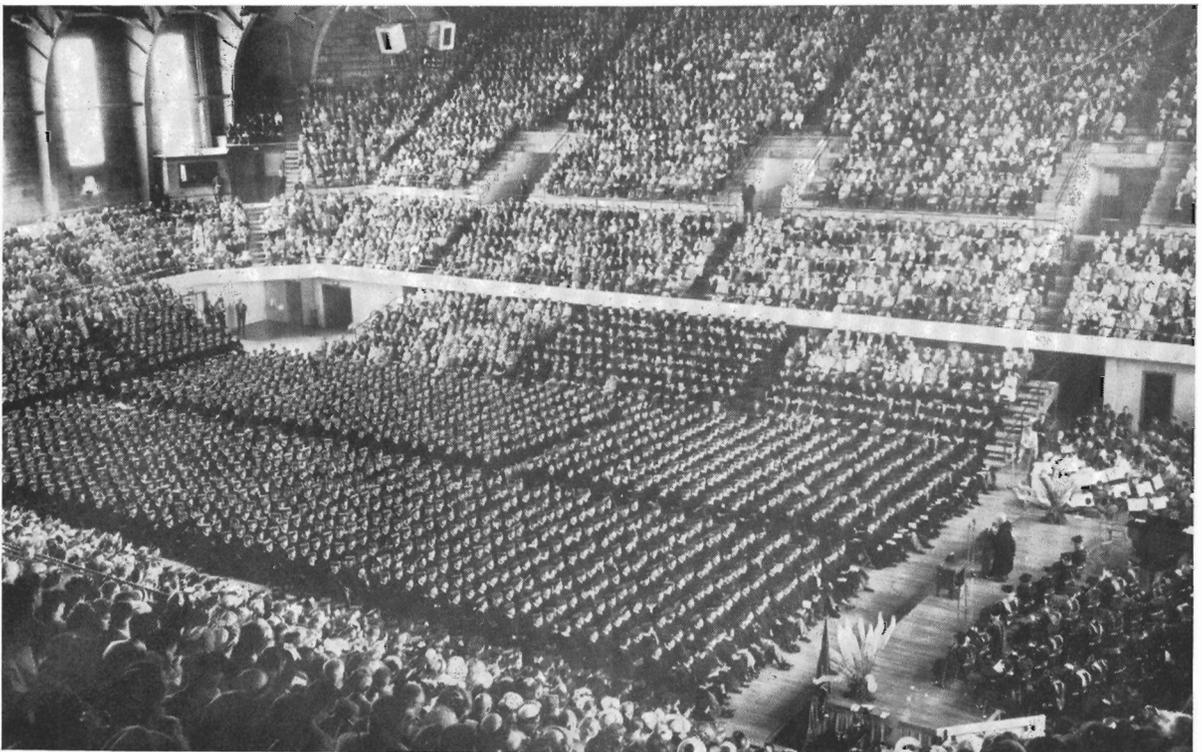
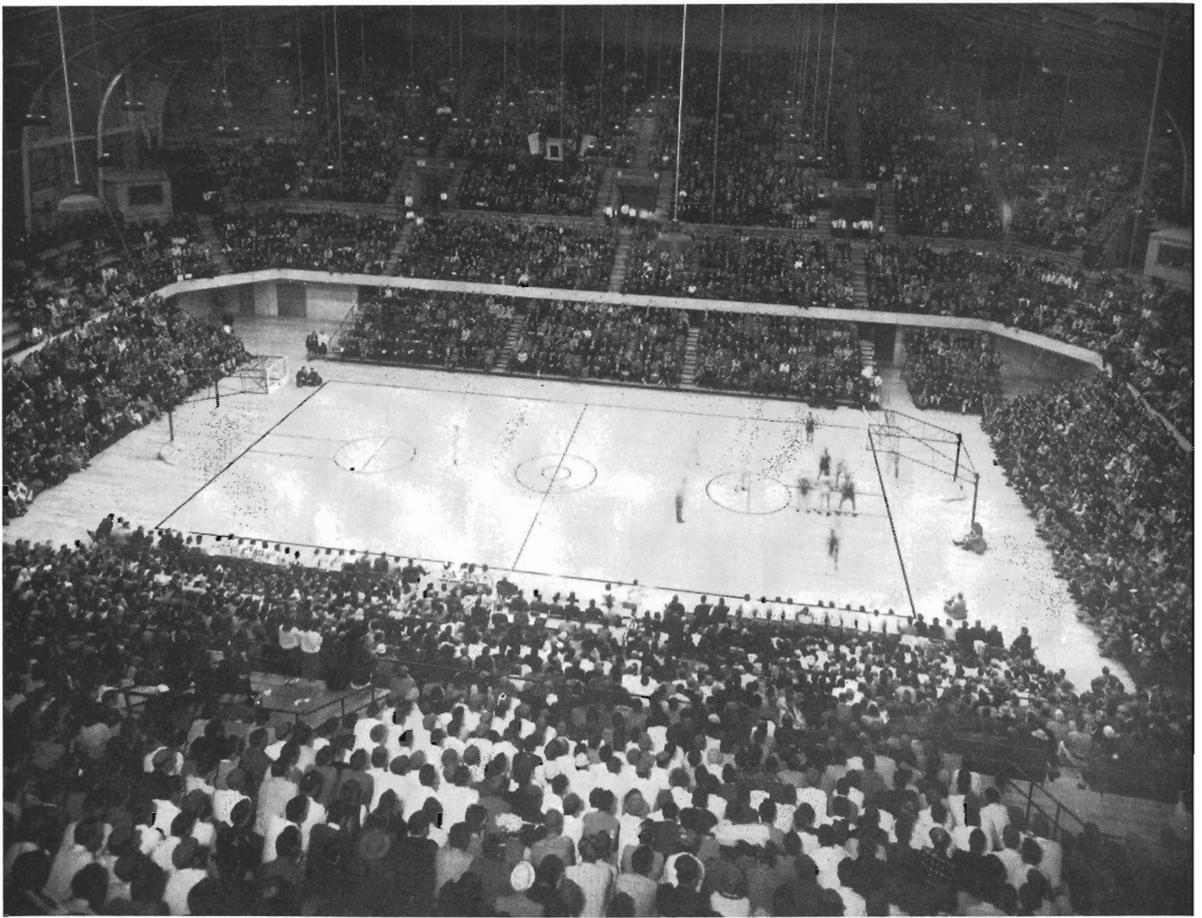
The first planned seating capacity was for 7500, and it remained questionable as to the site. After the war, when more definite plans were being construed for "The Pavilion," two decisions had great effect on the whole concept:

1. The State Board of Higher Education declared it a policy that the state should finance classroom and laboratory buildings, libraries, etc., and that the Student Building fee should be used

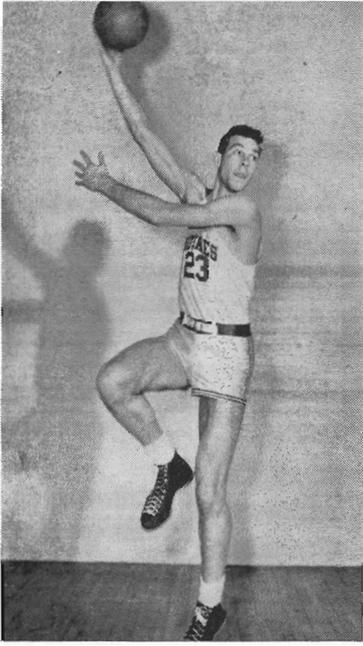
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Coliseum under construction



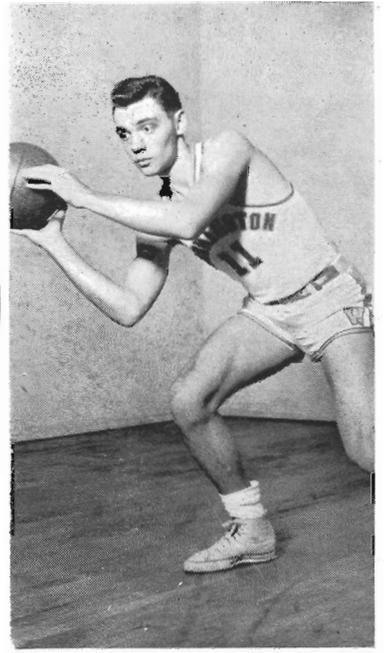
(Top) A capacity crowd of 10,251 fans were on hand for the second Oregon game in February, 1950.  
(Bottom) The Coliseum was packed with better than 10,000 persons for the first commencement to be held in the mammoth new structure in June of 1950.



DOUG McCLARY



WILLIAM H. H. "TIPPY" DYE  
Washington Head Basketball Coach

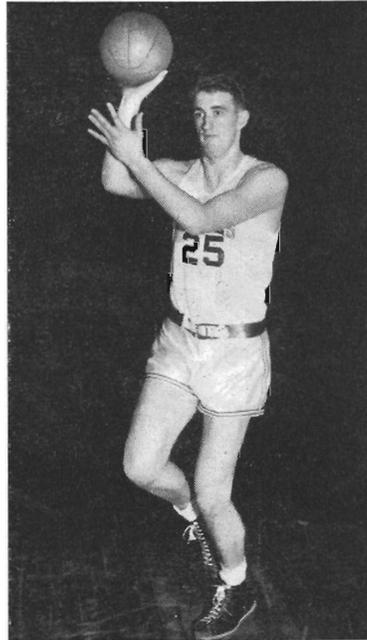


FRANK GUISSNESS

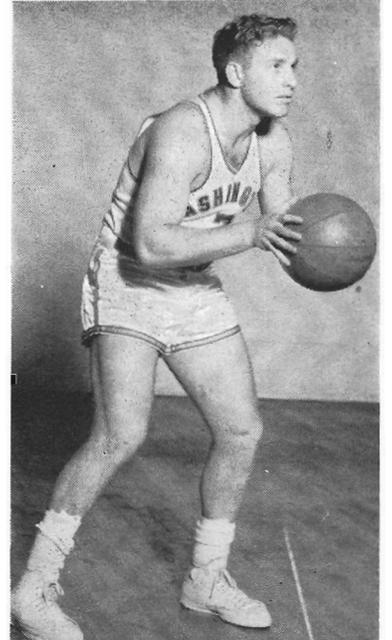
# Washington Huskies



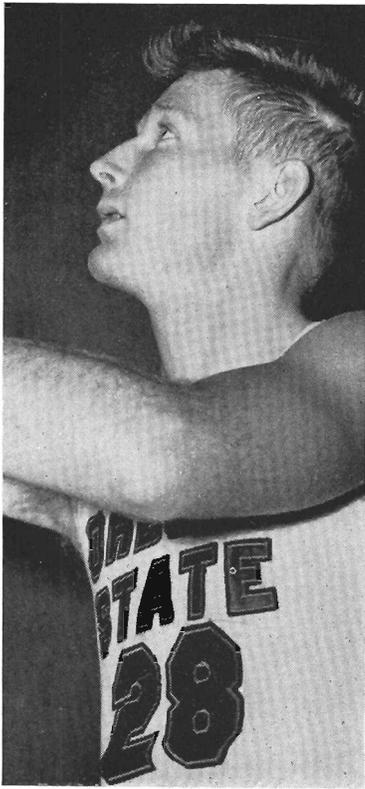
LADON HENSON



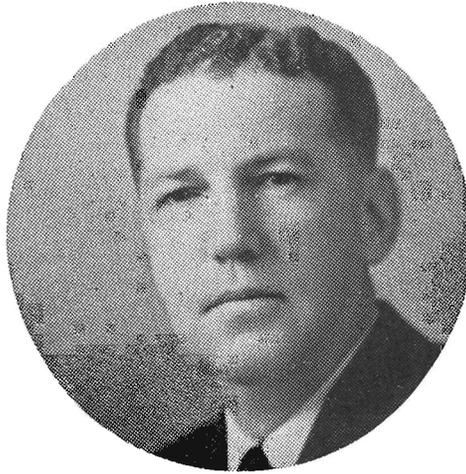
BOB HOUBREGS



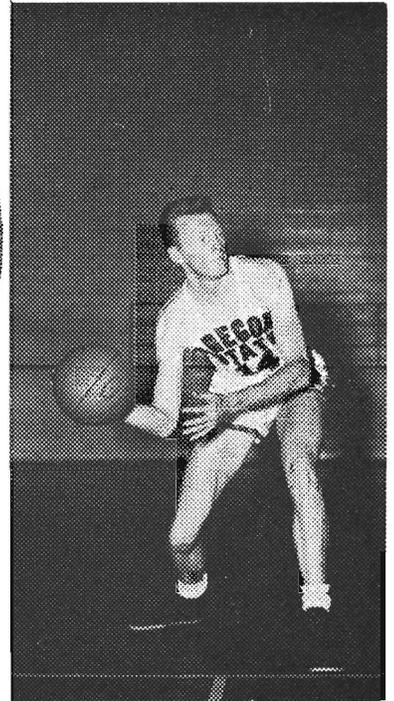
LOUIE SORIANO



DAN JOHNSTON

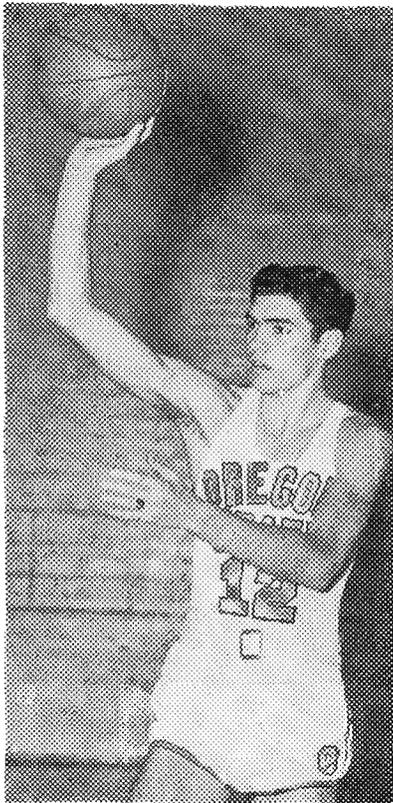


A. T. "SLATS" GILL, Coach

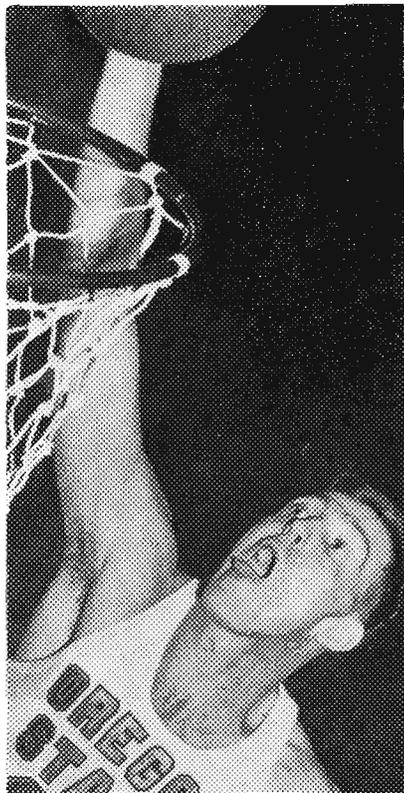


BOB PAYNE

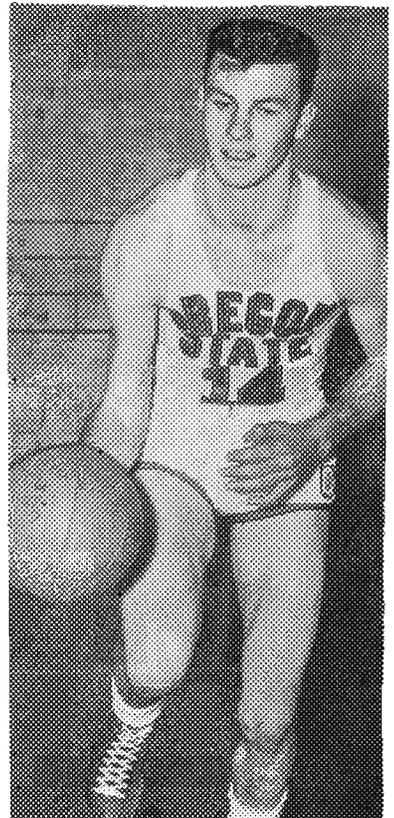
*Oregon State*  
*Beavers*



JACK ORR



BOB EDWARDS



GLEN KINNEY

# Oregon State College Boast

One of the best-balanced athletic staffs in the nation not only establishes a winning complex at Oregon State but adds prestige to the institution and proves a fine drawing card for future varsity athletes.

Roy S. "Spec" Keene, the athletic director, is one of the better-known sports figures on the Pacific Coast. As head man in the department, it is his duty to select a staff, arrange all athletic schedules and represent the school at Pacific Coast conference meetings. Keene came to OSC in 1946, after many successful years at Willamette university in Salem.

Keene's right hand man— and a good one— is Loris Baker. The assistant athletic director, like his boss, is an ex-Oregon State athletic star and also played baseball in the Pacific coast and International leagues. Baker is in charge of all ticket sales, arranges transportation for the various teams and lends a helping hand with all financial problems.

Recently handed a new five-year contract was the OSC football staff, consisting of Kip Taylor, head coach; Leonard Younce, line coach; Bump Elliott, backfield coach; and Pete Elliott, end coach. Taylor and the Elliots are Michigan graduates, while Younce was an all-American lineman as a Beaver in 1940 and four times was named to the all-professional team while with the New York Giants. Bump was most valuable player in the Big Nine in 1947 and Pete earned more varsity awards than any athlete in Michigan history. Both were all-Americans.

## Taylor Excels at Organizing

Taylor, a wonderful organizer, also excels at the speaking table and is swamped with requests at the end of each season. In his first year at the helm in 1949, the Beavers lost their first three games, then won seven in a row. That includes the now-famous 25-20 upset victory over nationally-ranked Michigan State in Portland.

Hal Moe, the freshman football coach, is another former Orange great who made good in the coaching circuit. He came to OSC from the University of Portland, where he was head coach and athletic director. Moe's 1950 Rook outfit was one of the strongest ever turned out at OSC.

Even the most remote sports fan can tell you who coaches basketball at Oregon State. In fact, Slats Gill IS Oregon State basketball. Now in his 23rd year as head man, Gill can look back



"Spec" Keene, athletic director

upon one successful season after another. Seven northern division titles, three Pacific Coast conference championships and a fourth place national finish came to OSC since Gill took over. It's no wonder sports writers refer to the new hoop pavilion as "Gill Coliseum."

Paul Valenti, Gill's assistant who also handles the freshmen, has been on the staff since 1946 and is regarded as one of the real comers in the coaching profession. A fine player in his college days at OSC, Valenti has gained invaluable experience under Gill.

Ralph Coleman, the varsity baseball coach, always manages to keep Oregon State a title-contender in the northern division diamond chase. "Coley" has been around since 1924 and is credited with developing some 15 Beaver stars that entered professional baseball. Coleman himself played with Portland and Oakland of the PCL.

## Swan Track Coach Since 1934

Grant "Doc" Swan has coached track at OSC since 1934. Although seldom blessed with material equivalent to other schools, Swan has gone

# Well-Balanced Athletic Staff

about the task of molding a winner with all the determination that characterized his efforts as an OSC miler years ago. He holds the all-time Beaver mile mark of 4:16.4.

Oregon State is well represented in all sports. Jim Wilkinson is the capable wrestling mentor, Irwin Harris always fields a strong tennis team, Reg Flood does a good job with the swimmers, Howard Raabe guides the ski enthusiasts and Baker keeps Oregon State strong in golf.

Harris, the athletic news director for seven years, is second only to Don Liebendoerfer of Stanford in years of publicity service on the coast. It is his difficult job to publicize all OSC athletic teams through news releases and daily stories. Harris is an experienced newsman, hav-

ing been news editor of the Salem Statesman before coming to OSC.

Another former Oregon Stater is Johnny Eggers, the assistant athletic news director. Eggers, newest member of the staff, finished at OSC in 1949 and worked for a year as sports writer on the Portland Oregonian under L. H. Gregory and Don McLeod. He assists Harris with all phases of publicity work.

Oregon State's athletic program received a decided boost this school year with the establishment of a regular physical education school on the campus. Previously, future coaches had been forced to minor in P. E. Capable head of the physical education department is Dr. Clair V. Langton.



OSC ATHLETIC STAFF: First row, from left: Irwin Harris, athletic news director; Hal Moe, freshman football coach; Second row: R. S. Keene, athletic director; Reg Flood, swimming coach; Jim Wilkinson, wrestling coach; Third row: Loris Baker, assistant athletic director; Pete Elliott, end coach; Fourth row: Ralph Coleman, baseball coach; Slat Gill, basketball coach; Kip Taylor, football coach; Bill Robertson, trainer; Howard Raabe, ski coach; Fifth row: Bump Elliott, backfield coach; Grant Swan, track coach; Paul Valenti, assistant basketball coach; Len Younce, line coach. Johnny Eggers, assistant athletic news director, was in Los Angeles when picture was taken.

# ROSTERS

## Oregon State

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class	Home Town
11	Jack Orr *	G	6-3	168	Junior	Grants Pass
12	Paul Sliper *	F-C	6-6	195	Senior	Portland
14	Glen Kinney **	F-C	6-4	180	Senior	St. Helen's
15	Don White	G	6-0	160	Soph.	Portland
17	Bill Harper **	G	5-10	170	Senior	Oakdale, Calif.
18	Bob Payne *	F	6-3	176	Senior	San Francisco, Calif.
20	George Allison	G	6-0	162	Soph.	McMinnville
21	Dan Torrey ***	G	6-1	185	Senior	Lebanon
22	Bob Edwards	F-C	6-6	188	Soph.	Corvallis
23	Jim Nau *	F-C	6-5	190	Junior	Santa Ana, Calif.
24	Jim Padgett *	F-C	6-4	202	Junior	Redding, Calif.
27	Pete Goodbrod	G	5-9	154	Junior	Molalla
28	Danny Johnston	G	5-11	178	Soph.	Whittier, Calif.
33	Bill Kahn	C	6-10	195	Junior	San Francisco, Calif.
37	Jim Sugrue	F	6-4	196	Soph.	Alameda, Calif.

\* Denotes varsity letters won



## Washington

10	Louie Soriano **	G	5-10	175	Senior	Bremerton
11	Frank Guisness *	F	6-3	185	Junior	Vancouver
12	Duane Enochs *	F	6-5	195	Junior	Portland, Oregon
13	Keith Jefferson **	G	6-0	158	Senior	Bremerton
14	Lec Wade	C	6-6	200	Junior	Modesto, Calif.
15	Jack Ward*	F	6-4	195	Senior	Seattle
20	LaDon Henson (Capt.) ***	G	6-4	185	Senior	Mt. Vernon
21	Don Stewart *	F	6-4	190	Senior	Longview
22	Mike McCutchen	G	6-1	190	Soph.	Seattle
23	Doug McClary	F	6-7	206	Soph.	Olympia
24	Russ Parthemer **	F	6-3	187	Senior	Bremerton
25	Bob Houbregs	C	6-7	200	Soph.	Seattle
30	Joe Cipriano	G	5-11	155	Soph.	Nooksack Valley

\* Denotes varsity letters won



# Slats Gill Compiles Great Record

By JOHNNY EGGERS

Thousands of basketball fans will click through the turnstiles of Oregon State's spacious Coliseum in future years. Many fine athletes will play on a floor considered one of the finest in America. But none can ever appreciate the new building any more than Amory T. "Slats" Gill, head hoop mentor at OSC for 22 seasons and the man who has guided Beaver teams right into national spotlight.

The story of Gill is the story of Oregon State basketball. He saw his favorite sport grow from a recreational project to a world-wide venture. Similarly, he watched Beaver stock boom with each progressing year—despite lack of facilities and player material. Gill, more than anyone else, was the man responsible.

Three Pacific Coast conference championships—two of which came in the last four years—did much to promote Orange prestige. Add seven northern division titles and you'll find Oregon State's headman has one of the finest coaching records in the nation.

Much of Gill's success rests in his art of handling young men. A keen student of the game and a stickler on fundamentals, Slats always brings out the best in his athletes. He believes that building character is every bit as important as winning ball games. Opposing coaches and players will testify Gill's proteges conduct themselves as gentlemen at all times.

## Beavers Fourth in Nation

With few exceptions, every boy who has played varsity basketball for Slats has been a member of at least one championship team. The Beavers won northern division crowns in 1933, 1935, 1940, 1942, 1947, 1948 and 1949 and ruled the western slope in 1933, 1947 and 1949. Gill's 1949 club finished fourth in the nation, directly behind Kentucky, Oklahoma A & M and Illinois. Sparked by all-American Cliff Crandall, the Orangemen won 21 and lost nine that campaign.

Actually, the 1947 team ended up with the best won and lost mark for a season. A well-rounded five consisting of all-Americans Lew Beck and Red Rocha, Morrie Silver, Erland Anderson and Crandall emerged victorious on 28 occasions while losing only five times. The 1947 speedburners, dubbed the "Thrill Kids" by sports writers, smashed every northern division and Pacific Coast conference scoring mark and whipped traditional foe Oregon four consecutive times.

Beck, after graduation from OSC, joined the Phillips Oilers, perennial national AAU king-



Coach Slats Gill

pins. He was floor captain of the Oilers for three years, and played more minutes than any other member of the U. S. Olympic team in London in 1948. Rocha is still with the professional Baltimore Bullets and Crandall with Stewart Chevrolet (AAU).

Other Gill products who gained all-America acclaim were Ed Lewis, in 1933; Wally Palmberg, in 1936; and John Mandic, 1942. Scores of others won all-northern division honors.

## Gill Was Hoop Star Himself

Gill himself, came to Oregon State as a highly-touted prep star from Salem in the fall of 1920. Except for one year away from the campus immediately following his graduation, Slats has been at Oregon State ever since. He was a brilliant player, making the All-Coast five as a sophomore and again as a senior. He set a conference scoring mark in 1924.

His first coaching job was at an Oakland, Calif. high school, where he guided a team to the city championship. In 1926, he returned to his alma mater as freshman basketball coach. After two good years as Rook tutor, Slats was upped to the varsity post in 1928. From that point on, Oregon State basketball began a new era.

Gill's first really great club was developed in 1933, but that was only the beginning. From 1933 through 1950, teams coached by Slats won  
(Continued on page 24)

# OAC Campus at Turn of Century Was Far Cry From Today's Plant

By DON CARLSON

At the turn of the century orchards lined the lane that curved across the College Farm and led up to Administration hall. It had been 12 years since Oregon Agricultural college had moved lock, stock, and textbook "out into the country" west of Corvallis. Where the library now stands, the college water tower creaked in the west wind and the mechanical building with its new annex, of which OAC had been so proud, was already a memory. Gutted by fire in 1898, Mechanical's bricks were piled in the college yard.

Administration hall is now called Benton hall, home of music, physical plant offices, and what-not. But in 1900 that venerable building rode atop College Hill like a castle and dominated the landscape for miles around. The Douglas-firs near its entrance and the Trysting Tree down the hill to its right were saplings. Administration hall, as she was then, pumped the life-blood of daily campus life. Culture seeped up from the library in her basement and, from his office within, President Thomas M. Gatch ruled OAC with all the perogatives of a Victorian dean.

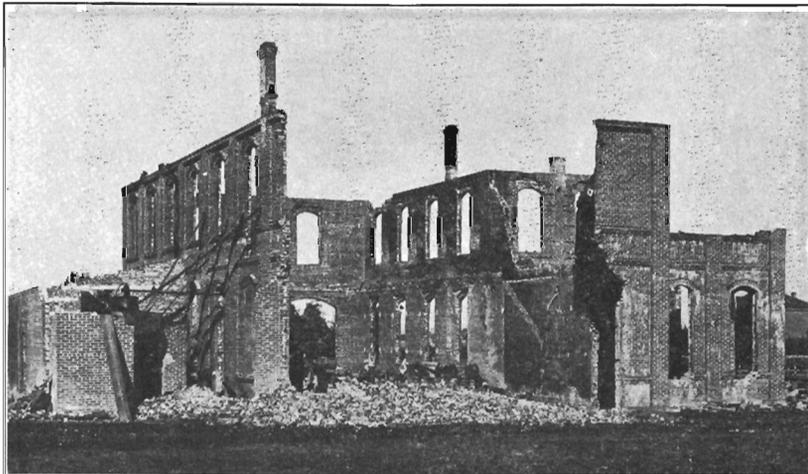
Six rock, timber and frame buildings were scattered out and away from Administration. The stone towers of Apperson hall hovered over the main entrance to the campus on Monroe street. (Those towers are less noticeable today because

the building behind them has been enlarged.) Co-eds occupied Alpha hall, now extinct, and the men lived in Cauthorn, later dubbed Kidder hall. The foundations for Agricultural hall (now named Education) were laid in 1901 and the Gymnasium (alias the "Museum" and last month converted into "The Campus Playhouse") was brand, spanking new.

Campus life by the beginning of the 20th Century was not nearly so strict as it had been, nor as severely regulated as it is sometimes rumored to have been. Men students were allowed to speak to women students, they shared the same study halls, and dancing and parties had their place. Chapel was still a daily event, however, and a minor risked expulsion if he entered a Corvallis saloon.

There were 436 students attending OAC in 1900. Most of them came from Willamette valley farms and many of them were taking the pre-college courses the institution was forced to offer, because there were only four high schools in all of Oregon at that time. Students who came up the valley from Portland traveled by Willamette river steamer and the river was the most traveled highway in the state.

(Continued on page 18)



Ruins of old Mechanical building destroyed by fire in 1897.

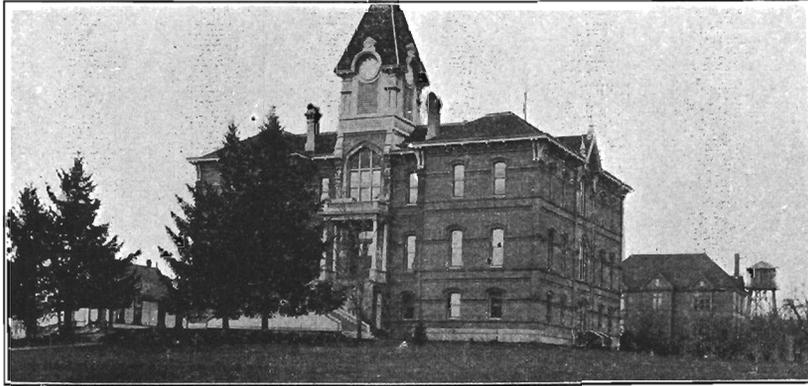
## OAC Campus at Turn of Century

(Continued from page 17)

Fifty years ago, the college hired its first "Physical Director" to take care of physical education and intercollegiate athletics. Shortly after that appointment President Gatch summoned other college executives in the valley to cooperate in adopting rules of athletic eligibility "similar to those in force at Harvard in order to free our intercollegiate athletics from professionalism and other objectionable features." Up to that time

many a "college" athlete had never set foot on the campus of his Alma Mater except on Saturday afternoons.

Thomas Gatch saw higher education in the west from a lofty seat. He came to OAC from the presidency at the University of Washington and to that struggling young institution he had come from 15 years in the executive chair at Willamette. Looking into Oregon Agricultural college he said, "Our college should be made the great industrial school of the Pacific coast." A half century afterward the college could claim to be more, but it had also been made what President Gatch said it should.



Administration Building as it looked at the turn of the century.

## *The Whiteside Theater*

Warmly congratulates Oregon State College on the dedication of its beautiful new basketball coliseum and on its golden jubilee of the sport. We also wish to congratulate Coach Slats Gill on his great record at OSC.



The Whiteside Theater has been providing entertainment for Oregon State students and supporting college athletics since 1922.

# Coliseum Is A Dream That Came True

(Continued from page 8)

to finance buildings primarily for student activities.

2. That the seating capacity of "The Pavilion" should be increased to a minimum of 10,000.

## Planning Goes Ahead

Meanwhile, progress had been made in overall planning. Intercollegiate athletics had been relocated south of the railroad and west of 20th street. Funds had been obtained from the legislature to acquire the area. The enlarged concept fitted perfectly into the new plan and the present site was chosen.

Final plans and specifications were approved March 8, 1948. Bids were opened April 23, 1948. Bonds totalling \$2,110,000 were sold, \$1,842,000 for "The Pavilion" and \$268,000 to cover the refunding of old bonds on the chemistry building against which the student building fee had been pledged.

The project actually got under way in June of 1948 when excavation for the huge building was started. Two unusually severe winters put the

building considerably behind schedule, but the coliseum was completed enough for the first regularly scheduled basketball game in December of 1949. It wasn't until well past the end of the hoop season, however, that the building was completely finished and offices weren't actually occupied until the summer of 1950.

## Coliseum Boasts Many Firsts

And now a look at what the imposing structure includes. There are enough firsts in it as an OSC campus building to make a lengthy list. The Coliseum, which covers one and one-third acres, is the second largest suspended arch structure of its type in the United States. The peak part of the ceiling is 83 feet above the floor, equivalent of a four-story building.

Framework of the structure consists of 12 fabricated steel arches. In all, there are 1000 tons of structural steel in the building, but there is not one steel post or girder to obstruct vision in the main basketball auditorium and 85 percent of the 10,250 seats are on the sides.

Some 14,000 cubic yards of concrete, which amounts to 70,000 sacks of cement, have gone into the huge structure. In addition, more than 100,000 pumice blocks have been used inside for partitions and finishing work. The main playing

(Continued on page 20)

*We Salute the Men Who Brought Fame  
to Oregon State in Fifty Years  
of Basketball*



**J. C. Watts Construction Company**

General Contractors for the Coliseum

# Coliseum Is A Dream That Came True

(Continued from page 19)

floor, consisting of the finest grade maple obtainable, is large enough to put three full-size basketball courts if they run widthwise.

## Acoustics Are Astounding

Roof of the building is insulated with \$41,000 worth of acoustical tile. The acoustics in the main auditorium are astounding—one can hear a person talking in a normal voice on the main floor from the top row of seats in the balcony. Illumination also is outstanding. Over the main floor are 48 1500-watt lamps. Each light can be individually controlled as to height from the floor.

The air conditioning system keeps the temperature at 65 degrees. Six large, thermostatically controlled heating units displace 120,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The heat control system also will blow in fresh, cold air in the second half of its dual function.

Suspended over the center of the main playing floor is a public address system consisting of four

directional speakers located in a central gondola. It is possible to use any one of the four speakers by itself or in any combination with the others.

## Portable Stage Proves Useful

For concerts, convocations and other such affairs there is a sectional, portable stage with a maximum size of 45 by 25 feet. Any size of stage up to the maximum can be quickly assembled as each small section is on wheels.

On the north and south sides of the building are corridors of offices and concession stands on both the main floor and balcony levels.

Nearly half the full basement is taken up with spacious dressing rooms for all varsity and freshman teams, equipment rooms, a completely equipped modern training room and numerous tiled shower rooms. At one end of the basement the college museum has been located. Exhibits relating to the history of the college and state are attractively displayed. Numerous rooms in the coliseum are still unoccupied, but soon will be put to effective use by the athletic department.

Yes, the Oregon State Coliseum is definitely a dream that wonderfully became true. It gives Oregon State the finest basketball plant west of the Rockies.

## Do You Remember When? The Beavers Played Their First Basketball Game



The basketball team from OAC was defeated by the young men of Willamette University, at Salem, last Friday evening, by a score of 63 to 11. The one-sidedness of the score is incomprehensible in the light of the score of the game between the OAC and Monmouth teams, played Saturday evening. Monmouth had previously defeated Salem, yet she won from OAC by a score of 11 to 10 in a most sensational game.

Reported In The February 6, 1902 Gazette  
And regularly down through the years. Full and complete  
news coverage of OSC's great athletic teams.

Gazette  Times

# Fifty Years of Basketball at OSC

(Continued from page 5)

Other championships followed, but for years none equalled the splended 1906 team, which was more experienced and even better in 1907. The first Pacific Northwest Conference title was won in 1908-09. Forward Merv Horton and Capt. Harry Moore, guard (along with C. S. "Hec" Edmundson of Idaho, who later coached the University of Washington varsity fives for 27 years, 1921-47), were All-Conference selections. O.A.C. copped another gonfalon in 1911-12, with the late Capt. Harry Cooper and Bert Burdick serving their third of four years on the varsity, center Grover Cate, back from the '06 and '07 champs, and Everett May and Claude Mattson at guards.

The Pacific Coast Conference came into existence during the 1915-16 season with O.A.C. and California knotted for the pennant, as plans for a playoff in Corvallis fell through. Capt. Ade Sieberts, forward, and Ira Mix, center-guard, were All-Coast and All-Northwest selections ably aided by Hod Ray, Miles Johns and Henry Blagg. In 1917-18, another title came to O.A.C., when

15 straight games were won in the only undefeated season, other than 1905-06. Coach and Capt. Hod Ray, Clarence Krueger, Butts Rearden were All-Coast, Northern Division, selections. Capt.-elect Lee Bissett and two who shared the center position, Wayne Gurley and Bobby Robinson, received high honors on this remarkable World War I team.

## 1924 Team Wins Title

About the time when father was a boy and Capt. Slats Gill was finishing his playing career, which was highly instrumental in pulling O.A.C. out of a three-year basketball slump, a Northwest title was won under Coach Bob Hager in 1923-24. An All-American, Slats, had star teammates in Carlos Steele, Red Ridings, Pete Stoddard, Elwood (Mose No. 1) Lyman and George Brown. In 1924-25, Hager's Orangemen were Northern Division champions and led by Capt. Carlos Steele, another All-American, who teamed with Ridings, Stoddard, Brown, Loris Baker, Fred Diwoky and Ray Graap.

The first championship won by Gill as a coach was in 1932-33, with his first All-American, Capt. Ed Lewis, leading George Hibbard, Skeet O'Connell, Carl Lenchitsky, and Red MacDonald to a Pacific Coast title. With 173 points, 6' 5½" Lewis broke the N.D. scoring record, only to lose it to

(Continued on page 22)

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# Fifty Years of Basketball at OSC

(Continued from page 21)

another Beaver, Wally Palmberg with 187 in 1935-36. O.S.C.'s 6' 8" Rocha was second with 225 in 1945 and led with 194 in 1946 and 215 in 1947, as Oregon State's only other leader in 20 years.

Slats' next N.D. title was in 1934-35 with Capt. Hibbard and Palmberg teaming with Dick (Mose No. 2) Lyman, Earl Conkling, Bob Bergstrom, Cliff Folen, Fred Hill and mates.

## Slats Gill Produces Winners

The Pre-World War II Northern Division champions were star-studded too. Frank Mandic, Tony Romano, John Mandic, Al Hunter, Paul Valenti and Clayton Shaw played the major roles in 1940, while the 1942 honors went to All-American John Mandic and aces Valenti, Don Durdan, Sam Dement, George McNutt and a speedy little fellow to be heard from after the war, Lew Beck. Then came Gill's trio of winners in 1947, 1948 and 1949.

In most instances, great players were on winning teams, but there have been several excep-

tions. Marshall "Mush" Hjelte, 6' 6" center, not only made All-Coast with Slats in 1922, but he also received All-American recognition. "Lefty" Wally Palmberg was on the 1935 N.D. winner, but he was also an All-American in 1936 when O.S.C. finished second in N.D. play. Examples have been limited here to All-Americans, as several All-Northwest and All-Coast players have had similar experiences.

Two other phases go somewhat together—the coaches—the trips taken and the invading traveling teams. Physical Director "Pat" Patterson supervised the 1901-02 team and continued in 1902-03 until Josh Viggers came to coach in February and March, via two stopovers of a month each at McMinnville college and Dallas college. The latter was one of O.A.C.'s most regarded basketball foes up to 1912. W. O. "Dad" Trine was more of a track coach and trainer than basketball mentor, but he kept the boys in shape with assistance from Zopher Thorp through 1906-07.

## Many Men Serve as Coaches

Trainer Roy Heater was coach in 1907-08, followed by Emmett D. Angell for two years. Clifford "Teddy" Reed was a player-coach in 1910-11, playing forward as well. Dr. E. J. Stewart was Oregon Aggies' basketball coach for a five-year period and then Thomas Everett May, a

## CONGRATULATIONS

## SLATS and OREGON STATE COLLEGE



Les and Bob's has one of the most complete sporting goods and toy stores in the Northwest. It also has gifts to choose from. Truly a store with a thousand items.

great sports enthusiast, football player, basketball player in 1912-13-14-15 and graduate manager in 1916, was graduate manager and coach in 1917. Hod Ray was player-coach in 1918. Bill Hargiss coached for two years, as did Dick Rutherford in 1921 and 1922, previous to the arrival of Coach Hager, who lasted five years. Then came the Gill era and today Slats, serving as top man in his twenty-third straight year, has a rare record of achievement to look back upon.

A thumbnail sketch of the expansion of basketball starts in 1903-04 when the University of Washington, on an invasion of the state of Oregon for the first time, defeated all opponents except O.A.C. which won, 22-19. The next year, O.A.C. gave Oregon City its first defeat on its own Oregon City court, 20-14. The 1905-06 Beavers beat the Red Men from Red Wing, Minnesota, 25 to 15, and the Chicago Meteors, 27 to 20. The first invasion of the Inland Empire found O.A.C. winning all nine games played in 18 days in 1906-07. The Crescents of Chicago broke O.A.C.'s 28 game winning streak the same year, winning 34-28, but losig the next game, 38-32. The 1907-08 season found Swann and Nollie Reed playing for the Alaska Brotherhood team, which toured the country, and on its way beat O.A.C., 26-21. Later that year O.A.C. lost to Muscatine, Iowa, 33-27, but reversed the score

34-28 in the second game. A Los Angeles team was beaten, 28-18, in 1908-09, and a Portage, Wis., team walloped the Orangemen, 44-14, in 1910-11.

#### **Beavers Travel to Bay Area**

With the start of the P.C.C. in 1915-16, trips to the San Francisco Bay area were not uncommon. Then Hager's teams traveled during the holidays in 1922-23 to the same region and Nevada, to Southern California the next four years and then to the Midwest in 1927-28. Gill has traveled much with his teams, including a trip to Hawaii in 1939-40 to play several teams, including the University of Hawaii, coached by Slats' brother, Luke Gill, himself a former O.A.C. basketeer. The Beavers won all seven games on this trip. Air travel of late has been almost an annual event for Oregon Staters with a visit to Buffalo, Madison Square Garden and other cities on the return trip. Such is the way of life and one cannot help but wonder if the game of basketball will see as tremendous a change during the next 50 years, as it has from 1901-02 to date. Regardless of what may take place, if Oregon State teams continue to hold the edge of victories over the University of Oregon, as it does now with a total of 80 wins against 72 losses, the 100 year celebration will certainly be one of exultance.

## ***GROWING TOGETHER . . . .***

### **CORVALLIS -- OREGON STATE COLLEGE**

The Beaver state's fifth largest city is justly proud of Oregon's largest institution of higher education.

We salute basketball's golden jubilee at  
OSC!

## **Corvallis Chamber of Commerce**

# Slats Gill Compiles Great Record

(Continued from page 16)

308 games and lost 196. In a 10-year span, between 1940-1950, the records list 181 victories and 109 defeats. And all this was accomplished against some of the stiffest opposition in the land.

### Adjusts Offense and Defense

Another of his great assets is the ability to adjust an offense or defense to face an opponent. The Beavers are drilled to play either the fast or slow break, depending upon the occasion. They must work hard in practice and obey strict training rules. In the opinion of Gill, any athlete not willing to make those sacrifices does not truly love the game of basketball.

Two appropriate honors were bestowed upon the popular coach last spring. He was chosen to coach the west all-stars against the east in Madison Square Garden. In typical Gill fashion, it was a victorious venture for the west. About the same time, Helms Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles added the name of Slats Gill to

the Helms basketball hall of fame—a select group of 20 outstanding coaches of America. Both selections brought honor to the state of Oregon and to the college.

### Slats Conducts Numerous Clinics

An excellent speaker, Slats is often called upon to conduct clinics. He was in charge of a clinic at Montana in 1948, at Idaho in 1949 and at Minnesota in 1950. Many institutions have sought Gill's coaching services, most recent of which was in 1947. At a smaller financial reward he always elected to stay at OSC.

Gill is married and has two children— John and Jane. Mrs. Gill, naturally, is an ardent basketball fan and a popular citizen in the Corvallis community.

When Slats now conducts practice sessions and sends teams against inter-sectional competition in a Coliseum that seats 10,500 spectators, his mind must focus back to the old Men's gym—a long out-moded hoop layout that could accommodate but 2500.

There were great moments in the old place. Some fine athletes performed there. But anyone familiar with Slats Gill feels confident Oregon State will climb even higher on the ladder of success in the new Coliseum.

The State of Oregon can well be proud of the magnificent architectural and structural achievement exemplified in this new OSC Gill Coliseum. We are pleased to say that the asbestos (flexible stone) built-up roof which we applied on this outstanding structure is as permanent as the building itself.

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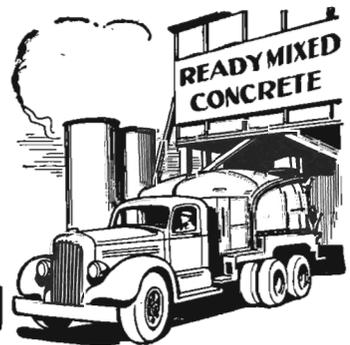
We appreciate the opportunity of furnishing these

**Building Materials**

In Gill Coliseum

**Corvallis**

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**COLISEUM ATTENDANCE FIGURES**



**"HECK" SAYS**

Over fifty years ago we saw our first basketball game. It was played in the O.A.C. Armory and was between the O.A.C. girls and the Chemawa Indian girls. Who won? Frankly, we don't recall, but we do remember that it was a dandy hair pulling match, for tempers flared just as readily 50 years ago as they do today.

Championship teams have been many—great players, legions of them. Our memory recalls the feats of Skeeter Swan, Nollie Reed, Shorty Foster, "Hame" Bilyeu, Croak Cate, Doc Horton and the late Harry Cooper who virtually won the Northwest championship singlehanded.

Then came the years of Ad Dewey, Everett May, and Funny Mattson, followed by the team coached and captained by Hod Ray which never lost a game and boasted such stars as Dutch Krueger, Lee Bissett and Butts Reardon.

Later we have the playing days of Slat Gill with Mush Hjelte, Sunshine Richards, Carlos Steele, and Red Ridings also in leading roles.

Which brings us to the coaching era of Slat Gill, now in his 23rd year as head man for the Beavers. So much has been said and written about his record that it seems trite to call attention to his star teams, but certainly we'll never forget the play of Ed Lewis, Wally Palmberg, Skeet O'Connell, George Hibbard, Al Hunter, and Red McDonald of earlier teams and can we ever forget the night Elmer Kolberg cut the Tall Firs down to pigmy size.

Later teams featured John Mandic, Lew Beck, Don Durdan, Paul Valenti, Red Rocha, Mush Silver, Cliff Crandall and a great red letter night when Tommy Holman took over in a game with Oregon and overcame a five point deficit in the last few seconds.

Yes, Oregon State has a great basketball record with many great players, of which these mentioned are but a few, and in putting out our congratulations, we'd like to extend them to these players whose contributions through their untiring efforts have made this fine edifice—the Gill Coliseum—possible.

**HECKART'S**

137 S. 3rd St. Corvallis, Ore.

**Basketball, 1949-50 Season:**

Utah .....	5,694
Utah .....	5,673
Indiana .....	3,973
Indiana .....	3,394
Minnesota .....	7,368
Stewart Chevrolet .....	4,510
WSC .....	6,137
WSC .....	6,114
Oregon .....	8,030
Oregon .....	10,251
Idaho .....	5,320
Idaho .....	5,460
Washington .....	8,824
Washington .....	6,715
<hr/>	
Total .....	89,462

**Concerts, 1949-50 School Year:**

Vienna Choir Boys .....	6,000
Opera .....	5,000
Four Piano Quartette .....	2,500
Marian Anderson .....	7,000
Mariemma .....	3,000
Isaac Stern .....	4,000
Portland Symphony .....	5,000
<hr/>	
Total .....	32,500
Senior Baccalaureate .....	9,000
Senior Commencement .....	10,000

Complete attendance, 1949-50: 140,962

**Basketball, 1950-51 Season:**

Phillips Oil .....	6,427
Pittsburgh .....	1,633
Pittsburgh .....	2,155
Stewart Chevrolet .....	2,812
Portland U. ....	3,950
<hr/>	
Total .....	16,977

**Concerts, 1950-51 School Year:**

Navy Band .....	7,000
DePaur Inf. Chorus .....	6,000
Guisetti di Stephano .....	5,000
<hr/>	
Total .....	18,000

Complete attendance to date,  
1950-51: 34,977

Total attendance since Coliseum opened: 175,939



At the game . . .

Cheer OSC to Victory

After the game . . .

Where Friends Meet Friends

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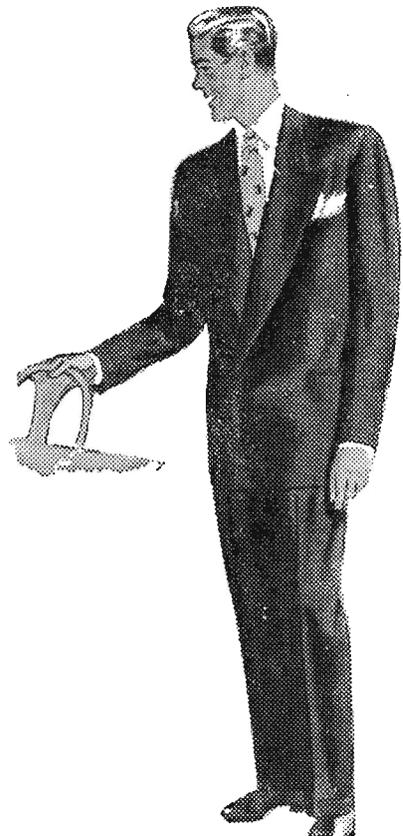
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