

OUTLINE HISTORY OF OREGON STATE COLLEGE



OREGON STATE COLLEGE
Corvallis, Oregon
1950

CHARTER OF OREGON STATE COLLEGE

FEDERAL LAND-GRANT ACT (FIRST MORRILL ACT), JULY 2, 1862

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there be granted to the several States, for the purposes hereinafter mentioned, an amount of public land, to be apportioned to each State . . . And be it further enacted, That all moneys derived from the sale of lands afore said, by the States . . . shall constitute a perpetual fund . . . the interest of which shall be inviolably appropriated by each State . . . to the endowment, support and maintenance of at least one college, where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the Legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life. . . . No State shall be entitled to the benefit of this act unless it shall express its acceptance thereof by its Legislature, within two years from the date of its approval by the President. . . .

IRRECOVABLY ACCEPTED BY OREGON LEGISLATURE, OCTOBER 9, 1862

. . . each and all of the propositions in said act of Congress offered to the State of Oregon are hereby irrevocably adopted, with all the conditions and obligations therein contained. . . .

CORVALLIS COLLEGE (OREGON STATE COLLEGE) DESIGNATED AND ADOPTED AS THE LAND-GRANT INSTITUTION OF OREGON, OCTOBER 27, 1868

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon: That J. F. Miller, J. H. Douthit and Joseph C. Avery are hereby constituted a board of commissioners with power . . . To locate all the lands to which the state is entitled by act of congress for the purpose of establishing an agricultural college . . . That, until other provision can be made, the Corvallis college is hereby designated and adopted as the agricultural college, in which all students sent under the provisions of this title shall be instructed in all the arts, sciences, and other studies, in accordance with the requirements of the act of congress making such donation. . . .

THE OCTOBER 27, 1868 ACTION MADE PERMANENT, OCTOBER 21, 1870

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, That Corvallis College, in Benton County, is hereby designated and permanently adopted as the Agricultural College of the State of Oregon, in which all students sent under the provisions of law shall be instructed in accordance with the requirements of the Act of Congress, approved on the second day of July, 1862, granting public lands to the several States and Territories, which might provide colleges for the benefit of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, and the acts amendatory thereof. . . .

Outline History of Oregon State College 1868-1950

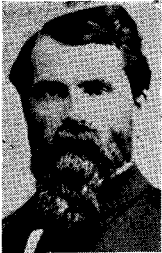
By

DELMER M. GOODE, Director of Publications

Beginnings

- 1851 Oregon territorial legislature "located and established" the territorial university at Marysville (Corvallis).
- 1853 Three commissioners named by the legislature selected as the university site a location where Margaret Snell Hall now stands and assembled brick, lumber, and other materials for erecting a university building.
- 1855 Legislature relocated the university at Jacksonville and ordered sold the materials assembled at Corvallis.
- 1856 Community academy established at Fifth and Madison streets, Corvallis.
- 1858 Corvallis Academy incorporated as Corvallis College.
- 1859 Oregon became a state, February 14, 1859.
- 1862 First Morrill Act, establishing the land-grant colleges, signed by President Lincoln, July 2, 1862.

President Finley



Sarah Latimer Finley, first First Lady of the College, wrote of her husband in 1930: "Dr. Finley's capacity for work was limitless. His whole soul was wrapped up in his work. The cornerstone of Corvallis College was soul with the will to work. No institution can live forever in which has not been kindled somewhere, somehow, the fires of an immortal soul."

- 1865 Rev. William A. Finley, A.M., D.D., first president of Corvallis College, October 1865.
- 1868 New academic calendar, providing for three terms of fourteen weeks each, adopted August 22, 1868. Oregon legislature "designated and adopted" Corvallis College as the "agricultural college of the State of Oregon" and the recipient of the land-grant funds, October 27, 1868. The legislature specified that "all students sent under the provisions of this Act shall be instructed in all the arts, sciences, and other studies in accordance with the requirements of the Act of Congress." The trustees of Corvallis College accepted the responsibility of conducting the institution according to the requirements of the federal law, October 31, 1868.
- 1869 Curriculum in agriculture established. The other curricula of the College included: the Classical Course (A.B. degree) and the Scientific Course (B.S. degree).
- 1870 First class graduated (three B.S. degrees). Professor Joseph Emery elected Librarian. Oregon legislature "permanently adopted" Corvallis College as "the agricultural college of Oregon" October 21, 1870. Experimental farm of thirty-five acres, containing a dwelling house, barn, and orchard, purchased.
- 1871 First A.B. degree.

President Arnold



Under President Arnold the College became wholly a state institution. In his latter years he worked in the new main building on the new (present) Campus. When he died suddenly in January 1892, the regents declared: "His rule was just, kindly, and courteous." In his memory the alumni placed a bronze tablet at the entrance of old Administration (Ben-ton Hall).

- 1872 First instruction in military science and tactics. President Finley resigned, effective at time of Third Annual Commencement, 1872. B. L. Arnold, A.M., second president, August 31, 1872. Professorships: Moral Philosophy and Physics, B. L. Arnold; Mathematics, Joseph Emery; Languages, B. J. Hawthorne.
- 1873 Report of the first agricultural research by the College, an analysis of "white soil" with suggested treatment and an analysis of "marl" from the Yaquina Bay district.
- 1874 First Biennial Report of the College issued by President Arnold, containing reports for each department (physical science, moral science, languages, mathematics, military).
- 1875 Alumni association organized by twenty-six graduates.
- 1876 First A.M. degree.
- 1880 Professorship in commerce established May 24, 1880.
- 1882 First Greek letter fraternity (Alpha Tau Omega) on campus briefly.
- 1883 Edgar Grimm, B.S., '80, first professor of agriculture, September 1883.
- 1885 Surrender of the College to the state and conveyance of the College farm to the "board of regents of the State agricultural college of Oregon" approved by the legislature, February 1885.
- 1887 Federal Hatch Act providing for the establishment of agricultural experiment stations approved March 2, 1887.
- 1888 First bulletin of Agricultural Experiment Station, October 1888.
- 1889 Farmers' Institutes held at Corvallis, Salem, Roseburg, and Hillsboro. Administration Building, the gift of citizens of Benton County, erected on the present campus.
- 1889 Grant Adelbert Covell, M.E., first professor of engineering. Margaret Comstock Snell, M.D., first professor of home economics.
- 1890 Second Morrill Act passed by Congress. Adelphian Library, nucleus of present collections, presented to the College.
- 1892 Death of President Arnold, January 1892. Professor John D. Letcher, C.E., placed in charge of the institution pending appointment of a president.

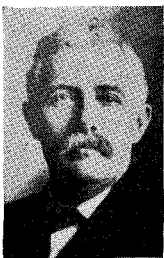
President Bloss



In a period of economic stress he faced unusual difficulties but accomplished much.

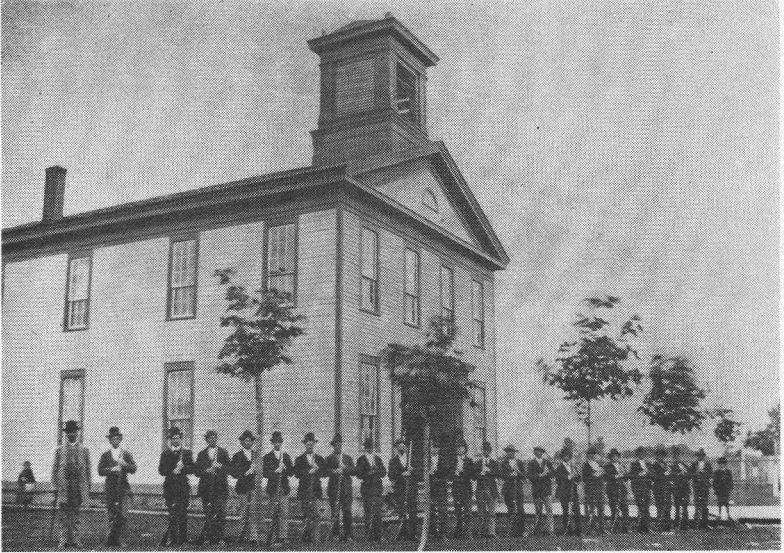
- 1892 John M. Bloss, A.M., M.D., third president, June 1, 1892.
The Station Building (now the Paleontology Laboratory) was under construction.
- 1893 Cauthorn Hall (now Kidder) erected as a men's dormitory.
Legislature appropriated \$26,100 for new buildings.
Enrollment for twenty-fifth year after designation as state college: first year, 123; second year, 31; third year, 18; fourth year, 7; graduate, 5—total, 184.
Teaching and research staff, 16. Books in Library, 1,950.
Degrees granted at the Twenty-fourth Annual Commencement: Bachelor of Science, 2; Bachelor of Literature, 1; Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, 6; Bachelor of Home Economics, 7; Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering, 3—total, 19.
- 1894 Farmers' Short Course, first in the West, January 10 to February 7, 1894.
Experiment station bulletins reached a total of 31, April 1894.
"Hayseed," forerunner of the Beaver, published by senior class.
Board of Regents December 1, 1894, congratulated citizens of Oregon "that the hard times, and consequent straightened circumstances of so many, have not had more effect in keeping worthy and energetic students out of the State Agricultural College." New buildings constructed for agriculture, horticulture, mechanical arts, and photography.
A lieutenant of the United States Army detailed to the College to give instruction in military science and tactics.

President Miller

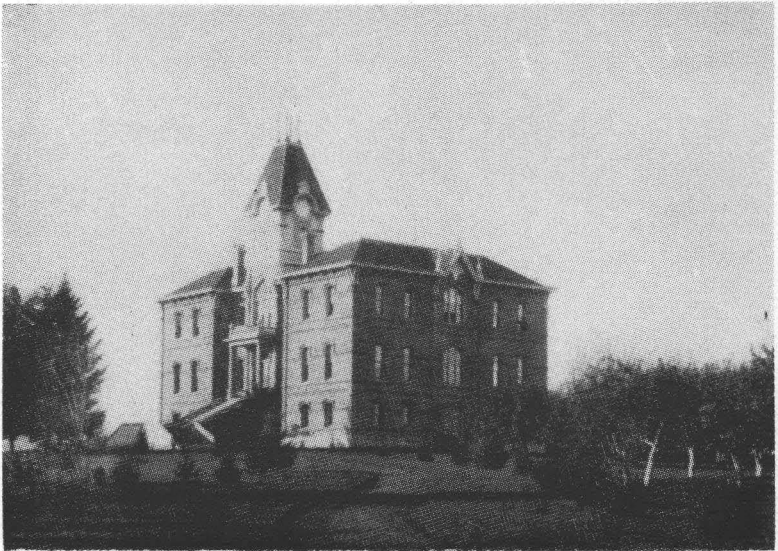


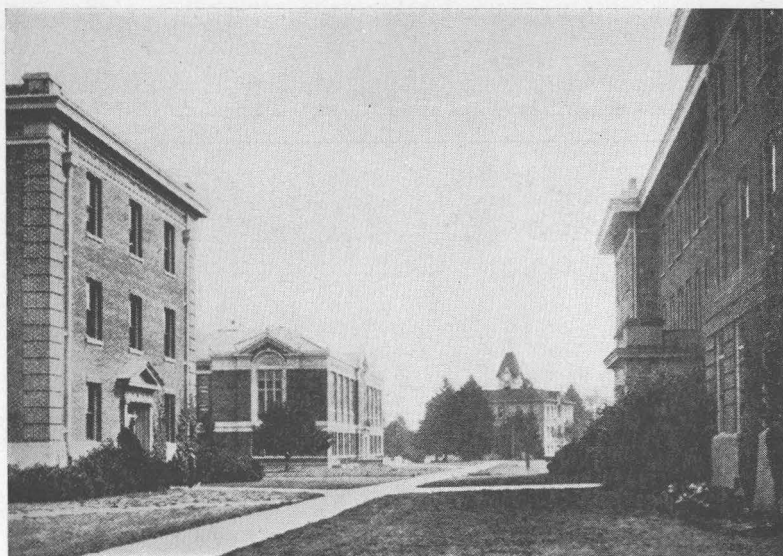
President Miller stepped from the governing board to serve one year as President.

- 1896 H. B. Miller, fourth president, July 28, 1896.
Professor Frederick Berchtold, A.M., at the College since 1884, named Dean of the College.
Farmers' institutes, forerunners of extension service, extended, with field demonstrations in farm operations such as orchard practices.
Short courses for farmers on campus.
Agricultural research strengthened. By the close of 1897 bulletins issued by Agricultural Experiment Station totaled 48.
At the 1897 Commencement, degrees were conferred as follows: Bachelor of Home Economics, 2; Bachelor of Literature, 2; Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering, 8; Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, 4.



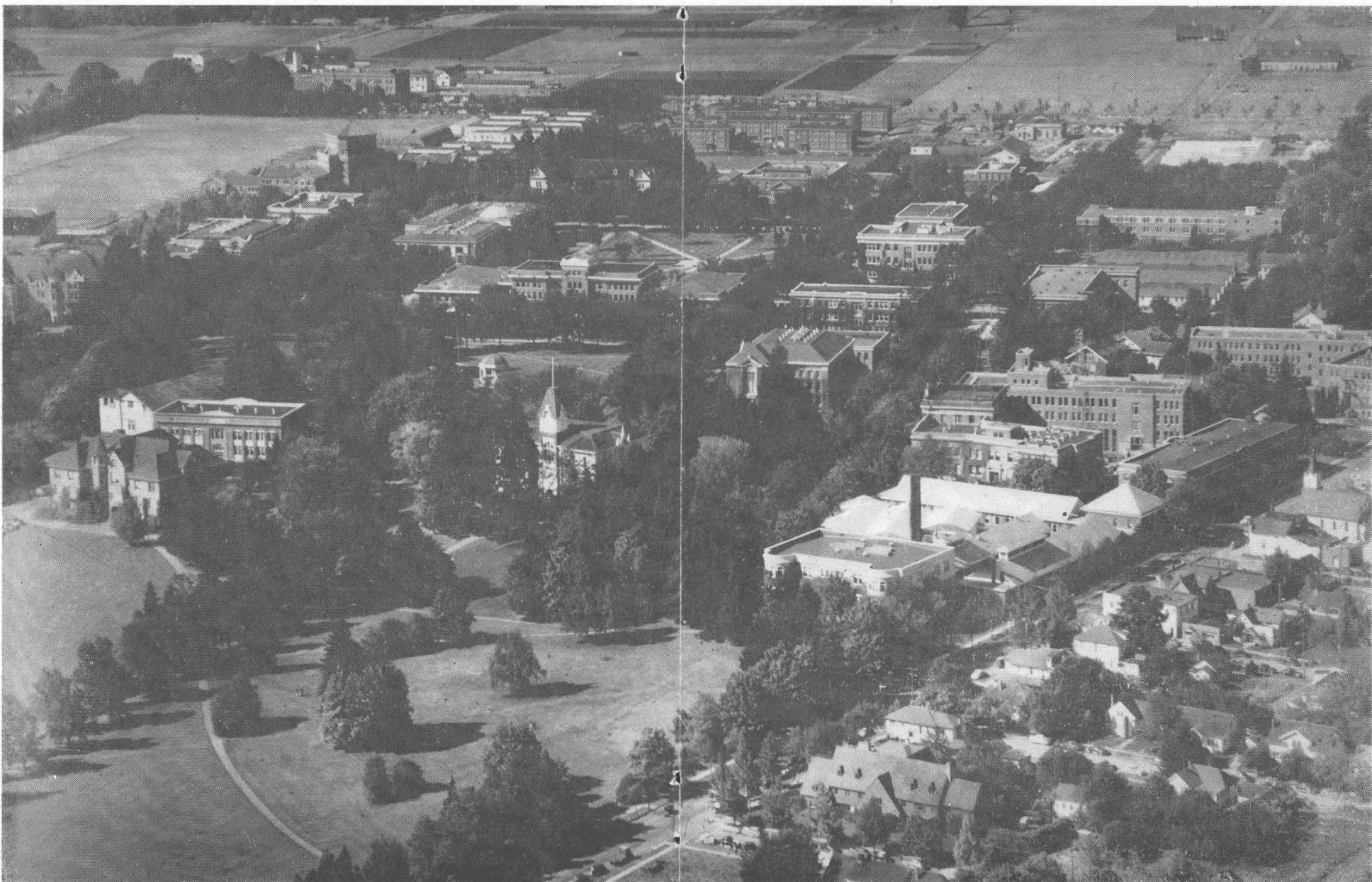
Above, the original Corvallis College at Fifth and Madison Streets, 1868. *Below*, the present campus in 1893. Benton Hall on the present campus (old administration building) was built in 1889 with funds contributed by citizens of Benton County. Development of the Oregon State College campus through the years has followed the plans of two eminent landscape architects (John C. Olmsted 1908, A. D. Taylor 1925 and 1945).





By the time of World War I the East Quadrangle was the heart of the campus. *Above*, the Library (built 1918) is shown between Dairy and Benton with Agriculture Hall at extreme right. Ten years later the campus center was moving westward. *Below*, a view (looking north) of the West Quadrangle, with the Memorial Union (built 1928) at left, a glimpse of Margaret Snell Hall (1921) and Home Economics (1914 and 1920).





"Within a vale of western mountains."

The campus today, looking west.

Photograph by John Burtner

President Gatch



After fifteen years as president of Willamette University and ten years as President of University of Washington, Dr. Gatch served a final ten years at Oregon State. "Our College," he said, "should be made the great industrial school of the Pacific Coast."

- 1897 Thomas M. Gatch, A.M., Ph.D., D.D., fifth president.
- 1898 Chair of pharmacy established on petition of druggists of state.
Mechanical Hall (now Apperson) erected.
- 1900 Armory and gymnasium (now Museum Building) erected.
United States Commissioner of Education defined subjects of instruction for land-grant institutions under the Morrill Acts, December 7, 1900.
Four-year curriculum in mining organized in Department of Chemistry.
- 1901 Self-sustaining Department of Music established.
Four-year Literary-Commerce curriculum organized.
First branch experiment station established at Union.
- 1902 New Agricultural Hall (later known as Science Hall and in 1940 remodeled as present Education Hall) erected.
- 1906 Federal Adams Act for further endowment of experiment stations, March 16, 1906.
Four-year curriculum in forestry established.

President Kerr



At celebration of his twenty-five years as President of Oregon State, his fellow college presidents hailed him as a man of "high personal character, integrity of life, and sense of honor," "one of the ablest college presidents in America," "a statesman in education."

- 1907 Nelson Amendment to Second Morrill Act.
William Jasper Kerr, B.S., Sc.D., sixth president.
Waldo Hall completed.
Captain U. G. MacAlexander, commandant, 1907-09.
- 1908 Preparatory Department discontinued. Entrance requirements raised.
Two-semester calendar adopted.
Industrial Arts Building and Shepard Hall erected.
Schools of Agriculture (Arthur Burton Cordley, M.S., dean), Commerce (John Andrew Bexell, A.M., dean), Engineering and Mechanic Arts (Grant Adelbert Covell, M.E., dean), and Domestic Science and Art (Juliet Greer, A.B., dean) organized.
Ida Angeline Kidder appointed Librarian.
Summer school for teachers.
John C. Olmsted campus plan.
- 1909 Professorship of industrial pedagogy established.
State Board of Higher Curricula established.
First unit of Agriculture Hall erected.
Gamma Sigma Delta chapter established.
- 1910 The present Armory constructed.
Twenty-fifth anniversary of full state control of the College, dating from 1885, celebrated June 10-14, 1910.
Correspondence courses offered.
Committee on Advanced Degrees (precursor of Graduate School).

- 1911 Student self-government, initiated by students, adopted December 1910.
Student loan fund established through liberality of Hon. R. A. Booth.
Department of College Extension organized with Ralph Dorn Hetzel as director.
Anna Zou Crane, A.B., M.D., first dean of women.
- 1912 Agricultural Engineering Building, Dairy Building, and Stock Judging Pavilion erected.
- 1913 Agriculture Hall completed.
First millage tax law passed.
School of Forestry and School of Mines established July 19, 1913.
Mines Building erected.
- 1914 Smith-Lever Law providing for extension work in agriculture and home economics passed by Congress May 8 and June 14, 1914.
Original unit of Home Economics Building erected.
- 1915 Men's Gymnasium erected.
First Executive Secretary, William Arthur Jensen.
- 1916 Student health service organized.
Intramural athletics organized by Dr. A. D. Browne.
- 1917 Forestry Building completed, September 1917.
First home management house opened.
Reserve Officers' Training Corps established. Oregon State College designated a "Distinguished Institution" for its R.O.T.C. work.
Alma Mater written by W. Homer Maris, M.S., '18.
- 1918 Library Building completed September 1918.
School of Vocational Education established.
Nearly 2,000 students, alumni, and faculty members were enlisted in the United States war service. In addition, more than 2,000 men were in training at the College in the Students' Army Training Corps and other military and naval training units.
Enrollment of regular students for fiftieth year, 1917-18: 1,668.
Teaching and research staff: 160. Books in Library, 36,478.
Forty-ninth annual Commencement June 3, 1918. Of 164 baccalaureate degrees, 82 were conferred upon candidates present at the exercises, 82 were conferred in absentia upon candidates in military or industrial service. Master's degrees, 3; other degrees and diplomas, 14.
- 1919 Three-term calendar restored.
Gold Star Memorial Service, June 9, 1919.
Food Industries Building erected; food technology department established, first in United States.
- 1920 Second millage tax for higher education approved by popular referendum.
Engineering Laboratory erected.

- 1921 Margaret Snell Hall erected.
Campus residence provided for the President.
- 1922 Athletic grounds named Bell Field in honor of Dr. J. R. N. Bell.
New Commerce Hall opened with a Business Show.
Fifty-watt radio station built by Professor Jacob Jordan of the Physics Department, January 1922. Licensed as KFDJ (since 1925 KOAC), December 7, 1922.
- 1923 Little Theater established by Mask and Dagger dramatic club in Administration Building.
- 1924 Oregon State College placed on accredited list of the American Association of University Women.
Pharmacy Building erected.
First Educational Exposition with Dean Thomas Arkle Clark of the University of Illinois as leader of the vocational guidance conference, February 22-23, 1924.
Ulysses Grant Dubach, Ph.D., first dean of men.
Oregon State Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi installed June 6, 1924.
First annual Freshman Week, September 23, 1924.
- 1925 A. D. Taylor revision of the Olmsted campus plan.
Federal Purnell Act passed.
Formal opening of College Museum, February 20, 1925.
Peavy Arboretum authorized by regents April 8, 1925.
- 1926 Child care laboratory provided by opening of Nursery School in Covell House.
Oregon State College placed on accredited list of the Association of American Universities, November 1926.
Women's Building erected.
- 1927 New Greenhouses erected.
Poultry Building erected.
State Drug Laboratory, maintained by Oregon State Board of Pharmacy, established in Pharmacy Building.
Plan for faculty sabbatical leaves adopted by regents March 5, 1927.
Engineering Experiment Station established May 4, 1927.
- 1928 Men's Dormitory Building erected.
Physics Building erected.
- 1929 Memorial Union dedicated June 1, 1929.
All Oregon state-supported higher education placed under the State Board of Higher Education.
- 1930 Survey of Oregon higher education under United States Office of Education.
- 1932 New program for Oregon State System of Higher Education adopted March 7, 1932. School of Science

and Lower Division of Liberal Arts and Sciences established at Oregon State College; various curricular reorganizations; School of Mines discontinued, School of Commerce transferred to University, landscape architecture and structural design in architecture became joint curricula at State College and University.

Celebration of President Kerr's quarter century of service as President of Oregon State College, June 4, 1932.

Dr. W. J. Kerr named first Chancellor of the State System of Higher Education, September 6, 1932.

1933 Graduate Division established September 11, 1933.

President Peavy



Through difficulties of an economic depression he steered the institution to notable achievements, emphasized the development of Oregon State College as a center of science in the state, first Ph.D. degrees.

1934 George Wilcox Peavy, M.S.F., Sc.D., LL.D., seventh president, January 15, 1934.

Mary J. L. McDonald Collection and Rare Book Room presented the College.

1935 First Ph.D. degrees conferred upon four candidates (three in science and one in agriculture), Sixty-fifth Commencement, June 3, 1935.

Summer session extended to ten weeks—first session six weeks, second session four weeks.

State tuition scholarships authorized by legislature.

Engineer degrees (Ch.E., C.E., E.E., M.E.) established, April 22, 1935.

Frederick Maurice Hunter, Ed.D., LL.D., became second Chancellor of the State System of Higher Education, Dr. W. J. Kerr Chancellor Emeritus, September 1, 1935.

1936 Student Health Service Building erected.

Museum designated Horner Museum of the Oregon Country, April 27, 1936.

1937 Oregon State Chapter of Sigma Xi installed.

1939 Nursery School erected.

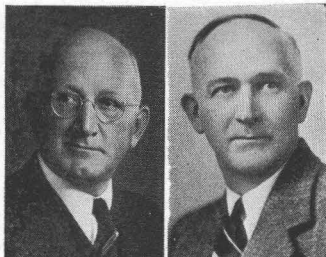
Agricultural Engineering Building enlarged.

New Chemistry Hall dedicated December 2, 1939.

Fiftieth anniversary, School of Home Economics.

Fiftieth anniversary, School of Engineering.

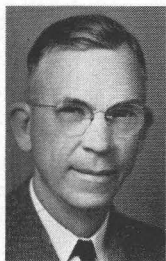
Presidents Ballard and Gilfillan



President Ballard, graduate, was obliged by illness to relinquish administration first to the administrative council under chairmanship of Dr. F. A. Gilfillan and then to Dr. Gilfillan as Acting President. The institution mobilized itself for the demands of a nation at war.

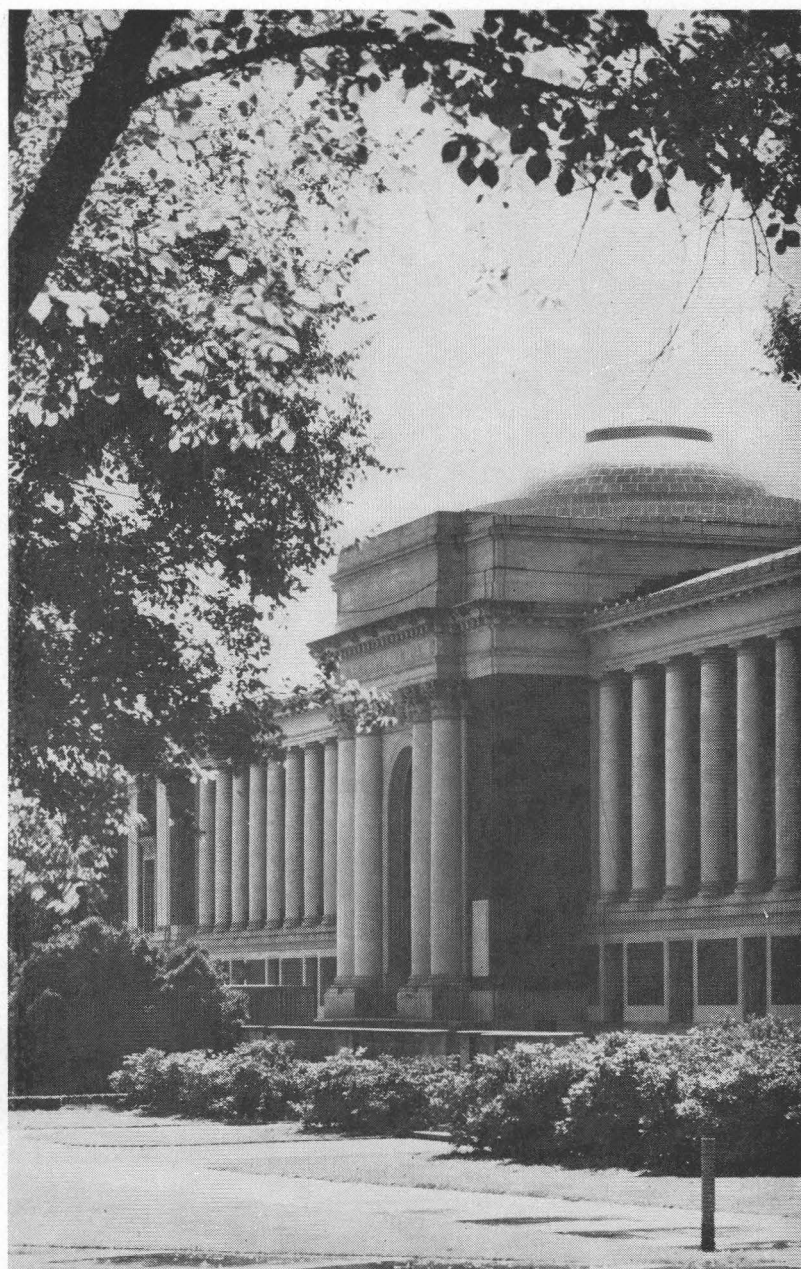
- 1940 Frank Llewellyn Ballard eighth President, effective July 1, 1940.
- 1941 Francois Archibald Gilfillan, Ph.D., acting president, September 9, 1941. Enrollment reached highest total in history of the College—regular session, 5,117; summer session 1940, 997; graduate students, 341. West wing added to Library.
- 1942 Football team Rose Bowl champions. Majors in mining engineering restored January 27, 1942. New business major established, April 28, 1942.

President Strand



Dr. Strand came from the presidency of Montana State College to Oregon because, he said, he likes the Northwest, believes in its resources and future, and understands the traditions and purposes of land-grant institutions like Oregon State College, close to the lives of the people.

- 1942 August Leroy Strand ninth President, October 15, 1942. KOAC celebrated enlargement to 5,000 watts daytime service and twenty years on air, October 16, 1942.
- 1943 Army Specialized Training Program, March 29, 1943. First dean of administration, Erwin Bertran Lemon. Inauguration of President A. L. Strand, May 29, 1943. Enrollment of regular students for seventy-fifth year 1942-43: 4,743. Books in Library, 193,479. Seventy-fifth Charter Day anniversary celebration, October 27, 1943, including: organization of Friends of the Library of Oregon State College; opening of William Henry Price Memorial Collection of Paintings; Charter Day broadcast over Stations KOIN, KGW, and KOAC; organization of Oregon Academy of Science; Charter Day Convocation.
- 1944 Elmo Nall Stevenson, first student personnel coordinator.
- 1946 Termination of ASTP, December 28, 1945. Total ASTP, 3,023; certificates, 349; degrees, 43. Opening of Adair Village, November 21, 1946.
- 1946-1949 Seventy-nine buildings brought to campus from wartime centers for temporary use.
- 1948 Division of Business and Industry (established 1943) named School of Business and Technology. Beatrice Walton Sackett Hall erected. Peak enrollment 1947-48, 8,119.
- 1949 Dearborn Hall erected. Graduating class, eightieth annual Commencement, June 6, 1949: 1,543 degrees.
- 1950 Coliseum completed. Physical education major established.



OREGON STATE COLLEGE
Corvallis

LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Lower Division
School of Science

PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS

School of Agriculture
School of Business and Technology
School of Education
School of Engineering and Industrial Arts
School of Forestry
School of Home Economics
School of Pharmacy

DEFENSE AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Department of Air Science and Tactics
Department of Military Science and Tactics
Department of Naval Science
Division of Physical Education

GRADUATE STUDY AND RESEARCH

Graduate School
General Research
Agricultural Experiment Station
Engineering Experiment Station
Forest Products Laboratory

EXTENSION

General Extension Division
Federal Cooperative Extension