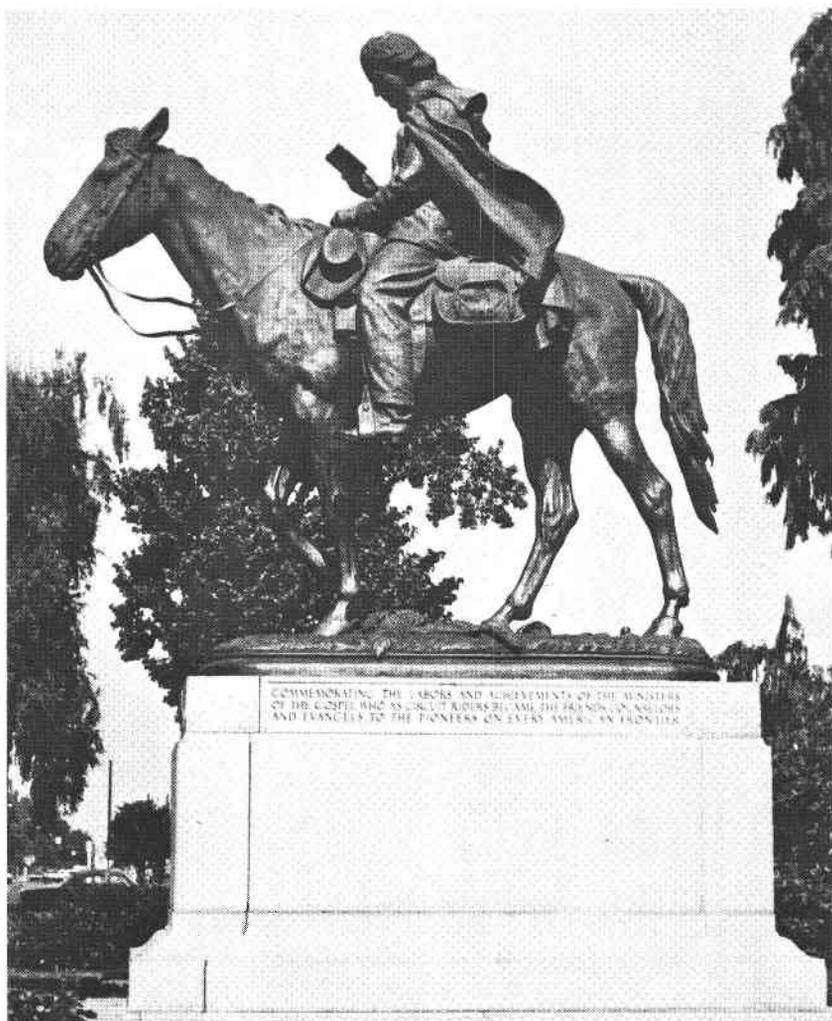


Lane County Historian



THE CIRCUIT RIDER—Commemorating the labors and achievements of the ministers of the gospel who as circuit riders became the friends, counselors, and evongels to the pioneers on every American frontier. —Lomox photo

LANE COUNTY PIONEER - HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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LANE COUNTY PIONEER-HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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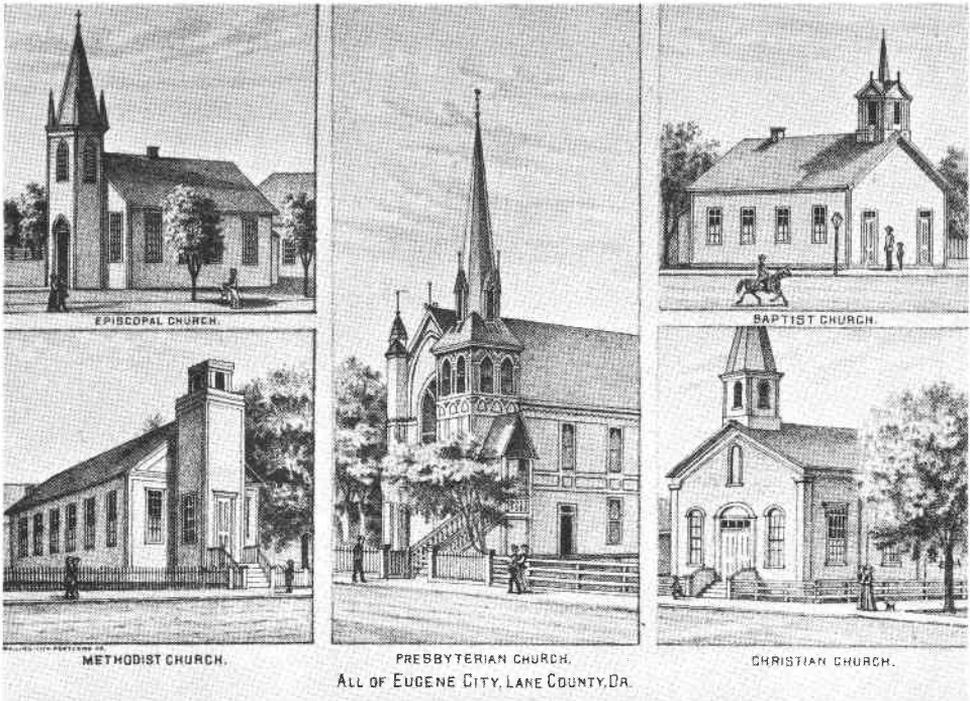
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Eugene's Early Churches



Eugene's Early Churches—All were built in the 1850s and 1860s except the Presbyterian Church, 1883.
—Wallings History of Lane County

During the time that the pioneers were getting homes built and crops cultivated, religious worship was not neglected. Small groups met in homes and worshipped God according to their beliefs. One such group to formally organize a church met in the home of Mahlon Harlow in 1852 and formed the Willamette Forks Baptist Church of Jesus Christ. There were seven charter members. Here, as in other parts of pioneer Oregon, the influence of the Circuit Rider was felt. Elder William Sperry agreed to come to Eugene to hold services once a month.

The group continued to meet in the Harlow home until 1857 when they decided to move their meeting place across the river to Eugene, a populous place of 500 souls. The first meeting was at the Red Top Tavern, a hotel owned by Mr. Harlow located at 8th and Pearl Streets. Later, when the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was built they were offered the use of that structure. In 1867 the Baptists completed their first building on the northeast corner of 8th and Pearl Streets. In 1889 the building was sold and moved off the lot in prep-

aration for a new and larger structure.

Reverend Jacob Gillespie arrived by wagon train from Tennessee in 1852 and by the spring of 1853 had organized the Cumberland Presbyterian church. The congregation met in homes at first followed by meetings in the Bogart school in what is now the Willakenzie District. Four years later a lot was purchased on the northeast corner of 6th and Pearl Streets from Eugene Skinner for \$50.00 and a church building was begun. The building costs and the bell were the gifts of the Reverend Gillespie, whereas members of the congregation contributed their labor.

In 1856 the church sponsored an ambitious educational venture by building the ill-fated Columbia College whose site was on the corner of 19th Avenue East and Olive Street. It opened with some 50 students, among whom was Joaquin Miller, the Oregon poet. Between incendiary fires and quarrels among the brethren the institution failed to survive, but a stone marker from the old building still stands on the corner site.

The Methodists organized their congregation in 1854 around Solomon and Nancy Zumwalt, whose log-cabin home was near the present intersection of Highway 99 and Elmira Road. Twenty charter members started Methodism on its way in Eugene, augmented by 10 more shortly thereafter. Until the first church building was erected in 1857 on the southwest corner of 10th and Willamette meetings were held in homes. When the first building was outgrown by 1886 the structure was sold to the Catholics, who moved it to the northeast corner of

11th and Willamette Streets. During the following eight months of construction the Methodist congregation met in the Rhinehart Opera House.

The same year that the Methodists had their first meeting, Episcopalians met in the new County Clerk's Office building* to organize their membership. But the records are rather obscure and not much is known about the early days of this denomination except that it suffered through many problems. It is known that Mary Skinner in 1859 gave a lot on the southwest corner of 7th and Olive Streets to this group for a church site and construction began immediately. When the building was outgrown a new one was made possible by the generosity of Mrs. Hanchett, wife of Eugene's first physician. The cornerstone for the new building was laid in 1889.

In these early days when formal pulpit-filling for each of the denominations was extremely difficult, the Circuit Rider was a welcome visitor to isolated communities. Word soon spread throughout the area when he arrived and groups gathered for preaching services. He was a lonely, awesome figure dressed in black, with a flowing cape and a wide-brimmed hat. He was not only a messenger bringing spiritual comfort to oftentimes lonely people, but also was family counselor and confidant in adjusting their personal problems.

A Mrs. Belknap, writing in her diary says of the Circuit Rider: "It is like a ray of bright sunshine on a dark, cloudy day to meet him. Whole families go by ox-cart or even on horseback. We have a Sunday-school and prayer-meeting and

* Constructed in 1853 and is the oldest building in Eugene. It may be seen at the Lane County Pioneer Historical Museum.

then handshaking and visiting for an hour and we go to our distant homes greatly refreshed. We have little space in our one-room cabin, but there is always a cozy corner for the minister and his books."¹

In May, 1855, five people met under an oak tree on the southwest corner of 10th and Willamette Streets and organized the Eugene Presbyterian Church. By 1858, the membership had increased to eight, including the pastor's wife. The minutes of the Session give the impression that the Reverend Robert Robe was the pastor from 1855 to 1865, but there was no formal call and that he should be called a Stated Supply. A building was constructed in 1859 on the corner of 8th and Lincoln streets. When fire destroyed this structure a second one was built in 1883. In 1906 the church building was sold to the W.O.W. lodge, whereupon the two Presbyterian groups merged to call themselves the Central Presbyterian Church. A building with stone facing was constructed in 1908 on the southwest corner of 10th and Pearl Streets.

In 1866, members of the Christian Church, who had been meeting irregularly in homes during the past five years, decided to formally organize a church group and hold services in the Court House. Two years later a small brick building was erected with a seating capacity of 350, located on the northwest corner of 9th and Pearl Streets (now Broadway). By 1893, the congregation had outgrown the original building and moved into a new one on the northwest corner of 11th and Willamette.

The Congregationalists were later than the other denominations in

formally organizing, but in 1889, under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Condon, a group of 34 people gathered in the Rhinehart Opera House to effect an organization. Reverend P. S. Knight from the Salem Congregational Church agreed to come every two weeks for a service.

Prior to this time, most of the Congregationalists had attended the Presbyterian Church. The following spring the Congregationalist group was offered free use of the second floor of the Hovey Building at 8th and Olive Streets for their Sunday services. Old timers recall that the entrance was by way of an uncovered stairway which resulted in wet skirts and ankles. Later, Mrs. Wesley Shannon donated a lot at the corner of 7th and Charnelton Streets for a building which was dedicated in June 1891.

The Catholics did not have a church site until 1873 when property was purchased on 11th and Willamette and the old Methodist church building was moved there. Mass had previously been held in private homes or in the old Court House.

The following years brought new buildings as the population of Eugene expanded. In 1910, the Christian Church moved into its present building, to be followed in 1913 by the Methodists in the edifice they now occupy. In 1925, the Congregational Church moved to 13th and Ferry and two years later the Baptists were worshiping in their new quarters at 868 High Street. The Episcopalians built at 13th and Pearl Streets in 1938. Both the Presbyterians and the Congregationalists have met the needs of expanding membership in their new church buildings, the former at

¹ Moore, McCornack, McCready, *The Story of Eugene*, Stratford Press, New York, 1949, page 27.

1475 Ferry Street, since 1956, and the latter at 1050 23rd Avenue East in 1957.

Churches were important in the lives of pioneer builders. Each argued the points of his particular church, and as the years passed there were also arguments within the church with groups drawing apart to choose independent roads

to Heaven. The story is told that the road was not always a matter of denomination, at least in the case of one opportunist whose business was window-washing. He wearied of trying to keep the windows of the Methodist Church clean under a roof that leaked badly, so he switched his bucket along with his faith to the Presbyterians who had just put on a new roof!



Evangelical Church in Florence. Dedicated in 1902. Rev. Yost first pastor
Mrs. Margie Y. Knowles Collection

Early Protestant Churches in the Siuslaw Valley

In 1889 the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., sent Reverend Albert Robinson from Eugene to Florence to establish a church, the first of the protestant denominations to be represented in that part of Lane County. Services were held in the Florence schoolhouse at first, but the ambitious young minister was not long in planning a church edifice which was erected on the Hurd hill, the highest point of land in the town, and dedicated in 1892. The little white church was a landmark for mariners of the coasting vessels and was the only beacon in that area until the Heceta Head lighthouse was constructed in 1894. During his pastorate he established Presbyterian churches at Glenada, Acme (Cushman), Point Terrace, Blachly and Deadwood.

The Lake Creek Presbyterian church at Deadwood was incorporated in February 1893 with twelve members. Later, the Lake Creek, Horton, and Blachly Presbyterian churches merged and built a larger church at Lake Creek.

The Robinsons had a large family of six boys and three girls. Homes were built on the Woahink Lake homestead of 163 acres, now a part of Jessie M. Honeyman State Park, and another was a large house just west of Florence.

His was a very busy life as he performed his pastoral duties—performing marriages, christening children, and attending funerals in the isolated settlements. The lower river was the main artery of communication for the communities on its banks, but Blachly and Deadwood required an arduous trip over the mountains. He was often away from home days at a time.

Perhaps the size of the Robin-

son family can be charged back to the Board of Home Missions which agreed to pay their minister a stipulated annual salary, and for every new baby \$100 extra. The Board's birth subsidy had the desired effect for the babies came so regularly the stipend was cut to \$50. Then the twins came, and the Robinsons got their \$100 anyway.

In the thirty-one years from 1889 to 1920, 13 ministers served the spiritual needs of western Lane Presbyterians.

Methodist. The Methodist Episcopal denomination was organized by Reverend E. L. Thompson at Glenada across the river from Florence on July 31, 1891. This was largely inspired by George H. Colter's gift of land and Henry Barrett's cash donation, although smaller contributions were made by members of the congregation. The building was completed November 1, 1892, at a cost of \$1,200. Colter was the successful construction bidder.

When Mr. Thompson left in August 1891, Reverend W. H. Church came for one year and was succeeded by Reverend Henry Moys whose tenure also was one year. Three other ministers followed up to September 1896.

A church building which remained uncompleted at Florence was purchased by the United Evangelical Church on November 18, 1901, for \$150.00.

United Evangelical. This denomination did not come to the Siuslaw area until 1900 when the Oregon Conference of the church meeting in Hillsboro designated western Lane County and the Alsea Valley as mission fields. Thomas A. Yost, the first missionary, served until

his death in 1926, a long and devoted ministry.

His first pastorate was in Glendora as he made his home in that community. When the Methodists at Florence were unable to finish their building for lack of members, he arranged to complete it for his denomination. Dedication was in 1902.

Like the ministers of the other denominations, calls to the riverside communities were made in a rowboat until a launch was built. Other calls were made on foot.

When the Reverend J. S. Plowman came as an assistant in 1901, he was assigned to the more distant points and visited them on horseback. Yost was kept at the Florence pastorate.

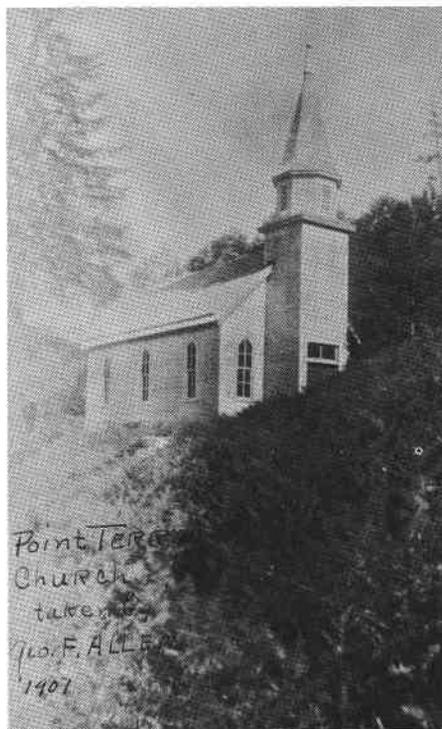
Reverend C. A. Burriss came three years later and built the Mapleton church for \$784. Money was scarce, so everybody contributed in some way toward its construction. Lumber was bought at the Acme sawmill. Albert Knowles and his two sons, Archie and Silas, having promised to get the lumber, left Mapleton in their rowboat on a high tide, rowed the eleven miles to the sawmill, as there was no road. Rafting the lumber, they started back on an incoming tide towing the heavy raft. They stayed overnight with friends and next day tied up at Hadsall Creek. They arrived at Mapleton on the third day, got their wagon and team, and hauled the lumber to the church grounds.

Reverend N. W. Phelps followed Mr. Burriss and lived in the new parsonage from 1907 until 1909.

In a long list of ministers who served the United Evangelical churches in the Siuslaw Valley, their tenure was short, some for only a year, some for two years,

but none served so long and faithfully as "Uncle" Thomas A. Yost.

(Adapted from articles in the Siuslaw Pioneer for 1953 and 1959 by Mrs. Archie Y. Knowles, Mrs. Neva Severy Welty, and Mrs. Olive Benke Dallas).



Point Terrace Presbyterian Church, 1901. Site was on south side of the Siuslaw River about five miles below Mapleton.

John Straub

By Mary Elizabeth Straub Stafford



—Kennell-Ellis Photo, 1924

JOHN STRAUB - 1853-1932

The pioneers of Oregon were intensely aware of the importance of education and were determined to provide the opportunity for their children to acquire learning. Consequently, colleges were established in many of the larger towns, mostly denominational.

The desirability of establishing a state university was discussed for many years as was also the probable location of such an institution. It was finally decided to establish a state university and to locate it in Eugene. The promoters of this plan worked very hard to raise money by private subscription for the erection of the first building. By the

fall of 1876 Deady Hall was sufficiently completed so that classes could be offered. This building was placed on a slight elevation which in 1872 was about one-half mile east of Eugene.

John Straub, who devoted fifty-two years of his life to the service of the University of Oregon, joined the faculty in 1878. He was born and raised in Philadelphia and attended Mercersburg College, from which he graduated in 1876. He then did postgraduate work at the University of Pennsylvania. When he came to Oregon there were only three men on the faculty, namely, President John Wesley Johnson,

who, in addition to his administrative duties, taught Latin; Dr. Thomas Condon, pioneer geologist; and Professor Mark Bailey, who taught mathematics. John Straub taught Greek and German and such other courses as were needed.

In addition to teaching, John Straub spent a great deal of time and money in helping the students solve their problems. There were no dormitories in the early days so he helped the students find rooms in the homes of townspeople. He also found part-time jobs for those who needed them, and he loaned money or signed notes for students to the amount of \$25,000 and never lost a dollar. He trusted the students and they trusted him. He came to be known to them as "Daddy Straub." There were twice as many saloons as churches in those early days. Drinking by the students was not allowed. John Straub was a strict disciplinarian at this time but the students loved him anyway.

It was customary at that time for a university to have debating societies. Soon after the university was established, the Laurean Society for the men and the Eutaxian for the women were organized. These organizations provided much of the social life for the students. They also enjoyed hikes into the country, a favorite one being to Spencer's Butte, climb to the top, eat lunch there where they could see many beautiful mountains and snow peaks, then walk back to Eugene. John Straub frequently accompanied the students.

In addition to teaching and working with the students, John Straub served as secretary of the faculty for 21 years and also as Dean of Men. His relationship with former students was stimulated by the fact that he could always recognize

them and remember their names. His boys and girls were a very important part of his life and he meant much to them.

He welcomed the freshman class every year by saying "This is the largest and the best class that has ever entered the university," a custom which became a tradition. He became known as "The Grand Old Man of Oregon" and was honored in many ways by both the faculty and the students. One of these honors was the naming of the then new men's dormitory "John Straub Hall." The class of '33 presented a bust of John Straub to the university to be placed in the dormitory.

Dean Straub became widely known as a public speaker in high schools and universities all over the state. He impressed his hearers with the value and desirability of higher education and inspired many young people to continue their education.

He was also interested in improving the beauty of the campus. The only trees on the original campus were two oak trees, later designated as the "Condon Oaks" which were planted immediately to the north of Deady. Shortly thereafter Villard Hall was constructed close to where these grand old trees still stand. John Straub asked the regents for \$200 each of three successive years with which to acquire more trees. When the request was finally granted campus beautification began in earnest.

Dean Straub's valued association with the students was shared by his wife, Cornelia Miller Straub, whom he married just before leaving Philadelphia. They made their home on Eleventh Avenue East, between Hilyard and Patterson, a social center for the students. Small groups were entertained informally, and at Christmas and New

Years large parties were given. These were especially enjoyed by the students who could not afford to go home for the holidays. For 21 years Dean Straub was Sunday-school superintendent at the Central Presbyterian church. Here, again he enjoyed association with the young people. In 1901, he being an Elder, was sent to the General Assembly of the church in Philadelphia. At this time, the question of infant damnation was under discussion. Finally, a motion was made to change the Articles of Faith so that all infants could be saved. Dean Straub rose and said he would like to propose an amendment to the motion. "I move," he said, "that the action of the motion be made retroactive." After a moment of silence, wild cheering followed. Dean Straub has been described as "a Greek professor with a sense of humor."

The Eugene Register-Guard published the following announcement on September 19, 1932:

"Dean John Straub, "Grand Old

Man of Oregon" died Sunday night at 9:15 at his home here. His death ended more than half a century of kindly public service which endeared him to thousands who knew him as a friend and countless others who knew him for the great part he played in the life of the University."

Dr. Arnold Bennett Hall, president of the university, sent the following message:

"The University has lost a staunch friend in the passing of Dr. John Straub. For more than 50 years he contributed work of the finest type to the institution which he loved. He has been an inspiration to thousands of students who have passed through the campus halls, and has been a friend to all. The greatness of his character, the warmth of his friendship, the zeal with which he always attacked his work, will never be forgotten so long as the institution remains. This university, his city and his state will mourn his passing, but all will remember his unselfish service and his fine personality."

The Eugene Junior Symphony

Josephine Evans Harpham

For some time prior to the fall of 1934, Mrs. C. A. Horton, well-known civic and cultural leader of Eugene, felt that the community should have a junior symphony orchestra. Among her varied interests were music and worthwhile activities for youth.

In the early fall of 1934, Mrs. Horton conferred with Rex Underwood, widely known violinist on the staff of the University of Oregon School of Music, and with the late Mrs. W. E. Robertson, an active member of the Mu Phi Patronesses Association. On October 4, 1934 an organizational meeting was held for the purpose of formulating the Eugene Junior Symphony Association. Many civic, cultural, fraternal, and religious groups sent representatives to assist in laying the foundations of the organization.

Rex Underwood was chosen conductor for the new Junior Symphony Orchestra; assistant conductor was Delbert Moore, director of instrumental music in the Eugene public schools.

Officers for the Junior Symphony Association were elected as follows: President, H. W. White; vice presidents were Mrs. C. A. Horton, Dr. Gavin Dyott, Mrs. W. E. Robertson, Dr. G. S. Beardsley, John W. Anderson; secretary, Mrs. W. H. Chapman; treasurer, O. A. Hougum. The Board of Directors: Alton Baker, Fay M. Bennett, William East, Charles G. Howard, Mrs. Belle Lydick, Mrs. Edith Siefert, Mrs. Warren D. Smith, Mrs. William M. Tugman, Rev. H. R. White, Mrs. George Schaefer.

A constitution committee was appointed by president H. W. White

as follows: chairman, C. A. Horton, William East, Mrs. John Stark Evans, Mrs. W. E. Robertson, Hugh Rosson, Mrs. J. Bishop Tingle. Basic points of the constitution were: In order to become a member of the orchestra, a student must play in his own school orchestra or band; he must also be taking private music lessons, must read music with facility, and must play in tune.

The name chosen for this youth group was the Eugene Junior Symphony Orchestra. The age of members was to range from nine to eighteen.

The supporting organization was called the Eugene Junior Symphony Association. Its purpose read as follows: "The purpose of this Association shall be to stimulate musical interests and standards and develop musical talent in the city of Eugene and surrounding territory;; to sustain and conduct a symphony orchestra, using the proceeds thereof for the maintenance and expense of said orchestra and not for profit."

Rules for membership in the Association were recorded as follows: "The membership of this Association shall consist of representatives of civic-minded organizations of Eugene and nearby communities, and of persons especially interested in the purpose of the Association and willing to work to further its interests."

On October 12, 1934, the first rehearsal was held in the Chamber of Commerce rooms on West Broadway. Later rehearsals were held in the old YMCA building at 11th and Willamette followed by the Eugene

High School music rooms for rehearsals, with music and instruments used cooperatively by the high school and symphony personnel. The symphony Association has been very grateful to the school administration for this arrangement and for its interest over the years. In the beginning most of the music used by the new orchestra was borrowed from the University of Oregon, and from the Eugene public schools. The Wilson Music House acted as music librarian as a service to the organization.

The Junior Symphony's first concert was given on January 27, 1935 at the University of Oregon School of Music. There were 52 orchestra members playing under the baton of Rex Underwood. In addition, 12 music students from the university played to fill in positions in the orchestra. Mike Gross, a figure in civic and music circles and then 63 years old, played in the bass section. The conductor's nine-year-old son, Rex John Underwood, was the youngest member of the group.

VIOLINS:

Nancy Anderson, Laura Beck, Lorene Bailey, Hazel Baltimore, Elizabeth Chesbro, Doris Graham, Fred Hichens, Peter Ben Howard, Rachel Keken, Lois Koppe, Elaine Lee, Dorothy Lenhart, Lorene Mitchel, Patricia Plinsky, Buford Roach, Jr., Doris Reinholtz, Edward Schaefer, Warren Smith, Wilma Stein, Marjorie Theda, Jane Warren, George Wilhelm, Jane Veblen, *(Louise Johnson, Ruth Wolfender, Mettie Lowell, Norma Loffelmacher)

VIOLAS:

Yvonne Atkinson, *(Ellen Dixon, John Caswell, Wayne Gilfry)

CELLOS:

Madge Conaway, Charlotte Cherry, Doris Edwards, Jane Hall, Gwendolyn Kremmel, Catherine Murdock, Mary Booth, *(Corrine Combs)

BASS:

*(Bob Keefe, George Varoff, Ruth Van Schoonhoven) Mike Gross

FLUTE:

Earl Atkinson, Helen Curry, Jeanne Lehman, *(Theda Spicer)

OBOE:

Russell Helterline, Mildred Sanford

CLARINET:

Charlotte Plummer, Phoebe Breyman, Maxine Horton, Samuel Sickafoose

FRENCH HORN:

Bill Curry, Charles Dennison

TRUMPET:

Dan Keefe, Martin McCormick, Howard McFadgen, Eyvind Ruder

TROMBONES:

Eldon Lee, William Rosson

TUBA: Wendel Gilfry

PERCUSSION:

Billy Abott, Cleo Van Vleit

HARP: Brandon Young

LIBRARIAN: Leo Lohikoski

(*) University students

PROGRAM

1. Overture to Egmont.....Beethoven
2. Unfinished SymphonySchubert
3. A short talk about instruments of the orchestra and a few solos and group numbers by young players as follows:
 - a. Harp solo, Ballade.....Hasselmann
BRANDON YOUNG
 - b. Trio for two oboes and harp
Sarabande and Minuet.....Corelli
MILDRED SANFORD, RUSSELL HELTERLINE AND BRANDON YOUNG
 - c. Trumpet QuartetSelected
DAN KEEFE, MARTIN McCORMICK, HOWARD McFADGEN and EYVIND RUDER
 - d. Horn solo, Excerpt from Concerto, Mozart WILLIAM CURRY
 - e. Chamber Orchestra...."Spring Song"
Mendelssohn
Violins: Jane Veblen, Rachel Koken, Lois Koppe, Doris Graham, Buford Roach, Jr., Peter Ben Howard, Lorene Mitchell, Warren Smith
Cellos: Madge Conaway, Charlotte Cherry
Clarinets: Charlotte Plummer, Sam Sickafoose
Flute: Theda Spicer
Oboe: Mildred Sanford
4. Caucasian SuiteIppolitow-Ivanow
 - a. In the Village
 - b. March of the Sardin
5. Farandole Bizet

Douglas Orme, new director of instrumental music in the Eugene Public Schools, became assistant conductor in the fall of 1935. Late in 1936 he assumed full charge of the orchestra until December, 1942,



EUGENE JUNIOR

at which time he left for the armed services and Rex Underwood again assumed leadership of the Junior Symphony. In the fall of 1944 Mr. Orme returned and resumed his position as conductor. In 1945 he resigned to go into private business. A feature of one of the programs during Mr. Orme's tenure as conductor was the performance of a composition for two pianos with double string quartet accompaniment entitled "Allegro Concertante," composed by Thad Elvigon, high school student. It was played by Thad Elvigon and Laurie Pratt at a Junior Symphony concert in 1940.

During the academic year 1946-47, George H. Boughton, widely known violinist and member of the staff of the University of Oregon

School of Music, was conductor for the Junior Symphony.

In the fall of 1947, Byron Miller, supervisor of instrumental music in the Eugene Public Schools, was selected as the fourth conductor of the orchestra. He served in this capacity most faithfully for over 13 years. Mr. William Tweedie was assistant conductor of the orchestra from 1956 to 1959.

Mr. Miller's first concert held in March 1948 in McArthur Court was a memorable one. The Loyal Order of the Moose sponsored the event. Hal Young, on the staff of the University School of Music and widely known singer, was guest artist. The young people gave an excellent performance before one of the largest audiences ever to attend a Junior Symphony concert.*

* Mr. Miller served the Junior Symphony as conductor for 17 years and is now in an advisory capacity as Executive Director to the orchestra and Board in charge of business matters, scheduling, and arranging out-of-town appearances. He is now Music Consultant for the Eugene public schools.

Nathan Cammack, presently conductor of the Junior Symphony, is a graduate of the University of Washington. His experiences as musician and conductor with musical organizations in Seattle, Spokane and Eugene eminently qualifies him as the Junior Symphony's leader. He is also Director of the South Eugene High School orchestra.



SYMPHONY - 1950

Financially, orchestra activities have been supported by a member registration fee of two dollars annually. In addition, family sustaining memberships in the Association have been sold annually at two dollars, then three, and now five. At various times over the years numerous clubs and organizations have helped by including in their budgets a substantial contribution to the Junior Symphony.

Also, business firms and civic clubs have contributed scholarship funds.

Among the main activities of the Association have been the presentation of three concerts the first year (1934-35) and two annually thereafter. The major concert is given usually in March, with a guest artist, or with groups such as choirs and ballet troupes.

The Junior Symphony also plays for civic, fraternal, and religious organizations on occasion. It has played for Junior Programs; for a special children's concert; for Sunday afternoon dinner concerts at

the Eugene Hotel; and for one out-of-town concert each year, at such places as Reedsport, Drain, Cottage Grove, Roseburg, McKenzie Bridge, and Junction City.

The annual award of the Junior Symphony Trophy to the outstanding senior member of the orchestra is a highlight of the spring concert. The annual reception for orchestra members, their parents, and members of the Board features the awarding of pins to deserving players. In the fall, the Board members give a get-acquainted dinner for symphony personnel and their parents.

A substantial contribution to the development of musical talent has been accomplished through the purchase of fine musical instruments as the need arises and funds are available.

One of the most important projects of all is the annual award of music scholarships to outstanding sophomore and junior members of the orchestra. Recipients have attended the following: National Mu-

sic Camp at Interlochen, Michigan; Pacific Music Camp at Stockton, Calif.; Western State Music Camp, Gunnison, Colo.; and the University of Oregon High School Music Summer Session.

Today the orchestra averages about 70 members. Although most of the young people live in the Eugene-Springfield area, some attend very faithfully from Bethel, Cottage Grove, Drain, Elmira, Junction City, McKenzie, and Veneta.

Some students have played with the orchestra over six years. Many of them have gone from the Junior Symphony into college and university orchestras of note and from these into some field of musical work.

Many people and many organizations through the 30 years of the Junior Symphony's existence have loyally and faithfully worked to help sustain this fine youth group. Some years ago the Symphony Board conferred honorary life membership on Mrs. William Tugman and on Mrs. C. A. Horton, the later becoming president emeritus of the Symphony Association as well. Others elected to honorary membership in the Association for having served actively for ten years or more are as follows: Mrs. Frank Anderson, Mrs. Everett Harpham, Mr. Delbert Hill, Mr. Olaf Hougum, Mr. Charles Howard, Mrs. Francis Kelley, Mr. Douglas Orme, Mrs. Paul Plank, and Mrs. Irene Bryan Wiseman.

In the fall of 1957, parents of the symphony members were organized into a parents' group, which

serves as a working arm of the Symphony Board.

Also throughout the past 30 years countless young people have contributed their talents to the orchestra and to the community and in turn have received great benefits from their participation.

Several honors have come to the Symphony. Perhaps the greatest was several years ago when the group was invited to make two appearances in Portland for the five-state meeting of Music Educators. At one time the orchestra was written up in *Etude*, a national music magazine. And in 1948 the *Moosehart*, a national publication, carried a feature story on the Moose-sponsored concert of the spring of that year.

To Mrs. C. A. Horton, "Mother of the Junior Symphony," the community owes sincere and deep appreciation. In her own words she expresses her aims and ideals and those that others have shared with her:

"It is not the aim of the Association to turn out an entire group of finished musicians. It is to arouse their interest in and appreciation of the great symphonies and to stimulate their aesthetic sense and musical talent for their own enjoyment and that of their families, friends, and community, throughout a lifetime. Their influence on other young people will keep this appreciation and talent active for an indefinite period, thus carrying on the culture that tends toward a finer, more deeply rewarding plane of living."

The Crescent Lake Monster

Lawrence Hills, Mayor of Oakridge

About a half a century ago great excitement was caused in the Willamette Valley by the sighting of a great, fearsome water creature about a mile from the south end of Crescent Lake.

Two hunters were following the lake shore trail that had been used for centuries by the Indians, when it reared up in the water. Being at what appeared to be a safe distance, they decided to take a shot at whatever it might be. A bullet, they reasoned, would be the best means of defense. According to their story IT appeared to be sticking its head some five or possibly even six or seven feet out of the water on what looked like a long neck. After taking careful aim the shot was fired and their target sank slowly from sight. The badly frightened hunters could not be sure if their bullet had found its mark.

They told their story to my father, Jasper Hills, with real conviction. "Jap," as he was often called, was a no-nonsense mountain man who had lived most of his life in the wilds and was accustomed to hearing strange tales. He was deeply curious and accused the men of having found a moonshine cache. This, they firmly insisted, was not the case. They HAD actually seen "something" and it was both big and fearsome. He questioned them regarding the possibility of a log or the root of a tree that might be sticking up out of the water; but, they argued, if it were something not alive, why would it disappear from sight when a shot was fired? This only added to the mystery.

One of the men had a theory and asked, "Didn't you ever hear of a

sea serpent? I vow that's what I saw. It must have been left over in some way—and left the ocean to swim up the Columbia to the Deschutes River from where it found its way up the outlet of Crescent Lake. Oh! Of course, that was when it was just a little feller. It's had a lot of time to grow up to its e-normous size!"

So much for his theory. The word spread like wildfire and the story lost nothing in the telling. An old Indian legend was even dredged up from the memory of old-timers to help prove that the monster really existed in the high mountain lake.

Many people were afraid to go near the lake, but by the next summer some Eugene people who were brave started over the Cascades. It was a very rough trip, and when they arrived at Crescent Lake they decided to camp, unload the boat and catch a mess of fish for supper. With the camp settled and the boat in the water, they rowed out a couple of hundred yards and started to fish. One of the men looked up just in time to see a huge wave coming rapidly toward them. Something was swimming very fast between them and the shore, where the water appeared to be between 20 and 30 feet deep. This creature made the water so rough that their fishing boat was almost swamped. As soon as they could make it safely, they rowed hurriedly back to shore. Swearing they would never wet a line in that lake again, they dismantled their camp, caught their horses, and moved that very night to a safer camping place.

This story was soon circulated

and very soon big, black headlines appeared in the papers. The Crescent Lake monster became the most important subject of conversation throughout the valley. People were wildly excited and were soon converging on the lake from all directions. They all went home disappointed, for their quarry had become bashful in the presence of so many people and refused to rise above the water.

Late that summer, together with Lewis Flock and his wife Lina, I went for a couple of days fishing. We agreed that Crescent Lake would be a good place to go, since we did not have a boat. This equipment shortage did not bother us much, as we would take a couple of axes, some hay wire, and a few nails. The building of a raft would be a simple matter. After our arrival at the lake the raft project was completed in short order. Our greatest problem was to find poles in the scrub pine timber that would float high enough in the water to support the combined weight of the three of us.

After the raft was judged seaworthy, we split a paddle out of a pole and smoothed the end down with a pocket knife. This made a reasonably good handle. Our equipment for fishing was strictly rough and ready, and after placing three powder boxes on board for seats we were ready to shove off. I was on one side propelling the raft, which was rather unmanageable and none too sturdy. The Flocks put their lines out on the opposite side and started fishing. This was the moment we had been waiting for. The sun was bright and a slight breeze dimpled the surface of the lake. We had only been away from shore a short time when the peace and quiet of the scene was shattered by a piercing scream. Then Lina in a

sepulchral voice half whispered, "My God! What was that?" Lewis, when he had recovered his voice, said, "It sure is something BIG." They were really scared, and their faces turned as white as the proverbial sheet. Due to the wobbly condition of the raft I could not immediately get to their side where the excitement was, and when I did get there where I could see the great monster (if that is what it was), it had sunk from sight. This was a real disappointment to me, but I was convinced that they had seen something highly unusual and that there was something to their excited story, for they were both, according to their own admission, "scared silly!"

These pioneer people were accustomed to meeting up with strange and unexpected experiences and were not the kind to jump at conclusions. Though they were deeply puzzled, they were firm in their conviction that there was "something" there, big, frightening and mighty unusual. And they had actually seen IT! The Flocks were serious minded people of the old school who would not have dreamed up something just for the sake of additional excitement.

How I wish I could have had even one quick look before it vanished under the surface of the lake without leaving as much as a ripple. To my knowledge, this was the last sighting of the much-discussed and hotly-debated sea serpent. For a long time people continued to haunt the shores of Crescent Lake hoping to get a look, or better still to snap a picture, of what they were so firmly convinced REALLY existed.

Like all strange and highly unusual occurrences, I am sure the stories grew with the telling. One version was that the creature had eyes like those of a horse, only con-

siderably larger, that its neck was covered with either weeds or shaggy hair, that it was a mottled brown color—and on and on!

“The monster” was good for lots of conversation in the Valley. The

Lochs of Scotland gained great fame through its mythical monster, and to Oregonians the reasoning was, “If Scotland has one, why not Oregon?” As for me—well, I nearly saw IT too!

Newsy Notes . . .

The Lane County Fairgrounds auditorium was the scene of the annual pioneer picnic where 103 registered guests were in attendance to renew old friendships and to eat the always plentiful cold meats, salads, pies and cakes.

A thought-provoking reading by Mrs. Dennis Warren preceded the presentation of six honorary membership certificates to Anna Duckworth, Elmira; Floyd E. Kelsey, Springfield; Fannie Lattin, Creswell; Alva McPherson, Springfield; Mary E. Stafford, Eugene; William Wooten, Springfield, all of whom had been born in Lane County 80 or more years ago. Board member Stuart Hurd and President Hallie Huntington made the awards and read the names of 17 others listed

below, who were unable to be present: Millard Cornelius, Rena Calvert Edmiston, J e n n y Smithson Fisher, Neva Harvey, Mable Hillis, Bertha D. Hyland, Ira D. Hyland, Bertha Jacobs, Charles Omer McBee, Moody Neet, Stella Calvert Nesbit, Ernest Collier Nicholson, Maggie Lorretta Olson, Lena Saul, Myrtle Shelley, H e n r y Ernest Walker, Harry Warner. Certificates will be mailed or delivered to them in due time.

Old-time fiddling by Dennis Warren and a soft-shoe dance by Ora Carter enlivened the affair.

Mrs. Lester Calder and her kitchen committee received a rousing vote of appreciation for their efficient handling of the business in that department.

Over 200 persons attended the dedication of the Pioneer Museum at Oakridge on Saturday, June 11. Mrs. Henry Holt, wife of Henry Holt, president of the museum association, outlined the history of the museum, followed by Hallie Huntington (Mrs. C. A. Huntington), daughter of Jasper Hills, an early settler in the Oakridge area, who gave the history of the upper Willamette Valley. Master of ceremonies was Reverend Leif Malmin.

Exhibits included a living room of a typical pioneer home; a kitchen, country store with prices posted on different articles; and a postoffice.

Mrs. E. E. Foss, Curator of the Lane County Pioneer Museum, has returned after a year's leave of absence working with VISTA in Chicago and Detroit. Mrs. Wilbur S. Hulin was the Acting Curator during Mrs. Foss' absence.

This Was News Then

The Board of Regents of the University of Oregon voted to buy 34 acres in Gross Addition adjoining the campus on the east for \$18,000; also the Kincaid tract on the south for \$10,000 (*Eugene Morning Register*, September 12, 1908)

Salaries increased at the University of Oregon: President P. L. Campbell from \$3,000 to \$4,000; O. F. Stafford, Professor of Chemistry from \$1,600 to \$2,000; L. H. Johnson, Secretary; from \$1,800 to \$2,000; W. L. Hayward, Physical Director, from \$1,100 to \$1,600; Miss Julia Burgess, Instructor in Rhetoric, to \$1,000; Dr. J. H. Gilbert, Instructor in Political Economy, to \$1,200 (Ibid).

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Osburn, proprietors of the Hoffman House, purchase property at East 8th and Pearl from Mr. and Mrs. Eli Bangs as a site for a modern hotel (Ibid, September 1, 1908).

L. G. Hulin will tear down the frame buildings on the west side of Willamette Street between 9th and 10th adjoining the alley and will erect a good two-story brick building 28 x 100 feet. (Ibid September 2, 1908)

Trolley wire is being strung. The heavy copper trolley wire for the street cars was strung from the depot almost to 11th Street yesterday (Ibid, September 6, 1907).

Doorways Into History

Between the heavy paper covers of this most attractive brochure are 56 pages of photographs depicting the architectural charm of homes whose owners molded the early business, cultural and social life of Eugene and its environs. Each page is like an entranceway whose door opens to the reader the historical backgrounds of each house and the families who occupied it. Mrs. Harpham's publication must be recognized as a valuable contribution to the perpetuation of local history.

Lane County Pioneer-Historical Society
740 West 13th Ave., Eugene Oregon

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