

00:00:00 - 00:02:10 Introduction

This is a continuation of our oral history of PLU. Today we will discuss the campus a little bit about the physical plant.

The very beginning of the university goes back to 1891. Bjug Harstad came out here and met with a fellow by the name of Ward Smith, who was no relation to the Ward Smith who is part of a Tacoma firm now. This Ward Smith was a real estate developer and he said that if they would assist on selling lots in the Parkland area, he would give so many acres to the PLU corporation for campus. That's how the school was started. These lots were sold to people all over in the Lutheran Church, the old Norwegian Lutheran Church, a lot of them back in North Dakota, Minnesota, and so forth, and \$10 out of what they paid on the lot went to the university and the rest went to the real estate developer. So these people kept these lots for years. Just a few years ago the last ones we knew of were bought up and obtained by the university from a family back in the Midwest. Now we have the main core of the campus still intact and that's the area which we call the Upper Campus, and the part of the Lower Campus where the residence halls are.

00:02:09 - 00:05:00 Golf Course and Athletic Fields

Then in about 1935, I think it was, 1936, there was a golf course down on the Lower Campus area which was owned by a private corporation made up of citizens in the Parkland area. This organization went bankrupt and offered to sell this property to the university for \$5000. That's a fabulous price on an 18-hole golf course. But Cliff Olson had to go and beg the Board of Trustees at that time to buy this. They didn't want to buy this. And he got down on his hands and knees, practically, and told them that this is something that they should do, that the university could use this. And so it came about that they bought it, over a long-term payment. And there was a house down there which was a clubhouse and had a living unit in it. Different people lived in it.

At the beginning of the time when the golf course was taken over, one of them was Ken Jacobsen, who later became plant manager, and Ken would keep up the rent, why, he would keep up the golf course clubhouse, would get free housing, and then take care of the golf course in payment for their college schooling. One of these fellows was a fellow by the name of Thomas, who is a pastor down in California of the LCA; his son is also a pastor. The clubhouse was there until about 1961, when that building was put up which is called Columbia Center. And the old clubhouse was torn down and this was erected in its place. Now I guess this was an 18-hole golf course but when the school took it over they cut down on the number of holes to make a 9-hole course and used the other 9 holes for athletic fields. That's where the football practice field is now, the soccer field, and the baseball diamond, and so forth.

00:05:00 - 00:05:55 Ivy Court

Also, right after the war, they brought in a building there which is called Ivy Court, alongside the golf clubhouse and that was there for number of years before it was razed, and other buildings were moved down from the Upper Campus in the form where is now the biology complex, biology offices, and classroom complex down there, called Ivy. But to begin with, that was a long one-story building there which was a surplus building

brought in from some military base around the area. We got it for nothing then fixed it up and that was a men's dorm there for a number of years.

00:05:55 - 00:06:43 Clover Creek Hall

Also in the area where Tingelstad is located now, we had a complex of units where married students lived and also back off the street a ways we had a building that housed about 22 students. It was called Clover Creek Hall and men lived in that frame unit which we had there until in the late 50s when we got rid of those buildings and then Tingelstad Hall was erected on the site.

00:06:43 - 00:07:46 Lower Campus Farm and Orchard (Pflueger site)

On the spot where Pflueger Hall is located, that whole area in through there was a small farm. There was an orchard there and trees. There was a small house. And for a number of years, in the late 40s and early 50s a fellow by the name of Leslie Ecklund who was Dean of Men at the time, took care of that. And he lived in that. Then the tennis courts were built alongside in the 50s. Then the house was moved out of there to make room for Pflueger Hall, which was erected in 1960 or '61. And a lot of the trees were taken out of there.

00:07:46 - 00:08:48 University Center site

There was another home located at the base of the hill below what is now called the University Center. And that house sat there for many years. It was in 1947 that Bob Olson and his family moved in there (Dr. Robert C. Olson), he was in the Chemistry Department and he is still teaching chemistry at PLU although he's retired two years ago. When the University Center was going to be built, why, the house had to be moved out of there and Bob Olson was given the house and he bought some property over on 124th there, half a block away and moved the house over there and remodeled it some and fixed it up and he's still living in it.

00:08:58 - 00:24:00 Harstad Hall

Let's go back a few years now, again. This is kind of rambling, but in 1890 when the cornerstone was laid for the building which is now called Harstad Hall and is the only building when the University was beginning, was ready for use in 1894 in the fall, October 14 was Founder's Day, which is the same founder's day as Luther College and I think the reason for this is that Luther College is the mother school for Pacific Lutheran. Well, that building, Harstad Hall, is a well-constructed building. It has four thicknesses of brick in the walls. It has wonderful timber in it, not 2x4s for steadings but 4x4s, and these steadings have no, uh ... Oh, I hear some people, so I'll stop for awhile ...

Now this is continued a couple days later. We're talking about the campus and the various buildings, and we were talking about Harstad Hall. In its original form Harstad was the entire university. On the ground floor there was a ... the ground floor was divided up into several rooms, one which was the kitchen, and then the boarding club where the students ate, and also the faculty. Then there was a recreation room. There was another room that was used for meeting places. There was an apartment down there at one end. That was the south end. In the north end there was another apartment.

Then in later years, these things changed. And after the war, in 1947-48, that whole basement area was expanded to be the dining hall. And I remember back in about 1949 or '50, Dr. Yease (?) was up in Seattle at Seattle University. And inside they had a bunch of mirrors there, so he .. in their cafeteria. He thought that was pretty nice. So he came back to Parkland and he got a hold of the man at B&B Glass I think it was, and told him

to come out and put in a bunch of mirrors so the whole downstairs area, an area I suppose about 8 feet high and about 30 feet long on each side, a big hallway there, was lined with mirrors on the wall. The students didn't take too kindly to this particular adventure, but it remained there until the university (College) Union Building was built in 1955. Students felt that this was an extravagant thing and that money could have been used for some other purpose, but that's always the way.

Then the main floor of Harstad Hall (in the early years) held classrooms, all the offices for the university, the library. The library was in the area directly to the right as you came in the main entrance. Underneath the main entrance. underneath the front porch there was a big vault and the records of the university were kept there until it was all taken out of there in 1943 or '44, right after Eastvold came.

Then the second floor. In the middle on each side ... in the middle part of the building was all classrooms and halfway down the hall there was a big partition in each hallway going north and south. And then there were rooms. The women lived in the north side of the building and the men in the south side. Then, going up to the third floor, there was a partition up at the top of the stairway. This was to lock off the girls' end. They were at the south end and they had no access from the second floor. They could go in downstairs and go up to the third floor by going to the north end of the building, but they couldn't go up the middle stairway and get into the third floor living area because this was where the men lived.

Then the fourth floor was roughed in and so was the fifth floor. That was all roughed in with steadings, but never completed until after Eastvold came in the 1940s and was finally finished up by about 1949 or '50.

Then Harstad Hall at that time was ... The classrooms were taken off the second floor and this was made into living units. And so the second, third, fourth, and fifth floors, were living units. In 1947-48 an elevator was put in. Chris Knutzen, a member of the board and a businessman from Burlington, Washington, gave \$20,000 to have the elevator installed. And this made a big difference in the building.

OK, then the ground floor was still a cafeteria, and you remember until 1955, and the main floor remained offices for the President, for the Dean, registrar, for University Relations and things of that nature until 1960 when the Administration Building was built. Then we all moved out of there, over to the Administration Building, and Harstad Hall was named Harstad Hall at that time. It had been known as Old Main up until then. It was named Harstad Hall in 1960 and was used then as a men's dormitory because what were called West Hall, North Hall, and South Hall, those three were being used for girls' dorms. And so there was space needed for the men. Then the men stayed there for a few years until, oh, it was about two or three years, and then they were moved out and it became a girls' dorm and North Hall for a time was a boys' dorm. These things varied back and forth. Well North Hall when it opened up was a boys' dorm. That's right, and then they moved the girls over there later on.

Well, Harstad Hall also, on the top floor had up at the top of it a cupola, which was burned down in 1941 I think it was, or '42, and never was replaced, just covered up the way it is now. It changed the look of the building somewhat, but replacing the structure that was up there before would be a pretty expensive thing. It's something that may be done in the future. Who knows. Drawings and pictures of the way the building looked at that time are available.

A lot of money has been spent on Harstad Hall through the years. And engineers who have looked at it have said that it is structurally sound, that the timber is excellent, and that there is no reason why the building should be razed. So it is being kept. Concrete stairwells have been put in, an automatic sprinkler system put in throughout the building, and it's an excellent structure. And students who live there like it very much. It's a roomy building and has a lot of character, and of course a lot of history.

A lot of interesting things have happened in that building. My mind goes back to school days there. I remember when we came to class one day on the second floor for Nils Hong's class, and when we opened up the door that morning the place smelled to high heaven. A cow had been put in there during the night and it had left its calling cards all over the floor. When Hong came there he was enraged and he had a pretty good idea who it was and he made the fellows clean up the place and they weren't too happy about that, but they were guilty.

Another time we tried to get a horse in there. Ramy, Professor Ramstad, had a horse, a little pony. There was a night watchman by the name of Fadness. We called him "The Rat," an endearing term, because he was so fast. He was a short little man and he could really get around that building. And he would check us in at night. He would kind of chuckle when the kids would check in. They would sign it "George Washington" or give the name of some other famous personage and lots of times wouldn't sign their own names. Things were kind of loose. There was no resident head in the dormitory when I was there, most of the time. We had one there for a while, but he was out most of the time himself. He was not a student. Anyway, to get back to the horse. We'd make an awful lot of racket up on the third floor, and Fadness would come running up there to see what in the world was going on and when he was doing that, someone sneaked down the other stairway, opened up the front door, and tried to get the horse in, but the horse balked and we couldn't get it in. Willy Pflueger was on the outside trying to get that horse in, and finally one time we did get the thing in and then Fadness came running back downstairs and he let out a yell and Wolly and the horse went tearing out the front door and the horse took all 18 of those front steps in one leap and landed at the bottom and kept right on going. Thought for sure the thing was gonna break its legs because I was watching it from the third floor, but no harm was done. Well, that's just some of the funny incidents we had.

I remember another time, a time in the first floor, now the ground floor. When I was going to school we had a lounge on the first floor at the north end of the building. And then down below there was where the DRGs, Delta Rho Gamma, which stood for "Day Room Girls," who lived off campus. They had lockers down there, a place where they could fix their lunches and stay during the day between classes. Or if they were going to stay after an evening program, why they could cook an evening meal there and stay. Well, an evening after the girls had left for town (this is a hangout for lovers, where they could come and hold hands and so forth). Well, there were two doors leading into this place and one time Fadness suspected somebody was down there and so he went in, and when he went in one door these kids went out the other door. They were going back and forth, back and forth. When they'd go out the door, why he'd go out and so they'd go back in, and they'd play Hide and Seek back and forth there and finally he started laughing and they started laughing and they just couldn't get over it. They were just paralyzed there and Fadness came over to them and said, "OK you two kids," he says, "Now get upstairs to bed before the old lady catches you." He was referring of course, to Mrs. Kreidler, who was Dean of Women at the time.

00:24:00 - 00:30:55 Gymnasium

Well, now for some talk about some of the other buildings on campus and how the campus has evolved. The next building to go up was the Gymnasium to the south. This was built in 1912, mostly from gifts from alumni and students and some friends of the school. This building was a fine frame structure, which had a basement and a large upper floor. It had a basketball court downstairs. There was an excavated place where it was supposed to have eventually been a swimming pool, which never did develop. Then there was a chemistry lab and a biology lab and classroom. There was a stage at one end of the gymnasium and programs and plays were held there. And there was a running track up above, a wooden running track. Very seldom was it used for running, but it was a place where a lot of people could sit and watch basketball games and also was a spot for observers at plays and programs. There was also a place where parties were held.

And then we had the Grand Marches. I'll never forget those. When I was in school Dr. Tingelstad would ... we couldn't have dancing of course, in those days, so we had what we called the Grand March and everyone would pair up. And these couples, boys and girls, would be led by the president of the school and the faculty. And then the students would follow, two by two. They would march all around the gymnasium and then out the door (this would be the conclusion of the party) before going over to the basement for refreshments by the cafeteria, or the Boarding Club. This was a great event and Tingelstad just reveled in this type of thing.

Well, we also had the plays in there. I'll never forget, we were having play practice and the backboard was pulled up by a pulley and ropes, while the rehearsal was going on, the rope broke and this backboard came crashing down, just missed the kids on the stage, swung across the stage and it came back, and it took out the whole front end of the proscenium arch of the stage. That was really something. But got things all fixed up and no harm was done except that a lot of us were pretty well shaken up by the affair.

The plays in those days were directed by Mrs. Joseph Edwards, who was a part time faculty member and whose husband was head of the music department and director of the choir. She was a graduate of St. Olaf College, just loved drama, and was an excellent drama coach. We had a lot of fun with her. She worked hard with us kids. We didn't have any experience with any of these things. We put on some pretty good plays, three act plays, musicals, and one act plays.

Well, this building, the old Gymnasium, which was located, I'd say, about 100 feet south of Harstad Hall and on the site of what is now the University Center. Well, that building burned down in 1946, and Dr. Eastvold and Cliff Olson stood there and watched the thing go down and they just shuddered because the football uniforms and other athletic equipment were stored in that thing. It was in June. What to do? Well, Eastvold was a man of the hour and he sat down and wrote a letter and got the secretaries out and had that thing in the mail that very next morning. In fact, a lot of business people got the letter that very same day because they got it in the early morning mail and it got downtown to a lot of people that afternoon. And there were a lot of cracks about that in the community. One was that Cliff Olson set fire to the building in order to get what little insurance there was and also to get rid of that old structure and that this letter was already in the mail before the building was started on fire. Well, Cliff didn't take too kindly to this type of needling, but it was all in fun. Everybody knew that it was just one of those things that happens. The cause of the fire, I don't believe it ever was determined. The building was valued at that time, I suppose, right around \$30,000, 25, or 30 thousand dollars.

But it was a good thing it did happen because the result was the erection of two buildings. One was a new gymnasium called Memorial Gymnasium, down on Lower Campus which was started a few months later.

00:30:55 - 00:34:19 Student Union Building / Classroom Building

And also on the foundation of the old Gymnasium a Student Union Building was erected. Because the concrete foundation was not damaged, so all the debris was cleared out of there and this new building was erected. Both those buildings were completed in 1947.

The Student Union Building there on that site stood until 1970 when it was razed to make way for the University Center. That building, called the SUB from the initials Student Union Building, stood there for quite some time. I mean- shouldn't say it that way. The SUB saw a variety of uses. When it first opened, it was used as a, in the basement - I was manager of the building and we had a bookstore, coffee shop, which proved to be a loser, and offices for the student government, photography, upstairs there was a big lounge and a stage where plays were held and parties and various events. It became the social center of the university. Also, the offices for the speech department, up above the stage in the west end of the building. And in the east end of the building there was a kitchen where the day room girls, the Delta Rho Gamma, had their kitchen and their lounge. It was quite a place. Then, later on, when the new College Union was built in 1955, why, offices were changed.

Well, in 1952 when the Chapel-Music-Speech Building, now Eastvold Chapel, was completed, why the speech people moved out of that building and those offices were left vacant and then faculty members were moved in there. Faculty offices were made up in front, the entrance there was a cloak room and that was made into a faculty office and the upstairs of the DRG rooms were made into faculty offices. And so a lot of changes. And downstairs, after '55 the downstairs area was changed and made into classrooms. The coffeeshop, bookstore - all that stuff was moved over to the new College Union Building, called the CUB. This building also served as ... [TAPE ENDS]