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Pacific's Diamond Jubilee

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OVERLAND MONTHLY

Founded by Bret Harte in 1868

Pacific's Oldest Living Graduate

Aline Kistler
Prologue to the Pageant of Pacific

Jack London

Sinclair Lewis

James Oliver Curwood

George Sterling

and

Donald O'Donald

Pacific's Diamond Jubilee

**And Out West
Magazine ~ 25¢**

Pacific's Diamond Jubilee

By ISABEL JOHN

THE CHILD of a missionary Methodism, nursed to maturity by western growth, re-born to youth through modern advance, the College of the Pacific celebrates the close of seventy-five years of educational effort with its Diamond Jubilee celebration on the new campus at Stockton, June 13 to 15.

With a heritage bequeathed by sturdy churchmen, with a fluxing stream of student youth, with a renewed goal set ahead, this College, the oldest west of the Rockies, looks back over three-quarters of a century, absorbed in the present but remembering the past in hopes that traditions will prove more than ghost memories.

To the Stockton campus, redolent with fresh growing things, its buildings still bright with white trowelled mortar, will come the youth of Pacific—both aged and young. Mary Smith Brooke, the last remaining of the first graduating class, will come. Aged youths from student days in the '60's and '70's will come. Middle-aged—mature—adolescent—all will come, each packing his bundle of memories. Musty memories—mellowed memories—precious alone to the one who wrested them from the granary of youth.

And the tear that is paid as tribute to the past will, for the moment, become a crystal through which the future is seen. And people, remembering, will build castles hoping that others who go that way will believe in the past and in turn garner their packet of life marked "college days" from more spacious halls, monuments to the past that is dead, symbols of hopes unattained.

There will be a pageant—the "Pageant of the Pacific"—and through its scenes facts and memories will be revived. Its recurrent pictures will tell the story of Pacific.

How, in 1848 when the news of gold in California was firing the imaginations of emigrants with greed for material wealth, Isaac Owen, an Indiana minister, caught a statesmanlike vision of the future of the West. He appealed to his church and was commissioned to develop Methodism in the West.

There followed harrowing travel, day after day behind stolid oxen, until the Owen family arrived in California only to be faced with fresh hardships. Financial difficulties, the death of their youngest child . . . Weary months passed while Isaac Owen ministered to the spiritual needs of the settlers. Feeling that education was as important as the founding of churches, he worked untir-

ingly to open schools and bring teachers from the Middle West.

His efforts toward an institution of higher learning led to an educational convention in San Jose, January 6 and 7, 1851. Plans were laid before the state legislature then in session and other steps were taken toward founding a university.

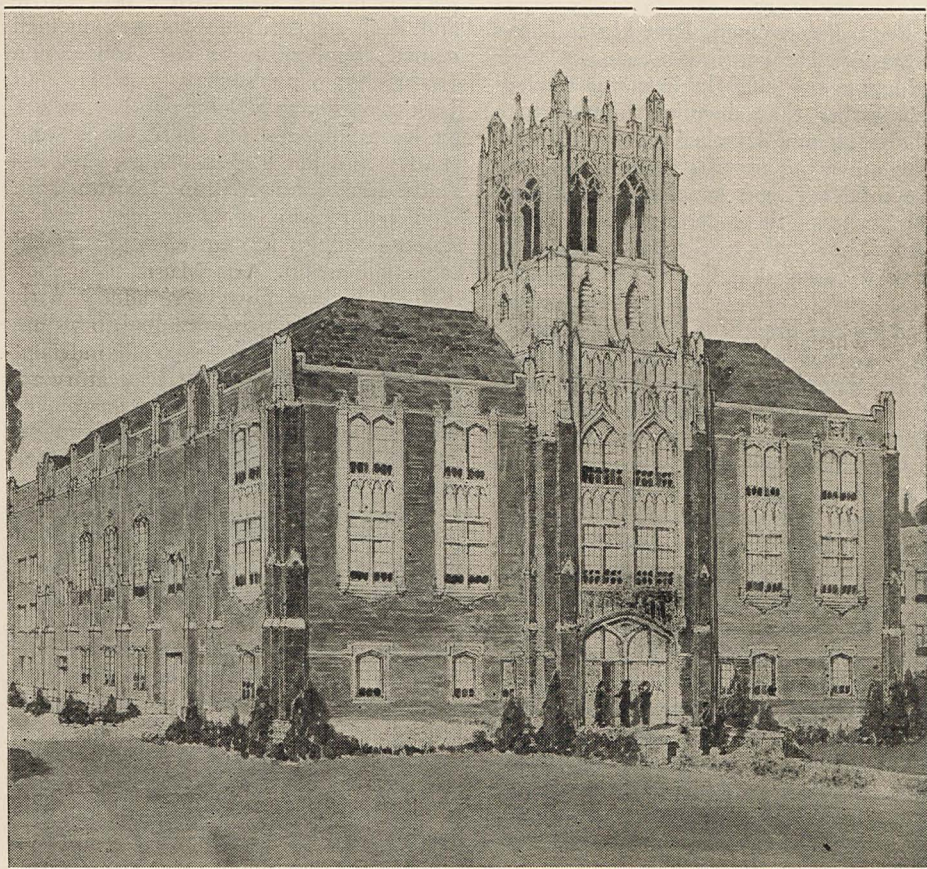
Several meetings were held during the coming months and on July 10, 1851, E. H. Sharp, clerk of the Supreme Court of California, signed the charter for the California Wesleyan College—the name being changed to University of Pacific the following year.

The first board of Trustees included Rev. Isaac Owen, D. L. Ross, Rev. S.

David A. Dryden and A. L. S. Bateman—all of whom had been active in the founding of the institution.

Rev. S. D. Simonds was elected president and Professor E. Bannister secretary of the charter Board of Trustees, but Bannister opened the primary department in Santa Clara and continued as principal of the preparatory department until, in February, 1854, M. C. Briggs was elected the first President of the University.

Two buildings were erected at a cost of \$5,000 and \$12,000 respectively for the Female Institute in Santa Clara and the "male department" a quarter of a mile distant. Though men and women were given the same class work, they were not allowed to attend the same



The new Conservatory building on the Harriet M. Smith Memorial Campus at Stockton. It houses the Watt Memorial Organ and Pacific's Art Theatre.

D. Simonds, Hon. C. P. Hester, Dr. W. Grove Deal, Rev. William Taylor (later a bishop) F. E. Kellogg, Rev. W. J. Brier, Hon. D. O. Shattuck, Captain Joseph Aram, Dr. J. T. McLean, Rev. Elihu Anthony, Annis Merrill, Dr. Benjamin Pierson, Rev. M. C. Briggs, Rev. E. Bannister, J. B. Bond, Rev. Wm. Morrow, James Rogers, Warner Oliver, James Corwine, Charles Maclay,

classes until 1869 when the institution moved to College Park near San Jose.

A regular classical course was given. Greek and Latin were emphasized in this four year course which included work similar to that offered in Eastern Universities of that time. The degree of B. A. was conferred upon those who completed the full course and, for a number of years, students not caring to

study the ancient languages were given the degree of B. S.

The course in the Female Department extended over three years, resulting in a diploma and the degree of Mistress of Science, comparable to the B. S. degree given the men.

The first regular graduation occurred in 1858 when President Gibbons conferred baccalaureate degrees on five young men and the Female Institute graduated five young women.

ON SEPTEMBER 28, 1858, the Board of Trustees adopted resolutions establishing a Medical Department in San Francisco. This was the first regular course in medicine on the Pacific Coast and in the twelve years before it was reorganized as the Cooper Medical College, now part of Stanford University, forty-four students were granted an M. D. degree.

Financial troubles beset the institution. In 1866 about 435 acres of the Stockton Rancho, lying between Santa Clara and San Jose, were purchased for approximately \$72,000. The larger part of this was subdivided into blocks and lots and sold to help finance the University. The heart of this tract was reserved for a campus and, in 1871, West Hall was completed at a cost of over \$30,000 and the University moved to College Park where it remained until 1924 when it was removed to the Harriet M. Smith Memorial Campus at Stockton.

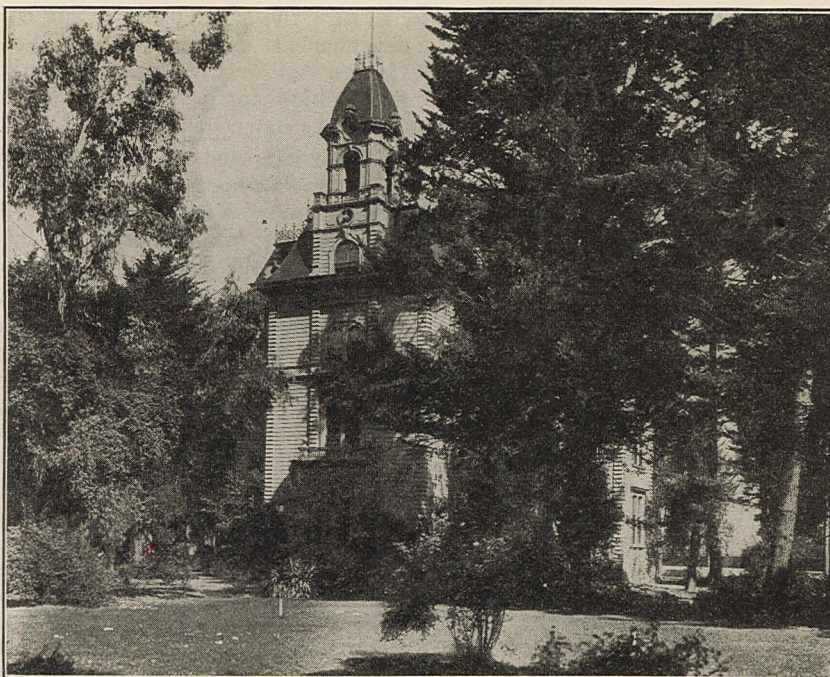
The College Park campus was beautified with trees and lawns and within the following years the eighteen acres were dotted with five main buildings and the Jacks-Goodall Observatory.

But this was not accomplished without many a sacrifice. Witness the motion adopted by the Board of Trustees, June 6, 1871:

"Resolved that we elect a President of the University to conduct the Institution for the academic year next ensuing, to meet all of the expenses out of his own funds, paying taxes on building and campus and keeping the property insured to the present amount of policies, and to conduct the institution without subjecting the Board of Trustees to any expense whatsoever."

Dr. Thomas H. Sinex took up the challenge and carried on the work until Dr. A. S. Gibbons returned to the president's chair. Methodist friends subscribed about \$45,000 and not long afterwards \$40,000 was realized from the auction sale of College Park lots.

In 1877 Dr. C. C. Stratton became president and for ten years administered the affairs of the University. This period was called the Golden Age for it marked the most colorful years of the early



West Hall on the College Park Campus. Until it burned in 1914, it was the scene of classroom, fraternal and social incidents that form a colorful part of Pacific's history

growth. Regular professorships increased from six to ten. The student body grew from 166 to 423. There were 197 degrees conferred during that decade. Departments of Art, Music, Elocution, Education and Law were added to the existing Collegiate, Preparatory and Commercial departments. All indebtedness was wiped out, the Conservatory and two other buildings were erected.

After Stratton's resignation and the election of Dr. A. C. Hirst in 1887 an unfortunate chain of circumstances precipitated another critical period. Differences on the question of student discipline jeopardized the very existence of the University and resulted in the resignation of four of the most popular professors, T. C. George, Chas. E. Cox, W. W. Thoburn and D. A. Hayes, and the transfer of the entire senior class from Pacific to the newly opened Stanford University.

But the tenacious spirit of Pacific weathered the storm and, through the presidencies of Isaac Crook, W. C. Sawyer, J. N. Beard, Eli McClish and William W. Guth, the Institution slowly righted itself and worked back towards its former standing.

Meanwhile Napa college had sprung up in the North. The Napa Collegiate Institute had been formed in 1870 and by 1885, when it became Napa College, it was practically duplicating the work offered at Pacific. Both colleges were under the general direction of the Methodist Episcopal Church conference and, when financial difficulties arose, it was decided wisest to combine the colleges.

Unification was started in 1892 and by 1896 Napa College had been dissolved, its alumni credited as alumni of Pacific and all efforts were concentrated in the San Jose institution.

The years went by. The University of California and Stanford University overshadowed the smaller college but still the ideals of the founder, the staunch Father Owen, prevailed and Pacific continued its work, giving personal attention to the individual students, endeavoring to give more than class-room instruction, trying to help the California youth to productive evaluations of life.

In 1911, feeling that it was better to limit the work to that of strictly college grade, the name was changed to College of the Pacific.

With the arrival of Dr. John L. Seaton, in 1914, there came a new financial era. The College debt was removed in the face of two disheartening fires and other difficulties.

War was declared. The men flocked to army camps and training barracks. The Student Army Training Corps was established on the campus. Student life was interrupted and changed.

Peace was declared. With a shiver of reality the feverish excitement was checked and more normal living took the place of the pageantry of masks and finely spun tension of heroic ideas.

Dr. Tully C. Knoles was brought from the University of California to be president of Pacific when Dr. Seaton went to wider administrative activities. With students returning full of post-war enthusiasms—with a constituency

awakened to the opportunities open to the smaller college not yet burdened by the pressing mass of students then beginning to weight the state University, Dr. Knoles found himself confronted with a malleable student-body and a responsive church conference.

Then came the vision of expansion—the possibility of removal from College Park.

Grueling years were those. Hard years, striving years. Years that gave way, each to another as tense and trying.

There was the Crusade with all its modern drama, the amalgamation of an endowment of a million and a half for Pacific. The staunch cooperation given by the finance department of the Methodist Board of Education. The response of Stockton—a community eager for the things that Pacific would bring to her city. The gifts of the land, the pledged money. All crowded into the hectic days whose labor was the price of Pacific's re-birth.

Gifts were brought to Pacific. Following the Rockefeller Foundation gift that formed the nucleus for the million and a half endowment campaign, there came the gift of the land for the Harriet M. Smith Memorial campus from the Smith heirs in memory of their mother.

Recently ground was broken for the West Memorial Infirmary, the gift of Mrs. Charles M. Jackson in memory of her father and mother, George and Ellen K. West, and her brother, Frank Allen West.

And the Diamond Jubilee celebration will witness the completed gate to the campus, the gift of Miss Nellie E. Smith in memory of her mother, Mrs. Harriet M. Smith.

The Watt Memorial organ, whose donor, the late Rollo V. Watt, proved himself such a true friend of Pacific, will give a sonorous echo of the sorrow caused by the recent death of that man who time and again personally sponsored new plans and new development for the college.

Those years of effort are already repaid in a measure by the influx of students and the response of recognition. The student body has doubled in numbers. Fifth year work has been added and the education department accredited by the state to issue recommendations for teachers' credentials of all grades.

A College of Engineering has been developed. The conservatory of Music, Art and Dramatics has obtained recognition for its splendid work. Pacific's Art Theatre has won a place in Western amateur dramatics. Athletics have won recognition with victories in football, basketball and track.

Truly the signs point to an age of development approached only by the Golden Age of President Stratton's administration forty years ago. Perhaps this is the dawn of a Diamond Age.

These facts and evidences of growth, from the first hopes of Father Owen to the present visions of the future Pacific, will be brought to mind by the "Pageant of the Pacific," Tuesday evening of Commencement Week.

But as alumni and former students gather on the campus—beginning Saturday evening with the conservatory concert and continuing through the conferring of degrees on Wednesday—it will not be these things that are discussed. The glimpses of the past and prophecies of the future given by the Pageant will be but the picture frames through which each sees the Pacific he knew in student days.

Mrs. Brooke will tell of the ribbon

trimmed tarleton frocks the girls used that first graduation day.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanson and the few other representatives of the days before the University moved to College Park will tell of the happenings in the "big brick building." They will tell of the morning when the Santa Clara residents woke to find a bewildered donkey hitched to his cart on the roof of that building, mournfully resigned to the fate imposed by the prankish students of the late sixties.

In the society halls there will be talk of traditions. Archanians will discuss the heritage that is theirs as the first men's literary society in the first college west of the Rockies.

Rhizomia will swell with pride to recall the time when a small group of students pledged loyalty to the Union flag in spite of the Southern sentiment

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Breaking ground on the Harriet M. Smith Memorial Campus. Dr. Tully C. Knoles, President of the College of the Pacific, and C. N. Harrold are in the foreground.

Pacific's Diamond Jubilee

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that had developed on the campus. Taking the American eagle and the stars and stripes as their emblems of loyalty, that group of men formed Rhizomia and started the traditions that have motivated both pranks and serious actions throughout the decades.

Yes, much of conversation about Pacific, this Diamond Jubilee time, will concern Archania and Rhizomia and their clashes and competitions. Representing two factions of politics, clinging to widely contrasted points of view, Archania and Rhizomia—conservative and progressive factors in Pacific's college life—play perhaps the greatest part in the student history of the institution.

Until West Hall burned down, they had meeting rooms, one in the northern the other in the southern part of the building. At times of political stress they became political units, hot-beds of discussion—the one Democratic the other Republican.

For a time an attempt was made to unite the two societies and in the late eighties a congress was formed with a "senate" and "house" composed of equal numbers from each society. Debates were held on national issues with as much earnestness as if Washington, D. C., were waiting the decision before taking action. Things went smoothly for a time—too smoothly. For one night the "house" decided to visit the aristocratic "senate." The callers were greeted with substantial chair cushions. A fight ensued. Archania and Rhizomia declared the truce void and old relationships returned.

As student interest changed and politics gave way to more immediate interests the expressions of the rivalry changed but the spirit never. The very songs of the societies, now dignified into fraternities, echo the fervid rivalry. Stolen "eats," deflated tires, interrupted parties! Adolescent exuberances were these—but they are the things not forgotten. It will be the spicy tales of these incidents that will make the past breathe and move and live again for returning alumni and friends.

The women too will have their tales—of Emendia, the first women's organization chartered in the West—of Sophelectia that was started for "the promotion of social standing and the acquisition of those womanly graces and rare refinement of manners which comes from a thorough knowledge and practice of etiquette and the development of fine tastes."

And more recent graduates will spin yarns of the founding days of Philomusia, Athenaea, and Omega Phi. There

will be discussion of the process of sophistication through which the students are passing—a period that already has transmuted ancient organizations into Greek letter fraternities and sororities. In keeping with the flux of years, the organizations change. Each is potent, each is colorful to those who know them well. So, looking through the kaleidoscope of their own student days, the alumni will see in the antics and institutions of modern college life the same spirit that they knew in youth. And, seeing and knowing it to be good, will give material aid to advance the College.

So the celebration, far from being a mere recollection of facts and faces and dates, will gather an emotional momentum that will truly create a Jubilee at the new-but-old, modern-but-aged College of the Pacific—the oldest college in the West which through its re-birth has become the newest.

With pride will alumni and friends listen to the Commencement address by General William Nathan MacChesney, a Pacific graduate who returns to his alma mater after winning recognition at home and abroad. With joy they will tell each other of the twenty-four Pacific alumni who are listed in the last issue of Who's Who.

They will discuss them all and recount "I knew him when—" stories. Among the Who's Who listing, besides General MacChesney, judge, author and writer of Chicago, there are:

Dr. Frank Wilson Blackmar, writer, now a Professor at the University of California.

Dr. Robert G. Aitken, Associate Director of Lick Observatory since 1923.

Dr. Susan M. Kingsbury, author and writer at Bryn Mawr College since 1915.

Professor W. J. Miller, geologist, now at the Southern Branch of the University of California.

Marshal Hale, prominent business magnate of San Francisco.

Reuben Hale, merchant prince, recently re-elected president of the California Development Association and prominent figure in public enterprises.

Dr. Rockwell D. Hunt, historian, and chairman of the graduate department of the University of Southern California.

President Robert John Trevorrow of Centenary Collegiate Institute, Hackensack, New Jersey.

The late Judge Henry L. Benson of the Supreme Court of Oregon.

Ex-Congressman J. C. Needham of Modesto.

Jessica Vance Smith, principal of Westlake School for girls, Los Angeles.

Other prominent alumni include Judge Charles A. Shurtleff, Judge John E. Richards, Judge J. R. Welch, Judge P. F. Gosbey, Senator L. L. Dennett, Dr. E. P. Dennett, editor of the California Christian Advocate and a large number of others scattered throughout California and the United States.

These well-known names stand as symbols of the accomplishment of Pacific's years. They are the product of the careful training ever kept in mind in the relationship between the college and the student. Their recognition is Pacific's recognition and subtly repays the untold efforts of seventy-five years of striving and toil by men and women who have forgotten themselves and are individually forgotten in their service for an educational ideal.

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