

Mo, Phillip, Jenny, Carbet, VG.

An interesting article I found  
buried in my OES files at home -

written by Dean Greenfield in  
75/76

given to Malcolm M.

from Paul Bartlett - 1st displac

I worked with -

Interesting history!

Sue

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Bob Crawford

The Relationship of the School and the Church

When St. Helen's Hall was founded, it was not the intention of the Diocese that it should fulfil the same kind of role as schools like Concordia Academy or the Roman Catholic parochial schools. On the other hand, it was never intended that the religious aspect of the school should be merely an optional extra. Instead, it was assumed that the Hall would represent a kind of Christian Humanism which valued high academic standards and believed that religion was an indispensable part of human life. With this in mind, most of the teachers were always persons with strong religious convictions, although they came from a variety of Christian denominations and frequently included practicing Jews. As a result of this outlook, the Chapel and the religious program were at the heart of the whole academic enterprise.

To keep this ideal alive, the Church took a strong role in the background. The present institution would not exist at all if it were not for the sacrificial work of the Sisters of the Community of St. John the Baptist, who provided a staff of five without pay for forty years. After their departure, the Diocese came to the rescue of the Hall by giving \$10,000 a year from its missionary budget so that the school could be kept open.

When it became apparent that the freeway would come through the Church property at S. W. 13th and Montgomery, the Board of Trustees entered into negotiations with Catlin-Gabel to ascertain if a merger could be worked out. The only way that this could be done was to eviscerate the religious program and as a result, the Trustees of St. Helen's Hall decided against a merger.

When it was decided to relocate the School on the present property, there was never any question about the necessity of building a chapel. The money was to come, in part, from the compensation from the State of Oregon for the two chapels which existed on the property down town. In addition, most of the donors to the Relocation Drive gave to it because there would be a religious program centered on the Chapel and its services; every major donation was given with this understanding.

When Bishop Dagwell died, it became known that he wanted to have the bulk of his

estate go to the foundation of a Boys' School, since he had always been sad about the demise of the old Bishop Scott Academy. As a result of his wishes, the Trustees of the Dagwell Foundation gave their money for this purpose; the total money given by the Bishop and the Foundation was well over three quarters of a million dollars.

It will be clear that there was a moral obligation to continue the religious program and to replace the chapels which had been torn down.

It is at this point that the present Cathedral came into the picture. Bishop Carman felt strongly that if the new location were in an area without an Episcopal congregation, some arrangement should be made to house a parish drawn from the neighborhood. He felt that the arrangement down town was unsatisfactory: St. Stephen's existed two blocks away from the Hall, and its facilities were used chiefly on Sundays. On the other hand, the chapels at the Hall were used during the week and unused on the weekend. It was his desire that any new building should have maximum use.

As a result, he directed the Chaplain of the Hall to gather a congregation together, first in what are now the fifth grade rooms, and then later in the Lower School Common Hall. When the time came for the building to be erected, this small group of people took out the present mortgage of \$50,000; the larger part of the cost of the construction came from the school which at that time was holding as many as four or five chapel services each day for different age groups. It will be seen that the congregation had a relatively small share in the use of the School Chapel.

After the building was erected, the turbulent sixties produced a reaction against required chapel services, and the Hall discontinued the daily services for the Upper and Middle Schools. At the same time the number of Lower School services also declined, leaving the congregation to make a much greater proportionate use of the building than was ever intended, and due to circumstances completely beyond its control. What had started as a School Chapel with minimal use by the congregation ended with the Oregon Episcopal Schools choosing to make a minimal use of the building.

From the beginning, however, the congregation undertook a much larger responsibility for the building than was originally intended by the Diocese or by the O. E. S. Trustees. The building stood as a great shell, with virtually no appointments. As a result of the work of the congregation, many changes were made. When the Treasure Sale department of the Country Fair was producing practically no money, the members of the Congregation were asked by the school to take over this department as a project. With each passing year, the proceeds increased, and the Congregation was given a substantial share. The money so earned, was used to improve the facilities which were mutually used; among the projects paid for by the Congregation in this way were the outside porch, the narthex screen, the majority of the pews in the nave, the stone wall in front and the landscaping, the painting of the interior walls, and the cost of the labor for building the Guild Room and the three offices.

It should be noted also that the organ, altar rails, altar canopy, sanctuary furniture, cabinets in the sacristies, the vestments and vessels were all obtained without any cost to the school. In addition, the congregation has been responsible for the maintenance of the building: among other things, this has included painting of the north wall, two paintings of the south wall, and the maintenance of the roof.

In conclusion, mention should be made of the status of this chapel as the Cathedral of this Diocese. The change by which this took place was in no way due to the desire of the congregation of what was then St. Stephen's Chapel. The tragic death of Dean O'Rillion and then of Dean Heeney caused the Diocesan authorities to discuss the use of this church as a Cathedral. The Headmaster welcomed the idea, and pursued it because he felt that it would be an advantage to the school to have Cathedral and Diocesan functions take place on the campus.

All of this history should be taken into account when the relationship of the Cathedral and the Hall is discussed. It was Bishop Carman's vision that the two institutions could be helpful to each other; certainly the role of the Church in assuming financial responsibility is already of help to the School. It is the hope and intention of the Cathedral to work harmoniously and fruitfully with the Trustees of the O. E. S.