

Masonic of Eastern Star Home
of Oregon

Masonic and Eastern Star Home

FOREST GROVE, OREGON



*A Brief Historical Sketch
and Views*

MASONIC AND EASTERN STAR HOME
BUILDING COMMITTEE

WILL MOORE R.G.M. CHAIRMAN

FRANK J. MILLER R.G.M. J. S. ROARK SECT.

O. P. COSHOW L. M. GRAHAM

ROSE J. WILSON R.G.M. PAULINE M. RILEY E.G.M.

LENA C. MENDENHALL P. G. M.

— 1921 —

W. C. KNIGHTON
ARCHITECT

CHAS. A. MURPHY
SUPT. OF CONST.

BRONZE TABLET IN LOBBY

MASONIC AND EASTERN STAR HOME

By LESLIE M. SCOTT

As a symbol of benevolent purpose, this Home grew slowly in the faith of the allied fraternal orders, and finally materialized in this beautiful edifice, equipped to perform collectively the service which depending brothers and fostering sisters have sought personally to teach and do.

This Masonic and Eastern Star Home is built not merely to succor dependents of the allied orders and to relieve their distress, but also to satisfy the yearnings of fraternal and filial devotion.

Dedicated amid the afternoon splendors of June 14, 1922, this Home is a culmination of faith and charity—seventy-two years of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Oregon, and thirty-three years of the Grand Chapter of Order of Eastern Star.

As the kind and nurturing enterprises of men originate in the persuasions of women, so the plan for this Home began. The Grand Lodge, for nearly half a century, had been storing up funds for benevolent uses to be used some day in future, when, on June 16, 1897, the Grand Chapter adopted the recommendation of Rose J. Wilson, M. Annette Weatherford and Clara Darling, "that steps be taken to establish a home for widows and orphans of Masons." Next year, in 1898, the Grand Chapter resolved "that we immediately undertake to provide a home for such persons as are dependent on us," and on the day following the Grand Lodge approved the resolution.

For nineteen years thereafter the idea grew in the minds of Masons, from this suggestion of the Eastern Star sisters. Further initiative necessarily had to come from the Grand Lodge, but this body felt that financial strength should be gathered, before so great a project should be undertaken. At last, in June, 1917, the Grand Lodge and the Grand Chapter adopted resolutions declaring for the establishment of a Masonic and Eastern Star Home, the vote in the Grand Lodge being 178 to 13, and in the Grand Chapter, unanimous. "Be it resolved," said the resolution in the Grand Lodge, June 14, 1917, "That it is the sense of this Grand Lodge that it establish, construct, provide and maintain a Masonic and Eastern Star home for the aged and infirm, and the poor and distressed worthy Master Masons, their widows and orphans, within the jurisdiction, and that the project be entered upon as soon as the requisite means can be provided therefor." The committee recommending this action was composed of Brothers David P. Mason, George H. Burnett, George T. Cochran, H. A. Kirkland and Frank J. Miller, who had been appointed by W. M. Will Moore. The succeeding M. W. Grand Master, W. G. Shellenbarger, and the M. W. Grand Matron, Lena C. Mendenhall, named respective committees in 1917, to report on sites for the Home in 1918, and on plans of organization and operation. Thus the Grand Lodge at last was committed to the plan of the Grand Chapter. The years then following were to see one step after another taken in each annual communication of the allied bodies. But before proceeding to narrate those details, let us return to the important year of 1917, when action on the home project actually began.

The home plan had lain dormant since 1898. Of February 27, 1917, Brother Hugh A. Kirkland, past master of Columbia Lodge No. 114, of Portland, brought the subject to the attention of The Masters', Wardens' and Post Masters' Association of that city. Brother Kirkland was president of that association. He had made close study of Masonic homes in other Grand jurisdictions, and at that meeting he presented the need of a similar institution in Oregon. The upshots of the discussion were

the unanimous decision that there should be such a home in Oregon and the appointment of a committee, consisting of Brothers J. S. Roark, Archie C. Fries and P. A. Kennedy, to make investigations and report at the next monthly meeting of the association.

Personnel of this committee later was increased to thirty-one members, representing the nineteen Masonic lodges and the twelve Eastern Star chapters of Portland. The committee, assisted by Brother Kirkland, proceeded to promote the home project by publishing a booklet, *Brief Statistics on the Masonic and Eastern Star Homes*, which cited the thirty or more homes of this kind then operating in twenty-nine states. At the sessions of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter at Portland in June, 1917, 1000 copies of this booklet were distributed. To defray the cost of publication, The Masters', Wardens' and Past Masters' Association of Portland produced at Heilig Theater, in April, 1917, a dramatic play entitled "The Private Secretary." The M. W. Grand Master, Will Moore, in his address to the Grand Lodge, in 1917, strongly urged the home project. Both the Grand Lodge and the Grand Chapter adopted the project in 1917, as hitherto narrated.

Next year, in June, 1918, amendments to constitution and by-laws were finally adopted in the Grand Lodge, opening the way for organizing and financing the project, and a joint committee of the two Grand bodies was appointed, comprising five and three members of each respective order, as follows: Will Moore, chairman; Frank J. Miller, O. P. Coshow, L. M. Graham, and J. S. Roark, secretary; Rose J. Wilson, Pauline M. Riley and Lena C. Mendenhall. The chairman of this committee in the past year has been Frank S. Baillie, P. G. M., who succeeded O. P. Coshow as a member of the committee in 1922. Under the management of this committee, the Home was built in 1920-21. The cost of the building, additions, improvements and furnishings, not including things donated, has been \$310,000, up to June 1, 1923, of which sum \$273,000 was expended up to June, 1922 and \$37,000 in the past year. These sums do not include maintenance at approximately \$1500 a month. The largest part of the construction fund came from donations of lodges and members, made in 1920 and 1921, through lodge apportionment, from a \$47,000 contribution made by the Grand Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, from \$5 for each entered apprentice degree conferred in the jurisdiction and from appropriations from the general fund of the Grand Lodge. Maintenance is provided from an annual tax of one dollar a member of the constituent lodges, and twenty-five cents a member of the constituent chapters, which yielded in the fiscal year 1922-23 a sum approximating \$30,000.

As a site for the Home, the Grand Lodge and the Grand Chapter accepted a gift of fifteen acres from Holbrook Lodge No. 30, one mile east of Forest Grove, and bought for \$10,200 fifteen acres adjoining. Free sites were offered also at Ashland and Salem. The architect was Brother W. C. Knighton. The Home committee let the contract for the reinforced concrete frame work on May 2, 1920. The M. W. Grand Master, Earl C. Bronaugh, laid the corner stone June 16, 1920, witnessed by the M. W. Grand Matron, Alberta S. McMurphey. Brother J. S. Roark took charge, as superintendent, of the completed central part and east wing of the large building, on January 1, 1922, and received as the first resident of the Home, Brother Henry Mounts, on February 24, 1922.

This Home is endowed with the fervency and zeal of the orders of Masonry and Eastern Star. It is not only a refuge for the needy, but also a monument to the teachings of worshipful fellowship. This haven from the storms of life is intended to afford to the young the means of hopeful endeavor, and to the elders, the comforts which befit the setting sun of well-spent lives. The reward of the men and women who aid the fraternal cause is the knowledge that the little they severally contribute aggregates a large total, and this makes a pleasure of judicious giving.



HOME COMMITTEE AT LAYING OF CORNER STONE, JUNE 16, 1920. LEFT TO RIGHT; LOYAL M. GRAHAM, P. M. (HAND ON STONE), PAULINE MOORE RILEY, P. G. M., ROSE J. WILSON, P. G. M.; J. S. ROARK, P. M.; LENA C. MENDENHALL, P. G. M.; O. P. COSHOW, P. G. P.; WILL MOORE, P. G. M.; FRANK MILLER, P. G. M.



LAYING CORNER STONE, JUNE 16, 1920; M. W. EARL C. BRONAUGH, GRAND MASTER, OFFICIATING, AND ALBERTA S. MCMURPHEY, WORTHY GRAND MATRON.



PLACING THE CORNER STONE, JUNE 16, 1920.



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING FROM TUALATIN VALLEY HIGHWAY, 470 FEET DISTANT.



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND GARAGE FROM PRIVATE DRIVEWAY. THE BUILDING IS OF REINFORCED CONCRETE, BRICK AND TILE CONSTRUCTION.



MAIN ENTRANCE TO ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AND ARE SHOWN THROUGH THE BUILDING BY MEMBERS OF THE HOME FAMILY.



THE OFFICE IS EQUIPPED WITH REINFORCED CONCRETE VAULT FOR THE SAFE KEEPING OF IMPORTANT RECORDS OF THE HOME.



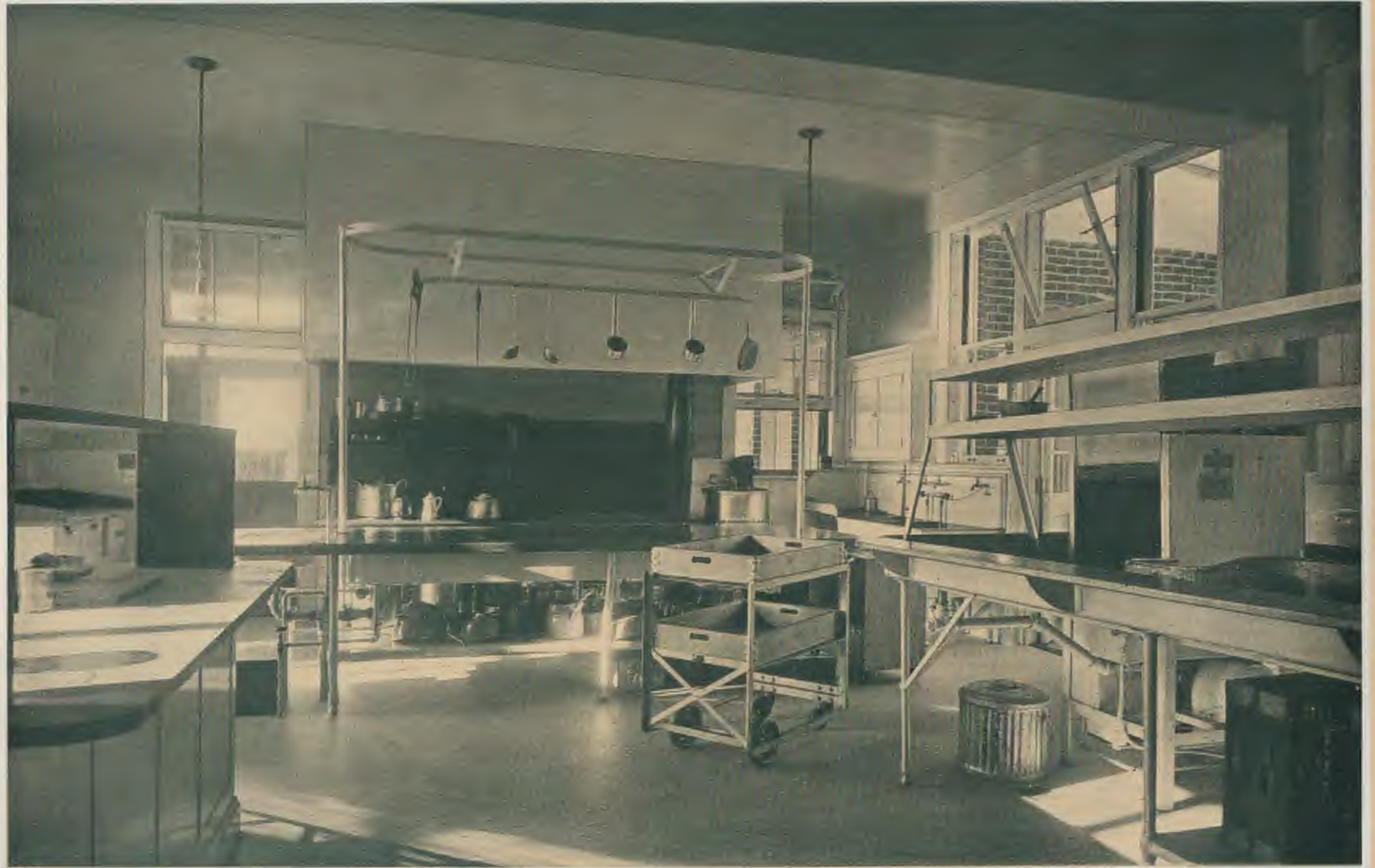
THE RECEPTION ROOM.



LOBBY, FROM MAIN ENTRANCE, LOOKING TOWARD DINING ROOM.



THE DINING ROOM; SEATING CAPACITY 96. THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING ALL WALLS ARE PAINTED A WARM BUFF COLOR, AND ALL WOODWORK FOUR-COAT IVORY.



THE KITCHEN, AMONG THE BEST FOR LIGHT, SANITATION AND CONVENIENCE, IS EQUIPPED WITH MODERN ELECTRIC AND STEAM CONVENIENCES.



FLAG RAISING, MAY 30, 1922. ATTENDANCE 3500. THE FLAG POLE, AN OREGON FIR TREE, IS 139 FEET IN LENGTH, 14 INCHES IN DIAMETER AT BUTT AND 6 INCHES AT TOP.



DIAMETER AT BUTT AND 6 INCHES AT TOP. IT WAS CUT IN THE FOREST NEAR FAIRDALE, OREGON, ABOUT 35 MILES FROM THE HOME. TO THE TOP OF THE MAST TRUCK IS $133\frac{1}{2}$ FEET FROM THE WALK.



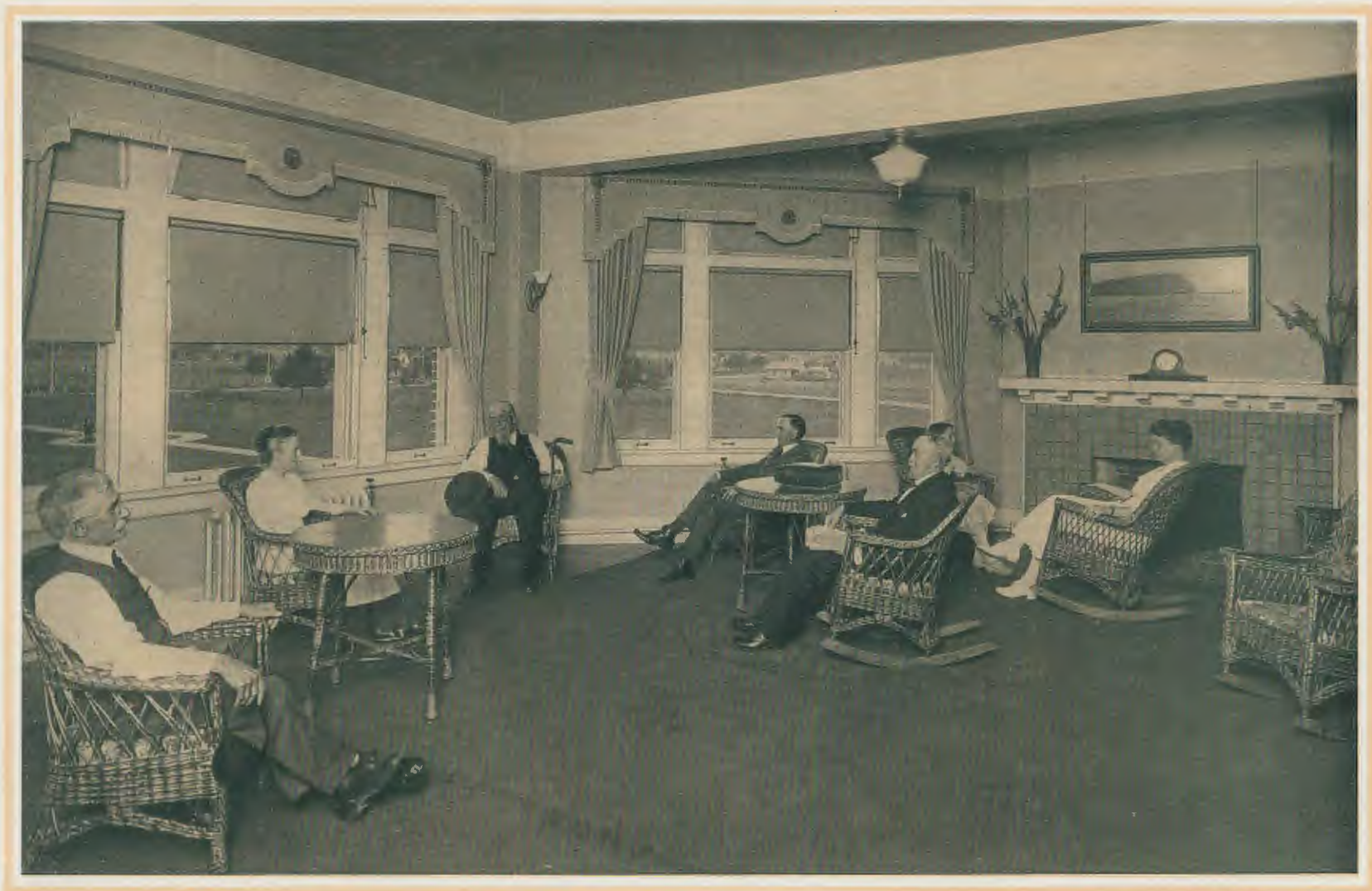
AN ABUNDANCE OF THE BEST MILK IS OBTAINED FROM BEHRMANN'S FARM, ADJOINING THE HOME GROUNDS ON THE EAST. AT EXTREME LEFT SUPERINTENDENT ROARK IS
POSING LACREOLE'S ST. SAVIOUR'S BELL NO. 390543, WORLD'S CHAMPION, CLASS A. A. A. RECORD, 746.95 FAT IN 305 DAYS, 1922-1923.



FROM THE LOBBY A REINFORCED CONCRETE INCLINE WITH ÇORK SURFACE LEADS TO THE SECOND FLOOR.



THE AUDITORIUM; SEATING CAPACITY 240. THE PROSCENIUM ARCH IS 15x20 FEET, AND THE STAGE IS 16x42 FEET. SERVICES ARE CONDUCTED HERE EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON BY VISITING LODGES AND CHAPTERS, AND MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENTS AND PICTURE SHOWS ARE FREQUENT EVENING DIVERSIONS.



ON EACH FLOOR IS AN OCTAGONAL SUN ROOM, 20x32 FEET IN SIZE, SERVING AS THE FAMILY SITTING ROOMS.



LOOKING WEST TO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY AND FOREST GROVE FROM AN UPPER SUN ROOM WINDOW, SHOWING PART OF PRIVATE DRIVEWAY AND WEALTH OF FLOWERS IN THE LARGE PORCH BOXES. THE FLOWERS WERE DONATED AND PLANTED BY MARTIN & FORBES, FLORISTS OF PORTLAND, WHOSE GREENHOUSES ARE LOCATED NEAR THE HOME.



A LIBRARY ADJOINS EACH SUN ROOM, THE BOOKS HAVING BEEN DONATED BY MANY INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS.



A SUMMER DELIGHT. IT IS ALWAYS COOL ON THE UPPER REAR PORCH OF THE EAST WING OF THE BUILDING. THE LOVELY TWO-ACRE GROVE IN THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE GROUNDS IS HERE SHOWN. AT THE FAR CORNER OF THE GROVE IS HAYNES STATION ON THE OREGON ELECTRIC RAILWAY.



THE HOME FAMILY, JULY 30, 1922. FROM LEFT, SITTING; MAE MCLEOD; OVILLA BOWERS; NELLIE R. PAYN; MARTHA A. CORNING; MARY E. HARRIS; WM. H. BRACKETT; MARY L. MILLARD; MARTHA J. SUTTON; NELLIE S. CROW; JOHN NODURFT. STANDING, JOHN B. LEACH; ALEX. BOWMAN; HENRY C. KLEPPER; THOMAS V. DYER; HENRY MOUNTS; JAMES WHITFORD; FRANK G. CONNELLY; DANIEL S. COLE.



CHILDREN'S MATRON AND CHILDREN, APRIL 27, 1923. FROM LEFT, MISS ANNA HEATH; ALBERT JOHN MACK; JESSE GLENN MACK; RAY HAMMOND MACK.



THE SUPERINTENDENT'S FAMILY: J. S. ROARK, SUPERINTENDENT; MRS. J. S. ROARK, MATRON; HELEN ROARK.



"SPRING AND AUTUMN." "UNCLE JIM" WHITFORD, AGED 95 YEARS, THE OLDEST MEMBER OF THE HOME FAMILY, AND HELEN ROARK, DAUGHTER OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND MATRON.



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, FOREST GROVE, SEATING CAPACITY 500. THIS MODERN CHURCH HAS A PIPE ORGAN, AND IN THE BASEMENT ARE WELL APPOINTED CLUB ROOMS FOR MEN AND WOMEN, BESIDES A MODEL KITCHEN AND A DINING ROOM WITH A SEATING CAPACITY FOR MORE THAN 200.



A RESIDENCE STREET IN FOREST GROVE, LOCALLY KNOWN AS "MASONIC ROW." THIS BEAUTIFUL LITTLE CITY HAS THE PROUD RECORD OF NEVER HAVING HAD A LIQUOR SALOON WITHIN HER BORDERS, AND IS TERMED "THE CITY OF SCHOOLS."



FOREST GROVE HIGH SCHOOL. THIS SCHOOL IS JUST ONE MILE FROM THE HOME AND IS OPEN TO THE CHILDREN FROM THE HOME, AS ARE ALL OTHER FOREST GROVE SCHOOLS.



MARSH HALL, THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING OF PACIFIC UNIVERSITY, FOREST GROVE SHOWING A VERY SMALL PORTION OF THE BEAUTIFUL 30 ACRE CAMPUS. ESTABLISHED
IN 1840. UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE MANY NOTABLE MEN AND WOMEN. HARVEY W. SCOTT, LATE LAMENTED EDITOR OF