Chapter Two - 1911 to 1926

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LEVI T. PENNINGTTON served as Pacific College president from 1911 to 1941—the school's entire third, fourth, and fifth decades. Today's observer must give the witty, personable Pennington much credit for the College's continued existence.

Levi's Quaker parents migrated from the East Coast to Indiana, where he was born in a log cabin in 1875. His father served as a country store proprietor, farmer, and Friends pastor in Indiana and southern Michigan.

Young Pennington's early life centered around the Quaker Meeting. As he grew up, he became Sunday school superintendent, president of the local and congressional district Christian Endeavor Union, and a fill-in pastor. The Society of Friends had recorded his father, uncle, great-uncle, and great-grandmother as ministers. Levi felt led in the same direction.

Teaching also interested him. He received his first certificate at two days past age 16½— which made him legally 17 and therefore eligible to teach. After teaching in five rural schools and serving as principal in one, he embarked upon a brief career in another interest, newspaper work.

Levi married Bertha May Waters in 1898. She died five years later, leaving two small children. After remarriage in 1905 to Florence Rebecca Kidd, he pastored several Indiana Friends meetings.

For two years Pennington worked concurrently as pastor and college student at sites 40 miles apart. Early each Monday morning he commuted by train to Earlham College and returned Friday afternoon to lead the church's prayer meeting. The congregation changed its "mid-week" meeting time from the traditional Wednesday evening to accommodate the pastor's schedule. During Christmas vacations he conducted special evangelistic meetings.

While Levi attended school, Rebecca Pennington cared for the two children and fulfilled the pastoral duties of calling on the sick, the bereaved, and the otherwise needy. "It was said that she did everything but marry 'em and bury 'em," Pennington remarked later. "My best friends did not hesitate to assure me that she was a better pastor than I was. She used to say that she practiced during the week what I preached on Sunday."

Earlham gave Pennington its highest honor, the prestigious Haverford Scholarship for graduate study. He declined the enticing opportunity, however, feeling morally obliged to give a full, undistracted year to the church he pastored.

On June 17, 1910, Levi Pennington wrote in his diary: "Got my A. B. from Earlham." Four days later he casually penned: "Most of day working at home. Got offer of presidency of Pacific College." He soon received a similar invitation from William Penn College in Iowa.

Pennington refused both offers for the reason he had declined the Haverford scholarship. One year later, having fulfilled his commitment, the 35-year-old pastor/teacher accepted a second invitation to the Pacific College presidency.

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**Fall Regular Student Enrollment, 1911-1925**

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Letters written to Pennington by Acting President William Reagan are hopeful and optimistic, but provide some forewarning that the job would not always be easy. Reagan noted that raising money for the recently completed Wood-Mar Hall "took all the extra, so it has been unusually hard to make ends meet. We are about 3 months behind on salaries here." In another letter Reagan announced: "You will be head janitor of the institution as President. The head janitor gets to do the extras."

Pennington's qualifications did not include graduate work, administrative experience, or even acquaintance with West Coast people and problems. Still, his zest for life, sharp wit, and exceptional oral and written communication skills made him an engaging leader. Coupled with a healthy tenacity and strong ego, he possessed the most essential ingredients for the presidency: He brought deep faith in God and a sense of mission that coincided with the College and Academy constituency.

Noting that the new president faced a "staggering load" that became "a crucible of administrative experience," Pennington's biographer, Donald McNichols, added:

"He held to the conviction that a Quaker college holding to the principles of Friends could and must make a badly needed and unique contribution to the nation, to society, and to the church. He perceived that such a college could assist young people develop in such a way that their contribution would add a significant moral, spiritual, and intellectual ingredient to national life... It was this concern, this call to service that prompted him to sacrifice and ask for sacrifice of others to make such training possible for future leaders in all phases of society."

Within a year, Pennington accurately analyzed the school's problems. His first annual report to Oregon Yearly Meeting identified continued constituent allegiance as the greatest need. It advocated continued sacrificial loyalty from "many who have not yet felt as fully as they should their responsibility for the college and its need for their help." Secondly, progress required financial stability. That necessitated a secure income beyond available tuition and donor gifts.

**The National Educational Association, in cooperation with the United States Bureau of Educational Standards, had established standards for all colleges, including a $100,000 minimum endowment. Only months into his presidency, Pennington urged the board to attempt a $100,000 endowment campaign. The ensuing drive consumed much of the new president's energy for nearly three years.**

Pennington faced several major obstacles. As William Reagan had warned, the campaign for Wood-Mar Hall had nearly exhausted potential sources; in addition, two $50,000 endowment attempts had already failed. Nevertheless, the challenge enlivened the new president.

The 2,500 Northwest Quakers could not bear the entire burden. Pennington therefore turned his attention to Midwest and East Coast Friends as potential contributors.
However, in spending much of his first two presidential years on the railroad, he gained only modest positive results. By 1913, he had raised less than half the goal. Oregon Yearly Meeting then decided as a vote of confidence that when the College raised $50,000, it would pay the interest on an additional $50,000 until the total of $100,000 had been secured. As a result, the Yearly Meeting as a body (beyond individual gifts) contributed $2,129 to the school's general fund the following year.

College personnel redoubled their efforts during 1914. With Yearly Meeting constituents leading the way, the effort exceeded the $100,000 goal by New Year's Eve. One-half century later, Levi Pennington recalled the heroism:

“The struggle for that first $119,000 of endowment is a story that will never be told adequately, though it deserves to be. It has its bright side, and some not so bright. I think of one family living in an unfinished house and without so much as a mat on the floor that pledged hundreds of dollars; of students who were fighting their way through college ‘on their own’ who pledged gifts in three figures east of the dollar sign and west of the decimal point; of one young school teacher who had been saving for a long time to buy herself a muff, and gave the money to the college—she could wear mittens. On the other hand there were those who refused to pay pledges that were to become effective when the total reached $100,000, because J. J. Hill had refused to pay his pledge of tens of thousands because our $100,000 was not all in cash.

“One man who pledged $400 fell on evil times, lost his farm, was on relief for some years, lived with his son after his wife's death, but saved up money a little at a time, and one day, years after his note had been outlawed, he came to me and paid that $400. I said to him, ‘It used to be said that a Quaker's word was as good as his note. Here is a Quaker whose word is better than his note. Your note is not legally worth anything, but your promise to give to the College is worth fully the sum you named.’ (There was more than my usual fervor in my handshake with this man.)”

Levi Pennington remembered the ensuing celebration, which reminded old-timers of the debt liquidation festivities in 1902:

“The old Victory Bell in the tower of the original building of Friends Pacific Academy rang with a note that seemed more impressive than any that had been heard after the most impressive athletic victory that ever came to the college. (At the big bonfire celebration that followed, Mrs. L. M. Parker . . . carried out her promise that if the college raised that $100,000 she would celebrate by burning her hat. There was a real cheer when she tossed that hat into that bonfire.)”

Pacific's academic program failed to meet several Bureau of Educational Standards specifications. For example, the College required only three years of high school, the library lacked the specified 5,000 volumes, and the biology and physics laboratories remained deficient. The College attempted to correct these inadequacies while seeking the $100,000 endowment. During the ensuing 15 years, for example, library volumes increased from about 2,000 to nearly 9,000.

Much to the disappointment of College officials, however, the Bureau of Educational Standards in 1912 raised the required minimum endowment to $200,000. Undaunted, President Pennington and the trustees attempted to meet the new criterion, only to be delayed by the outbreak of World War I.

The college struggled to meet annual budgets. Pennington set his first budget at $11,602.19, but reduced it by $3,000 the next year. The budget gradually grew to
$24,435.64 in 1917, before being cut in half during 1918, the war year. It then climbed to about $37,000 by 1926.

Through all the difficulties, Pacific College maintained its mission. Levi Pennington put it well in his 1913 report to the Yearly Meeting:

"It should go without saying that a school of the character of Pacific College should have as its definite end the advancement of the Kingdom of God among men. It should not be forgotten that a general education, without which our children, whatever their calling in life, will be handicapped, can be secured to them under more favorable moral and spiritual environment than other institutions provide. This alone would be worth a tremendous sacrifice on the part of all who are interested in the coming generation. But this is not all that is desirable, and this is not enough for Oregon Yearly Meeting to seek for Pacific College and to expect of the college. The institution ought definitely to advance the cause of the Kingdom. It should not only send out men and women competent to enter business or fit themselves for the professions or take their places on the farm or behind the accounting desk, but it should send them out as Christians to take up these lines of activity in the world’s work. In the motto of the college, Christianity and Culture, Christianity is rightfully put first. Nor is even this enough. From Pacific College should go, in ever increasing numbers, those who are to take their places in the special work of the Kingdom, as Ministers, Christian Association workers, Home and Foreign Missionaries and others who shall give their lives in this peculiar way to the definite work of the Kingdom."

But to carry out this mission—indeed, merely to pay the bills—required an ever enlarging student community. Exuding optimism in 1918, the administration and trustees of the 27-student institution projected an eventual 500 student “efficient college.”

Realism forced concentration, however, on the difficult present. Without standardization, the school faced difficulty attracting students. Even a few Quakers from Oregon Yearly Meeting went elsewhere. Some upperclassmen transferred to colleges offering accredited degrees.

The College enrollment numbered 33 the year before Pennington came and immediately jumped to 41. It fluctuated for several years before reaching 54 in 1917, only to be cut in half by World War I. In 1912-13, the Academy enrollment peaked at 80, but declined through the rest of the decade.

Board chairman Ezra Woodward told the Yearly Meeting in 1914 that the College's teaching force could accommodate 80 students. "The college needs this added number of students and there are those in the territory that we cover who need what the college has to offer young people."

WORLD WAR I brought the decade’s most severe blows. Not only did enrollment decline, but the Quaker school’s nonviolent constituents suffered from the militant patriotism that flooded the country.

President Pennington agreed with President Woodrow Wilson, who lamented the horror of war, at home as well as on the battlefield. Wilson believed that a nation at war loses its basic morality, its ability to judge right from wrong, its ability to criticize itself.

"Once lead this people into war," a friend quoted Wilson, "and they'll forget there ever was such a thing as tolerance. To fight you must be brutal and ruthless, and the spirit of ruthless brutality will enter into the very fibre of
our national life, infecting Congress, the courts, the policeman on the beat, the man in the street...."

Yet from its beginning, most Pacific College constituents reflected Oregon Yearly Meeting's official opposition to Christian involvement in war. According to Levi Pennington, Pacific was the only college in Oregon that continued to teach the German language during the war. It also declined to institute the Reserve Army Officer Training Corps on campus.

The president argued that the Quaker school's refusal not only correlated with Jesus' teachings and Quaker tradition, but was wise on practical grounds. "We have not been running a college, but a military training institution," Pennington quoted another college president as complaining. The Pacific College president added that some Christian colleges substituted military for moral standards.

Some Pacific College students entered military service, but many could not because of conscience. Twenty-five Pacific students performed war relief service in France, Belgium, and Germany, most with the newly formed American Friends Service Committee. They participated in food production and conservation work "not that war be carried on, but that the hungry world may be fed."

President Pennington asserted that Pacific College was better represented, proportionately, in war relief service than any other college in the world. Following the war,

Paul Elliott, Virgil Hinshaw, and other Pacific College students played a major role in Newberg's successful effort to send a carload of flour to starving people in the war- and revolution-wracked Soviet Union.

Although Oregon Yearly Meeting officially opposed military service, most members displayed a tolerant attitude toward those who disagreed. One student enlistee wrote apologetically to President Pennington, explaining his decision to join the military. Pennington expressed a Quakerly attitude:

"I honor a man for doing what seems to him the right thing to do. I have felt, as you know, that a college-bred young man could find a larger service for the country he loves than the one you have chosen. But I have tried to make it clear that I feel the deepest sense of loyalty to America, and feel that it is the duty of every one of us to serve our country to the very limit of our ability.

"Feeling as you did that your enlistment was the duty you owed your country and your flag, there was nothing else for you to do but to enlist....

"But oh! I am praying for the early coming of the day such sacrifices as are being required today may no longer be necessary. That God may hasten the coming of a just and permanent peace, and the reign of love and righteousness is my daily prayer.

"May he keep you true to your highest ideals, save you from the dangers that you may have to meet, whether they be on the earth, in the air, or on the battlefield of your own spirit. And may you come back to us—I wish that it may be soon—strong and safe and clean in body and spirit, is the wish of your sincere friend, Levi T. Pennington."

As the war neared an end, the Pacific president related the College's mission to the world's needs in a way that clearly expressed Pacific College's deepest purposes. For these reasons, he submitted, the institution existed:

"The present world situation calls for every man and woman to consider seriously and earnestly the personal..."
question of personal duty. Great problems are facing the world today. Every man should make whatever contribution he can to their solution. But the greater problems still will confront the world when the present war is over and the race faces the problem of rebuilding a devastated world—a world laid waste industrially, financially, socially, morally, spiritually.

"The world, gone astray, must be led back to the right way, and the problem of leadership is the problem in the present and early future. The world must have broad leadership, a capable leadership, a trained leadership, a Christian leadership:"

Such leadership required an education that promoted Christlike morality and high scholarly standards. While the school proved adept at imparting lasting morality, it constantly sought to improve its academic program.

Pacific switched in 1912 from a schedule based on three terms to two semesters. In 1914 the College switched from offering two majors—classical and scientific—to three, each requiring 40 semester hours: (1) philosophy, Bible, history, public speaking; (2) sciences; and (3) foreign languages, including Greek, Latin, German and French, with Spanish added in 1921. All students took 87-97 hours of "prescribed work," including Bible (7), science (10), mathematics (6), foreign language (20), philosophy (8), history (10), public speaking (6). All took 20-30 hours of English (depending on the major) and completed the required 135 hours with electives.
GEORGE FOX COLLEGE AUXILIARY

A group of Newberg women interested in Christian higher education initiated the Pacific College Women's Auxiliary in 1910. The organization still actively served the College 80 years later.

The women answered two initial challenges: Wood-Mar Hall was being built and the dormitory building needed assistance. The Auxiliary declared its purpose as "primarily to enlist a larger constituency in the promotion of the interests of the college socially and to aid in its better equipment for work, along such lines as may be found to be effective."

The first committees included Care of Sick Students, Membership, Buildings, Ways and Means, Social, and House, to coordinate with corresponding committees of the Board of Managers. Near its inception, the Membership Committee launched a contest between two sides, resulting in 225 members. Through the years, membership has varied from 52 to 425. The Auxiliary maintained three branches for many years: the Seattle area, Salem, and Portland.

The Auxiliary has provided furnishings for dormitories and Wood-Mar Hall—including the president's office, the auditorium, offices, classrooms, and hallway. The women took great interest in the grounds, purchasing shrubs, flowers, lawn seed, sidewalks, lighting, driveways, and trees. Members helped students find work and canned hundreds of jars of vegetables, fruit, jams, jellies, and pickles for the dining hall. They also engaged in various money-raising projects.

Members served dozens of banquet's for college-related events and community groups. They sold aluminum cookware, Silica paste, cookbooks, fancy work, foods, rummage, and paper. They benefited lectures, musical and dramatic events, and other entertainments, sometimes selling snacks during intermissions. The Auxiliary pledged $3,000 toward the first endowment campaign and participated effectively in later fund drives. Members helped set up the college domestic science (later named home economics) and commercial departments.

The Auxiliary opens every meeting with prayer. The 1912 minutes record that "Evangeline Martin prayed earnestly, expressing deep gratitude to our Father for His blessings upon us...and His very evident blessing upon our efforts to assist the college both in finance and enlisting people's interest...and His continued blessing invoked upon the college and all its interests, especially upon the faculty. A hush of solemnity came upon the meeting as we realized that we are co-laborers with Him in the effort to make the lives of our young people broader; better and more fruitful of good to the world."

In 1914 the group prayed that the "cause of righteousness might prevail in the countries at war with each other and in our own state for the abolishment of the liquor traffic." In 1921 the Auxiliary purchased five barrels of flour to assist the American Friends Service Committee in Russian relief.

Newberg community members often presented programs of general interest, sharing their professional or travel experiences. Since the 1970s, many college faculty have presented their work.

The Newberg Graphic commented in 1924: "Who could tell the thousand and one things that the Auxiliary is forever doing for the college? They have done so many things that no one can remember them all, but they are such fine splendid things that nobody could possibly forget them all and everybody is grateful."

For ten years, the Auxiliary sponsored a Fine Arts Festival each spring. The art and music departments were featured, along with Oregon artists showing their work in several fields. Poetry readings and drama productions were also featured.

In recent years, an annual Christmas season bazaar has been the main money-raising event. Held in the Cap & Gown Room of Heacock Commons, thousands of dollars have been raised. In consultation with the administration, the Auxiliary selects a major financial project. Through the years, every building and department has benefited from this substantial assistance.

The name became "The George Fox College Auxiliary" in 1978 in order to encourage additional male participation.

Presidents of the Pacific/George Fox College Auxiliary:

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<tr>
<td>Ella Macy</td>
<td>Rebecca Pennington</td>
<td>Berta K. Terrell</td>
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<td>Tracie Tate</td>
<td>Louisa Hoskins</td>
<td>Esther Thornburg</td>
<td>Wilma Mills</td>
<td>Elena Bales</td>
<td>Fern Roberts</td>
<td>Mary Sutton</td>
<td>Arlene Moore</td>
<td>Rachel Gettman</td>
<td>Genette Mc Nichols</td>
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1991-1995 Mildred Colcord
1979-1983 Elva Gregory
1968-1972 Mildred Colcord
1971-1972 Alice Ross
1972-1974 Helen Street
1974-1978 Verna Munn
1978-1979 Elizabeth Edwards
1978-1982 Ruthanna Hampton
1979-1981 Virginia Millage
1981-1988 Becky LeShana
1982-1985 Shari Bowman
1985-1987 Linda Stevens
1987-1988 Bonnie Hollinshead
1988-1991 Beth Bagley
AMOS STANBROUGH'S death in 1963 left Daisy (Newhouse) Read, Class of 1914, the only living pre-World War I graduate. (One alumnus, E. Locke Silva, was two years older, but did not graduate until 1922.) Sixty-four years later, Daisy Read wrote a booklet entitled *My College: Memories of Long Ago*. In it she recalled a day's reprieve from classes in the spring of 1911 to carry books into the "library," which occupied the southwest corner of the new Wood-Mar Hall (the president's office before 1991). The students also swept the Wood-Mar auditorium, "the biggest room I had ever seen," its floor covered with sawdust and lumber scraps.

Daisy Read remembered a day the administration canceled chapel because a prankster had left some hydrochloric acid [perhaps with iron sulfide producing hydrogen sulfide—"rotten egg gas"] in Wood-Mar auditorium "and it sure was generating! It took several days to get the smell out." She also mentioned the compulsory daily chapels, and one speaker who warned that cigarette paper soaked in water would kill a mouse. "Some of the young men caught some mice and had them drink the water the paper had been soaked in, and it didn't even make them sick. Some of these young men, when they found out that the mice didn't die, started smoking cigarettes, and one that I know of smoked as long as he lived."

The early administrations valued athletics, but assigned no one specific coaching duties until 1910, when the school appointed science teacher William Johnson as athletic director and coach. In 1916 athletes Frank Colcord and Harold Hinshaw directed a gymnasium repair crew. The building had been drafty when constructed from two barns 21 years earlier, and age had not improved it. According to *The Crescent*, the repair work succeeded:

"The seats have been boarded up so that the spectators will no longer suffer from the cold wind from below. The water pipes have been packed in sawdust to prevent freezing, the foundations have been repaired, chimneys rebuilt and electric lights changed."

Pacific College produced some noteworthy basketball teams. The 1915-16 squad won 11 games and lost only two,
Delbert Replogle scores 40 points as Pacific College downs Philomath College 72-21 on January 29, 1916. The next day he scored 22 in a 56-9 win over Albany (Lewis and Clark) College.

scoring 673 points against only 249 for the opponents. Delbert Replogle, one of the outstanding scorers in the College's history, starred. Friday, January 29, 1916, he scored 40 points against Philomath College; the next day he added 22 against Albany (Lewis and Clark) College.

The following season Coach Russel Lewis's quintet won the Willamette Valley League championship and defeated Oregon State Agricultural College (renamed Oregon State College three years later) 34-25. Replogle had graduated, but several stars remained. The team included Walter Guyer, Lester Wright, Lloyd Edwards, Harold Hinshaw, Frank Colcord, Howard Elliott, and Captain Emmett Gulley.

The Crescent reported the final game of the 1916-17 season, a 19-14 win over McMinnville (Linfield) College:

"...A hundred Newbergers, and supporters of the P.C. team from Springbrook, Dundee and near-by towns, went down on a special [electric train] Friday evening to see the P.C. boys finish the task of winning the pennant for this year. They were not disappointed...."

<table>
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<tr>
<th>NAME OF TEAM</th>
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<th>SECOND HALF</th>
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REMEMBER THE GLEE CLUB, MONDAY, MARCH 12

PACIFIC WINS CHAMPIONSHIP

LEAGUE ALL-STARs PICKED BY LEWIS

Gulley, Colcord and Elliott, of Pacific College, chosen by Coach.

The task of picking the All-Star team of the league is especially difficult this year on account of the scarcity of real merit among the forerunners. Otherwise you can pick a team of distinguished ability. Gulley of P. C. is center. Colcord of P. C. would play on guard and Irls P. U. the other. Irls experience in the game and his good garnered make him captain. We shall ask Fenenga for dancing, had been scrubbed. The score was

THE TEAM THAT DID IT

Last Two Games Won by Quakers Varsity Plays Fast Ball

Special Train Helps Team to Defeat McMinnville College 19 to 14.

Accompanied by three carsloads of enthusiastic rooters, 100 in all, Pacific Varsity invaded McMinnville and carried off the game by a score of 19 to 14. This was the first game of the season and gives P. C. the championship of the non-conference colleges in Oregon.

The huge door, which is used for dancing, had been scrubbed and was still wet, making it extremely slick resulting in several hard falls. In spite of this they outplayed the Mc team, who were not seriously hindered. At the end of the first half the score stood 12 to 11 for Pacific. Between halves Mac tried to instill confidence in their team by a demonstration in which P. C. was characterized as a baby, which was in need of a spanking.

The score was 15 to 14 for the Quakers at the end of the first period. None of the varsity seemed able to hit the basket and the fouls were numerous. Robinson of P. C. put in their only two field baskets in this half and 11 points were made on free throws by Fenenga. Thimms was much different in the second half. The Quakers seemed to hit their stride and nothing could stop them. Pacific

Continued on page 4

Pacific Averages Defeat at Pacific University With a Score of 37 to 19.

The Quakers evened up old scores in their last home appearance by defeating Pacific University 27 to 19. The game was slow in the first half but both were contested throughout. But once near the end of the first half were the men from Forest Grove in the lead and that lasted but on a few moments.

The score was 15 to 14 for the Quakers at the end of the first period. None of the varsity seemed able to hit the basket, and the fouls were numerous. Robinson of P. U. put in their only two field baskets in this half and 11 points were made on free throws by Fenenga. Thimms was much different in the second half. The Quakers seemed to hit their stride and nothing could stop them. Pacific

Continued on page 4

THE PERCENTAGES

Won

Lost

Perc.

Pacific College... 5 1 82.1%

Pacific University... 2 3 40.0%

McMinnville College... 3 0 100%

LYCEUM NUMBER BY DR. HERBSMAN PLEASES

The lecture entitled "Life's Balance Sheet" delivered by Dr. J. C. Herbsman Saturday evening in Wood-Mar Hall, was one of the best Lyceum numbers that have been given yet this year.

The lecture was a discussion of the characteristics of the fresh

MEN ARE SHOWN MORE INTELLIGENT

That women, who received the best grades last semester, do not have a superior knowledge of affairs as the men was shown in the results of the President's investigations. In response to a cry from the men protesting that they really knew more than did
“Gulley, who was playing his last game of basket ball for P.C., as he graduates this year, was a tower of strength both on offense and defense. He held the strong McMinnville center scoreless while he himself made four points, broke up McMinnville plays constantly and was a contributing factor to many of the scores made by his team mates.

“Elliott played a star game at forward, with a total score of 11, the highest number of points made by any player, part of which resulted from his foul goal throwing.

“The Oregonian asked Coach Lewis to name a league all-star team. His selections included Emmett Gulley, center, Frank Colcord, guard, and Howard Elliott, forward, along with two Pacific University players.”

The 1917 baseball team went undefeated behind Emmett Gulley’s pitching and Howard Elliott’s hitting. Each made the league’s all-star team.

The 1924 baseball nine again won the league championship. Team captain Hubert Armstrong, center fielder Dick Everest, and pitchers Wendall Woodward and Gus Hanke also excelled.

Other intercollegiate sports during this period included men’s track, football, and tennis. An intramural basketball program also generated considerable campus enthusiasm. In 1916 the College formed a “Gold Q Club” for men athletes, but later changed it to the “Gold P Club.” (In 1934 the women athletes formed a new “Gold Q Club”)

During these years, Pacific women began to develop a program in intercollegiate athletics. For a time, Gladys (Hannon) Keyes and Lucille Davis headed the tennis association, which had been reorganized in 1912. In 1917, the College formed a Women’s Athletic Association and built tennis courts in front of Kanyon Hall for women’s use. On May 17, 1918, Pacific College beat McMinnville (Linfield) College 7-2, 2-6, 7-5 in the Newberg school’s first intercollegiate women’s tennis match. The Crescent told the story:

“President Pennington was given a new and uncommon pleasure on Monday, June 3, when he awarded gold Q’s to the two victorious lady tennis players—Pearl Grieve and Mary Pennington (Pearson). In the two matches with McMinnville Pacific’s representatives won both single and double tournaments….”
1913 football game,
Columbia University of
Portland, 17; Pacific
College, 0.

Bottom Right:
1915 Pacific College
football team.

1921 baseball team. Coach Floyd Perisho, Harlan Rinard,
Paul Elliott, Lester Wright, Zenas Perisho, Wendell
Woodward, Brooks Terrill, Eldon (Dick) Everest, Hermon
Elliott, Cassius Carter, Chi Sung Pil.

"For the past two years especially interest has been
growing in gym work and tennis, but not until this year
have the Pacific College girls ever participated in intercolle­
giate athletics. The results have been exceedingly gratify­
ing and certainly give encouragement for future and more
extended activity."

The Women’s Athletic Association decided to award let­
ter sweaters in 1922. Females could win the gold “Q”
through success in tennis or hiking—the latter requiring
300 miles of activity.

THE LYCEUM COURSE and Forensics team remained
active, providing nonathletic cocurricular activities. The
College especially emphasized speaking and public debate.
Royal Gettman won the state oratorical contest in 1924,
speaking on “The Ku Klux Klan and National Unity.”

President Pennington, himself a superb speaker and
writer, filled Lyceum and Chautauqua lecterns for many
years and won several state and regional adult oratorical

contests. He continually emphasized both oral and written discourse.

A few years earlier, Evangeline Martin and Amanda Woodward found the pulpit built by David J. Wood and used in the original Friends Meeting in Newberg. They could not bear to see it destroyed.

"As we gazed upon it we could visualize dear old William Hobson delivering his earnest messages from behind it; Dr. Elias Jessup holding the people spellbound by his powerful sermons; Dr. H. J. Minthorn, Jesse and Mary Edwards, Martin Cook, and many others … ."

They put the pulpit in the college museum; in 1917 Professor Mark Mills used it to initiate the Old Pulpit Extemporaneous Speaking Contest. That year Lloyd W. Edwards won. In 1918, Irene Hodgin defeated eight other contestants. She spoke on "What a Pacific College Girl Expects of a Pacific College Boy." According to The Crescent:

"She said that a P.C. girl wished a P.C. boy first of all to be a gentleman, one who is living up to his ideals, full of initiative, vim and pep, a good student, neat and clean in appearance and courteous. In the second place she expects him to be a good friend. She does not want a foolish friendship, rather a true comradeship. Last and most important, she expects him to be a Christian, for only Christians can hope to have the distinctive characteristics of a noble personality."

A preliminary contest preceded the championship competition. In the finals, the top five contestants each received three topics and had two class periods to prepare to give a chapel address without notes. The College discontinued the contest in 1963.

Pacific College women seeking increased literary appreciation and fellowship formed the Trefian Literary Society in 1914. The Agoreton Literary Society continued to serve similar needs for men. During this period, the College performed from two to four dramatic events each year, including such titles as Prudence Says No (1919), MacBeth (1921), The Sisterhood of Bridget (1925), and The Goose Hangs High (1926).

BEGINNING IN 1919, President Pennington took a leave for two years to lead the "Friends Forward Movement." This program aimed to develop unified goals among American Friends and to promote evangelism, intercession, and stewardship of property. It served Friends nationally by reemphasizing direct personal relationship with God and direct personal service to humanity.

Professor John Mills served as acting president during Pennington's absence. A graduate of William Penn College, Mills had pastored several Friends churches and served as Nebraska Yearly Meeting clerk. He discontinued seminary to move to Newberg. Like Pennington, Mills emphasized that the College's success depended upon the Yearly Meeting's spiritual power and active support.

Acting President Mills reported in 1920 that "an epidemic of la grippe, or influenza, unprecedented in the history of the College," cost 60 percent of the student body
from one to three weeks' schooling. In addition, The Crescent reported that the terrible, nationwide epidemic caused a ban on public gatherings that closed the school more than eight weeks. Students and faculty replaced the missed time with Saturday and holiday classes.

Friends comprised 70 percent of the 1918-19 student body; the next year that percentage rose to 73 (103 of the 141 college and academy students). An increasing enrollment necessitated some improvements, including new furnaces for the science building and dormitories.

Mills sounded a familiar note: His major problem was finances. The $119,000 endowment helped, but proved inadequate. In 1920 the managers launched a campaign for an additional $175,000 endowment. The income, they projected, would supplement meager operating funds, provide essential salary increases, and lead to standardization.

Mills' 1920 report to the Yearly Meeting emphasizes: "Professors who were already giving as much as one-half their possible salaries to the College could not be asked to continue when the high cost of living reduced even that meagre pittance by one-half." Further, the College found it increasingly difficult to retain students without standardization.

The campaign began in December 1920 at the Newberg Friends Church, where the 200 in attendance—including many college students—pledged $25,000. First Friends Church in Portland soon added $10,000. Salem Quarterly Meeting and Newberg businessmen contributed an additional $12,000. Levi Pennington and William V. Coffin, endowment secretary for the Friends Forward Movement, visited Eastern Quakers and they donated $51,000.

Then the drive slowed. Some officials in the Bureau of Educational Standards advised Pennington, who had returned to the presidency in 1921, to make Pacific a two-year school because of the competition for students and funds in Willamette Valley. They also cited the narrowness of the College's constituent base: "On account of the extremely small but very faithful body of Friends in the state, it is doubtful if the institution should aspire to do more than Junior College...."

Nevertheless, a final effort in 1925 put the drive over the top. Several times that year, Pennington traveled to Washington and exchanged nearly 100 pages of correspondence with a Mr. Zook, higher education specialist with the U.S. Bureau of Education, attempting to prove that the College merited standardization. Finally, on December 12, 1925, the Bureau representative sent Pennington the following telegram:

"I am glad to inform you that after careful investigation by our specialist of higher education of the situation at Pacific College, I feel that the Bureau of Education is justified in recognizing Pacific College as meeting the present requirements for standard colleges in Oregon."
The next day Levi Pennington, who was in the East at the time, telegraphed the College: “On Zook’s recommendation U.S. Bureau of Education recognizes Pacific as standard college.” The Crescent described the ensuing celebration:

“Monday morning when announcement was made to the students and the day was declared a holiday, students rushed about collecting noise machines and whetting their pep. All the while the old bell in the Academy building was clanging out the good news. As soon as everyone was on hand with his instrument of clamor, a grand procession led by the seniors enthroned in a trustworthy Ford upon which they had lavished much Old Gold and Navy Blue crepe paper, set out from the college campus to parade the town.

“First street was bombarded with songs and yells and noises undescrivable, and the high school suffered alike. Mrs. Martin, who has done so much for the college, was not forgotten and the procession stopped in front of her house that she might see and enjoy their enthusiasm. When the crowd had again assembled in the chapel, Mrs. Woodward reviewed some of the history of the institution and told how they raised money for the building fund in the old days. The rest of the celebration was postponed until President Pennington’s return.”

The next January 4, Newberg rejoiced again. The 7:30 p.m. event included a major parade of 20 cars through the town, a bonfire at the College, and music by the Newberg Berrian Band. Then the crowd transferred to the Wood-Mar auditorium, where S. M. Calkins gave the city’s congratulations and appreciation, Chairman Thomas Hester represented the trustees, and President Pennington expressed the College’s indebtedness to its supporters.

T
HE FIRST HALF of Levi Pennington’s 30-year presidency brought hard work, frustration, and considerable success. The president deserves honor for the College’s endowment and standardization—indeed, for its survival.

The board recorded this resolution in 1926: “Resolved, that the Board of Managers extend to President Pennington an expression of the gratitude and appreciation it feels for his untiring efforts during the past months and years in helping to secure standardization of Pacific College.”

The hard times had not ended, however. Financial and theological problems made Pennington’s second 15 years even more difficult than the first.