

Reminiscences of Reed College

by George Alderson (Reed class of 1963)

The reminiscences that follow describe features of Reed College as I knew them during the 20 years from 1943 to 1963. This is the period of my childhood and my college years, as I was the son of a Reed professor and also attended Reed as a student.

In the fall of 1943 I was not quite 2 years old when I arrived in Portland with my parents, William L. Alderson and Carol I. Alderson. My father had been appointed to the Reed College faculty to teach literature and humanities. Sixteen years later I entered Reed as a student, in September 1959. I graduated in May 1963 and left Portland to go to graduate school at Utah State University. My father died in July 1963.

For most of those 20 years I was living on or near the Reed campus. The periods of my most active presence on the campus were 1948-52 and 1954-63, together totaling 13 years. During the other 7 years I saw the campus on occasional visits with my parents.

The details follow: In 1943 to 1945 the Aldersons lived in the house of the Thomas F. Frewen (Reed '32) family at 6825 SE 36th Avenue while Mr. Frewen was away in military service during the war. From 1945 to 1948 we lived in four rented houses, in Woodstock, Brooklyn and Westmoreland. In the fall of 1948 we moved into the first faculty house, at 3501 SE Woodstock, and lived there until June 1952. We were in California in 1952-53 while my father was on a sabbatical, then lived across town on NW 23rd the following year.

We moved back to Eastmoreland in the summer of 1954, when my parents bought the house at 6230 SE 36th (on the corner of 36th & Tolman), and we lived there for seven years, until June 1961, when the family dispersed following my parents' divorce. (We were preceded in this house by Prof. Charles McKinley's family, and we were followed by Prof. H.B. Gladstone's family. It later served as the President's House when James Powell was college president.) During my last two years at Reed I lived in off-campus housing.

About My Perspective

My reminiscences in this paper are undoubtedly influenced by my life beyond the campus and after leaving Reed, so I shall briefly introduce myself here. At the time I entered Reed, I had two fields of interest in which I had been active during high school: biology and music.

My major field at Reed was biology. While at Reed I continued to be active in bird-watching activities of the Portland Audubon Society. I also performed as a viola player in many musical events at the college and continued to be a member of the Portland Junior Symphony (later re-named Portland Youth Philharmonic). During my 3 college summers I worked as a ranger-naturalist in the National Park Service, assigned to Olympic National Park, Yosemite National Park and Lava Beds National Monument.

After graduating in 1963, I entered graduate school at Utah State University in ecology, then transferred to their music department. In 1965 I left USU without obtaining a degree and enlisted to fulfill my military obligation, performing as a viola player in the Strolling Strings of the U.S. Air Force Band for 4 years. In my subsequent working years, I had a career in wildland management policy and environmental protection with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. I also enjoyed a second, concurrent career as a professional musician playing violin and viola in the Washington, D.C., area. Upon retiring from my government career in 1996, I have been more active as a professional violinist.

Roaming the Campus

For me as a boy, the Reed campus was my backyard. When the Czech film “My Sweet Little Village” came out in the 1980s, I found the village in the film very like the Reed campus as I had known it 30 years earlier, so I now think of Reed as my own sweet little village. I began roaming all over the campus at the age of 8, and many of the faculty and the grounds crew were used to seeing me and knew who I was. It was impossible to go more than a few hundred feet without being recognized and greeted by somebody. I am sure my parents felt it was a safe place for me, and I enjoyed the freedom of getting out and making discoveries.

The campus held endless interest for me. The architecture of the early buildings and the landscaping of the campus gave me so many interesting places to explore, while the canyon had all the diversity of nature to bring out my curiosity. My childhood years of exploring the Reed campus and the wild spaces of the canyon certainly contributed to my choice of career in the field of land management and environmental protection.

Agricultural Activities

Several agricultural operations were being conducted at Reed College when I first lived on the campus in 1948. By this I mean use of the land to produce merchantable crops.

- At the time of my first memories there were extensive berry fields on the flat land between the canyon and Steele Street. Strawberries occupied the larger acreage, raspberries the rest. These were being farmed in 1948-52; I do not know when the berry operation was abandoned. Steele East and West and the associated parking lots now occupy part of the site of the berry fields.
- Cherry orchards were cultivated in two parts of the campus, and they made a wonderful sight in spring when the trees were all in bloom. All were sour cherries, also known as pie cherries. One orchard was to the north of the canyon, starting behind the fringe of natural trees that surrounded the Reed Lake, and running upslope to where the flat berry fields began. There were a few trees north of the swimming pool, again on the sloping ground there. This orchard ran eastward to the Reed property line, behind the houses on SE 34th Avenue. You can see the cross-canyon orchard in bloom in a photograph in Ritz, page 71. I believe the cross-canyon residence halls Griffin, McKinley, Woodbridge and Chittick, and Bragdon Hall now occupy much of the site of this orchard. I have no information as to when this

orchard was cut down, but all or part of it must have been cut to make way for the first cross-canyon dorms, which opened in 1959.

- The second orchard was on the site now occupied by the Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Psychology buildings. Before the Biology Building was erected, there was a blacktop walkway through this orchard, the main pedestrian route connecting the 1949 Chemistry Building and the Old Foster-Scholz dorms with the central campus. I do not see this orchard in the photograph in Ritz (page 71), so it must have been a fairly late plantation, but it was in definitely in production in 1948-52. The harvest of cherries in this orchard was done by a U-pick operation open to the public. I did some cherry-picking for the family larder, probably in 1951. The first part of this orchard to be cut down was on the site of the 1949 Chemistry building, so that probably occurred in 1948. Cherry wood from the clearing of that site was made available to the faculty, and my parents bought a load of that wood early in our years at 3501 SE Woodstock. The second part to be cut was on the site of the Biology Building, built in 1958-59, which I remember because my class entering Reed in September 1959 was the first to go to Biology classes in the new building. After that only a few cherry trees remained, severely pruned, as part of the landscaping near the Biology building for a year or two.
- Sometime around 1948-50 strawberries were grown in an open space behind the garage for the lower faculty houses, on less than an acre of ground. This was right behind our yard at 3501 SE Woodstock.
- The agricultural equipment was stored in a shed by the berry fields, upslope from the swimming pool. The open bay of this shed usually housed a hayrake and a set of disk plows. (I never saw any haying at Reed, but the rake was probably used in mowing the areas that were kept in meadow.) Other equipment was kept in a closed part of the shed.

Land Use Before Reed College Existed

- The holly grove existed before the college and will be discussed under its own heading below.
- There were a few acres of meadow above the old Foster-Scholz, between SE Knight Street and the ravine, and running up to the alignment of 38th Avenue. (This would be east of the present Studio Art Building.) A house and outbuildings appear in a 1915 photograph in Ritz (page 4), at the far right. In my time there were huge thickets of himalayan blackberry in the field, about where the houses would have been. An old black walnut tree also loomed tall in the fields; it appears to be the same tree as in the photo in Ritz. There was also a row of old pear trees in a line at the foot of the slope outside the old Foster-Scholz, suggesting that this area was once part of a farm.
- There was a row of large beech trees behind holly grove, which sheltered a blacktopped walkway to the old Foster-Scholz dormitories during the 1950s. The same trees seem to appear in a photograph cited as “circa 1909” in a brochure issued by the college entitled “Return to Reed June 18-19, 1971.”
- Mr. Brunner (or Bruner?; it was pronounced “brooner”) lived in the first house east of the faculty houses on Woodstock Boulevard. He was an old gentleman with a German accent who smoked a pipe. He often walked down by the faculty houses

greeting all of us and chatting with us and our parents. He was probably a good 70 years of age in 1950. I believe it is his house that appears in the 1915 photo in Ritz (page 4). It does not appear in the “circa 1909” photo in the “Return to Reed June 18-19, 1971” brochure. I believe Mr. Brunner may have farmed some of the land now in the campus, because he had a disused chicken house that we mischievous kids got into and another old outbuilding no longer in use. I never knew what his connection with the college was. Did he sell property to the college? I see a few alumni in the directory with the names Bruner and Brunner; perhaps one of them is a relative and could shed light on this.

Holly Grove

- The holly grove antedates the college. A grove of hollies can be seen in a 1915 photograph in Ritz (page 4), and in a “circa 1909” photo in the “Return to Reed June 18-19, 1971” brochure. So by 1948 the hollies were large and vigorous, with more than 40 years of growth.
- In my era, the hollies were used as a source of revenue for the college. During the fall season the branches loaded with red berries were cut and sold in the wholesale market. We kids used to collect some of the oddly shaped branches without berries that were pruned and left on the ground after the harvest. I never knew who did the pruning. It could have been the grounds crew, but I rather think it was a specialized crew. The Brownells, a family with many Reed connections, had a large holly orchard near Milwaukie, and I speculate that they may have been involved in this operation.

Grounds Crew

- The Reed grounds crew did everything with the grounds. I cannot remember any outside contractors doing any landscaping or grounds work, except specialized work such as blacktop paving and concrete work. There may have been some outside help on the berry fields, which were at the far limits of my roaming. The nearby cherry orchard was under my observation, and there the grounds crew did it all.
- Marion Packer was head of the grounds crew. There was also younger man for many years whose name I don't remember.
- Their equipment consisted of a war surplus jeep, normally without top, and an orange Allis-Chalmers tractor. The jeep was their runabout, for getting about the campus. The tractor pulled various tools, such as gang rotary mowers for mowing the lawns, disk plows for tilling the cherry orchards, a pesticide sprayer for spraying the cherry trees. I also saw the tractor used to pull a Fresno scraper when they were regrading the surface for a lawn on the north side of the old Foster-Scholz dorms, and to pull a plow to break up the old blacktop pavement on the drive between Old Dorm Block and the old Commons when it was to be re-paved.
- The grounds crew worked out of a small frame building across the drive from Botsford Auditorium. It was actually the south end of a structure that contained the Heating Plant. An unpaved service road led from this building across the dam and up to the berry fields and cross-canyon orchards. To my knowledge, this road was never used except by the grounds crew.

Old Student Union

- This structure was built in 1938, per Ritz (page 41), and stood approximately where the west end of the Vollum College Center now stands.
- I first visited it “the S.U.” (pronounced “ess-you”) as a child with my parents. Still as a child I once was taken to lunch by my father in the Coffee Shop, which was a cozy space in the basement, paneled in knotty pine and with a view out toward the lake. I do not remember the Coffee Shop from my student years.
- The main lounge was a sizable space on the main floor, with a high ceiling and a stage at one end. The main lounge had French doors to the north, opening onto a veranda overlooking the lake through the trees.
- The early Gilbert & Sullivan productions were staged here, with the audience seated in folding chairs. I remember “Pirates of Penzance” being done here in 1947, when my father had the role of the Sergeant of Police.
- Many musical concerts were put on in the main lounge by faculty and students, under the term “sound experiment.”
- On Saturday nights the students had folk dancing in the main lounge. My sister Liz sometimes participated while she was still in high school, as she knew other faculty kids and felt at home there.
- To the west of the main lounge, there was a lounge which during the early 1960s had a pool table and a Foosball. Both were popular with students.
- During my years as a Reed student, we students had our mailboxes in the basement, and the bookstore was also in the basement.

The Prefabs

Four buildings were installed at Reed just after World War II that were originally built as part of wartime housing developments for the shipyard workers who came to Portland to work in the Kaiser shipyards in Portland and Vancouver. They are Botsford Auditorium, the old Foster-Scholz dormitories, the Faculty Office Building and Lounge, and the old Art Studio. Some of the history of these buildings is told in Ritz, 1990. At Reed they were long referred to as “prefabs” because they were prefabricated structures which were disassembled at their original sites, trucked to the campus in pieces and reassembled on their new sites. It is worth noting that Reed was not the only institution to make use of the wartime structures. The University of Oregon in Eugene acquired housing units from the Bagley Downs housing development which were recently renovated (as of 2002).

Botsford Auditorium

- Botsford Auditorium was not addressed in Ritz, 1990. It was a war surplus prefab building contemporary with the Faculty Office Building and the old Foster-Scholz. I do not know whether it was from Bagley Downs or from a different wartime development. I would estimate that it was completed late in 1947. (“Pirates of Penzance” was performed in the Student Union in spring of 1947, and it surely would have been in Botsford if the structure had been ready.) Botsford was still in use when I graduated in 1963, and it was replaced by the Watzek Sports Center on the same site in 1965.
- It was named in honor of Charles S. Botsford, the former Physical Education teacher at Reed. (His son, the late Charles G. Botsford, was Reed ’34.)

- Botsford was a dual-purpose structure designed to serve both as a gymnasium and as an auditorium. It was a large structure capable of holding the entire Reed student body of my era, thus at least 750. Its stage was proportionately large, practically cavernous compared to the stage in the old Student Union, which it supplanted as the major performance space on campus. As an auditorium it came complete with a box office out front, which was rarely used.
- One curious incident occurred while Botsford was being assembled. A windstorm arose and the roof was lifted off the structure, letting it to earth not far away at the edge of the athletic field.
- The walls and roof of Botsford were prefab, while the foundation and below-stage rooms were of concrete or concrete block. Below stage were dressing rooms and costume storage.
- Botsford served as a gymnasium complementing the old 1913 gymnasium. I believe that for a time the two were known as men's gymnasium (Botsford) and women's (the 1913 gym). Botsford had a full hardwood floor suitable for basketball and other court games. When it was to be used as an auditorium, the building staff covered the floor with large brown tarpaulins and brought in hundred of folding chairs.
- As an auditorium Botsford housed college convocations, theater, music and (in bad weather) commencement ceremonies. The college's Gilbert & Sullivan productions moved here from the old Student Union. Other memorable events there: Joseph Szigeti gave a series of three violin recitals in 1959 featuring sonatas of the 20th Century, with Roy Bogas as pianist. Aldous Huxley held an open session there with students ca. 1962. A fine production of "Romeo & Juliet" performed by students was given during my student years. In 1959-61 a team of students, Jon Appleton ('61) and Willard Bain ('60) wrote musical comedies and produced them with student performers in Botsford. I remember two: "The Emperor's New Clothes" and "The Devil-in-Law." They used a small pit orchestra, conducted from the keyboard by Jon Appleton.
- One summer around 1955 there was a summer theatre program for children, in which I participated. It was directed by Prof. Charles Gaupp. We kids developed our own plays and performed them for an audience of parents.

Old Foster-Scholz Dorms

- What I refer to as the "old Foster-Scholz" dormitories were also war surplus prefabs, installed on a site at the east end of the campus, approximately where the Studio Art Building now stands. Foster-Scholz was on a level pad just east of the holly grove, running north from Knight Street to where the ground slopes off into the canyon. (Apparently Studio Art is slightly to the north of this site, perhaps with some overlap.)
- Ritz (1990) does not cite the specific year, but they may date from 1946 or 47. The names Foster and Scholz were transferred to new dormitories in 1959 (Ritz, page 57), so I gather the old prefab dorms were demolished in 1958 or thereabouts. I was bird-watching at the old Foster-Scholz in the late 1950s, so it could not have been much earlier, but I have no memory of their demolition.
- At the time they were referred to as "Foster and Scholz," but the hyphenated "Foster-Scholz" is used in Ritz. (I notice in a student roster from the early 1960s that

students' addresses were given as "Foster" or "Scholz," rather than the combined name.)

- Foster and Scholz were men's dormitories consisting of two wings of dormitory rooms, with a narrow corridor connecting these to a central building that contained the bathrooms, utilities and a small lounge at the entrance. The dorm wings were wooden prefab construction, but at least part of the central building was of concrete poured on site. The entrance faced a blacktop walkway leading west along a row of large beech trees, past the 1949 Chemistry Building to the central campus. Foster-Scholz appear in the campus plan dated 1955 in Ritz (page 49), showing their radial layout.
- By car one drove to Foster-Scholz by a driveway above 36th Ave. just beyond the last faculty house and before Mr. Brunner's house. There was some parking for students opposite the dorm, probably for no more than 15 cars. I'm not sure the parking was ever blacktopped, and may have been gravel-surfaced the whole time.
- The layout of two wings radiating at an angle from the central building resembles the layout shown in wartime photos of housing at Vanport, so it is possible the layout was not an innovation at Reed.

Faculty Office Building

- The Faculty Office Building and Lounge was a prefab that had served as a community center in the Bagley Downs wartime development in Vancouver, Washington. It was moved to Reed in 1946 (Ritz, page 53) and installed about halfway between the Library and the first faculty house. (Is "Greywood" a remnant of the old FOB? It is about where the southernmost end of FOB would have been.)
- At Reed the FOB (pronounced "eff-oh-bee") brought together the offices of most faculty from the divisions of letters and arts and history and social sciences. Before the FOB existed, my father's office had been nothing but a desk in one of the smaller classrooms on the first floor of Eliot Hall, a couple of doors west of the old main entrance.
- The faculty offices in FOB were along both sides of a narrow corridor running north and south. Each had a window. Those looking out to the east had a view into a grove of pine trees. Those looking to the west saw a lawn, with a bed of shrubs and small trees. (Behind this planting was the lawn leading to the main entrance drive.)
- There was also one small classroom at the southwest corner of the building, where I attended anthropology classes in 1961-62.
- The FOB lounge, at the north end of the building, served as an art gallery, a hall for lectures by visiting lecturers, and a space for receptions. There was a small kitchen to handle refreshments for events in the lounge. I remember lectures and seminars involving guest speakers and Reed faculty.
- The FOB had wood siding something like plywood, making quite a contrast from the brick of the older buildings. I remember it originally as painted red or orange, later a pastel shade of orange. Perhaps the original idea was to match the red brick of the older buildings. The gray paint came later, after I left.
- In my era there were no quonset huts in this part of the campus, and I do not remember seeing quonset huts anywhere on campus. I have no memory of a geodesic dome, nor art building in this part of the campus. I see in Ritz (1990) that an art

building was installed in 1979 approximately on the site of the Old Foster-Scholz dorms.

Art Studio (1947)

The fourth wartime prefab structure was a building that first served Reed in 1946 as the bookstore, then in 1947 became the Art Studio, located behind the old Commons. It was originally a small gymnasium as part of the community center in the Bagley Downs wartime housing development, in Vancouver, Washington. It was installed on campus in 1946, according to Ritz (page 53). I do not remember it anywhere except behind the old Commons, where it is shown in Ritz.

Campus Traffic Pattern

- As of 1948, there were few cars on the campus, and it was possible to drive deep into the campus.
- The main entrance drive came in from Woodstock Boulevard at Reed College Place, and led past the Library, then branched three ways. One branch led north into an oval parking lot to the east of the Old Student Union. Another led east, behind the Library and Faculty Office Building, then back out to Woodstock. The third led west, past the south entrance of Eliot Hall, then past the old Commons. Trucks delivering provisions to the kitchen drove into a loading area behind Commons. You could drive all the way around the Old Dorm Block. (At a later date the drive on the south side of Old Dorm Block was gated except on days of moving-in and moving-out). The drive led past the 1913 Gymnasium and ended at Botsford Auditorium. Beyond that point only the grounds crew drove, on unpaved roads leading (1) west behind Botsford and down toward 28th Avenue, (2) down to the heating plant entrance, and on across the dam, where the road branched (3) west above the outdoor swimming pool and down to the mechanical room of the pool, or (4) up into the berry fields and on to Steele Street.
- Another entrance drive came in from Woodstock above 34th Avenue, just before the first faculty house at 3501 SE Woodstock. It led to parking for the Faculty Office Building and a 3-car garage for the lower faculty houses. It continued behind FOB and the Library, joining the main entrance drive at a 4-way intersection. When the 1949 Chemistry Building was completed, this road received a new coat of blacktop, and it served as access to Chemistry for deliveries.
- A third entrance drive came in from Woodstock above 36th Avenue, after the last faculty house. It led to parking for the Old Foster-Scholz dormitories and a 3-car garage for the upper faculty houses.
- There was an entrance drive from Woodstock to the President's House. This became access to a few parking spaces for the new women's dormitory (now MacNaughton) built in 1954.
- There was no entrance road from 28th Avenue. There was a grade for an access road from 28th along the north end of the Athletic Field, approximately where Botsford Drive is now, but there was a guard rail along 28th barring access there. (This access road may have been used in building Botsford Auditorium around 1947.) In about 1955, an entrance road with parking was built for the new Foster-Scholz dormitories.

- There was no entrance road from Steele Street, just gated dirt roads used for agricultural activities in the berry fields. An entrance may have been added in 1959 when the first cross-canyon dorms opened, but I do not remember where the vehicular access to these dorms was.
- Parking on campus was scarce in the 1940s and 50s. There were about 6 spaces at the south entrance of Eliot Hall, a larger number of spaces along the drive on the north side of Old Dorm Block, then more by the gymnasium and Botsford Auditorium. The main parking lot was to the east of Old Student Union, which may have held as many as 50 cars. There was parallel parking on the drive in front of the Library, and there were a few spaces behind the Faculty Office Building. Finally there were about 15 spaces by Old Foster-Scholz at the east end of the campus.

Library

The Reed Library as I first knew it around 1947 consisted of the 1930 Hauser Library plus the addition behind the central bay, which was the Veterans' Guidance Center, completed in 1945 (Ritz, page 51).

- I remember visiting the campus as a child, when there were directional signs about 3 feet high pointing the way to the Veterans' Guidance Center via campus walkways from the bus stop at 34th & Woodstock. The entrance at the back of the Library would have been obscure to visitors if they didn't know the campus.
- My mother, Carol I. Alderson, began work as a part-time catalog librarian in about 1949 and had her workspace in the addition. I believe the veterans' center had vacated the premises by then. She was working part-time while my sister Liz and I were in elementary school, so she could be home when we came home from school at 3:00 or 3:30 pm. It was just a stone's throw away, since we were living in the first faculty house, at 3501 SE Woodstock. She continued working as a catalog librarian until we moved away for my father's sabbatical year in 1952. After our return she resumed her career with a position at the Portland Public Library (now Multnomah County Library) and was Librarian of the Woodstock Branch from 1954 to 1961. After 3 years with the New York Public Library, she settled in Ashland, Oregon, in 1964 and was Librarian of the Ashland library until she retired in 1975.
- Other librarians I remember from my childhood years were Frances Kemp, the Librarian, Helen Brown, and Pauline Calendine. Miss Calendine was in charge of the U.S. government documents, which were then kept in a separate section in the basement, secured inside a wire cage as a condition of the status of a "depository" library.

Old Chemistry Building

- The old Chemistry Building was built in 1948-49 (Ritz, page 53).
- The building was going up while we lived at 3501 SE Woodstock. We kids explored the construction site and played on a large stockpile of dirt from the excavation.
- Cherry trees had been on the site before it was cleared for construction. I remember we had cherry firewood that was made available to the faculty when the grounds crew had cut down the trees.

Crystal Springs Lake and Golf Course

I was very familiar with the Crystal Springs Lake and the Eastmoreland Golf Course because they were among my regular bird-watching places.

- I know of no formal connection with the college during my era. I notice that in the web site for the Eastmoreland Golf Course there is a reference to Reed having operated a Shakespeare theater on the island at one time. I never heard of this before, so it must have been earlier than the 1940s. Nor did I hear of Reed having owned any of the land in the golf course.
- The rhododendron gardens were started on the island in 1950, according to the web site of the Eastmoreland Golf Course. I was aware as a boy that there had been a Shakespeare garden on the island before, in which trees and plants mentioned in Shakespeare were planted, but this had been neglected for years. I first visited the island when the remnants of the Shakespeare garden still existed, late in the 1940s. At first, the rhododendron gardens were only on the island, and they were later extended onto the peninsula near the parking area and the banks below 28th Avenue.
- In the early 1950s we got to the island on foot along a gated service road from 28th Avenue at the foot of Martins Street. This road followed a ravine where a large spring discharged toward the lake. By the mid 1950s, the city parks bureau had built a parking lot on 28th Avenue below the Reed athletic field and a long footbridge to the island across an arm of the lake which thereafter served as the only public access.
- Originally the footbridge was always open. This led to an incident involving Cleveland High School when I was a student there. The school had an annual rhododendron show, in which students exhibited rhododendron flower trusses from their family gardens. However, there were allegations that some students had gathered their exhibition entries from the Rhododendron Gardens. In later years a locked gate was added, and the gardens were open to the public only at regular hours.
- The footbridge also served as an excellent spot for watching birds. We birders often visited the lake, because there were some unusual water birds that turned up there, such as Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater and Lesser Scaup, and Ruddy Duck. During my active years with the Portland Audubon Society I led a bird walk there once a year. During the 1950s all the public golf courses were open to bird watchers, as long as you stayed away from where the balls were flying.
- I noticed that at the base of the old dam impounding Crystal Springs Lake, there was a piece of old rusted equipment that could have been a small power generator. (This dam may have been replaced by new structures to allow the passage of fish, installed in 2001, according to the web site of the golf course.)

Reed Lake and Canyon

I first visited the lake as a child in 1943 or 1944 with my mother, to feed the ducks from the old wooden bridge (described below under Trails). Over the next 20 years I came to know the lake and canyon intimately from my youthful explorations and my bird-watching.

- The open water extended from the dam eastward as far as the big pipe, It became marshier from there to the east, with clumps of cattails and marsh vegetation.
- The banks around the open water were shaded by old trees and natural vegetation. At the widest point of the lake, across from the amphitheatre, there was a pretty little

dale with cherry trees, on ground that rose gently to the berry fields. When the cherry trees were in bloom, this was one of the prettiest places on the campus. This part of the cherry orchard must have been cut down to build the first cross-canyon dorms, which opened in 1959.

- By 1963 English ivy was beginning to take over on the slope behind Eliot Hall, but there was still a fair amount of native vegetation. (I see that a restoration project done in 2001 in this area.)
- Eastward from the big pipe there were many large red alders, with some western redcedar here and there. The forest canopy was practically 100 percent in this area. (An aerial photo on the web site for the Reed Canyon in 2003 seems to show much less tree cover in the upper part of the canyon than existed in my time.) Understory vegetation included a lot of elderberry and vine maple. On the slopes I remember native herbaceous plants including saxifrage and wild ginger.
- In the flat ground between the high banks, there was hardly any dry land. There were two streams of moving water, coming down from the two major springs to the east. Between these streams were a few islands of almost dry land, alternating with marshy areas where skunk cabbage grew. All this was shaded by the alders overhead.

Trails in the Canyon

There was a system of unpaved foot paths in the Reed Canyon which were maintained by Canyon Day efforts and perhaps at times by grounds crew. When the cross-canyon dorms were built, the route across the bridge was made a higher-standard, paved trail.

- In the 1940s and 50s there was an inconspicuous path that began at a break in the bushes behind Eliot Hall and led down to the lake. There it crossed a wooden bridge whose deck was some 5 feet above the water, with wooden railings. One of my first childhood memories of the campus is being brought to feed the ducks from this bridge. The old bridge was replaced in 1959, when the first cross-canyon dorms were opened, by a higher bridge with the profile of a pointed arch and with cables instead of wooden hand rails. This in turn was replaced by the 1992 bridge.
- At the north end of the bridge a path led up the slope and into the neighborhood at SE 34th and Harold. This neighborhood was a post-war development where open fields had existed, as shown in a photograph in Ritz (page 71). Some Reed students and faculty lived over there, in the neighborhoods near Steele Street. Around 1949-51 I walked across the bridge every week on the way to my piano lessons with Mary Haseltine (Mrs. Nelson Haseltine).
- There was a path that circled the lake near water level. The path on the south bank went led upstream and came out of the woods into the meadow above the old Foster-Scholz, connecting with the path up to 38th and Reedway. I can't remember where the path on the north side came out. There was a cross-link between the north and south bank trails perhaps a couple of hundred feet east of the big pipe, where you crossed on low footbridges and planks across the boggy sections.
- There was a path through the middle of the swampy section, running parallel to the trails along the bank. This path was on planks much of the way.
- Another trail that was used every day by students entered the meadow at the northeast corner of old Foster-Scholz (near the present site of the Studio Art Building). It went down into a ravine and back up the other side, emerging near 38th & Reedway Street.

It was a good route to neighborhoods near 39th Avenue. On one Campus Day around 1961 I was on a crew that repaired the steps on this path, which were simply dug into the soil and reinforced with chunks of wood or planking, supported by stakes driven into the ground.

Outdoor Swimming Pool

The outdoor swimming pool was built before 1933 and removed in 2000, according to the Reed Canyon web site as of January 2003. It was to the west of the old earthen dam that impounded Reed Lake, about where the fish ladder is now.

- There was a sunny lawn on north and east sides of pool for sunbathing.
- A concrete channel above the north lawn contained the water flowing from the spillway in the dam. It was fast-flowing water, as in the tailrace of a mill. The water spilled back into the natural stream bed below the swimming pool.
- There were no changing rooms at the pool. One used the locker rooms and showers of the 1913 gymnasium and walked down a concrete walkway past the heating plant and down the steps to the pool.
- In summer, swimming classes were scheduled during the morning, for paying elementary school groups. For several summers around 1950 the college ran a “day camp” program for elementary school kids, which involved swimming lessons as well as other group activities. I participated in this one year, but dropped out as it was not to my taste.

Faculty Houses

- The four faculty houses were built in 1920, according to Ritz (1990). They now serve as the Woodstock language houses. In my time, the four buildings housed 6 families. The easternmost and westernmost were single-family houses, the other two duplexes.
- The Aldersons were living at 3501 SE Woodstock in the house previously occupied by the A. A. Knowltons. It is the house set back from the street, the closest of the houses to the central campus. It had a fireplace, which we used on rainy winter nights. It also had a gas furnace, the first we had ever had, as our rental houses had been heated by furnaces that burned sawdust. (This was typical of Portland in the 1940s, as oil heat was only beginning to appear, and sawdust from the sawmills was plentiful. The sawdust was delivered to your driveway in a large heap by a fuel company, then a crew came to pitch the sawdust into a “sawdust room” in your basement. To feed the fire, you loaded sawdust into a funnel that fed into the firebox by gravity feed. It was a nuisance, and it must have contributed to air pollution, but imagine the aroma of woodsmoke from all those home furnaces!)
- When we came to our faculty house in 1948, the houses were occupied, east to west, by: Frederick Peters family, Donald MacRae family, Arthur Leigh family (??), Benjamin Woodbridge family, Richard H. Jones family, William L. Alderson family. When the Woodbridges moved out, they were succeeded by the Frank Jones family.
- Prof. Woodbridge had a separate building out in the holly grove as his study. Frank Jones had it moved in closer to the house.
- The Aldersons moved out in 1952 when Father had a sabbatical and we moved to California for the year. I believe the MacRaes moved out while we were away, and settled on SE Tenino Street at the far end of Eastmoreland.

- Across Woodstock Blvd. from our house was a vacant lot covered with trees. It was one of the last vacant lots in Eastmoreland. A new house was built on it before we left in 1952.
- Public transportation ran up and down Woodstock in the form of the Eastmoreland bus, always an electric trolley bus in those years. (See Public Transportation, below.)

Prexy

- As a child I remember being taken to the President's House for a social event, perhaps a Christmas party, during the final years of President Odegard's residence.
- Ritz cites 1958 as the year of the conversion to music after it had served as a dormitory.
- Instrumental lessons were given there by visiting music teachers. In 1958-59 I had some lessons there with my teacher, Hugh Ewart. I also rehearsed there with other Reed students in chamber ensembles preparing for sound experiments.

Musical Activities

- There was a lively musical life on the Reed campus in the 1950s and 60s, led by the enterprising Professor Herbert B. Gladstone, whose ideas were embraced by the students and faculty. It seemed that everybody loved to be asked to sing or play, and we made a lot of good music right there on our little campus. I was still in high school when I was first invited to play violin in the Reed orchestra in 1958.
- Practically all the musical activities on campus were done without academic credit, for the pleasure of making music, and there was always a big audience, usually standing room only. In other schools I observed in later years, it seemed the students received credit for orchestra, for chamber ensembles, sometimes even for attending concerts. The passion for music on the Reed campus is one of my finest memories of the college.
- The music faculty usually consisted of one person, Herb Gladstone. During his first sabbatical, sometime in the 1950s, Richard Irwin (Reed '42) served as interim faculty. During another sabbatical, in 1961-62, James Kurtz served as interim faculty, with his wife Lynn Boroff Kurtz also teaching one course which I took.
- Facilities used for musical performances on campus were Chapel, Student Union and Botsford Auditorium. The Capehart Room on the ground floor of Winch dormitory was used for music classes in the early 1960s, including the introductory course in music history. (It was so named because it originally housed a Capehart record player, said to have been technically advanced for its era.)
- The three performance spaces had very different acoustics. The Chapel had a warm and resonant sound, flattering to musical instruments. It was in demand among local music teachers as a place for recitals by their advanced students on Saturdays near the end of the year. The Student Union also was good, no doubt because there was so much wood and plaster, no rugs, and few drapes. Botsford Auditorium was the least satisfactory, with very little resonance. When I sat in the audience, I always noticed that the orchestra sounded muffled.
- The pipe organ was fully operational in Chapel, though not up to normal concert pitch. It was usually played by Valerian Fox in a solo during the annual Christmas Concert.

- The orchestra for the Christmas Concert and other major events was made up of Reed students, faculty, an occasional faculty son or daughter or spouse, and a few professionals. The professionals included Hugh Ewart as concertmaster, Roman Dukson as first cello, Roy Stilwell (Reed '50) and Reinhard Pauly (faculty, Lewis & Clark College) in the violin section, Richard Irwin (Reed '42) on viola, Philip Murthe (Reed '55) on bass, Paul Mosher (class year unknown) playing oboe. David Rosen ('60) usually was the solo pianist or cembalist while he was a student.
- In major musical productions at Reed in the 1950s, most vocal leads were taken by Reed alumni active in the Portland musical community and by current students and faculty. The chorus for these events was made up of Reed students and faculty. My father was one of the basses.
- The faculty and students performing in musical events came from all academic fields. While our music department was small and there were few music majors, Reed had many students and faculty who were performing in our musical events. Besides that, I knew other students who had played instruments during high school who put them aside as they entered college. All told, Reed was a very musical institution.
- There was a traditional format for the Christmas Concert during the 1950s. For several years I attended with my parents before I first played in the orchestra in 1958. The concert began with an organ prelude, usually played by Valerian Fox. During this prelude two little faculty children tottered up the aisle to light the candles on the two candelabra on either side of the stage. Then the chorus entered in a slow procession up the aisle, without accompaniment, singing "O Come, O Come, Emanuel" from memory. The program continued with selections from the baroque and classical repertoire, often including a Bach cantata. At the end of the concert the chorus processed out at a lively pace, singing a rousing carol from memory. The concert was given two performances in each year for which I have programs on file, 1958 through 1961.
- Concerts of chamber music performed by faculty and students were called "sound experiments," which may be a term invented by H.B. Gladstone. The term used a word from the sciences to describe an artistic event, somewhat in the spirit of Reed's breaking down barriers among disciplines. When all the performers were students, it was sometimes termed a "student sound experiment."
- In about 1948-52 there was an active "recorder group" at Reed, which often rehearsed in the evening in our living room at 3501 SE Woodstock. I remember these evenings very well because I was trying to sleep in my bedroom just overhead. (In those days, children were expected to be asleep by 8:30 pm.) This ensemble played chamber music from the baroque era on recorders. My father happily presided over these rehearsals and had his own set of recorders. Both students and faculty played in this ensemble, which performed in sound experiments. As an adult, I continued somewhat in this tradition by playing string quartets with friends wherever I happened to live.
- In the 1940s and early 50s my father gave a several folk song recitals on the campus, accompanying himself on the guitar. One of his interests was folk-song collecting, and he was active as a folklore scholar in his early years. Around 1947 he appeared on a Portland radio program "Northwest Neighbors," talking about folk music and performing folk songs.

Memorable Concerts

- There was a remarkable sound experiment in the main lounge of the old Student Union in which the Reed orchestra performed Franz Josef Haydn's "Farewell" Symphony, a work Prof. H. B. Gladstone had discovered during his travels in Europe. In the final movement, Haydn wrote the parts so the orchestra dwindles gradually to a duet of violins playing quietly. (This was supposed to be a hint to Haydn's patron that it was time to move the household back to their home chateau.) In our performance, directed by Herb Gladstone, our music was illuminated by candles, and as each pair of musicians came to the end of their part, they blew out their candle. At the very end, the last pair of violins played their last note and blew out their candles, leaving the Main Lounge in silence and darkness. When the applause began, the house lights went up and we took our bows.
- In a student sound experiment in November 1958 the J.S. Bach Concerto for Two Violins was performed by soloists Vivian Tomlinson ('59) and Mark Ptashne ('61). Mark Ptashne went on to become a biology professor at Harvard and the owner of several old master violins which are loaned to promising young concert violinists. It may not be remembered that Mark was himself a fine young violinist in his student years.
- Joseph Szigeti, the concert violinist, gave a series of three recitals, with Roy Bogas as pianist, in Botsford Auditorium during one week in January 1959. This was near the end of Mr. Szigeti's performing career. In the first recital he was playing slightly out of tune and with a shaky vibrato. By the third recital his technique was noticeably better. Afterward, as the audience left the auditorium, Professor Rex Arragon was heard to exclaim, "It just goes to show what a week's practice will do."
- The young Mstislav Rostropovich, the cellist, gave a recital on campus during his first American tour, I would guess around 1959. I was not able to attend, but I heard many enthusiastic reports about it.
- Another major event was a presentation of the St. Matthew Passion of J.S. Bach in May 1960, in the Chapel. The role of the evangelist, a tenor role, was beautifully sung by Prof. Robert Martin (I believe he is also an alumnus of Reed.)
- The college presented a concert version of "Der Freischutz" by Carl Maria von Weber in October 1958, in Botsford Auditorium.

Gilbert & Sullivan Operettas

- Operettas of Gilbert & Sullivan were produced at Reed College by Prof. H.B. Gladstone, with faculty, students and alumni in the lead roles. I do not have programs from the campus productions, and I trust the Reed Archives have the information.
- In 1959 an off-campus summer season was initiated in lieu of the campus production, under the name "New Savoy Company," using financial support from the Oregon Centennial Commission. These productions were given in the Oriental Theater on Grand Avenue. Four operettas were produced each year in repertory under the direction of H.B. Gladstone. I played viola in the pit orchestra in the 1959 season, but I was away from Portland on summer jobs in the years 1960-62. The New Savoy Company was still in operation in the summer of 1963, when my father died during the rehearsal period, and I do not have information on what happened after that. Reed

alumni and faculty were very active in the summer productions. The lead performers in these years included Alan Goodwin ('53), George Cole ('52), Frederick I. White ('50), Constance Flint ('59), Abner Baker ('58), Charles Pailthorp ('62) and my father. My sister Liz served on the stage crew and costume crew in the 1959 season.

- "Pirates of Penzance" was produced on campus in 1947 and 1954. I remember seeing the 1947 production, undoubtedly my first experience of musical theater, as I would have been 6 years old. It was presented on the small stage in the old Student Union. My father played the Sergeant of Police, and other faculty members played the other policemen. Faculty were still portraying the police in the 1960 summer production, according to a program in my files.
- In "Pirates," my father developed a series of encores to the song, "When a felon's not engaged in his employment," that became a Portland tradition. My sister Liz Robinson has contributed this reminiscence (letter dated February 2, 2003): "I remember his last performance of the policeman and the ovation. How it started small and built with each successive 'encore'" (This would refer to the 1959 summer season, when Liz was on the stage crew.)
- I have sent to the Reed Archives texts of the encores used in the 1947, 1954, 1959 and 1960 productions of "Pirates." The encores were usually done in Latin, Russian, French, Spanish and German. These were developed in collaboration with foreign language faculty. One encore in 1954 poked fun at Duncan Ballantine, then President of the college. Another in 1954 satirized Reed students, replacing a version used in 1947 that had proved offensive. In the foreign language encores, the Sergeant of Police donned a bit of costume to suggest the language: a beret for French, an ornate 19th-century helmet for German, his hair rumpled down over his forehead for Russian. My father's rehearsal notes dated 1954 indicate that before the German encore the Sergeant gave the military commands "Achtung...steht!" and after it, "Ruhen." (I take it in American military usage these would be "Ten-hut!" and "At ease.") It must be remembered that this was soon after World War II, and many of the faculty had served in the war effort against Germany. The Japanese encore is signed "Kodachi." I do remember Mr. Kodachi, but my sister Liz tells me this would be Rev. Kodachi, of Lewis & Clark College, whom she met last year without knowing he had collaborated with my father.
- "The Mikado" was produced in the late 1950s in Botsford Auditorium. I remember seeing Prof. Laurens Ruben in the title role. He joined the faculty in 1955, so it could have been in the spring of 1956. My father had the role of Pooh-Bah in all productions of "The Mikado."
- "The Gondoliers," "Patience," "Iolanthe," and "Ruddigore" were produced in other years. My files contain nothing to suggest that "HMS Pinafore" was ever done on campus, but I believe it was being prepared for one of the summer seasons.
- The faculty had great fun preparing for the G&S productions. I remember my father's efforts rounding up things he needed for "The Mikado" in the 1956 (?) production. He found a shop across town that carried oriental merchandise, and that was the source of the fans carried by the principals on stage. He used a very large fan as part of Pooh-Bah's "business" on stage. He also acquired an oriental snuff box, which he used in a different bit. When preparing for the summer production of "Pirates" in 1959, Father did some research with law enforcement agencies in

Portland and came up with some authentic billy clubs as possible alternatives to the stage billy clubs that were customary. (This was before billy clubs got a bad name, thanks to certain law enforcement officers in Alabama in the 1960s.)

Public Transportation

One of my avocations is about the history of streetcars and railroads, so I shall digress slightly in this section to bring together information that precedes my years at Reed but may be of interest to those studying Reed's history.

- From my first memories, Reed was served by the Eastmoreland bus. This was a trolley bus route from 1936 until the trolley buses were replaced by diesel buses in 1958 (according to the Tri-Met web site). There was a wooden "bus hut" next to Woodstock Boulevard at the end of a blacktop path from Eliot Hall. Students jokingly called it the "bus hutch."
- As of 1948 the Eastmoreland bus route originated at Milwaukee Ave. & Bybee St. in Westmoreland and ran via Bybee, 28th, Rex, 32nd, Woodstock, then left on 41st Avenue and into the center of town, where the terminus was 5th & Taylor.
- Although I was never aware of this when I lived in Portland, I later learned that there was once a streetcar route to the college, coming in from Westmoreland via Bybee Boulevard and Reed College Place. (Streetcar lines serving Westmoreland and Sellwood were in service earlier.) This route served as a freight route for construction materials when Eliot Hall and the Old Dorm Block were being built. A streetcar can be seen in the photograph in Ritz (page 23) and in other archival photos published in literature issued by the college over the years. I consulted other sources which indicate that the Reed branch of this line was removed in 1912 after the college was built. At that time the streetcar line continued in service on new tracks south from Bybee along 32nd Avenue and terminating at Rex Street. Streetcars were replaced by gas buses in 1926. Then in 1936 the Eastmoreland trolley bus line was placed in service, on a new route going past the campus and up Woodstock.
- I was curious as to the track gauge used in the streetcar line to the campus, because many streetcar lines in the U.S. were narrow-gauge (i.e., of narrower than the standard railroad gauge) and could not have carried freight cars from the railroads. The standard gauge is 4 feet 8½ inches. Labbe (1982) indicates that the streetcar lines operating from the Sellwood car barn were all standard gauge. So that explains how railroad cars could have been used.
- Another streetcar route existed approximately from 1890 to 1936 that came within five blocks of the college. The Waverly-Woodstock line came west down Woodstock Boulevard, then north on 41st and into town. As a boy I suspected that there had been a streetcar line on 41st, because there was a strip of different blacktop down the center of the street, which could have covered streetcar tracks. There was also a short segment of "private right-of-way" cutting the corner where 41st crossed Holgate St., with electric signals controlling the bus traffic.
- A streetcar system map dated February 1918 reproduced in Labbe (1982) shows a streetcar line from Westmoreland via Bybee, then south on 32nd to Rex. It also shows a different streetcar line going out 41st Avenue, then east on Woodstock. At that time no streetcar actually came to the Reed campus.

- The structure of the street corners at Milwaukie & Bybee shows the wide curves needed for standard-gauge streetcar tracks. The northeast and northwest corners were deeply curved, in contrast to the southeast and southwest corners. I had long wondered at the reason for those wide curves, and it was years after leaving Portland that I learned of the streetcar lines diverging at Milwaukie & Bybee. Originally the same sort of curve may have appeared at 32nd and Bybee, but I do not remember any such feature at that corner, so I suppose that intersection was built after the streetcars were taken out of service. There was a deep curve at 41st & Gladstone, where the old Woodstock-Waverly streetcar line turned.

Campus Life

- In the late 1940s and the 1950s few students had cars, and even some of the faculty had no car. (The Aldersons had none between 1944 and 1950.) Public transportation was inconvenient, as discussed above. I believe this fostered a focus on studies and upon activities initiated by the students and faculty and conducted on campus.
- Bus service on the Eastmoreland line was probably fairly frequent in those days, but it was a long ride to downtown Portland. Faculty tended to live near the campus and walked to work. I remember many faculty families who lived in Eastmoreland and Woodstock. Some students rode bicycles, but most students walked everywhere.
- I believe that in the 1940s and 50s the life of students and faculty was much more focused on the campus than it was toward the end of my Reed years. Socializing and cultural events were generated on the campus among students and faculty. The musical activities were lively, not only in classical music, but in folk and jazz idioms.
- I do not remember that Reed owned a bus until about 1959, when it was a short-bodied school bus that probably seated no more than 15 passengers. The drivers were students. It was used to take students off campus for college purposes, such as Physical Education classes.
- Around 1950 there was no such thing as going off campus to a restaurant for lunch, even for the faculty. I can't remember hearing of any lunch place in those years. By 1960 it was more common for faculty to go off campus for lunch. The favorite restaurants included The Town Crier, at 41st and Holgate, and The Anchorage, on the river at the foot of SE Marion Street in Sellwood. My student group, the "Students' Committee for Wilderness," took a visiting lecturer to dinner at The Anchorage in the spring of 1962, carpooling with students' cars and faculty cars.
- Some of the other amenities which college students expect as of 2003 did not exist at Reed in the 1950s and 60s: no pizza deliveries, no cell phones, no television sets that I can remember.
- Cigarettes were smoked by some of the students and by many faculty in those years. Smoking was even allowed in classrooms, which led to a pervasive smell in Eliot Hall. Smoking was not permitted in the Biology and Chemistry Buildings because flammable substances were in use there.
- There were no movie theaters nearby. The nearest would have been at Milwaukie & Bybee. When I was a Reed student, if we heard that another student had gone to a movie on a week night, we wondered if he or she was about to drop out of the college. Classic old films were sometimes screened in Chapel on Saturday nights.

- By the time I graduated in 1963 there were more students' cars on campus, and students were renting rooms farther from campus. Buses were running less often, but cars, motor scooters, mopeds, motorcycles and bicycles were more common. More activities involving Reed people with other Portland institutions were taking place, such as the "Friends of Chamber Music" concert series, theater groups, and musical events at churches, which meant that we were going off campus more often.

Student Humor

- There was an advertising sign in front of Dieringers supermarket, at Woodstock & 45th, with movable letters which usually advertised a current sale, but on Sundays bore the message, "Closed Sundays, See you in church." Some Reed students once put up a sign on the message board in front of the little church at 44th & Woodstock, "Closed weekdays, See you in Dieringer's."
- Shortly after the Bay of Pigs incident in April 1961 (a failed invasion of Cuba under direction of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)), some students wearing trench coats set up a table at the entrance of Eliot Hall, pretending to be recruiting agents for the CIA, under a sign that read "See the world, Join the CIA."
- I remember some wonderful moments of laughter in classes at Reed. Although we were very serious about learning the material, in certain classes anything could be the basis for a joke. In Embryology and Comparative Anatomy labs, we were always making puns on the names of bones, muscles, and embryonic structures.

The "Red Scare"

In the early 1950s the "Red Scare" had an impact on Reed College. During the 1953-54 academic year the "Velde Subcommittee" of the House Committee on Un-American Activities held hearings in Portland. Among the persons the subcommittee summoned to testify were several members of the Reed College faculty. They invoked their Fifth Amendment rights and declined to testify whether they had ever participated in the Communist Party.

My most graphic memory is of our family sitting around a table radio at home as the Velde Subcommittee hearings were being broadcast live, and hearing people being questioned whether they are now, or ever have been a member of the Communist party. There was a great anxiety in our family as to what this affair might mean to the college and to my father's colleagues on the faculty.

After the the Velde hearings, Prof. Stanley Moore was fired, following action by the Board of Trustees. This was seriously regretted in our family, as he was a friend of my parents and a respected member of the faculty, and he had been kindly toward my sister and me. In earlier years, our family had visited Prof. Moore at the houseboat where he lived, at a moorage on the Willamette River.

Another repercussion is that during the rest of my Portland years, Reed was a subject of a slight, but persistent suspicion in the public at large. When I was in Cleveland High School in 1955-59, teen-age humorists could get a few laughs by referring to Reed as

“Red College.” I believe that even while thoughtful people understood there was nothing to fear from Reed, the affair cooled the relationship between the college and the city.

Faculty

- During my student years some of the founders of the humanities program were still in their heyday, such as R.F. Arragon and Richard H. Jones. In the sciences, the faculties had been augmented to keep up with new directions. I witnessed this especially in my major field of Biology.
- There was a great deal of socializing among the faculty in the 1940s and 50s. It seemed that when my parents went out, it was always to a party or a dinner at another faculty member's house. There was little socializing with non-Reed families, and there was little dining out in restaurants. Likewise, when we children were of elementary school age, we often played with other faculty children, especially those living in the faculty houses, and not often with other kids from our public school.
- The faculty in the post-war years had to reckon with a scarcity of housing in Portland. I remember going around with my mother in 1945 or 46 when she was looking for a house to rent. We looked all over the Southeast section and even took a bus out to North Portland to look at a house in one of the wartime developments.
- The prevailing scarcity made the faculty houses all the more coveted. This led to certain tensions among faculty who were on the waiting list for vacancies in the 6 faculty houses. (My parents were speaking of this in 1948, when we moved into the first faculty house.) This is not unique to Reed; I learned years later that the same kind of tension exists among National Park Service employees living in the houses provided by the government in the national parks and monuments.
- Faculty salaries apparently were falling farther behind what the state colleges were paying. I remember my father saying sometime around 1958 that one of his old friends from graduate school was now making twice Father's salary; he was teaching at San Jose State. (I trust that salaries have become more competitive in later years.)
- Another irritant was that when my mother was working as a librarian at the Reed Library, she discovered that she could never attain a salary comparable to salaries at the Portland Public Library. Apparently there was a policy that the wives of Reed faculty were limited to a lower salary because their husbands were also on the Reed payroll.
- Reed College and Portland were far more isolated from cultural amenities than they are now. I am sure this weighed upon faculty who had come from institutions more in the middle of things. In those years it was rare to travel across country to the East Coast, and Europe was considered a trip one might make once in a lifetime. It was a big deal when Prof. Rex Arragon returned from a summer trip to Europe with his own Kodachrome slides of the monuments of Greek antiquity. It was the first time any of us had seen Greek marble in color. My father never went to Europe, and he made his only East Coast trips during several years when the Educational Testing Service assembled a corps of college professors at Princeton during spring break to grade the English composition exams that were part of the College Boards. On the other hand, there were certainly advantages in living in a small city with beautiful wild country all around it.

Relations with the City

- In the 1940s and 50s Reed was fundamental to the cultural and scholarly life of Portland in a way that it was not in the 1960s. Lectures by Reed professors and visiting scholars that were open to the public provided something otherwise lacking in the city. In addition, Reed faculty and alumni went out into the city, speaking before civic organizations. I remember that in the late 1950s Jacob Avshalomov (Reed '43), the newly appointed Conductor of the Portland Junior Symphony, gave a series of lectures on music to a women's club on SW Vista Avenue that was a subject of wide interest. Members of the Reed community were also active with the Portland Art Museum and the Oregon Historical Society.
- I saw much more involvement of Reed people in my musical activities in Portland than in my bird-watching and environmental activities. I hardly saw any participation from Reed in the Audubon Society nor in the wilderness preservation movement, which was then in its early years.
- I believe that in some measure the local admiration for Reed may have been diminished in the 1950s by the "Red Scare," discussed above. This would not have affected the more thoughtful members of the public, but there were surely many Portland residents who had suspicions about the college as a result of the affair.
- There was no Portland State University at first. It opened as the "Portland Extension Center" in 1952, giving evening classes in the old Lincoln High School building, in the 1600 block of SW Broadway, after Lincoln High had moved into a new building on SW 14th Avenue. My father was among the Reed professors hired to teach there as a moonlighting job. It became "Portland State College" and a 4-year degree-granting institution in 1955. PSC recruited several Reed professors during my era, including Ralph Macy (Biology), Frederick Peters (German) and Charles Gaupp (Theatre). By the time I left town in 1963, PSC had new buildings and had built a substantial music department which attracted some of my younger friends from the Youth Philharmonic. I gather that after I left in 1963, Portland State came to have the reputation of having the most radical, leftist students in town, supplanting Reed in that reputation.
- Lewis & Clark College first came to my attention in the mid-1950s. As a private, liberal arts college it was seen as comparable to Reed, though with a less demanding curriculum and a less distinguished faculty. However, some of the L&C faculty were greatly respected at Reed and participated in activities at Reed, including Prof. William Stafford, the poet, and Prof. Reinhard Pauly, a violinist and music professor. In my files is a Portland Symphony program from 1953 which contains an advertisement for the L&C music department, which presented itself as something like a conservatory. Some of my friends from high school went to L&C. Apparently the curriculum was not too demanding, as they never complained that it was a tough school.
- In the 1950s and 60s there were active ties between Reed and the musical efforts in some of the Portland churches. I have a program indicating that Prof. Gladstone directed a musical performance at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in 1954. Prof. John Hancock was organist for some years at a Catholic Church in the Council Crest neighborhood. A number of Reed faculty and students sang in the choir at All Saints

Episcopal Church at 41st and Woodstock. (My father sometimes sang in their choir in the early 1960s, although he would not have been a churchgoer except for the music.)

- The Portland Youth Philharmonic (then known as the Portland Junior Symphony” usually had 2 or 3 Reed students in its orchestra during my years. The conductor was Jacob Avshalomov (Reed ’43). Reed faculty also served on the orchestra’s board of directors (R.F. Arragon, H.B. Gladstone and Lewis Kleinholz) and music committee.
- The Friends of Chamber Music, organized sometime around 1955, was co-sponsored by Reed College, Lewis & Clark, Portland State, and University of Portland. Its purpose was to engage distinguished chamber ensembles to perform in Portland. Its board of directors included R.F. Arragon, H.B. Gladstone and Frederic Rothchild (’34). Its guarantors usually included Reed faculty (my father among them) and alumni. The concerts were given in the new Lincoln High School auditorium on SW 14th Avenue, and later in auditoriums at Portland State College and Lewis & Clark College. The Juilliard String Quartet and Budapest String Quartet were among the ensembles often engaged. When I met members of the Smetana String Quartet in Prague in 1987, they remembered playing in Portland back in 1959.
- The Portland Symphony (now Oregon Symphony) also had strong participation from Reed. H.B. Gladstone served on the music committee, and several Reed faculty and alumni performed in the orchestra.

Wildlife on Campus

It may be worthwhile to mention a few wildlife observations from my years on the Reed campus.

- There was a row of large elm trees along Woodstock Boulevard in front of the Library and Faculty Office Building. When the elm seeds were ripe, there were sometimes flocks of thousands of Pine Siskins that came to eat the seeds. At other times, huge flocks of Evening Grosbeaks came to eat the elm seeds.
- There were always Mallards on the lake. One could see broods of tiny Mallard ducklings early in spring; the earliest I observed was on April 12. There were no geese nor swans during my years. I never saw any Wood Ducks on the lake, and they were generally quite rare in those years. However, the canyon seemed like a good place for them, and I would not be surprised if they were seen there now. In winter I often saw a pair of Bufflehead in the widest part of the lake, opposite the amphitheatre.
- I often saw a Green Heron in secluded spots around the lake.
- There were usually muskrats in the lake. One had a burrow toward the lower end of the lake. Another year I saw one in the marsh above the big pipe. I was never aware of any beaver in the canyon.
- Swallows were always around the campus in summer, coursing over the great lawns. Barn swallows nested in the trash room at old Foster-Scholz, which had a door to the outside that was always open.

Amphitheatre

- The amphitheatre in my era had a grass surface in the aisles and seating, with green-painted wooden seating and railings. The stage area was a lawn at the bottom, with the lake behind.

- When the audience arrived from the drive opposite Old Dorm Block, they walked down a lawn through a rose garden and under flowering trees, arriving at the top of the amphitheatre. It could be a beautiful place for a commencement ceremony in May or June.
- There were two dressing room buildings to the right and left of the stage area. They were out of sight of the audience, concealed by wings of cherry-laurel hedge on either side of the stage.
- The amphitheatre was used for commencement if the weather was good. It was also used for theatre during some summers in the 1950s. I remember seeing “The Devil’s Disciple” there.

Anna Mann Cottage

- Anna Mann served as a women’s dormitory during my era. It also contained a meeting room, off the lounge, that could be used by student groups. The “Students’ Committee for Wilderness,” which I organized, held a few meetings there around 1962.
- Anna Mann was used for faculty housing during at least one Summer Session. I remember we visited my father’s friend Clinton Williams and his wife and son there when he was teaching at a summer session around 1946. (He went on to be a literature professor at San Jose State College.)

Biology

- During my student years, 1959-63, the course of study for a biology major emphasized fields that were coming to the fore in that era, such as microbiology, physiology, genetics and embryology. These undoubtedly were excellent preparation for graduate study and medical school.
- There was little about ecology at Reed in the early 1960s. An ecology course was always listed in the catalog, but it was never offered in my 4 years. The only times we looked at organisms in the field were during a Plant Evolution course taught by Robert Ornduff (Reed ’53) when he served as a visiting professor in 1961-62, and in my thesis project, working with Prof. Bertram G. Brehm. Apparently ecology became a more favored field at Reed in later years. (I would have liked that.)
- In my student years, we biology majors had heavy requirements to fulfill in the sciences, which made it difficult to take advantage of the liberal arts curriculum in which Reed excelled. A year and a half of chemistry and a year of physics were required, as well as plenty of biology. When you add up the class time, plus 3 or 4 afternoons a week in labs, it didn’t leave time for much else. I hope that science majors in later years have had more opportunities in this respect.

Physical Education

- The director of Physical Education was Jerome Barta, an imaginative man who before coming to Reed had been PE teacher at the high school in Alsea, a small town in the Coast Range west of Corvallis. He and his colleagues offered a wonderful range of activities, clearly designed to give students some activities they could use throughout their lives. This stood in contrast to the typical college athletics of the era.

- During my student years the physical education requirement consisted of 4 hours a week for the freshman and sophomore years. The first year, we were required to take a PE class for 2 hours a week and complete the other 2 hours independently in qualifying activities. The second year, all 4 hours could be taken independently.
- I did all my independent PE hours by hiking in some beautiful country near Portland, often in canyons tributary to the Columbia Gorge. In my freshman year I took a golf class taught by Jerry Barta in the fall, which met right there on campus, and a bowling class in the spring, which convened at a bowling alley on Powell Blvd.

Woodstock

- Woodstock was the neighborhood known to us as “Up the hill.” It had the nearest grocery stores, library and Post Office.
- Dieringer’s was the major grocery store in Woodstock, at about 45th & Woodstock. It started in a storefront but expanded into a supermarket format around 1956.
- Otto’s Meat Market and grocery was at 42nd & Woodstock, where an authentic German wurstmacher turned out delicious liverwursts, hunter sausage, bockwurst and other delicacies.
- Across Woodstock on 42nd was a fire station, which went out of service around 1956 and was converted into a community center. The fire trucks serving the area thereafter came from a new fire station on Bybee across from Westmoreland Park.

Westmoreland

- The nearest supermarket to Reed College in 1940s was a Safeway at Milwaukie Avenue & Rural Street. The earliest I remember, it was a rather small store, with a few parking spaces on the north side of the building. It was enlarged sometime before 1956, with parking on three sides, so it occupied the entire block. (I have a 1956 photo in my files showing the enlarged store.)
- There were no posh restaurants in those days, just the Poll Parrot coffee shop.
- The Moreland Theater was a small movie house serving our neighborhood.

Weekend Houses of Faculty

In the 1940s and 50s some of the faculty had vacation houses where I visited, either with my family or as a sleep-over with childhood friends. At Neahkahnie were cottages of the Frederick Peters family and the Benjamin Woodbridge family. The Collier family had a cottage at Long Beach, Washington, where the Aldersons once rented during a summer around 1950. The Charles C. Bagg family had a cottage in the national forest at Rhododendron, on Mount Hood.

Attachments

Map marked-up to show locations of features described in my reminiscences, with a Map Legend for these.

1954 photographs of Eliot Hall and the Library

Literature Cited

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Ritz, Richard E., 1990. History of the Reed College Campus and Its Buildings. Reed College, Portland, Oregon.

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Reminiscences of Reed College – Addendum 1: The Railroad

by George Alderson (Reed class of 1963)

This addendum describes a few points about the Southern Pacific Railroad as I knew it as a boy growing up on and near the Reed College campus in the years 1943 to 1963. Railroad history later became one of my avocations, so I believe it may be worthwhile to record these observations for the Reed College archives.

The sights and sounds of the railroad were inescapable at Reed College. For some of us, our daily route to the campus led across the railroad. Reed students arriving from other parts of the country generally came by train until air travel became prevalent in the 1960s.

The railroad closest to the Reed College campus was the Southern Pacific Railroad, which connected Portland with points to the south. Portland was also served by the Union Pacific, arriving from the east through the Columbia Gorge, and the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railroad (SP&S), arriving from the north and east. The Northern Pacific Railway also arrived from the north. In addition, the SP&S linked Portland with transcontinental streamliners of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern; through cars were hauled by SP&S to interchange points at Pasco and Spokane, Washington.

My father, Prof. William L. Alderson, had an interest in railroads and kindled my interest in the subject. My sister Liz and I now speculate that our grandfather George W. Alderson may have worked for a railroad in Minnesota before he became custodian of Austin (Minn.) High School, which would explain our father's knowledge of railroad lore. When I was about 5 years old, my father began taking me on walks to watch switching operations in the Brooklyn yard, and the SP was always part of my world, even though I did less train-watching as I entered my teen years and concentrated on bird-watching instead. I renewed my interest in trains as an adult in the 1970s and continue this avocation to this day.

Where the Railroad Was

- The Southern Pacific Railroad, known by its nickname SP ("espee"), had a large complex near the Reed campus. The main line from California was just across the Eastmoreland Golf Course from the campus. The SP's Brooklyn yard began at SE Reedway Street just off McLoughlin Boulevard and ran north past Holgate Street as far as SE Haig Street. The yard complex included freight switching yards, locomotive maintenance shops, roundhouse, car shops, an ice track, and associated facilities.

- The best places to get a look at railroad activities in the 1950s were: (1) the Bybee Boulevard viaduct, which crossed over the main line and a siding; (2) a grade crossing at SE Reedway Street which was later closed off; and (3) the Holgate Street overpass, which crossed near the roundhouse. In the late 1940s and early 1950s spectators were also allowed to approach the freight switching yards and watch switching operations from the sidelines, which I did many times with my father.
- Until the late 1950s the grade crossing on SE Reedway Street was open, and some Reed students and professors walked to the Reed campus from Westmoreland by this route. If you were coming from Westmoreland, you crossed the railroad on Reedway, then continued eastward on an unpaved lane along the north boundary of the golf course, and came out on SE 28th, a few hundred feet from the pedestrian entrance to the campus at the west side of the athletic field. There were concrete steps leading from 28th up to the athletic field through a border of shrubs and trees.
- In the late 1950s the railroad became more security-conscious and did not welcome spectators as they had earlier. Sometime around 1958 a railroad policeman warned me against entering on railroad property in my bird-watching efforts.
- There is a point on the SP map named "Reed," at mile 766.0 (shown in Austin & Dill, page 31). This is a short distance south of the Bybee Blvd. viaduct. It is not clear to me whether Reed is the name of the siding or something else, and I do not have references at hand that would contain the answer. It is purely speculation, but I wonder if this named point might be a vestige of where an interchange line left the main line in 1911-12 that would have connected with the standard-gauge streetcar line up Bybee to the Reed College construction site. The topography was flat there, which is an advantage for a railroad line. There might still be a remnant of a railroad grade in the form of a slight rise cutting across the golf course at that point, if it was not all re-graded when the golf course was built.

Activities at Brooklyn Yard

I consulted an excellent source, Austin & Dill (1987), for a few points of railroad history, to put my own experiences in perspective. The following are from Austin & Dill:

- Switching of freight cars has been done at Brooklyn yard from the 1920s up to the present. Brooklyn was originally the principal freight yard of the SP in Oregon, but it was supplanted by the Eugene yard during the 1960s in this respect.
- The SP also had its major engine maintenance shops at Brooklyn from 1910 until steam engines were taken out of service in 1955. At that time the diesel maintenance shops at Eugene took over that role.
- The ice track was not discussed in Austin and Dill, but was of interest to me in the 1950s. This was in the era when produce cars were cooled by ice, before mechanical refrigeration came into use. I used to watch operations on the ice track at Brooklyn. A long line of reefer cars would be positioned on two ice tracks, which had an elevated work structure between the tracks. Large blocks of ice came up on a conveyor belt, and the workmen with long pikes slid the blocks into bunkers at both ends of each reefer car, then broke the blocks up so they would pack in well.

Trains

I consulted my modest collection of SP timetables to find out how many trains were running past the campus in my years.

- In 1947 there were 10 passenger trains passing the campus every day; that is 5 arriving in Portland and 5 departing. In 1959 there were 6 a day. By 1966 there were only 4 a day. In 1970 there was only one train a day.
- Most of the traffic was freight trains. Austin and Dill report that as late as the 1960s, 29 freight trains operated in and out of Brooklyn each day.
- The SP's top passenger train was the Shasta Daylight, inaugurated in 1949 and taken out of service in 1966. It was a day train between Portland and Oakland, crossing the Cascade Range and passing Mount Shasta in daylight hours. It ran daily, leaving Portland around 8:00 am and arriving in Oakland around 11:00 pm. This train was a streamliner in bright colors of red and orange. I never rode on the Shasta Daylight, but I believe my father did, and my aunt rode it once or twice.
- The second major passenger train was the Cascade, an overnight sleeper train between Portland and Oakland. It was inaugurated in 1927 and was still operating in 1970, near the end of the SP's passenger service, but on a reduced schedule, 3 times a week. Typically the Cascade left Portland around 4:30 pm and arrived in Oakland around 9:00 am.
- As of 1959 there was a third passenger train known as Train No. 19 (southbound) and 20 (northbound). In the 1940s this train still had a name, the Klamath. I believe that once around 1949 our family rode No. 20 back to Portland from Albany, Oregon, where we had been visiting my aunt Lora Ives in Corvallis. It was a slower train that made more station stops than the top trains, but it had a dining car, in which we ate dinner that evening.

What We Heard and Saw

Without leaving our activities on the Reed campus, we heard many sounds of the Southern Pacific Railroad. We often saw the colorful trains across the golf course or under the Bybee Boulevard viaduct.

- The whistle or air horn of trains approaching the Reedway Street grade crossing told of arrivals and departures.
- Around 8:00 am every day we could hear the northbound Cascade arriving, then the southbound Shasta Daylight departing.
- In the evening around 5:00 pm we could hear the southbound Cascade departing. It was not until 11:00 pm that we would hear the northbound Shasta Daylight arriving.
- We could often hear the clashing sounds of freight trains getting under way on the main line just across the golf course. There was a long siding there that was used to hold freight trains while another train moved on the main line. (The main line down the Willamette Valley was single-track, so sidings were used for meeting and passing.)
- The sounds of steam engines persisted through the 1950s while diesel power was gradually coming into use. The SP's last steam locomotives serving Portland were taken out of service in 1955. I remember there was still a steam switching locomotive in the Brooklyn yard around 1952, although most of their switchers were diesel by that time.

Literature Cited

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