

X. Growing Big, Better

By Kit Watts

Upon Bunch's retirement in 1958, John Osborn, a former New Jersey conference president and a staff member of Potomac University, became senior pastor for two and a half years.⁷¹

He is remembered as the church organizer. Under his administration the choir room was made into church offices and he was the first to employ a secretary. Until then there had been no office hours for church business. He also renovated some of the space that had been changing-rooms near the baptismal font, and made them studies for his associate ministers.⁷²

What some thought would be no more than a summer's lark has become a denomination-wide program.

In 1959 the Sligo young people's Missionary Volunteer Society launched a student missionary program. Marlin Matthiesen, a college student, spent three months in Mexico doing medical and educational work.⁷³

When Osborn accepted a call to Southeastern California Conference in 1961, the Sligo membership stood at 2400 and plans had been laid for a new elementary school complex. William Loveless, an associate for four years was named senior pastor. He was 33.⁷⁴

In 1961 construction began on Morrison Hall and the college underwent the fourth name change of its history to become Columbia Union College.⁷⁵

Footnotes:

71. "Bunch Concludes Ministry Here Osborn Named for Sligo Church," *Sligonian*, October 10, 1958.

72. Interview with Florence Dorn.

73. "Brief: Sligo Missionary Volunteer Student Foreign Missionary Project," unpublished and unsigned manuscript, dated November, 1965, church office.

74. *Sligonian*, March 24, 1961.

75. *Ibid.*