

doing) and I happened to see Dean Norton come up across the yard. He was coming up to see my dad so I sneaked into the back room. I left the door opened so I could hear what was going on. He came in. My dad had an old roll-top desk backed up against the wall and on the other side he had a table. He greeted the dean and they <sup>passed</sup> ~~had~~ their pleasantries and pretty soon my father said, "Well dean, I suppose you've come down to talk to me about my son." The dean said, "Yes, Mr. Loucks I have and I don't want you to feel bad about what I have to say because the boy has a lot of good points. His failure in his studies has been due to his musical work. In fact, some of the music department up there thinks that he has quite a future in music. They think he might have <sup>some</sup> ~~a~~ line<sup>s</sup> of genius." I'll never forget my dad, he always had a knife with a file in it and he was filing away on his nails. He always did. He said, "Professor Norton, am I to understand that that is your academic way of calling my son a damn fool?"

Caroline: ~~It was~~ the climax of that year was this famous minstrel show and the alma mater.

RL: Here <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ a few notes written to Dick about "Hail, Pomona." In it are the names of the people that were in the show. The story is that the baseball team needed uniforms, bats, and balls, and had no money. They wanted to get a fellow by the name of Kenny <sup>Grashear</sup> ~~Brochere~~ who was quite a ball player with the Pacific Coast League in those days and lived in Pomona to kind of coach them. Hart Nesbit<sup>1/2</sup> was at that time a student at Pomona but had been kicked off the campus for something and couldn't come on the campus. He had an interest in the baseball team. We got the idea of having a show to raise



some money and charge two-bits to come into old Holmes Hall. On account of my working with the music stuff, I was in charge of the show. We fixed out a regular minstrel show. It was a black face affair. That tells who the <sup>end</sup> ~~in~~ men were. So we had our rehearsal and we came up to dress rehearsal and found that we didn't have anything to run down the curtain with. We had songs like, "Nellie was a Lady." We didn't know what to do. Up at the Pod we had a piano. Do you <sup>know</sup> anything about the old Crown pianos? The old Crown pianos had four pedals and the fourth pedal, when you push it down and clear it, the piano would sound like a bunch of banjos picking away. It was very popular for a few years. I think we rented the piano from somebody. I was trying to figure out what kind of a song we could use to close this show. I don't play the piano; I used to play it by ear a bit, but picking away, it just came out <sup>[the alma mater song]</sup> that's all. We used it to close the show. It seemed to make a hit with the students. The next school year, 1910, I spent alot of time up there just because the Pod bunch were then seniors and most all of them lived in Smiley Hall. I was up there most every night when I wasn't playing a job someplace. I don't remember exactly when they decided to use it as they use it now. I do know, this is not for publication, Bill Clarey<sup>'''</sup> told me this years later, that Dean Norton was a very strict ole buggar. I understand from what Bill told me that they had a student body vote on accepting or not accepting it as the alma mater. Dean Norton came to Bill Clarey and Bill was sort of a student leader, a very serious fellow, but he had alot of humor. He told Bill that he would like him to persuade the students that it is not proper for the college to



accept this as something that was the work of somebody that the college didn't think was worthy of staying in the college. When that got out, I think that's what <sup>put it over.</sup> ~~got the vote.~~ That's not for publication.

Caroline: Are the words the same now as you originally composed them?

RL: Just one word was changed. It was the beginning of a line and I had the wrong word in there and whatever it was Lyman thought it was better if we changed that one word.

Caroline: We can compare the old version and the second. Everyone appreciates it, it's a good college song. Pomona has a whole bunch of very good original college songs. They didn't have to take some Yale song and put Pomona words to it. We have our own and they're good songs.

RL: I remember Tip <sup>Olive,</sup> ~~Lyman~~. You know how he got his name Tip?

Caroline: I never heard the word Tip.

RL: He went to Simpson College in Iowa. (My mother went to Simpson College. The college burned and all of her records of her day were burned.) That's when he developed his piano. Then he came out here and decided to give up piano. He and his brother got an orange grove over just east of Euclid Avenue in Ontario or Upland. They operated there and in some way the college got wind of the fact of who he was and persuaded him to come over here and teach. Before that, during the depression, he had some money coming in and went into Los Angeles. He got a job playing the piano in movie houses, but he didn't want his friends to know what he was doing. So they advertised "the piano by Professor Tipton."