



Helen "Miss Mac" McPherson 1909-1997

"Miss Mac" graduated from Willamette University in 1929, with a major in vocal music and later received a Masters degree from University of Oregon. She began her teaching career at Marshfield in 1939, the year just prior to the completion of the construction of the current main building, that included the auditorium. During her time at Marshfield, Miss Mac established what would become a cornerstone of vocal music in our community and a model for others in the state. The new auditorium would become the venue for her vocal groups to perform for more than 30 years. Her vocal music concerts became a very popular community tradition. The Sunday afternoon MHS Christmas Vespers Program became so popular that the auditorium would fill to capacity and a second performance was added on Monday evening to accommodate the many parents and community members who would attend. It was mainly through her efforts and fundraising projects that an organ was purchased for the auditorium. She continued teaching vocal music until she retired in 1973.

In her retirement, she enjoyed traveling and attending musical programs with her long-time friends and fellow teachers Alice Holmbach, Marg Tedrow and Elaine Bessey. She continued as a big supporter for the MHS music programs and regularly attended the Bach Festival in Eugene.