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From Presidents to Preschoolers

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Linfield’s Potter Hall has a rich history, for both Linfield College and McMinnville. Originally built as the home of George W. Evens, a former mayor of McMinnville, the college purchased it in 1918 for use as the President’s House. It served as the home for Presidents Leonard W. Riley (1906-31), William R. Frerichs (1931-32) and Elam J. Anderson (1932-38). When the current President’s House was built in 1939, Potter, named for Mrs. Carrie C. “Mother” Potter, dean of the Conservatory of Music from 1904 to 1921, became a residence hall. It was enlarged in 1961 to provide space for the Home Economics Department, later the Department of Consumer and Family Studies. With the closure of that department in 1990, the Department of Education moved there. Potter is also the home to Linfield’s Pre-Kindergarten, well-known to generations of Linfield and McMinnville families.