

## The Physics Department's Seismograph

When the then new Physics Building, now known as Covell Hall, was built, in 1926-28, a grounded pier isolated from the rest of the building was constructed in a basement room anticipating the installation of a seismograph. The first operating seismograph station on the Oregon State College campus was built by Dr. Harold Vinyard of the Physics Department. This consisted of two Wood-Anderson instruments which Dr. Vinyard designed and built by himself in the Physics shop. These instruments were installed and put into continuous operation about 1946. This station was not entirely satisfactory because of the vibrations caused by truck traffic on Monroe Street.

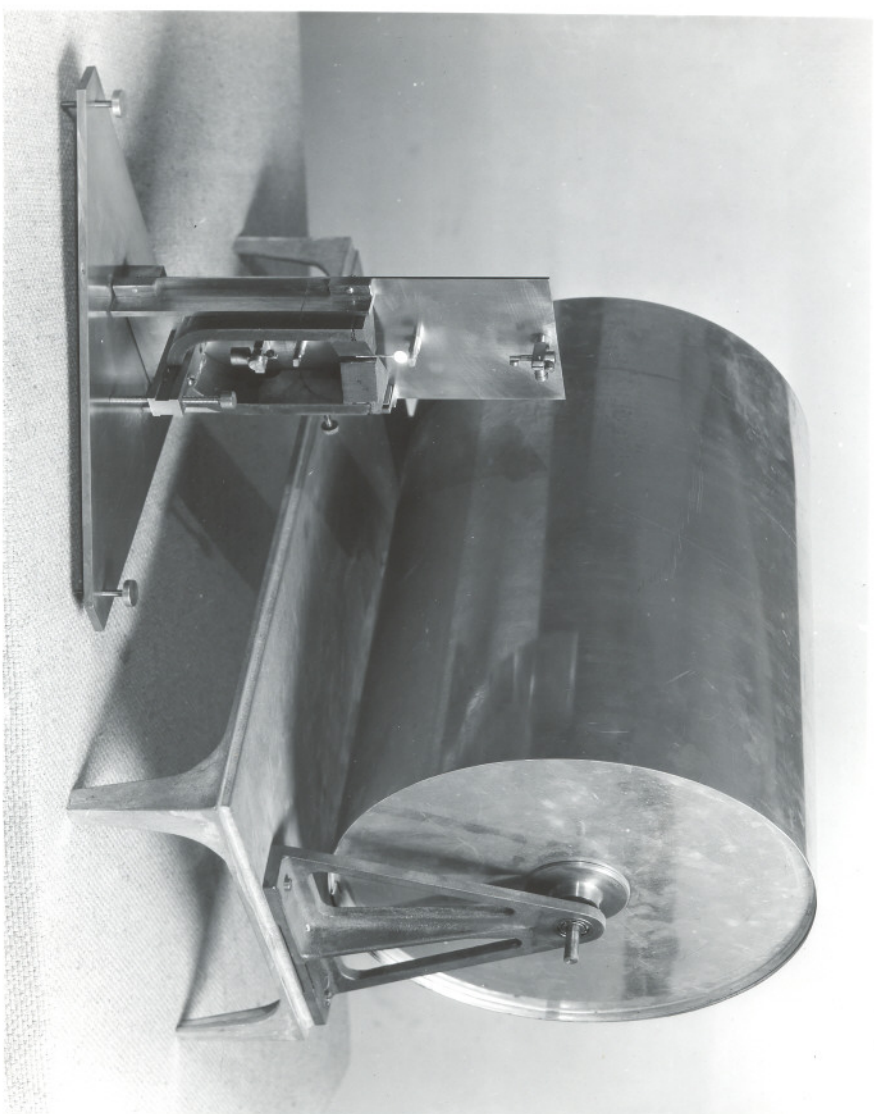
As a result of Dr. Vinyard's interest in seismology, and the strong desire of the seismologists of the University of California to have a cooperating station, a grant of \$8,000.00 in State funds was obtained with which to build a new station, including a building. The University of California sent a team of seismologists to Corvallis to assist Dr. Vinyard and Dr. Packard, then Dean of Science at O.S.C., in locating a suitable spot for the station. A concrete building was then erected, in the hills west of Corvallis, by the Physical Plant from plans developed by Dr. Vinyard and the University of California group under Dr. Perry Byerly. Two three-component sets of Schlacter instruments were donated by the University of California, one set of which has been used from the time the station was put into operation in 1950 until the installation of new equipment by the Department of Oceanography in 1961-62.

The Schlacter instruments proved to be sensitive and generally satisfactory except that they tended to be unstable and to require a great deal of Dr. Vinyard's time to keep them in adjustment. This did not, however, impair their usefulness as seismometers. The recordings, from the optical system devised by Dr. Vinyard, were excellent and greatly appreciated by the University of California group to which they were sent daily.

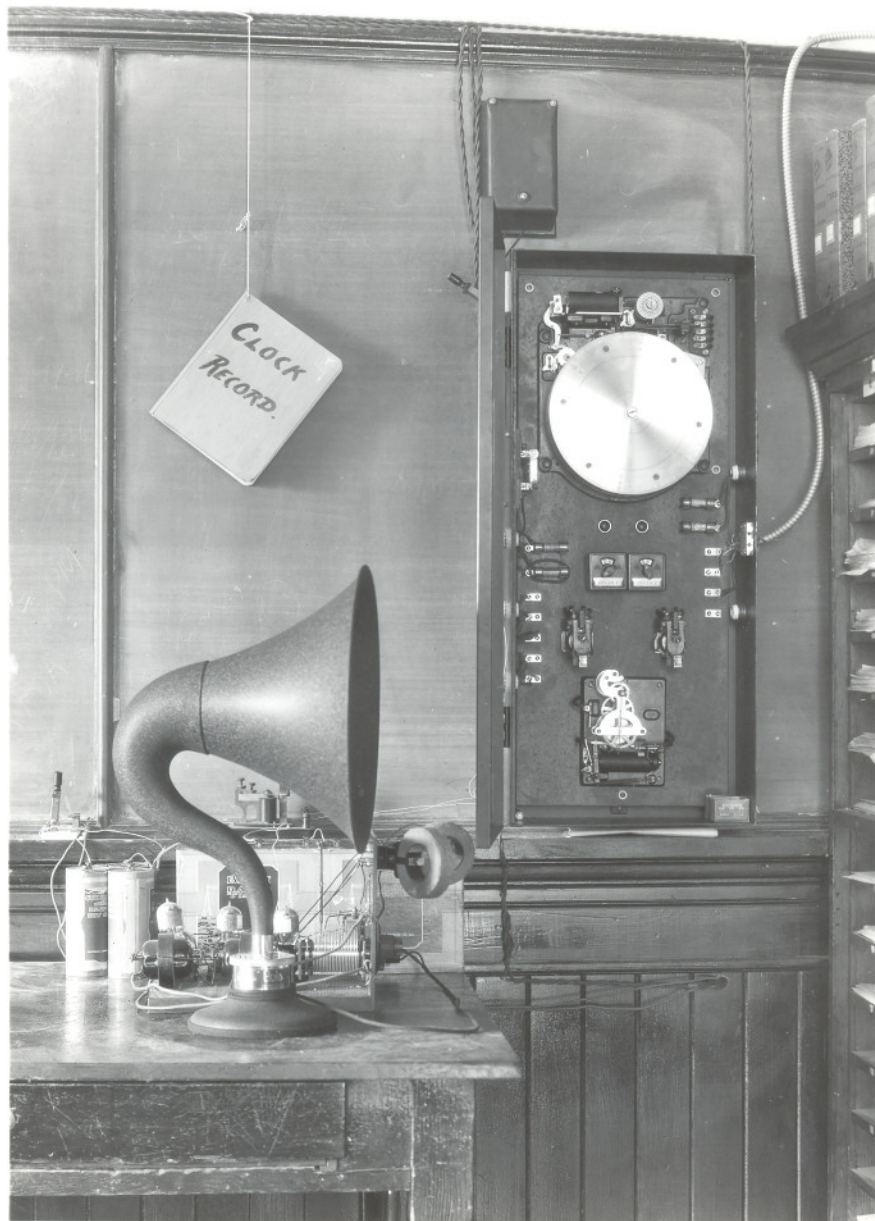
Shortly before the installation of the new equipment by the Department of Oceanography, the Department of Physics built a radio transmitter and receiver and a coding system so that the incidence of an earthquake would trigger the transmission of information to the Physics Building so that someone could go out and get the records for early reporting rather than to wait until the regular time for changing the photographic paper.

In 1962-63 the Department of Physics turned over the seismographic station to the Department of Oceanography because an extensive program in seismology was needed, and being developed, by that department.

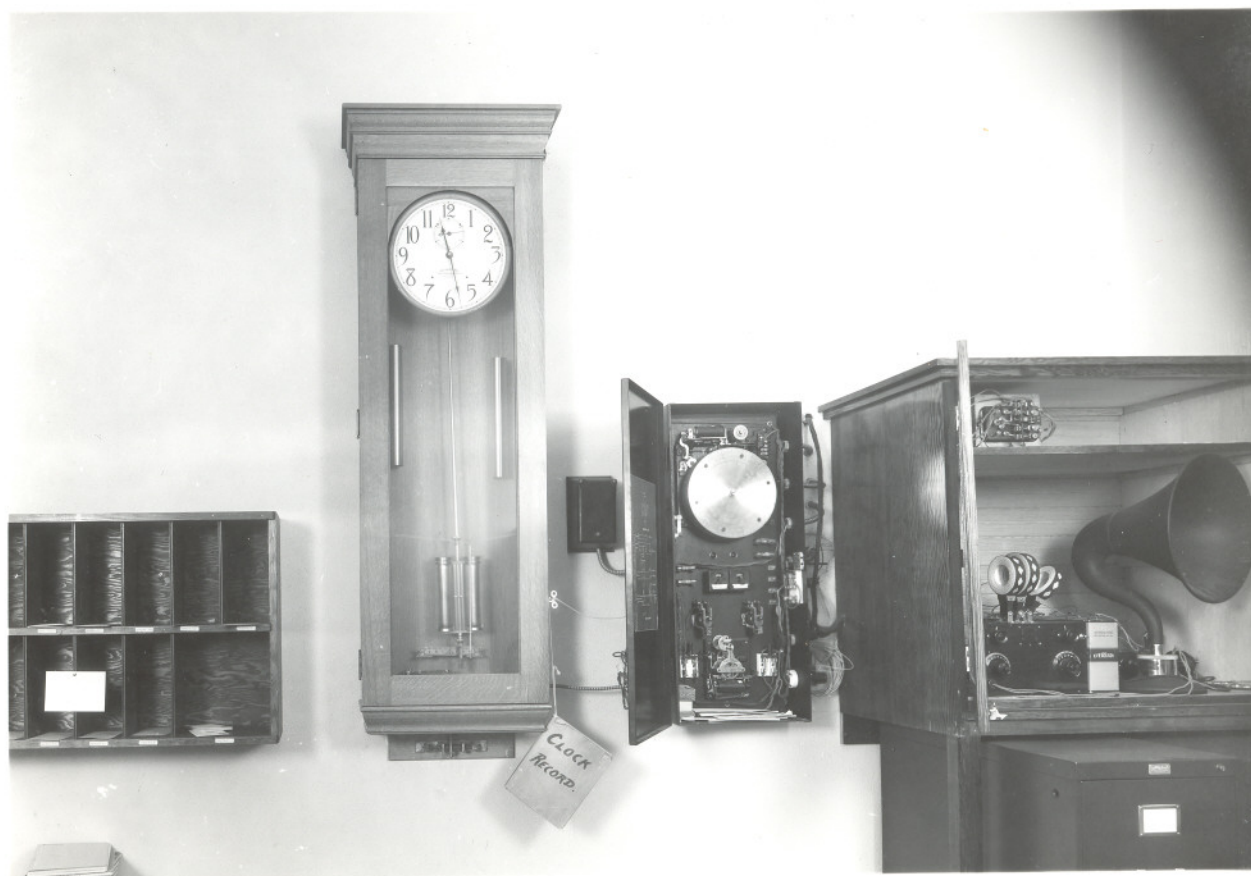




One unit of Oregon State's first seismograph. This is a Wood-Anderson type built, installed and operated by Harold Vinyard. 1946.



Program drum for master clock, controlling College whistles and seismograph, with early radio set for receiving WWV time signals for setting clock.



Master clock, part of the seismograph station but which also controlled the College whistle. 1931.