

# THE FORENSIC

OF PI KAPPA DELTA

SERIES 15

OCTOBER, 1929

NUMBER 2

## Our National Secretary, Prof. George W. Finley, Advises on Convention Attendance

One of the most important duties resting upon any chapter of Pi Kappa Delta is attendance at the national conventions. This is true both from the standpoint of the organization in general and the local chapter itself. So strongly was this felt at the 1924 convention that two amendments were made to the constitution touching this point. The first requires that every new chapter admitted during a biennium shall be represented at the next succeeding convention; the second, that every chapter shall be represented in at least every other convention. Failure to comply with either of these provisions means suspension of the chapter.

Naturally we are all hoping for a 100 per cent attendance at the 1930 convention in Wichita, Kansas, March 31 to April 4, and so fine is the spirit in most of the local chapters that we would come very close to realizing that goal without any compulsory attendance clause in the constitution. It may not be out of place, however, to list the chapters that are required by the constitution to be represented this spring.

New chapters that must be represented:

Texas Theta, Simmons University.  
West Virginia Alpha, West Virginia Wesleyan.  
Texas Iota, Baylor University.  
Iowa Nu, Penn College.  
Texas Kappa, Sam Houston Teachers College.  
Mississippi Alpha, Millsaps College.

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Old chapters not represented at the 1928 convention and therefore required to be present at this one:

Arkansas Beta, Ouachita.  
California Beta, Occidental.  
Illinois Alpha, Wesleyan University.  
Iowa Alpha, Wesleyan University.  
Iowa Eta, Upper Iowa University.  
Iowa Kappa, Buena Vista.  
Kansas Alpha, Ottawa University.  
Kansas Beta, Washburn University.  
Kansas Eta, Wesleyan University.  
Kansas Nu, Hays Teachers College.  
Louisiana Alpha, Louisiana College.  
Nebraska Epsilon, Grand Island.  
Nebraska Zeta, Kearney Teachers College.  
Oklahoma Delta, Alva Teachers College.  
Oklahoma Zeta, College for Women.  
Texas Alpha, Southwestern University.  
Washington Alpha, College of Puget Sound.

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## THE N. F. L. HAS REMARKABLE GROWTH

Pi Kappa Delta should have a special interest in the National Forensic League, an organization to promote high school forensics. That organization was fostered originally we believe by certain members of Pi Kappa Delta.

The first Chapter to ratify the constitution of the N. F. L. was the Albany, New York, High School on April 15, 1925.

Last year the N. F. L. awarded 956 keys to high school students and colleges, admitted 1200 members, and granted 514 degrees for special achievement. Contests in debate, oratory, declamation, and extemporaneous speaking, 3485 in number, were reported to the national office. The Chapter has the policy of admitting only the strongest high schools. Adhering to this policy, 39 carefully selected schools were granted charters last year, bringing the total to 256 chapters. The schools represented by these chapters have a total enrollment of 132,143 students. To the extent that Pi Kappa Delta is responsible for having fostered this organization, it is to be congratulated.



# THE CONSTITUTION

By LEX KING SOUTER

William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.

Awarded first place in the 1929 National Intercollegiate Oratorical Contest on the Constitution, held at Los Angeles, June 20. He was awarded a prize of \$1,500.00.

542 colleges and universities had participated in the elimination contests leading up to the final. With this oration Mr. Souter won the Missouri contest at Columbia, April 27, by a unanimous decision of five judges.

Mr. Souter also won the championship of the Middle West, at Liberty, Mo., in a contest with the state champions of nine states by four first places out of five.

In the national contest were the seven regional champions. Robert B. Goodwin, Wabash College, was second and John P. McEnery of Santa Clara, California was third. Souter was given first place by six of the seven judges.

We are met here to increase interest in and respect for the fundamental laws of our country.

To a few this high purpose might be effected by tracing the beginnings of the constitutional concept from Coke and Vattel to the historic chamber in Philadelphia where for the first time an important nation was given a written constitution wrapped in the solitude of its own originality. We might glory in the fact that today written constitutions modelled on our experiment are found not only in both Americas but in Europe, the Dark Continent, and even in the land of the Rising Sun.

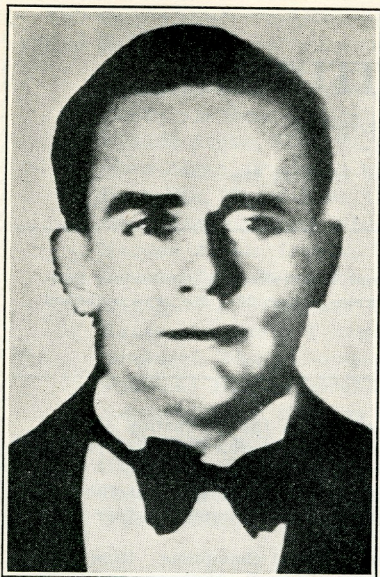
To a few it is the dramatic story of the difficulties and struggles of a handful of men who for four months attempted to reconcile divergent opinions until by mutual concession and compromise the document emerged in September, 1787, a concord born of contraries.

To a few the Constitution is respected because of its original underlying principles: the distrust of legislative power, the protection of the minority, and the protection of property rights.

Some Americans have come to assume with Waldo that the Constitution was "constructed by shrewd but spiritually callous men" and "protected occultly by nine pontifical judges—high priests without a god."

The time has come when we must re-evaluate our personal relations to the Constitution, when all citizens must see and doubt not that in the Constitution





LEX KING SOUTER  
William Jewell College  
Liberty, Mo.

"through the ages one increasing purpose runs."

Historians have recorded the contributions of Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, and Marshall to the Constitution. After them we see Webster sacrifice the presidency because his clarion voice proclaimed that the Constitution was not "a rope of sand," not "a league with death and a covenant with hell." It was in the trumpet-tongued accents of Webster that all America heard for the first time with crystalline clearness, "The people erected this government." Then came the immortal Lincoln whose Gettysburg and Second Inaugural Addresses epitomized, whose indomitable aspirations awakened, and whose humble wisdom directed the energies that preserved the Union under the Constitution.

But in the great inconsistency and crowd of events today, the light of the past is faded. The question which confronts us is: How can a

document which was written under the influence and in the phraseology of the natural-rights philosophy of the eighteenth century individualism meet the needs of twentieth century collective and interdependent cooperation? The two are contradictory. Safe in the hallowed quiet of the past we are prone to view the Constitution and its heroic framers and defenders with only an historic interest. Yesterday seems neither vital nor dynamic in the face of stern today.

What is it that causes each new generation of Americans to feel the strength, acclaim the solidity, and cherish the wisdom of the Constitution? To know the answer to this question will make all our customary and ordinary ideas about the Constitution significant. Without this knowledge we are apt to permit respect for the Constitution to go by default, leaving it to lawyers and historians.

We shall not go back to those famous cases which have become so surrounded by halos of historic sentiment that they are no longer significant nor vital. From *Marbury vs. Madison*, and *McCullough vs. Maryland* to the *Dred Scott* decision, the Constitution so stood the test of those times that the glory of contending forces died not but their grief is past. Let us make our starting point within the experience of this generation.

In 1904 a case reached the Supreme Court involving only fifty dollars, a sum and a case such as any of us might experience. This case,



the celebrated oleomargarine case of *McCray vs. U. S.*, marked a turning point in our conception of the Constitution. The Supreme Court held that it could not inquire into the motives and purposes of Congress. Yet in 1922 in *Bailey vs. Drexel*, the Supreme Court did announce its rights to inquire into the motives and purposes of Congress.

In 1905 New York had a state law prohibiting bakeries employing men more than sixty hours a week or ten hours a day. In *Lochner vs. New York* the Supreme Court held by a five to four decision that the law interfered with a man's individual liberty to sell his own labor—that the public is not affected by long hours as long as the bread is just as wholesome. In 1908, however, the Supreme Court in *Muller vs. Oregon* upheld a law limiting the hours of labor for women only. Yet today the Supreme Court upholds the numerous state and federal laws regulating the hours of labor of not only women and children, but also of men. There was a time under the fellow servant doctrine, when an engineer who wrecked his train because a tower man had made a mistake, could not recover damages, but his passengers could. Today the Supreme Court even upholds state workmen's compensation laws and the fellow servant doctrine is obsolete.

It is not too much to say that laws affecting public health, nuisances, safety, public morals, wages, social insurance, monopolies, and zoning ordinances are declared constitutional by the Supreme Court today, despite the fact that two or three generations ago they would have been declared void because they were unconstitutional. This progress has come about without a change in a word in the respective sections of the Constitution of 1787.

The Constitution is meeting the needs of today.

Our respect for the Constitution can only be vital or significant however when we can answer the question: How? How? The Constitution is an instrument designed to be interpreted in the light in which it was written yet flexible enough to meet needs as they arise.

The Constitution assumes that what the people want is often wrong—that majority tyranny is as obnoxious as any tyranny. Yet the Constitution establishes majority rule as the basis of our government. Paradoxical as it may seem the Constitution is the safety valve from majority tyranny. Men want reform but do not know what laws are practicable.

This unique document established the means by which it could ever be vitalizing the solidarity of the American people. Interpretation by an agency set up by the Constitution makes the Constitution dynamic, and insures its flexible durability.

The most significant characteristic of the Constitution is that the Supreme Court need not function by the precedents of the dead past. The Supreme Court trails behind and will not interpret the experiences of men in the light of the Constitution until those experiences have become permanently embodied and crystallized in the consciousness and conscience of the people. The Supreme Court moves slowly so it can know what will be right ten years in the future. A precedent cannot embalm a



## Do You Get Publicity On the Campus?

We were interested in looking through the various college papers received to note how many—or rather how few—chapters of Pi Kappa Delta get any editorial space on their activities.

We listed a few schools giving their editorial comments on forensics in the May Forensic. From May 1st to the close of the college year there were only seven college papers that made any such editorial comment. Since school began this fall we find editorial comment in only two papers.

To be fair with ourselves we must admit that unless we really get something done that's worth commenting about we have no right to expect editorial space. The mere fact of a forensic program, without those responsible for it,—coaches, students, those in advisory positions,—following through to actual achievement merits no attention on the part of the readers of your college paper. Of course we must remember that forensics are of sufficient importance to merit some attention whether anything is accomplished or not but the average campus is busy with a lot of things and certainly we have no right to any sort of acclaim because of the existence of an organization. Let's frankly face our responsibilities as members in an organization that should be active, and expect nothing until we deserve it.

In the meantime there should be a member or a committee in Pi Kappa Delta to keep in mind publicity and its importance for the group. Of course it is true that you may really achieve distinction in one or more branches of forensic activity, you may take long trips and win high places in competition and then return home without the band being present at the station to greet you. You may not even see your name or a statement of your achievement in the following issue of your campus paper. You may criticize the college editor for failure to give credit where credit is due noting that certain other matters of less importance do get publicity. You may be tempted to fly into a rage and tell the college administration, the newspaper editor and the student body who are apathetic in their forensic interest what should be done. Your indignation in such a case may be "righteous" but that will not solve the problem. Let's take our full share of responsibility. First of all let's do excellent work, individually and collectively. Let's not quarrel with other organizations or individuals about the right of publicity or about what is important. Do your work, be cheerful, be a booster for all worth while things on the campus and then through fair means seek to get merited publicity for your forensic achievement.



## ON TO WICHITA!

By W. H. Veatch, President

If there is one thing that is going to be a really hard job for the convention committee this year, it is going to be the finding of enough rooms in Wichita in which to hold the contests. Don't think for a minute that any one wants any of you to stay at home because you are afraid that you may have to do your debating out on a street corner. The more the merrier. I hope that enough debating teams and orators and extempore speakers come in from the four corners of the earth that the convention committee will have to stay up nights and build auditoriums in order to have room for all the contests. Privately, I have enough confidence in Pflaum and Harbison and Cowley to believe that they will have things in shape for you even if they do have to stay up nights to do it.

Those of you who have been at previous conventions will realize to some extent what it will mean when we tell you that we are planning on at least ten percent increase in the number of entries in every event and are planning not to eliminate any debating teams until after the fifth round and not to eliminate any orators or extempore speakers until after the third contest. If our previous conventions have been the biggest forensic event in the United States, just think what the Wichita convention is going to be like. Those of you who have not been at any previous conventions, just use your imaginations and then you are going to be surprised at the size and quality of the convention.

When I was in Chicago during the summer I stopped at the office of the Western Passenger Association to talk about the convention. They made this suggestion which I am passing on to you. When you start working out your trips to the convention, some of you chapters go by stage. Look up the stage routes quite carefully. Some of them are owned by the railroads and allow you to travel on the railroad tickets. If you can travel over such stage lines you can get the fare and a half just the same as on the railroad trains.

This convention will last a full five days, from the looks of the tentative program. We are going to try to have a couple of outside



speakers for meetings and are going to close with the snappiest banquet program that we have had yet.

I don't care how you come to Wichita, just so you come. Start your plans now if you haven't before. Bring the biggest delegation you can and come expecting to put everything you have into it because you get out of a convention just what you put into it. I was talking to Sawtelle and Mahaffey of Linfield College clear out by the Pacific Ocean and they are going to try to arrive at Wichita with eight student delegates. If they can do that and Redlands can bring the huge delegations that always come from there, you can make it, too, and so can several other members of your chapter.

ON TO WICHITA!

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## THE CONSTITUTION

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principle. "The present contains nothing more than the past, and what is found in the effect was already in the cause."

The Supreme Court should not be criticized for its decision in *Lochner* vs. New York. Then, neither it nor the people knew the exact trend. In due time what was not due process of law became due process of law. The will of the people, under the Constitution ultimately and without majority tyranny triumphs.

I come here tonight to ask that we as Americans in contemplating the Constitution no longer make ignorance the mother of our devotion to it. When we seek to increase interest in and respect for the Constitution, let us look not so much to the glass-covered parchment in the Library of Congress, but to the present Constitution as it is interpreted by its own servant and agent, the Supreme Court.

Our Constitution although recorded on paper is written in the hearts of the people. Our Constitution, although drawn up in the eighteenth century is interpreted in the twentieth. Our Constitution although conceived by the individualism of two centuries ago, is born and reborn in the lives of all of us today as we collectively cooperate to be servants in the service of all our fellow citizens.



# DIPLOMACY AND GOOD WILL

HERBERT N. JOHNSON

Gustavus Adolphus College, Saint Peter, Minnesota

Second Place Winner in the Finals of Interstate Oratorical Contest  
Held at Northwestern University

The spirit of my message tonight may be expressed in the words of the poet:

"Plant hate, and hate to life will spring."

General Lew Wallace has written a book based on hate. In his novel, BEN HUR, he forcibly reveals the intense hatred that can be inspired in an individual. The young prince, Ben Hur, exclaims again and again, "I live for Revenge!" Rooted in his heart, nourished and fed by outrage and violence, that deep-seated hate demanded full requital. Patiently Ben Hur bided his time; and when the chance finally came, he threw his manly strength into the heat of the chariot race, for Revenge—that he might disgrace the name "Roman"—and he did. Plant hate in the life of an individual, and that hate to life will spring.

Plant hate in nations, and that hate will spring to life. Ten years ago, when the Czechs were driving the Hungarians back to the border, their commander was heard to exclaim, "Now the battle of White Mountain is avenged." That battle of White Mountain had been fought in the year 1620—three hundred years before—and during all those years the Czecho-Slovakian people had been biding their time. And when the chance finally came in 1919, the accumulated hate of centuries broke out in deeds of atrocious violence. Was this to be the final scene in that drama of international hate? Not from all available indications. Writing in the *Echo De Paris* recently, De Villemus records this significant observation: "In Hungary today no one can forget the iniquity." In Budapest tonight, shop windows, street cars, and railway carriages are plastered with maps showing the boundaries of pre-war Hungary. In the middle of each map is a little circle representing the new frontiers, which incloses scarcely a third of the former territory. Underneath, letters of fire proclaim, "NO—NEVER." And today Hungary is biding her time. The whole affair has developed into a perpetual cycle of hate and revenge. So Europe has ever been a welter of hate—a bewildering maze of intrigue. Age-long hates, smothered for a while, are ever ready, on the slightest provocation, to burst forth in redoubled violence. Treaties and conferences and leagues and instruments of diplomacy have failed to root out this mutual fear and suspicion and to check this violence and passion of hate. Over the continent of Europe might well be penned the words of Milton's *Paradise Lost*:



"For never can true reconciliation grow where wounds of hate have pierced so deep."

But I am especially interested tonight—not in Europe, but in the Western hemisphere. Today on the American continent there flourishes more than a score of independent and sovereign nations—the United States and twenty-one Latin American republics. Today, on this hemisphere, the United States stands preeminent. But historians tell us that some day in the not distant future there will be states in Latin America rivalling the United States in wealth and political strength. To the south of us lies an area of boundless opportunities and limitless resources. In ever increasing numbers immigrants are flooding the country. Here is Europe—fast reaching the saturation point in population. Here is the United States—already finding it necessary to put up her immigration bars. In the next hundred years millions of European and Oriental immigrants will gravitate to South America.

I submit this vital question. Shall we, on this continent, ever experience age-long traditional international hatreds? Shall we, over here, repeat the history of Europe? Will there be political alignments built on fear—coalitions welded by common suspicions? Will Latins be arrayed against Saxons?

Already there is danger. By reason of the aggressive foreign policy of the North, the peoples of the South have been filled with fear and suspicion. In a recent issue of *Current History*, Augustin Edwards, Latin American author, gives us a most frank and straight-from-the-shoulder picture of the misunderstanding extant in Hispanic America today. He says—and I quote him verbatim:

"Latin America detests the United States because of its fraudulent elections, its commercial deceit, its shirt-sleeve diplomacy, the secession of Panama, its usurpation of the customs of Santo Domingo, the blood it has shed and the independence it has frustrated in Nicaragua, the revolutions it has fomented in Mexico, its aggressive imperialism, and its conduct toward Spanish America in the last half century."

To Latin America our dealings have represented high handed economic aggression, backed by bullets and an insatiable cupidity for commercial gain. To the South American we have not uplifted—we have used our forces in making the Caribbean safe for the American dollar. And the sad fact is that he has good evidence to back up his beliefs. In one South American country alone American capital owns and controls 78 per cent of the mines, 72 per cent of the smelters, 58 per cent of the oil, and 60 per cent of the rubber business. Little wonder that our motives have been aspersed by our southern neighbors.

Tonight our marines are encamped on the sovereign soil of Nicaragua. Tomorrow they will be tramping over wild hills and wading through infected marshes. Tonight our gunboats and transports, freighted to capa-



city, are churning up the waters of the Caribbean. Tomorrow, in South American harbors, they will discharge their cargoes of rifles, bayonets, and gunpowder. Why? Are we down there on a mission of Love? Are we down there today to uplift these unfortunates—to bestow upon them the blessings of our civilization? Yes—perhaps we are. But the Latin American doesn't think so.

Tell the average Latin American that our gunboats and marines are in South America to "uplift," and he will cynically point to our dealings with Haiti as he sees them. The little country of Haiti had enjoyed independence for over a century. With the intervention of American marines that independence ceased. In 1915 the United States entered Haiti by force. Three thousand natives, who got in the way of our operations, were shot down. Twice, at the points of bayonets, we dissolved a representative Haitian assembly. Then we proceeded to draft a constitution. We forced that constitution upon the Haitian people. With the backing of American marines, we set up on Haitian soil an American-made government. Haitian patriots, who dared to protest, were dragged from their homes and peaceful occupations, transported under guard to outlying districts, compelled to work on roads, and "at night herded into compounds." Major Barrett, an American officer in Haiti, characterized our policy as "the most terrible regime of military autocracy ever carried out in the name of the great American democracy."

View another case equally provocative of Latin American suspicion—our relations with Nicaragua. In 1924, an election was held. By choice of the people Solorzana became President. Diaz appears, and with a rebel army battles his way into the capitol city and usurps the Presidency. Immediately recognition is accorded him by the government at Washington. Seven days after Diaz became President, it was announced that an immense loan had been floated in Wall Street by the new Nicaraguan government. Mark this, it was an eight per cent loan payable in fifteen months, in default of which payment, 51 per cent of the entire stock of the National bank should be sold at auction in New York City. The Washington government then announced that Diaz should have the military backing of the American marines until 1928, when an election should be held. In 1928 that election was held. And under rigid American supervision the Nicaraguans peacefully selected a President and a government. That was four months ago. Our marines are still there.

Friends, what has been the result of our program? The inevitable effect—America has dissipated her heritage of friendship. And on the fragments of a shattered friendship is rising a barrier of fear and suspicion. Among the masses, among the students, and in the circle of Latin American leaders this suspicion is manifest. Anti-American magazines have been established. Great South American magazines have dedicated their editorial columns to the task of arousing opposition against the Colossus of the North. Wherever diplomats convene, the theme for discussion is America's policy of economic imperialism. Historians, consuls, missionaries, and observers in every walk of life comment with anxiety on the deep-seated fear existing in the consciousness of all Hispanic America.



Such is the result of America's policy of force. And this force has its roots in the misinterpretation of the Monroe Doctrine. There is more than a scintilla of truth in the recent statement made by the senior senator of Minnesota when he said: "The ideals of the original Monroe Doctrine have been used as a cloak to cover acts subversive of human liberty, and contrary to the institutions and traditions of our nation."

To eradicate the cause of this fear we must take the Monroe Doctrine—restore its pristine purpose—and share it with our southern brothers. By sharing this doctrine, a cohesive force will come into play on this hemisphere and the fundamental cause of hate will be removed.

But you ask—how may all the American nations share in this doctrine? Already there exists a splendid medium. That medium is the Pan American Union, a union of all the nations of this hemisphere. The meeting of this union, held only a year ago in Havana, was dignified by the presence of President Coolidge, Secretary of State Kellogg, together with a delegation whose personnel attested our recognition of the importance of an understanding with Pan America. But do you know that the same day that President Coolidge arrived in Cuba a reenforcement of five hundred American marines landed in Nicaragua? The same day that President Coolidge was delivering his message of brotherhood in Havana, newsboys on the streets of Nicaragua were crying out, "American marines take the lives of fifty Nicaraguans." On the one hand we were using diplomacy of good will—on the other hand we were extending the mailed fist. And that Pan American Conference adjourned with its major problem unsolved. Only by sharing the Monroe Doctrine and sharing it soon, can we hope to regain the confidence of Latin America. In the eyes of the South, the Monroe Doctrine is today an instrument of oppression in the hands of a powerful and covetous America. But by sharing the doctrine the ominous hate will disappear and in Pan American unity—with Latin bound with Anglo Saxon by that most potent bond, friendship—we render safe our common future.

America, in her continued role of meddler, will reap the meddler's retribution. America, in the role of friend, will receive the friend's reward. If we implant in the hearts of our South American brothers passions and prejudices, they will bide their time, and when opportunity comes and strength permits, they will turn upon their oppressor. In all history hate has never failed to breed war. I plead against any policy or program that tends to rewrite on the palimpsest of these virgin continents an epilogue to Europe's history of hate. On these two vast continents, "furrowed by mighty rivers and dotted with inland seas," three thousand miles away from that saturnalia of hate—here—on this magnificent domain—in this, the new home of our race—where God has given us the means to start anew and work out in peace the great problems of mankind—here—let us reveal to the world that "Whom God has made neighbors, justice can make friends."



## Provincial First Place Winners

(Editor's Note: The winners whose names appear under this heading were not included in the May "Forensic" because of lack of space, because copy or pictures were not received in time, or for other reasons.)



Phares E. Reeder of West Virginia Wesleyan took first place in the extempore speaking contest in the Province of the South Atlantic.



Maxine Wright of the University of Tulsa tied for first place in the women's oratory in the Province of Oklahoma. Miss Wright is also a debater and extempore speaker.

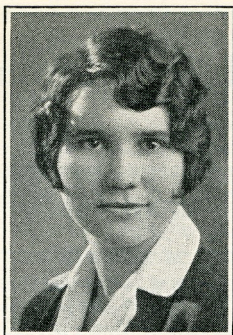
Katherine Ferguson, representing Baylor College for Women in the Province of the Lower Mississippi, won first place in the women's oratorical contest.



Elliott Cummins, representing Linfield College, won first place in the men's oratorical contest for the Northwest Province.



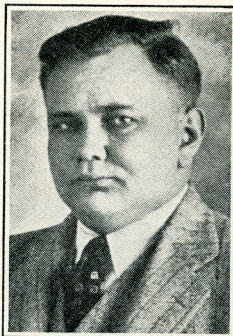




Enid Mae Cole

During his four years at Shurtleff College, Boris G. Alexander of Moscow, Russia, won every oratorical prize open to men, including two victories in the all-college contest. He twice placed second in the Illinois constitutional contest and won second in the Illinois Intercollegiate. He climaxed his undergraduate career by winning the Wisconsin-Illinois Province title.

Representing Oklahoma City University, Enid Mae Cole won first place in the women's extempore speaking and tied for first in women's oratory, in the Province of Oklahoma.



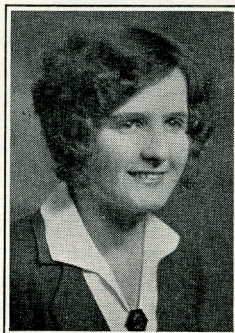
Boris G. Alexander



Dorothy K. Brush

Blanche Davis won first place in the oratorical contest for women in the Province of Illinois.

The Wisconsin Gamma chapter of the Oshkosh State Teacher's College was well represented in the Province of Illinois by Dorothy K. Brush who won first place in the women's extempore contest.

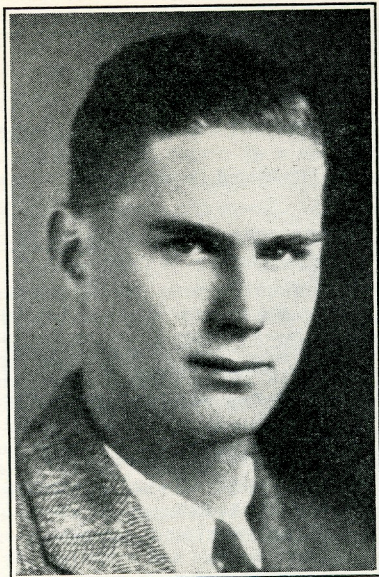


Blanche Davis



## LEE MERCER WINS FOR NORTH CAROLINA STATE

Lee R. Mercer of North Carolina Alpha was the winner in the Southern Region of the National Intercollegiate Oratorical Contest on the Constitution, and won sixth place in the final National Contest held at Los Angeles in June.




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## OTHER PROVINCE TOURNAMENT WINNERS

### ORATORY

#### MEN

Lonnie Meachum, Ouachita College. First place, Province the Lower Mississippi.

Arthur Todd, Park College. Province of the Missouri.

#### WOMEN

Gladys Davis, Parsons College. Province of the Missouri.

### DEBATE

#### MEN

Philip Teeling and J. W. Guittard, representing Baylor University. Province of the Lower Mississippi.

#### WOMEN

Elizabeth Boren and Glee Ingram, Simmons University. First place. Province of the Lower Mississippi.

### EXTEMPORE SPEAKING

#### MEN

Jerome Smith, Des Moines University. Province of the Missouri.

Opie Eskridge, Ouachita College. Province of the Lower Mississippi.

#### WOMEN

Ruth Wilson, Simmons University. First place. Province of the Lower Mississippi.



## PUBLIC SPEAKING

By ALBERT J. BEVERIDGE

(Reprinted from "America Speaks" by permission of Modern Eloquence Corporation of New York)

(Editor's Note: Those who have heard Albert J. Beveridge speak know that his thought in the article following grew out of his own experience. He indeed spoke as "one having authority." He wasted no time with "I may be wrong." He studied to be right, then took for granted that he was. And he, too, was one of those whom "the common people heard gladly." Perhaps we who are beginners should take a less learned attitude. More appropriate to our limited experience would be an attitude of humility since we might not be able to carry conviction with an attitude as "one having authority." However, Mr. Beveridge's thought is surely right in the matter of conviction. Let us not apologize and bow ourselves out of the right to think and to be heard. If we do—if we lack self-confidence—surely we have no right to expect the confidence of others. Unless we believe tremendously in our message and ourselves, our words will not be "Words of fire" and our speech will "lack weight among our fellowmen.")

"And the common people heard Him gladly," for "He taught them as one having authority." These sentences reveal the very heart of effective speaking. Considered from the human view-point alone, the Son of Mary was the prince of speakers. He alone delivered a perfect address—the Sermon on the Mount. The two other speeches that approach it are Paul's appeal to the Athenians on Mars Hill and the speech of Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg. These have no tricks, no devices, no tinsel gilt. They do not attempt to "split the ears of the groundlings," and yet they are addressed to the commonest of the world's common people.

Imagination, reason, and that peculiar human quality in speech which defies analysis as much as the perfume of the rose, but which touches the heart and reaches the mind, are blended in each of these utterances in perfect proportion. But, above all, each of these model speeches which the world has thus far produced teaches. They instruct. And, in doing this, they assert. The men who spoke them did not weaken them by suggesting a doubt of what they had to say. This is common to all great speeches.

Not one immortal utterance can be produced which contains such expressions as "I may be wrong," or, "In my humble opinion," or "In my judgment." The great speakers, in their highest moments, have always been so charged with aggressive conviction that they announced their conclusions as ultimate truths. They speak "as one having authority," and, therefore, "the common people hear them gladly."

All this means that the two indispensable requisites of speaking are, first, to have something to say, and, second, to say it as though you mean