

THE FORENSIC

OF PI KAPPA DELTA

ALFRED WESTFALL, Editor
G. W. FINLEY, Business Manager

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National Student Congressional Session

WARREN G. KEITH
Winthrop College, South Carolina Delta



In launching the National Student Congressional Session Pi Kappa Delta has given emphasis to its twenty-fifth anniversary. That it inaugurates a national student institution bespeaks its maturity and vigor, already evidenced by its famous tournament and its predominant position in national forensic affairs.

For some time demands have been made for an enlargement of the activities of the National Convention of Pi Kappa Delta. The action of President Toussaint, Mr. Summers, and Mr. Pflaum in laying plans for a Student Congress is undoubtedly one of the most progressive steps which has been taken by any society or fraternity involved in the affairs of young people. At the same time the session offers possibilities for a study of new forms of activities in speech.

One may ask what is the National Student Congress and what does it propose to do? The four day session, Tuesday through Friday of P. K. D. Convention Week, will be organized to give students experience in the management and procedure of public assemblies. There will be a Senate and a House organized in the manner of our Federal Congress. Forty chapters have by this time elected to send Senators; and each chapter will be entitled to send a representative. Plans of organization and rules of procedure will be sent to each member-elect. Participation though according to a formal order will be easy. Each body will have its own organization, officers, and procedure. Each house will have its committees for the consideration of

measures of all types; resolutions, petitions, and memorials may be entered. Discussion from the floor will be a distinct feature of each body.

Let us notice the importance of the Student Congress; and this can be seen by contrasting it with similar meetings. As a person who has had a great deal to do with "youth" meetings in the East I can speak from experience concerning the superiority of this "P. K. D. Congress." The weaknesses of most youth gatherings are to be seen in their composition: too often, they are dominated by zealots—religious, social, sexual, or political. Too often, they are managed by persons with axes to grind. Too often, discussions are preempted by tiresome old adults who never had a chance to speak when they were young. Too often, managers have pet resolutions which they must railroad through; and when they have gained this objective and it comes time for the young people to talk about subjects of vital interest to them, this same management will furnish neither machinery nor guidance. Too often, the forms of even a decade ago are useless in the conduct of youth programs. Consequently I hail a long-sought institution of national scope.

The P. K. D. Congress guided by sane leaders will be composed of the most intelligent students the country affords. These students will be audience-conscious and able to acquit themselves with distinction wherever placed. These students, who will represent the thinking percentage of our population, will hold no brief for any group or class; their sole aim will be to arrive at sensible conclusions about national problems. These students will be filled with a spirit of optimism; the doctrine of defeatism will scarcely be expounded. In miniature there will be not an imitation of a National Congress, but actually an institution where students may discuss the affairs of the country. What this Congress does will be imitated by countless state and local bodies in years to come. May we not add this wish that this meeting shall be the basis for an annual gathering of students controlled by the P. K. D. council?

It has fallen to me to assist in the work of the Senate. A few suggestions to Senators-elect will not be amiss at this time. As soon as the rules of the two houses have been published, make yourself thoroughly acquainted with them. Be thoroughly equipped with a knowledge of parliamentary procedure. Do not be too hasty in announcing your party stamp—be politic. Let there be a healthy minority group in both houses. Do not demand consistency of your fellow statesmen. Remember the whole Congress is an intellectual game; take it seriously, but let your youthful spirits have some play. Attend all meetings held by your party group. Learn the leaders in

both houses. Be alert to make suggestions for the common good.

To return to my first suggestion concerning the importance of this Congress, I believe that this type of activity will give ample opportunity for the type of speech-making which is now becoming quite popular with us here in the South Atlantic—the impromptu, the problem-solving, and the harangue. The speaker trained to detect fallacies in speeches will be quite at home on the floor of both Houses. Is there not a possibility that contests themselves will grow out of the Congress—contests that can be used as objectives?

Finally the Student Congress will be an intellectual combat; and if you are looking for a good forensic scrap, come to the Senate. For the Senate will be no place for “timid souls.” The Congress of April 1938 will go down in history as a body characterized by vigor and intelligence. From my experience with P. K. D. speakers I can visualize just how powerful they will be in an organization of this type.

Senators-elect, let us get ready to meet in the Senate Chamber in Topeka and from the time the gavel falls and the presiding officer announces “This body is now in session. Will the members please come to order!” to the last “I hereby adjourn this body sine die!” let us make it a truly deliberative body of youth in which ideals will be expressed and buncombe exposed.

CLEAN SWEEP IN THE INTERSTATE ORATORICAL



Pi Kappa Delta Schools Capture All Places In Both Contests



Men's Contest

First Place—Robert D. Anderson, Hamline, Minnesota Delta.

Second Place—Richard Hendricks, Franklin, Indiana Alpha.

Third Place—Harold Ahrendts, Nebraska Wesleyan, Alpha.

Women's Contest

First Place—Hannah Johnston, Nebraska Wesleyan, Alpha.

Second Place—Mary Strahan, Augustana, South Dakota Eta.

Third Place—Dorothy Jean Wilson, Illinois Wesleyan, Alpha.

The Philosophian Literary Society

JOHN OPPITZ, Illinois Theta



On January 10, 1837, seven McKendree college students organized the Philosophian Literary Society. At that time the railroad was rapidly replacing the canal as the most important avenue of transportation. Since then the automobile and the aeroplane have taken over part of the job performed by the locomotive. In the one hundred years since 1837 the "horse and buggy" era has retreated before the approach of a stream-lined civilization.

But today Philo is more firmly entrenched than it was during those beginning years. Now the organization counts its members in hundreds rather than in sixes and sevens.

On May 14 Paul Farthing, Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, will speak at a banquet commemorating the Society's one-hundredth anniversary. Farthing is one of several Philos who hold important positions in the state or national governments. Other members who made good in politics include Charles Deneen, former United States Senator, and William Jennings Bryan, an honorary member.

Since 1849 there has been at least one Philosophian in all but two sessions of the Illinois State Legislature. The Illinois Circuit bench has continually held a representative of the organization. Usually there has been a member in either the Senate or House of Representatives. The society has had governors, state superintendents of education, editors, lawyers, bankers, and college presidents in its ranks.

In 1837 a formal and somewhat pompous style of speech was popular. But this year's crop of Philos talk in the informal conversational manner characteristic of the collegiate "bull session."

The first programs presented by the society consisted almost entirely of debates and orations. Today orations have entirely disappeared. Their place has been taken by assigned addresses, declamations, and impromptus on such subjects as "How to milk a cow in ten easy lessons" and "Is it true what they say about Dixie?"

Debates are still popular in Philo. But they are not so lengthy or so numerous as they once were. The eight questions for discussion at the first public exhibition in 1838 included a resolution on the United States' banking system. A few years later two of the more erudite members swapped arguments in an attempt to uphold and defeat the proposition, Resolved that the light of nature unassisted by nature is sufficient to prove the existence and attributes of a God.

Recently, however, debaters have discussed such topics as "The *McKendree Review* should carry cigarette ads" and "Beautiful women are not dumb."

Philo programs of 1837 probably lasted longer than this year's do. Members doubtless spent more time in preparing their selections. But the 1937 model debate or impromptu has a naturalness that the 1837 variety lacked.

The Philosophian society, oldest literary organization west of the Alleghenies, and the Platonian society established at McKendree in 1849 have both profited from the vigorous rivalry that has always existed between the two organizations. Competition has sometimes taken the form of a friendly struggle to get new members. In the old days pledging a man was the signal for loud applause and noise manufactured by various devices. The other society across the hall recognized such a hullabaloo as an indication that someone else had "fallen by the wayside."

Oratorical or essay contest prizes have sometimes been the plums for which Philo and Plato fought. In such competition the older society has usually proved its superiority. Philosophians won the William Jennings Bryan essay contest in all but two of the twenty-four years that it was held. During the nine years the Brown Oratorical prize was awarded a Plato received it just once.

Today rivalry is limited to the annual Plato-Philo joint exhibition and to games in McKendree intramural athletic leagues.

But in a less sophisticated time competition often lost its polite touch and assumed the character of a brawl. Black eyes and bloody noses were the only trophies either organization brought back from the battle.

Inter-society fights are traditional. In the last one four years ago Philo hall was "stacked" and Plato's door was busted. One alumnus claims that Paul Farthing became so enraged during one of the skirmishes that he threatened to throw a Plato from the third-story window.

Philo history is filled with interesting incidents. The Platonian and Philosophian groups bought pianos at nearly the same time. When the first one was delivered members of both organizations—each of them under the impression that it was going to his hall—helped carry it up two flights of stairs.

In 1898 members of Philo 'borrowed' a goat to use as a mascot. William soon acquired the technique of butting. Since there was no regular place to keep him, he was quartered in one of the member's rooms. But not for long. As Charles C. Baldwin, the goat's "room-mate," expresses it, "He let drive at the landlady the mom-

ent she entered the room." After that incident Sir William went the "way of all goats." The good woman did not tolerate "vicious roomers."

Philos sometimes stole chickens from neighboring hen-houses to be used in "spreads." Charles Baldwin tells about one such feast attended by a student preacher ignorant of the source of the fowl. When the minister had eaten all he wanted he asked suspiciously, "Boys, did you steal these chickens?" The members pleaded guilty. After thinking a minute, the parson replied, "Fellows, I know it's all wrong, but I'm mighty glad I didn't ask that question an hour ago."

Fining members who disobeyed rules of the society has added revenue to the Philo treasury. But a glance at the records suggests that such fines must have contributed to the enjoyment of the members as well as improving the organization's finances.

Philos have been taxed for absence from meetings, for failure to perform on programs, and for a large number of offenses not so easily classified. In 1928 one member was fined ten cents for having "top-heavy feet and a leaden head." A more religious gentleman had to pay the same amount because "He got happy and showed that he was a good holy roller." Apparently such assessments were effective, for the next year the same gentleman was reprimanded for "loud snoring!"

Not only members, however, have incurred the Philosophian wrath. On one occasion the radiator was taxed for "disorderly conduct."

There have also been times when members were fined for activities that are not harmful. One gentleman had to pay for "being honest." Still another student was fined "for nothing." A payment for "helping a maiden in distress" is also recorded.

Since 1933 no fines are listed. The society has found other sources of revenue. Payments are still called for, but nobody attempts to collect them. The fine has become a means of expressing disapproval.

This year one member was taxed for mentioning the name of Mae West. Other Philos have been censored for mistakes in grammar and failure to observe correct parliamentary procedure. The Philosophian Society has always found the fine a most useful instrument.

Philo has succeeded in adapting itself to a rapidly changing college life. When the society was founded undergraduates had no place to go. Fraternities, dramatic societies, intercollegiate athletics, and extensive forensic activities that today take so much of the students' time did not exist. The 'movie' and radio were still to be heard from. The literary society was the only agency to break the monotony of continual classes. Many looked upon Philo as their only opportunity

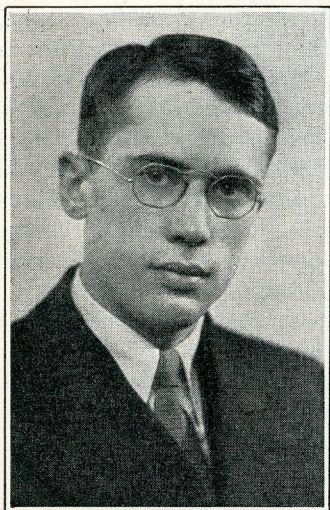
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BEYER FAMILY AGAIN HONORED

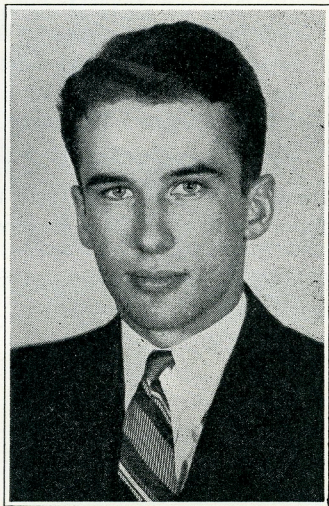
The recent appointment of Carlyle Beyer to a Rhodes scholarship which will begin next fall is the second to come to the Beyer family of Hamline University, St. Paul, for Carlyle's brother, Lynn, received a similar appointment in 1932. Both were active in forensics and members of the Minnesota Delta chapter of Pi Kappa Delta, the first national honorary society on the Hamline campus.

Lynn Beyer finished his three years at Oxford in 1935 and returned to the United States where he has been an assistant in English at the University of Wisconsin.

"I did my forensic work at Hamline under Professor Charles S. Templar,



LYNN BEYER
Hamline University



CARLYLE BEYER
Hamline University

whose standards of careful investigation, honest argument, and simple extemporaneous delivery make the study of debate a real means of education. I debated three years, attaining the degree of special distinction. As a sophomore I won second place in the Minnesota state oratorical contest. Incidentally, F. Atherton Bean of Carleton, the man who won first, was ap-

pointed a Rhodes scholar the same year I was. In my junior year I won second in extempore speaking at the provincial contest. As a senior I was president of my chapter.

"When I got to Oxford, I was much impressed with the English style of debating. The English students had a casual manner, a quiet,

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History of Pi Kappa Delta

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This is the seventh of a series of articles giving the history of Pi Kappa Delta. The first two appeared in the March and May issues of 1933, following the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the society in January, 1913. The history then had to be discontinued while the pages of the FORENSIC were filled with information and records pertaining to the national convention and other business of a more timely nature. It was later continued in the March and May issues of 1935, the March issues of 1936 and 1937.

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The last installment of the history of Pi Kappa Delta dealt with the second term of Alfred Westfall, National President of the society from 1924 to 1928. It closed with the seventh national convention



W. H. VEATCH
Fifth National President

in Tiffin, Ohio. At this convention Professor W. H. Veatch, former debate coach at Dakota Wesleyan, South Dakota Alpha, and the University of California at Los Angeles, California Epsilon, but at the time of his election in charge of forensics at Washington State College, an institution which does not have a chapter of Pi Kappa Delta, was elected the fifth National President.

Other national officers elected were:

First Vice-President, J. D. Menchhofer, Michigan State College.

Second Vice-President, George R. R. Pflaum, Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia.

Third Vice-President, Roy Smith, Western Union College.

Fourth Vice-President, H. D. Hopkins, Heidelberg College.

Secretary-Treasurer, George W. Finley, Colorado State College of Education.

Student Representatives: Anna Bennett, Trinity University, and Lyman Ginger, Kentucky Wesleyan College.

George McCarty, South Dakota State, was appointed editor of the *FORENSIC*, a position for which he was eminently fitted. The first number of the magazine issued under his editorship presented a sharp contrast to the preceding numbers in format and content. The feature of this issue of October, 1928, was an oratorical contest. Five orations were printed. The readers of the *FORENSIC* were asked to judge the orations. One had just won a \$1,500 prize in the national contest on the constitution. Another had won the women's contest in the Pi Kappa Delta national. A third had received first honors in the national Peace contest. "The Hilarious Horde," another entry, had won second honors in the Northern Oratorical League. The fifth was the only one not identified as to author and record. Further information concerning it was promised after the contest had been concluded.

In the vote which followed the peace oration was easily the winner. "The Hilarious Horde" won second. The winner of the women's contest was given third. The mysterious oration, which received fourth place, turned out to be one written in 1880 by William Jennings Bryan as valedictorian of his class at Illinois College. Mr. Bryan during his college days had won the national oratorical contest. Of course fifth place went to the oration on the constitution.

It had been Professor McCarty's purpose in publishing the oration to call attention to the change in style. Mr. Bryan's oration, which represented high quality for its day, was noticeably abstract and indefinite, in spite of its good rhetoric. These orations emphasized the fact that college orators of today are dealing more specifically with their own immediate problems and are writing more interesting and more convincing orations. Students of oratory will do well to turn back to the pages of the *FORENSIC* to note the contrast. They will be even more impressed to continue the study to include some of the orations printed in more recent numbers. The orations printed in the twenty-two volumes of our national magazine—and there are many of them—furnish a living history of the development of modern intercollegiate oratory.

Volume two of *Winning Intercollegiate Debates and Orations of Pi Kappa Delta* appeared in the fall of 1928. It continued the experiment started after the Estes Park convention and printed the debates and orations which had won honors at Tiffin. These first two volumes were published by the society, the editing and printing being done in Fort Collins, Colorado. Five hundred copies of each were printed. This number was more than ample to meet all demands. In fact the society still has at least half of each edition on hand and will be glad to furnish copies at reduced rates.

The official debate question for the 1928-1929 season was "Resolved: That a substitute for Trial by Jury should be adopted." It turned out to be only a halfway satisfactory question.

During the fall of 1928 two English debate teams and a team from Australia toured the country. One was the first women's team to represent British universities in the United States. It was composed of Miss Nancy Samuel of Oxford, Miss Leonora Lockhart of Cambridge, and Miss Margery Sharp of London. The men were represented by three speakers from Oxford. While the British teams were still popular, some of the novelty of their style of debating had worn off and they did not attract the attention they had earlier. In order to schedule enough debates to pay their expenses they had to speak on several questions with the result that they sometimes discussed subjects with which they were obviously not familiar. Many of the Pi Kappa Delta institutions have met the English and other foreign teams. The pages of the FORENSIC contain many reactions to these international debates, some of them unfavorable.

The year 1929 also marked the use of the airplane for debate travel. Professor McCarty and his debaters used the airplane from Oklahoma City to Chickasha to keep their schedule. The College of St. Thomas debaters flew from St. Paul to Chicago for one of their forensic engagements.

The provincial organization functioned more efficiently during the year. All thirteen provinces held strong provincial conventions, some of them with an attendance of more than a hundred fifty. The tournaments in the larger provinces were becoming "little nationals."

The practice of allowing the National Council to act on petitions and grant charters between conventions was discontinued at the 1930 national convention at Wichita. Between that convention and the one preceding six new chapters were established. They were:

Charter 127, Texas Iota, Baylor University, granted in 1928.

128, Iowa Nu, Penn College, 1929.

129, Texas Kappa, Sam Houston Teachers, 1929.

130, Mississippi Alpha, Millsaps College, 1929.

131, Michigan Eta, Alma College. Later revoked.

132, South Dakota Theta, Madison Teachers, 1929.

Lex King Souter, representing William Jewell, Missouri Delta, won the national oratorical contest on the constitution, making the second Pi Kappa Delta speaker to win this honor. In 1929 five hundred forty-two colleges participated in the competition for the prize of \$1,500 awarded the winner. These contests on the constitution, promoted by a California Chamber of Commerce, attracted great attention for several years because of the generous prizes offered.

In the fall of 1929 the society selected as its official question for the 1929-1930 season the resolution "That the nations should adopt a plan of complete disarmament, excepting such forces as are needed for police purposes." This question was used in the national tournament.

Wichita, Kansas, was selected for the eighth national convention which was held March 31 through April 4. Again the convention increased in size, there being almost a hundred more in attendance than there had been at Tiffin. Six hundred delegates from one hundred seven chapters and from a few other institutions thronged the convention through five days.

Thirteen institutions had applied for chapters. The petitions of five were favorably received and the following new chapters established.

Charter 133, Illinois Mu, Wheaton College.

134, Ohio Eta, Bowling Green State College.

135, Louisiana Gamma, Southwestern Louisiana Institute.

136, Missouri Theta, Northeast State Teachers College.

137, Oklahoma Eta, East Central Teachers College.

The convention tournaments had developed gradually with no definite organization or machinery to handle them. During President Veatch's term they were put on a better basis and an organization was planned for their administration, with carefully selected officers and committees in charge of each contest. There was a decided improvement in the handling of the tournament.

Ninety-one teams entered the men's debate tournament. At previous conventions an institution had been allowed to enter more than one team. At Wichita, for this first time, each chapter was limited to one team. Gustavus Adolphus, Minnesota Gamma, defeated Bethany, Kansas Mu, in the finals.

In the women's tournament fifty-six teams entered. In the tenth round Southwestern, Kansas Delta, defeated Michigan State.

William Jewell, Missouri Delta, repeated its success of the tournament before when Charles Hackler won the extempore contest. Fred Seaton, Kansas State Agricultural College, was second; and Harold Bosley, Nebraska Wesleyan, third.

Florence Newcomb, Eastern State Teachers of South Dakota, won the women's extempore contest, with Edra Miller, of Friends (visiting institutions which did not have chapters were allowed to compete in the earlier national tournaments), second; and Mary Bunce, Central Missouri State Teachers, third.

Wanda Morton, West Virginia Wesleyan, won the women's oratorical contest. Margaret Brown, University of California, Los An-

geles, was second. Enid Cole of Park, Missouri Beta, placed third.

The host chapter, Wichita, won the men's oratorical through the oration of Veryl Pitts. Arthur Larson, Augustana, South Dakota Eta, was second. Third place went to Louis Anderson, Northern State Teachers of South Dakota.

At the close of the convention the following national officers were elected:

President, George R. R. Pflaum, Kansas State Teachers of Emporia.

First Vice-President, J. D. Menchhofer, Michigan State College.

Second Vice-President, H. D. Hopkins, Heidelberg College, Ohio Beta.

Third Vice-President, S. R. Toussaint, Monmouth College, Illinois Zeta.

Fourth Vice-President, C. W. Patton, Oklahoma Baptist University.

THE PHILOSOPHIAN LITERARY SOCIETY

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for entertainment and self expression. The meetings held on Friday nights often lasted for hours.

In the twentieth century extra-curricular activities have become so numerous that the student has little time left for regular class work. Organizations fight for the undergraduate's time. The college does not need an agency to relieve the burden of studies. What it needs is a safety-valve to ease the tension produced by football games and club meetings.

Philo is such a safety-valve. There the student can be himself. He can be serious or gay. The society is free from the intense pressure of competition found on the basketball court and the debate floor.

Because the organization fills a need it is still popular. At present there are about twenty active members although McKendree has only one hundred male students. Meetings last for an hour each Monday night.

Philo is rich in tradition. But it's also an active organization filling an actual need on McKendree's campus.

Whether the society will still exist in 2037 is of course problematical, although "the first hundred years are the hardest."

Vice President Bohman Resigns

April 27, 1937

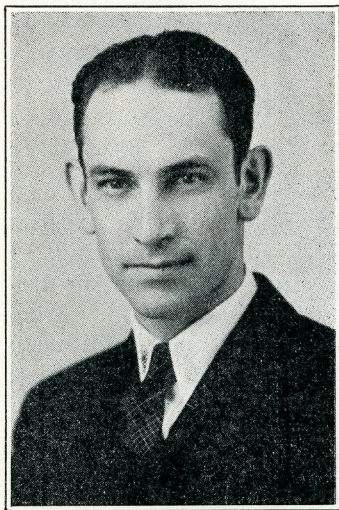
Mr. S. R. Toussaint

2702 Stevens St.

Madison, Wisconsin

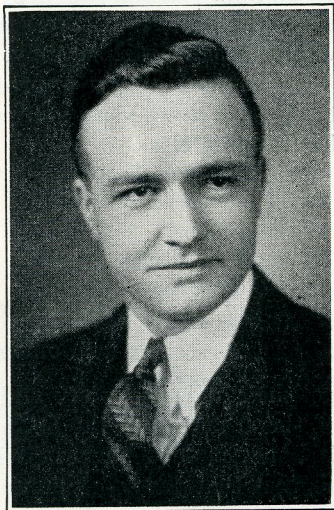
Dear President Toussaint:

It is with genuine regret that I must ask you to accept my resignation from the National Council of Pi Kappa Delta, but my recent acceptance of a position on the staff of the Department of Public Speaking at Dartmouth makes it impossible for me to be of sufficient value to the Council to warrant my continuation upon it. The duties of the tournament chairman which you had assigned to me will require a director of forensics who will be able to give valuable time and effort to the preparation and execution of the detailed plans of the 1938 convention.



LEROY T. LAASE

Appointed Fifth Vice President to fill vacancy caused by resignation of George V. Bohman.



GEORGE V. BOHMAN

This I could not do, and it is my personal opinion that any member of the Council who cannot fully perform the duties of his office should make room for one who can. The vice presidencies are not honors but responsibilities.

For the past nine years I have been intimately associated as a student and

instructor with the everyday activities of Pi Kappa Delta. Those contacts with its officers and the rank and file of its membership must be numbered among my most cherished memories.

Every teacher in the field of Speech recognizes the contribution which national forensic societies have made to the encouragement and development of speech programs in colleges and high schools. Pi Kappa Delta's national and province programs have become almost gigantic. The problems of conducting the affairs of the society multiply from year to year. Yet I am thoroughly convinced that every field of usefulness of the organization has not been explored and exhausted and that each Council must continue, as those with which I have been associated have, to study proposals for new speech activities. We ought not be stampeded into relinquishing parts of our program that have proved of great value, but we can and will try out new ideas, and dismiss them or retain them, after experimentation. When we are required to render deliberate judgment upon the policies of the society, my personal hope is that decisions will be reached deliberately, and insofar as possible, impersonally.

Be assured of my appreciation of the fellowship of the Council these past three years and my continued interest in the progress of Pi Kappa Delta.

Sincerely yours,
GEORGE V. BOHMAN.

BEYER FAMILY AGAIN HONORED

(Continued from page 115)

polished delivery, witty and even flippant arguments. A great deal of the speaking at the Oxford Union and at other debating societies is done in dead earnest, with no attempt at all to be dazzling. I suspect that the sober manner of speaking is gaining ground in proportion as the immediate issues of the day become more vital. A debate on India, for example, in which both Indians and Englishmen of all political stripes are involved, is not thought of as an exercise in verbal dexterity. Some undergraduate debates produce very moving (because quite unforced) examples of oratory."

Carlyle Beyer was elected to Pi Kappa Delta in 1936 for representing Hamline in the state oratorical contest in which he won third place. He is also a member of the varsity debate team. His activities have not been confined to forensics. He is a letter man in tennis, president of the student governing body, president of Kappa Phi, honorary scholastic fraternity. He is a history major.

The President's Page

1. George Bohman's Resignation

Elsewhere in this issue is announced the resignation of George Bohman, who leaves the Council to accept a teaching position at Dartmouth College. Because he will be pretty far removed from the Topeka scene in a non-Pi Kappa Delta institution and because there was ample time for a new appointee to take over the tournament committee, George felt that he would be serving the best interests of his new position and of Pi Kappa Delta by resigning from the Council. It is with a sincere and deep reluctance that we accept the resignation. The society appreciates the service which George has given and the front place in his thinking which he has always reserved for Pi Kappa Delta. I know that I speak for all of us in wishing him the best possible success in his new position.

2. Appointment of Leroy Laase

According to the constitution, the resignation of Bohman automatically moved Earl Huffer up to the fourth vice-presidency and called for the appointment of a fifth officer. Last month the National Council approved the appointment of Leroy Laase of Hastings College. Laase has long been identified with the organization. His debate teams and his speakers have built a remarkable record in competition. His interest in Pi Kappa Delta goes beyond the winning of decisions. He has served the province and national organizations well. At Lexington he was a member of the debate committee and at Houston was chairman in charge of the women's debate tournament. He is a member of the committee on the selection of the debate question. This combined experience makes him peculiarly well fitted for the assignment as chairman of the committee on tournaments. I ask for him the same cooperation you have given to those who have been in charge of this difficult task at previous conventions.

3. Council Committee Meeting

At the Lexington convention the society authorized an off-year meeting of the National Council. Such a meeting was held two years ago and proved invaluable since it the only time that the national officers can get together and discuss matters of importance to the organization unhampered by the press of immediate convention duties.

Your president had arranged for such a meeting this spring. Because our secretary-treasurer has been the victim of a series of illnesses this winter and spring, he would have been unable to make the trip to meet with us. I felt that without him and the records which he could provide the meeting was almost valueless. As a substituted plan I called for a committee to include the chairman of the charter committee, the chairman of the convention committee, and the chairman of the tournament committee to meet with Secretary Finley in Greeley. That meeting was held on Saturday and Sunday, April 17-18. A brief resume of what took place is given here.

Let me say first what I know you will be glad to hear, that our good Secretary Finley is definitely on the up-grade and while he has to take it easy for a time, he appears to be getting back his pep and strength rapidly. We all trust that his troubles will cease to plague him.

For two solid days we discussed Pi Kappa Delta and its problems. Saturday was given over primarily to the coming convention and its tournaments. Rose reported on the physical set-up at Topeka and some of the peculiar difficulties which it offered. Housing the convention in two hotels, each with about half the group, provides some headaches for Rose, who will be in charge of the housing, and Laase and his judges committee. Various suggestions were offered for dealing with details of those tasks. It will mean that the members of Pi Kappa Delta will have an excellent chance to demonstrate their patience. It will call for cooperation all along the line.

The convention program was considered carefully. We plan now to have two evening dinners in addition to the banquet. On Monday evening the program will be devoted to the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the organization. A committee will be appointed to aid in that program. On Thursday the student variety night which proved so popular last year will be repeated. Student council members Brown and Greene will be in charge of that event. The program calls for but two business sessions to be held when they will not interfere with other matters. The first will be held Tuesday evening, giving plenty of time for the threshing out of problems meriting discussion and for committee reports. The final business session will be held Friday.

With respect to tournament rules, the most important change considered is one upon which a referendum was authorized. The group was unanimous in its approval of the change, but felt that it was so major as to warrant a vote of the society. If the ballot is not in your hands already it will be very soon. The committee felt that the one chief feature lost—the determination of a single national cham-

pion—was of distinctly less significance than the many values gained. Two other changes voted were the elimination of the question and answer in the extempore contest (at the recommendation of the tournament committees serving at Houston) and the cutting of the length of the orations.

A good bit of time was given to a consideration of the finances of the society. The principles were laid for the development of a budget of convention expenses and the general expenses of the organization. The financial reserves of the fraternity were inspected and found to be in excellent condition, the investments being sound and productive.

Because Editor Westfall was so close to Greeley, he was asked to meet with the committee for a discussion of the FORENSIC. A variety of views was expressed and many constructive suggestions made. It was apparent early in the discussion that one of the chief worries of the editor was the person who promised an article on a certain subject by a certain date—and then never sent it in. If an editor is to have an interesting and worth-while publication he must have material from which to select. You people who are asked for or promise articles—give your publication a break and send them in.

There were, of course, many matters discussed which were not acted upon because they were matters over which the committee had no immediate jurisdiction, but which will bear fruit in recommendations from individuals or from the Council later to the committee on constitutional revision, the convention committee, or other divisions of the organization. Special consideration was given to the personnel of the many committees required next year.

4. The Selection of the Debate Question

The close of the current debate season and the fact that next year is a national convention year brings to my attention the work of a group which is seldom recognized in ratio to the efforts expended: the committee charged with the phrasing and sifting of the debate proposition. They work all summer long, they don't come before the society prominently, they find their product cussed and discussed no matter what they formulate. They are the unsung heroes of Pi Kappa Delta. As they begin their job for next year I want to express our appreciation for the work they have done and to promise my co-operation and yours in what they do this year. The committee is composed of Chairman Evan Anderson, Joseph Baccus, Harry Wood, Leroy Laase, and Upton Palmer.

Provincial Conventions



I. PROVINCE OF KANSAS

The convention of the Province of Kansas was held at Fort Hays State College, Kansas Nu, February 25-27. There were 107 in attendance, representing 11 chapters, and two visiting institutions.

Twenty-three teams entered the men's debate tournament. Allen Pratt and Leo Howard, representing Pittsburg Teachers, won first. Kenneth Cooper and Paul McCleave of the College of Emporia, and Elwood Jones and Julian Zimmerman of Emporia Teachers placed second and third.



KANSAS THETAS WINNING SPEAKERS

First row, left to right: Allan Pratt, Leo Howard, Miss Ella Bowman. Second row: Miss Roberta Briggs, Miss Virginia Clemens.

Mary Jane Hamilton and Margaret Wilson of the

College of Emporia proved to be the best of the thirteen teams in the women's debate tournament. Ella Bowman and Virginia Clemens of Pittsburg Teachers were second, while Helen Johnson and Barbara Laquement of Bethany, and Betty Warren and Janet Miller of Washburn tied for third.

Allan Pratt, Pittsburg Teachers, speaking on "Rivers of Crime," won the men's oratorical. "Profits and Loss," by Leo Howard of the same chapter, won second. Fort Hays State, with James Slatery's "U. S. Sympathy," won third.

Ruth Chamberlain's "Sins of a Father," won the women's ora-

II. PROVINCE OF MISSOURI

Over 100 delegates representing 16 Missouri and Iowa chapters met with Missouri Theta, Northeast Missouri State Teachers at Kirksville, April 1-3 for the provincial convention.

Twelve teams started competition in the men's debate tournament. Rush Limbaugh and Garland Parker of Southeast Teachers of Cape Girardeau, emerged victors. William Dahman and William Newman of Westminster were second.

Frances Hall and Constance Burkhardt of William Jewell proved themselves the best of the 10 teams in the women's tournament. Mary Carroll Donnelly and Wanda Jones of Park were second. Kay Coons and Jane Gibson of Drake won third.

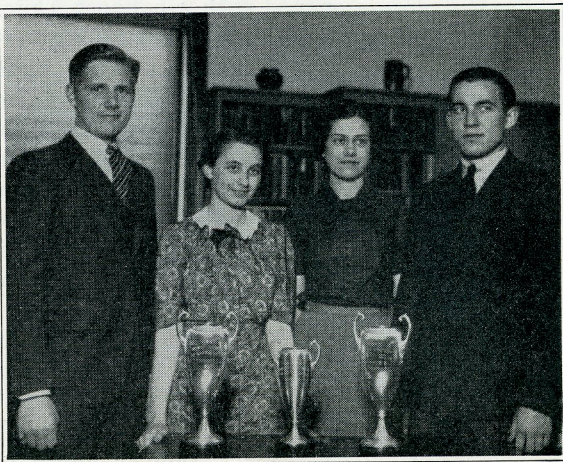
J. Kent Sanderson of Culver Stockton won the men's oratorical, with Charles Wesslund of Central of Iowa, and William Dahman of Westminster just behind him.

Audra Claypool of Cape Girardeau, Annette Boyd, Drake, and Marjie Moore, Missouri Valley, won the honors in the women's oratorical contest.

William Dahman of Westminster placed in his third contest when he won the men's extempore. Hudnall Harvey of Missouri Valley and Dan Smith of Central of Missouri were second and third.

Constance Burkhardt repeated her success in debate by winning the women's extempore. Norma Barks of Cape Girardeau placed second, and Crystal Loughhead of Kirksville third.

The host chapter with the cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce entertained the visitors at a tea, a banquet, and a dance.



SOUTHEASTERN MISSOURI TEACHERS'
PROVINCIAL WINNERS

Left to right: Garland Parker, Audra Claypool, Norma Barks, Rush Limbaugh, Jr.

(Continued on page 136)

III. PROVINCE OF THE PLATTE

The Province of the Platte held its convention in Greeley, Colorado, March 25-27, with all seven chapters represented and Chadron Teachers of Nebraska as a visitor. There were over seventy delegates.

The convention opened with a banquet Thursday evening at which President George W. Frasier of Colorado State Teachers, and a member of Pi Kappa Delta in his own forensic rights, was the speaker.

The tournament developed into a close contest between Hastings and Nebraska Wesleyan for sweepstake honors, with Hastings pulling out ahead. Hannah Johnston of Nebraska Wesleyan won individual honors with first place in both women's oratory and extempore.

The men's debate tournament ended in a tie between two Hastings teams, Max Franzen, Arthur Ruble, Russell Van Dyke, and Richard Lee. Howard Bourne and Paul Hawkins of Doane were third.

Helen Heiszenbittel and Doris Nelson of Nebraska Wesleyan won the women's tournament, defeating Norma Cope and Ardyce Gilna of Hastings in the finals. Mary Helen Jones and Virginia Harris of Hastings and Elaine Sweeney and Evelyn Anderson of Nebraska Wesleyan were tied for third.



HANNAH JOHNSTON
Nebraska Wesleyan University

Richard Lee of Hastings, speaking about "Raising Potatoes," won the men's oratorical. Robert Bader of Nebraska Wesleyan, speaking of "Six John Smiths," won second. "Behind the Headlines" by Paul M. Hawkins of Doane was awarded third place.

Hannah Johnston's "Sociology 62" won the women's oratorical contest. Norma Cope of Hastings, speaking on "Disgrace," won second, while third place went to "Boy Meets Girl" by Ione Emeigh of Doane.

Elmer Bennet of Greeley State slipped in ahead of the Hastings and Nebraska Wesleyan speakers to win first place in the men's extempore. Max Franzen of Hastings was second and Wayne Stew-