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# THE FORENSIC

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OF

PI KAPPA DELTA

MARCH, 1923

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# Directory of Pi Kappa Delta

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# Directory of Pi Kappa Delta

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## LOCAL CHAPTERS

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- Beta—Washburn College—Olin Buck, Topeka.
- Gamma—Kansas State Agricultural College—Hubert L. Collins, Manhattan.
- Delta—Southwestern College—Raymond Carey, Winfield.
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- Alpha—Nebraska Wesleyan University—Professor E. H. Wells, University Place.
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- Gamma—Doane College—Lumir J. Kunel, Crete.
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# THE FORENSIC

Series 8

MARCH, 1923

No. 4

## *THE HISTORY OF PI KAPPA DELTA*

### DIVISION ONE—FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE FIRST CONVENTION

By Egbert Ray Nichols,  
First National President of Pi Kappa Delta

#### I. THE PERIOD OF CORRESPONDENCE

**A. Beginnings.** (1) There are ten founders of the national forensic honor society, Pi Kappa Delta. Before me as I write are their names signed in ratification of the first Constitution on a page of typewritten paper now somewhat battered and torn. How did these ten men get the idea of Pi Kappa Delta, how were they brought together in this common purpose, and how did they come to affix their signatures to a constitution establishing such an organization?

The history of Pi Kappa Delta properly begins with the birth and growth of the idea rather than with the documentary evidence of its existence. The first concept, which resulted in the creation of Pi Kappa Delta, was the realization of the need for some reward or honor for orators and debaters in the smaller colleges. Although this idea was present but dormant in the minds of many persons, it came to two of the founders of Pi Kappa Delta—John A. Shields and Egbert Ray Nichols—in a more vigorous way and came to them almost simultaneously. The plan of Pi Kappa Delta was the logical outgrowth of this first concept—a forensic need.

In the autumn of 1911 Shields was a Junior at Ottawa University, Ottawa, Kansas, and Nichols, who had been professor of English for two years (1909-11) at Ottawa University, began his work at Ripon College, Wisconsin, as head of Composition and Public Speaking. The two were friends and kept in touch with each other by occasional letters.

In the football season Nichols made a trip to Lawrence College at Appleton, Wisconsin, with a number of debaters who accompanied the football team. These debaters and their new Public Speaking teacher sought out the debaters and Professor F. Wesley Orr, of Lawrence College, and began to exchange notes. Lawrence College had just been admitted to Tau Kappa Alpha and several of the debaters wore their keys. Upon inquiry the Ripon men found out what Tau Kappa Alpha was and intended to be. The Ripon men wanted to be in a forensic honor organization. The Lawrence men said that they would be glad to take them into their chapter. Naturally the Ripon men suggested that they would like to have a chapter of their own. They were met with the response that Tau Kappa Alpha granted but one chapter in a state, that Lawrence had that chapter, and that it was intended that other debaters come in through their chapter.

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The Ripon men were confronted with a curious anomaly—a state chapter existing as a local chapter. It did not appeal to them. After talking it over, Nichols suggested that a new organization was an obvious need. There was some talk of the possibility of launching a new national organization. The matter rested there for a time.

(2) First Movement in Kansas. A few weeks later Shields wrote to Nichols saying that Ottawa was seeking some method of honoring its orators and debaters and asking for suggestions. With the experience at Lawrence in mind, Nichols replied that the thing to do was to form an honor society which could award a key, suggesting that such an organization might be both state and national. Shields, answering that it was a good idea and that he had thought something of the sort was needed, undertook to sound out the other colleges of Kansas when the oratorical association delegates got together. Here again the matter rested for a time.

When the delegates to the Kansas State Prohibition Oratorical Association, the I. P. A., assembled at Manhattan, Kansas, with the Agricultural College as host, Shields found unexpected aid. A student of that college, Edgar A. Vaughn, proposed that they organize an honor society for orators and debaters. Vaughn in speaking of the beginnings of Pi Kappa Delta says:

"The minutes of the Prohibition Oratorical held at Manhattan will show that Shields made a motion to have a committee appointed to the end of creating an honor society for debaters and orators. They will show further that I was made chairman of that committee, that Shields was appointed on it, and that C. J. Boddy, of Kansas Wesleyan, was the third and inactive member, since his college was 'agin fraternity lodges,' as one student there expressed it. You know they took considerable time to look us over before they came in. Shields' motion was made after I had conferred with the head of our English department, who said that he thought that there was one already in the field and that he saw no use of another. You will recall that at that time the small colleges had no chance whatever for a chapter in the other society. Well, I called Shields out and introduced myself to him and told him my plan. He asked some questions and made the motion at the close of the afternoon session, whereupon the committee was appointed. The reason that he was selected was that it was K. S. A. C's first participation in the Prohibition Contest and I had been told that Shields was the power behind the throne. He proved to be so."

Shields tells the story of these early activities looking towards Pi Kappa Delta, as follows:

"The first definite step taken toward the organization of Pi Kappa Delta was at the State Contest of the Kansas Prohibition Oratorical Association held in Manhattan, Kansas, in the spring of 1912, when Messrs. John A. Shields, of Ottawa University, and E. A. Vaughan, of Kansas Agricultural, were recognized as representatives of that association, without direct responsibility to the organization, to take action in the matter of founding a fraternity which was to have no connection with the Association.

"Already some agitation had been carried on at a number of colleges, and a temporary organization was even formed at Ripon College, Wisconsin. A little later, Messrs. Shields and Vaughan invited Mr. C. J. Boddy, of Kansas Wesleyan University, to join them in their endeavor to organize the fraternity, the matter being informally placed before the Kansas Oratorical Association (Old Line) at its meeting in Winfield, Kansas, in March, 1912. Mr. A. L. Crookham, of Southwestern College, was added to the committee. These gentlemen in due time, with mutual consent of the entire number, were added to the list and joined to the committee of



National Founders: Messrs. E. R. Nichols, Ripon College, Wisconsin; H. O. Pritchard, Cotner College, Nebraska; P. C. Somerville, Illinois Wesleyan; J. H. Krenmyre, Iowa Wesleyan; Daniel C. Lockwood, College of Emporia, Kansas, and Frank P. Johnson, Morningside College, Iowa."

(3) The Wisconsin Organization. In the meantime Nichols had thought the idea over and hearing from Shields that Kansas was favorable to the proposal to organize an honor society, he called his men together and formed a local honor society for Ripon College. Nichols was appointed to confer with Shields, of Ottawa University, and with representatives of other colleges in the Middle West for the purpose of working up an interstate organization.

(4) Origin of the Name Pi Kappa Delta. At a later meeting of the Ripon organization Lowell P. Goodrich reported three names, all of which were suggested by his sister, Grace Goodrich, an accomplished student in Greek. Of the three names, Pi Kappa Delta was chosen as being the superior in euphony and in motto, since it was composed of the initial letters of the phrase "Peitho Kale Dikaia." Thus the honor of naming the new forensic organization soon to become a power in oratorical and debating circles in American college life goes to a college girl just beginning a teaching career. At this meeting of the Ripon men, Arthur J. Martin reported that he and Nichols had drawn a rough sketch of a key and that now that a name had been chosen, he would write the jewelers for key designs. Nichols reported that he had written P. C. Somerville of Illinois Wesleyan, M. M. Maynard of Monmouth College, Illinois, E. C. Griffith of William Jewell College, Missouri, H. O. Pritchard of Cotner College, Nebraska, and Charles A. Marsh of Morningside College, Iowa, and that all favored the idea. He reported that Shields of Ottawa University had written that the Kansas colleges had a definite movement for an organization under way. It was voted that Nichols cooperate with Shields and merge the two movements into one. Maynard, Sutherland and Nichols were appointed to draft a constitution.

**B. The Constitution Emerges.** The Ripon constitution, largely the work of Nichols, as soon as adopted locally was sent to Shields at Ottawa. Shortly afterward he returned the constitution with suggested changes. The Ripon committee met and went over the suggestions, made a revised copy and sent it to Shields. Shields and his committee (at least one member of his committee, Vaughan) went over this constitution and prepared a third which was submitted to Ripon. The Ripon committee was not satisfied and amended the Kansas product and resubmitted it with a design for the present Pi Kappa Delta key, which had been received from the Edward Roehm fraternity jewelry firm. The end of the college year came and the matter was allowed to go over until the following college year.

Shields and Vaughan met and made out the fourth draft of a constitution and sent it to Ripon. This constitution, amended in a few articles by Nichols — chiefly in the article concerning the key, — proved acceptable. Shields and Vaughan accepted the changes in this draft made by Nichols and the final or fifth version was ready to go before a larger group for acceptance.

In writing of this period in the development of Pi Kappa Delta Shields says: "The Constitution was written and re-written by mail over a period of several months, and then when about in shape, Vaughan and I met in my room at Ottawa and shaped her up after a couple of days of work, and it was adopted practically as we wrote it. It has been changed since, but not basically, as you know."

(1) The Key. From which men of the three most concerned with the first constitution, Shields, Vaughan and Nichols, this or that idea first

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came is hard to determine. If brought together today, they would probably not be able to agree upon which one thought of any given idea. A few things are, however, definitely known. The key idea originated with Nichols, but his sketch was considerably altered by the fraternity jeweler who designed the present key. Nichols designed a square key with a jewel in each corner and an eye in the center. Two jewelers followed his idea almost literally and submitted prices which the Ripon men considered entirely too high. The Roehm company foresaw this difficulty and sent three different designs, one of them pear shaped with two jewels. They explained that they could do with two jewels anything that was required in the explanations sent them. Nichols had in mind indicating on the key a difference to designate orators, debaters and instructors, and what they had accomplished. The economy of the Roehm idea appealed and the Ripon men immediately voted to adopt the design which is now used as the insignia of the order. The Kansas men agreed readily to the key design and ideas, and Nichols wrote the final version of the article on the key which has come down in the constitution.

Key number one was ordered by E. A. Vaughan. In all about 121 keys were ordered between January, 1913, and January, 1916, when Shields turned his office over to Roy Painter, of Washburn College.

(2) The Degrees. The name, we have already seen, was submitted by the Ripon men. From Kansas, however, came the idea of making degrees as well as orders in the new society. Shields and Vaughan were both Masons and the idea of having degrees and orders to correspond with the jewelery of the key occurred to them as appropriate. And, by the way, a Mason must have designed the Pi Kappa Delta key. After the degree idea came the suggestion from one of the three that the organization should have local, state, interstate, and national organization to correspond with the four degrees.

Shields, who had a genius for constitutional details, was responsible for the phrasing and the outlining, or order, of most of the document that was finally accepted. The contributions made by Vaughan were also valuable. In Shields, Vaughan and Nichols three born organizers met and put their labors together. Vaughan was the more imaginative of the three. He caught the vision of the possibilities and the future of the organization more than the other two. His mind was full of suggestions of possibilities and he soared immediately into enthusiasm. Shields kept his feet firmly on the ground and reduced things to a semblance of orderly sections and articles. He proved himself a good critic several times. Nichols had a better sense of the essentials of the organization and the things necessary to make it appeal to the colleges it was intended to attract. Above all, he sought a workable document representing an organization which was to bestow an honorary key on orators and debaters and coaches, and he wished to show by jewelery the key the distinctions each individual had achieved. He felt that this was practical. In the end they were all satisfied, and their combined labor produced an organization which not one of them working alone could have conceived.

**C. Founding the Order.** As the constitution neared completion, the method of launching it came up for consideration. Nichols proposed that local chapters such as the one at Ripon be organized and the constitution be sent them. Shields felt that the organization must not be created by the association of local chapters, as the local chapter was to be the lowest degree in the proposed society. He countered with the idea of a group of National Founders who should be members of the highest degree, proposing to work from them downward to state and local chapters. His idea prevailed. Nichols saw the possibilities of this idea immediately and suggested that the interstate step or province organization be added to the



scheme. In this way the original idea of three degrees was broadened into four.

(1) The First Council. Too much credit cannot be given Shields for the tactful way in which he molded all the suggestions into an acceptable document and then nominated, elected and installed the first set of officers. He did it—all alone—by himself. In other words, the secretary cast the ballot for the officers and they were elected. The rest followed his suggestions and took their places accordingly. Nichols and Vaughan, when they met for the first time at the first convention at Washburn College, in 1916, had a good laugh over it. None of the rest of the Founders ever objected; and the wisdom of Shields' disposition of the offices was soon apparent, for the men who had done the most to bring Pi Kappa Delta into being were the ones most likely to carry it into a state of activity. According to Shields' disposition, Nichols became the first President; Vaughan, the Vice-President and Chairman of the Charter Committee; Shields himself acted as Secretary-Treasurer, and J. H. Krenmyre, of Iowa Wesleyan, was chosen Historian. Crookham, of Southwestern, was put on the Charter Committee, as was also P. C. Somerville, of Illinois Wesleyan.

(2) The Ten National Founders. The Kansas group included Shields, Vaughan, Boody and Crookham when the Constitution was finished. With Nichols added, there was a group of five. Shields proposed to raise the group to ten or twelve National Founders. He suggested Krenmyre and Johnson from Iowa and another Kansas representative, Daniel C. Lockwood, of Emporia. Nichols wrote suggesting H. O. Pritchard, of Cotner, and P. C. Somerville, of Illinois Wesleyan, M. M. Maynard, of Monmouth, E. C. Griffith, of William Jewell College, and Charles A. Marsh, of Morning-side College. A glance at the plate carrying the signatures of the National Founders shows that places for Monmouth and William Jewell are blank. Marsh's place was taken by Johnson, one of his students who at that time had made an enviable record in college oratory.

(3) Matters of Founding the Order. It was the idea, of course, that each founder was to bring in his college as a local chapter; but it was some time before the college represented by each of the ten founders entered Pi Kappa Delta. At present, however, they all maintain active chapters. It was January, 1913, before the constitution was submitted and signed by the ten National Founders and the national organization was ready to accept applications for the establishment of local chapters. The date of the founding of Pi Kappa Delta is always given as January, 1913, because the first chapter was granted at that time, soon after the constitution was signed.

D. The First Chapter. Naturally it was expected that Ripon College, which had a local chapter already organized, would enter the national organization first. This would have been the case, but the Ripon group found themselves held up by the non-fraternity attitude of the college as soon as their application for permission to join the national organization went before the faculty of the institution. The local chapter was obliged to petition the college board for permission to proceed and this petition could not be acted upon until the meeting of the Board of Trustees in June. The Ripon group was consequently obliged to mark time.

Immediately upon the final approval of the constitution, Shields called together a group of eligible students at Ottawa and organized a local and placed a petition from them for a charter before the National Council as soon as possible. Shields was so anxious to secure the first chapter that he did not wait to gather up all the eligible students at Ottawa, but signed up four beside himself, thus making the legal limit of live. The Council granted the petition and chartered the group as Kansas Alpha. The men composing the Kansas Alpha charter membership are: John A.



Shields, Leland H. Jenks, Jesse Elder, Charles T. Battin and Samuel Marsh. To the best of my recollection this chapter (Number One) was granted its charter about the 20th of January, 1913.

**E. The Early Chapters.** The third local chapter to be organized and the second to qualify under the constitution was that at Iowa Wesleyan, organized by J. H. Krenmyre, first National Historian. The next to qualify was that of Washburn College, Topeka, Kansas, brought in through the activity of Shields, who met and interested C. Benjamin Franklin, the key man at that college. The fourth chapter to qualify was another brought in by Shields through his acquaintance with orators of the I. P. A. Six members of Nebraska Wesleyan, including the coach, E. H. Wells, applied for a charter and thus Nebraska was entered. At the end of the college year the newly organized honor society had four chartered local groups and two other groups almost in the fold—Ripon College and Morningside College. Frank P. Johnson, National Founder, had a group of seven at Morningside ready to enter; but soon after he left the college and the embryo chapter died. The Ripon group was successful in its petition to the Board of Trustees of the College in June and subsequently entered the national organization.

In addition to the local chapters mentioned, one state chapter, Kansas, had been organized with Ottawa and Washburn chapters as members. C. Benjamin Franklin, of Washburn, was elected president of this organization.

**F. Difficulties and Early Struggles.** (1) The ten National Founders did not all bring in chapters. This was the first disappointment that the organizers encountered. The anti-fraternity sentiment at various colleges proved a serious obstacle as we have already seen. Next came the lack of responsible local leaders at various chapters, such as the coach, a natural leader, might furnish. At the first of May, 1913, Nichols found his health seriously threatened and was advised to seek a milder climate. At this time he was about to bring in several chapters through correspondence with the coaches, but was obliged to drop everything and was soon on the way to Southern California. On the way he stopped at Lincoln, Nebraska, to visit the chapter at Nebraska Wesleyan, and went to Bethany, a suburb of Lincoln, to visit H. O. Pritchard, National Founder, and to examine the Cotner situation. The group at Cotner, although desirous of entering the order, felt that they could not afford to do so. In the fall of 1914, P. C. Somerville, of Illinois Wesleyan, brought in the sixth chapter (Ripon being numbered fifth), and one more National Founder made good. As soon as he arrived in California, Nichols took steps to interest Occidental College.

(2) The Kansas State Agricultural College Chapter. Early in 1914, E. A. Vaughan had the Kansas State College chapter ready. A difficulty arose here. The first constitution provided that the state chapter had jurisdiction over all locals and Kansas had a state chapter. Some of the members of the Washburn chapter were opposed to the admission of K. S. A. C. on the ground that it was not in the same class forensically as Ottawa and Washburn. In consequence of this the state chapter refused to give K. S. A. C. a charter. After considerable correspondence the affair was settled amicably.

(3) Other Chapters of 1914. Central College, Pella, Iowa, was the eighth charter granted. The college was soon sold and the chapter died after a brief existence. The ninth chapter was installed at the University of Redlands in the spring of 1914. Nichols had begun work at Redlands the fall before, having decided to spend the winter in California. He now decided to stay another year and resigned his position at Ripon



College. The Redlands chapter was the natural result of his decision to stay in California.

With Redlands entering Pi Kappa Delta, Occidental became interested. The debate manager, Paul B. Steinorff, after consultation with Nichols, got together a group of twelve and petitioned for a charter. The end of the college year came before the chapter was installed, and later it developed that the chapter had been organized without the consent of the faculty and hence was not permitted to continue its connection with the national organization. Thus at the end of 1914 Pi Kappa Delta found itself composed of ten chapters and these were but loosely bound together.

**G. Rocks Ahead.** With the order at this stage in its development Shields found it difficult to get membership fees from the original chapters and reports of new members initiated. The whole organization seemed to be lagging and was pervaded with a doubtful air. Correspondence from the National officers was not proving an efficient means of holding the interest in the movement that had appeared at first. Nichols and Shields both realized that something had to be done. The order was not growing; in fact it was losing the chapters that it had been able to interest. Nichols proposed that a publication be sent out if enough money could be obtained. Here, at last, came the one big difficulty which was to make all the previous troubles look infinitesimal. How were they to get enough money to put out a magazine? Would it arouse the waning interest? Would it put life into the languishing order?

At the beginning of the new college year things looked bad for the future of Pi Kappa Delta. A new source of consternation appeared. The Washburn chapter decided that Pi Kappa Delta was going to die and wrote that important piece of news to E. A. Vaughan. Vaughan wrote a scarehead to Nichols, and Nichols asked Shields to count the cash again. The Nebraska Wesleyan chapter and the Iowa Wesleyan chapter both lost interest and became inactive. Vaughan, Shields and Nichols decided that the situation was so critical that a magazine must be published whether there was money enough or not. Shields felt that the publication would help him in the demand for dues. Nichols began to prepare the copy. With affairs at this stage the National Council received a bit of encouragement. The Colorado Agricultural College applied for a charter. It was granted with alacrity. Alfred Westfall, the organizer of this chapter, was known personally to Shields and Nichols as an old debater of Park College whom they had combated unsuccessfully back in 1910 and 1911. The coming of this chapter in January 1915 insured more money and enabled the council to take the risk of issuing a publication. The first or correspondence era of Pi Kappa Delta was passed.

## II. THE PERIOD OF PUBLICATION.

**A. The Forensic Appears.** (1) With the appearance of The Forensic in February, 1915, a new day was dawning for Pi Kappa Delta. Its influence was felt immediately. All of the chapters felt reassured. Nichols sent The Forensic broadcast. As he was at this time editing the Intercollegiate Debate Series, a collection of college debates made each year and carrying an appendix with all the debates of the year listed, he was in a position to place The Forensic in the hands of the right persons in each college. He had at that time the best directory of debaters and coaches in the country. This advertising was of great value to Pi Kappa Delta.

(2) **The Name.** The Forensic was named by Nichols. It was printed by the Citograph Publishing Company of Redlands at a cost to the organization of about ninety dollars. It contained thirty-six pages of reading, three pages of pictures, and two advertisements. The cover design, (199)



the same one that is still used, was a gift from the Redlands chapter and was drawn for Nichols by Ernest Geddes, a student of the University of Redlands, and was a copy of the fob and key worn at that time by the National Historian who is setting down these recollections.

The first Forensic carried a historical sketch of Pi Kappa Delta, a few words about Delta Sigma Rho, Tau Kappa Alpha, and Phi Alpha Tau, the Constitution of Pi Kappa Delta, the Roll of Chapters with names of members, a few editorials, and an obituary of Carl Ostrum, coach of debate at K. S. A. C.

The constitution which appears in the first Forensic is not the one that was signed by the ten founders, but a revision made by Nichols and approved by six of the National Founders before publication. The anti-fraternity trouble, the K. S. A. C. chapter imbroglio with the Kansas State chapter and other things which had arisen made a revision of the constitution desirable. Another thing of interest in the Forensic was the assumption that there would be another issue. An editorial deals with the National Conclave, showing that the idea of the first convention was then in mind. Of course, something was said about dues. And be it said to the honor of the small group of chapters then extant that dues came in—enough so that with charter fees and dues from new chapters there was enough money in hand early the next year to warrant the appearance of Forensic number two, issued in December, 1915.

**B. New Chapters.** Following the publication of the first Forensic and preceding the convention held about thirteen months later, five chapters entered the order. Five in one year was a big growth at that stage in Pi Kappa Delta's history. The chapters came in in the following order: 12. Southwestern College (Kansas); 13. Eureka College, Illinois; 14. South Dakota Wesleyan; 15. Alabama Polytechnic. Southwestern was organized by Albert J. McCullough, professor of Economics and coach of debate. This strong chapter was brought in through interest in the Intercollegiate Debate Series and by the publication of The Forensic. This was the Alma Mater of A. L. Crookham, one of the Ten Founders. The chapter was installed by Nichols in March, 1916, while on the way to the first convention. The Eureka College chapter was organized by H. O. Pritchard, one of the Ten Founders. Next came Dakota Wesleyan, interested by Nichols after the publication of the first Forensic. Contact was gained while working up one of the annual volumes of Intercollegiate Debates. Elmer Harrison Wilds, coach at Dakota Wesleyan, organized the chapter. The fifteenth chapter came also through the efforts of Nichols after a great deal of correspondence with H. H. Mumford, the coach at Highland Park College, Des Moines, Iowa. Mumford left the college the following year. The private interests who owned this college sold it to the Iowa Presbyterians, who in turn sold it to the Baptist denomination. The Baptists had previously sold Central College, Pella, Iowa, to the Dutch Reformed denomination. Upon purchasing Highland Park they merged Des Moines Baptist College and the funds of Central College with it, taking the Highland Park College plant and site as the nucleus of a new and greater Baptist college for Iowa. As expected, Pi Kappa Delta lost the Highland Park chapter at this time. Just before the first convention and after the publication of the second Forensic, E. A. Vaughan delivered his second chapter in the Alabama Polytechnic Institute. This chapter was ill-starred. The coach was not interested and the chapter died as soon as Vaughan left the Institute. It is one of the two inactive chapters at the present time.

**C. New Problems.** The first issue of the Forensic emphasized the importance of keeping track of the local chapters, their initiates and membership. As Editor of the Forensic, Nichols found a mailing list indispensable. That is how the Grand Catalogue came into being and why Article



XIV authorizing the Grand Catalogue came to be inserted in the first printed constitution. The lack of co-operation with the national organization on the part of local chapters was the cause of much trouble in the early days of the order. To meet this situation Nichols began to reduce everything possible to printed blanks that could be filled out readily, hoping in this way to get reports when it was not possible to get letters.

**D. The Second Forensic.** The appearance of the first Forensic rendered the second number imperative. The chapters, many of them, wrote in to the editor in addition to paying their dues. This number is made up of chapter letters and editorials. The postage bill at third class rates had been so heavy for the first Forensic that Nichols conceived the idea of getting out four issues a year and entering the journal as second class matter.

**E. A Big Idea.** The second Forensic announces also that two numbers a year of the four were to be secret numbers, an idea which later was abandoned. The May-June issue, which was to be open, was to be an annual number carrying chapter letters and cuts. The most significant thing in the second Forensic, however, was the following paragraph in the editorial columns:

#### **"National Convention"**

"The biggest thing in Pi Kappa circles this year is the First National Convention. It will be held somewhere in Kansas—with one of our four chapters—or in Kansas City—place still to be decided—and will be held about the last of March or first of April. The next Forensic will carry definite announcements.

"We mention the matter before plans are definite because each chapter should be planning now on sending its delegate. Don't give up because of distance or expense—**RAISE THE MONEY AND SEND A REPRESENTATIVE.**

"The Redlands chapter expects to put on a show at the opera house to raise the money to send the National President and two debaters east for some debates and for this convention. No chapter will have to overcome more in the way of distance and expense. What are you going to do?

Here we have the germ of Pi Kappa Delta's great plan used so successfully now to gain attendance at the convention—debate trips.

**F. Preparing for the Convention.** In the interval between the second and third issues of the Forensic, the foundations for the convention had to be laid. An invitation from Washburn College was accepted and the date was set. Arthur G. Beattie, President of the Washburn chapter, and Roy Painter, Secretary of the Kansas State chapter, took charge of the local arrangements for the convention. The rest was left to Nichols. A stack of letters was sent out to the chapters, alumni members, and national officers and founders, followed by the Forensic with the program and plans for the convention. Vaughan and Krenmyre promised to be there. Shields wrote that it would be impossible for him to attend; and in addition to this bad news he wrote that he found it impossible to discharge the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer's office any longer. Nichols replied that he thought Shields should hold his office until the time of the convention when a successor might properly be appointed. Shields wrote that if he did this, he must have an assistant. He chose Roy Painter of Washburn to take over the books of the organization and the responsibility of acquiring funds to keep the Forensic going. Painter by the time of the convention had things in excellent shape. So well did he manage the office

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