

THE

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Speech Work Has 37-Year History

The following article by Lorraine Endsley of The Tennessee Tech Oracle and the cover picture of the eight Tennessee Tech faculty members who debated for Tech in the past are featured in this issue of THE FORENSIC in honor of their coach Prof. Herman Pinkerton.

"In grateful recognition of your many generous and worthwhile contributions to forensics in Tennessee" is the inscription on a gold plaque presented to Prof. Herman Pinkerton in 1957 by Tennessee speech coaches.

Pinkerton, born in Woodbury in 1893, has been connected with forensics at Tech since he joined the faculty in 1926 as professor of political science. After 37 years at Tech, he plans to retire in June, 1964.

Tech students under Pinkerton's leadership have captured many state, regional and national honors. He has had 12 state championship debate teams and numerous teams to place second and third in state contests.

The eight people pictured on the cover who were on his debate teams are now members of the Tech faculty. These are Eugene Jared, instructor in business administration, Joe A. Thorne, associate professor of accounting, Mrs. Elizabeth S. Murphy, dean of women, and Elbert Freeman Ward, assistant professor of mathematics.

Other faculty members who debated are James Seay Brown, dean of the School of Engineering, Douglas Norman, director of public information, Louis Johnson, director of the School of Business Administration, and Miss Mattie Sue Cooper, associate librarian.

Pinkerton is especially proud of the Tech record in the last three national Pi Kappa Delta tournaments in each of which Tech students took top honors. In the one held in Bowling Green, Ohio, in 1959, Tech had the only contestant to place "superior" in both oratory and extemporaneous speaking. The student was Faye Derryberry Julian, currently teaching at the University of Tennessee.

"It is nice to have champions, but the great value comes from the overall program, which has seen hundreds of Tech

students getting invaluable experience in the art of persuasion," said Pinkerton.

Another single honor that Tech students may claim in forensics is that they represent the only college in the state that has made the West Point Tournament two times. Entrance to this tournament is highly competitive and only four teams are selected from the South each year.

"It never has been the policy at Tech to limit speech activities to a very few students, which is the policy of some colleges," stated Pinkerton. "The door always has been open for those who have the ability and the desire."

"As a result, there are hundreds of young men and women today who are leaders in the professions, in business, in industry and in many other areas who have in some small way received a bit of training which may be helping them to experience more satisfaction from what they are doing in life," Pinkerton added.

Dr. Qill Cope, one of Pinkerton's first debaters, is now president of Middle Tennessee State College and is also a former Tennessee commissioner of education. Jared Maddux, who was also on a debate team, is a state senator and a former lieutenant governor of Tennessee.

Tech debaters have been in contests with debaters from India, British Columbia University and Oxford. "Nothing is too good for Tech debaters in forensics," said Pinkerton. "We try to participate in the best tournaments to give students broad opportunities and experience."

"Debating especially offers training in research, in organization and in presentation," he added. Approximately 12 tournaments, which include a total of 200 debates, are given during a year.

After retiring, Pinkerton plans to participate in his favorite pastimes of gardening, fishing and traveling. He will spend next summer in the West and in Mexico.

Pinkerton first served as the sponsor of the Upper Cumberland Literary Society, which was one of four such organizations on Tech campus. In 1930 he was instrumental in organizing the speech activities group and has served as its sponsor for the past 33 years. He also served as district director for the Tennessee Speech and Drama League, formerly called the Interscholastic Literary League, for 32 years.

Pinkerton received his B.S. from George Peabody College for Teachers in 1923 and his M.A. in 1924. He did graduate study at the University of Chicago, University of North Carolina, University of Virginia and George Peabody College.

Many honors have come to Pinkerton during his 37 years in Tech forensics. For two terms he was president of the Tennessee Intercollegiate Forensic Association, governor of the Province of the Southeast of Pi Kappa Delta and a member of the West Point Selections Committee. In addition, he has served on many committees in connection with various speech organization and activities.

"Much of the success of the forensic program at Tech can be accredited to the students who have had the desire and the ability to get the job done and to the administration and faculty that

have cooperated and supported the program," said Pinkerton. "During the last five years we have had the assistance of two very capable and highly trained men in speech, namely Dr. Dale Level for two years and Mr. William Floyd for the past three years," he added.

"There has been a major change in debating over the years. In early debating, the work was mostly intercollegiate with debates from college to college. All debating now is done in tournaments," said Pinkerton. "This is advantageous in that a person has a greater variety of debates for less money," he added.

"Mr. Pinkerton has taken more people more places on less money than anyone else because of the small amount of money he has been allotted for traveling expenses," said Professor Johnson.

"While going on a trip to Michigan to a Pi Kappa Delta tournament, which was over 700 miles away, we rode in an antiquated Nash because the gas mileage was better," said Professor Thorne.

"I would be ungrateful beyond measure if I did not give recognition to my wife, Marguerite, who, in my absence on speech trips, fired the furnace, did without the use of the family car and assumed many responsibilities which normally would have belonged to me. In addition, she sent to our program many excellent students from a very rich and successful forensic program at Cookeville Central. In fact, I have been the envy of many of my forensic colleagues in that I enjoyed such an advantage," said Pinkerton.

Meet Your Council

To many members of Pi Kappa Delta the National Council is made up of names listed in *The Forensic*, pictures published only occasionally, and real people seen rarely, if ever. This new feature in *The Forensic* is designed to help you become better acquainted with the people who furnish leadership and continuity to Pi Kappa Delta. As time and space allows, one or more of the Council members will be featured.

LARRY NORTON National Secretary-Treasurer

It is fitting that the first Council member to be featured should be the National Secretary-Treasurer because he is the individual who has the widest possible contact with the general membership. Dr. Norton, of Bradley University, who is pictured on the Secretary's Page, was elected to that position at Carbondale in 1963.

Larry has had a successful career in the Speech field and has been a highly effective worker in the affairs of Pi Kappa Delta. He has had a diversity of professional experience, having served as a teacher and administrator both at the high school and college level. During one eight-year period in his early career he also served as Athletic Coach. (Do you suppose Bradley Debaters do road work when they are travelling?)

Larry has been active in many speech organizations, academic and honorary associations, as well as civic and church groups. The positions that he has held in these organizations, and particularly in Pi Kappa Delta, are tributes to the dedication of this council member. In his years in Pi Kappa Delta he has served several times as a Province Officer, member of the National Council, National President, and National Secretary-Treasurer.

Larry is a family man and he and his wife, Eleanor, have two children, a daughter, Jeanne and a son, Larry II.

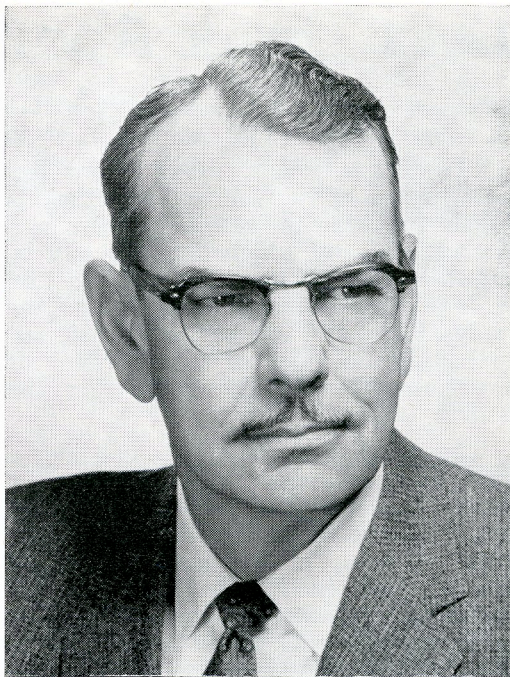
Let's this brief account give a picture of a man too much dedicated to duty, it should be pointed out that for some reason or other, our National Secretary-Treasurer is often called on to serve as a judge in beauty contests. This undoubtedly makes up for the many debates he has had to suffer through!

* * *

THEODORE O. H. KARL **Council Member**

Another prominent Pi Kappa Deltan, popular in the west but not widely enough known through the rest of the country, is Ted Karl of Pacific Lutheran University. Ted is the affable and energetic gentleman who will serve as our host at the 1965 National Convention in Tacoma, Washington.

Ted has the same sort of interesting background and varied interests found in so many of the outstanding leaders of Pi Kappa Delta. He has had administrative experience in business, has had a successful career as a teacher and has been extremely active in professional organizations. His major professional interests have been in the areas of Speech, Drama and Telecommunications, and he has served in various offices in



many of the organizations associated with these fields of interest.

Ted is actively interested in sports and claims a special interest in driving his MGA (your editor has a mental picture of our very proper council member gunning his MGA around a turn on one of the hilly Washington roads!). Another of Ted's outdoor projects is a cabin at the lake which he and his wife Betsy acquired recently.



Picture of the Georgetown College Varsity debaters with the trophy they won at the Kentucky Intercollegiate Forensics Conference. They are from left to right: Kenny Mahanes, Paul Corts, team captain and Pres. of local Pi Kappa Delta chapter, Dudley Webb and Bobby Hawkins.

Let's Think About the Listener

Richard M. Rothman

There has recently been a considerable amount of valuable and justified attention paid to the listening process, and the methods by which listening can be improved. Valuable as such instruction is, it may sometimes tend to obscure the obligation of the speaker to the listener, and place too much of the "burden" of the absorption of the speech on the hearer.

The point of concern is to consider a few circumstances under which too much is expected of the listener, and what can be or is done about it. One most obvious circumstance is found fairly often in the beginning public speaking classroom, when, for a variety of reasons, one of which is lack of understanding or concern for the audience and its reactions, a speech is delivered at much too rapid a rate. Often this wears off as the inexperienced student learns what to do with his "exhilaration," or more about audience needs and reaction through a combination of experience and helpful commentary by teacher, students, or both. The point, though, is that usually neither the instructor nor the students in the classroom fail to recognize the speaker's obligation to his audience to speak at a reasonable rate so that what he has to say can be reasonably absorbed and understood.

But let us look at the situation we sometimes find in debate. At a recent intercollegiate novice debate tournament, almost every debater I heard spoke at a rate which placed unreasonable demands upon the listener. And this is a tendency which I have found to be so pronounced among experienced high school, as well as college debaters, that I have almost come to expect it. It is true that the motivation is worthy, and some justifications can be found. The debater is, understandably, anxious to cram as much as he can into his ten minutes or five minutes, and sometimes is coached to do so. There may be some

justification for the notion that the judge, as a "professional listener," is able to absorb more. However, this notion may be bordering on the idea, expressed in annoyance, if only half seriously, by a debater I once coached, that judges were not human beings. Further research brought out the point that this was only true when he lost! !

It may be that many judges are willing to strain their faculties to the utmost; to pay that extra attention which an excessively fast rate requires of them in order to absorb what is being said; but I do not believe, as judges, that they should. And that, of course, is the point of this article: if you, as coaches, judges, debaters, student coaches, and coaches-to-be agree, perhaps you will help to change this situation.

For it seems to me, at least, that the speaker has an obligation to analyze and adapt to the listener in debate as elsewhere, and that this certainly includes so elementary a principle as adapting one's rate to the normal, natural attention span of absorption without strain.

A companion difficulty which often but not always accompanies excessively fast rate is excessive volume. Undoubtedly the same anxiety and urgency to persuade is often operating in such situations, but the novice or experienced debater who maintains a consistent level of excessive volume defeats his purpose. His audience soon becomes so deafened that they gain no more than they would if he did not use enough volume to be heard. At the opposite end of the scale, he is, in fact, inaudible.

The best debaters I have heard have usually been reasonable in expectations from their listeners, and in attitude toward their opponents. They have usually done a careful and excellent job of developing, or refuting, three or four major lines of argument, ably defending or attacking the major premises with excellent logic and evidence. They have most often been courteous as well

as reasonable, admitting in fairness and necessity what could not intelligently be denied. It goes without saying that they have neither used sarcasm nor attacked the person of their opponents; most often they have been personally mild and inobtrusive in their analysis of the arguments, and extremely courteous toward their opponents.

Above all, they have had a calm and unhurried surety which that self-confidence based on fine planning, logical analysis and qualitative judgment can, at its best, breed.



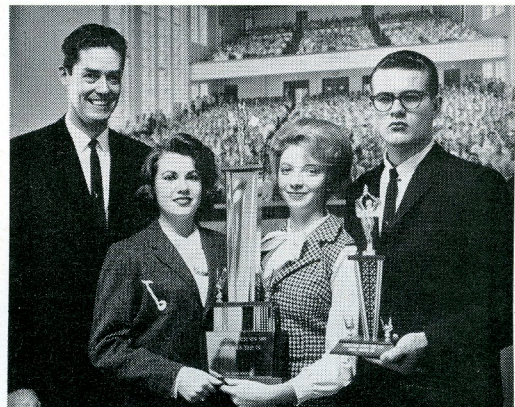
Old Pi Kap members never die; they just keep talking away. At any rate, an old Pi Kap member by the name of Robert C. Williams is still talking. Dr. Williams, president-emeritus of Wisconsin State College, Whitewater, is currently coordinator of teacher recruitment for Wisconsin State Colleges. Dr. Williams, one of the founders of the Iowa Beta chapter of Pi Kappa Delta, Central College at Pella, is shown above as he presented the Robert C. Williams Top Speaker Award at the Wisconsin State College, Whitewater debate tournament, December 14, 1964. The winner, from the University of Wisconsin, is as pleased as Dr. Williams. Whitewater is proud of its president-emeritus — with good reason. In March, 1963, he was honored as one of Pi Kappa Delta's fifty famous alumni.

Whitewater has a habit of stealing good men (good men being Pi Kap men)

from other colleges. Dr. Williams was stolen from Superior, Wisconsin State Teachers College in 1946. He had been Acting President at Superior for three years. When he stepped down from his position as President at Whitewater in 1962, another Pi Kap man, Dr. Walker D. Wyman, was stolen from Wisconsin State College, River Falls, to fill the vacancy. He is still talking, too, and appearing in print. His luncheon address at the October Conference of The Western History Association in Salt Lake City, has now appeared as "Western Folklore and History," in the current issue of *The American West*.

Province Governors Take Note!

Reports on Province Tournaments (contest results, reports of special activities, pictures) should be in the hands of the Editor by April 25 in order to be included in the May issue. The March issue comes to you late because people who promised articles failed to get them in on time and this delay must be avoided on the May issue. Remember — all contributors — the deadline for the May issue of *The Forensic* is April 25.



Hollis Todd, Governor of the Southeast Province grins approvingly as his Junior team, Judy Smith and Janice Johnson display the trophy they won at the Gulf States Debate Tournament. Jimmy Walther also displays the best speaker award presented to him at the same tournament.

Oral Interpretation — A Forensic Activity?

D. Terry Williams

The question of whether oral interpretation belongs in the area of theatre or forensics has stimulated some of the members of Pi Kappa Delta concerning its recognition as a contest activity.

At the outset, an assumption should be made as to the rightful category of this phase of speech. It is the opinion of the writer that the oral interpretation of literature cannot be justly termed as a facet of the theatre. On the contrary, it can easily be compared to the forensics activity of oratory in that the participant utilizes prepared written material, delivers it in assembly, and employs similar speaking techniques. The type of selection of material between these two realms differs but a comparison can be made. One can go even further by stating that since oratory is considered a contest activity and has been for years, why shouldn't its counterpart be considered in the same vein?

Let us not overlook the obvious. Almost every school encourages its forensics participants to engage in oral interp as well as prodding them into interscholastic interp contests and festivals. It is only natural, therefore, for one of the leading speech organizations to recognize oral interpretation as a contest activity.

The problem concerns the proper conception of oral interpretation. If one is searching for a school to follow, his quest is answered by the philosophy of Miss Charlotte Lee, of Northwestern University, who is recognized as the rule-setter of the standards for interpretation. It is Miss Lee's opinion and the opinion of most instructors of interpretation that, if properly taught, the course's purpose is that of delivering prepared material in an expressive manner without exhibiting the attributes of an actor portraying a role.

So let it be assumed that the art of

oral interpretation is in no way connected with the theatre. It can, on the contrary, be compared to the art of oratory. Therefore, interp should be recognized in the same light as oratory—as a contest activity.

Destry Rides — Not Again?

It is rumored that the Province of the Northwest will hold the Province tournament this spring at the Diamond S Ranchotel near Boulder, Montana. A check of this location has disclosed the fact that it is a Montana Guest Ranch complete with a swimming pool heated by natural hot springs, mountain scenery, and western atmosphere including saddle horses and ranch style cooking.

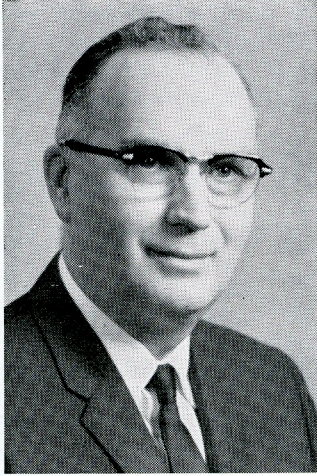
The Forensic has nothing against such wholesome activity, but we would point out that the Convention at Carbondale adopted a tongue-in-cheek resolution of censure against this same group after they held their 1962 tournament at the Chico Hot Springs Ranch in Montana.

It therefore appears that Governor Bill Corbin and his Province outfit are openly defying the aforesaid resolution and are determined to have another wild and wooly Province Roundup, much to the chagrin of those law abiding traditionalists who cling to the standard practice of tea and crumpets and campus tournaments.

Some excuse can possibly be made for the actions of these Northwesterners. They are from a rough and raw section of the country, they are somewhat lacking in culture and "couth", they are, by nature, inclined to independence, and gosh, don't they have fun!!

At any rate, your Editor promises that he will be in attendance at this outrageous affair (disguised as a cowboy or, perchance, as a mountain man) and will report to you on the proceedings in a future issue.

The Secretary's Page



LARRY NORTON

The report of the Evaluation Committee on the National Convention and Tournament held at Southern Illinois University in March 1963 included the statement that, "The admission of mixed teams met with universal approval". The poll of chapters on this and other questions which was recommended by the Evaluation Committee and conducted by this office last Fall probably justifies drawing a similar conclusion.

I am sure the conclusions to be reached from this poll will be of some benefit to the Council in making plans for the next National Convention. However, it is difficult to recognize any mandates with the possible exception of the admission of mixed teams.

Questions concerning debate, extemporaneous speaking and length of the convention were included in the Fall letter mailed to two hundred and nine chapters. One hundred and one

chapters returned the questionnaire. Thus we are limited immediately to the reactions of only forty-eight per cent of the active chapters. We might rationalize by saying that the responding chapters comprise the largest and most active of our membership. To some extent this seems to be true. Yet there are many exceptions to be noted. Also, it is not unlikely that the smaller chapters are just as vitally concerned with such questions as admission of mixed teams, power-matching, elimination rounds, cross-examination debate, and length of the convention. I doubt that we should ignore their silence when arrangements are made which include the general welfare of Pi Kappa Delta.

Even though one hundred and one questionnaires were returned, not all sponsors expressed a reaction to each question. The largest response, to questions relating to debate procedures, was relative to admission of mixed teams. Eighty were in favor and four against. Slightly less than a majority of those responding were in favor of power-matching, elimination rounds and cross-examination debate. The suggestion for power-matching and for cross-examination received fifty and forty-nine favorable votes respectively. Keeping in mind that this is less than twenty-five per cent of the total membership, there is, nevertheless, an interest in these directions.

Nearly all respondents expressed an opinion as to whether the judge or the student should ask the question of the extemporaneous speakers. The vote was sixty-seven to twenty-eight in favor of the judge asking the question. One sponsor was brave enough to indicate that no question should be asked. This served as a reminder, too late, that the poll could have included an opportunity to react to the question and answer form of extemporaneous speaking.

Sixty-five sponsors indicated that they desired condensing the convention to less than five days while thirty-four expressed a desire for five days. From the comments written in on this question, it is apparent that several schools are faced with a real problem so far as taking students

from the campus for a longer period of time. However, many of these same persons are in favor of the convention idea rather than 'just another tournament'.

A final reminder that applications and key orders should be sent in as soon as possible. This is the rush season for the Balfour Company and it takes longer to process the key orders at this time of year. Initiate all eligible members this Spring. The membership fee is seven dollars. Make all checks payable to Pi Kappa Delta. Have a good Spring banquet.

***** CHAPTER NOTES *****

NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE (Illinois)

North Central's forensic squad has been busy throughout the year. They have attended two Northern Illinois tourneys as well as Bradley, Navy Pier, Purdue, and a number of Chicago Area Forensic Association meetings. Six debaters are eligible for membership in Pi Kappa Delta.

Our squad is anxiously awaiting the Illinois Province convention at Millikin on March 25-27.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

Hollis Todd, Governor of the Southeastern Province, indicates plans are under way for a good tournament and convention in Florida. Stetson University at Deland, Florida, is the Host School. The Southeastern Province has exhibited a great deal of interest in the tournament and convention and indications are that a great deal of member chapters will be represented. Tennessee Wesleyan and William B. Yates have a representative at the tournament and convention.

Lenoir Rhyne is reactivating its chapter and this gives us a total active membership of twenty-one chapters in the Southeastern Province.

Epsilon Chapter has made it a practice of having a dinner meeting each month for the Pi Kappa Delta members on campus and for those who live in the Clinton area. This has established closer bonds between the present college members and the graduates who were Pi Kappa Delta members. At our last monthly meeting we had twenty-seven

Pi Kappa Delta members and visitors present.

The debate team this year has had its share of success as the enclosed photo will indicate. Judy Smith and Janice Johnston, Sophomores at Mississippi College, won the Junior Division at the Gulf States Debate Tournament held at the University of Southern Mississippi at Hattiesburg. Jimmy Walther, a Florida student at Mississippi College, won the Best Speakers Award in the Junior Division at the same tournament.

Twelve new members of the debate squad have earned the right to be invited into membership in the Epsilon Chapter this year and are under consideration by the initiation committee. Invitations will be issued in the near future.

WISCONSIN STATE COLLEGE (Eau Claire)

Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire has been notified by Dr. Wayne N. Thompson of the University of Texas that Eau Claire has won first place in the elimination round of the National Contest in Public Discussion.

The judging of this round was conducted at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville campus. Eau Claire was in competition with Emerson College of Boston, Indiana University, and Idaho State University. The tape will now advance to the National Semi-Finals. This is a tape recorded program on the problem of what can be done to decrease the problem of racial tension in the United States.

Working under the direction of Grace Walsh, Director of Forensics, were moderator Robert Plumb, a senior from Edgerton, Wis., and participants Joyce