

*May 1949*

# Thirty-Five Years of Sigma

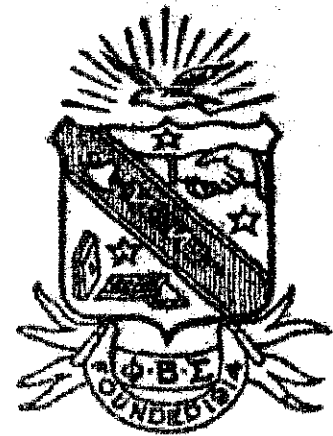
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*The*

# CRESCENT

OFFICIAL ORGAN  
PHI BETA SIGMA

SPECIAL EDITION, 1949



## WHO'S WHO IN SIGMA

# CHAPTER ROLL

Arranged according to the Greek Alphabet

## UNDERGRADUATE

[Officers are usually changed each year; accordingly, it is sometimes better to send mail to the official position rather than to individuals, who may have graduated. For Ex.: The President, Alpha Chapter, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Howard University, Washington, D. C.]

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- BETA ZETA**, Lemoyne College, Memphis, Tenn.
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- PSI**, Clark College, Atlanta, Ga., Swain H. Waters, President

# THE CRESCENT

Official Organ of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

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35th Anniversary Issue

Spring, 1949

Single Copy \$1

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## THE TOWER

The Spring issue of THE CRESCENT makes its bow. And as all can see, it is the special number that we have heard so much talk about.

We hope that the anticipations have not been so great that the modest fact that is now, at last, in hand will be too much of a disappointment.

We are thirty-five years old. How did we make it? What have we accomplished? Where have we failed? These are some of the questions that should be asked by us and by the public.

This issue seeks to help supply answers in two rather simple ways. First, there is a suggestive review of the past. These are articles on the founding of PHI BETA SIGMA, the history of its public programs, its Conclaves, its organization and membership and THE CRESCENT. The concentration just here is on the social group and the social trend. Secondly, complementing the essays on the institutional aspects of the FRATERNITY are the sketches of personalities and the "Who's Who" round-up.

Thus, at once we are able to see the influence of the organization on the individual members inside of it and on the outside public; and at the same time observe the role of significant personalities in the development of the character and reputation of this "Culture for Service and Service for Humanity" movement.

In one sense, the thirty-five years is but a day; in another sense, thirty-five years is a long, long time. What has been the impact of this fraternity on the men who have joined it? Did it help them develop themselves, satisfying deep inner urges and broad outer compulsions? Were the six-thousand-odd Brothers happier, more kindly, more thoughtful, more successful personally and more useful socially because of SIGMA?

In a larger context, one could ask: is the Negro, America, the world any better off that SIGMA has lived during this generation?

No thoughtful person could read through the following pages without noting some high scores. There are some low scores, too. These, likewise, deserve attention, for a shrewd General learns as much from his defeats and blunders as from his victories and strokes of genius.

Some of the compliments and criticisms earned by SIGMA also apply to other fraternities. To the extent that this is true, this present review is a commentary on Greek-letter organizations in general — especially those of Negro Americans — using PHI BETA SIGMA as a case study. The implications of such observations are surely wide and may be significant.

We are thirty-five years old — and we're glad! The pardonable boast of achievement and show of prominent men must be muted by the consciousness of lost opportunities and a limited social vision. It is not enough to say that we have done better than most.

We hope that this journal is interesting and entertaining. We also hope that it will stimulate some thought — perhaps a little meditation on the question: where do we go from here? This is a good question for SIGMA, for Greeks and "Barbarians" alike. Really, it is a very good question for our planet. The whole world wants to know and needs to know how we can reach the shore of that good society wherein good men will dwell together in peace and harmony. Is ours the kind of brotherhood that spread around would help?

Think about it.

# CONGRATULATIONS! . . . . To Sigma

## from AMERICAN COUNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS

May I take this opportunity to extend to Phi Beta Sigma the greetings and best wishes of the American Council on Human Rights on this the thirty-fifth anniversary of your fraternity. We have had occasion to observe the splendid ration of your Social Action Program over the years and the great contribution which Phi Beta Sigma through this gram has made to the welfare and development of our people. This pioneering effort deserves the commendation of who are interested in the progress of the whole American people.

Phi Beta is now making an equally significant contribution in its support and participation in the American Council Human Rights. This cooperative program of seven national fraternities and sororities: Alpha Kappa Alpha, Alpha Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Kappa Alpha Psi, Phi Beta Sigma, Sigma Gamma Rho and Zeta Phi Beta is an effort ough joint pooling of their energy, wisdom and resources to strike a hard blow against racial discrimination, seg- ation and injustice. They seek, particularly through national legislation, to put an end to the burdensome and rding influence of the Jim-Crow system and through progressive steps to establish equality in education, employ- it and political participation.

We are proud to be associated with Phi Beta Sigma in this great struggle and wish for your outstanding organiza- many more years of significant activity.

Fraternally yours,  
Elmer W. Henderson,  
Director

## from ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY

In extending warm felicitations to Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity on the occasion of its thirty-fifth anniversary the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority welcomes the opportunity to express appreciation for the many fine contributions which e been made by the organizaiton to college and community life. In the struggle of our group to find justice and ality as the highest expression of true democracy in a free land Phi Beta Sigma during the thirty-five years of exist- ce has not failed to courageously accept its role in meeting the challenge of the times.

More and more convinced that the answer to many of today's major problems can be found through wholehearted operation we of Alpha Kappa Alpha have been pleased to be associated with you during the past year in the American Council on Human Rights. As you move forward to fulfill a destiny of service we congratulate you on the ord of your past achievements and offer best wishes for the continued success of your progressive and constructive gram.

Fraternally yours,  
Edna Over Gray,  
Supreme Basileus

## from ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.

It has been my delight and good fortune to be closely associated with the leadership of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity ten years, since the time of your distinguished president, Mr. Jesse W. Lewis.

I know of the significant achievements Phi Beta Sigma has made to college life and to the long struggle for free- m for all people in this country. On the occasion of your 35th anniversary and on behalf of Alpha Phi Alpha I gratefully congratulate Phi Beta Sigma for its contribution to the public life. It is our hope that you may continue the fight as cessfully in the next generation as you have in the last.

Sincerely yours,  
B. V. Lawson, Jr.,  
General President

## from DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY

It is a pleasure to send heartiest congratulations to the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity on behalf of the Delta Sigma eta Sorority. Thirty-five years of valuable service on college campuses and in communities across the country have ide yours a lasting contribution to American Democracy.

As fellow Greeks we are gratified for the opportunity to join with you in cooperative efforts around our mutual ncerns. Likewise, we salute the distinctive contribution you make to cultural, civic and social progress. We look with nfidence and pride to the high calibre of leadership Sigma men bring to meeting the needs of our times. May the joys past achievements be an incentive for even greater effort as you unite with people of goodwill everywhere until edom, equality and opportunity are a reality for all mankind.

Fraternally yours,  
Dorothy I. Height,  
Grand President

## —from ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INC.

I consider it a high honor and happy privilege to offer Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity the greetings and best wishes of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority on the 35th anniversary of the founding of Phi Beta Sigma. Our felicitations are peculiarly happy at this moment because of the unique relationship that has existed between us as brother and sister organizations. This close affinity has served as a bond that binds us as the years come and go. With pleasure and pride the Zeta Sisterhood has watched the growth and development of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity as it has added achievement to achievement in the numerous areas of college, community and national life.

During the past 35 years, your organization has served as an inspiration to young men who have gone out to make their contribution to a most complex and challenging society. Throughout the wide expanse of our nation, members of your organization serve as beacon lights in the often dark and dismal areas of their influence. Moreover, your national program of "Bigger and Better Business" strikes at the very root and cause of economic instability in our race. For all these contributions, both individually and on the national scale, for your help and inspiration during their infancy and early development, your sisters of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority are indeed grateful. At this milestone in your path of progress, they pause with you and say to you "well done." May you look forward to another 35 or more years of less furor and upheaval in world affairs, and an even greater achievement in your national and local affairs.

Sisterly yours,  
Nancy B. Woolridge,  
Grand Basileus

## —from KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY

The Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity is happy to extend its most sincere congratulations to Phi Beta Sigma upon its completion of thirty-five years of distinguished service to our nation.

Kappa Alpha Psi, and I venture to say, all national College Fraternities and Sororities are indeed proud of Phi Beta Sigma's achievements in the fields of business and education.

Phi Beta Sigma's contributions to the struggle of all minority groups in the world for justice and equality to all people based upon considerations of merit only may be pointed to with pride by all college men and women.

We of Kappa Alpha Psi confidently hope and expect Phi Beta Sigma to continue its distinguished leadership in the facing of the many challenging social, civic, economic and political problems which beset our troubled world today.

Very sincerely yours,  
J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr.  
Grand Polemarch

## —from SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY

It is a privilege and a pleasure to extend congratulations to Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity as you observe the thirty-fifth anniversary of your founding.

These thirty-five years, during which you have been a vital force in the college and university life of many young men, have been significant ones. They have been years that have seen two world wars fought to secure and maintain those democratic ideals which are the dream of every man. In that struggle we—as a race—have had a share, but have been more personally concerned with the task of gaining equality of opportunity for ourselves and our children.

Technological development has reached such heights that man's social and cultural development has been left far behind. Here, too, we assume a part in learning to live in a world that has greater potentialities for good or ill than at any other period in history.

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity has proved by its constructive program that it is ready and equipped to assume a role in helping to build a "new world," one that will be a better world.

The fraternity has provided opportunity for leadership development. The high standards of business established by you have done much to improve and encourage Negro enterprises. Wherever members of Phi Beta Sigma are found they are assuming the duties inherent in being citizens in community life, and doing so in a most noteworthy way.

We salute you for the work you have done—for we too have set ourselves to a task of raising and holding high standards for our youth—the future leaders.

May your continued existence be one of service and satisfaction, the satisfaction that comes from successful attainments in the years that have passed and those that are to come.

Fraternally yours,  
Sally Nuby Parham,  
Grand Basileus

## —from OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

It is with a deep sense of pride and honor that I am privileged on this occasion, your 35th anniversary, to extend greetings and wholehearted felicitations to the membership of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

We, the members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, congratulate you for your dreams, your toils and your visions, because we know how you have labored individually and with other organizations, in order that our heritage of freedom and progress will be a reality in the minds of all Americans. We are also cognizant of the many contributions your organization has made in helping to shape the lives and destiny of the youth of our land.

May the Divine Ruler continue to shower his blessings on the brotherhood of your outstanding fraternity.

Sincerely yours,  
H. T. Penn,  
Grand Basileus



to right: Mrs. Bertell Collins Wright, Mrs. Sally Nuby Parham, Mrs. Emma Manning Carter, Mrs. Edna Over Gray, Miss Evelyn Pope, Dr. Nancy Poolridge. Standing, left to right: J. Ernest Wilkins, William E. Doar, Jr., Hutson Lovell, George A. Parker, Belford V. Lawson, William A. Iain, John Hope Franklin, Victor J. Ashe, Elmer W. Henderson and Miss Patricia A. Roberts. Not shown: Dr. R. O. Johnson, whose train was late.

## PRESIDENT TRUMAN SALUTES A. C. H. R.

WESTERN UNION

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THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC 15 1015A  
S EDNA OVER GRAY, PRESIDENT AMERICAN  
UNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS 1130 SIXTH ST  
NORTHWEST WASHINGTON DC

PLEASE GIVE MY WARM PERSONAL GREETINGS  
ALL WHO ARE ATTENDING THE INAUGURAL  
DINNER OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON HU-  
MAN RIGHTS. WHEN THE PRESIDENT'S COMMIT-  
TEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS MADE ITS MEMORABLE  
REPORT, I HOPED THAT IT WOULD SERVE TO  
STIMULATE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND BE A  
GUIDE FOR ACTION BY PRIVATE AND PUBLIC  
AGENCIES OF EVERY KIND.

THE YEAR SINCE THAT REPORT WAS PRE-  
SENTED, MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BUT

MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE. THE AGEN-  
CIES OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD LEAD THE WAY,  
BUT PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS YOURS  
HAVE A LARGE ROLE.

IT HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY GRATIFYING TO  
SEE THE GROWTH OF PUBLIC INTEREST DURING  
THE YEAR, FOR, IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, THE  
EXTENSION OF FREEDOM DEPENDS ON A  
CHANGE IN THE MINDS AND HEARTS OF MEN.  
I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS AS YOU ORGANIZE  
TO CARRY FORWARD THE GREAT CAUSE OF HU-  
MAN FREEDOM, AND IN SINCERELY HOPE YOU  
HAVE A VERY STIMULATING MEETING.

HARRY S TRUMAN

## AS I REMEMBER THEM

By Leonard F. Morse

*The personalities of the founders and charter members of "That Noble Band" come alive for us, by way of the pen of one of them.*

Perhaps no more happy group of students ever trod the campus of Howard University than the twelve young men who on April 15, 1914 passed the word around the grounds that the Board of Deans had notified them that their petition to establish a new fraternity had been granted and that therefore *Phi Beta Sigma* had received official recognition that day. The movement had been "underground."

As this 35th anniversary *Crescent* is placed in the hands of thousands of *Sigma* men from Canada to Mexico and from New York to California, I am looking back through the mist of the years into the faces of that valiant little band that started our cause speeding on its way.

### *The Big Three*

There is A. Langston Taylor, one of the three Founders, broad and tall. Perhaps his most characteristic trait was his slowness. He walked slowly, talked slowly, in a low monotone. But underneath his deliberate speech, thought and movement was an inner urge that drove him on to the completion of any task to which he once set his mind. Taylor was not considered a brilliant student, but was difficult to defeat in an argument if it involved the right or wrong of his methods of procedure in attaining his ends. During the scholastic year that *Sigma* was born, Brother Taylor was my roommate, affording me an opportunity to learn intimately his every mood. His loyalty and devotion to whatever he loved was unwavering. I do not recall his ever being absent from a single meeting of either the organizing committee or of Alpha chapter. Because of his mature manners and the fact that he was the oldest of the charter members, Brother Taylor was affectionately thought of as the "old man" of the group.

When *Phi Beta Sigma* first became a dream in the Fall of 1913, Charles I. Brown, another of the three Founders, was, like Taylor, a Senior in the College of Liberal Arts. Brown was of average size, brown skin and princely in his manners. In dress, in movement, in speech Brother Brown was the "perfect gentleman." Whether this was due to his earlier contacts in his native Kansas or to family inheritance I am unable to say. Charles Brown was not valedictorian material but was able to pass his courses without difficulty. Of the three Founders, he was, perhaps, the least in ability as an organizer. This was compensated for by his loyalty and cooperation. His affability had put him in close contact with the best students on the campus. Because of this fact his suggestions were invaluable when the time came for the founders to choose nine others who were to make up the twelve original members of Alpha Chapter. Forty-six days after *Phi Beta Sigma* officially became the second college Greek Letter Fraternity to be organized on the campus of Howard University, Charles Brown was graduated from the college. Somehow, we have lost touch with him in recent years. Some believe that he was a casualty of the first World War; others assert that he is still alive somewhere in the world. We live in

daily hope that we shall some day see our beloved Brother and Founder.

In describing the third member of the founding trio, the writer must resort to autobiography. Leonard F. Morse was shorter and more slender than the two others. His color was a copper tint, characteristic of his Cherokee Indian ancestors. Deliberate in his manner, he was quiet and somewhat bashful. He usually did more thinking than talking. When he spoke it was with a soft voice with the inflection of his native Massachusetts. His ability as an organizer is best attested to by the fact that when he wrote *Phi Beta Sigma's* first Constitution it was accepted by the group with no significant alterations. The only student of Greek among the brothers, it was natural that he would be the chosen one to ferret out the Greek words for the *Fraternity* and thus to give *Phi Beta Sigma* its name. While Morse did not make what we now call straight "A's" throughout his college career, he did succeed in doing enough work to win two diplomas and degrees at the end of his third year in college. He was the first male student at Howard to do so. Brother Morse was so highly esteemed by his fellow *Sigmata* that when the officers for Alpha chapter were elected he was chosen to lead the chapter and so became the first president of the first chapter.

### *Scruggs, Tibbs and Jones*

Most prominent of the nine chosen by the three founders to be charter members was (and still is) I. L. Scruggs. Short and dumpy, Scruggs was from the first fired with an enthusiasm that burned so brightly that today after thirty-five years he is still unsurpassed in ardor and zeal for *Sigma*. Only Scruggs could have written *Sigma's* beloved hymn and coined the expression "Our cause speeds on its way." Scruggs was the business mind of the group. Any problem that presented itself with a business angle was put in Scruggs's lap. Invariably he came up with the solution. Perhaps the brothers of that young Alpha chapter were too modest to talk about securing a fraternity house before *Sigma* was two months old; nevertheless, they not only talked about it but laid plans for one. Brother Scruggs, an incoming Senior, was given the task of securing a Frat house during the Summer vacation. Suffice it to say that when Howard opened in September, only 150 days after April 15, the day on which *Sigma* was given official recognition by Howard University, because Scruggs had done the impossible, Alpha chapter moved into a three-story brick, furnished fraternity house. It was the largest of any of the college's chapter houses. I. L. Scruggs was methodical and efficient far beyond the average college student. So esteemed was he that the brothers elected him Alpha chapter's first vice-president.

W. E. Tibbs was a Senior when *Sigma* was organized. Brown skin, slight of build, he always made one think of one word, namely "fast." He talked fast, moved fast and thought with lightning speed. With his keen mind and rapid thinking, Brother Tibbs was able to assist great

in solving the many problems that presented themselves during those trying days while we awaited a reply from the Board of Deans.

Jacob E. Jones can best be described as a handsome black boy. Six feet tall, well proportioned, "Jake" Jones was a tailor's model. Even without his baritone voice he would have been a campus favorite because of his ability and his cultured and refined manners. During my entire student days at Howard no male student even approached Jones as a singer. When Roland Hayes, upon invitation of Dean Lula Vere Childers, came to Howard several times to sing the tenor role in "Elijah," "The Messiah" and "The Children's Crusade" it was Jacob Jones who sang the baritone solos, sang them so well that he afforded no unfavorable comparison with the young man who was destined to become one of the world's greatest tenors. All who listened to Jake in those days predicted just as brilliant a career. Because of his great voice, Brother Jones was perhaps the best known student on the campus. His membership in *Sigma* brought much prestige to the young fraternity which was delighted to claim him one of its Brothers.

#### Howard, Massie and Vincent

Smallest of the charter members was J. R. Howard. A smooth, round-faced boy, he always appeared for classes trim and neat as a pin. He was shy and seldom spoke first. However, once he got started, he became as sociable as one could wish. Howard was not the bold, aggressive type and probably did not make enough suggestions or present enough ideas to be credited with moulding the framework of *Sigma*. The Founders believe that *Sigma* should have a heterogeneous type of membership, Brother Howard, *Sigma's* first Chesterfield, made this definite contribution as we began to speed our cause on its way.

With one exception S. P. Massie was probably the tallest of all the charter members. He was dark-skinned with large feet. He spoke in a soft, quiet tone and always wore an infectious smile. Brother Massie was not an ordinary follower; rather an unusually good supporter. He could always be depended upon to carry out any assignment given him. Because of his ability and willingness to work hard, he made a real contribution to *Sigma* during its earliest days.

W. F. Vincent was tall, fair-skinned with bushy, straight brown hair. His languid, easy-going ways were deceptive for he seemed on the surface to be indifferent. But as soon as one became acquainted with him, his keen mind and careful expression revealed the scholar in him. Vincent was unassuming but brilliant. His love for *Sigma* was evident from the first meeting he attended. He asked for no honors or position, but was happy to perform accurately whatever tasks that were given him. It was upon young men like Vincent that *Sigma* depended heavily in those early days.

#### Matthews, Alston, Franklin

B. A. Matthews, a normal-sized brown-skinned boy, was an average student, full of fun and therefore very companionable. He kept close to the administrative officers and so was always available to render assistance when it was most needed.

Brother T. L. Alston was the scientist of the group. He was light brown and a little freckled with reddish

hair. He talked rapidly, clipping his words in such a way that one was reminded of a telegrapher sending his dots and dashes. He was always busy, moving hither and thither seemingly without enough time to accomplish the number of things on his programme. He was a born chemist and always talked about the valences and formulae to anyone whom he could interest. His *Sigma* brothers delighted to listen to him speak in the meetings because he could summarize a situation with such speed and brevity. Alston was one of Howard's best students and one of our best and most beloved brothers.

Last but not least among the charter members I remember is Joseph A. Franklin. Known on the campus as Joe Franklin he came up through the Academy and on through college. Franklin was my roommate for two years. When one looked at Joe Franklin, one word inevitably came to one's mind. That word was "big." Brother Franklin was more than six feet in height. Everything about him was big; big head, big nose, big mouth and big voice, big feet. But biggest of all was his heart. Mainstay on Howard's champion football team for two years, he had endeared himself to all who knew him long before *Phi Beta Sigma* was organized. Joe Franklin was never too busy to be kind or polite or helpful. Wherever Franklin was, there was certain to be plenty of clowning. He was always the life of the party but his fun was always clean and his life and personal habits those of a true gentleman. During my six years at Howard, Joe Franklin was my closest chum.

These are that glorious band of twelve men as I remember them, men tried and true around whom *Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity* was built. Each one was different in temperament, in ability, in appearance; but that was why they were chosen by the three Founders. We felt that a fraternity composed of men who were all alike in habits, interests and abilities would be a pretty dull organization. Thirty-five years have slipped away since we clasped hands, but time will never erase the memory of that stalwart band from my mind. They have been an integral part of me and ever shall be.

## BROTHER

A brother is never alone  
all by himself in the storm.  
Always we are with him  
and he with us,  
grip-locked!

No lynch mob will ever take him.  
Together we go—or stay  
the cowardly pack  
that prowls in the shadows  
for the tired soldier.

No cry in the loneliest night  
moans unheeded.  
We believe in you, Joe,  
up or down,  
we stick!

A brother is never alone.

by Leonard F. Moore

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# THE FIRST FOUR YEARS

by A. Langston Taylor

*This Founder gives an intimate picture of those days of birth and infancy.*

*Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity* represents the triumph of an idea—the success of a fixed desire. If we are to be precise about it, the idea of the Fraternity had its origin not at Howard University, as might be expected, but in my home town, Memphis, Tenn.

This is how it came about. One dull summer day in 1910, I was on my way home from downtown and paused for a while at Bumper's Beale Street Grocery Store to pick up the latest news from the Squash Center, which usually held afternoon sessions there. I engaged in conversation with a young man recently graduated from Howard University, and since I had already decided to go to Howard, I was very much interested in what he had to say about the University. He dwelt at length on the activities of Greek letter-fraternities there. His talk gave me an idea, and from that day on, *Phi Beta Sigma* was in the making.

I entered Howard University as a special student on November 23, 1910 and early the next Spring began to lay plans for carrying out the idea I had conceived the summer before. I found the work of organizing a fraternity much harder than I had expected and it took a much longer time than I had allotted to the work. I did not allow organizational difficulties to upset my plans but kept pressing toward my goal, which was to establish a college fraternity.

It was in the afternoon of the last Saturday of October, 1913. The University had recessed on account of the death of President Newman's wife. I was crossing the campus on my way to Clark Hall and met Leonard F. Morse, a former roommate of mine. I knew Morse well—his college record and his philosophy of life. I knew that he was reliable and sincere with a strong determination to carry out whatever program of work he undertook. It was because of these elements of character that I selected him to become a co-partner in the founding of a new national fraternity.

Our chance meeting afforded me the first opportunity to discuss the matter with him. I told Morse I intended to start the organization with a small group of carefully selected students. He accepted the proposition, and we agreed on Charles I. Brown as the third member of the founding group.

Our talk ended here. I continued on my way to Clark Hall, happy in the thought that I had broken ground.

## Action

The first meeting of the Organizing Committee was held at my home in the 900 block of "S" Street, Northwest, Tuesday, November 2nd. The second meeting was held the next Tuesday at Morse's rooming place in the 1900 block of Third Street, Northwest. During the remainder of November and December, meetings were held on the "Hill" (Howard University), during which time nine students were accepted for membership and the plans for the Fraternity were discussed and developed.

On Saturday evening, January 9, 1914, the group met at the 12th Street Branch, Y.M.C.A., and there in the Bowen Room, the twelve organizers sat around the conference table to give full and solemn consideration to the proposal to establish a new fraternity.

As Chairman of the Organizing Committee, I reported how I had conceived the idea of founding the Fraternity and the three years of unrelenting toil I had given to the development of the plans. I closed the report by recommending that we form a permanent organization, to be known as *Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity*. Upon motion made by Charles I. Brown, seconded by William F. Vincent, the recommendation was accepted and *Phi Beta Sigma* became a national fraternity in fact as well as in dreams. At least we had the structure for a national organization. The election of officers was the next order of business. Those elected were: A. Langston Taylor, National President, Charles I. Brown, National Vice-President, Leonard F. Morse, National Secretary and W. E. Tibbs, National Treasurer. Brother Brown was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Constitution; Brother Tibbs was designated to make a drawing for the Fraternity Seal.

A petition was drawn up to the Board of Deans requesting recognition and permission to establish a chapter at Howard. The petition was signed by all of us. The twelve charter members are: A. Langston Taylor, Leonard F. Morse, Charles I. Brown, Walter E. Tibbs, Jacob E. Jones, Joseph A. Franklin, Samuel P. Massie, William E. Howard, Benjamin A. Matthews, William F. Vincent, I. L. Scruggs and T. L. Alston. Although the Board of Deans received the petition in January, it was not until April 15, 1914, that they rendered their decision. The members became disturbed at the long delay, feeling that the Deans might decide against us. In order to calm their fears, I assured them that *Phi Beta Sigma* was organized as a national fraternity and that if the University did not give its approval for a chapter there, we would proceed to establish chapters in other schools.

Previous to the decision of the Deans no public statement concerning the Fraternity had been made; however, news of it spread like wildfire over the campus, and soon we were rushed with applications to join.

Our first initiation was held May 4, 1914, at 2226 Sixth Street, Northwest, at which time fourteen members were added to the roll. The ritual for the initiation was formulated by Brother Charles I. Brown and the initiation was conducted by the National President, A. Langston Taylor, with the assistance of other charter members. Abraham McCartney Walker was the first initiate.

*Sigma* moved rapidly to the front in student activities and in the life of the city. Our first opportunity to take part in campus activities was in the annual election of the staff for the *Howard Journal* (student publication), in May of 1914. In this election, we succeeded in having Brother A. M. Walker elected Assistant Editor, thus placing him in position to be a candidate for the editorship

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## The Three Founders

Langston Taylor

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C. I. Brown, A. L. Taylor, L. F. Morse

in the annual election of May, 1915. Brother Walker headed the official ticket, with out National President as a candidate for Circulation Manager. Both were elected. This victory broke the control which another fraternity had held over the *Journal* since the beginning of fraternities at Howard.

### Graduate Member

At the regular meeting of the Alpha chapter, on March 4, 1915, I proposed the name of Herbert L. Stevens for membership in the *Fraternity*. Stevens was a graduate of the Class of 1914 and well known to the charter members. He became our first graduate member, *per se*.

Soon after we had taken him in, I wrote Stevens request- ing him to proceed at once to establish a chapter at Wiley University where he was teaching. After several months of negotiation with the University authorities, the Beta chapter was established, November 15, 1915. This was the first chapter of a Negro Greek-Letter society to be estab- lished south of Richmond, Va.

The General Board received, in November, 1915, an invitation from Elmer W. Diggs, founder and President of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, to unite with it. The Gen- eral Board after careful consideration, decided not to ac- cept the invitation.

Brother Charles I. Brown graduated in June, 1914, and left to make his home in the West. Brother Leonard F. Morse, after serving one year as President of the Alpha chapter, graduated in June, 1915 and went South to live. Thus, the valuable aid and service of two of the co- founders of the *Fraternity* was lost to the national office

at the very time their help was most needed. Fortunately for the *Fraternity*, Brother Scruggs and Brother Vincent had been added to the list of advisers. Without their vision and judgment, the *Fraternity* would have been greatly hampered during its early years.

There is another group of members, although not of the charter group, but who, nevertheless, because of the valuable service they rendered to the work during the early years of the *Fraternity* and because they have remained loyal and active members up to the present time, are justly entitled to special mention here. These are Prof. A. M. Walker, Dr. M. T. Walker, Dr. Benjamin H. Early, Dr. William Sherman Savage, Dr. John C. Camper, Dr. Frank Saunders, Dr. Bernard Harris and Prof. Thomas McCormick.

### Conclave

The year 1916 found the work of building the *Fraternity* moving forward with great success under the guiding hands of Brothers Vincent, Scruggs and Taylor. We had moved forward to a leading position in campus activities. We had control of the *University Journal*. Brother Vincent was President of the Kappa Sigma Debating Society while Brother William H. Foster was President of the College Y.M.C.A. On the national field, the Gamma chapter had been established at Morgan College, Baltimore, Md. We had three chapters and two hundred members enrolled. Our Motto: "Culture for Service, and Service for Human- ity" had endowed us with high aspirations that were lead- ing the *Fraternity* on to noble achievements. We felt

(Continued on Page 24)

# TIP-TOE THROUGH THE CRESCENTS

by L. D. Reddick

*A lucky old Editor turns pages—and tells about the sights and scenes.*

Well, fellows I got 'em. That is, I got 'em together. After inquiring and searching, begging and borrowing, I finally rounded up some 36 different issues of our "official organ."

Are these all? I believe so, but cannot be sure about it. Neither W. Sherman Savage, our Historian, A. L. Taylor, our Founder, R. O. Johnson, our President or Richard Billings, that veteran of Alpha chapter, could put his hands on or even recall laying eyes on any other issues. Moreover, the *Crescent News-Letter*, earlier this year, asked all Brothers and chapters to check their files for copies not listed. So, chum, if you should discover any number that we've missed, please let us borrow it for two weeks.

At any rate, these are almost all if not absolutely all. Accordingly, the front cover and table of contents of each issue will be photostatted and these reproductions deposited in the offices of the National President, National Executive-Secretary, Editor of *The Crescent* and Founders A. L. Taylor and L. F. Morse. This means that forever afterwards there should be in the permanent records of these five places, facimilies of the face and contents of our official publication.

Perhaps, a little later, we may be able to persuade the Brothers who possess the various scarce issues to part with them so that a complete run of *The Crescent* itself can be bound and placed permanently in the office of the Editor. Understandably, these men who have taken such pains to save the hard-to-find copies want to keep them a little longer.

## *The Beginning*

Well, here they are; piled up on my desk and spread around the office on chairs. How do they look? What do they say?

I hold in my hand, No. 1, Volume 1 of the *Phi Beta Sigma Journal*. I never thought I'd see it. This is the first issue of our official organ. The record shows that a *Fraternity* Editor was elected as early as the 1916 Conclave and doubtlessly released statements and communications from time to time. But November, 1921 marked the advent of the national publication as such.

This initial number was rather small in size, 6 x 9 inches; 14 pages. The cover was slick, white enamel with blue ink. The Frat insignia was in the center of the cover; ads were on the back. Eugene Thomas Alexander was the Editor; A. L. Taylor, Business Manager. I have never had the pleasure of seeing Brother Alexander, to know him; from his photograph on page 11, he appears (or appeared) to be of the "Latin" type—large eyes and ears, olive complexion and wavy hair. The Business Manager's initials are signed to two of the editorials. The Editor himself wrote:

The purpose of the Journal is threefold; first, to report the current activities of all the chapters of the Fraternity; second, to acquaint the various members with the laudable achievements of the Phi Beta Sigma men;

and third, to develop and foster a true Phi Beta Sigma spirit. The Journal will appear hereafter in January, March, May and November.

But it didn't.

There were letters in a "Fraternity Forum" department and chapter notes; a famous composite photograph of Alpha chapter that has been reprinted many times and the words to "Our Cause Speeds On."

This little magazine must have been a "thriller" to the boys way back there in those days.

The *Phi Beta Sigma Journal* next appeared in November, 1922—a year later. It was much like its predecessor in size and format. The new Editor was I. L. Scruggs, the Business Manager remained the same—yes, Taylor. Scruggs initialed two short editorials on the inter-fraternal council and the coming Conclave in Baltimore. Brother Taylor held forth on "the new program" and reported—with gusto—the Atlanta Conclave of the 1921 Christmas season.

In March, 1924, Editor Scruggs, now an M. D., wrote:

After many months of idleness, so far as the publication is concerned, the fraternity again takes its place in the front ranks. You will note a change in the name of the publication. Formerly, it was published under the name "The Phi Beta Sigma Journal." At the tenth annual conclave held at Kappa chapter, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee, the name of the Journal was officially changed to "The Crescent." The honor for the suggestion of this name goes to Mu chapter of Lincoln University, Pennsylvania.

With the new name came a new size 8 x 10 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches; 24 pages. Black letters were printed on the front of a dull blue cover; nothing on the back. The issue was termed "Graduate Brotherhood number." It included sketches of such notables as Dr. Edward Porter Davis, Dr. Alain Leroy Locke, Dr. Thomas Wyatt Turner, James Weldon Johnson, Judge Robert H. Terrell, Prof. George W. Carver and Prof. E. C. Mitchell, who was then President of Payne University. This may be thought of as an embryonic "Who's Who."

This issue, like many another, contains little memoirs scattered throughout, such as the very boyish photo of one R. A. Billings who was then President of Zeta chapter. Another photograph, of Mu, shows old C. P. Johnson, dead in the center—radiating dignity and determination.

The December 1924 issue—what so soon?—was mighty like its brother. It pointed toward the coming Conclave and carried a report on "problems of race adjustment in northern urban centers." There was a half page spread on Brother John A. Kenny, M.D., who in 1908 proposed the Journal of the National Medical Association of which he became manager and later editor. Brother S. A. Barksdale rated a full page pose for being "All-American tackle." The passing of that outstanding Howard athlete, Brother Haywood McPherson Johnson, was mourned.

L. D. Reddick

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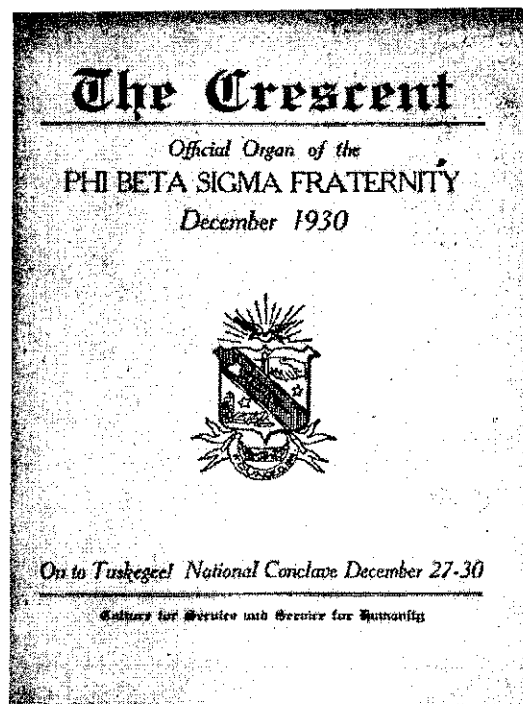
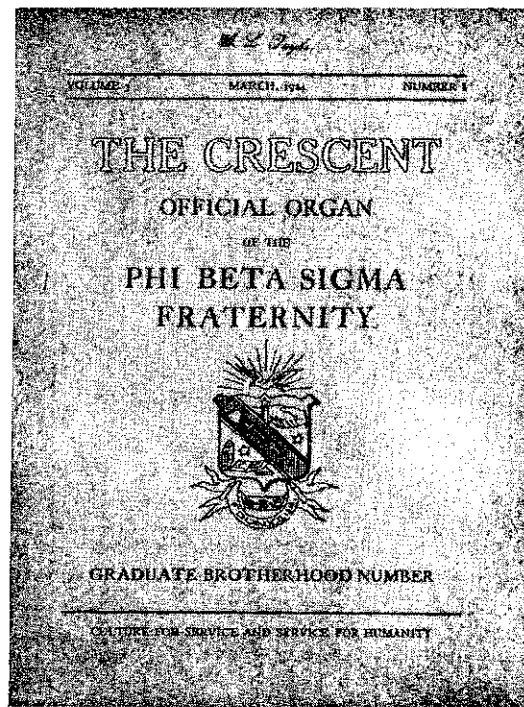
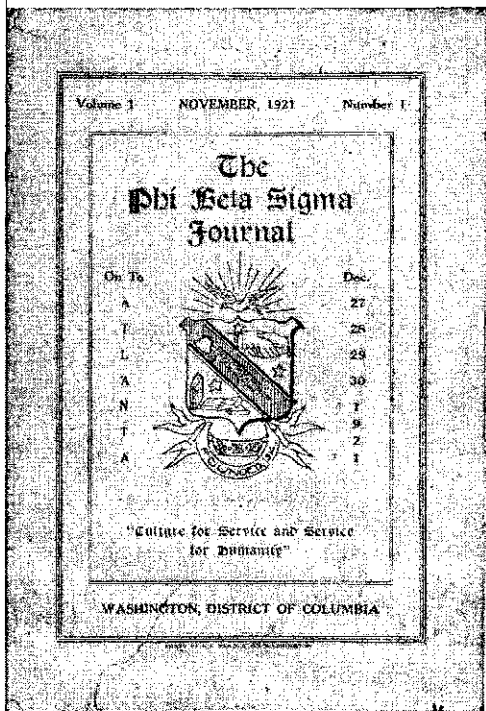
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The March, 1926 issue brought forth a new Editor, Benjamin F. Cofer. From his picture on page 2 he was much less plump in those days than now, as he moves about Atlanta. This new scribe was thankful for his elevation and called upon the brotherhood to give "constructive service" for, he continued, "the world is watching our Fraternities."

There are likenesses and messages of President Arthur W. Mitchell and ex-President J. W. Woodhouse (whose surname was not then printed with the final "e"). There is to be seen a double-page photo of the 1925 Conclave at Richmond which shows about sixty fellows dressed in the winter styles of the times. The *Fraternity* Song was on the back cover with a note that said: air "Auld Lang Syne." The cover was somewhat purplish in color with blue ink.

Editor Cofer quickly put out his next issue—May '26. The format was unchanged. The leading editorial on "Bigger and Better Business" gave unqualified endorsement to the new project. Most of this issue, as with most of its successors down through the years, was devoted to reports of the activities of the chapters and national offices. Perhaps this is the core of any fraternity publication.

This edition also carried accounts of Brother Mitchell's tour of the South and Brother Locke's "masterly address" in Birmingham. Such names as George Blakey, J. W. Jones ("Pee Wee"), F. J. Brown, Jr. (Yep, that's Felix) are encountered as one flips the pages. (Were these college men *then*? . . . yes, that was quite a few years ago.)

#### New Styles

C. V. Troup, now President of Fort Valley State College, became Editor with the March, 1927 number. He used page 4 for the picture of his staff: I. L. Scruggs, literary editor, Frank S. McClarin, associate editor. The colors on the cover were brightened up considerable with a white semi-leatherette background for dark blue ink. This was the "Brotherhood number."

Editorials dealt with "Better Business Week" and a proposed program for a joint inter-fraternal convention. Editor Troup felt that it ought to be a campaign of "active propaganda . . . to place before the nation and the world, the Negro's hopes, wrongs and ambitions."

In addition to messages and papers of national officers (then referred to as General Officers), chapter notes, photographs of several frat houses and groups, a spread on Brother M. W. Dogan, President of Wiley College and others such as: "Pee Wee" Jones, who at the time was scoring 100% on most of his examinations at Meharry, there was an athletic section and a joke section. For the first time, the Brothers really laughed in *The Crescent*. Altogether this was a fine production.

For December '27, Editor Troup changed the cover design. Black letters were printed on a green background with a floral emblem between the name of the magazine and the *Fraternity* seal. Scruggs initialed all of the editorials. On the debate between Kelly Miller and V. F. Calverton, Editor of the *Modern Quarterly*, as to whether Orthodox Christianity had been a handicap to the Negro, Scruggs favored Miller who favored Christianity. On *Sigma's* commission to investigate the conditions of the people of Haiti under American occupation, Scruggs favored the Haitians. On the "Clean Speech" campaign that

was dying a difficult death, Scruggs favored—well, clean speech.

Page 10 shows the best photograph of Brother R. R. Moton that I have ever seen. On page 14, was the likeness of Brother Scruggs' "better half"—not merely because she was this; in her own right she was at that time President of Zeta Phi Beta. John A. Turner, we see, looked then about as he looks now but Walter Carter, Jr., was a youth. Rev. C. L. Russell, who later became a Bishop, looked like a Semitic Knight of the Mystic Sea. Brother Hillard S. Moore, President of Alpha chapter, "died Saturday, October 15, at 12:50 a. m. after a brief illness."

Apparently, no *Crescent* appeared in 1928. The one for April, 1929, it would seem, tried to make up for this. It was the biggest and sportiest *Crescent* ever. It measured 9½ x 12½ inches; 62 pages. The cover was cream leatherette. The type for it was in two tones, blue and luggage tan. Instead of the insignia, there was a quarter moon crescent floating across a cut of the National President. A purple cord bow added the final touch. This was the work of Brother E. Palmer Banks (D.D.S.) of New York.

This issue had more of everything in it than any *Crescent* ever before. There was a short history; a small "Who's Who"; sidelights on the Louisville Conclave; informal snapshots; articles by Alain Locke and James Weldon Johnson; numerous chapter notes, athletics news, a poet's corner (edited by John T. Doles, now New York Attorney) and five pages of "Frat Fun," also with a special editor. Unfortunately, one of the jokes got out of hand. It was "too, too." It caused a little trouble. No, I'm not going to repeat it for you. Incidentally, on page 60 is an intriguing shot of Brother Charles A. Petion, the well-know Manhattan medic with the handle-bar mustachio.

#### Victorian Dignity

In 1930, *The Crescent* moved from New York to Tuskegee. Gone was the flamboyancy of the big metropolis. William A. Clark was editor for four years. He put out five issues—March and December, 1930, March and December, 1931, December 1933. He made them as quiet, as solid and as dignified as possible.

Again the size became 8 x 10¾ inches. The covers became a dull dark blue except for March, 1930 when they were greenish blue.

In addition to the usual copy from officers and chapters, there was an article by Brother Monroe N. Work and poems by Brother Ben N. Azikiwe, who is now the leader of the Nigerian independence movement. Surprisingly, H. L. Mencken's superb piece "The Burden of Credulity," was reprinted. Some attention was devoted to the "Economic Problems of Negro Women"—a topic usually passed over.

James A. "Billboard" Jackson wrote, "Why not make our Fraternity the original business Frat . . ." Azikiwe asked was "Liberia: Slave or Free?" He later wrote a book about this. The music was printed for "Our Cause Speeds On." The melody used then, sounds better than the one we use now (at least, to me). Brother Edward S. Bishop wondered "Will the depression bring the Negro to his senses?" Did it? R. O. Johnson did his first *Crescent* article and what do you think the subject was? "Twentieth Century Speed." Rev. Luther M. Fuller wrote two scathing articles that might have given a hint that he would some day fight the brass-plated jim-crow of the U. S. Army.

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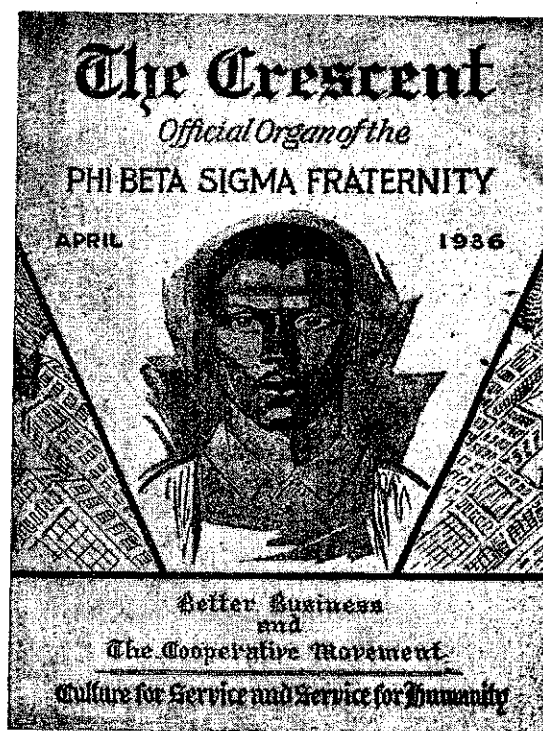
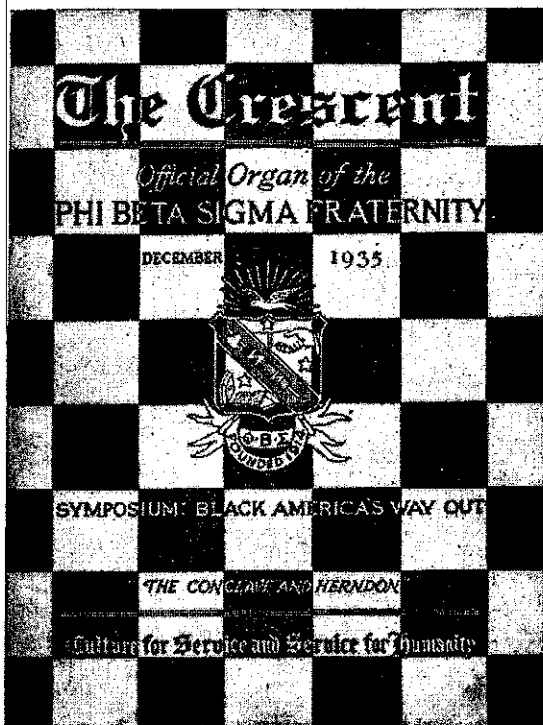
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You recall that during World War II, Brother Fuller, who was a chaplain in the South Pacific, became a hero to his men when he stood his ground for equal treatment for Negro soldiers and candor in stating the real goals of victory.

#### *Social Consciousness*

At that cold Chicago Conclave of 1933, L. D. Reddick was elected Editor. He lasted for three years and put out three numbers (would have done more, had the funds been available). These were lively numbers (he says) that attempted to grapple with several of the crucial questions of American, Negro and fraternity life.

The March 1935 issue was organized around the twin theme: "Twenty years of Sigma" and "Toward Social Action."

The cover was cream; the print was bright blue. On the front were the themes; on the back "On to Atlanta." "The Tower" editorialized mostly about Social Action. Perhaps this was the reason that Brother Taylor, in one of his playful moods, observed that "That Tower appears to be leaning slightly to the left." There was a book review of Brother James Weldon Johnson's *Negro Americans—What Now?*

The December, 1935 front cover was a checkerboard of blue and white squares; the back showed all roads leading to the Atlanta Conclave. Inside, was a symposium: "Black America's way out." Emmett May stood steadfastly for Social Action. Brother James Weldon Johnson turned thumbs down on Communism. St. Clair Drake, now Anthropologist at Roosevelt College, mildly called for a co-operative commonwealth in which "our entire productive machinery is used to supply goods for consumption and employment for men, rather than profits for stockholders."

The gathering up of chapter histories and the elements for a general history, begun in the previous issue, was continued. A *Sigma* basketball team won the New York Metropolitan championship for 1934-34, one story said and Dr. R. A. Billings had done a psycho-genetic study of religious behavior, a book review indicated.

The April, 1936 publication was probably the most ambitious *Crescent* of all. The cover showed the bold face of a worker pushing forward as slanting skyscrapers moved out of his path. The editorial "Tower" set up the symposium "Better Business and the Cooperative Movement." This was merely a come-on for seven splendid articles by the Brethren that discussed critically the vital economic relations of our society. Emmett May plugged for the approach of the National Negro Congress, Jacob L. Reddix for the Cooperative Movement, A. L. Holsey for the Colored Merchant's Association idea, "Billboard" Jackson for the traditional small business; Joseph W. Nicholson emphasized the collective power of the Negro Consumer, Bishop W. J. Walls underscored the responsibility of the church in economic matters while Ned Harris called for basic social change, peaceably if possible, through revolution if necessary. There was a literary criticism of Brother J. R. Coan's biography of Daniel A. Payne.

This exciting issue also included poems by C. V. Troup and that amazing sonnet of social protest, "Awakening" by Octave Lilly, Jr.

The early morning greets him to his task,  
And he must slave until the fall of night.

Small wonder that he chooses now to ask  
The boon that is his own inherent right.  
The luxuries resultant from his toil—  
Enjoyed in freedom by the idle class—  
Are his because he cultivates the soil,  
Or mans the industries of steel and brass.

They call him striker, red, and communist  
Because, awakened from lethargic sleep,  
He cries aloud in order to enlist  
The aid of others like himself from deep  
Renoise aroused. They know his claims are true;  
And strangle him to crush his point of view.

For 1937, B. Franklin Vaughn was Editor. He put out the July and December numbers of that year and another for November '38. After experimenting, Brother Vaughn was able to get the artist Aaron Douglas to do a modernistic design for the cover. It was used for the next four issues. *The Crescent* now was somewhat smaller, perhaps less pretentious; yet full of fraternal news.

Brother E. C. Mitchell, Dean of Morris Brown, succeeded Brother Vaughn. He put out six straight numbers, April, October and December of '39; April, October and December of '40. The page size expanded to 9 x 12 inches; the number of pages contracted down to 20 or 36 per printing. The type was run three columns to the sheet.

In the Spring number for 1939, Brother Holsey came out for "Agriculture: A New Frontier for College trained men." Should not this be added to our better business promotion? Joel W. Smith reported the third annual victory for *Sigma* in the Atlanta inter-frat basketball tournament.

For October, Brother J. Robert Smith, journalist, expressed the thought that the Frat boys ought to promote better business in such a way as to wield power and influence with the politics and government agencies. For December (still '39), some attention was given to the Silver Jubilee. Dr. Billings, for one, did a thoughtful review entitled, "After twenty-five years." Editor Mitchell charged the men to "Keep faith with our fathers." Brother Vaughn seemed to have answered with a piece entitled, "Faith of our Fathers justified." Founder Morse looked back. Carver was again honored. The national offices received a double-page picture display.

The April '40 number showed a new face. This was to be used for 4 issues. The design showed a huge block of color, unbroken line on the right, broken line on the left. Above it were crescent shaped letters; within it were several life-like line drawings. The inset photograph was changed each time. This number also carried orchids to Brother Dewey W. Roberts for leading the fight for equalizing teachers pay in Knoxville, Tennessee; also there was a group photo of the Silver Anniversary Conclave.

The October '40 number carried "Father Divine is God" by Brother Ollie Stewart, well-known newspaper man.

The December number was slight, only 14 pages. It pointed to the Conclave.

William C. Lester of Tuskegee put out the June 1941 *Crescent*. He kept the 9 x 12 size but used the double instead of the triple column page. Clarence Muse was glorified as "Sigma's contribution to Hollywood." Across the bottom of two other pages was an outside shot of the 1940 Conclave at Tuskegee.

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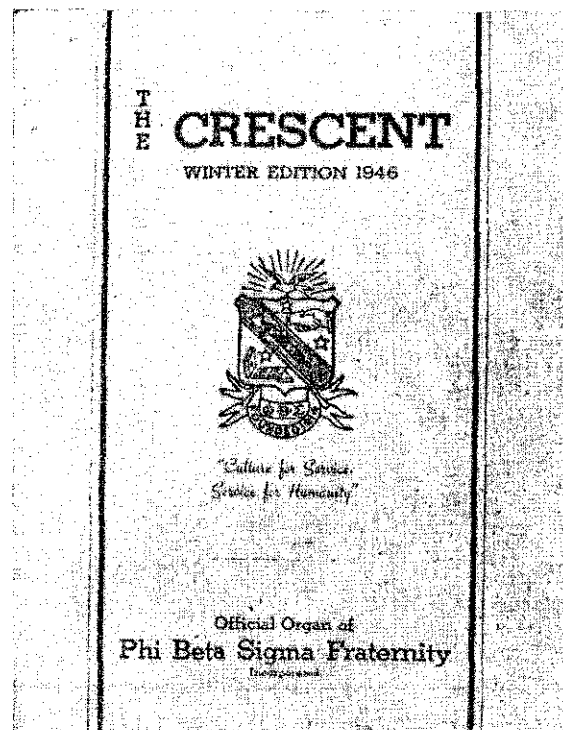
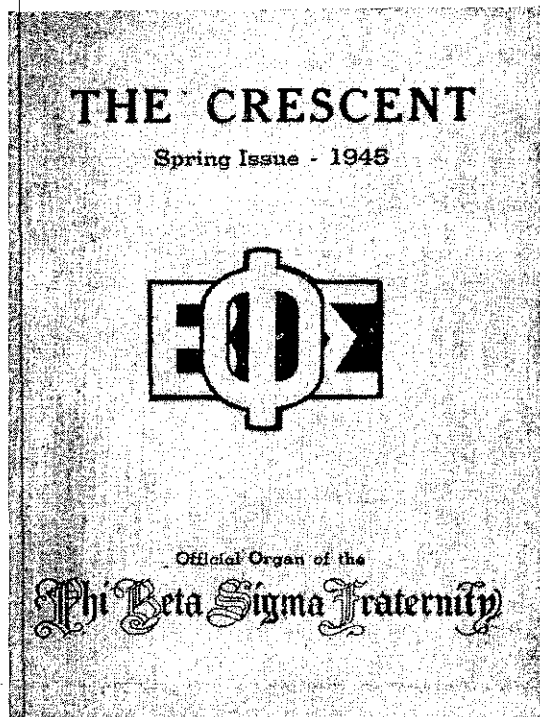
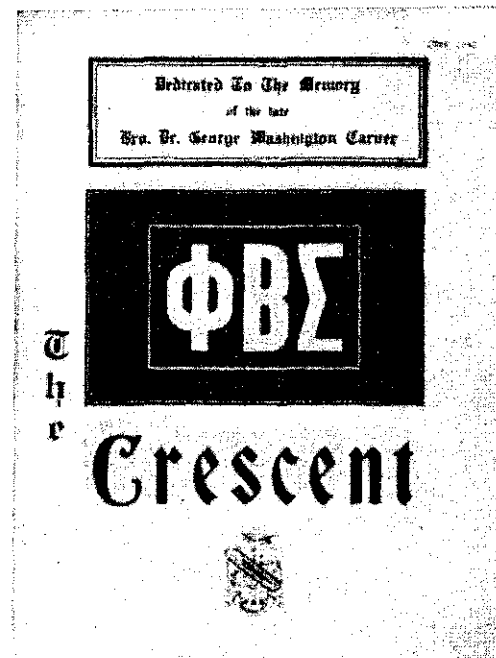
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Brother Vaughn returned to the editorship with the April, 1942 number, putting out successively the ones for December '42, June '43 and April '44. He reduced the dimensions to 8½ x 11 and on two editions put the American flag up in the right hand corner of the cover. (It was war time.)

The April 1942 edition carried a remarkably clear inside shot of the Conclave of '41 at Philly and an outside shot of a group led by President Billings that placed a wreath on the colored soldier's monument at Fairmount Park (also in Philadelphia).

In the December, 1942 number Brother W. Sherman Savage analyzed the influence of the Gaines case on graduate and professional education in the South. Clarence Muse defended the role of the Negro actor in Hollywood, asserting that his parts were becoming better each year. There was a five page illustrated article on the Four Freedoms and one good page on the influence of the war on Negro business. It was a big fat issue.

The June '43 *Crescent* was "dedicated to the memory of the late Brother George Washington Carver." This is still the best round-up on Carver that has appeared: pictures, biography, the bill for establishing a national memorial for him, the testimony at the Congressional hearings on the proposal, poems and tributes of every sort.

This same issue showed Ollie Stewart at the Roosevelt-Churchill Casablanca conference, Lawrence Whisonant (now Winters) the actor-singer in action and *Sigma's* top military man, Colonel Howard D. Queen. The ads helped swell the page total to 72.

The April '44 edition examined the Detroit race-riot of June, 1943 and the promise and plight of the Negro in the North during war-time. Brother A. A. Austin's speech for "Wings Over Jordan" was printed. Brother Elmo M. Anderson's profile appeared on page 18. Brother Sidney P. Dones and the Governor of California were shaking hands on page 35. Mrs. Ida P. (Phil's wife) Jiggetts on page 40 gave a gracious smile appropriate to the New York President of "Sigma Wives." The new melody to "Our Cause Speeds On" by Brother John N. Sharpe was printed. Again, the magazine reached 60 pages.

#### War To Post-War

No *Crescent* appeared again until 1945. During that year Brother Harry O. Abbott, formerly of Tuskegee but then of Chicago, put out Spring and Fall editions. They were small and quite plain. Evidences of the war shortages of paper, newsprint and labor were all to be seen. The pages were closely packed and even more closely trimmed. Social Action was revived. Brothers in the armed services were listed.

The Winter edition of 1946 reflected the return of peace. Again the pages shot up to 60, filled with cuts and articles. Lynwood W. Brown, the National Executive-Secretary was also Editor, the two offices being combined. Was not this a bit of overloading?

Brother Savage described the role of Greek-letter organizations in the post-war period. Frank Smalls, a budding novelist of Manhattan, did an impressionistic essay. A couple of dozen names made up a "Who's Who" for Upsilon Sigma chapter.

The Spring and Fall numbers for '48, both edited by

Brother Brown, are still too recent to require comment. In order to cut down the cost of production, the slick enamel paper was changed for a cheaper, yet serviceable grade for the magazine's "insides". The cover was blue ink on enamel white. Among the numerous cuts was one of the 33rd Anniversary Conclave in Atlanta, 1947 and another of the Lone Star Regional Conference.

In the Spring number, retiring President George A. Parker, gave a candid report on the state of things.

The Fall number showed the Summer Conclave, August 11-14, in Los Angeles and the text of Brother Caliver's Conclave address on "Essentials of Leadership." The truly beautiful blue and white float of the *Sigma* chapter at Fla. A. & M. College deserved to win the first prize—which it did win. This chapter, Alpha Eta, came in for a couple of shots of its "Sigma shrine room" at the college. "Our Cause Speeds On" was printed again; this time the music by Brother Sharp had been transposed by one Janice Johnson of Chicago.

As with the previous number, Brother Brown did not write any editorials. However, he did devote most of page 2 to the American Council on Human Rights. Brown used the triple column page with numerous cuts. His layout was well balanced. Julius C. Thomas, Jr., the National Junior Vice-President, has his say on the housing problem.

The Spring number for 1949—oh, that, gentle reader, you have in hand now. . . .

And so with a hop, skip and jump we see something of the way our official organ has looked: 36 issues; 28 years; 11 different editors and 1,326 pages. Naturally, some editions were better than others—but looking back they are all good to see. Singly, each one directly or indirectly brings to mind some scene or thought; collectively, they are the best public documentation of the *Fraternity's* history and of certain phases of the social and cultural development of Negro life in America, too. The angers and indignations lent fire; the intentional, if not the unintentional, humor lent grace. The ups and downs of life are all reflected here. In a word, *The Crescent*, unlike the British Empire in the 20th century, has been a success.

#### SAVE YOUR CRESCENTS

They will be precious in years to come.

Your grandson would enjoy reading

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## ARE THESE ALL?

Publication	Vol.	No.	Date	Editor	Place of Publication
Phi Beta Sigma Journal	1	1	November, 1921	Eugene T. Alexander	325 Tea St., N. W. Washington, D. C.
" " " "	2	1	November, 1922	I. L. Scruggs	247 William St., Buffalo, N. Y.
The Crescent	3	1	March, 1924	I. L. Scruggs	247 William St., Buffalo, N. Y.
" " " "	3	2	December, 1924	I. L. Scruggs	247 William St., Buffalo, N. Y.
" " " "	4	4	March, 1926	Benjamin F. Cofer	Albany, Ga.
" " " "	4	5	May, 1926	Benjamin F. Cofer	115 N. Jackson St., Albany, Ga.
" " " "	5	1	March, 1927	Cornelius V. Troup	Morris Brown University, Atlanta, Ga.
" " " "	5	2	December, 1927	Cornelius V. Troup	Morris Brown University, Atlanta, Ga.
" " " "	8	1	April, 1929	E. Palmer Banks	148 W. 138th St., New York, N. Y.
" " " "	8	3	March, 1930	William A. Clark	Tuskegee Inst., Ala.
" " " "	8	4	December, 1930	William A. Clark	Tuskegee Inst., Ala.
" " " "	9	1	March, 1931	William A. Clark	Tuskegee Inst., Ala.
" " " "	8	5	December, 1931	William A. Clark	Tuskegee Inst., Ala.
" " " "	9	1*	December, 1933	William A. Clark	Tuskegee Inst., Ala.
" " " "	10	1	March, 1935	L. D. Reddick	Ky. State College, Frankfort, Ky.
" " " "	10	2	December, 1935	L. D. Reddick	Ky. State College, Frankfort, Ky.
" " " "	11	1	April, 1936	L. D. Reddick	Dillard University, New Orleans, La.
" " " "	12	1	July, 1937	B. Franklin Vaughn	401 Edgecombe Ave., New York City
" " " "	12	2	December, 1937	B. Franklin Vaughn	401 Edgecombe Ave., New York City
" " " "	13	3	November, 1938	B. Franklin Vaughn	401 Edgecombe Ave., New York City
" " " "	14	1	April, 1939	Edward C. Mitchell	Morris Brown College, Atlanta, Ga.
" " " "	14	2	October, 1939	Edward C. Mitchell	Morris Brown College, Atlanta, Ga.
" " " "	14	3	December, 1939	Edward C. Mitchell	Morris Brown College, Atlanta, Ga.
" " " "	15	1	April, 1940	Edward C. Mitchell	Morris Brown College, Atlanta, Ga.
" " " "	15	2	October, 1940	Edward C. Mitchell	Morris Brown College, Atlanta, Ga.
" " " "	15	3	December, 1940	Edward C. Mitchell	Morris Brown College, Atlanta, Ga.
" " " "	16	1	June, 1941	William C. Lester	Tuskegee Inst., Ala.
" " " "	17	1	April, 1942	B. Franklin Vaughn	938 St. Nicholas Ave., N. Y. C.
" " " "	17	2	December, 1942	B. Franklin Vaughn	938 St. Nicholas Ave., N. Y. C.
" " " "	18	1	June, 1943	B. Franklin Vaughn	938 St. Nicholas Ave., Suite 37, N.Y.C.
" " " "	19	1	April, 1944	B. Franklin Vaughn	574 St. Nicholas Ave., N. Y. C.
" " " "	[20]	1]	Spring, 1945	Harry O. Abbott	4853 Forrestville Ave., Chicago, Ill.
" " " "	[20]	2]	Fall, 1945	Harry O. Abbott	4853 Forrestville Ave., Chicago, Ill.
" " " "	21	1	December, 1946	Lynwood W. Brown	2009 North Ave., Richmond, Va.
" " " "	22	1	March, 1948	Lynwood W. Brown	2009 North Ave., Richmond, Va.
" " " "	22	2	Fall, 1948	Lynwood W. Brown	2009 North Ave., Richmond, Va.

\* Through error, Vol. 9, No. 1, was used twice.

## ESCENTS

years to come.

enjoy reading

## Commemoration: Year 35

A generation of toil—

Breaking the clod with the bare hand;

Fitting rock on rock with faith;

There is no faith like a brother's faith.

A generation of fun—

Sweethearts dance at the frat house;

Tying the tale to the joke with a laugh;

There is no laugh like a brother's laugh.

A generation of experience—

Summer at the lake with no job;

Baccalaureate and Commencement of hope;

There is no hope like a brother's hope.

Toil, faith, fun, laughter, hope—

Experience deeply shared and deeply felt;

Men living wide with life!

There is no life like a brother's life.

## CONCLAVES? - SURE I REMEMBER THEM!

by J. L. Scruggs

*Here's a man who's made almost all of these national get-togethers—do you remember them this way?*

Which one would interest you most? Any and all in the past thirty-five years? My that's a big order. Did I actually attend every conclave within the past thirty-five year period? Yes, sure, I was there. But don't forget, there were several years, particularly the war years, in which there were no conclaves.

What happened in the Chicago Conclave in 1944 and at Atlanta and Philadelphia in the thirties and early forties? I think you are getting technical now, but if you must know, I can't answer that one. You see, there was a period in our recent history known as the depression. I was so busy during this period, I could not spare the time. Are you trying to put words in my mouth? I said, "time," not money. I could not spend the time to attend conclaves then. However, mister, if you were not at any of these conclaves you are asking me about, "Sure I was there."

*Taylor et al*

The first conclave? I most certainly was there. I remember, too, that the first *Sigma* Conclave was not the only world shaping event taking place then. Von Hindenburg and Ludendorff were winning victories for the Germans and Von Falkenhayne for the Austrians against the Russians in the first World War. As a matter of fact, not too long after this, the Russians folded. The German U-boats were giving the younger American generation some anxious moments. The more care-free were still singing "On the Trail of the Lonesome Pine." What time? You see, it was the close of the year, December 1916. Of course, we had enough chapters for a conclave. We had one, didn't we?

On the roll call, the delegates from Beta chapter in Wiley College and Delta chapter, Kansas State College at Manhattan, Kansas failed to answer "present." Anyhow, we got along. Krutchfield had entered Howard from Wiley College. We made him. By some stretch of imagination, he was installed as a Beta chapter, Wiley College, delegate. Delegates from Alpha chapter at Washington and Gamma chapter, Morgan State College, Baltimore, answered "here." The convention got underway at the Frat House on Third and "T" Street, N W, in Washington. President, Bro. A. L. Taylor, was in the chair and called the meeting to order. The minutes were read by Secretary, Bro. A. L. Taylor, and the money was *not* collected by Treasurer, Bro. A. L. Taylor. President Taylor was not as well off as the British sovereign. You remember, it is His Majesty's army, navy, roads, in fact, everything is His Majesty's, with one exception, the public is permitted to own the debt!

What was accomplished? Everything that President, Secretary, Treasurer, Bro. A. L. Taylor wanted done. He knew the ways of organization. We did dream. We dreamed of expanding to the South, West, East and North. We determined to make our dreams come true.

Already in our heavens, war clouds were gathering. Discouraging storms of conscription were being loosened. Indeed the future of the *Fraternity* was very dark. Seriously you ask, "What was accomplished at that first convention?"

The emergence of His Majesty, the King or the President who not only created the *Fraternity* but worked for and made it go as the Secretary and Treasurer. As engulfment in the holocaust became more apparent, the suspensions of chapter organizations more definite and the occurrence of the *Fraternity* Conclaves less certain, it was reassuring to have the *Fraternity* in the capable hands of Brother A. L. Taylor who *would* see it through.

*After The War Is Over*

There was a Conclave in 1919, also held in Washington, at which the scarcity of delegates was quite apparent, the reason being the close of the war years when the men were still in uniform. It made no special contribution; but at this time, William S. Savage, now the distinguished historian, became President. Well there was one big piece of contribution here. The conclave officially sanctioned the organization of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

Time always has a way of running out. Now, the war had been won for Democracy. The boys were back in school, proudly displaying their medals. A past President of *Phi Beta Sigma* finds himself a passenger on a train heading for Washington and two important engagements.

Yes, this is December 22, 1920. The 1920 Convention was called to order by President William S. Savage. The immediate past President Bro. Dr. I. L. Scruggs, who had served three years, being elected from 1916 through the war years to 1919, was the principal speaker on this occasion. His bride, awaiting him, was a guest of Washington friends. The past president's speech, composed on the train to while away the time, dealt mainly with the successes in organizing new chapters (A. & T., Morris Brown, Tuskegee, Meharry). In all there were delegates from eight chapters.

We have a very fine public meeting, attended largely by our wives and a few well-wishers. Former President Taylor, *former President* on paper, at any rate, calls his official position the General Board. He still did business at the same old stand. He made all of the arrangements, including the program and the agenda. You see, all of the delegates there, were in school, even the President. Bro. Savage was still in school and the principal speaker was just completing his first year's internship.

The new officers, coming out of this Conclave were: President, Walter M. Clarke, Vice-President, H. L. Stevens, Exec. Secretary, Charles R. Taylor and A. L. Taylor (not related) was Field Secretary. For the first time, the *Fraternity* elects its president from a chapter other than Alpha. President Clarke hailed from Morris Brown in Atlanta. The General Board now begins to take shape. It was still to see a few years before it finally became a workable and powerful body. The new *Fraternity* song was lustily sung to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne."

*Down South And Out West*

Another first was established in the 1921 Convention. You will recall that Brother Walter M. Claibe from Morris

by J. L. Scruggs

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he 1921 Convention. l. Clarke from Morris

Brown was made president of all the *Sigas* in the 1920 Conclave. He promptly took the convention to Atlanta the following year. This was the first time the convention seat had moved from Washington. This Conclave was highlighted, first by having present Dr. George W. Carver, the wizard of Tuskege, as the principal speaker; and secondly, by another incident which requires a little setting. The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was meeting in Atlanta at the same time. The two fraternities held a joint meeting. At this time it was proposed that the established fraternities and sororities should work together more harmoniously. In this meeting was born the Pan-Hellenic Council, a pet project of *Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity* and a brainchild of Brother A. L. Taylor. Everyone seemed to think well of this and promised to urge other frats to join up.

The new President, for the first time was a graduate man, John W. Woodhouse, who had originally been elected at the 1922 Convention at Morgan College in Baltimore; the Secretary Bro. was A. L. Taylor and Treasurer, Brother William Clark. The *Phi Beta Sigma Journal*, established in 1921, was edited by Brother C. V. Troup. That Conclave marked the presence of more graduate men than had ever attended before and the passage of the *Fraternity* into their hands for direction. As a matter of fact, the direction of the *Fraternity* had never been out of the hands of Brother Taylor! Of necessity, it could not have been with any expectation of success. This new core of officers undertook to function definitely as the General Board. This particular Conclave marked the ascendancy of Conclaves in the scheme of *Sigma's* organization. The chapters were now looking expectantly for what was being done at these meetings.

In 1923, *Sigma* went West. The Meharry chapter was host. Such stalwarts as Dr. Reid and R. B. Jackson, working with their chapters, made this possible. The Frat House in Nashville was an encouraging sight. The chapter boasted around forty-two men. Out of this meeting crystallized a movement, in response to the general cry from the *Fraternity* for something comparable to the public campaigns of other organizations, which was known as the "Clean Speech Week."

#### Politics And Business

Philadelphia, 1924. There *Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity* "arrived." We had a mob of people at this Conclave. There were representatives from twenty-eight chapters—and all the trimmings. The introduction of the Bigger and Better Negro Business idea was made by way of an exhibit devoted to this topic. At the beautiful formal dance everybody hummed the song, "You're My Judge And Jury."

Sure, I was there, but I wasn't the only one there. The boys from New York, headed by C. P. Johnson and Phil Jiggetts, introduced power politics or obstructional politics—a better name. Whatever you were for, they were "agin it" as a matter of principle. Yes, big time politics had moved in on *Sigma*.

There came to us at this meeting, also, and for the first time, Arthur W. Mitchell. The Alpha chapter boys from Washington brought him along and were very proud of him. He was a former college president, an able speaker and an excellent lawyer. Fate had decreed that he should preside over this organization for nine years after 1925. Another man from Washington, who did not come

along with the Washington delegates at this time, sent his ideas. He was James A. "Billboard" Jackson. At that time he was connected with the Department of Commerce in the field of small business. The business display and its later evolution into Bigger and Better Negro Business, were largely his contributions. The President, Brother Woodhouse, had his hands full. He survived it, even the "politicking" and the Conclave, after its close, assumed a memorable, never to be forgotten, position in our history.

Sure, I was there in 1925, I mean at Richmond. What was the most important thing to come out of the Richmond Conclave? It's pretty hard to say. One thing I remember was that it was the coldest Conclave of all times. Richmond weather went six below and that's cold by anybody's measurements—particularly if you are in homes that are not prepared for such weather.

Richmond was gay, beautiful, colorful and hospitable. Bigger and Better Negro Business was established as *Phi Beta Sigma's* official movement. The *Phi Beta Sigma Journal* had been changed to *The Crescent*. Arthur W. Mitchell was, for the first time, elevated to the presidency.

Time is running out on us and complete detailed delineation of succeeding Conclaves seems to be impossible. However, it might be appropriate to say a word about Arthur W. Mitchell and thus deal with the Conclaves of his time, from 1925 to 1934.

#### The Mitchell Regime

We met him, first, in Philadelphia, you remember. He was a man of vigorous personality. He was scrappy. He was almost garrulous. He had a way of getting things done. He knew people and made excellent contacts. He brought great dignity and respect to the *Fraternity* by his elevation. No one unseated him because no one could. In fact the boys loved him, that is, they loved him until—but now I am getting ahead of my story.

Conclaves rolled off in succession: 1926, A. & T., Greensboro; 1927, St. Louis; 1928, Louisville; 1929, New York; 1930, Tuskegee; 1933, Chicago and 1934, Washington. The years 1931 and 1932 marked the depth of the depression years and the absence of conventions.

I might go back to 1929 in New York. This convention that marked the establishment of the Distinguished Service chapter is interesting but time will not permit the full story. The first man to receive this medal was Brother Jesse W. Lewis, the Executive-Secretary of the *Fraternity*.

The Chicago Convention marked the last year of election of brother Arthur W. Mitchell. The "little Napoleon," except that he wasn't little in any sense of the word, had dominated the *Fraternity* for nine years. There were twenty-eight chapters when he became president. There were thirty-four active chapters when he retired in Washington in 1934. There had been, however, established an all time high of seventy-five active chapters. Most of these came before 1930. The net balance was more a measure of the devastation of the depression years than anything else.

The Conclave came home to Washington in 1934 to celebrate its Twentieth Anniversary. It came, too, to the source of its beginning to gather new courage and fortitude. The *Fraternity* was to begin the task of rebuilding itself, both at the center and at the periphery. Not all had been

going well, even in the higher councils. Bickering and resentments were cropping up.

#### *From Depression To War*

The strong man who undertook the responsibilities of rebuilding was Jesse W. Lewis. He had been the Executive Secretary for almost as long as Mitchell had been President. He brought intimate knowledge of the *Fraternity's* functioning to his office. He was a man of zeal and infinite capacity for work. These were to stand him in good stead as he labored through 1935 and 1936, adding new chapters and new outlines.

As we go hurriedly through recitals of ever-recurring Conclaves, detailing here and there some event which we think ought to be mentioned, I am painfully aware that the whole process is becoming more and more skeletonized. The need for dress, color, some description of business and social details, the natural accompaniment of these affairs, becomes so apparent that some amends must be made.

Host and delegate John Q. Sigma is now the big man, by and for whom these shows are financed and staged, "King" A. L. Taylor having long since departed. It is John Q. Sigma who fills in the blueprint, receives reams of advertisements, attends public meetings, smokers, beautiful dances and basks in the inter-fraternal courtesies. It is he who listens to and makes reports—and gets into the Conclaves pictures.

The persons who parade across the pages of this recital are like a particular instrument of the orchestra, say, the violin, standing out because it carries the melody. Sometimes, these people represent the successful development of a movement or an administration or something else equally important that was originated by the Conclave. The orchestra, however, may change the tune from year to year and the particular instrument which shall carry the new variation or melody.

New York in 1936 and Detroit in 1937 do not vary too much from the typical Conclave. Stepping up to relieve President Jesse W. Lewis in 1936 at New York was Attorney James W. Johnson. He was an important "cog" in the New York State National Guard. Near the end of his term of office, which was for one year, things were beginning to take on serious aspects in Europe. It became more and more apparent that war in Spain was being used by some of the powers as a testing ground. It was evident that war might spread to all Europe any time. Our own government planned to make use of the National Guard in an emergency. A great deal of the President's time was, therefore, consumed in camps and with the expected federalization of the state troops. One had the feeling that he was relieved when the Detroit Conclave elected Attorney George W. Lawrence.

This energetic new leader took up the cudgels of the rebuilding. Old chapters which had died off as the result of the depression were now being reclaimed. Bigger and Better Business Programs only whispered before, were, now moving to the fore, clearly spoken. Efforts were made to reclaim inactive college affiliates. In such a program, the Conclave of Winston-Salem in 1938, Washington in 1939 and Tuskegee in 1940, were continuing milestones.

There was sufficient time out in 1939 to celebrate the Twenty-fifth Anniversary. Appropriately enough this was held in Washington.

The 1940 Conclave in Tuskegee, saw a change of administration. Following the long term of office by Arthur W. Mitchell, the *Fraternity* passed legislation limiting the term of office of the president to three years. Thus President George W. Lawrence's term was up. Called to the place of leadership to fill the gap, was Bro. Dr. R. A. Billings, Atlanta, Ga.

In 1941, the Conclave moved again to Philadelphia. On the long road back from the depression, Philadelphia stands out as the seat of one of the biggest conventions ever witnessed by the *Fraternity*. The economic outlook in this country has been extremely bright. Men were working as never before and men were ready to travel. The brothers would have enjoyed Philadelphia immensely. There was just one hitch. Outside *Sigma's* confines, world conditions had gone from bad to worse. Europe had been at war two years. At the time of the Philadelphia Conclave, the "sneak" attack on Pearl Harbor was three weeks old. The United States was now at war.

The Billings administration, which began in 1940, was to extend the allotted three year term. Only one Conclave was held, since the war stopped all conventions not directly related to the war effort. This isn't quite right. A Conclave was attempted in 1943. The unsettled conditions of the country made it entirely impractical to hold it at that time. However, at Easter of 1944, the convention was called in Chicago. Incidentally, this marked the first time in our long history of Conclaves when the period was changed from the usual Christmas time.

In the meantime, the Billing's regime had its troubles. The graduate chapters for the most part, remained fairly intact, but the *Fraternity* lost the greater membership of college chapters. It was a struggle to maintain the spirit of vitality of the *Fraternity* during these dark days. Young men were called to war.

The 1944 Conclave witnessed the appearance of Bro. L. F. Morse. He was one of the three Founders. It also saw the election of Attorney George A. Parker of Washington, D. C., Dean of Terrell Law School, to the leadership of the *Fraternity*. Three others of that profession, Messers, Mitchell, Lewis and Johnson had preceeded him. When he came to power, the urgent business of rebuilding had almost come to an end. *Sigma* had restored most of the relapsed chapters and added many new ones. More than one hundred and five chapters were active. Indeed, after two years of his administration it became necessary to organize the Pacific Coast Region under the leadership of Clarence Muse, the actor.

#### *From War To Post-War*

The Parker regime visualized its problems as occurring in two categories. These were efficiency and planning. The administration used both the St. Louis and the New Orleans Conventions of 1945 and 1946 to develop these strategies. In St. Louis, the Constitution was changed to permit the employment of a paid Executive-Secretary, responsible to the President. To this post, came Bro. Lynwood Brown of Richmond, Va. The planning and intensification of programs, which saw their beginning in the St. Louis Conclave, came to full fruition in the New Orleans meeting. Bro. S. Edward Gilbert of St. Louis headed Better Business as Director. Bro. Horace Johnson, II, of Chicago became Director of the newly expanded Department of Education and Bro. Attorney George A. Blakey of Chicago became Director of Social Action.

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Like the preacher, I am afraid I have not kept my text before me at all times. Perhaps I should reassure any "doubting Thomases." Sure I was there at St. Louis. I have cherished memories of courtesies extended both Mrs. Scruggs and me as past presidents of our respective organizations by our Sisters of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. They were meeting in St. Louis and in the same building with us in 1945. The spirit of comradeship was completely captured by both organizations. This was the first of such experiences; it must not be the last.

I have to relate the story of a man whose ideas only you have met up to now. You will recall that in 1924 at Philadelphia, Bro. James A. "Billboard" Jackson fathered the idea of a business exhibit. This became, the next year, the Bigger and Better Negro Business movement. Bro. Jackson, after leaving the Commerce Department became a business representative of the Esso Standard Oil Company with headquarters in New York. As their representative, it was his business to contact various conventions all over the country. His special equipment as an able speaker and an expert in business methods and particularly businesses conducted by Negroes kept him in demand and constantly on the go. As a crusading Sigma, he has made himself available during these travels and has visited more chapters and rendered more service than almost any other living Sigma. Expense accounts for these favors? He hadn't any for Sigma!

In beautiful New Orleans in 1946 the boys surprised him. For his constant and continued loyalty and service to Sigma, he was elected Business Counselor for life and he was given a folder in which every member present was happy to make a small financial contribution and to write a statement wishing him a long and continued life of usefulness. His reply to all this? It was not long, but it was eloquent. He was completely unaware of what was happening. He stood erect, struggled a moment for composure to speak, then covering his face with a handkerchief, left the assembly. Thus was the humility of this noble man in the hour of one of his greatest triumphs. To the Parker Administration goes the credit of uniting with the other Greek lettered organizations in laying the foundation for cooperative social action, which later resulted in the establishing of the American Council on Human Rights.

Reorganization of the Regionals is another red feather for the Parker rule. The various Constitutional changes, reorganization of existing departments, Social Action, Regional changes, are in agreement with Bro. Parker's make-up. At the beginning, he was introduced as a lawyer. He is that, all right and more. He is a teacher with a flare for order, efficiency and punctuality. This should argue well for the end results of the 1947 Convention; out of it, another teacher grasped the helm.

Up To Now

Cultural Atlanta, seat of the greatest number of Negro educational institutions, beckoned for the 1947 Convention. I can assure you, it was no ordinary beckon. You will recall that an invitation was issued in New Orleans to hold the next Conclave in Los Angeles. This meeting was to take place in the Summer of 1947. As time moved forward, many things happened to discourage such a meeting, not the least of which was a statement from the Los Angeles chapter that the invitation was premature. The beckon

which Atlanta gave was a response to a short notice and was, indeed, self-sacrificing. For this the Fraternity was grateful.

It was the appropriate setting, not the cause, of the Fraternity breaking for the first time a rule in practical politics adopted following the New York Conclave of 1936. At that Convention, New York took several offices. In Atlanta, the Conclave looked for another top-notch man to follow Bro. Parker. They chose Bro. R. O. Johnson. To complicate matters, they also chose for the third straight time, Bro. Dr. George Hightower as Treasurer, both men coming from Atlanta. The Atlanta men insisted, with Brother Hightower leading the fight, that he not be re-elected. His record as treasurer was so satisfactory—well, you finish this sentence.

A firm and steady hand grasped the reins of leadership at Atlanta. There was work to be done and it must be done fast.

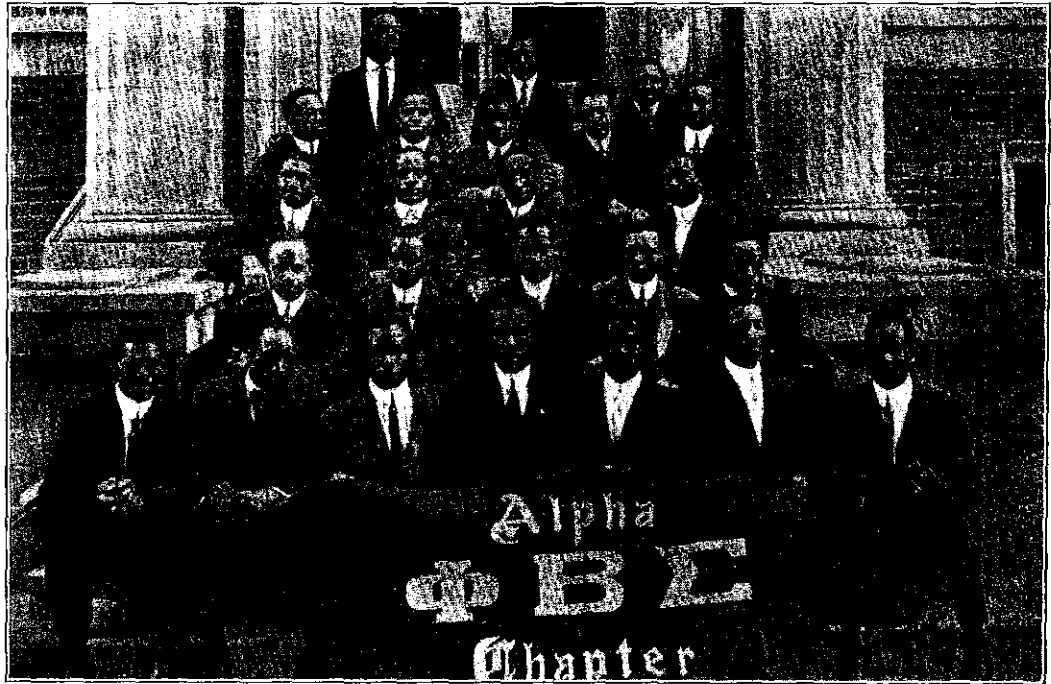
An invitation to hold the 1948 Conclave in Los Angeles was confirmed in Atlanta with the proviso that the meeting be held in August. This automatically cut a twelve, to a seven-month year. "On to Los Angeles" advertisements in reams flooded Sigmadom. Things were coming to pass so swiftly that a booklet was issued detailing these accomplishments. Instructions to Regional and Chapter Headquarters to finish their work in record time appeared in every mail. The end-result was one of the most satisfactory Conclaves the Fraternity has experienced.

Los Angeles, August 11, 1948. Sigma men from everywhere by bus, train, and plane were crowding into this beautiful town which nestles by the sea in Southern California. Beautiful is trite and does not do justice to its sprawling majesty. Its wide clean streets, tall stately palms, and terraced gardens, surrounding originally styled multi-colored, stucco homes; defy comparison with other American towns. There were stories of travel to be "swapped" depending on whether one came by the northern or southern route. Many were seeing the great West for their first time.

This convention which lasted from August 9 to August 14, 1948 developed a few enlightening statistics, if not records, in Sigma Conclaves. It was the first time we held a Summer Conclave and with it, the largest attendance of all time. In normal progression the latter, of course, is to be expected. However, the enormous distance of the seat and consequent expense to delegates, made it justifiably debatable as to whether or not, in its early planning, it was wise to accept such an invitation. The response to the Summer meeting was so gratifying, coupled with the fact that so many men with families protest leaving home at Christmas time, that the convention moved to poll the chapters on the possibility of permanent Summer meetings. Another record was the presence at the Conclave of representatives of every chapter connected with the Western Region.

As this Convention came to a glorious end, it returned to office practically the entire administration. There were some shufflings. Bro. H. Alexander Howard of Los Angeles replaced Bro. S. Edward Gilbert as National Director of Bigger and Better Business. The latter became National Director of Publicity. Bro. Attorney Huston Lovell of New

(Continued on Page 35)



The earliest group photograph ever taken, Howard, 1914



## THE FIRST FOUR YEARS

(Continued from Page 11)

strong enough now to issue a call for our first National Convention.

This Convention was held at the Alpha Chapter House, 1907 Third Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C., December 28th-29th, 1916. At the business session on Saturday, the 28th, I stated that I felt three years were long enough for a National President to hold office. In the election that followed, Brother I. L. Scruggs was elected National President; I was elected National Treasurer and Brother William F. Vincent was elected National Editor. The Convention address was given by Brother Professor L. M. Hershaw. Dr. John R. Hawkins, Financial Secretary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, brought greetings from the community and Mr. George W. Hall represented the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

The year 1917 opened with war clouds hanging low over America. These clouds soon forced our country into war. Through the help of Brother Charles I. Brown one of our Founders, who was teaching at Topeka Institute, Topeka, Kansas, we were able to establish the Delta chapter at Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas.

The year, opening under war clouds, closed in a shadow of sorrow for *Phi Beta Sigma*. Brother William F. Vincent, gentleman, scholar and loyal brother after several months of illness, left for his home in Oklahoma. In the closing days of 1917 he joined what we later called our Omega chapter. His parting words to me, as he boarded his west-bound train, were: "Taylor, carry on for *Sigma* until we meet again." This I have tried to do to the best of my ability.

← Dr. R. A. Billings, former President of both Alpha and Zeta chapters as well as National President of the Fraternity.



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# On To Washington December 27-30, 1949

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Conclave, Summer, 1948, Los Angeles, California



## "FOR THE GENERAL WELFARE"

By L. D. R.

*A critical review of the public programs Sigma has sponsored through the years.*

It may sound funny but the first national public program we had was "Clean Speech." This indeed made us Boy Scouts—almost Sunday School Boy Scouts. As self-appointed guardians of purity of thought and word, we were no doubt expected to keep the watch at all points against any utterance of "d--," "h--," "s-o-b," "b--" and all the other pungent Anglo-Saxon words of that family.

By exemplary conduct at all times and an intensive campaign during "Clean Speech Week," the youth of the land were admonished by the Frat boys to avoid any such profane or vulgar words.

In all this can be seen something of the 18th century ideal of the gentleman that was quite the thing in Negro liberal arts colleges until quite recently.

Fortunately or unfortunately, this clean speech expedition never amounted to much. It didn't make any headway. It came too late in the history of mankind. By the early 1920's, when the movement got its start, everybody seemed to have already known about these "bad" words and apparently were fascinated by them. Even little children, who could scarcely write their own names, would scribble sexy expressions on the walls of their school houses. Moreover, most public officials and all military "Brass" were famous for their "soldier's and sailor's talk." Lest we forget, Harry S. Truman is not the first President of the United States who could be a little salty at times.

A. L. Taylor writes that the Clean Speech movement was started at Lincoln University by Mu chapter in the Spring of 1923. It was adopted by our national convention the next year. It petered out after a year or so.

The sophisticated Sophomore today may look back on such a campaign and smile. All the same, the effort may have done some good in that the college men it touched became more conscious of the effectiveness of restraint in profanity. "Cuss" words, like all others, lose their flavor when overworked, when tossed about indiscriminately and too frequently. A gentleman reserves them for a real show of anger, disgust, contempt, scorn or ennui.

### *Business And Cooperation*

The Bigger and Better Negro Business idea was first tested in 1924 with an imposing exhibition in Philadelphia. This was held in connection with the Conclave there. Some two-score leading Negro businesses sent statements and a half hundred sent exhibits. The whole show took place in the lobby of the Y.M.C.A. Several thousand visitors seemed to have been impressed. The response was so great that the 1925 Conclave at Richmond, Virginia voted unanimously to make Bigger and Better Negro Business the public program of the *Fraternity*. It has been so ever since.

The celebrations are usually held during April. Usually they take the form of mass meetings, tours, exhibitions, conferences and so forth and so on. These campaigns apparently hit the spot with the public. The economic problem is fundamental and there is nothing so sickening as to go through Negro neighborhoods throughout the

nation and find them infested with white merchants who virtually monopolize even the corner grocery store trade.

Everybody agreed that something ought to be done about this. The Frat boys saw that public education on this point might help. That is to say, by showing the need for Negroes to go into business, the possibilities and opportunities in this field and at the same time by dramatizing the little known successes that had occurred, it was hoped to open up an all-out economic offensive for the colored brother.

This fitted in very well with several other developments of the time. For example, Brother James A. "Billboard" Jackson was for years a specialist in small businesses for the U. S. Department of Commerce. Brother R. R. Moton was President of the National Negro Business League. Brother Albon Holsey came along with the Colored Merchants Association plan for cooperative buying. During the later twenties and early thirties, he had over 250 grocery stores agreeing to purchase jointly. There were several other large attempts to grapple with the specific problems involved.

On the other hand, little attention was given to the basic question as to whether individuals of a minority group, starting so late in the development of the American economy, could establish a beachhead there. Were not small businesses in general being swallowed by the chains, devoured by mergers and monopoly?

Brother Jacob L. Reddix came along in the winter of 1932 with a fresh approach to the problem. While he was teaching in Roosevelt High School of Gary, Indiana, he organized a remarkably successful consumers cooperative. Two years later he published a pamphlet entitled, "A Five Year Plan of Cooperative Action for Lifting the Economic Status of the Negro in Gary." By 1935, the original \$24, which Brother Reddix had collected during the first meeting of his cooperative buying club, had grown to \$35,000. Was not this the way to better business—and for the many instead of the few?

At any rate, these and other ideas were explored in the special issue of *The Crescent*, April, 1936, that was devoted to "Better Business and the Cooperative Movement."

There appeared to be several general points of view on this. First, there were those who dreamed of a black economy set up within the American economy in which Negro customers would buy from Negro retailers, who in turn would buy from Negro wholesalers, who in turn would buy from Negro manufacturers, who in turn would be financed by Negro banks, etc. There might be somewhere up the line a Negro stock exchange!

Secondly, there were those who believed in consumer cooperatives, cooperative buying, cooperative distribution, cooperative production—backed up by credit unions.

Thirdly, there were those who labeled the first group as fantastic dreamers and the second group as impractical



The National Board gets together with officers of Upsilon Sigma chapter, Chicago, January, 1949.



Lone Star Regional Board Meeting, Austin, February 19, 1949

idealists whose cooperative societies were bound to be wiped out during any serious economic crisis. Capitalism, this third group said, was in its dying stage; would not stand such a week-kneed challenge to its profit-making and "must have minorities to crush in order that it might flourish a while longer." Accordingly, the only real hope of economic salvation was in the labor movement. The labor movement would lead us all to a new class-less society, where, among other things, all agonizing over race would vanish.

### Column Left

This third position showed something of the influence of *Sigma's* third public program—Social Action. This has been by far the most controversial issue in the history of the *Fraternity*. Its proponents ardently believed that it was the green light to the future; its oponents, with equal ardor, insisted that its color was not green but "red." The idea got going rather interestingly. Surprisingly, its ultimate origin was in Rome, not Moscow. It happened this way.

Brother Elmo M. Anderson is a prominent Catholic lay-leader. He was highly conscious of the Encyclical of Pope Pius XI calling for the reconstruction of the social order. Whatever may have been the motivation for it, this was a directive to achieve social justice through social action.

So in 1934 Brother Anderson took this idea out of the manual for Catholic Action, adapted it and developed it for Social Action for Epsilon Sigma chapter of which he became President.

It was a tremendous success. It fitted in with the social thinking of the American public in those New Deal years. It was embraced by the Marxists who saw in it the image of Stalin and Lenin, not the Pope.

In that cold Winter of 1934 Brothers Anderson, James W. Johnson, Emmett May and Bob Jiggetts came down to the Conclave at Washington and presented their Social Action proposition. It was forthwith adopted. "This was it!" everybody said. At long last fraternities, at least one of them, had "come of age." The newspapers gave wide publicity to all of this. *Sigma* had stepped out ahead of the other Greeks. *The Crescent* heralded the triumph. Emmett May was made Director of Social Action, a new office.

Social Action flourished for about four years. *Sigma*, more than any other Greek-letter organization, had something to do with the founding of the National Negro Congress. Brother Emmett May was inside the inner circle. Brother Bishop Walls was an enthusiast from the first. Brother Reddick presided over the Civil Liberties section at the founding of N.N.C. in Chicago, February, 1936. The Frat boys moved against lynching, discrimination, segregation; stood uncompromisingly for complete equality—economic, political, social, cultural. *Sigma's* name was linked with the most vigorous, progressive, labor and social welfare movements.

The conservative Brothers—especially those from the South—thought that this was too much. Some of them admitted their middle class aspirations. The whisper of "Communism" became more and more audible. The issue flared out into the open, causing violent argument within and between chapters. Horror of horrors, it actually split one chapter wide open.

And so the wise ones toned down Social Action, wrap-

ped it in moth balls and put it away for awhile—until 1945 when it re-emerged in a memorandum that Doles, Anderson and Reddick prepared for President Parker.

The mood of the Frat boys as well as of the American public in general reflected the fact that the depression had gone and war had come. As President Roosevelt himself said, Dr. New Deal had moved on, Dr. Win-the-War had taken over. In like manner, *Sigma's* new Social Action was muted.

The Alpha Kappa Alpha lobby, the Alpha Phi Alpha citizenship campaign as well as the present, joint, all-frat American Council on Human Rights came after *Sigma* had forged Social Action. If the *Fraternity* had been able to keep the program in hand and to carry along with it the full membership, *Phi Beta Sigma* would be much more famous and effective today than it is. Thus, again, another social invention has been passed on. Another golden opportunity imperfectly realized.

### Education—For What?

The fourth public program was Education. This has always been rather vague and indefinite. From its beginning, *Sigma* has given scholarships. The early issues of *The Crescent* contained many references to the Douglas Scholarship Fund. Brother Zaid D. Lenoir in *The Crescent* for March, 1931 called for a national education program.

In those days, each region had a director who was also a Vice-President of the *Fraternity*. Brother Lenoir as Vice-President for what was then called the Western Region did have a chance to push his plan. Later when Social Action was put "on ice" because it was too hot too handle, Education came to the fore. A national office, Director of Education, was established; Brother (now Major) Fred Minnis became director of this office and stimulated activity through an Education Week.

Even now, we have such a national officer (whose handsome photograph appears in this issue of *The Crescent*) and such a "Week."

Should not this public program be eliminated? Why should we celebrate two (2) "weeks"—Bigger and Better Business and Education? Furthermore, the Alphas have an Education Week (and in May). Would we want to copy after them? We need not try to do everything but *one thing well*; strive for a single, dramatic effect on the public mind. All authorities on public relations or propaganda will tell you that.

Surely the week—Education Week—ought to go; that is, ought to be wiped out. The national office, if it is to be kept, should confine itself to the essay contest and the promotion and administration of funds for scholarships and loans. And the essay contest itself should be confined always to some subject on some phase of the economic question.

Clean Speech, Bigger and Better Negro Business, Social Action, Education—we have experimented with all these through the years as our national public programs. Our greatest success has come with Bigger and Better Business. We ought to stick to that! Let us modernize it and tie it in with government agencies and promote it in bigtime fashion with space in all of the newspapers and coast-to-coast radio broadcasts. We should keep it broad

(Continued on Page 33)

## OUR NATIONAL CONCLAVES

1916	Washington, D. C.	1933	Chicago, Ill.
1919	Washington, D. C.	1934	Washington, D. C.
1920	Washington, D. C.	1935	Atlanta, Ga.
1921	Atlanta, Ga.	1936	New York City
1922	Baltimore, Md.	1937	Detroit, Mich.
1923	Nashville, Tenn.	1938	Winston-Salem, N. C.
1924	Philadelphia, Pa.	1939	Washington, D. C.
1925	Richmond, Va.	1940	Tuskegee, Ala.
1926	Greensboro, N. C.	1941	Philadelphia, Pa.
1927	St. Louis, Mo.	1944	Chicago, Ill.
1928	Louisville, Ky.	1945	St. Louis, Mo.
1929	New York City	1946	New Orleans, La.
1930	Tuskegee, Ala.	1947	Atlanta, Ga.

1948 Los Angeles, Calif.

There were no Conclaves in 1917 and 1918 because of World War I; in 1931 and 1932 because of the Great Depression; and in 1942 and 1943 because of World War II.

## OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

1914	A. Langston Taylor	1932	Arthur W. Mitchell
1915	A. Langston Taylor	1933	Arthur W. Mitchell
1916	A. Langston Taylor	1934	Arthur W. Mitchell
1917	I. L. Scruggs	1935	Jesse W. Lewis
1918	I. L. Scruggs	1936	Jesse W. Lewis
1919	I. L. Scruggs	1937	James W. Johnson
1920	W. S. Savage	1938	George W. Lawrence
1921	W. A. Clarke	1939	George W. Lawrence
1922	W. A. Clarke	1940	George W. Lawrence
1923	J. W. Woodhous	1941	R. A. Billings
1924	J. W. Woodhous	1942	R. A. Billings
1925	J. W. Woodhous	1943	R. A. Billings
1926	Arthur W. Mitchell	*1944	R. A. Billings
1927	Arthur W. Mitchell	*1944	George A. Parker
1928	Arthur W. Mitchell	1945	George A. Parker
1929	Arthur W. Mitchell	1946	George A. Parker
1930	Arthur W. Mitchell	1947	George A. Parker
1931	Arthur W. Mitchell	1948	R. O. Johnson

1949 R. O. Johnson

\*Billings term expired in April, 1944; Parker's beginning at that time.

## FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICERS

### —Vice-President

Fellow Greeks:

It is my pleasure to extend fraternal greetings to all our brothers throughout the world.

As we look back over the past thirty-five years, rich in accomplishments and traditions connected with *Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity*, rich in the achievement of the great men who hold memberships in this organization and rich in the development of fellowship and friendship, which came only through close fraternizing, one with the other, we have reason to expand our chests and feel proud of our *Fraternity*, proud of the place it holds in our hearts, proud of the genuine brotherly love it epitomizes, proud of the loyalty to the cause that has been a part of our daily lives through the years.

Our *Fraternity* today, I think, is in the strongest position that it has ever been within my knowledge. Our chapters are stronger in personnel, both in quantity and quality; our prestige throughout the country is growing rapidly; our finances are in better condition than ever before and our National Office is functioning at its best.

During the post-war period, up to now, we have witnessed a most remarkable period of expansion within the realm. Expansion must always bring a thrill to even the most blasé of fraternity men. To those brothers who trace their membership back to the early days of *Sigma* when it numbered perhaps a dozen chapters—or even fewer—there comes the smile of happy contentment with the news of each new group added to our ranks.

Welcome then to all of the new chapters. May you fall into step with *Sigma's* onward march towards greater achievement.

We are aware of the fact that despite our remarkable growth and despite our phenomenal expansion, there is much to be desired in the matter of REACTIVATING ALL INACTIVE BROTHERS AND CHAPTERS. This is a MUST—it is something that can easily be accomplished—only a little effort is needed. Let each and every man of *Sigma* rededicate himself to the cause of REACTIVATION. Bring in the inactive brother!

And finally let us do a job towards the building of a Foundation Fund for *Sigma* through Life Memberships.

As we look back over the past thirty-five years with pride. Brothers, let us also look forward towards our goals with great enthusiasm and much determination and *Sigma's* cause will speed on to the greatest possible heights.

Yours for a Greater *Sigma*,  
Felix J. Brown, M.D.

### —Junior Vice-President

With a rich cultural tradition *Phi Beta Sigma* has reached a new high among the fraternal organizations of America. It is quite fitting and proper that we bring to *Sigma* men this historic review of 35 years.

To continue our march forward we must give attention to under-graduate *Sigma* men and encourage their educational growth and strong development. Under the leadership of Dr. R. O. Johnson, National President, special attention is being centered on under-graduate activities.

We are requesting graduate and under-graduate chapters to cooperate in sending large delegations with adequate representation from under-graduate chapter to all Regional meetings. Special sessions should be devoted to the programs and problems of under-graduate chapters. Further, a program of social activities, educational forums, debates should be planned at Regionals by the under-graduate men. Contact should be made with all recognized Greek letter fraternities and sororities to provide reciprocal entertainment. It is our earnest hope that every *Sigma* man will aid in developing the program of under-graduate activities which is the life-line of our Brotherhood.

The under-graduate chapters of the *Fraternity* are expected to continue to develop the national educational program and bigger and better business and also social action.

The National Board has approved the following under-graduate program for 1949:

1. Each under-graduate chapter is requested to send news each month to the National Executive Secretary for publication in *The Crescent*.

2. Each Regional Director is requested to select an outstanding under-graduate *Sigma* man, idea or event each month for publication in the newspapers.

3. This office has been authorized to help remedy any under-graduate grievances with reference to the Regional Program or to the National Program. Each under-graduate chapter represents the *Sigma* leaders of tomorrow. Every effort will be made to see that the under-graduate men are integrated into our National Program.

4. Stimulate better working relationships with the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority in each local area. Establish a "*Zeta-Sigma*" Day.

5. The National Board has been authorized to select a superior Fraternity Badge (i.e., Gold content, Pearls, etc.) as the standard pen.

6. The naming of a graduate advisor for each under-graduate chapter in the *Fraternity*, said list of advisors to be kept on file in the office of the National Junior Vice-President and Executive Secretary.

7. The establishment of an award to the outstanding under-graduate *Sigma* of the year.

8. Present Lecture Recitals featuring the National Junior Vice-President and Brother Albert N. Logan, dramatic baritone and other artists. Proceeds for benefit of local chapter sponsoring event.

Julius C. Thomas, Jr.

### —Executive Secretary

Greetings to ALL MEN OF *SIGMA*:

For the year 1949 your National Office plans several vitally important steps which will need the whole-hearted support of every "live" *Sigma* Brother. First, Crescent Pins are being stocked by this office to give faster service to Undergraduate chapters; second, we plan to conduct with your help a campaign to bring back into the fold every inactive unattached Brother wherever he is. This means that YOU are asked to send to us the names and addresses of all such members you know. "Once a *SIGMA*, always a *SIGMA*."

Third, leading off with our first paid-in-full Life member in the person of our National Treasurer, Brother Dr.

## NATIONAL OFFICERS

EDUCATION



Horace F. Johnson, II

SOCIAL ACTION



Hutson L. Lovell

BETTER BUSINESS



H. A. Howard

PUBLICITY



S. Edward Gilbert

George L. Hightower of Atlanta, Georgia followed by Brother H. A. Howard of Los Angeles, Brother E. P. Jimson of New Orleans and Brother Ras O. Johnson. We want 50 Life Members by the time of our 1949-35th Anniversary Conclave. Remember, Life Membership exempts you from the payment of National Membership Tax and establishes a sound financial structure for OUR Fraternity.

Fourth, our initiation Ritual has been reprinted up-to-date and every chapter should request a copy as soon as possible to be sure that there is uniformity in this important phase of our activity. Fifth, serious consideration and attention must be directed by every member, chapter and officer at all levels to the successful operation of our National Programs of Social Action (American Council on Human Rights), Bigger and Better Business and Education (Scholarship). Activate your committees—be workers, not drones in the hive of Sigmadom!

Remember that the office of your National Executive Secretary is a SERVICE OFFICE for *Sigma*! Only your cooperation in submitting reports and meeting deadlines can permit the essential growth of our doctrine of Culture for Service and Service for Humanity. Support your Local, Regional and National Offices. Send your suggestions and constructive criticisms to your National Executive Secretary.

William E. Doar, Jr.

—Director of Bigger and Better Business

Greetings Brothers:

Our Bigger and Better Business Program should include a well-planned workshop conference. Outstanding speakers should be secured from the universities. Subscriptions should be obtained from persons in the area—preferably men and women in business.

A well-planned banquet should come at the workshop's closing session.

Chairman of the Bigger and Better Business Week Program should be one who is versed on current affairs.

Enough funds should be raised during this workshop conference so that a certain portion can be sent immediately to the Executive Secretary of the national office.

It was the consensus of the national executive board, meeting in Chicago last January, that sufficient funds should be raised to help defer expenses of the Social Action committee. Hence, a budget of \$5,000 for 1949 was set up. Therefore, the allotment for each region is \$625. The Regional Director and his associates shall determine how this money will be raised.

As a matter of good business, each Director should keep in close touch with the local president, the National President and the national executive office.

H. A. Howard

—Director, Social Action

Greetings:

It is a pleasure for me to have the opportunity to greet my Brothers in *Sigma* in this 35th Anniversary Edition of *The Crescent*.

As you now know, our fraternity is affiliated with American Council on Human Rights, an organization comprised of seven National Greek Letter Fraternities and Sororities with permanent headquarters in our Nation's Capital. Our National Program of Social Action is largely

the program of ACHR. As your National Director of Social Action, my program shall consist of supporting ACHR and of effectively augmenting that support by maintaining constant contact with all National Officers and Chapters of the Fraternity.

In addition to the foregoing, I propose to furnish leads and factual information on matters of Social Action to the Executive Director of ACHR for action by that body. I shall circularize all National Officers and Chapters concerning the activities of ACHR, as well as other matters on which chapters and individuals may take direct action in support of the program. For example, on February 22nd, 1949, I mailed a letter to all National Officers, Regional Directors and Chapters requesting that they wire or write their United States Senators relative to support of amendment of the Senate rules to bring about Cloture and thus make possible the enactment into law of the various measures constituting the President's Civil Rights Program.

Social Action is everybody's program. We are committed to work for Federal and State Fair Employment Practice Acts; to destroy Jim-Crowism, segregation and discrimination everywhere; to fight for Federal Aid to Education; to abolish the Poll Tax and other infringements on the right to vote.

TO SECURE THESE RIGHTS and thus to SPEED OUR CAUSE, we should support candidates for political office who aid our program and work to defeat those who do not, and we should continue our fight for equal justice everywhere and against all forms of discrimination based on race, color, creed, religion or national origin. In brief, the intensification of support of Social Action by all Chapters is to be the program of your National Director for 1949.

Hutson L. Lovell

—Director of Education

Dear Brothers:

As you know, the Constitution calls for the National Director of Education and an Education Commission to administer the Fraternity's educational program. This work has four phases: an essay contest, scholarship achievement awards, scholarship fund and the celebration of Education Week.

I. Our essay contest was launched on March 1st. The topic selected was: "The Relationship of Business To Civil Rights." The prizes amount to \$1,800. Male seniors in senior high schools are eligible. Results will be announced in due course.

II. Beta chapter of Wiley College, Beta Gamma chapter of Hampton Institute and Alpha Alpha chapter at Wilforce won trophies for high scholarship. These awards were made possible through the generosity of Big Brothers, Dr. Alain LeRoy Locke, Attorney George W. Lawrence and Dr. I. L. Scruggs.

III. We have several thousand dollars on hand for scholarship; this is not enough. Each chapter, especially the graduate chapters, should contribute \$50 to this fund. We should be able to grant at least one scholarship in each region and provide for scholarship loans to needy brothers who have outstanding records.

IV. The National Board has approved the third (3rd) week in May as our National Education Week. This is the time for general cultural activity: musicals, forums,

art exhibitions, etc. This is a good time to bring the talents of some of our not-so-well-known Brothers to the public.

Horace F. Johnson, II

—Director of Publicity

Greetings Brothers:

As we pause to observe our 35th Anniversary, it is fitting that we turn our thoughts to a splendid program of publicity.

Greek Letter organizations today are being called upon to offset adverse criticisms such as: "they have outlived their usefulness in the scheme of things," "they are but a bunch of dance hounds." To the latter I quote from the pen of one Carl Murphy, Editor of the *Afro-American*, 1926:

If the *Afro-American* were asked to recommend a college Greek-letter Fraternity today, it would say without qualifications to young men, 'join if you can the PHI BETA SIGMA.' Our judgment as to quality is based on the official notices these fraternities, Alphas, Kappas, Omegas and *Sigmata* have sent for their annual conventions which meet Christmas week. If there are any tea and dance hounds in *Phi Beta Sigma* you cannot tell it from the official notices, which explain that fraternity's effort to send a commission to Haiti and the Virgin Islands; which also tells the fraternity's interest in a nation-wide business week celebration and name important men who will address the convention.

Twenty-three years later *Sigma* still enjoys a prestige second to none, with its coordinating programs of Bigger and Better Business, Social Action and Education.

Today, therefore, the national publicity program must be keyed to promote public acquaintance and an understanding of the objectives and activities of *Sigma*, stimulating both intra- and extra-interest in and developing support of its three-fold program.

A factor which will help set the tone and bear importantly on the national publicity pattern, is that every local chapter consider itself a fountain-head of publicity in its own right. This means that chapters throughout the nation must engage continuously in publicizing the program activities of the *Fraternity*.

Your office of National Director of Publicity proposes to place much emphasis upon three established informational media: newspapers, radio and motion pictures.

In order to give adequate publicity to our major program, "Bigger and Better Business," all officers national, regional, state and chapter are encouraged to utilize the facilities of local radio stations. Prepare human interest stories in successful businesses in your locality, encourage the cooperation of local commentators and newscasters, develop a variety of programs including talks, interviews and dramatizations on local stations with *Sigma* men participating.

We ask that every *Sigma* man consider the following recommendations:

1. That all members indicate their membership in the *fraternity* when giving news of individual activities which are worthy of publicity.

2. That all members who have as a hobby the filming of pictures with 16MM cameras join a proposed project of filming outstanding businesses in action, for example, the Broadway Saving and Loan, the North Carolina Mutual, etc. from which a documentary picture portraying Business on Parade, could be cut and shown before local

chapters, business organizations, high schools, conferences on business and other meetings.

3. That all local chapters make press releases on all worthwhile undertakings, because published or not such copy keeps saying to the city editor, *Phi Beta Sigma*.

4. That each member forward to the National Director all clippings observed so that we may compile and evaluate same.

5. That each chapter and regional organization select someone with newspaper experience to serve as an assistant to the office of National Director of Publicity. This Brother's responsibility shall be the turning out of informational material designed to publicize the story of *Sigma* in his particular locality. The names of those selected should be forwarded to this office at the earliest possible time.

S. Edward Gilbert

## "FOR THE GENERAL WELFARE"

(Continued from Page 28)

that the *farmer*, the *laborer* and the *cooperator* are specifically included as well as the individual *merchant*.

As for Social Action—just now our greatest strength should be thrown to the joint effort of the American Council on Human Rights.

In a more general way our own distinctive economic program ought to be infused with the philosophy of Social Action; that is it should be based upon the philosophy of a much more cooperative society than we now have. This, we recall, is not new for it is embodied in our historic slogan, "Culture for Service, Service for Humanity." We ought to mean just that!

Junior Vice-President



Julius C. Thomas, Jr.

## SOME IMPORTANT DATES

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| October 8, 1913      | Idea of <i>Phi Beta Sigma</i> presented by A. Langston Taylor to Leonard F. Morse; later to Charles I. Brown, fellow students at Howard University.  |
| January 9, 1914      | Idea had crystallized; three founders organized <i>Phi Beta Sigma</i> with nine other charter members: I. L. Scruggs, W. E. Tibbs, Jacob E. Jones, J. R. Howard, S. P. Massie, W. F. Vincent, B. A. Matthews, T. L. Alston, Joseph A. Franklin, all students at Howard University. |
| April 15, 1914       | Board of Deans, the governing body of Howard University, recognized the new fraternity.  |
| May 4, 1914          | First initiation—14 men. Abraham McCartney Walker was the first candidate to be initiated. Alpha chapter established.  |
| March 4, 1915        | Herbert L. Stevens first graduate member to be initiated.  |
| November 15, 1915    | Beta chapter, Wiley College, authorized by General Board; established by Herbert L. Stevens.   |
| December 27-30, 1916 | First conclave, Washington, D. C.  |
| 1919-1920            | A. Langston Taylor helped Zeta Phi Beta get started.   |
| January 31, 1920     | <i>Phi Beta Sigma</i> incorporated.  |
| November, 1921       | First issue of <i>Phi Beta Sigma Journal</i> .   |
| March, 1924          | Name of official organ changed to <i>The Crescent</i> .  |
| December, 1924       | Exhibition on Negro business held in Philadelphia, Pa., at Conclave.   |
| December, 1925       | Conclave voted Bigger and Better Business as national public program.  |
| December, 1929       | Distinguished Service or Key chapter authorized by Conclave; Omega chapter for deceased Brothers established.  |
| December, 1934       | Social Action program adopted by Conclave.   |
| January 5, 1946      | First George W. Carver Day observed by <i>Fraternity</i> ; also proclaimed by President of the United States.  |

## TO SIGMA

scattered sons with lofty hopes and aims,  
 eving greatness which the world proclaims,  
 ding life with tenderness sublime,  
 with design which knows no race or clime,  
 als to selfish man to serve and love  
 : handiwork created from above;  
 Beta Sigma stands this test of years  
 mely over blight and cringing fears.  
 unflinching will that cannot fail,  
 sacred cause advances to prevail.  
 us the conscience staunch and spirit brave,  
 aster stormy sea and angry wave,  
 as the curtain falls o'er this brief life,  
 march triumphant from this din and strife.

Ben N. Azikiwe,  
 Formerly of Mu chapter,  
 Lincoln University, now  
 Editor of the *West African*  
*Pilot*, Nigeria.

## CONCLAVES?—SURE I REMEMBER THEM!

(Continued from Page 23)

York City replaced Dean George A. Parker as National Director of Social Action. He had been a member of the General Board in some capacity for four consecutive years.

As the men gathered their belongings to wend their long march home, there rang in their ears, the oft and familiar greeting "On to Washington." Only the year had changed. This time it was for 1949.

Are you asking, "If I was at the Los Angeles Conclave?" Were you there? "No?" "Sure, I was there."

## SAVE YOUR CRESCENTS

They will be precious in years to come.  
 Your grandson would enjoy reading  
 them.

FIRESIDE CHAT WITH "BILLBOARD"



Iota chapter (Shaw) exchange quips with Sigma's National Business Counselor. From left to right: Adrew A. Meadows, Numa F. Jones, T. Newkirk, Phillip E. Powell, Charles A. Cheek, James A. Jackson, Guthrie L. Turner, Jr., Joseph H. Pollard, Robert T. Simmons, James R. ad and Claude C. Gerr. Not shown are: David N. Henderson, Prentiss I. York, Zaron W. Burnett, N. Freeman Jones and Clarence E. Smith.

## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

By R. O. Johnson

*Our National President gives seven guiding Principles. What about them?*

Back of every institution or association lies an idea. When ideas change, the institution or associations embodying them change. *Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity* is no exception to this general principle. It was founded upon the ideas of Brotherhood, Scholarship and Service. Part of its heritage is the whole history of Greek letter collegiate societies, which had their beginning in this country in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. The first of these was *Phi Beta Kappa*, organized at William and Mary College at Williamsburg, Virginia, in 1776. The Negro Greek letter organizations came into existence much later—the first in the last decade of the nineteenth century.

*Phi Beta Sigma* was founded in 1914. This year, 1949, marks the thirty-fifth year of its existence. During these thirty-five years, it has grown from the small beginning of one chapter to a national organization with 154 chapters. Many changes in the social orientation and organizational structure have taken place. These changes are reflected in the special programs sponsored; the emphasis of National Conclaves, and the persons elected to positions of leadership.

In tracing these changes, the social climate of opinion and the changing status of the Negro and his institutions are clearly discerned. Not only is the impact of changing social conditions clearly seen in the development of *Phi Beta Sigma* but the cumulative experiences of the organization in its pursuit of its ideals have also been an important factor in its development. This is as it should have been and as it undoubtedly will continue to be. It is therefore fitting and proper to ask on this occasion of the observance of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the *Fraternity*, "Where Do We Go From Here?" or "Toward What Goals Should We Work in the Future?"

Where Do We Go From Here? That is the question which every individual, group or organization should ask as new milestones are reached. Perhaps, the first step in answering this question should be to take a glance into the past to determine (1) goals set, (2) means used to achieve those goals, (3) successes and failures experienced in the process. But to do that here would call for a history of *Sigma*. Let us assume, then, that those who read this article are already reasonably familiar with the history of the *Fraternity*; that the other articles included in this edition will be read and that they will serve to point up the highlights of this development. Let us address ourselves to the central question, "Where Do We Go From Here?" This question will be discussed under the headings: (1) Structure or Organizational Framework, (2) Fiscal Policy, (3) Program, (4) Developing and Selecting Leadership and Evaluation of Organizational Functioning, (5) Preserving Historical Records, (6) National Headquarters, (7) Ritualism.

### Structure

It has already been stated that back of every institution or association is an idea. The idea is the primary thing; it is basic. From it we gain a sense of direction; it dictates

the content, the method, and provides the starting point for the evaluation of efforts put forth in pursuit of that idea. The ideas upon which *Phi Beta Sigma* is built are clearly stated in the Preamble and Section 2 of Article I of its Constitution, which states:

"Whereas, the objects for which this fraternity is formed are to develop the ideals of brotherhood, service and scholarship, and to promote the general welfare of all concerned. . . ."

—From The Preamble

"The object of this fraternity is the promotion of brotherhood, scholarship and service."

—Constitution, Article I, Section 2

Next to the idea in importance is structure. Perhaps, William Sumner has given the best definition of an institution. He states: "An institution consists of a concept (idea, notion, doctrine, interest) and a structure. The structure is a framework or apparatus or perhaps only a number of functionaries set to cooperate in prescribed ways at a certain juncture. The structure holds the concept and furnishes instrumentalities for bringing it into the world of facts and action in a way to serve the interests of men in society."

It is obvious, then, that no matter how sound or worthy the ideas, it comes to naught unless there is an effective organization to bring the idea "into the world of facts and action." In seeking to adapt structure to the ideas upon which it rests and in accordance with the extension of these ideas in space, *Sigma*, during its thirty-five years of existence, has undergone many changes in structure. Now that it has truly become national and international in scope, efforts are being made to capitalize upon the experiences of the years in improving the effectiveness of functioning within the framework of the present structure rather than changes in structure.

The present structure of the Fraternity includes (1) a staff of eight elective national officers, and four appointed officers, (2) ten regions, which are defined in Article XIV of the Constitution, each of which is required by the Constitution to elect a corp of officers of which the chief officer is to be designated as the Regional Director, (3) a General Board, which consists of the eight elective national officers and the Director of each of the ten regions, and (4) graduate chapters, undergraduate chapters, the Distinguished Service chapter and members-at-large.

The functions of each of the eight elective officers are clearly defined in the Constitution. The functions of the four appointive officers have been clearly outlined by the Board. Likewise, the functions of the General Board, the Regional Directors, and Chapter Officers have been clearly set forth.

Presently and in the years ahead, primary consideration must be given to improving the functioning of these officers and the General Board, and effecting a greater degree of coordination of all of these. The major responsibility

## OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT



R. O. Johnson

for bringing about this improvement must be placed upon the National Executive Secretary, who is the only officer to whom a salary is paid. *The goal toward which we must strive is effective functioning within this framework.*

*Program*

Through the years, *Phi Beta Sigma* has carried on various programs in an effort to promote the ideas or "objects" of the *Fraternity*. Some of these have been discarded wholly, whereas others have been modified to meet the demands of new situations. Presently, the *Fraternity* has a three-fold program—Better Business, Education, and Social Action. There is a National Director in charge of each phase of the program.

In recent years special attention has been given to developing a greater degree of coordination between the three phases of the National Program. Better Business is the heart and core of this three-fold program. The other two phases of the program—Education and Social Action—are viewed as important factors of Better Business.

Education is an important phase of any program. The *Fraternity's* Education Program includes an annual national essay contest for High School Seniors, granting of scholarships to deserving students on both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and the observance of Education Week in May of each year. State and Regional cash prizes are given for the winning essays, submitted in the essay contest. An example of the efforts being put forth to achieve close coordination between the three phases of the program is to be found in the subject selected for the 1949 Essay Contest—"The Relationship of Business to Civil Rights." Here all three phases of the National Program of the *Fraternity* are brought together.

The *Fraternity* seeks to carry on a year-round program for the promotion of Better Business. Each year the Better Business Program is culminated by special observances of Better Business Week during the month of April. Business clinics are held for persons engaged in business and the general public; exhibits of successful businesses are prepared and shown; business men visit high schools and

discuss with students such subjects as "Business as a Career," and "Requirements for Success in Business"; persons who have made outstanding achievements in business are selected for citations and awards. A plan has been worked out for cooperating with Junior Achievement, Inc., and the Bureau of Small Business of the U. S. Department of Commerce.

For many years *Phi Beta Sigma* has carried on a program of Social Action. In 1948 the *Fraternity* joined with five other Greek Letter organizations—Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, in setting up a cooperative program of Social Action. An organization known as the American Council on Human Rights (ACHR) was founded. Headquarters for the ACHR were established in Washington, D. C., with a staff of three full-time persons — a Director, an Assistant Director and a Secretary. A description of the program and the objectives of the ACHR are given elsewhere in this Journal. In April, 1949, Kappa Alpha Psi became a member of the Council.

As one traces the development of each of the three phases of the National Program of *Phi Beta Sigma*, and the program as a whole, he will note three significant trends, namely, (1) an effort to achieve a greater degree of coordination between the three phases of the program; (2) an effort to make the programs more practical and deal with the major issues of the times; and (3) an increasing degree of cooperation with other organizations with similar objectives and programs. These are healthy signs and they indicate the directions and goals for the future.

#### *Fiscal Policy*

The operation of any program today requires finance. Successful operation of any program requires a sound fiscal policy. Most programs fall far short of their potentialities when judged in terms of their central social purposes or social objectives and the extent to which these purposes or objectives are achieved. When viewed superficially, one may conclude that the main cause for the failure of most programs to realize to a large degree the full potentialities of such programs is the lack of finance. This conclusion does not seem to be valid. The basic cause for the failure is to be found in the shortcomings and frailties of the leadership. Perhaps the greatest weakness of those in positions of leadership is the failure to operate on sound business principles—failure to operate on sound business principles.

That phrase covers more than seems to meet the human eye or the mind. It means the failure to make careful analyses of sources of income and items of expenditures; failure to analyze potential income and to compare actual income with potential income; failure to analyze returns from expenditures to determine justification of expenditures; failure to make detailed reports of all financial matters to the constituency and to justify all expenditures; failure to operate on a budget; failure to take necessary and effective safeguards against misappropriations; failure to distinguish between what should be done in accordance with principles of good investment and what one would like to do on the basis of sentiment; failure to keep accurate and detailed records; failure to recognize one's official position as a sacred trust and to realize that one is a servant of those who have entrusted their

money and interest to his keeping and handling; failure to do these things are the basic causes for many organizations not receiving or not having sufficient finance to operate a full and constructive program.

*It is not the lack of money within the organization but the lack of money in the organization's treasury.* This is an important distinction. Indeed, it must be remembered that an organization is first and foremost the constituency and not the official family. The problem, then, is not the lack of finance, but the lack of finance in the treasury. And to reduce the problem to its lowest common denominator we find that failure to apply sound business principles results in lack of confidence, interest, and enthusiasm among the constituency and under this condition the flow of finance from the constituency into the treasury is slow and uncertain.

Likewise, the failure to apply sound business principles permits money too easily to flow out of the treasury. The operation of either or both of these conditions will mean a shortage of funds to operate a program whereby the full potential value of the program can be realized.

What, then, can be said regarding the fiscal policy of *Phi Beta Sigma* which has as its main public service program the promotion of Better Business? What of the present, and what of the future?

Fortunately, today there is a realization among all members of *Sigma* that the greatest opportunity for inculcating in a large number of people an understanding of and appreciation for good business operation is to be found in the one hundred and fifty-four chapters, the ten regions, and the thousands of members who constitute the *Fraternity*. There is much evidence that this realization is bearing fruit in terms of constant improvement of the fiscal policy and business operation. There is much evidence that the increasing interest in making further improvements along these lines will continue. It is mandatory, by virtue of the nature of the program, that *Phi Beta Sigma* be and demonstrate, through the operation of all its affairs, the finest and best example of "good business."

*Sigma* has inaugurated a policy of separating all funds upon receipt of remittances by chapters and members. Separate bank accounts have been opened for the two special funds—the Educational Fund, and the Reserve Fund. All remittances are broken down in order to be able to ascertain the actual source of the total income. Definite policies have been established to guide the expenditure of all funds. Negotiations are under way for securing a blanket surety bond covering every chapter and regional treasurer as well as the National Executive-Secretary and the National Treasurer. Both of the latter are already covered by bonds.

The policy of preparing and submitting to the entire membership a complete report of the total income and expenditures and an itemized list of the sources of all income and the purposes of all expenditures has also been inaugurated. It is believed that this policy is in keeping with good business principles and has a real educational value. It is further believed that these trends indicate the directions and goals for the future.

#### *Organizational Functioning*

Perhaps the greatest single justification for the existence of fraternities and sororities is the opportunities provided by them for developing leadership. This is par-

ularly true for Negroes, for the majority of Negroes are ill to be found in Negro colleges where most of the undergraduate chapters are located. However, in order to make further use of these opportunities more attention must be directed toward the specific goal of developing leadership. This will involve the following: (1) Closer relationship between undergraduate chapters and graduate chapters, in which persons will be selected from graduate chapters to serve as counselors or advisors to undergraduate chapters. Such persons should have an understanding and an appreciation for the principles and techniques of guidance and group work. (2) Definite criteria for evaluating program planning and program activities, leadership abilities of members in relationship to the various functions to be carried on by the chapters, handling of chapter meetings, record keeping, fiscal policies, public relations, and all other phases involved in operating a chapter, could be developed.

These criteria should be provided all chapters. Each chapter should be encouraged to use such criteria as a guide in planning and as a basis for self-evaluation. Counselors or advisors selected from graduate chapters should assist the undergraduate chapters in evaluating themselves. Likewise, each graduate chapter should appoint some person from its membership to serve as an observer of the functioning of the graduate chapter and to work with the undergraduate chapter in helping it to evaluate its program. This procedure should be followed by the regional and national offices as well as the chapters. However, the chapters provide the best opportunity for using such procedures due to the size of the group, the frequency of meetings, and the relationship of members to each other with regard to knowledge of personality characteristics and leadership abilities.

Furthermore, whatever values may be derived from such procedures when used in the chapters will be felt at the regional and national levels. (3) Regional and National meetings should be planned in such a way that members may engage in activities which will assist them in carrying on chapter activities and improving their quality of participation in chapters. The first step, then, is to make an analysis of the various activities which must be carried on by chapters. Such an analysis would reveal the following: Planning and carrying on Better Business programs, (2) planning and carrying on Education programs, (3) planning and carrying on Social Action programs, (4) preparing news releases and carrying on other public relations activities, (5) preparing budgets, and keeping and making financial reports, (6) auditing financial reports, (7) preparing statistical and descriptive reports of activities of chapters and regions.

Regional and National meetings might well be planned to include clinics or workshop dealing with these problems. The findings from such clinics or workshops could then be compiled in the form of handbooks for use by chapters in carrying on their programs. It hardly need be said that the value of such experiences would go beyond proving the effectiveness of participation of members in the Fraternity. It should have the effect of improving participation of members in all organizations. In this way the Fraternity can fulfill its responsibility for developing leadership among its members which will be felt throughout the local, state, and national communities. These seem to be the desirable goals for the future, and

there is evidence that the Fraternity is moving in this direction.

### Preserving Historic Records

One of the distinctive attributes of man is his ability to do reflective thinking and to use the past as a means of understanding the present and making improvements in the future. Records are necessary to facilitate this process. Phi Beta Sigma has recognized this fact, and has taken steps toward collecting the records which have historical value. Among the efforts being put forth to prepare and preserve historical records are: (1) the collecting and binding of all issues of the Fraternity journal—*The Crescent*; (2) the publication of the *Sigma Light: A Handbook for Members of the Crescent Club*; (3) the writing of a history of Phi Beta Sigma; (4) the collecting and filing of photographs of important events; (5) the publishing of special editions of *The Crescent*. The continuation of this effort to preserve the historical records of the Fraternity should be an important goal for the future.

### National Headquarters

Every national organization should have a permanent national home. Many things depend upon it. Certainly the preserving of historical records depends heavily upon the existence of a permanent national headquarters. The acquiring of a national home should come in the near future. This should be an immediate goal.

### Ritualism

Ritualism and ceremony are characteristic of all institutions and associations. However, there is always danger that ritualism and ceremony may become the chief concern of an institution or association. It is therefore important that ritualism and ceremony be constantly examined to determine their relationship and value to the achievement of the central ideas and purposes of an institution. Certainly, the time is long over-due for fraternities and sororities to examine their ritualism and ceremony as regards the initiation of members into these organizations. To say that these initiations are barbaric and idiotic is to put it mildly. Attention should be called to the fact that throughout the country high school students are copying that part of Greek letter organizations which is most obvious to them. The results are that Greek letter organizations as a whole are severely criticized and many of their valuable contributions are negated by the attitude of the public toward their initiations. Many chapters and members of Phi Beta Sigma are giving serious thought to the need for a careful examination and revision of the ritualism and ceremony of the Fraternity. This is a healthy sign.

In the light of the seven principles described above, we should be able to move forward with a firmer sense of direction and with hope and faith in a greater destiny.

### SAVE YOUR CRESCENTS

They will be precious in years to come.  
Your grandson would enjoy reading them.

# THE GIRLS FROM BENNETT

By A. Ramea Horton

*Lovely Songbirds from Bennett pay a visit to Morehouse—and how!*

It was a gloomy, wet afternoon when, upon announcement of some good watchful brother, we looked out and beheld the Bennett girls' bus. Suddenly the campus brightened. And what was it all about—very simple yet grand and unique—the charming and tantalizing ladies of the famous Bennett College Choir were here on Morehouse Campus as the guest of Chi chapter of *Phi Beta Sigma*.

Were we not proud? Were they not happy? Who believed it would happen? No one—but how real!!! As we—*Sigma* men—went out to greet our guests, their smiling faces betrayed their long harnessed anticipations and overwhelming joyousness to have come. We could not long hide the pride and conceit that filled our breasts. We knew we were scoring—and high!!

Well, the girls were here—the work though great, the expenses though tremendous—made only one thing important—to give our guests a good time. That was an obligation, a must, a pleasure; that was *Sigmaism*. So, after the first concert at Wheat Street Baptist Church, the brothers and some other kind Morehouse men who decided that they should share the pleasure of entertaining these "lovelies" joined to take the ladies for a late evening snack.

In spite of dreams, anticipations and hopes of the morrow and a full day with the girls, Saturday morning could not come fast enough for a great many Morehouse men. Believe it or not, it did get here—Saturday morning—girls rested, looking fresh, out bright and early, their faces glittering with eagerness for adventure. There was a planned schedule which began with breakfast, then rehearsal, visiting the classes, dinner, touring the University campus, attending a spectacular tea given through the kindness of the Music Department of Clark College and Coffee by Miss Florence Read, President of Spelman College and the formal meeting of the girls with the members of Chi chapter, their host.

Then, the grand ball, the highlight of the "Bennett Season," which according to public appeal, took the prize in its true *Sigma* spirit. Ask anyone who went.

The setting was ideal; the hall decorated in "the" colors, blue and white, with a *Sigma* banner and a *Sigma* neon sign at each end. Our music—superb, furnished by the school orchestra. The guests—full of life and spirit. The jovial group of Morehouse, Bennett and Spelman danced blithely and gleefully. This, of course, put everybody in the state for complete rest that night and my bet is that we all did sleep soundly.

Sunday, the next day was welcomed. For the first time Morehouse men ate with all the ladies. At chapel, President held our minds in a 40 minute contemplation of Social Consciousness. After a short reception at the residence of President and Mrs. Mays, the group took flight. Free at last to cash in on the dates made at the dance. For some this perhaps was the best period of the entire "Bennett Season." After two days of getting to know each

other we had decided that "you" are the "apple" of my eye and the "rose" of my heart, so let's take leave and make memories. This was the climax.

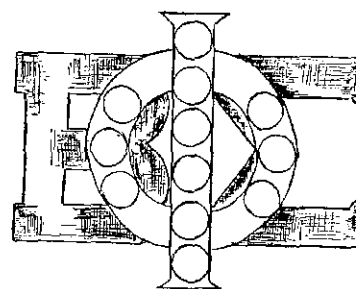
But for Chi chapter's program one or two other events had to follow: the second concert at Sale Hall Chapel, Morehouse College, and the farewell tea at the President's residence.

And it was farewell! That is when some wished the girls had never come or that they would not go or we could go along with them.

Yes, Chi chapter of *Phi Beta Sigma* had done it again! This was the realization of a *Sigma* man's dream, the outcome of intelligent planning, product of vigorous and concerted effort; this was work. Much help from friends and well wishers, much counsel from our National President and much cooperation from graduate Brothers. We are grateful for it all.

We were 25 men, only 25, but it was a task of the school year at Morehouse. The other fraternities have expressed congratulations, the public thanked us for a fine cultural and social service, the administration of Morehouse has complimented us. We are proud. But we find our greatest joy in the fact that the ladies—our guests—had a lovely time. This has been expressed over and over again by letters from the girls, from the Director herself and from the choir as a whole. They have placed the occasion and Chi chapter in their memories—and ours—forever. Three cheers for Chi chapter. Six cheers for our guests!

## THE OFFICIAL PIN



PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY



Girls from Bennett and Spelman and men of Morehouse.

#### RELAXING AT BALIA



Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Herring, both students at Howard, at Club Balia (Washington) just after annual Sigma banquet.

## SEASON'S BEST

By common consent Atlanta's "dance of the Season" occurred Friday evening, May 13, 1949 in the Magnolia. The decorations were superb. The entire "ceiling" was covered with a blue canopy spangled with white stars and the dancing floor was enclosed with blue and white streamers. Tables and chairs were lined cozily against the walls.

Masks were given at the entrance. Every guest was in costume. It was amazing to note the ingenuity (and expense) to which some of the dancers had gone in order to transform their usual personalities into Spaniards, Hawaiians, Africans, Gypsies, beggars, hunchbacks, rabbits and many other representatives of the animal kingdom. The "devil" was there; also the KKK. There were no angels present but many cute little "angels" some of whom were bunnies, peasants, geisha girls.

The prizes for the most unique costumes were awarded at the intermission. Brother Earl Starling's act attracted wide attention. A giant base drum carried the words "Sigma on Parade." At the appropriate moment, the drum was burst and out stepped a damsel who did a few graceful steps alone. Then Brother Starling took her into his arms. The M. C. shouted "everybody dance" and so they did far, far into the night; even into the wee hours of the morning.

SAVE YOUR CRESCENTS  
EACH CHAPTER SHOULD KEEP  
A SET ON HAND.

## CHAPTER NOTES

### Alpha

"The Alpha chapter, continually inspired by the realization that it exists at the noble founding place of *Phi Beta Sigma*, has made gigantic efforts to put into action the words of our dynamic motto "Culture for Service, Service for Humanity."

On November ninth, 1948, the Crescent Club of the Alpha chapter presented its annual "Bach to Bebop" concert to a capacity crowd of four hundred and fifty music lovers in the lounge of the men's dormitory at Howard University. The concert illustrated well the evolution from the immortal classics to modern, popular music. Following the concert, a reception was held at which three hundred and ninety six of the four hundred and fifty guests were served.

Only two weeks following the concert the Crescent Club contributed strongly to the joyous atmosphere of Homecoming by presenting a "Pre-Homecoming Dance" at the University Ballroom. Some eight hundred and fifty odd people sought admission but only a capacity crowd of seven hundred were admitted. At this affair the snack-bar, for the first time, was opened for a campus dance.

On November twenty fourth, 1948, ten pledges, Arthur Bacote, Elmus Ball, David Canegata, Gerald Davenport, Sylvester McDonald, Godfrey Murrain, Frederick Shepherd, Hilliard Reid, Irving Vance, and Kipling Williams, became probates and one week later, after initiation, these men were proudly and loudly joining in the refrain—"Our Cause Speeds on its Way."

The chapter terminated 1948 with a gala, week long pre-Christmas program. On December fifth, Brothers Frederick Breedlove, renown tenor and Varnell Ford, distinguished organist, were presented in a recital at Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel which was well received and praised. A reception in honor of the artists was given immediately after the concert at the recreation room of the School of Religion. On the eve of December fifteenth, the student body gathered upon the main campus for a community singing hour. The Pre-Christmas Festivities concluded with an Old Fashion Christmas Party held at Banneker Recreation Center.

The annual Jabberwock of Beta chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was presented Saturday, February twenty sixth, at Banneker Auditorium, Washington, D. C. The theme was "Sailors on Leave" and each skit was well performed. The whole program was colorful and impressionable. Among the competitive skits, *Phi Beta Sigma's* received third prize. Their skit was original, well planned and acted. Alpha Phi Alpha and Omega Psi Phi received first and second place respectively, and Kappa Alpha Psi, fourth.

April twenty-second, the chapter gave its annual "Les Beaux Arts Ball"; great expectations for this event were realized.

Extensive plans were made for our annual observation of Bigger and Better Business Week.

Before this scholastic year has ended, Alpha chapter, with much enthusiasm, hopes to feel that they have had

a major part in speeding our cause on its way by helping to create a cloud of awe about the name of Sigma.

Howard University

### Alpha Alpha

Alpha Alpha chapter is very proud of its scholastic record, which warranted the presentation of the Scholarship Trophy at our chapel program presented in Galloway Hall, February 7, 1949 by Brother Julius C. Thomas. (Re: *The Pittsburgh Courier*, Ohio State Edition, February 12, 1949, page 16). The National Junior Vice President gave an inspiring talk regarding the national program of *Phi Beta Sigma*, after which Acting President Raymond R. Harris, received the trophy for Alpha Alpha chapter, for having the highest scholastic rating of any chapter in the Northern Region.

On Sunday morning, February 28, 1949, at 2:00 a. m., a banquet was held in the Student Union Building to honor the sixteenth-hour-old members of Alpha Alpha chapter. The former 'dogs' are: William B. Bailey, Monroe, La.; Paul B. Culpepper, LaPorte, Ind.; E. Augustus Debreaux, Norfolk, Va.; Harold P. Feagins, Bessmer, Ala.; Henderson C. Harris, San Francisco, Cal.; Isaiah N. Harris, San Antonio, Texas; Charles E. Hayes, Xenia, Ohio; Charles E. Hill, Pueblo, Col.; Freeman B. Hill, Monroe, La.; Charles F. Huddleston, Dickson, Tenn.; Jesse Johnson, Buffalo, N. Y.; Jake Strickland, Anniston, Ala.; Herman M. Tyson, Bitely, Mich.; Theodore Wilson, Fairfield, Alabama.

On March 6, Brothers Demetrius C. Newton, Vernon Gatlin, and Charles P. Cox, are entertaining the chapter to commemorate their second year as "Sigmas." Alpha Alpha's annual prom is being held on May 6, at which time the 'neophytes' will be honored in the finest affair on the campus. Along with having our Regional Director, Dr. A. T. Weathers, and National Jr. Vice President, Julius C. Thomas; we also hope to have our National President as our guest.

The Chapter officers are: Bros. Raymond R. Harris, Acting President; Charles F. Gigger, Recording Secretary; Daniel E. Williams, Corresponding Secretary; Elmer Cobbs, Treasurer; Demetrius C. Newton, Pledge Master; Moses Wright, Jr., Parliamentarian; Ashton R. Allen, Chaplain; Paul Whatley, Sergeant-at-arms; Charles P. Cox, Chapter Editor. The other Brothers are: David Perry, W. Mordeau Williams (in absentia), Vernon Gatlin, James S. Benn III, Sedric D. Cuthbertson, Thomas McCray, Thomas J. McIlveen, and the 'Neophytes'.

Among the June grads will be Bros. McIlveen, Benn, Cuthbertson, Newton, Gigger, Cox, and Bro. Gatlin, who will receive a commission as a second lieutenant. He is presently the ranking officer cadet, in the R.O.T.C. Chapter sponsors are Brother Prof. Robert King, and Brother Prof. Clarence Caliman.

Charles P. Cox

Wilberforce University

### Alpha Delta

This will serve to introduce an idea that Alpha Delta wishes to contribute to the forthcoming 35th Anniversary issue of *The Crescent* and to all future issues—the idea of formal letters to the editor.

We think that such a feature would provide an excellent medium for the expression of random thoughts, comments, criticisms, etc., by the individual members of brother chapters, both on matters pertaining to the fraternity and to all matters generally even if such thoughts are not put in full-length article form.

Aside from the obvious literary benefit that would accrue to the individual Brother so contributing, there would be that feeling—let's call it enchantment—that everyone well knows who has ever had his material published.

Just try it!

... To carry the same thought a step further, we hereby appeal, with your permission, for more serious comment, preferably editorial, from our various brother chapters instead of just the continual and sometimes monotonous reports of light social "events" which, at best, have full force and effect only on those immediately concerned. It seems pointless, perhaps even harmful to have just a few men, obviously capable but too few in each case, continually doing the serious and, incidentally, the more worthwhile reporting.

Our thought is that as we grow older along with our loved *Fraternity*, our writing should reflect that increasing sense of sobriety and good taste necessary to a serious and meaningful living. *The Crescent* should and must provide the means of putting such writing on exhibition. A few more young shoulders applied to the editorial wheel would send our cause not rolling but winging on its way!

Here follows the chapter report:

The call was sounded in this issue of *The Crescent* for nominations to Who is Who and Who was Who in *Sigma*—a proposed comprehensive listing of important and prominent brothers living or dead who have made some unusual contribution to the Fraternity or their field of work or life in general. This, we repeat, was the request.

But what claim, we ask ourselves, can the Johnny-come-lately undergraduate of Alpha Delta really make to importance or prominence? We examine ourselves modestly befits our nature—undergraduates are by nature modest—and conclude that such a listing must necessarily include those of our graduate brothers who really merit distinction and who, unlike ourselves, are not too modest to refuse (irony supplied).

The logical conclusion to such reasoning would seem to be that we and others like us go unmentioned in the annals of fame at least for the present. But life in Alpha Delta is not as simple or as logical as that, and youth will be heard; youth, that is, coupled with audacity. Instead of attempting to name a few "prominent" brothers as requested, we here seek to thrust our *entire* chapter, again destined creatures that we are, into the realm of prominence and importance.

The end of 1947 saw Alpha Delta the faintest shadow of its former self, its membership depleted by the inroads of post-war and wartime graduations, most of its members lulled to a state of apathy and inaction, and its spirit all but killed by the uncertainty and hollowness of post-war

life in the big city. The job of reorganization was begun with more faith than plan and, of course, with complete abandonment of all logical method. Plans were immediately laid for an initiation in February, 1948, at which time six new *Sigmatas* successfully made the crossing of the "Dead Sea." The next daring move was the transfer of all brothers of graduate status still on our roster, after which Alpha Delta was once again, if nothing else, an undergraduate chapter, thirteen men strong.

Alpha Delta's thirteen stalwarts marched forward with renewed purpose of spirit and with customary reckless abandon. A few very worthwhile projects then afoot in the metropolitan area provided us the opportunity for a series of treasury building enterprises which, as chance would have it, proved quite successful and at the same time afforded a mite of local recognition for *Sigma's* "City slickers." It was as of this time that Alpha Delta began its rise to *prominence* and *importance*. Perhaps the most signal recognition came about by our chapter's being duly authorized and registered as a student group by the Student Council and the administrative body at City College in New York—the very first Greek letter organization of its kind to be so recognized in New York City. Any wonder then that our nomination for Who's Who

The Alpha Delta machine was really rolling by the summer of 1948. There was now no chance of the machine bogging down, nevertheless the kind finger of fate very generously squeezed three big drops of high octane supercharge into our ranks in the person of three brothers, transfers from Alpha chapter at Howard University. That did it... our number swelled to sixteen—sixteen thousand horsepower that is—all of which was turned loose with unleashed fury on the six new hapless (for them) "dogs" that happened to be coming through at the time. But neither our sixteen thousand S. P. (Scientific Paddling) volts nor the furies of the Dead Sea could dampen the zeal of these young hopefuls, as a result of which we now boast a membership—a very young and active membership—of twenty-two, all of whom are at this writing eagerly awaiting the next new assortment of fourteen canines already beginning to assemble at our doors.

The Alpha Delta steamroller next rumbled its way Westward for the 34th Annual Conclave in Los Angeles, California last summer—a feat which must have surprised and delighted countless other brothers besides ourselves. Ask anyone that was there!

Such has been the brief saga of the new Alpha Delta. We point with pride to our achievements of the past year or so, and to what we consider a remarkable rebirth. Ours has been a thrilling if not spectacular experience, and might well serve, should the occasion present itself, as an incentive for other chapters, graduate or undergraduate, that find themselves similarly placed. *It Can Be Done.*

And, just as if to add a touch of crowning glory to our efforts, Alpha Delta this Spring will crown a *Sigma* Queen—again an affair the first of its kind in metropolitan New York. The detailed news of this affair will probably reach our distant brothers before the present issue of *The Crescent* appears. They, these distant brothers of ours, will, we are sure, join in our nomination of ALPHA DELTA for who IS who in *Sigma*.

City College, New York

H. A. Jones

## NEW YORK'S ALPHA DELTA



(Standing l. to r.) Bros. Rudolph Adams, Spencer (Sonny) Jameson, George Grannum, Eddie Walters, Robert Burns, Malcolm Stokes, James Harris, and Arthur Golden. (Seated l. to r.) Bros. Hallan Riley, Thomas Martin, Morris Hopkins, Edwin Peets, William Pemberton, Julius Cayson, and Cornel Davidson. Others not included in picture are: Bros. Howard Jones, Joseph Wyke, Sidney Kirton, Charles Bertrand, Sidney Wright, Roy Spraggens, Phil Durant and Percy Scott.

*Alpha Lambda*

The most outstanding event of the past year was the reactivation of the Epsilon Alpha Chapter at Dillard University. In the month of November fifteen men were initiated into the *Fraternity*. They were Edward C. Daniels, Amos Crouch, Jr., Lawrence J. Nicholas, Woodrow W. Johnson, George S. Coley, William Jones, Albert Green, Cyril Williams, Rev. E. W. Peterson, Rev. John S. Duncan, McInnis Ott, James Lloyd, Frank Ford, Carlton Pecot and Sol Johnson. Highly instrumental in achieving this was Brother Simon C. Barnes, assistant-secretary of Alpha Lambda Chapter.

During the year, we were visited by Dr. R. O. Johnson, National President and Dr. L. D. Reddick.

Brother John H. Brown is President of Alpha Lambda and Brother Melvin J. Bergeron is Secretary. At present the chapter has twenty-two members.

Xavier University

Melvin J. Bergeron

*Alpha Pi*

Alpha Pi after having met all requirements received its charter on May 15, 1942. The efforts put forth by its eight founders in establishing a chapter at the Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley, Georgia was not in vain.

Dr. C. V. Troup, Beta Delta Sigma chapter, now Presi-

dent of Fort Valley State College and Bro. R. H. Beasley, Sigma Beta Delta chapter, who was Assistant Business Manager, but at present is the Business Manager of Jackson College, Jackson, Mississippi, were of valuable service in assisting the founders in one of the most important roles of their lives. At that time Brother R. A. Billings was National President and Brother Augustine A. Austin was National Secretary-Treasurer. With the signing of their names, Alpha Pi chapter became activated.

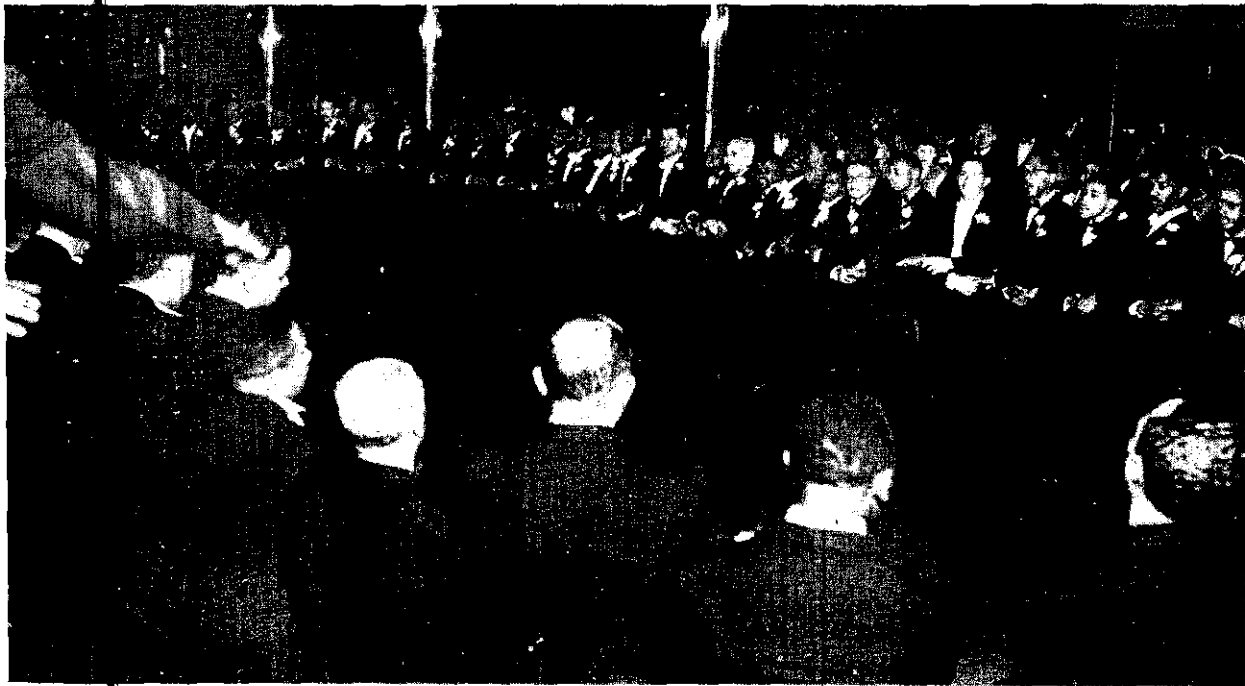
Let's glance at the founders today. Brother Emile M. Davis is a practicing dentist; Gerald Davis is a public school teacher in Detroit, Mich.; Brother John Graham is a teacher of veterans in Sylvester, Ga.; Brother Horace L. Hawes is the Principal of Ballard Annex in Macon, Ga.; Brother William J. Malone is a professor at Southern University, in Baton Rouge, La.; Brother Joseph C. Mitchell is a professor of Mortuary Science in Atlanta, Ga.; Brother William V. D. Walton is a professor in Hawkinsville, Ga.; and Brother James W. Willingham is a professor in Elberton, Ga.

Since then, other Brothers of Alpha Pi have graduated and are taking their respective places in society. Emanuel L. Granvill is head of the Business Department at Campbell College, in Jackson, Mississippi; Robert Metts is a teacher of mathematics at Marshallville, Georgia; Edward Williams is teacher of poultry husbandry at the Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley, Georgia. He is also assistant coach of the varsity football and track teams, and a member of the Beta Delta Sigma chapter. Others

LOOKS LIKE CALIFORNIA BUT IT'S D. C.



Brothers Smith, Brown, Lewis and Taylor flank unidentified Brother in center.



New York chapters and brothers join hands and voices at Epsilon Sigma formal, December 27, 1948.

EPSILON SIGMA POINTS WITH PRIDE

MEDICINE



Doctors: Gordon King, R. I. Bennett and George D. Thomas.

BUSINESS



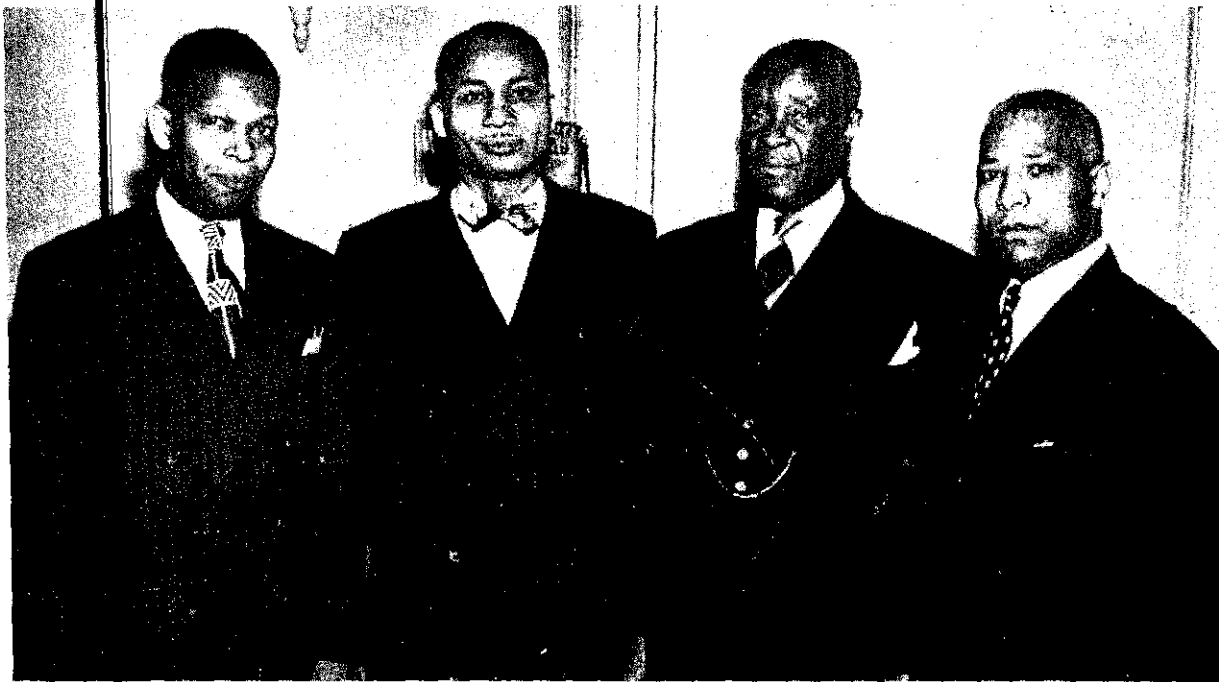
C. D. King, Edward White, Hamel Josceyln and Charles Frost.

EPSILON SIGMA POINTS WITH PRIDE  
MOSTLY REAL ESTATE



Davis, Real Estate; C. D. King, Real Estate; Woodrow W. Carter, Carpeting; A. A. Austin, Real Estate and Past National Executive Secretary.

POLITICS



Left to right: Hon. Hulan Jack, State Assemblyman, 14th Dist., New York; Hon. Harold A. Stevens, State Assemblyman, 13th Dist., New York; Izgerald Phillips, Deputy Commissioner of Corrections, New York; Joseph A. Bailey, New York Bar, President of Epsilon Sigma chapter.