



The Cross and Crescent

The Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity

MAY, 1946

VOLUME XXXIII NUMBER 2

EDITED BY LINN C. LIGHTNER

THE CROSS AND CRESCENT is published in the months of February, May, July, October, and December by the Kutztown Publishing Company, 243 W. Main St., Kutztown, Penna., for the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity.
Entered as second class matter at the postoffice at Kutztown, Penna., under the Act of March 3, 1879.
Life subscription, \$15; Universal (guaranteed 30 years) subscription, \$10; annual subscription, \$1; single copy, 35 cents.
Editor: Linn C. Lightner, Marysville, Penna. Executive office: Lambda Chi Alpha Building, 2029 North Meridian St., Indianapolis, Ind.

Just a Minute

Jack Mason, Fraternalist

LAMBDA CHI ALPHA lost the member it could least afford to lose June 1 when Jack Mason, versatile and accomplished fraternity builder, died in a Philadelphia hospital of virus pneumonia.

Contributions of Jack—Dr. John Edward Mason, Penn. '13, if you have an inclination to be formal—have been such as to defy enumeration, but had not been completed. We sometimes wonder if any other fraternity has had a member whose works in its behalf have been so prolific, so varied, so long extended, so fine.

He is principally known as the author of our ritual, designer of our badge and other insignia, and founder of our publications. His impression, however, has been quite pronounced on fraternity organization, on law-making generally, on policies. Do we need to do more than to point to that famous letter of his to the Boston convention of 1913 or that suitcase of material he carried with him to Ann Arbor to assist in bringing about an effective business organization and selection of a competent staff of officers?

The rare diplomacy which he so frequently exercised has been a pleasure to see in operation. Fraternity workers naturally become interested in pet projects which they believe to be virtual keystones in progressive programs of their organizations. Jack many a time has taken a lead either in helping advance such programs or in shunting them to oblivion. Waters were kept running smoothly.

Jack's contributions to AXA continued to his dying day—and would have so continued no matter when that day might have been. There are several things, however, which we particularly regret he did not have the opportunity to complete. We were fondly hoping for that history he was to have produced in 1949; we were eager for those inspiring chapters that he had planned for the Fraternity's pledge training manual,

COVER PICTURE

This picture of Jack Mason, though seven years old, is the best likeness we have been able to find among the many examined. Unlike many of the others, it is not the work of a professional but of a skilled amateur, Ted Lassen, Minnesota, who made it with a Leica camera at the San Francisco General Assembly in 1939. It has been retouched slightly because of extensive enlargement, but it pictures Jack, pipe and all, as the Fraternity best likes to remember him.

Contents

(Although this number is dated May, 1946, many later references are included. These lines are being typed July 14.)

Jack Mason, Master Craftsman, Dead	1
Health and Wealth Defiance Price	10
Toronto Beckons Lambda Chis	11
Non-Academic Conference Chairman	15
Two New Chapters in Southwestern Colleges	16
Let's Hold Firm	21
Jean Hersholt Dines with Fellow Lambda Chis	23
Northwestern Mothers and Wives Active	24
Long Record of Service	24
Louisiana Entertains Southwest Conclave	25
Lawyer Smashes Jap Smuggling Ring	26
Military Notes	26-32
An Editor's 26 Years	33
News of the Undergraduates	36
What the Alumni Are Doing	46
Directory	Covers 3-4

The Paedagogus, on whose extensive revision he was working with Ernst J. C. Fischer, past Grand High Alpha and long a collaborator; we were hoping that he would reduce to writing that fine lecture on background of fraternities, college and medieval, for which he had prepared hundreds of slides. But, then, we would always have wished him to do something more.

JACK'S service to the Fraternity was entirely unselfish. We feel certain he never harbored an ambition to become Grand High Alpha, a position to which he was elected at Alexandria Bay in 1929 after serving 10 years as Grand High Epsilon under provisions framed at Ann Arbor. We well remember a walk with him about the streets of the convention city. Should he permit his name to go before the convention as a nominee when he preferred to remain in the background in his lesser position on the Grand High Zeta? He was finally persuaded, but we have always felt that he would have been happier had he been permitted to wield his always great influence in his own particularly quiet manner.

THE doctors said Jack died of virus pneumonia—but his friends have some ideas of contributing factors.

His exacting professional duties and his many extra-curricular activities, if you choose to call his fraternity work and other outside interests that, made heavy demands on his energy and his ability. His greatest difficulty—as has been said by one in a tribute elsewhere in this number—was to say

no to a request for some service or some assistance.

Jack seemed extremely weary the last several times we saw him, more especially the very last time on March 23 when he was in Lancaster as one of the speakers at the Founders' Day banquet of the Franklin and Marshall chapter. Sometimes we wonder if he really learned the lesson of relaxation.

THE death of Jack Mason is an extreme personal loss to the editor. We had met him only once before that train trip to the history-making Ann Arbor convention in 1919, and after that we usually traveled to and from conventions with him. We drove together to at least four and were in the same party to San Francisco via Canada and back via the Grand Canyon.

When we took over the editorship of THE CROSS AND CRESCENT six months after that Ann Arbor trip, Jack was officially our guide and superior by virtue of his position as chairman of the Board of Publications. Never did a fledgling editor need more, nor have a better, more patient preceptor. We had relatively little knowledge of AXA in particular and of fraternities in general. Our publications experience was limited to that as a cub reporter on a daily newspaper and as editor of a college newspaper and annual. We needed every bit of that very extensive assistance Jack found time to give. We were a frequent visitor in his home and he in ours, especially in those days when we must have hung somewhat like a millstone about his neck. We hope we have

(Please Turn to Page 25)

the organization, for distinguished service last January. He is vice-president of the Central Florida Council of Boy Scouts, and is a past district chairman and present committeeman of the Seminole County district.

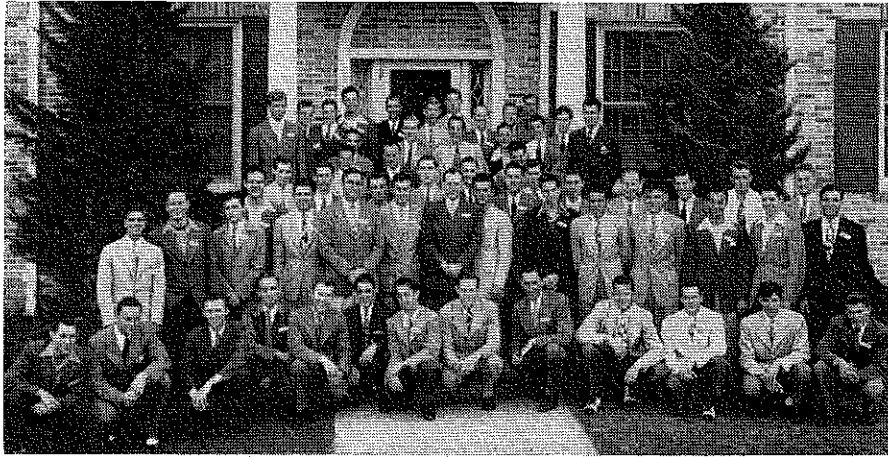
Smith's two sons were honor students at Sanford High School. Ralph, Jr., was initiated by Omega at Alabama Poly in 1945, and is now awaiting assignment to Annapolis following his recent release from the Army. He holds a principal's appointment

to Annapolis and an alternate's appointment to West Point. Walter was graduated from high school last spring, and will enter college in the fall.

Mrs. Smith was Miss Charlotte Marine Meeds, of Meridian, Miss., is a graduate of Ward-Belmont and University of Alabama, took graduate work at University of Colorado, and is a member of Alpha Chi Omega.

Ralph is a 32d-degree Mason and a Shriner.

Louisiana Entertains Southwest Conclave



SEVEN chapters were represented by enthusiastic official delegates at the first post-war meeting of the Southwest Conclave in Baton Rouge April 13, when Upsilon at Louisiana was a gracious host. Three neighboring chapters sent unofficial delegates.

The conclave, which made many important plans, selected for its 1946-47 president Dr. Houston T. Karnes, Vanderbilt, High Pi at Louisiana, prominent member of the Louisiana faculty, and a competent pinch hitter during the war in several major Louisiana administrative positions, including that of dean of men. Next year's session will be held in Tulsa, Okla., with the Tulsa chapter as host.

Panel discussion groups and a general meeting were held at the handsome Louisiana chapter house. Pledge training, finances, athletes, rushing, and social affairs were discussed by able speakers. The discussion groups were well attended and beneficial. Many ideas, new and old, were passed around.

At the general meeting reports were made on the afternoon's panel talks, and there was further discussion. The program for the approaching Toronto assembly was discussed. A number of items were drafted to be presented for discussion at the assembly.

A highlight of the meeting was a model initiation conducted by the thoroughly-schooled Louisiana degree team, which initiated 11 men. The work of the team drew many favorable comments and an invitation from Theta-Delta at Oklahoma City to conduct the work for its pledges, but unfortunately this invitation could not be accepted.

The conclave opened with registration at the chapter house, and was followed by a luncheon and meeting for delegates at the Heidelberg Hotel and a luncheon for other members at the chapter house. In the evening a buffet luncheon at the chapter house preceded a dance.

The conclave was a great success, even though arranged on short notice. All were enthusiastic and happy that conditions permitted chapters getting together again, thereby gaining mutual strength and vitality.

The official delegates were: Oklahoma City, Phil Fry; Arkansas, Doyle Morgan; Tulsa, James Nuckolls; Louisiana Tech, Billy Grier; Centenary, John W. McReynolds; Oklahoma A. & M., Ray Adler; Louisiana, Mack Barham. Among other chapters represented were: Alabama Poly by Ford MacElvain; Alabama, Glenn L. Stephens; and Georgia, John Fitzgerald and Joe B. Baker. Robert S. Hinds, proctor assisting the recently reactivated Oklahoma chapter and Theta-Delta at Oklahoma City, was a visitor, as were several Louisiana alumni, Edward N. Carmouche and Frank Reiger.

Just a Minute

(From Inside Front Cover)

somehow justified the confidence he displayed when he helped bring about our selection as editor; we know that, if THE CROSS AND CRESCENT has served AXA nearly as it should have been served, it was largely due to the principles Jack drilled into us in those first several years.

JACK'S friends and acquaintances sometimes wondered why a man of his accomplishments, accomplishments for which the business world would have paid richly, chose to remain a relatively poorly paid high school teacher. But they didn't understand the real Jack.

He truly enjoyed his high school teaching and the opportunity it gave him to help in the production of excellent high school dramatic productions. He enjoyed those long summer vacations which permitted him to travel and, among other things, to make those trips to scenes which have ritualistic significance for AXA; he enjoyed those long weekends which gave him opportunities to do many things he relished.

We sometimes wonder why it took the Philadelphia school system so long to recognize Jack's true worth and his rich potentialities. Important though his duties as an English teacher in Germantown High School may have been, he was eminently more valuable as a curriculum editor and consultant. Here, again, possibly our good friend kept his light too much under the bushel; possibly he craved the opportunities it gave for reading and for study.

THOUGHTS of Jack were always for the advancement of AXA. He was present at New York last November when proposals were discussed for enlarging the Fraternity's endowment fund. The Fraternity is a beneficiary of a \$2000 life insurance policy on his life. And that, Good AXs, is a real contribution!

Many of us could go on writing reams and reams about Jack Mason and his works, but he truly wouldn't have wished it. His death is a challenge to those left to carry on. They can no longer turn to the master craftsman for assistance and guidance. They will, we have not the least doubt, meet the challenge fully and make AXA ever a brighter memorial to one of the greatest fraternity men who ever lived—Jack Mason.

Traveling Secretaries Needed

THE post-war reorganization of fraternities hasn't been completed. AXA and its chapters have big tasks ahead next year despite the amazing progress of recent months.

The General Fraternity wants to do everything possible to help chapters rub off the rough edges resulting from the almost mushroom growths of the past year; generally, it wants to see that foundations are laid that will serve increasingly well as the years march by.

For that reason AXA wants to enlarge its staff of secretaries. It wants at least four men available at all times to visit and assist chapters and to make such special visits as may be required.

The jobs are interesting and educational; they are attractive to genuine fraternalists. Veterans will be given preference. Write quickly to Administrative Secretary Flad at the central office.

THE EDITOR.

7/7/46.