

11-1954

New Members - 1953-1954

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Recommended Citation

New members - 1953-1954. (1954). The Gavel of Delta Sigma Rho, 37(1), 9, 22-24.

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chosen some months in advance of the debate, the specific proposition being given to the debaters only two or two-and-a-half hours before the contest. Broad and detailed knowledge of French and European affairs is thus called for on the part of the speakers, as well as remarkable extemporaneous ability, a fine command of language, and a flexible urbanity of style generally. During his time at Stanford, Professor Emerson prepared fifteen teams for this climactic event of the season, winning on twelve occasions.

Professor Emerson was one of the organizers, in 1923, of the Pacific Forensic League, and has been twice its president. Formed primarily to bring coaches and students together for friendly discussion, it has retained its leisurely, informal character to this day. Some of the activities are non-competitive, some competitive but even the latter proceed in friendly fashion, with victory not taken too seriously. Still active in League affairs are two others of the original organizers: Professors Earl Wells of Oregon State and Alan Nichols of Southern California.

The series with the University of Southern California has also been a lively and interesting one, and here he has enjoyed the rivalry of his longtime friend and director of USC teams, Alan Nichols.

The human side of Mike Emerson is recorded in the minds of his former students.

They are now scattered in the far corners of the world, but a sampling would include a distinguished diplomat in Europe, a prominent attorney in New York City, a leading divine in Minneapolis, a university professor in the Deep South, a Chancellor of the University of Chicago, and prominent legal, political, and academic personages in the Far West. All of them would describe him as a good man who spoke well; a scholar first and foremost, but withal, a human teacher with a big heart and a broad mind. Even when guarding his health against an ailment acquired while he served with the army in World War I, he preserved his sense of humor and practiced selflessness in order to devote his time to the growing generations that passed through his classrooms.

At its Fresno convention last November, the Western Speech Association awarded Mr. Emerson a life honorary membership.

In 1953, the Speech Association of the Associated Students of Stanford University established the J. Gordon Emerson Award for Oratory to be conferred each year for outstanding excellence in oratory throughout the year.

A much beloved professor marched in the academic procession last June at Stanford University. He was "graduating" from his chair of Rhetoric and Public Speaking after almost a third of a century of service at Kansas State College and Stanford University.

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Word has recently gotten around that there is some criticism of the current debate question because it goes so far as to give some consideration to the idea of recognizing and/or admitting Red China to the United Nations. In this issue of *The Gavel*, President Fest has some important ideas to suggest in respect to this problem.

Ormond J. Drake, professor of speech and assistant dean of the University College of Arts and Science at New York University, was appointed assistant secretary of NYU on September 19 by Dr. Harold O. Voorhis, vice chancellor and secretary of the University. Active in the fields of public speaking and human relations for more than 20 years, Professor Drake is a member of DSR from Michigan.