

1968

UA94/5/1 Founders Day Notes

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Some times one gets into things by talking too much.

On Parents day Brother Wallace introduced me to his father and mother and while talking to them about how cooperative and what a fine group you have been during this year he asked me in their presence to do some thing for him. So here I am'

This year, 1968 is the 34th year since the Barons Club was officially founded. It is ^{our} ~~the~~ ~~Pad~~ founders day dinner ~~since~~.. and I think the year that will down in ATO history a n important one for our Chapter.

The first meeting of the Barons club was held on Jan 28, 1934. in a basement on Chestnut Street(Sam Milner, Charles Gadd, Harold Link, Yandell Page, Ray Russell, William Bass, Francis Gardn leo Frosting, Charles Crammer)

The constitution was written in Helm Hotel and after some disscussion was adopted on Feb. 4, 1938. The first pledge class was started on Feb 7, 1934 and the original goat duty was to carry a gold brick, that is a a bronze painted one. On March 30, 1934 the first pin was worn and the same design was kept thru the years. The first formal was held on May 19. 1934 in what was then the old Masonic Temple corner of 12th St. and State St., where the telephone company office now is.

The programs were two page hand made masterpeices.

"Smoke Gets In Your Eyes" was popular as were longer skirts 3.2 beer, and ping pong. Bridge was a required course.

Western won its second K.I.A.C. basketball tournament, and only Dr. Stickles , of history dept. knew who A. Hitler was.

The spring of 1934 was a great beginning and all was well
The founders had great plans.

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The purpose of the Barons Club was to promote fellowship among a group on Western campus.

The Membership was limited to 20 active members during a semester. It was the first and only fraternity on the hill for five years. The motto of Barons was "He who does not go forward must necessarily go backwards". I think the records will show that this motto has been and still is a great influence in the lives of over 300 Barons.

The fall of 1934 opened with great plans and too much publicity the school had begun to see what was going on. Pledges showed up at football games and class rooms with gold bricks, were made to run around the square in groups and other things which attracted the attention of school officials.

Dr. Cherry and school officials did not want and in fact forbid any fraternity or sorority to be organized on Western campus or by Western students.

The members of Barons were called in and told to get out or disband or be expelled from school. Some who worked for the school had to drop out. Then most of people did work for the school. As a result pledge ship and other activities were on the quiet side. A big question in selecting pledges was if they would be willing or could take the pressure from the school. We lost some good men. The fall of 1934 and 1935 spring was a trying time.

I first heard of the Barons during this time. I was in high school and worked nights at Pearson's Drug store on Square as did Leo Frosting and Tuddy Gardner, both charter members. Most every night some or all were in and many of their plans were discussed there.

The first Barons camp was held in June 1935, a good part of plans and the menus were worked out over the cigar counter in Pearson's.

Thus the Barons Club was formed and a spirit called Baronsism began to grow. Later there were some thoughts on it and whether or not we should use the term in our paper and other activities. Due to growth of other isms (Comm. Naz. Fac.

I will take a few more $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes and briefly cover some of actives and events that in time became Baron traditions.

Baron Castle was located on Park St. a room over Noel's Garage which we begin to take over and looked upon as ours . Col Noel was a member and Mrs. Noel became the Mother of the Barons.

~~Most of the actives centered around weekend parties,~~

TP\$ Top which was corner of 15th and College was first meeting place during day. Brick made into resturant.

Goal Post became the daily meeting place most of members worked there and many libved next door in the rock house.

Sam Rabold became father, brother, and friend to allof us. two of his brothers were members and active in Club. Sam gave us jobs, fed us, loaned us money, listened to our problems nd all in all has done more for the Barons club than any one I kn know.

Most of the actives centered around weekend parties, held ~~Maseei~~

Masonic temple. Knights of Columbus Hall ,now Sunday school bldg. of Presbyterian church. and later on Baron camp.

~~Dances-pla--~~ Our dues were very low and hard to come by. .25¢ per weekand cost of parties .25¢to .50¢.

Dances played a big part in soical life of Western and B. U. T There was one or two almost every week end and sometimes more. Held either in old Gym now Libzary, the armory 10th and Chestnu now WLTV Most of these with named bands such as Ted Weens, Kay Kayser, Tommy Dorsey, Francis Craig, and Western's oun Red & Grey several members of Barons played from time to time.

We sponsered dances to make extra money. Our Favorite was Homecoming , the Sunrise ball., and lat dance of each school year. We tried to have two or three per year. Tickets 1.50 to 2.00.

Others big events final week of pledge ship ending with formal dinner and burning of sacks.by goats.

Conclate between Xmas and New Year . Spring formal in May and Camp the first week in June .

Each Baron with a date ,along with a chaperon,cook ,

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food, softball equitment, horseshoes, boats, canoes, etc

move to Drakes Creekk for a week. The first acamp was held
R. Club Camp six miles out Scottsville Road.

This was used in 35, 36, 37, and then in 38 we were told
the csouts had first choice and they wanted it the same week
we did. AS a reult we camped in tents on Drakes creek where the
Scottsville road bridge now id.

Most of us felt the c mp belong to us and in fall of 38
we returned to school with one plan in mind to buy the camp.

This required some doing as Members of Rotary Club also
were on college staff. After getting an option to buy our
next problem was the money.

We hit on the ideg of getting Alumni to help and planned a
Conclane to be held between Xmas and New Years. Meetings
were held in Helm Hotel and Caslleduring day. The result was ol
older members offered their help and we bought Baron Camp.

From then on until it was sold tals became center of most o
of our actives both parties and work.

We build-it-w- remodeled and fixed up the m in building put
in electric lines set poles , etc. built road down hill, paneled
and furnished the building / Held open house on saunday
and on Th rsday it brun to ground.

We rebuilt the building and later 1941 it burn 2nd
tme..

Was rebuilt again and was used until sold 1962

During war club becane in active and in 45with war over
several actives returned to school started again.

There have been a few big get to gether on in Dec 46 a
and in May 1960.

The years pass by quickley, but the memory of many
great ocsassions and life long friendships still live in the
hearts of the Barons / I am sure that there are many who would
like to be here to night for this founders day 1968.

I assure you that if the founders were of the Barons
club were here tonight and could see what have done and are do
doing they would be well pleased.