

PROGRAM

*Golden Anniversary
Banquet*

FRESNO HIGH SCHOOL SENATE
Founded March, 1890



March 9, 1940

SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

Fifty Years of the Fresno High School Senate

By BEN R. WALKER, '99, Senator from Kentucky

More than twelve generations of students in the Fresno High School have witnessed the continual usefulness of the F. H. S. Senate. Formed within a year after the organization of the school, this debating society has strikingly fulfilled the purpose written into the first draft of its constitution:

"We students of the Fresno High School, in order to become thoroughly versed in the general lawmaking of our national government, and to establish an institution which shall be an honor to ourselves and to our successors, do organize with the following Constitution. . . . It shall be the aim of this organization to give its members a general knowledge of the government of the United States and to gain facility in debate."

Since the history of the Senate parallels the story of the Fresno schools, some reference must be made to the way in which the city has grown. In 1880, Fresno was a village of only 1,112 inhabitants. By 1890, in ten years the town had grown ten-fold, so that the Federal census showed 10,818. Up to 1888, there was but one school building, the one long known as Central, or White, on the ground where the Fresno Auditorium now stands. Toward the close of this decade, two new school buildings were erected: The C Street Building, the central structure of what is now known as the Columbia school; and the other was at first usually called the "High School." It was the building which still stands, remodeled and partly abandoned, on the corner of Van Ness (K) and Santa Clara Streets.

This "K Street School," as it was generally known for many



T. L. HEATON

years until finally christened the "Emerson," was the first of four buildings that have been called the "Fresno High School," the later three being: Second, a small temporary structure on the northeast corner of the Central School grounds, and used as such from 1892 to 1896. Third, the oldest and main portion of what is now called the Fresno Technical School, which was the High School from 1896 to 1920. Fourth, the present group of buildings on Echo Avenue facing

Normal Avenue. The Fresno High School was the only High School of the city until 1920, twenty years ago.

Senate Organized

The Fresno High School was organized in the spring and summer of 1889, by Thomas L. Heaton, then principal of the Fresno City Schools; and its first classes met in the upper floor of the K Street build-



K STREET SCHOOL

ing, in that September, with less than 100 students, and four teachers. In March of the following Spring, the Senate was organized under the following circumstances: E. L. Chaddock of this city tells the story as follows:

"I am the only survivor in Fresno of the group of three boys who first talked about forming the Senate. The other two were DeWitt H. Gray and Ed. F. Greeley. Gray, before coming to Fresno as a boy, had attended the Syracuse High School,



FRANK M. LANE

New York. When there was talk of forming a debating society in the Fresno High School, he said that at Syracuse there was an organization that was very successful that was modeled in procedure on the Senate of the United States. He suggested that we call our society the "Senate."

It is apparent from the notes that remain of that time, that the farseeing Principal, Mr. Heaton, and other older persons were anxious that the society be started right. Credit was given to Miss Florence Bart-



FRESNO HIGH SCHOOL—1896-1920

ling, teacher of English, for assistance in drafting the Constitution. Frank M. Lane, one of the young men teachers in the building but not a member of the High School faculty, was selected as presiding officer and continued as such for some three years. The first recorded meetings of the Senate were held in "Miss Bartling's Room," one of the wings of the upper floor of the Emerson School as it remains today. Later meetings were slated to be in the "Hall of the Fresno High School Senate," which seems to have been the main floor of the building under the rotunda.

States Assigned

A few notes only can be given of the starting of the Senate's fifty years of sessions. The first assignment of States to members indicates that seventeen boy students attended the organization: Minnesota, Curtis W. Beall, (deceased); Indiana, Sanford W. Cartwright, non-resident now; Massachusetts, E. Leroy Chaddock (now raisin packer in Fresno); Virginia, Percy C. Church, (now attorney in Fresno); Kansas, Andrew F. Duncan, (now undertaker in Fresno); Texas, Guy Dusenberry (deceased); Pennsylvania, Edwin K. Fernald (deceased); Missouri, DeWitt H. Gray (deceased); Michigan, Ed F. Greeley, (non-resident); Kentucky, Frank A. Homan, (now mayor of Fresno); Ohio, E. B. Hutchinson, (non-resident); California, Oscar A. Johnson, (deceased); Louisiana, Tracy R. Kelley, (non-resident); New York, Albert Clyde Olney, (now president of the Marin County Junior College); Illinois, Montgomery Thomas, (now realty operator in Fresno); Colorado, George W. Turner, (now president of the Fresno City Board of Education); Maine, Albert O. Warner, (jeweler in Fresno). Others who were admitted to the Senate during that Spring term were: Hal Freman, (non-resident); Mark Hutchison, (deceased); E. A. Williams, (deceased); Bert Harrington, (non-resident); John H. Rutherford, (deceased); A. E. Seymour, (deceased); H. M. Cory, (deceased); J. J. Vincent, (deceased); J. L. Dana, (de-

ceased); H. L. Monlux, (non-resident); Silas Geis, (non-resident); Roy Denny, (deceased); J. N. Bostick, (deceased); Mill-edge G. Sherwood, (Non-resident); Ben G. Winter, (deceased); William Monroe, (deceased); Joseph P. Bernhard, (now attorney in Fresno); Herman Hinds, (non-resident); Craigie E. Sharp, (non-resident); Wade Ryan, (non-resident); James Herring, (non-resident); Earl Winn, (non-resident).

The first panel of officers for the Senate, as selected on the 21st of March, 1890, were: President, Frank M. Lane; vice president, DeWitt H. Gray; secretary, Ed. F. Greeley; treasurer, Clyde Olney; doorkeeper, Guy Dusenberry.

Issues before the Senate, from the first, included a mingling of affairs of state and of such matters as boys would naturally differ over. The first formal debate was on the question: "Resolved, that eight hours be the limit of day's work." The merits of the debate were resolved by the president, Mr. Lane, in favor of the affirmative. The time of the weekly meeting was the subject of controversy. The first meeting was on Wednesday, then the time was fixed for every Thursday evening; then the time was changed to Mondays; then later to Thursday again. In the course of the years, the Senate has for long periods met on Fridays, and for other long periods on Thursday. Another serious problem for the young Senators was the matter of lighting in the evenings. This being before the time of electricity service, there was trouble in securing lamps; and committees appointed to wrestle with the question met and disagreed and were discharged. One bill, rendered and paid, was for \$1.25 for a lamp.

From Place To Place

The school establishment, with the High School above and the primary grades below, pursued its even tenor until after the Fall opening in 1892, on Saturday, October 1, the building, less than four years old, was condemned as unsafe for occupancy. The mortar was so rotten between the bricks

that it had to be rebuilt. The various classes were scattered in churches, vacant stores and the like throughout the city. The High School was at first placed in the First Congregational church, at the corner of K (Van Ness) and Inyo streets, and shortly transferred to a bathing establishment at Mariposa and N streets, the present site of the American Legion building. The Senate held some meetings in the Y. M. C. A. building, then on I street (Broadway), near Tuolumne, and had one session in the parlors of the Hughes hotel. The school board decided, hastily, that a temporary structure should be erected for the High School on the Central grounds, and with marvelous rapidity this was completed and occupied in an unfinished condition on Monday, November 14, 1892.

The Senate met in this "temporary" building for nearly four years, and then, in 1896 removed to the edifice that had been placed on the site of the old home of Judge David S. Terry, of note in early California history (the present "Tech." site.) A few meetings were held in the main assembly hall on the second floor, and thereafter for twenty-five years the Senators met in the attic room in the northeasterly corner. In that room, more connected with Senate tradition than any other location, Senate records for school spirit for poise and aggressiveness in debate, were established. It was in 1921 that the Senate followed the school to the present location on Echo avenue in the northerly part of the city. The Hall of the Senate is one of the large rooms in Alice Freeman Palmer Hall, the more northerly of the three buildings.

For fifty years, boys in the Fresno High School have found in the Senate opportunity to meet their fellows in amiable controversy, learning to think on their feet and to direct their thoughts to public issues. About 800 have passed through the rolls of the Senate.

Eminent Sponsors

One of the most useful creations of the men who founded

the Senate was the relationship with the "President of the United States." The first principal of the Fresno High School, Thomas L. Heaton, was first selected to this position, and continued to approve or "veto" bills for six years, until he left the Fresno schools in 1896. The President of the United States during the year 1896-97 was Chester H. Rowell, who for twenty-two years was the editor of the Fresno Morning Republican but who at the time was teacher of mathematics and German in the Fresno High School. In the years since, Charles L. McLane, later the founder of the Fresno State College, but at the time the principal of the Fresno High School, and many other noted educators, have benefited the Senate with their friendship and support.

The present young men of the Senate have character and purpose and determination of the sort that gives promise for inspiration toward another fifty years of service to the Fresno High School.



FRESNO HIGH SCHOOL

Presidents of the Senate

Frank M. Lane, 1890-1893	Lester Carter, 1900
DeWitt Gray, 1890	Thomas E. Risley, 1901
Ed F. Greeley, 1890	Marvin Peteson, 1901
C. W. Beall, 1890	Dan Hadsell, 1901
Joseph Bernhard, 1890	Elton Miller, 1902
Edward K. Fernald, 1891	J. Kenneth Reeder, 1902
Albert C. Olney, 1891	Herbert Levy, 1903
Sanford W. Cartwright, 1892	Fred Swartz, 1903
Oscar A. Johnson, 1892	Lassen Hogue, 1903
Albert L. Munger, 1892	Leland Small, 1904
Walter R. Hughes, 1893	Edward Glass, 1904
William W. Mott, 1893	Burt Swartz, 1905
Frank Ellis, 1894	Ben Holden, 1905
J. Levi Dana, 1894	Will Sutherland, 1906
Martin Madsen, 1894	Elmer Hanner, 1906
Manson M. McCormick, 1894	Albert Ross, 1907
Milledge G. Sherwood, 1895	Henry Hopkins, 1907
William W. Mott, 1895	Ben Johnson, 1908
Frank Cardwell, 1895	Lester Brownell, 1908
Robert A. Rutherford, 1895	Carl Lisenby, 1908
David M. Barnwell, 1896	James Lockhead, 1909
Clarence Edwards, 1896	Ben Levy, 1909
Sterling Patterson, 1897	John Drenth, 1909
Henry Brickly, 1897	Will McFarland, 1910
Ben R. Walker, 1897	James Moore, 1910
Walter Burns, 1897	Will Hunter, 1910
William Y. Spence, 1898	Floyd Harkness, 1911
Alfred North, 1898	Leslie Paterson, 1911
Fred Berry, 1898	Ray Prior, 1911
Ben R. Walker, 1899	Fred Prescott, 1911
George Hodges, 1899	George Kemper, 1912
Henry Dewell, 1900	Jacob Rife, 1912

Dennis Diene, 1912	Howard Conn, 1927
Newton Byrd, 1913	Harold Pearson, 1928
Earl Wooster, 1913	Donald Griffin, 1928
James Brazill, 1913	Floyd Benson, 1929
Bryant Pollard, 1913	Edwin Scottstaedt, 1929
James W. Campbell, 1914	Robert Aynesworth, 1930
Edward Faddis, 1914	Albert Dermer, 1930
Melvin Gibbs, 1914	Cecil Luckin, 1930
Emmett Chapman, 1915	Robert Barnard, 1930
Herald Shuck, 1915	Wallace Henderson, 1930
Charles Rutledge, 1915	Albert Sanborn, 1931
Charles or J. Douglas, 1916	Claude Callaway, 1931
Oscar Leebon, 1916	Fred Donlevy, 1931
Charles Rutledge, 1916	Paul Bartlett, 1932
Fay Reeder, 1916	Earl Dillon, 1932
Robert Porter, 1917	Evan McCormick, 1933
Wendell Musselman, 1917	Charles Williams, 1933
Ray Phelan, 1918	Herbert Levy, Jr., 1933
(No record) 1919	Albert Walker, 1934
(No record) 1920	Denver Peckinpah, 1934
Hilary Raybourne, 1921	James L. Hansen, 1934
Galen McKnight, 1921	Robert Pickford, 1934
Lawrence Peters, 1922	Donald Paul, 1935
Charles Nowell, 1922	Roy Ball, 1935
Aaron Powers, 1922	Lloyd Whitman, 1936
Philip Smith, 1923	Fred Docker, 1936
Gerald Strang, 1923	Ralph Moffitt, 1936
Harry Lynch, 1923	Forrest Brown, 1936
Stanley Hopper, 1924	Harold Buck, 1936
Averill Chapman, 1924	Malcolm Maston, 1937
Maurice Hampton, 1924	Robert Levy, 1937
Francis Newton, 1924	James Frolik, 1938
Hill Adkins, 1925	Robert Snoddy, 1938
Howard Craghead, 1925	Irving Fine, 1938
Sloan McCormick, 1926	Herbert Nurmi, 1938
Maurice Reetz, 1927	John Phillips, 1939
(Sidney or Scott)	David Colburn, 1939
O'Leary, 1927	Donald Gard, 1940
	Wendell Evans, 1940