

Who were the Wranglers?

by Ronald Kovener

The Delta Upsilon central office has a record of the individuals who were affiliated with the Indiana chapter on Dec. 11, 1915, but had no records concerning the Wranglers, the group formed in 1902 that became the Indiana chapter of DU. All of the issues of the *Arbutus*, the Indiana University year book, have been examined to compile a list of the students who are part of the heritage of the chapter; this information is now part of the central office archives.

The *Arbutus* listings from this era may not be a full record of the

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membership of the group. It is likely that the available members at the time of the picture are listed, but others may have been affiliated with the group but not pictured; pictures of the same member are often not included in consecutive editions of the *Arbutus*. Between years, the anticipated year of graduation often changed and the spelling of names sometimes changed. Also, the listings of pictured members are not keyed to the picture, so the face that goes with the name cannot be determined.

The 1903 *Arbutus* pictures these 11 students, right, as the initial members of the Wranglers. The page accompanying the picture says, "The Wranglers is essentially a debating society. It was organized October 31, 1902, under a constitution limiting it to thirteen members. ..." This and later *Arbutus* Wrangler pages include the quote, "I am Sir Oracle, and when I ope my lips, let no dog bark." The limitation of 13 members was quickly abandoned since the 1904 *Arbutus* listed 14 members. Of the original 11 members, six seemed to be affiliated until graduation; four were pictured only once. These four and one more did not seem to be affiliated until graduation. Only one of the 11 was among the alumni initiated into Delta Upsilon in 1915, Mahlon Earl Bash. Bash's graduation year is listed as 1914 and the DU archives show that in 1915, he was a judge of probate court in Indianapolis.

In the 13 years when the Wranglers were included in the *Arbutus*, a total of 131 men were pictured. Of these, 34 were

students at the time the Wranglers became members of DU. An additional eight students who had never been pictured with the Wranglers were initiated, and one pictured Wrangler was initiated by the DePauw chapter. Twenty-nine who had graduated were also initiated into DU for a total initiation group of 71.

The chapter is very proud of John Whittenberger, who was a member of the Wranglers but did not become a DU. Whittenberger established the Indiana Memorial Union but died at about the time of his graduation. The obituary in the *Indiana Daily Student* at the time of his death was effusive in its praise of his

accomplishments. And, Whittenberger's picture was included with the Wranglers in only the 1907 and 1910 editions of the *Arbutus*; possibly he was too busy at the time the picture was taken to be included in the 1908 and 1909 books.

The 11 men pictured in 1903 were the fewest ever pictured, but the first time the number pictured grew to more than 20 was in 1911 and 1912. In 1913, the prospect of affiliation with a national fraternity was doubtless anticipated — 47 men were pictured. The number of men pictured in 1914 and 1915 was 26 and 28. Even in the three years prior to affli-

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The 1903 *Arbutus* pictures these 11 students as the initial members of the Wranglers.

Daughter of Wrangler reveals a gap

Catherine Smith is the daughter of Henry Smith, one of the members of the Wrangler Society that became the Indiana Chapter of Delta Upsilon in 1915. She attended the memorial service for Barry Holthaus (see related story on page 5) and mentioned that she had spent many happy times as a child in the current chapter house. The discovery of this relationship led to the realization that no one now knows of a list of the members of the Wrangler Society. To fill this gap in knowledge about the origin of the chapter, old copies of the *Arbutus* were consulted to compile a list of Wrangler members (see list below; story begins on page 1).

Catherine Smith is a wonderful link to the heritage of the chapter. Smith is a noted pianist; her BS and MS degrees in music were earned at IU and she earned her PhD at Florida State. She is probably the first woman to ever earn a PhD in



piano. She was a concert pianist throughout the US, Europe, and the Orient and taught piano at Eastern Illinois University for nearly 40 years. Since being in Bloomington, she has made a significant mark on the cultural life of the community. And, after playing the piano at the chapter house, she said, "It's a gem, very unusual for a fraternity to have such a fine instrument."

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ation with DU, a few men were pictured with the Wranglers but did not join DU.

The employment of the 29 alumni who had been Wranglers and became members of the chapter is listed in the central office archive. They include eight in various businesses, one with a newspaper, six lawyers, one judge, five physicians, six in education (including two school superintendents), one college professor, and one graduate student. One of the alumni engaged in business is listed as manager of The Student's Book Company Inc. in State College Washington. He is the father of Catherine Smith, who lit the spark that resulted in the research into the Wranglers herein reported. See related item at left.

It is unclear how employment of students who had not yet graduated in 1915 can be included in the central office archive, but one is listed as the vice-consul of the American consulate in Rome, three as physicians, one as a chemist, one as a teacher, one as a high school athletic director, and one as a farmer. E. Ross Bartley, who graduated in 1917, is listed as a reporter with United Press International in New York City. He was later inducted into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

A list of the Wranglers at IU before DU, compiled from the *Arbutus*

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Joshua H. Allen, 1905 | Harry V. Dugan, 1917 | John W. Hornaday, 1905 | George W. Osborn, 1906 |
| Framl A. Ambler, 1913 | Will P. Dyer, 1908 | E. M. Hornaday, 1905 | Spencer Gordon Pope, 1918 |
| Ernest R. Applegate, 1906 | Leon K. Eagles, 1916 | James Howe, 1916 | John Mark Powell, 1914 |
| John Ambrose Aspy, 1915 | Don Essex, 1917 | Arthur R. Hurst, 1916 | Claudis E. Quinn, 1907 |
| Charles Alvin Ballinger, 1911 | Robert Feagans, 1916 | Ward Ingels, 1916 | Noel Craig Rudell, 1917 |
| Cecil G. Barnard, 1917 | Ralph K. Forsyth, 1909 | Elmer Jessup, 1909 | Albert Eugene Schmollinger, 1909 |
| Virgil Francis Barnhart, 1917 | Thomas Darrel Foster, 1915 | Charles A. Johnson, 1905 | LeRoy E. Sellers, 1914 |
| Walter Homer Barnhart, 1911 | Darrell Foster, 1914 | Edward E. Johnston, 1913 | Michael J. Shiel, 1909 |
| Edward Ross Bartley, 1916 | Russell W. Geyer, 1914 | Claude R. Jones, 1906 | Herman Wayne Smelser, 1916 |
| Mahlon Earl Bash, 1914 | Earl R. Gleam, 1912 | John M. Kreag, 1908 | Henry Myron Smith, 1913 |
| Walter D. Bean, 1906 | Earl Goldsmith, 1916 | Gerald Wayne Landis, 1918 | Cloyd D. Snobarger, 1918 |
| A. Dale Beeler, 1916 | Virgil Gordon, 1912 | Robert Parkman Lang, 1913 | Edgar M. Starr, 1916 |
| Benjamin Rudolph Belsley, 1914 | Glen A. Gordy, 1917 | Gilbert B. Larabee, 1911 | Monroe A. Starr, 1912 |
| Ambrose William Benkert, 1909 | Harold Gray, 1916 | Arthur Blank Leible, 1915 | William M. Steirnagle, 1906 |
| Russell W. Beyer, 1914 | Harry P. Gray, 1917 | Everett E. Lett, 1913 | Leon Stephan, 1908 |
| Bernard J. Bocharat, 1911 | Arthur H. Greenwood, 1905 | Walter O. Lewis, 1914 | Hassall Tarkington Sullivan, 1913 |
| Harold J. Bowser, 1917 | Edward Rene Grisell, 1910 | Emery Earl Lines, 1916 | Fred Tavener, 1916 |
| Herschel Phillip Bowser, 1918 | Denver Carl Harlan, 1909 | Winfred W. Livengood, 1906 | John F. Thompson, 1908 |
| James G. Brinkley, 1906 | Fawn Harris 1914 | Charles E. Lockabill, 1908 | Emmett C. Troxel, 1912 |
| S. Frank Broadbeck, 1914 | Theodore V. Harsh, 1910 | Gilbert B. Lorabee, 1911 | Claude Kenneth Turman, 1918 |
| Clarence M. Brown, 1909 | Herman H. Haskins, 1905 | Colonel Gleason Mackey, 1915 | Arlie John Ullrich, 1916 |
| Virgil L. Burnana, 1911 | Elmer Hasler, 1916 | James R. Mauck, 1908 | William Vogel, 1909 |
| Everett Tyler Burton, 1917 | Russel G. Hathaway, 1918 | John H. McClellan, 1912 | Russel Scott Wallace, 1916 |
| Harold Caylor, 1917 | Glenn Hayden Hayes, 1918 | J. Horton McCohy, 1916 | William Paul Wallace, 1917 |
| Arthur A. Chapman, 1914 | Tully Hays, 1912 | Asher McMahan, 1905 | George Herbert Weir, 1917 |
| John C. Cochrane, 1915 | Nelson Leroy Heller, 1909 | Olin Landis McReynolds, 1915 | Benjamin Alston West, 1918 |
| Leonard P. Collins, 1911 | Charles Henly, 1910 | Alvin T. Menke, 1905 | John M. Whittenberger, 1911 |
| Bear H. Connelly, 1912 | Wilfred Glenn Hendershot, 1915 | Preston H. Miles, 1913 | Otto Wilson, 1911 |
| Joseph A. Conrad, 1916 | Frank Chester Hendershot, 1917 | Newton Miller, 1905 | Lawrence Paul Windle, 1918 |
| H. Manford Cox, 1916 | Daniel E. Herschelman, 1905 | Odis C. Munsey, 1907 | Owen B. Windle, 1908 |
| William P. Crockett, 1908 | Edgar Raymond Hiatt, 1914 | Jesse H. Newlin, 1905 | Harlan Shirley Yenne, 1913 |
| Lloyd M. Crossgrave, 1909 | Cassius E. Hiatt, 1905 | Jessie H. Newlon, 1907 | Warren J. Youret, 1911 |
| Chester A. Davis, 1914 | Clarence P. Hinchman, 1916 | John J. O'Neil, 1913 | |