

January 25, 1937

Mr. S. E. Davis
President, Teachers College
Dillon, Montana

My Dear Mr. Davis:

I am sorry that our local chapter here has become inactive. When we first organized at Warrensburg and attempted to extend Phi Sigma Pi, we picked Kirksville to be our first chapter. We sent a delegate over to Kirksville and they thought they would provide for the organization of a chapter, so we assigned them Beta chapter. Then John R. Kirk and Byron Cosby put a quietus to the matter and nothing more was done until after I came here. By that time, Phi Sigma Pi had probably twelve or fifteen chapters, but Beta had been skipped in the naming. I found when I got here that there was a chapter of what is known as Blue Key, and Eubank, the Dean, was sponsoring the chapter. Eubank had been a member of Phi Sigma Pi at Warrensburg, and he encouraged me to organize a chapter here. I did so. It started up well, but in the course of two years hard times came and it was difficult for the boys who were eligible to get the money to join. With hard times there developed a sort of competition, I might say, for members between Blue Key and Phi Sigma Pi, Blue Key being a well established fraternity here and about the only one, if not the only one, in Teachers Colleges in the country. By hard work I kept the chapter alive for some years, but getting old and decrepit and tired of the world, I have about decided that I was not going to use my energy any further, with the result that Blue Key get the men who are eligible and they are not able to join two fraternities. There is no conflict in principle between the fraternities. I do not know whether our fraternity will be revived or not here, but I am not going to waste any energy in doing it. I think probably that you have been very wise in going slow in placing a fraternity in your school. I have tried since the beginning of the problem to get Phi Delta Kappa to establish chapters in Teachers Colleges and in Undergraduate schools that have adequate education departments, and in private colleges. I think that this is the only sensible solution to the problem, but the pride and educational aristocracy and egotism and uppishness and various other characteristics of some of the leaders of Phi Delta Kappa have made it impossible to secure the approval of the



National Council for such a procedure. I am quite sure that both Phi Sigma Pi and Kappa Pi Kappa would be glad to discontinue their fraternity and have their chapters become Phi Delta Kappa chapters, but neither of the fraternities seem to want to lose their identity in the other.

I have recently been placed on a National committee, looking to the federation of the three fraternities. In my judgment, that would not solve the problem and I am wasting no energy in attending these meetings to try to attack it in that way. I have written Cook my notions of this situation and I presume he will think I am impossible. Maybe I am.

So much for fraternities. We are having some of your weather here now, and I am most terrible tired of it. I don't see why you can't keep your weather at home. However, I was glad to get your letter. Will you go to New Orleans? I had planned to go, but duties of various kinds seem to be piling up on me and I will probably miss the meeting this year; the first time for several years. I might change my mind, however. I am always glad to hear from you.

Sincerely yours

C. H. McClure
Head of Division of
Social Science

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