

The Weekly Almanian

VOL. VI, NO. 22

TUESDAY, MARCH, 11 1913

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LETTER OF INTEREST

From Rev. Fred J. Soule Ph.D.
Somerville, New Jersey

FORMER EDITOR OF ALMANIAN

Took Trip Abroad Last Year and
Witnessed Olympic Games.

Somerville, New Jersey.
Editor of the Almanian:

Your request for a letter, recalls the time—in 1904 to 1906—when, as editor of the Almanian, then a monthly publication, I sent appeals to alumni for stories, poems, essays and other sorts of cerebral productions. I can judge your sense of gratitude for an interested response; and so with a fellow feeling I write for your columns, hoping thereby to pay partially my debt of gratitude, though I fear you will find it difficult to market my goods.

The value of an educational institution to a man may be judged by the distinctness of its perspective in the enlarging picture of experience. Now Alma does not loom up as pretensions as it did when I was a freshman in the Alma High school and watched Watson Robinson turn out the first championship football team and President Bruske grind out his grist of brain-capped seniors. But as my eyes run over the picture, they invariably rest on a scene that is clear and interesting in detail. There is a little more sunshine there than around other scenes of my educational life.

For the most part the alumni and former students of Alma retain their interest in the college, a fact seen in the growing associations in different sections of the country. Our association of the East, which was founded after I came to New York, keeps warm the college comradeship; and after its annual banquet on April 4th will begin to be of service to the Alma Mater.

There was a time as a student that I thought of going to the University of Michigan, and there was a time as an aspirant for higher degrees that I wished I had gone; but today I am glad I remained, for I find myself in one body of alumni where I am not swamped by numbers and where comradeship is real, not artificial. The more I learn of the smaller colleges of the country and the more I visit and come to know the life of the larger universities, the more I feel that we may well be proud of the place of influence and dignity that Alma has achieved in her first quarter-century. And those of us who agree with President Blaisdell's idea of education as a culture of something more than the intellect, Alma has promise of a bright future.

Now you ask me for a brief description of my trip in Europe last summer. In company with a university friend I visited the larger cities of nine of the northern countries, taking time for jaunts into the country only while in England and Scotland. From our first view of the southern English villages, with their grey stone homes and their vine-

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H. M. S. PINAFORE

A light Opera by Gilbert & Sullivan
will be given at Realty Opera House,
Friday Eve., March 14. Seats 25, 50c.

The Cast is as Follows:

Sir Joseph Porter	H. C. MOORE
Captain Corcoran	R. F. VEATCH
Ralph Rackstraw	BOPE BUTLER
Dick Deadeye	MR. JOHN ANDERSON
Bill Bobstay	MR. JAMES PEET
Josephine	BONNIE FULLER
Hebe	ROSALIE NETZORG
Little Buttercup	MISS ETHA ROWE

MEN'S ORATORICAL CONTEST. GREETINGS FROM CHICAGO.

"The last shall be first and the first last." This was the prevailing opinion when the decision of the judges was rendered at the men's oratorical contest held at Adrian last Friday. This contest, like the ladies' was by far the best in the history of Michigan college oratory. The highest honors were given to Willis B. Perkins, Jr., of Olivet college, who spoke last among the nine contestants and whose subject was "The Equilibrium of Political Principles." His oration was a plea not for the extreme liberal nor the conservative but for a well-balanced "Equilibrium" between these two forces.

W. F. Rennie, of Hillsdale college won second with a well delivered "sermon" on "Kinship."

Ralph L. Peterson, of Albion, "The Demand of Efficiency" exceptionally well delivered won third place.

J. W. Bowman, a freshman from Kalamazoo was given fourth.

Alma's representative, Harold V. Wilcox was at his best. His oration was strong and his delivery exceptional, he was considered by the large audience as one of three or four who stood a good chance to carry off the honors. Every Alma student has a right to feel proud of her representative, although he did not win highest favor with the judges.

A. I. Margolis, of M. A. C. with his splendidly unique oration, "War and Poverty" strongly delivered was the one man who was most strongly favored as the winner of the big affair, but after a long spell of waiting, when the judges decision was rendered, Mr. Margolis was tied for sixth place.

The representative from Hope college, C. B. Mute, whose brother six years ago carried off state honors by straight firsts, and who himself was looked upon by many as a possible winner was awarded number eight.

There was not a weak representative in either contest and it was no dishonor to be given last place.

Never before were contests so hotly or splendidly fought for as this year, and the way things were going it would not be surprising to see any man or woman in the two contests turned in as winner or given last place.

Not a slip, in delivery in either contest, not a representative but seemed perfectly at home on the platform. This is the first time in the history of oratory in Michigan that

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ATHLETIC VAUDEVILLE

At Realty Opera House Last
Wednesday Evening

WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

Given Under the Direction of Coach
Bleamaster.

Last Wednesday evening some of the talented of the College faculty and students under the direction of Coach Bleamaster, assisted by the Alma College orchestra directed by Prof. Veatch, pulled off a high class vaudeville at the Realty opera house.

The whole affair was wide awake and furnished a good healthy laugh to all. The two hours' entertainment passed only too quickly.

The program was composed of eight acts. The fun began with songs by the Cosmopolitan quartette composed of Phillips (Irishman), Butler (Mexican), Goodrich (Dutchman), Austin (colored gentleman). Their costumes added much to the funny part of their stunt. Next came the Dutch artists, Goetz and Schultz. These two freshmen proved as funny as they looked. Their stunt, a take-off on college foot-ball, afforded great amusement to the audience and was met with loud applause, being called back the third time. Their jokes were especially enjoyed.

The third event was a dramatic reading by Prof. Warner. This was of a different nature than the rest of the program and was one of the prominent features. Prof. Warner showed great ability in his work. He held the perfect attention of the audience from start to finish.

"Mutt and Jeff" next slid in with a few funny stunts and practical jokes. The fifth event was a reading by Joe Kennedy. Joe is right at home on the platform and showed a great power of interpretation and impersonation.

Next appeared Yerex and his acrobatic troupe, viz., Hyde, the hobo; Rushmore and Coach Bleamaster. Their stunts consisted of handsprings, somersaults, flippers and club swinging. Hyde displayed his usual amount of wit thus adding much to the act.

The seventh act was a reading entitled the "District School," by Prof. R. F. Veatch. His variation in impersonation made his selection very amusing and was greatly appreciated by the audience.

Lastly came the act by the College Glee club, whose members are Frost, Austin, Misenar, Goodrich, Von Thurn, Rodie, Woodruff, Galliger, Koolvoord, Butler, O. Anderson, J. Anderson, Hodge, Bleamaster, Button, Ewing, Monteith and A. Johnson. The stage was arranged to represent a camping ground. The fellows sang "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground," and a few other appropriate songs. Frost and Rodie also sang solos adding much to the evening's entertainment.

The entertainment was a great credit to Coach Bleamaster and was a help financially to the Athletic association. Nearly every student and faculty member was present and also a large number of townspeople who felt themselves well paid for attending.

Chicago, Feb. 27, 1913.

Editor of the Almanian,

Alma College, Alma, Mich.
The Alma College association of the Northwest sends you greeting.

We are glad to let you know that we were honored by President and Mrs. Blaisdell as our guests at our annual banquet, Feb. 22, at the City club of Chicago.

Many of Alma's former students and alumni were present to enjoy the very fine address of President Blaisdell. It is a source of great delight to us all to learn of Alma's prosperity and promising future. Our association informs you that it offered the College a scholarship for the year 1913-1914.

The newly elected officers for the year are James McBride, president; Jessie Wight, vice-president; A. J. Van Page, secretary and treasurer.

With best wishes from us all.
A. J. VAN PAGE,
Secretary.

MRS. J. T. EWING ENTERTAINS.

Mrs. J. T. Ewing gave the women of the faculty a very pleasant afternoon at her home on Grant street last Saturday. Toasting marshmallows helped to make this first gathering pleasantly informal. Beautiful needlework showing the artistic and practical instincts of the workers was everywhere in evidence. Later in the afternoon even the younger members were persuaded to lay aside the towels that they were embroidering for "mother" to enjoy the bountiful refreshments which their generous hostess had provided for them.

PHILO STUNT PARTY.

If ever you have attended a stunt party given by Philo girls simply read the date and fix it in your mind. "Nuf sed," you'll be there. If you are a stranger to such an experience, read on.

The Philos are planning a stunt party, a real bona fide stunt party, with farce, pantomime and caricature. It is the first chance of the year for seeing Alma in burlesque. It would be worth fifty cents or any amount which you might be asked to pay, but no such demands will be made of you. On that subject you will have further information; just now remember that with Miss Margaret Boag as chairman a committee is planning a big stunt party for March 22, 1913.

...The...
Weekly Almanian

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CORNER ON DATES.

Scientific lecture, Mar. 13.
"Pinafore"—March 14.
Philo Stunt Party—March 22.

Y. W. and Y. M. C. A. DATES.

Union prayer meeting, Wednesday evening, March 12. A David Livingstone program to be given.
Mar. 16. Y. M. C. A. at 8:15; debate: Resolved, That card playing is detrimental to college students.
Sunday Mar. 23, there will be an Easter service given at the Masonic Home by the Y. W. and Y. M. C. A.

ANCIENT MAN: HIS ENVIRONMENT AND HIS ART.

This lecture, under the auspices of the Science club, which is to be given on the evening of March 13th, at 8 o'clock, in the college chapel, by Dr. George Grant MacCurdy of Yale University, will be one of popular scientific interest. A study of the later geological formations in France, Spain, and Belgium has resulted in some most interesting discoveries of ancient art and other work. These remains have aroused wide-spread interest and all in Alma are to have the opportunity to hear and see what is usually to be had only in the large cities and universities.

The lecture will treat of such topics as the following: The environmental factor in human development; the newly discovered human remains from Piltown, Sussex, and their significance; the San Isidro Valley deposits near Madrid and Torralba, Spain, where a rude stone industry associated with an ancient fauna has been found. Typical caves and rock shelters of southern France, together with the art of the cave-man in Spain and France. Representations of the human form; a Pyrenean paleolithic cavern of great beauty discovered last July with its parietal art and unique figures of bison modeled in clay. Paleolithic art in its relation to its development and eventually to its decay. The different culture stages are all illustrated.

The lecture is based largely on first hand observations made during the past summer. The lantern slides reproduce faithfully in color the remarkable cavern frescoes. The epochs covered are those beginning with the very oldest, the Eolithic.

The Science club extends a cordial invitation to all students and the people of Alma to be present.

NEWS ITEMS.

Rev. Sidebotham, of Brooklyn, spent a few days in Alma with his

family at Mr. Hooper's and was a caller at the college.

Harold Wilcox gave his oration in chapel Thursday morning before leaving for the State contest at Adrian. Mr. Wilcox proved himself an able orator.

Roy Campbell, of Detroit, was about the campus Friday morning, shaking hands with his old college friends.

E. A. Thompson, of Beaverton, was a welcome guest about the college a few days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Wilson and daughter Lucille, of Reading visited his brother Addison part of the week. Mrs. Fancher had as her guest at Wright Hall, Thursday, Dr. Blaisdell's sister.

Mr. Kennedy, of St. Louis, visited his sister Alice at Wright Hall last week.

Prof. H. P. Brooks of Mt. Pleasant and M. W. Tanner, of Saginaw, were here on business Tuesday.

Will Ewing is able to be out again after a week's sickness of La Grippe. Too bad that Bope couldn't go on the sleighing party Friday night, but Brinkman says he will never be so cruel again as to lock Bope in the room.

DETROIT WINS THE FINAL GAME.

Friday evening in the last basketball encounter of the season, the varsity went down to defeat before one of the fastest teams which has ever been seen by Alma basketball fandom. The University of Detroit won by the score of 38 to 21, but the grain of solid comfort which is mingled with the sting of defeat is the fact that it took a team coached by an Alma graduate to turn the trick; a team which has run up much higher scores against Intercollegiate rivals who are now squabbling over the mythical title of champions. The game which the Presbyterians put up reflects the highest credit upon every man who played and upon Coach Bleamaster. Gameness to the last trench nearly wrung out a favorable decision for Alma, but the lead which the invaders gained the first half was too impressive and a most honorable reverse was the locals' share.

Somewhat ill at ease because of the reputation which the Detroiters have gained this year, the varsity allowed the visitors to roll up twelve points without reprimanding them a bit and didn't get into the real spirit of the contest until the second half commenced. But when the better half was in vogue the affair attained a livid hue and speed was the predominant feature. The teamwork of both quintets broached on the sensational and the passing was a thing of beauty. Six separate and distinct times after his team mates had been toying with the ball in a forward direction, Hooper, a truly energetic basket-ball player, flicked the wandering sphere into the basket and thus rung up twelve points. In addition he slipped in seven baskets from the foul line. Quite a creditable performance was that; but it was the only appropriate thing to do in view of the wonderful floor work which his boon companions were doing. Schultz, Phillips, Misenar and Austin weren't lagging around the bleachers in the meantime, either. Schultz spun in a neat basket in the first half and Austin covered lots of territory in guarding the speedy visiting forwards. Kellar, from the "life worth living city," shot five baskets from the running center position and Minahan threw in four. Leo Heaphy wasted several good chances by wild shooting, but made up for this deficiency by excellent passing. The two coaches, Campbell and Bleamaster, handled the game in a very satisfactory way.

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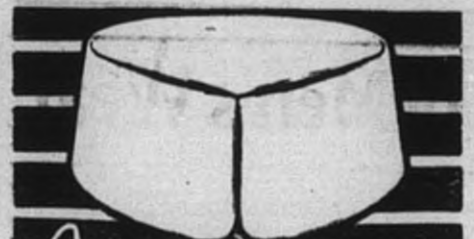
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MEN'S ORATORICAL CONTEST
Continued from page 1

every college was so ably represented. Mr. Willis B. Perkins, Jr., of Olivet by being returned winner of this struggle will represent Michigan in the Inter-state Oratorical contest to be held at Wooster college, May 16. Michigan, last year carried off first honors in the inter-state and it is hoped that Mr. Perkins will be able to again accomplish that feat. For five consecutive years Albion had carried away the coveted prize and this year was again represented by a very strong orator, but "Pete" failed to "repeat." Last year he won the state and inter-state prohibition contests and before the contests last Friday he was looked upon by the other orators as "the man to whip." Alma's representatives deserve praise for the splendid way in which they worked for the honor of "Old Alma." Both were great contests, and we join heartily in congratulating the winners. Alma's day is coming.

PROHIBITION CONTEST.

Mr. Fred Johnson, president of the Prohibition League is arranging for a temperance oratorical contest to be held in the college chapel in about three weeks. There is \$25 to be divided into three prizes to be awarded to the three highest contestants. Now this is a good opportunity for any fellow of any oratorical ability, so get busy, fellows, and enter in.

JUNIORS ENTERTAIN.

And the Juniors can entertain; so say the Seniors. The sleighride party last Friday night was the social success of the term. Seizing the first opportunity for a sleighride, they bundled themselves and the Seniors away in a big "bob" and started for St. Louis. They not only started, but they eventually reached there. For there the skating rink had been engaged by the Juniors for the evening. "Roll with me around on the rollers?" "Sure." And they did. Until it became simply imperative that they start for home. They reached Alma, as the story goes, tired and hungry. But the Juniors had provided for such an exigency. So they were dropped off at the home of Ruth Cook. The Juniors have always maintained a creditable reputation for "eats," and they had reckoned with uncanny preciseness for this occasion. Such sandwiches, such salad, such coffee, olives; for lack of space the enumeration must cease. But, be it said in closing, once, now and forever, "1913 doffs their hat to the Juniors when it comes to sleighrides and their aftermaths."

Hard at Work.
Peg—"Billy, you never listen to half the things I say to you."
Billy—"Well, dear, I am obliged to work a few minutes in the day."



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THE ALMANIAC

Muddled.

Frost (in a prohibition sermon)—“Every time I see a young man coming out of a saloon I want to go right up to him and say, ‘Turn right around young man, you are going the wrong way.’”

Cheap Place.

Rushmore—“Von, where do you get all your hats?”

Von—“Usually at Cafes. But I have been lucky enough to change at church a few times lately.”

Not for Me.

Carey—“I’d buy this sweater, Oscar, but it’s a whole lot too big.”

Oscar—“That’s all right—it will shrink from washing.”

Carey—“Well, so do I.”

Not Enough.

Prof. W. (in literature class)—“Mr. Johnson, what do you think of Fielding?”

Johnson—“Oh, its important, of course, but it won’t avail anything without good batting.”

Stands the Test.

Stub V.—“She is beautiful, old boy.”

Archie—“Her mouth isn’t as pretty as the average.”

Stub—“It sure is.”

Archie—“I’d put mine up against it any day.”

Stub—“When it comes to that, so would I.”

LETTER OF INTEREST

Continued from page 1

covered Gothic and Norman churches, to our last, lingering gaze out across Lake Windermere and Grassmere, where Wordsworth tuned his poems to the voice of nature, we were filled with an Englishman’s enthusiasm for his “garden of beauty.” Were it a month later, I should be expressing the wish of Browning in “Home Thoughts from Abroad,”

“Oh, to be in England

Now that April’s here!”

We entered London with the characteristic attitude of one who has lived in New York; if the metropolis were greater than the home of Father Knickerbocker—well, we’d have to be shown! Of course, we saw no sixty story buildings, found nothing to match Broadway, heard no babel of tongues—but we found a city of sensible homes, quaint gardens, extensive parks with grass that you could walk on, splendid museums, dignified buildings of state, and mossy relics of the past with invitations too insistent to resist. We sought places where monarch were born and where heroes lay buried; we lost ourselves in slums where policemen warned us not to go—much to our amusement when we compared them with New York; we mingled with the dock strikers; gossiped with loquacious costers and cockneys; and learned all we could about everyone from the King to the suffragettes.

Paris was different—much different—but we found out why the students

of the world like to live there! It’s a city where you can breathe easily and think your own thoughts. It is a city of entrancing beauty, democracy and pleasure. And everywhere you see the symbolism of civilization’s triumphs. If you recall your history, you can look down from the tower of Notre Dame and follow the course of some of the awfulest tragedies and the greatest triumphs of the rights of the masses.

We visited Brussels and Waterloo, picturing the battle with the help of the guides as we sat on the monumental mound. Antwerp we found to be a busy port, a veritable New York—with variations! The quaint cities of Holland, plain and clean, and the quainter fishing villages made us respect the Dutch, with their wholesome ideas of domestic, civic and political life. Journeying then through Germany to Berlin we were presented with contrasts in country and social life. The home of the Kaiser is a city fit for a great monarch, a city of great proportions, splendid with its spacious parks, royal palaces, and regal monuments. Soldiers everywhere bespeak the fact of militarism; universities, the fact of culture; museums, the fact of achievement. Our next city was Copenhagen—the Paris of the North, home of the art of Thorwaldsen. Its environs are the most beautiful, especially the ancient Deer Park. Denmark is a country of rural industries perfected to a high degree; of excellent schools; of a homogeneous and patriotic population.

Our next trip took us through Sweden and brought us finally to Stockholm, where men from every country had gathered for the Olympic games. The brown stone stadium, decked with the flags of the nations, and echoing the songs of many peoples, claimed our earliest attention. And there, under clear skies, we watched the finals of races, vaulting, jumping, shot-putting, wrestling and drills, filled with pride that over all the flags floated the Stars and Stripes throughout most of the games. Sweden sent lusty rooters, who, of course, could drown out the voices of the smaller American crowd, but the Yankee yells were heard the oftener. Stockholm is a modern city, democratic, temperate and industrious. And the hospitality of the Swedes cannot be praised too highly.

Our returning trip took us through Norway; and then sailing out through the fjords of Christiania’s harbor, we crossed over to Newcastle for another delightful journey among cathedral towns, villages made famous by Scott and other poets, Scotch cities filled with romance, and mountains where hardy Scots have fought and wooed.

We were impressed with the appalling social conditions in England and Scotland, the suffering of the poor, the multitudes out of work, the atmosphere of depression, and the longing for some social reform that will give hope for the masses of the people. Sensing these things, we could not wonder that many leave scenes of beauty and places of historic fame for a country on this side of the sea, where—in spite of perplexing problems—the economic conditions are much more promising.

FREDERICK J. SOULE.

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