

# Crooking Tradition Renewed To Stimulate Class Spirit

By ANN IPOCK

Wanted: By the Seniors and Sophomores. One Crook. If a sophomore finds the crook please notify a member of the senior class as soon as possible. Must be found by the night of the Christmas banquet. Urgent!

Start looking all you seniors and sophomores, for the crook is back in hiding. In case you were wondering if someone had been shot or if our faithful George is with us once more when you heard that minor A-bomb explosion on the porch of Jones the other day, put your mind at rest. It was just that the crook had been found by Betsy Cannady and the juniors were celebrating.

Before I go any farther, let me explain that the crook is not a person who steals your homemade cookies or your algebra problems! It is just a long white shepherd's crook given to the Meredith senior class of 1906 by Miss Carolyn Phelps to increase school spirit, and has been the source of rivalry between the junior and senior classes for many years. The class that possesses the crook on the final day of the contest is victorious. The reason that most of us have not heard of the crook before is that this custom was brought to a halt some years later by the faculty because class rivalry became too intense. However, it was brought back in 1926 and again stopped in 1946. Now in 1951 the crook has once again been put to use.

In the early days of the crook, it was hidden by the seniors at the first of the school year, and the juniors were given the whole nine months to find it. Since attendance at Meredith has increased so much, a time limit has been set. When we returned from Thanksgiving, the juniors found that the crook had been hidden by the seniors, and they had until the night of our Christmas banquet to find it. And so they did! Way ahead of schedule. The crook is back in hiding, but this time it was hidden by the juniors who challenged the seniors to find it. Maybe by the

## NATIONAL BRIDGE COMMITTEE SPONSORS COLLEGIATE CONTEST

Meredith is one of the more than three-hundred invited to compete in the 1952 National Intercollegiate Bridge tournament. Louis D. Day, Jr., of the University of Pennsylvania, is chairman of the National Intercollegiate Bridge tournament committee.

Only undergraduates are eligible to play in the duplicate contract bridge event for the title and trophy. A preliminary round will be played by mail in February, and the sixteen highest ranking pairs will meet for the face-to-face finals at the Blackstone Hotel in Chicago on April 18 and 19, with their expenses paid by the Tournament Committee.

In last year's Intercollegiate tournament, which was won by the team from Washburn University, 1,264 students representing 158 colleges in forty-two states played in the round-by-mail. To insure representation of all parts of the country in the finals, the country is divided into eight zones, with two pairs from each zone qualifying for the finals.

The National Intercollegiate Bridge tournament committee,

time you read this article, some lucky senior will have found the crook, and the cycle will have begun again.

On the night of our Christmas banquet, the crook will be brought forth. If the seniors do not have the crook in their possession, the crook will wear the senior class colors, but with a black bow placed there in mourning for the seniors by the juniors. If it is in the possession of the senior class, it will wear the junior class colors for the seniors will present it to the juniors. Next year, the new senior class will once again challenge the juniors. So gals, get busy and find the crook! Not many more "looking" days are left!

## Book Review

### ESSAY COLLECTION MAKES USE OF SATIRE

"The Indiana Home," by Logan Esarey, R. E. Banta, Crawfordsville, Indiana, 1947, 150 pp.

What interesting classes Professor Esarey must have conducted at Indiana University! "The Indiana Home" is a collection of six essays on Indiana life during the early history of the state. Dr. Esarey, a native of Indiana, spent most of his life studying, teaching, and writing Indiana history. The essays were found in rough draft among the late professor's papers. He never intended them to be published; but how fortunate we are that they were!

The book not only contains enlightening information as to the hardships, difficulties and fun of the early inhabitants of the Hoosier state, but it also has subtle satire hidden in just the right places. Here is an example: "Sycamores stood up like aristocrats among the other trees and like aristocrats, they were useless to man and beast." Another example of satire is used in connection with washing the sheep's wool. At first this task was done by the women and children; "when it came to be strictly a man's job, a machine was invented to do it."

Professor Esarey's vivid description of pioneer life makes us feel as if we are bystanders looking on at this fascinating pageant of history. The plants were divided into different classes of people. I have already

which supports the event so that there is no cost to the competing colleges or the players, is a group of college alumni and officials interested in developing contract bridge as an intercollegiate sport in which men and women can compete on an equal basis. The committee for 1952 includes: Louis D. Day, Jr., director, Houston Hall, University of Pennsylvania; Charles D. Owens, manager, Associated Students, University of Washington; Lloyd M. Vallery, manager, Purdue Memorial Union, Purdue University; Foster M. Coffin, director, Willard Straight Hall, Cornell University; Mrs. Christine Y. Conaway, dean of women, Ohio State University; Kenney L. Ford, alumni secretary, Kansas State College; Nelson B. Jones, director, Faunce House, Brown University; Donald R. Matthews, director of alumni affairs, University of Florida.

The committee requires that the approval of the dean or a corresponding authority be granted before a college can be regarded as officially entered in the tournament.

# Religion Club Hears Rabbi Philip Fried

Rabbi Philip Fried of Raleigh recently gave members of the Freeman Religion Club an introduction to Orthodox Judaism.

Rabbi Fried, formerly of Palestine, spoke briefly of the new nation being built there now. Also he reminded those attending of the long history of Judaism and of the contributions that this religion has made to others. He mentioned specifically that the idea of a day of rest originated with the Jews, although it has become a part of many other religions. Furthermore, the idea of cleanliness of food is a basic one in the Jewish religion.

The rabbi also pointed out the Orthodox Jewish ideas of marriage and divorce. Since marriage is a religious ceremony, the Jews believe that divorce also should be of religious concern, not merely a civil matter.

mentioned the aristocratic sycamore; the mulberry bushes were for the proletariat. Esarey's description of the few villages where the poor folks dwelled is very amusing. In speaking of the chickens, he says, "For six months in the year the chickens made ceaseless war on the gardens and while not so serious as the Civil War which followed, it caused even more neighborhood strife. One of the dark questions which still remains unsolved is why a person's chickens never did scratch up his own garden."

Professor Esarey intended his essays for the delight of children,

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Curtain Up

By BETSY CANNADY

Alpha Psi Omega held its semi-annual initiation service in the hut December 10. Seven girls—Patsy Averre, Patsy Bland, Dott Miller, Beth Morgan, Sally Massey, Jean Pace, and Fay Walker—were rewarded for their untiring efforts in little theatre work by becoming full-fledged members of this national dramatic fraternity. The initiation service was both challenging and inspiring, and it will always be remembered by each girl who experienced it. We hope that the organization will continue to grow as it has in the past year.

The Little Theatre's fall production of four one-act plays was received with enthusiasm by the audiences on both Friday and Saturday nights. This was the theatre's first experience with one-act plays, and those participating enjoyed the novelty. Without the great efficiency of the stage crew in changing the props between the plays, they could not have been nearly so successful. Many of the girls who worked in the plays received

but adults as well thrill to the romance in the human characteristics, the humor of every-day life, and the idiosyncrasies of the human race. The author has achieved his purpose in giving the reader information in an interesting and esthetically beautiful way. Grace Pow.

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