

ΦΒΣ

(Continued from page 12)

habits, interests and abilities would be a pretty dull organization." Every field of study in the College of Liberal Arts was to be represented. This was necessary,

Langston Taylor, a senior, was elected national president. From the very beginning, the founders envisioned a national organization and not merely a campus society. The other officers were:



Bro. Dr. Alain Leroy Locke

Photo courtesy Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University.



Bro. Gerald D. Smith
Executive Director

Founder C.L. Brown, a junior, national vice-president; Founder L.F. Morse, a senior, secretary and business manager; W.E. Tibbs, treasurer; and S.P. Massie, a junior, sergeant-at-arms.

A petition signed by the twelve charter members was submitted to the Boards of Deans of Howard University asking for official recognition. On April 15, 1914 the board approved the charter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. Less than a month later the first initiation was held. Abraham McCartney Walker was the first initiate.

The Birth of Phi Beta Sigma

AFTER several months of meetings, the group met at the 12th Street Branch of the YMCA on January 9, 1914 and there in the Bowen Room, the organizers gave "full and solemn consideration to the proposal to establish a new fraternity."

At the first election, Founder A.



Shown in a photograph at Kinney Shoe Store, Five Points West, Birmingham, Alabama, with incoming President Jesse Purifoy and other members of Tau Sigma Chapter are some of the boys who were presented shoes on this occasion.

the fraternity invited to honorary membership certain outstanding members of the university faculty. Four of the scholars who served as invaluable advisors to the founders were: Dr. Edward P. Davis, German language scholar and later dean of the College of Liberal Arts; Dr. Thomas W. Turner, nationally-known botanist and religious and social activist, who later moved to Tuskegee Institute; Prof. T. Montgomery Gregory, orator and theatrical director; and Prof. Alain Locke, author, philosopher, critic and America's first Black Rhodes Scholar.

With the establishment of Beta Chapter at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas in 1915, Phi Beta Sigma had the distinction of being the first Black college fraternity to operate in the deep South.

(Continued on page 16)

Sigma quickly assumed a place of prominence and importance in campus activities, especially student politics, capturing leadership roles in class and extracurricular organizations.

In September, Alpha Chapter moved into a furnished three-story brick fraternity house which Brother Scruggs had secured at 3rd and T Streets N.W.—the largest Black frat house in Washington D.C.!

To win friends and wield the necessary amount of influence among the faculty,



President Newton honors Executive Director Smith by presenting him with the President's Herculean Award.

Photo: LyBensons Photo Services