

## Seventy-Five Years Ago

1847 in a Student's Life. A Third\* Installment of Excerpts from the Diary of George Beck, '60

Monday, 3rd.

Yesterday was a day which will be long remembered by many of our number. In the morning Dr. Tappan mentioned the event of the previous day but deferred the more particular statement until after the inquest which he was to attend. In the afternoon the chapel was filled by students & many citizens of the place and the Dr gave us a powerful lecture choosing as his text, "One sinner destroyeth much good." On Saturday immediately after the death of the young man an inquest was held who dismissed the matter rather summarily. His father on learning some of the facts demanded a more thorough investigation and post mortem examination. The facts elicited were substantially these. That the young man had been desirous of joining one of the secret societies in college.—That on Friday eve a number of the students under pretense of admitting him were to put him through a mock initiation the object being to get him drunk and have some sport. They retired to a dirty unfurnished & dilapidated room a pail of beer & a bottle of whisky were procured and they succeeded in getting this young man drunk and left him for the night. In the morning they went to chapel & on their return found him nearly dead. A physician was called but it was too late—the vital spark had forever fled the spirit was before its Maker. Several of the young men were somewhat noted for their evil conduct but others were no doubt thoughtlessly enticed into danger—After the lecture yesterday the students held a meeting & appointed a committee to draw up a series of resolutions for presentation this morning also one to present a plan for a college temperance organization. The students met this morn & passed a series of resolutions condemning the open sale of intoxicating drinks as allowed by the authorities of the place and commending the previous efforts of the faculty to have it stopped—also sustaining the general character of the University—We meet tomorrow morning to form a temperance society.

Wednesday, Aug. 11th.

How many things a person loses by being poor. Yet I have no reason to complain for I have been abundantly blessed. I am by no means certain that I shall be able to return to Ann Arbor this fall. It will depend upon circumstances yet to transpire. I had nearly omitted to mention the great event of the day and age the successful laying of the Atlantic telegraph cable. It was announced in the Convention on the third day by Prof Davies which announcement was received with great applause.

Wednesday, 18th.

On Monday evening the Queen's Message was received by telegraph and last night Lockport was splendidly illuminated in honor of the event. It was a splendid affair for this place and was said to excel any of the towns or cities in western N. Y. Almost everybody appeared to be on the street for it was completely filled from one end to the other. I know not when I have felt so much the appropriateness of a public rejoicing. What a mighty work has been achieved. Another bond of fraternal union exists between the two most powerful & enlightened nations on earth. The two continents are in instantaneous connection. We have much reason to hope that it may never be sundered but ever remain the medium of a friendly intercourse.

Thursday, 30th.

I left home on Tuesday eve about 10 o'clock and arrived at Ann Arbor yesterday morning about 11 o'clock. I proceeded forthwith to the place where I left last spring and found my rooms had already been conditionally engaged but I concluded to wait until next week in prospect of getting them or some others as the people are very anxious that I stay, and I should

like to do so very much. I have met yet but one of my classmates although I have found a great many of my acquaintances of the other classes. There will be nothing for me to do at college before next week so that I may conclude to take a walk into the country. I was up at the college this morning and Prof White very kindly took me through the building which has been fixed up for the Museum Cabinets pictures &c. He says it is superior to that of any college in the country.

Saturday, Oct; 2nd.

The comet which is now visible to the naked eye appears very finely. About 8 o'clock in the evening just before setting it appears the largest. I have not yet had an opportunity to view it through any of the instruments of the observatory but I suppose that it does not look as well as without.

SUNDAY, JAN. 2nd (1859). Rose this morning about 5½ o'clock. Spent a portion of my time reading in bible and also a little of a work entitled "Theodosia" or the "Heroine of Faith," written for the purpose of setting forth the arguments scriptural and historical in favor of the doctrines & practices of the Baptist Church. I will not express my opinion of it until I have finished it . . . . .

Thursday, 6th. . . . . Last evening after having studied over all my lessons I went to a social at Mr. Royce's about 8 o'clock. I have been to three this year. Last year I did not go among the townfolks at all. This year I wish to do so a little; much I cannot afford to. These socials afford a tolerable good opportunity for spending an hour or two occasionally very pleasantly and will assist somewhat in wearing off the rough corners of student life. They should not however occupy a great portion of a student's time. This evening I called and spent a few minutes with the three ladies who room directly below us.

Friday, 7th . . . . . Attended a meeting of Alpha Nu this evening. Debate did not go off very well. Our Societies have been so much interrupted this term by lectures & holidays that much of their interest has declined.

Saturday, 8th. Has been a keen wintry day. There has fallen since yesterday about 6 or 8 inches of snow—Recitations today did not amount to much many of them were excused by the professors. Heard a lecture this evening by Horace Greeley upon "Great Men." It was good sound practical common sense.

Saturday, 15th. . . . . Alpha Nu Society had a good meeting last evening. In addition to our periodical the Sybil we had a very spirited discussion upon the expediency of immediately establishing an American protectorate in Mexico. After I had got to bed about 11 o'clock I was aroused by two of the students who came to my room very anxious to communicate with me upon important matters. I was informed after getting out of bed that college elections were fast approaching and that it was time to look out for the good places.

A coalition was suggested between some of the secret societies & the "neutrals" by which if successful the presidency of the Alpha Nu was to fall to me the first half of next year. On account of the part already taken by one of the societies concerned the project has fallen through today.

The Senior class some time ago decided to have two junior Exhibitions and made arrangements accordingly. Owing to various causes however it has since become the general opinion that one will be all that will be successful. So this morning the class has a meeting and made arrangements for one exhibition.

MONDAY, 17th. Yesterday attended church morning, and evening at the Presbyterian Church. Dr. Duffield of Detroit preached in the morning from John 18 38 "What is truth" and in the evening from Tim 1:13. In the afternoon heard Mr. Freeman preach from James 5.16 "The effectual,"

etc. A 3½ Dr. Tappan gave us an excellent lecture from the words "having no hope and without God in the world." I do not usually hear so many discourses in one day for as a general thing I consider that two are enough. My usual course is to go to prayers at college at 9 o'clock and stay to prayer meeting till time for church to attend church in the morning bible class at noon and either go to Church or to hear Dr. Tappan in the afternoon and prayer meeting in the evening.

Sat. 22nd. . . . . On Wednesday we went to a social and succeeded in exchanging hats with some one not any to my advantage.

Last evening called on Prof. Clark and spent an hour. He related to me his adventure connected with the receipt of his Christmas turkey which was somewhat ludicrous.

A few days before Christmas our class made a contribution for a turkey for the prof and on Thursday evening between 10 & 11 o'clock two of the boys went to carry it to him. He had retired but his wife had not when the bell was rung and he heard footsteps retreating somewhat hastily. He supposed it was a trick which was somewhat common in the neighborhood of ringing and running away. It was repeated again and a third time when the prof somewhat wrathful at this wanton disturbance of his nocturnal felicities determined to chastise the offenders. So he arose and partially dressed himself and armed with a stick of wood took his station at the hall door. The ring was repeated louder if not merrier than before and off he started in pursuit and chased them the length of two sides of a square when he overtook and collared one of the boys. Satisfactory explanations were made and the prof returned to find a fine turkey hanging to his door knob.

Tuesday 25th. . . . . Yesterday evening Geo. D. Prentice lectured to us on the subject of American Statesmanship. He commenced with the proposition that if it was a work of great wisdom to found States it required much more wisdom to guide them afterwards.

He then laid down what he considered as the necessary qualifications of the Statesman among which were patriotic integrity, moral courage, sagacity, fertility of resource & extensive political knowledge. He then went on to show that these qualifications were sadly deficient in our politicians and gave them a most severe scourging. He scarcely allowed them a single redeeming feature.

Monday, Feb. 7th. . . . . On Saturday evening Chum and myself engaged Mr. Carpenter's team and the girls and took a sleigh ride of five or six miles and back.

Monday, Apr. 11th. . . . . Junior Exhibition took place on the evening of the 29 ult. Medical Commencement came off the next day and we had a short vacation for the remainder of the week. I wished to go to Ypsilanti but not having money enough to pay my fare did not go. Students are leaving college now very fast. Hard times appears to be the principal reason. I would leave if I could find anything to do which would pay much of anything.

I should like to spend about six months from this time in teaching or something else at which I might earn enough to carry me through the next year. I think it is probable that I shall be obliged to be absent part of next year.

Thurs. May 12. . . . . On Thursday college exercises were suspended on account of the public ceremonies of the dedication of a new cemetery. A fair procession was formed of the various citizens and city officials, Odd Fellows, Free Masons, Fire & Military Companies, Teachers & pupils of the different schools. The students of the University did not join in a body as had been arranged on account of a mistake or defect in the directions. On Monday eve I attended a temperance lecture by I. Vinton of Wis. There is a movement on foot to establish a temperance society in the place.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 28th.** . . . . A large number of the students failed to pass their examinations and many were passed conditionally. Elections in the various societies came

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off last week with the usual excitement. My name was used in the Lecture Association as a protest against the bargains of the secret societies who have assumed to govern elections. I received a very fair complimentary vote having on the first ballot just one third of all cast. After four ineffectual ballots I withdrew my name and Mr. C. A. Thompson of Kalamazoo was elected. I was also run in the Alpha Nu but was not elected. If no one had more desire for office than myself there would be less intriguing for it. I have been at work a little by spells lately for Hon. I. M. Gregory, Supt. of Pub. Instruction. I have been working in the hayfields for two or three days.

Monday, May 28th—My college course is about completed. . . . . A strong feeling of disappointment mingles with the satisfaction that I feel at getting through. It seems as though I have accomplished but little compared with what I expected when I set out. Then to go through college appeared like a great undertaking—now it seems but a little thing. Yet I am loth to believe that it is in reality so small as it appears. I think it should be compared with what is behind rather than with what is before for the latter will always be a comparison of the finite with the infinite. I am disposed to believe that we attain our ideals in life more frequently than we generally suppose but that as we advance we are continually forming new one which are still beyond our reach. Our castles in the air are indeed often realities and we do not know it for scarcely is one realized than we have others in formation.

Beechville, C. W. July 2nd

I spent the time intervening between the close of regular college duties and commencement very pleasantly. On Monday the 11th I read my piece to Prof. White and it was accepted by him—On the Saturday following I walked out to Mr. Thos. White's and on Sunday rode with them to Northville to church & called upon his father—On Monday noon I left for Whitmore Lake a distance of about six miles—It is a beautiful sheet of water about two miles in diameter the resort of many summer pleasure parties—I stopped that night at Mr. Waldron's about a mile from the lake and the next day walked back to A. A. Election for officers of the Student Lecture Association came off in the evening and kept us till 4 o'clock the next morning—Election was held in the chapel and the three stories above that are open to the appreciating. Some time before the tin roofing had been blown off during a rain storm & the plaster had been loosened in consequence. So in the course of the evening the plaster began to fall and striking just above with a great noise the alarm was given that the building was falling and immediately there was a general stampede for the door & windows. Some went through glass sash & all, damaging themselves and windows considerably. The alarm was soon over and order was restored and election again proceeded.

Lockport, N. Y., July 16th

**O**N MONDAY EVE Prof. White delivered a lecture for the benefit of the Rogers statue fund which I did not hear—This fund is for the purchase of a Statue by Randolph Rogers formerly a resident of Ann Arbor now at Rome. A year ago last winter two concerts were given for the purpose of procuring one of his best works by the citizens of A. A. assisted by some of the students. The fund has been increased till there are now 500 or 600 dollars on hand. The statue selected is the Nydia, an ideal from Bulwers "Last Days of Pompeii." Its cost will be about \$1700. Mr. R expects to arrive with it himself in the autumn.

On Tues. the 26th the Society of Alumni were addressed by W. W. Phelps, M. C. from Minnesota, and a poem was delivered by Hamilton J. Dennis of Mich a graduate of the Class of '58. The Address was upon the duties of Literary Men to their Country and was decidedly tame—The poem "Our Alma Mater" was a fine production sparkling with wit & gracefully delivered.

In the evening Rev. A H Eldridge of Detroit delivered the address before the Literary Societies. We expected Carl Schurz of Wis till the Friday preceding when he telegraphed that he could not come and Mr. E was invited to supply his place—

The matter of the address was good the delivery bad.

On Wednesday came the trial in the exercises of the graduating class. There were in the Classical department 22 graduates in the Scientific 13, & 2 in the course of Civil Engineering. There were 26 speakers. The exercises were held in the Methodist Church which was crowded full both forenoon & afternoon. Music was furnished for the occasion by The City Band of Detroit. In the Church they used stringed instru-

ments which was something new & proved very agreeable. Dr. Tappan made some very appropriate remarks on conferring the degrees & invited the graduating class the faculty the Alumni & Regents to his house in the evening—We had a very pleasant meeting there. Thus ended Commencement & I am now a graduate & I must say that my opinion of a college course is that if rightly appreciated it serves to show how little man gains in comparison with what still remains to be known.

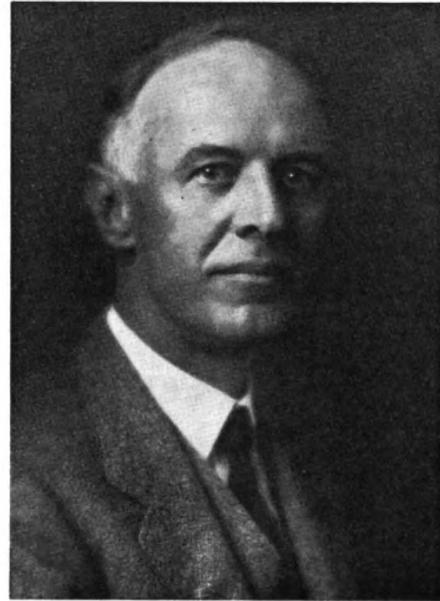
## Professor U. B. Phillips Wins Important Prize

FOR his book entitled "Life and Labor in the Old South," to be published about May 1st, Professor Ulrich B. Phillips of the Department of History in the University has just received a prize of \$2,500.

This prize, which includes the royalties on the book, was offered by the publishers, Little, Brown & Co., of Boston, in a contest which closed October 1st. The prize won by Professor Phillips was for the best book on American history, not historical fiction. In the circulars announcing the prize the publishers stated:

The book must refer to the Continental History of the United States, but may cover any period of any length from the time of settlement to the present day. Manuscripts to be eligible for the prize must be written for the general reader, not as a text book for schools and colleges, and they should constitute a genuine contribution to knowledge.

The judges who granted the award were James Truslow Adams, author of *The Founding of New England*; Worthington C. Ford, editor of *Massachusetts Historical Society*, and Allan Nevins, Professor American History, Cornell. The book which received the prize is the first of a set on the "History of the South" upon which Professor Phillips is working. It traces Colonial life and the development of slave plantations, picturing the life and experiences of the planters, slaves and overseers. Much of the material used by Professor Phillips was drawn from manuscript records hitherto unpublished.



PROFESSOR U. B. PHILLIPS

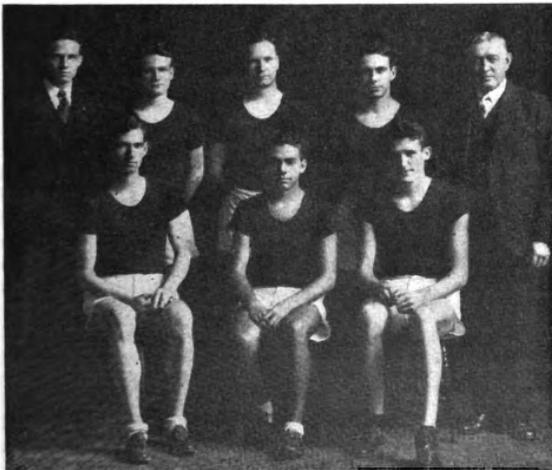
## The 1928 Cross-Country Team

OVERSHADOWED, as is generally the case with cross-country teams, by the greater glamor of the football squad, Michigan's 1928 team of long-distance runners complete a far from unsuccessful season. Though not champions, they ranked well up in Conference ranks.

The two most important events were the triangular meet, with Michigan, Illinois and Ohio State competing, and the Conference championship run. In the eight years of the former event Michigan has won once and has never finished third.

In the Conference final the scorers at first placed Michigan at a tie for fourth place. A check-up, however, showed that Benson should have been placed as the twenty-fifth finisher and not the forty-first. This correction gave Coach Farrell's team an undisputed third. Only the injury which kept Captain Wuerfel out of this last race prevented Michigan's making a real bid for the championship. A year ago the team finished seventh.

Captain Wuerfel, Monroe and Jasson will be lost to the 1929 team through graduation. Benson is captain-elect and his squad will be strengthened by several promising freshmen.



—Photo by Rentschler.

### THE CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

Top row, left to right: Manager W. Paul Colwell, '29, Detroit; Robert N. Grunow, '30E, Detroit; Clarence B. Benson, '30, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.; Stanley P. Jesson, '29D, Richmond, Va.; Stephen J. Farrell, Coach.  
Bottom row, left to right: Joseph P. Austin, '31, Waukegan, Ill.; Ted Wuerfel, '29, Ann Arbor, Captain; Randolph B. Monroe, '29 B. Ad., South Haven, Mich.