The Dial
A Historical Retrospective

By
Bro. Jonathan Matthews, Editor
7-83-A

Major Content Contributors:
Bro. Rohulamin Quander (2-64-A)
Bro. Harold Cook (4-66-A)
Bro. Ivory Gene Cooper (15-79-A)
Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University
Contents

3 Preface
4 The Genesis
6 The Gift
8 The Designer
9 The Lampados Club
12 Rededication
17 Pictorial Retrospective
“Other than Founders Library, the Dial is arguably the most prominent feature of Howard University’s campus”

- Marvin Joseph, Washington Post article
  October 8, 2011

The Sundial

On February 1, 1929, The Lampados Club of Alpha Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity held a formal ceremony at Andrew Rankin Chapel and unveiled, on campus, a gift to Howard University: a 3’ fluted pedestal made from Indiana limestone adorned with a bronze sundial affixed to a sculpted chapiter. The 1929 Lampados Club named this the Banneker Memorial. We affectionate call it the Dial. This gift was given to the University to honor Benjamin Banneker, the distinguished, self-taught African American intellectual whose contribution to U.S. history is significant.

This iconic figure has become one of the most recognizable edifies on Howard University’s campus among students, alumni, administrators and visitors. It’s been a symbolic cornerstone for the Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity for over 87 years. This retrospective provides insight behind the Dial and its true meaning to Howard University and Omega Psi Phi.
The Genesis

Unfortunately, the genesis for the idea behind the Dial is unknown. But it can be surmised that its inspiration was drawn from a significant event that occurred in Omega’s history at the 9th Grand Conclave held at Meharry Medical College in Nashville from December 27-29, 1920. It was at this Conclave that Alpha Chapter elected member, Bro. Dr. Carter G. Woodson gave a stirring speech during the opening session on Monday evening, December 27, 1920 on “Democracy and the Man far Down.”i As a result of this speech and “the high regard which Alpha Chapter had for a distinguished Brother, Carter G. Woodson, who at the time had already made significant contributions to Negro History”ii a decision was made to designate a week for a campaign for the study of Negro Literature and History.

The responsibility of executing this national campaign was given to Bro. William Stuart Nelson (Alpha 1916) who was elected to the national position of Director of Publicity for the Fraternity at the Nashville Conclave in 1920. The campaign was held from April 24-30, 1921. Mass public meetings were held by Chapters featuring prominent speakers and pamphlets were printed and distributed to attendees, students and the community discussing the accomplishments and history of African Americans.iii Folders were sent to the Black press containing facts on Negro history. Reporting from Atlanta, Grand Basileus Harold H. Thomas noted:

“The campaign has been a howling success all over the country, and more than a success in Atlanta. Eta’s big mass meeting was attended by over two thousand people, and Omicron held their open meeting in a large church Friday night. Omega men during the week have spoken in every institution of learning in the city including colleges, grammar schools and private schools.”iv

This campaign was renewed for 1922 and was observed from April 2-8, 1922.v At the 11th Grand Conclave in Philadelphia in 1922, a formal committee of eight Brothers, including Bro. Woodson, was established to develop a plan for the continued success of this initiative. Included on this committee were three Alpha Chapter alumni Brothers William S. Gilbert (Charter Line 1911; Editor-in-Chief to the Oracle and former Grand Keeper of Records), John Henry Purnell (Alpha 1913) and George Edgar Hall (Alpha 1914; 4th Grand Basileus).vi This committee constructed a formal program for all Chapters to implement annually.
In February 1926, Bro. Carter G. Woodson through his organization, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, launched its own Negro History Week, a precursor to Black History Month. Subsequently, in 1926, the Fraternity changed the name of its program to the Negro Achievement Project and charged Bro. John Prescott Murchison (Alpha 1917; Editor-to-the-Oracle) as its first Director of the Negro Achievement Project. Bro. Murchison laid out and communicated a detailed plan in The Oracle for the first Negro Achievement Week which was held from November 15-21, 1926. This included a daily topic schedule, a high school literary contest and national exam in Negro life and history. 

Clearly steeped in Omega’s history, spearheaded by Alpha Chapter Brothers, is the promotion of Black history to advance a deeper understanding of our heritage and pride for our race.

It can be surmised that The Lampados Club of Alpha Chapter in 1928 drew inspiration from the Fraternity’s advancement of Black history as the foundation for their gift to Howard University: a Sundial commemorating the achievement of Benjamin Banneker, a renowned mathematician, surveyor and astronomer.
Details are unknown as to why The Lampados Club chose Benjamin Banneker or who was contracted to construct the Sundial. What is known is that Lampados LeRoy Clay conceived the idea, Bro. Ralph Augustine Vaughn (Alpha 1924) under the direction of Howard’s chief architect, Albert Cassell, designed the Sundial and The Lampados Club, which consisted of 20 men at the time, financed the initiative as a gift to Howard University.

Why did The Lampados Club choose a Sundial? The Sundial truly represents the spirit of Benjamin Banneker. In 1753, Banneker borrowed a pocket watch from a wealthy acquaintance, took the watch apart and studied its components. After returning the watch, he created a fully functioning clock entirely out of carved wooden pieces, a first in the U.S. The clock was amazingly precise, and would strike on the hour for 50 years. His accomplishments didn't end there. Borrowing books on astronomy and mathematics from a friend, Banneker engorged himself in the subjects. Putting his newfound knowledge to use, Banneker accurately predicted a 1789 solar eclipse. From 1792-99, Banneker compiled and published his Almanac and Ephemeris of Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. Banneker went on to:

- become the first scientist to study relativity of time and space preceding Einstein by two centuries.
- become a member of the first presidential appointed team charged with the establishment of the nation’s capitol. He provided the astronomical calculations for the project, and assisted in the reconstruction of the plans for laying out the streets of Washington, D.C.
- become a staunch abolitionist publicly advocating for the freedom of slaves in a series of letters between he and President Thomas Jefferson.

The Sundial honors Banneker’s ingenuity and contribution to a newly established United States and African American history.

The gifting of commemorative items to Howard University did not end with the Sundial in 1929. For the next three years, each Lampados Club from Alpha Chapter gifted the University with a commemorative item.

On May 17, 1930, The Lampados Club awarded a trophy to HU track star Milton Larry in a ceremony at Rankin Chapel. The trophy was named in honor of HU gridiron star, Haywood “Speed” Johnson, who in a football game against North Carolina A&T on October 3, 1924, suffered a broken neck which resulted in his death on October 6, 1924.
In May 1931, The Lampados Club gifted HU with a framed portrait of Congressman Louis Cramton. Cramton was a major supporter of Howard University as he led the effort in gaining passage of an Act of Congress authorizing federal appropriations to the university in 1924 (he chaired the sub-committee of the House Committee on Appropriations for the Department of Interior in which Howard’s federal funding initially came from). The University took that a step further naming the new auditorium after him in 1961. This portrait is currently on display in the Prints & Photograph room in the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Founders Library on campus.

In June 1932, The Lampados Club presented the HU Art Committee with the drawings of a bas relief plaque to be developed in honor of recently deceased Julius Rosenwald, philanthropist and half owner of Sears, Roebuck & Co. Dr. Ernest Everett Just was a Rosenwald Fellow since 1920. In 1928, the Rosenwald Fund donated $80,000 to HU as a grant to support Dr. Just’s research for four years. According to HU’s Art Committee, the concept was rejected because of the drawings submitted showed the workmanship on the plaque would prove to be “too cheap” and because of Rosenwald’s capitalistic views and actions. No more gifts were donated by The Lampados Club after this rejection.
The Designer

The Lampados Club retained Bro. Ralph Augustine Vaughn (Alpha 1924) to design the Sundial. Vaughn was born in Washington, D.C. in 1907. He attended Armstrong Technical High School where his father was a teacher and architect graduating in 1923.

After completing high school early, Vaughn enrolled at Howard University in the Fall of 1923 however transferred to the University of Illinois to pursue architecture in the Fall of 1926. Vaughn returned to Howard in the Fall of 1928 to take classes and become an apprentice draftsman for renowned architect, Albert Cassell. Cassell join HU in 1920 as an assistant professor in the Architecture Department and served as surveyor, planner, master architect and chief planner during his 18 years at Howard. He created the master 20 Year plan for the expansion of Howard’s campus and went on to design and oversee the construction of over a dozen structures including Greene Stadium (1926), The Quad (1929-31), Chemistry Building (1936), Douglass Hall (1936) and Founders Library (1938). During Vaughn’s apprenticeship with Cassell, he aided in the design of three of the four buildings making up Tubman Quadrangle and assisted in the development of the campus expansion plan. It is during this time that Vaughn designed the Sundial under Cassell’s oversight. In a March 1929 article covering the presentation of the Sundial to HU, it’s noted that “the work was planned by Albert I. Cassell and Ralph Vaughn architects at Howard University.” Vaughn returned to the University of Illinois in the Fall of 1930, earning his degree in architecture in 1932 and pursued his graduate degree at Illinois in 1932-33.

In 1933, Vaughn returned to D.C. where he worked for Cassell at Howard and was an Instructor of Architecture until 1936. Vaughn moved to Los Angeles where he worked for the trailblazing African American architect, Bro. Paul R. Williams (note: Williams was initiated into Omega through Lambda Chapter around 1924, was Omega’s Man of the Year in 1951 and received the Spingarn Medal in 1953 for his achievement and work). During WWII, Vaughn worked for MGM Studios becoming a set designer. After the war, he established his own practice that he maintained for the rest of his career. In 1952 and 1959, he received awards for his work from the Society of American Registered Architects. The pinnacle of his career occurred in 1951 where he designed the Lincoln Place Apartments in Venice, CA. Bro. Vaughn retired in 1998 and passed into Omega Chapter in 2000.

Fraternally, Vaughn was initiated into Omega through Alpha Chapter in November 1924. Upon returning to Illinois, he served as the Basileus of the newly formed Pi Psi Chapter in 1932-33. He is also responsible for helping to organize the 12th District.
The Lampados Club

At the time of dedication of the Sundial, twenty men made up The Lampados Club of Alpha Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. They were:

- John Benjamin Boyd, Baltimore, MD
- Benjamin Claiborne Brown, New York, NY
- LeRoy Armond Clay, Baltimore, MD
- Maurice Anthony Coates, Washington, D.C.
- John Day
- William Forsythe Jr., Pittsburgh, PA
- Carey Hatton Freeman, Washington, D.C.
- Stewart William Gee, Gallipolis, OH
- Francis Irvin Green, Lawrenceville, VA
- John Allen Harris, Buffalo, NY
- Edward Llewellyn Hayes, Henderson, NC
- Hubert Grant Humphrey, Westfield, NJ
- Oscar Bernard Johnson, Lynn, MA
- Thomas Jefferson King, Jersey City, NJ
- Julius Alfred Lee, Pittsburgh, PA
- Frank Curle Montero, Brooklyn, NY
- Alfred Virgil Pettie, Washington, D.C.
- William Henry Scott, Washington, D.C.
- Silas Franklin Shelton Jr., Washington, D.C.
- Muzaffer Lucius Walker, Tampa, FL

Officers of the Club at the time of the dedication were Stewart Gee, President, William Scott, Secretary, and John “Jack” Boyd, Treasurer. The following is an update published in the June 1929 Oracle on the activities of The Lampados Club, Alpha Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity including a recap of the presentation of the Dial to Howard:
In the last paragraph of the update, it’s noted that “Initiation is about to hold forth for some of us.” While these men made up The Lampados Club they were not Line Brothers. In the early days of The Lampados Club, members were regularly added to the Club by the Chapter and selected individually based on performance and vote of the Brothers to probate (“Dogs”). The period of time a member of The Lampados Club remained in
that organization varied based on the Brothers’ evaluation. Some may stay a couple of months while others can stay over a year. In other words, all of these men did not cross together into Omega. In fact, two did not cross at all. Hence, the origin of the term “Eternal Lamp.” The Alpha Chapter update in the October 1929 Oracle provides insight about the initiation of several members of this Lampados Club:

The sands of that well-known Desert have got a permanent heat fired by the supreme faithfulness of our newly initiated men. They certainly know their grit.

Alpha Chapter has yet to see a more enthused, loyal, and up and doing group of men come among us as brothers in Omega.

In a caravan of twenty-some cars we went way down to Brother Dr. Marshall’s farm—yes, we took the dogs down the country. On top of the steep hill at Dr. Marshall’s home we packed the cars in a vast semi-circle and led the “dogs” forth into an improvised arena lighted by the car’s head-lights and then—well, from then on—. But meet the real Omega men: Brothers LeRoy Clay, Maurice Coats, Carey Freeman, Stewart Gee, John Harris, Van Harris, Hubert Humphrey, Thomas King, William Scott and Lucious Walker.

Well, after it was all over they compared rainbow colors and declared their loyalty as a thing everlasting for Omega.

But wait a minute—listen here. It’s Omicron Psi’s business, but you got to know it, don’t you know. William Forsythe has been made after being transferred to that chapter. But it’s our business since all good business is Omega’s.

In the subsequent December 1929 issue of The Oracle, a correction was made in the Alpha Chapter update for two Lamps who were initiated that were omitted from the previous update (Benjamin Brown and John Boyd):

When you met the real Omega men who were introduced to you in the last issue of our notes there were two loyal Brother’s names that did not appear: they are John Boyd and Benjamin Brown. These newly initiated Brothers were taken in last spring. To know them is to be acquainted with an unyielding faithfulness to Omega. Got it?

The above initiation took place in May 1929. Of the 20 Lamps that were members of The Lampados Club at the time of the Dial presentation, 11 were initiated in May 1929. One, William Forsythe, was initiated through Omicron Psi Chapter (University of Pittsburgh) though he remained a student at Howard. Another, Vantile Corcoran Harris, was not even a part of The Lampados Club when the Dial was presented. Yet, he was one of the initiates of May 1929. Of the remaining eight:

- 2 were initiated on December 20, 1929 (Hayes & Lee) along with four other men
- 1 initiated on May 17, 1930 (Montero) along with eight other men
- 3 initiated on November 21, 1930, almost two years after they participated in the Dial presentation (Green, Pettie & Shelton) along with eight other men
- 2 were not initiated (Day & Johnson; it appears they dropped out of Howard).

This illustrates the fluid nature of The Lampados Club at that time.

These 20 men of The Lampados Club established a legacy through they’re appreciation of history and charity at Howard University and for Omega Psi Phi.
Rededication

On May 10, 1980, the Brothers of Alpha Chapter held a rededication ceremony of the Dial following graduation. This was done in celebration of the gifting of the Dial to Howard over 50 years ago, its refurbishment done by the Chapter and underwritten by Bro. Hubert G. Humphrey (Alpha May 1929) and Omicron Chi Chapter. Bro. Ivory Gene Cooper (15-83-A) provided a comprehensive recap in the Summer 1980 Oracle. Included in this article is a bio of Bro. Humphrey who was part of The Lampados Club in 1929 that gifted the Sundial to the University.
Alpha Chapter Rededications Banneker Sundial Memorial

Dedication Remarks

By Brother H. Albion Ferrell
Former Grand Chaplain
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

Some fifty (50) years ago the Members of Alpha Chapter in an effort to make what they saw to be a lasting contribution to the life of Howard University and Omega decided that they, through their Pledge Club, would give to the University a sundial. As the sun from day to day pursued its relentless runs across the Universe and measured time in an unaltering regular way, so the light of Omega would shine relentlessly and without ceasing in this bastion of higher education in the Nation's Capital.

Through the years that gift of those Brothers has been in the virtual center of campus life reminding the campus community that Omega is. It has been symbolic of the richness of the contribution that the Men of Alpha Chapter have made and are continuing to make both here and across the World.

Unfortunately, for a brief time the physical appearance of the dial went into eclipse. I suppose that all too often in life the familiar, the traditional becomes com-

See Sundial on Page 43
Saffold, 2nd Vice-Basileus of Alpha Chapter, then introduced the speaker, Brother H. Albion Ferrell. Brother Ferrell, Alpha Chapter advisor from 1960 to 1963, is now a member of the District of Columbia Parole Board.

Brother Ferrell stated that “the sundial continues its significance in 1980. It symbolizes that the accomplishments of man can be measured in the sun. The sundial gives evidence of the ever-reviving four cardinal principles of our fraternity.”

William E. Marshall, Jr., KRS of Alpha Chapter, thanked Brother Duane Keye, Brother William Deane and Omicron Chi Chapter (Plainfield, N.J.) for their efforts and support in getting the sundial repaired. Marshall presented plaques from Alpha Chapter to Brothers Lindbergh Keye and Dr. Hubert G. Humphrey, both of Omicron Chi Chapter.

Brother Humphrey, a member of the 1929 Lampados Club, which presented the first sundial and also volunteered to underwrite all costs for refurbishing the vandalized Memorial to Banneker, was introduced by Brother Ferrell.

Wearing his 50-year pin, he spoke on the historic 1929 dedication, then alluded to his line brothers’ accomplishments and current endeavors and whereabouts. He concluded saying that he plans to arrange with the University for the perpetual care of the sundial.

In the closing comments, Brother Allen W. Toles, Basileus of Alpha Chapter, gave us some words of inspiration ending with LONG LIVE OMEGA PSI PHI.

Afterwards the Brothers performed the march “Omega in Retrospect,” among the sundial.

Some of the Brothers in attendance were: William H. Deane, Basileus of Alpha Omega Chapter and Alpha Chapter advisor; Samuel R. Shepard, Editor of The ORACLE; Robert P. Reeder, Assistant NES; Dr. B. T. Garnette, past District Representative—3rd District; Earl Shammell and Dr. Harold H. Whitted, 1929 members of Alpha Chapter; Ron Bennett, a Columbus, Ohio, engineer and Basileus of Alpha Chapter 1969-70; Sam Williams, Alpha Omega Chapter, and William

"“The Magnificent" Humphrey
Continued from page 32

challenge was issued to the recently reorganized Alpha Chapter to do something about it. Hubert, "The Magnificent", accepted the challenge.

The following information on Dr. Humphrey updates the accomplishments of this brother, who once dubbed "The Magnificent", has turned this moniker into a distinctive appellation.

He was born in Westfield and attended the public schools, graduating from high school in 1927. In high school he majored in the sciences and foreign languages, including Latin and Spanish. He entered Howard University in 1927 and received the B.S. degree in 1931 and then entered the H.U. College of Medicine, attained the highest academic honors in the subjects of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Psychiatry, and received the M.D. degree in 1935. He interned at Freedman's (now Howard U.) Hospital 1935-36, and passed the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners. He has maintained his medical office in Westfield since 1937.

Dr. Humphrey is a member of the National Medical Association, American Medical Association, and holds membership in the Union County, Westfield, and Plainfield Medical Societies; in 1958 he served as President of the Westfield Medical Society.

From 1951 to 1971 he was an Associate Attendant in the Department of Ob-Gyn at the Muhlenburg Hospital in Plainfield. He has been an associate member of the New Jersey College of Obstetrics & Gynecology. He subsequently continued the study of the specialties of

Ob-Gyn at Marland Medical Center (a part of United Hospitals of Newark), the Jersey City Medical Center, Howard University, Harlem Hospital, and Seton Hall (a part of the N.J. College of Medicine and Dentistry).

From 1940 to 1975, Dr. Humphrey was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Lukes Methodist Church, in Westfield; from 1960 to 1971, he was a member of the Board of Health for the township of Scotch Plains. In 1972 he was appointed by the Governor of New Jersey as a member of the State Board of Medical Examiners; he was the first and only Black person to serve on that important board. In 1964-1965 he was President of the Howard University Medical Alumni Association, and is an active supporter.

Dr. Humphrey’s hobbies include hunting, golf, photography, gardening and travel. For many years he has enjoyed big game hunting. His most memorable hunting experience occurred in 1968 when he went on a safari in East Africa, which was widely reported in Ebony Magazine and M.D. Magazine. His extensive travels have included numerous trips to various countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America.

Dr. Humphrey is a member of the Prince Hall Masons, 32nd degree, the Westfield Rotary Club, and President of the Guardsmen; member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; served as Basileus of the Upsilon Phi Chapter of N.J. He is a life member of the NAACP, member of the 100 Black Men Club of N.J., and member of the Board of Directors of the Westfield area branch of the United Negro College Fund.

Married since 1936, Dr. and Mrs. Humphrey reside in Scotch Plains, N.J.

"Bill” Toles, ITT executive from Rye, N.Y., whose son, Allen, was a graduate.

Thus the “sundial continues its significance” as the Brothers continue to congregate at the sundial on Friday evenings either to “dial” or just fratereze.

"GROW OLD ALONG WITH ME. THE BEST IS YET TO BE."
From Chick Coleman
In His Wheel Chair

Intentions are very fragile thoughts as evidenced by the intent to type this message June 30th after devoting the forenoon to perusal of your Spring-1980 ORACLE issue. I am, however, releasing the reserved intent to again offer my "BRAVO!!" and congratulations for the very well edited and informative journal.

And it is hoped that our Fraternity Supreme Council members, elected and appointed administrative leaders will recognize and appreciate the task accomplished in assembling and editing the ORACLE contents.

My attention has been directed to the fact that our late Brother, Bishop Herbert Bell Shaw, has been succeeded by another Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Brother, Bishop William Milton Smith, to administer the largest important 1st Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

Bishop Smith had presided over the Mobile District.

My information source, Brother Rev. Frank E. Jones of A.M.E. Zion Church, also states that Bishop George J. Mahle, TTI, presides over the N. Carolina Cape Fear District.

...An’ Ole Chick finds that these wonderful brilliant sunny days and “go places and do things” evenings hard becoming difficult being a confine but I’m striving to make that long deferred come back so stick with your ole timer!!!

“Chick” Coleman
31 Clark St., Newburgh, NY

Editor Shepard Thanked
By Alpha Chapter KRS

I want to thank you for your fraternal support during the redecoration ceremonies of the Benjamin Banneker Sundial on May 10. Your help in the planning was truly appreciated.

Bill Marshall, Alpha Chapter Keeper of Records and Seal

In Appreciation

Thanks for the good article on me in the Winter 1979 ORACLE and on Father John Epps. Both were splendid except that Father Epps baptized my daughter, Lois, who was born in Marshall, Texas. We had to take her sixty miles to Tyler to have Father Epps baptize her, for the white Episcopal Minister in Marshall refused to do so because she was black.

Malcolm L. Corrin, President & Chief Executive Officer, Interracial Council for Business Opportunity, New York City.

Omicon Chi Praised
For Sundial Donation

I speak for the Brothers of Alpha chapter in thanking the Brothers of Omicron Chi for the continued support you showed us during the constructing and the planning of the Benjamin Banneker Statue and redecoration ceremonies on May 10.

The Sundial will always hold special memories for Brothers initiated at the “Pearl,” but more importantly, it will always stand as a shrine to Omega.

Thanks especially to Brother Hubert Humphrey for his financial and spiritual support. His words of inspiration during the ceremonies were appreciated.

Our best wishes to the members of Omicron Chi for unremitting success in your work for Omega and continue to keep the fraternal lines of communication open. Always

William Marshall, Alpha Chapter Keeper of Records and Seal
cc: bros. Humphrey, Dean, Shepard

Praises 1st Place
Essay Contest Winner

Laurie Sutton
Little Rock, AR

Congratulations on your prize winning essay published in the Spring 1980 Edition of the Oracle. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. It is certainly worthy of the highest critical acclaim.

A rare combination of intellectual perception and artistic creativity was reflected in your essay. I am also an exponent of the fact that there are sharp distinctions between education and skills acquisition. Your clear and concise expression of what your purposes are was very impressive. I sincerely hope that you will continue to nurture and cultivate these marvelous talents.

If you are interested in having your works given national exposure, please contact me. We can then determine subject areas, lengths and other details.

Again, I congratulate you and offer best wishes for your future.

Sincerely,
Herbert Simmons, Jr., Director District of Columbia
Office of Consumer Protection
1424 K St., N.W., Washington, DC 20005

ENERGY.
We can’t afford to waste it.
U.S. Department of Energy

Thanks For Services
At AKA Regional

Dear Mr. Shepard:

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you for the many "extra" things you did for us before and during our 49th Great Lakes Regional Conference. The article that you published in ORACLE did, indeed, set the tone for a very successful conference.

We have received many commendations about the conference and I just wanted you to know that your individual contributions were appreciated.

Again, thank you for your courtesies shown Alpha Kappa Alpha—Zeta Theta Omega Chapter.

Bella G. Clinkscale, Ph.D.
President—Zeta Theta Chapter
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Reminder To Support
The Urban League

There are two civil rights organizations—The NAACP and the Urban League. Our beloved fraternity via its Atlanta conclaves pledged to be supportive of both.

It seems to me that the Urban League is deserving of equal “space” (re: the winter issue of ORACLE). May I suggest the following:

“Equal Opportunity Without It—Freedom Loses Its Reality”

Join the Urban League Annual Membership Program—Profit of your choosing.

Brother L. D. Gainey II, President
Urban League of Broward County, Inc.

Editor’s Note: Letter referred to Brother Mitchelldell Gaddens, Chairman of National Social Action Committee.

Oracle Astronaut Story
Pleases NASA Official

Dear Mr. Shepard:

I was most pleased to receive a copy of the Fall 1979 issue of THE ORACLE, and to see your article on Astronauts McNair, Gregory, and Bluford.

As you can imagine, we at NASA are quite proud of these gentlemen, and I can surmise the intense pleasure that must permeate Omega Psi Phi at having McNair and Gregory as Brothers. It is especially significant to note that they are the first Blacks to achieve astronaut status with NASA.

I congratulate your on having these men as your Brothers and on your very fine magazine. Thanks for sharing the ORACLE with us.

James Wm. Hawkins, Jr.
Affirmative Action Plan Coordinator, Hq’s, NASA
The Ninth Annual Convention, The Oracle, August 1921, p. 7.
The Campaign for the Study of Negro Literature and History, The Oracle, August 1921, p. 31-32.
Ibid.
Omega Psi Phi Holds Conclave, NY Amsterdam News, January 10, 1923.
Howard Track Star Gets Point Trophy, Afro American, May 31, 1930, p. 15.
https://www.howard.edu/library/development/cassell/Founders.htm
Benjamin Banneker Memorial Presented to Howard University, New York Age, March 2, 1929, p. 3.
Membership Index Card, International Headquarters, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Decatur, GA.
Presentation Ceremony
February 1, 1929

At this writing we are about to culminate our plans for presenting a sun dial to the University. The sun dial is given in commemoration of Benjamin Banneker, the eminent Negro mathematician and astronomer. The presentation exercises will take place on February the first, in the chapel. The unveiling exercises will follow immediately on the campus.

Excerpt from The Lampados Club update
The Oracle, February 1929

The Invitation
LeRoy A. Clay Scrapbook
(Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University)

The Program
LeRoy A. Clay Scrapbook
(Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University)
Unveiling of the Sundial, February 1, 1929

The Bison Yearbook, 1929
(Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University)

The Unveiling

Presentation Ceremony
February 1, 1929

Unveiling of the Sundial, February 1, 1929
The Bison Yearbook, 1929
(Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University)

The Unveiling

The Banneker Memorial Sundial
Presented by Alpha Chapter Lampados Club to Howard University. Designed by Brother Ralph Vaughn, architect.

The Oracle, June 1929
Excerpt from the Alpha Chapter update
The Oracle, February 1929

We are proud of our pledges. They have presented a beautiful Sun Dial to the University in honor of Benjamin Banneker. When you visit our campus look up the en-colummed wrist-watch and catch the “tick” of the superior efforts of our little brothers.
The Bros-1929

Bros. LeRoy Clay, Stewart Gee & Maurice Coates
LeRoy A. Clay Scrapbook
(Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University)

Brothers from Alpha Chapter
LeRoy A. Clay Scrapbook
(Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University)
Alpha Chapter

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity
Howard University
Washington, D.C.

Atkins, Philip
Beaubian, Edward A.
Berry, Archie
Billingsha, George
Brown, Daniel
Brown, George M.
Burke, Clinton
Butcher, James W.
Calloway, Milton Curtis
Campbell, Louis
Coates, Louis
Colles, John
Coy, Mervyn
Dandridge, Robert
Drew, Joseph
Elliott, Charles
Ferguson, Detton
Fisher, Edward
George, Collis
George, John S.
George, William
Goodwin, James F.
Green, Lawrence
Hainsworth, Robert
Hall, John
Hawthorne, Harold
Hill, Leonard
Hill, Oliver
Hopkins, Byron
Ige, H. P.
Johnson, Darnell
Johnson, Hayden
Jones, James
Landers, Harry
Mack, Gleasow
Martin, George W.
Miles, Charles E.
Moss, Rufus
Muse, Edward
Nash, William
Parker, James
Paul, William C.
Payne, Harry
Pettee, Frederick
Powers, Conrad
Ross, Edgar
Russell, William
Sallie, Carrol
Shawwell, Earl
Shorter, Charles
Smith, Vernon
Spellman, Lester
Stokes, Walter
Taylor, Edward
Thorne, Frank
Travis, William
Trotman, James
Vaughn, Ralph
Waters, Alexander
Walker, James L.
Webb, Harry
Welsh, Franz
Whitted, George
Whitted, Harold

The Bison Yearbook, 1929
(Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University)
1930s

The 1930 Lampados Club
The Oracle, June 1930

Alpha Chapter, 1930-31
The Bison Yearbook, 1931
(Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University)

1940s

Alpha Chapter Officers, 1940-41
The Hilltop, 12/18/40
(Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University)
1940s

1943 Alpha Chapter
Achievement Week Committee
The Hilltop, 12/15/43
(Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University)

The 1943 Lampados Club

The 1947 Lampados Club
The Oracle, March 1947

The Bros around the Dial
Winter 1942
1950s

Probates of Alpha Chapter, Spring 1951

1960s

Hymning it Up
The Bison Yearbook, 1964
(Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University)

Alpha Chapter, 1968-69
The Bison Yearbook, 1969
(Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University)
1960s

**Around the Dial**
The Bison Yearbook, 1966
(Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University)

**Bro. William “Hard Hittin’” Hall**
1967
(Courtesy of Bro. Harold Cook)

**The Bros - 1968**
(Courtesy of Bro. Harold Cook)
1960s
1960s

Bro. Ro Quander & Omega Queen Toni Ganges
(Courtesy of Bro. Harold Cook)

Noon on Friday - 1968
(Courtesy of Bro. Harold Cook)

1970s

Bro. Alan Warwick
The Bison Yearbook, 1975
(Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University)

Alpha Chapter, 1974-75
The Bison Yearbook, 1975
(Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University)
Historic Vignette

The Day When Alpha Lamps Honored Benjamin Banneker
(from June 1929 ORACLE)

"Fame has given us a goodly slap. Our hats are the same size, however. And we wear them with the usual ease."

"For the past few weeks we have received many complimentary responses concerning the Banneker Memorial we presented to Howard University. Among the letters on file we have communications from the Student Council of the University, Dean Lucy Slowe, The Armstrong Association of Philadelphia, and the Vice-Brand Basieux Matthew Bullock.

"The presentation programme was well rendered. Pledge-brother LeRoy Clay gave some striking phases of the life of Benjamin Banneker. The musical numbers by Miss Lillian Mitchell showed that she is going to be one of the Race's foremost artists on the piano. At the unveiling on the Campus, Pledge-brother Stewart Gee, President of the Lampados Club, made a brief and forceful speech. Doctor Emmett J. Scott made a response in behalf of the University Officials. Pledge-brother Julius Lee acted ably as Master of Ceremonies."

"We gave a musical-literary programme at the Vermont Avenue Church on March 18th. In this undertaking we explored a new avenue of contact. We hope that we have changed the opinions of the working class of people who think that the average chaps are a racial group apart from them rather than a part of them.

"On this occasion Pledge-brother John Harris appeared in several beautiful saxophone solos. Miss Gladys Davis accompanied him. The audience was pleased with the Langston Hughes and Countee Cullen recitations given by Pledge-brothers William Forsythe, Thomas King, Hubert Humphrey, Frank Curle, Montgomery, and Carey Freeman. Pledge-brother LeRoy Clay gave a beautiful talk on the "Negro in American Literature." Our Dean of Pledges, Dutton Ferguson, made the closing remarks.

"We are proud to say that the Trustee Board of the Vermont Avenue Baptist Church sent a gratifying letter to President Mordecai Johnson of Howard University praising our attempts to bring a new vision to a needy people. Our programme served a dual purpose, as it was given for the benefit of the Junior Choir of the Church."

"Among the recent speakers (at our Lampados meetings) we have had the following Big-brothers: Attorney Walter Mazycz, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal; Joseph Jenkins, a Hamilton College Phi Beta Kappa; Thomas Bowman, a Yale graduate and Howard University Medical Student; and the Colonel West Hamilton."

By LeRoy Clay, Hubert Humphrey, and Julius Lee, ORACLE Committee.

Project for Alpha Lamps

Let History Repeat Itself!

Editor's Notes:—There is today so significant monument or statue to memorialize the contributions of Benjamin Banneker, the self-educated Maryland free black, who because of his knowledge of science, mathematics, astronomy, and his friendship with Thomas Jefferson was appointed by President Washington to a three-member commission selected to draw plans for the new Federal City, Washington, D.C. The sundial on Howard University is probably the only marker or statue in the District honoring Banneker for reproducing from memory the plan which the French engineer Adrien Pierre L'Enfant, in anger, took back to France with him.

The sundial, now badly in need of rehabilitation, is hardly recognizable, even a sundial, as it stands there with its top stripped of its metal ornamentation and its shaft chipped and stained by weather and the markings of vandals. Few, if any of the present generation of Omegas on Howard University campus, know the story behind this statue.

As the Lampados Club of the recently reactivated Alpha Chapter came to life again, history could be repeated. The present Lamps, as a project, might consider rehabilitating the sundial and with careful planning and programming merit the same publicity and praise recorded by the Lampados Club of 56 years ago.

Memorial to Banneker

HONORING A PIONEER CITY PLANNER—The sundial on the campus of Howard University, a shrine to Omega, is a memorial to Benjamin Banneker presented to the University by the Lampados Club of Alpha Chapter in 1929. The sundial was designed by Brother Ralph A. Vaughn, a graduate of the University of Illinois School of Architecture, who had returned to Washington to begin his career. Later he went to California where he worked on the staff of Brother Paul R. Williams, an internationally known architect.

ORACLE/SUMMER 1979 51
Omega Dear
Centennial Celebration, July 2011

Chartier Day - 2012

21 Titians
50th Anniversary
2014
The Sundial - 1929
LeRoy A. Clay Scrapbook
(Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University)