

DR. CHARLES THOMAS BATTIN

Dr. Battin was reared in Canada and attended the University of Chicago where he received his Ph.D. in 1937. Dr. Battin was leonine in appearance. He had hair that was fluffed out. He had a rugged face and was very much beloved by his students. He had a tremendous sense of humor and his students literally worshiped the ground he walked on. He took a very great personal interest in each student, knew a great deal about their personal background and did much to secure employment for them. One time I asked him how he happened to come to the University of Puget Sound and he said that at one time he had had 1500 people working for him in Reo de Janeiro in an organization which was equal to the American Express here. It was called CIA EXPRESSO FEDERALE. He said he used to watch the ships come in an unload apples, pear, peaches, apricots, and all kinds of fruit from the State of Washington. One day he went home and said to his wife, "That must be paradise where that fruit comes from. I am going to quit my job and we will go to where that fruit is raised." He ended up in 1926 at the College of Puget Sound and was then a professor of Economics. He was appointed to the William L. McCormick Chair of Economics. He was a very practical kind of teacher as well as theoretical.

His avocation and second love was forensics. He ran the debate department for many years. He also structured a debate tournament for high school students and we brought

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brought many students from most of the high schools in the State of Washington for two or three day debate tournaments. It did much to enhance the picture of the college and also was a good recruiting process for college enrollment.

I used to chide him a bit because I knew when some unusual letter was written criticizing curriculum, buildings, or administration, that it was quite possible that Dr. Battin had written the letter and suggested a student sign it to get it published in The Trail. They were never vindictive but usually good suggestions and most often a little beyond the reach of the budget.

He was a specialist in training outstanding speakers and many of the people who won National oratory contests were trained personally by Dr. Battin. He was one of the three founders of the speech honorary Alpha Kappa Delta and was very proud of his relationship with it.

Each year he seemed to get a new station wagon and would take his debate team to Indiana, Ohio, California, Texas and many other places. They traveled as a group and covered extensive territory. He never asked for any money from the budget or auxillary allocations from the college budget and it was always a mystery to me how Dr. Battin could do this. After he died his brother John came from Kansas and as we stood talking after the funeral, I told him

how Charles was such an outstanding influence with the students and how very much they loved him. I said this was particularly true of the students in Forensics, and he did such a wonderful thing by taking them on such long trips and winning most of the tournaments. His brother John looked at me a bit wistfully and said, "Did you know that for years I have been buying Charles's cars and paying for those trips?" I did not know that but his brother John had been a very prominent wheat farmer in Kansas and evidently subsidized his brother's programs without anyone except the two of them knowing about it.

Dr. Battin was one of the ablest professors we have ever had and his dedication was far beyond the call of duty.