

NEWSLETTER

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION

Edited by:

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CALL FOR PAPERS

The Annual Spring Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section will be held at Mesa College in Grand Junction on April 25 and 26, 1985. This will be a Joint Meeting with the Intermountain Section, the first time we have met with them since the division of the Section in the 1970's. This will be an occasion to meet old friends and new ones and to see what is happening out west.

The Program Co-Chairmen for our Section are Ed Hawkins and Carl Kerns of Mesa, so send your abstracts, ideas, audio-visual needs, etc. to them. Contributed papers are normally limited to fifteen minutes, but if you have special needs, you can negotiate with Carl and Ed. So that the program can be constructed and advertised to the membership, we have a firm deadline of April 1 for abstracts and submissions. Send your material now so that time will not pass you by.

We have discussed the possibility of Panel Discussions on topics such as Placement Examinations - Entrance Examinations - Exit Examinations and on The General Mathematics Requirements. If you have ideas on these topics or others, contact the Program Co-Chairs.

Professor Paul Halmos has been contacted and tentatively accepted the invitation to speak at our Spring Meeting. You all know of Prof. Halmos' books and his Editorship of the Monthly. If you have not yet read his most recent "Automathology" titled: I Want To Be A Mathematician, then I suggest that you run, not walk, to the nearest bookstore and get it. This book is one of the most enjoyable biographies that I have read in years; some may find it controversial and outspoken, but none will find it boring!

STUDENT PAPERS

We will continue our tradition of having student papers presented at the Annual Meeting. Everyone that has been involved with these student papers will testify that it has been a very valuable experience for the students and the advisors. Because it has been difficult to get a student to stand before a group of unknown and frightening faculty members, it is important that you identify prospective students now, start encouraging them, and explain that this activity is important for their professional lives, whether that professional life is academic or industrial. Student presentations can be on research projects, problems that they have solved, reports that they have written or even summer employment; usually the student papers are as good or better than some of the professional papers. The National MAA thinks that this program is so important that they allow us to grant up to three memberships in the MAA or, if the student is already a member, an MAA book of their choice. The students' papers are always enjoyable. Make yourself and your institution stand out!

SPONSOR A STUDENT!

MEETING FOR DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

There have been requests for the opportunity for Department Chairs to get together at the Annual Spring Meeting to discuss current problems and (hopefully) solutions. There will be a luncheon on Friday, April 25, for Chairs preliminary to the beginning of the Spring Meeting. If you have any topics you would recommend be discussed, send them to me at SDSM&T. Nothing formal is planned and topics can be introduced at the luncheon.

SECTION OFFICERS

The Section Officers for the 1985-86 year are:

Chair -----Stephen Bronn
University of Southern Colorado

Chair-Elect-----Freida Holley
Metropolitan State

Program Co-Chairs-----Ed Hawkins and Carl Kerns
Mesa College

Vice-Chair For Two-Year Colleges-----Marie Ritten
National College

Governor-----Gary Grefsrud
Ft. Lewis College

Secretary-Treasurer-----David Ballew
South Dakota School of
Mines and Technology

Contact any of these persons with any problems, concerns, complaints, suggestions or complements.

SCHEDULED FUTURE MEETINGS

1986 MEETING-----MESA COLLEGE

1987 MEETING-----UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
COLORADO

1988 MEETING-----JOINT HOSTING BY METRO
STATE AND UNIV OF COLO
AT DENVER

1989 MEETING-----FT. LEWIS

Does your institution want to host a meeting? Contact one of the officers.

Seen on a bumper sticker --> Sacred Cows Make Great Hamburgers!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This year we need to elect a Chair-Elect, Vice-Chair For Two Year Institutions (a two-year term) and a Program Chair. The Nominating Committee is Ed Hawkins (Chair) of Mesa College (I wonder if Ed has enough to do this year?), Richard Gibbs of Ft. Lewis College and Janet Nichols of the University of Southern Colorado. They would appreciate hearing from those with suggestions or interested in an office for themselves.

INTERESTED IN GOING TO CHINA?

The Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China has invited a delegation of mathematicians, computer scientists, and other mathematical scientists to tour China for the purpose of exchanging ideas and information. The tour departs San Francisco on June 18, 1986 and will return around July 6, 1986. Members of the delegation will be expected to prepare a presentation on a topic in their field of expertise which would be of interest to our Chinese counterparts. For more information, contact: Mel Nyman, Mathematics and Computer Science, Alma College, Alma, Michigan 48801.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS AT BERKELEY

Because the International Congress of Mathematicians will be meeting at Berkeley in early August, there will be no Summer Joint Mathematics Meetings for the MAA and AMS this summer. However, all mathematicians are encouraged to attend this Congress; it is a rare opportunity to host this event in the United States.

National MAA gives partial support to the Section Chair to attend the Summer Meeting so as to attend the Section Officers Meeting; this will also be true this summer. The Rocky Mountain Section Executive Committee has voted to give \$200 to help support the Chair-Elect to attend the International Congress.

SUMMER SHORT COURSE ON DISCRETE MATHEMATICS

Gary Grefsrud and Ft. Lewis College are working to try offering a Summer Short Course in Discrete Mathematics in Durango in late July, 1986. Plans are tentative but moving along. If you are interested in details, contact Gary. If everything fits together, we will have more information in the next Newsletter.

A HISTORY OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION

Our Section was founded in 1917, the eighth of the twenty-nine MAA Sections to be created. I am writing a history of the Section and hope to have it ready for our 70th Anniversary. If you have any information that might be useful, please contact me. What follows is some interesting tidbits on the Section's first five years.

1917 --

In September of 1916, Dr. G. H. Light of the University of Colorado began to discuss and organize a section of the Mathematical Association of America to include the states of Wyoming and Colorado. Through his efforts the first meeting of the Section was called at the University of Colorado on April 7,

1917. The meeting was a great success with an attendance of twenty-one, fifteen of whom were already members of the MAA. All of the other six joined the MAA within the next year. There were two presented papers: "The Solid Angle" by O. C. Lester of the University of Colorado, and "Fluxions" by Florian Cajori of Colorado College. There was considerable general discussion of these papers and the future of the organization.

The first group of officers were: Chairman, C. B. Ridgaway of the University of Wyoming; Vice-Chairman, C. C. VanNuys of the Colorado School of Mines; Secretary-Treasurer, G. H. Light of the University of Colorado.

1918 --

The Second Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section attracted twenty persons, fifteen of whom were members of the MAA. The technical program had expanded to eleven papers plus special addresses by Acting President Nelson of the University of Wyoming and a Banquet Address by O. C. Lester of the University of Colorado. Papers were given by persons from six academic institutions, one from Colorado Fuel and Iron Co. and one from an instructor, W. H. Hill, of Greeley High School.

1919 --

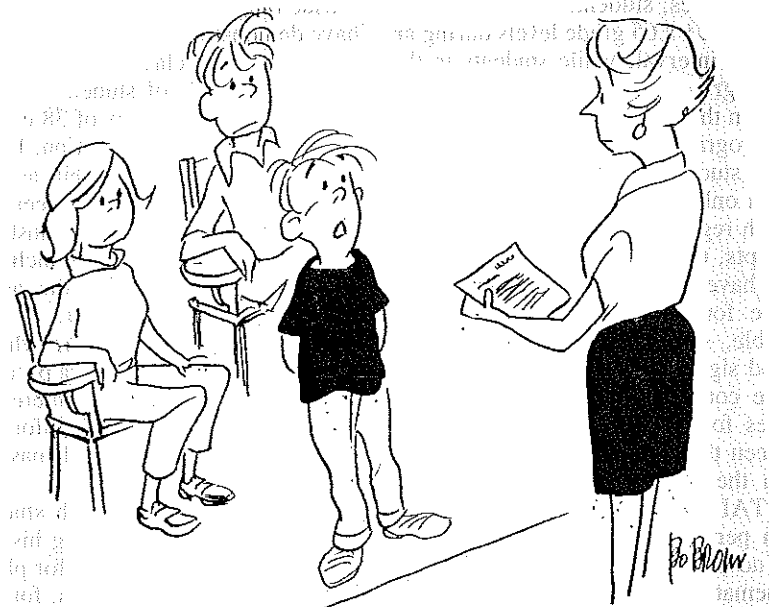
The Third Annual Meeting was held for twenty-four persons at Colorado A&M College on April 12, 1919; thirteen of the twenty-four were MAA members. There were ten papers all given by MAA members at the morning and afternoon sessions; of these ten papers, eight must be classified as physics and engineering and the other two would be in applied mathematics.

1920 --

Twenty-five persons attended the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section which was held at Colorado College in Colorado Springs for two days, April 2 and 3, 1920; fourteen of the twenty-five persons were MAA members, twelve of which attended the 1919 meeting and seven of which had attended all of the first four meetings of the Section. Eight papers were read, four of which were in 'pure' mathematics, one in education, one in applied mathematics and two in electrical engineering. The section continued its tradition of having considerable discussion and questions after each paper, sometimes to the point that other papers were given much later than scheduled.

1921 --

The Fifth Annual Meeting was held Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, March 25 and 26, 1921; there were thirty-three in attendance, nineteen of which were MAA members. There were seven contributed papers, two invited addresses: "Trajectories" by Philip Fitch of North Denver High School and "Mathematics of the High School as Preparation for College" by B. F. Kitchen of Colorado Agricultural College; in addition there was a well-attended tour of the Denver University Observatory.



"Fail" is a terrible word, Mrs. Hallawell. How about 'redshirted'?"