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Article, "President's Humor Was Always On Tap"; Poem

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President's Humor Was Always on Tap

President Brandenburg possessed a keen sense of humor which enlivened every gathering he attended. He delighted in "swapping" jokes and always had a story to match the best that were offered. His humor lessened the strain of the pitiless exactions of his office.

President Brandenburg in commenting on the many compliments he received on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee in honor of his twenty-five years service to the College, said that he was in the same spot as the monkey who, upon crawling out of the kettle of syrup into which he had fallen, remarked that it would take him the rest of his life to lick the stuff off.

A member of the faculty, on returning after an absence caused by illness, said she was "good as new." President Brandenburg replied, "I have heard of mechanics who claimed they could take a bunch of old rusty nails, screws, and bolts, and make a machine as 'good as new,' but I doubt it."

At an educational meeting held at Fort Scott a number of years ago, President Brandenburg was called on for some remarks. He said he found himself in the same predicament as that of a certain farmhand who was hauling wheat from a threshing machine to the farmer's bin.

On the way he had to traverse a steep, rocky incline. The endgate jolted out, permitting the load of wheat gradually to slide out of the wagon. When the farmhand—perched high on the spring seat—reached the bin, he looked about him and remarked, "Well, here I am, but I have nothing to unload."

He had ordered some equipment for a department. When it came the department asked that it be installed, which required a considerable outlay for electrical material. "Prexy" asked Prof. E. W. Jones for an estimate, then remarked "Well, that's the way it goes. Some people here ask me to buy them a barrel; then, when they get the barrel, they want me to fill it."

In speaking of a statement or pronouncement that he considered to be so general as to be practically meaningless, President Brandenburg was heard to remark: "This statement reminds me of an article of wearing apparel that was quite popular some years ago, the dress known as Mother Hubbard. The chief characteristic of that garment was that it covered everything, yet touched nothing."

There was also that story he told of the disappointed college girl who wrote home to her folks, remarking that she "came to college to be went with, but it ain't happened yet."

During the World War, President Brandenburg was called on to speak hundreds of times. One night the President and F. W. Brinkerhoff, who were frequently teamed up for meetings, were at Cato, in the northern part of Crawford County. A Red Cross-liberty loan meeting was held in the community church which was filled to overflowing. Mr. Brinkerhoff, speaking first, started off: "When President Brandenburg and I are together at meetings of this kind, we have a very fine arrangement for division of time. I speak for fifteen minutes and then President Brandenburg is introduced and speaks until breakfast." When President Brandenburg was introduced he looked over the crowd and said: "What time do you folks out here have breakfast? It has been explained that I will talk until breakfast, and I would not want to make any of you late to the meal."

President Brandenburg served for many years on the board of directors of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce both before and after he was president of that organization. The

directors have a regular luncheon meeting every Monday. A couple of years ago he attended a meeting the last of July just as the summer session was ending. Dr. Brandenburg, who owned a summer home at Grand Lake in Colorado, was preparing to get away for his vacation. As the meeting of the directors drew toward a close, he obtained recognition. "Gentlemen," he said, "one week from today when you men are assembled around this table attending to these duties and carrying on in the heat of August, I will be in the cool Colorado mountains. Instead of looking into your faces I will be gazing into the benevolent and hospitable faces of some mountain trout, and candor requires me to confess that the change in scenery will not be unwelcome at all."

Prof. O. F. Grubbs counts among his most interesting experiences the

"listening" to President Brandenburg and Dr. C. B. Pyle pitch horseshoes, because each one always razzed the other about cheating in the count.

One of the first stories Prof. J. U. Massey heard President Brandenburg tell was as follows: A young man was doing his own shopping. He said to the pretty girl behind the counter, "I want a pillow case."—"Yes?" said the girl. "What size?"—The young man looked awkward. "Why-er-I'm not sure," he said, "but I take a 6 7/8 hat."

GRANDPA

(The following poem was written last August by Eleanor Leedham, 10-year-old granddaughter of President Brandenburg, while she was visiting him and Mrs. Brandenburg at their cabin at Grandlake, Colo. The greatly pleased grandfather afterward carried the poem in his pocket.)

Oh when Grandpa goes a fishing,
The fish eaters do no wishing,
For when he feels a great big pull,
You know his fish bag will be full.

It's a fast and fury fight,
When Grandpa go's a fishing,
He makes a cast, the line draws tight,
The fly flips under out of sight,
Then he yanks with all his might,
Out comes that trout,
It weighs 3 lb.—about.