

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 --

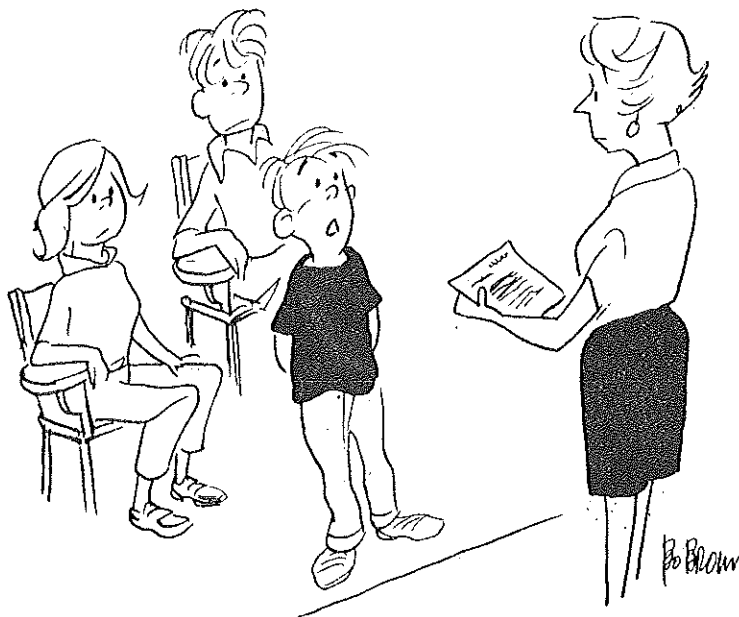
The Third Annual Meeting was held for twenty-four persons at Colorado A&M College on April 12, 1919; thirteen of the twenty-four were MAA members. There were ten papers all given by MAA members at the morning and afternoon sessions; of these ten papers, eight must be classified as physics and engineering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