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Sixty Years of the Academy

DWIGHT M. MOORE

[Transcribed and edited from a report presented to the Academy at the 60th Annual Business Meeting by Dr. Moore, Academy Historian]

Here is the kind of publication that is put out now. Compare it with a copy of the first issue of the *Proceedings*, which came out in 1941, and for which I had the responsibility of being Editor. We had an Editorial Board of three members then.

This is the third meeting of the Academy on this campus. First was in 1946, then in 1966, and then 1976; so they seem to go on sort of 10-year jumps here. But the Academy — how many of you know just when and how the Academy was organized?

Back in 1917, at the Medical School in Little Rock, the science people (most of them doctors) got together and organized the Academy of Sciences — The Arkansas Academy of Science. I think they had more to the name at that time, but I don't remember that now. They held one public meeting in the spring of 1917, and then do any of you remember what happened in '17? The First World War. Now, I don't believe many of you can remember that far back, but since then we've met on the campus of the Medical School in '43, '44, '45 (those were the war years — the Second World War), again in '47, '49, and back in '58. So we've met on the Medical School campus, counting the first one, seven times.

Along in the 30's, we met at the University in Fayetteville for the first time in 1937 and, at that time, it was the idea to meet there every third year, but it didn't work that way right then. We met again in 1940 there, but then came the war years, and so we met in Little Rock after that. In '48 we got back to the every third year at the University in Fayetteville; in '48, '51, '54, '57, '61 (skipped four years then), '65, '69, and again in '72. So we've had the most meetings on the campus at Fayetteville — ten of them.

The Academy has met three times at Conway at what was ASTC (Arkansas State Teachers College). That is an interesting item. The first meeting held on a college campus in Arkansas, aside from the Medical School, was in '34; and the President at that time was a lady from that campus, Dr. Flora Hause. She was quite active in the

Academy from the time of organization. Interesting again is that our incoming President who will be installed at a meeting tomorrow is Dr. Jewel Moore, also from the same campus. We met on that campus in '34, '64, and '74.

There are several other places we've met: three times at Jonesboro on the campus of Arkansas State College (Arkansas State University now), and then three times at Harding College at Searcy. We met only once at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, and that was in 1959. I'm not actually bragging, but that's the only meeting since the re-organization in 1932 that I have missed. I was at the University of Saigon at that time, and couldn't get over to the meeting.

We re-organized in 1932, and had our first public meeting in 1933, and that was at the Lafayette Hotel in Little Rock. Do any of you remember the Lafayette Hotel? It's been gone for some time. From '34 on then, we've met on college campuses, except in 1950 when we met at Petit Jean State Park.

Well, that's a little of what we've done in the past. Since the organization in '17, that makes just completing about 60 years of the Academy. This is the 60th meeting.

I might explain one thing about that. From the meeting in '17, the first meeting, our next public meeting was in '33, and the only original member of the Academy who was attending that meeting was the permanent Secretary, Troy Lewis, who was a lawyer — a prominent attorney here in Little Rock. It was to him that I went in 1932 to get information about what had been done. He furnished that information, and he said at that time, "We'll call this meeting at the Lafayette Hotel the 17th meeting, because it's the 17th year since it was established first." He said, "We'll assume that some of the officers have gotten together once a year." So this meeting today is, on that basis, the 60th meeting. I think that gives you a little idea of what we've had in the Academy in the past 60 years.