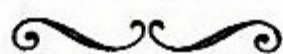


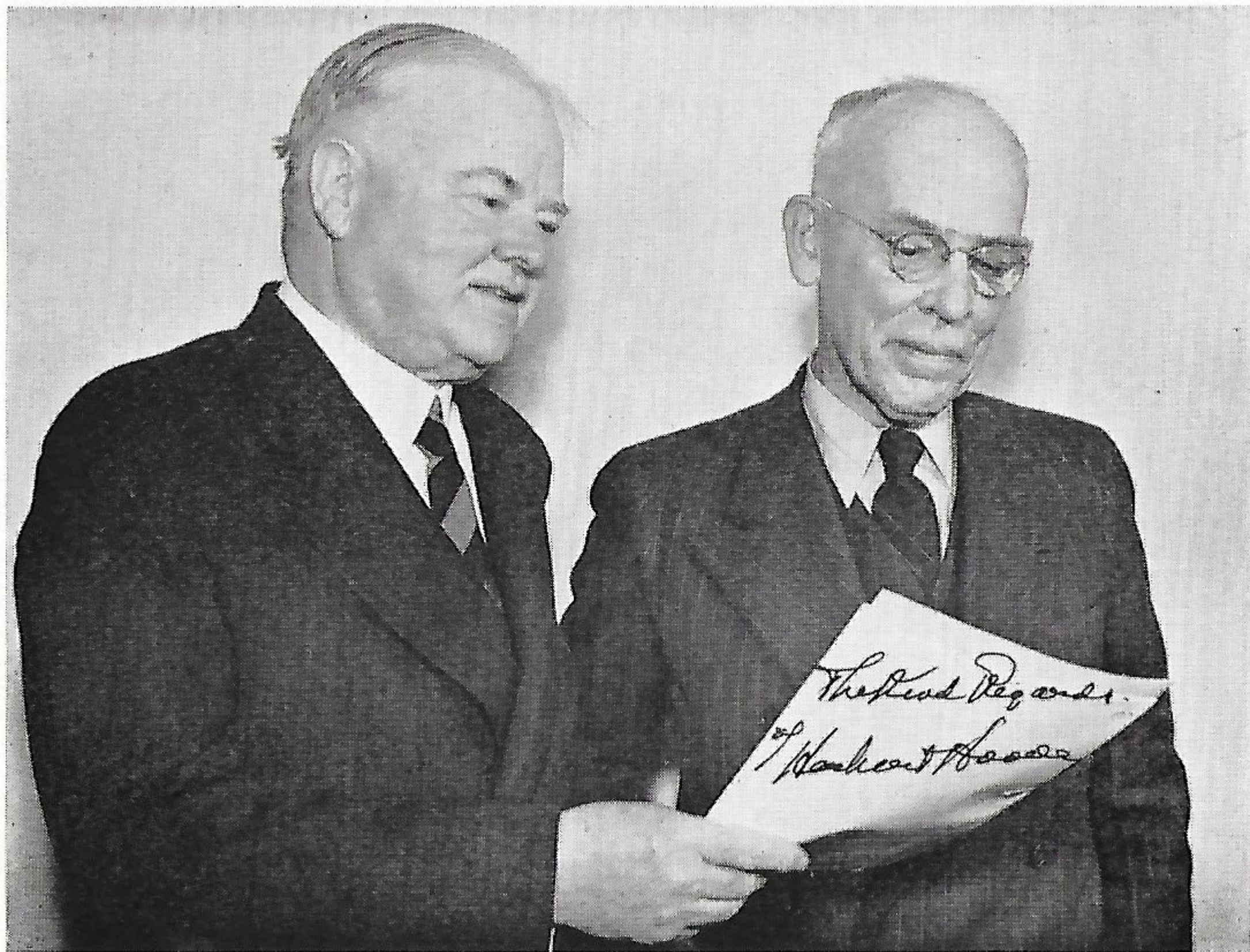
Dr. Pihlblad was a leader in civic affairs. He served in the Kansas Senate from 1936 to 1940, after having been drafted for that position by the McPherson-Harvey County district, in 1936. When the bond scandal in the State Treasurer's office became public in 1933, Governor Alfred Landon, offered Dr. Pihlblad the state treasurer-ship, but he declined.

At the time of his death Dr. Pihlblad was pastor of the Falun Lutheran church where he had served in that capacity for 16 years. The Danielson Funeral Home was in charge of the services on Monday.—The Lindsborg News-Record, December 16, 1943.



Remembrances

No record of data needs be before me as these lines are being written in remembrance of a friend since the days of childhood. The book of memory is my only source of reference. At the age of eleven years Ernst F. Pihlblad and I were enrolled as pupils in Bethany Academy, the first name of what now is Bethany College. We occupied seats and desk together through three years in the preparatory department and in the four years of college. A priceless memory, unfading as decades have rolled by, is the day when we said goodbye to the little white "Academy" in the center of the park and moved into the massive, new building of Bethany College and Normal Institute. Right here the great figure rises up before me of a daring, far-seeing man, who, beside the parents that gave us life, and our families, has meant more to Ernst F. Pihlblad and to me than any other man, living or dead—Carl Swensson, creator of Bethany and wise counselor to boys and girls, in whose hearts he unfailingly kindled fires of high ambitions. Looking back over the years, it seems clear that Ernst F. Pihlblad and I were pre-ordained into the Holy Ministry early in our college course by Dr. Carl Swensson and that, unknowingly, we were guided by his hand in that direction. Accordingly we two left Bethany simultaneously to take up post graduate studies in Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois, where we were room-mates. Ernst F. Pihlblad's course was interrupted at the end of the first school-year by a summons from Bethany's president to return for a year to his Alma Mater and fill a vacancy in the teaching force, which was done efficiently and with every promise of excellence as a professor of Latin. Resuming attendance at the Theological Seminary in 1893, Ernst F. Pihlblad was ordained 1894 to the ministry and served a New Jersey parish until 1895 when he again became identified with Bethany College at his former post as professor of Latin language and literature. The reestablishment of this connection, that was to continue forty-eight years and be terminated only by death, became of immeasurable importance on the history of Bethany College.



Hon. Herbert Hoover and Dr. Pihlblad.

Ernst F. Pihlblad's technique as professor of Latin has been attested by former pupils, who are attributing much of their pleasure and success in life to the thoroughness and discipline in his classes.

In 1900, this twenty-seven year old member of the faculty was elected vice president of his Alma Mater, most certainly having been nominated for that office by the president himself, Dr. Carl Swensson, who had observed the advancement and maturing of his pupil from boyhood.

Four years later the great Founder-President passed away unexpectedly at Los Angeles, California. No name was better known among his race on both sides of the Atlantic ocean than that of Carl Swensson, but the impact of his extraordinary personality had also been felt far beyond that natural constituency.

All, who knew of the courage and the super-human efforts by which Bethany had been built up from the appointed day of the first registration in 1881, when not a single pupil arrived, to the Bethany of 1904—a universally recognized college and a center of arts in tone and color—all were asking, who is the man to succeed Dr. Carl Swensson?

Ernst F. Pihlblad and I stood side-by-side in Elmwood Cemetery in Lindsborg on a day in February, 1904, where Carl Swensson's mortal remains were to be interred reading, alternately, words of hope and promises of Eternal Life from the ritual. As the casket was being slowly lowered, I turned toward my friend and saw tears streaming down his cheeks. During our long acquaintance I could not recall any instance of uncontrolled emotionalism in his cast, as under all circumstances he had been resigned and calm. Later as we spoke of the loss, in which both of us shared, Ernst F. Pihlblad referred, feelingly, to the hand, now limp, that had guided his life and actions, and of his new responsibilities until a successor to Dr. Carl Swensson should be chosen. The governing body—the Kansas Conference—did not hesitate to place Ernst F. Pihlblad at the head of Bethany College, to which in the ensuing years he was to prove himself to be to the manner born.

The record of his administration is written upon the pages of Bethany's history. Visible and imposing monuments have been erected to adorn the campus. Grateful students are cherishing the memory of a skillful teacher and understanding adviser.

Though the fields of labor were far apart geographically, our relationship continued close with kindred sympathies, mutual memories and a common endeavor among the people of whom we were a part.

An undying glowing fire shown in Ernst F. Pihlblad's heart and an indomitable will, guided by fairness and wisdom ruled his life. At no time did that fire and will manifest themselves more strongly than in the last five years of his life. The results of the severe accident in an automobile crash placed limitations upon his mobility, but not upon his inner vision, nor upon his will. The fire on the altar of

his soul did not cease to burn brightly. A sore affliction was borne without complaint even to his last breath, drawn in the performance of duties, entrusted by the State of which he was a most honored and capable citizen. Wherever he went conversation revolved around Bethany. In a visit to my home in Chicago not long ago, Ernst F. Pihlblad outlined a plan for the strengthening of Alma Mater. Physical difficulties and discomforts were involved in his travel to and from Chicago, but there was not even a sign of impatience. The conference was without a flaw—the same old fire for Bethany, the same old will to do.

It is lonely, Ernst, without you. One member alone remains of the class of 1891 and he is now thinking of you, of Erik Glad and John Westerlund and of our comradeship at Bethany and later. The three of us were proud of you and of your presidency of Alma Mater.

The generation that helped to found Bethany is passing away, but Bethany will live and prosper if the spirit of the pioneers still stirs within the children. Former students have learned with joy of plans to honor and preserve the names of Carl Swensson and Ernst F. Pihlblad by memorials, symbolizing their service. Surely, friends of Bethany and of these men, will eagerly await the official announcement of the details and be willing to have a part in the realization of these memorials.

DR. JULIUS LINCOLN.

(Bethany '91, Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Chicago, Ill.)