



Karl D. Butler '31

Has been elected to membership in the

Beta Phi Hall of Honor Class of 2002

Born in the Territory of Arizona in 1910, Brother Karl Butler's lifetime of work has led to some of the most influential products and services that we use today.

Brother Butler started his extensive college career at the University of Arizona. He was the first graduate of the UA Department of Plant Pathology, earning a Master's Degree in 1933. He continued his studies in botany at Iowa State University and later earned a PhD in plant pathology from Cornell University.

Following his formal education, Brother Butler spent time in many countries, including a two-year research trip to South America. He spent that time researching rubber plants near and on the Amazon River in order to help develop a new source of rubber during World War II.

Following his various research projects, Brother Butler became involved with the National Farmers Co-op, which helped address the economics issues that faced American farmers during that period. He was eventually elected President of the NFC, and his work helped thousands of farmers prosper.

Due primarily to his work with the NFC and previous research, Brother Butler was appointed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as an Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. During this time period, he made a number of influential contributions and breakthroughs in global agricultural practice and study.

Later in his career, Brother Butler entered the private sector, serving as a farming consultant. Among the many countries he visited, Brother Butler was instrumental in developing improvements in the farming and agricultural practices in the former U.S.S.R., India, Taiwan, and a number of South American and African countries.

As an alumnus of the UA and Beta Phi Chapter, Brother Butler exemplified the attitude and dedication that is necessary to succeed.

In 1994, the UA Department of Plant Pathology established the Karl Butler Plant Pathology Endowment used to fund a graduate fellow in the Department of Agriculture at the University of Arizona.