

TWO INITIATIONS HELD THIS YEAR

Seven Freshmen Given White Cross in Fall—Three Men in Spring Ceremony

The regular fall initiation was held December 1, 1923, at the house, the following men being initiated: L. S. Tappan, H. E. Muhlenberg, R. G. Kales, Lee McCanne, M. A. Collins, Jr., E. A. Chase, and Frank von Brecht, Jr. These seven freshmen were subjected to the customary initiation week events under the guidance of Jinny Byrne, freshman manager; while Mortimer Serat, Beta Mu '19, effectively and thoroughly handled the initiation proper.

Following the completion of the ceremonies, early in the evening, a semi-banquet was held in the House dining room. Short talks were made by the visiting delegates, alumni, and members of the chapter, and the proverbial Sig spirit greeted the new members. Among the alumni present were: A. V. Swift, '14; A. M. Packard, Rho Rho, '99; John W. Clarkson, '18, and Wm. B. Freeman, '21. The delegates from the Brown Chapter were Malcolm Graham and Fordyce Lozier. C. H. Hammond came down from Maine.

A second initiation was held on April 12th, at which time R. G. Dexter, '27, Phillips Russell, '25 and W. E. Edwards, '26, were given the White Cross. G. Bateman was in charge of the neophytes, and Brother John B. McPherson assisted in the initiation. His talk to the freshmen concluded the ceremony most impressively. At both initiations the presence of alumni and visitors added much to the occasion and it cannot be too strongly urged that all who can attend in the future do so.

House Party

During Junior Week the chapter gave what it considers as one of the most successful house-parties in the memory of the oldest living undergraduate. Mrs. F. G. Cumming, Larry's mother, officiated as chaperon. The fun began with fourteen hand-picked beauties on the roll call.

Starting Saturday noon, April 19, the interval before dinner was whiled away greeting new arrivals, admiring Kenney Billings' poster of Prom events, and imbibing oolong and dance music at Walker Memorial. The first real skirmish was that evening. The house dance was

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83 PERCENT OF CHAPTER IN ACTIVITIES

Twenty-five out of the thirty-one members of the chapter have been engaged in some form of student activity during the past term. Five of the men have been competing in varsity athletics and seven freshmen on freshmen teams, while sixteen men have been holding positions in non-athletic activities.

It is interesting to note that years of high activity participation usually show a drop in scholastic standing, but this year a high standing has been reached in both with a scholastic rating of second among the Christian fraternities and eighty-three per cent of the men in activities.

Athletics

Technology's biggest year on the Charles has found Alpha Theta well represented in the various crews. Sayre '24 pulls an oar on the Varsity. Murdock '24 is captain of the Junior Varsity and has Gorsuch '26 rowing number six. Kales captained the freshman Field Day crew, of which Tappan was the stroke and Chase the coxswain. Frisbie is manager elect of crew. Who wishes to challenge Alpha Theta for the four oared shell championship of Sigma Chi?

Bateman was captain of the one mile indoor relay team. Dean made the Varsity swimming team and Bamford the Varsity basketball squad, while Connard is Publicity Manager of the Athletic Association. Dexter sprang a surprise in the Interclass meet by winning the high jump and so gaining five much needed points for the Freshmen. Last fall Gorsuch and Warner, a newcomer from Alpha Zeta, played on the Sophomore football team. Ernest Muhlenberg and von Brecht ran on the Freshman Field Day team, while Collins plays on the '27 ball team.

In intramural basketball the Chapter's hopes took a sudden drop when the Betas came out on top in the semi-finals. The cup, which we held for two years, is gone, but forgotten only until next year's team swings into action. To date one baseball game has been won and one lost in the inter-fraternity league.

Non Athletic Activities

Fletcher has followed in Taylor's footsteps and is handling the monies for all athletics and other activities. He is treasurer of the Institute Committee and chairman of the Budget Committee. Bateman is Junior Class President and Senior President elect. He has a successful Junior Week and the "burying of the beaver," Technology's "infant tradition" to his credit. Tech Show

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TRUSTEES FINALLY PURCHASE PRESENT HOME FOR CHAPTER

SIGMA CHI ACTIVITY LEADERS NEXT YEAR

Senior Class President

G. L. Bateman

Manager of Crew G. S. Frisbie

President of Archtiect's Student

Council C. R. Munlenberg

Editor of The Tech H. G. Burt

Business Manager of Voo Doo

C. R. Billman

Art Editor of Technique R. C. Dean

OPERATION OF THE CHAPTER HOUSE

The addition in January of a housekeeper to the force of servants worked a beneficial change in the domestic organization of the chapter. After a survey throughout the fall of mess and house conditions, it was deemed wise to employ a woman to handle the servants, order the food, and arrange the meals.

Previously these duties were in the hands of men elected from the chapter, but because of inefficiency due to their inexperience and lack of time, it was felt that the money expended was not returning full value. By a careful system of budgeting it has been found that the housekeeper saves the house an amount over and above her wages, serves better meals, and gets more efficient work from the servants.

By checking and supervising all expenditures it has been possible to obtain the maximum results with the minimum outlay. Consequently all expenses have been cleared and provisions made for summer financing. The treasury department has been extremely careful to guard against any unwise financial policy or unnecessary expenditures.

Some repair and replacement work has been done, and the trustees have helped in the payments for some of the work, the remaining expense being carried by the chapter. The work done included a repairing of the roof and hatch-way, repairing the plumbing, repairing of two bath rooms and one of the study rooms, replacing of window shades and curtains and opening of the light shaft and alterations in the bath rooms necessitated by the new building next door.

The painting and much of the other work was done by members of the chapter. There is more that can be done, and it is the aim of the house department to arrange a plan for repairs and alterations that may be fulfilled from time to time as the opportunity offers.

Endowment Fund Makes Buy Possible—\$40,000 Paid for House

The purchase of the house now occupied by Alpha Theta was consummated by the trustees during the early part of April. This move, made possible by appropriating the endowment fund, has solved the most insistent problem the chapter has had facing it for the past several years. Both trustees and chapter extensively studied the question and realized that the Hobson's choice was to buy.

The history of the negotiations is long. On January 1, 1919, the chapter leased as a home the brick house, built for occupancy by the late Francis W. Kittredge of Boston, near the Harvard Bridge and numbered 532 Beacon Street. This winter the three owners, the heirs of Mr. Kittredge, declined to renew the lease, which expires June 30, and decided, if the house could not be sold, to turn it into doctors' offices. A thorough search of the neighborhood by a chapter committee failed to disclose a house adapted to their purposes, which could be leased; and those for sale were held at figures beyond our reach. The Trustees were therefore faced with the necessity of purchasing the property or having no building within easy walking distance of the Institute in which to house the chapter. After careful consideration and after consulting contributors to the fund in the Trustees' hands, none of whom registered an objection, it was decided to purchase the house for \$40,000. Title was passed on May first, on which date \$28,000 was paid in cash and a mortgage was given for \$12,000 at six per cent, payable in five years.

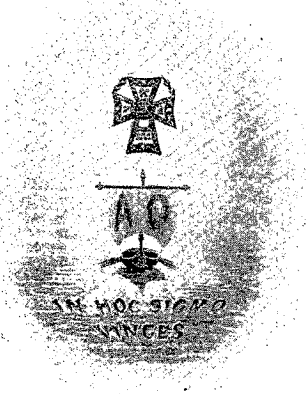
The abstract of title was passed upon by one of Boston's most capable real estate attorneys, who also prepared a declaration of trust, by the terms of which the three Trustees, Dr. Henry M. Chase, George M. Angier and John Bruce McPherson, will govern the management of the property and the income from it.

The possession of the house is due to the liberality, consistent support and encouragement given by General Coleman du Pont, one of the chapter's charter members; and the other older men who contributed to the two campaigns conducted to secure the funds; by the payment of notes by the younger alumni and by contributions of the chapter in a number of years. To all who have helped

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THE ALPHA THETA ANNUAL

Alpha Theta of
The Sigma Chi Fraternity
Mass. Institute of Technology



Committee on Publications

- J. R. Killian, '26, Chairman
- G. B. Connard, '25
- J. B. Bamford, '26
- R. B. Parsons, '26

THE CHAPTER OFFICERS

- B. J. Fletcher C.
- T. M. Nevin P. C.
- J. C. Byrne A. E.
- G. L. Bateman A.
- C. R. Muhlenberg Q.
- G. B. Connard T.
- J. R. Killian, Jr. H.
- R. B. Parsons M.
- F. von Brecht, Jr. K.
- C. S. Hoffman Steward

William Henry Merrill, Alpha Theta, 1889, Founder and President of the Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., died at the Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago, on September 17, 1923.

TRUSTEES FINALLY BUY PRESENT CHAPTER HOME

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in any way to secure the fund, the members of the present chapter are grateful, and they hope to prove their appreciation by a careful use of the home and willing co-operation in carrying out the plans of the Trustees.

In October, 1909, the fund was started with \$388, which by May 1, 1924, had been increased to more than \$28,000. A significant proportion of this sum was secured from alumni who signed ten notes, each for ten dollars, one being payable annually to the Trustees. Up to the present time, twenty-two alumni have paid those notes in full, while many others have made payments which total a very considerable sum. Those who have paid in full make up a roll of honor which should be preserved among the chapter's

WHAT THE CHAPTER THINKS

Of the Buying of the House:

Nothing has done more to stimulate progressive determination and give confidence in Alpha Theta's future than this. With the assurance of a permanent residence, we are able to direct our attention toward a more intensive development of chapter policy and personnel.

We feel indebted to the trustees for their work in financing and arranging the details of purchase. The untiring activity of Grand Praetor John B. McPherson in this respect and in the general interest of the chapter has been fully realized and appreciated.

Of the Alumni:

It is the alumni that have made possible the endowment fund and the consequent purchase of the house, and their support has been the feature of the campaign. It is becoming increasingly evident that a cohesive and loyal body of alumni is a chapter's most valuable asset. Not merely financial support is needed but the mature judgment and experience of the older men. Suggestions are needed, moreso, solicited, and visits are welcomed and desired. The recent suggestion of an alumnus initiated an entirely new and improved rushing system. Are there any others suggestions extant?

An alumni chapter was organized in Rochester, N. Y., some time ago through the initiative of Alpha Theta men. We urge that this be repeated in other cities wherever the number of Sigma Chis warrants. Particularly should every alumnus in the East endeavor to increase the prestige of the fraternity here.

Of Rushing:

We have placed our rushing campaign for next year on a systematized and efficient basis. A centralized rushing committee headed by C. R. Muhlenberg will direct activities and is now studying the situation, getting a line on men, and writing reports of useful data. Emphasis is being given to the idea that the chapter has a service to render and has the inherent capacity for giving a man something lasting. The chapter is entangling itself in no rushing agreements.

We need recommendations and of course depend upon the alumni and other chapters for these. ATTEND TO THE ENCLOSED RUSHING BLANK if possible.

Of Expansion:

The word "conservative" has become trite and of meaningless connotation, but we strongly desire an adherence to a conservative policy, believing that the growth of the fraternity is reaching a natural limit. Always in favor of a worthy petitioning group in a major college we feel at present that, with a few exceptions, opportunities are exhausted.

records. Their names, arranged by classes, are as follows:

- 1905.
- Charles A. Emerson, Harrisburg, Pa.
- William H. Lally, Detroit, Mich.
- A. Senior Prince, Chicago, Ill.
- 1906.
- John Donaldson, Perris, Cal.
- 1907.
- Holden C. Richardson, U.S. Navy.
- 1908.
- Paul R. Fanning.
- Gerald T. Hanley, Providence, R.I.
- William C. Kerr, Catonsville, Md.
- Chester La Mar Pritchard, Mannington, W.Va.
- Alexander H. van Keuren, U.S. Navy.
- 1909.
- Lee Scott Border, U.S. Navy.
- 1911.
- Charles Phillips Kerr, Boston, Mass.
- 1912.
- Rudolph H. Fox, Denver, Col.
- John M. Hargrave, Cincinnati, O.
- Clarence J. McDonough, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Allen W. Reid, Milwaukee, Wis.
- 1913.
- Peter C. Lieber, Indianapolis, Ind.
- 1914.
- August S. True, Arlington, Mass.

- 1915.
- Horatio W. Brown, Hampton, Va.
- George M. Hohl, Bethlehem, Pa.
- 1919.
- Oswald Cammann, Jr., Dayton, O.
- 1920.
- William M. B. Freeman, Brookline, Mass.

With respect to those notes, which are obligations that should be paid, the signers fall, generally speaking, into four broad classes:

- (1) Those who have paid in full;
- (2) Those who having made payment in part, intend to pay in full;
- (3) Those who for various good reasons have not yet been able to pay;
- (4) Those who have not paid a dollar, and who have paid no attention to many appeals.

To which class do you belong and in which class do you wish the Trustees to enroll you?

Between November 1, 1923, and May 15, 1924, Brother McPherson collected \$390 from note makers, and he hopes to increase that sum to \$500 before the fiscal year closes on October 31. Will you help to reduce the mortgage by paying at least one note, and more, if possible?

HOUSE PARTY

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open to all comers. Good music and a peppy crowd failed to hold back invaders from neighboring house-parties.

We had to have some rain or it wouldn't be Boston. An encouragingly gentle drizzle greeted the gang on Sunday—available envelopers were donned and in two hours Manchester Country Club was ours. After such exertion nothing would do but a protracted attack on local provisions. In spite of the approaching sunset a retreat to 532 was effected in time for supper.

Monday dawned for the unfortunate Wellesley commuters altogether too early—for the rest of us quite a bit later. The activities tea-dance that afternoon served but as an appetizer for the Spring Concert, the evening's offering. After dinner popular adjournment was held in favor of the Somerset. The Musical Clubs were good, but the crowd craved to dance. After the program was duly over and appreciated, no time was lost before the next act. From then till well past the magic midnight hour will go down in history as an evening of bliss.

Another day had sped, and with it much of the enthusiasm of the Wellesley commuters. Most of us enjoyed that pleasing combination of menus known as "brunch." In the afternoon more beauty sleep, with the exception of a few investigating and shopping expeditions to the heart of the city.

Dinner that night was more than just a means of satisfying the cravings that Nature has so wisely provided. It was an event. Highly decorative and explosive balloons held up the back of each chair. Significant and tell-tale place-cards, the work of local talent, guided the prospective revellers to their allotted places. The festive board was a promising beginning to the last and best night of the house-party.

Our hidden aristocratic tastes were revealed at the Boston Opera House as we arrived modestly late for "The Hidden Idol." Seven boxes in a row, our right wing closely supported by President Stratton. We sighed and leaned back, ready to encore our numerous theatrical brothers. No prompting was needed by an appreciative audience.

The theatre goes found the Junior Prom well under way when they arrived at the Copley. A unanimous vote was cast in appreciation of the music, the floor, the crowd, the midnight dinner and the favors. Four o'clock came all too soon. At the house the victrola was called into action, and dancing and raids on the ice box gave way only to packing and final good-byes.

The last girl had waved a regretful farewell by noon, and the brothers kept a long neglected date with Morpheus. The house-party was over. In spite of wan eyes and lean purses who shall say it was not worth while. Four days of a wonderfully good time and memories to last us until we are again visited by the fair sex for another Junior Week.

THE NEW MEN

Lewis Sanford Tappan, '27, Wellesley, Mass.

As massive in build as he is verbose in speech, Tap demands and commands attention. His social inclinations have not interfered with Institute duties and activities, he being captain of the freshman crew and a student of average ability.

Henry Ernest Muhlenberg, '27, Reading, Penn.

Ernie is another addition to the Sigma Chi progeny of the Muhlenberg family, his father and two uncles being Sigs, not to mention his brother, Chick, Consul Elect. He is a consistent worker, an architectural student, and is characterized by a retiring nature and an affinity for a deep-noted guitar.

Robert Gray Kales, '27, Detroit, Mich.

Bob's father preceded him in the chapter, graduating in the class of '92. The son is well known by his great fur coat and his rowing on the freshman crew. Aristocratic, he seems fired with a grim determination to lounge lazily but affably through life.

Lee McCanne, '27, Rochester, N. Y.

Lee is a most congenial and promising freshman, already showing marks of a successful Institute activity man. His impersonation of femininity in Tech Show has won him renown, and he is doing constructive work as a member of the Walker Memorial Committee. He mixes successful scholarship with blue shirts and crepe shoes.

Morgan A. Collins, Jr., '27, Chicago, Ill.

His ability as a student, his participation in outside activities, and his interest in House affairs, particularly rushing, are Morg's outstanding traits. Everything he undertakes he does willingly, whether it's rousing the brothers at the crack of dawn, or ironing costumes for the Tech Show on their New England tour. Thanks to paternal influence through "Chief" Collins, Morg has the undivided support of the Chicago "bluecoats."

Eugene Augustus Chase, '27, Jackson, Mich.

This youth was born and bred in Beverly, Massachusetts, which explains the accent. Not a child prodigy but a close approach, for he carries the chapter's brilliance with him. Several years' experience in a bank has given him a practical slant on life. The chapter has expectations of this embryo financier.

Frank Von Brecht, Jr., '27, St. Louis, Mo.

Frank was the object of a concentrated attack from several fraternities last fall, and just now he is being to overcome the effects of the lengthy rushing season. Equipment for a hunting lodge can be found in his trunk, although his instruments are more numerous than his actions. A slow drawl, a proverbial sleepiness, and a likable, affable personality are his characteristics.

Robert Gordon Dexter, '27, Manchester, Conn.

With his saxophone and his wit he

can perch on the top of the world. Jazz incorporated, a real musician, a successful student, and a freshman track man is he, and these accomplishments bespeak his ability. His mannerly turn and well-poised personality are responsible for his popularity.

Phillips Russell, '25, Kansas City, Kan.

Phil is versatile and cosmopolitan, a globe trotter, and an architect. The end of his travels and the limit of his experience have yet to be discovered. The chapter's work, the chapter's spirit, and the chapter's social activity find expression wherever his Spanish physiognomy appears.

Willard Eldridge Edwards, '26, Quincy, Mass.

His pulchritude was also a feature of Tech Show, and he has been successful as a student. Experience on the sea, principally as a wireless operator, is responsible for his mature nature. His pleasant smile and rosy complexion have been seriously missed for the past three weeks, due to a serious operation, from which he is rapidly recovering.

CHANGES in CHAPTER PERSONNEL

When the house reassembled on September 21 for rushing, it was found that twenty-four active men had returned. This number was soon increased by the affiliation of James Rhyne Killian '26, from Beta Lambda of Trinity College, and Finley Grant Cameron '25, from Beta Zeta of the University of North Dakota. Rushing started immediately and by the end of two weeks seven freshmen were pledged.

Bob Canby '23, received his degree in November and started work with the Canby, Ach, and Canby Company of Dayton, Ohio. The chapter continued with an active strength of thirty-two after the initiation on December first till after Christmas vacation, with Brothers Brown, Spaulding, Pitt, Mundy, and Cavis paying us longer or shorter visits at one time or another during the fall term.

Brother Auchincloss resigned from the Institute in the last part of December, and now is in New York, working with the New York Edison Company, and hopes to be able to return this fall. Brothers Kinsey and Mares left to join the School of Chemical Engineering Practice with stations in various towns. They receive their degrees this June, Brother Mares getting his Bachelor's degree and Brother Kinsey his Master's. During the month of January Robert G. Dexter was pledged, while early in February Brother Rockefeller left us to go to Brown. A little later Phillips Russell and Willard Edwards were pledged, so that after their initiation on April 12 the chapter numbered thirty-one men.

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR NEXT YEAR

C. R. Muhlenberg	C.
G. L. Bateman	P. C.
J. R. Killian, Jr.	A. E.
F. G. Cameron	A.
J. B. Bamford	Q.
R. G. Dexter	T.
M. A. Collins	H.
Lee McCanne	M.
W. E. Edwards	K.
H. E. Muhlenberg	Steward

MARRIAGES

John B. McPherson, Theta, '83, Grand Praetor, and Miss Mary P. Lamb were married at Watertown, Massachusetts, on February 6, 1924. They are living in Brookline at 42 Garrison Road, an address very well known to many of the members of the chapter, who have been so often entertained with their hospitality. Brother McPherson's door is always gladly opened to members of Sigma Chi.

John Alston Clark, '18, and Miss Jane Dewey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Dewey, and niece of Professor Davis R. Dewey, were married at New York City, May 24, 1924. Brother and Mrs. Clark are both studying for their Doctors' degrees. They are to live in Cambridge next year. Brother Clark has been living at the House while instructing at the Institute for the past two years, and will be greatly missed by the members of the Chapter. Brother Clark will remain in charge of the Physics Laboratory at the Institute next year.

Simeon E. Travis, '20, and Miss Alice Sanford Jones were married on November 10, 1923, at Danville, Virginia. They are living at Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Samuel E. Moreton, Jr., '21, and Miss Eola Williams were married on November 21, 1923, at Lexington, Mississippi.

Oswald Cammann, '19, and Miss Mariel Colby Thresher, sister of B. Alden Thresher, '18, were married at Dayton, Ohio, February 2, 1924.

B. Alden Thresher, '18, and Miss Irene Kattwinkel were married on November 27, 1923, at West Newton, Massachusetts.

Henry S. Colton, '21, and Miss Ruth Watters were married at Rydal, Pennsylvania, October 6, 1923.

George H. Ludlow, '19, and Miss Eleanor Robinson of Boston were married at Trinity Church, Boston, May 24, 1924. The Alpha Theta Chapter attended the wedding en masse.

Hamilton L. Wood, '17, and Miss Katherine Billings of Boston were married in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, on June 1, 1923.

William M. B. Freeman, '20, and Miss Elizabeth Hodgman of St. Louis have announced their engagement.

ALUMNI PERSONALS

Samuel S. Auchincloss, Jr., ex '26, is working for the New York Edison Company.

Robert L. Rockefeller, ex '25, is now at Brown University.

After working five years with the Winchester Company, Herbert F. Jermain, '18, has recently secured a position as Development Engineer with the Western Electric Company of New York City. He is living at 311 Maple Avenue, East Orange, New Jersey.

Hall Kirkham, '23, is Assistant Superintendent of the Spectacle Glass Department of the Bausch and Lomb Company, Rochester, New York.

Thomas M. Taylor, '22, is in the Efficiency Department of the Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, New York.

W. Ryland Scott, '22, is in the New York City office of the Ingersoll Rand Company. He lives at 407 Central Park, West.

Hubert D. Barnes, ex '25, is in an Architect's office in Milwaukee.

Joseph C. Patty, '22, is with the Greenville, Ohio, Gravel Company, supervising construction.

Harry E. Rockefeller, '22, is with the Linde Air Products Company, New York City.

Hugh D. McKinnon, '23, is now working with the New York Central Railroad.

Leon L. McGrady, '17, is in business with his father in The Linters Cotton Waste Products and Chemical Cotton Company, at Fall River, Massachusetts.

Randall E. Spaulding, '22, after having spent the winter at St. Petersburg, Florida, is now at the Mount View House, Whitefield, New Hampshire.

John W. Rockefeller, '20, holds an important position with John Chatillon & Sons, New York City.

Robert C. Canby, '23, is working in the Prepared Foods Company at Woodbury, New Jersey.

William H. F. Rose, '21 and Mrs. Rose, announced the birth on March 27, of a daughter, Andrea Wyld Rose.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard V. Shipley, '23, announced the birth of a son, Thomas Shipley, in November.

John M. Hargraves, 1912, President of the American Tool Company, called at the Sigma Chi House on a recent visit to Boston. He expressed himself as being greatly pleased both with the home and the chapter, and congratulated the Trustees on the work accomplished by them.

Thayer P. Gates, '02, is President of the Gates Finishing Company, Medford, Massachusetts.

The Rochester Alumni Chapter of Sigma Chi has recently been organized, and already has about twenty-eight members, Hall Kirkham, '23, Thomas M. Taylor, '22, and Frederick J. Hopkinson, '19, Alpha Theta alumni, helped organize the chapter, and are taking active part in its functions.

