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THE INSTALLATION OF ALPHA LAMBDA

The installation of Alpha Lambda chapter on May 21 at the University of Washington, in Seattle, was unique in that it was a welcoming into the fraternity of a new and very important territory by one of the most detached groups of Thetas in America.

The Alumnae in Seattle have been for a long time quite out of touch with the rejuvenating influences of any active Theta work and have been forced to rely solely upon themselves to retain any amount of Theta spirit. They are three days by train from the nearest chapter, at the University of California, and I doubt that anywhere else in America one could find twenty Thetas not one of whom had seen an initiation for years and most of whom really knew very little of the ritual. They represent fourteen different chapters, have been organized for some time and have taken great interest in establishing Theta in the northwest.

And so I found them full of plans, and most anxious to do everything to make the installation perfect. The easy, effective way they planned and worked together was a revelation to me of the power Theta exerts over all of us.

The home of Mrs. E. P. Storey (Delta) on the high wooded bluff overlooking Lake Washington was an ideal place for an initiation and her long living-room seemed to have been built especially for us.

There were four days of preparations—committee meetings, arrangement of the supplies loaned from Omega, etc.—requiring hard work from each one.

January, 1909

The early spring closing of Berkeley and Stanford allowed Maud Cleveland of Omega and Florence Burrell of Phi to arrive just in time to be of great help with the practical suggestions of much recent experience.

At five o'clock on May 21, we left the chapter house with the twenty-four candidates and boarded a big launch at the University boat-house. When we were well under way, the girls were blind-folded and soon we were at the Storey landing and climbing the steep path to the house.

The fact that there were present barely as many Thetas as candidates proved not to be a great handicap, and with Alice Dickinson Harper (Iota) as mistress of ceremonies the service never seemed more perfect.

The long banquet table was set among the green plants in the conservatory which connects Mr. Storey's house with that of his father, and the first impression of the table was a mass of pansies. Pansies of such size and in such quantities as are found only in Washington in the spring after the drenching rains of winter; pansies in baskets down the center of the table; pansies scattered over the cloth, in bunches at each plate—and the place cards were big, yellow-paper pansies. The forty-eight excited, tired and very hungry Thetas who found their places late in the evening thoroughly appreciated the many good things to eat which the committee had planned.

Telegrams and messages which had been arriving all day and which were announced from time to time filled everyone with enthusiasm and expectation for the toasts which followed.

Miss Macfarland, as toast-mistress, introduced first a toast of *Welcome* to Alpha Lambda by Mrs. P. J. Frein (Iota), who had been interested for so long in the group. Then the *Response* by Hermie Sherman, a graduate who had been active in Alpha Tau Delta since its first organization. Then Josephine Meissner (Delta) outlined the organization, constitution and policy of *Theta*. Alice Dickenson Harper (Iota), a very cosmopolitan Theta, related many interesting and amusing *Chapter Experiences*, and Mrs.

Axtell (Beta) told of *Other Installations* she had attended.

Theta songs and so forth kept us long after a number had begun to worry about babies and husbands at home, but soon we were crossing the lake again in the moonlight, awaking the echoes with Theta songs new to those shores which are generally resounding with some college or fraternity air.

The local Alpha Tau Delta, which has become Alpha Lambda of Kappa Alpha Theta, was organized by four members of the class of 1904, in the spring of 1901. No women's nationals existed in the University of Washington at this time, and it was not until the fall of 1903 that any steps toward real fraternity life were contemplated.

Kappa Kappa Gamma, Phi Gamma Beta, and Delta Gamma had installed chapters one after the other and Alpha Tau Delta began a long, hard but successful struggle to keep on an equal footing with them.

In 1905 a house was undertaken which proved such a financial success that they planned to build, only to be discouraged by the enormous increase in property values. In the fall of 1906, with an active list of ten, they leased an eleven-room house for three years. Good houses were in such demand that to secure it they had to pay the whole of the first year's rent outright. The house is located about two blocks from the campus among the other fraternity and faculty houses and is very satisfactory although not so perfect as one might wish.

In 1906, Pi Beta Phi and Alpha Xi Delta entered the university and Alpha Tau Delta found herself in the unique position of a single local in a university of about 1,400 students, holding her own among chapters of five national fraternities, thus proving her courage, her strength, her true worth and the high standing of her members.

At the time of the granting of her petition there were nineteen active members,—one graduate, six seniors, two

juniors, three sophomores and seven splendid freshmen—all of a fine, substantial type, well to the front in college affairs, popular with the faculty and students, with very good scholarship records to their credit. Besides these there were five graduate members, who belonged to Alpha Tau Delta at the time of the first petition, making a strong chapter of twenty-four, each member heartily determined to fulfill the trust reposed in her and to uphold the standards of Kappa Alpha Theta in the great northwest.

JESSIE M. MACFARLAND.

CHAPTER BUSINESS

Of course "female women" have no capacity for business. Any old man—and most young ones—will tell you so. If you have not heard this axiomatically asservated *ad infinitum et ad nauseam* it is simply and solely due to your insufficiently extended mundane existence, and you have still something coming to you.

Now, to be entirely candid with ourselves, would a peep behind the scenes in the average chapter records lend any countenance to such an absurd notion? There are some indications of a lack in the proper maintenance of the chapter machinery which are patent to all readers of the Kappa Alpha Theta, such, for instance, as the failure of some chapter letters to appear at their appointed time and place. This, however, is not a strictly feminine monopoly. And it is just open to suspicion that an inspection of the treasurer's books might show a similar lack of systematic method in the conduct of another branch of chapter activities. And if it should come to an investigation of chapter rolls and alumnae records, there would be still fewer chapters on the roll of honor for even approximate perfection.

Of course not all chapters are subject to criticism along these lines. They are not all bad all the time; they are not even all bad some of the time. But before any chapter sits

down with folded hands and a complacent smirk of Pharisaic self-satisfaction, let it go through all the various departments of chapter activity and see whether there is a place where improved practice may be adopted.

The first and most important department is the Treasury Department. This very sordid but very necessary department is the starting point of at least two-thirds of the peace or discord of chapter existence. In one college organization known to the writer, the treasurer, a charming girl, paid bills when she had any money, but she never could tell whether it was her money, or chapter money, or a pot-pourri of funds that paid the bills. And she never could remember just how much it came to, but thought it must have been about so much. When her pocketbook was empty the treasury was empty and it was time for all to pay in again,—with a very hazy notion that maybe some had not done so before, but it was all right anyway. An audit would have had no terrors for that treasurer, because she had nothing to audit but her mind and memory and they did not check up.

To be sure, that is an extreme case. But the distance between that and a carefully kept set of double entry books marks the path along which, one way or another, are lined up all the chapters of Kappa Alpha Theta. And upon whether your particular chapter is near the one extreme or the other depends whether you are driving your financial auto over asphalt or hub-deep sand. It is a platitude to say that financial obligations, kept cleaned up, are easily carried, while the same obligations, left to drag along a weary and neglected existence, become a serious burden. Yet a little inquiry among the town alumnae of any chapter, who have had opportunity to observe the ups and downs of chapter affairs for a sufficient length of time, will reveal to you ample proof of the truth of the platitude. And the prime requisite for this "cleaned up" condition is to know exactly where you stand, how much you owe, what your obligations for the year will be, and just what you will have with which to meet them.