

Καθημερινά Ἀλφα Θητα

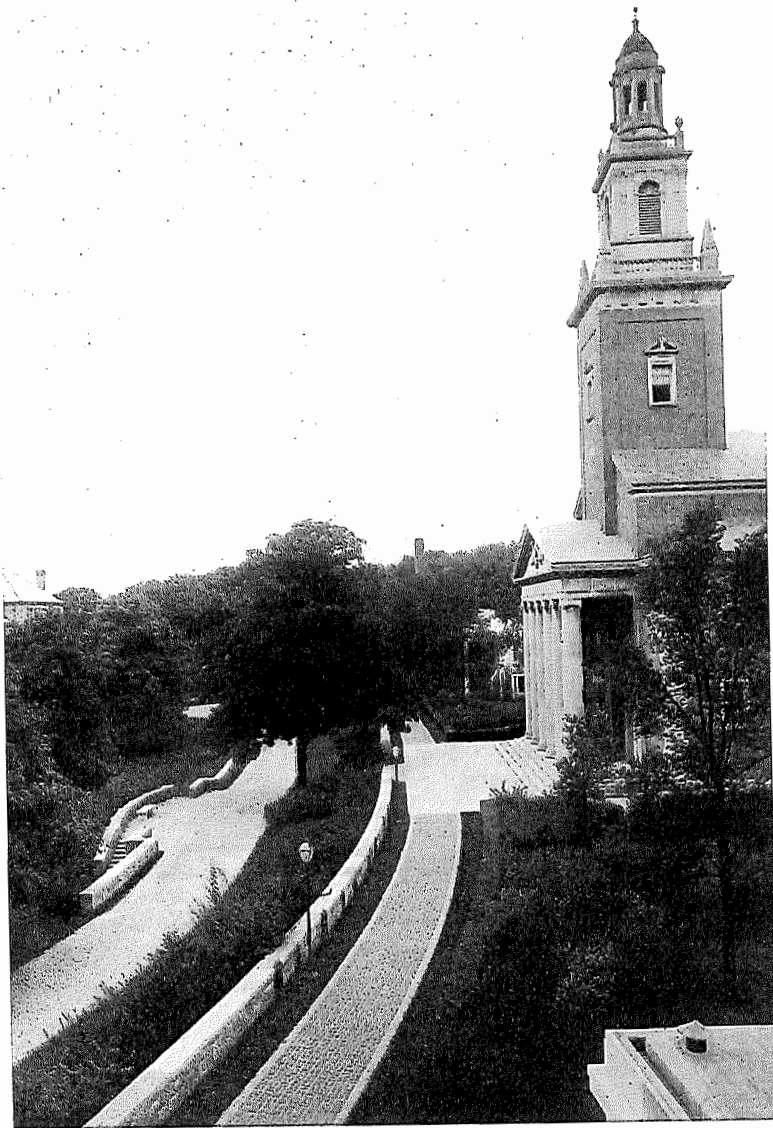
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SWASEY CHAPEL AND OBSERVATORY AT DENISON



DENISON UNIVERSITY

Swasey chapel in right foreground; home of President Shaw in right background; Administration building at left.

KAPPA ALPHA THETA

VOLUME 44

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NUMBER 1

INSTALLATION OF BETA TAU

IMPRESSIONS

THE most lasting impression gained from the installation of Beta Tau chapter was the great loyalty which held each Chi Psi Delta in strong bonds of friendship with each other. The founders of this fraternity had indeed laid a basis for real sisterhood. It was an inspiration to see these women, old and young, returned to their college from all parts of the United States to go on with each other into a larger and broader scope of fraternity life.

But they were not content merely to be initiated and wear a Theta pin, but were eager to learn all about this new venture of theirs. All Thetas were kept busy answering questions of detail which so often so many of us take for granted. Many orders for laws and bi-monthlys were taken. You may be sure this new group of Theta women are not going to be ignorant of their fraternity. They will probably be better versed in fraternity matters than most of our alumnæ. That is the way they were taught as Chi Psi Deltas and I am sure if they bring this same spirit into Kappa Alpha Theta we may be very proud of this addition to our fraternity.

JEANNETTE GEMMILL GRASETT, *Grand treasurer*

150 ALUMNI INITIATED

As carefree as entering freshmen were the five Cleveland alumnæ who motored south through the picturesque Ohio hills to attend the installation of Beta Tau. What a joyful three nights and days we spent, and how deeply enriched our Theta experience!

I wish that every alumna of Kappa Alpha Theta could have been there. There must be some magic at work in Granville

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to keep alive such a feeling of friendliness and loyalty as has existed in Chi Psi Delta since its founding. Perhaps the fact that all eyes were ever turned hopefully toward the Theta kite accounts for this in part, but I know that such a group as Chi Psi Delta offers a real challenge to every Theta.

Their gift of alumnæ to Kappa Alpha Theta is a unique one in our history, for more than one-hundred-and-fifty alumnæ were initiated in a single twenty-four hours. They came from nineteen states, from Connecticut to California, from Wisconsin to Texas. And they did not come simply to receive a Theta badge. They came to realize the ambition of years, and to be initiated side by side with sisters, cousins, aunts, and mothers. And those of us who witnessed these rites were deeply impressed and grateful.

"Nothing except illness or absence from the city ever keeps a Beta Tau from an alumnæ meeting." Thus remarked one of our Cleveland sisters to me this summer. And I was convinced when twenty Beta Taus appeared at Cleveland alumnæ's first meeting this fall, the other three being out of town. We hope to learn their secret for maintaining alumnæ interest soon, and when we do we'll broadcast it to our alumnæ chapters everywhere.

LUCILE PUTCHARD ROGERS, *Cleveland alumnæ*

HELPING INSTALL BETA TAU

On June 13, Granville, Ohio, the home of Denison university was in a state of excitement. Chi Psi Deltas were hostesses to Thetas from far and near who had come to help install Beta Tau. We registered at the quaint colonial Chi Psi Delta house, and met again these charming girls who were to be our sisters in fraternity. The ceremonies took place at Stone hall, a massive old dormitory whose large rooms and hallways gave ample room for the services. Miss L. Pearle Green presided at pledging on Thursday afternoon and evening, alumnæ being pledged first in order of their graduation, in groups of twenty or more. Miss Green had supervision of the mechanical details of initiation on Friday, and it was through her efforts that the procedure went smoothly and efficiently. Friday morning initiation started; Mrs Nickerson, the new president of District III, pre-

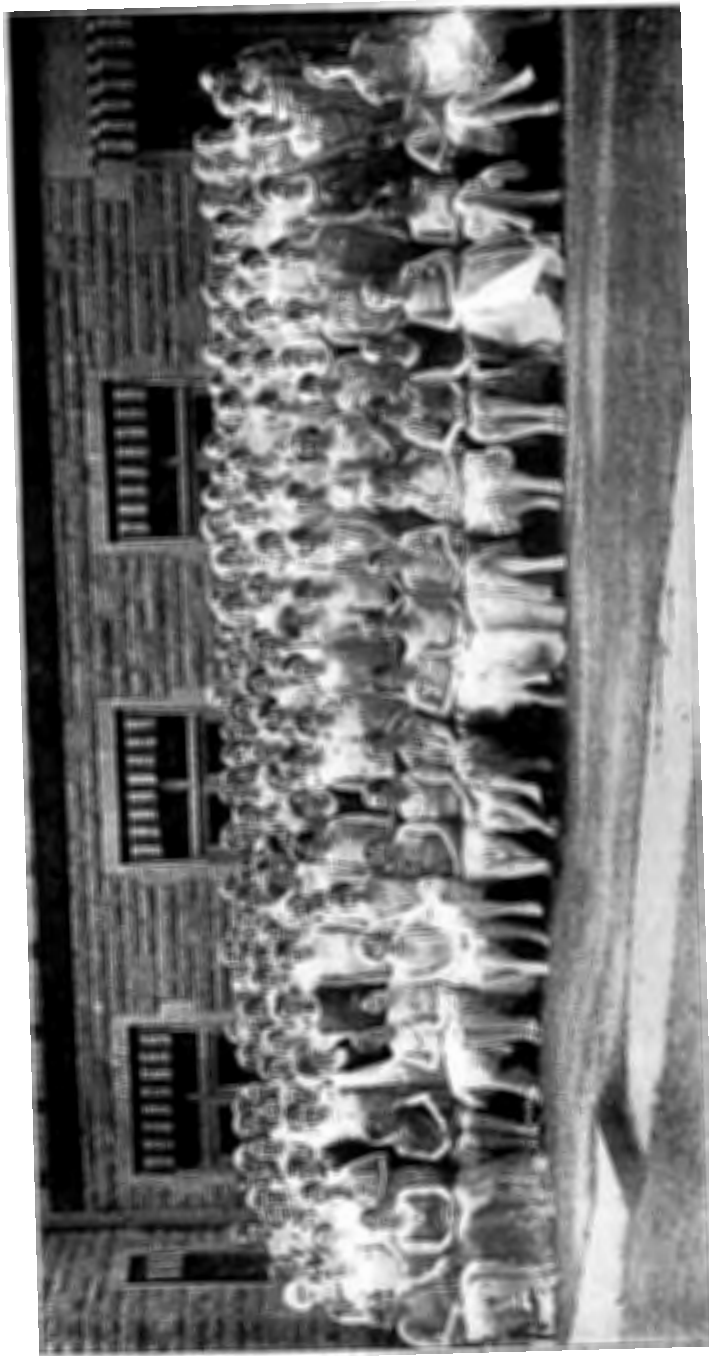
sided at the first part, two neophytes being taken through at a time. True fraternity loyalty was inherent in these Chi Psi Deltas, both old and young, for some graduated as long ago as 1900 and came from as far as California and Massachusetts. Old classmates and old roommates renewed their fraternity bonds as they took their vows. The second part of initiation, to all of us always the more impressive and beautiful, had added beauty with such conductors as Mrs Grasset, Mrs Banta, and Mrs Overturf. Each neophyte in the groups of twenty was accompanied by a marshal, the marshals being from Alpha Tau, Alpha Gamma, Alpha Omega, and Gamma deuteron. About midnight on Friday, services ended with the initiation of the college classes. One hundred and eighty-two new Thetas went out that night filled with our ideals, and we old Thetas felt ours renewed and strengthened.

ALICE LINDSETH, *Gamma deuteron*

THE HISTORY OF CHI PSI DELTA

Nineteen hundred is the date of the founding of Chi Psi Delta. In the beginning of that year, ostensibly there were no women's fraternities in Denison university, although to the student body, it was evident that the members of a certain group or clique—girls most frequently seen with the men of a particular old-line fraternity—were drawn together by something out of the ordinary—had the arrogance of a secret bond. Though no badges or emblems were worn they were suspected of having organized a girls' "frat". Quietly—and possibly with less arrogance—another group of college women laid their plans and, after consulting with President D. B. Purinton (later of the University of West Virginia) the seven founders of Chi Psi Delta—Lee Holcomb Stewart, May Purinton Green, Ray Gilpatrick Dalby, Sarah Stranathan, Corinne Metz, Louise Jones VanVorhis, and Blanch Beattie—surprised the entire college by appearing with bits of lemon and maroon ribbon in their "shirt-waists" under a neat black and gold pin bearing their three Greek letters—the first women's organization emblem appearing on the campus.

Shortly afterwards, the other group appeared with pins and ribbons and the statement that they had been organized for the



THE LAST CHI PSI DELTA REUNION, JUNE, 1929
Taken at Granville Inn at the Chi Psi Delta banquet, the night preceding the initiation of the group into Kappa Alpha Theta.

two previous years. By so much, did Chi Psi Delta fail of being the oldest local at Denison—if she did fail!

Chi Psi Delta backed up its right to existence by incorporating under the laws of the state in 1901—with no incorporate rival until 1904. In 1905 Chi Psi bought a valuable property and was without a rival in this respect also for several years.

In 1902 Chi Psi Delta petitioned Kappa Alpha Theta, as did also the other Greek letter group, with the result that both petitions were refused. About this time the college trustees forbade the petitioning of nationals by the local groups—a ban which was only lifted in 1928—but through those years Chi Psi Delta never wavered in its choice of nationals and its loyalty was rewarded by a most gracious reception into Theta in 1929.

In 1914 Chi Psi Delta joined the two other locals in a serious battle for the life of women's fraternities at Denison, and though it was a victory, the faculty's attitude of disfavor toward womens' "social organizations" continued and a Panhellenic council was formed to keep the problems of the fraternities in their own hands whenever possible. This council is still effective.

Early in its history Chi Psi Delta earned a reputation not alone for scholarship nor social success, nor for popularity, but for having what Dean Parker so frequently referred to as "strong girls"—girls with brain, executive ability, and personality, and certainly a very fair degree of scholarliness and social popularity went with these. For a number of years it was almost traditional for a Chi Psi Delta to be May Queen by popular choice, while a large number of all offices have fallen into the hands of this group. Typical of their active interest in events remains Chi Psi's World War service flag, with its thirteen stars, one of them a gold one. No president's wife, no operatic star or great novelist have come from this membership yet, but hospital superintendents, interior decorators, school executives and social service workers of all kinds, to say nothing of dozens of mothers and house keepers prove that they are of the kind that must be "in the going".

MARGUERITE JONES MCCOLLUM, *Beta Tau*

FROM LOCAL TO NATIONAL

An alumna view

At the meeting of the Board of trustees of Denison university in June 1928 it was voted to finally grant permission for all of the local sororities to petition national fraternities. For the two oldest groups this was the privilege they had sought since 1902 when Chi Psi Delta originally petitioned Kappa Alpha Theta. In June 1928 we renewed our original petition which was taken into consideration by Mrs George Banta, at that time the newly elected Grand vice-president of Kappa Alpha Theta. Mr Francis Shepardson, president of Beta Theta Pi and a Denison trustee, recommended our chapter most heartily and in November, much to our delight and extreme pleasure, Mrs Banta arrived in Granville to inspect the petitioning chapter and to answer our many questions. We all loved her from the moment we met her and we tried to think that she was as pleased with our chapter, and home, and college on the hill, as we were with her and the advantage which Kappa Alpha Theta had to offer us.

We were delighted to hear the good news from the Grand council meeting that we had met with their approval and it was there that we became familiar with Miss L. Pearle Green and Miss Gladys Lynch who helped us with our work in petitioning our district of seven chapters. May we take this opportunity to express our appreciation to our loyal district who helped so enthusiastically in our interest. April 10 our formal petition went out to all of the chapters in the country and only those of you who have lived through the excitement of anxiously awaiting the result of votes know how eagerly we awaited the verdict early in May, as to the decision of the chapters and how overjoyed we were when the telegram of congratulations and welcome came from L. Pearle Green.

Our installation, June 14 to 17 was a happy time for the 182 Chi Psis who pledged their loyalty to Kappa Alpha Theta and the new Beta Tau chapter. We offer you all our hospitality and hearty welcome to come and see our little colonial home which holds many happy memories for us all.

We are unduly grateful to our installing officers, Mrs George

Banta, Miss L. Pearle Green, Mrs D. B. Grassett, and to Miss Gladys Lynch and Mrs Eugene Nickerson, our district officers, and to the Ohio State, Wesleyan, Cincinnati and Pennsylvania chapters and the many other loyal Thetas who were untiring in their interest which made our reunion and installation one never to be forgotten by all of us.

DOROTHY McCANN WILLIAMS
Alumnæ chairman, Beta Tau

An Undergraduate View

In 1902 Chi Psi Delta charter members first petitioned to have our local become national. The attitude of the trustees of Denison university was such that nationals were not favored. During the twenty-nine years of Chi Psi Delta's life, the thought of Kappa Alpha Theta was foremost, and yet Chi Psi Delta became so very dear to us, that it was with reluctance some of the old members relinquished Chi Psi's traditions to Kappa Alpha Theta's ideals. But as for us undergraduates, no greater joy or compliment could be offered than to become a member of the oldest of Greek letter fraternities for women. And as Mrs Banta so fittingly counseled us at our last Chi Psi Delta Reunion banquet we are not forgetting or giving up Chi Psi, but rather thinking of Miss Chi Psi Delta as a June bride, now Mrs Kappa Alpha Theta.

JEAN EBAUGH, *Beta Tau*

THE NEWEST THETA HOUSE

The History of Beta Tau Chapter House

Granville, Ohio, was settled by a group of pioneers who, before leaving Granville, Massachusetts, decided upon their town organization, equipped themselves with the barest of necessities for homes, churches, a library and a "Band of music," and, by ox-cart and horse-back, arrived in central Ohio in 1805.

Four years later (1809) was built the white frame house which is now the home of Beta Tau and which, though quite in the center of the town, is located practically on the campus of Denison university. Quite a bit of local history is woven about this good old specimen of early architecture. It housed the town

library for a time and also a school was held in it; while its builder and long-time owner, Esquire Gilman, deeded the excellent spring in his back yard to Granville as the town water supply and for nearly a hundred years it served in such a capacity.

In 1811, this same Esquire Gilman, being much interested in Free-Masonry, with great secrecy, brought together a band of men and organized Center Star Masonic lodge in the upper room while his good wife, if any one came in, rattled the shovel and tongs in the fireplace below both to warn the Masons of an alien presence and to prevent the overhearing of their conversation by the visitor.

During the centennial celebration of Center Star lodge in 1911, Chi Psi Delta granted the request of the lodge to hold the final meeting of the century in the same place where the initial one had taken place one hundred years before, and also to place upon the house a bronze tablet designating it as the birthplace of Masonry in Granville. In appreciation, a pewter tea service was given by the lodge to Chi Psi Delta.

In the course of time the property passed out of the Gilman hands and through several others until purchased by Chi Psi Delta in 1905, the year when the town was one hundred and the house ninety-six years old, but Chi Psi Delta only five and very poor.

Originally the structure was a simple Cape Cod cottage but during the "classic revivals" of the mid-century, changes were made including the Greek portico. Under Chi Psi ownership the exterior remained much as it was, though, in the year of purchase, quite a bit of money was spent in redecorating; in 1913 remodeling of the interior was done to meet larger chapter needs; and in 1927, after the society had decided not to rent any portion of the house, as had been the custom, but to use it all for fraternity purposes, a thorough, and therefore expensive, renovation took place which included new heating and lighting systems, as well as kitchen and bedroom equipment and landscaping. As a result of these last improvements, the property which had been free from debt for years now carries a mortgage for \$2,800, but past experiences encourage the belief that this will be met without too much effort and in a normal course of time.



CHI PSI DELTA HOUSE, NOW CHAPTER HOUSE OF BETA TAU OF KAPPA ALPHA THETA

This house, the oldest standing in Granville, Ohio, was built in 1809, and used in the early days as a secret meeting place for Granville Masons. The window in the gable was a false window and led into a passage which surrounded a secret room, used more than a hundred years ago for initiations. The house was purchased in 1904 by alumnae Chi Psi Delta, about two years after the group first petitioned Kappa Alpha Theta. The house is furnished throughout with early American antiques or reproductions.

The furnishings boast a grand piano (purchased by the college chapter four years ago), a Chambers range in the kitchen, a handsome carpet which was practically the gift of one alumna, a fine secretary, and a few good antiques, though, for practical reasons, the committee is now largely using colonial reproductions to keep up the atmosphere. Structurally the interior woodwork and the original glass are fine distinctive features.

The familiar Greek letters on the house front have changed to Kappa Alpha Theta while the ones in the leaded windows remain Chi Psi Delta. Its history, its worth, as well as its associations have endeared this home to every member of the latter—may it be an object of pride and interest to each of the Theta sisterhood the country over.

MARGUERITE JONES McCOLLUM, *Beta Tau*

ACCOMPLISHED IN GRANVILLE

Can you imagine initiating 182? Well, we did it at Beta Tau installation. Why, when we were in college and had to initiate even 18 it seemed a great ordeal. I understand when Miss Green ordered 100 more pins Balfours thought she had made a mistake and wanted only 10. But you can realize how enthusiastic and well organized this group must be to get so many alumnae back even from New York, Alabama, and California.

How welcome all the Thetas were who came to help, and how hard we all worked! But every one felt amply repaid when we saw such an attractive and enthusiastic group.

I had felt this loyalty and enthusiasm through my correspondence with the group during the year. Every detail of their reunion was so well worked out. For fear that they would be disappointed about receiving their charter at their June reunion they planned a Chi Psi Delta reunion at that same time.

Their organization as a local group would be a fine model for any Theta chapter. For example they publish a news bulletin two or three times a year which is sent to all their alumnae. Besides they already have a beautifully furnished chapter house on a sound financial basis and owned by their alumnae.

Perhaps it is because Chi Psi Delta aspired for so many years to become a Theta chapter that they seemed to adapt themselves so easily to Theta ideals. All the new alumnae were so eager

to go back home and join a Theta club or chapter. I feel certain that in a year or two Beta Tau will seem like an old well established chapter. And so we welcome it into Theta and hope it will always be as enthusiastic and full of Theta spirit as it was at the time of installation.

—GLADYS LYNCH

Former president of Dist. III

IMPRESSIONS OF BETA TAU

Eight members of Alpha Tau motored to Denison installation. None of us had ever before witnessed such a ceremony, and all expected to be "thrilled" by it. We were quite unprepared, however, for the experience which awaited us there.

We were delighted with the charming hospitality which was offered us by the girls of Chi Psi Delta. It was almost inconceivable that persons in the midst of such elaborate preparations should find time to lend themselves so freely to their guests. Perhaps we expected to find them completely buried in a turmoil of plans—on the contrary, they proved to be perfect hostesses, ready to do everything in their power to make us comfortable.

We were shown about the quaint town of Granville and conducted over the beautiful campus of Denison university. This proved to be an interesting contrast to the surroundings of a large municipal college, such as the University of Cincinnati.

It was the loyalty of these girls to one another and to their fraternity that impressed us more than anything else. Complete harmony reigned. That the college members of the chapter should so eagerly participate in the events of the installation was not surprising—their immediate contact with fraternity circles assured this. It was the loyalty of the alumna members, however, which to us illustrated what a fraternity can mean to an individual throughout her life. We wondered that women in many different fields of activity, and completely out of contact with college and fraternal activities, should come from miles away to see their local chapter's installation and to be initiated into this new chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta. How much their friends, their college, and their fraternity must have meant to them to bring them back, still eager in their enthusiasm to aid in every possible way! It made us ask ourselves what Theta

could give them in addition to what they already had. To us it was not only impressive—it was inspirational!

Our story would not be complete were we to leave unmentioned our joy at having the opportunity of making the acquaintance of three of the Grand officers. They were not only capable women, but women of charm and personality.

Our feeling toward our new sisters is no longer merely one of friendliness—it is one of loyalty and sisterhood. We feel sure that Beta Tau will be one of Theta's best chapters and that we will have to work hard to make them as proud of us as we are of them.

ELSA M. BACHMAN, *Alpha Tau*

TWO FIRST EXPERIENCES

First time experiences are gripping even if it does happen to be the first time realization of the fact that thirty years have passed in one's life. That was exactly what happened to me when, late on the perfect summer's afternoon of June 13 last, our party from Cleveland and Akron arrived at Sawyer hall, Denison university, in the dear little old New England-like town of Granville, Ohio.

Such an aspect as we presented, the six of us, bobbed and unbobbed, long and short skirted, with our impedimenta of golf sticks, tripods, cameras, suitcases and bags! As we waited in the spacious living room to be assigned to our rooms for the week-end, Youth, attired in a coolie coat and two scanty garments, flitted back and forth in front of us with no evident sense of affected modesty. Aghast, we six sat and almost in unison gasped, "We didn't do such a thing in our day."

The fifteen years since the installation of my own Alpha Phi chapter in New Orleans became as fifteen minutes, and unknown to all and all unknowing, I was again in memory sensing the thrill I experienced over my first meeting with the then Grand vice-president of Kappa Alpha Theta, Hope Davis Mecklin, who, assisted by Martha Cline Huffman, then Grand treasurer, had traveled all the way to old New Orleans to make Thetas of us away back in May, 1914.

At Denison we made almost 200 new Thetas of returning Chi Psi Deltas; at Newcomb, the total number of charter initi-

ates was thirteen. This past June, it took three grand officers, a retiring, an incoming, and an ex-District president, all of District III, to officiate; away back in May 1914, two grand officers seemed anything but burdened with the task at hand.

The number of visiting Thetas at our installation was two. I can even yet remember their names and faces. Our simple pledge service seemed so impressive, as I remember it in that old fashioned living room of Flavia Hereford Catoire's on Carondelet street. All the dignity and solemnity of initiation lives yet in my memory of the two grand officers officiating.

Since that time the lovely installation service has been added. Ours took place at a simple but exquisitely served luncheon at Constance Addington Davenport's, the sole resident Theta in New Orleans then. I recall how much indigestion I suffered before and after my toast as chapter president, occasioned by the anxiety before it was given and the joy after it had been concluded.

Pressed into active service by Miss Green almost immediately after arriving at Denison on Thursday and kept there until all work was declared finished late Saturday afternoon, I had little time to reminisce further.

I did have time to wish that every Theta, college and alumna, could have been there to note the fine qualities of Chi Psi Delta girls, the splendid sense of devotion, of loyalty and of love they had shown in their upward striving through a quarter of a century to their goal. Kappa Alpha Theta—a rich, rich heritage, it seemed to me, with which to equip Beta Tau chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta.

—LOUISE BERRY HANEY, *Alpha Phi*

OFFICIAL COMMENT

Pledging in groups of twenty-five, initiating in groups of twenty, and installing a chapter with one hundred eighty two new college and alumnae members was only part of the Beta Tau installation.

There was the satisfaction of realizing that no matter how far back Chi Psi Delta stretched she continued to produce attractive members, there was the thrill of realizing that Chi Psis had come from all over the country to receive a Theta Kite, and



CHI PSI DELTA COLLEGE MEMBERS AT TIME THETA CHARTER GRANTED

Seated (left to right): Virginia Nye, Margaret Hartman, Helen Rogers, Florence Hall, Florence Kramer, Margaret Rhodehamel, Jean Seidel, Evelyn Pease.
 Middle Row: Isabel Hall, Sarah Rogers, Margery Norman, Betty Hatch, Ellen Rohrer, Isabel Hatch, Louise Mungar, Martha Miller, Mary B. Davison, Wilma Jones, Marie Ralston, Esther Nicola, Elizabeth Corkwell.
 Back Row: Margaret Danner, Margaret Ott, Alice Smith.

above all there was the supremely gratifying sensation of *knowing that we had made no mistake!*

If I were to choose the most outstanding events of the installation, I should name the Chi Psi Delta reunion banquet and the Kappa Alpha Theta installation banquet. One hundred eighty-two Chi Psis filed into their final gathering as a local organization. Above the tapers and the delicate flowers, above chattering of gay voices, above the triumphant realization of victory, there was a note of sadness—a sadness of the knowledge of all “last rites.”

After the *Little white house* had been sung and re-sung, the Chi Psi Delta loving-cup was passed from hand to hand, and real tears fell into its precious contents.

Into the Kappa Alpha Theta banquet marched one hundred eighty-two Chi Psis with heads erect and happiness simply overflowing. “Kappa Alpha Theta” was substituted for “Chi Psi Delta” in the most sacred songs, and long tables of newly initiated members sang *From coast to coast* and *Theta lips* with real pride. Over the tapers and delicate flowers, above the chattering of gay voices there was a note of triumph and assurance.

As the Kappa Alpha Theta loving-cup passed about the tables, the new hands grasped it with a real feeling of possession, and joy—the joy born of the knowledge of “the beginning of a glorious life.”

MARGARET KILLEN BANTA, *Grand vice president*

DENISON UNIVERSITY

Beta Tau's Environment and Inspiration

Granville is one of the oldest towns in the state, having been settled in 1805. High moral and intellectual ideals have always marked the place and it was because of these characteristics that the Ohio Baptist education society decided upon Granville as the ideal location for the Granville literary and theological institution, which was to open in the month of December, 1831, on a farm one mile west of town.

Twenty-four years after its founding the name of the institution was changed to Denison university and the agricultural features and the theological department were dropped. In the period following the civil war the university grew rapidly. The