

Kappa Alpha Theta

Volume 52

November 1937

Number 1

Fifth and Sixty-fifth!

FOR THE second time in 1937 Kappa Alpha Theta welcomes a new chapter, as Gamma Epsilon joins the ranks, standing sixty-fifth in line. Installation of Pi Sigma at the University of Western Ontario as Kappa Alpha Theta's fifth Canadian chapter took place during the week-end of September 17-19 in London, Ontario.

September 17, the members of Pi Sigma entered their chapter house as timid guests, and emerged as pledges of Kappa Alpha Theta. College members were pledged in the afternoon, alumnae in the evening, with Mrs Sinclair, Grand vice-president, presiding. After pledging, a squad of Theta workers prepared the living room for next day's initiations, and late in the evening everyone gathered at the Y.W.C.A. for an informal supper, Pi Sigmas acting as hostesses.

Next day, September 18, was crowded with history-making events; first, the initiation of 43 charter members, 21 in the morning, 22 in the afternoon, and second, the brief but impressive installation service at the Hotel London before the evening's banquet. Mrs Grasett, Grand president, presided at both

initiation and installation.

Sunday was devoted to model college and alumnae chapter meetings, a spontaneous gathering of the clan at a luxurious barbecue "joint" outside town for dinner, and the tea given by Gamma Epsilon to receive its friends of college and faculty.

Charter members of Gamma Epsilon in order of initiation: Miriam Pearson Magee (Mrs Gordon) Rhea Hancock, Ruth Watson, Grace Rath, Norah Gauld, Marion Hooper, Jean Doherty, Florence McDonagh, Dorothy Timpany, Jean Hedley, Lois Gidley, Isabella McLandress, Elizabeth Porter, Eleanor Bendle, Ruth Davis, Lydia Trimble, Margaret Tape, Dorothy Geoghegan, Jean Marshall, Evelyn Steer, Jean MacKenzie, Marion McMurtry, Mary Landon, Helen Timpany, Lillian Aikenhead, Marion Seegar, Bethea McGill, Margaret Homuth, Alice Lethbridge, Verta Kenerson, Criona Wallace, Margaret Roberts, Jean Lemon, Betty Hays, Alice May Smout, Patricia Duff, Mary Cardiff, Jeanne Hynd, Jean Ferguson, Lorna Margaret Brown, Margery Rean, Margaret Trout, Elizabeth Duff.

University of Western Ontario

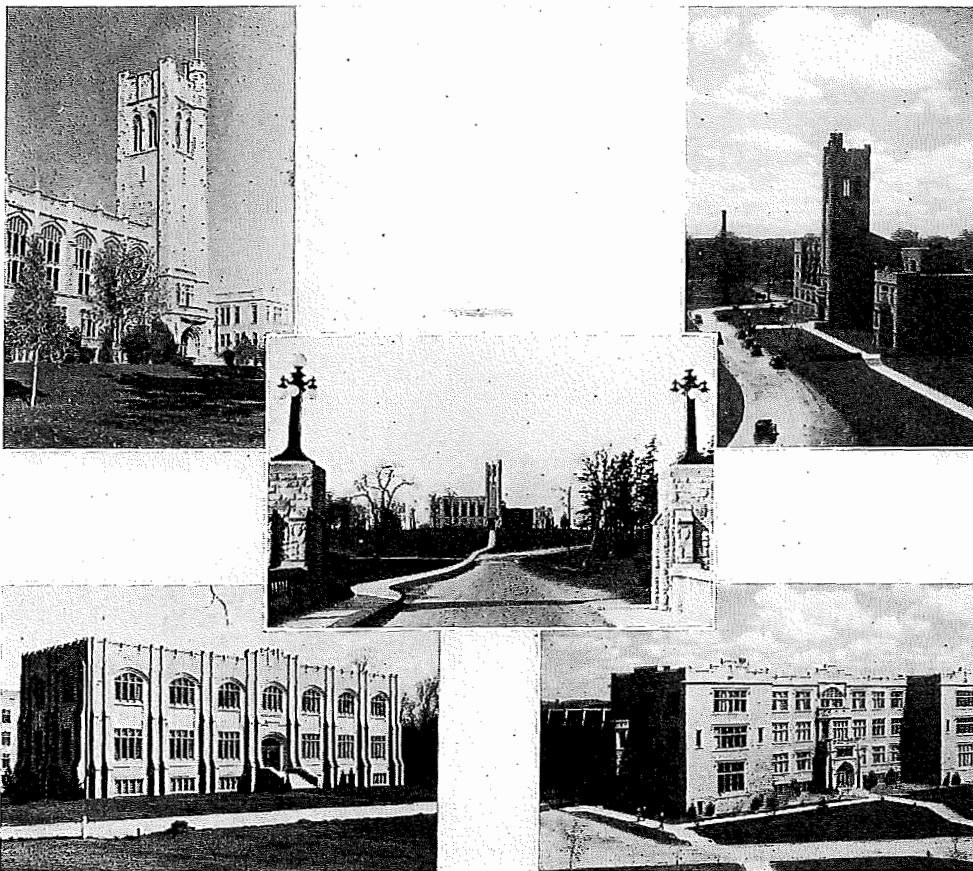
WESTERN university was founded in London, Ontario, under the direction of the Church of England in Canada. It received its charter from the legislature of the province of Ontario in 1878 with its first classes in arts and medicine graduating in 1883. The Faculty of medicine has maintained an unbroken existence, but for finan-

cial reasons the Faculty of arts was closed from 1885 to 1895. In 1908 it became un-denominational and received financial assistance from the London city council. With the increase in the number of students, the province assumed part responsibility for expenses.

The University of Western Ontario is com-

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The University of Western Ontario Home of Gamma Epsilon



The tower of the Arts building. The Administrative building.
A view, from the bridge, of the campus and Arts building.
The library. Science building.

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posed of three units: the college of arts, the medical school, and the institute of public health; and in addition has five affiliated colleges, of which three teach full four-year arts courses; viz. Assumption college, Sandwich; Ursuline college, London; Waterloo college, Waterloo; one junior college, teaching the first two years in arts only, Alma college, St. Thomas; one theological college, Huron college, London. The Institute of public health was opened in 1912 in a building erected and equipped by the government of the province of Ontario and turned over to the university

to "aid medical education and promote instructional and practical work in public health." It became the first independent Faculty of public health in the British Empire in 1917.

The name was changed from Western university to the University of Western Ontario by act of the provincial legislature in 1923. The present campus, in use since 1924, is an all-year beauty spot of about 260 acres; and the college buildings are imposing.—*T Φ B Crescent*, Feb. '37.

From Pi Sigma to Kappa Alpha Theta

EARLY IN January, 1927, Florence Brener (now Mrs Gerald Jordan of Texas) met with Miss Ruby Mason, then Dean of women, and Alpha chapter of Pi Sigma was officially organized. The first initiation meeting was May 28, 1927, at Alpha house, a girls' residence. The president, Florence Brener Jordan, presided.

The following October Pi Sigma gave its first rushing party in the girls' room at the university. Twenty-eight guests were present at this party, which took the form of a dinner-bridge.

The first Pi Sigma dance was held in April, 1929, at the home of one of the members. Yellow and white decorations, sorority colors, were used throughout the house. As the sorority increased in numbers a larger place had to be found for this annual function and now the dance is held just after mid-year examinations at the London Hunt and country club. In addition to rushing parties and formal dance, the group has a Christmas dance at the house, a graduation dinner-dance, a mother and daughter tea, open house after one of the rugby games, tea for the faculty every other year, and several smaller informal

teas, given for the most part, on Sunday afternoons.

Until 1932 Pi Sigma did not have a house of its own, although most of the out-of-town girls did board together at one place. By the fall of that year it was deemed advisable and necessary that a house be run exclusively by Pi Sigma for its members. In November a formal reception was held in honor of the opening of this house.

By the following March the group had enlarged so much that a separate alumnae chapter was formed. In the fall of 1934 the group was forced to move because of growing numbers and at this time too its four patronesses were invited to become honorary members.

This fall (1937) a third move was necessary to a still larger house on Central avenue where Pi Sigma members were initiated and installed as Gamma Epsilon chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta.

Although we are the baby chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta we hope that our ten years of experience as a local will be a real help to us in our new and larger sisterhood.

MARY LANDON, *Gamma Epsilon*

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Impressions of the Week-end

By a College Delegate

WHEN Greek met Greek at London, Ontario, there was considerable and prolonged hilarity. That is, between sessions. As always the first few hours were spent squeaking joyously at old friends and greeting new ones. Everyone ran around being business-like with the all-important preparations. The first day we pledged the 43, and Saturday—I'm still dizzy—we initiated 43. But when Mrs Grasett remarked casually that she had seen 187 initiated in a day-and-a-half once, we reflected that we should feel fresh as the proverbial daisies—even if we didn't.

Impressionistic pictures flash through my head: That beautiful clanking structure, the national chain—how phenomenally those Gamma Epsilons learned to sing—the flashy flash bulbs the funny man with the camera had—thinking we would NEVER eat—wishing we had paper napkins so I could calm my Special Pre-speech jitters—not being able to smoke before we toasted the King—and later entertaining about forty in one hotel room.

Sunday morning was spent at a model meeting, where it was discovered that District IV chapters certainly prove imaginative when it comes to meetings at their respective colleges. The rest of the day we ate—the Gamma Epsilons had endless brownies. Also rugby men to offer tea-time conversation.

The whole week-end was wonderful, new and old Thetas grand as ever, and we're all glad that Gamma Epsilon has been added to our band of sisters under the pin.

BARBARA SUSSDORFF, *Lambda*

By a London Alumna

Gamma Epsilon has been installed. Such a thrill it gave to one old-time Theta that she is hardly down from the clouds yet. It is good

to know that the initiation ceremony has power to awe and inspire even after twenty years of mature life. It is a moving experience to watch forty-three new sisters pledge their allegiance to Kappa Alpha Theta and to feel that one can commend her ideals proudly without an atom of reserve. They are charming girls. You will like them, I know. It warms my heart to see them ready and eager to carry on Theta traditions; and I feel very much like saying, "God bless them, every one!"

It was great fun to have so many Theta visitors in London. I don't need to tell you what marvelous people the Grand president and vice-president are. We had a satisfying feast of fellowship with them and the district representatives and many from Toronto.

Everything seems propitious for the future. The university has just opened with crowded classes. The authorities are friendly—the pledges promising—the new house pleasant and comfortable; and I think we may quite reasonably look for a happy and successful chapter here at Western.

MARJORIE ROSS HART, *Sigma*

By a Gamma Epsilon Undergraduate

One's most impressionable years are those of early childhood. Which fact, no doubt, accounts for the writing of this little message being left to the baby of Gamma Epsilon chapter. So, with my bib (a present from Iota) around my neck and my arms resting comfortably on the tray of my highchair, I begin recording my views and impressions of the proceedings which ultimately gave to the fraternity world Gamma Epsilon of Kappa Alpha Theta.

Waiting to be pledged is closely akin to waiting to be introduced to one's future in-laws. One is never quite sure what lies in store and there is always the possibility (in

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both cases) that the wrong thing will be said at the wrong time. Once past the grand marshal and from darkness into light, the future looked bright again—that is, bright to the extent of two lighted candles and a score of sparkling pledge pins. The feeling of strangeness and inadequacy fell away like a cloak once the pledge was taken and the pin received. No one in the circle round the pledge table seemed strange any more.

Things hidden away behind the walls of secrecy excite the imagination. But even the most fertile imagination could never have pictured the beautiful and solemn service that took place within the curtained walls of the initiation room.

Numerous instances in the initiation ceremony satisfied that universal longing for recognition of one's individuality, and offered enduring and unchanging proof that one was really a part of Theta. This feeling of durability and everlastingness was for me the most outstanding feature.

Every word had its significance; every action its purpose. When it had all ended and the charter lay safely within our walls, I knew I should never forget even the tiniest detail.

PATRICIA DUFF, *Gamma Epsilon*

By a Gamma Epsilon Alumna

A timid graduate of four months' standing, I was solemnly ushered into the midst of the august alumnae and told to await my turn to go through the sacred rites of pledging. A few minutes later, I felt a hand on my shoulder and a familiar voice said "Your turn now," and a little more softly, "Buck up, it isn't as bad as all that."

Suddenly there came to me the clear realization that Theta, like the dying Pi Sigma, stands, in essence, for the highest ideals of womanhood. With a new assurance, born of familiarity, I pledged myself anew to the ageless quest for those ideals, and glancing down, saw over my heart the tiny black and gold pledge emblem of Kappa Alpha Theta.

Initiation, following soon after, was a blur of white dresses, excited whispering, serious promises, curious undergraduates and a sense of comradeship with thousands of unseen

friends. Then came the drop from the sublime to the ridiculous, when, as I was rapturously sending a telegram to tell an old friend all about it, a hand grasped the telephone, and a hushed voice scolded. "How in the world did you get central? The national officers had that thing put out of order for the day."

A Theta for only five minutes, and already offending national discipline! What a beginning!

Installation, the final ceremony, was for me a proud inspection of our college chapter, mixed with an intense longing to be in their midst again, to help carry the Theta badge to the front ranks of university prominence. However . . .

On with the celebrations! How important we feel when telegrams of congratulations from all over the continent are read. Hush! there is one from Reno—I wonder if any of us will ever visit there.

There is a mob in the hotel lobby waiting to greet us as we come from the banquet hall. How these Western men go for our fair visitors. Perhaps they are trying to prove just how the new chapter will be welcomed on the campus.

We hope you liked us, one and all. We think you are grand, and we are proud to be sister Thetas. To all of you, our hearty welcome whenever you can visit Gamma Epsilon.

RUTH DAVIS, *Gamma Epsilon*

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Gamma Epsilon's officers: president, Bethea McGill; vice-president, Jean Lemon; corresponding secretary, Verta Kenerson; recording secretary, Alice Lethbridge; treasurer, Margaret Roberts; editor, Jean Ferguson; chaplain, Alice Smout; archivist, Mary Landon; historian, Patricia Duff; house manager, Mary Cardiff; Panhellenic delegates, Lillian Aikenhead and Margaret Homuth; pledge trainer, Creena Wallace; scholarship chairman, Jean Lemon; social chairman, Marion Seager; rush chairman, Jeanne Hynd; fraternity education chairman, Lillian Aikenhead.



GAMMA EPSILON'S BANQUET

This libellous picture, taken by the aid of the loudest and brightest flash ever used by a photographer, shows the new chapter and its friends waiting for food on banquet night. The bright light, not hunger, however, is responsible for that look of dreamy somnolence.

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MORE AND MORE BANQUET

At top, the alumnae of Gamma Epsilon. At bottom, the college chapter. They are not nearly as tired as they look; it's that flash bulb again. They are really a wide-awake bunch, and good-looking, too. You'd shut your eyes too if somebody fired a large cannon at you. Notice the charter held by the chapter president.

The chapter house of Gamma Epsilon at 293 Central avenue is comfortable and homey. Normally it holds about seventeen girls, but for this week-end it took in loads of seventy or thereabouts (for pledging and initiation) without undue creaking at the seams. It calmly surrendered itself to the rearrangement necessary for the ceremonies, and emerged unruffled for the tea on Sunday, looking beautiful with the flowers sent by Gamma Epsilon's friends.

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Everyone agreed that one of the major thrills of the week-end was the appearance of the plaque lettered "K A Θ" above the doorbell. Nobody seemed to see it arrive; it just "grewed." A similar thrill was caused by the cheerful "Theta house!" with which one of Friday's pledges answered the telephone.

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Gamma Epsilon's first act on taking its place among Theta chapters was to lend its 43 voices to the singing of *Fraternity*, with inspiring unanimity. Then the initiates stepped from their own circle into the circle of Thetas, and the *Theta Hymn* rose up. It was astonishing the difference those 43 voices made in the effect of the song, and the climax they created when they sang "For *thine* is the service, the love and the honor; yea, thine, Kappa Alpha Theta."

* * *

The Ithaca contingent walked placidly into the Pi Sigma house late Thursday night, although they weren't expected till Friday. The inspired way in which the Pi Sigmas rose to the occasion endeared them forever to their visitors. Quicker than you could say "Gamma Epsilon of Kappa Alpha Theta" a room was engaged at the hotel for two of the guests (the delegate already having a room) and the fourth was billeted with a town member. This is only one example of the occasion-rising which Gamma Epsilon was continually and beautifully doing.

Although District IV's convention was only three months in the background, reunions were already in order. Nine or more Thetas who had been at Burlington in June staged a get-together in London, which was the occasion for many of the squeaks mentioned by the Lambda delegate in her account of the week-end. These old-timers, when last interviewed, were optimistically planning another reunion at national convention next summer, and hoped to make it an occasion for squeaking at quantities of Londonites too.

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At one fell swoop the town of London, Ontario, has acquired a Theta alumnae population of about fourteen, in addition to the one Theta already living there. This calls for a club, and a club is being formed; one which will grow steadily as the London girls in the chapter graduate. An advisory board for Gamma Epsilon has also sprung into being overnight, headed by Florence McDonagh. With such strong alumnae backing the chapter should prosper, and the alumnae should have fun with such a strong chapter to back.

* * *

Snapshots: the quilting party in the Council's sitting room; The Big Apple, as done by the installing officers Friday night; Jean Atkinson of Sigma earning a Master's degree in Carpentry and Curtain-hanging; the patriotic telegraph company which changed the signature on a congratulatory telegram from "Loyally" to "Royalty"; the quiet bridge game (with fifteen shouting kibitzers) in the Syracuse delegate's hotel room; the Grand vice-president illustrating how to win friends and influence the customs officials; the McGill and Cornell delegates teaching each other how to "truck" and "jeep"; the elegant presents received by the new chapter; the efficient way in which Gamma Epsilon managed to get nine pledges, all in the midst of installation.

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