

☞ CENTENNIAL ☞

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

THETA CHAPTER

OF PHI GAMMA DELTA



# CENTENNIAL

of

## Theta Chapter Phi Gamma Delta

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Published by Theta Chapter, Phi Gamma Delta

University of Alabama

April, 1955

**ABOUT THE COVER** — The cover, a crest with platinum lion on purple shield with gold scrolls and platinum background, is the crest of Theta chapter. The Greek letters are "tarsus" which means courage, our chapter motto. The design was the editors' and the art work was done by Don DaLee.

# DEDICATION



John Miller Bradley

John Miller Bradley, Alabama '12, has been chosen as the person to whom this magazine is dedicated as his life service to the fraternity is one which embodies the several tenets of our chapter and fraternity. Our heritage of wonderful tradition, beautiful associations, and tireless effort toward the advancement and propagation of our

ideals is personified through Brother Bradley's life. To list his honors and distinctions during his days as an undergraduate and as an alumnus would be sheer folly as they would require a separate volume. It must suffice to say that he is singly responsible for the building of this house and has been ever a force in the life of Theta chapter.

# ONE HUNDRED YEARS AT BAMA....

## The Story Of Theta Chapter And Its First Century Of Achievement

Theta's evolvement is an interesting affair and worthy of note throughout the fraternity. Prior to its inception at the University of Alabama, there existed four other fraternal organizations, Kuklos Adelphton, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Alpha Delta Phi, and Phi Beta Kappa. Phi Beta Kappa was, by then, an honorary organization and of the others, only Delta Kappa Epsilon remains.

The man who conceived Theta chapter was John Mason Martin. He was evidently a brilliant, honorable, and somewhat erratic young man. A review of his activities are to be found under his picture in the Gorgas Library. "Hon. John Mason Martin, A. B., A.M., LL.D., Founder of Theta chapter of Phi Gamma Delta; Son of Joshua Lanier Martin (Governor of Alabama 1845-1847) and Sarah Mason; born Jan. 20, 1838; A. B. University of Ala. 1856, A.M. 1859; LL.D. Centre College, Central University and Georgetown University; State Senator and President of Senate 1873-'76; U. S. Congressman, 49th Congress, from 6th District of Alabama 1885-87; Instrumental in re-establishment of University of Alabama School Law in 1872; Professor of Law, University of Alabama, 1875-'86; married Lucy C. Peck (sister of Samuel Mintern Peck, Poet Laureate of Ala.) of Tuscaloosa; died in Bowling Green, Ky., June 16, 1898."

John M. Martin states in his "Recollections" that he had the idea of founding a society to be called Phi Alpha Fraternity. During the summer of 1854 he wrote a constitution for his proposed organization but on returning to the University in the fall of that year he gave up that idea. Instead, he had gotten the idea of petitioning Phi Gamma Delta for a charter. He was a member of Kuklos Adelphton at the time and persuaded two of his fellow members, Theodore G. Pierce and John J. Harris, to join with him in his efforts to secure a charter from Phi Gamma Delta. Martin wrote an Alabamian at Union University, Tenn., and through that chapter finally submitted a petition to the Grand Chapter at Canonsburg, Pa. It contained the names of the three confederates mentioned previously plus Walter C. Roper, a late joiner. After a period of inquiry the charter was granted.

During the period of inquiry, Martin had become involved in an affair of honor and had been forced to leave the University. It seems that a member of D.K.E., James J. Cook, had passed some disparaging remarks about the clothing of a young female relation of Martin's, who lived in Tuscaloosa. Martin became angered and sought Cook out to see if the reports he had received were true. When Cook told him that the reports were true, Martin initiated combat with him which resulted in Cook being stabbed in the abdomen by a knife wielded by young Martin. His father's timely arrival saved him from serious trouble, but the affair was so scandalous that University officials required his resignation.

A short time after this, Woodlief Thomas of Union University arrived in Tuscaloosa to install the new chapter of Phi Gamma Delta. Thomas decided that since the

Grand Chapter had accepted Martin for membership in the fraternity, he could be initiated with the others who had been included in the petition. Therefore, at 10:00 A.M., on Saturday, May 11, 1855, Thomas initiated Martin, Pierce and Harris into Phi Gamma Delta, at the City Hall of Tuscaloosa. Roper, who could not be present that morning, was initiated that afternoon at the same place. The new members adopted the name "Eulada Chapter" for themselves, the name Theta coming later. Martin left Tuscaloosa immediately following the ceremony and entered Centre College, Ky., where he had been promised admission to the Junior Class. He founded the Iota Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta while in his year of attendance at that institution, but the new chapter died a'borning as a result of Martin's returning to the University of Alabama the following year.

An event of great importance to the new chapter of Phi Gamma Delta occurred at about the same time that it was born. Internal dissension caused the dissolution of Kuklos Adelphton, in which three of Thetas charter members held membership. Some of it's members, Sumpter Lea and Benjamin Carter Adams certainly, affiliated with Martin's group. This explains the ties that definitely existed between the new fraternity and the older one and also accounts in large degree for the strong position that Phi Gamma Delta enjoyed from the very beginning.

In regards to a cherished legend of Theta concerning Noble Leslie DeVotie and the founding of S.A.E., the following facts were ascertained by this writer. DeVotie was a member of Kuklos Adelphton. Brother John M. Bradley relates in a letter to Maj. Frank Keck (C.C.N.Y. '72) that, in an interview with Sumpter Lea, Lea told him that he knew DeVotie well and that it was largely on his account that DeVotie attended the University. Lea was most positive in his affirmation that DeVotie was indeed a member of Kuklos Adelphton. John M. Martin treated the subject himself in his "Recollections," which were published in the Phi Gamma Delta in 1879. Brother Martin related as follows: "I was just then beginning my junior year at the university, and had devoted much of my time, during the summer vacation, to the preparation of a constitution and by-laws for a society, which I proposed to establish, to be known as the 'Phi Alpha Fraternity'. Digressing for a moment, I might say, that when I abandoned this purpose and sought admission to our own Fraternity, I gave the manuscript

(familiar to myself only), to a fellow-student, who afterwards was one of the founders of the 'Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity' and have reason to believe that I am the true author of their constitution, etc. The conclusive reasons for this impression do not now concern us, and are withheld." Credibility must be given to the foregoing statements in view of their author. John M. Martin was a public figure in Alabama and at the time of the writing of his "Recollections" he was Dean of the Law School and had been associated with that body for a number of years. The word of such a man must be taken as true at this late date.

The new chapter, successful and important tho' it was, was not destined to last more than four years. The University passed a regulation in 1859 which disbanded all secret fraternities then in existence on the campus. "Bairds Manual" states that Theta maintained a sub-rosa existence for some time after 1859 but there are no records to prove this and Martin says in his "Recollections" that the chapter ceased operations after the passage of the anti-fraternity regulation.

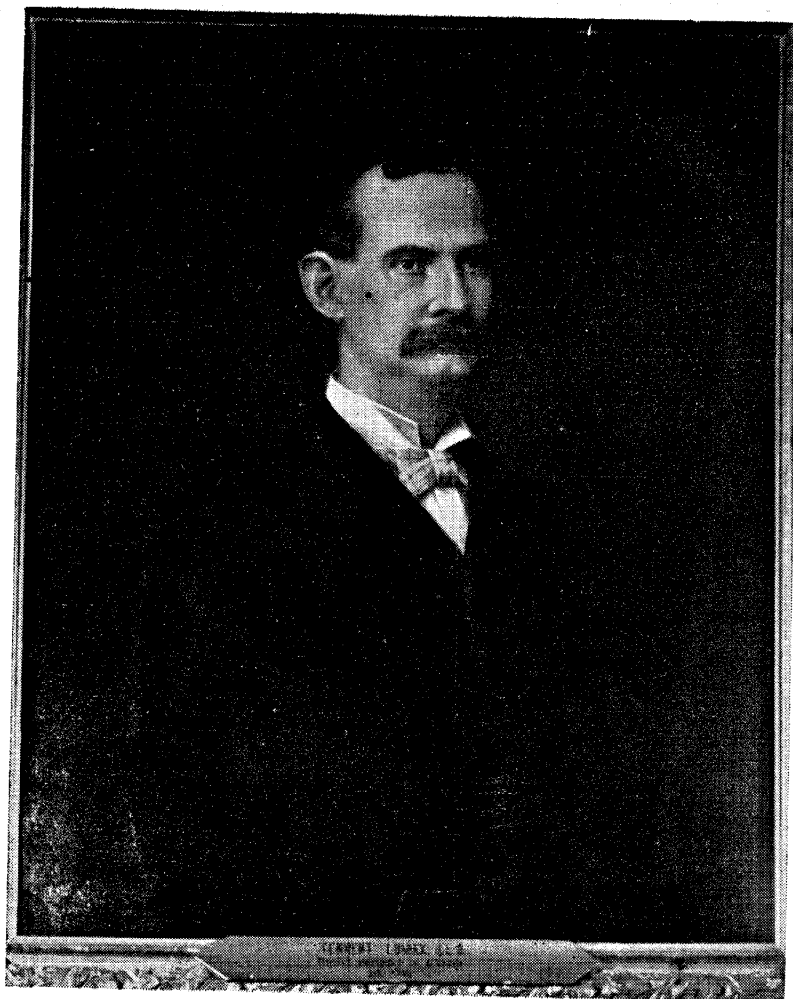
The anti-fraternity regulation was repealed in 1876. John M. Martin and John J. Harris joined in a successful effort to re-establish Theta Chapter at the University. The new chapter was as good as it's predecessor and numbered many prominent young men among the student body. New anti-fraternity regulations were passed in 1879 and the chapter surrendered it's charter for the second time in it's history.

Theta appeared again on the University scene on Monday, June 3, 1901. Fraternities were by this time encouraged at the University and the situation has remained the same ever since. Two men from the second chapter were greatly influential in the third reopening of Theta Chapter. They were Sterling A. Wood (Ala. '77) and Tennent Lomax (Ala. '78). The first meeting was held for the purpose of initiating new men. Thirteen men were admitted to membership, the place being the Kappa Sigma hall. Meetings of the new group were held on a bi-monthly basis until increasing membership and the growing business of finances forced meetings to be held once per week.

The new chapter occupied rented homes during the first few years of it's existence. By 1914 the chapter was of such a size and importance that a new home had been called for. It was built in the southern colonial style and occupied the site which has remained the house of the Fijis ever since. This house was a memorable one in the University history in that it was the first to be erected on what is now known as "fraternity row." Brother Rose, in his newest history of our chapter, says that the rest of the fraternities at the University made great capital of the cost of the new house in their talks to rushees and succeeded in discouraging a goodly percentage of them from pledging Phi Gamma Delta the following year through fear of having to pay inordinately high housebills.

FROM 1855 TO 1955 — This is the official history of your chapter - the chronicle of brotherhood in Phi Gamma Delta.

## Co-Sponsor Of Revived Chapter



LOMAX FIGURES IN REACTIVATION — Tennent Lomax, Alabama '78, is shown in the above picture made from an oil painting found in the University library. Lomax, with Sterling A. Wood, Alabama '77, in 1901 reactivated the chapter for the last time.

World War I reared its ugly head and the men of Theta contributed in the fullest measure to America's part in the conflict. One member, John S. Henry (Ala. '17), was the first University man to make the supreme sacrifice. A plaque commemorating this fact now resides in the fraternity house. Over thirty of Theta's men served with the armed forces in one capacity or another during the war, an enviable record in the annals of the University of Alabama fraternity system.

The period following the war saw Theta return to a period of normal operations. The yearly reports of the chapter historians are filled with accounts of the activities of our ever-changing body of undergraduates. Athletics, scholars, and ladies men are all to be found in those reports. The chapter was awarded the Baker Cup during this period and its scholarship was held at consistently high level. It was during this period that house mothers were incorporated into the fraternity system at the University. Phi Gamma Delta was in the first group to arrange for the services of a house mother. Mrs. Emma Scarborough (mother of A. G. Scarborough, Ala. '19) was our first, serving

from 1932-37. Miss Lucia Chambers (now Mrs. Joe Stickney) followed and served from 1937-44. The outbreak of World War II saw Theta again preparing for service to its country.

The chapter history for the school year 1941-'42, written by brothers Bill Wertz and Charlie McBurney, paints a picture of a serious and responsible group of young men who were not taking their responsibilities to the war effort lightly. Corsages for their dates at dances were purchased at low prices and the difference made up in Defense Stamps, which were attached to the wrappings of the corsages. Almost every man in the chapter, with the exception of the men in pre-medical and pre-dental programs, was in the Advanced ROTC. The vast majority of this group saw service with the military during the war. The University took over the house and housed Army personnel in it for the duration. The chapter, greatly reduced in size, continued operation on a small scale in a rented home, for the same period.

With the cessation of hostilities, a great influx of students was experienced by the University. Many Fijis returned to further their educations or continued where they

had been forced to break off. The house once again in proper hands, was filled and overflowing. Membership at Theta reached its highest peak in our history during this period. The chapter, as was to be expected, resumed its position in the front rank of fraternities on the campus. Positions of leadership and honor were won by its members in all phases of campus life. A new house mother, Mrs. Helen Otts, began a period of long and useful service to our chapter which lasted from 1945-'54. Our present house mother, Mrs. William Penn, began her career of service to Phi Gamma Delta in 1954 and has remained to the date of this writing. Andrew "Drop" Jackson, the house boy, entered his 30th year of duty in 1955—a record which this writer feels sure is unparalleled at the present time at the University. The scholarship of the chapter, long one of its strongest features, dropped somewhat in the immediate post-war period but has been revived of late. Theta's record for the past twenty years is that of four—among all male groups checked here at the University.

Theta's activities in this, the centennial year, reflect a wide and well balanced operation. Socially, the chapter is continuing the policy of holding two outstanding events each year, the "Roaring Twenties" party in the fall, and the "Fiji Island" party in the spring. Service to the community is evidenced in the annual underprivileged childrens party at Christmas, an event of many years standing. Two new athletics trophies were added to Theta's collection during the past year. One is for the all-campus track championship and the other is for first place in the fraternity tennis doubles. Many positions in worthy school activities are held by Fijis at the present time, most notable being Business Manager of the Corolla. The office of Vice-President of the Student Government Association was held by Fijis for a two year period, ending this February by the graduation of the past one. Scholarship, a sore point with most post-war pledge classes, is maintained by enforced study halls for pledges with delinquent grades and enforced quiet hours on week nights for the active chapter. This chapter stands 15th among all chapters in Phi Gamma Delta for scholastic achievement over the past year. The financial situation is a healthy one at present and the outlook for the future is bright. A recent by-law, now in force, requires each undergraduate member to be assessed \$5.00 per semester for so long as he remains in the chapter, the money to be placed on a 50-50 basis in Theta Inc. and a building fund to be used for all furniture and minor repair expenditures in the future. The benefits of this by-law will be realized by Fijis who are as yet completely unaware of the fortunate turn of events which will have enabled them to do so. Such has always been the good fortune of young men chosen to wear the badge of our fraternity. This chapter has been blessed throughout its years with men of good character who had an eye cocked to the future. A conservative chapter always, it has successfully met all challenges given it in the past, and shows no tendency to fail in its surely coming tests of the future, Selah.

By Laurence T. Bliss, Ala. '54

This correspondent is greatly indebted in the foregoing account, to Brothers Wm. Alfred Rose, Alabama '21, Yale '24 and John M. Bradley, Alabama '12 for many of the facts and events which are herein recorded.

# Three Chapter Residences Have Housed Theta Fijis During Past Half-Century

The year 1901 heralded the final reorganization of Theta Chapter, largely due to the efforts of Sterling A. Wood, Alabama '77, and Tennant Lomax, Alabama '78. The chapter occupied a variety of lodgings prior to moving into the present house in 1914.

The members, newly initiated by Brothers Wood and Lomax, held their first meetings in a second floor room of a building which is now Raymon's Department Store. Despite this rather meager environment, meetings were held there for several years and this room was the site of the initiation of some of our most prominent

alumni, Brothers Redden, '05, Collier, '06, and Maxwell, '11.

A growing chapter in 1908 made the need for a larger place evident. To accommodate the expanding chapter, the second floor of the Venner Building, located one block south of the Post Office, was rented. The floor area of the second floor was large, lending a ballroom air to the room. Ample use was made of the floor facilities, as it became the center of social as well as the business facets of the chapter.

The 'ballroom' became known to some of the other fraternities and became a recognized campus activity. The chapter rent-

ed it to other fraternities for their functions on several occasions.

The desire of the chapter since 1901 had been to find an appropriate house in which they could not only hold meetings, but live and have social functions. In 1909, their desires were realized in the striking old Colonial Town House, at 325 Queen City Avenue, the present G. K. Little home. The chapter stayed in this handsome old brick home for a year.

It became evident during the year in the Little home that although it was extremely attractive, it was too far from the campus. In 1910, the wooden structure located at 14 Thomas Circle was rented to facilitate the trips from the campus to their home.

This house has undergone some rather drastic changes including a move entirely across the circle from its old site, as well as some structural changes. During Theta Chapter's stay there, from 1910 to 1914 when the present house was completed, the frame structure was located at the head of the circle across from its present location and had wings which have subsequently been torn down.

Much talk among the undergraduates was heard concerning the subject of purchasing some property on which a fraternity chapter house would be erected. The matter was discussed at great length with the final decision being to buy the lot across from Rex Drug Store.

Dr. George H. Denny, president, announced, shortly after Theta had bought a lot across from Rex, his intention to give fraternities a 99 year lease on a building site on the campus and lend 60 per cent of the funds required to build a fraternity house approved by the University at 6 per cent annual interest.

Fred Maxwell, chapter president, appointed a committee headed by John M. Bradley, Sr., B. A. '12; L. L. B. '14, to inquire as to the advantages of purchasing a lease from the University and building a house on that site.

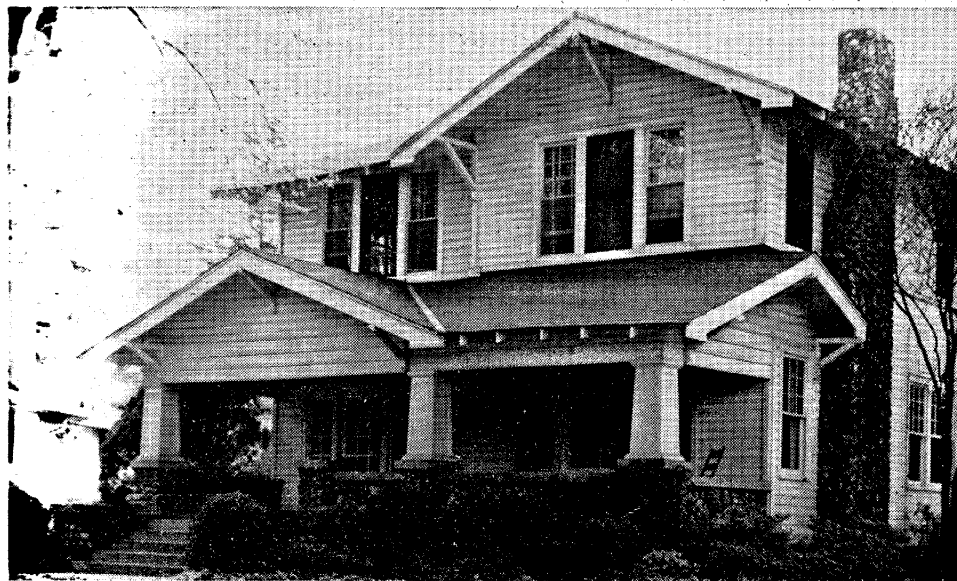
After a vigorous campaign, Theta still lacked \$1,000.00 of having raised its 40 per cent of the necessary funds for the house which had been planned. Brother Bradley went to the 1913 Ekklesia and persuaded the National Fraternity to lend Theta \$1,000.00 to be secured by a second mortgage. Consequently, Theta was the first fraternity to avail itself of Dr. Denny's offer, starting construction of its house in 1913 and completing it by Commencement of 1914. The attractive colonial type home of Theta chapter was then the first to be constructed on the University campus.

In 1928 and 1929 the two side wings and back wing were added to the house. Additional work was done in 1949 when steel beams were added to the house to buoy up the foundation which was settling. An extra party room was added in the basement shortly after the beams were put in.

A major refurnishing program is now being carried on, which is due to be completed by the middle of April. This job entails obtaining new sofas, chairs, tables, lamps, pictures for the living room and dining rooms, radiator covers for living room, sliding doors from living room into dining room, conference table and chairs for the Sigma Nu sun parlor which is to be converted into a library, rug, drapes and book cases for the library.



**COLONIAL TOWN HOUSE** — The first rented home of Theta chapter is shown above. This handsome old home now belongs to G. K. Little. The chapter occupied this house in 1909. It is located at 325 Queen City Avenue.



**SECOND RENTED HOME** — This frame structure was rented by the chapter from 1909 to 1914, when the new house was completed. It is located at 14 Thomas Circle and has undergone some major changes since it was occupied by the chapter.



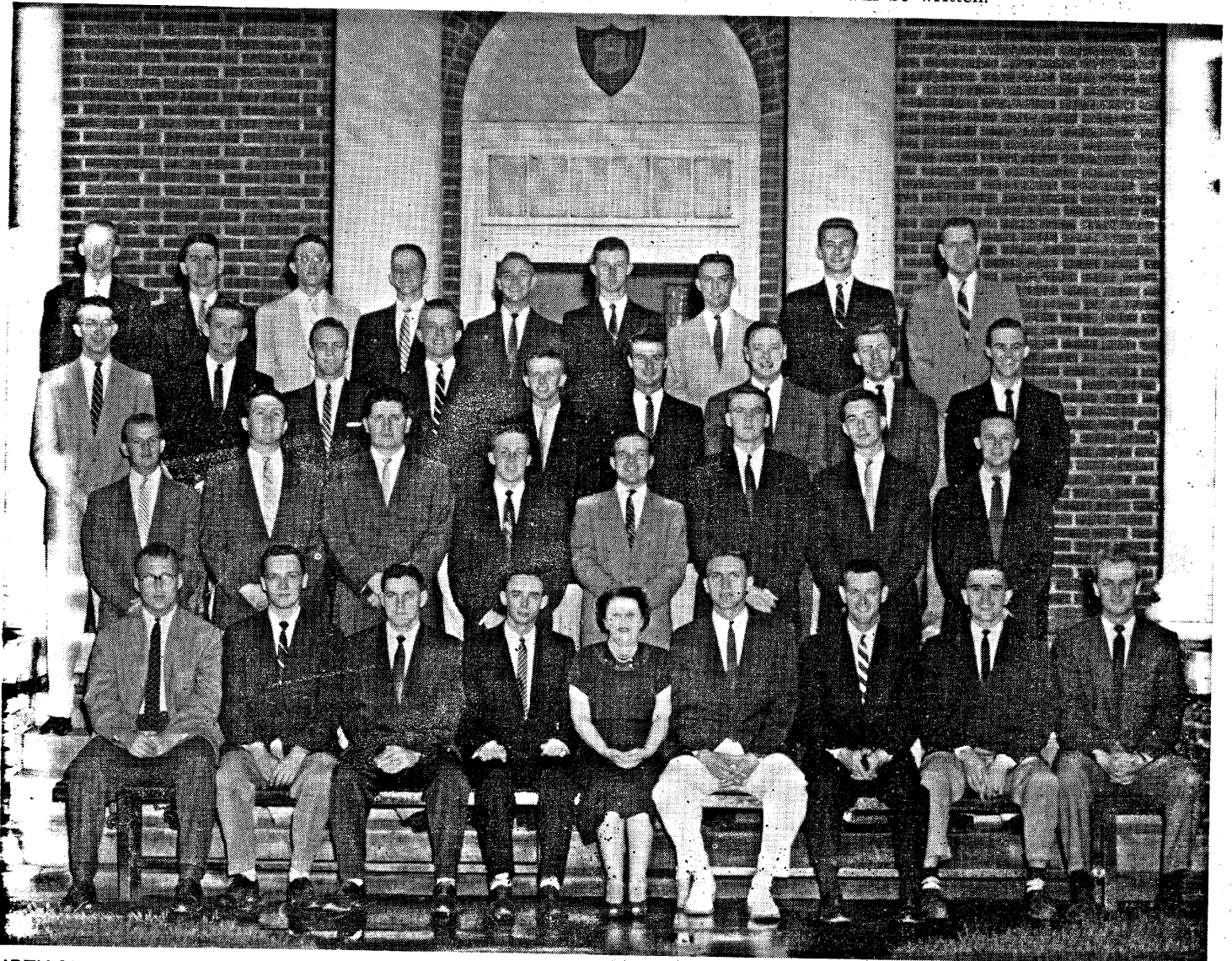
**PRESENT HOME** — This is the present home located on Alabama's famous fraternity row on University Avenue. Construction of this home was completed in 1914 and it was the first fraternity house on the row.

A great deal of carpentry work will be done also, which will include the complete rebuilding of the stairways, putting all windows in working order, rehangng and rehardwaring the front door, repairing doors and closing in upstairs transoms.

The house will also be re-wired as far as is needed, and repairs and new supports to floors and underpinning of the house will be made where needed.

The downstairs floor, the beams in the living room, and the dining room furniture will be refinished. The living room, back hall and Sigma Nu parlor will be painted, the living room in a moss green, the parlor in a gold with green background, the back hall in a light blue and grey motif and a new rug in golden brown scheme. A gray and blue motif enhances the upstairs hall of the chapter house which was tiled and repainted by this year's pledge class.

The present chapter house, represented now in another period of change, will be furnished with a fresh and attractive environment for the current members and those to come. Thus with the completion of refurbishing work, the final page in the history of the evolution of the chapter house will be written.



**THIRTY-SIX ACTIVE MEMBERS COMPRISE PRESENT CHAPTER** — Pictured before the Ionic columns of the present chapter house, reading from left to the right, are: Bottom row, Brandy Ayers. Blucher Cooper, Frank Hardy, Bobby Goodsell, Mrs. Penn, Don Speed, Carey Hollingsworth, Charlie Bob Thomason, and Robert Cochrane. Second row, John McWilliams, Scott Logan, John Mc-

Donald, Mallory Privett, Alex Bryant, George Sledge, Ed Bounds, and Ed Corley. Third row, Norman Savage, Walter Waldrop, Bob Hill, Don Patterson, Dick Goodsell, Jimbo Baird, Miller Widemire, Billy Crews, and Fitz Hill. Last row, Bob LeMay, Dick Coffee, Hoyt Winslett, Mike Thomas, Don DaLee, Burt Mullins, Jim Dewberry, Gene Savage, and Larry Bliss.

# Theta's Social History Paces Customs And Modes Of Ever Changing Years

Before 1850 the social life of the "cadets" attending the University of Alabama could unquestionably be called nonexistent. The students were governed by such strict schedule of daily routine that fraternization was at a minimum.

From six until 7 o'clock in the morning the student got dressed, had room inspection and breakfast, and from then until one in the afternoon, he had to be either in his room studying or in recitation. After lunch, from two until evening prayer at five, the day continued as it had begun—with study. Between five p.m. and supper at six, the daily cadet drill field activities were held and afterwards from seven until nine students were, "expected and required to be in his own room quietly pursuing his studies." Later the faculty granted permission for students, "to play on musical instruments between the hours of nine and ten in the evening." This schedule was religiously adhered to and violations were severely dealt with by the faculty.

Special permission had to be obtained from the president before a cadet could leave the campus or be absent from his room for more than one-half hour. Playing cards or "any game of chance" was strictly prohibited.

With the development of the University and the increases in size of the student body after 1850, social activity was unavoidable even if it had not been wanted. "Mumble the Peg" became popular although the administration took a dim view of any sports, and students caught playing such were called before the faculty and reprimanded.

One student was given two demerits for "Sport on campus." After deep and serious deliberation, he remembered that he had swung on the limb of a cedar tree one day.

Later in 1871, the young men were liberated somewhat in that they were granted an all-too-brief, "release from quarters during which the students might stroll around the campus," after drill which usually ended between five and six.

In 1855, Phi Gamma Delta, one of the three fraternities on the campus, found social life on campus particularly nil. The main social activity of the men was in forensic and inter-class debate and in three or four big literary societies holding meetings on Saturday afternoons and again among themselves at night.

A glee club in 1885, which was ten years later renamed the University Mandolin, Glee and Guitar Club, and a Shakesperian Society were at that time installed. Music and dramatics were popular divergences for the men from the rigorous educational pursuits.

By the late nineteenth century, time was not such a restraining aspect of typical college life, and students were granted nominal liberty.

As a pastime the cadets went calling. On many happy afternoons (never at nighttime) a girl, boy, horse, and buggy, would be seen representing the acme of entertainment.

Also outstanding among school functions were the picnics that would take place in the spring and autumn. When the circus came to Tuscaloosa, the faculty would grant permission to attend, "with official blessings."

By far the most important holiday was during Christmastime. The students, with the permission of their parents or guardians, had a vacation ranging from ten days to two weeks. No holiday was taken for granted, however, for once a letter was sent to the parents that school would not be dismissed for Christmas that year.

The usual holidays were recognized as Thanksgiving, New Year's Day, Memorial day, and a few additional ones. An annual Day of Prayer in February was observed by all schools and colleges in the state, and for many years April Fool's Day was a student holiday.

Dances have been by far the most enjoyable type of party since the early 1870's. Piqued by the Tuscaloosa town people, the faculty had to ban the Commencement Hop which had become an annual affair. But in 1893, through scrupulous efforts of the students and alumni, a University Reception was held lasting from nine until one o'clock, more than an hour later than the usual curfew for University dances.

Due to the insistence of Miss Julia Tutwiler, she was able to persuade the University to permit the entrance of women as special students. The first two young ladies were admitted in 1893 and immediately excelled in scholastic work by being listed among the honors list, as well as in extra-curricular activities by identifying themselves as being among the six associate editors of that year's CRIMSON-WHITE staff.

From this beginning, the increase in number of co-eds on campus was somewhat feeble. But again in 1898, Miss Tutwiler demonstrated her efforts by obtaining the entrance of fifteen women provided with living accommodations. It was not until

several years later that these students were listed as "regular".

In a letter from the President to these young ladies, he said: "My dear young lady:

"The admission of young ladies . . . is comparatively a new measure, and is still in the experimental stage . . . The number of women students is as yet so small that each one is exposed to much observation and to some criticism . . . We ask you to submit cheerfully to some restrictions, unnecessary in other relations.

1. For example, we think it best that you should wear a simple black oxford uniform, cap and gown, in all public places and especially when attending your classes . . . You will be so inconspicuous by all dressing alike, that no one can accuse you of dressing with the view of attracting the attention of young men, your fellow students . . .

2. We think it best that during the college year, you should not attend dancing parties, or in fact any social gatherings of both sexes; also that you should receive visits from young men on Friday and Saturday evenings only, and that no young lady should receive these callers alone. Inform those who ask permission to call on you that it is the rule of the house that two or more young ladies should always receive together.

3. We think that one young lady should not go walking alone either in the city or elsewhere. It is much better that two or more should always be together on your walks, and that you should not permit young men to join you and walk with you. Simply say to those who offer to join you that you have been requested not to appear in public with young men, and they will respect your wishes.



SHEIKS AND FLAPPERS — Two "sheiks" and their "flappers" are shown at the Roaring Twenties party which each year heralds Thetas' revisitation to the days of bath tub gin and the charleston. The "sheiks" are John McWilliams and Bobby Goodsell and their dates



Now these restrictions may seem to you irksome and useless; but you must remember that to counterbalance them, you receive there advantages that are open to no other girls in the United States. There is no other place where a girl can receive all the benefits of the higher education for so little money . . . Yours, sincerely, University of Alabama, September 14, 1901."

During this time the girls lived at the Julia Tutwiler Annex which was really a house of four bedrooms located where Bibb Graves Hall now stands at the present day main corner of the University. In the early 1900's it was called the "Ranch."

It has been told by one of the early girls, that a highlight of her life was when one of the girls would eat only a little food for two or three days so that she could have the privilege of inviting for dinner her brother or a cousin in order that the other girls could look him over.

Entertaining dates was a problem. Rules prevented them sitting on the porch; they had to demurely sit in the tiny parlor with all the other girls who had dates, and since dates could be entertained only on Friday and Saturday nights, the room was usually crowded. Two girls always had to be in the parlor during date time. But all in all the main attractions for the boys were not the girls in the Ranch, but those in the two girls' boarding schools in Tuscaloosa, The Methodist Female Academy and the Baptist College.

The main party of the year for the girls was Mrs. Graham's party each year in her home, which stood between the Chemistry Building and Nott Hall. Other parties were the Y.W.C.A. party and a pay party, so the boys could come.

The opening social event of 1910 was a reception held for the new students. Punch flowed following a formal address by the President, Dr. Denny; after which the freshmen seemed to have caught more than the average of hazing from the upperclassmen.

The Y.M.C.A. seemed to be the most active organization having parties, holding lectures and sponsoring concerts and lyceums which were mentioned in nearly every issue of the C-W of 1913.

Positions on the glee club were in great demand, and tryouts were heartily contested. Debating was prominent but had lost some of the sting of the 1800's.

The November 4, 1913, issue of the C-W tells of the co-eds going "skooting" after the freshmen girls. After the girls had gone to sleep, the upperclass women - bearing weapons of kindling, pokers, tongs and curling irons and wearing masks of boudoir - decorated with ribbons - demonstrated with great similarity men's hazing. The party ended by lining the new co-eds up and having them recite Shakespeare. "For once the co-educational were undignified and boisterous."

A highlight of Thanksgiving of 1913 seemed to have been the invitation to the co-eds to eat in the Mess Hall with the boys. "Good cheer and heartiness reigned for two hours."

Seen among many issues mentioned pro and con was the dissention over whether the new dancing mania was bad or good. The tango seemingly was objectionable to some of the conservatives.

In 1914 the C-W made a big to-do over its third annual beauty contest; the prize was a box seat for the season's best play.

Script dances were the fad and were held every month or so in either the mess



**RETURN OF THE NATIVE** — The above picture is of the highlights of the spring social season the Fiji Island Party. At this party Theta, through clairvoyance or some other mystic power, transports the chapter house and its teeming occupants to the Fiji Islands for a day of native joy in the Pacific style.

hall or at Midnight Sons Half downtown, which was described as an unusually exclusive place for dances.

The year 1914 was the founding year of student self-government. Women's suffrage found its way into the debates of every group. The national leader, Miss Jane Addams, spoke—for which the student body turned out "en mass".

In the October 7, 1914, issue of the C-W, the Phi Gams are described as beginning the dance season as, "popular men prove delightful hosts in their new fraternity house." The dance was the first in a regular series to be offered by the Phi Gams.

Again, according to the October 23rd issue of the same year, the Phi Gams proved themselves ideal hosts when they delighted a few friends at a delightful informal party. The evening was spent in several ways—some toasted marshmallows and roasted apples, others popped corn, and others preferred to sit around the chimney fires and talk amid the soft lights and hospitality."

Fraternities began to receive more and more mention and prominence in the C-W.

During the 1930's the Athletic Association was the Cotillion Club of today. Dances started at nine and went until one, and were not just one night affairs but ran from two to five days. By the '30's the co-eds had not only become established but were beginning to feel their oats at equal suffrage and began to exert themselves in the Y.W.C.A., to sponsor dances, and to enter political life.

Football was the most prominent sport, and the players were frequently leaders of campus life since the early 1900's.

The Blackfriars were considered all over

the South as an outstanding theatrical group. Positions were much in demand.

Professional societies seemed to have thoroughly rooted out the literary societies of the late 1800's and early 1900's. Military training through R.O.T.C. was taking on a new emphasis.

Life in the barracks was described in 1934 as being completely informal, most of the boys spending their time in a state of undress. The "bull-pen" or dining hall was an important place where the students mingled with the football players around the training tables. Freshmen sometimes had to be humbled by an upper-classman, usually a sophomore aspiring to be the next "King of Swat."

Riding clubs and fencing were well supported. Swimming classes and life saving reached the tenor of the times, and intramural boxing was supported.

The Ritz theatre was one of the favorite houses of entertainment, interspersing the cinema with many of the Broadway shows on tour. Plays and student acts were frequently presented for the entertainment of the students.

It was during the late 1920's and the early 1930's that Alabama took on her cosmopolitan airs of today.

Fiji social life in the year 1930 was highlighted by the celebration of Thetas' 75th anniversary, here at Alabama. A formal reception was given at the chapter house and was attended by a large delegation of local alumni and also by many distinguished visitors from out of state. It was the outstanding event on the campus that year. Although a series of buffet suppers were held by the

(Continued on Page 15)

## Five Gracious Women Directed Life At Phi Gam House During Quarter Century

Over the period of Theta's last quarter century, this chapter has been under the guidance of five outstanding women. Before 1930 when Phi Gam's first housemother, Mrs. Andrew Greer Scarboro, came, all social functions and dates had to be individually chaperoned and previously arranged.

During the year before her arrival, Mrs. Scarboro held the position of Pi Kappa Phi housemother. The following fall, however, Mrs. Scarboro became the first housemother of this chapter and one of the first of the campus.

Mrs. Scarboro is now living with her daughter in Tuscaloosa, recuperating from an illness.

The night before Homecoming of 1935, Mrs. Scarboro had to leave her position, and Mrs. Lucille Irby Chambers replaced her. Mrs. Chambers was a native of Uniontown, a town long noted for its gracious ladies. She had been on the campus the year before serving as the Chi Omega Housemother.

During Mrs. Chambers' stay, the home was completely redecorated and refurnished for the first time since moving into the present home.

Mrs. Chambers says that she vividly remembers the "wonderful crowd of boys" who were in the chapter when I was there. "It is always a pleasure to go back and visit and see my old boys."

In 1943, a strategic time of World War II, the house was closed and occupied by the Army for training purposes. Mrs. Chambers during this time married J. B. Stickney and moved to Greensboro where she now resides.

The Stickney family is a traditional Phi Gam family, with Joseph Bryant Stickney, '30, and James Irby Stickney, '54, being recently active in Theta Chapter.

The house was reopened in October of 1945 and with this reactivation there was a great influx of veterans. Mrs. Helen Otts, also of Greensboro, became housemother for this chapter, then numbering around one

hundred and fifteen and over. Mrs. Otts said that they were the "loveliest crowd of boys that I have ever known. It is always a joy for me to think of them, and I look forward to seeing them."

Many of "her boys" make a special effort to drop down and see "Aunt Helen" when they are in Tuscaloosa.

Greensboro is only a distance of forty miles from Tuscaloosa and a trip to see their much beloved "Aunt Helen" is always well worth it.

During her stay, for some of us it will perhaps not be too hard to remember the infamous "egg fight" between each side of fraternity row.

Many also will continue to remember the graciousness and consideration that is so characteristic of Aunt Helen. She has been called the "personification of the hospitable Southern lady that is characteristic of the Black Belt, Alabama, and the University."

In 1950, Mrs. Otts had to leave for a year, and during that time Mrs. Polenitz capably served as housemother. Also a native of Greensboro, Mrs. Polenitz is now the Chi Phi housemother.

When Mrs. Otts left to return home to Greensboro in June of 1954, Mrs. William Penn from Greenville, Mississippi became the Phi Gam housemother.

Mrs. Penn had been on campus since 1945 as Kappa Alpha housemother.

By setting up a strict budget, Mrs. Penn has been able to save the chapter a considerable sum of money on kitchen and house department expenses.

Mrs. Penn has arranged many house functions, which due to her, were carried off with a great deal of finesse.

She is now planning for the Centennial tea on Sunday, April 24th, which under her expert direction should be "un bon fete."

Beginning this, the second hundred years, Phi Gam can truthfully proclaim that, with such support as has been exhibited in the past by these prominent women, previously unattainable goals now can be reached with facility.

## Phi Gamma Delta Fratres In Faculty Assist Chapter

Our Fratres in Faculty have been invaluable to Theta Chapter. The devotion of these men to the fraternity exemplifies the highest traditions of Phi Gamma Delta. Whenever called upon, they have tirelessly donated their time and counsel to the active chapter. The phrase "Once a Fiji, Always a Fiji" assumes new proportions when we see these men in action.

These men are not highly esteemed only by their brothers. At the present time our faculty members include Dr. John M. Gallalee, president emeritus; Dean James H. Newman, dean of administration; Mr. Fred Maxwell, consulting engineer; Dr. Herbert Van Scoy, professor of romance languages; Dr. Iredell Jenkins, head of the Philosophy Dept.; and Dr. Paul Foreman, professor of Sociology.

Dr. Gallalee was initiated into Theta Chapter after becoming a faculty member. For a number of years, he was the head of the Mechanical Engineering Dept. After a brief interim as Director of the State Building Technical Staff, he returned to be inaugurated President of the University of Alabama. Dr. Gallalee retired in 1953 with a record service to the University totaling nearly a half century.

Dean James H. Newman was initiated in 1932. With the exception of a few years when he served as Dean of Students at the University of Virginia, he has been available to all requests for advice from the Fijis.

"Uncle" Fred Maxwell is a familiar figure to all University students, especially we of Theta. He has assumed responsibility for directing the remodeling work this spring. Brother Maxwell is credited with saving the house when an industrious brother's endeavors in the basement brought about its near collapse.

Dr. Herbert Van Scoy, professor of Spanish, is the co-author of a new textbook in elementary Spanish. The book was published by the University Press and is being used here in those courses. Brother Van Scoy has been a great help in supplying names and recommendations of rushees.

On leave of absence this year is Dr. Iredell Jenkins of the Philosophy Dept.

Dr. Paul Foreman (Epsilon Omicron '34) is a newcomer to Tuscaloosa. He did his undergraduate work at Oregon State. In 1935, he was awarded his Ph D at Vanderbilt University.

Other members of the faculty since 1901 have been: Professor S. W. Ayers, Dr. F. W. Dressler, John E. Brantly, Chief Justice J. Ed. Livingston, Luther Maxwell Jr., and R. S. McWilliams.

ed all social activities, working with Mrs. Penn on the Sunday afternoon reception, and with Hollingsworth on the Pig Dinner program and arrangements. Charlie Bob Thomason was in charge of all correspondence, while heading the nousing. Henry Bright has been heading registration and Norman Savage is in charge of the scrapbook for the Centennial. Brandy Ayers has taken care of all publications and publicity while Larry Bliss has been in charge of all historical aspects and the setting up of a historical display. All these men have done an outstanding job under the excellent leadership of Miller Widemire.

## Widemire Guides House Activities In Centennial Celebration Plans

The House Centennial Committee, composed of members from the chapter, has been under the leadership of Miller Widemire. Being overall chairman of this committee, Widemire has done a fine job of setting the Centennial organized. Miller came to the University in 1950 after graduation from high school in Sylacauga, Alabama.

He received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Commerce and Business Administration in the spring of 1954 and is now in his Junior year of Law School. Miller has been outstanding in his activities here at the University. He is a member of the honorary organizations, ODK, Jasons, Quadrangle, Druids, and Phi Eta Sigma. He is also affiliated with Phi Delta Phi, Professional Law Fraternity and Delta Sigma Pi, Commerce Professional Fraternity. Miller has been an active participant in the stu-

dent government. He was a member of the student legislature in 1952, chairman of the 1952 campus chest, a member of the executive cabinet in 1953, and vice-president of the student government for the year 1954-55. Having received his commission in the Air Force in 1954, Miller expects to enter the service in June.

Widemire has been an active member of the chapter, serving as Recording Secretary in 1953-54, being a delegate to the 1952 Ekklesia in Toronto, and heading various committees before his present position as Chairman of the House Centennial Committee. Other members of the chapter have been working on the committee. Carey Hollingsworth, outgoing president, and Bobby Goodsell, new president, have been serving in advisory positions while working with Widemire with repairs and refurnishing. Blucher Cooper, social chairman, has head-

## Phi Gam Has Large Part In Alabama's Basketball History

### PHI GAMS FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN ALABAMA BASKETBALL

When Dr. James Naismith nailed a peach basket to a tree in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1891 and gave the world a new sport - BASKETBALL - he never dreamed that it would be played in Alabama thirteen years later. Theta may be proud to claim that two of its brothers were entrepreneurs in Bama's first effort at basketball.

Only three years after Theta's re-activation in 1901, James C. B. Gwin, '04, of Ezra, Alabama, helped to bring basketball South. Brother Gwin was manager and guard on that first team. J. B. Cross, '07, Tuscaloosa, played center. Unfortunately the "faculty saw fit to deny them the privilege of traveling, and the game was temporarily abandoned." So ended the first attempt.

In reading through old COROLLAS, the next mention of basketball is not until 1911, however it was played only on intramural basis. W. A. Holt, '15, Mobile, was captain of the champion freshman team that successfully encountered the seniors, the sophomores and the lawyers. In 1913 the game was resumed as an intercollegiate sport. It may be seen "that 'Tail' Holt can play anywhere, but shows best at running guard." And further: "After two comparatively short schedules Alabama should come into the limelight in this sport next year. The students have begun to take an interest in it, and with the games being played in Clark Hall, interest should be trebled."

William Marvin McCullough, '21, of Birmingham, showed much promise as a freshman on the varsity. Another Theta Fiji, Walter W. Kennedy, '21, played varsity basketball in 1918 and was captain for the 1920-21 season. His team's most notable wins were over Tulane, 27-23, and the Birmingham Athletic Club by a 17-12 margin.

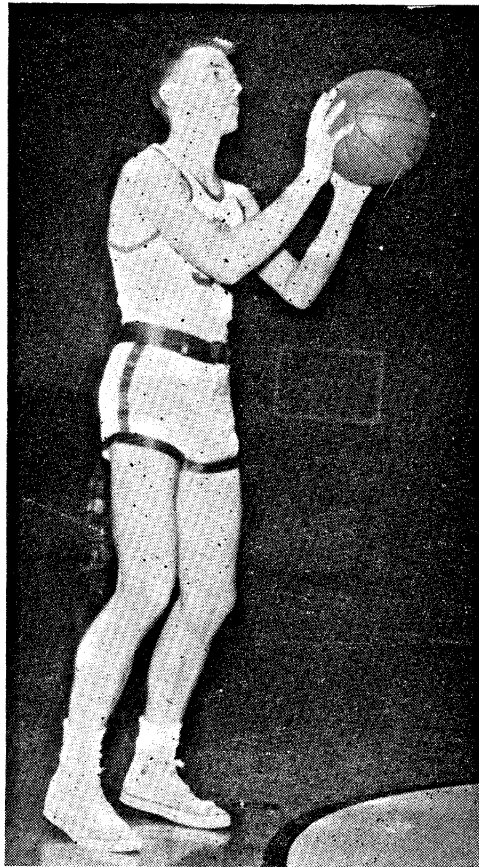
Paul Graham "Pinky" McClintock, Sr., stands out as an athlete of note through the pages of past COROLLAS. 1923, for instance: "Graham McClintock, guard and center. Though prone to think himself in a football match at times, 'Mack' is a neat basketeer. The best follow-up shot on the team, and a fighter from toe-nails to hair net. Brother McClintock played three seasons on the varsity, from 1922 to 1925. He took part in the wins over Kentucky and Vanderbilt, 15-14 and 29-24 respectively, during the 1924-25 season. The team had a 15-4 record that year, and during his career Alabama won 47 games and lost 13. Twice they were the S.I.A.A. Champions, under the tutelage of Hank Crisp. These were, in fact, Coach Hank's first two teams.

For the record, two other Fijis of note, Brothers Robert H. Cochran, Jr., and Walter H. Bailey, Sr., were members of Brother McClintock's class.

After exploring Phi Gamma Delta's early contributions to University basketball, it seems strange to find that we did not claim the allegiance of another varsity player until the 1951-52 season. Charles William (Billy) Crews, '55, of Selma, then a freshman, came off the bench at the end of that season and showed great potential. Under the leadership of Johnny Dee, Bill continued to develop through hard work and experience. Despite having to learn a new system of play he could always be counted on for the needed basket and to

put fight into the team. In the latter half of the 1953-54 season Brother Crews fought his way up to the first five. His playmaking ability and obvious talent for leadership became noticed, and resulted in Bill being named captain of the team for his senior year.

### FIJI LEADS CRIMSON TIDE



**CAPTAIN CREWS** — Billy Crews, captain of the 1954-'55 Alabama basketball team, is shown above poised for a set shot.

Bill led the Alabama basketball team to one of its greatest seasons. Although held down by a shoulder injury late in the season, he continued to come through with needed points. Bill's part in getting second place in the SEC and twelfth in the national ratings will not soon be forgotten by friends of Alabama basketball.

## McWilliams, Lanford Win Tournament

Johnny McWilliams and Bill Lanford succeeded in winning the Pan-Hellenic tennis doubles championship this fall in a brilliant 6-2, 7-5 victory over a highly touted Pi K A team.

With apparent facility the Phi Gam team dispatched the ATOs, SAMs, and Sigma Nu's in the tournament's opening three rounds.

The quarter-finals match against the Number One seeded Sigma Chi's was the best match played during the course of the tournament. Each game in this exciting two-set match was keenly contested.

The KAs were defeated handily in the semi-final round in straight sets, after which McWilliams and Lanford gained the final victory in a 6-2, 7-5, championship round against the Pi K As. McWilliams has won a spot on the University tennis team and Lanford, a freshman, has done a good deal of tournament play in Alabama.

## Host Of Phi Gams Prominent College Men Through Years

### OUTSTANDING FIJIS IN COLLEGE ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

During the years, many of the Theta brothers have had outstanding records in college activities other than those of their own fraternity.

The University publications, Corolla, Crimson White, and Rammer Jammer, have always had Phi Gams on their staffs. Some of these men and the publication which they worked were:

#### CRIMSON-WHITE

J. O. Pearson, Business Manager, 1916; J. H. Pearson, Editor, 1916; B. C. Durham, Jr., Editor, 1918; Paul Duncan, Editor, 1933; Gould Beech, Editor, 1934; William L. Sturdevant, Editor, 1936; Haynes Tompson, Editor, 1941; and Charles McBurney, Editor, 1948.

#### COROLLA

E. H. Hawkins, Editor, 1918; Howard E. Pill, Editor, 1920; Jack Hines, Business Manager, 1942; Willis Darby, Editor, 1944-45; James Moore, Editor, 1947; James L. Beech, Editor, 1948; Robert Goodsell, Business Manager, 1955; and Frank N. Savage, Jr., Editor, 1956.

#### RAMMER JAMMER

Harry Pritchett, Business Manager, 1929; William M. Cochran, Business Manager, 1932; Frank Allen, Business Manager, 1932; Clarence P. Person, Jr., Business Manager, 1935; Rexford L. Wheeler, Business Manager, 1938; George McBurney, Editor, 1939; Charles McBurney, Editor, 1943; James Cobb, Business Manager, 1943; and Roland Geddie, Business Manager, 1954.

Theta chapter is proud of the fine scholastic average which it has held throughout the years. While not many of its members have been "straight A" students, the chapter has kept an average far above that of the all-men's average for the campus.

Men who have made Phi Beta Kappa throughout the years are: William A. Rose, Jr., 1923; Edward H. Pritchett, 1926; William M. Cochran, 1932; Turner Cameron, Jr., 1936; Robert B. Stewart, 1938; Willis Bidgood, 1944; and Charles H. Smith, 1951.

Theta Chapter has always enjoyed having men who have been outstanding in campus politics. These were elected to campus offices after hard campaigns, and many of the brothers helped with these campaigns. Among these men are:

J. L. Cawthon, Jr., President, Senior Class, 1918; Andrew J. Thomas, President, Senior Law Class, 1920; Harry Pritchett, President, School of A and S, 1929; William C. Hines, Who's Who, 1937-38; Willis Darby Who's Who, 1945; James L. Beech, Who's Who, Editor Corolla, 1947; Art Lukens, Sec. Treas., S. G. A., 1948; Ed O'Connell, Interfraternity Council Pres., 1950; McLin Humpidge, Pro-tem Pres., Student Legislature, 1951; Carey Hollingsworth, Who's Who, 1952; Max McLaughlin, Who's Who, 1952; Jack Nolan, President, Law School, 1952; Jack Humpidge, Who's Who, 1952; Roger Deming, Division Commander, Army R.O.T.C., 1953; Miller Widemire, Division Commander, Air R.O.T.C., 1954; Miller Widemire, V. President, S.G.A., Who's Who, 1954; Laurence T. Bliss, Division Commander, Army R.O.T.C., 1954; Douglas Lanford, Jr., President, Law School, 1954; John F. Moore, V. President, S.G.A., 1955; Moore and Lanford were also members of Who's Who.

# An Editorial -- And Greetings To All Brothers In Theta

## OUR FIRST CENTURY - - - AND OUR NEW CHALLENGE

The placid days of 1855, when Southern culture was at its zenith, and the warm, still May 11th at Tuscaloosa City Hall, where four young men, John Mason Martin, Theodore Pearce, John J. Harris and Walter C. Roper had just become Theta Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta, are truly notable.

It is difficult to believe that 100 years ago on a typical Tuscaloosa spring day, four young men walked out of the court house Phi Gams, the originators of Theta Chapter, which now magnificently represents the fruition of the four original member's decision.

Today, 1955, Theta Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta embarks upon a new epoch, the second century of fraternity life on the University campus. The next 100 years is a great challenge to the present members and those to come.

Our growth in the future depends upon the way we meet the challenge of the future world represented in a state of continuous-flux- the challenge is not only to today's youth to order the affairs of the world - it is a challenge to every living Phi Gam to preserve that which Mason, Pearce, Harris and Roper consummated 10 decades ago.

From Theta's early history there have been hostile elements which wished to affect its dissolution and all other societies like it. In its very earliest period of growth, Theta was forced into a 'sub rosa' existence by faculty members who, through a lack of understanding of the purposes and character of 'secret societies,' sought the discontinuance of their active life on the campus.

The combination of the burning of the University by Union troops in 1865 and the continued disapproval of 'secret societies' expressed by the faculty kept the chapter from reorganizing until June 3, 1901, when it was revived permanently.

The first half century was difficult; however Theta emerged as an active social group. This marks a definite period in the evolution of this chapter and of the American fraternity system in totum; for the late 19th and early 20th Centuries witnessed a great stir of activity in fraternities extant at that time and also evidenced the birth of 36 new social fraternities.

The "Renaissance" movement of fraternalism at the turn of the century has since been perpetuated by the fraternity man's acceptance of the ideals of association with men of similar aspirations and interests.

The bond of fraternity loyalty and friendship dedicated to the advancement of the entire society even beyond the bounds of a single lifetime, carries its affect into future generations, as is evidenced by John Mason Martin and his brothers. These tenets have gained almost universal respect and admiration for the concept of fraternities as a force among our young people.

However there are some few false vanguards of ideas which even though clothed in the vestal purity of democracy lose sight of the very fundamentals of this philosophy.

The intellectual leaders, who have practically succeeded in dissolving all fraternity and sorority groups in New York, appear simply as persons unacquainted with the

tenor of these societies or persons who unwittingly deny the existence of basic traits of our democracy and nature.

Our critics say that we sacrifice democratic ideals by membership in a fraternity because it is by nature selective. The fallacy in this thesis is apparent, as fraternities, particularly social fraternities, are indigenous only to the U. S. and Canada. Most fraternities are governed by strict democratic principles and new members are selected on the basis of their adherence to the common beliefs and by the use of a democratic vote.

Some might accuse fraternities of splitting the society into small factions. This is in direct denial of the basic human trait of all times, for men have always gravitated towards others who share their goal and tastes. The clique is a permanent part of the human scheme.

The shape that our future will take rests directly on the ability of the present men of Theta and Phi Gamma Delta and those to come. Our destinies in the new century will be moulded by the willingness and ability to support and propagate the ideals of the Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta. We are well qualified for the challenge of the next 100 years, as we are fortified by the vast heritage of ideas and are part of great traditions bequeathed us from the struggle of the men of the first century of Theta's growth.

## A CENTENNIAL MESSAGE FROM STATE CHAIRMAN

A century of friendship is the theme of our Centennial.

The chain of brotherhood of Theta Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta has endured for one-hundred years at the University of Alabama despite the War Between the States, Reconstruction, the Spanish-American War, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, Korea, and the Cold War.

Institutions which survive for one-hundred years have a secret for their success.

The secret of Theta Chapter's success is no secret at all. It is embodied in the open motto of Phi Gamma Delta which is, "Friendship, the Sweetest Influence."

It is the kind of friendship which does not end with the baccalaureate address. It endures beyond college days and is renewed year after year when the alumni gather together class by class at the annual Pig Dinners.

It is the kind of friendship that made the State Centennial Committee's task of assisting the Active Chapter with the celebration a genuine pleasure and privilege. Credit for success of this occasion belongs to the individual members of Theta Chapter, members of other chapters adopted by Theta, and the fine ladies who are their wives, mothers, sisters and relatives. The response was prompt and enthusiastic regardless of the job assigned.

Alumni and active members who are fortunate enough to attend the Centennial celebration should give devout thanks for the rare privilege of witnessing this very important event. Those who gather together to renew old friendships will have passed to the stars before the second Centennial. It is indeed the opportunity of a lifetime.

We have looked back upon a glorious

history, the renown deeds of distinguished members, and the quiet, happy lives of most of us with our cherished fraternity friendships.

We have endured. We have a proud tradition behind us. Son has followed father on the chapter membership roll.

Now, we can look to the bright future. In an uncertain world where there are those who would destroy man's freedom, his finer instincts of brotherhood, and even his soul, friendship will be the shining light to guide Theta Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta over the second, successful hundred years.

Fraternally,  
Homer Bryant  
State Centennial Chairman

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

In a few days we will be in the midst of the biggest celebration in the history of Theta Chapter. This event will be the result of many months of planning and hard work on the part of the alumni and the chapter. To us undergraduates, this occasion will be especially memorable, not only because of the privilege of being in the chapter at this time, but also for the opportunity of seeing the redecoration of the chapter house.

A hearty "thank you" to the alumni and friends of the Fijis who picked up the check for the much needed repairs and replacement of furniture. It was indeed refreshing to see the enthusiasm shown by the alumni Centennial Committee in working on the redecoration and making plans for the celebration.

Last year, in realization of the need for new furniture and general interior repairs, the active chapter set up a fund which the members pay into each year to be used for future interior repairs. Stimulated by the zeal shown by the alumni last fall in redecoration plans, we began taking stock of work we could do ourselves. The freshmen painted and tiled the upstairs hall, the basement was painted and we plan to have a side walk laid by next week.

House spirit and unity is at an all-time high as we look ahead to the anniversary celebration. We urge you to be with us on April 22-23 to wind up the first hundred years of accomplishment at Theta.

Fraternally,  
Robert Goodsell  
President.

## THANKS FROM THE CHAPTER

The White Star of Phi Gamma Delta is being polished to a new luster. The polishing material has been the enthusiasm and hearty fraternal brotherhood generated by you, our brothers not now on campus. Your spark has caught among the undergraduates and our contribution will be measured by your enthusiasm at the Centennial Celebration.

To these events the Brothers in the Chapter are looking forward with renewed faith and love of our fraternity. It will be for us a great honor and privilege to be among you at the Centennial Pig Dinner, dance, and reception in honor of our one hundred years at Alabama. Renewing memories of these one-hundred years is a personal joy to each of the undergraduates.

Thank you for your contribution in the many facets. See you the weekend of April 22nd.

Fraternally,  
Miller A. Widemire  
Centennial Chairman

# Phi Gams Share In National Fame Of Alabama's Noted Crimson Tide

For the first nine years of football history on this campus, Theta chapter was not extant, therefore since this is primarily an account of the prominence of Theta men in Alabama football, this history should begin with the year of our final reorganization-1901.

The genesis of football at the University came in 1892. The first team was coached by E. B. Beaumont and captained by W. G. Little; this team completed a moderately successful season with two wins and two losses.

The first association of Theta with football was in 1901 through A. M. Donahoo. Donahoo distinguished himself in the first game of the season by scoring twice against the University of Mississippi. His second score was described in ALABAMA'S CRIMSON TIDE, "Donahoo received the kickoff and aided by good blocking made a sensational run of 90 yards for a touchdown."



Donahoo was one of the most versatile exponents of Theta football, as he played right tackle as well as one of the backfield positions. He was mentioned prominently again in the game against Auburn as a defensive standout, "the fine tackling of Donahoo featured Alabama's play."

The following year Theta was represented by J. C. B. Gwin, playing one of the most

ignominious positions on the team, center. Gwin undoubtedly featured prominently that season, as he was the only center the University had.

From 1903 to 1905, Phi Gam's controlled one-third of the positions on the line, with Gwin returning to play center and R. G. Redden holding a place at one of the guards.

1905 to 1921 is the first lean period in Theta's representation; however in 1921 we had another Phi Gam on the team in the person of W. C. Baty, who next year was to distinguish himself as a great right half.

1922 marks the greatest single year in the period of the evolution of "big time football" per se at the University, and Theta chapter had a large part in this dynamic year in the development of Alabama football. We had two great halfbacks on this team, W. C. Baty and Paul Graham McClintock, Sr.

This season was described by Charles Bernier, athletic director at that time who had the greatest part in shaping the destiny of University football, saying, "The season of 1922 was the real beginning of national recognition for the University of Alabama. It was the first time an Alabama team had played and defeated a big eastern University."

Baty was the first to gain recognition in this season as he scored the first and only touchdown scored against Texas in that season. It was our fifth game and we lost by a close score, 19 to 10.

The next game, our sixth, against the University of Pennsylvania was the game which was to shock the nation and start Alabama on its career as a big football power and put them in the Rose Bowl three years later.

The decision to play this game was made by Mr. Bernier and Dr. Denny in the presidents office. The decision came after Dr. Denny hesitated and finally consented to send our team to Philadelphia.

The outcome was a 9-7 victory for the Tide. Bernier said of this victory, "... it electrified the entire country ... it was so unusual for a southern team to play and actually defeat a great eastern power."

McClintock and Baty were offensive standouts in the game in which Baty, the smallest man on the field, was slugged by Thurman, the big All-American tackle of Penn. This attempt to slow down Alabama's

offensive drive cost Penn, as Thurman was excluded from the game and Penn. was penalized.

Baty played his last season with McClintock in 1923. However, McClintock was back again in 1924, playing left end that season. Alabama won its first conference championship in '24 and McClintock was elected captain of the team for 1925.

McClintock did not return until the season of 1927, missing the undefeated seasons of '25 and '26 in which we defeated Washington and tied Stanford in our first two Rose Bowl games.



Frank Thomas became coach of The Crimson Tide in 1931 and two Phi Gams played under him from '31 to '34, D. M. Cochran, back, and Mose Swain, end. This was the beginning of Coach Thomas' highly successful teams; for during this period Alabama won 24 and lost only 4 games.

The second lean period of Theta representation in Alabama football came from '34 to '49. In 1950 we placed two men on the University squad, Tom Selman and Van Marcus, both at tackle spots.

Red Drew coached these last exponents of Theta on Alabama teams. Both of these men played outstanding games on defense and offense and Marcus played in the Orange Bowl Jan. 1, 1953, when we defeated Syracuse handily. Marcus was the last Phi Gam to play on a University team and the only one ever to play an Orange Bowl game.

## Theta Trackmen Set Intramurals Record

Fiji cinder-men, in winning the annual fall campus track and field championship, compiled unofficially more points than have ever been scored in intramural competition at University records since 1940.

Five first places gave the championship to the Phi Gams handily as they finished well ahead of the second place team and close to forty points ahead of the third place team.

Fiji men qualified in all events they entered and captured five first places on the final day of the meet.

## Softball Team Has Good 1955 Start

Theta's softball team has made excellent progress in the intramural softball league. Due to the pitching of Robert Cochran and strong team batting, we have won two of the three games played thus far.

The first two games against the Alpha Sigma Phis and the Phi Kappa Sigmas were victories for the Phi Gam squad. These two games saw the Theta team building up a sizable lead and holding it to defeat our first two opponents.

The last game against the Phi Delta Thetas was a defeat in a closely contested game going an extra inning.

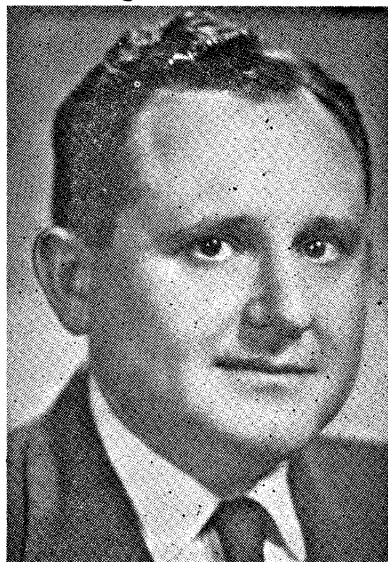
## Tennis, Bowling Other Sports Gain Interest

In intramural competition this year, Phi Gam has figured prominently, placing first in Pan Hellenic tennis doubles and first in the fall campus track and field event.

In other events we have also done creditably, as we placed second in bowling, second in horse shoes and made good showings in the ping pong tournament and intramural football.

Our athletic endeavors this spring are directed toward softball and golf. Interest in the chapter always runs high in the intramural sports, and wide participation by our membership is usually taken in all activities.

# Meet The Alumni Who Have Directed Planning For Theta's Centennial



**WILLIAM HOMER BRYANT**

William Homer Bryant, Jr., was born on February 4, 1915, in Anniston, Alabama, where he also completed his elementary and high school education. In 1935 he entered the University of Alabama in the School of Commerce and Business Administration and during the same year, Mr. Bryant was initiated into this chapter. As an outstanding member, Mr. Bryant was recognized for his ability; the chapter elected him as chapter treasurer for the consecutive years of 1938 and 1939, the year of his graduation. While at Alabama, Mr. Bryant became a member of Alabama Quadrangle and served on the CRIMSON-WHITE staff. He was drafted into the U. S. Army Air Force in 1942 and served until 1946 when he was discharged with the rank of captain. Mr. Bryant has remarked that his duties in the service could be stated as, "chair-bourne." At present Mr. Bryant is connected with the investment firm of Odess, Martin and Herzberg, Inc. in Tuscaloosa. As chairman of the State Centennial Committee, his interest and enthusiasm has been of invaluable aid to the fra-

ternity, especially during this centennial year.

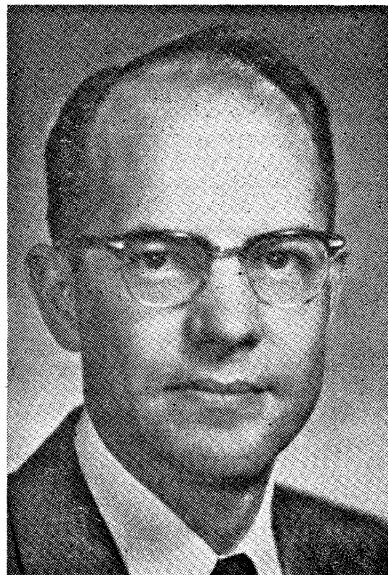
Harlan C. Meredith was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on September 1, 1920. He is a local product in the truest sense of the word. He received his education in the public schools of Tuscaloosa, graduating from the high school in 1937. He then enrolled at the University of Alabama as a major in Insurance and Real Estate in the School of Commerce. Brother Meredith was actively associated with Phi Gamma Delta during his four undergraduate years, and served as historian in 1939-40. His activities were not confined to the fraternity alone, however, as he served as a member of the business staff of the "Crimson-White," on "A" Book business staff, and Pershing Rifles. He was graduated from the university in 1941 and went to Hartford, Connecticut, for insurance study. Brother Meredith entered the U. S. Navy as an Ensign in January 1942. He served over a period of five years, most of his duty aboard aircraft carriers. He is at present a Lieutenant Commander in the Naval Reserve and served as Commanding Officer of the Organized Naval Reserve Unit in Tuscaloosa for three years following World War II. Brother Meredith was Purple Legionnaire for Theta Chapter for two and a half years from the fall of 1952 to the spring of 1955. He is Vice President of the YMCA of Tuscaloosa County; Member, Board of Directors, Southern Area Council, National Council of Y.M.C.A.'s; Member, Board of Deacons, First Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa; Past President, Tuscaloosa Exchange Club; past Vice-president, Junior Chamber of Commerce. He is now active as a partner in the firm of Owen Meredith & Sons, Insurance and Real Estate. He is married to the former Miss. Mary Anne Norton and has two daughters. He is now serving as treasurer for the State Centennial Committee.

Fred R. Maxwell, Jr. is a graduate of Theta chapter in the class of 1911. He entered the University in 1906, received a B. S. in '11, an M. E. in '12, and E. E. in '23. While an undergraduate, Brother Maxwell had the

rare distinction of holding each of the offices in the fraternity. He first served as historian, then corresponding secretary, recording secretary, treasurer, and president. He was editor of the THETA FIJI for 10 years. He was president when funds were raised to finance the present chapter house and appointed the committee that was responsible for the building of the first house. Brother Maxwell attended the first Phi Gamma Delta convention and is now serving as Consultant Engineer for the University.

William Alfred Rose is a graduate of Theta chapter; he received an A. B. degree in 1921 and an L.L.B. in 1923 both from the University of Alabama. He also received a J.D. at Yale in 1924. While an undergraduate at Theta he served as corresponding secretary of the fraternity and our representative on the Men's Intrafraternity Council. On the State Centennial committee, Brother Rose is serving as historian and has just completed a history of Theta Chapter which will appear in the fraternity's national magazine. He is engaged in the practice of law in Birmingham and is a member of the law firm of White, Bradley, Arant, All & Rose. He is a member of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, past president of the Birmingham Little Theatre, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Delta Phi and a contributor of numerous articles to legal publications.

Hayse Tucker is the only member of the Centennial executive committee who is not a graduate of Theta chapter. Brother Tucker is a graduate of Colorado College in the class of 1918. While a student at Colorado he was president of the chapter. Another distinction he gained while an undergraduate was president of the student body of Colorado College. Brother Tucker is a member of two honorary fraternities, ODK from the University of Alabama, and TKA, from Colorado College. He is chairman of the arrangements committee on the State Centennial Committee. His present occupation is president and owner of Tucker Motor Company in Tuscaloosa. He has been president of the Tuscaloosa Hotel Corporation; a former State Senator and director of the Department of Finance of the State of Alabama.



**HARLAN C. MEREDITH**



**FRED MAXWELL**



**ALFRED ROSE**



**HAYSE TUCKER**

## Special Acknowledgments For Assistance Given In Centennial Celebration

The graduates and undergraduates of Theta chapter wish to give special acknowledgement to the following persons who's ardent zeal for Phi Gamma Delta has made this Centennial a success. Their genuine enthusiasm and untiring efforts have been the prime factor in the successful management of this celebration.

The members of the State Executive Committee have been the leaders of this program organizing and controlling the affairs of the celebration. They are to be commended for the responsibility that they have so well accepted. The State Committee is headed by Chairman Homer Bryant, '39, with John Bradley, '12, as state honorary chairman. The committee leaders include Harlan Meredith, '41, Treasurer; Alfred Rose, '21, Historian; Fred Maxwell, '10, Chairman of the House Repairs and Refinishing Committee; and Carey Hollingsworth, '51, Past Theta President.

Representatives of the State Committee have been busy contacting the alumni of their various districts and classes and raising funds for the celebration and house furnishings. The result of their work has been shown in the great response that Theta Chapter has received throughout the state. The members of this committee are as follows: Dr. John M. Gallalee, President emeritus of the University of Alabama; Robert G. Redden, '05; Frank L. Grove, '09; Charles Marsh '10; Fred R. Maxwell '10; Charles R. Wiggins, '13; Judge James E. Livingston, '17; Harry J. White, '17; Hayse Tucker, '18; Gordon D. Palmer, '19; Walter W. Kennedy, '20; Howard E. Pill, '20; Frank N. Savage, '20; Frank Hardy, '24; Oden Shropshire, '24; Charles E. Tweedy, '26; George E. Sledge, '27; Charles J. Kettler, '28; Dean James H. Newman, '29; William M. Cochrane, '31; Lee Bains, '34; Marlin Moore, '34; Edward W. Brownell, '35; Mims Rogers, '35; Alexander Foreman, '36; William C. Hines, '36; Winthrop M. Hallett, Jr., '37; Llewellyn P. Bricken, '38; Reuben Bell, '39; George E. Turner, '39; Wilfred Galbraith, '41; Charles C. Hall, Jr., '41; Marvin T. Ormond, '41; Felix Helms '43; Alexander S. Lacy, '43; William F. Flurry, '46; Charles W. Thomas, '49; James H. Ledbetter, '53; Miller Widemire, '54; Harry B. Ayers, '57.

Special thanks are to be given to Brother Hayse Tucker, '18, Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements. Brother Tucker has been a strong leader from the beginning, being one of the strong influences behind the Centennial program. Others besides those on the State Centennial Committee who have assisted Brother Tucker are:

From the active chapter: Bobby Goodsell, '56, Theta President; Henry Bright, '56; C. B. Thomason, '55; Blucher Cooper, '54; James Dewberry, '58; Larry Bliss, '54; Norman Savage, '56; Charles E. Bounds, '57;

Alumni: James Cobb, '43; Byron Morris, Jr., '49; Dr. William D. Anderson, '26; Harry Hawkins, '40; Mitchell F. Hall, Jr., '46; John Ben Bomar, '36.

A certain grace and charm evidence the effect of the feminine touch in the arrangement and we are sincerely grateful to Mrs. Robert Cochrane, Mrs. Lucille Penn, Theta Housemother, and Mrs. William D. Anderson.

Our thanks go to Brother Helms, '43,

who donated all of the stationery used during the Centennial.

Col. Harry M. Ayers, father of Harry B. Ayers, '57, contributed \$100 to the Centennial fund. We are sincerely grateful to Mr. Ayres for his interest and friendly attitude toward our chapter.

Dewberry Engraving Company engraved the Centennial invitations at cost. Our thanks go to Mr. Dewberry, father of James Dewberry, '58.

We would like to acknowledge Mr. Orville Lawson and the Vulcan Printing and Lithographic Co. for their work in lithographing the Centennial stationery.

Mr. Mason Nottingham, Jr., owner of Nottingham Inc., drew the design for the stationery and handled the mailing for the Centennial. Our sincere thanks go to Mr. Nottingham.

The help and interest that we of Theta Chapter have received for our Centennial has been vast, and we wish to thank each and all who have been so considerate and thoughtful, for you are the ones who have made our Centennial a success.

### SOCIAL LIFE AT THETA SINCE 1930

(Continued from Page 9)

Chapter that year, a lack of interest in social matters was to be noted on the part of the members. No house parties were held at all, a thing which may seem strange to the present membership.

Restricted finances caused a continuation of social activities on a small scale in 1932-33. This did not mean that such matters were entirely lacking in the chapter picture. A series of buffet suppers and private chapter dances were given. It was also in this period that the privilege of bringing girls into the house for dates was first extended to the members.

The school year of 1933-34 saw a resurgence of campus-wide social activity on the part of Theta. A large house dance was held which was acclaimed widely as the best of the year at Bama. The dance was preceded by a dinner in honor of the members and their dates. The usual series of buffet suppers and private chapter dances was held. A picnic was given in the spring which served the twofold purpose of rushing and pleasure.

A social event of long standing was initiated during the 1934-35 period. This "party" was Thetas' annual Christmas party for the underprivileged children of Tuscaloosa. This service to our community has been held continually ever since.

The 1935-36 year saw a discontinuance of a large chapter dance. The benefits of the dance were seen to be outweighed by the cost of such venture. Two dinner dances were held the first semester and a series of Saturday night parties the second. A "Dutch" supper, attended by a large crowd of university coeds, was also held during the second semester. The final social fling of the year was a house party held at Point Clear on Mobile Bay.

The record for 1936-37 is missing, but a large variety of activities is reported in 1938-39. The opening of school in the fall saw the return of large group of members to participate in the struggles of "rush week." The money which the chapter would have spent on a large formal dance was put aside to be used in many necessary repairs of the chapter. A dinner dance was held in March of that year which featured an appropriate Easter theme. In April the members took their dates on a picnic which was followed by a party at the house that eve-

ning. A very successful Father and Son banquet was held in the same month.

The character of social life at Theta Chapter remained in a similar vein until World War II forced a curtailment of all general activities. With the return of the veterans and increased membership after the war, the social maze assumed a wider and more complex appearance.

A reception was given in honor of brother John M. Gallalee, then President of the University of Alabama, and Thetas' Purple Legionnaire. Nine hundred persons attended the event and many observers labeled it the most successful function ever presented at the university. In the same year, many house dances were given which featured interesting themes. Two of special note in that year were a Gay Nineties party and a Hard Times party. The basement playrooms were completely reworked and refinished in that year which added greatly to the entertainment capabilities of the house. An addition to the basement, which was to be known as the "bamboo bar", was built in that year. A barbecue pit and fish pond were installed in the back yard and furnished a charming setting for many outdoor parties which were held that spring.

In the most recent years, two parties have crept into the social framework of Theta Chapter and become events of annual significance. These are the Roaring Twenties party and the Fiji Island party. The Twenties party is held each fall and is attended by groups from all over the campus in addition to the Fijis. The costumes are in Flapper style and a cup is presented each year to the girl whose costume is deemed the most authentic. The Fiji Island party features grass skirts and other primitive attire on the part of the brothers and sarongs or similar garb on the part of the dates. A feast is held, prior to the soiree, around the fish pond in the back yard. These two functions are among the largest and most eagerly attended at the university in recent years.

The art of dating, as practiced by the modern Fiji, is a more casual event than was experienced by his forbearers. A usual afternoon at the Fiji house will find several members and their dates enjoying a game of bridge or a "horse opera" on television. Oftentimes members will bring dates to the noon and evening meals, a practice which is a good one for freshmen in particular, as they are required to bring two dates into the house each week. On weekends, when parties are not scheduled, a goodly crowd can be found in the basement enjoying an impromptu get-together. In recent years many parties have been held in Birmingham and Mobile following football games. These parties are open to the collegiate crowd in general and are always crowded. This year Theta also gave a party in Montgomery following an Auburn-Alabama basketball game.

Rush parties have assumed an increasing importance in recent years. This is due to the large number of fraternities now on campus and the decrease in the number of enrolling freshmen each year. The whole system of rush parties has been expanded to meet the problem. Anywhere from four to six parties are held each year at the chapter house. These parties feature house dances, picnics, buffet suppers, and stag smokers. A number of parties have also been given in our strong areas around the state. Many of the out of town functions are stag, in order to enhance the contact between the members and the rushees.