

Delta of Kappa Alpha Theta

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Kappa Alpha Theta was founded in 1870 by Bettie McReynolds Locke [Hamilton] the first female to enroll in Indiana Asbury College, now DePauw University, in Greencastle, Indiana. Locke was the daughter of Dr. John Wesley Locke, a mathematics professor, and she was a formidable student. During her sophomore year, she received an invitation to wear a Phi Gamma Delta badge. The badge did not come with a dating arrangement as later tradition would have it, nor did it come with the benefits given to men who were initiated into the fraternity. Locke declined the badge because it did not come with full membership rights and responsibilities, and the Phi Gamma Deltas gave her a silver cake basket, inscribed with the Greek letters “Phi Gamma Delta.” Locke then formulated plans to start her own fraternity.¹

On January 27, 1870, Locke stood before a mirror and repeated the words of the Kappa Alpha Theta initiation vow she had written. She then initiated Alice Olive Allen [Brant], Bettie Tipton [Lindsey], and Hannah Fitch [Shaw]. Badges larger than the current Kappa Alpha Theta badges were designed by the founders and made by Fred Newman, a New York jeweler. Contrary to popular belief, the original badge was intended to be “something near enough to the Phi Gamma Delta badge to suit Betty Locke and yet slenderized to give it individually”²and not a kite as it almost immediately upon receipt from the jewelers came to be called.

Kappa Alpha Theta grew quickly with a chapter installed at Indiana University on May 18, 1870. The next three chapters at Cincinnati Wesleyan University, Millersburg College, and Moore’s Hill College, were short-lived. On February 27, 1874, a chapter was installed at Northwestern Christian College, today known as Butler University. A chapter followed at Wooster College. Due to the efforts of several University of Indiana Thetas, the Illinois Alpha Chapter was founded on June 8, 1875, at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington. In 1881 Theta’s chapters were renamed and Illinois Alpha became Delta as it was then the fourth oldest chapter in existence.

¹ Wilson, 1956.

² Wilson, 1956, p. 5.

Andrew Sloan Draper became the fourth President of the University of Illinois on November 15, 1894. Draper's predecessors had been opposed to fraternities but President Draper favored them and the University's Trustees had approved the establishment of fraternities in 1892.³ By 1894, the women's fraternity movement was burgeoning in the Midwest and there were chapters of national women's fraternities at Illinois institutions of higher learning including Lombard College, Knox College, Illinois Wesleyan University, and Northwestern University as well as the state universities in neighboring Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, some of which had chapters of women's fraternities since the 1870s.⁴ Soon after the school year began at Illinois in 1894, there was talk among the 80 female students of starting women's fraternities. They likely knew of the national organizations active on campuses in the Midwest and the Illinois local groups each were formed with the idea of obtaining a charter from a national organization.⁵

In the summer of 1895, four women: Marion Wright, the daughter of a judge; Bertha Pillsbury, the daughter of the University's Registrar; and sisters Isabel and Mary Noble, talked about starting a women's fraternity. Mary Noble, in a letter written in the 1940s recalled that Mrs. Fay, the wife of an Urbana banker and a Kappa Kappa Gamma alumna, urged the group to seek a Kappa charter. Noble stated that Fay was busy with a new baby and did not follow through on her suggestion.⁶ By the fall of 1895, both local groups, although neither seemed to have any sort of formal name, had petitioned national organizations for charters. One group would become the Delta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta and the other the Illinois Zeta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi.

By 1895 so few women were entering Illinois Wesleyan University that the Thetas became discouraged and thought it a good idea to transfer the charter to a promising campus.⁷

³ Ebert, 1967, p. 45.

⁴ Anson & Marchesani, 1991.

⁵ Ittner, 1938.

⁶ Reece, 1966.

⁷ Burton-Roth and Whiting-Westermann (1932) in detailing the history of the Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma at Illinois Wesleyan noted "The Thetas flourished at the Wesleyan for twenty years, but the charter was withdrawn in 1895, and was transferred at the members' own request to the University of Illinois, due to the fact that in that year no active Theta had returned to college" (p. 82). The Kappa Kappa Gamma chapter at Illinois Wesleyan

Correspondence between Mary Ross Potter, an alumna of the Delta chapter and a member of the Illinois Wesleyan faculty, and Lillie Heath, Secretary to President Draper culminated in a visit by Potter and Sheila Means, a member of the active chapter at Illinois Wesleyan. Potter and Mead met with two Theta alumnae, Katherine Merrill, an alumna of the Kappa Chapter at the University of Kansas and an English department faculty member, and Elizabeth Lowell Hammond an alumna of the Chi Chapter at Syracuse University, the wife of a professor, as well as the group of women who were seeking a charter. Merrill, Hammond, Draper and the University Registrar gave the local group a hearty endorsement. Potter and Heath were invited to meet the women at tea. "Procedure was simple in those early days. On the morning following the tea, Delta Thetas extended an invitation to the applying group to accept their charter - if the Convention about to meet in Syracuse approved the plan."⁸ Hammond's enthusiasm and Mean's hearty endorsement as the Illinois Wesleyan convention delegate convinced the convention body.

The charter was transferred from Illinois Wesleyan to the University of Illinois on October 24, 1895.⁹ The delay between the date the charter was transferred and the initiation of the University of Illinois members was to give visitors from other Theta chapters ample time to make the necessary travel arrangements.¹⁰ On November 9, 1895, the first Urbana initiation was held at the home of Marion Wright. In addition to the original four there were nine other charter members, Mary Greene, Ida Conn, Mabel Zilly, Marion Thompson, Georgia Bennett, Reba Wharton, Blanche Herrick, Louise Jones and Ruth Raymond. After the chapter was installed, a member wrote "We have been busy gaining experience in fraternity work, as this was the thing our friends from the other chapters thought we needed."¹¹

was founded in 1873. After the Delta Chapter's charter was transferred, Kappa was the only women's group on campus until a Sigma Kappa chapter was installed in 1906.

⁸ Wilson, 1956, p. 9.

⁹ The transfer needed the vote of the Theta convention that was meeting in Syracuse from October 1-3, 1895. The transferred charter is dated October 24, 1895 but the group was not initiated until Saturday November 9, 1895 (Reece, 1966). The Kappa Alpha Theta of May 1904 noted that the Illinois Wesleyan chapter was installed in 1875 and there were 127 initiates before the charter was transferred on November 9, 1895. The Illinois Zeta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi was installed on October 25, 1895.

¹⁰ According to Reece (1966), Thetas came from Bloomington and Chicago and the chapters at Northwestern and DePauw.

¹¹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, February 1896, vol. 10(2), pp. 35-36.

Nine members returned in the fall of 1896 and the chapter was looking forward to extending invitations to join, "I can assure you that we are most zealously watching over the ones we have chosen to be future Thetas."¹² The chapter hosted a rushing spread on November 30, 1896 at Jones' home. There were four guests and they joined the chapter members at a table decorated with black and gold. According to the contract with the only other women's fraternity chapter, Pi Beta Phi, neither group could pledge new members until December 1, "so we spent a merry evening and after the clock had struck 12, in less time than it takes to write it, we had the colors on four pledglings to Kappa Alpha Theta, the four most desirable girls in school."¹³ Mrs. Draper, the President's wife and one of the chapter's patronesses, gave the chapter "a most charming party in the early part of the term. We regarded it as a great honor as it was the first formal party ever given in the President's beautiful new home."¹⁴

During the fall of 1897 a contract with Pi Beta Phi was again in place. Delta extended five invitations sooner than expected "owing to the fact that Pi Beta Phi broke our mutual agreement, by announcing their determination to pledge new girls more than a month before the expiration of the time agreed upon."¹⁵

While there was competition between the two groups, it appears that there were also cordial relations, "A few of our girls were very pleasantly entertained at a reception given by the girls of Pi Beta Phi a few weeks ago."¹⁶ The chapter planned a large reception for 400 people on February 3, 1898 at the home of Mrs. John R. Trevett, one of the chapter's patronesses.¹⁷

Four members returned in the fall of 1898, but the chapter pledged several others. The University did not have dormitories and local families were encouraged to rent rooms to students. Five Thetas roomed at the Gleason home at 207 East Green Street in Champaign. The Thetas

¹² *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1896, vol. 11(1), p. 36.

¹³ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, February 1897, vol. 11(2), p. 107.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1898, vol. 12(2), p. 98.

¹⁶ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1898, vol. 12(3), p. 158.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

not rooming there were frequent visitors and the chapter realized how special it would be to have all members under one roof, and they set on a quest to find a house large enough for the chapter.

Jeanette Carpenter [Lincoln], a Theta from the Ohio Wesleyan Chapter, and the newly hired Director of Physical Training for women, was the chapter's first affiliate. Her first year's housing arrangements were unsatisfactory and she agreed to live with the Thetas and act as chaperon for the 1899-1900 year.¹⁸ The chapter rented all but three rooms in the Hecox house, "We feel so proud... for we have what may practically be called a chapter house.... and for the first time in our history, we Thetas live together. On September 19 we performed our first initiation in our new home."¹⁹ Thus would start the saga of what came to be known as the "Hecox Affair." Mrs. Hecox rented the chapter six rooms in the newlybuilt home on Green Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets. The women had use of the parlor, which the chapter was told, was to be furnished. Carpenter rented her own room in the same house. The parlor contained only a rug and sanitary cot, and despite the chapter's patience, the expected furniture never arrived. When temperatures dropped, the house was cold and the running water was never hot. One Saturday morning flames burst through the heat registers and the wood shavings left by the carpenters caught fire. Luckily the fire was put out before major damage occurred. Several weeks later, the chapter was in Carpenter's room, a place where they liked to congregate, singing and carrying on. Roy Hecox, the landlady's son, burst into the room and threatened to have Josephine Schillinger, a Theta not living in the house, arrested if she did not leave at once. Roy Hecox left the house, it was said, to find a policeman. Carpenter consulted a male friend who lived next door. All the women were quite upset by the incident, especially Carpenter whose door did

not lock. The next day Dean David Kinley,²⁰ a good friend of the Thetas, was consulted. Although the rental contract was for a year, the Thetas were not yet incorporated and therefore

¹⁸ Reece, 1966.

¹⁹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1899, vol. 14(1). This was the rented Hecox house.

²⁰ In the 1920s, Kinley's daughter Janet was a chapter initiate.

the contract would not likely hold, but the Hecoxs might be able to keep the trunks and items in the house. Kinley “said that of course they must leave, to be as quiet as possible, pack their belongings as best they could at once, and he would see about a place for them to go.”²¹ On Kinley’s advice two members rented another home. The ones who were packing their belongings found the attic locked and their trunks unavailable, so they packed their belongings in whatever was handy - wastebaskets, laundry bags, tablecloths and robes then

No sooner had they finished than a dray, Dean Kinley and their best friends among the boys arrived -- followed before long by a crowd of curious spectators. And how did things slide down the front steps! After almost everything was loaded, someone found a key to unlock the attic door, and then the trunks came with the same speed. Roy Hecox grabbed the first one, but Dean Kinley just backed him into a corner and talked to him, while the boys hustled the rest of the trunks out and Mrs. Hecox blustered, telling what she would do, but no one heeded her.²²

The chapter quickly moved into a house that became known as the “Little House on Illinois Street” and in moving there became the first women’s fraternity on campus to have its own chapter house. The move came so quickly that “it took all sorts of ingenuity to make the house habitable.” The rental agreement was eight furnished rooms. However, the chapter ...rented from the owner’s agent, and the very day that we rented the house, the owner had sold the entire furniture. We realized that there was a choice kernel in the matter for some lawyer, but we were not anxious to get into suits of that sort. Accordingly, we, with the assistance of Dean Kinley the best dean possible, and of Professor Picket, who is truly a friend in need, undertook to rent the house empty and furnish it ourselves. It was such fun and such work! The girls from town all contributed dressers and chairs and tables, to say nothing of bedding, velvet rugs and fine lace curtains.²³

²¹ Reece, 1966, p. 10.

²² Reece, 1966, p. 11.

²³ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Vol. 14 as quoted in Reece (1966), p. 11A.

A man was hired to look after the furnace. The Thetas took turns cleaning the parlor, but they hired a woman to do the heavy cleaning.²⁴ However, the house was quite small for the chapter's membership, both real and anticipated.

The home of Dr. Pearman at the northwest corner of Green and Fourth Streets was available for the 1900-01 year and the chapter moved there for the year. One evening, the chapter had a visit from Grace Haven, a Northwestern Theta and it was noted that "It is so good to meet the girls from the other chapters and talk over our plans and good times."²⁵

In 1900, Schillinger, who was a key player in the "Hecox Affair," was instrumental in founding Phi Delta Psi, a junior organization composed of leaders.²⁶ As the women's fraternity system grew, Panhellenic cooperation became a necessity. Schillinger was also a leading force in organizing a Panhellenic Council.

In the fall of 1901, the chapter rented a house at 402 East John Street, Champaign, at the corner of John and Fourth Streets. It was rented unfurnished and again the members and patronesses came to the chapter's rescue and provided the objects to make the house a home for the chapter. The first floor consisted of

...an entrance hall from which opened a small room, called the "den" in front and a moderate sized living room. At the back were the dining room and kitchen. Four bedrooms of fair size and the bathroom were on the second and open stairs led to the third floor where there were two rooms, one large enough for three girls, the other somewhat smaller. Another room, unfinished, at first part of the trunk room, was utilized as a bedroom the third year with makeshift furnishings and a little amateur painting. That made provision for about 15 girls. Since meals were not served the first two years, until 1903, the dining room was used as an additional bedroom and for at least one year the kitchen was too.²⁷

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1901, vol. 15(2), p. 85.

²⁶ By 1918 this organization became the Mortar Board chapter (Wilson, 1956).

²⁷ Reece, 1966, p.18.

Initiation took place December 14, 1901, and 34 Thetas attended the initiation banquet. The Thetas enjoyed singing "...on Sunday evenings after supper we have such a good time singing our fraternity songs and oh how glad we will be when the new song books come."²⁸

Legacies, the sisters and daughters of members, were given special dispensation to pledge and move into their respective legacy organization prior to formal rush. In the 1902-03 academic year there was a contract between the five women's fraternities²⁹

Rushing season is in full force. So well please we were with the contract of last year, that the inter-fraternity council again decided upon a contract, setting pledge day four weeks from the day school opened.... Our rushing this year has taken the form of fudge parties and spreads at the house, informal dances, a nutting party, receptions and teas by patronesses and alumnae and drives around the country and town.³⁰

Most of January 1903 was spent studying for the semester exams. After the February 21, 1903 initiation of three women, the chapter enjoyed an "engagement spread" given by Pheobe Mulliken. It was the chapter's custom that those who became engaged had to provide refreshments for the chapter.³¹

Meals were served in the house for the first time during the 1903-04 year, "Mrs. Wildman³² is our matron and she manages everything concerned with the kitchen and dining room relieving us entirely of housekeeping worry. It makes a different place of the Theta house."³³ The freshman pledges gave a children's party for the freshmen of the other four women's fraternities. All the pledges came dressed as children and played children's games.³⁴

²⁸ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1902, Vol. 16 (3), p. 185.

²⁹ Kappa Alpha Theta, Pi Beta Phi, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Alpha Chi Omega and Chi Omega were the five groups on campus at that time.

³⁰ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1902, vol. 17(1), pp. 66-67.

³¹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, May 1903, vol. 17(4).

³² Mrs. Wildman arrived in the fall of 1903. When she began her duties she was a widow with a three-year-old son. "She brought her kitchen and dining equipment and served meals - the first time the Thetas had ever been together three times a day" (Reece, 1966, p. 18).

³³ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1903, vol. 18(1), p. 64.

³⁴ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1904, vol. 19(2), p. 137.

Group living seemed to be a positive thing for the chapter and thoughts were turning to home ownership, “We have a building fund started which we are planning to have a house built for us and pay for it slowly. That is our dream- to have our own permanent home - and the prospects now are not unfavorable.”³⁵ Between semesters in the 1903-04 year, the Theta house had a

...grand “fixing up!” It happened last Saturday when we emerged from the stress of “finals” and awoke to a sense of the dinginess of things. The den in part looked forlorn and rusty. So we donned aprons and caps, rolled up our sleeves, armed ourselves with brooms and dust cloths and sallied forth. Down came every picture, pennant, and paper and things were cleaned until the burlaps on the walls fairly shone. Then we brought forth all our new pillows, curtains and odds and ends, for the Thetas had a Christmas tree after the holidays. Some of us hung the curtains and some of us tried our patience by hanging the pictures. The result of all our labors was the coziest, most inviting den we have ever had. The parlor and hall, too, received their share of attention, so that the whole house looks fresh and inviting of course.³⁶

In the spring of 1904 the Thetas and the Kappa Kappa Gammas, whose house was next door to the Thetas, played a game of baseball together. It was to have been a quiet game planned after several evenings of throwing baseballs to each other in the front yards of the houses. The Phi Gamma Deltas, who lived across the street from the Kappas and the Thetas, inadvertently heard about it and advertised it through a megaphone attracting large numbers of spectators to the old fairgrounds where the game was taking place. The game was called after two or three scoreless innings. Dean Thomas Arkle Clark, during this theme class the next morning, indicated “that nothing so unladylike had ever before occurred at the University. He hoped it was the last thing of the sort.”³⁷

³⁵ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1904, vol. 19(3), pp. 225.

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ Reece, 1966, p. 24.

Building a chapter house had been in the minds of Thetas for several years, “but with the feeling that it was something for the dim future.”³⁸ When Bess Burr and her father found a lot at the corner of Wright and Daniel Streets in Champaign, hope was about to become a reality. Burr had a vision about the chapter house and, in presenting to the chapter a plan to buy the lot, she described a square house with a rounded porch, painted yellow with white trim. The lot was purchased in the spring of for \$1,700, shortly after articles of incorporation were filed. Congressman William McKinley, uncle of a chapter member, provided a loan to the chapter, as did Mr. Zilly, the father of several Delta Thetas. There was a first mortgage of \$8,000 and a second mortgage of \$3,000.

When the chapter members went home at the end of the spring 1904 semester, they anticipated returning to a brand new home in the fall. The lease on the John Street house had lapsed and it was unavailable when the chapter learned that the new house would not be ready for fall occupancy. Burr again came to the rescue and found a small house at 411 East Healey, at the corner of Healey and Fifth Streets, which served as the chapter house for the 1904-05 year. Plans were made to serve meals, but because Wildman used her equipment, the chapter did not have the necessary cooking utensils. Again the patronesses and town girls scoured cupboards and attics and supplied the chapter with the needed items. Board was \$3.50 a week. Junior Sabra Stevens [Reece] served as commissary and although years later she was told she “sometimes almost starved the girls” there were funds left over that were given to the Building Committee.

Two women were initiated early in the fall and “the room was so crowded that some of the equipment was disarranged and the solemnity of the occasion a bit marred by the amusement at the consternation of the pledge who thought she had been responsible.”³⁹ When 11 women were pledged later in the fall, the chapter quickly realized that initiation would be extremely difficult. The initiation instead took place at the Trevett home.⁴⁰

³⁸ Reece, 1966, p. 28.

³⁹ Reece, 1966, p. 34.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

Ground was broken for the new Theta house in the spring of 1905. Wright Street became the destination of afternoon walks and evening strolls as progress on the house was noted.⁴¹ Panhellenic spirit was also evident, “Last Monday after our fraternity meeting we entertained the local chapters of Pi Beta Phi and Chi Omega at an informal musicale. Our house was filled almost to overflowing and we had a very enjoyable evening.”⁴² The next week Kappa Kappa Gamma and Alpha Chi Omega were invited.

When the chapter returned in the fall of 1905, the yellow house with a rounded porch and white pillars that Bess Burr had envisioned years before was a reality at 901 South Wright Street, in Champaign, directly across from the newly built Women’s Building. The Theta house was three floors and housed 14 members and a chaperon. The house had electricity and two bathrooms, each with an enclosed tub.⁴³ On the first floor the front door entrance on the east led to a hall that extended back to the dining room. The telephone closet was near the dining room door. There was a second entrance on the Daniel Street side that opened from a small porch and led to a hall besides the stairs, where there were hooks to hang coats. Reece further described the house:

When the house was being planned, leaded glass windows were in style, and the blueprints called for this kind in the high windows over the built-in seat on the north side of the living room, and in two windows of the library, the room on the south, opposite the living room. There were four or five windows in that first row, and the added expense of the leaded panes seemed to the Building Committee to make them expendable items. The lead was replaced by wooden frames for the very small panes. Leaded glass remained in the plans for the “library,” for a window each side of the fireplace.... The second floor was not well planned, for the open stairs led up to a very large central hall -- - too much waste space, for the five bedrooms opening from it were not large, and the

⁴¹ Reece, 1966, p. 36.

⁴² *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, May 1905, vol. 19(4).

⁴³ Reece, 1966, p. 38.

closets most inadequate. A room at the top of the back stairs was given to the negro cook and maid that first year. Later it was utilized as a dormitory with several double-deck beds, so that more girls could live in the house.... The third floor had, besides the second bathroom, two rooms designed for two girls each, and two very small ones for one.... The fact that the house had two bathrooms was the source of much pride and convenience.⁴⁴

On November 25, 1905, the chapter gave a musicale at the house in honor of patronesses and mothers of town girls. It was the first time some of them toured the new house.⁴⁵ The women's fraternity system continued to grow at Illinois. Within a few weeks of one another Alpha Xi Delta and Sigma Kappa were installed. A local group Zeta Nu was petitioning for Delta Gamma charter.⁴⁶

In November 1906, several chapter members traveled to St. Louis to help install the Alpha Iota Chapter at Washington University.⁴⁷ That fall a diphtheria scare hit the campus and two Thetas were exposed and quarantined.⁴⁸

Panhellenic rules were constantly evolving. The 1906-07 contract allowed only 21 days and had very definite rules limiting contact to "five parties and outside of these there must be no gathering at which more than five new girls are present. No rushing is permitted before eight in the morning or after eight at night except on weekends."⁴⁹

The 1908 football game against Northwestern University provided Delta Chapter the opportunity to entertain six members of Tau Chapter. The year before the Deltas took advantage of the special train rates for the football game and were guests of the Tau Chapter and took part

⁴⁴ Reece, 1966, pp. 39-41.

⁴⁵ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1906, vol. 20(2), p. 138.

⁴⁶ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, May 1906, vol. 20(4); According to Reece (1966, p. 47) Zeta Nu, a local sorority, was renting the Healey Street house when the group was granted a Delta Gamma charter. The Thetas, who were good friends with several of the Zeta Nus, knew how difficult it would be to install a chapter in the house and offered to trade houses with the group. In May, the Thetas returned to the Healey Street house and the Delta Gamma installation took place at the new Theta house.

⁴⁷ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1907, vol. 21(2).

⁴⁸ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, May 1907, vol. 21(4), p. 286.

⁴⁹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1907, vol. 22(1).

in the initiation of Tau's pledges.⁵⁰ Instead of the annual sophomore freshman color rush,⁵¹ a pushball contest was held and there were fewer students hurt.⁵²

Rush was reduced to three weeks during the fall of 1908. According to one account:

At the end of that time bids were delivered by messenger and the recipients must go the sorority house to accept or refuse, not an innovation for that had been the custom ever since rushing rules were established. It had always been an ordeal, but had gradually become worse as now at each sorority the walk leading to the house was lined with men, and a girl coming in had to run the gauntlet. It was worse coming out, cheers greeting her if she wore that pledge pin, groans if she did not, for the men at each house were its loyal supporters.⁵³

The paving of Daniel Street in the summer of 1908 made it easier to keep the Theta house clean, for the dust that the unpaved street caused in summer and the mud that it held in winter created an added burden to the housekeepers.

The nation's first Homecoming celebration took place at the University of Illinois on October 14 and 15, 1910.⁵⁴ Urbana-Champaign was decked in Illini colors for the event. The warm weather helped make enjoyable the Alumni-Varsity baseball game, the Pushball contest, the mass meeting on the bleachers, the class reunions and the 3-0 football victory over the University of Chicago.⁵⁵

During the week between semesters, the chapter planned a mother's house party. One had taken place the year before and it was a success. "As many girls' mothers as possible are coming to be our guests for four or five days, or for as long as they feel they can remain."⁵⁶ The chapter was proud that it ranked first scholastically among the women's fraternities

⁵⁰ Reece, 1966.

⁵¹ The inter-class collegiate contests during this time were also called rushes.

⁵² *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1909, vol. 23(2).

⁵³ Reece, 1966, p. 65.

⁵⁴ Ittner, 1938.

⁵⁵ Reece, 1966, p. 92.

⁵⁶ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1910, vol. 24(3), p. 255.

At the start of the 1911-12 year, an aunt of one of the members acted as a temporary chaperon and as one member remarked, it “seemed queer this year to really start things again without Mother Baird”⁵⁷ The chapter developed a new system for managing our daily rushing dinners, “Each girl takes charge of one dinner, arranging decorations, place cards, etc. and the plan proved quite successful.”⁵⁸ House rules for the year included an admonition to empty wastebaskets in the furnace, not on the cellar floor.⁵⁹

Rush, during the fall of 1912, lasted two weeks. A pledge was to have 25 hours of credit or she must have successfully passed 12 hours of work prior to initiation. Non-members were excluded entirely from rush activities.⁶⁰

On Election Day night of 1912 “The Wilson girls gave the Roosevelt girls a spread...while we were waiting for the returns.”⁶¹ As the election took place in the days before radio, the returns had to be received by telephone.⁶² Shortly after Election Day, the chapter had a “dress-up” party with “the most ludicrous costumes imaginable and great quantities of onion sandwiches and dill pickles.”⁶³

At the initiation banquet held on November 15, 1913, during the Homecoming festivities, Louise Shipman Wagner, of the class of 1908, who was serving as a Theta District President, gave a talk on anti-fraternity sentiment:

We can do no better, all of us, than to try to be such an influence for good that the general movement against fraternities will cease.... Bearing in mind that we as fraternity

⁵⁷ When the chapter returned in 1906, Mrs. Davis, the chaperon, decided not to return and the chapter had to find a chaperon with due haste. The Dean of Women recommended Bertha Salisch Baird, a 27 year-old widow who had married very young. After her husband, a minister and professor at Hanover College died, she entered the University as a freshman. The Thetas not only hired her to be a chaperon, they also extended a bid to her and she became a bona-fide Theta. “Her personal relations with every one of ‘her’ girls soon gave her the name ‘Mother Baird’” (Reece, 1966, p. 49). Baird earned a degree in Library Science and had a career in Mason City, Iowa. Until her death in 1958, she kept in touch with “her girls.” Among those initiated with Baird was Nellie Gleason, at whose home some of those early Thetas had lived.

⁵⁸ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1911, vol. 26(1), p. 49.

⁵⁹ Reece, 1966, p. 106.

⁶⁰ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1912, vol. 27(1), p. 61.

⁶¹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1913, vol. 27(2), p. 163.

⁶² Reece, 1966, p. 114.

⁶³ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1913, vol. 27(2), p. 163.

members are under a closer and probably less friendly scrutiny than ever before, each member of Kappa Alpha Theta should realize the debt of thanks due our founders for the lasting and far-sighted ideals set up by them. The nearer we are able to attain these ideals, the less objection and criticism can be directed against us, so once more let us pledge to our ideals and to the four wise women who formulated them for us.⁶⁴

In December 1913, the Thetas had a sale of handmade Christmas gifts and the proceeds were used to start the Delta Loan Fund.⁶⁵ The chapter was honored that Marion Leatherman, an alumna advisor and friend,⁶⁶ gave Delta a silver loving cup in honor of the chapter's scholarship rank.⁶⁷

The kitchen had a new gas stove in the fall of 1914, as well as an icebox with keys. The morning of November 19 was memorable. The house caught fire, but it was emptied quickly. The entire third floor, including the costumes and dress-up trunks that had provided hours of chapter fun at dress-up parties in the past years, was destroyed. Luckily, everything was fully insured. For several nights the members stayed with town Thetas, but they quickly found rooms at the Armstrong home, 709 South Fourth Street, and the kitchen in the basement of the Women's Building was turned over to the chapter.⁶⁸ According to one member, "In the beginning we really had only breakfast at the Women's Building because many of the fraternities and some sororities asked us to lunch and dinner every day."⁶⁹ By the beginning of the spring semester the chapter was back in its own house, although the steam boiler burst less than a day after everyone moved back in. The whole house had been redecorated after the fire and a screened sleeping porch was added over the side porch. On May 13, 1915, the Thetas performed in the Y.W.C.A. Stunt Show and won first place for the "Fire Dance of the Valkyrie."⁷⁰

⁶⁴ Reece, 1966, p. 123.

⁶⁵ Reece, 1966, p. 124.

⁶⁶ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1917, vol. 31(2). Marion Leatherman, a Theta from the Iota chapter at Cornell University, was a member of the library staff. She boarded at the chapter house and up on the day to day events of the chapter.

⁶⁷ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1916, vol. 31(1).

⁶⁸ Reece, 1966, p. 131. The chapter dubbed the basement kitchen the "Katskeller."

⁶⁹ Reece, 1966, p. 134.

⁷⁰ Reece, 1966, p. 146.

Rushing rules for the 1916 rushing season included prohibitions against: men in any rushing event; all night or breakfast dates after Sunday, September 17; riding in or driving machines or carriages after Sunday, September 17, except Saturday; communications between rushee and fraternity except by written invitation; and rushees living at the house of any one connected with the fraternity. Rushing was to cease on Friday, September 29, at 10:30 p.m. The chapter was to deliver all invitations to the Dean of Women's office at nine o'clock Saturday morning, September 30. All invitations were to be sent out by the Dean of Women's office via special delivery and a messenger was to call for the answers at 12 noon and take them to the Dean of Women, where they were to be called for by a member of the fraternity at 1 p.m.⁷¹

The Champaign-Urbana alumnae formed the alumnae club in October 1916, although there had been discussion of starting an alumnae chapter as early as 1911. According to the club's first president:

Some who were in the chapter at that time were enthusiastically interested in Theta as a national organization and were urging an alumnae chapter. Most of the Champaign-Urbana alumnae were Delta initiates who were more interested in that chapter's welfare than the in Theta's national aspect; so nothing was done about organizing. Now the group planned a formal meeting to discuss the question of the desirability of forming either a chapter or a club. Loyalty to Delta, realization of needs at the House, weighed heavily. The decision was to organize as a club, at least for a time, and to devote what time and money were available to the Delta Chapter House. Officers were elected and a committee appointed to determine a modest need at the house which could be met by the new organization.⁷²

⁷¹ 1916 rush rules card from Kappa Alpha Theta box, 41/72/270 , Box No. 1.

⁷² Reece, 1966, pp. 159-160.

Sabra Stevens Reece was elected the first president and Elizabeth Greene the secretary-treasurer. The club's first project including refurbishing the chaperon's room and planning a joint club-chapter Founders' Day celebration.⁷³

The chapter had two rules encouraging good work and good health. Freshmen were allowed only three dates per week and only one of those was allowed to be between Sunday and Friday. All members below 80% in any subject forfeited all dates.⁷⁴ Delta's most cherished chapter custom was the Junior Breakfast where engagements were announced. The Breakfast was more like a Senior Farewell given for the seniors by the juniors. It was a banquet served a little after noon - on a Sunday late in May. The alumnae of the prior four years were invited.⁷⁵ The chapter had a custom of the freshmen and senior classes each giving a gift to the house. Some years the classes joined efforts, as it happened in the spring of 1917 when Jacobean style furniture upholstered in rose and old blue tapestry was purchased for the chapter room.⁷⁶

In 1917, the topic most on the minds of the chapter was the war situation. Students were signing up for all branches of service - from army nurses to commissary lines. The chapter was given a flag by a group of men in the Air Force training school who were living at the Y.M.C.A. down the block from the Theta house. A brother of a Theta then in school was among the group⁷⁷ and when the men left for the war, they gave the chapter a flag which was flown from the second floor balustrade of the entrance porch. The freshmen had to put up the flag each morning and take it down when the bugle sounded at the Y.M.C.A. in the evening. Delta members contributed 3¢ per capita for the Women's League War Relief Committee's chocolate and tobacco fund for Illini alumni in France.⁷⁸ There was a contribution of 10¢ per capita for a Christmas box fund for Illinois men in France. Two Thetas took active leadership in the Red Cross rooms in the Women's Building. The Thetas were knitting constantly to help the war

⁷³ Reece, 1966, pp. 160.

⁷⁴ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1917, vol. 31(3).

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

⁷⁶ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, May 1917, vol. 31(4).

⁷⁷ According to accounts in Reece (1966, p. 165), Edna Goettler's brother Harold was overseas only a few weeks when he was killed.

⁷⁸ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1918, vol. 33(1), p. 12.

effort.⁷⁹ An interesting feature of the United War Campaign was the auctioning off of several cards, written by prisoners within the German lines acknowledging food, Bibles and comfort kits. Delta bought five of these cards for \$100 at an auction. The University of Illinois as a whole gave \$46,000, the largest subscription by any university.⁸⁰ Delta was supporting a French orphan and Marguerite Bennett,⁸¹ '16 was serving as a dietician for a hospital unit in France. Stella "Ted" Percival '17 was abroad, too, working in a canteen in England and Germany.⁸² Paul Montariol, a French aviator inspecting the school of Aeronautics, was a dinner guest at the chapter house.⁸³

The winter of 1917 and 1918 was especially severe "but as yet, the University has not been forced to close on account of lack of coal."⁸⁴ The freshman gift was a carving set and a buzzer system. The Founders' Day celebration included a chapter and alumnae knitting party at the house on a Saturday afternoon. In February, two weeks were given over to the Thrift and War Savings Stamp Campaign; 20 teams composed of six students solicited every member of the university and sold \$24,000 of stamps for the government. Helene Doty was captain and six other Thetas aided her.⁸⁵ Gladys Brown recalled the spring of 1918 as "a fairly normal period. After dinner dancing with each other with Dorothy Gibson at the piano, Sunday evening teas at the house, weekend house and campus dancing, serenades, midnight cramming for exams and Lorna Doone cookies for dinner dessert."⁸⁶

⁷⁹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1918, vol. 32(2), p. 162.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

⁸¹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1919, vol. 34(1), p. 30. Marguerite Bennett was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She was in charge of Dietician Unit I and was in France from November 12, 1918 until June 10, 1919. "I was probably the only girl in the A.E.F. who had a father in active service there also, and I am sure the only one who had the privilege of eating Christmas dinner with her father in France."

⁸² According to Reece (1966, p. 203), Percival's Y.W.C.A. unit sailed after the Armistice, as its services were still needed. "She was ostensibly a canteen worker, but it did not take long for her musical ability and leadership qualities to be discovered, and with a small group of talented entertainers which she assembled, was in constant demand to entertain on the battleships as well as at the headquarters for those on shore leave."

⁸³ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1918, vol. 32(2), p. 162.

⁸⁴ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1918, vol. 32(3), p. 261.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

⁸⁶ Reece, 1966, p. 180.

Helene Doty [Whipple] served not only as the chapter president for the 1917-18 year but was also the commissary. She established the first budget system used for managing the Theta house. Doty uncovered the reason why the chapter was steadily losing money and she built a budget system to overcome that. It included not refunding money for weekend meals when members were absent from the chapter house. Another member, Harriet Fera French, years later told of the experience:

...we complained of the food all year. We really didn't get enough to eat, we thought -- had to spend half our allowances on tea and English muffins at the Tea Shop. Helene kept saying it was all we could afford, and we must save food because of the war. But at the end of the year she announced proudly that he had saved \$800. We were furious but promptly decided to spend it for a new piano.⁸⁷

The University of Illinois did not open until October 1, 1918, because extra time was needed to prepare for Students' Army Training Corps (S.A.T.C.) students. Delta entertained with the usual rushing house party on September 28 and 29 but regular rushing was postponed so that all female students might be ready in an emergency to assist the university authorities in their problem of feeding the large numbers of men that were expected. The S.A.T.C. enrollment was not large enough to require these services except for a few household science students so plans were made for the usual two weeks of rush. The influenza epidemic came along just then and put a ban on all large social gatherings. Ruby E. C. Mason, the new Dean of Women, advised the groups to shorten rush to four days, thus allowing pledging to take place on the date it would have originally been held. "This is the first time Illinois girls have ever gone through a period of concentrated rushing with no rules except that rushees could not enter our houses. We hope that we may never have to do it again." Despite the hectic pace, the chapter pledged 14 women.⁸⁸ Marie Cronin, in 1965, wrote of the situation that happened when she was rush chairman:

⁸⁷ Reece, 1966, p. 181.

⁸⁸ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1918, vol. 33(1), p. 133.

Dean Mason attempted to scrap all the rules and did not approve of freshmen moving in the house after two weeks. Of course I had spent the summer writing and setting up rush dates. Well, we, the sorority chairmen, outsmarted her. Every evening she would call Panhel Delegates from all the sororities together and tell us we could not repeat the rush of that day; so we met afterwards and made new rules and plans. She was not going to let us send out bids through her office, so we agreed to pledge at the formal dinner the night before. It had been customary for many years to send out bids on Saturday morning. Now we just moved the girls in as they pledged.⁸⁹

In the fourth Liberty Loan contest Delta won a \$50 bond, offered as a prize for the largest number of subscriptions from one house. Delta won with a total of 95 bonds worth \$4,750.

Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, remained vivid in the minds of all who were on campus at the time. A false report of the Armistice came on November 7 but then hopes were somewhat dashed until the real news came through of the signing of the agreement in Marshal Foch's railway car. Mabel Hollenbeck, Margaret Petritz, Edith Lill and Harriet Burnap were photographed on the Theta Porch holding an issue of the *Champaign Daily News* with a headline "HUNS QUIT."

Music appears to have been an important part of chapter life. The piano purchased with the commissary surplus was a new Mason and Hainlin grand piano and the freshman gave the chapter a new Victrola. On Thursday, February 6, 1919, the freshmen performed for the chapter and alumnae their minstrel show entitled "The Sweet Essence of Raspitudinous Superflobgoptious Jazzbelarious Jazzberries" at which cakewalking, clog dancing and popular songs furnished the main part of the three ring circus.⁹⁰

The chaos of the previous rush was still apparent and the 1919 rushing season seemed to be problematic:

⁸⁹ Reece, 1966, p. 186.

⁹⁰ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, May 1919, 33(4).

Because of a lack of cooperation during rushing season Panhellenic is now making a new set of rules to go into effect next fall. Theta obeyed all the rules and a Theta was made chairman of the Panhellenic committee on rules.⁹¹

The Christmas vacation that year was extended due to the fuel shortage. The flu epidemic hit Champaign-Urbana but there were few cases at the University, although student dances were prohibited for a time.⁹²

Dad's Day was celebrated for the first time on November 20, 1920. The Ohio-Illinois game was part of the festivities. Only eight Delta fathers made it to the first event, but "never before had there been that many at one time."⁹³ The event was so successful campus-wide that a Mother's Day celebration was planned for the spring. The Thetas competed against other sororities in bowling and basketball.⁹⁴ The Theta Champaign-Urbana Alumnae Chapter, chartered on February 9, 1920, was growing under the leadership of its first president, Pearl Mulberry Milliken. On January 8, 1921, the alumnae chapter had a White Elephant Parcel Post Auction at the home of Nell Platt Goodman. The parcels were to be worth 25¢ and they ranged from a cake of soap to a bag of fresh eggs to delicate bits of lace and pottery. Milliken impersonated a country auctioneer and the event added \$37 to the treasury. On Founders' Day, the alumnae informally entertained at Blanche Black Busey's and the interest at the meeting centered on Paul Busey's wireless telephone station.⁹⁵

On March 3, 1921, Military Company E, perhaps in reciprocation for a fall 1920 Theta invitation, gave the chapter a theater party followed by a dinner. For some time, the house, though not yet 15 years old, but almost fully paid for, was no longer serving the chapter well. Plumbing was needing more and more repair and the upkeep costs were increasing. The Delta Corporation Board issued a letter to alumnae noting that \$1,500 was still owed. A friend of the chapter made an offer to pay the last \$1,000 of the debt if the chapter could pay the other \$500

⁹¹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1920, vol. 34(2).

⁹² *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1920, vol. 34(3).

⁹³ Reece, 1966, p. 218.

⁹⁴ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1921, vol. 35(2).

⁹⁵ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1921, vol. 35(3).

before Homecoming. The chapter was successful in its fund-raising effort and the debt was paid. Discussions were started about how to construct a bigger and better house, without giving up the chapter's prime location. Two lots were bought, one purchased in 1921, costing \$5,200 and adjoining the property on Wright Street. Almost \$2,000 had been paid on the lot when a lot on Daniel Street was purchased for \$4,000. The new house was to be built on the two lots facing Wright Street. The old house was moved to the Daniel Street lot while the new house was being built and then the old house was sold to the Tri Deltas for \$33,000. In order to purchase the lots, the Delta Corporation Board borrowed \$1,500 at 5% from Theta's Grand Council and nine town girls and two out-of-town girls loaned \$100 at 5%, leaving a balance of almost \$1,000. A 20-page booklet was compiled and sent to each Delta member. Evelyn Moulton's poem, "Do We Need a New House?" outlined some problems with the house:

Do we need a new house?
 Well I'll say we do!
And I'll tell you just why
 We need it too.
Our house is so old
 The wind rattles through,
And it takes much more fuel
 Than if it were new

We've bought other lots
 So we've taxes to pay.
We could spend that same money
 In building today.
The kitchen is small,
 And so crowded, we might
Be able to enter;
 To get out we'd fight.
The plumbing is poor,
 The furnace is old,
The plaster falls down

 In winter we're cold,
When alumnae move in
 We have to move out,
And to find room to stay
 We must skurry about.

So we'd like a new house
 With plenty of room
For alumnae and actives --
 And Thetas to come.
And won't you be proud,
 When with Thetas we've
Filled it, to say
 That's MY HOUSE
And that I HELPED TO BUILD IT.⁹⁶

Dorothy Doty Murphy was the prime spirit behind the housing effort. Paul Busey, husband of Blanche Black Busey, presented the financing of the house as a business proposition. The \$50,000 loan would earn interest at 5% and be retired by payments each year by the house's occupants.

It was "a strenuous rushing season" during the fall of 1922.⁹⁷ The chapter "painted, scrubbed and re-made practically every bit of furniture in the house"⁹⁸ and the chapter was looking forward to building on its lot in the spring. Natlan Gates described the early 1920s in the Theta house:

Everyone wore skirts and sweaters with round-collar blouses. We often went for cakes to Mosey-Over in the afternoons and how the wool of our sweaters picked up odors of hamburger and French fries!...We all wore bobbed hair and went to the barber shop for haircuts, then washed and fixed our own.⁹⁹

The 1923 Founders' Day celebration was held on the exact date of the Fraternity's founding, January 27. The February 16, 1923 initiation was the last to take place at 901 South Wright Street. When the new home was completed the address would be 611 East Daniel Street, though the site was the same.

The Memorial Stadium was dedicated October 18, 1924, and the first game played there was a 39-14 victory over the University of Michigan. The first Homecoming Game played in the

⁹⁶ Reece, 1966, pp. 244-245.

⁹⁷ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1922, vol. 37(1).

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹⁹ Reece, 1966, p. 250.

new stadium was against the University of Chicago on November 3; it was played in a sea of mud. Happily, the Thetas won the Homecoming house decorations competition.¹⁰⁰ Collegiate football rivalries continued to afford the chapter the opportunity to meet other Thetas. The Delta Chapter members visited the chapters at Michigan and Wisconsin during the 1922 season.

During the summer of 1923, the chapter house was moved from its original position on the corner to the lot west facing on Daniel. The chapter gave up its formal dance to save money for the house,¹⁰¹ and “Each girl has pledged to earn or save \$5 by June for the furniture fund. As a result many trades have developed, such as selling apples for 5¢ apiece, lending dresses at 25¢ and charging 25¢ for a shampoo.”¹⁰²

The 1923-24 school year heralded the beginning of some new campus buildings and activities. Dorothy Healey had the lead in the Women’s Athletic Association’s Water Carnival that opened the new swimming pool. An Ax Grinders Ball was instituted for those who “keep their nose to the grindstone.” Fifteen women were invited, two of them Thetas. On December 9, 1923, the Theta freshmen gave a tea for the other freshmen fraternity women.¹⁰³ Helen Oldfather, with Dean of Women Maria Leonard’s influence, was a driving force in the formation of the freshman women’s honorary, Alpha Lambda Delta.

The Champaign-Urbana Alumnae Chapter pledged \$1,000 and was adding \$700 to provide tile floor, special cornice and other special touches to the chapter house. A Christmas bazaar netted \$172, a formal dance at the new Urbana-Lincoln Hotel, an informal dance in a smaller hall, a benefit card party and two rummage sales added money. Mrs. F.L. Stevens, a friend of some Theta alumnae, gave a bread baking demonstration for about 60 people as well as selling recipes and bread bringing in \$100.¹⁰⁴

Before the June 1923 commencement, negotiations had begun with Delta Delta Delta regarding the purchase of the old house. Its rounded porch had been removed in the move to the

¹⁰⁰ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1923, vol. 37(2).

¹⁰¹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1923 vol. 38(1); *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, May 1923, vol. 37(4).

¹⁰² Reece, 1966, p. 256.

¹⁰³ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1924, vol. 38(2); *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1924, vol. 38(3).

¹⁰⁴ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, May 1924, vol. 38(4).

back of the lot, and a conventional front porch replaced it. The Tri Delts signed the final contract in August 1924. The Thetas moved into the new house on September 17, 1924.¹⁰⁵ The total cost of the house was \$65,000 instead of the earlier \$50,000 estimate. Despite the added cost, the Thetas were elated with the house:

The question "How do you like your lovely new house?" still brings a thrill and a happy smile to the face of each Theta of Delta even though this query has been answered enthusiastically many hundreds of times. When we active girls came back to college last fall we could hardly believe our eyes. Our new red brick house with its large columned porch and many windows stood before us as if Aladdin's genies had suddenly caused it to appear. In this case, however, the genies of Aladdin's magic lamp were town alumnae who unceasingly spurred on the contractors, painters, plumbers, and carpenters during the summer, so that we might not be forced to hold our fall rushing parties in tents and other instantaneously built shelters.

At first it was difficult for the chapter to realize that the large porch, the spacious halls, the living room with the great fire place, and the 15 large study rooms were really to be ours. Each girl looked with delight into the large closets and wondered with pretended dismay how she could enlarge her wardrobe sufficiently to use all this welcome space.

The house is built in Southern Colonial style. Its two story columned porch faces east. The entrance on the north however is the one generally used. This opens into a hall to the right of which is a small reception room, straight ahead the long livingroom, and to the right beyond French doors the dining room. The sun room, gay in its chintz and wicker, and the music room in which dull greens predominate, form a continuation of the living room. A small card room adjoins the living room to the right while on the opposite side of French doors lead to the large semicircular porch.

¹⁰⁵ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1928, vol. 43(1).

On the second floor down the right hand corridor, “rainbow alley” as it is called, may be found five study rooms, containing furniture of pink, gray, green, lavender and tan, respectively - each of the handiwork and expression of the artistic natures of the girls within. Down the other corridors are more study rooms and the chaperon’s suite of living room, bedroom and bath, the guest room and the upstairs living room. This last room contains a fireplace, lamps and a comfortable davenport. It is used extensively by the girls during the day, especially the town girls. The third floor, like the second, consists of two corridors with study rooms and fully equipped bathrooms opening on either side. In addition the third floor contains a hospital room, a large linen closet and two airy dormitories, one for freshmen and one for upperclassmen.¹⁰⁶

A tea was given for alumnae and patronesses to tour the house. To celebrate Founders’ Day, on January 17, 1925, 40 alumnae and actives met for lunch in the chapter’s new home. Dean of Women, Maria Leonard, and Minnie White, the chapter’s chaperon, were guests at the lunch.¹⁰⁷ A conference for the Theta chapters in the District was held at the house thereby affording the chapter the opportunity to showcase its new home. On March 7, 1925, the chapter had its first formal party in the new house.

The fall 1925 party was held the week after Homecoming and because of its proximity to Halloween, it was called the Black Cat cabaret.¹⁰⁸ The four rooms downstairs were lighted with candles.¹⁰⁹ The house gifts from alumnae included porch furniture, a fern and pedestal, and a Kappa Alpha Theta doorplate. Maxine Lill and her team made money selling Homecoming badges and brought the house a beautiful picture. The freshmen and seniors gifts were used for part of the landscaping and tiling of a shower. Alumnae funds covered the cost of the tiling of another shower and the Delta Corporation Board funded another. The holiday season afforded

¹⁰⁶ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1925, vol. 39(2), pp. 282-284.

¹⁰⁷ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1925, vol. 39(3).

¹⁰⁸ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1929, vol. 43(2). Accounts from later in the 1920s cite the name as the Black Kat Cabaret. For many of the chapter’s early years, each pledge, prior to initiation, was required to bring to the house a black cat (Reece, 1966).

¹⁰⁹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1926, vol. 40(2).

the chapter the opportunity to carry on the tradition of singing Christmas carols at the women's houses and to town alumnae.

Preferential bidding¹¹⁰ was used for the first time on the University of Illinois campus during the Fall 1926 rush. The Thetas noted that "everyone seemed satisfied with the results." Dad's Day in the fall, on a home football game weekend, and Mom's Day weekend in the spring became yearly campus-wide traditions. The appearance of student driven automobiles became a problem, "During this year a new ruling was enforced concerning the use of automobiles by students. Only students who had permits from the Council of Administration could operate cars, and even these were not allowed to take other students with them."¹¹¹ According to a chapter report the campus had been "demobilized" and there were "Horses and strange looking buggies instead of forbidden cars."¹¹²

During the 1926-27 school year the seniors and freshmen gave the chapter an "orthophonic Victrola."¹¹³ With the first signs of spring, skating had taken the place of buggy riding. Daniel Street was blocked off and Delta was in the midst of this improvised rink as students prepared for the April 2 skating derby. Delta received a bronze plaque in memory of Dorothy Doty Murphy '19 to hang in appreciation of her devotion to Delta¹¹⁴ and a set of Haviland China and a mahogany music cabinet was sent by Dr. Rust, as a memorial to his daughter, Louise Rust Fowler.

The summer of 1928 seemed to be the apex of fraternity home building with 17 men's fraternity houses and 12 women's fraternity homes springing up near campus.¹¹⁵ The start of the

¹¹⁰ Preferential bidding involves the rushee visiting each chapter at least once and then ranking her top choices in membership. The chapters do the same with the rushees. In an ideal situation, the rushee receives a bid from her preferred chapter (*NPC Manual of Information*). According to an article in the April 1930 *Banta's Greek Exchange*, "Something new in preferential bidding systems was tried on the University of Illinois campus this fall, and the consensus is that it quickly solved one of the major problems that has confronted sororities there" (p. 185). According to Ruth Caldwell, Assistant Dean of Women, "The new system worked very successfully, although it may be several years before it runs as smoothly as we would like." She added "Chapters which formerly pledged too many girls took in the right number this year, under the new plan" (p. 186).

¹¹¹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1926, vol. 40(2), p. 68.

¹¹² *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1926, vol. 41(1).

¹¹³ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1927, vol. 41(3).

¹¹⁴ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, May 1927, vol. 41(4).

¹¹⁵ Ittner, 1938, p. 71.

school year in the fall again saw rush take place before freshmen registration because housing contracts were due before the semester began. Alumnus Lorado Taft's statue "Alma Mater" was dedicated at the June 11, 1929 commencement. The alumnae gave the chapter a fireplace screen, the freshmen and sophomores gave the chapter stair carpeting and the chapter gave dining room furniture.¹¹⁶ The first issue of the *Delta Kite* was published June 7, 1929. The issue highlighted marriages, births, and news of the alumnae. It was in mimeograph form.¹¹⁷ The first issue highlighted the winning effort of the chapter's entry, "In a Dutch Garden" in the Y.W.C.A. Stunt Show. The chapter's 1927 effort, "Russian Cabaret" also took first. It was noted that the chapter did not enter in 1928.

The October 1929 *Delta Kite*, now typeset instead of mimeographed, noted "During the past rushing season rumors of the unstable financial condition of Delta Chapter were circulated around the campus and reached the ears of the alumnae and active members." In the November 1929 *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, the chapter boasted of a newly decorated chapter house:

...new carpeting, draperies, and furniture. The entire downstairs - the hall, living room, card room, music room and colonial room were carpeted in a soft green color. Gold and rose henna hangings in the living room and smaller rooms had heavy printed curtains in rose and henna satin. Davenports, lounges chairs and love seats, and green parchment lamps make the thought of going upstairs to study seem out of place.¹¹⁸

Four of the 11 members of the varsity hockey team were Thetas. On December 3, 1929, Delta made its radio debut on W.I.L.L. with a program of Kappa Alpha Theta songs, as there was a competition among the fraternities and sororities with a cup offered for the best programming.¹¹⁹ Delta alumna Catherine Planck Kircher '14, was elected Grand Alumnae Secretary of Kappa Alpha Theta.¹²⁰

¹¹⁶ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1928, vol. 42(2).

¹¹⁷ *Delta Kite*, June 7, 1929, vol. 1.

¹¹⁸ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1929, vol. 44(1).

¹¹⁹ *Delta Kite*, December 1929, vol. 2(2).

¹²⁰ *Delta Kite*, November 1930, vol. 3(2).

On September 28, 1931, Dr. Caroline Tupper of the English Department was initiated into membership.¹²¹ The Depression was taking its toll on the fraternities and sororities. Three Champaign banks had shut their doors to protect funds. First National Bank serviced many of the fraternities and sororities and the bank's closing "has worked a temporary hardship on a good many campus organizations. The chapter's funds were also involved."¹²²

The chapter had entered the Y.W.C.A. Stunt Show every other year for the previous ten years and won first place during the years it entered.¹²³ During the 1932-33 year, the chapter won first place in with the "Connecticut Yankee." The Y.W.C.A. held its annual doll show on December 10, 1932. Sororities and organized houses dressed dolls to fit the theme of fairy tales. Each group paid a small fee to enter a three-sided box of specified measurements displaying a scene with at least five dolls and detailed surroundings. An electrician was employed to light all the scenes. Spectators paid a quarter to view the scenes and a cup was awarded to the best scene. After the show, the dolls were given to orphanages to be distributed as gifts to the children.¹²⁴

The Kappa Alpha Theta Grand Council advocated a "Library in Every House" and Delta chapter took part in this effort. During the summer of 1933, the house was redecorated inside and out. The chapter turned the smoking room into a library. The furniture was repainted and recovered, bookshelves were built and the walls were decorated with collages and silhouettes, designed and painted by Jane Fauntz.¹²⁵

The chapter again won first place in the Homecoming decorations competition for the 1933 football season; it was its third consecutive victory. The chapter library project continued - a \$10 gift from a weekend guest was used to subscribe to three magazines; a library catalog was compiled and cards were assigned to each book, so Delta members could check them out; the

¹²¹ *Delta Kite*, October 1931, vol. 4(1).

¹²² *Delta Kite*, February 1932, vol. 4(3).

¹²³ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, May 1933, vol. 47(4).

¹²⁴ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1932, vol. 46(3), p. 214.

¹²⁵ *Delta Kite*, November 1930, vol. 3(2). Jane Fauntz [Manske] competed in the 1928 Olympics and won a bronze medal for 3m springboard diving at the 1932 Olympics. When she was pledged she held the Canadian and United States lowboard diving record. Her pledge class also included Elizabeth Thurston, of Cody, Wyoming, a grand niece of "Buffalo" Bill Cody.

chapter subscribed to a Book of the Month Club; and a 5¢ a month special assessment was used to purchase books for the library.¹²⁶ The chapter was victorious in both the volleyball and basketball interfraternity tournament and won a W.A.A. plaque for the second year in a row.¹²⁷

During the 1934-1935 year, Delta won first place in the Y.W.C.A Doll Show with “Christmas in the Black Forest.” The chapter had a new member, “Mike,” a German Shepherd. He arrived at the house with a broken leg and a hungry face. In the two months that he had been with the chapter, according to a note in *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, he “became a loyal Theta, never missing a chapter meeting, a thorough snob, and a good watch dog.”¹²⁸

The house was redecorated during the summer of 1936. The walls in the hall, reception room and living room were painted a creamy yellow. The two south rooms and card room were painted a soft turquoise blue with white woodwork and chintz drapes were on windows throughout the house. The dining room was a soft shade of green with chintz curtains and white woodwork. The new furniture included a drum table, chairs, love set, floor lamps with indirect light and small tables. The halls on the second and third floors were painted, too. The room walls were washed, the woodwork painted and the floors redone.¹²⁹ The chapter members were elated by another purchase, “No longer will we be bothered in the fall of repainting our bureaus our favorite colors because we will receive new maple furniture for our rooms just in time to start the second semester.”¹³⁰

The chapter house was open over the summer of 1937 and any rooms were rented to students. The exterior woodwork of the house was painted white and the porch furniture was redone.¹³¹

The chapter hired a tutor to supervise study hall on Tuesday and Thursday nights during the 1937-38 year, “Such a practice has been helpful to the other houses here on campus. As yet

¹²⁶ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1934, vol. 48(2).

¹²⁷ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, May 1934, vol. 48(4).

¹²⁸ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1935, vol. 49(3) p. 259.

¹²⁹ *Delta Kite*, October 1936, vol. 9(1).

¹³⁰ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1937, vol. 51(3).

¹³¹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1937, vol. 52(1), pp. 56-57.

it is too early to tell how successful we shall find it, but we hope for the best.”¹³² Theta’s scene in the Y.W.C.A. Doll Show, “Mexican Hat Dance,” won second place.¹³³

Boyd Castle, the father of Delta member Catherine Castle, gave the chapter a grandfather clock.¹³⁴ The walls on the second and third floors were redone in pastel shades and the chapter had a new electric icebox, silver tea service and luncheon china. On October 2, 1938, the chapter entertained at a tea to introduce the new House Mother, Frances Trutter, to the town girls’ mothers and to other campus House Mothers.¹³⁵ The Thetas won first place in swimming team intramurals. That spring the chapter divided its time between bowling and basketball.¹³⁶

When the chapter arrived for the fall 1940 semester there was a newly redecorated study room; it had been “done in a most modernistic manner.”¹³⁷ Rush was revamped, too:

A new party was added to rush events. Before rushees were invited to tea, one half one day, the other half the next. After teas, fraternities decided whom they wish to rush plus the rushees they wanted to know better. Teas did not afford the opportunity to get acquainted. This year rushees were invited to an informal open house in the morning and back to a tea in the afternoon. It proved successful. Adorned in sweaters and skirts and saddle shoes the girls were much more at ease than before when they walked into a room full of girls in long dresses. Every one liked open houses so well that it will become a permanent part of rushing.¹³⁸

Theta held its first Illinois State Day, the Illinois State Round-Up, in Joliet on April 21, 1940. The Panhellenic Scholastic Dinner was on October 10, 1940 and it observed the 45th anniversary of the University of Illinois’ Panhellenic Council.¹³⁹ In late December a Scarlet Fever quarantine almost kept some members in Champaign over the holidays.¹⁴⁰

¹³² *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1938, vol. 52(2).

¹³³ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1938, vol. 52(3).

¹³⁴ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, May 1938, vol. 52(4), p. 349.

¹³⁵ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1938, vol. 53(1).

¹³⁶ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1939, vol. 53(3).

¹³⁷ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1940, vol. 54(3), p. 259.

¹³⁸ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1940, vol. 55(1), p. 57.

¹³⁹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1941, vol. 55(2).

¹⁴⁰ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, May 1941, vol. 55(4).

During the summer of 1941 the interior of the house was completely redone. The chapter arrived back to find new furnishings including dusty rose carpeting, draperies, furniture and lighting fixtures. Delta had a tea dance for the “boys” at Chanute Field and sang Christmas carols to the alumnae and faculty.¹⁴¹

The December 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor would change the lives of the Delta Chapter. All expensive functions were eliminated on campus because of the war. The Thetas donated money to the Red Cross instead of exchanging Christmas presents. Pat Brown was a supervisor in the University’s Red Cross chapter bandage room and the Thetas took part in campus defense training.¹⁴² The *Delta Kite* suffered, too. From October 1942 until March 1946, the newsletter was mimeographed, and not professionally typeset as it had been since the second issue.

The money set aside for the Valentine’s Day Pledge Dance decorations was donated to the Red Cross. However, the dance was not totally stark. Red lights and red paper hearts were used to carry out the theme.¹⁴³

On October 27, 1942, 21 women were pledged to the Delta Chapter. Due to food rationing, Delta started a new plan that required signing out for meals, or signing guests in for meals, by 7:30 the preceding evening. The majority of the chapter signed up for the U.S.O. hostess training course. Panhellenic reviewed plans for fall rush due to food rationing. At the March 16, 1943, Delta Corporation Board meeting, Goodman, the treasurer, made a surprise announcement - the chapter house mortgage had been paid in full a year before it was due. The monthly payment by actives, formerly allotted to the mortgage, was invested in war bonds, to be cashed later for the building of a wing to the chapter house.¹⁴⁴

The fall rush started on October 2, 1943, and the parties were condensed to four days. The fall semester began on October 13.¹⁴⁵ On November 13, 1943, the chapter hosted an open

¹⁴¹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1942, vol. 56(2).

¹⁴² *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1942, vol. 56(3).

¹⁴³ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, May 1942, vol. 56(4), p. 315.

¹⁴⁴ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, May 1943, vol. 57(4), p. 309.

¹⁴⁵ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1943, vol. 58(1), p. 69.

house for the A.S.T.P. boys stationed on campus. Other groups complied with the Army's suggestion and gave similar parties.¹⁴⁶ Each Monday night defense stamps were sold to chapter members. The spring semester began in February and things were a bit different on campus:

Since fraternity houses have been taken over by the A.S.T.P. and Beta Theta Pi did not have a house in which to give a dance, we had a joint Beta-Theta dance on January 22, 1944. It was loads of fun with both groups enjoying it immensely.¹⁴⁷

On March 12, 1944, the chapter members were hostesses at the Illini Union open house for servicemen. The chapter was making plans for entertaining V-12s at an open house.¹⁴⁸ The Panhellenic Council issued a war code to which each house was to follow and due to gas rationing and lack of room accommodations, Mother's Day weekend was cancelled.¹⁴⁹

Classes for the 1944-45 year did not start until October 13.¹⁵⁰ The Panhellenic Council lifted the quota immediately after formal rushing in the fall to make it possible for the women's fraternities to assimilate some of the increased female enrollment. The chapter voted to buy war stamps, 100%, every Monday.¹⁵¹ Barbara Atkinson the house defense chairman in charge of the stamp sale, was voted as the female half of the 1945 Orange Star Illini Man and Woman. The pledge class gave a spring dance at the house on March 17, 1945. They decorated the living room as Central Park complete with real trees and a wishing well.¹⁵²

A ballet scene won the chapter first place in the 1945 Homecoming Stunt Show.¹⁵³ On December 8, 1945, the chapter gave "what is coming to be an annual dance with Pi Beta Phi at the Pi Phi house, and pledges from both groups decorated the house using a Christmas theme." Chi Omega and Kappa Alpha Theta purchased the property that was situated between their houses. The structure on the property was torn down and the grounds landscaped.¹⁵⁴ The Kappa

¹⁴⁶ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1944, vol. 58(2).

¹⁴⁷ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1944, vol. 58(3), p. 251.

¹⁴⁸ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, May 1944, vol. 58(4).

¹⁴⁹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, November 1944, vol. 59(1).

¹⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁵¹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1945, vol. 59(2).

¹⁵² *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, May 1945, vol. 59(4).

¹⁵³ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1946, vol. 60(2).

¹⁵⁴ As increasing numbers of students brought cars to school, the property would be used for parking spaces.

Alpha Theta state project that began in 1941 to aid handicapped children continued.¹⁵⁵ The second semester began March 6, one week later than scheduled because the university needed more time to prepare housing for veterans and their families. Prefab homes cropped up on most of the available space on campus. Chanute Field in Rantoul housed male students in the barracks and families in the university area were asked to take in veterans and their wives.¹⁵⁶

When, in 1945, the chapter celebrated 50 years since its founding, six of the charter members were still alive. Unfortunately, only one, Mabel Zilly Hamilton, was able to attend. A member of the original Delta Chapter, Leila Means Bach, who visited with President Draper in 1895 and who helped install the chapter at Champaign, spoke about "Theta at Wesleyan." The following spring, three other charter members, Mary and Isabel Noble and Rebecca Wharton, returned to campus for their fiftieth class reunion and were honored by a tea at the chapter house.¹⁵⁷

Panhellenic Council decided to conduct the fall 1946's rush during May of 1946, due to the severe housing shortage on campus. Pledge Day was September 21, 1946.¹⁵⁸ Homecoming was October 19, 1946, and banquets, rallies, house decorations and skits were part of the festivities that was topped by a victory over Michigan.

The Champaign-Urbana Alumnae Chapter, originally formed in 1920, returned its charter in 1933.¹⁵⁹ It was rechartered on October 21, 1946 with Virginia Grimm, Theta's Grand President, acting as the installing officer. Athletics continued to be an important part of chapter life. The 1946 championship relay swimming team was first in the interhouse competition for the third year retiring the traveling trophy from the Terrapin Club.¹⁶⁰

The chapter collaborated with Psi Upsilon on a booth in the University Spring Carnival on March 29, 1947. The Theta house was the scene of a reception for Max Schulman, sponsored

¹⁵⁵ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, March 1946, vol. 60(3). According to Reece, Fay Willerton a 1910 initiate of the chapter organized this state project.

¹⁵⁶ *The Arrow of Pi Beta Phi*, May 1946.

¹⁵⁷ Wilson, 1956.

¹⁵⁸ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, January 1947, vol. 61(2).

¹⁵⁹ Wilson, 1956.

¹⁶⁰ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, October 1947, vol. 62(1).

by Zeta Phi Epsilon speech society. Nancy Vollrath was the Sweetheart of Sigma Chi and on Honors Day Ann Noble was honored as the class salutatorian.¹⁶¹

During the summer of 1948, the painters and carpenters took over the chapter house constructing an addition to the dining room, redecorating the upstairs and landscaping the yard. The alumnae bought for the chapter a new radio-phonograph and a collection of records.¹⁶² The chapter, along with Alpha Delta Phi, took first place in the 1948 Homecoming Stunt Show.¹⁶³

Community service was an expected part of fraternity life on the Illinois campus. On December 18, 1949, the Thetas and the Tau Kappa Epsilons entertained children from a Rantoul orphan's home.¹⁶⁴

Over the summer of 1950, the chapter room was redecorated to make it useable as a recreation room, too. The walls were painted Monterey red, the rugs were a gray plaid and the curtains and lamps were green. "It has proved to be a grand place to hold informal gatherings and to knock off while quiet hours are enforced in the rest of the house."¹⁶⁵ The pledges defeated the Delta Gamma pledges in touch football 14-7. It was the second year that the Theta pledges won the match.¹⁶⁶

The 1950s were filled with the optimism of the post-war era. Chapter life quickly returned to normal on the campus and students enjoyed collegiate life with fall football Saturdays, Stunt Show, Homecoming, Spring Carnival, Shi-Ai Sing, and graduation. The Thetas had several Stunt Show appearances. During the 1950s, rush took place in June, before the start of the semester, and Pledge Day was usually in the fall.¹⁶⁷

The 1952 Founders' Day banquet featured six Thetas who had been members 50 years before. They "told us something about the chapter history and some of the hilarious times they

¹⁶¹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, December 1947, vol. 62(2).

¹⁶² *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, December 1948, vol. 63(2).

¹⁶³ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, February 1949, vol. 63(3).

¹⁶⁴ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, February 1950, vol. 64(3).

¹⁶⁵ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, April 1951, vol. 65(4), p. 36.

¹⁶⁶ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, December 1951, vol. 66(2).

¹⁶⁷ *The Arrow of Pi Beta Phi*, September 1953, vol. 67(1).

had in the gold old days.”¹⁶⁸ A “panty-raid” in the spring of 1952, caused much distress to Mrs. Bock, the House Mother, when men mobbed the house.¹⁶⁹

During the summer of 1955, the house was again redecorated. There was bright color and new furnishings throughout the downstairs. The chapter had open houses after all home football games to show that “whiter drapes and walls really blend nicely and that orange furniture sets everything off beautifully.”¹⁷⁰

The chapter had eight 5.0 students during the Spring 1958 semester, a new university record.¹⁷¹ During the late 1950s the chapter was “in the midst of a wonderful philanthropic experience.” One of the chapter members took a position with Cunningham Home, an orphanage in Urbana. Chapter members formed committees and tutored children, directed play programs, and assisted with a program for teenagers at the home.¹⁷²

For spring break during the late 1950s, one third of the house went to Florida and eight members traveled to New Orleans for Mardi Gras, an indicator that spring break get-aways to fun locations have been around for decades. School spirit was important for the Delta Thetas and five chapter members were on the cheerleading squad.¹⁷³

John F. Kennedy, while campaigning for President, spoke on the quad in the fall of 1961. Little Sisters became a part of Illinois campus life and by the end of the decade these organizations would become an accepted part of fraternity life until a concerted effort was put forth to disband these organizations.¹⁷⁴

A Theta tradition was the Theta stocking party held at Christmas time. A Theta’s date was presented with a Christmas stocking made by the giver and filled with toys and goodies.

¹⁶⁸ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, April 1952, vol. 66(4).

¹⁶⁹ Reece, 1966, p. 25.

¹⁷⁰ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Winter 1955, vol. 70(2)

¹⁷¹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Spring 1957, vol. 72(3)

¹⁷² *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Midwinter 1959, vol. 74(2).

¹⁷³ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Spring 1959, vol. 74(3).

¹⁷⁴ The NPC issued a resolution in 1967 that looked with disfavor upon membership in the Little Sister organizations. Resolutions in 1972, 1983 and 1988 reaffirmed the previous resolutions. It is NPC’s belief that these auxiliaries threaten the single-sex nature of men’s and women’s fraternities.

Singing Theta songs at dinner was also another chapter tradition. “Here we are as Thetas together” and “Remember” were two favorites.¹⁷⁵

The fall of 61 saw the Theta house turned into a large birthday cake. It was iced for the Homecoming decorations competition in honor of the Centennial of the Land Grant institutions. Its theme was “Frost the Gophers.”¹⁷⁶

Plans were made to add to the Theta house, according to an article in the December 1962 *Delta Kite*. A Building Committee worked with architecture firm of Berger and Kelley. Two wings were to be built to the east towards Wright Street leaving an open patio in the middle. Completely new bathrooms were to be built, the kitchen was to be enlarged and extra rooms added so that 63 members could be housed on the second and third floors. The expense was conservatively estimated at \$250,000. The chapter, it was noted, was “presently free of debt.”¹⁷⁷ The addition to the house was completed in the fall of 1963. There was also a change to rush. Freshmen women were to live in freshmen dorms rather than moving into sorority houses at the start of their freshman year. The chapter took first place in the Homecoming Stunt Show, along with Phi Epsilon Pi. The chapter also enjoyed descriptive letters from Ann Morgan, '61, who was in Nigeria with the Peace Corps.¹⁷⁸

During the 1960s there was a Delta of the Week. Acts of individual loyalty were rewarded and the recipient wore a pansy necklace for the week.¹⁷⁹ In the late 1960s women earned key privileges and short time later curfews were totally eliminated for University of Illinois women.¹⁸⁰

The annual pledge dance, held on March 21, 1970, was themed “Age of Aquarius.”¹⁸¹ There were 35 members in the 1973 pledge class. During rush a traditional slide show with background music provided a glimpse of chapter life. At the final preference party, the seniors

¹⁷⁵ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Spring 1963, vol. 78(3).

¹⁷⁶ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Summer 1962, vol. 77(4).

¹⁷⁷ *Delta Kite*, December 1962, vol. 31(2).

¹⁷⁸ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Summer 1963, vol. 78(4).

¹⁷⁹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Spring 1967, vol. 82(3).

¹⁸⁰ Box 1, Pi Beta Phi Records.

¹⁸¹ *Delta Kite*, June 1970, vol. 39(1).

performed “Life as a Theta” and the sophomores sang a song. Each active wrote a favorite quote on friendship in black on a gold kite and these served as nametags for the rushees.¹⁸²Laurie Hopkins and Sandi Sellergren danced with two friends for 52 hours in a philanthropic Dance Marathon.¹⁸³

The Fall 1975 pledge class worked to raise funds for the Adlerzone Center Children’s mental health room. The chapter helped establish the *Greek Illini*, a bi-weekly newspaper devoted solely to the development of Greek life.¹⁸⁴

During the 1975-1976 year, the chapter house was redecorated over the holiday break. The foyer received new wallpaper and the living room and stairs were recarpeted. The living room walls were repainted and the chairs recovered. A new couch and lamps were purchased. The dining room chairs were recovered and a console and mirror for the foyer were purchased. Carriage Lane Interior Decorators was hired to coordinate the redecorating. The color scheme was in shades of orange, from apricot to butterscotch mixed with browns and greens. Izetta Hughes, the chapter’s cook for more than 40 years, retired. Her blackbottom pie and pastries were favorites of the chapter as well as her “goeey” cinnamon and raisin rolls. The chapter gave her a portable color television and honored her with a candlelight dinner.¹⁸⁵ The chapter, along with its partner Phi Kappa Psi won the Atius-Sachem Sing, the traditional singing and dancing show held on Mom’s Weekend, with its entry “Get Happy”.

The fall 1976 rushing effort culminated in 33 women being pledged. Another seven were pledged informally in the spring. Along with Acacia the chapter won the Greek Olympics sports contest on October 4-11, 1976. At the summer’s convention the chapter won third place for standards and programs and an honorable mention for scholarship, as the chapter’s GPA was 4.07.¹⁸⁶ A tradition of a hayride was begun in 1976 and 1977’s hayride, held in Bement had

¹⁸² *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Spring 1974, vol. 89(3).

¹⁸³ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, June 1974, vol. 89(4).

¹⁸⁴ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Fall 1975, vol. 90(1)

¹⁸⁵ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, June 1976, vol. 90(4).

¹⁸⁶ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Fall 1976, vol. 91(1); *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Spring 1977, vol. 91(3).

over 180 members and guests in attendance.¹⁸⁷ The Delta Gamma - Kappa Alpha Theta pledges/new initiates softball game was another chapter tradition.

In 1978, Delta chapter member Joyce Drew Toombs, '51, was serving on the Theta Grand Council.¹⁸⁸ Sabra Stevens Reece, who had done so much to document the chapter's history, left \$10,000 toward the funding of a scholarship for the members of Delta chapter.¹⁸⁹

By the end of the 1970s the chapter had adopted a new computerized billing system and automated chapter accounting.¹⁹⁰ On September 29, 1980, Delta chapter along with Pi Kappa Alpha sponsored the first Illini Bed race. There were 16 entrants.¹⁹¹

In the early 1990s, a tree was planted in memory of Sheila Jane Hogan, a Delta lost to leukemia.¹⁹² Scholastic incentives included a no skippy jar to encourage class attendance.¹⁹³

In 1991, to commemorate the chapter's rich history, a Grand Celebration was held. The letter sent to Delta alumnae noted:

Delta chapter was founded in 1875 at Illinois Wesleyan University and transferred to the University of Illinois in 1895. Since it is difficult to pinpoint which year most appropriately marks our centennial, we thought it fitting to simply designate 1991 as the year we would "celebrate" and to "proclaim" the event our **Grand Celebration**. We made every effort to locate as many alumnae as possible, and we have been extremely pleased with the response. Over 1,300 invitations were mailed to alumnae all over the world. Even though many could not attend, they sent letters and/or pictures in return.

The Grand Celebration co-chairmen were Annilee Armstrong Shaul '61 and Linda Morrison Mills '59. At the Grand Celebration, an interior and exterior update was issued by the Delta Corporation Board. Some of the recent changes in the house included:

¹⁸⁷ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Spring 1977, vol. 91(3).

¹⁸⁸ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Spring 1978, vol. 92(3).

¹⁸⁹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Summer 1978, vol. 92(4).

¹⁹⁰ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Spring 1979, vol. 94(2).

¹⁹¹ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Fall 1980, vol. 95(1).

¹⁹² *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Winter 1992, vol. 106(2).

¹⁹³ *The Kappa Alpha Theta*, Winter 1990-1991, vol.105(2).

new blue carpeting, two brass Williamsburg style lamps and three ceiling fans in the living room; three matching plaid sofas and chandeliers over the card tables in the TV room as well as a wide screen television purchased by the Parents' Club; a new quarry tile floor, commercial freezer and refrigerator, salad bar, convection oven and commercial stove and oven and vegetable steamer in the kitchen; recarpeted and repainted hallways as well as city code required smoke partitions with safety glass and the top of the second and third floor stairs in the upstairs halls; increased electric capacity, carpet and two computer desks in the third floor computer room as well as a new Macintosh computer purchased by the Parents' Club; a new courtyard wall built in February 1991 is curved to echo the shape of the wedding cake columns that were on the Wright Street side of the house until the remodeling of 1963; brick pavers now cover the Daniel Street parkway. Seven trees and 27 bushes have been added to the lawn.¹⁹⁴

As only one of two Kappa Alpha Theta chapters whose charters were transferred from other schools,¹⁹⁵ the Delta Chapter has special historic significance. From its beginning at Illinois in an 1895 meeting with President Draper, whose assistance was solicited and given, to its quest to have its own fraternity house, and then to own its own home, the Delta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta has been a cornerstone of the women's fraternity system at the University of Illinois.

¹⁹⁴ Kappa Alpha Theta Records, RS 41/72/270, Student Life and Culture Archives, University of Illinois.

¹⁹⁵ The charter of the Phi Chapter at Stanford University was transferred from the University of the Pacific.

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KU Kappa Alpha Theta. Kappa Kappa Gamma- University of Alabama. Kappa Delta - The University of Alabama. Nick's Kids Foundation. The University of Alabama, First Year Experience and Retention Initiatives. Alpha Chi Omega - Alpha Upsilon, The University of Alabama. Pi Beta Phi University of Alabama. UA Student Government Association. UTD Kappa Alpha Theta. UA Panhellenic Association. Southern Shirt. Welcome to the beta delta chapter of kappa alpha theta. Our Sisterhood. Want to see more of our chapter at the UofA? Follow the link below to view our event photo albums! Date Dashes, Philanthropies, Sisterhood Events, just to name a few! Check out our Theta's as they enjoy some of our favorite events of the year. View Photos. #go Greek. Ask any of our members and they will tell you that going through recruitment is one the best decisions they made during their time at the University of Arizona. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow, Kappa Alpha Theta exists to nurture each member throughout her college and alumna experience and to offer a lifelong opportunity for social, intellectual, and moral growth as she meets the higher and broader demands of mature life. Delta Kappa Alpha (ΔΚΑ) is a national, gender-inclusive, cinematic professional fraternity founded in 1936, at the School of Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, California, United States. According to USC's cinema website, "Recognized by the School of Cinematic Arts as the official professional cinema fraternity at the University of Southern California, DKA engages the community through philanthropic, social, and professional events. The goal of this gender Sep 10, 2018 - Kappa Alpha Theta T Shirts, Sweatshirts, Gifts, and Gear. See more ideas about Pi t shirt, Kappa, Kappa delta. This Comfort Colors tee is printed with Kappa Alpha Theta letters and a Jeep. The shirt is made of 100% pre-shrunk ringspun cotton. *Please Note: Comfort Colors shirts have a loose, unisex fit. Kappa Alpha Order Lambda Chi Alpha Theta Chi Sigma Chi Gamma Phi Beta Phi Mu Pi T Shirt Tri Delta. Theta Charles River Quarter Zip. There's nothing like a classic 1/4 Zip pullover. This Charles River sweatshirt is embroidered with Kappa Alpha Theta letters and is made of a poly/cotton blend. The sweatshirt features a relaxed fit and on-seam pockets. Get this favorite 1/4 zip to wear for years to co