

## THE HISTORY OF EPSILON ETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA NU FRATERNITY (1950's)

Written by Albert W. Lewis, III (EH 797)

In 1950 membership reached an all-time high of a hundred and eight brothers (tied the Spring of 1968, but never broken). The chapter won carnicus and the intramural trophy. New ceremonial robes were delivered to the chapter by the recently formed Alumni Club. In 1952 Epsilon Eta again served as host to the Division 20 Convention with members of the High Council featured as guests. The year 1952 also saw Epsilon Eta reestablished itself in politics with Commander Cooke elected vice-president of the senior class.

Scholarship and finances remained in poor condition for some years to come, however. The scars of bad financial management are just being shrugged today, whereas the return to excellent scholarship took place in 1957.

Mrs. Charles Stange, to whom a plaque is dedicated in the new house, became housemother of Epsilon Eta in 1953—the same year that the chapter moved across the street to 900 South 17<sup>th</sup>. In 1955 Mom Strange resigned and retired to Iowa. When the second housemother did not prove successful, she was convinced to return and give a motorcade from the train to a surprise banquet awaiting her arrival.

During the formal of 1955 Congressman Baker for the second time presided over the crowning of the White Rose. The winning candidate this time was a Chi Omega from Huntsville, Tennessee—Beverly Baker, his daughter. Her election, it is reported, had been kept a tight secret from her father.

## UPDATES FROM THE DELTA (1950's)

### COMMANDER CRUM

March 1950

John M. Devine, Reporter

Robert J. Betts was elected Commander, January 16. Betts succeeds Jack Q. Crum, holder of this office for two years. Other men elected to office are William M. Vandergriff, Jr., Lieutenant-Commander; J. Lynn Burke, Jr., Social Chairman; Wilworth J. (Stretch) Frankum, Alumni Contact Officer.

Brother Crum was compelled to resign by a heavy scholastic load and many campus activities. He had been Commander for two years, the longest term any Commander has served. During that time he has steered the Chapter from its postwar slump to a position of influence and esteem on the campus. Membership rose from 60 men to 108. Financial standing has definitely improved. The Chapter won its first Carnicus trophy and intramural trophy in ten years and rose to sixth place in scholarship, but his outstanding achievement was to break up the "combine" system of campus politics in the interest of more democratic procedure. He has been on the fraternity relations board

since 1947, in the Beaver Club, and in ODK (campus activities), chairman of the presidents club, and was a distinguished military graduate in 1947. As a mark of regard and appreciation the Chapter presented him with a gold watch.

Anne Baker was chosen White Rose and presented at the traditional banquet and dance in December.

Pledge B. Buford Rhea, Jr., is one-half of the winning team in the TKA Southern Regional Debate Tournament, 1949. He was chosen outstanding debater of the Smoky Mountain Region, 1949, and holds numerous other honors in this field.

John David Walker, agricultural student, was Sigma Nu's representative on the U.T. livestock judging team at the International Livestock Exposition in the Chicago. His team placed amount the top ten at the show.

Pledge Cecil H. Stanbery of Stanbery Stables has shown his horses extensively throughout the South, winning many ribbons, as well as participating in the attendant social activities.

Newly pledge Bill Hogan is make-up editor on the *Tennessean*, campus literary magazine. Bill succeeds John M. Devine, who has advanced to assistant editor. Pledge S. David Pursglove is publicity man on the same publication.

The Chapter is inviting six alumni each Monday to be guests for supper and meeting at the house.

#### TENNESSEE'S CHESS CHAMPION

September 1951

By John M. Devine, Reporter

The Chapter starts the college year somewhat handicapped by the loss of several of its most prominent men to the Armed Forces. Among them former Commander James D. Robertson will doubtlessly be the most missed. Robertson was vice-president of the student body, outstanding in campus politics, and one of the two men in the Chapter to be elected to ODK (honorary activities).

During the summer, Treasurer Joseph Sullivan upheld the intellectual honor of our Chapter by placing among the top four Chess players in the Southern Chess Tournament held in Asheville, N.C. Gerry is a graduate math student at the Institute for Nuclear Studies, Oak Ridge.

Elmer L. Cook, pre-veterinary student, brought many honors to Sigma Nu in the agricultural field. Cook is the other Sigma Nu elected to ODK, and replaces Jimmy Robertson as Commander.

The tradition of Sigma Nu summer parties continued this year with regular fraternity "Get-Togethers" at least once a week. In addition to these social affairs, we had several exceedingly original Rush Parties under the direction of Donald Batts and James L. Cliford.

All things considered, it looks like the beginning of a year more successful than last.

## TENNESSEE GETS NEW ROBES

February 1952

By F. William Cooler, Reporter

The Chapter felt the presence of a new Alumni Club, and gratefully so, at a recent party given by that group. The Chapter was presented a complete set of ceremonial robes, something we have needed for a long time.

Rushing at Knoxville has been successful this fall, all conditions being considered. Two of our pledges were made brothers early due to unexpected calls to Navy: Donald L. Whistler, Alcoa, and William D. Sykes, Knoxville.

Other new brothers initiated are Robert R. Arledge, Jr., Athens; Arthur F. Cake, Greenwich, Conn.; William M. Parrish, Nashville; Leslie W. Miller, Jacksonville, Fla.; F. William Cooler, Jr., and Frank H. Harrington, Jr., Knoxville.

Miss Peggy Hairell, KD, pledge from Athens, was elected the 1951 White Rose at our White Rose Ball held this quarter at the Whittle Springs Hotel.

A "pinning" rush seems to be hitting the Chapter. Among those about to lose their freedom are Matthew L. Lawson, Jr. Dudley I. Poe, III, Evan R. Minier, and H. Scott Collings, Jr.

## INITIATION AT TENNESSEE

April 1952

By F. William Cooler, Jr., Reporter

The initiation of three men started the Chapter off with fresh talent: Clifford H. Harpe, Oak Ridge; R. Bruce Armstrong and Charles M. Emory, III, Knoxville. The entrance of Brother Emory marks another father-son combination in Epsilon Eta. His father, Charles Emory, Jr., is an active member of the Knoxville Alumni Club.

Three new men were also pledged during the early part of the quarter: Lyman A. Darling, Jr., Swarthmore, Pa; Jack H. Parten, Oliver Springs; and Ray Moores, Nashville.

We are proud of the achievements of our Commander, Elmer L. Cooke, Lawrenceburg: vice president of the Senior Class, ODK (campus activities); Scabbard and Blade (honorary military); AZ (honorary agriculture); U-T intramural manager; and editor of the *Tennessee Farmer*. Beside these, he holds keys in numerous other campus organizations.

The pinning craze continues to roll here at U-T. William L. Arledge pinned Pat Williams, ADII, and Arthur F. Cake, Shirley Spears, Maryville. The bachelors in the Chapter are being placed under extreme pressure.

Two members are being graduated this quarter: William H. Cate, law, and J. Frank Russell, Jr., agriculture. Brother Russell, or rather Lieutenant Russell, will leave for active duty in the Army upon graduation.

#### TENNESSEE IS RESOUNDING

September 1952

By R. Eugene Webster, Reporter

With the beginning of the summer, Epsilon Eta is well on the way toward a successful year. We were kept busy during the spring by the Division 20 Convention, intramural athletics, our Starlight Ball, and house redecoration.

During the convention we were usually honored by the presence of members of the High Council. We hope that all Chapters of our Division profited as we did from the series of discussions that were held. Please refer to the Knoxville Alumni Club's report for a more detailed account of the convention.

Our clean-up project prior to the convention included repainting, refinishing of furniture, and landscaping.

Our spring formal, the Starlight Ball, was a resounding success. Guided by Social Chairman Bob Williams, it added to our reputation as one of the best fraternities on the campus.

In intramurals, our softball team advanced to the finals by winning six straight games, only to be declared ineligible. Our Chapter promised to do better next year.

Formal initiation ceremonies were held for Bas R. Young, R. Eugene Webster, Robert H. Williams, John W. Clouser, Jack H. Parten, Robert C. Stewart, Will P. Hogan, Jr., and W. Powell Partridge.

New officers for the coming year are: Tyler E. Riggins, Dover, Commander; Cecil H. Stanbery, Cleveland, Lieutenant-Commander; T. Boyd Evans, Athens, Treasurer; R. Eugene Webster, Oliver Springs, Reporter; Philip G. Shipp, Knoxville, Chaplain; John A. Greene, Maryville, Recorder; William W. Hay, Jr., Knoxville, Sentinel; Bas R. Young, Lawrenceburg, House Manager; H. Paul Leeper, Jr., Nashville, re-elected Stewart; Robert H. Williams, Maryville, Social Chairman; and Jack E. Nelson, Knoxville, Alumni Contact Officer.

#### TENNESSEE'S FOOTBALL STARS---SIGMA NU'S PRIDE

February 1953

Sigma Nu starts the New Year with what promises to be an outstanding one on the campus with many new pledges, numerous campus activities, a new Housemother, and three football starts to its credit.

As the University of Tennessee clashed with the Alabama Crimson Tide on the UT gridiron, October 18, the largest crowd of spectators at any athletic event in the history of Tennessee assembled together at Shields-Wadkins Stadium and witnessed a Sigma Nu pledge, sophomore tailback, James A. Wade, lead the Volunteers from a one-to-six point underdog rating to a 20 – 0 victory over Alabama. Sigma Nu also prides itself in having as pledges two other gridirons stars, E. Robert Bringle and Earl E. Campbell. Bobby, now out of action because of injury, saw plenty of the pigskin in earlier games as first-string safety man. Earl is in the game with Jimmy as first string offensive guard. All three boys pledged late last spring as Freshmen. We, indeed, do feel that we have something for which we can be proud.

Epsilon Eta was highly honored this fall when Mrs. Harriett Stange accepted the position of Sigma Nu Housemother. Mrs. Stange's husband, the late Mr. Stange, was the former dean of veterinary medicine to Iowa State College. We have all grown extremely fond of her in the few short weeks of her presence and are looking forward to a very pleasant relationship.

Under the leadership of R. Bruce Armstrong, Rush Chairman, Rush Week rewarded Epsilon Eta with many good men wearing the pledge pin of Sigma Nu. Robert S. Albritton, Richard K. Baird, Bobby G. Borruff, E. Robert Bringle, Earl E. Campbell, Ewing C. Chenault, Lyman A. Darling, Jr., Kenneth R. Grubb, Julian A. Mouron, Ray N. Moores, John G. Pettyjohn, Jr., George C. Queener, Myron M. Rogers, James L. Sexton, James A. Wade, William L. Hood, Thomas N. Farrell, James D. Gray, Jim L. Woullard, William E. Ledgerwood, Donald E. Gonzales, Larry M. Littleton, Edgar Rawlings, Walter M. Jarvis, Samuel A. Carter, Herbert F. Frisbie, C. Robert Horn, Bill H. Goad, James R. Broome, Gordon D. Carlock, Raymond Douglas Mace, Frank W. Warner, Ernest U. Reagan, Charles R. Porter, James A. Wardley, James A. Durham. The pledge class elected John G. Pettyjohn as their president.

Three new men are now wearing the active pin. Initiation ceremonies were held for Ernest E. Seagle, Mark A. Sunstrom, and George H. Vickers. After the ceremonies they were directly into the active meeting for the election of officers.

The officers for this year are: Commander, Cecil H. Stansbery; Lt. Commander, William M. Parish; Treasurer, T. Boyd Evans; Reporter, George H. Vickers; Chaplain, Charles A. Warner; Sentinel, Leslie W. Miller; Steward and House Manager, Mark A. Sunstrom; Social Chairman, Robert H. Williams; Rush Chairman, R. Bruce Armstrong; Intramural Manager, Jack W. Clouse; Alumni Contact Officer, Jack R. Nelson.

The members of Epsilon Eta Chapter of Sigma Nu here at UT are looking forward to a very successful year in campus activities and scholarship as well as in the fellowship of our own members.

#### HOUSE PURCHASE AT KNOXVILLE

September 1953

Thomas N. Farrell, Reporter

The big news from Epsilon Eta Chapter at the University of Tennessee is that we have succeeded in purchasing a new house with the help of alumni Dr. L. Alton Absher, president of the Housing Corporation; Henry T. (Squire) Ogle, a member of the House Corporation; Leo J. Hardin, Chapter Advisor, and the National. The house is located in a very favorable position in regards to the campus and was redecorated with the help and elbow grease of one of our esteemed alumni, Brother Walter B. Yater, Jr., of Knoxville.

The Chapter recently elected officers for the coming year. Brother Jor R. Gamble, Jr., of Maryville, was elected Commander. Brother Gamble is a Junior in the College of Agriculture and was recently a candidate for vice-president on the Senior Class. The other officers are:

Several of our members have distinguished themselves on the campus this spring. As mentioned before, Commander Gamble was recently a candidate for vice-president of the Senior Class, and Brother Jim Wardley was a candidate for secretary of the Sophomore Class. Other honors are: Brother Buzz Sunstrom, Neheeyayli Board; Brother Les Miller, Scabbard and Blade; Brother Tom Farrell, Sophomore Council.

Recently Brothe Gamble and Parrish represented the Chapter at the regional meeting of the Fraternity at Birmingham. In addition, to presenting fine talks on alumni contact at the meeting, both brothers came back full of plans and ideas. Brother Leo Hardin also attended this meeting.

In the sports department, Epsilon Eta was champion of the Fraternity Basketball League and was recently presented with a fine trophy.

The outstanding social event of the spring quarter was our biannual Creole Ball, which was held on May 22. The Epsilon Eta Chapter since our founding in 1922. The house and yard were decorated in typical creole style with Spanish moss and magnolia blossoms, and a creole breakfast was served on the lawn at midnight.

#### BUSY BEES "REDO" HOUSE

November 1953

"Busy as a bee" has been the best description this summer of the Epsilon Eta Chapter here as the University of Tennessee. Several of the members have spent the summer cleaning and painting our new house.

The house has been redone from top to bottom. As apartment was constructed for the housemother, Mrs. Harriett Stange, and an extra room has been added to the second floor. This work has been accomplished with the aid of the Alumni Club, whose enthusiastic support made is possible.

Brothers Joe R. Gamble, Jr., Commander; James A. Wardley, Treasurer; and T. Boyd Evans, Assistant Treasurer, attended the Leadership School held at the University of Indiana. With our new house

and the fine bunch of brother we have, the coming year should prove to be the best in the history of Epsilon Eta.

#### UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

September 1954

With the close of April, the spring election was held at Epsilon Eta. Our Commander, Joe R. Gamble, Jr., was elected for another term. Brother Gamble is from Maryville, Tenn. Others elected were: R. Gilmer, Lieutenant-Commander; James A. Wardley, Treasurer; Thomas N. Farrell, Recorder; Glenn E. Eanes, House Manager and Marshal; Robert H. Williams, Steward; Bernard I. Hartman, Chaplain; Donald L. Whistler, Social Chairman; Clyde E. Swift, Rush Chairman; David H. Hall, Intramural Manager; William T. Roberts, Sentinel; and R. Wyatt Corley, Reporter and Alumni Contact Officer.

Our Chapter now has a new adviser. He is Brother Walter B. Yater, Jr. of Knoxville, Tenn. Brother Yater's predecessor, Brother Leo J. Hardin, who assisted the Chapter for eight years, was called into active service. Lieutenant Colonel Hardin is now located at Camp Detrick, Md., where he is serving as a scientific administrator.

Plans have been drawn for attaining and keeping closer Alumni relations. In an effort to bring our alumni file more up to date, we recently sent cards to all of our alumni. If any of our brothers have not received cards from us, please let us know where you are.

We owe a great deal of thanks to our Mother's Club and our Alumni Club for the help and inspiration they have us during the past year. These two clubs gave freely of their time and money to help us with improvements for our new chapter house.

R. Wyatt Corlew, Reporter

#### A TENNESSEE TRANSFORMATION

February 1955

All the men here at UT have been working very industriously during the past few months, and we have already completed many improvements to our relatively new house. We are particularly proud of the transformation of our back yard into a marble-covered patio. In October this patio was dedicated to our Chapter Advisor, Walter B. Yater, Jr., who has been more than generous with his time and money.

During November the Chapter had a dinner for the Sigma Nu Mothers Club, and everyone agreed that it was a success. More recently the members of our Chapter helped participate in a year charity drive sponsored by a local newspaper. We worked one evening while the department stores were open and in only two hours solicited \$160.

In November we held our annual White Rose Ball and presented the new sweetheart of Epsilon Eta. Our new White Rose is Miss Barbara Jones, of Knoxville. To present the new sweetheart we had as

our guest United States Representatives Howard H. Baker, who was the first president of the Chapter. Also, we had as our guests some of the Kentucky Sigma Nus who were down for the annual Tennessee and Kentucky football game.

We are very proud of our two full time tailbacks, E. Robert Brengle, Jr., and James A. Wade, who starred for the Tennessee football teams this year.

Robert P. Hunter, Jr., Reporter

#### TENNESSEE MAKES GOOD START

April 1955

The Sigma Nus got off to an early start in the intramural campaign this year by taking their place in the fraternity basketball tournament. With a team averaging no more than six feet the participating men did an exceptionally fine job of competing with taller teams.

We are all greatly disappointed when our housekeeper, Mrs. Charles H. Stange, said that she found it impossible to be with us next year. "Mom" Stange has meant an awful lot to us during her stay here, and her many kindnesses will always be remembered.

During the first quarter of this school year the scholastic average of Epsilon Eta Chapter was greatly improved, but there is still a lot of room for improvement. We hope each additional quarter will bring as much improvement as the first.

The Chapter here at Tennessee has been successfully initiated as idea of serenading each new pinning. Brothers C. Leroy Anderson and David H. Hall are the first to be so honored.

During the quarter, a game night, sponsored by the Mothers Club of Sigma Nu, and a rummage sale were held to help raise some needed funds for the house.

Socially, congratulations are due Chairman Evan R. Minier for a fine season of activities.

Robert P. Hunter, Jr., Reporter

#### TENNESSEE IS REVITALIZED

February 1956

This chapter letter is more than just a summary of events, for it relates the beginning of the revitalization of Epsilon Eta Chapter through a policy of careful training and quick initiation of pledges, with an ultimate aim of a compact, smoothly functioning chapter.



At the beginning of the school year, Epsilon Eta found itself low on manpower, high in spirits, and with a new housemother inexperienced in the responsibilities of her job. After a week's hard work preparing the house, we entered Rush Week determined it was going to be good.

At the week's end and with pledging behind us, we found that almost to a man we had gathered a pledge class of unusually high caliber. That pledge class of sixteen men, whether we or they knew it or not, was the turning point for Epsilon Eta. At the next chapter meeting, the active members agreed unanimously that an entirely new pledge program had to be enacted. The response of the pledges to the program conducted by Pledge Trainer Henry D. Varnell, Jr., and Pledge Marshal Clyde E. Swift has proven that we have the best group of any year since Epsilon Eta reactivation. The quality of the pledge class has stimulated the active chapter to match or surpass its performance, resulting in a more harmonious, purposeful atmosphere in the chapter.

Achievement of this atmosphere has realized a goal that Walter B. Yater, our chapter advisor, has had for a long time. Always ready with a friendly quip or sympathy. Brother Yater has shown this chapter a kindly generosity for which we are very grateful, and which makes thanks inadequate. Brother Yater's work is being further implemented through a co-advisorship set up late last year. H. G. Merrill, III, is the co-advisor.

Our housemother, Mrs. Charles Stange, retired last year, returning to her former home in Iowa. When things did not work out with the new housemother everyone concentrated on convincing "Mom" Stange she belonged with her "family" in Tennessee. Letters and phone calls from alumni, other housemothers, advisers and chapter members finally convinced her she should return. No celebrity ever received a better reception---complete with motorcade from the train and surprise banquet, bouquets and special guests. This was indeed as a tribute to the person who has perhaps done the most to weld our chapter into a family through her gracious influence.

With our enthusiasm still high from Mrs. Stange's return, we carried through on the annual White Rose Ball. Planned by Social Chairman Ed Rawlings, it was one of the best the chapter has ever had. Once again we were honored to have Congressman Howard H. Baker, a former chapter commander, to preside over the crowning ceremonies for our White Rose. Imagine the Congressman's surprise when he wound up by crowning a beautiful Chi Omega pledge from Huntsville, Tenn., his daughter Beverly Baker! Her election had been a carefully kept secret.

Feeling that unselfish benevolent activities are necessary to deepen the purpose and value of fraternal living. Epsilon Eta carried through two such projects during the latter part of the fall quarter. The first of these activities found the chapter working for the Knoxville Journal's Mike Fund. One night each year the entire chapter goes out to solicit money for the needy children of Knoxville maintained by this worthy project. Our other annual project, and one which we particularly enjoy, is the chapter's annual Christmas party for the boys of the Williams-Henson house, a Lutheran institution for boys. This year Lyman Darling played Santa.

Having a wonderful time at this party, Santa decided a stay for the annual Chapter Christmas Party which followed. In a good humor, Santa presented comical gifts, and we sang Christmas carols.

Reviewing our rush policies, the chapter favored and adopted a new year round program using our new pledge class as a basis. Since the pledges are in a good position to meet and evaluate eligible rushes, it was decided to include them in planning the program. Headed by Rush Chairman William R. Holden, Jr., the joint rush committee consists of actives Dale Blazer and Powell Patridge and Novices Johnny Vandergriff and Bob Rushton. The rush is geared to highly selective pledging.

During the Leadership Conference held at Bloomington, Ind., last summer, scholarship was particularly emphasized. Not only do scholastic ratings reflect praise or blame on Sigma Nu Fraternity as a whole, but they also reflect on each member as well. Feeling that poor scholastic standing indicates a poor chapter, Epsilon Eta is working to advance its already-improved scholastic standing. We have set aside the fraternity dining room for a study hall in the evenings and provide adequate light and coffee. The response has been surprising. Not only have chapter members respected the "quiet hours" and used the study hall, but students from the nearby noisy dormitories make regular visits to the chapter for a quiet place to study.

Perhaps this is a bit long for a chapter letter; yet everything in it covers only a small part of what we feel inside of us is the revitalization of Epsilon Eta. It's the thing that makes us say, and know that we are not exaggerating. "Sigma Nu is tops at Tennessee."

Robert P. Hunter, Jr., Reporter

April 1956

The second quarter's work here at the University of Tennessee is almost behind us, but there is still time to rave about the fall quarter's scholarship of Epsilon Eta. The chapter was well above the all men's scholarship average and the all fraternity average while finishing in second place on the campus. This feat gives the men of Sigma Nu a better-than-ever chance to win the scholarship cup award at the end of the winter quarter every year. This cup takes into account the scholarship standing of the preceding spring, and the fall and winter quarters of the present year.

The Epsilon Eta Alumni Club is in the process of reorganizing. At a recent dinner held at the chapter house, new officers were elected for the present year. Brother T. Boyd Evans was elected president, Brother William M. Vandegriff, Jr., secretary-treasurer, and Brother Henry T. Ogle, membership chairman.

We all are very proud that our co-advisor, Brother Harry G. Merrill, III, was honored by Sigma Nu Fraternity, by its acceptance of his article which appeared in the February issue of The Delta, entitled "The Chapter House and the World of Books." This article was written in collaboration with Ben Powell (Delta Gamma) and Carson Bennett (Epsilon Mu).

September 1956

Work at the William Henson Lutheran Home for Boys in Knoxville was the Service Week project of Epsilon Eta Chapter. The week of work, mending fences, clearing brush, painting, etc., was climaxed

on Sunday with a picnic dinner for the children, Chapter members and their dates. Dale Blaser, who was in charge of the project, was aided in preparation by Housemother, Mrs. Harriet B. Stange.

November 1956

A new look has occurred at this Chapter, due to extensive summer remodeling of the main floor, carried out during the past summer, Brother Walter B. Yater, Jr., adviser, was in charge, and brothers in summer school carried out his plans. Rushes of this fall have been particularly impressed with the improvements. We plan to make full use this fact during the present Rush Week. Plans are aimed at selective pledging to bring Sigma Nu more prominence during the coming year. A big Rush Week program is planned, under the direction of William R. Holden, Rush Chairman, and Richard K. Baird, commander.

A bright spot is the fact that pre-rushing has netted this Chapter nine pledges of the highest quality, which we hope will form the nucleus of the finest pledge class in recent years. These pledges have been obtained through the hard work and co-operation of all the brothers. Spirits are high, and we look forward to living up to the promise of the early season.

Lyman A. Darling, Jr., Reporter

#### TENNESSEE ESTABLISHES DILLER WOOD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

April 1957

A kindly, keen, and tireless man known and loved by thousands of Sigma Nus will be commemorated by a scholarship award created in his honor for Epsilon Eta Chapter.

He is the late Diller C. Wood, former national Chapter Visitation Officer and a loyal Sigma Nu of more than fifty years' activity in the fraternity.

Instituted anonymously in the late Brother Wood's honor, the memorial took the form of a scholarship award because of Brother Wood's deep interest in the project.

With awards scheduled to start next fall, the annual cash award of \$25 will go to the novice with the highest average of "B" or above and with a satisfactory record as a pledge. To the cash award, Epsilon Eta Chapter has added a beautiful decorated plaque with bronze plates on which the names of successive winners will be engraved.

In charge of working out details of the award has been William R. Holden, Jr., Epsilon Eta scholarship chairman.

Several years ago, when Epsilon Eta was struggling its way through protracted troubles, local alumni recall that it was the late Brother Wood who contributed immeasurably to its survival and progress.

A highly educated man, Brother Wood retained throughout life a twin interest in the mental and moral cultivation of the human character. This was the key to this advisory work as a visitation

officer, for though absolutely refused to compromise morals and expediency, he always insisted that the individual have a fair and sympathetic hearing.

This was evident time after time in his connection with Epsilon Eta Chapter. His close, unbreakable cooperation with former Chapter Advisor Leo J. Hardin was responsible more than most factors for the chapter's notable advancement.

Diller Clement Wood began his fraternity activities more than fifty years ago when he was initiated into Rho Chapter at the University of Missouri on September 16, 1902. A commander of Rho Chapter during his senior year in college, he became its chapter advisor in 1929 and retained the post until he affiliated with the general office in 1944. He remained visitation officer until May 1, 1955, retiring for reasons of health. He died last summer while living in Arizona.

Brother Wood was fiercely proud of the achievements of Rho Chapter all his life, and talked of them often. Yet he found also a big place in his heart for Epsilon Eta, and dearly wanted to see this once proud chapter of Sigma Nu encouraged to return to its former campus eminence. He put thousands of hours of work and correspondence into this goal, as his colleague, Brother Hardin, can testify.

Among Brother Wood's varied activities were these of merchandise broker in Kansas City and Oklahoma City; work of the research staff in agricultural economics at Montana State College; consultant for the Morse Agricultural Service in New Orleans; a similar connection with the Doane Agricultural Service in St. Louis.

In 1924 he became chairman of the extension staff in agricultural economics at the University of Missouri, where he remained twenty years.

Born April 28, 1883, in Quincy, Ill., Diller Wood went abroad with his family as a youth and attended preparatory school there. He also lived in France prior to returning to the United States and completing his education here.

Even on his travels, Diller was often accompanied by some German literary work in the original, and one of his favorite poets was Horace, whom he was accustomed to read in the Latin even in his last year.

November 1958

Pat Eaves, Miss Tennessee, Sweetheart of Epsilon Eta Chapter

April 1959

Epsilon Eta was pleased to have Brother Harry Curtis, Ph.D. (Colorado), the former director of the TVA, as the principal speaker at the Founder's Day banquet. The alumni, actives, and pledges heard Leo Hardin speak on the history of our chapter.

A week prior to the White Rose Formal, we held a tea in honor of our housemother, Mom Stange; our retiring White Rose, Wanda Jones; and our Pledge Sweetheart, Mary Virginia Cecil. At the formal we presented Miss Ann Chrisman, Coral Gables, Florida, as our White Rose for 1959.

At the University of Tennessee we rush at the beginning of the fall quarter. We compete against fifteen other fraternities. There is no limit to the number of men a fraternity may pledge. The actual rush procedures vary a good deal from year to year. Ordinarily, we at least meet about four hundred freshmen and, because of the keen competition, necessarily rush about three hundred and fifty. Open houses are the usual form of a rush party. An effective supplement to fall rush, we have found, is informal rush conducted at every opportunity during the past year by Epsilon Eta. An informal mid-quarter rush dinner has been planned at which we hope to pledge several men. This method of informal rush will yield approximately twenty pledges. Vic Hughes, Jacksonville, Florida, recently took over the position of rush chairman and, as such, has instigated a very effective rush program that promises an ever-growing fraternity.

William L. Cole, Reporter

#### MOURN A SIGAM NU "MOTHER"

September 1959

For two days, the American and Tennessee state flags flew at half-mast on the University of Tennessee campus, as faculty and students marked the passing of a great lady.

As passers-by glanced up at the flags, there was an air of hushed solemnity at the Sigma Nu house, where a funeral wreath adorned the front door. For the person whose death was mourned was Mrs. Charles H. Stange, housemother of Sigma Nu and one of the most beloved persons on the U.T. campus.

Mrs. Stange has died suddenly of a heart attack on April 15, while visiting relatives in Ames, Iowa. Following an initial attack she has been taken to Iowa State University Hospital, and, as telegrams of encouragement poured in, appeared to be improving. Her death came as a great shock to a wide circle of friends in many states.

Mrs. Stange was the mother of Miss Jean Stange of East Lansing, Mich., formerly professor of related arts in the U-T College of Home Economics. Her late husband, Prof. Charles H. Stange, had been the first dean of veterinary medicine at Iowa State. There is another daughter, Mrs. E. H. Peters of West Liberty, Ohio.

A member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Mrs. Stange was at one time president of the PEO Chapter at Ames, and had been active in the organization at Knoxville. Following World War II, she had been director of campus housing at Iowa State University.

Widely known to many Knoxvilleans and UT students for her warm personality and sense of humor, Mrs. Stange came to Epsilon Eta Chapter of Sigma Nu in the early 1950s. As a person of almost

unique tact and influence, she had given the chapter an atmosphere of courtesy and family consideration without parallel on the campus. Very frequently, unaffiliated students or members of other fraternities would come to her for personal counseling---always finding a sympathetic hearing and genuinely helpful advice.

So vital a part of the chapter had Mrs. Stange become, that her plans for retirement in 1955 proved short-lived. A mass campaign of long-distance telephone calls and telegrams, in which her many personal friends and the housemothers of other fraternities collaborated, brought her back to the University of Tennessee campus.

No celebrity ever received a better reception, complete with a motorcade from the train through downtown Knoxville to the Sigma Nu house, and a surprise banquet, bouquets, and special guests. "This is intended," a speaker said at the time, "as a tribute to the person who has perhaps done the most to make the chapter into a real family through her gracious influence."

When Mrs. Stange passed, a delegation from the chapter flew to Ames, where she was buried alongside her beloved husband.

Through several memorials have been planned in her honor, perhaps the greatest memorial through which this great lady will continue to live is the permanent influence she has had on all who met her, the kind of influence which comes, not from having heard about, but having known, a great and unforgettable human being.

To paraphrase a well-known saying, "In hoc signo vivimus."

Winter 1960

Epsilon Eta members have earned victories in swimming, tennis, badminton, ping pong, and indoor track to lead University of Tennessee fraternities in intramural competition. Larry Perry is a member of the Advisory Board for Convocations. The chapter will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in April. Epsilon Eta Chapter entertained a group of children from a local orphanage during the Christmas holidays.