

"Greeks" an Important Factor in Girl Life at University of Nebraska

FRATERNALISM among women as expressed in the Greek Letter societies is not an old institution, but it is particularly strong for one society organized in 1859 back in Indiana, the idea has grown with the passing years until now the membership in Greek Letter fraternities for women, extends the length and breadth of the nation, recognized by college faculties and fostered by the leading educational institutions the world over. Having had its origin in Indiana it is strongest in the middle west states, yet every state in the union has among its citizens members of one of the other of the eleven Greek Letter societies, which according to the university records there are in existence in this country.

It has been no easy matter for the women's fraternity to grow and develop, for the very idea has been fought at every turn in the road, and while it has had its champions, its enemies have always been up and doing. Among the latter can be numbered those who are still so orthodox that they oppose any kind of secret society for women, those who are opposed in general to anything in the school except the teaching of "reading," "writing" and "rithmetic," and those who have honest objections. The matter has been called to the attention of legislatures, school authorities have stormed, but the women have persevered until now the sorority is recognized by instructors as a part of the school and so far as the large educational institutions are concerned the fight on the part of the women has been won and their attention now is directed toward making their societies as near as possible ideal.



LIVING ROOM IN A SORORITY HOUSE.



RECEPTION ROOM IN SORORITY HOUSE.

Object of the Sorority.
The object of the fraternity is to promote good fellowship among the students who belong to develop friendship, love and to mix with the leading educational institutions some diversion, some pleasure and a development along lines which cannot be found in the school room. Its object is worthy in every respect. The test for membership is most severe—personal conduct, intellectual attainment, studious habits, congeniality, and a good understanding that all who are students and all who can pass the test are members of a sorority, for such is not the case. It may be expressed as one person put it. "All who are members have come up to the scratch, but all who come up to the scratch are not members." The university records show that being a member of a sorority and being a member makes no difference in the scholarship of the student. Of course the failures charged against the sorority girls are less than charged against the non-members, but out of the total enrollment of girls at the institution only 100 approximately, or 11 per cent, belong to any sorority. Consequently the records themselves have answered the charge that the sororities interfere with the progress of the member. The records show membership makes no difference at all insofar as credit marks are concerned.

The non-resident members make their homes. The expense of running the establishment is prorated among the girls who live there and, contrary to the general belief, the actual living expenses of the sorority girl is less than the student who rooms and boards in the city. These houses are managed under rules prescribed by a committee consisting of a member of the faculty, who is chairman; one member of each alumnus, and one active member of each society. The rules are more strict than those prescribed in the home where love holds sway. The Board of Regents proposes the name of two or three members of the faculty for membership on this committee and the sororities take their choice of these. The regents reserve the right to close any house or cause the expulsion of any member if, in its judgment, such call will not interfere with the studies of the students. Among the rules strictly observed by the girls is that no one shall receive company of the opposite sex at the sorority house, except in the presence or near presence of a chaperone. The caller may come only on certain evenings, when the call will not interfere with the studies of the girls. He may stay only until 10 o'clock. Parenthetically speaking, these rules may account for the supposed hostility of the young men to the sorority house.

Each sorority house has a housekeeper who looks after everything. The girls live two in a room, and in the selection of rooms the seniors have the preference and, of course, get the best. Sunday evenings are given a holiday and the girls themselves cook the dinner. For this purpose the girls are divided into squads and take turn about doing the work. In going out in the evening it is a rule that the girls shall go in crowds. The girls furnish the knickknacks and kioskshaws for the rooms and some of these are fitted up elegantly. Each is supposed also to furnish bed clothing. A bright spot in the life of the sorority house is the visit of the mother. The mother always brings something good to eat that mother bakes herself, and even though the girls have a say about what is to be cooked and how, it is bearing house fare just the same. The things from home taste good.

Oldest of the Lot.
The first Greek letter fraternity for women ever organized in the United States was the Kappa Alpha Theta, which was founded at DePauw university, at Greencastle, Ind., January 27, 1870. The Pi Beta Phi was first organized at Monmouth, Ill., in April, 1867, but this society was for a number of years known as the I. C. Sorority. The first Greek letter fraternity for women to get a foothold in Nebraska university and organize a chapter here was the Kappa Kappa Gamma, organized May 19, 1884. The other sororities which have a chapter in Nebraska university are: Alpha Omicron Pi, organized 1903; Alpha Chi Omega, 1907; Alpha Phi, 1906; Chi Omega, 1908; Delta Delta Delta, 1904; Delta Gamma, 1908; Pi Beta Phi, 1908. A total of nine sororities, not surpassed in number of chapters by any school in the United States.

Early Days are Struggles.
There is no question the girls in their initiation put the recruit through some strenuous paces, aside, of course, from the very serious part of the program, but so far as heard, as the girl in her letter said, no one has died from the effects. On one occasion recently held in this city, the story goes, the membership was taken to a large house in the suburbs, placed in a coffin and then to cheer her up the coffin was slid, or rather bumped down the stairs. Of course the girl didn't know she was in a coffin until after it was all over and the bandages removed from her eyes. It wasn't a bit hard for her, though, because during five days in which she was "rushed" she was invited to thirty-four parties of some description. She couldn't attend all of them, but she did the best she could. It used to be the custom for the sororities to give parties four and five times a week, but all this is changed now and under the Pan-Hellenic rules a very banquet is given and very few entertainments are sanctioned in between the beginning and close of school. The Pan-Hellenic rules have revolutionized the government of sororities. In years past the rivalry for new members was so strenuous that hair pullings have even been whispered about, but under the new rules every society gets a chance at the prospective member. While the rushing has its pleasant side it also has its uncertain and disagreeable side as well. For instance, many girls have been rushed to parties and given every assurance that when the day comes around she would be accepted as a sister. This means she must secure a unanimous vote of the active members. She has her hopes raised, like a bright comet the new girl, and she is not to become a member. These instances are not frequent, but they have occurred in the university here, and the disappointment in a few cases has caused the girl to quit school.

Season of Rushing.
In school life this campaign for new members is called "rushing," and if it is not the happiest period in a girl's existence she can surely shine brightly for her on other occasions. She has been passed upon long before she gets to Lincoln. She is met at the train as a distinguished visitor. The escort to her boarding house numbers up into the scores. A laughing, carefree crowd of girls as beautiful as innocents and good health can make them. The first night she is the guest of honor at a dinner party, at noon the next day she is the guest of honor at a luncheon given by the mother of one of the members. The next night she is the guest of honor at a dance, and so it goes. By the time school opens she is usually pledged to some sorority and if not she becomes the special object of interest to another sorority, and so she is passed around until at last she finds where she will be most congenial and then she pledges herself. Then come her days of worry. She begins to think of the initiation. She is not to become a full fledged member until after the end of the first semester. She has half a school year to think about it. And girls are human. Those who have already walked through the cactus and fallen exhausted beneath the withering heat of a tropical sun; those who have cried for water in vain when their parched throats cracked with every cry in mastering the mysteries of the order—these are the glorious days for them, and it is a brave girl who stands out and sticks to the pledge after the awful things she has heard during the waiting period. Not

infrequently the girl writes some of the things she hears to a fond mother, and the whole family some times worry over the danger which threatens their loved one. That this is true is evidenced by the following letter written to a mother by a girl who was rushed and was on the waiting list to be initiated:

LINCOLN, October. — My Dear Mother: Now don't you be the least uneasy about me. I expect to be initiated some time after Thanksgiving, but I am not the least worried about the matter. But I would be willing to suffer just a little, because I have had such a good time already. The first week I was here, as I wrote you, I went out every night to some kind of entertainment, and each seemed more pleasant than the one before. The girls are just as nice to me as they can be. I finally pledged myself to the — and I know the members are a fine lot. Of course they tell awful stories about the initiations and what they do to the girls. But I don't want you to be uneasy one bit. They do tell one story that if it is true I do not approve of. They say when one girl joined the sorority they took her to a cave near the state penitentiary and kept her there all night, blindfolded, with her hands tied. The next morning, they said, she was nearly frightened to death, and she was sick a long time with pneumonia, but she is well now. Another time they say a girl was locked up in a basement for several days and nights without food or drink, but they say she only smiled and said, "Wait and see what happens to you." So don't worry, mother dear, I am sure nothing will happen to me. I don't know if that none of the girls ever died from the effects of the treatment. One of the girls, who was on the ground, but I have been unable to prove it, so I don't know whether it is true or not. I only know this—I am going to be brave and I hope you will be, if I die, I die, mother, but it will be a glorious death. With love,

My father send a check for initiation fee.

Life at Sorority Houses.
Each sorority represented in the State university has a sorority house in which

Orators Come to Omaha

THE annual state intercollegiate oratorical contest will be held next Friday evening in the auditorium of Creighton university. This contest, which is participated in by the college of the state, is managed by the Nebraska Intercollegiate Oratorical association. This organization convenes once a year, when everything pertaining to the well being of the society is discussed and officers for the ensuing year are installed. The offices of president, vice president and secretary go by rotation according to the place in which the contest is held. This year the contest is to be held in Omaha and therefore a student of Creighton college, P. J. Barrett, is president, and as Colner university will have it next year, H. L. Britt, a Colner student is vice president.

There is also an executive board, the chief duty of which is to select judges of the contests. The by-laws of the organization provide that no judge of any contest shall be connected in any way with any college represented in the contest nor be a resident of the city in which any college of the association is situated.

For the present contest the board has selected as judges of manuscript A. C. Shallenberger of Alma, G. P. Costigan of Lincoln and G. A. Meade of Council Bluffs. The judges of delivery will be H. P. Good of Wahoo, W. G. Sears of Tekamah and

Lincoln Frost of Lincoln. The winner of the intercollegiate contest receives either a cash prize of \$25 or a gold medal of the same value. Of course the honor achieved by winning the contest is of much greater value than the medal, which is merely a visible token of that honor. The winner of the contest represents Nebraska in the interstate oratorical contest which is held later and in which the representative of Nebraska competes with the best of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Colorado, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Creighton university has been a member of the association eight years and in that time has taken first place four years and second place two years. In one year it took first place twice. This occurred when Frank Montgomery had been declared the winner and it was protested on a technicality. A second contest was allowed and in that T. F. McGovern, another Creighton man, took the prize. Other representatives of Creighton in the past have been Paul Martin, John Bennewitz, William Schall, James Woodard, Charles Thelen and William Sternberg. This year Creighton's representative is William Donohue, a member of the senior class, who has distinguished himself in his regular class work and especially in college dramatics.

A close contest is expected, as the men who will represent the several colleges are all of high merit.

Selecting the Sisters.
In the old days there was quite a rivalry among the societies to see which could get the most favorable mention in the public press and among individuals, but during the last two years this system has been entirely changed and now the watchword seems to be "modesty" along this line. Except in the university publications the various sororities object seriously to having the press notice their doings, especially in a manner that looks like self-advertising in the part of the particular sorority. This is a natural result growing out of the intense rivalry of the various societies in their race for new members. Because they believe it against their rules, some of the sororities even object to furnishing the names of their members for publication in other than a university publication, while one sorority flatly refused. Incidentally this matter is now up for consideration among the different members, and a sorority rumour may result.

In the old days it was not uncommon for committees from a particular sorority who had a prospective member in mind to even visit her during the summer vacation, to entertain her and before school opened in September have her pledged to this sorority. The result in many instances was not satisfactory. The girl was not congenial with other members of the sorority house. She liked some of the girls in other sororities better. This tended to create dissension naturally. Under the rules now prescribed by the Pan-Hellenic, which is a congress composed of all the fraternities, it is practically impossible for the girl to get in the wrong berth. The rules prescribe that she cannot be initiated into the mysteries of any sorority until after the end of the first semester. Even though she is pledged to one, under the rules she is permitted to withdraw the pledge and join some other sorority in which she believes she would be better satisfied. It is infrequent that when pledged to one fraternity a girl joins another, but if she does no discredit attaches to her.

Sororities at Other Colleges.
The sororities represented in the Nebraska university have chapters in other colleges as follows:

Alpha Chi Omega—Founded at School of Music, DePauw university, Greencastle, Ind., October 15, 1870. Members: DePauw university, Greencastle, Ind.; New England Conservatory of Music, Boston.

Northwestern university, Evanston, Ill.; Pennsylvania College of Music, Meadville, Pa.; University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

Alpha Phi—Founded at Monmouth college, October 15, 1867. Members: Monmouth college, Monmouth, N. J.; Cornell university, Ithaca, N. Y.; Lehigh university, Bethlehem, Pa.; Dickinson college, Carlisle, Pa.; Franklin college, Franklin, Ind.; Hildale college, Hildale, Mich.; Indiana university, Bloomington, Ind.; Lewis and Clark university, Mount Pleasant, Ia.; Knox college, Galesburg, Ill.; Lombard college, Galesburg, Ill.; Middlebury college, Middlebury, Vt.; Northwestern university, Evanston, Ill.; Ohio state university, Columbus, Ohio; Swarthmore college, Swarthmore, Pa.; Syracuse university, Syracuse, N. Y.; University of California, Berkeley, Cal.; University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kan.; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.; University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.; University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.; Woman's College of Baltimore, Baltimore, Md.

Aspasia Kappa Gamma—Founded at Monmouth college, October 15, 1870. Members: Monmouth college, Monmouth, N. J.; Cornell university, Ithaca, N. Y.; Lehigh university, Bethlehem, Pa.; Dickinson college, Carlisle, Pa.; Franklin college, Franklin, Ind.; Hildale college, Hildale, Mich.; Indiana university, Bloomington, Ind.; Lewis and Clark university, Mount Pleasant, Ia.; Knox college, Galesburg, Ill.; Lombard college, Galesburg, Ill.; Middlebury college, Middlebury, Vt.; Northwestern university, Evanston, Ill.; Ohio state university, Columbus, Ohio; Swarthmore college, Swarthmore, Pa.; Syracuse university, Syracuse, N. Y.; University of California, Berkeley, Cal.; University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kan.; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.; University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.; University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.; Woman's College of Baltimore, Baltimore, Md.

Complete Collection of Fossils
OWA CITY, Ia., Feb. 12.—At the close of the present school year the Geological Museum of the state university of Iowa will have the most complete collection of fossils from all of the marine geological formations of any similar institution in the United States. The collection will contain specimens of the ancient life forms of some of the millions of years ago that flourished along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and the Gulf of Mexico. The great task of collecting this enormously valuable material was conceived and undertaken by Jesse V. Henley of Davenport, Ia., a student in the state university, who will spend in the neighborhood of \$2,000 and travel about 10,000 miles to complete the work.

Henley entered the state university in the fall of 1896 and will receive his university degree in June, completing the four year course in three years. During the time that he has been in the institution he has devoted the most of his attention to geology under the tutelage of Prof. Samuel Calvin, head of the department of geology in the university, who is well known in scientific circles for his studies in paleontology. Only a few scattered attempts have been made in various parts of the United States to collect the ancient life forms along the coasts of America and Henley's work is the first attempt to secure a complete collection. He completed a part of his work along the Atlantic coast last summer and on December 2 last left for the west, where he will work along the Pacific coast and the Gulf of Mexico.

Henley's collection, which will number literally millions of specimens, will be given to the geological museum of the university and preserved there. Several heretofore unknown species have already been discovered and many extremely rare forms secured. Among the gems of the collection are the following: *Barnes costata* (angel wings), the shell of a bivalve living in the Pleistocene age, which has been exceedingly hard to secure on account of its flimsy character. *Mya pictura* (soft-shell clam), an inhabitant of the Miocene age, living between two and three million years ago; hard to secure on account of its delicate character. *Johns Hopkins* university has only one perfect valve. Henley secured three.

Many rare specimens are expected to be discovered as the material is sorted over and a complete report can hardly be made within the next three years. Henley had many amusing and some dangerous experiences on his travels. The specimens he secures are on the coast of the ocean, usually where a river cuts through the bank exposing the deposits. In almost every instance, therefore, he was compelled to drive from five to thirty miles after leaving the railroad. Then again it was almost impossible to secure help and Henley had to work alone nearly all of the time. His work along the coast usually created great excitement among the scattered inhabitants of the country. The most popular belief was that he was searching for gold deposits and the natives were usually unwilling to accept any other explanation.

In some instances it was possible for Henley to secure his specimens from exposed bluffs above the level of the water and many times he was compelled to strip and work in the ocean surf. At Welles Bluff, Maryland, he worked this way for two days, but as a result secured many fine fossils. Many times when it has been impossible for him to secure rooms in farm houses in the immediate vicinity of his work, he has slept in old wharf houses or deserted sheds. On many of his explorations he has been compelled to carry his food with him.

After collecting his material Henley packs it in heavy boxes and ships it to the university here, where it is later sorted over, classified and catalogued. Inasmuch as he has a large number of specimens of nearly every form secured, lists will be made up and offered in exchange to other museums in the United States. Prof. Calvin values the Henley collection at from \$10,000 to \$15,000, and it will form the most notable addition to the museum in several years past.

Prattle of the Youngsters
"Now then children," said the teacher, "what is it we want most in this world to make us perfectly happy?"

"Do things we ain't got!" shouted the bright boy in the back seat.

Little Harold—Papa, did Solomon have two wives?

Papa—Believe he did my son.

Little Harold—Was he the man who said "Give me liberty or give me death?"

Little Willie, who had been listening to some scientific talk about the brain's functions, pondered over some new expressions he had heard, and that night when he was going to bed asked earnestly:

"Mamma, when people's hair begins to turn, is it because the gray matter in their brains is leaking through?"

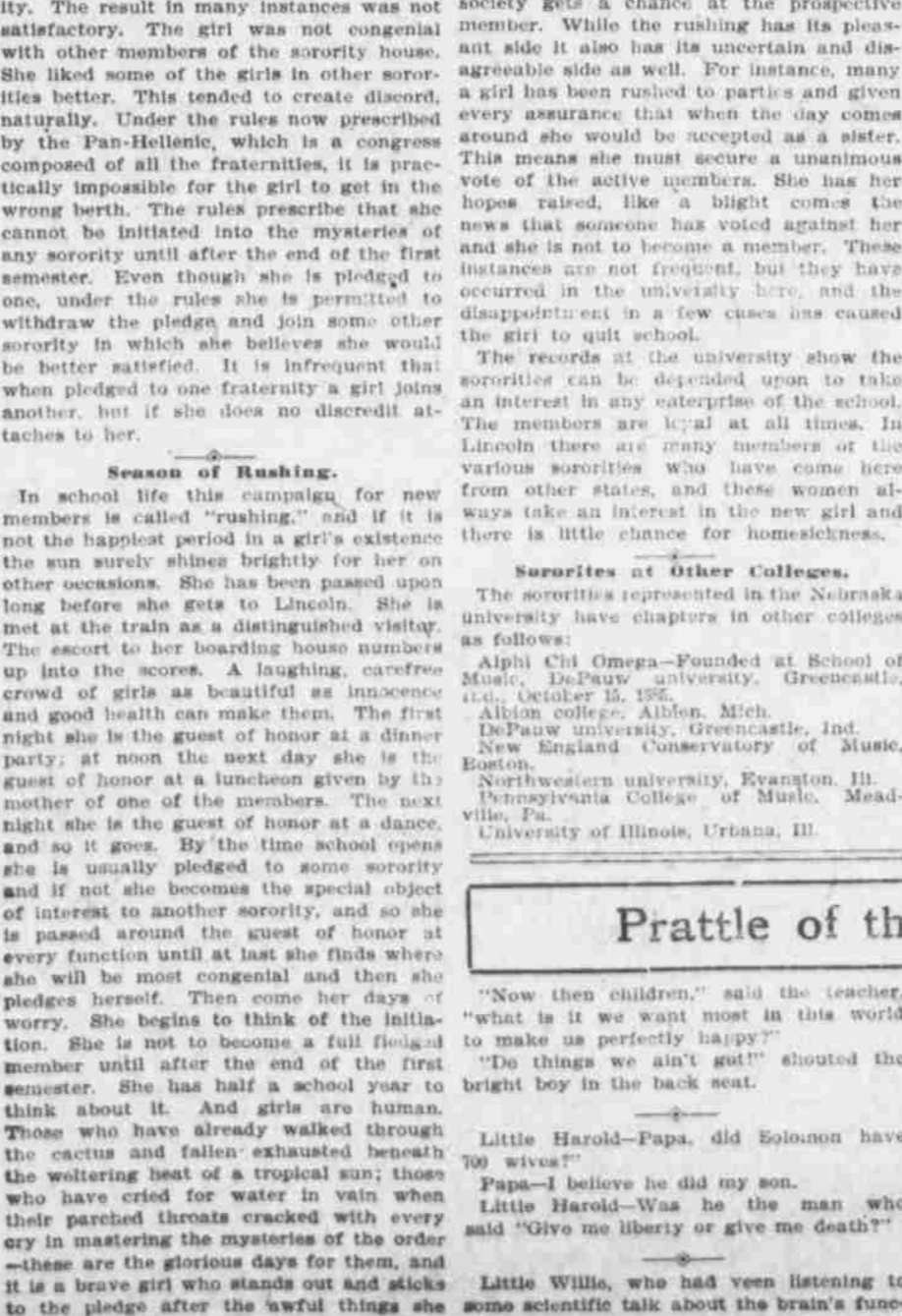
"I know what the preacher meant when he spoke of the lay members this morning," remarked little Fred on his way home from church.

"What did he mean, dear?" queried his mother.

"He meant chickens," answered Fred. "I heard him tell papa the other day that there was a lot of gossiping old hens in his congregation."



P. L. BARRETT, President Nebraska Collegiate Oratorical Association.



JESSE V. HENLEY.



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