

SIGMA TAU SOCIETY

ORGANIZED AT NEBRASKA ONLY
SIX YEARS AGO.

ANNUAL LETTER AND MESSAGE

Alumni Members of the Fraternity
Tell What They Have Done
Since Leaving School and
How They Work.

(By Prof. L. W. Chase.)

Sigma Tau.

The Sigma Tau fraternity was organized in 1903 by some of the engineering students of the classes of 1903-04. Although the fraternity originated at Nebraska, it is not necessarily local. Its constitution provides for the admission of other chapters. At present, besides the Alpha chapter at Nebraska, there is one at Iowa City.

Objects.

The objects of the organization are manifold; the general promotion of engineering education, the encouragement of young men to become lively and practical engineers, to inspire the young engineering student to greater effort both in the class room and the field, to bring the various engineering departments closer together, and to incite an attitude which will be common to all.

Selection of Members.

There is no special number of students taken from each class. A standard of requirement is made for admittance and this is adhered to regardless of the number of men eligible. The honor of being elected to membership depends more upon a student's ability to become an engineer than upon any other one qualification. However, general class work carries a great deal of weight, as well as the social standing of the men.

Alumni.

When students are in college they seem to have sufficient spirit and love for the institution from which they are to graduate, so that when they leave school for actual work in life the Alma Mater will always be remembered. By an occasional note the professor and fellow students will be able to keep informed concerning the residence and welfare of each other. As soon as graduates do get away, however, from the old university or college they seem to lose the spirit and nobody hears of them. Because of this condition, each Sigma Tau is required to send in an annual letter to the chapter of which he is a member. These letters are then printed and sent out to all members. By this means each member knows of the others and a perpetual fellowship is maintained. But not only the fellowship is maintained, but often financial benefits are derived from it, since one member can often assist another to a better position.

Received Last Year.

The letters which appear in this issue of the Nebraskan are those in brief which have been received for the year 1908 from members of the fraternity who are now in the field. Without doubt they will be of interest to the students of the engineering department, as they will indicate the standing of some of the younger Nebraska engineers who are now practicing their profession. They will also be of interest to the faculty and alumni of the university, as most of the men concerned were known in some manner or other to the university as a whole.

Send Out Letter.

The annual letter of Sigma Tau to its alumni members was mailed from Lincoln, December 29, 1908. It was eagerly read by the graduates, who always are pleased to hear what their brothers are doing.

Several of the alumni were heard from last fall. Their letters follow:

The following explanatory note was sent out with the annual Sigma Tau letter by O. L. Phillips:
"Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 29, 1908.—Dear Brother: I am sending you the 1908 copy of the annual letter. As a result of my failure to notify each man that his letter was due this letter is a little late and there are several brothers who are not represented. I wish you a successful year and hope that you will have many interesting things to tell us next year.

Fraternally yours, O. L. Phillips, Corresponding Secretary."

The annual letter:
"Dear Brothers in Sigma Tau: When this annual letter will have reached you we will have started upon another year which the chapter, in sending this to you, wishes may be a happy and prosperous one to all the brothers who are at work. As we did not hear from all the brothers, we cannot let them know all the news that the annual letter contains, so if those who get this will give the items of interest to those who do not, they will oblige the chapter, as we want all those who leave school to feel that we like to hear from them and know how they are getting along. Also reminding them that October 15 every year is a day when they should lay off long enough to write a letter to the brothers.

"Last year we had a very enjoyable and prosperous time. There were eighteen members during the year. Two of these, White and Weller, graduated at the end of the first semester. As White was Sphinx, Hrubesky was elected for the place, for the second semester.

Several banquets and smokers were held during the year. At the annual banquet we had an exceptionally good time. A number of the earlier men being present Brother John Westover acted as toastmaster. Our banquet this year will probably be held in February, although no definite date has been chosen, and we will be glad to have any of the brothers present. If you can arrange to come, let us know so that we may have a place for you.

"We started the year with eight active members, Brother Fiske not being in school. We now have eighteen and one pledged. The fellows: Buol, Currier, Fulton, Fleming, Guldinger, Gantt, Hinman, Howard, Jones, Let-

pany. In the struggle for daily bread, however, my work is not varied to any extent.

"I landed here June 23, 'on trial.' I am still on trial for that matter, but have been informed that the exposure is liable to take. The only question now with me is whether I can live through it or not. Prof. Richards told me when I started out here that I would have to work like the d—, and I agree with him, except that it is more like two d—s. My work as manager consists of hiring and firing, the first referring to men, the last to the boilers; reading meters; testing meters; collecting; laying materials.

"There is one thing I cannot handle so far, that is the cigars the traveling men give me. I often wish I had Hrubesky to help me out as I know there would then be no difficulty.

I do find the work pretty hard here and the hours are very long and irregular. I am getting some valuable experience out of it, which is worth the effort put forth for a while, at least. To some of the fellows who got out this year, I will say 'go easy' when you tackle some of these country town lighting plants.

"I await with considerable anticipation the coming of the annual letter, as I know it will bring me many things of interest and I hope the Brothers will make it a better letter than last year, although I thought that a banner letter.

"Wishing the active members a good year in school, and all the older members success, I am fraternally yours, O. J. Shaw."

A. L. Kokjer.

"Cheyenne, Wyo., Oct. 25, 1908.—Dear Brothers: I suppose that the time is past for this letter, but I did not remember the date on which it was due.

maintain the eight docks which belong to the company. During the coming year it is intended to construct a new permanent dock 1,600 feet long.

"During the past year we have completed the Gamboa bridge—fourteen plate girder spans and one through truss—and have installed three new girder spans in the Barbacoas bridge over the Chagres river.

"Brothers Needham and Weller are still here. C. K. Smith has gone to Peru, leaving here last July. I do not know how many of you are fortunate enough to have some of the fellows on the same work with you, but I am sure that those who have agree with me in thinking it a great privilege. My experience with the fellows has been peculiarly satisfying and I hope and believe that the men here are of the same type as Sigma Taus everywhere.

"Am anxious to get back and attend another meeting similar to that of last spring when the active members initiated a few novices with some added 'wrinkles' to the ritual. As ever your Brother, H. P. Warren."

R. L. Battan.

"Spokane, Wash., Oct. 26, 1908.—Dear Brothers: The year has been a busy one for me and no doubt for the whole bunch.

"After a couple of promotions with the Washington Water Power Co. I tendered my resignation on June 1 and embarked in engineering work for 'yours truly.' When I tell you that Spokane doubles its population about every four years you may understand that things are lively here at all times. They do not even wait for the election of Taft.

"I have had considerable drafting in the last year. There is much to do along the line of architectural work. I am now working on a dam

ENGINEER WALSH STAR

LEADS CORNHUSKER FIVE TO VICTORY OVER AMES.

ONE-SIDED SCORE OF 42 TO 20

Inaccurate Goal Tossing Mars Play of Nebraska Five—Herbert, Left Forward, Plays Good Game for Aggies.

Nebraska opened the local inter-collegiate basket-ball season at the university armory last night by whaloping the Ames aggies in a slow game by a score of 42 to 20. Inaccurate goal-tossing marred the otherwise brilliant play of the Cornhuskers. Neither Walsh, the Nebraska captain, nor Woods, left forward, were in form and both of them missed many easy throws for goals. In team work the Cornhuskers showed great improvement over their play against the Jayhawkers last week. In this respect they outclassed their opponents and kept the play in Ames territory practically all the time during both halves.

The visitors at times exhibited flashes of brilliant basket shooting, and for five minutes in the second half made most of their points. For the Aggies, Herbert, left forward, was a star. He followed the ball continually and frequently broke up the Cornhusker play. Law also did some fast work for the Aggies. Bell and Captain Walsh were the stars for Nebraska. Line-up.

Nebraska.	Ames.
Walshlf.	Herbert
Woods, Schmidtrf.	Brown
Petrashakc.	De Vault
Bell, Jonesrg.	Case
Perry, Minorlf.	Law
Goals from field—Walsh, 8; Petrashek, 5; Perry, 4; Bell, 3; De Vault, 5; Herbert, 3; Brown, 1. Foul goals—Walsh, 2; Brown, 2. Referee—Hewitt. Umpire—Pinneo.	

Its advantages, so has the land of the spigitti, where winter is coming on and woolen sox are expensive.

"The 'big ditch' grows larger at an amazing rate, and if we don't have war with some one to take away the army—no doubt we will have ships sailing through the canal in a few years.

"I have grown rather rusty on the doings of the brothers, and especially so of those still in the university, so you may be sure the arrival of the annual letter is looked forward to with a great deal of pleasure.

"I know the bunch at the university was small to start with this fall, but I believe the few we had will carry on the work and make Sigma Tau a stronger and better society than ever before, and when the men are out of school they will see the benefit derived from such an organization more clearly than ever.

"With best regards to all the brothers and wishes for a successful year in the Iowa chapter, as well as our own.

"Yours in Sigma Tau,
"L. K. NEEDHAM."
Cristobal, C. Z., care Chief Eng. P. R. R.

Chester K. Smith.

"Lima, Peru, Oct. 28, 1908.
"Nebraska Chapter of Sigma Tau:
"Dear Brothers:—I'm afraid this letter will be somewhat late, and I am sorry it has been neglected so long. At the time of the last annual letter I was in Colon holding the job of draftsman on the Panama railroad. I remained there until the last of July, this year, working in the office at the time. Brothers Warren and Needham, who are still on the job, will probably tell you about the work, so I won't say anything about it.
"During May and June I spent a vacation in the states, part of which was put in around the old campus.

"In July I packed my work bag and came down here to work as an assistant engineer on construction for the Cerro de Pasco Mining Co., an American company who have a bunch of copper mines at Cerro de Pasco and a big smelter at La Fundicion.

"The company is engaged in making extensive improvements in and additions to its plant, especially at the smelter, where the capacity of the furnaces will be practically doubled, by adding five reverberatory furnaces, light McDougall roasters, two dust chambers and a large steel stack besides numerous minor details.
"Since I have been here I have worked both at Cerro de Pasco and La Fundicion. Have been here in Lima and Callao for the past month, but will go back up the hill next week.
"The ride up over the mountains is very interesting as it is quite a railroad. The point where it crosses the Andean divide is 15,665 feet above sea level, and the road from



Wood Shops

ton, Miller, Olson, Phillips, Strieter, Urtula, Wohlenberg, Wildish and Woods, Harvey being pledged.

"Through the efforts of Brother Munn, who is on the ground, we are endeavoring to get a chapter of the fraternity at Washington State University, provided he thinks it advisable. With that and the chapter at Iowa City, we will be well started towards a national organization.

"Extending the chapter's best wishes to all the brothers, I am, fraternally yours, M. C. Woods."

George L. Sullivan.

"University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, School of Applied Science, Sept. 25, 1908.—Dear Brothers in Sigma Tau: I am going to be dutiful in sending my first letter on time as I sure want a copy of that annual letter when it's out. I left Lincoln as soon as I got my sheepskin and spent the summer in San Antonio, Texas, working for Webber Driller Construction Co. on the foundation for a 20,000,000-gallon pumping engine that Allis-Chalmers Co. are putting in there. From there I came out here and am teaching kinematics, machine design and steam engine design. Boulder is the prettiest place I have ever seen. The instructors are mostly young eastern men, and are very pleasant to work with.
"With best wishes for Sigma Tau, I remain, as ever, Geo. L. Sullivan, 1135 Pleasant St. Boulder, Colo."

O. J. Shaw.

"Aurora, Nebr., Oct. 18, 1908.—Dear Brothers in Sigma Tau: I note by the calendar that I am a few days late. I, however, believe I still will come within the three days of grace. It will take only a few words to give a complete account of my doings since leaving school last June. I do not mean by that, that I have not been working most of the time, because I have been putting in from 16 to 30 hours per day in the service of the Aurora Electric com-

"After leaving school on June 11, I spent a week at my home in Clark's, then came to Cheyenne and entered the employ of the Union Pacific as special apprentice. The course is made up of 6 months in the machine shop, 6 months on the erecting floor, 2 months in the air room, 2 months in the car shops, 2 months on the rod gang, and 2 months in the round-house.

"I have spent four of the six months required on the machine side and have worked on nearly every machine there. The first month I ran one of the planers, the next two months on a lathe, and have been used as handy man on several different machines for the last month.

"The shops here employ nearly a thousand men at present and they are putting new men to work nearly every day.

"At present they are running the shops fifty hours per week; nine hours per day for five days and five hours on Saturday. If work is rushing we work Saturday afternoon also, and get time and a half for it.

"I have been watching the accounts of the football games in the Omaha and Lincoln papers and wishing that I were back in school to see some of them. The game with Minnesota was a peach.

"Hoping to receive a copy of the Sigma Tau letter I remain, fraternally yours, A. L. Kokjer, 104 E. Sixteenth St., Cheyenne, Wyo."

H. P. Warren.

"Colon, Ry. Dept., Oct. 25, 1908.—Dear Brothers in Sigma Tau: The past year has been comparatively uneventful with me. I am still working for the Panama railroad and am now engineer in charge of maintenance, having charge of the roadmaster and master carpenter's work as well as the engineering connected with maintenance. We build all quarters for employes in addition to the regular railroad structures, and also

and reservoir proposition for a fruit man. Concrete is coming into its own rapidly in this city. However, city bridge contracts running up into hundreds of thousands of dollars, are a little too heavy for me to tackle as yet.

The style of our firm of which 'yours truly' is vice-president and secretary is the American Concrete & Engineering company.

"Here's success to all the fellows. Your Brother Sigma Tau, R. L. Battan, Spokane, Wash., Box 738."

L. K. Needham.

"Colon, Panama, Oct. 27.

"Dear Brothers in Sigma Tau:
"It is past the time we are scheduled to give an account of our deeds for the year but I'm living in hopes that some one else is slow and I may yet be in time.

"As several of your know I'm still in the land of the tropics where Uncle Sam owns the busiest railway in the world.

"I've been working as transitman on maintenance of way under Brother Warren and so, of course, have no kick coming on my boss. My experience has been almost unlimited and has varied from office boy to bridge building.

"I spent two months on bridge work, and got some valuable information, especially on concrete work.

"Brothers C. K. Smith, J. H. Weller, H. P. Warren and myself were all here for about six months, and, as we worked out of the same office and saw each other every day, had a very pleasant life, indeed.
"Brother Smith, however, being more energetic than the rest of us, learned to speak Spanish very fluently and decided to go to Peru, S. A., where he would have a better chance to increase his education in that line. Of course all of us except Brother Weller have had our six weeks' vacation in the states since last October, and although the United States has