



Pi Kappa Alpha

Founded at O.U. In 1920

Scholarship, athletics, social activities and participation in all-university functions—each plays an integral part in the life of a Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity man attending the University of Oklahoma. A healthy interest in all four phases, which are essential for the development of a well-rounded man, has accounted for PiKA retaining its enviable tradition of leadership at O.U. since 1920.

It was in the fall of that year when Pi Kappa Omicron was granted a Pi Kappa Alpha charter. This chapter, named Beta Omicron, now is one of more than 93 PiKA chapters scattered throughout the United States and Canada.

The history of Pi Kappa Alpha dates much further back than 1920, however. Shortly after the Civil War, on March 1, 1868, six war veterans founded the fraternity. Bonds of friendship which developed while they were fighting in the Confederate Army were strengthened while they attended the University of Virginia, where PiKA was born.

The growth of the national fraternity organiza-

tion has been exemplified by the development of Beta Omicron chapter. Since that day in 1920 when 20 O.U. students signed the Beta Omicron charter, more than 500 men have become PiKAs. Many of them have built enviable records in various fields. Lynn Riggs, '23, author of "Green Grow the Lilacs" from which the popular play *Oklahoma* was adopted, and Joseph Benton, '20ba, '21fa, '41ma, internationally famous opera singer who was with the Royal Opera House in Rome, Italy, before joining the University faculty, are two from Beta Omicron who have carved niches in PiKA's hall of fame.

Other alumni who are well known in their respective fields—all on the O.U. staff—include: Tom Benedum, '28Law, prominent Norman attorney and member of the University Board of Regents; Dean A. B. Adams and Professor James Powell, '38ba, of the business school; Professor C. C. Bush, '23ba, '32ma, history department; Professor Dale Vliet, '38Law, of the School of Law, and Ted M. Beaird, '21ba, secretary-manager of the O.U. Alumni Association and former PiKA

national vice-president. Many honorary and service organizations on the campus have listed members of PiKA on their rolls during the past year. Among these are Phi Eta Sigma, Delta Sigma Pi, Phi Delta Phi, Union Activities Board and the Petroleum Engineers Club. In the spring of 1922 the Pi Kappa Alpha corporation was founded, making it possible for Beta Omicron to build a chapter house during that summer. That year also marked the beginning of a traditional social event on the campus—the PiKA Apache party.

The colorful Apache party is one of the most looked forward to seasonal events and is but one of the outstanding festivities of the year. There is the annual Black and White formal, and the Dream Girl dance held last fall at which we crowned Miss Doris Hildenbrand of the Kappa Alpha Theta house as our dream girl of the year.

One of the newer traditions established on the campus since the war by the PiKAs is the annual PiKA-Sigma Chi Pinball Tournament.

Under his supervision certain advanced students are making studies of insects living in the lake and on the shores, and correlating these studies with insects found in the stomachs of fishes. Other advanced students are making studies of the life histories of various game fish, giving special attention to parasitic diseases common to game fish at different stages of their life histories.

Other advanced students are studying the relationships that exist between proper land conservation and the production of fish in the lake. Attention will be given to possible environmental improvements which might be made in the area and which might lead to a greater production of fish and game.

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ness to accept the property and on March 31, 1949, Mr. Brillhart delivered to us an agreement to convey the two and one half acres with the building.

It was recognized, of course, that funds would be needed to complete the development and the matter was brought to the attention of the State Legislature. A few key legislators immediately saw the possibilities of the project and the legislature generously appropriated a hundred and ten thousand dollars to complete the laboratory.

As a result of the generosity of Mr. Brillhart and the farsightedness of the legislature, the State of Oklahoma will have available one of the finest biological research organizations in the nation when the project is completed during the next year.

However, the University of Oklahoma will not await the completion of the Biological Laboratory before attempting investigations of problems at Lake Texoma. Professor Carl Riggs, Acting Director of the Oklahoma Biological Survey, and one of the most competent lake and fishery specialists in the country, is spending the summer in fishery re-

search at Texoma. He has with him several advanced students in biology and game management. Through the courtesy of the United States Army Engineers this group has been furnished a barge and other equipment difficult for the University to provide, and the barge is being moved from station to station on the lake as investigations in various areas are completed.

Professor Riggs is interested first of all in determining just what kinds of fish are present in Lake Texoma. He is interested especially in the ratio of game fish to coarse fish present in the lake. He would like to know the age and the extent of growth of the different kinds which are present. He is interested in the poundage of fish taken by various fishermen and the possible poundage yield when maximum catches are made. He is interested in the depth distribution of fishes at different times of the year, for such information made available to fishermen would, of course, increase catches considerably.

He and his group will make careful studies of

the chemical and physical conditions of Lake Texoma and consider these conditions in relation to the possible increase of fish production if such conditions were to be altered somewhat. He is making a careful survey of the aquatic plants of Lake Texoma, especially those plants which are significant with respect to the production of fish.

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