



Alpha Tau Omega

Founded at O.U. In 1921

When you walk into the ATO house at the University, you will find something more than a fraternity house with its crest and the usual fraternity decorations; you will find something more than eighty-three college students living there. . . . What is it? It's something you can't explain easily; it's an intangible spirit of friendliness and brotherhood instilled in each man, it's something that he gets, lives and goes on living until the day his Maltese Cross lies silent above his chest in death.

But what is in this fraternity that makes it that important to each man who has worn the Cross? Let us introduce you to our fraternity, its solid foundation, and its success in the past and its promising future.

Alpha Tau Omega, the first Greek letter college fraternity organized after the Civil War was founded at Richmond, Virginia, on September 11, 1865, with its first chapter at the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, Virginia.

It was founded by three young Confederate soldiers, whose prime object was to restore the Union, to unite fraternally the young men of the South with those of the North, and to foster a Christian brotherhood dedicated to the task of achieving and cherishing permanent peace. Their inspiration was based on this sentiment:

*No North, no South, no East, no West
But One Great Nation, Heaven Blest!*

This, as one of our principles began the magnificent structure that provides the foundation of our fraternity. Since that time, what have we done for our fraternity; and what has our fraternity done for us?

She has grown to one hundred and two chapters throughout the United States and has broadened her goal by reaching into Canada. The Maltest Cross proudly hangs above the entrances of ninety houses which adorn the outstanding campuses throughout the country.

Her Cross has been worn by 53,600 fully initiated members. Since the time, Delta Kappa, our chapter, was installed on April 2, 1921, 540 have been initiated in this chapter house. She in return has produced such men as: Bruce Drake, '29phys.ed, basketball coach; Dick Reich, '47bs, ace defensive star with Phillips 66; and Paul Courty, basketball All-American '49. ATOs known by all include the Rev. William Alexander, First Christian Church, Oklahoma City; Curt Gowdy, sportscaster; and the immortal Fred Waring. These are but a few who have worn the Cross.

Our traditional "Bowery Ball" has been celebrated by our alumni all over the state returning to join the color and gaiety of the festivities. We have our Fall and Spring formals, and numerous house dances throughout the year.

ATO has consistently ranked at the top of the intramural calendar with its teams of football, basketball, softball, and track dominating the field.

produced \$8,449,317.55. This tax is frankly one of the more stable taxes that the State of Oklahoma imposes. It is recommended that 2 cents of this tax be used to retire this indebtedness. This would mean approximately \$3,500,000 per year would go to solve the greatest immediate need in Oklahoma State Government. No legitimate objections can be made to this method of financing except that it is a departure from our cash and carry type of government. However, this argument can not be sustained when it is agreed that the responsibility of government for its wards can not be shirked merely on the basis of having a debt free state. The effect of removing 2 cents of the cigarette tax from the General Revenue Fund would mean the reduction of the estimate on this tax by the same amount removed to apply to the bonds. In a practical manner this would mean that from the General Revenue there would be appropriated, assuming that there is no rise or decline in other taxes, \$3,500,000 less per year. Yet on the other hand, the budget requests the next legislature would continue to face, assuming this problem had not been solved, the same \$22,300,000 that was presented to the last

legislature for building. Simply it is the solution of a request of \$22,300,000 for a small portion thereof.

It is suggested by some that it would be better to finance all of these buildings at one session of the legislature, but this is impossible if we are to maintain common schools and our general functions of government.

Another objection is made on the basis of cost. Assuming that the \$36,000,000 is spent immediately it will cost the state interest estimated at \$9,000,000, yet one must realize that this \$9,000,000 of interest is over a twenty-five year period; which means this interest would be \$360,000 a year, and this figure does not compare with the exorbitant cost in repairs made in trying to maintain the poorly conditioned buildings we now have. Yes, interest will be paid, of course, but it will offset hundreds of thousands of dollars which would be spent yearly for maintenance of the old buildings had they remained. Therefore there is no justification for this argument.

Another objection is raised that this withdrawal of 2 cents will reduce the estimated general fund, but as above stated when the general fund has lost

the \$3,500,000 per year or less, at the same time the problem of meeting needing building costs which have run in figures of excess of \$22,300,000 per biennium will not be faced by the coming legislature. It is the opinion of many that the removal of the building needs from the budget requests will be of major importance in solving the coming financial problems of Oklahoma for the reason that succeeding legislatures will not be presented with demands for buildings and will be able to use all available funds for other functions.

The bond issue proposed to the people provides that if the cigarette tax is not sufficient to repay the debt, the legislature may impose other taxes. This is the only objectionable feature to the proposed bond issue measure. If the cigarette tax revenue should decline to such a point that principal and interest payments can not be met there is extreme doubt as to the wisdom of subjecting the people to additional taxes through an action taken when such large amounts of money have been made by direct appropriation to other functions. However, it is the opinion of the majority who have studied the

(Continued on page 31)