



## Phi Kappa Sigma

*Founded at O.U. in 1929*

Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity was founded at the University of Pennsylvania in 1850. From that date its steady, conservative growth has marked it as a leader in fraternity circles. With some forty active chapters in the United States and Canada, it is today one of the strongest, most closely knit fraternities in existence.

Omicron Chapter at the University was granted its chapter in 1929. Its house, one of southern colonial architecture, typifies the spirit of the fraternity in its dignity and friendliness. A large number of prominent men in government, law, finance and education have been imbued with the spiritual guidance and training of Phi Kappa Sigma.

An inspiring example of the harmony and strength of Phi Kappa Sigma occurred during the Civil War when a number of national fraternities were destroyed by the conflicting attitudes of the Northern and Southern chapters. Phi Kappa Sigma kept all its chapters intact and active during this war, though it had to adopt a secret fraternity

alphabet and code in order to carry on its correspondence among the chapters.

Outstanding among Phi Kap alumni are Maxfield Parrish, noted American artist; Pierre S. and Felix DuPont, of the famous manufacturing family; Andy Kerr, former football coach at Colgate; Charles E. Denny, railroad president; Walter G. Smith, president of the American Bar Association; the late Claude A. Swanson, former Secretary of the Navy; and Dr. Victor H. Kulp, president of the national order of the Coif, and professor of law at the University of Oklahoma.

Pledges and members of Omicron Chapter are active in many honorary, professional and activity societies on the campus and the chapter wholeheartedly supports all University sponsored activities and programs.

Each year Phi Kap social functions include the Winter Formal, Founders' Day Banquet, Christmas Party, Pledge Dance and the "Shipwreck Ball," plus numerous house parties, picnics, hayrides and

other events.

Omicron Chapter grew out of a local organization, Kappa Epsilon, which petitioned Phi Kappa Sigma for a charter for seven before it was finally granted. This is in line with the fraternity's conservative policy of establishing chapters only in good schools of recognized standing and to local fraternities which have proven their merit and strength. Though the chapter at the University is one of the youngest, its growth has been sound and steady.

The social and scholastic functions are always in balance, for one of Phi Kappa Sigma's main purpose is the furthering and fostering of the highest ideals of scholastic attainment in its members and pledges.

Founded almost a century ago by a group of prominent, farsighted men who believed that the promotion of good fellowship and the cultivation of the social virtues were of paramount importance. Omicron chapter of Phi Kappa Sigma has steadfastly carried on their tradition.

## Eight to One

Students who meet each other while attending school often stray apart after graduation and years elapse before they hear from one another again. Here is the story of how two classmates heard from one another after over a quarter of a century.

Back in 1944 when the war was still raging, Mrs. Claude B. Norris, '19ba, in Riverside, California, remembered one of her classmates who was living in a conquered country—the Philippines. So on December 13 she mailed a Christmas greeting to him.

It was addressed to Sr. Sergio Z. Esmilla, '18Law, Lilio, Leguma, Philippine Islands. The card was sent unsealed and without any personal comment. She knew well that it would not be delivered but she wanted to see just what would become of it. A few days later it was returned by the postoffice department with the terse statement: "Returned to Sender—Service Suspended."

Then in 1948 after the Philippines were liber-

ated she sent another Christmas card together with a picture of her family. But there was considerable delay before this card ever reached Esmilla. When the war broke out, he and his family had evacuated their home in Manila to move back to his home town in Lilio. They lived there until April 30, 1945, when they returned to Manila.

The Christmas greeting was received by his sister in Lilio, and she kept it in her desk with the intention of bringing it personally to Manila. But unfortunately she forgot about it and not until May 1949 did the card come to light.

This was the first time Esmilla had heard from Mrs. Norris since he left the United States 30 years ago.

In his reply to her card, Esmilla told her, "It appears from the picture that you have only one child. In our picture which we are very glad to send you, you will see that I have seven children more than you have."

In a more serious vein, he wrote, "Thank God that He saved all of us during the last war. We

are glad that your country is doing all she can to avoid the recurrence of another horrible war. For the sake of humanity, may all nations great and small have perfect understanding with each other and settle their differences amicably so that they may live in peace forever."

## Gilstrap Tours Ranch

Max K. Gilstrap, '37journ, head of the Chicago office of the *Christian Science Monitor*, was among 20 editors, public officials and educators to make a 1-day tour of Governor Turner's ranch near Sulphur, March 9.

The visit was part of a tour of eight southwestern states sponsored by the Armour and Company livestock bureau.

Gilstrap, formerly of Ardmore, has been associated with the *Monitor* since 1941, except for his period of wartime service. He was editor of *Stars and Stripes* in England and Europe. He became head of the Chicago office slightly more than a year ago.