

KAPPA PHI IS TWENTY-FIVE
AND
ROSE'S COLLEGE DAYS
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY
1938-1941



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MARY SEILER GOODENOW

KATHY GUY SANDERS

Dedicated to those women of vision and faith who nurtured the growth of Kappa Phi; so that, The Kappa Phi Club could become the national organization it is today. The authors gratefully acknowledge the authors of The Kappa Phi Club History and Candle Beams for their inspiration.

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Note: Unaccredited photos are from Candle Beams.



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SETTLING IN

Rose Hohler stepped down from the bus and into the station on Wooster Street. It was September of 1940 and the smells of autumn were in the air. She looked east and saw her beloved Bowling Green State University just down the street. She was so glad to be back in Bowling Green! Her trip on the Greyhound bus had taken three long hours from her home just outside of Cleveland, Ohio. Rose was excited to return to campus and begin her junior year of college. She could not wait to get her room assignment and move into Williams Hall. Her best friend, Dottie Guy, would arrive tomorrow and was to be her

roommate for the coming year. The roommates had met two years before, during the fall pledging period of Kappa Phi. The girls were now full members of this remarkable Methodist college women's group. The two friends had been writing letters back and forth all summer making plans for their new dorm room.

Rose arranged for her trunk to be delivered and she set off on the short walk to campus. She was so pleased to be wearing her favorite skirt, sweater set and new saddle shoes. She made certain to walk past the campus seal, passing it on the right, because as tradition holds, she would find a husband that way. She never walked to the left of the seal, because she did not want to be an old maid! Many college boys gave her admiring glances and she even heard a wolf whistle. Arriving at Williams Hall, Dottie checked in and was given her room assignment. Room 222 was to be her new address. Rose was ready! She looked forward to a grand year!



PHOTO BY MARY GOODENOW



WILLIAMS HALL. PHOTO BY MARY GOODENOW

The next day Dottie arrived and the two friends



spent the day unpacking, arranging, and rearranging their room to get it just right. The girls were especially excited about the radio Dottie had brought. They quickly tuned in the local station and started listening to some of their favorite big band tunes.

PHOTO BY KATHY SANDERS

Rose had brought many family pictures and Dottie brought her collection of movie star photos. These included Cary Grant, Clark Gable, and Mickey Rooney. Soon the photos were arranged on the walls, bedsprads and pillows were smooth and cozy, and books with study materials were meticulously collected before the first day of class. Rose carefully unpacked her typewriter, a prized possession, and placed it on her desk.



PHOTO BY LINDA DARROW

Rose and Dottie were both studying to become elementary school teachers. They studied child development, elementary arithmetic, and the theories of child psychology. They read children's literature and studied art and music for the classroom. Rose and Dottie looked forward to Practice Teaching, which was the semester when they would be allowed to work and learn in a real school classroom. However, that would not happen until their senior year.

But before classes began, Rose, Dottie and other Alpha Gamma officers would meet for a planning meeting for Kappa Phi. They would help plan the Rose Tea and other parties. Also, the girls wanted to plan programming about the year's theme, "The Good Earth." The cabinet wanted the chapter to learn the theme song that Mrs. James (Alberta) Meadowcroft, Grand Music Chairman, had written. They had learned it at Gamma Kora Conference the previous May. Also to be discussed was how to raise money to attend National Council at Sylvan Lake, South Dakota in June 1941. Everyone wanted to be at the 25th celebration.



ALBERTA MEADOWCROFT (Xi)

ALPHA GAMMA OF THE KAPPA PHI CLUB

Kappa Phi at Bowling Green State University was still a young organization. Alpha Gamma Chapter had been installed just a little over a year and a half ago on May 21, 1938. The installation had taken place under the direction of Miss Sue Seybold, Grand Alumnae Secretary and Miss Kathryn Bell, Grand Secretary-Treasurer. The installation service had taken place during Gamma Kora, which was planned to coincide with the historic event. Thirty-one women had become active members of the Kappa Phi organization that day. Alpha Gamma became the twenty-sixth chapter of Kappa Phi.



ALPHA GAMMA CHAPTER

CHAPTERS INSTALLED 1923-1941

1923	MU	UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
1923	NU	UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
1924	XI	UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
1926	PI	WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
1926	RHO	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA
1927	SIGMA	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
1928	TAU	UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
1929	PHI	OHIO UNIVERSITY
1932	CHI	COLLEGE OF PUGET SOUND
1933	PSI	FORT HAYES KANSAS STATE
1934	OMEGA	SAN JOSE TEACHERS' COLLEGE
1935	ALPHA ALPHA	GOUCHER COLLEGE
1937	ALPHA BETA	INDIANA UNIVERSITY
1938	ALPHA GAMMA	BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

Rose and Dottie had joined the chapter the following fall of 1938 and heard many stories about the exciting year of preparation leading up to Alpha Gamma's installation.

The two friends had received invitations to Kappa Phi as Methodist preference women students. They were intrigued by the theme of the event, "A Bubble Party." Upon entering the party, the girls found the room decorated with multi-colored balloons and streamers. Everyone sang the song "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles." The favorite activity was bubble blowing. Many were the bubbles that were made only to burst, as do so many of our bubbles in life. Even the refreshments carried out the theme as the "cooks" served whipped or bubbly Jell-o. The party ended with everyone literally "bubbling over" with satisfaction. No wonder, Rose and Dottie were two of 33 pledges!

Rose and Dottie were excited to be full members of Kappa Phi and place their mark on this organization. They proudly wore their badge pins, which cost \$6.00. Rose's parents had surprised her with the Alpha Gamma guard which cost \$4.00 more. The remainder of their freshman year at Kappa Phi was spent enjoying the theme of "Waterworlds."

As sophomores in 1939-1940, Alpha Gamma used the theme "Traditions." The whole chapter listened excitedly as president, Dorothy Blackmore, described the

events of National Council of Chapters at Northfield, Massachusetts. She had a special memory of the tea given by Mrs. LeSourd in her home. It was even more fun to hear about her adventures in Boston and New York City where she went to the World's Fair after attending National Council.

Rose was pleased to be chosen to serve on the program committee. Dottie was selected to be on the social committee. Both girls learned leadership skills and how to plan activities. They knew this would help them in their future church work in the newly unified Methodist Church.

All the girls were so happy to welcome Mrs. Wayne Huffman as Alpha Gamma's new sponsor. She was the Student Director of the Wesley Foundation. She and her professor husband graciously turned over their home twice a month for the Kappa Phi meetings. With her charming personality, Mrs. Huffman was endeared to all the Alpha Gamma members.

Rose and Dottie just knew their junior year in 1940-1941 would be special. Each had been elected to serve on Alpha Gamma's cabinet. Rose was the Vice President and Dottie was the Chairman of the Social Committee. Serious study and fun activities would encompass the upcoming year of Kappa Phi programming using the theme "The Good Earth."

A back to campus picnic was organized at the Wood County Fairgrounds located near campus. Girls munched on wieners, baked beans, donuts and sipped cocoa as they renewed friendships made the previous year.



PHOTO BY MARY GOODENOW

October brought the traditional Rose Tea. More than 70 girls were guests of Alpha Gamma that day. The patronesses served tea. Each girl received a favor, which looked like a basket of flowers, made out of candy gumdrops. A large gumdrop was used as the basket, little spice drops were used as flowers, and little evergreen candies were used for leaves. They were stuck into the big gumdrop with half toothpicks. Pipe cleaners were used as handles and

then the whole thing was wrapped in pink cellophane paper and tied with a ribbon.

As the girls left, their invitations to join Kappa Phi were found in the heart of the rose given to each guest at parting. Rose, Dottie, and the rest of the committee had painstakingly made the signature Kappa Phi pink rose decorations. They had also designed and made the special favor for each attendee.



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*The sisters of Alpha Gamma Chapter
Of The Kappa Phi Club*

Cordially invite you to their Fall Rose Tea

September 24, 1940 at 1:00 p.m.

At the home of Mrs. W. C. Jordan

158 South Prospect Street

Bowling Green, Ohio

Formal dress.

*We look forward to acquainting you with the Kappa
Phi girls and you will have an opportunity to learn
about our beloved organization.*

*Rides will leave the Wesley Student Center at 12:30
pm.*

Please join us!

Soon after the Rose Tea, the chapter planned a get acquainted fun night beginning with a movie at the Cla-zel Theater in downtown Bowling Green. The sisters fell in love with Cary Grant as they watched the movie **HIS GIRL FRIDAY**. Rosalind Russell played a reporter for a big Chicago newspaper and Cary Grant was her boss. The girls thought Cary Grant was dreamy and that being a girl reporter would be really “the cat’s meow.”



COURTESY OF CENTER FOR ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS,
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

The entire group then headed to Kiger's Drugstore for ice cream sundaes at the soda fountain. Downtown Bowling Green was filled with many people on Saturday night including farmers coming into town, college students looking for sweet treats, and townsfolk just wanting a night on the town. The Kappa Phi girls were amazed at the number of people, cars, and tractors that filled the downtown streets.



COURTESY OF CENTER FOR ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS,
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

WELCOME MRS. LESOURD!

In November 1940, Alpha Gamma welcomed Mrs. H. M. LeSourd, Grand National Sponsor. She visited the girls at a chapter meeting and told about her many experiences and especially those of working with other Kappa Phi chapters. The girls learned that Mrs. LeSourd was the only woman elected as a delegate from the



MRS. H. M. LESOURD

Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference of the Methodist Church. Also, she was one of only 10 women to serve at the Uniting Conference of the Methodist Church. In addition, she and Grand President, Ethlyn Whitney, were at the formation of the World Federation of Methodist Women.

The members were inspired to hear about Pearl Buck, author of **THE GOOD EARTH**. Mrs. LeSourd stressed the importance of missionary work and how it had changed the world. She spoke proudly about what various Legion of Light members were doing around the world. Mrs. LeSourd shared, “Women are not wearing veils in

Turkey, feet of Chinese women are unbound, and women around the world are being educated.”

She continued, “Let us say it over and over again—the world was not meant to be for the dictators of *any nations*, it is our *Father’s World*, and only as we take it seriously will we keep it so. Rise Christian womanhood and put on the armor of the Spirit and let us go forward to make the earth the Lord’s and the fullness thereof.”

At the conclusion of her talk, the members had a better understanding of the national organization, the workings of the Methodist Church, and the importance of missions around the world. Mrs. LeSourd invited all the girls to attend National Council of Chapters at Sylvan Lake in South Dakota in June 1941. She explained that this would be the Silver Anniversary of the founding of Kappa Phi. It had been twenty-five years before in 1916 that Mrs. Gordon B. Thompson (nee Harriet Sterling) had founded Kappa Phi with four girls from a Sunday school class at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Thousands of girls had joined Kappa Phi over the years and this year’s National Council would be a special time to celebrate. All those in attendance were heartened by Mrs. LeSourd’s visit. Of course, Rose and Dottie definitely wanted to go. How would they make some money to offset the \$30.00 cost of Council plus train fare?

Before they knew it, Christmas was on the horizon. The Kappa Phi girls decided to adopt two Bowling Green families who were in need. Toys were bought, new warm clothing was purchased, and two beautiful baskets were filled with fruits and sweets for the families. The chapter spent a fun evening wrapping presents and singing Christmas carols. They also voted to make a \$25.00 donation to the Wesley Student Center, which had opened its doors to the chapter for Kappa Phi's bi-weekly meetings.

The traditional Christmas buffet was held on the Wednesday evening before classes concluded on Friday. This dress up occasion featured the Kappa Phis in beautiful red and green holiday dresses. The chapter celebrated the initiation of nine new members. Big Sisters were excited to reveal themselves to each Little Sister. Small heart gifts were shared and the meaningful evening closed with the "Kappa Phi Benediction" sung in three-part harmony.

Benediction

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give un-to

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give un-to

you Not as the world giv-eth give I un-to you. —

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give un-to you.

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give un-to you.

3 rubato *rit.* *ten.*

a tempo *a tempo* *a tempo*

A WONDERFUL SEMESTER

When the Kappa Phi girls returned from Christmas vacation, chapter events were in full swing. There was the study about the foreign missions entitled “Around the World in Sixty Minutes.” At the local church the girls took charge of a Sunday School service and worked in the nursery on a weekly basis. Miss Durrin, a patroness, gave a book review on *THE GOOD EARTH* in January. In February Mrs. Harshman, also a patroness, was hostess for the pledging service for the Spring Semester. Four girls pledged their loyalty to Kappa Phi and each received her pin.

Thoughts turned to funding a delegation to travel to the National Council of Chapters and its Silver Anniversary Celebration. Of course, Rose and Dottie wanted to attend. Others were hoping to arrange their summer schedules to make the trip. The chapter decided to sell costume jewelry and to make and sell doughnuts to send their delegation to South Dakota.

The enticing smell of warm cinnamon doughnuts sold by smiling Kappa Phi girls standing outside of University Hall was a big success.



PHOTO BY JULIE SANDERS

Coeds, college boys, and even professors lined up to purchase the warm treats on their way to or from classes. The sales were quite successful.

In addition, the sale of costume jewelry in the dormitories was popular. Alpha Gamma's treasurer, Mary Cross, was kept busy counting the profits and keeping accurate bank records. All told the chapter raised \$250.00 to send their sponsor and two active delegates to the Silver Anniversary National Council. These funds covered the \$30.00 Convention fee and the \$38.60 roundtrip train fare.

Mrs. Ethlyn O'Neal Whitney, Grand President, warmed up a cold February meeting with her sparkling charm. She shared with the girls about being a delegate to The World Conference of Christian Youth in Amsterdam, Holland in the summer of 1939. She stressed the importance of becoming Christian women leaders in our church and our world, as leaders in Germany, Italy, and Japan threatened the world's peace. Ethlyn, also, invited the members to our national convention in June in South Dakota. Rose was so hoping to go!

During a March chapter meeting, the members were reminded that elections for the next school term were coming up fast. Girls were asked to prayerfully consider serving Kappa Phi as an officer of the local chapter. Several members encouraged Rose to run for president. They

mentioned her up beat attitude and can do spirit as essential for a successful year in Kappa Phi. Rose was flattered, but very overwhelmed at the thought of serving as president. Her sponsor told her to pray and let the Lord work it out.

Well, the Lord worked it out, and Rose could not believe the results of the subsequent election. She had been elected president of Alpha Gamma Chapter! Also elected was a great group of young women, who would be called her cabinet. (Of course, Dottie was going to serve as her vice president!) She wanted to do the best she could for her beloved Kappa Phi. How could she do this?

Then Rose remembered Mrs. LeSourd had promised way back in the fall that any member attending National Council would come away with wonderful ideas for her home chapter. She had explained that girls from all over the United States would worship, study, and grow in the Lord's fellowship during the week of the Silver Anniversary Council. So,



PHOTO BY JULIE SANDERS

our Rose said, "I'd love to!" She was installed along with her cabinet as officers for the 1941-1942 school year.

Before the girls left for summer vacation, Alpha Gamma held its first Senior Farewell the week before graduation.

This national tradition, so dear to the hearts of all Kappa Phis, took place for the first time at Bowling Green in the spring of 1941. Pink roses and tears, laughter and memories were part of the evening's festivities as each graduate was asked to leave rose petals in Alpha Gamma's brand new rose bowl. The Chapter promised prayers for the graduates, as each senior told what Kappa Phi had meant to her during her college days. The first Alpha Gamma graduating class included those who would pursue careers as teachers, nurses, and being faithful wives and mothers. One member would be traveling to India to begin her work in foreign missions. During the final friendship circle, Rose cried with everyone else. Rose was heavy-hearted because her Big Sis, Katherine Bilderback, was graduating; but happy, because soon Katherine would be Mrs. Robert Crider. Soon Rose and Dottie would travel to South Dakota for the National Council of Chapters. But tonight was a night for dear Kappa Phi sisters.

COUNCIL REFLECTIONS

June 30, 1941

Dear Sis,

Our 25th Anniversary Council is over but memories of it will linger always. Already, we are looking forward to being together again: The good-byes that were so hard to say were in reality only "au revoir."

Ethlyn Whitney gave glowing descriptions of council when she visited Bowling Green in February; then there was the information in the Candle Beam—it sounded so irresistible, that the train was filled to overflowing, all Dakota-bound—Sylvan Lake or bust. Little did we know what Kappa Phi celebrity we would encounter on our journey. Imagine our chagrin when we discovered the dignified woman who had no seat and was standing, was none other than our beloved founder—Mrs. Thompson!

The hotel, our headquarters, stood atop a pine-covered hill that rose from the lake's edge. Into the hotel's rustic luxury poured 200 Kappa Phi's from chapters coast to coast. We quickly completed registration and similar preliminaries, and gave ourselves to becoming acquainted and launching our week's program.

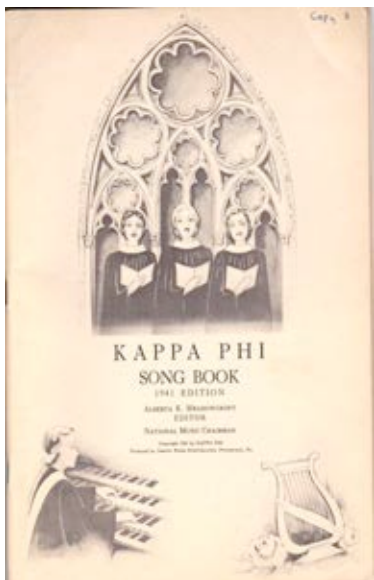
Each night of our stay, our theme, "Constellations," outdid itself shining in welcome, and its reflections were drowned in the majestic ruggedness that is the lake. The stars were with us constantly—in table decorations, after-dinner candy, on our printed programs, the subject of our programs, ad infinitum. We saw human stars in the officers and the guests who glittered brilliantly throughout the week.

One star, Alberta Meadowcroft, Grand Music Chairman, especially exhausted herself: we sang at meals, we sang at meetings, we sang

and sang and well--, you know Alberta. We loved it! And her! And the new songbook, our songbook, which begged to be used.



Musically co-starred with Alberta and the council choir



of thirty-odd voices was Mildred, the attractive blond violinist from Psi Chapter at Fort Hays, Kansas. If she is typical of the girls in that chapter, it is no wonder Psi won the Efficiency Cup. For win it they did, at the banquet Friday night, the week's climax, when we seemed a veritable rainbow of Kappa Phis in our summer formals. If disappointment was experienced by any chapter, it was not evident, for Psi deserved the cup and the warm ovation they received—we had seen them in action all week.

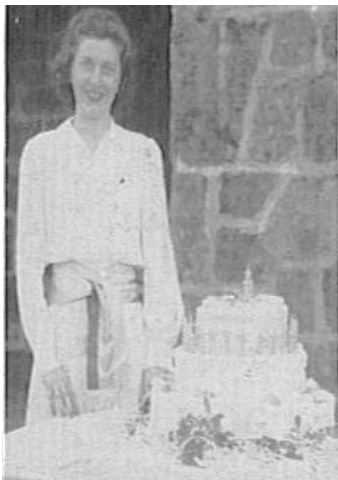


COUNCIL CHOIR

Still I've not mentioned the birthday party for Kappa Phi, the hilltop hour, the lakeside sunrise communion, Mrs. LeSourd's meditations, the anniversary fund, the fact that we had Christmas in June, and went on a trip around the world in one evening, the bazaar, commencement day, the Alumnae luncheon, and dozens of things which are bound to be recalled wherever convention-going Kappa Phis gather or correspond for months to come.



HALF OF THE DELEGATION AT THE BUSINESS MEETING



AT THE BIRTHDAY PARTY JEAN HADEN (PI) AS THE SPIRIT OF KAPPA PHI, WHO GRATEFUL FOR THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PAST, LOOKED FORWARD TO THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE FUTURE.

Although, you didn't get to Council yourself, Sis, those of us who did are eager to share our experiences with you and will be glad to see you at the next Kappa Phi Council. Can't wait for you to pledge Kappa Phi at Bowling Green in the fall.

Love in Kappa Phi and mine,

Rose



NOVELLA BREDBENNER (UPSILON) & RACHEL (RAE) DENNISON (EPSILON)
AT 25TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

P.S. Can't wait for the 50th Anniversary Council in 1965! Dottie and I both plan to attend. Will you? What could be better than that?



About the Authors

Mary Seiler Goodenow grew up in Sandusky, Ohio with a family of seven brothers and sisters! She attended college at Bowling Green State University from 1969 until 1973. In the Spring of 1970 Mary became an active member of Kappa Phi at Alpha Gamma Chapter at BGSU and eventually became president of the chapter her junior year. After her graduation and subsequent marriage to Dan Goodenow, Mary moved back to Bowling Green and became sponsor of Alpha Gamma in 1978. She has served as chapter sponsor during at least 3 different time periods over the years and is now an honorary sponsor. Mary is a charter member of the Northwest Ohio alums and continues to be a member. National involvement includes serving on the National Executive Board as Gamma Kora Coordinator and chairing the National Leadership committee. She is a member of the Legion of Light in recognition of her 35 years of service to Catholic education at St. Aloysius School in Bowling Green. Mary continues as an active member in the parish of St. Aloysius Catholic Church.

Mary would like to thank her husband Dan for being a true 'Kappa Phella' with his love and support of Mary's involvement in Kappa Phi over these many years. Mary and Dan continue to live in Bowling Green with their dog. They have two grown daughters. Their older daughter, Debbie

Goodenow Messman, is an alumna of Alpha Omega Chapter of Kappa Phi at Ohio Northern University. Their younger daughter is Beth Goodenow Corrigan who has provided creative and technical support to her Kappa Phi mother over many years.



KATHY SANDERS & MARY GOODENOW

Kathy Guy Sanders grew up in Columbus, Ohio with a family of four brothers. She attended The Ohio State University from 1971-1975. She became an active member of Kappa Phi at Epsilon Chapter in the spring of 1972. In her active chapter she served as treasurer and vice president where she discovered her gift for programming. After graduation, Kathy moved to the Athens, Ohio area where she was an elementary teacher, attended Ohio University for her MEd. in 1979, and met her husband Ron. While in Athens, she was a member of the Athens Alums, the Gamma Kora program director, and then became the Phi Chapter associate sponsor. She married Ron in 1982 and has lived in the Cleveland and Chicago areas, before returning to Columbus, Ohio in 1989. Kathy has served on the Zeta Kora board, was National Program Director from 1989-1993, and Epsilon Chapter sponsor, and chaired the National Leadership Committee. She has used her Kappa Phi training in all of the churches to which she has belonged and continues to sing in the choir at Scioto Ridge United Methodist Church.

Kathy would like to thank her Kappa Phellow, Ron, for all his love and support of her Kappa Phi work and everything she does. Ron and Kathy live on the northwest side of Columbus with their two cats. They have a grown son, Nathan, and a daughter, Julie, who is a student at Ohio

University. All have enjoyed her Kappa Phi adventures and helped her achieve her Kappa Phi dreams.

The authors would like to thank their Kappa Phi sisters:

Janet Martin Cummings (Alpha Psi) for her valuable editing and assistance.

Laura Walters Anspach (Beta) for creating Rose, our paper doll, and designing her wardrobe.

Debbie Fuhrmann (Theta) for pictures of the 25th and historical accuracy.

And all of our Kappa Phi sisters who continue to provide us with inspiration and support.