CHAPTER 6

1952 to 1958

Historian: Louise Neely Stewart, YY



Shirley Pallatto Bone, AA

Dear Pearl:

I served as national historian from 1964 to 1970 and will provide you with an account of the sorority's important events covering the years 1952-1970. But before I go on, I must thank my two predecessors for providing me with the information: Ann Rhodes Hamilton, BN, *who succeeded Louise Neely Stewart,* YY, *as historian in 1958 and served until 1961, and Charlotte Adams Johnson,* ΘΘ, *who served as historian from 1961 to 1964.*

On Aug. 19, 1952, the long-dreamed-of golden anniversary convention came at last. Gold predominated, even in the dresses of some of the delegates. The outside of the convention program folder was the nearest to gold that the printer could furnish in glossy paper. The cover featured a replica of the plain badge with "Golden Anniversary Convention" as the guard, which filled the upper left hand corner, from which a historical border stemmed. Silhouettes representing the heads of the five founders began the history that was shown through the years, ending with the modern girl with baggage and auto.

Registrar Jean Raup Grady, BE, *and the Virginia collegiate and alumnae members served as hostesses for the week. Amy Swisher, former adviser of Alpha Alpha, opened the first business session with an invocation.*

Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ, *national president, presided at all business sessions, and her first order of business was to introduce the four founders present at the session. Virginia Boyd Noell, Juliette Hundley Gilliam, Mary Williamson Hundley and Louise Burks Cox honored us with their presence, as did Edna Elcan Jones,* A, *our first national president (called grand president at the time).*

Founders and early members were honored guests at the initiation ceremony held during the evening. The Pine Room was an excellent setting for this beautiful service. Initiates were Margot Lesley, PX, *Charlene Lynn,* BX, *and Elizabeth Bowden, a member of Delta Sigma Chi, the local of Alpha Chapter before reinstatement.*

Fondly,
Shirley Pallatto Bone, AA
Historian, 1964-1970

1952 to 1953

Golden anniversary convention

The important activities of the golden anniversary Aug. 19 at the Hotel Roanoke in Virginia included the many workshops where collegiate and alumnae members exchanged ideas among themselves and with their national officers.

Dr. Dabney S. Lancaster, president of Longwood College, gave a scholarly address on "Our American Heritage" after a luncheon. Members were further treated to the viewing of a choric drama written by Marilyn Grotzka, Stahlka, ΠΠ, titled "Friendship is a Gift So Rare."

An afternoon was devoted to a picturesque tour of Lexington and the Natural Bridge. At Lexington, the traditional memorial service was held in the chapel of Washington and Lee University.

The presentation of awards came after the final business session on Friday afternoon. Beta Nu Chapter, Murray State University, Murray, Ky., received the Council Trophy given for the highest active-chapter efficiency rating, scholarship and campus participation for the past three years.

The installation of newly elected officers for the triennium followed the awards presentation, with Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ, as installing officer.

The culminating event of the golden anniversary convention was the beautiful formal banquet. The alumnae chapters of Indianapolis, Roanoke and Richmond were in charge of the banquet, and Eloise Proctor, XX, acted as toastmistress.

The Beta Epsilon girls opened the program with a cake walk. The beautiful birthday cake had a layer for each decade. As the candles were lighted, several members gave these wishes: "loyalty" by founder Juliette Hundley Gilliam, "vision" by Naomi Hartman, KK, "sincerity" by Catherine Davis, BΓ, "heritage appreciation" by Margaret Dunn, BB, and "happiness" by Ardith Weber, BΦ. Retiring and new presidents Wilma Wilson Sharp and Evelyn G. Bell, ΠΠ, cut the historic cake.

The inspirational theme "Golden Dreams" was projected by the speakers in their topics titled "The Dreams Ahead," "Golden Dreams of Our Founders," "Golden Days in College," "Golden Years in Friendship" and the final speech, "Golden Opportunities of the Future," by Mrs. Sharp.

The golden days had to end, and end they did with a buffet breakfast on Saturday morning. There were souvenirs for the girls back home, and more than one stay-at-home would receive the tiny gold compact with the coat-of-arms and be able to visualize how lovely the banquet had been with its gold-wrapped favors, white candles, brass candlesticks and beautiful cake.

Founders' proclamation

One of the most memorable events of the day at Roanoke was the "Founders' Proclamation," signed by the four founders present:

"To the Convention of Alpha Sigma Alpha 1952:

"The four Founders of Alpha Sigma Alpha who have the joy of being present at this

National council 1952-1955

President
Evelyn G. Bell, ΠΠ

Vice president
Virginia Carpenter, OO

Secretary
Helen L. Corey, KK

Treasurer
Jean Carmichael Vedder, ΠΠ

Registrar
Jean Baldwin McCammon, XX

Alumnae director
Zelma Sargeant Kah, AA

Phoenix editor
Esther Bucher, HH

NPC delegate
Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ



Members of the 1952-1955 national council include, from left: Jean Carmichael Vedder, ΠΠ, treasurer; Helen L. Corey, KK, secretary; Evelyn G. Bell, ΠΠ, president; Esther Bucher, HH, Phoenix editor; and Jean Baldwin McCammon, XX, registrar. Not pictured are Virginia Carpenter, OO, vice president; Zelma Sargeant Kah, AA, alumnae director; and Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ, NPC delegate.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY are devoutly thankful for the great accomplishments that have been achieved by those who are carrying on the purpose of FRIENDSHIP for which we banded ourselves together in that year of long ago. They have broadened our outlook into wide fields of service. This service is necessarily being felt in more or less degree throughout our entire nation, and is over-flowing into other lands.

"To the leaders of the sorority, from our gracious Wilma Sharp, down through the list of those who have worked long and joyously to make pleasant our stay at this convention, we are eternally grateful. And to the many young creatures who are in themselves visions of loveliness, we say that their sweetness to us, and their loyalty to Alpha Sigma Alpha have given us an experience that will be cherished down deep in our hearts."

Among the major acts of the 1952 convention was the re-establishment of the Alpha Sigma Alpha Magazine Agency and the national magazine chairmanship. It was decided that all profits would be deposited in the national Philanthropic Fund.



Among the special guests at the golden anniversary convention: first national president Edna Venable Elcan Jones, A, left, with Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ.

Beta Chi, Beta Psi installed

On Sept. 20, 1952, the group that had been colonized and pledged at Arizona State University, Tempe, before the golden anniversary convention was officially installed by Emma Coleman Frost, ΠΠ, as Beta Chi Chapter. Assisting Mrs. Frost were Patricia Doyle, XX, colonizer, and members of the Phoenix and Tucson alumnae chapters.

On April 19, 1953, the colony at Western College, Kalamazoo, Mich., was installed as Beta Psi Chapter. This group had been colonized by Dorothy Trempel, XX, and was pledged on March 15 by Virginia Carpenter, OO. Many national officers and collegiate chapter members were present for the installation.

Frances Gibson Richard Hall

There was a thrill before Christmas when on Dec. 6, 1952, Miami University named the former South Hall, the newest of the women's residences, Frances Gibson Richard Hall.

Mrs. Richard had been an adviser and a patroness of Alpha Sigma Alpha in the early days of Alpha Alpha Chapter at Miami. She was an assistant professor of English at the time of the Normal School's origin in 1902 and remained on the faculty until 1936, when she became professor emerita. In the preparations for the historic 1914 Alpha Sigma Alpha national convention at Oxford, she had given unlimited help. Her daughter Carmen later became a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha.

The dedication of this residence hall was an appropriate part of the observance of 50 years of teacher education at Miami. It was also appropriate that one of the suites allotted to women's Greek-letter social organizations in this dormitory should be that of Alpha Alpha Chapter.

1953 to 1954

Council plans leadership conferences

In July 1953, the national council, meeting at Dearborn Inn, Dearborn, Mich., formulated

plans for nine area leadership conferences and adopted a new pledge-training program. It also instituted a chairmanship of rushing, one to supervise collegiate chaplains and one to work with alumnae secretaries. Details for the graduate fellowship also were discussed.

And in the world ...

1953
The Korean War ends.

Beta Omega installed

On Oct. 4, 1953, Beta Omega Chapter was installed at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pa. The group had been known locally as Phi Alpha Pi.

Chapters celebrate anniversaries

The spring of 1953 was memorable for silver anniversary celebrations of Phi Phi Chapter, Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, on the weekend of May 15, and of Alpha Gamma Chapter, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, on April 26. NPC delegate Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ, who had been installing officer for Phi Phi, was an honored guest in Maryville. Members also paid tribute to Nell Martindale Kuchs, ΦΦ, first adviser, and to two patronesses with more than 20 years of service: Mrs. Clun Price and Mrs. F.M. Townsend.

Alpha Gamma's event at Indiana, Pa., was especially interesting because the four groups that had been installed at the same time in 1928, when Alpha Gamma was re-installed after a nine-year absence from campus, jointly celebrated in the recreational hall at the college. Alpha Sigma Tau, Delta Sigma Epsilon and Sigma Sigma Sigma joined the Alpha Sigma Alphas. Evelyn G. Bell, ΠΠ, president, represented the national organization at this event.

Beginning with the November 1953 Phoenix, all who had become life members prior to 1930 were given a life subscription.

New York bans sororities, fraternities

The action of the trustees of the State University of New York on Oct. 8, 1953, was but the beginning of much heartache for Alpha Sigma Alpha. At their meeting on this date, the trustees ordered all recognized social organizations at state-operated colleges to withdraw national fraternal connections and to eliminate any "artificial criteria" such as discrimination on the basis of race or religion in selecting members.

The trustees charged that three examples of alleged discrimination had been found. The board acted on the recommendation of university president William S. Carlson.

NPC turns 50

The Greek world celebrated the golden anniversary of the National Panhellenic Conference Nov. 3-7, 1953, at Hotel Huntington, Pasadena, Calif. Alpha Sigma Alpha was represented by Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ, as the official delegate, and by Evelyn G. Bell, ΠΠ, president. Other Alpha Sigma Alphas from the Pasadena area attended the open sessions.

Mrs. Sharp gave the invocation at the opening session: "Our Father, we pray that our meditation has been acceptable in Thy sight. We ask that it be regarded not as a moment of pause in acknowledgment of Thee, but rather as an earnest petition that Thy love may guide and enable us throughout this Conference and in all our undertakings. Without Thee

And in the world ...

May 17, 1954
The U.S. Supreme Court rules in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kan., that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.

Elvis Presley makes his first commercial recording.

Swanson makes the first "TV dinner." It sells for 98 cents, and there was only one kind of meal to purchase.

'Our striving would be losing.' Amen."

The sorority celebrated another silver anniversary Oct. 24, 1953, when Tau Tau gave a tea on the Hays, Kan., campus.

Busy with state days

State days filled the sorority's calendar in spring 1954. For Michigan, Central Michigan College at Mount Pleasant was the scene, with the active chapter members as hostesses. Illinois Alpha Sigma Alphas met in Macomb on March 27 at Western Illinois State College.

Ohioans congregated in Dayton with the Dayton Alumnae as hostesses. Other state days were Virginia at Staunton, Indiana at Terre Haute, Missouri-Kansas at Kansas City and Oklahoma at Tahlequah.

Alumnae charters granted in 1953-1954 were Syracuse, N.Y.; Long Beach, Calif.; and Florida-West Coast.

1954 to 1955

Sorority loses New York chapters

On June 8, 1954, three federal judges decided unanimously that the State University of New York had the right to ban national fraternities from its campuses. Strangely, the university admitted that there was no reason why a local organization could not take into its membership those whom it wished and bar those it did not want. In November, in spite of an appeal by fraternity leaders, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to lift the state's ban.

As a result, Alpha Sigma Alpha suffered the loss of all New York State University chapters: Gamma Clio at Cortland, Pi Pi at Buffalo, Beta Xi at Oneonta and Beta Tau at Oswego.

For the sorority's 53rd birthday in 1954, national council suggested that "The Lights of Stained Glass Windows," written by Dorothy Whitmore Kreek, ΦΦ, with a setting arranged by Edith Gaupp Wolf, ΠΠ, be the Founders' Day program.



1954 Virginia state day attendees at the Ingleside Hotel in Staunton are, seated from left: Frances "Dee Dee" Jobson Francis, BE; Ruth Soyars, A, and Mary Jane Johann, A. Standing from left: Gloria Kent, A, and Jean Raup Grady, BE, constitution chairman.

Gamma Alpha installed

The following spring brought better news to the sorority membership. On the weekend of May 6-8, 1955, Gamma Alpha Chapter was installed at Creighton University in Omaha. The Omaha alumnae helped the installation team — Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ, Evelyn G. Bell, ΠΠ, and Esther Bucher, HH — with arrangements and activities.

The May 1955 Phoenix featured the song by Betty Barber Barre, ΠΠ, and her husband William, "Under the Heart," which members were to hear so often at the next convention.

1955 to 1956

Convention in Biloxi

Because of the varied means of transportation by which people were able to get from one place to another, Alpha Sigma Alphas arrived at all hours on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday — although the 1955 convention was advertised to begin officially with the luncheon on Tuesday, July 5.

By noon on Sunday, more than a dozen national officers and their companions gathered around the sorority table in the porch-dining room. With each meal, the table increased in length, until on the night of the 4th, there was a "T" formation reminiscent of state days.

Jean Carmichael Richard, ΠΠ, treasurer, and Jean Baldwin McCammon, XX, registrar, were in charge of the registration desk Tuesday morning. While the latter checked credentials, the former collected fees.

After the opening luncheon, delegates gathered for the first business session. With national president Evelyn G. Bell, ΠΠ, presiding, the meeting came to order. RoseMary Easley, Psi Psi adviser, gave the invocation, followed by Foriana Manno, KK, singing the 13th chapter of first Corinthians.

This convention will always be remembered for the gracious Southern hospitality extended by the Mississippi and Louisiana alumnae and for the delightful seafood and souvenirs of the Southland. The many activities during the week included a songfest on the hotel roof and a moonlight boat ride. Beta Zeta members shared a film of their prize-winning stunt night presentation titled "Eternal Triumph," a dance interpretation of the triumph of good over evil.

Hilda Giraud Hebert, BZ, and the New Orleans alumnae planned a "Creole Dejeuner," the guest day luncheon. NPC delegate Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ, presided at the luncheon. Guests were administrators of nearby Alpha Sigma Alpha colleges and NPC officials.

Dr. Ethel J. Alpenfels, BB, internationally known anthropologist from New York University's education faculty, was guest speaker. In 1952, Dr. Alpenfels was the first member of Alpha Sigma Alpha to receive the Recognition of Eminence award. She spoke on "The Responsibility of the Educated Woman in a Time of Change."

After the luncheon, the group adjourned to a Panhellenic discussion at which Mrs. Wilbur W. Stout, Delta Sigma Epsilon's NPC delegate, was a speaker. Rebecca Fizer, A, also participated. She described the Panhellenic workshop in Virginia. Workshops and meetings filled the days so that virtually every minute was productive and well spent.

The traditional initiation service was conducted Thursday evening, and Shirley Allen, TT, was initiated into Alpha Sigma Alpha. Immediately after the service, the national council and national chairmen led the convention group into the magnolia ceremonial dinner.

Dorothy Whitmore Kreek, ΦΦ, national alumnae organizer and Founders' Day chairman, made arrangements for this lovely candlelight banquet indigenous to the region. After dinner, everyone enjoyed a program on the symbolism of Alpha Sigma Alpha.

Friday came too soon. Delegates tried to hold on to the days, but they slipped away all too fast. The list of those remembered at the evening memorial service seemed very long and emphasized that Alpha Sigma Alpha had become both older and more extensive.

National council 1955-1958

President
Evelyn G. Bell, ΠΠ

Vice president
Virginia Carpenter, OO

Secretary
Helen L. Corey, KK

Treasurer
Jean Carmichael Richard, ΠΠ

Registrar
Anne Petree Niemeyer, AA

Alumnae director
Zelma Sargeant Kah, AA

Phoenix editor
Esther Bucher, HH

NPC delegate
Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ



Rose Marie Fellin, BΣ, in the polka-dot skirt, shops at Gen's General Store at the Biloxi convention. Behind the table are Polly Smelser Schlosser, BB, left, scholarship chairman, and Genevieve Steele Lieb, XX, alumnae secretaries chairman.

Virginia Boyd Noell dies

Heading the list was the name of Virginia Boyd Noell, one of the five founders and the first president of Alpha Chapter, who died in Roanoke Nov. 16, 1954.

As members gazed at the row of white tapers on the sorority alter, it was easy to remember that a mere three years ago, when the sorority had celebrated its 50th birthday, Virginia Noell had sat with the other founders in the group of early Alphas at initiation — and how proudly the four founders present had boasted that their circle as yet was unbroken.

The sorority also remembered five parents of national officers who had encouraged and helped their daughters in the performance of Alpha Sigma Alpha duties since the time of their initiations.

Officers were elected during the final business session. Genevieve Steele Leib, XX, acted as installing officer at a ceremony immediately after the adjournment.

The Council Trophy for chapter efficiency in the past triennium was awarded to Beta Epsilon at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

The beautiful plantation garden dinner arranged by Virginia Carpenter, OO, and Anne Petree Niemeyer, AA, was the climax of the four days. The program was "The Alpha Sigma Alpha Garden" with Miss Carpenter as gardener. She called upon the narcissus, Sue Hadley, BΩ; the palm, Mary Lou Bills, AB; and the aster, Wilma Wilson Sharp ZZ, to symbolize the joys and obligations of membership in Alpha Sigma Alpha.

Petticoats prevail

Perhaps this banquet should go down in history as that in which petticoats were prevalent. It was no exaggeration that the banqueters "filled" the room, for crinoline does not fit into small spaces.

Favors were gold link bracelets with heart and key and a dangling ΑΣΑ coat-of-arms. Wrapped in gold and white striped paper, alongside the gold and white place cards bearing a large replica of the badge, they made the table quite festive. Total registration was 185. Husbands and children were proudly introduced and appeared for most meals.

High attainments

Unless it be overlooked that Alpha Sigma Alphas are many-sided, Hiwana Cupp Crompton, BE, in the November 1955 Phoenix, presented a summary of Polly Smelser Schlosser's reports on campus achievements. She pointed out that 46 Alpha Sigma Alphas were listed in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities for the previous year and 228 in honorary societies.

There also were numerous straight "A" averages and "A's" in student teaching. First in campus scholastic rating were Theta Theta, Beta Delta, Psi Psi, Rho Chi and Beta Pi. Discussing scholarship, Virginia Carpenter, OO, wrote, "No sorority chapter program would be complete, and no lifetime can be completely enjoyed, without the ability to learn. Through knowledge comes understanding of human problems, and the ability to meet and bring to a successful conclusion the problems facing every adult in a democracy. Therefore, high

scholarship is high on the list of attainments set for every chapter of Alpha Sigma Alpha."

In charting the course of the sorority for the next three years, in the same issue of the Phoenix, Evelyn G. Bell, ΠΠ, wrote, "Lofty aspirations are empty unless followed by equally high attainments. ... Let us strive to develop the potentialities of each individual, mindful of the fact that as we help others we help ourselves. So together let us ASPIRE — SEEK — ATTAIN."

The inspirational service used at the magnolia dinner at the Biloxi convention was sent to all chapters for the 1955 Founders' Day celebration:

"The greatest joy of joys
Shall be the joy of going ahead
Not alone, but together —
Leading, not being led."

And in the world ...

April 15, 1955
The first McDonald's franchise restaurant opens in Des Plaines, Ill.

Snow big deal

In January 1956 the national officers were notified that a petition had been received from Psi Beta Psi at State Teachers College, Stevens Point, Wis. President Evelyn G. Bell, ΠΠ, reported that 26 girls had signed the petition and that one more would be initiated at installation, and that the formal petition had included a charter from the state of Wisconsin. Installation services were held March 10-11.

Gamma Beta Chapter became the first national sorority chapter on the Stevens Point campus. Miss Bell headed the installation team. Five patronesses, two advisers and 28 college members received full initiation, while 14 girls were pledged.

Writing of the installation, Miss Bell recalled, "All day Saturday there were a few 'flurries' but nothing too bad. However, when we left the Student Union at five to dress for the banquet it was coming down with real force and by the time we started for the sky top it was wicked. By the time the banquet was over it was necessary for the cars to be shoveled out and then to form lines to make the trip back three miles to Stevens Point. Frankly, I never knew three miles could be so long! Over nine inches of snow fell and had it not been for snowplows, etc., we would never have reached the city. ...

"Many foreign students attended Stevens Point on fellowships, etc., and the community has arranged an adoption system whereby these students have close contacts with one American family while they are in the States. Included in our ΑΣΑ pledge class is Syng Ai Lee, niece of President Rhee of Korea. She is a very attractive person and very popular with faculty and students. This is her second year in the USA and her fiance arrived this year and is also at Stevens Point."

State days

Spring 1956 was filled with state-day gatherings. Illinois members went to the Fargo Hotel in Sycamore on April 14. Michigan members went to the Western Michigan campus at Kalamazoo on March 10, while the Rho Rho girls and the Huntington alumnae entertained their West Virginia sisters on April 14.

On the same day, Licking-Muskingum alumnae proudly displayed the new Zanesville High School to the Ohio group and listened to Dr. Emily Leatherman Stogdill, ΛΛ, discuss

"The Atomic-Powered Sorority."

The Oklahoma women also gathered April 14 at the Harvard Club in Tulsa. The Missouri and Kansas sisters included the Nebraska members this year on April 21 in Kansas City. The eight collegiate chapters involved presented a musical program. Beta Epsilon and the Harrisonburg alumnae entertained the Virginians at Belle Meade in Harrisonburg on April 28.

The sorority granted charters to these alumnae chapters in 1955-1956: Lake Charles, La.; Paducah, Ky.; Fox Valley (Aurora-Elgin), Ill.; Dallas; Omaha; and Houston.

The May 1956 Phoenix featured an article on a new dormitory for women at Fort Hays State College in Kansas to be named Agnew Hall in honor of its retired dean of women, Elizabeth Jane Agnew. In 1910, Miss Agnew established the home economics department of the college and a few years later became the first dean of women, a position she held until her retirement in 1943.

Miss Agnew was a charter member of Tau Tau Chapter at Hays and its adviser until her acceptance of the deanship. At 86, Miss Agnew was still functioning on committees and was said never to miss a social function, a public entertainment or a gala occasion of any kind at the college.

Eulalia Roseberry dies

In the same issue describing the honor that came to Miss Agnew, Alpha Sigma Alphas read of the death of Eulalia Roseberry, first adviser of Eta Eta Chapter, who died Jan. 24, 1956, at the age of 86. For many years she had been head of the geography department at Kansas State College, Pittsburg, and after her retirement returned to direct classes in weather observation during World War II. Both Miss Agnew and Miss Roseberry had been significant figures at the 1930 convention in Boston.

1956 to 1957

Songbook, pledge manual revised

In October 1956, the sorority announced the publication of two revisions: The Alpha Sigma Alpha Songbook and The Pledge Manual. Other news included that of the appointment of Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ, as chairman of the Joint NPC-NAWDC committee — Mrs. Sharp had acted as chairman at the spring convention of National Association of Women Deans and Counselors in Cincinnati.

Albuquerque, N.M., and Zanja, Calif., received alumnae charters, as did Anderson, Ind.

Elizabeth Newhall Johnston, a charter member of Alpha Alpha present at the 1914 convention and long the mainstay of the Alpha Alphas, was selected by the Miami University [Ohio] students as their "Mother of the Year."

In May 1957, the ΑΣΑ bewillkummet (convention) was announced for Galen Hall, Wernersville, Pa., June 29-July 3, 1958. Helen L. Corey, KK, convention manager, urged all Alpha Sigma Alphas to "Come once for sure."

Gamma Delta installed

Oct. 19-20, 1957, Gamma Delta Chapter, formerly Sigma Delta Chi, was installed at Queens College, Flushing, Long Island, N.Y. The group had been pledged Sept. 27 by Helen L. Corey, KK, and a team of college girls from Kappa Kappa and Nu Nu.

Founders' Day at Longwood

Although the sorority had earlier honored its founders by placing a stone bench and bird bath on the campus of Longwood College, on Nov. 16, 1957, Helen L. Corey, KK, went to Farmville to present a bronze plaque for placement in the rotunda of Longwood. Similar plaques had been placed by the others of the Farmville quartet: Zeta Tau Alpha, Sigma Sigma Sigma and Kappa Delta.

The celebration combined state day and a Panhellenic event. Special guests were Juliette Hundley Gilliam, founder, and Edna Elcan Jones, A, first national president. Hiwana Cupp Crompton, BE, scholarship chairman, and Gail Dixon Dickson, 1954 Alpha president, also attended.

The celebration opened with the Founders' Day banquet Nov. 15. On the following day, the ninth annual Virginia state day was held with a luncheon at Longwood Estate. Later that day, the unveiling and dedication of the plaque were held in the rotunda. Mrs. Gilliam reaffirmed the high ideals and aspirations on which Alpha Sigma Alpha was founded.



Founder Juliette Hundley Gilliam, A, middle, attends the plaque dedication with secretary Helen L. Corey, KK, left, and scholarship chairman Hiwana Cupp Crompton, BE.

Plaque dedication

In presenting the plaque to the college president, Dr. Francis G. Lankford, Miss Corey said, "It is with feelings of deep humility and reverence that I share in the dedication of the plaque honoring the five founders of Alpha Sigma Alpha. On this 56th anniversary of the founding of our sorority in the State Female Normal School, we see the past in retrospect, we are more keenly conscious of the present, and we look toward the future with its even greater opportunities for service.

"Fifty-six years is not a very long time in the life of an organization, but it is sufficient time for any group to test the strength of its foundation and to justify its right to continued life and service. We, of Alpha Sigma Alpha, can pay no greater tribute to the founders of our sorority than our tribute of 56 years of memorable history which they made possible.

"They founded Alpha Sigma Alpha on ideals which were inspiring; they founded Alpha Sigma Alpha on standards which were timeless; they founded Alpha Sigma Alpha with a purpose which was challenging; and years, 56 years, have proved the strength of that foundation.

"But what of our right to continued life and service? The history of civilization is replete with evidence of the fact that what is useful lives and what is not useful dies, or simply decays through disuse. It is our firm conviction that fraternal organizations will continue to be a vital force of usefulness and service.

"One of our founders wrote, 'I conceive that a sorority is more than a collegiate boarding house. It has a definite work to perform throughout the lives of its members, and through

them, a great influence upon society at large.' With such a purpose, the work of a fraternal organization can never be finished, but rather will continue to challenge each succeeding generation to a more useful life.

"Today as we meet here to honor the five girls who were responsible for the founding of Alpha Sigma Alpha, we would also pay tribute to the alma mater of our Alpha Chapter for whom we have a deep and abiding affection. It is significant that Longwood College, officially known as the mother of the teachers college, should also be the birthplace of four national sororities. We are proud indeed to be one of the four, and we are grateful beyond power of expression to the college administration and to Dr. Lankford for the interest, cooperation and faith in our capacity for service, which they have shown.

"So on behalf of Alpha Sigma Alpha, we dedicate this plaque to the founders of our sorority, to Virginia Lee Boyd, Juliette Jefferson Hundley, Mary Williamson Hundley, Louise Burks Cox and Calva Hamlet Watson.

"We would also rededicate ourselves to carry forward in the spirit of our founders that Alpha Sigma Alpha may continue to live and grow in meaning and in service to its members and to society as a whole.

"We present this commemorative plaque to Dr. Lankford, president of Longwood College, with the hope it may symbolize Alpha Sigma Alpha's ever present desire to keep faith with her founders as well as with the place of our founding."

The plaque was unveiled by William Bidgod Wall Jr., great-nephew of Virginia L. Wall, beloved adviser of Alpha.

1957 to 1958

Declaration of freedom

The 35th session of the National Panhellenic Conference Nov. 4-8, 1957, in French Lick, Ind., was notable for its adoption of the NPC Declaration for Freedom:

"Statements are frequently made advocating the teaching of the theory and practice of communism. Because of our devotion to our country and allegiance to God we agree with those who emphasize that before communism is studied there must first be thorough and accurate education about the Constitution of the United States and the debates that dealt with its purpose to avoid concentrated Federal power and the insistence upon the principles which became the first 10 amendments to the Constitution known as the Bill of Rights. Such knowledge is essential to the preservation of freedom in contrast with its destruction under totalitarian systems.

"The freedom 'peaceably to assemble' stated in the first amendment to the Constitution makes possible a great array of clubs, societies and organizations known as voluntary associations which provide diversity of interests and satisfaction of members. We are voluntary associations. We are dedicated to the preservation of freedom of citizens to choose their associates, which is a freedom characteristic of civilized cultures, a freedom protected by the Constitution of the United States and sustained by the Courts of our country since the time of its founding.

"We, the members of NPC, agree that we have a responsibility to contribute to accurate and thorough knowledge about the Constitution of the United States and Bill of Rights and to know the ideologies destructive to our country."

Wilma Wilson Sharp retires

Another notable event — especially to Alpha Sigma Alphas — was the retirement of Wilma Wilson Sharp, ZZ, not only as chairman of both the important NPC-NAWDC committee and the awards committee but also as Alpha Sigma Alpha's Panhellenic delegate.

It marked the end of 35 years of active service to Alpha Sigma Alpha and the Greek world. Mrs. Sharp also retired as NPC's representative to the law committee of the Interfraternity Research Advisory Council.

During 1957 these alumnae chapters received charters: San Diego; Mount Pleasant, Mich.; Bartlesville, Okla.; and Bluefield, W.Va.

In the fall of 1957, Virginia Carpenter, OO, resigned as national vice president. Maj. Carpenter, who had served in the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II, was a member of the Marine Corps Reserve maintaining active status, and public relations director for Halle Brothers, one of Cleveland's largest department stores. She felt that these duties made it impossible for her to continue her office in Alpha Sigma Alpha.

Replacing her was Mary Emerson Blackstone, AΓ, known to many members because of her service in alumnae chapters in the various localities in which she had lived.

Ohio members were saddened when death came on Oct. 2, 1957, to Edith Sniffen, ΛΛ. A former member of the English department of Ohio University, Miss Sniffen was adviser of the Ohio State (Lambda Lambda) Chapter and assisted at ritualistic services in several Ohio chapters. Upon retirement to her former home in Marietta, she became an enthusiastic member of the Licking-Muskingum Alumnae Chapter.

Giving "in full measure"

Various philanthropic activities were summarized in the May 1958 Phoenix. Among them were making monkey dolls for a children's home, staging a variety show and party over the local radio station, delivering baskets and clothing to needy families, leading the campus Red Cross drive, assisting with the mailing of tuberculosis seal letters, staging parties for needy children, donating cash to fund drives, making monthly boxes and visits to a victim of Fredericks' disease, awarding scholarships, decorating sugar eggs to sell for philanthropy, making scrapbooks for children, assisting in a community "Tidy Up" campaign by washing windows of vacant stores, assisting in the Heart Fund, March of Dimes, World University Service, Care and other fund campaigns and producing articles for use in teaching mentally handicapped children.

It was obvious that Alpha Sigma Alphas everywhere were helping to meet community needs and to give of themselves and substance in "full measure."