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# The History of Omega Chapter

of Theta Chi Fraternity

Pennsylvania State College  
State College, Pennsylvania

*Edited by George W. Chapman - June 1931*  
*Reformatted in 2020*

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Coat of Arms of Theta Chi Fraternity

# Preface

With the realization that Omega chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity, after sixteen years of existence, had no complete accurate and adequate written history, it was determined that such a history should be written and collected.

Every effort has been made to make this history both complete and accurate. The old minutes of the fraternity have been read and old records and correspondence have been searched for information.

To a certain extent, some of the chapters overlap, but to tell the story of each era completely, this overlapping is necessary.

The editor takes this opportunity to express his appreciation and thanks to the following for their help, interest and cooperation in making this history possible; Ellwood B. Cassel 1919, Norman C. Horner 1916, John A. Irwin 1916 and Raymond B. Poeppel 1920. In fairness to these men, it must be noted that their contributions as written were all impersonal. The Editor has inserted all names.

With the sincere hope that this history will fill a long felt want of Omega chapter, it is herewith presented.

George W. Chapman  
Detroit,  
Michigan June 1, 1952

# Story of the Northeast Club

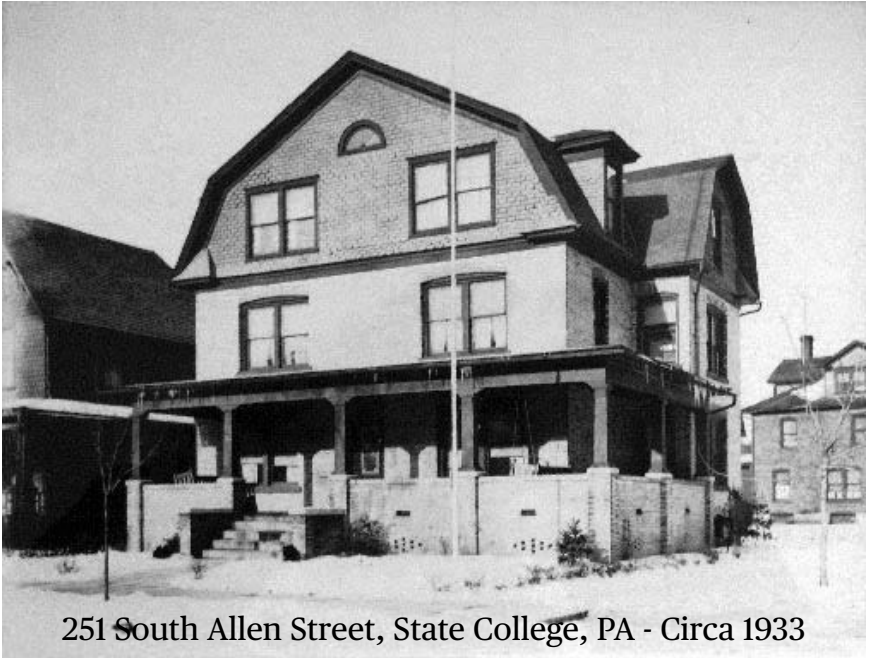
*By Ellwood B. Cassel, 1919*

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**U**ntil April 6, 1918 the organization, which, within a year, was to be installed as Omega Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity, was known as the Northeast Club of the Pennsylvania State College. Membership in this club was restricted to those students enrolled at Penn State who had attended the Northeast High School in Philadelphia.

The birth of Omega Chapter and of its parent, Phi Tau Alpha, was each attended by appropriate ceremonies and formal announcement. The Northeast Club had more modest beginnings. Although the first minutes are dated May 31, 1915, its origin predates any organized meeting. It was born of an intangible something called “Northern Spirit” - a loyalty to one’s school and a natural brotherhood of an alien group with common home interests. Without

doubt, this school spirit was merely the outward manifestation of love and respect for the man who typified the school: Doctor Andrew J. Morrison, principal for many years whose “boys” always sensed his warm personal interest in their welfare. He was one of the old type educators who exerted a powerful influence for good on those who came in contact with him.



251 South Allen Street, State College, PA - Circa 1933

It had become a custom for a number of years for graduates of Northeast High School attending Penn State to return during Christmas and Easter holidays for the purpose of visiting Doctor Harrison and others on the faculty and also to interest seniors in the Center County Institution. These pilgrimages, together with occasional informal gatherings on and near campus, such as smokers, cider feeds and annual football contests against a similar

group from West Philadelphia High School, resulted in a desire to form a closer tie of fellowship.

It is not possible to give any one-person credit for being the Founder of the Northeast Club, for the club was the idea of a group rather than an individual. However, all credit is due these men who composed this group and who included Emil R. Olbrich, Carl A. Bartle, Norman C. Horner, John A. Irwin, Albert H. Mainwaring 1916, Alfred R. Bechtel and others, for their solid method of organization and their high ideals which made the future secure.

In the spring of 1915 steps were taken to form a coherent organization and to rent a clubhouse. Signatures were obtained in May from thirteen men pledging support for the year 1915-1916. Of this number only five signified intention for taking room and meals at the clubhouse. One pledged to take a room only, two to take meals only and others, merely non-resident membership. In spite of this apparent uncertainty, a three-year's lease was signed with Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson on May 31, 1915 for a house which would be erected at the northeast corner of Allen Street and Foster Avenue. This building was to be three stories in height with eight bedrooms of variable sizes in the two upper floors. This house remained the home of the Northeast Club, of Phi Tau Alpha and of Omega Chapter of Theta Chi until the close of College in June 1929.

The badge was of distinctive design and very attractive. The N.E. was in red on a black background, the club colors, and the pin was set with twelve half pearls. John A. Irwin and Francis J. Doan designed it.

The coat of arms of the Northeast Club was an adoption of the seal of the Northeast High School. The keystone was black and the N.E. in red. The date, 1914 was used because

first step towards organization of the club began in that year.

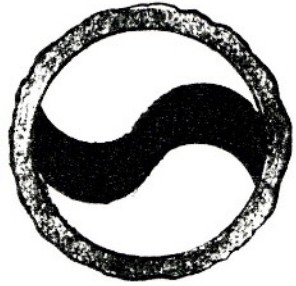
The coat of arms, badge and pledge pin of the Northeast club are shown below.



Coat of Arms



Badge



Pledge Pin

The pledge pin was red and black.

In the minutes of October 22, 1917 mention was made of a probable desirability of changing the Northeast Club to an unrestricted Greek letter fraternity. A week later a committee consisting of George W. Chapman, Francis J. Doan and Roberts P. Stevens was appointed to investigate and report on reasons for changing the Northeast Club to an unrestricted local fraternity. This report, presented to the club at the meeting held on November 5, 1917 was as follows:

This committee finds that it is altogether feasible, and at this time extremely desirable to convert the Northeast Club, from a limited and discriminating preparatory school fraternity, into either a Greek letter non restrictive local or a similar local with a non Greek title.

The facts from which this conclusion is drawn can be stated as follows:

1. Because of the location of the Northeast High School there must come a time when the number and quality of the graduates of said school who make Penn State their Alma Mater will become such that the club can not exist as a fraternity with a clubhouse.
2. Because of the limited number of Northeast men coming to Penn State practically all must be admitted into the brotherhood regardless of their ability to be congenial, morally, mentally or socially with other members.
3. Rather than wait until necessity compels us to make this change, perhaps under adverse conditions, it seems more logical is every way to accomplish it now, when haste and confusion may be avoided and the changes stand some chance of becoming permanent.
4. Besides these considerations there might be mentioned the broader aspect of a fraternity containing men from more than one restricted district, the fact that if we expect to grow and ever get into larger and more satisfactory clubhouse we must take this step and that present war conditions threaten to lower our membership to a great degree.

To take the step suggested the following things must be considered and changed or regulated.

1. Name of fraternity
2. Constitution and By Laws
3. Ritual
4. Insignia
5. Charter

The report was accepted as read and a motion made and passed to make preparations for changing the Northeast Club to an unrestricted local Greek letter fraternity.



The actual vote on changing the Northeast Club was taken at the meeting held on March 19, 1917 and showed eighteen members in favor of the change, two opposed and two declining to vote. The motion was passed.

Succeeding meetings were devoted largely to business pertaining to preparation for the installation of Phi Tau Alpha Fraternity, the name chosen from four submitted by the Investigation Committee. A Constitutional Committee consisting of George W. Chapman, Raymond B. Poeppel, Milton J. Gemberling and Clifford E. Beaven wrote the new Constitution and By-Laws and a Ritual Committee consisting of Poeppel, Cassel and Segl wrote and prepared the Ritual. The so-called Investigation Committee of George W.

Chapman, Francis J. Doan and Robert P. Stevens assisted these two committees. The Design for the Phi Tau Alpha pin was chosen, as was the design for the Coat of Arms.

Early in the spring of 1918 the Northeast Club submitted the following petition to the College Authorities.

We, the members of the Northeast Club, do hereby petition the college authorities for recognition as the Phi Tau Alpha fraternity in the form of a charter, believing that in this manner the most amicable and beneficial relations can be sustained between the college and ourselves.

In support of our plea, we might mention that the organization was established as the Northeast Club fraternity in 1914 by Emil R. J. Olbrich 1915, Carl A. Bartle 1916, Alfred R. Bechtel 1916, Norman C. Horner 1916 and John A. Irwin 1916, and has existed to date as mentioned. No charter has been applied for previously, as the members had in view the change that now desire to make. Thus we are not forming an altogether new organization, but simply petition for a charter for a non-restrictive Greek letter

fraternity whose prospective members are the members of the present Northeast Club.

By the President, Winfield F. Smith

The College Authorities favorably acted upon this petition, and while there is no record of a charter ever having been issued, the Northeast Club was given official permission to change to the Phi Tau Alpha Fraternity.

The last official meeting of the Northeast Club was held on March 18, 1915 and on March 22, 1918 with formal initiation of the chapter members of Phi Tau Alpha Fraternity the Northeast Club ceased to exist, except in the memory of those to whom it had meant so much.

# Phi Tau Alpha Era

*By Raymond H. Poepfel*

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**D**uring the early part of the school semester of 1917 and 1918, there were many heated, high-pitched and fiery meetings of the Northeast Club concerning the question as to whether that club, then a restricted local fraternity, should continue in that capacity or throw off its restrictions and become a local non-restrictive fraternity. The members for and against the change put every ounce of energy into swinging the decision to their respective opinions. After weeks of debate, which threatened the very existence of the war depleted membership, the vote was finally taken and the result was the establishment of the Phi Tau Alpha Fraternity. This was not accomplished without the loss of one or two members of the old Northeast Club

who could not be convinced that making the change was the only logical course to pursue.

Events since that time have proved that the committee, which drew up the reasons for making the change, were farsighted and their conclusions entirely correct. The report of this committee is quoted in "The Story of the Northeast Club."

After finally making the decision to become a local non-restrictive fraternity, which many members believed would be the most difficult thing to legislate through the firm-minded membership, it was found that the work had just begun and it was all uphill going.

The president, Winfield F. Smith, appointed committee to get facts and date and work up their recommendations on name, constitution, ritual, insignia, etc. It was the work of the members of these various committees that actually created the local fraternity of Phi Tau Alpha. Their work interwove and there were many joint meetings of the committees to create a name, constitution, ritual and insignia, which would dovetail into a workable organization. This task of revision and creation by the committees was difficult enough to attain in the committee membership, but to get their work successfully through the general meeting was another long discussion of opinions - opinions that were unbendingly obstinate on many points.

This work of creating a new organization vastly different from the Northeast Club was carried on in the mid-winter of 1917-1918. While it was being accomplished operations were continued under the laws of the existing club, gradually changing in the form of meetings and getting ready to operate smoothly under a new name, constitution and ritual. When the Fraternity Committee of the General Faculty of the College granted permission to make the

change on February 23, 1915, the new organization was practically ready to function, but it was not until April 6, 1918 that the formal change was announced to the college and other fraternities by a Smoker and Reception. Actual initiation of Charter members of Phi Tau Alpha took place on March 22, 1918. On April 15, 1918 we were admitted to the Intramural Council, an organization of the local Greek Letter fraternities. This marked the final step in the official establishment of the Phi Tau Alpha fraternity and placed us on an equal basis with the contemporary local Greek Fraternities than at the college.

The name Phi Tau Alpha was selected with much care and deliberation, a committee had presented three to the General Meeting. What the three letters stood for seems to fit best to what it was desired to create. They worked into ritual exceedingly well and if the local fraternity had existed many years they would have worn good it is certain.

When the new constitution was presented for approval it was acted upon in parts and each discussed and deliberated on. It apparently was a workable set of laws for it held

during the most difficult of times without any record in the minutes of its being amended. However, during the war regime in the fall of 1918 it could not be followed in every respect.

The ritual was something that was absolutely new to be created without anything to use as a guide. It was a rather intricate proceeding. To be carried out it required a full week and when the candidates for membership had completed it, they surely must have decided they were joining a worthwhile fraternity. There follows a meager description of the fraternity coat of arms and insignia, which were part of and incorporated in the ritual;

The Coat of Arms was designed in the shape of a plain shield measuring about four and one-fourth inches in width and about seven inches in height. The body of it was divided into three segments. In the upper left portion was a lamp of knowledge in white on a red background and in the upper right section a skull and cross-bones in white on a background of black. In the lower part of the shield was a white candlestick having seven lighted candles. This was on a background of gold. Separating the two upper divisions from the lower was a white band in which there were seven gold stars equally spaced. Crowning the top was a rope in natural colors containing seven segments with an opal above it, reflecting the white light rays into an arch of a rainbow, which was in natural colors. Around the lower edge and along the sides of the seal itself, was a scrolled ribbon in gold containing the black lettering.



Coat of Arms



Badge



Pledge Pin

The coat of Arms and the elements of it; even the coloring making up the various parts was conceived with one thought in mind. This was the bringing to the mind of the brothers parts of the ritual and the ideals for which Phi Tau Alpha stood.

Raymond B. Poeppel designed the coat of arms.

The insignia or badge of Phi Tau Alpha was very distinctive in form and design. It had eight converse sides. In the center there was a white sorrel with upturned curls on which the Greek letters ØTA were inscribed in gold. The background of the pin was black enamel. Above the scroll were seven gold stars and below it there was a dagger, and a key crossed and entwined with a rope, all in gold. The badge was set or surrounded with sixteen jewels, four opals and twelve pearls. The opals were set at the four quarters of the badge and the pearls equally spaced between them.

The elements on the badge were symbolic of portions of the ritual and were placed thereon to be a constant reminder to the brother wearing it what his fraternity represented. To design a fraternity badge which is disincensive and easily recognizable, containing insights represented of the fraternity and yet keep a high degree of aesthetic proportion and appearance was a difficult task. George W. Chapman designed the badge with the aid of suggestions from the committee.

The newly created fraternity had quite a definite aim, which was for each brother to strive to attain perseverance in every undertaking, ambition for everything that is noble, worthy and good, toleration toward others' views and thought for his brothers, learning if the highest degree in his field, perfection in manhood and honesty in his dealings with his fellow-man.

In general way the ideal of Phi Tau Alpha was a fraternity in which all the brothers should practice kindness and toleration towards one another and should attain as nearly as possible that brotherly feeling that exists between brothers of the same percentage. In doing this each should ever aspire to be considerate of the rights and opinions of

others and never let any act go undone which would bring happiness and joy to another.

The charter members of Phi Tau Alpha Fraternity follow:

Clifford E. Beaven	Ellwood J. Rittenhouse
Ellwood B. Cassel	Arthur S. Rosenberger
George W. F. Chapman	William O. Schell
Francis J. Doan	Walter E. Segl
Charles Frederickson Jr.	William J. Shaw Jr.
Frederick J. Fuchs	John R. Skeen
Sidney D. Morgan	Winfield F. Smith
Emil J. Olbrich	Robert P. Stevens
Emil A. Petzold	William C. Thompson
Anthony V. Pickard	Frederick T. Vansant
Raymond B. Poeppel	

It was the consensus of opinion of the founders of Phi Tau Alpha Fraternity that the organization was a fraternal composition of high idealism, which have endured a long time had it not been quickly absorbed by a national organization. The national fieldmen representing this national organization, who investigated thoroughly every phase of Phi Tau Alpha were not stinting in their praise for the constitution-by-laws and ritual. Their criticisms where directed at out financial system.

One of the great welding forces in the background all through the strife of changing the form of the organization



was the thought and hope that ultimately it would become a part of a worthwhile national fraternity. This is evidenced by the fact that considerably in advance of the completion of the Phi Tau Alpha organization, even before the Charter from the college faculty was granted, there was a special committee consisting of Raymond Poeppel, George W. Chapman and Clifford Beaven appointed to investigate ways and means of becoming a Chapter of a national fraternity and select if possible one which could be petitioned. This was on February 25, 1918 and taken from the minutes of the old Northeast Club.

This committee did not accomplish much in the way of doing anything definite during the remainder of that semester, 1917-1918. It had one meeting during the summer 1918 and the list of available fraternities was narrowed down to one, Theta Chi. The intimate acquaintance of Raymond Poeppel and William Thompson with a number of Theta Chi at the university of the Pennsylvania had a great deal to do with this decision, but the character and standing of Theta Chi as compared to other national fraternities was carefully considered.

Negotiations with Theta Chi were started promptly and in the fall of 1918 when the members returned to the fraternity house, which had been taken over by the government as an army barracks, these communications were continued and addressed to the national secretary of Theta Chi, who then was Frederick Ladue. There is a minute of the meeting, November 17, 1918, which mentions a communication from Frederick Ladue, as having been received. It probably was encouraging for there is another minute of the meeting saying the First Pledges to a new chapter House Fund were made. The securing of a better Chapter House was ever in the minds of the brothers as something to look forward to.

Very definite steps were now taken towards the establishment of a Chapter of Theta Chi. Investigating committee from the Grand Chapter were received and printed petition was published, and distributed over the country, to various existing Chapters of Theta Chi. After these had gone out, more representatives of Theta Chi visited the fraternity, some announced and some unannounced. They were from the Grand Chapter and from nearby Chapters, such as Dickinson, Cornell and the University of Pennsylvania.

On February 25, 1919 there was received a communication from Mr. Frederick Ladue, National Secretary of Theta Chi, stating that the petition of the Phi Tau Alpha Fraternity had been officially accepted by the Theta Chi Fraternity and that Phi Tau Alpha would be established as Omega Chapter in that organization.

The last meeting of the Phi Tau Alpha Fraternity was held on March 10, 1919 and on March 14, 1919 Phi Tau Alpha Fraternity became Omega Chapter of Theta Chi.

# Start of Omega Chapter

*By George W. Chapman*

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**T**he Phi Tau Alpha Fraternity was just a means to an end but it served that end well. From the start, the chief reason for the establishment of Phi Tau Alpha was so that the fraternity could be in a position to petition for membership in a national fraternity. As the Northeast Club this could not be done, for the Northeast Club was restricted to graduates of the Northeast High School.

With the establishment of Phi Tau Alpha immediate steps towards affiliation with a national organization were taken. In fact these steps started one month before the start of Phi Tau Alpha, with the appointment of a Special Committee on February 25, 1918 consisting of Raymond Poepple, George Chapman and Clifford Beaven. This committee was

instructed to investigate national fraternities and to consider ways and means of petitioning.

There was much discussion during the early meeting of Phi Tau Alpha on the national fraternity question and the fraternity seemed to be about evenly divided on the subject, and many of the Alumni showed little or no interest. As no progress was being made it fell on the shoulders of a small group led by the Special Committee to individually sell the national fraternity idea to a sufficient number of the members so that when the question was voted on it would be passed. This was finally accomplished after a great deal of work on the part of a few, a favorable vote was taken and the Special Committee instructed to proceed with plans for selecting a National Fraternity and working up a petition.

After much reading of Beard's Manual, the names of some ten or twelve national fraternities were selected as possibilities. For various reasons this list was narrowed to four or five which it was believed would be interested in installing a chapter at the Pennsylvania State College. Among them was Theta Chi.

Raymond Poeppel and William Thompson should get credit for the final selection of Theta Chi as the fraternity to be petitioned. Of the fraternities remaining on the list Theta Chi was the oldest, had the best record, was of high repute and seemed to be the best choice. Much of the information on Theta Chi was secured through a friend of Raymond Poeppel and William Thompson who was a member of Theta Chi at the University of Pennsylvania and it was through the information secured by and on the recommendation of these two men that Phi Tau Alpha voted to petition Theta Chi Fraternity for a chapter at the Pennsylvania State College.

The Grand Chapter of Theta Chi was communicated with and it was found that they would be interested in having a chapter at Pennsylvania State College, Phi Tau Alpha was visited by Frederick Ladue, National Secretary of Theta Chi and by representatives of Chapters at Dickenson University, University of Pennsylvania and Cornell. Reports turned into the Grand chapter by these visitors must have been favorable for in November 1918 Phi Tau Alpha was advised by Theta Chi to prepare a petition and submit it in printed form to Theta Chi Fraternity in sufficient quantity to be distributed to the various chapters for voting on.

The special committee quickly worked up the petition, had it printed and sent to the Grand Chapter of Theta Chi under date of December 2, 1918

The petition itself was worded as follows:

*“Delivering that Affiliation with a well established and well reputed National Fraternity would be most desirable and believing The Theta Chi Fraternity to possess the qualities, we, the members of the Phi Tau Alpha Fraternity of the Pennsylvania State College, do hereby respectfully petition for consideration as a Chapter of the Theta Chi Fraternity.”*

*For the Fraternity*

*Anthony V. Pickard  
Secretary*

*George W. F. Chapman  
President*

The petition booklet included a short history of the Northeast Club and the Phi Tau Alpha Fraternity, letters of recommendation from Edwin E. Sparks, President of the College, R. L. Sackett, Dean of the School of Engineering and R. L. Watts, Dean of the School of Agriculture, lists of selective and alumni members with college activities, a

brief history of the Pennsylvania State College, a list of fraternities at Penn State and pictures of the petitioning group, the House and the College.

The letters of recommendation are interesting historical records and are herewith reproduced.

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THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE

State College, PA.

Office of the President

November 18, 1918

“The organization of students of the Pennsylvania State College known as the Phi Tau Alpha Fraternity is worthy of recognition. Their members have furnished a considerable portion of officers in the United States Army. Their academic standing I believe to be above average of the college. Their house so far as I can learn has been conducted in an orderly manner. I recommend them for membership in the Theta Chi National Fraternity.

Edwin E. Sparks

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE  
State College, PA  
Dean's Office - School of Engineering

November 22, 1918

Secretary, Theta Chi Fraternity,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir;

Mr. E.B. Cassel advises me that a Club, formerly known as the Northeast Club and later as the Phi Tau Alpha, is applying for a charter as a chapter of the Theta Chi Fraternity.

I know Mr. Cassel personally and can assure you of his high character and exceptional standing as a student.

Two of the juniors, named Chapman and Frederickson, are in the Department of Civil Engineering and have made satisfactory records. So far as these students are concerned,

I can vouch for their quality.

I believe that in general the fraternity has a good reputation for scholarship and character.

Yours Truly,

R. L. Sackett  
Dean  
School of Engineering

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE  
School of Agriculture and Experiment Station  
State College, PA.  
Office of Dean and Director

November 15, 1918

My Dear Sir:

I have been advised that the Phi Tau Alpha Fraternity of the Pennsylvania State College, which is a local Chapter, has applied for admission to the Theta Chi Fraternity, of which I understand you are Secretary.

I have known several members of this Fraternity since its organization at State College and it is a pleasure to say that we hold the members, as well as the organization, which they represent, in high esteem and recommend the Chapter for admission to your National Fraternity. The men have high standing in the institution and we believe they will be a credit to your fraternity.

Yours Very Truly,

H. L. Watts  
Dean and Director

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With the petition in the hands of Theta Chi there ensued a wait that seemed much longer than it actually was.

On February 25, 1919 information was received from Fred LaDue, National Secretary of Theta Chi, to the effect that our petition was favorably voted on the various Chapters of Theta Chi and favorably seted upon by the Grand Chapter of the Fraternity and that we would shortly receive official notice to this effect. Official notice was later received that a Charter had granted a Chapter to Phi Tau Alpha on February 19, 1919 by the Grand Chapter of Theta Chi and that formal installation would take place on March 14 and 15, 1919. It is interesting to note that another local fraternity at Penn State was petitioning Theta Chi at the same time, as was Phi Tau Alpha.

The installation of Phi Tau Alpha Fraternity as Omega Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity began at 7:25 on the evening of March 14, 1919. The Installation Committee was composed of Fred W. LaDue, Iota, '12, Chairman Herbert D. Leary, Gamma, '10, Barie R. Bernfford, Delta, '09, W. Howard Gottlieb, Kappa, '19, Clarence R. Anderson, Pi, '08, and J. Henry Beasley, Kappa, '15. The installation, a very impressive ceremony, preceded smoothly and as its conclusion the Charter was presented to the Chapter. The Charter Members of Omega Chapter were as follows:

Fred. F. Bastian	Ellwood. J. Rittenhouse
Clifford B. Beaven	Joseph E. Rowe
Ellwood B. Cassel	Albert F. Schoeppe
George W. F. Chapman	Walter E. Segl
C. A. Frederickson Jr.	William W. Seltzer

Fred J. Fuchs

Walter B. Shaw

Maurice E. Kressley

William J. Shaw Jr.

Donald E. Magill

John R. Skeen

Murrell D. McKinstry

Winfield F. Smith

Russell B. Nesbitt

William L. Sowden Jr.

Robert E. Ockford

Ralph D. Stauffer

Walter B. Petzold

William C. Thompson

Anthony V. Pickard

Frederick T. Vansant

Raymond B. Poeppel

Hugo E. Zetterlof

All the Chapter Members listed above and in additional Theodore G. Smith were initiated into Theta Chi Fraternity at this time.

With the installation ceremony completed, election of officers was held and Winfield F. Smith was elected the first president of Omega Chapter. The meeting adjourned at midnight to be continued the next day.

Saturday afternoon, March 15, was spent in the exemplification of degree work Hugo E. Zetterlof being the candidate.

The installation banquet was held in the Chapter House on the evening of March 15 and was characterized by the following menu; Penn State Cocktail, Center County Consommé, Baked Shingletown Trout, Roast Chicken, S.A.T.C. Potatoes, Nittany Valley Filling, Green Navy Peas, Co-ed Sauce, Old Main Salad, Ice Cream a la Phi Tau Alpha, Lemont Bite, Bonbons au Gorge, Danville Nuts, State College Demitasse and Bellefonte Central Smokes. Such a

menu had never been seen before or since but was evidently greatly enjoyed by these present. The postprandial exercise were handled by Albert P. Schoeppe who acted as Toastmaster in his inimitable way. Short talks were given by members of the Installation Committee and by members if the Active Chapter. The Banquet concluded with the singing of the Chapter Song, “Come Omega” and “It is to Thee Dear Old Theta Chi.”

Following the banquet a smoker and reception was held in the Chapter House, which was attended by representatives from the various fraternities and members of the faculty.

The next day marked the departure of the Installation Committee and Omega Chapter settled down to more normal existence and to enjoy the new sensation of being the “Baby Chapter” of Theta Chi.

# **Come Omega!** **(Chapter Song)**

*Words by George W. Chapman, 1920*

*Music by Walter B. Shaw, 1921*

*Arrangement by Roy M. Miller*

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[Click Here to Listen to Song](#)

COME O - ME - GA LET US ALL JOIN IN THE HIGH - EST PRAISE  
 LOY - AL BRO - THERS OF O - ME - GA WHERE - SO - 'ER WE BE  
 WHEN LIFE'S BRIG - HT - NESS FAIR O - ME - GA TURNS TO SHAD - DOWS DEEP

SING - ING OF THY WON - DROUS FAME AND OF THE JOY OF COL - LEGE DAYS  
 WHE - TH - ER HOME OR ON THE CAM - PUS LET US THINK IN JOY OF THEE  
 WE SHALL CHER - ISH ALL THY TEACH - ING - S WE SHALL THEN THY GLOR - IES REAP

EV - ER TO THEE WE'LL BE LOY - AL HON - OR WE THY NAME  
 WE SHALL EV - ER BE AS BRO - THERS, STEAD - FAST TO THE CORE  
 EV - ER HON - 'RING EV - ER PRAIS - ING TILL LIFE'S SPAN IS PAST

EV - ER FAITH - FUL LOV - ING BROTHER HELPS TO SWEL - L THY FAME  
 ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE - > NEW AND EV - ER MORE FAME  
 KEEP - ING FORE - MATH THE TA - CHI - S TEACH - ING - S TO THE LAST

# First Decade of Omega Chapter

*By George W. Chapman*

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**I**t is a more or less difficult matter to write a history covering the period of the first ten years of Omega Chapter from 1919 to 1929, when the records show that during this period of time nothing of great importance transpired.

The decade started off with the biggest event in the Chapter's history, the installation of Omega Chapter and closed with the start of a project that meant the fulfillment of long cherished hopes, the start of Omega's new home.

In between these two events is just the every day story of an active chapter of a college fraternity whose members

were taking part to the fullest in college affairs and college activities.

In May 1919 Omega had its first contact with the fraternity at large when a committee consisting of George Chapman, Clifford Beaven and Fuchs helped in the installation of Alpha Beta at the University of Pittsburgh.

In October 1919 Omega was admitted to the Inter-Fraternity Council at Penn State.

During this entire period the thought foremost in the minds of all our members was a new house. The minutes are full of discussion on this and various ways and means for building and financing the new house were discussed and passed. One of the first of these was the so-called "5-10 Plan." This provided that all members upon initiation sign five notes for ten dollars each payable one per year for the first five years after graduation, the money to go towards the house fund. This plan was in force two or three years and was fair success. Its weak point lay in the fact that it was almost impossible to collect on these notes and many Alumni never made payments.

In 1926 the Building and Loan proposition was brought up as a means to secure money for the new house and all active members were assessed a certain amount per month. This continued for a number of years and the equity in the Building and Loan turned over to the Alumni when the House was actually started. This equity amounted to \$2,778.00 and was a big help in the financing of the House.

On Various occasions when the possibilities of building a new house looked discouraging, steps were taken to rent various houses suitable for use but all of these plans fell through, many for financial reasons. Consideration was

also given at times to the purchase of various fraternity houses, but lack of finances made this impossible.

Late in the spring of 1929 the House at 251 S. Allen Street, which had been the home of the chapter since November 1915, was sold to a local fraternity. This made it necessary for the Alumni group to proceed immediately with construction of the new house. Fortunately both the building and financial plans were all worked out, although the intention had been not to start the house until 1930.

Thus the end of the first decade saw Omega out of their old home and with a new home under construction.

During these ten years there are many things, which should be mentioned.

June 1920 saw the first issue of the "Omegaphone", the Chapter publication which is published three or four times a year and distributed to the Alumni of Omega and to the other chapters in Theta Chi. The credit for originally naming the publication goes to Walter B. Shaw, 1921. The first issue was a four-page affair, letterhead size, printed in newspaper style. Subsequent issues have come out in various forms, some printed in booklet form with a cover, others being mimeographed and clipped together. As the years have passed the Omegaphone has improved and is now considered one the foremost chapter publications in the fraternity.

In 1925 the Christmas tree custom was started, and each year just before the Christmas holiday, a Christmas party is held in the Chapter House at which all members have a "big" time, usually being entertained by the freshman. A Christmas tree with gifts is one the important features.

A cup for the best all around man in the chapter was provided in October 1927. This man is selected yearly by



popular vote and his name inscribed on the cup, which remains in the possession of the chapter.

In February 1929, the chapter decided to abolish the so-called "Hell Week" which had been a part of the initiation proceedings of most fraternities. This was a big step in the right direction and it is worthy to note that Theta Chi was a leader in the movement, which since had wide acceptance.

During this ten-year period the Chapter has been on the upward grade in regard to scholarship standing. In June 1929 the chapter was second highest of all fraternities in scholarship rating, first place being held by a professional fraternity.

Omega Chapter has been well represented in Campus affairs and in college activities. Members have been on all the publications in dramatics and in athletics and have held membership in many honorary fraternities.

Appreciative credit is due Omega's Faculty Advisors, Russell B. Nesbitt served faithfully and well during most of this period and Francis J. Doan carried on from the time the Brother Nesbitt was forced to resign because of ill health.

Both Mother's Clubs and Dad's Clubs have been organized and are taking active interest in the affairs of the Chapter. Alumni meetings are held at the Chapter House on Mother's Day and Dad's Day.

In closing this story of the first ten years of Omega Chapter we cannot do so without giving to the entire to the entire group of members during this period for their persistent perseverance towards the goal of a new house. Certainly it is largely because of their interest and efforts that the Alumni were forced to take action and make the new house a reality.

# Start of the Second Decade

*By George W. Chapman*

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**W**ith the fall of 1929 Omega Chapter started a handicapped existence because of the fact it was a fraternity without a house. The old house had been given up and the new house was under construction.

In spite of this handicap Omega was able to pledge a satisfactory number of new men and to maintain a good organization.

Meetings were held in a rented room at the State College Hotel weekly. Arrangements were made with one of the restaurants whereby the Chapter was able to eat lunch and dinner together daily. A private room was used for this so that it made these meals as close to actual Chapter life as possible.

In March 1930 the new house was finished and it was a great satisfaction to all to be able again to have a place to call home.

Credit should be given to Max Suerken, president during this period, and the other officers for the highly satisfactory manner in which they carried on the organization of the Chapter under difficulties.

The latter part of March 1930 witnessed a big Alumni reception and open house in the new home. About thirty Alumni returned for this occasion and the new house was a revelation to all.

In May the Chapter held what they termed the "Formal Opening", a two day house party with many out of town guests.

Thus the Second Decade of Omega Chapter has been well started. With a full knowledge of what is termed "The New House Slump" the Chapter is making a special effort for the improvement along all lines and there is no doubt but that success will mark these efforts.

The past is now history. The future is freed with the firm conviction that those to come will carry on as well or better than there who have gone before.

# **Alumni Association Theta Chi of Penn State, Inc.**

*By John A. Irwin, 1916*

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**A**fter the Omega Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity was well established, with its natural and normal growth and advancement came thoughts of a new Home affording better living conditions, better club room facilities and a house to be comparable with the other National Fraternities on the campus of Penn State. These thoughts soon grew to demands and the aid of the Alumni was enlisted. The Active chapter had purchased a parcel of land fronting 85 feet on Allen Street at the Northeast corner of Prospect Avenue and Allen Street, title of which was held in Omega Chapter Theta Chi Fraternity.

During the years 1924-1925 a parcel of land in State College, known as the Locust Lane section, was developed by the local businessmen into a fraternity section and the tendency of Theta Chi was to get on the bandwagon and obtain a lot in this group. Brother Boyce Morgan then president of the local chapter negotiated with local real estate men for the purchase of a lot and endeavored to arrange with local builder for the erection and financing of the house. However, these negotiations did not materialize and there was some sentiment among the Alumni not to dispose of the lot at Prospect Avenue and Allen Street.

During these times various meetings were being held in Philadelphia where a majority of the Alumni members were located. These meetings were well attended and enthusiasm was running high. Brothers Maurice Kressly and Ellwood Cassel were preparing plans for a new house and Brothers Walter Segl and Raymond Poeppel were very active obtaining subscriptions for bonds with the hope that their efforts would lead to the starting of the construction of the new house. The plans for the new house were completed and presented to the Active Chapter as well as the Alumni group and were well received, but the plans for financing could not be consummated and the long hope for start was postponed indefinitely.

As a result of all these events however, the Alumni group soon realized their lack of organization and the necessity of forming a body properly incorporated under the Laws of Pennsylvania so that the property held by the Active Chapter together with any property which might be acquired at a future date might be vested in a legal body, and that business could be transacted in a business like way.

Up until this time the Alumni Association, through lack of organization, had not been able to properly function. Started February 1, 1920 as the Omega Alumni Association, it had progressed more or less as an inactive organization, all action that was taken representing the work of a few individuals rather than the association as a whole. The presidency was honorary rather than elective, each active chapter president becoming president of the Omega Alumni Association upon graduation. Winfield F. Smith was the first president, followed in succession by George W. Chapman and Ralph D. Stauffer. This arrangement was then changed and the president and other officers were elected.

Late in 1924 a committee was appointed composed of Brothers Walter E. Segl, Clifford Beaven, William Shaw Jr., Frederick Vansant, Albert Schoeppe, and John Irwin to petition for a charter. This committee sought the counsel of Brother Frank Sehrenk of Kappa Chapter, then counselor for the Grand Chapter. Brother Sehrenk advised immediate action along the lines mentioned and owing to pressure of business at the time Brother Sehrenk turned the committee over to Brother H. R. Faries also of Kappa Chapter, to prepare the necessary papers, who in due course of Law procured the charter of Theta Chi of Penn State.

As a matter of interest and record the Charter, Degree and Recording is herewith included.

# **Charter of Theta Chi of Penn State**

*In the Court of Common Pleas No. 2*

*For the County of Philadelphia, December Term, 1924, No. 11970*

*BE IT REMEMBERED that the subscribers, citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, having associated themselves together for the purpose of organizing Theta Chi of Penn State of Philadelphia, and being desirous of becoming incorporated agreeably to the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania entitled "An Act to Provide for the Incorporation and Regulations of Certain Corporations" approved the 29th day of April, A.D., 1874, and its supplements, do hereby declare that the following are the purposes and conditions for the upon which they desire to be incorporated;*

*FIRST:           The Name of the corporation shall be THETA CHI OF PENN STATE.*

*SECOND:        The purpose for which said corporation is formed is to maintain a club for social enjoyment and to promote fellowship among those members of Omega Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity who shall have been graduated or otherwise severed their connection with Pennsylvania State College.*

*THIRD: The business of the corporation is to be transacted in the City and County of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania.*

*FOURTH:       The Corporation is to exist perpetually.*

*FIFTH: The names of the subscribers and their addresses are as follows:*

*John A. Irwin  
Elkins Park, PA*

*Walter B. Shaw  
Philadelphia, PA*

*Walter E. Segl  
Philadelphia, PA*

*Frederick T. Vansant  
Ridely Park, PA*

*Clifford E. Beaven  
Philadelphia, PA*

*Albert F. Schoeppe  
Philadelphia, PA*

*SIXTH: The number of the directors is fixed at nine, and the names and addresses of those who are chosen for the first year are as follows:*

*John A. Irwin  
Elkins Park, PA*

*Walter B. Shaw  
Philadelphia, PA*

*Walter E. Segl  
Philadelphia, PA*

*Albert F. Schoeppe  
Philadelphia, PA*

*Clifford E. Beaven  
Philadelphia, PA*

*W. Butch Morgan  
State College, PA*

*Frederick T. Vansant  
Ridely Park, PA*

*Russell B. Nesbitt  
State College, PA*

*Marshall H. Drake  
State College, PA*

*SEVENTH: Said Corporation shall have no capital stock nor shares of stock, and shall be maintained by such fees for membership and dues as shall be properly assessed under provisions of the By-Laws of the corporation and by voluntary contributions.*

*EIGHTH: The yearly income of the corporation from other sources than real estate shall not exceed the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000).*



*NINTH: No intoxicating liquors of any kind shall be sold or consumed upon premises owned or occupied by the corporation for any purpose whatsoever.*

*WITNESS our hands and seals this \_\_ day of A.D. One Thousand nine hundred twenty five.*

*John A Irwin                      Clifford E. Beaven                      Frederick T. Vansant*

*Walter E. Segl                      Walter B. Shaw                      Albert F. Schoeppe*

*State of Pennsylvania  
County of Philadelphia*

*On the 15th day of April, A.D., 1925, before me the subscriber a Notary Public duly qualified in and for the said Commonwealth personally appeared*

*John A Irwin                      Walter E. Segl                      Clifford E. Beaven*

*Walter B. Shaw                      Frederick T. Vansant                      Albert F. Schoeppe*

*All of the subscribers to the foregoing certificate of incorporation, and in due form of law acknowledge the same to be their set and deed, and desire that the same might be recorded as such.  
Witness my hand and notarial seal the day and date aforesaid.*

*Sue O. Platt  
Notary Public  
Commission expires,  
March 2nd, 1929*

# Degree

*AND NOW, to wit, this 27th day of April A.D. 1925, the within Charter and Certificate of Incorporation having been presented to me, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas No. 2 for the County of Philadelphia, accompanied by due proof of publication on notice of this application, as required by the Act of Assembly and rules of this Court in such once made and provided, I certify, that I have examined and perused the same and found it to be in proper form and within the purpose named for corporation of the first class specified in Section second of the Act of General assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled "An Act to Provide for the Incorporation and Regulation of Certain Corporations", approved the 29th day of April, A.D. 1924, and its supplements, and the same appearing to be lawful and not injurious to the community, I do hereby, on Motion of*

*WALTER H. FARIRS, ESQ., on behalf of the petitioners, order and decree that the said Charter of the Theta Chi of Penn State be and the same is hereby approved and upon the recording of the same and of the decree, the subscribers thereto and their associates and successors thence forth shall be a corporation and by the name of THETA CHI OF PENN STATE for the purposes and upon the terms therein stated.*

*JAMES GAY GORDON, JR.  
Judge*

*Recorded in the office for the Recording of Deeds in and for the County of Philadelphia in Charter Book No. 90 - page 185.*

*WITNESS My hand and seal of office this twenty-ninth day of April, A.D., 1925.*

*JAMES M. HAZLETT  
Recorder of Deeds*

# Recording

*Theta Chi of Penn State, a Corporation of the first class under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania became a reality on the 29th day of April 1925, with the principal office located at 813 Bailey Building, Philadelphia, PA.*

*On May 18th, 1925, the first meeting of the Corporation was held at which time officers of he corporation were elected as follows:*

## *Directors*

<i>John A. Irwin</i>	<i>Walter B. Shaw</i>	<i>W. Boyce Morgan</i>
<i>Walter A. Segl</i>	<i>Frederick T. Vansant</i>	<i>Russell B. Nesbitt</i>
<i>Clifford E. Beaven</i>	<i>Albert F. Schoeppe</i>	<i>Marshal M. Drake</i>

*The first meeting of the Board of Directors was held on the 2nd day of June, 1925 at which time the following officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows:*

<i>President: John A. Irwin</i>	<i>Secretary: Walter E. Segl</i>
<i>Vice President: Clifford E. Beaven</i>	<i>Treasurer: Raymond B. Poeppel</i>

*The first meeting of the members of the Corporation was held the 17th day of September 1925, when approval of the action taken by the incorporation was obtained and the regular routine of Theta Chi of Penn State was inaugurated.*

*In the Autumn of 1925 Brothers Marshal M. Drake and Otto P. Meyers became members of the board of Directors by virtue of their office, replacing Brothers W. Boyce Morgan and Marshal M. Drake respectively.*

*The demands for the new house were ever present and Brother Anderson of Pi Chapter and member of the faculty, cooperating with the Active Chapter, learned that Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity*

would be willing to sell 40 feet of their property adjacent to ours if a figure agreeable to both parties could be arrived at. As a result of this information a special meeting of the Board of Directors was called on the 29th day of January 1926 and after discussing the matter the President was authorized to negotiate with Phi Sigma Kappa for the purchase of this 40 feet on Allen Street, the purchase price not to exceed \$1500.00, including all improvements. As a result of this authority the President consummated negotiations with Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity and received the necessary approval of the corporation at the regular meeting held on the 23rd day of October 1926. The Fraternity was then in possession of a parcel of ground with 125 feet frontage on Allen Street, and with both Phi Sigma Kappa property and our property carrying restrictions for erection of buildings for the club house purposes. These restrictions being placed for a period of 25 years. This assures the Fraternity of having only two buildings in the entire block between Fairmount Avenue and Prospect Avenue, and with the Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity House already erected there was no about the immediate conditions in this block. At this regular meeting of the Corporation officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:

President: John A. Irwin

Directors: Elwood B. Cassel

Vice Pres.: Elwood B. Cassel

William Thompson

Secretary: William Thompson

Watrous H. Irons

Treasurer: Frederick T. Vansant

The following directors remaining in office:

Walter E. Segl

Russell B. Nesbitt

The following by virtue of their office became directors:

John A. Irwin

Ralph L. Yanish

Frederick T. Vansant

Otto. P. Meyers

*The year elapsing between October 1926 and October 1927 was quiet except for the demands of the Active Chapter for better quarters.*

*At the regular meeting of the Corporation on the 22nd day of October 1927, the Board of Directors obtained authority to have plans and specifications prepared for a new house. These plans and specifications were prepared and at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors on the 27th day of October 1928 it was voted to proceed with the construction of the new house in accordance with the plans and specifications as prepared. It was therefore resolved that the President appoint a Building Committee whose duties it would be to make the awards, negotiate contracts for the furnishings and its equipment. Approval of this procedure was obtained at the regular stated meeting of the Corporation held in State College the 27th day of October 1928. At this meeting officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:*

<i>President:</i>	<i>John A. Irwin</i>	<i>Directors:</i>	<i>Elwood B. Cassel</i>
<i>Vice Pres.:</i>	<i>George W. Chapman</i>		<i>William Thompson</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>William Thompson</i>		<i>Watrous H. Irons</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Frederick T. Vasant</i>		

*The following directors remaining in office:*

<i>Albert F. Schoeppe</i>	<i>Russell B. Nesbitt</i>
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*The following by virtue of their office became directors:*

<i>John A. Irwin</i>	<i>Richard A. Geuder</i>
<i>Norman C. Horner</i>	<i>Maxwell Suerken</i>

*During the years of 1928 and 1929 the house leased by the Active Chapter was sold to a local fraternity and the Active Chapter was given notice that they would be without a house at the end of the college year. This information was transmitted to the officers of the Alumni Corporation and a special meeting of the Board of Directors was called on the 10th day of May 1929, at which time he directors*

*decided to call a special meeting of the members of the Corporation for the purpose of gaining their consent to increase the bonded indebtedness of the Corporation from nothing to \$30,000.00 and at the same time to obtain the approval of the changing of the principal office of the Corporation from 813 Bailey Building, Philadelphia, PA., to State College, PA. This special meeting of the members of the Corporation was called for the 15th day of July 1929 at which time the members of the Corporation authorized the Board of Directors to increase the bonded indebtedness from nothing to \$30,000.00. With its authority the Corporation was in a position to proceed with the erection of the new house and its construction began in August 1929.*

*At the regular stated meeting of the Corporation held the 26th day of October 1929 the members gave approval of increasing the indebtedness of the Corporation from \$30,000 to \$50,000 and officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:*

<i>President: John A. Irwin</i>	<i>Directors: John A. Irwin</i>
<i>Vice Pres.: George W. Chapman</i>	<i>Norman Horner</i>
<i>Secretary: William C. Thompson</i>	<i>Walter B. Shaw</i>
<i>Treasurer: Norman C. Horner</i>	<i>Russell B. Nesbitt</i>

*The following directors remaining in office:*

<i>Maxwell C. Suerken</i>	<i>Devere B. Decker</i>
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*At a regular stated meeting of Theta Chi of Penn State held in State College, PA. Saturday, October 25th, 1930, the following officers were elected:*



# Omega's New Home

*By John A. Irwin and Norman C. Horner*

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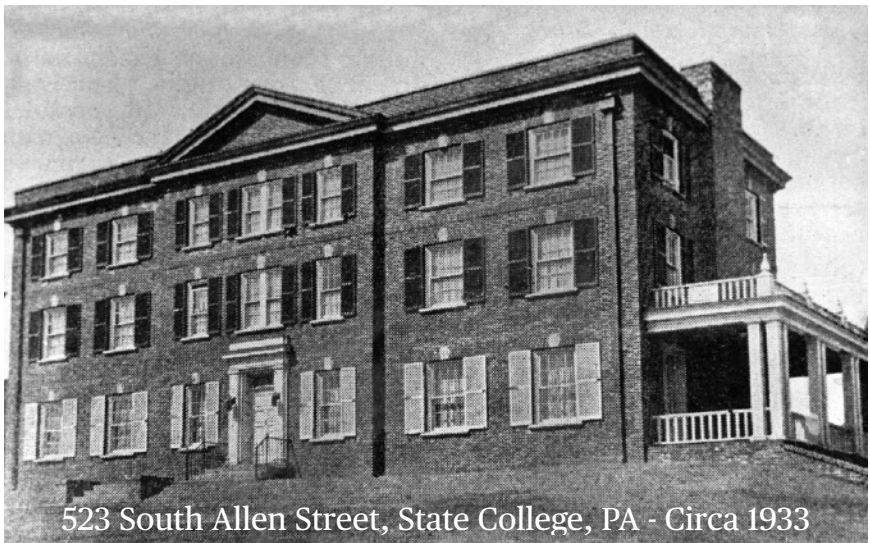
**O**n March 1st, 1930, Omega Chapter took possession of its new home. Thus was brought to a successful conclusion a building program, which had been worked on for more than ten years.

Although a new house had been talked of for a number of years and a lot purchased in 1920, definite steps towards building were not taken until early in 1929. At this time the Board of Directors of Theta Chi of Penn State Inc. voted to have plans and specifications prepared for the new house. Approval of the members of the corporation was secured and the problem was then to determine the type of house to be built and the manner of financing.

The committee appointed to prepare the plans decided to save the added expense to retaining an architect and



decided to prepare the plans themselves for the approval of the Corporation. They proceeded to make the floor plans and elevations and asked for criticism from various members of the Corporation whose training and work since graduation had made them familiar with construction and architectural details. In the preparation of the plans the usual abuse of properties by student bodies in general was recognized and all the materials were selected with a view of their ruggedness and ability to stand this hard usage, coupled with the aesthetic qualities required to make a first class job. As a result of this policy there are many cases where more costly materials are used to accomplish the purpose, but consider the future maintenance cost the initial expenditures is fully justified.



After a survey of the building lot and considering the adjacent Phi Sigma Kappa property it was determined that by keeping the first floor of the new house on the same level with the first floor of the Phi Sigma Kappa house, that

we would still have a normal story height above ground in the rear of the building and it was deemed advisable to use this ground floor of dining room, chapter room and kitchen. By using the ground floor in this manner the maximum amount of floor space was available for the clubrooms on the first floor. This method of fraternity house construction was something new to State College.



House Construction from September to December 1929

Omega's new home is on Allen Street at the corner of Prospect Avenue, five blocks from the campus. The lot is 125' on the front and runs back along Prospect Avenue 167' to an alley. By agreement with the Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity the building line was established 75' from the street, leaving a spacious lawn in the front and ample space in the rear for parking and service entrance. The house is built on a lot that slopes towards the mountains and because of this grade future building on the side towards the mountains will not obstruct the view.

The house has been designed with a Colonial feeling and is approximately 36' by 75', three stories above ground in the front and four stories above ground in the rear. It is built of red brick with cream-colored windows divided into small panes of glass, typical of the Colonial architecture and with green shutters giving the necessary contrast. On the Prospect Avenue end of the house are two elevations of porches, one leading from the dining room and the other leading from the clubroom. From both porches an

excellent view of the mountains and valley to the south can be had. The trimming of the exterior, both windows sills and keystones, is Indiana limestone and the cornices and central pediment feature is of galvanized iron painted and sanded to match the limestone. The Foundation walls to grade are built of stone masonry and are built of stone take from "Old Main" building when it was demolished to be replaced by the new "Old Main" building.

The structural features of the house are somewhat new to State College inasmuch as the building is supported on the interior by means of structural steel columns and girders so designed and arranged as to make any and all partitions on any floor removable with necessitating shoring or bracing, which in the event of remodeling would make it possible to make the alterations without involving the additional expense of reframing and shoring the building. The exterior walls are all load bearing walls and carry the floor beams. In compliance with the law the building had been provided with a fireproof fire tower with steel stairs and cement treads connecting each floor. This is also used as a student entrance, thus saving wear and tear on the more finished portions of the house.

On the ground floor is a large dining room, approximately 24' by 32' with a terrazzo floor, plasters walls and ceiling with exposed wood beams. From this room four pair of casement doors lend to the terrace and lawn and two windows to areaway. At the south end of the room is a large red brick fireplace. Access to the kitchen from the dining room is through a passageway with double doors at each end. The kitchen is approximately 17' by 18', fitted with a gas range, electric refrigerator and ample cupboard space. Off the kitchen is a maid's room and bath. The Chapter room is on the ground floor and is 15' by 23'. It is

used for meeting purposes only. Entrance is through an anteroom. The remainder of the ground floor is taken up the pantry, trunk room and boiler room. Off the dining room is a porch 11' by 32'.

The main entrance to the house is on the first floor. As one enters they pass through a small vestibule into the reception room, which is 15' by 25'. On the right is the main club room 23.5' by 32' and to the right is a music room 19' by 24'. Straight ahead is the library or card room 14' by 15'. Opening from this is a lavatory and toilet room. To the right of the entrance door is a large phone booth and to the left is a large coatroom. The entire first floor is finished with first quality white oak flooring; walls and ceilings are finished with sand finish plaster. At the end of the clubroom is a large fireplace and mantle trimmed with a natural finish knotty pine.

The second and third floors are similar, each having ten 11' by 14' rooms with two closets. Each floor has a toilet and washroom equipped with shower baths. Bedrooms are furnished with double deck beds and oak furniture.

Omega's new home was made possibly only through carefully worked out financing. In ten years that the new house was talked about many varied plans for raising the necessary money were suggested. Some plans were even put into effect and attempts were made to sell bonds. The only plan that actually was of any help was a Building and Loan Fund which was started by the Active Chapter and which they turned over to the Alumni Corporation when the building was started, This fund amounted to \$2778.00 and was a big help.

The total valuation of the house, lot and furnishings is \$65,000.00. The People National Bank of State College took a first mortgage in the amount of \$30,000. A bond issue of

\$100 bonds bearing 6 1/2% interest covered the second mortgage in the amount of \$20,000. Alumni, Actives and friends of the fraternity purchased many of these bonds. The National Board of Trustees of Theta Chi Fraternity took the last \$5,000 worth of these bonds. The lot, which is valued at \$7,000, was purchased some years ago, a small additional strip being added at the time the house was built.

Payments on the first mortgage started ten years after the house was started. It is anticipated that the second mortgage will be paid off in less than ten years.

Just prior to the start of the building the Alumni group started a building and Loan program. The plan was for each alumnus to pay one dollar per month to this fund the shares to be held by the Alumni Association. This plan met with great success and a total of 66 men paid monthly. This is the only contribution of any nature that was solicited in the building of the house. This B&L fund has since been withdrawn and the money used to reduce the debt on the house. Payments from the men have limited to a maximum of \$40. Walter P. Shaw is the person responsible for the evolution and success of this plan and is to be congratulated and thanked for his efforts.

The title to the house lot and furniture is held by the Alumni Association under the name of Theta Chi of Penn State, a corporation of the first class under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania. The furniture and furnishings will be turned over to the Active Chapter at a later date, but the title to the house and lot will continue to be held by the Corporation.

The house is run by the Active Chapter, which rents the house from the Corporation. This rent is set at such a figure as to permit all interest charges being taken care of in

addition building up a sink fund to pay of the mortgage and take care of the upkeep. As the mortgages are paid off the rent will be reduced so that the active chapter can consist of about thirty members instead of the forty or more now required to meet the present high rent and operating costs.

## About the Author



George Chapman graduated from the Omega Chapter of Theta Chi (Penn State) in 1920. While as an undergraduate he served as chapter President. After graduating he went on to work as a Regional Counselor, Alumnus adviser of Omega Chapter and the President of the Theta Chi Philadelphia Alumni Chapter.

He served three terms on the Grand Chapter (1937-39, 1939-41 and 1941-46) of Theta Chi and twenty years (1948-1968) as the Executive Director. He also served as national treasurer, marshal, secretary, and vice president and president.

He was the first Theta Chi to receive the North American Interfraternity Conference's Gold Medal.

He planned & conducted the first School of Fraternity Practices, produced & edited the Manual of Theta Chi and the Handbook of Theta Chi.

He was awarded the Theta Chi Distinguished Service Award, Theta Chi Alumni Award Grand Chapter and Omega Chapter, Theta Chi Golden Guard, NIC Gold Medal (1968), and the Silver Legion Certificate.

To read more about George Chapman please go to [www.thetachiomega.com](http://www.thetachiomega.com).

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Editors note:

We can safely say that without the untiring efforts of John Irwin and Norman Horner Omega's new house would not have been possible. Both men gave freely of their time to carry the program to a successful finish, John handling the design and building and Norman the financing. We know that the Active and Alumni members of Omega Chapter appreciate their efforts. They have more than extended the helping hand.



