

## THE HISTORY OF EPSILON ETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA NU FRATERNITY (1930's)

Written by Albert W. Lewis, III (EH 797)

During this golden era of athletics, Epsilon Eta did not falter in the area of campus publications. In 1931 Brother Tom Siler, now of the Knoxville News-Sentinel, was appointed editor of the Orange and White, but was unable to return to school. Brother William Slayden was chosen to take his place. Like classmate Booby Dobb, Brother Slayden also served Sigma Nu as a campus politician and was elected president of the senior class for the year of 1931.

The first golden eras of athletics saw the founding of a tradition that would last ten years and then die in the second era of golden athletics: that of the Annual Sigma Nu---Sigma Alpha Epsilon Bowery Ball. Held in the spring at the most notable Knoxville country clubs, the tradition lasted from 1928 until 1938 and then apparently faded out under the strain of ominous world tension.

In 1933 Beta Alpha Omega, a local fraternity merged with Epsilon Eta. Three-fourths of the local pledged Sigma Nu. With-in the year (April 13, 1934—Friday, incidentally) Epsilon Eta (including the recently merged local) served as host to a convention of Division 20. Arkansas, South Carolina, Vanderbilt, Sewanee, Mississippi, and the newly installed Southwestern at Memphis attended the convention. A banquet was held at the Cherokee Country Club honoring the guests and alumni and a formal given at the club afterwards.

In 1935 a second tradition was established at Epsilon Eta with regards to outside organizations: the Sigma Nu Contract Bridge Tournament. Open to the sororities on campus, the tournament lasted until 1943 and then, like the Bowery Ball before it, baded into the past.

The year 1936 introduced Epsilon Eta's second golden era of athletics. Ray Graves (captain of the Vol's in 1941 and Football coach at the University of Florida) and Al Hust (All-American end and captain of the Vol's in 1943) would dominate this era. Unlike the previous era, however, this era would be golden only with regards to sports, for the next ten years would be some of the worst that Epsilon Eta had ever faced.

Grand Chapter in 1937 recognized in Epsilon Eta a lack of adequate leadership and a morale that was below what it should be. Current finances and scholarship, Grand Chapter was quick to point out, were on the rise, however. Time, as it now is known, was soon to undermine both Epsilon Eta's finances and scholarship.

In 1938 the Bowery Ball and Sigma Nu Bridge Tournament were both going strong. Epsilon Eta won the freshmen scholarship cup in 1938 and Julian Hinton was elected president of the Senior Class as well as president of Nayeeyayli.

## UPDATES FROM THE DELTA (1930's)

TENNESSEE, Epsilon Eta

October 1933

By Ward Grimes, Reporter

This year has been one of the most successful in the history of Epsilon Eta, and with the end of school very close, we are looking forward to more success next fall.

Recently, Epsilon Eta initiated eight new men: Sam. L. Gill, Owen Mynatt, J. B. Ellis, James Koonce, Harvey Jones, T. K. Hodges, James B. Fisher, and Ward Grimes. We have pledged a group of new men. They are Ernest Jones, and B. S. Walker, Nashville, Tennessee; Gomer H. Prichett, White Pine, Tennessee; and Paul England, Alabama.

New officers were elected as follows: Herman Snipes, Commander; Ernest Kenney, Lieutenant-Commander; William E. Dean, Secretary; Ben T. McCaslin, Treasurer; Owen Mynatt, Chaplain; Sam Gill, Marshal; John Seivers, Sentinel; and Ward Grimes, Reporter.

Epsilon Eta has a fine scholarship record this year. We won the scholarship cup the first term and have high hopes of winning it again this term. Two of our men, H. H. Gnuse and W. M. Burlison were elected to the Phi Kappa Phi, honorary scholastic fraternity. Gnuse is a member of the Scabbard and Blade military fraternity, and he has been selected as one of the outstanding seniors of the year.

Ernest Kenney was recently elected to Scabbard and Blade. He is also manager of the track team and captain in the military unit. William Dean, an engineering student, is the president of the A.I.E.E. W.G. Baird was made president of the Scribbers Club, and his brother Coleman, won the interfraternity lightweight boxing championship. Donald Householder won the wrestling championship and teamed up with Pledge Alvin Raulston to win the horseshoe pitching contest.

Laxton M. Smith was made Cadet Colonel and will head the entire military unit next year.

Epsilon Eta lost only three men by graduation: Harmon Gnuse, W. M. Burlison, and Clyde Bowles. Although these men will be greatly missed, we hope through close cooperation to make next year a greater success than ever.

TENNESSEE, Epsilon Eta

March 1934

By J. Ward Grimes, Reporter

Epsilon Eta opened the school year by pledging a fine group of men, among whom are Dave Moody, Nashville, Tennessee; Charles Kennedy and J. P. Newell, Jr., Memphis, Tennessee; Albert Fowles, Etowah, Tennessee; George Fowler, Cone Creek, Tennessee; Lyle Piper, Princeton, West Virginia; E. K.

Waters, Lebanon, Tennessee; Maynard H. Burleson, Johnson City, Tennessee; and Warren Chesney, Knoxville, Tennessee.

The fraternity cup for scholarship was again awarded Epsilon Eta for the fall semester. The old men stood first among other fraternities, while the pledges stood fourth. The chapter has all intentions of equaling last year's scholastic standing by heading the other fraternities .

Our men captured for the fifth consecutive time the cross-country trophy. The team was composed of Donald M. Householder, Pledge Warren Chesney, Pledge George Fowler, Harmon H. Truse, Jr., and E. Coleman Baird. The basketball team has made its first advance in the interfraternity meet and is numbered among the possible winners.

John B. Ellis, Jr. our representative on Neyland's squad, finished his football career brilliantly this fall. Conceded all-Southern, he also received all-American honorable mention.

Quite a number of coveted honors have been afforded our men. Earnest M. Kennedy, our chapter commander, was admitted to the T Club. He is also chairman of the committee on arrangements for the senior ball.

Pledge J. P. Newell has been very active in intramurals and school affairs. He is represented on the editorial staff of the student publication, The Orange and White. He is also on the committee in charge of the freshmen retreat. J. P. is figuring prominently on the freshmen basketball squad.

The advertising manager of this year's annual is W. Owen Mynott, a valuable man to the chapter. Pledges Ernest Jones and David Moody are on the annual staff.

Our own Samuel Lankford Gill has the distinction of being a charter member of Alpha Delta Pi, the freshmen national premed honorary fraternity, which was installed at Tennessee the past year; and after meticulous deliberation has been chosen the chapter "mascot", being unusually well adapted to the office by virtue of his indubitable propensity for being present when not desired, and absent when do desired.

William E. Dean, Jr., represented the university chapter A. T. E. E. , reading an original paper. The society meeting was at Duke University.

All in all, Epsilon Eta has enjoyed a most successful session and is anticipating the completion of a most satisfactory year.

#### WINS HOBBY FAIR GRAND AWARD

October 1939

For several weeks during the spring the Epsilon Eta chapter house at Tennessee exhibited the furniture from the House of Glass constructed by Jim Fly, Epsilon Eta, which created such interest at the annual

Boy's Hobby Fair sponsored by the Rotary Club of Nashville, Tennessee. This house was the representation of a modern stone home such as might easily be found in newer sections of any city in the country. This model, unlike others of its kind, however, was made completely of glass. One of the feature writers of the Nashville "Banner" described it as followed.

"Has it been described in print?---that glass house built by young Jim Fly, which won the grand award in the Boy's Hobby Fair? I think not, so here goes:

"It's a modern one - story house with the usual tent-shaped attic and chimney on the ridge. It's made exclusively of glass, cellophane, and glue, each piece having been 'cut, shaped and fashioned by the builder, all work done by hand with simple tools in 280 hours," to quote from that placard. The house is complete in all essential details clear down to the cellophane hinges on doors which really open.

"Complex, also, are furnishings and fixtures made of same materials as the house as witness the living room inventory; fireplace with mantel, and irons and logs; lounge with chair to match; floor lamp; end table with lamp; radio; rocking chair; coffee table; love seat; mantel clock; drape curtains; corner table with book ends; and spun woven glass rugs.

"This is transparent structure has the edge in one respect on other toy houses; one may see its whole interior from any angle without removing its roof and sides."

The house is scale model such that one inch equals two feet. The real house, of course, is non-existent, and the complete plans were drawn up by the builder. Dimensions of the model are: front, 22 inches; side, 24 inches; height of roof 17 inches.

During the two weeks that the furniture was on display at the chapter house it attracted many visitors from the university and city.

## UPDATES FROM THE VOLUNTEER (Yearbook)

### Interfraternity Council

1929-30	Marion Russell (Vice President)
	Byron Hamilton
1930-31	John Link (Treasurer)
	William Slayden
1931-32	William Slayden
	Robert Gracey
1932-33	Herman Gnuse (Secretary)
	Ben McCaslin

1933-34	Ernest Kenney Ben McCaslin
1934-35	Ernest Kenney (Vice President) Jack Williams
1935-36	Jack Williams (President) James Welch
1936-37	Julian Hinton Kenneth Hicks
(House Mother---Mrs. Jessie Hudson Franklin)	
1937-38	Earl Williams Ben Young
1938-39	Not listed
1939-40	Eugene Tate Roberts Weaver