

# TAU CHAPTER NEWS LETTER

TO AND FOR OUR KAPPA SIGMA BROTHERS IN THE  
ARMED FORCES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



LETTER #6

Austin, Texas, December 1944

This, the sixth NEWS LETTER, is a Christmas Letter. Even though this letter may reach some of you brothers in the remote parts of the world after Christmas it brings you the Christmas Greetings and sincere wishes for a Happy and Victorious New Year from the brothers here in Tau Chapter. We hope the war-time Santa Claus will be good to you brothers wherever you are. You may be sure that you will be remembered and thought about by your brothers here in Tau Chapter during the holidays - for we will be thinking about you. The same goes for our brothers who are not in the service. Tau Chapter sends to each and all of you fraternal greetings for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We have received many requests from the brothers in the service overseas as well as the brothers in the service in other states for more news about the local Chapter and the University of Texas and the outcome of the football season. Complying with this request this NEWS LETTER will contain more of that type of news and less about the brothers in the service. Thanks for these requests and suggestions. It is the cooperation and suggestions that we get from you brothers that will enable us to best make this NEWS LETTER serve its purpose. We want you to remember at all times, as we try to remember at all times, that this letter is for you Brothers of Tau Chapter who are removed from Austin and the University of Texas by length of distance geographically and length of years since you graduated as members of this Chapter.

## HERE'S THE DOPE ON YOUR CHAPTER

Thanksgiving has come and gone again and with it the Aggies, defeated for the fifth straight time, they all left town with smiles on their faces shouting merrily "Beat the H--- out of Texas in '45".

The game was great, even comparable to the great game of 1940. In spots it even paralleled that famous game. Texas scored in the opening minutes of play and held the Aggies scoreless the rest of the game.

Of great interest (well interesting anyway) to the Kappa Sigs was the protest party held by the Aggies, as usual, in our front yard. The customary sign, "TO HELL WITH A. & M.", was again on the balustrade above our front porch. The swarms of Aggies holding Thanksgiving Eve pep-rallies around the campus liked this sign no more than had the Aggies in recent years.

Earlier in the evening of this Thanksgiving Day Eve the S.A.E.'s had started a formal and a great many of the boys, taking the necessary preventative for a cold, left the house to join in the merriment. However, a few who had seen the workings of the "Farmer Fight Boys" hung around with a few baseball bats and pool cues to arbitrate in case the farmers got nasty. Well, to make a long story short, the Aggies got nasty and arbitration was necessary. As a direct result of this several pool cues were broken as well as several Aggie heads. In fact it didn't stop there - the Austin Police, the preservers of the peace quickly hustled out and hustled two of the brethren (nameless here and forever more) to the Police guest room. After explaining the situation to the Captain, the brave lads were released and cheered heartily by their brothers as once more they took their rightful places on the steps of the Kappa Sigma House - the important thing is that we kept the sign up at its rightful place.

After the A. & M. game, we held an open house and a buffet supper. The parents of all the boys were invited and those who attended seemed to enjoy it. Of course, Mrs. Scott fixed us the best meal possible considering all the rationing. It was a beautiful table laden with turkey, dressing and all the trimmings. Pete Baker was here for the game and was present at the open house. He was well fed and well pleased.



D.G.M. William M. Alexander paid Tau Chapter a visit the last of November. He made a short talk to the Chapter about finances and made a few helpful suggestions. He was present at the showing of the instructive slides for the new initiates and was well pleased and Brother Alexander suggested that some night soon one or two of the boys go to Georgetown and show them for the benefit of their new initiates.

#### FOUNDERS' DAY WAS FITTINGLY OBSERVED

December 10th the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity at the University of Virginia was fittingly observed by Tau Chapter. The celebration was touched off by the formal initiation of Lee H. Armer of Fort Worth who was pledged by Tau Chapter in the fall of 1925 but had to leave college a few weeks after he was pledged because of the illness of his father and to go into business. Lee Armer, although busy in the building himself up into a successful oil operator, never lost his desire to be initiated. All these years he had kept his pledge pen. The Chapter was happy to initiate Lee Armer with a formal initiation immediately preceding the Founders' Day Banquet at the Chapter House.

The Founders' Day Banquet was nicely served and our Austin alumni were represented by Brothers Lomis Slaughter, Dan Gardner and the Alumnus Advisor Stewart A. McCorkle. A number of our Austin alumni regretted with sincere regrets because of the necessity of being out of town or because of conflicting appointments. Those present heard and enjoyed and those absent missed a stirring historical address on Kappa Sigma and Tau Chapter by one most competent to make such an address, none other than Tau Chapter's own Beauford Jester, the immediate Past Worthy Grand Master of Kappa Sigma. Not only did Brother Jester tell us about the founding of Kappa Sigma, paid tribute to and gave a thumbnail sketch of the five friends and brothers who founded the fraternity, but he also paid tribute to the fraternity and the early members of Tau Chapter. It was pointed out that when Tau Chapter was installed in 1884 as the 20th Chapter of the fraternity the charter members of the Chapter and the Chapter members for the next few years had the vision to purchase the superb site for the Chapter House at the south end of University Avenue facing the campus. He also recalled the fact that the square, red brick house built on this site in 1901 was the first fraternity house built by a fraternity west of the Mississippi River. This was added on to with a sleeping porch, dining room and kitchen in 1919. When, by 1931, the growth of the Chapter had outgrown this house and another fraternity house was needed, the present house was constructed. Tau Chapter has a house and lot investment in excess of \$75,000. Less than \$5,000 remains unpaid on the Chapter House mortgage which is held by the Endowment Fund Trustees of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity. Brother Jester predicted that this indebtedness would be paid off before the end of the war and that when the brothers returned to the Chapter from service in the armed forces after the war, they would come back to a house that was free of indebtedness and Tau would be the only Chapter west of the Mississippi who had built and paid for two fraternity houses in 43 years. This statement from Brother Jester seems to sound the thought and suggestion of many of our brothers who are overseas and many alumni here in America advocating a "Debt Retirement Campaign". We were pleased to hear Brother Jester commend the way our Chapter is carrying on during war-times. He said that the 16 and 17 year olds and the few older boys who were 4-F or who have received medical discharges are "staying in there and pitching" even though we were younger and less experienced in the fraternity management and policy making than the personnel of the pre-war Chapter. We were delighted with Beau Jester's suggestion and plans for keeping Kappa Sigma at the top of the list after the war when the other fraternities might build larger and handsomer fraternity houses. Tau Chapter is grateful for its loyal and far-seeing alumni who have made the Chapter great through the years and who have the vision and plans to keep it at its place in the years to come.

#### FOOTBALL!

The game with Texas Christian was played in the rain and the field was very muddy. Texas Christian scored early in the 2nd half and converted. Later in the 4th quarter Layne connected with a long one and the score was 7 - 6. The conversion failed and the score was 7 - 6 when the clock ran out. Texas was roundly outplayed that day. The line was especially weak and the back played raggedly.

Texas played Arkansas in Little Rock this year and Bobby Layne gave a fine account of himself. He was truly the spark-plug. He passed for one touchdown and his passes were instrumental in setting up the other two. The big Texas line sparked by All-American left end Hubert Bechtol deserves its share of the glory. Time and again they held the Porkers and forced them to kick. Fischer and Sachse were also helpful in their line backing positions. The final score 19-0. It was Texas' game all the way.

Rice defeated Texas at Houston. Rice scored late in the third quarter. The score climaxed a series of first downs that left them on Texas 35 yard line. Soruggs took the ball on an off tackle play and went all the way for the only touchdown of the day. Texas' play was ragged whereas Rice played inspired football. Jess Neely admitted later that Rice played its best game against Texas. Texas just never could get started. Score: Rice 7 - Texas 0.

The SMU - Texas game was played in Austin and no less a distinguished personage than

Walter Woodul, Jr., was on hand to observe it. Texas did well that day for Junior. Bechtol on both defensive and offensive was truly great. Fischer, Sachse and the line were a brick wall which no SMU player could penetrate. Of course Bobby Layne was there too, but only for short intervals. He had a bad knee injury, a hang-over from the Rice game, and he was unable to play the whole game. Texas outplayed and outclassed the Methodist Eleven and the final score was 34 - 7.

The annual Turkey Day game was played this year in Memorial Stadium. The stands were packed and the end zones full. Texas kicked off in the person of Big Harlan Wetz. The ball went over the goal and an Aggie elected to run it out. A fatal mistake - for as soon as he reached the two yard line Wetz threw a bone crushing tackle on him. The Aggies kicked, two plays and Texas scored. Layne set up the touchdown with some very accurate tossing, then dropped back to throw another and finding no receiver, carried the ball over from the 20 yard line. This was the only score of the game. The rest of the game was a defensive affair for both sides climaxed by a mighty goal line stand by the Longhorns late in the fourth quarter. After that the game was on ice. Score 6 - 0.

TEAM	CONFERENCE STANDING			PTS.	OP.	PCT.
	W	L	T			
Texas Christian University	3	1	1	41	34	.700
Texas University	3	2	0	75	21	.600
Arkansas	2	2	1	27	58	.500
Texas A. & M.	2	3	0	71	38	.400
Rice	2	3	0	47	50	.400
Southern Methodist University	2	3	0	62	112	.400

#### NEWS ABOUT THE BROTHERS

In Lloyd Gregory's column in the Houston Post we found news of: - "Lieut. Ben (Stookie) Allen is with the First Army in France. His address is 1106 Engineers Combat Group, APO 307, Care Postmaster, New York. Lieut. Allen recently wrote his friend, Alvin S. Romansky, Houston attorney, and sent regards to Alvin and other Texas University friends, including "Lappy" Stone, "Hungry" Adams, "Sot" Cecil and "Sleepy" Rankin. "Stookie", long-legged end, in 1924 caught a forward pass that beat the Aggies 7 - 0. As I remember, "Rosy" Stallter threw a long pass in the last quarter. Two Aggie backs obligingly batted the ball high into the air, and toward "Stookie" who had got behind the Aggie secondary. Ole "Stookie" really picked 'em up and put 'em down when he caught that pighide. An artist of rare promise, Lieut. Allen has drawn a series of sketches of the combat engineers in action - sketches to appear in LOOK."

Your editor has just received an address for Capt. Homer B. "Geter" Jester who is serving overseas with the Air Corps - "Geter's" address being: - Capt. Homer B. Jester, O-433057, APO 16512 A, Sqdn. A2, C/O Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

Just had word from Chuck "Silas" Finlayson that all is going well in Italy. He had just come back from an "official" inspection of Rome and it seems that our boy Fin was more than pleased with the Italian female sex. He says that he's more than ready to resign but it seems that "Hap", you know General Arnold, finds him indispensable at times.

Jimmy Upchurch, B.S.Ch.E., 1944, is working for Magnolia Refining Company in Beaumont. He reports that he has everything going smoothly except his boss. Hope he does as well with the Beaumont girls as he did with the girls at old U.T.

Lt. Pharr (the voice of the 2nd floor sleeping porch) Duson has left these grand shores. Destination Unknown. His APO is in care of the postmaster at New York so you can draw your own conclusions.

Bob Shepherd is reported to be in Southern France. I hope for his sake that it's warmer and drier there than it is in Northern France. This news came via the grapevine so we can enclose no address.

Bill Rudd's last letter was from Northern France. He said that it was cold, wet and uncomfortable there. Said that he couldn't see how he could get home for at least two or three years. He closed with the remark that as far as he was concerned the University of Texas girls beat the French women clear to H--- and back.

Pvt. (no, not even first class) David Cunningham regretfully announces his leaving. It seems that at last David is going to get across. You realize of course he's only been transferred from about four outfits just as they were leaving. It seems he's on a B-29 and is heading for the far Pacific C/O Postmaster, San Francisco, California.





Fort Worth, Texas

1220 Broad

Lt. Amon G. Carter, Jr.

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