Twenty-five years

Although the University of Oklahoma is the twenty-third largest university in America, it is one of the youngest in fact (actually being the youngest state university). Nothing emphasizes this more than the announcement that the oldest fraternity on the campus will observe its twenty-fifth anniversary this year.

Kappa Alpha was the first fraternity to nationalize a local at the University of Oklahoma. Since that date, October 10, 1905, twenty-one other national fraternities have entered what fraternity men generally believe to be the best fraternity field in America today.

The K. A.’s were the pioneers. An effort had been made, and almost successfully, back in 1899 by William T. Little of Perry, a Phi Kappa Psi from Kansas, and then custodian of the Oklahoma Historical society, to establish a chapter of his fraternity here. He had virtually secured the charter when the local group he sponsored broke up into several organizations. It was a score of years before Phi Psi established a chapter here.

When the Beta Eta chapter of Kappa Alpha fraternity observes its twenty-fifth year, other fraternities may well join in the celebration, for that date, October 10, marks the entry of fraternities on the university campus.

Notable names are found in the roster of Omega Psi, the local fraternity that was organized to petition K. A. and which obtained its charter within a year after organization. The charter members were Walter Ferguson, G. B. “Deak” Parker, Roscoe Walker, Earl Minteer, Roy Waggoner, Byron McCreary, James Monnett and Hugh Carroll.

The first chapter of the national included James Monnett and Bill Cross, football stars (Mr. Cross is now the financial director of the University of Oklahoma athletic association), Mr. Parker, now editor in chief of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, Everett DeGolyer, president of the Amerada Petroleum Corporation, Ralph Campbell, advertising executive of Minneapolis, Walter Ferguson, vice president of the Exchange National bank of Tulsa, and Roscoe Walker, Pawhuska physician.

The first group did not end the parade of notable Sooner names to be enrolled in the chapter. Succeeding years saw in the chapter such men as Walter S. Campbell (Stanley Vestal), Charles H. “Chuck” Newell, business manager of the Dallas Dispatch, Fletcher Riley, justice of the Oklahoma supreme court, Carl Whitman, president of the Posts Products Co. of New York, Seward Sheldon of Ponca City, Vinson Lackey of Tulsa, director of publicity for the Tulsa chamber of commerce, a member of the fraternity since 1909, and associate editor of the Kappa Alpha Journal, and others.

Charter members returning to Norman will see a beautiful Southern colonial home of the fraternity, contrasting strongly with the small house in which the original chapter began. At least 250 members of the chapter are expected to return. A bloc of seats at the Nebraska football game has been reserved for the visitors. There will be a banquet at the Copper Kettle Friday, October 10, following the game on the eleventh, there will be a dance in the Oklahoma Union building.

It is planned to have every charter member here for the quarter century celebration.

Kappa Alpha was born out of the turmoil of the Civil war. Mr. Lackey describes the spirit actuating the founding of the order in Fraternity, publication of the Burr, Patterson & Auld Co.

Eighteen hundred and sixty-five. . . Stricken Dixie stretched her mangled hands toward the sky, while Devastation spread his sordid spectacle beneath a Southern moon. Terror strode across her breast and seared upon her brain the memory of brothers, by their brethren slain, in that Great Misunderstanding.

Frightened children shunned the surly blacks, and lovely women sat wide-eyed all night, and aged too soon—or shrank by day from the amibitious gaze of Scalawags and negro men.

As Jasmines wither at the touch of human hands, they paled: crushed by the fear of what the end would be.

But Dixie did not raise her hands in vain! For there were left, like marble columns standing 'mid an earthquake’s ruin, a scattered few of mortal of the Civil war. Mr. Lackey de-

It was they that lifted bleeding Dixie to her feet. Hugg born and nobly bred they were, and through their veins there coursed the same hot blood that in ages past had freely flowed to keep unsullied the prized escutcheons of their Christian sires.

Of these brave souls, a chosen few in council met, and oaks were added to the altar fires of Southern Chivalry. Hands were laid on hands, and solemn vows were said—and there was born the Kappa Alpha Order, a child of the sorely wounded South.

It has taken up the task of keeping ever new the ideals of the true gentlemen.