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SIGMA GAMMA EPSILON COMPASS

Mining

Geology

Metallurgy

VOL. I.

NOVEMBER 15, 1920

NO. 2

SCHOLARSHIP AS THE MAIN QUALIFICATION FOR MEM- BERSHIP IN SIGMA GAMMA EPSILON

E. B. Branson

Many educators are of the opinion that fraternities are too numerous in our universities for the reason that in the main they do not promote scholarship and the best ideals of scholarship, but educators welcome organizations that make scholarship the foundation on which to build.

Sigma Gamma Epsilon has the opportunity to emphasize scholarship, to select the scholarly man, to reject the man without ambition; and if the idea of making scholarship the main basis of selection is adopted and adhered to, our society can become a real power in the institutions where it has chapters. If it does not make scholarship its most rigorous qualification for eligibility, it has little excuse for existence and will render little or no service to the sciences which it represents. It may be that we have gone too far in our present membership to make the society stand at once for scholarship; it may be that among our members are men who have taken enough geology, or mining, or metallurgy, to be eligible for election, but who have never really done their best in anything. If we have taken in such men in the past, let us reform at once.

The advantages of having only scholarly men in the society need no emphasis to those who have been members of groups that make scholarship paramount. In the first place men in our professions need to be well trained in order to be success-

ful. Those who have not the ability to master their work or the industry to get it well should look elsewhere for their professions. By taking such men into Sigma Gamma Epsilon we encourage them to go on in our lines of study thereby injuring them and our professions.

If our members are of the type that always puts its best into its work, and, as a matter of course, always gets the best out of it, the standards of work in our laboratories and classrooms will be high; there will be no place for the drone; good men will feel that here is a place where real work is done. Best of all we will help students to develop pride and pleasure in workmanship, the things that make us successful and contented in our professions.

Though our society is not honorary it may become an honor to belong to it. Rarely, in these times, do we see a group of students drawn together by the common desire to do something in a scholarly way. If our membership is made up of scholarly students we can form such groups and those who belong will be pointed out as men who must have accomplished something, and who are likely to accomplish more in the future.

Members of Sigma Gamma Epsilon.

I bring you the cordial greetings of the Grand Council, and their best wishes to every member.

Now is the time for every man to swing into line for the year's campaign. Work to a purpose by outlining the scope and character of your meetings. Have a keen interest in the welfare of your Major Department, and boost it in every way pos-

sible both as individuals and as a group. You have been doing this, but think of some new ways.

Now is also the time to choose some new men. In doing so, pick them with care. If at all in doubt about the fitness and eligibility of a man, delay the invitation until later in the year, or until he shall have proven his ability and worth.

As you have opportunity, let your influence count with fellows in other institutions. Show them what our Fraternity is, and what it does.

If you have a bright idea, give it to your local editor for the Compass. If you have need of Fraternity supplies, write the Grand Secretary.

Cordially and Fraternally Yours,

CHARLES E. DECKER,
Grand Secretary.

Milburn Stryker

Milburn Stryker, one of the first to become a member of Sigma Gamma Epsilon in Alpha Chapter, was drowned in Hedrick Lake, Jackson's Hole, on October 7, 1920. He was on a trip to the northwest which combined the two purposes of a hunting trip and an examination of the prospects for commercial production of oil. At the time the accident occurred he was shooting ducks from a canvas boat on Lake Hedrick. In some unknown way the boat collapsed and Milburn was thrown into the cold waters of the lake. He was able to swim about seventy-five yards before sinking. His brother, Frank, attempted a rescue, but was unable to accomplish anything owing to the extreme coldness of the water.

Sigma Gamma Epsilon
COMPASS

Published May 15 and November 15.
W. A. TARR, University of Missouri,
Grand Editor.

Assistant Editors:

Alpha	H. E. Messmore
Beta	
Gamma	Ralfe Engleman
Delta	
Epsilon	Richard B. Rutledge
Zeta	C. E. Yager

Due to the fact that the Editor-in-Chief was away from the University during the summer, the editing of the first number of the Compass was entirely in the hands of the acting editor, Prof. Sam T. Bratton. The first number is sufficient proof of his capable editorial work and the editor takes this opportunity of thanking him for so efficiently assuming the responsibility.

The time of going to press has been delayed more than a month and yet the Compass is going to press without the chapter reports for two chapters, Beta and Delta. Hereafter each chapter should elect the Assistant Editor in the spring and send the name to the editor so he can be sure to reach the chapter with his first letter in the fall. A little more real punch, Beta and Delta.

Should Chapters Have Houses?

As yet the question of houses for the chapters of Sigma Gamma Epsilon is not vitally important, but as the membership of chapters increases and they enter schools where the enrollment in one of our departments is large, this question will become important. Where there are many fraternities and where dormitories are readily available, the need will be less than in schools where these facilities are lacking. Where the chapter membership is large enough to maintain a house without requiring all members to live in it, then a house is desirable. It will always be found advantageous for men working in a related field to be closely associated, and that is what a house would mean. All meetings could be held in the house, except those which would require blackboards, or where experiments were to be shown.

If election to membership becomes more or less restricted to juniors and seniors, as it should be in a society of this kind (at least, in the opinion of the writer) a house would bring together mature men who could be welded into a fellowship of great value.

Beta has already taken steps in that direction, but whether they are occupying a house this year or not is not known. Gamma is planning a club room for the near future.

We record with regret in this number, the first loss thru death of a member of our fraternity.

OUR NEW CHAPTER

Just as we are going to press, word has come from grand secretary Decker, that the petitions from the Missouri School of Mines at Rolla, Mo., have been granted a chapter in Sigma Gamma Epsilon. This will be the Eta chapter.

We are glad to welcome you, Eta, into our group. May your chapter grow rapidly and with increasing strength.

~~This makes our second chapter at~~ a school devoted wholly to mining and metallurgy. May their numbers increase.

The Fake Geologist or Mining Engineer.

At the National Convention last spring, Prof. E. F. Shramm (Zeta) strongly urged that the various chapters use all the influence they could bring to bear upon the state legislatures in their respective states in order to induce them to pass a law restricting or preventing untrained men from posing as geologists or mining engineers. The situation, which is a serious one, has been much discussed by engineering societies, usually without coming to a definite conclusion. Many engineers are opposed to the plan. We should support it. Everyone must compete with the faker and altho his balmy days are nearly over, he should be eliminated. As the legislatures will meet this year in every state in which we have chapters, now is the time for the chapters to strike. Get in touch with your representative and get him to push the matter, if it is only to get a resolution thru.

All chapters should be electing their successful alumni. Do this and initiate them the first time they appear

upon the campus. I am sure the majority will appreciate it and we should certainly recognize their success by so honoring them.

Our members are going forth to foreign fields in such numbers that we must conclude the various chapters have been picking the strong men in their various departments. It takes ambition and a love of the sporting element of life to induce one to arrange for a six months' tour among the millions of insect enemies of man which inhabit Mexico, Central and South America, to say nothing of a few reptiles, four legged carnivores, and "grub" of such a character that the "Greasy Spoon" at home would seem like Delmonico's. Our brothers abroad should have something of interest for us stay-at-homes in the future numbers of the Compass.

ALPHA CHAPTER

Lawrence, Kansas

The year 1920-21 began with only sixteen members of the Alpha Chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon enrolled. Our first meeting was held in the Mining Building, Oct. 6, with only a bare quorum present.

Don Hughes, C'21, who was elected President for the fall semester of this year did not return to school; thus the newly elected Vice-President, Monta Wing, Fellow in Geology, has assumed the duties of President. Arthur S. Johnson, E'22, offered his resignation as Secretary-Treasurer. His resignation was accepted and John Kinkel, E'21, elected instead.

Four men voted on the last of last year were pledged and are to be initiated soon. They are Nate P. Isenberger, C'20, Theo. S. Smith, C'21, Louis Tucker, C'22, N. B. Musselman, C'18.

Dr. W. P. Haynes, of the faculty who is on leave of absence at this time, gave a very interesting talk on his plans for his near future. He, in company with Chas. W. Boughton, and several other K. U. men, will start for Mexico to do work for the Standard Oil Co. They expect to be gone for a year at least.

Dr. R. C. Moore, State Geologist and Head of the Geology Department, assisted by Allen C. Tester, spent the field session in western Colorado, eastern Utah, and northern New Mexico. They were engaged in making a reconnaissance study of the Car-

boniferous formations of that area with regard to their possibilities of producing petroleum. They were employed by the Standard Oil Co. of California. Mr. Tester has been granted a fellowship in geology for the year 1920-21, and is a candidate for a Master's Degree.

Prof. Arthur C. Terrill, who was head of the Mining Department for some time, has been employed for the past year by the K. S. G. S., and has been at work in the lead-zinc district of southeastern Kansas, northeastern Oklahoma, and southwestern Missouri. Prof. Terrill has resigned from that position and has accepted one as head of the Department of Mining at Pei Yang University (a Chinese Government School), at Tientsin, China. Prof. Terrill and his wife and family left for Los Angeles October 15, enroute for their new home in China. They are planning on being gone for at least three years, and if surroundings are agreeable, they may decide to stay longer. All members of the Alpha Chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon wish Prof. Terrill and family a successful and happy voyage to their new home in China.

Monta E. Wing, A. B. '20, and Homer M. Eagles, B. S. '20, spent the summer working for the State Geological Survey of Kansas. The early part of the summer was spent in Northwestern Kansas studying the Tertiary. During the latter part of the season, the same party made a detailed structural survey of the oil fields near Florence, Kansas. Two reports covering these two surveys will be published by the Kansas Survey later.

HAROLD MESSMORE, E'21

GAMMA CHAPTER Norman, Oklahoma

Of the 27 brothers who formed the Gamma chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon at the close of school in June, 13 returned to school this fall. Five men who dropped out to go to work for oil companies during last school year are not included in the 27 mentioned.

The 13 now in school are: Olin G. Bell, Fred Bullard, Russel Conkling, V. E. Cottingham, Rolfe Engleman, John Galloway, Lee B. Goff, A. M. Lloyd, Guard Marvin, Waldo W. Ports, Dwight Ross, John Van Dall, A. C. Wright.

Officers elected last spring were A. C. Wright, president; V. E. Cotting-

ham, vice-president; Olin G. Bell, secretary-treasurer; Fred Bullard, corresponding secretary; and Rolfe Engleman, historian and editor.

The geology department of the University is maintaining a lead in progress in the school. Considerably over one-fourth of the total enrollment is enrolled in geology, and under Dr. Umpleby's direction the work of the school has been subdivided into branches, with one man for each branch; as geography, mineralogy, paleontology, and economic geology. We have completely outgrown the building we dedicated last spring.

Sigma Gamma Epsilon, found it hard last spring to agree on possible pledge material. With the large number of eligibles, it seemed that no one of us knew all those who might pass muster. We had no precedent to guide us, so we decided to start one; and that was the origin of our now traditional geologists' smoker, which has proved a success in more than one way. We are able to meet all the men before pledging; and everyone usually has a good time as well. We would be glad to hear how other chapters handle this question.

This semi-annual "rock hound" smoker which is for geology majors of junior, senior, and graduate standing was held the night of October 12 at the Kappa Sigma house, with about 70 present. "Sigma Gams" found themselves considerably in the minority with the 13 who returned to school this fall, but from the equal enthusiasm with which speeches and stories were delivered and smokes, candy, and apples demolished we feel that the affair was a success in every way.

"Daddy" Decker, the grand old man whom every geology student in O. U. knows to be his friend, gave a typically interesting talk on Sigma Gamma Epsilon, its history and ideals. As Grand Secretary of the national organization he was able to point out many things unknown to most of the men assembled at the affair.

Dr. Joseph B. Umpleby, head of the department, gave a talk in which he emphasized the value of a proper regard for professional ethics in geology as in any other profession, to keep that profession from gaining a questionable reputation.

A number of men who returned to school this year after work in the field gave talks on their work and on

their opinion of Oklahoma university.

Most chapters of Sigma Gamma Epsilon have felt the need of some meeting place or club room, no doubt, and Gamma Chapter has been discussing this question since last year. Such a club room would give an opportunity for the reading of technical magazines and books in a congenial atmosphere and for discussions. When an alumni member visits the school he could be taken there, where he could feel at home among men interested in his line and meet new members. These are a few of the reasons our members have advanced for establishing such a place. We are wondering what other chapters have done along this line. We intend to have a room of this sort by the second semester, but on account of the scarcity of rooms we may not be able to arrange for one until next year.

EPSILON CHAPTER Columbia, Mo.

Officers of the Epsilon chapter for the school year of 1920-21 are:

James S. Williams, President.

Powell Williams, Vice-President.

Park K. Bryan, Secretary-Treasurer.

The other two members in school this year are Lester Bailey and Richard B. Rutledge, who are both doing graduate work. Rutledge was in Central America the first half of the year.

Dr. E. B. Branson of our geology department was engaged in geological work in Central America from January first to the middle of July this year.

Dr. W. A. Tarr did geological work for the Carter Oil Co. in Montana and South Dakota during the past summer.

Plans for the year included the presentation of papers of a technical character by the undergraduate members, presentation of papers on research done by graduates and faculty, as well as general discussion meetings. The Chamberlin Geology Club, which includes all students in the department, furnishes an excellent training camp for future members.

The list of possible candidates is long, but Epsilon chapter is insisting that the candidate meet high standards before election. We want it to be an honor to belong to Sigma Gamma Epsilon.

Two recent pledges to Epsilon are C. L. (Chuck) Lewis and E. E. Beaty. RICHARD B. RUTLEDGE

DEPARTMENT OF MINING ENGINEERING

University of Kansas.

The Department of Mining Engineering opened this year with an enrollment of 61. There are six seniors, seven juniors, 21 sophomore, and 27 freshmen. As freshmen are not required to decide which engineering course they will follow, it is probable that the number of mining engineers will be larger than is shown.

The department offers three options; mining engineering, ore dressing, and geological engineering. At present the last is most popular, as it has the advantage of extensive training in geology with sufficient engineering to enable a man to plan for the extraction and handling of a mineral after it is found.

Last year's graduates obtained good positions as soon as they desired them, and requests for men sent in by two large companies could not be filled because of lack of men.

The ore dressing laboratory has received two Plat-O tables, one for ore and one for coal, both presented by the Deister Machine Co. of Fort Wayne, Ind.

Last year an attempt was made to get in touch with old graduates of the department and letters were received from men in different parts of the world. In this way connections are maintained and former students are always ready to help men to desirable positions.

ZETA CHAPTER

Austin, Texas

At the last meeting in May of the Zeta Chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, in accordance with the constitution, new officers were elected as follows:

L. T. Barrow, President.

Joe M. Dawson, Vice-president.

Frank M. Cave, Secty-treas.

Chas. E. Yager, Editor.

Geo. C. Clemens, Corresponding Secretary.

G. Mose Knebel, Historian.

The School of Geology's Summer Camp the past summer was held in the Waco Mountains, thirty-six miles east of El Paso. Three members of the S. G. E. made the trip, Joe Dawson, Arthur Deen, and L. T. Barrow. The latter two acted as assistants to Prof. F. L. Whitney. Deen, spending most of his time with the freshmen, explained the use of instruments. The object of the camp

was to gather specimens along the route as well as in the Waco Mountains. A large part of the six weeks was taken up on the road as the speedometer showed the distance out to be about seven hundred miles, and about eight hundred miles back, as we swung to the south making two peaceful invasions of Mexico. Everyone agreed that the trip was highly successful, as, besides seeing much new and interesting country, many valuable hints for the collector were gained, and several boxes of fossils were brought back to be determined by the advanced Paleontology students. Incidentally, we visited the deepest well in Texas which is in Crockett County, about forty miles from a railroad. The last news from it gave the depth as 5,540 feet. These camps are an annual feature at the University, and several of the members expect to get field experience next summer in this manner.

C. E. Yager did some detailed work on the Permian "Red Beds" near Abilene, along with several visits to the north Texas oil fields: Wichita, Stephens, and Ranger. Frank Cave and George Clements spent part of the summer working on the Carboniferous near Brownwood, Mills County. Special regard was taken toward the coal possibilities of this country. Lester C. Luecke worked in the Wichita Field as a driller, also doing some minor geological work. Mose Knebel spent both summer terms at the University getting off some required work. Arthur Deen has been appointed to an instructorship in the School of Geology at the University this year. He has entire control of the freshman laboratory. Dr. Bybee is the only honorary member that we have. He was taken in by the Gamma Chapter. He worked with the Oklahoma Geological Survey the whole summer. Dr. Bybee is Associate Professor of Geology at the University this year.

We have had two meetings this fall. At the first meeting the summer trip was discussed, also a paper on 'The Oil Situation of the Future' was read by Joe Dawson. At the second meeting a talk on 'The North Texas Fields' was given by Mr. Luecke. Plans were also discussed for the program to be followed up this year. Our present plan is to have one or two members give a talk on some phase of Geology at each meeting.

We are planning to initiate two

new members as well as a few honorary members (faculty men). Five of our members are seniors and will probably not be back, so new blood will be needed to keep the Zeta Chapter moving. C. E. YAGER

ALUMNI NOTES

W. C. Ruby (Epsilon) is with the U.S.G.S.

Harold Cave (Epsilon) is taking his A. M. at Yale.

Brother James H. Hudson (Gamma) is now working near Iola, Kansas.

Gilbert Moore (Epsilon) is in Peru in the employ of the Carter Oil Company.

C. R. Longwell (Epsilon) is Assistant Professor of geology at Yale University.

W. C. Werner (Epsilon) is Instructor in Geology at the University of Minnesota.

Vincent D. Vandiver (Epsilon) is geologist for the Carter Oil Company in Tampico, Mexico.

Herbert E. Munson (Epsilon) is in Venezuela working as geologist for the Sun Oil Company.

J. P. Conolly (Epsilon) is Associate Professor of Geology at South Dakota School of Mines.

E. O. Markham (Epsilon) is doing geological work for the Carter Oil Co. in Wyoming and Montana.

Brother Horner M. Eagles (Alpha) is now with Mr. J. L. Darnell, Petroleum Engineer, of New York City.

G. H. Parrish (Zeta) secured a position with the Gulf Company with headquarters at Parks Camp, Stephens County, Texas.

Walter Placke (Epsilon), due to ill health, has been compelled to give up his position with the Empire Oil Company and is at his home in St. Louis, Mo.

Brother Wallace Thompson (Gamma) who since his graduation last spring has been working with Dr. Lahee of the Sun Company at Ardmore, Oklahoma, writes very "peppfully" of his idea of the future growth of the fraternity

T. M. Prettyman and Floyd C. Dodson (Zeta) spent the summer on work on the newly discovered Marathon Fold, and received several good write-ups in the Dallas News and other state papers on their work. Dodson also did some prospecting for an oil company in New Mexico where he had worked during the previous summer.