

EDGECLIFF NEWS

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NO. 3

House on the Cliff Gutted by Spectacular Fire

Jim Frank Succeeds Mock As President

Engineers Predominate In New Regime

Shortly before spring recess the chapter gathered to select new officers for the coming year; and unanimous choice for president was *James A. Frank '40*, ad engineering, Pittsburgh, Pa., to succeed Alan F. Mock '39. Jim was treasurer during the past year.

Also by unanimous vote was the selection of *Sigmund A. Kriegsman '40*, ad engineering, Cincinnati, Ohio, as vice-president succeeding Owen Klepper '39. It is interesting to note the two top outgoing officers are members of the Arts College while their successors are engineers. Perhaps the chapter is in for new policies.

Dave Bradt is Treasurer

Greil I. Gerstley '41, Arts, Jenkintown, Pa., was elected the successor of Francis Greenspan '40 in the office of secretary; while *David M. Bradt '41*, mechanical engineering, Erie, Pa., succeeds Jim Frank '40 as chapter treasurer. The treasurer, incidentally, works in close conjunction with a local accountant which arrangement has resulted in efficient chapter management.

Marne Obernauer '41, hotel, Pittsburgh, was re-elected steward; and the new Historian is *David G. Hast '42*, Arts, Pittsburgh. We feel each new man is amply capable of carrying out his duties. While welcoming them we wish to pay fitting tribute to their successors, all of whom enjoyed successful terms of office.

Kahn Has New Address

Irving R. Kahn '28, salesman for the American Air Filter Co., notifies the chapter his correct business address is 800 Erie Country Bldg., Buffalo, that he lives at 411 Parkdale avenue, Buffalo.

Repairing of House To Start Soon

Repair work on the House on the Cliff will begin as soon as the contractor is certain of the exact extent of the damage and as soon as the decision is reached as to whether or not additional remodeling will take place along with the necessary repairs.

Some doubt still remains concerning the condition of the livingroom and diningroom ceilings. It is necessary for the partitions to fully dry before complete investigation is possible. Not a mite daunted, Kappa expects to have its house back to normal before many months pass.

Kappa Will Celebrate Spring Day on May 27

Spring Day of 1939, May 27, brings to the Hill another rousing round of events and features which will attract a good many alumni; and we hope among those attracted will be many men of Kappa.

The house should be in fairly respectable shape by that time; the diningroom will be open, and we are sure the basement will be available since we are planning on showing off our new bar.

In case you hadn't heard about it, we built a new bar during the winter months which is really pretty slick. Made of glass building blocks, it smacks of modernity plus being very, very useful. We think you'll like it. We are having a dance on Saturday night, place as yet undecided.

A parade and wild west show will take place on campus Saturday morning, while at 2:00 in the afternoon is a ball game with Dartmouth. Later in the afternoon the Big Red crew pulls sweeps with Harvard, Penn and Syracuse, and that should be a corking good battle.

Roof of South Wing Entirely Burned Away

Only Four in House When Blaze Discovered

Catastrophe struck the House on the Cliff at 10:15 Friday night, May 5; catastrophe that was as unwelcomed as it was unexpected. The upper part of the south wing was gutted by fire, damaging the house to an estimated \$20,000, and furnishings and personal effects to \$4,000.

With but four men in the house—others entertaining our Cornell Day guests or off to the movies—smoke was discovered by Joe Barach '39 in the third-floor room, south. The fire department was immediately summoned, but the four men didn't at once realize the impending seriousness of conditions since the flames were hidden behind partitions.

Fire Apparatus Delayed

While those in the house endeavored to fight the blaze with small quantities of water, the three pieces of fire apparatus dispatched to Edgecliff were having difficulty reaching the scene because of heavy traffic.

Cars of Cornell Day visitors and of others attracted to the scene by the brilliant flames choked Stewart avenue forcing the fire engines to detour over the Knoll to Thurston avenue. By the time firemen reached the house and were ready to shoot water into the building, flames were blazing so high and furiously onlookers felt certain the entire structure was doomed.

House Ordered Emptied

The fire chief gave orders to remove every thing possible in order that at least the furnishings might be saved. Other ZBT's reached the property quickly when the alarm was sounded, all helping to salvage all they could. While firemen hurred burning wardrobe trunks from

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EDGECLIFF NEWS

Published four times during the college year for its alumni members and friends by Kappa chapter of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity at Cornell University.

Albert Aschaffenburg '41 Editor

Clippings, photographs, news for publication and letters are solicited at all times. Please address the editor at the chapter house, Edgecliff, Ithaca, New York.

President Directs Messages To Guests, Retiring Officers

On behalf of Kappa chapter I extend a most sincere welcome to our guests on this Spring Day of 1939. In spite of the handicaps under which we are operating as a fraternity at the moment, we hope this will be the grandest Spring Day ZBT's and guests have known.

We hope each fair maiden, the chaperones and alumni will awaken Monday morning deeply regretting having left Edgecliff. But that is not until Monday. This all-Cornell-and-ZBT weekend is yours unconditionally.

To the Outgoing Officers

To the retiring senior officers may I express the gratitude of the chapter for their thoroughly successful administration. They can hand down the reins with the satisfaction that through their efforts the names of Kappa chapter and Zeta Beta Tau command an added share of respect on this campus and abroad.

To them and to the entire senior class we don't say "good bye". Rather, let us wish them the very best of success, and say "so long" until the fall reunion.

James A. Frank '40
chapter president.

National Secretary Visits

National-secretary *Lee Dover* made an over-night visit to the house April 28, remarking that "Kappa goes along in its serene, successful way". He found no real problems in the chapter, nor could he foresee any (guess his crystal ball played tricks with him this time). We nevertheless enjoyed his visit greatly.

Dick Rothman Elected To Quill and Dagger

Recent elections to Quill and Dagger have given membership to *Dick Rothman '40* in that honorary senior organization as recognition of his election to *Sun* business manager.

Francis Greenspan '40, who was mentioned in the last *Edgecliff News* as being elected to attend Cornell Medical School, has been further honored by membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

In recent campus elections, *Marne Obernauer '41* won a place again on student council. *Fred H. "Fud" Guterman '42*, first Kappa in some time to make out in crew, is coxy in the frosh boat and recently brought home the yearling boat to a victory over Navy at Annapolis.

We Need Rushing Assistance More Than Ever This Year

There is nothing new to say about the annual rushing campaign—it is a familiar story to alumni. Just let us lay as much stress as we can upon the importance of lining up good prospects for next year.

We are having our hands full at the moment, as you can imagine, trying to get straightened up and to reorganize ourselves into a working unit. Under such circumstances it is naturally difficult to make definite plans and to give much thought towards the summer rush work.

So, we are asking you of the alumni to go to bat for us a little stronger this year than ever before. You know, if each man will comb his community for prospects, and if those men who find prospects will take an hour or so to cultivate the personal acquaintance of the boy or boys, our problem will be greatly solved.

We would like to feel you are strongly behind us this summer. Suppose you definitely make yourself responsible for one recommendation. Take a little time to talk with the boy and get him thinking our way. In the meantime, send his name and address to rush-chairman Sigmund Kriegsman '40, whose summer address is 690 Clinton Springs avenue, Cincinnati. We are sure you realize we definitely need your help this year, so we're counting upon you. One recommendation for sure!

Seven Kappa Seniors Will Receive Diplomas At Commencement

Majority Have Already Made Plans For Occupations

Seven members of Kappa chapter will receive diplomas at commencement time, June 18, men about whom you may have read in previous issues of the *Edgecliff News*. Although leaving no phenomenal records behind as a class, each man has enjoyed a successful career on the Hill.

Joseph Leonard Barach, physics major, Pittsburgh, Pa., will do graduate work at Cornell next year, after which he will enroll in a medical school. *Joseph Block*, Arts, Buffalo, plans to enter the jewelry business in Buffalo with his father.

Cole a Retailer

One of the most active seniors in campus affairs is *Sylvan Cole, Jr.*, Arts, New York City, who plans to go into retailing with a men's clothing store chain. Syl is a Class Memorial Drive captain, member of Junior Prom committee, officer of CURW Men's Cabinet, member of Willard Straight activities committee.

Owen Harvey Klepper, Arts, New York City, president of the Cornell Radio Guild, plans to enter advertising radio production. *Norman Davidson Levitt*, Arts, Minneapolis, Minn., will head for his home city after graduation to work in his father's business.

Mock, A Journalist

Alan Frederic Mock, Arts, Buffalo, plans to enter the profession of journalism. Al was editor-in-chief of the *Widow*, secretary Book and Bowl, treasurer Sigma Delta Chi, member of Sphinx Head, was president of the chapter during the past year.

Ernest Maxwell Sinauer comes from New York City. Capable prognosticians will find him a valuable subject since he states he will pay a sizeable sum to any one who can predict what he will do after graduation.

Those of us who will return to Edgecliff next year will miss each of these men. We extend to them our heartiest best wishes for good success in whatever field of work they enter, and may they find many opportunities to return for visits and reunions.

Chapter House Guttred By Fire; Structure Generally Weakened

Undergraduates Display Organized Calm Thru Near-Calamity

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the attic, chapter members and others quickly cleared the first floor of all furnishings, then started on the second floor, tossing clothing, books, furniture from the windows.

Meanwhile some 2,000 people were attracted to the vicinity by the blaze which was seen for miles around the Ithaca and lake region, a fire which is said to be the most spectacular on the Hill in many years. And phenomenal was the quick subduing of the flames when properly attacked. When water was first turned on, spectators would have wagered the entire house was completely doomed to ashes.

But subdue the blaze the firemen did, and within one-half hour after their arrival; all due credit is theirs. As a matter of fact, morning after, one could walk in the downstairs and, except for the clutter of miscellaneous furnishings and dampness of floors, hardly suspect a fire had raged overhead the previous night.

The entire south and central wings have been weakened by the many gallons of water which poured down through the partitions. Had it not been for the excellent structural factors of the house, the frame would not have withstood the strain. With the livingroom ceiling beginning to bow from the accumulation of water under the second-story floor, holes were bored through the plaster to permit drainage, water filling many large metal drums which were used as receptacles.

Fraternity Thoughtfulness

Even before the fire was extinguished calls began pouring in from practically every fraternity on the Hill, offering their rooms to the ZBT "refugees" in spite of the fact they were taxed to capacity with Cornell Day guests. Kappa deeply regrets not being able to provide for them except for the "warm" reception.

As Flames Ate At Kappa



FLAMES WERE SUBDUED considerably when this picture was taken. The shot still gives an idea of the damage, however.

Cause of Fire Not Determined; Telephone And Light Service Weren't Interrupted

Cause of the fire is completely undetermined. The wiring was at first thought to be faulty, but close inspection indicates otherwise. As a matter of interest, the lights in the house remained on all during the fire even though water poured down and around ceiling fixtures. Even telephone service was not interrupted.

Theory advanced by the fire chief for the blaze was a cigarette thrown in the rain trough igniting dry leaves; but that is also discounted by the fact that no one had been in the third-floor rooms for hours prior to Barach's discovery.

Chief danger following the blaze was the careening fireplace chimney which projected many feet above the burned-away third-story, leaning menacingly towards the center of the house. Props were quickly used as supports, but no one has been allowed in south-wing rooms in case of collapse.

Only bodily injury relative to the fire was received by an onlooker who was struck by an object sailing from a second-story window. Had it been known that removal of much of the furnishings was unnecessary, con-

siderable damage by "quick removal" would have been averted.

The beautiful grandfather's clock given the chapter by the class of '13 was removed safely, however, except for a chip knocked from the scroll work at the top. And the chair given recently by Al Saperston '19 was removed without a scratch. The piano was also carefully handled, as was the fine, new radio-victrola which received only a surface scratch.

Considerable clothing was destroyed as were text books, some furniture, miscellaneous personal effects and some sports equipment. Fortunately, several fairly valuable personal library collections were saved as were the chapter's collection of books as well as class pictures which are highly valued.

All three men who lost practically all of their personal belongings (Julian Garbat '40, Norman Levitt '39, Noland Blass '40) happened to be among the few in the chapter who carried their own fire insurance on their possessions.

The spirit of cooperation and gen-

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Chapter House Damaged By Spectacular Fire

Undergraduates Undertake Cleanup Job

(Continued from Page Three)

eral display of good judgement by chapter members was highly commendable. Particularly is president Jim Frank '40 to be lauded for his coolness "under fire" as he directed chapter members. Many nearby fraternities offered their rooms to us, offers which several men accepted, others going to the dorms for the night. Before members left the scene, Jim had arranged for a meeting to take place on the front lawn Saturday morning.

All of Saturday was spent in cleaning up the grounds about the house which, in spite of the crowds which surged over them, did not suffer greatly from the traffic. Water was mopped from floors, drained from the basement, and a semblance of order somewhat generally restored.

Ten men moved into the house Saturday night and most of them will continue to live in unless remodeling will interfere with their rooms. Also, if the diningroom is pronounced safe from the threat of ceiling collapse, plans are being considered to serve meals there shortly.

The fire burned off the roof completely over the south wing as well as over part of the center portion of the house. Tarpaulins were placed over the center roof as soon as the timber had cooled, thus preventing more water damage in case of rain. Floors of the third story are in surprisingly good condition in spite of the flames which raged but a few feet above them, hardly a mark showing in most sections.

Water poured down the partitions in such volume, however, that it spurted out of tiny tack holes where pictures had hung. Consensus of opinion is that miracles happened along with catastrophe. The fact the blaze was so quickly extinguished is still almost unbelievable. The fact that fire damage was so confined to one area is equally unbelievable. And the fact the blaze started when no lives were endangered is the greatest relief of all.

News Briefs about Kappa Alumni

Vice-President of Chemical Co.

Walter "Brick" Marx '20, former chapter president, is vice-president of the Max Marx Color & Chemical Co., 106 Harrison street, East Orange, N. J. Men in the chapter around his time will remember him as coxy of the '19 and '20 undefeated crews. Single, he lives at 192 Coit street, Irvington, N. J., is a member of the Mountain Ridge country club.

With English Company

Arnold W. Koehler '24 is an agent for the Cape Asbestos Company of London, England, with business headquarters at 415 Lexington avenue in New York City. Married and living at 150 East 39th street, he has one child—Prudence 8.

Recent Address Changes

Another batch of changes was made on the chapter's address file recently. If you change your address be sure to advise us promptly in order that you do not miss issues of the *Edgecliff News*.

Arthur I. Abelson '16, 7 Geer avenue, Utica, N. Y.

Benjamin Lichtenstein '18, 50 Broadway, New York City.

Henry M. Goodkind '25, 12 East 97th street, New York City.

Howard E. Sternau '25, 102 East 38th street, New York City.

George F. Galland '31, 17 West 10th street, New York City.

John V. Waller '31, 25 East 77th street, New York City.

Larry W. Jacobson '38, 30 West 54th street, New York City.

Eising '38 Marries

Richard A. Eising '38 recently married Marie Nagle, New York City, for which the chapter extends its best felicitations and good wishes.

Dick spent but two years on the Hill, has since gone into the brokerage business, organizing Eising and Company, members of the New York Stock Exchange. He may be addressed at 1133 Fifth avenue, New York City.

With Engineering Concern

A recent communication from Leo L. Landauer '27 reveals he is a partner in the engineering firm of Kribs & Landauer, 404 Dallas Gas Building, Dallas, Texas, his native city. Leo was a track and cross country man at Cornell, married Lucille Schonberg (Texas, Alpha Epsilon Phi) in 1929, lives at 4433 Stanhope street, Dallas.

Aschaffenburg to Marry

Eugene Aschaffenburg '21, New Orleans, La., will marry Miss Janet Jacobs (Gulf Park College) during the latter part of June. They will live at the Pontchartraine Hotel in New Orleans. A brother of Lysle '13, uncle of Albert '41, he is engaged in the real estate business.

Ground's Committee Reports

Although their work has been abruptly interrupted, members of the chapter's grounds committee had started to work on some planned improvements and renovations. Work was begun on a circular rock garden in front of the house and some progress made.

A regulation horse-shoe pit for the rural-minded is also planned, while considerable pruning to bushes and trees has been done. The lawn and hedges have received some care too, hence, you can imagine the anguish of said committee when they saw hundreds of people tramp over the property on that certain Friday night.

Blass Is Widow Editor

An inspection of the chapter's activities situation reveals a continuation of success in the publications' field. *Noland Blass* '40, newly-elected Widow editor-in-chief, succeeds Alan Mock '39 at that post.

And business manager of the *Daily Sun* is our own *Dick Rothman* '40 who spends many of his waking hours down town on State street. *Jim Frank* '40 is another business manager—his publication being the *Engineer*. *Dave Hast* '42 was recently elected to the *Sun* business board, is secretary of Red Lions. *Justin Brandt* '42 just made Dramatic Club.