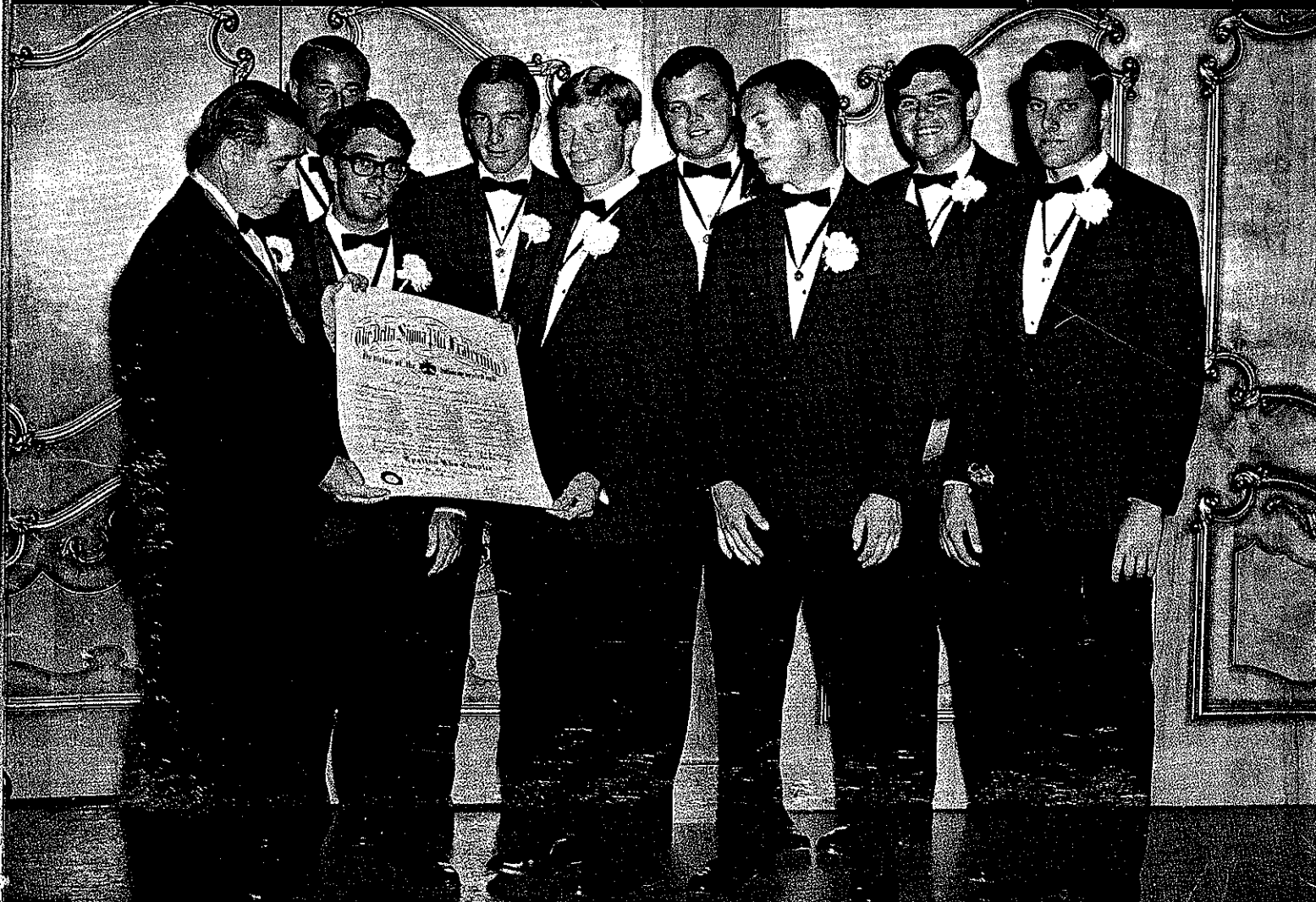
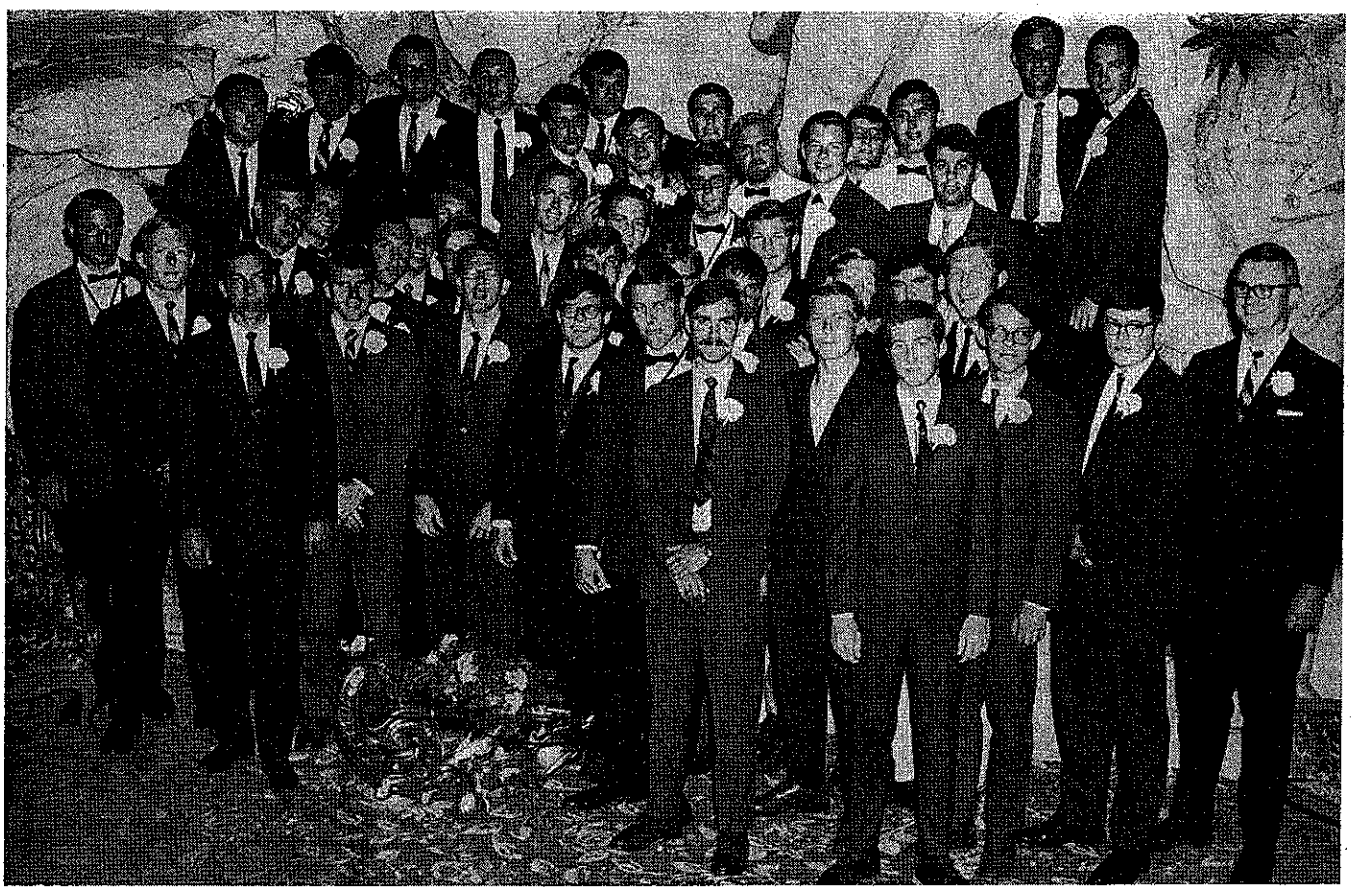


ΔΣΦ



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Undergraduate members of new Epsilon Rho chapter cluster for an informal portrait at the Madonna Inn.

## Epsilon Rho Receives Charter After Historic 19 Years

By Bill Emerson

The oldest colony in the Fraternity, and perhaps in any fraternity, became a chapter in ceremonies April 26 in San Luis Obispo, California, as the nearly 20-year-old Calpoly colony was chartered as Epsilon Rho of Delta Sigma Phi.

The event was celebrated by a banquet attended by more than 200 members, pledges, dates, alumni, parents, and national officers at the famous Madonna Inn.

Earlier, the new chapter had been formally installed by a team composed of National President Russell T. Roebuck, Executive Director Francis Wacker, Past President and District Governor Pro-tem William S. Noblitt, and Past President Chandler Harris.

Presiding over the banquet program was Master of Ceremonies Charles Sommer; the invocation was given by Loren Van Engen.

Don Johnson, one of the group's founders and long-time advisor, reminded the chapter that its strength had always been and must continue to be in a respected group of young men. "This is not the end; it is only the end of the beginning," he said.

Director Wacker recalled the circumstances of early colonization and presented the chapter with an official minute book.

President Roebuck told the members that they are the

"campaign managers for the fraternity of the future."

"You are not a group concerned solely with budgets, social programs, maintaining a fraternity house, and making a good scholastic record—as important as those may be. You are the selectors of men who must live and work together; you are the balancers of personalities as diverse as the winds of the sea," he said.

"As fraternity men you have a great calling. Your task is to promote a people, a congregation, as it were, but you will at the same time be promoting the individuals who make up the people. When you are ready to undertake the promotion of persons, the persons who make up your chapter, then and only then are you ready to do the work which fraternity men must do."

In closing he declared, "If your chapter is to remain a good chapter, it has to be a corporate dreamer, a dreamer of dreams for its members. Be always in advance, planning ahead, not only seeing the vision but insuring that, step by step, it comes to pass.

"Dream, have faith, share it with others, and Delta Sigma Phi will become what it was meant to be. If you are men who believe in Delta Sigma Phi, then you are powerful men, and this sick world is waiting for you."

President Roebuck also cited Bill Noblitt as "the man who has made Delta Sigma Phi possible in every

corner of this state." Noblitt was responsible for or instrumental in securing eleven of the state's 15 chapters and colonies.

Epsilon Rho's charter was accepted by Chapter President Larry "Flash" Fritz, and the program was closed by the chapter's recitation of the Preamble and the singing of Fraternity songs.

Since the initiated members of the colony totalled well over 500, the charter carries the names of the men who served the colony as president over the years.

Presidents' names on the charter include Donald F. Johnson, K. Stewart Peters, Harry Keeler, Bruce Munn, Herbert Hotaling, Donald H. Bensen, Ben H. Bear, John G. Johansen, E. Harry George, Harvey L. Kidder, Roderick William Davis, Roy T. Lohr, David Loomis, John H. Quinn, Bruce Bader, William J. Sutherland, Charles B. Patterson, Robert Chase, Russell Lee Yensen, Steven J. Hubbard, Robert E. Walker, and Kenneth G. Francis.

The banquet was followed by the Carnation Ball, also held at the Madonna Inn. Highlight of the event was the crowning of the chapter's new dream girl, Miss Karen Lawson, by the outgoing queen, Miss Sandy Lacey.

Because the installation was scheduled on the same weekend as the college's annual Poly Royal festivities, a number of other events preceded it. Poly Royal is an exhibition of each department's accomplishments during the previous year. Approximately 60,000 persons attended the weekend events, "A Country Fair on a College Campus," at the 9,500-student college.

Epsilon Rho's events began with an open house from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the 26th, and a buffet luncheon at 11:30 a.m. was well attended by members and guests. Summer clothes were replaced with more formal attire for the installation ceremonies which followed.

The weekend's schedule was concluded Sunday morning with the annual Alumni Control Board breakfast attended by alumni and representatives of the chapter and the national Fraternity. Principal subject for discussion was the projected chapter house and possible ways of raising necessary funds for its construction. Both alumni and members expressed willingness to help in every way to launch the project as soon as possible.

## Colony History

By Chandler Harris

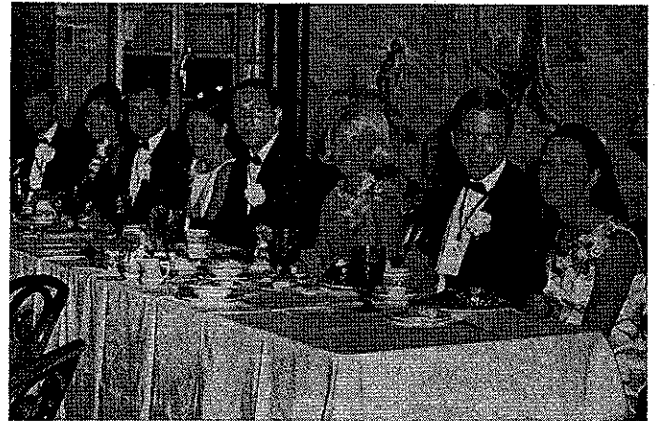
It took 19 years and two attempts at installation to charter Epsilon Rho at the California Polytechnic College at San Luis Obispo. The 19-year wait arose from the reluctance of college officials to recognize national fraternities on the campus; the double effort at installation was caused by California weather.

The date on the Charter says January 25, 1969, and that is the effective date of chartering, but the actual ceremony took place on April 26. On that January date, some critical parts of the state were under water.

In January, the entire Grand Council of the Fraternity had gathered in Los Angeles for a regular meeting, with the location chosen especially to make it possible

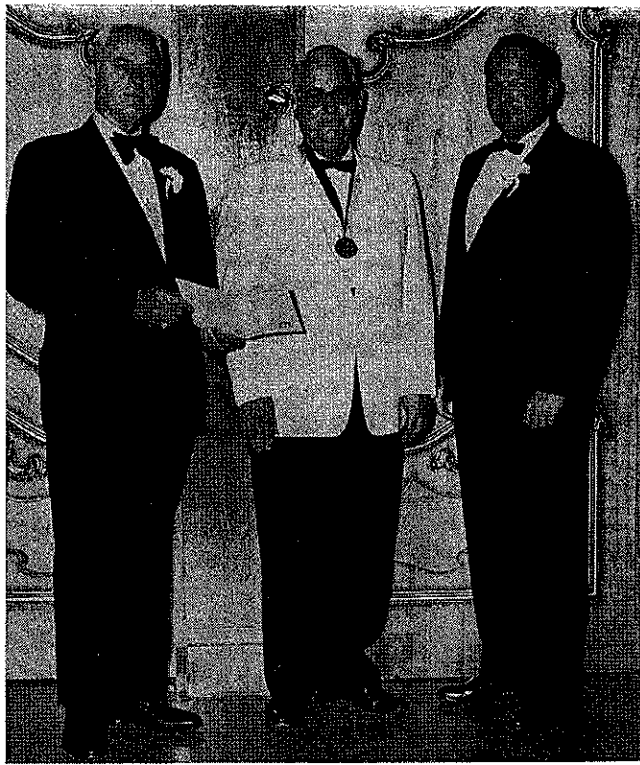


Some of the alumni of colony which became Epsilon Rho were in attendance when 19-year-old group of California Polytechnic College received its charter. They came from many parts of California to witness the ceremonies in April.



Epsilon Rho chapter officers and their dates for installation banquet are (left to right) President Larry Fritz, Kathy Gacevich, Vice President Todd Morgan, Terri Dailey, Pledge Master Mike Bewsey, Karen Lawson, Treasurer Tom Burton, and Sherri Ferguson. Miss Lawson is Epsilon Rho's Dream Girl. (Below) National officers attending banquet included (left to right) Past President Chandler Harris, Past President William S. Noblitt, Executive Director Francis Wacker, Mrs. Wacker, and President Russell Roebuck.





Francis Wacker (left) and William S. Noblitt with colony Founder Don Johnson before Epsilon Rho banquet.

to attend installations at Woodbury College and Calpoly. The Woodbury chartering was held on schedule; the Calpoly event was something else.

As one of the heaviest rainfalls in the history of the state continued, it became obvious that the Council would not be able to drive to San Luis Obispo as originally planned, and flying was ruled out because the landing field is not equipped for foul weather. The Council decided to take the train; this might have worked out except for the wreck of a freight train the night before, blocking the line for several days.

The remaining possibility was by bus, and early on the morning of January 25, the sleepy Grand Council members left their comfortable hotel and climbed onto a Greyhound headed north. After fording numerous ponds on the highway, edging past stalled cars, the bus reached Ventura, about 75 miles north of Los Angeles. That was as far as it got. The highway patrol would permit no further northward traffic because of washed-over roads and precarious bridges.

Members of the Council sat in the bus station for a few hours, hoping that conditions would change for the better; instead they grew worse, and for a time it seemed that the Council wouldn't be able to get back to Los Angeles. Telephone service to San Luis Obispo from Ventura was out, and calls had to be relayed through Los Angeles. When word reached the colony, it was hard to say who were the most disappointed, colony members in water-logged San Luis or the Grand Council members in the Ventura bus station.

It was a grey day in January, but the sun shone brightly on April 26 when the charter finally changed hands. Hopefully, it was a good omen for a group which had waited, sometimes impatiently, for 19 years.

Delta Sigma Phi first showed an interest in the Cali-

fornia Polytechnic College when it became an accredited institution in 1949. William S. Noblitt, Francis Wacker, and National Field Representative Frank Lloyd talked with college officials, who were non-committal about fraternity recognition but said that students were free to organize any kinds of groups they wished. With this assurance, colonization began. Though rather rocky at first, the organization picked up strength in 1950-51 under colony president Don Johnson, a man who was to become the chapter supervisor and prime mover for many years.

The young colony suffered a nearly fatal set-back in an electrical fire in September, 1953, which completely destroyed its rented chapter house (the historic "Judge's House" at 676 Monterey St., an address from which the original chapter paper, "The Spirit of 676" derived its name.) Fortunately there were no injuries, though several of the men lost all or a substantial part of their clothing and possessions. The college permitted the colony to use the athletic field house as an emergency dormitory, and the national Fraternity lent the colony \$1,000 to replace some of its furnishings when it found its present quarters at 1134 Palm St.

Over the years the colony grew and prospered, often having one of the largest memberships in the Fraternity. But the question of campus recognition remained unsolved. College officials took a firmer stand against acceptance of any national social fraternities, and at one point the colony's situation came under consideration by the National Interfraternity Conference. Delta Sig officials were reluctant to charter the colony without campus recognition, and there the matter rested.

Occasionally, field men from other NIC fraternities dropped by the campus, talked with colony and college officials, and went away shaking their heads. In recent years, however, several local fraternities formed and sought national ties. After Phi Kappa Psi accepted a petition and chartered a group in 1966, Delta Sig's Grand Council decided to cut the Gordian Knot. A third NIC fraternity, Alpha Epsilon Pi, also installed a chapter in April. Negotiations for campus recognition have continued, though no formula acceptable to both college and chapter has been found. It seems possible that relationships with the campus will continue to resemble those of Canadian chapters rather than following the usual U.S. pattern.

However, in spite of the lack of official recognition, the colony for many years has taken a leading part in campus drives, projects, and other events and has furnished more than its share of student leaders.

The spirit of the original members of the colony has continued through the years; the chapter is now seventy members strong, with a pledge class of twelve. Backing up the group are more than 500 alumni initiated during the colony's two decades.

Both undergraduates and alumni are now occupied with the need for a permanent chapter property. Seven years ago the alumni control board bought a lot within a block of the campus, and a drive is now being conducted to finish paying for it. The chapter is optimistic about the possibility of financing a suitable house on the site in the not-too-distant future.