

# Cluster Society

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THE MERCER CLUSTER

March 30, 1956

## TWO-MONTH RIDE FROM CALIFORNIA

# ATO Cyclers Pedals Here On Cross-Country Jaunt

A 21-year-old Californian wheeled into Macon early this week and headed straight for the Alpha Tau Omega suite on the Mercer campus.

Dan Douglas, a senior at San Jose State College in California and a member of the Epsilon Chi chapter of the national fraternity is "seeing the U. S." via bicycle—alone.

The handsome, tanned young cyclist began his current tour February 1. Since then he's averaged about 100 miles a day on his cross-country travels.

So far his trip has cost him only about \$125. He has spent half the stop-overs in ATO houses along the way and homes of friends and acquaintances. College students are pretty much the same everywhere, Dan says.

When he doesn't have a place to stay, he simply unfolds his sleeping bag and goes to sleep somewhere along the road. He carries besides the bag one suitcase and a portable radio.

This modern adventurer, clad in a bright red wind breaker, arrived for his fast visit in Georgia by way of Phoenix, Tucson, Austin, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Tallahassee—all of which are homes of ATO chapters.

He left Tallahassee at 8:30 A.M. Monday and arrived in Macon about 3:30 P.M. Tuesday.

Plans for the big trip had been underway for three months, Dan said. He bought a new English bicycle the day before leaving. And it still looks like new.

Dan said he especially enjoyed New Orleans and his ride along the Gulf Coast.

All the way he's had "clear skies" and no rain—"cool in spots," he commented. Like that 15-degree weather in the western desert country.

From here Dan went through Atlanta headed for Washington and New York and back to California by a northern route.

He's a pedal-pusher from way back. Last summer he toured Japan partly by bicycle. His father, a naval officer, was stationed there.

Next summer he plans to tour Europe, also by bicycle.

So far Dan has been interviewed by staff members of "25 or 30 newspapers" across the nation. He sends each article back to his fraternity brothers at San Jose for the scrapbook they're keeping.

"You never can tell what kind of circumstances you may meet," he commented. For example, only yesterday a State Highway Patrolman stopped him, thinking he was an escaped convict. It took a lot of explaining and a newspaper article to convince the man he was only an innocent college student.

Dan is majoring in advertising at the California college. He has been head cheer leader for three years, a big-wheel campus politician, and an officer in his fraternity.

If things go smoothly, he'll be back in his home state by June 30, when he will meet his family as they return from Japan.

This is by no means the end of Dan's journeys. After graduation next year he will become a naval air cadet. Then he should be one of the most proficient young travelers in America—by land, sea, or air.



San Jose State College ATO Dan Douglas looks over a map before leaving Mercer on the next lap of his cross-country bicycle trip. With him are (left to right) local ATO's Ralph Pace and Fred Hasty.

## Forrest Lanier Addresses ATO Founder's Event

By John Kaufman

Rev. W. Forrest Lanier, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Rome, Georgia, was the speaker for the ninety-first Founder's Day banquet of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, which was held at the Massee Apartments the evening of March 22.

Rev. Lanier was president of Alpha Tau Omega during his studies at Mercer. He also held high positions in other phases of campus life. He earned three letters playing tennis for Mercer, and was elected president of the BSU. During his senior year he served as president of the student body.

Dr. J. Frank Alexander Jr., the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Milledgeville, Georgia, presented James Slocum, Albert McKay, and Howell P. Bell Jr. with Silver Circle certificates, for 25 years of membership in Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity.

Morton Boyette, president of ATO, who presided at the banquet, read a letter of Founder's Day greeting from The Rev. J. Milton Richardson, worthy grand chief of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity.

Show me a thoroughly contented person, and I will show you a useless one.

H. W. Shaw.

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## Chi Omega Has Alumnae Party

The Macon Chi Omega Alumnae Chapter gave a party for the Psi Gamma actives Wednesday night March 21.

Alumna Jean Brown directed the activities of bridge, canasta and bingo.

Miss Bobbie Bobo, who is secretary to President G. B. Connell, is president of the Alumnae Chapter. Psi Gamma officers are Eva Claire Shaw, president; Nanette Bell Carnes, vice-president; Noel Doster, secretary; Marion Coleman, treasurer; and Nan Williams, pledge trainer.

## Shower Given For Wommack

Janette Hodges gave a miscellaneous bridal shower for Jo Wommack Tuesday night in the Chi Omega Chapter Room.

Guests included Mrs. W. A. Wommack, Mrs. J. A. Norris, Miss Alice Johnson and the Chi Omega chapter.

A man who always says what he thinks is courageous and friendless.

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## Mu Socialites

# Sigma Nu Began at VMI; Named 'Legion of Honor'

By Johnny Nelson

Sigma Nu, like Phi Beta Kappa, had its beginnings in the state of Virginia, the mother of fraternities. In its teachings we find many of the same ideals and principles.

Founded at the Virginia Military Institute, a state college, in 1869, Sigma Nu was early known as the Legion of Honor, from which some of its outward manifestations, such as the badge, were taken. Organized by Cadets James F. Hopkins, Greenfield Quarles, and James Riley, honor was the cardinal motif; virtue, the essential teaching; and friendship; the token of Sigma Nu. Soon after the founding of Sigma Nu, other chapters were chartered at the University of Virginia, and Washington and Lee University. The expansion continued in the south and mid-west, then in the west and finally the north.

By the turn of the century, Sigma Nu had become a truly national fraternity, being neither sectional in chapter distribution nor regional in viewpoint. In addition, it has consistently been the policy of Sigma Nu to refrain from establishing chapters at institutions which are not fully accredited.

It was the purpose of the founders of Sigma Nu to establish, through warm friendships, a group of congenial college men, on the foundation of honor, ideals of intellectual achievement, character, and social development, all to the end of becoming better men and better citizens.

Eta chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity was established on the Mercer campus on January 2, 1884, the eleventh chapter to be organized. Eta became and remained active until 1923 when it became Alpha Lambda Tau. In 1947, Alpha Lambda Tau left the Mercer campus and that chapter here took the name Gamma, becoming a local fraternity. It remained local for six months and in 1948 the members petitioned the national Sigma Nu Fraternity and on February 28, 1948, Eta chapter was issued another charter. Since that time Eta has remained active on the Mercer campus.

Eta chapter has won the IFC scholarship trophy twice, and the Gallake Cup for scholarship in 1953-54. This cup is presented to the Sigma Nu chapter with the highest scholastic average. This year, Eta chapter has won

the intramural basketball trophy for the fifth time in six years, and came in second in the intramural tennis tournament.

Among the outstanding Sigma Nu's at Mercer are Marcus Leger, president-elect of BSU; Dudley Horton, president of Scabbard and Blade, and a member of Blue Key; Tom Campbell, vice-president of Alpha Psi Omega; Milton Gardner, president of the German club, and a member of the Student Activities committee; Jimmy Park, president of the junior class, and was named "Toby;" Byron Metts, president of the freshman class; and Charles Hardy, music chairman of the Mercer Choir.

## Herald-Tribune Names Griffith To Review Post

Dr. Ben W. Griffith, associate professor of English, has been added to the staff of book reviewers for the New York Herald-Tribune Book Review section.

Dr. Griffith's first review appears in the current issue of the Book Review. It concerns Roll Back the Sky, a World War II Air Force novel by Ward Taylor.

For several years Dr. Griffith has contributed book reviews to the Savannah Morning News. At Mercer he teaches courses in Advanced Composition, English literature, and Freshman Composition. He is also coach of the Mercer golf team.

Dr. Griffith received his A. B. degree from Mercer and his M. A. and Ph. D. degrees from Northwestern University. During the summer of 1955 he was a visiting scholar at Duke University.

Before coming to Mercer this year he was head of the English department at Tift College in Forsyth.

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