

Ye "U Lit"
Speculum

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THE HOUSING PROBLEM

As per usual we must say something in regards to the New House we are hoping to have in the (near) future. Maybe a summary of the events leading up to our present condition would enlighten you to the necessity of a different housing situation than that in which we now find ourselves.

Some three or four years ago the active circle was faced with the fact that the Union Literary Society was becoming more and more disunited due to the fact that the members were scattered in various rooming houses all over East Lansing. At the same time the spirit of brotherhood was becoming sadly lax because the members had practically no common interest at heart other than to keep the name of the Union Literary Society before the eyes of the campus.

This was not due entirely to the then active members, for the circle was well represented among the officers of the four classes, in varsity athletics, and in scholarship some of our men were among the highest. It was due chiefly to the fact that they did not live together and sometimes saw each other only once a week and at that time only for the duration of the business meeting.

In order to correct such a condition it was decided to obtain a place which would house all the active members of the society. This was done, and now after one or two changes we find ourselves in the old Collingwood House on Sunset Lane. This has taken care of the former difficulty to a large extent and we find the boys more united and having more interest in each other's affairs.

Now another problem confronts us which makes us see more strongly the necessity of having a home of our own. As you have probably learned through various channels of information from the Alma Mater, the majority of the fraternities on the campus have either built new fraternity houses, which are really mighty fine, or have bought and refinished various houses in East Lansing. When rushing time comes in the Fall, haven't the societies with these new homes, or at least a house of their own, a much better talking point to the freshmen than we? Yes, they have a decided advantage and it has been proved in the last few years.

The Society, to put it in plain facts, has been living on their past reputation to a large extent. The need for a new house looms large before us and steps are now being taken to whip into shape some plan that will give us a working basis on which to start.

As you probably know, a very desirable tract of land covering some $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres just outside the East Lansing city limits on Abbott Road has been purchased. The lots on East Grand River that are owned by us have been placed for sale in the hands of the Musselman Realty Co. of East Lansing. The trend of thought is that the running expenses of property in the city and on the main highway would be too much for the active members to handle, and with the desirability of the Abbott Road property it seemed to be logical to switch our efforts in that direction. With the sale of the Grand River property we hope to pay off our debt on both tracts of land and have a clean slate to start our much longed for building program.

ALUMNI MEETING

In regard to the above, The Alumni have been incorporated and we are calling a meeting for Friday evening, March 15, to try to find some starting basis for the coming program. The meeting will be called in the House on Sunset Lane at 7:30 o'clock.

NEW MEMBERS

Four new men were initiated into the society during the present winter term. The new members are Clyde Coster, Holland; Norman Miller, Brooklyn; Buss West, Flint; and Ed Carr of East Jordan. In each of these men the present active members feel that they have found the makings of a true Union Lit. If ever any of you should meet these boys we hope that you too will find in them a college brother.

ACTIVES

In campus activities the Lits are still trying to hold their place among the leaders. Val Andersin, '29, as manager of the varsity basketball team has just finished helping Coach Van Alstyne to take his team through another successful season. Schultz, '29 has been taking honors on the wrestling team, while Peterson '29 and Passink '29 have been representing State on the track. Chuck Lisch '31 has been threatening the college indoor record in high jump.

Jennings, treasurer of the junior class, is running for business manager of the college paper in the all-college elections on the twenty-first of this month, and Troth, also a junior, is competing for the editorship of the News.

In the way of scholarship, Rossman Smith '30 has recently become a member of Alpha Chi Rho, national honorary chemical fraternity. Paul Troth '30 has become a member of Tau Sigma, honorary arts and science fraternity. And Russell Sanders is a member of Tau Beta Pi, national honorary engineering fraternity.

In inter-fraternity athletics we are up to the finals in basketball and will meet the Lambda Chi Alphas this week to decide the championship. In bowling and indoor baseball we ranked close to the top. The swimming meet and indoor track meet are among the events scheduled in the next two weeks.

AN INVITATION

The annual winter term formal dinner dance of the society will be held in the ballroom of the Hotel Olds on Saturday evening of this week, March 16. All members of the society both past and present are invited to help make this party a success. If you plan to be with us, try to let us know as soon as possible so we can make arrangements for you.

CAMPANILE

The Beaumont memorial tower erected on the site of Old College Hall is practically finished and the installation of the chimes and clock work is being completed at the present time. The campanile is an impressive addition to our campus.

REPORT OF ALUMNI, SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Dear Brother:

I regret that I am unable to report much of any progress in the way of lining up our assets so that we will be in a position to build a new College Home. We still have the two lots, one on Abbott Road costing \$15,000 with \$8,500 paid down on the contract and the one on Grand River with about \$2,500 paid down on the contract price of \$6,000, in addition to some improvement taxes paid such as payment and curbing, amounting to nearly \$2,000 which is usually supposed to enhance the value of the property. The house on E. Grand River, known as the Guson Property is being leased to an antique dealer at a rental of \$25 per month. This will just about carry the annual taxes and repairs on the property.

At an Alumni Meeting several months ago, it was suggested that we see what could be done regarding a cancellation of the contract on the Abbott Road property, purchased from Mrs. Burtram. It was found that most of the money we had paid her had been used to pay off the mortgage on the property, so no deal could be made with her to take the property back. She stated, however, that she was perfectly willing to extend the expiration time of the contract, which was May of this year, if necessary, provided that the interest due at that time was properly taken care of. Lansing is booming in a business way and this of course reflects upon East Lansing and it is to be hoped that something can be done early this spring to move the Grand River property. Because of the fact that it is unobounded with Fraternities and restricted as residence property, it is apparently only salable as a sight for an apartment or fraternity house. Those fraternities who desire to build haven't the capital to purchase such a lot and their method of acquiring a home is usually to go to some local real estate company or contractor and have a house built on a cheaper lot with a payment down of several thousand dollars and balance at so much per month like

rent over a long term contract.

Sometimes just when things seem the darkest the sun bursts through in full splendor. Last week I had just about depleted the cash on hand to repay a long standing loan of \$100 to Brother G.F. Richmond, 5 Russell Avenue, Nutley, New Jersey. Brother Richmond was one of those good brothers, who back in Commencement time in 1913, loaned the Society a sum of \$100 without interest for the purpose of helping to clean up the mortgage on the old Lit House on the Campus. When this job of Treasurer was wished onto me a number of years ago, I was informed that only certain notes remained to be paid and these were all paid off in due season and it was not until sometime during the past year that I learned that Brother Richmond's loan had been overlooked. He has certainly been very patient and I promised him at that time that I would get the money to him as soon as I possibly could.

Now for the bright spot. I am taking the liberty of quoting a letter received from Wade Blackmar of the Class of '25, received practically the same day.

Mr. L. P. Dendel
208 N. Capitol Ave.,
Lansing, Michigan.

Dear "Pete":

I am enclosing check for twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars-twenty that is due and an extra five you can use to buy stamps with or something.

No thanks necessary as I can appreciate your troubles and only wish I could afford to add a few ciphers on the amount.

Do not credit me for the five.

Fraternally yours,

W. S. Blackmar '25.

I cannot recall anything like this ever occurring before although a large number of you fellows are courteous enough to at least drop me a line occasionally in answer to the usual dunning letter, telling me about when I can expect payment. I tell you, fellows, it is things like this that give us "courage to go on".

The usual notices regarding pledges due January 1st have been sent out, but the response so far has been very meager. Now, fellows, we've got to dig up about \$800 by May in order to take care of the interest due on Mrs. Burtrams contract or the Treasurer and the Board of Directors will have to do some high financing. I will very much appreciate your taking care of your pledges now due at the earliest possible moment so that we can keep our heads above water until we dispose of some of our Real Estate holdings.

This letter is being sent out with a Speculum and is therefore necessarily brief. I wish, however, to extend my

best wishes to everyone of you and only wish I had the opportunity to see you in person more often. Lou Russell, '14 of the Russell Farm, Island Lake, Brighton, Michigan dropped into our office today and I accidentally ran across him. Hadn't seen him since he left College. We have a brand new five story office building called "The Mutual Building", which is located one-half block north of the Capitol and which is rated as one of the most complete and modern office buildings in the state. Would be glad to have you drop in and look it over.

Fraternally yours,

L. P. Dendel

Secretary & Treasurer
U.L.S. Building Association.