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June 28, 1966

Since the first year of the occupancy of the house next door by Alpha Gamma Rho, the honorary agriculture fraternity, ^{has ended,} I want to make my own private report to you. Naturally, I was a little fearful when I knew that a whole horde of boys would be my neighbors. Lots of people, connected with Western and not, asked me, from the earliest days of the school year, whether I liked my new neighbors. From the very first week I liked the boys and their very excellent house mother. Mrs. Jones is a genuine lady, with good Butler County horse sense and understanding. The boys seem very fond of her; "Mom Jones" sounds like the name of a relative rather than merely of a house mother. In spite of the large number of boys in the house--up to 40 much of the time--, they have been under fine control, for they have had the wisdom to choose capable and firm leaders. One of the Britt twins was their first "Noble Ruler," a well-bred, upstanding fellow. He was succeeded by an even firmer president or chairman, who sees to it that the boys live up to the principles of their charter. Our Billy Adams said when the boys moved in that they were good fellows, green, maybe, since they were country boys, but that they would behave themselves. He cautioned me that I must let him know if any unmannerly things occurred. I have had to report nothing except fine, country-boy courtesy and conduct. If there are infractions of ordinary moral concepts, they are kept under cover. And actually they are not as noisy as a group only one fifth as large that I was a part of in 1911-13 at Professor Leiper's, on College Street. And we oldsters were already mature wage-earning men, some of us with four to ten years experience as rural teachers. If the projected fraternity houses are under as good control as the Alpha Gamma Rho house, we need not fear for the future of the system here. Maxey Harlan has asked me about the house, and I have told him just what I have set down on this page.