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UA94/5/1 Founders Day Notes

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Some times one gets into things by talking too much.

On parents day Brother Wallace introduced me to his Father and Mother and while talking to them about how cooperative and what a fine group the ATO have been during this year he asked me in their presence and my wife Emily if I would do something for him. So here I am

The years pass by quickly, but memory of many great occasions and life long friendships still live in the hearts of the Barons and ATO brothers tonight. I am sure that there are many who would like to be here tonight for this Founders Day 1968.

This year, 1968, is the 34th since the Barons Club was officially started. It is the second since Barons founding of ATO on Western campus, and I think probably the year that will go now in ATO History as the most important one for many years to come.

The first meeting of the Barons Club was held on January 28, 1934, in a basement on Chestnut Street. (Sam Milner, Charles Gadd, Harold Link, Yandell Page, Ray Russell, William Bass, Francois Gardner, Leo Frosting, Charles Crammer.)

The constitution was written in Helm Hotel and adopted on February 4, 1934. The first pledges were inducted on Feb 7, 1934, and the original goat as duty was to carry a gold brick. That is a bronze painted one. On March 30, 1934 the first pin was worn and we have kept the same design ever since.

The first Formal was held on May 19, 1934 in what was then the ballroom of the Old Masonic Temple corner of 12th St. & College.
The programs were two page hand made masterpieces.

"Smoke Gets In Your Eyes" was popular as were longer skirts, 3.2 beer, and ping Pong. Bridge was a required course. Western won its second K.I.A.C. tournament and only Dr. Stickles, of history dept. knew who Adolf Hitler was.

The spring of 1934 was a great beginning and all was well. The founders had great plans, maybe too many.

The purpose of the club was to promote fellowship among a group on Western Campus.

The membership was limited to 20 mem active members during a semester. It was the first and only fraternity on the hill for five years.

The motto was "HE WHO DOES NOT GO FORWARD MUST NECESSARILY GO BACKWARDS".

I think the records will show that motto has been and still is a great influence in the lives of some 300 Barons.

The fall of 1934 opened with great plans and too much publicity. The school had beginning-te-to see what was going on. Pledges showed up at football games with gold bricks. Were made too rum around the square at nights and others things to attract the attention of the school officials.

Dr. Cherry and school officials did not want in fact forbid any fraternity or sorority to be organized on Western campus or by Western students.

This event.

The members were called in and told to get out, disband or be expelled some school. Some who worked for school had to be come in active and the
pledge ship and other actives were on the quiet side.

The big question in selecting pledges for next several years was if they would be willing or could take the pressure the sch would place on them. We lost some good men. The fall of 1934 and spring of 1935 was a trying time.

I first heard of the Barons club during this time. I was in High school and worked at nights Pearson's drug store. As did Leo Frosting and Francis Gardner. Most every night some or all were in and many of their plans were discussed there.

The first camp was held in June 1935, and a good part of the plans and menus were worked out over the cigar counter in Pearson. As the week went by.

Thus the Barons club was formed and a spirit called Baronism began to grow. There were many discussions on theism as a this time there was some talk of starting of other groups with beliefs all ending in ISM.

I will take a few more minutes and briefly cover some actives and traditions that in time became traditions and a part of many of us.

Baron Castle was located on Park Street a room over Noel's garage, which we begin to take over and looked up on as ours. Mrs. Noel became the Mother of Barons.

Most of actives center around camp, weekend parties held Masonic temple, Knights of Columbus' Hall, now Sunday school building of Presbyterian Church.
Tip Top inn, which was corner of 15 & College. Brick bldg. resturant.

Goal Post became the daily meeting place. Most--Dances played a big part in social life of time.

Two of Sam--a large number lived in Rock House.

Sam Rabold became, father, brother, and friend to all of us. Two of his brothers were members and active in club. Sam gave all of us jobs, loaned us money, fed us, helped the Barons club--Advised us and all in all has done more for Barons Club than any other person.

Dances played a big part in school social life. There was one or two and sometimes more dances each week at Goal Post. Held in old gym now library, the armory near 10th and Chestnut. Most of these with named band such as Ted Weens, Tommy Dorsey, Kay Kayser, Francis Craig, and our own Red and Grey band--several members of Barons played in these bands.

Our dues were very low but hard to come by them. 25 per week. Cost of parties was from 25 to 50 per couple, this included every thing. Camp cost 7.00 to 8.00 per couple for a week.

We sponsored dances to make extra money. Our favorite was Homecoming Dance and the sunrise ball. We tried to have two or three per year. Cost $1.00 to 2.00.

Our Big events: Final week of pledge ship and ing with dinner and burning of sacks by goats. C

Spring formal in May. Conclave in December and Camp the first week in June between summer school and spring semester.

Each Baron with a date along Chaperon and cook food, bedding, and ball equipment. Horseshoes, boats, canoe. Move to Drakes creek for a week. The first camp was held Rotary Camp six miles from down eight acres on creek with big spring, mess hall, bunk houses and main building.

This was used 35, 36, 37. Then in 1938 we were told the scouts had first choice and they wanted the site same week we did. As result we came in tents on Scottsville road and Drakes creek where bridge now is.
Most of us felt that camp belong to us and in fall of 38 we returned to school with one plan to buy the Camp. This required some doing as Several members of RC were en-fa connected with Western. After getting option our next problem was the money.

We hit on the idea of getting help of Alumni. So we planned a conclave to be held between Xmas and New Years for two days. Dinner meeting Helm Hotel and Castle during day. Result was most all of old members came back for it and off/ offered their help. The result we bought Baron Camp.

The next From then until it was sold this became the center of most of parties and functions of club. Plus many hard hours of labor.

We set out fix up the main building which was a frame 30x 50. We set poles and put electric power to it built a road down the hill, and panel and furnished the building, this was completed and a few weeks before school was out we held open house to Western on Sunday. Thursday we went out to find it burn to ground.

We all started to work the following Sat. and got set up for camp that summer. We rebuilt a larger building over coming many problems, money one of them---

Several of us ordered truck load of lumber, etc. and send night, only to have it arrive C.O.D. Borrowed money from driver for Breakfast and them to work.

During fall we decide to build fire place, furnish stones. Stone mason

During War years club became inactive. In 45 with War over many actives came back and actives began.

In 1946 Dec a group of us got together here and

In 1960 had a large group of Barns and wives returned for weekend. Ther have a few other occasions. This past summer we had some 25 local members for stag.
Many things wither or die, changes are made, but the spirit made the Bronsclub will not die.

I would like to thank you, Brothers, that this past year has been a very important one to me. And I assure you that if the founders of the Barons club were here tonight and could see what you have and are doing they would say . . . well pleased. I