

Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae Take on New Project: Activities Club for Handicapped

Birmingham alumnae of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority have undertaken a new volunteer project which is consuming an unlimited amount of time, energy and interest and for which a dedicated committee has already been appointed by President Mrs. Howard Schweppe.

The committee includes Mrs. John Simpson, Mrs. Henry Schmidt, Mrs. Howard Linder, Mrs. Harold Stubbs and Mrs. Floyd Doherty—the project involved, Metropolitan Activities Club.

Incidentally, this isn't to say that Camp Oakland is not still dear to all Theta hearts, the new project simply "in addition" to their work there.

Regular monthly meetings of the alumnae group will take place today in the home of Mrs. Robert Shepherd on Tilbury Road, assistant hostesses to be Mrs. Thomas Stacey and Mrs. Edward Wallich.

Following luncheon, a report will be given on Metropolitan Activities Club, which we hear with relay:

IN 1954 SIX handicapped adults, ten patients of the Detroit Rehabilitation Center, band together with the idea of forming a club for handicapped adults. They studied the handicapped organizations in the area and learned that most were groups promoting business opportunities, job training and legislation to aid the handicapped. The group saw a definite need for a social and recreational job. Their first act was to write out a "purpose" to guide the organization of the club to be known as the Metropolitan Activities Club, nicknamed "The Macs." That purpose was:

"To promote, create and encourage recreational and social activities among handicapped adults of the metropolitan area and in general carry out such programs and projects as may effectively aid and accomplish such purposes."

"This charter group felt strongly that their club should be an independent, self supporting non-profit organization. With this in mind they contacted other handicapped persons and invited them to join the group. The idea was met with great enthusiasm and they organized bowling, archery, basketball, swimming, wheelchair square dancing, singing, arts and crafts and field trips such as ice shows, football games, theater parties, picnics, hayrides, etc. Within two years the club grew from six to sixty members.

These sixty members wanted a permanent headquarters, so they created a building fund in hopes of acquiring property in the near future. In 1957 the Macs were chartered as a non profit Michigan corporation. In 1958, with money raised by a series of dances and bake sales and other projects, the Macs made a down payment on a 15-acre wooded site near Rowen. This property is now called Wildwood.

THE CLUB soon found that their small fund raising projects also brought in a small return for the amount of time and effort of organization. Furthermore, relatives and friends were the only

persons attending these events. So, in order to pay for and develop Wildwood as well as increase activities for the growing membership (by that time over 100 members), a fund raising program was established for larger projects with a greater return. A Las Vegas party was the first big event and proved popular. The mock gambling equipment was expensive so the enterprising club members built their own and now also rent it out to many other groups.

The success of the Las Vegas parties encouraged the Macs to try other ambitious projects. A portable food booth was purchased and the club tried their luck at the Clawson Fourth of July Fair. Despite trial and error methods, hard work made the day a success and gave them confidence to undertake a 10-day stand at the State Fair five years ago. The food booth was a financial success and is still one of the major projects of the club.

With Las Vegas parties, the booth at the Clawson and State Fairs, card parties and dances,

the club raises \$2500 to \$3500 annually.

The club readily concedes that their success is greatly due to the generosity of merchants and friends who donate prizes, printing of advertising and use of special equipment. The Macs are also fortunate to have country clubs and service groups donate the use of facilities in which to hold fund drives.

TWO YEARS ago the Macs discovered they had outgrown their family-type budgeting. An organized system was set up to more efficiently provide for expansion of activities and development of the property "Wildwood."

Wildwood is an excellent example of hard work and determination. Since 1957, when purchased, utilities have been run in, a rough driveway goes into the property, three buildings have been erected (a kitchen, utility building and bathroom facility with showers), picnic tables and outdoor fireplaces have been installed. Union locals have helped greatly with these buildings, accepting only a grateful thank you from the club. Even with this help a huge amount of work was done by the members. Many a paint brush was wielded from a wheelchair, carpentry, cement mixing, land clearing and mowing by members previously balanced on crutches, canes and braces.

The Macs will have all facilities in use for the club to use next summer for meetings, pic-

nics, camping. They will also allow Scout troops, and other groups to use the property for a small donation or for work done such as cutting underbrush, etc. A year-round pavilion will also be started in the spring.

The Macs have big plans for their property. Their aim is a year-round vacation resort with all facilities planned for the convenience of the various types of handicapped persons and their families. It will be the first of its kind in the entire United States.

A LOCAL architect has donated a great amount of time in planning the resort with the Macs advising him on the special construction needs of the handicapped. The completed project is estimated at \$200,000, but the Macs are determined to make their "dream resort" a reality, so have already invested \$16,000 in the project. Perhaps it is because the members feel that together they can find satisfaction in building and planning for the future, something their own finances don't always allow. Many in the group are unable to work, have only part-time jobs or have low incomes; the average earnings of the working members is under \$3,000 a year.

The members of this organization have various types of handicaps such as polio, C. P., M. D., M. S. and nerve disorders. There are also members who are non-handicapped and are greatly appreciated by the members for the help and understanding they give.



Betrothed

Glenn Ruth Simons, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Simons of Allentown, Pa., is betrothed to Duane Dunham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph D. Dunham of Big Beaver Road, Birmingham. The bridegroom-elect, who is a graduate of Seaboard High School and is now a senior at Western Michigan University, was playground supervisor for the Birmingham Recreation Dept. for the past five years. His fiancee, a graduate of East Stroudsburg University in Allentown, held the same job here in Birmingham last summer. Date of the wedding will be announced later.

Have You Met . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Brazil and their sons David, 12, James, 9, Tommy, 3, and Danny, 6 months, who moved from Dearborn to 21410 Orcutt Court, Beverly Hills? Lorraine, originally from River Rouge, plays the organ for relaxation, and the couple bowls together. The whole family spends much of each summer at a cottage in Caseville, and the boys are sold on their new home in Beverly Hills. Mr. Brazil, a Redford High and Ford Trade School graduate, is with Harley Earl Associates in Warren.

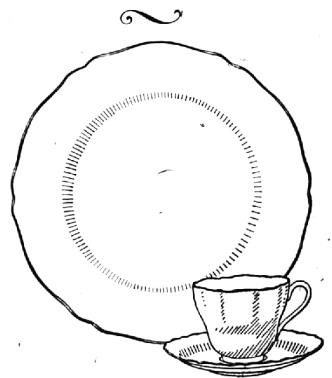
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