

CHARTER MEMBERS

Mildred Anderson

Louise Black Chinworth

Mary Jane Borton

Frances Clark Carter

Thais Greulach

Thelma Harris Becker

Artella Kesler Becker

Nellie Lyon Reed

Annabel Mentzer

Rosaline Mentzer

Eunice Reed

Pauline Rivers

Miss Helen Jantz

HISTORY
OF
BETA EPSILON CHAPTER
OF
PSI IOTA XI
Mentone, Indiana

A very impressive and beautiful service took place at the home of Miss Frances Clark, Saturday, September 7, 1929, when the Alpha Xi Chapter, located at Logansport, Indiana, initiated the members of La Petite Club into Psi Iota Xi Sorority and installed a local chapter.

front page
The first charter members were the Misses Frances Clark, Eunice Reed, Nellie Lyon, Annabel Mentzer, Thais Greulich, Louise Black, Thelma Harris, Artella Kesler, Rosaline Mentzer, Mildred Anderson, and Mary Jane Barton.

On December 27, 1929, the first pledges were initiated into Psi Iota Xi. They were Miss Bernice Bowen, Miss Helen Jontz, Mrs. Curtis Riner and Mrs. Devon Eaton.

Giving baskets to the poor at Thanksgiving and Christmas was the first sorority project.

Highlights of 1930 included the WLS radio artists "Hiram & Henry", entertaining at the Mentone Community Building sponsored by the Psi Iota Xi Sorority. A chop suey supper was given for the Mentone Senior Girls. Magazines were sent to the Whites Institute Orphanage at Wabash at Christmas. Also, the first aid room was furnished for the new High School which was to be built.

During 1931, charity projects included the furnishing of milk to needy families, selling of magazines, Christmas cards and wrapping paper, and a sandwich stand at the county fair.

In 1933, the Psi Iota Xi had the privilege of being host to the Northern Providence meeting held at the Argonne in Warsaw. Also that year, we held several bridge benefits.

In the summer 1934, two girls were sent to summer camp. We also sponsored the girl scouts and a milk fund for the school.

A Gold Medal Calf and Colt Show was held in 1935, in which the Sorority raffled off a chair and a basket of groceries. During the year, milk was furnished to undernourished children.

In 1936, the Grand Chapter furnished an oxygenaire for the new addition to the Woodlawn Hospital at Rochester to be presented in behalf of the Psi Iota Xi Sorority. A membership was purchased to the Book of the Month for the local library. Also, during the year, aid was given to a widow and three children.

In 1937, we purchased an incubator for McDonald Hospital, Warsaw, Indiana.

A bingo stand at the local stock show, several bridge benefits and a turkey raffle made 1938 a good financial year.

Highlights of 1939 included the 19th anniversary of the Psi Otes which was held at the Pickwick. Annabel Mentzer gave an interesting history of the Sorority.

We purchased a season ticket for a member of the school for the blind in Indianapolis to attend the concerts of the Indiana Symphony Orchestra to which Psi Iota Xi contributes yearly \$500 toward its maintenance. A kindergarten was sponsored by the Psi Otes and Miss Annabel Mentzer was chosen to be Instructor. Five children were sent to a special training school for spastics in Goshen. New members were Jeannette Mollenhour in January and Geraldine Clark, Marie Nellans and Anne Sierk in April.

The following ladies were initiated in as new members in 1940--Charlotte Snyder, Lucille Teel, Dorothy Todd, Annabelle Tucker and Mary Watson.

In 1941, the Sorority sponsored a square dance and had a bingo stand at the local stock show.

New Psi Otes for the year 1942 were Millie Bryan, Helen Harvey, Marcia White, Maude Snyder, Ora Pottenger, Flora Holt, Anna Northland, Dorothy Nelson and Marian Swan.

In the year of 1943 (President, Ann Sierk), the Psi Iota Xi became an agent of personalized stationery for a printing company which netted a nice commission. Milk was supplied to needy families in the community. War stamps were bought to apply towards bonds. These were bought in place of Christmas exchange and also penalties of war stamps were charged to members for tardiness and absenteeism. New members this year were Mary Utter and Hope Deaton.

In 1944 (President Emma Clutter), two \$5 scholarships were given to outstanding high school students. Also, we sponsored the Sister Kenny Infantile paralysis program. New members were Esther Shoemaker, Vadis Ward, Georgia Nellans, Ethelyn Dwyer, Genevieve Kraatz and Viola Weatherbee.

Seven members of our chapter donated a total of 18 pints of blood to the Red Cross in 1945 (President, Emma Clutter). Donations were also given to the Infantile Paralysis Fund and the Salvation Army. New Psi Otes for the year were Iris Anderson, Louise Barkman, Alice Mollenhour, Edna Nellans and Willodean Henderson.

The main project for the year 1946 (President, Jeanette Mollenhour) was providing the opportunity for an eleven year old boy, Don Flener, to have an eye operation. The operation expense totaled \$500. In addition to this, a boy was sent to the Speech and Hearing Clinic at Indiana University.

The Sorority took complete charge of the Red Cross drive in Mentone during this year, and bought another war bond. In the fall of '46, the Psi Otes made \$500 from an eating stand at the fair. New members for the year were Belva Hibschan, Doris Nellans and Betty Jan Yehlik.

Pecans were sold in 1947 (President, Georgia Nellans). We sponsored the Leone Studios for pictures in the community. Again two boys were sent to the Speech and Hearing Clinic at Bloomington. New Psi Otes this year were Mary Tridle, Donna Parker and Mary Francis Hudson.

In January of 1948 (President Mary Utter) \$900 worth of time and labor was donated to the school cafeteria. At that time a service table was also given to the school. Awards for outstanding students was raised from \$5 to \$10. Canned food was donated to the Woodlawn Hospital.

A double outdoor furnace and 100 trees were purchased for the new softball park. During the year money for one band uniform was donated to the school and \$100 was given to the local public library. New members this year were Bess Manwaring and Marcella McKibbin.

Popcorn was sold during the summer softball games and at the 4th of July celebration in 1949 (President, Mary Utter). Profits were used to help pay for the fireworks display and upkeep of the softball field. During the year seven handicapped children were taken to Logansport for examination at the Speech and Hearing Clinic.

Money was donated to purchase DDT to help combat the spread of polio. The local fire department sprayed our town. A gift was bought for our one local polio victim.

In 1950, \$200 was given to the Mentone Fire Department for a Resuscitator, a much needed piece of equipment for our community. Again this year, a donation was given towards the project of spraying the town during the polio epidemic. New members for the year were Grace Boggs, Mary Eller, Bernice Jones, Jean Rodibaugh, Jean Pritchard, Wanda Simcoe and Freda Witham.

In 1951, we were hosts to the Traveling Speech and Hearing Clinic in July. Our main financial project was again operating a popcorn concession stand at the local softball park. New members were Betty Boggs and Mariam Wouk.

A pot luck dinner was held in 1952 for the doctors of the Indiana University Speech and Hearing Traveling Clinic.

Donations were given to various charitable organizations throughout the 1953 year (President, Grace Boggs). New Psi Otes this year were Jean Kendall and Joan Miner. By 1953, there were 71 active and inactive members in the local Psi Iota Xi chapter.

In 1954, a scoreboard was purchased for the new school gym. The Sorority paid the hospital bill for Mrs. Jesse Newell who had an eye operation. New members this year were Mary Cook, Barbara King Ross and Jackie Blue.

Donations in 1955 (President, Jean Pritchard) included the Kosciusko County school for Retarded Children in Warsaw and gifts for children at the State Mental Hospital. In December of this year, the Mentone Sorority initiated six pledges into the Gamma Chi Chapter in Warsaw. We initiated one new member this year, Glada Quinn.

Members worked as solicitors in 1956 (President, Joan Miner) for the Salvation Army Drive. The Psi Otes played Santa Claus to a small girl whose mother was mentally ill; remembered shut-ins, and lonely persons in the community. In March, we conducted a special drive for funds to aid a sixteen-year old leukemia victim, Miss Arbutus Vernatte and her parents, in a neighboring community. A total of \$403.15 was raised.

We filled and donated twenty-two goodwill bags in behalf of polio victim, Audrey Miller from Tippecanoe. New members this year were Savina Kralis and Eula Smith.

In 1957 (President, Joan Miner) the Sorority sponsored Mark Gosser, who had cerebral palsy, to the Speech and Hearing Clinic at Indiana University. We also sponsored Sue Shoemaker of Mentone and Joyce Hathaway of Beaver Dam as delegates to Girls State and contributed to the Little League and the high school band fund. New members for 1957 were Harriet Arnsberger, Iris Dickerhoff, JoAnn Doran and Barbara Riner.

A "Penny A Vote" contest for county fair queen was held in 1958 (President, Wanda Simcoe) to raise money to help maintain a school for retarded children in our county. The local chapter sponsored a girl in the contest.

In 1959 (President Wanda Simcoe) we sponsored a boy from Rochester to go to Ball State Speech Clinic. We also sponsored a Beaver Dam Student, Phyllis Ummel to Indiana Girls State School. We gave donations to the Kosciusko County United Fund and Heart Fund. We gave gifts to Fort Wayne State School.

In the year 1960 (President, Glada Quinn) we gave a Bingo Party for 69 ladies at Logansport State Hospital. We gave \$25 to Ft. Wayne State School at Christmas time and gave \$40 to the United Fund. We gave \$145 for lettering "Bell Memorial" on the new public library, a gift from the late Larry Bell. Mr. Bell was a former Mentone boy. We enjoyed many colored slides this year covering Alaska, Hawaii, Germany, and the World's Fair in Belgium. These were very beautiful and educational, making us feel we certainly traveled over a lot of country this year.

We helped in selling tickets at the Legion Carnival and helped with the Annual Egg Show.

One of our largest projects ever ventured into was the Wrestling Match we sponsored in 1961 (President Glada Quinn) starring professional wrestlers, Burnett Brothers, Shire Brothers, and the lady champion wrestler, June Byers.

Inspection was held at Club 30, Columbia City, with Mrs. Robert Endsley as inspecting officer. She was accompanied by Northern Province Chairman, Louise Stookey. We were pleased with the large attendance we had at the Shamrock Benefit Card Party we sponsored. We gave a cash donation to Troop 17 of the Mentone Brownies. We initiated one new Psi Ote this year, Mrs. Paul (Martha) Shireman.

The above history has been prepared as our pledge project.

Karen Baum
Patricia Powell
Sandra Leckrone
Ann Utter
Doris Ross

1962--President, Pauline Riner (Mrs. Curtis)

New members: Doris Ross, Ann Utter, Karen Baum, Sandra Leckrone and Pat Powell. We had fun this summer; picnic, card party, just played. Then sold nuts, greeting cards, and worked the blood bank and helped anyone and everyone we could.

1963--President, Pauline Riner

New member: Jo Nelson (Mrs. Jerry)

We sold candy and worked for the Easter Seal Drive, about 60 hours worth, and sold food at a farm sale. Sponsored the Girl Scouts, Brownies and just had a very good year.

1964--President, Barbara Ross (Mrs. Jerry)

Honored our two Charter Members, though Pauline Riner was a month or two later, but after being with us as long as this, we say, Charter Member, along with Annabel Mentzer, since we are 35 years young. Sold Travelogue tickets, Christmas candles, Tupperware and had a bridge party to make our money. With all those who helped, it was not a hard job to do.

1965--President, Ann Utter (Mrs. Terry)

Very busy! Had a big bridge benefit, a hat sale, a lot of fun as well as lots of money made. Dr. McFadden showed slides of his trip to Europe and behind the Iron Curtain. We entertained the Warsaw Chapter also; had a very enjoyable evening. Sue Boron also showed her slides of the Palm Sunday Tornado--she was there. She teaches in the Elkhart County Schools.

1966--President, Louise Long (Mrs. Cecil)

Served food at the sale at Jean Kendall's; they are moving to Florida, and we are losing a good member. Worked the blood bank and had another hat sale to make money. Two new pledges: Mrs. Robert (Delores) Holloway and Mrs. Lewis (Betty) Harshbarger.

1967--President, Martha Shireman (Mrs. Paul)

Initiation for Betty Harshbarger and Delores Holloway. Sold Travelogue tickets, had inspection with Sue Morris. Very interesting. Had fun selling candy and fruit cakes; helped with the blood bank and sold food at another farm sale. Mr. Webster, florist from Winona Lake, gave us a demonstration in floral arrangements. Donna Kay VanGilder talked of her two years in the Peace Corp in Columbia, South America, which was very interesting. Another happy and rewarding year.

1968--President, Sandra Leckrone (Mrs. Archie)

New member, Sara Russell (Mrs. Donald). Mr. Bazine, Spanish teacher, gave an interesting program in Spanish and we donated money toward two students going to Mexico this summer. Purchased a Flag and Flagpole for the Little League Park. Sold candy, fruit cake, and Travelogue tickets to make money to pay for all these things-- had a very good year.

1969--President, Doris Ross (Mrs. Robert)

New member, Marsha Scott (Mrs. Ronald). Did a wedding reception, had fun doing it, and also a very happy bride and groom. A visitation from Lil Schulyer almost kept her in Mentone, as she locked her keys in the car. Sold candy, fruit cake and Travelogue Tickets to make money. Also honored Pauline and Annabel for 40 years of active membership. One black cloud--we lost our very good sister, Mary Cook. We will all miss her very much.

1970--President, Doris Ross

New Members: Karen (Mrs. Jerry), Eva Bell Smith (Mrs. Marion), Mollie Fuller. Sent Miss Susan Romine to Purdue Speech and Hearing Clinic. It helped her to decide on that field as her major. Had a wig raffle and sold candy and fruit cakes. Also, had a Christmas Bazaar to make money. Enjoyed the Tea and Tour of our Governor's Mansion. Changed our Scholarship Awards. Now it will go to the student majoring in the field of Music, Art or Speech and Hearing, and with an increase of \$100.00, but they must be in college before it is paid.

1971--President, Barbara Riner (Mrs. Kent)

We purchased doors and grills for the Little League Building and had a style show and card benefit. A very busy year.

1972--President, Barbara Riner

43 years old and going strong. 24 members. Sold candy and had a style show and card benefit to help make the money to spend.

1973--President, Sara Russell

On Mentone Days, we sold hamburgers, bar-B-cues, hot dogs, and soft drinks at the Tractor Pull. Also had a style show and card party and sold candy and spent the money wherever we could to help in our town.

1974--President, Sara Russell

Tested hearing and vision with the preschool children in the county; very rewarding. Had a card party and style show and sold candy to help the library. Joyce Dunnuck received our scholarship. Also sponsored a campership to Camp Riley for the first time. We had a busy year, but a happy one. 24 members.

1975--President, Marsha Scott (Mrs. Ron)

Had a busy money making year, and we spent it, too. Served supper at Mentone Days, had a card party and style show. Helped the Warsaw Chapter in testing hearts in the school system and also helped with the vision-hearing testing. Put on a cancer clinic for the women in our community.

1976--President, Marsha Scott

New Member, Diana Hoyt (Mrs. Mike). We tried something different and had a big style show, featuring all age groups and using the BiCentennial theme. Also featured a salad bar, this was a great success. John Hill was given our scholarship going to Ball State in Music. We also had a card benefit. With all of our projects, we had a very busy year.

1977--President, Peg Eaton (Mrs. Garwin)

Had a nice visit with Mrs. Bruns. Our big Cinderella Style Show and Salad Bar was a huge success and for the first time we made and sold Cheese Balls. It took two batches to fill our orders. Also sold Abbotts Carmels and had a Bee-Line Pary. Sponsored Sight and Hearing Clinics and assisted with the Heart Screening for the pre-schoolers. We worked hard, but had lots of fun, too.

1978--President, Peg Eaton

New Members, Phyliss Risner (Mrs. Delbert); Judy Lafferty (Mrs. Gary); and Jody Wise (Mrs. Larry). Jody came as a legacy. We were hostesses for our Historical Society on the Tour of Homes. Made Bar-B-ques and served sandwiches and pop for the After-prom at Tippecanoe High School. Also made Cheese Balls. Our big money maker was our Style Show and Salad Bar, "Holiday on Parade".

1979--President, Peg Eaton

We started our year with a picnic and had our husbands. We have Terry and Ann Utter to thank for being such nice hosts. Maybe they will ask us back for next year.

We will make cheese balls and sell candy to make our money for this year. The big event will happen on the 18th of September, as we are having a dinner to celebrate the 50 year Anniversary of Beta Epsilon. We will have two 50-year members with us. Annabel Mentzer is a Charter Member, and is now inactive but is with us whenever she can be, and Pauline Riner is still active and works right with us. We feel very fortunate to have these two members.

We hope the next 50 years are as good and rewarding as the past fifty and we look forward to continuing the good work of the Sorority.

The above history has been prepared by the following:

Louise Long, Chairman
Jeannette Mollenhour
Pauline Riner
Judy Lafferty
Phylis Risner
Jody Wise
Mary Utter
Bernice Jones

over