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THE OHIO HARDWARE ASSOCIATION

ORGANIZED 1894



(Affiliated with National Retail Hardware Association)
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, NEWARK, OHIO

Oct. 17, 1932

Dear Mother:-

Well, the big event is all over. Our initiation began last Wednesday and ended with a formal banquet Friday night. On Wednesday night we had to go up to the house and take an exam on the history of the house including such details as the names of the original members and some of the honorary members. I found that Daniel Webster and Rufus Choate are among the list of honorary members. Of course, Webster was out of college before the society was founded, but he apparently became a member later on. On Thursday night we were told to report to the house at 10 o'clock with a sheet, a pillow-case, 4 feet of rope, and a big crate. I bought a pillow-case for 15¢, but the cheapest sheet was .85 so I hooked one of Bob's. Unfortunately, we had to cut holes in both the sheets and pillowcases to make a sort of Ku Klux outfit for a parade. I haven't decided yet what to do about the sheet. I think I will see if the old lady in the Curiosity shop can fix it up fairly well. Otherwise, I will have to buy the kid a new sheet. We had to parade down town stopping at frequent intervals to give the fraternity yell. I played George Donehue's drum, thus getting out of having to play leap-frog from Wheel-lock street to the post-office and back. The packing cases were dragged out on the campus and burned. After this, we returned to the house and had a little board session. As the concluding part, Bob Mc Clean and I had to go over to Norwich and count all the

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railroad ties between there and Pompanoosuc, about seven miles up the track. We were supposed to bring back the station sign from Pompanoosuc to prove that we had been there. We started about midnight and took turns counting ties up to a thousand. We found there was a total of 16,186 ties, but we couldn't get the sign off because it was bolted down too tightly. Instead, we brought back the "Western Union telegrams accepted here" sign. It took us about two hours to make the trip each way, so we did not get back until about four o'clock. We walked back along the road, but it was practically deserted at that time of the morning. Only one car passed going our way, and it didn't stop.

You should have seen me climbing into the old monkey suit Friday evening. Anticipating difficulties, I started fully an hour early, and fortunately Francis was on hand to help me. I borrowed Dick's collar-buttons, and bought a tie already tied and a pair of suspenders. Everything fit perfectly, and it was not nearly as uncomfortable as I had expected. The formal initiation took place in the chapter room with the main charge given by Prof. James Alexander Hamilton, of Tuck School. He was very good. After finding out what KKK stands for, and being instructed in the grip, we received our beautiful pins, which I am very proud to wear. Then we had the banquet at the Outing Club House. We didn't get away from there until 11 o'clock, so I had to cut a class the next day. So that's that.

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Please don't think that Dick made any sacrifice to go tri-Kappa. The fact of the matter was that Dick is much too cold blooded to let anything stand in the way of his happiness. You seem to think that what I told you last summer about the rating of the fraternity was hooey, but it isn't. Tri-Kappa has always been and still is one of the most powerful fraternities on this campus. This year five of our best pledges failed to return to college, but in spite of that we got one of the largest and best delegations of campus. This means a great deal, because practically all the best people are pledged at the end of their first year. Just now one of the Sigma Chi pledges has broken his pledge and negotiations are under way to enable him to be taken in without waiting a full year, as the rule says. As far as rating goes, we have always been better than Sigma Chi, who belong to the big middle class of mediocre frats. This year they did better than ever before, but that doesn't improve their '33 and '34 delegations. Dick didn't go Beta because he didn't know many of the fellows who were going there, and he didn't like the Sig upperclassmen. Some time I will give you a table showing how I rate Dartmouth fraternities. Psi U is the best in some ways, while the Dekes have most of the prominent athletes. Eddie was pledged last year, so his football failure didn't affect his chances any. Francis hasn't been taken yet due to some technicalities. Right now some one is blocking him, and whether we can get around him or not remains to be seen.

Proffy didn't get any bid, even S.H.U. Got Proffy in letter with the money today. (over)

Next Ohio Hardware Association Convention and Exhibit, Cleveland, February 11-12, 1933
Love,
William

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I will try to make it last as long as possible. Remember food costs \$32 per month. The \$50 ought to last five weeks. If I can sell my Harvard ticket for \$4.40 (2 tickets \$8.80) I can make a couple of dollars. Otherwise I shall go to the game. Donelin will take me down for \$3.50 round trip, stay at his house free. Since I would have to pay \$2.50 for meals in Hanover, I would not be spending much. More details later.

Handwritten notes and scribbles, including the number 5 and various illegible marks.

Bobby did not get any bid, even D. U. I got Daddy's letter with the money today.

I will try to make it last as long as possible. Remember food costs \$32 per month. The \$50 ought to last five weeks. If I can sell my Harvard ticket for \$4.40 (2 tickets \$8.80) I can make a couple of dollars. Otherwise I shall go to the game. Donelin will take me down for \$3.50 round trip, stay at his house free. Since I would have to pay \$2.50 for meals in Hanover, I would not be spending much. More details later.

WK