

tuesday morning
(1934-05-08)
U-95 P 1/3

Dear Mother:-

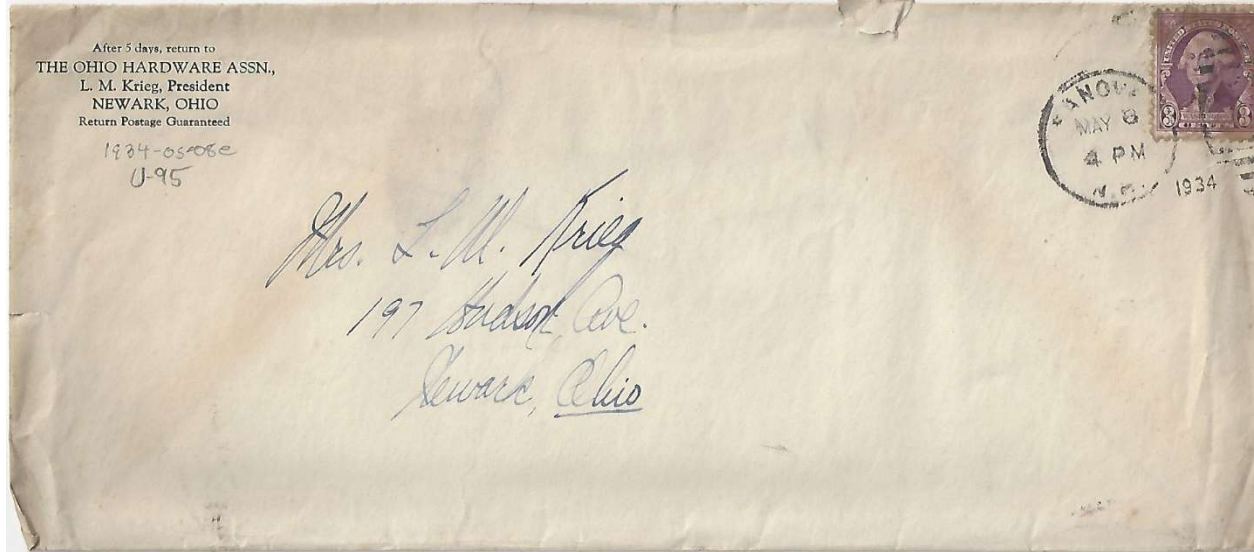
I hope you will excuse me for not having written sooner, but I have been fairly busy and there has been a lot to do. As you know, we had our house parties and Green Key Prom this past week ~~xxx~~ end. The parties as a whole were very successful, the drinking being moderate and only one person being killed. Our play went off well both nights, although Friday night it was somewhat marred by technical difficulties. We have a sophomore on our crew who is a 4. man. In the first scene of the play there were only three spots on, two of which were to be moved over to the other board at the end of the scene. Right in the middle of the scene this brilliant soph pulled out the plug for one of the spots and said, "Here, do you want this?" Of course the stage light went out and it looked very bad. I have myself done some very bad things on the light crew, and I have seen some very stupid things done, but pulling out a live spot in the middle of a scene is a new low. This same fellow two nights before screwed a 1000 watt lamp into the regular room light circuit. It never seemed to occur to him that ordinary circuits won't stand 1000 watts. Of course the fuse blew immediately and the stage crew had to change sets in the dark as far as the back stage area was concerned. Just a brightie! The second night he didn't work, and that probably saved the reputation of the light crew from further besmirching.

I had a very interesting time the other day in the fraternity house looking over some of the old papers that we have. Perhaps the most interesting are copies of the Psi U and Alpha Delt constitutions containing the meaning of the letters and everything except the grips,

U-95 p2/3

worse luck. The both of them were stolen from the mother chapters in Union College ~~xxx~~ by one of the fraternities there and then passed around to the various chapters. The Psi U constitution was the original draft made in the meeting 'way back when they only had two chapters. The Dartmouth chapter, founded in 1842, was about the fourth. At some time these documents were seen and copied by a Tri-Kap of the class of '51, and in about 1853 he sent his copies to the house. Naturally, even his copy is very valuable now, and it is yellow with age and falling to pieces. Fortunately, several years ago, some very industrious Tri-Kap copied both of them, so that if the original copies do fall apart we will still have them. Of course you won't tell anyone about this, as it might cause some trouble. There is a rumor that years ago we had the constitutions of some other houses and that some Tri-Kap handed them back in return for election to a Senior society. I do not believe this at all, for I have seen a letter from the man who procured the two for us, and he does not mention more than the two. There is no other letter from anyone mentioning other constitutions, so I doubt if there ever were any.

After I read the constitutions, I looked over an old register of Alumni published by the house in about 1879. I was casually looking over the addresses to see if there were many from Ohio when "Newark, Ohio" fairly jumped out at me. Can you imagine how surprised I was and how anxious to see who it was? It was Henri Duncan Woodbridge, class of '73! I looked up old records of meetings and found just when he was initiated and even a detailed record of how many meetings he attended each year he was here. However, I doubt



U-95 p3/3

if he took a very active part, though attending regularly, as I found no mention of his having delivered a speech, a thing which all the members were expected to do several times a year. Fraternities in those days were chiefly literary societies, performing a useful function now long since passed away. Perhaps that may explain why so many Dartmouth men in general and Tri-Kaps in particular have been outstanding as lawyers and judges. In compiling the '79 catalogue they wrote letters to all the alumni asking what "positions of trust or honor" they had held or were holding. One was Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court, another an Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court; there was a speaker for the Rhode Island legislature, a couple of men who were delegated to Republican National Conventions, and a man in the South Dakota legislature, etc. Two of the Pillsbury flour men were Tri-Kaps.

All in all it was a very interesting time I had looking over the old documents, and Francis Dane and I are going up Saturday afternoon to do some more historical research, although I am afraid I have seen the best already. Some day I am going to dive into the College Archives to try to trace some connection between Daniel Webster and the society. Webster's nephew was the first Primarius, incidentally. Well, when I see you again I will be able to talk over these things in more detail than is possible here. I must go to eat without rereading this letter, so please excuse the mistakes which must be very numerous. Give my love to all the folks. I absolutely insist that you and Daddy stop working so hard. It doesn't pay in the end and you know it.

Love to all,

