



# THE TRAVELER

Cornell University Chapter of Acacia Fraternity



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## Acacians Initiate Five In Fall Ceremonies



### New Members Include 3 Big Red Bandsmen

Sunday, November 22, saw five more Cornellians become proud wearers of the jeweled triangle. Last spring's pledge class was very pleased to see more than six months' pledge-ship come to an end.

The last event of initiation was a dinner in the house attended by our Chapter Adviser, Professor Wilbur Meserve; Professor Roy E. Clark '20; and Dr. Leland Spencer '21.

Dr. Spencer spoke, advising personal thought to construct a positive philosophy of life for the individual, governed by suitable goals. He emphasized the importance of education in leading a worthwhile life and brought out the potential of fraternities to aid the educational process as well as to develop well-rounded personalities in its members.

Our five new brothers represent as many schools here at Cornell. *Neil Francis Sharp '55*, is in the College of Arts and Sciences; *Donald Warren Payne '55*, is in the Agriculture college; and the other three initiates are engineers of the class of '56; *Richard Grant DoBell, M.E.*; *Lawrence Douglass Phillips, E.E.*; and *Lewis Richard Van Ostrand, C.E.*

Ithaca and music are the most common interests of these men. *Larry Phillips, Dick DoBell, and Don Payne* are all Ithacans. The other two are from opposite corners of the state. *Neil Sharp* coming from Mount Vernon and *Dick VanOstrand* from Cal- edonia.

In the field of music, Phillips is drum major of the Big Red Band, wielding the baton over clarinetist Payne and trombonist VanOstrand. DoBell sings bass in the Cornell Glee Club.

AUTUMN, 1952 INITIATES — Kneeling: Don Payne, Dick VanOstrand. Standing: Dick DoBell, Larry Phillips, Neil Sharp.

## Dr. Heuser Resigns Advisory Post; Prof. Wilber Meserve Fills Vacancy

Prof. Wilbur Meserve of the School of Electrical Engineering is our new chapter adviser. Prof. Meserve was initiated into the chapter in 1926. During his undergraduate he served the house as treasurer. Since then he has been a loyal supporter of the fraternity, active in corporation business, and quite a regular visitor to the house. His first official duty as adviser was to attend the National Conclave held at Chicago last August. He now attends all the chapter meetings, keeping a careful, but not domineering, eye on house activities.

Mrs. Meserve is also a familiar person to the brothers. Her marvelous ability in decorations and flower arrangement has often been available to

the chapter on formal occasions such as faculty teas. Mrs. Meserve's talent is known all over Ithaca, so we are very lucky to have her help.

Prof. Meserve succeeds Dr. Gustave Heuser of the Poultry Department as chapter adviser. Dr. Heuser, who had been adviser since the chapter's reactivation after World War II, resigned last spring in order to take his sabbatic leave from Cornell this year. Dr. Heuser's two sons, *Gustave, Jr.*, and *Arthur* have both been members of the Cornell chapter. We will all remember him as a good friend and a level-headed adviser. We hope to see him around the house in the future even though not on official duty.

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## THE TRAVELER

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Doug McIlroy . . . . . *Editor*

News and picture contributions are solicited at all times. Address all communications to the Editor, Acacia Fraternity, 318 Highland Road, Ithaca, New York.

### In Memoriam

*Loren Pettebone Shortz '33*, died May 12, 1952. Brother Shortz's home was in Trenton, N. J.

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### 14 Future Acacians

#### Pledged in Fall Class

The 1952 fall Pledge Class consists of 14 pledges — nine freshmen and five upperclassmen.

The Freshmen are: *William Arnold Beischer*, from Little Falls, N. Y.; *Thomas Howard Burrows*, Arts, our only midwest representative, from Elmhurst, Ill.; *Jason Ingalls Chick*, Metallurgical Engineering, a Claremont, N. H. man; *John Allan Cooper*, Agriculture, Westerlo, N. Y.; *Arthur John Gillett*, Agriculture, Carmel, N. Y.; *John Henry Hoare, Jr.*, Arts, from the racing town of Watkins Glen, N. Y.; *David Randall Holmes*, Arts, Ithaca; *Martin Eugen Offenberger*, Arts, Larchmont, N. Y.; and *Charles Robert Richmond*, from Taunton, Mass.

Our Sophomore pledges are: *Charles Edward Arden, Jr.*, Agriculture, from Ithaca; *Philip Edmund Baber, Jr.*, Agriculture, from Ausable Chasm, N. Y.; *Bion Walton McClellan*, from Cattaraugus, N. Y.; and *Vern A. Trickey*, Agriculture, from Canandaigua, N. Y.

*William Peter Donovan*, from Little Falls, N. Y., is in Mechanical Engineering and is our lone junior pledge.

Tom Burrows has been very active at Cornell as coxswain on the Freshmanman crew, candidate for Freshman Class Council and member of the Willard Straight Committee. Marty Offenberger also was a candidate for

## "Dear Alumni Brothers,"

### A Message and Progress Report

#### From the Venerable Dean . . .

by *Bob Baker*

In the last issue of "The Traveler" I discussed our efforts to bring the name of Acacia to a more significant position on the Cornell campus. As you remember I was able to report a very successful spring term.

The fall term thus far has fallen considerably short of last spring. I think that this is due to a lack of outside consciousness caused by the necessity of putting our major efforts toward internal problems. Since we are losing, through graduation, men over the course of the year, rushing was our first problem. At the end of the normal rushing period we had not yet attained the desired number of pledges, so we found it necessary to rush for two more weeks.

Thus four weeks of the term were consumed in rushing, and although the 14 pledges obtained were well worth the effort expended, these were four weeks that could not include any other important events.

Freshman Council and is engaged in activities with the campus radio station, Octagon, and Student Council.

Dave Holmes is on the Freshman soccer team and Jay Chick is on the Freshman track team. Phil Baber and John Hoare are in the Cornell band. John Cooper, also interested in music, is in the Glee Club. Vern Trickey is the first Mason pledge the Cornell chapter has had in quite a few years and is a welcome addition to the pledge class.

Pledge meetings are held every Monday evening at the same time the chapter meets and include oral and written examinations on pledge material.

The pledge policies on phone duty, wake-up procedures, and work sessions are the same as those formulated for the recently initiated pledge class with the responsibility for carrying out the tasks resting on the pledges themselves.

The football season was then in full swing, and the academic burdens were beginning to press, so save for a small party now and then, time was at a premium up to houseparty weekend.

We did manage to have a very nice homecoming party, however informal it may have been, and were indeed pleased at the number of alumni that found time to come back.

I must say in the remaining space that it was a very enlightening and pleasant experience to attend the 1952 conclave in Chicago. Although, unfortunately, I was the only member of the active chapter to attend, I sincerely believe the conclave was of great benefit to us, in that it enabled us to see just how well the Cornell chapter stacks up with some of our more distant neighbors.

While the main strength of Acacia supposedly lies in the mid-west, I found our chapter to compare favorably with all of those whose delegates I met.

We have instituted a big-brother policy with each pledge under the guidance of an active member. Thus it is easier for a pledge to obtain advice or aid in his studies.

In the coming weeks, the pledges will elect a president and start work on their pledge project. A big-brother—little-brother party has also been scheduled for the first Friday night after Thanksgiving vacation. These activities coupled with the normal house activities should serve to keep the pledges well occupied.

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### Five Initiated In Fall

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

These five new brothers are eager to go to work for the fraternity, especially in the matter of initiations. They seem most anxious to recoup their dignity. In fact in their exuberance over their new state as actives they immediately dunked initiation chairman *Marv Townsend* in a cold shower.

## Acacia's Notables On The Hill Include . . .

# Our Seven Bandsmen

Acacia has a right to be proud of its brothers in the Big Red band, for this unit, one of the finest in the East, is famous for its quick tempo and its original formations.

Not only does the band play at all home football games plus three away games, but it enlivens all home basketball games, track meets, pep rallies, and plays for the ROTC reviews in the spring.

This year the total number of men marching was reduced from one hundred to eighty, facilitating maneuvering and discipline, and easing the ever-present financial problems.

Let's look at the Acacians in the band—seven important men.

Behind the scenes is co-manager *Dick Davis*. In past years Dick marched in the band, but now his hands are full with administrative duties. He acts as right-hand man to the directors and drill sergeants, plans trips and formations, and does the innumerable small jobs necessary to keep the band running smoothly. Dick will graduate this June when he will enter the teaching profession.

The first man the crowd sees as the band marches onto Schoellkopf is *Larry Phillips*, head drum major. Larry stands six feet-two and makes an impressive sight leading the band through its paces. Newly initiated into Acacia, Larry is a sophomore in the EE school.

Marching in the number one position in the front row, playing a trombone, is *Jim Freeman*. All eighty men guide on Jim, so steady is the word for his marching. Jim is a Sophomore in the Arts school.

*Marv Townsend*, Arts '55, plays a sax and marches in the third rank. Marv was recently elected assistant to Manager Davis and will probably take over the manager's post in the next couple of years.

*Don Payne*, another new initiate, plays a clarinet. Don is in the Agriculture school, class of '55. Last year

he worked with Larry Phillips as assistant drum major.

A hot man on the trumpet is *Phil Baber*, one of our new pledges. Phil is a Sophomore in the Ag school.

New to both the band and Acacia is freshman *John Hoare*. John plays a French horn and is in the Arts college.

The Big Red band took three trips with the football team this year — Syracuse, Michigan, and Penn. By far the most outstanding was the Michigan trip. The group left Ithaca No-

The season was crowned by a turkey banquet held at the Penn-Stroud Hotel in Stroudsburg, Pa., enroute to the Penn game.

The football season over, all the men mentioned above step from gridiron to concert stage. The University Concert Band will play three campus concerts and will make about eight or nine concert trips.

Another newly initiated Acacian, *Dick VanOstrand*, CE '56, will take his place with the other brothers playing trombone in the Concert band.



**ACACIA BANDSMEN**—Kneeling: John Hoare, Marv Townsend, Don Payne. Standing: Dick Davis, Larry Phillips, Phil Baber.

ember 7 and arrived by Pullman in Detroit the following morning.

The Michigan band, one of the finest in the country, was a great challenge; but the boys came through in grand style. Probably the only Eastern band able to compete successfully in the Midwest, the Cornell Big Red was highly received.

The Acacia Big Redders were well entertained by the Michigan chapter as well as by Syracuse and Franklin.

*Phillips* switches from drum major to bassoonist, and *Davis* moves into the oboe section.

Music, as you might expect, bursts forth regularly from the living room here at 318 Highland ave. You'll find some band members grouped around the piano along with Icey Youngdahl on the guitar and DuBois, Baker, or Tetz at the piano. These men always perform at parties and other appropriate occasions.

## Pledge, Christmas Parties Highlight Social Season

The kick-off of the fall social season took place with the ending of formal rushing and the opening of the football season. As an escape from the humdrum life of coffee dates at Japes, Friday afternoons at Johnny's, and somewhat fruitless cheering at Schoellkopf (Cornell season record: 2-7) we contemplated a momentous social season.

Our first party followed Cornell's mournful sinking before the guns of Navy. A buffet supper at the house followed by a Cerebral Palsy Benefit Ball at Barton Hall, featuring the Mills brothers, helped to wash out the salty taste of defeat.

Quiet dancing and refreshments at the house rounded out the evening. Acting social chairman *Scott DePalma* did a fine job decorating the recreation room in a theme fitting the weekend.

The social program got a shot in the arm with the election of a new Junior Dean, *Don DuBois*. His first success was a hayride party, October 18. The evening began with the tapping of a half of beer along with round and square dancing at Bethel Grove.

Our singing troupe of twenty couples then piled aboard for a breezy but cheerful hayride out Etna way. The evening ended before a warm fire crackling in the Acacia hearth. Our thanks go to Earl and Evvie Ginter and to Mac and Marge DeVesty who chaperoned our first two parties.

The Pledge class displayed their creative genius in the "Emehton Escape" party, October 25. Vic dancing in the basement opened the party.

Lunch and other refreshments were served followed by live musical entertainment by *Icey Youngdahl*, *Bob Baker*, *Jim Freeman*, and *Phil Baber* who were joined by Duke Vicks from Sig Ep.

The main theme (read "emehton" backwards for a clue) of the party was a deep secret to all but the pledges.

Each couple was led to mystic se-

## The Lowdown - What Houseparty Really Is!

by *Scott DePalma, ME '54*

Events took on a French air here at Cornell during the weekend of November 14, 15, and 16, when Cornellians turned out en masse to the familiar cry of "PARTY!", the theme this year being "C'est la Vie."

Between the university planned functions and Acacia's own houseparty plans, few dull moments were recognized during the three-day smash.

On Friday of the weekend, dates began arriving, and settling in the pre-arranged quarters which we had so spotlessly prepared. (Many rooms had been collecting dust ever since rush week in September).

Chaperones Marge and Paul Warner drove in from Cortland Friday evening just in time for supper. That evening, most of the crowd attended the Cornell Men's Glee Club Concert.

The concert served as a good front while a select few adjourned with their dates to Bethel Grove, a local pavilion, to make the last frantic adjustment of the decorations for the costume party coming up.

All was under control by the time the rest arrived in all degrees of dress from a coat of armor to a most alluring French bar-flea. They were greeted by undeniably superlative decorations and seventy-two quarts of

ance room to communicate with the spirits of the dark. The spirits had wired a chair and had availed themselves of a Polaroid Land camera to record the shocking results — most amusing.

Earl and Evvie Ginter together with Professor and Mrs. Wilbur Meserve chaperoned the party.

The usual fall highlight, houseparty weekend, is covered in another article. Also on the calendar were the traditional Christmas champagne party and dance held in the Blue Room of the Chanticleer, as well as the Christmas faculty-alumni tea and the party for underprivileged children.

stump-lifters, a smooth little concoction of vodka, gin, and Tom Collins mix.

Through the night of compound-ing revelry, noise was heard from Youngdahl's guitar, Baker's piano, and pledge Baber's trumpet. Burnett stalked around making like Groucho, and most convincingly at that.

The last couples left the hall very wisely at about four a.m. in order to store up a couple of hours sleep for the coming twenty-four blast.

The first event after Saturday morning classes (groggily attended, or groggily cut) was the Cornell-Dartmouth football game from which Cornell came up smelling like a rose, taking the game 13-7. We weren't opposed to Cornell's success, but we did get the impression somebody lucked out.

After post-game cocktails came time out for dinner and solid refreshments. Archie perpetuated a heavenly bit of cuisine. Meals were run off in shifts to squeeze in the huge crowd of thirty-five couples.

Woody Herman's "Third Herd" played for the big dance at Barton Hall. It was generally conceded that the Herman aggregation was outstanding among those that have been at Cornell in recent years; and in spite of the extra large dance floor, it was universally agreed that the joint was crowded.

Again the Acacia seating block featured stumplifters for the peasants, with a few flush individualists bringing their own whiskey sours. It was Acacia's luck to draw the smallest seating block in the hall, but it had the saving grace of being next to the bandstand; Woody himself came down to mingle.

A resume of the houseparty should not fail to include the formal dance, the four Pi Phis from the University of Connecticut who distinguished themselves for their partying ability, and that certain redhead who was convinced that not one, but all Acacias were very attractive.