THE NEW HOME OF
Pi Kappa Alpha
ALPHA XI CHAPTER
... and for the overflow or buffet is this auxiliary dining room with hand carved built-in buffet, another importation designed especially for the house.

property faces three streets: Jefferson, Brookline and Wentworth Avenues. The mansion upon the property was formerly the George B. Cox home which in 1939 his widow willed to the Union Bethel as a home for girls. After using it for this purpose for about nine years, the Bethel decided to sell and Southland Hall Association negotiated to purchase it for $45,000.
Another of the showplaces of the house . . . this solarium entirely enclosed in glass. The solarium may be opened to form one continuous room with the dining room to increase facilities for dining or social activities.

The newly purchased property is ideal for fraternity purposes. It is near the University, facing Burnet Woods in an exclusive residential neighborhood. The lot is large and beautifully landscaped. There is ample parking space in the surrounding streets. The house was built about the turn of the century at the time when Cox was a prominent political figure.
Of course places for study and privacy have not been neglected. Shown here is one of the study bedrooms located on the second floor.

in Cincinnati. No expense was spared in its construction and to date it has been maintained in first-class condition. When the Bethel inherited it, some remodeling was done to make more suitable accommodations. It has been estimated that to duplicate the house and its garage, the cost would be more than four or five times the present purchase price.
The house and garage are constructed of Indiana Bedford Limestone. The spacious interior is finished in hard woods, with beautiful mantelpieces and chandeliers. Most of the decorating is still the original of a type not possible to be reproduced today. The first floor contains a large center hall with stairway, a spacious living room, a music room, two dining rooms, a glass enclosed solarium, quarters for the house mother, kitchen and pantry space. The basement contains a laundry, quarters for a houseman, a furnace room and a large enclosed space adaptable for recreation activities. The second and third floor contain rooms well arranged for study and dormitory purposes. There is a three room apartment on the second floor of the garage.

The accompanying plans and photographs will give a better idea than words of this wonderful new home for Alpha Xi. When the Chapter becomes established in the house, its active and alumni members as well as the Fraternity at large will indeed have reason for being justly proud.
Pi Kappa Alpha

On the night of May 30, 1909, Epsilon Gamma Chi, the forerunner of Alpha Xi Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha came into existence.

As was the custom of all fraternities at the University of Cincinnati at that time, the new local established headquarters downtown, in rooms at the Palace Hotel. These quarters were occupied during the school terms from 1902 to 1912.

The local fraternity had not been in existence a year before it was approached by Pi Kappa Alpha as a prospect for the establishment of a chapter at the University of Cincinnati. This connection resulted from two facts. Pi Kappa Alpha up to that time had confined its chapters to southern colleges and only shortly before had decided upon a policy of expansion. Then there was at that time a member of Pi Kappa Alpha from Georgetown University, Kentucky, who was working for his Masters Degree at the University of Cincinnati. It was through this Pi, Roy Beckett, that the local was persuaded to petition Pi Kappa Alpha. Soon after investigation by the national office the charter establishing Alpha Xi Chapter was granted. It was on May 21, 1910 that the sixteen members of the local were initiated into Pi Kappa Alpha.

Alpha Xi Chapter immediately began a sturdy development. To give it better legal standing in order to hold property and to contract and pay debts Southland Hall Association, a corporation not for profit was formed under the Laws of the State of Ohio, on August 11, 1911. All those initiated into Alpha Xi Chapter become members of Southland Hall Association, subscribe to a share of stock and pay for same by signing notes payable over a period of years. The guiding spirit in this plan of incorporation was Herbert Shaffer.

At the end of the college year of 1912 a seven room house was rented on Straight Street, close to the University Campus. This was furnished after a fashion and served as the Chapter House for about one year, when fraternity headquarters were again established at the Palace Hotel. This move was not a backward step but was made in the interest of economy due to plans for the building of a chapter house on Calhoun Street, directly opposite the present Law College building. Mrs. Erwin Straehley, Sr., the mother of two of the members had assisted in financing the purchase of the lot.
This is your first view as you enter Alpha Xi's new home... a luxurious reception hall that expresses a warm feeling of welcome and foretells the beauty to be found throughout the house.

Building plans were suddenly abandoned however when it was found that the house at 2437 Clifton Avenue was on the market. This was the Hoffmeister homestead in excellent condition and ideally suited for the purposes of a chapter house. By trading in the Calhoun Street lot and with further assistance from Mrs. Straehley, this place was purchased for $10,500. Alpha Xi Chapter took possession January 6, 1914. Furniture
Located at the end of the reception hall is this exquisite staircase with hand carved newel posts. These posts were designed and executed in Europe and are excellent examples of Old World art.

was purchased and everything made ready for open house on Washington's Birthday of the same year. The Mothers Club came into being at this time and then as now rendered invaluable service in donating and replacing needed furnishings and supplies and in supervising housekeeping and cleaning activities.

During the lean financial years of the depression, Southland Hall
The main sitting room located to the left of the reception hall... spacious and beautifully appointed.

Association was not only able to meet its financial obligations but also to reduce its indebtedness from time to time. At the outbreak of World War II all the active members of Alpha Xi Chapter were called into military service, leaving the Chapter House vacant. To protect the property as well as to secure some income, Southland Hall Association rented the house to a sorority for the duration of the war. At the close of hostilities
To the right of the reception hall is the music room. This room was designed to provide the best possible acoustics.

a sufficient number of men returned to the campus to reestablish the Chapter and it again took over the operation of the house.

For some time there had been sporadic agitation among the active and alumnal members of Alpha Xi for the securing of a new home. After the war with the reactivation of the Chapter this idea was pursued and the entire area within a reasonable distance of the University was searched for
possible building sites or suitable houses. Neither seemed available so a policy of watchful waiting was adopted in the hope that something would turn up. In the meantime plans were made to campaign for funds among the alumni in order to be prepared to purchase when the opportunity came.

This came very shortly in the opportunity to purchase the property situated opposite the Jefferson Avenue entrance to Burnet Woods. This