

THE SHANT—Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity built this "temple" or meeting house in an open field in 1878. Now in the middle of a commercial area, the building is still used for chapter meetings, although members don't march down as they used to.

Delta Kappa Epsilon 'Shant' Oldest Building in State Area

The oldest building in the present State Street area is "the Shant," the temple and official meeting hall of the Centrum Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon.

Formerly standing isolated and a significant landmark of the area, "The Shant" now is surrounded by a variety of stores, garages, apartments, and alleys. However obscured by the newer buildings, this century-old structure is an unusual and spectacular sight to passersby on East William.

Plain Facade

One is struck by the basically plain facade of the warm brick walls, the sense of mass and solidity broken only by the high arched window and the entranceway protected by a large iron gate.

The feeling of impenetrability is further enhanced by the thick brick wall and wooden gate surrounding the small courtyard which lies in front of the Deke meeting place. There are no other windows to "the Shant," with the exception of a large stained glass sliding street light at the top. The total effect is one of darkness and mystery.

The Dekes have had a separate chapter meeting hall since their inception on this campus in 1855. The previous halls, one located over an establishment known only as "Lola's", the other an old Masonic hall, had been rented or leased. It was not until 1871 that the Dekes considered building a temple of their own.

Field Purchased

In 1872 a tract of land in the middle of a large field was purchased. In 1878 the cornerstone was laid and at commencement in 1879 the Dekes appropriately dedicated "the Shant".

Now, to the already established traditions of the fraternity were added the midnight marches of the brotherhood to their new temple. The marches began at the chapter house located at 619 S. State Street where the Law Quad now stands.

The Dekes, garbed in hooded robes and carrying torches, would march to "the Shant" to hold their weekly Saturday night meetings, as they still do, without the march.

"The Shant" housed a large collection of books and records donated through the years by alumni and friends. Prior to World War II, a fire destroyed part of this library. The remaining volumes are now a part of the University Archives and are accessible only to the Deke faculty advisor and the chapter president.

FROM JOE'S TO THE PARROT:

Prohibition Brought Student 'Hangouts' Up to Campus

Prohibition brought great changes to State Street.

It withered up the old drinking places and scattered the students to many dark and now forgotten places. Never again would the entire student body have one or two places where they could all gather.

Sobriety also brought the coffee cup and the more serious conversations which brewed over it. The world grew more serious in those years and the students became more private. However, student life in these years did center on State Street and many of the old "hangouts" linger in University memories.

Jolly's

One of the more popular student hangouts on State Street was the Jolly. It was run by Richard F. Jolly who was born in Ann Arbor of immigrant parents. About 1896 he opened his restaurant, cigar and tobacco store.

A booklet entitled, "Ann Arbor Today," 1908, relates that "for fifteen years, Jolly's has been one of the lunch stands on State Street that met every demand. They serve short orders only and have a good soda fountain, fine cigars, and a confectionary department.

"In the bustle and rush of college life, this is the starting and finishing point," the booklet stated.

Largest Trade

Samuel Beakes's Washtenaw County, states that Jolly's "has the largest trade of the kind among the students of the University. A liberal patronage is accorded him because of his earnest desire to please his patrons and the excellent service he renders to the public."

Another hangout was Housten Brothers Billiard Hall, stretching from Warner's to Vilz's. It provided billiards and talk on the first floor and bowling on the second. Until the Michigan Union was built during the first World War it was a major State Street hangout but billiards in the Union brought its demise.

The major character of the place was set by the athletes and here was the birthplace of the "arid graphs." Before the days of radio a direct wire was set up on the away football game Saturdays.

In bad weather the receiver would be set up in Houston's. In good weather great graphs would be set up on Ferry Field. In any case, each play would be re-enacted on the graphs and the score posted for all to see.

Another "hangout" that changed clientele but was part of the State Street scene for over 30 years was the Parrot, on the site of the present Chaucer House. Originally owned by A. H. Heald, the Parrot featured dancing and music nightly and advertised in 1927 as "the place where campus spirit dominates."

"The year 1938 was a memorable one for the Parrot.

Stuart Churchill

It was then an up and coming orchestra leader, Fred Waring, came to hear a young tenor named Stuart Churchill who sang for his meals there. Since that time the voice of Churchill has always been accompanied by the strains of the Waring orchestra.

Also in that year the Parrot suffered a fire which put it out of business for two to three weeks. Since that time except for minor renovations it continued to serve the students until 1960.

A writer in the Michigan Alumnus in 1954 made a point of mentioning that if a student could not be found anywhere else in the University, to look in the Parrot.

'Parrot Croaks'

However, in the fall of 1960 "The Michigan Daily" carried a small editorial entitled "Parrot Croaks." It read: "A part of the University passed away this summer. It didn't die with a screech. It didn't rattle. University feathers but it's gone.

The Parrot, where coffee was cheap but talk was cheaper, is no longer detouring State Street traffic through its blue door.

"No more food to friends of the waiters, no more coffee for the athletes and sundaes for the coeds. At least not at the Parrot, for where else can one have coffee while watching friends go to 10, 11, 1 o'clock classes? A landmark has passed. Many will miss it."

A few others that are vivid in State Street memories are Dad Skinner's and Stoffet's College Inn. Dad Skinner's sold Michigan decals, pennants and other souvenirs to parents and freshmen until the rush of World War I engulfed it.

Stoffet's College Inn moved up on State Street from Liberty around World War I and fed many a University student their three meals during their sojourn in Ann Arbor.

In those days when the majority of students lived in rooming houses and ate out, these places were more than restaurants, they were convivial second homes.

There are many other places on State Street that filled the same function for many generations of students and there will be many more to come. For State Street transients will be part of student life for as long as the University exists.

Saffell-Bush Sets 'First'

State Street has contributed many "firsts" to merchandising in the state and Saffell-Bush clothier store has contributed its share.

They organized the concept of a display in the door window in the evenings and the idea received national writeups. They installed one of the first pegged hardwood floors in a store in 1951 and then had the courage to cover them with oriental rugs. They continue in their tradition of quality and progressiveness.

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Merchants Note Change

Today's student is more a young adult than the typical "student" of yesteryear, according to the results of a survey of State Street merchants.

He is more serious and more of a student than his predecessor. This has been attributed to the higher academic standards of the University as well as changing times.

He is generally less frivolous with his money and although is fashion conscious (probably due to mass media) does not go in for "fads" as much as he used to.

However, students are delightfully the same in their enthusiasm and ability to keep merchants on their toes. It is agreed. Also their insistence on quality has not changed through the years.

The greatest change noticed? "They have grown younger," an old resident said.

Oldest Store

Bay's Jewelry Store is the oldest store in the Arcade. It made its quarters there in 1916 and has offered fine jewelry and engagement and wedding bands to the students and townspeople ever since.

UNIQUE

Curbstone Wise Men

The University has never been completely without its own unique characters, even in the early part of the century.

During this time, two men would show up on State Street each spring. They would set up their stands and begin to harangue the students along the lines of the present "Hide Park."

These curbside philosophers became as much an institution as the "nap nights" or the freshmen getting thrown into the mudhole behind the present Jacobson's.

"Railroad Jack" claimed to be a memory expert and could not be stumped on dates by even the greatest professors. In a more philosophical vein, Tom Lovell would engage the students in discussion, any discussion, somewhat as one would picture Socrates doing.

Knitters Plan Holiday Gifts In Early Fall

The unique thing about the Knit Shop in the Arcade is that its sales slack off when the Christmas rush is just beginning.

Any women planning to knit Christmas presents start long before the average shopper takes her books and checkbook in hand. However, there is still time to knit up small items—mittens, scarves, caps—in time for Santa Claus.

The Shop, owned and operated by Mrs. Miriam Murray, was begun in 1928 and carries the widest stock of needlepoint and yarns in the Midwest. They generally make over 100 sales a day to people—out of state buyers, as well as townspeople and students.

They carry anything in yarn work, including rug making, needle point, and knitting.

Although they do not teach the basics, they explain patterns and send semi-finished work out for finishing. For example, they send needlepoint rugs to New York for bandits.

Mrs. Murray's husband sits to the fireplace in the store, treating customers to pleasant conversation, babysitting with the children of customers and giving pointers on better knitting. He is as much as a landmark to the present arcade as is the arcade itself.

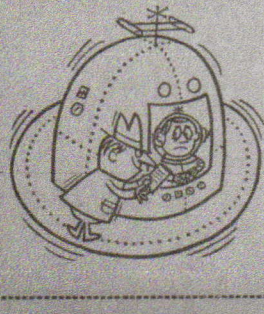
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FOLLETT'S

Just a few suggestions from the New York Times bestseller list to choose from:

FICTION		
SEVEN DAYS IN MAY	Knebel and Bailey	4.95
A SHADE OF DIFFERENCE	Drury	6.95
FAIL-SAFE	Burdick and Wheeler	4.95
WHERE LOVE HAS GONE	Robbins	4.95
SHIP OF FOOLS	Porter	6.50
GENERAL		
TRAVELS WITH CHARLEY	Steinbeck	4.95
SILENT SPRING	Carson	5.00
O YE JIGS AND JULEPS	Hurson	2.50
THE ROTHSCHILDS	Morton	5.95
MY LIFE IN COURT	Nizer	5.95

and thousands of others to choose from

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