

BIOGRAPHIES OF STATE FOUNDERS

ALPHA SIGMA STATE

WASHINGTON

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

1941

Prepared by
Alpha Chapter
Tacoma
1963

Olive Geddes
Inez Moore
Mildred Moyer

W A S H I N G T O N

ALPHA SIGMA STATE FOUNDERS

Mrs. Eva Anderson

Miss Bessie Bankhead

Mrs. Ollie Cleveland

Miss Dessie May Dunagan

Mrs. Helen Grotjohan

Miss Lila Hunter

Mrs. Mary Bond Lash

Miss Alberta McDonnell

Miss Florence Peterson

Miss Elizabeth Prior

Miss Irene Reither

Miss Edna Sterling

Miss Nan K. Wiley

EVA GREENSLIT ANDERSON

Alpha Sigma State Founder

Eva G. Anderson was born in Nebraska in 1889. She holds a B.A. degree from Nebraska Wesleyan, M.A. and Ph.D., University of Washington, and studied at Columbia University. She came to Washington in 1912.

She has served her state effectively in several capacities:

Professional experience: Head of English Department, Girls' Adviser, Wenatchee High School; Superintendent, Waterville schools; Superintendent of Schools, Douglas County; Instructor, University of Oregon; State Supervisor of Adult Education in Washington State.

Professional service: Regent, U.ofW.; President of WEA; Vice-president of Inland Empire Education Association; NW Regional Director for NEA Adult Education; Delegate to the World Conference of Educators, Edinburg, 1925.

Political service: twelve years as State Representative from Chelan County where she served on many important committees.

Doctor Anderson has been an active member of the following organizations: American Pen Women, Delta Kappa Gamma, Pi Lambda Theta, Phi Delta Mu, Alpha Iota, American Association of University Women, and Methodist Church.

Zeta Chapter sent the following tribute with a \$100 contribution for the new Delta Kappa Gamma International headquarters in the name of Eva Greenslit Anderson:

"Teacher who has awakened and inspired students
Educator who has led associates to a greater realization of service
Lecturer with wit, writer with sympathy
Founder of Alpha Sigma State and honored charter member of Zeta Chapter."

Eva Anderson is probably best known for her many books on the Northwest for children: "Dog Team Doctor," reprinted in French for a doctor's series of various lands; "Chief Seattle," named by U.S. Department of Interior as one of ten outstanding books about Indians, "Child's Story of Washington;" "Oregon Stories" (with Dean Collins); "Rails over the Cascades;" "George Adams, Indian Legislator;" "The Wenatchee Kid" and many biographies.

She has traveled widely in the United States, Canada, Europe, Hawaii, Asia, Aegean Islands, Holy Land, Africa, and a World tour in 1962.

She has shared her travels in the following tour books: "Touring Ten Countries of Europe," 1957; "Inside-Outside the Iron Curtain," 1958; "Inside-Outside Africa," 1960; and "Round the World," 1962.

During 1962-1963, she had published in the Wenatchee Daily World 112 different stories with pictures of her Round the World Trip. This year she completed the editing of them for book form.

Doctor Anderson has received many awards--Phi Delta Nu, national award in the field of authorship, 1962; American Association for State and Local History award for preserving regional and state history, 1954. Washington State Woman of Achievement in 1949, and Nebraska Wesleyan Alumni Award, 1959. She is listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who of American Women, Who's Who in Western States, Who's Who in State of Washington.

She has just completed (1963) an assignment as chairman of Chelan County Development Council's group study on education, labor and human resources.

Come November, 1963, she will become a resident of Bayview Manor, Seattle.

Bessie W. Bankhead

Alpha Sigma State Founder

Bessie Bankhead was born in Weatherford, Texas. She received her early education in Weatherford. At the age of ten she was enrolled in a private school of physical culture, poise and dramatics. She says she never ceased to use these arts in her daily work. She graduated from Weatherford High School, and received her B.A. and M.A. degrees from Rice University. She majored in foreign languages and was cited with "special honours in German."

While visiting her sister in Seattle, she entered the University of Washington for post graduate work.

She taught at Bellingham High School, was head of the foreign language department in Bellingham Normal, now Western Washington State College. Then she went to Seattle where she was assigned to foreign language department of Broadway High School. French, German, Latin, Spanish and Italian were among the subjects she taught, as well as coaching music, drama and opera. For many years she served as cadet critic teacher for the University of Washington.

Miss Bankhead was sent by the Seattle School Board to work with the Stanford Language Arts Investigation Group--1937-1940. During the summers of 1938 and 1939 she was a resident research assistant for the Seattle School Board at Stanford. Much of her material was used in one of the Group's books.

She was assigned to Meany Junior High in 1946 to introduce the study of Latin and Spanish, to establish a curriculum for foreign languages, and to give demonstration classes for Seattle teachers and Stanford investigators. Later she returned to high school for the remainder of her teaching career.

Bessie has long been an active participant in AAUW; in United Nations; in the First Presbyterian Church; and in the Eastern Star. During World War II she was a member of the Seattle Concert Band. Since retirement she has continued her interest in the professional educational organizations.

Bessie Bankhead was one of the Founders of Alpha Sigma State, as well as of Omicron Chapter, Seattle. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma on Progress; first vice president of Alpha Sigma State as well as state membership and program chairman. She also served as general chairman for the first convention of Alpha Sigma State, and as general chairman of arrangements for the first Northwest regional. In 1944, she received a "special award of appreciation for unselfish, efficient, and outstanding service in the organization of the State of Washington."

As a member of Beta Chapter, Seattle, she served in many capacities as an officer and committee chairman. She and Edna Sterling co-authored "Why I Like Delta Kappa Gamma." It was used in Beta's organization and was published in the National Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin. While she was Pioneer Women chairman, she compiled the history of Adelaide L. Pollock. She also had a figurine made of Miss Pollock. Both were presented at local and state programs. As chairman of the Ways and Means Committee she helped produce a fashion show at I. Magnin's, netting nearly \$400 for the services fund.

Bessie retired from teaching in 1955 to enjoy her new home in Seattle and pursue her many cultural and civic activities. She joined the North End Flower Club to further pursue her interests in gardening, flower arranging and corsage craft. She says that "to date, my 38 ribbons, most of them blue, indicate progress and gives me some satisfaction."

Olive Ernisce Cleveland

Alpha Sigma State Founder

Olive Ernisce Cleveland was born in Wisconsin on December 25, 1889.

She attended the State Normal School in Superior, Wisconsin for four years where she received her credentials for teaching. Later she had special training at the Flaaten Conservatory of Music in Duluth, Minnesota. She took additional training in this field at schools in Wisconsin.

Ollie Cleveland came to Washington in 1923, and began her teaching in this state at Dayton in Mason County. She taught at Mid-Skokomish and at Hoodsport in Mason County and at the Griffen School in Thurston County. She taught in the Shelton Junior High School from 1943-1951. Her teaching field was dramatics and creative writing.

She helped to write and develop the Forest Festival, an annual pageant presented in Shelton. It has become famous for its interesting presentation of forest lore.

Olive was one of the Founders of Alpha Sigma State and co-founder of Iota Chapter of which she was an honored member. She was the first treasurer of Alpha Sigma State.

Her professional standards were high. She was president of the Mason County Teachers' Association, and member of the Washington Education Association and of the National Education Association.

Other organizations with which Olive was affiliated and in which she actively participated were the Business and Professional Women's Club, Eastern Star Lodge, and Zonta International.

Olive Cleveland died in 1951, in Shelton.

Dessie May Dunagan

Alpha Sigma State Founder

Dessie May Dunagan is truly a native of Washington. She was born in Ferndale in 1893 and still lives on the same farm founded by her parents 72 years ago.

Dessie May was graduated from the Bellingham High School, the Bellingham Normal, she received degrees from Linfield College and the University of Washington. She has done graduate study at the U of W, Stanford, and at Columbia University where she completed her academic work for a doctorate.

She began her teaching career at the age of 18. In this first year she taught 71 first graders. She says "although I love children at that age, my desire for teaching beginners ended there."

Before graduation from college, she taught in the intermediate grades, then was principal of an elementary school for five years. The last 30 years of her teaching experience was in the Ferndale High School, where she was Head of the English Department, taught Latin for the last sixteen years, Librarian, Dean of Girls, dramatics coach, and class adviser. She says in spite of her heavy schedule she was blessed with good health and never missed a day of school throughout her entire teaching career.

Dessie May has been an active participant in professional associations. She is a life member of NEA and served on the Committee of Ethical Standards. She served four years as member of the Board of Directors of WEA. She served ten years as secretary of the Whatcom County Unit of WEA. She served as first president of the Ferndale School District Unit of WEA. She has also been active in P T A, she organized three associations, and served as president of two of them and was on many committees.

Dessie May was one of the founders of Alpha Sigma State for Delta Kappa Gamma. She was the first state parliamentarian; first president of Lambda Chapter two terms, and she has occupied the majority of the offices and served on most of the committees of Lambda Chapter.

She says "One of the bright spots in my 'book of memory' is to have been personally acquainted with our beloved Dr. Annie Webb Blanton, whose life was an inspiration to so many.

Other affiliations include membership in the Bellingham Chapter of AAUW; Past Worthy Matron of Ferndale Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star; and has been active in the First Baptist Church of Ferndale, serving as Sunday School superintendent, vice-president of the Baptist Young People of Washington, as well as a member of the State Board of Religious Education for the Washington Convention.

Travelling is one of her hobbies. Her motto is "See America First." Thus far her travels have included 46 states and several provinces of Canada.

Her father was a pioneer school teacher in this county, and as she is a member of a family of teachers, she became greatly interested in the history of the early-day schools of Whatcom County. In 1958 she began research in the field of "Pioneer Education in Whatcom County." It has been time-consuming, she says, "although simply fascinating."

Dessie May concludes "How happy I shall be when the thorough remodeling job of my home is completed, as well as the construction of a three-bedroom home for my tenants--the reconstruction has covered three long years."

In 1961, Ferndale honored her for outstanding service to the community.

Helen Williams Grotjohan

Alpha Sigma State Founder

Helen Williams Grotjohan was born on November 9, 1909 on the Rainier National Reserve. She grew up in Eatonville, Washington, attending both elementary and high schools there.

After graduation from high school, Helen attended Western Washington College of Education in Bellingham where she received her degree. Later she attended summer sessions at the University of Washington, and still later at the University of Hawaii.

Helen taught in many areas of the Olympic Peninsula and the Mt. Rainier area including Randle, Packwood, Adna, Bucoda, Forks, and Bremerton, later joining the faculty of James Madison Junior High School in Seattle just before World War II broke out.

When the war started, Helen joined the Women's Army Corps and was sent to the Pentagon in Washington D.C. where she was trained in signal corps work and cryptography.

Helen's first assignment after her training was in the Orient where she was in charge of the code room of the Consulate General in Shanghai, China under the State Department of Foreign Service. She worked here for two years.

In 1947, Helen was married to Mr. Grotjohan who was an officer in the State Department Diplomatic Corps. Together they worked in Shanghai, Bangkok, Korea, Japan, Asuncion and Venezuela. When Mr. Grojohan passed away in 1959 in Washington D.C. Helen moved to Hawaii where she now makes her home.

Helen was one of the founders of Alpha Sigma State and a member of Beta Chapter when it was first installed. When she moved to Hawaii, she transferred her membership to Delta Chapter there. She teaches in the Punahou School in Honolulu at the present time.

Lila A. Hunter

Alpha Sigma State Founder

Lila A. Hunter was born September 5, 1891, in Minnesota. At the age of ten, Lila and her family moved to Seattle. She graduated from Broadway High School in 1908--this was the last class to graduate all Seattle students in one group, Lincoln High School opened that fall. "Incidentally," says Lila, "our class has held reunions every five years since that day, the last one was in 1958. It included many prominent Seattle men and women, a Catholic priest and only one in the penitentiary." She is a graduate of the University of Washington.

Lila began her teaching career in the Hartline, Washington district in 1912. The next year she transferred to Kapowsin where she taught eight high school classes, girls' gymnasium and music from the first grade up. For the music she says she was woefully unprepared. In 1916, she entered the Seattle system at Franklin High School, teaching there in the English and Latin Departments until she retired in 1956.

Her creative writing classes produced students who have since made names for themselves in the field of journalism. Among them are Emmet Watson and Jack Jarvis of the Post Intelligencer; Phil Foisie on the International desk of the Washington Post, and Jack Foisie of the San Francisco Chronicle, who won a Nieman scholarship and is an outstanding journalist.

Lila was indefatigable in her work especially for the betterment of teachers' salaries. During World War I, her initiation into the teachers' movements was the fight to remove the differential in the salaries between men and women. At this time Seattle was paying men \$25 more a month.

In 1928, when a local of the American Federation of Teachers was formed, she was elected vice-president. She served three years as president of the Seattle High School Teachers' League during the depression. In 1938, she became president of the State Federation; she served for eight years as regional vice-president and as a member of the national board. She attended meetings during summer and Christmas vacations.

In Delta Kappa Gamma she was chosen as one of the founders of Alpha Sigma State. She was a co-founder of Beta Chapter and has continued as a Beta member. She also founded Alpha Delta Chapter.

In 1944, Lila and her adopted daughter took two children to rear, both are now married and have children of their own.

Lila Hunter is active in the Episcopal Church, serving as secretary of two Guilds, treasurer for the Women of the Highlands Parish, on the Bishop's Committee, and a member of the choir. Politics provide another interest--she serves on the Democratic precinct committee.

Lila retired in 1956. She lives in Edmonds with her adopted daughter, a teacher in Seattle. She enjoys working in the yard of their new home. She says "By using some caution I am living a very satisfactory and an active life."

MARY BOND LASH

Alpha Sigma State Founder

Mary Bond was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1892. The family moved to Bellingham, Washington where she received all of her elementary and high school education. She entered Bellingham Normal in 1913 and there received her early training in teaching. Later she returned to the Normal, which had now changed to Western Washington College of Education. She has the honor of being the first woman to receive a B.A. in Education at Western Washington College of Education in 1933. Later, Mary served as alumni president for several years.

During the next several years Mary continued her education at summer sessions. In 1936, 1937, and 1938 she attended the University of Washington. During other summers she attended college at Colorado State Teachers' College in Greeley, Colorado; Reed College, Oregon; Stanford University, California; Northwestern University, Illinois; and Teachers' College, New York. She took full-time classwork in addition to working outside the entire time she attended college.

Mary Bond Lash's teaching experience was all in the Bellingham School system. For several years before retiring, she taught social science and language arts at the Whatcom Junior High School.

All during her teaching career, Mary was an active participant in professional organizations. Between 1920-41 she held every chairmanship and every office, except treasurer, in the Bellingham Classroom Teachers' League. In the Washington Education Association she served on Committees of Approved Schools and sponsored patriotic essays. She is well remembered for her untiring efforts to improve the State Teachers Retirement movement in Washington.

She became much interested in the state and national classroom teachers department. She fought vigorously for its recognition in this state and was elected as the first president of the Washington Department of Classroom Teachers. Later she served as the Northwest Regional Director of Classroom Teachers of the N.E.A. Even in retirement, Mary does not neglect her professional life. She is now an active worker in the local Retired Teachers' Association.

Mrs. Lash has always been interested in religious organizations. She worked actively in the Bellingham Young Women's Christian Association. She is a member of the Methodist Church. She was honored by being awarded a life membership in the Woman's Society of Christian Service. She was superintendent of the Junior High School Department in the Sunday School.

Mary is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was on the Board of the Whatcom Chapter and served also as historian. The American Red Cross is another of her interests. She was Chairman of the Lummi Chapter and served on the Junior Red Cross Committee.

Mary was one of the Founders of Alpha Sigma State. She was the first Vice President and later Parliamentarian of Alpha Sigma State. She helped to found Lambda Chapter and has continued her membership in that chapter.

Mary Bond Lash retired a few years ago but has continued an active life.

Alberta McDonnell

Alpha Sigma State Founder

Alberta McDonnell was born in Nebraska in 1879. Her family moved to Tacoma when Alberta was a small child. Here she completed her elementary and high school education. She received a diploma from Ellensburg State Normal, later attending Vassar, Stanford and was graduated from the University of Michigan. She was recognized for her unusual scholastic ability. She spent one delightful summer at Breadloaf Writers School. She had a decided literary talent but was always too busy to do the writing she longed to do.

She began her teaching career in the rural schools of Port Orchard and Enumclaw. After graduation from Michigan, she taught for three years at the State Normal School at Ellensburg, then in the high schools at Yakima and Tacoma. In the fall in 1914, she transferred from Stadium High School to the new Lincoln High School. She was soon appointed Head of the English Department, which position she held until her death in 1943. She was a master teacher and inspired her students to be creative writers and thinkers.

In organization work, Alberta found a challenge. Her leadership was characterized by vigor and fearlessness. She realized the value of teacher organization and gave her time and effort unstintingly for the welfare of teachers and their profession. She helped organize the Tacoma Association of Classroom Teachers and served as president for three years. Under her leadership the Tacoma Teachers Mutual Benefit Association, the Tacoma Credit Union and the first local teachers group insurance were formed. She was also a member of the NEA, WEA and the Administrative Women in Education.

Alberta was one of the Founders of Alpha Sigma State. In the summer of 1940, she and two others were initiated into Delta Kappa Gamma by Dr. Cora Martin, a national founder. On September 13, 1941, she was co-founder of Alpha Chapter at Rose's Inn near Tacoma. She was a board member and valuable adviser until her death in 1943. She was also the first Recording Secretary for Alpha Sigma State.

She was an active participant in several civic and cultural organizations including the English Speaking Union, The Tacoma Chamber of Commerce. Furthermore she was a successful business woman in real estate.

She travelled extensively in the United States, Europe and the Orient.

Alberta was a gracious hostess. In February 1942, she opened her spacious new home for Alpha's first tea. State Board officers and members of Beta Chapter were special guests. Alberta's sparkling wit, her keen mind, her loyalty to her friends and family, her leadership, her strength of character, made her an outstanding personality and a delightful companion.

Alberta staunchly advocated one of the outstanding policies of Delta Kappa Gamma-- the recognition and advancement of women. In Delta Kappa Gamma Society, she found something deeper, more idealistic, more enduring than in other organizations. This feeling she imparted to many of us.

Florence Elizabeth Peterson

Alpha Sigma State Founder

Florence Elizabeth Peterson was born in St. Paul, Minnesota on April 22, 1887. When she was very young, her family moved to Tacoma where she started to school. Except for one year in Bismark, North Dakota, Florence had her entire public education through high school in Tacoma, graduating at the age of sixteen.

Her mother's failing health made it impossible for Florence to attend the University where she had hoped to study journalism. Instead, she took a teachers' examination in her senior year and taught her first year at the Clover Creek School near Tacoma. Earning university credits through summer school, correspondence courses, and workshops, Florence was able to continue teaching uninterrupted in Roy, Rhodes Lake, and Ashford. At 21 she accepted a teaching position at the Fern Hill School in Tacoma where she taught for twenty years, transferring to the Mary Lyon School in 1929, where she stayed until her retirement.

Florence was active in curricular work and civic organizations. At one time she was chairman of the primary section of the elementary language arts committee of the Tacoma schools, and she also worked on the state language arts curriculum. In 1946, her interest in providing library facilities close to the section of town where she had taught and lived, Florence organized the Friends of the Southside Branch Library and was instrumental in getting a library established in that part of town. She served as president of the local Branch of A.C.E. in 1935.

After her retirement from teaching, Florence kept in touch with educational work by teaching English to the foreign born in night school, by working as a "reader" for a ninth grade teacher of English, and by tutoring in English at all levels.

She has always been interested in encouraging young people to enter the field of teaching. In 1960, Florence gave a \$150 scholarship to a Lincoln High School graduate planning to enter teacher training.

In the summer of 1935, Dr. Cora Martin, one of the national founders of Delta Kappa Gamma conducted a class in primary methods at the College of Puget Sound. Florence had the privilege of acting as her hostess on several occasions, and before leaving Tacoma, Dr. Martin invited Florence, Dr. Eva Anderson of Chelan, and Alberta McDonnell of Tacoma to become members of Delta Kappa Gamma. Those three were initiated, but it wasn't until May of 1941 that Alpha Sigma State was installed by Dr. Annie Webb Blanton in Seattle. Florence was elected state president.

As the first president of Alpha Sigma State, Florence had the responsibility of founding chapters in all areas of the state, a task she attempted to do in the first year. By the time of the first state convention in May 1942, Alpha Sigma State's membership had reached 250 in 12 chapters. This was a Herculean task of organizing in a time of war with its restrictions on traveling and group meetings.

In 1944 Florence was elected national second vice-president. The next year, when Dr. Blanton became ill and each national officer assumed the next higher office to which she had been elected, Florence became national first vice-president.

Florence has been a tireless worker in Delta Kappa Gamma. She has the enviable record of having installed more chapters than any one person in the state. As state and chapter honorary member, she is not now an active member, yet she does keep in touch with the many chapters she has installed. She has been dedicated to the purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Elizabeth Prior

Alpha Sigma State Founder

Elizabeth Prior, the elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Prior was born in Philadelphia, October 3, 1879. Her father came from England, her mother from Scotland. In a home of culture and refinement, she developed those traits of character which endeared her to everyone who knew her.

She was a small child when the Prior family moved to Kingston, Missouri. Here she finished her elementary and high school at the age of 14. In 1892 her parents came West. She joined them six years later, after having completed her early education, and having taught school a short time in Missouri. For a period she worked at various jobs for the Yakima Republic, which was in 1898 a weekly newspaper.

Miss Prior later attended the State Normal School at Ellensburg. In 1909 she carried on her education by graduating from Washington State College and then began teaching English in the Yakima High School. Later she went to Columbia University for her Master's degree and traveled abroad. She subsequently became assistant principal at the Yakima High School and Dean of Girls, a position in which she was influential in molding the character of hundreds of young girls, who not only admired but loved her.

Her most outstanding work was in the junior college field where she was indeed a pioneer. Her influence in that field was unlimited. She started in 1928 as Dean and Organizer of the Yakima Valley Junior College, the third in the state. Miss Prior alone organized and administered the Civilian Pilot Training Program in June 1940.

The developing of this college has not been easy. She started the first independent junior college in the state, supported by tuition and gifts, but worked to force recognition from the state legislature for \$10,000 yearly. It was a tremendous task, but Elizabeth won out by her will and her courage. She was a great success as a junior college executive for eighteen years and became its President Emeritus after her retirement in 1940. Prior Hall was named for her.

Miss Prior was also active in community affairs. At one time she was designated by the Yakima Business and Professional Women's Club as one of its first "women of achievement" and given a special award. She was a charter member of the Altrusa Club. She was chairman of the International Committee on Education. She was a member of many educational organizations and committees.

She was one of the founders of Alpha Sigma State as well as local chapters in 1935. She was affiliated with Theta Chapter.

Elizabeth Prior died March 10, at the age of 70.

IRENE MARION REITHER

Alpha Sigma State Founder

Irene Marion Reither, the only child of Fritz and Nellie Reither, was born in Bellingham, Washington on November 10, 1915. She attended the public schools in Bellingham and was graduated from Whatcom High School - cum laude - at the age of 16. During her high school years she was active in the Rainbow Girls and in the Christian Church.

Irene received her B.A. and M.A. degrees from Western Washington State College. As one indication of her interest in and dedication to teaching, she chose as her Master's thesis - "An Analysis of the Kinds of Help Desired and Received by Beginning Teachers During Their First Year of Teaching."

Upon graduation from what was then called Bellingham State Normal School, Irene began her teaching in the primary grades on Lummi Island. But after one year there, she moved to the Meridian School in Whatcom County, where she still teaches.

Irene Reither was the youngest of the founders of Alpha Sigma State of Delta Kappa Gamma and served as the first State Necrology Chairman. She was a charter member of Lambda Chapter when it was formed in May of 1942, and has since served as its secretary, its president, and its parliamentarian, besides holding the chairmanship of various committees.

Professional associations in the Bellingham area have all profited by her leadership. She is a member of the P.T.A., W.E.A., and N.E.A. In 1939 she was one of the State Directors of N.E.A. In her local unit of W.E.A. she has been secretary and also president. In the Whatcom County Unit of W.E.A., Irene was secretary in 1945 and was president in 1946. In the early 1940's, she was an officer in the Whatcom County A.C.E. Association.

Irene has been an active worker in the First Christian Church in her community. For twenty years she has been the superintendent of Victor Community Sunday School. Her efficiency in keeping money matters straight is shown by the fact that she has been treasurer of the Laurel Grange for fifteen years, she has been treasurer of the Victor Community Club for twenty years, and she has been treasurer of the Kelly Road Water Association for eight years.

Irene always has the time for her hobbies of gardening and cooking and even a little travel in Canada and on the west coast. As if these activities were not enough to fill the lives of several persons, Irene writes that from 1938 to 1950 she took care of a small poultry operation of from 500 to 700 chickens.

Edna L. Sterling

Alpha Sigma State Founder

Edna L. Sterling was born in Missouri, in 1886. Her early education was in the Laboratory School of Central Missouri College at Warrensburg where she also took her first college degree. Later she received two degrees in Literature from the University of Chicago. She attended the University of Washington and did further graduate work at the University of California and at Stanford University.

Edna is a distinguished teacher, one who has taught at all levels--kindergarten, elementary, junior and senior high schools. Her last position before retirement was as Director of Language Arts in the Seattle Public Schools. She has an outstanding record as a teacher in colleges and universities, having taught in the Universities of Washington, Oregon, and Montana; in Central Missouri College and in the School of Education at Hays, Kansas. She has worked as a consultant with various school systems, including San Francisco, Oakland, San Diego, Long Beach, Whittier, Redondo Beach, and Sacramento in California; Denver, Colorado; Wichita and Hays, Kansas; Nashville, Tennessee; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Syracuse, New York.

A major contribution to education is her authorship of over 80 books in the field of English-Language Arts extending from grade two to twelve. Her two publishers were Henry Holt and Company and the D.C. Heath Company. Plans are under way for a fourth printing in 1963 of the D.C. Heath series which will be a completely new third edition. She is working on this at the present time. In the four separate enterprises she has had twelve co-authors from five different states.

Many honors have come to Miss Sterling in recognition of her contributions to education. She was vice-president of the National Council of Teachers of English; chairman of the Elementary Section; and has been a member of the Commission of Curriculum Revision since 1945. In 1960, she was cited by the Seattle Matrix Table. She is listed in Who's Who of American Women, Who's Who in Education, and Who's Who in Western States.

Edna is one of the Founders of Alpha Sigma State and was a co-founder of Beta Chapter of which she is a member. She says she regarded her membership in Delta Kappa Gamma as one of her most worthwhile associations.

Since she retired from teaching, she has lived at the Bayview Manor in Seattle. She says she is enjoying life in these beautiful surroundings in association with the many charming people who reside there.

NAN WILEY

Alpha Sigma State Founder

Nan Wiley was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Early in her life she developed an interest in art. She was a graduate of the Chicago Academy of Art and later received her B.A. and M.F.A. from the University of Oregon. She studied at Cranbrook Foundation in Michigan; University of Southern California; Reed College, Oregon; and at the Academia de le Grande Chaumier, Paris, France.

Before coming to Washington, Nan taught art in the junior and senior high schools in Jacksonville, Florida. She was director of art in the high schools in Sheridan, Wyoming and Port Huron, Michigan. In 1936 she came to Eastern Washington College as an instructor in art. From 1951 she was head of the Art Department at Eastern, and held the rank of associate professor.

Miss Wiley exhibited in local, regional and national exhibitions including Syracuse, New York, Radio City Center in New York as well as California, Florida, Oregon, Washington and Vancouver, British Columbia. She was awarded prizes for sculpture at both the Seattle Art Museum and at the Pacific Northwest Art Exhibit in Spokane.

She received many local and national honors. Twice she received the Carnegie Scholarship at the University of Oregon. She was listed in Who's Who in American Education, Who's Who in Northwest Art, Who's Who in Pacific Coast Art, Who's Who in the West (first and second editions) and Who's Who of American Women.

In May, 1961, she was honored in Spokane with a "This is Your Life, Nan Wiley" program.

Nan Wiley was one of the thirteen State Founders of Delta Kappa Gamma as well as founder and past chapter president of Eta Chapter. She was local chapter president of the Washington Art Association; chapter founder of the PEO in Michigan; and held the offices of president, vice president, treasurer and secretary on the Spokane Art Board. She was an active participant in the Washington Education Association, Pacific Art Association, and the Northwest Sculpture Institute.

She traveled widely -- in Bermuda and Canada, and twice to Europe. She visited all the states excepting Alaska, Hawaii and the New England states. Art centers particularly interested her.

Nan had several interesting hobbies. She had fine rock and coin collections; she raised orchids and was interested in ceramics. Nan planned to retire in June of 1963, but she passed away on March 8, 1963.