

Gamma Zeta History

Presented at the 70th Birthday Celebration

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In the late 1930s and early 1940s, life in central Texas did not look like it looks today in 2011. The area was rural with small towns about every 40 miles. Only some of the major highways were paved and those were narrow with low water crossings where many of the bridges are today. Remains of Highway 377 from that time period can be seen east of Stephenville close to the roadside park and west of Dublin on the left going toward Comanche. The maximum speed on the highways was 45 mph. When the United States entered WWII, gas rationing was common and there was a shortage of rubber for replacing worn car tires since much of the rubber was used for the war effort. In addition, economic recovery from the depression was ongoing making lean budgets a necessity.

Entering the central Texas area about that time were five teachers who had moved from other schools in Texas where they had been members of Delta Kappa Gamma chapters. These five women were scattered throughout a three county area of central Texas but their commitment to the ideals of Delta Kappa Gamma motivated them to work through their Initiating chapters to obtain support from Alpha State for the organization of a local chapter.

Mrs. Virgil Chaffin moved from Lambda Chapter in Bell County to Comanche County; Miss Mary Elna Fouse was located in Priddy in Mills County after moving from Sigma Chapter in Nacogdoches; and Miss Ollie Sloan joined Mrs. Chaffin in Comanche after moving from Iota Chapter in Denton. Mrs. Nora K. White moved from Beta Kappa Chapter in Odessa to Huckabay in the fall of 1940. The initiating chapter of Miss Opal McCleskey of Dublin is not known.

Because of the distance between the locations, the establishment of two chapters in the area was considered but a letter from Miss Sloan to Miss Eula Lee Carter in early 1941 stated that at that time it would be more important to have one larger